



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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DECEMBER 1986

*With Best Wishes*

*for Christmas*

*and the*

*New Year*



# Editorial

In the fall issue of Speaking of Fire, published by IFSTA (International Fire Service Training Association), with headquarters at the Oklahoma State University, an article on Smoke Eaters appeared, this was much too long to incorporate fully into one editorial but I'll try to hit the high spots.

This article was written by Chuck Cook and Marla Cone, as a result of three months investigation and was published in December 1983 as a three-part report.

"For Firefighters, smoke eating was once a badge of courage, now it has become a death sentence." In past years, firefighters were considered to be much more of a

man if they could take a lot of smoke, giving them a macho image, today, they can no longer afford the "macho" image or appearance.

The article states that for those who choose a firefighter's life, it means they will live an average ten fewer years than other Americans.

In the last 30 years, the cancer death rate among firefighters has doubled. Cancer can strike their lungs, stomach, brain and prostrate glands. Black lung miners are stricken less frequently than lung diseases strike firefighters.

Orange County Fire Chief Larry Holmes says "Smoke-Eating is not only a thing of the past, it's the sign of a fool."

According to this article, the tremendous rise in the threat to firefighters is mainly attributed to the large number



EMILY H. KING

of synthetics used in homes and industry.

Thirty years ago when synthetic chemicals were not widespread, firefighters had only 2% higher cancer-death rate than non-firefighters. Firefighters are exposed so much more to cancer-causing agents now, which has been

shown to increase in the amounts of synthetics used, so the conclusion is that they are pretty well related.

Furniture, carpeting, toys, telephones, insulation and other synthetic chemical products, such as household cleaners, pesticides and gasoline all produce deadly gases or a complex mixture of cancer-causing diseases.

A firefighter now is repeatedly exposed to these toxic materials. Dr. Linda Morse, of San Francisco General Hospital, says if it was only a one-time thing, the body defenses shouldn't be overwhelmed—but firefighters may be exposed hundreds of thousands of times, thus the danger is much greater.

The protective clothing some firefighters wear, may themselves be a source of cancer. Early protective suits

were made of asbestos, they were replaced with synthetic materials, and such materials have been found to cause cancer in animals. These suits have not improved to meet toxic fires.

Although most firefighters are aware of all these dangers, they don't talk about it much—if they did and thought too much about it, they would never be a success and many would give up their chosen profession.

It seems to me it's high time that someone, somewhere, should be able to come up with some answers for a better Protective Outfit for our firefighters.

*Emily H. King*

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# Fire Dept. Has 100th Birthday

By Donna R. Harrelson  
Reidsville Review  
Staff Writer

REIDSVILLE—Nov. 19, 1986 marks the 100th anniversary of organized fire protection in the city of Reidsville.

Although early records were not complete, the proud tradition of fire protection was established in the city of Reidsville prior to 1886. That year a group of concerned citizens joined together and used a horse-drawn steamer called a "Zeb Vance" horse-drawn steamer and various other firefighting tools to combat blazes. Water supply was maintained by employing cisterns strategically located throughout the city. Little more is known.

The department continued to operate with the "Zeb Vance" steamer until 1919 when the city replaced the obsolete equipment with one of the first motorized fire trucks. Citizens from various occupations devoted their time to the task of fighting fires and it was an operate comprised of volunteers only in the early days. Volunteers continue the service even today, and only 25 years ago were enough full-time firefighters added to operate two full shifts.

Town minutes show that one of the old fire buildings was located in the old Department of Social Services Building below the Civil War monument, according to Administrative Assistant Fire Chief David S. Sizemore. Sizemore said the building doubled as a combination fire department and city hall prior to 1886.

The next building that housed the city's fire department is guessed to be on the corner of Market and Morehead streets. From there the department was moved to Morehead Street near Blazer Finance before settling in its

current site on South Scales Street where it has remained for the past 16 years.

The modern facility houses a variety of firefighting equipment that includes three first-line pumpers and one

reserve unit with pumping capacities of 4,000 gallons per minute and an 85-foot-tall aerial ladder truck used primarily for rescue. The de-

Continued on page 6

## A Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God  
Wherever flame may rage,  
Give me strength to save some life  
Whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert and hear the  
weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and  
To give the best in me,  
To guard my every neighbor and  
Protect his property.

And if according to my fate  
I am to lose my life,  
Please bless with your protecting hand  
My children and my wife.

Author Unknown

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# Fire Marshal Offers Hints on Kerosene Heater Safety

By Cindy Crofford  
Elizabeth City Daily  
Advance  
Staff Writer

**ELIZABETH CITY**—As fall blows its first icy breath, more residents are using portable kerosene heaters and wood stoves to take the chill off their homes.

The heaters are good sources of warmth, but they can also be fire hazards if not properly used, said Elizabeth City Fire Marshal Jerry Boyce.

Many area residents have kerosene heaters but are not aware of the precautions they need to take, said Boyce.

"The biggest problem we are having with kerosene heaters is where they are locating them," he said. The heaters may cause fires if placed too close to combustible objects, said Boyce.

Oversized heaters may contribute to that problem. When buying a heater, home owners should make sure they are getting the proper size unit for the area it will heat, said Boyce. Dealers have charts

showing the right kerosene heater for a particular sized room, he added.

Before making a purchase, residents should make sure that the heater has Underwriters Laboratory approval. That assures the kerosene heater is equipped with a safety mechanism that keeps it from igniting should the unit be knocked over.

Buyers also need to make sure they are buying No. 1 Kerosene for their heaters. The container should be stored outside and should be clearly marked so it is not confused with other fuel cans. Fires have resulted after someone has unknowingly filled a kerosene heater with highly combustible gasoline, Boyce added.

Kerosene heaters should not be left unsupervised, said Boyce. "They are designed not to be used at night, but we are finding that people are using them 24 hours a day," he said.

Although they are not as popular as they once were, wood stoves are still being used by many people in the community. Some tips on

what to look for and how to prevent wood stove fires in the home include:

— Never use flammable or combustible liquid to start a wood fire.

— Never burn trash or garbage in a wood burning stove or fireplace.

— Always close the door to your wood burning stove or put a screen in front of your fireplace.

— Have chimneys and flues cleaned and inspected annually.

— Check walls around chimneys for excessive heat.

— Look for signs of heat on walls around chimneys such as discoloration of paint and warping of wallboard.

— Make certain that your wood burning stove is properly installed.

— When ashes are dumped always wet them, stir the ashes and wet them again.

— Never leave matches or lighters where small children can reach them.

— Install smoke detectors, especially in homes with wood burning stoves and fireplaces.

# Fire Dept. Praised for a Good Job

By Karen Haywood  
The Salisbury Post

**SALISBURY**—Smoke damaged merchandise in two downtown stores when a fire started in a furnace on the second floor above Tobias and the Rack Room.

The fire was contained to the room housing the furnace. The stores use upper floors for storage. Shoes and clothing on the first floors were damaged by smoke.

"This is like living Oestreicher's (fire) again," said Doris Agner, manager of Tobias, as smoke billowed from the building Wednesday afternoon, November 12.

"I worked at Oestreicher's when it burned. I was standing right there when it burned," Mrs. Agner said, pointing down Main Street.

The fire was minor compared to the April 27, 1964, fire that destroyed three downtown buildings and damaged three others.

The fire was reported about 2:15 p.m. It started in the furnace shared by both stores on the second floor, said Rick Fesperman, Salisbury assistant fire chief.

Smoke spread through the ventilation system, Mrs. Agner said.

Firefighters found the fire and put it out within 15 minutes, Fesperman said. The fire department didn't call it under control for 45 minutes because firefighters were clearing smoke and checking to see that the fire hadn't spread, he said.

No blaze was visible from Main Street — just smoke rising through the drizzle.

Firefighters were mopping up at 4:15 p.m., Fesperman said.

Mrs. Agner was praising the fire department for "a

disaster that turned out very nicely."

"The fire department is superb," she said. "They put covers over boxes the best they could. They vacuumed the floors to get the water off."

Three engines, a ladder truck, a rescue unit and 17 firefighters responded. Firefighters took lines in through the front to the rear of the building and went up the steps to reach the fire.

About 30 downtown shoppers and employees gathered under the Belk Budget Fair awning to watch. Employees and customers were also evacuated from Phil's Shoes as a precaution.

Phyllis Byrd, an employee at the Rack Room, said four sales clerks were in the building when they saw smoke.

"We finally saw the smoke," Mrs. Byrd said. "We smelled something. We just thought the furnace had come on. The way it looks, everything is going to have to be wiped down."

"There's probably quite a bit of damage," Mrs. Safris said. "It's hard for me to say."

An insurance adjustor was in the store at presstime.

"I'm sure there'd be some smoke damage," Mrs. Agner said. Employees left the clothes inside and removed money, financial records and outstanding bills, she said.

Three sales people and four or five customers were in Tobias when the fire was discovered, she said.

"It was just a small amount of smoke at first, like a fluorescent light burning out," Mrs. Agner said. "Then smoke billowed everywhere. We got the customers out."

"Clothes we can replace, but not lives," she said. She shut her eyes. "All those furs in there..."

## Fire Kills 7,800 Chickens

**COOLEEMEE**—In November, a fire killed 7,300 hens and 500 roosters at the River Bend Farm on Pine Ridge Road.

One chicken survived.

Volunteers from two Rowan County and six Davie County fire departments contained the fire before it spread to the farm's other chicken houses.

Davie County Fire Marshal Jim Tourville said the fire swallowed up half of the 400-to-450 foot building, a tractor and a loader. He could give no damage estimate. He added, however, that he thought owner H. H. Ledford was insured.

Tourville described the fire as electrical in nature, judging from the way it burned and the worn condition of the wiring. The chicken houses were being heated because of the cold weather.

"I don't know what shorted out," Tourville said.

The main structure remains standing but the roof has buckled in.

"It was a big fire," he added.

Scotch-Irish and Woodleaf fire departments from Rowan County assisted in fighting the fire, which started minutes before midnight, Thursday, Nov. 13. Firemen were on the scene for most of the morning.

The Davie County departments included Cooleemee, Cornatzer-Dulin, Jerusalem, Fork, Mocksville and Center.

Roger McDaniel, chief of the Scotch-Irish department, said about 12 men in his department responded to the fire. Another 14 came from Woodleaf volunteers.

Woodleaf Chief James Gray said the building was completely involved with fire coming out of the windows when his department arrived. The Woodleaf department stayed on the scene until 2:04 a.m. Scotch-Irish reported back in service at 3:32 a.m.

## Classification Lowers Rates

**ROCKINGHAM**—Fire insurance rates should be decreasing for residences of the Northside Fire District due to a new fire insurance classification given the Northside Fire Department, says Chief Charles Timms.

Effective Nov. 1, the department's fire insurance classification has changed from a class-9 to a class-6 rating, making it the lowest rated volunteer fire department in Richmond County, says Timms.

According to local insurance agents, Timms says, this should reflect in a 20 percent to a 30 percent savings on homeowner's insurance.

"The reduction in classification came from a lot of hard work on the firemen's part," says Timms, "and with the help of the fire tax district.

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# Firemen Honor Fallen Comrade

By Alice Thrasher  
Fayetteville Observer  
Staff Writer

**FAYETTEVILLE**—Firefighters from the Fayetteville, Westarea and other departments in the county and region turned out Wednesday, November 19, to honor a fireman killed in the line of duty.

Westarea Station 10 Chief Ferrell Hood, 31, was electrocuted by a downed power line during rescue operations at the scene of an auto accident. At Hood's funeral, Dr. Ed Gunter, minister of Gardner's United Methodist Church, said Hood "left this world doing the one thing he knew best — helping others."

Hood's survivors include his wife, Cynthia, and three children. They sat with other family members during the service that ended with the reading of "The Fireman's Prayer."

Hood, also a full-time firefighter with the Fayetteville Fire Department, and an 18-year-old bystander, Robert Keith Tew, died when a cable from a rescue vehicle apparently fell across power lines.

At the funeral, volunteer firefighters from the three Westarea stations sat in uniform behind the minister. Firefighters from Fayetteville Station 3 on Rosehill Road, where Hood had been assigned, served as pallbearers.

The packed Rogers and Breece Funeral Home was nearly half filled with firemen in uniform who were honorary pallbearers. Fayetteville Fire Chief Wilbur Johnson said only A and B shift city firefighters were able to attend, as the third shift had to remain on duty. Some of those on-duty employees stood at attention beside their parked trucks blocking intersections along Ramsey Street to La-Fayette Memorial Cemetery as the body passed by.

A procession of fire trucks, emergency and other vehicles

stretched for about a mile to the cemetery. Hood's flag-draped coffin was carried to the cemetery in a black fire truck owned by Westarea. The truck from Station 3 that Hood had ridden on his job was in the procession with only the driver aboard. Hood's firefighting gear was placed in the right-hand jump seat.

In the accident two other men, Cumberland County Ambulance Service attendant Dwayne Jackson and Westarea fireman Michael Herholz were hospitalized with injuries. Jackson has since been discharged from the hospital.

Herholz remained at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill where he underwent surgery on his hand at a burn unit, according to Johnson.

Johnson said Hood's death was the first in the city's fire department since electrocutions in 1956 and in the late 1920s. He said two other firefighters in Cumberland County had been killed in the line of duty in the past decade.

Westarea department officials said they have begun receiving donations for the Hood family. They ask that donations for the family be designated and sent to the department at 4820 Rosehill Road, Fayetteville, N.C. 28301.

## Compensation for Radios

**ALBEMARLE**—Aaron Deese, Stanly County Emergency Management director, met with the Stanly County Board of Commissioners to request compensation for fire departments that did not acquire new mobile radios.

Those departments not acquiring the allotted number of units reported that they did not need them because they already had new radios or because the ones they have can be modified to meet their needs.

A total compensation of \$5,250 will be divided between Norwood City, Oakboro, Ridgecrest, Badin and Yadkin Valley. They will be given the money for each unit they were eligible to receive but did not need.

# 'Mister Plain View?' That's Freddie Tew!

By Tom Weaver  
Clinton Sampson  
Independent  
Staff Writer

**CLINTON**—Plain View looks just like a small town, but it actually isn't.

"Downtown" consists of Lee's Chapel Church, a general store, school, combined store and grill, an agribusiness and the fire station. Small to medium-size homes stand along the "Main Street" — U.S. 421 — in pleasant, tree-shaded yards.

The unincorporated community in upper Sampson County, six miles south of Dunn, has no major or town board, no police department or city hall.

What Plain View does have is a strong sense of community awareness — and Freddie Tew Jr.

Tew's business is a blend of the old-time general store that used to be a familiar sight everywhere, but has become an endangered species, with more modern facilities and merchandise.

Computers behind the counter calculate the amount and cost of gasoline flowing from the self-service pumps. A few feet away on a shelf among the galvanized tubs and buckets are washboards, once a standard item in every home but now almost a museum piece.

Plain View has a fire department that is the envy of many larger localities and Tew, presently fire chief, is a charter member and one of the original organizers.

He is also a member of the advisory board for Midway School District, which covers Plain View.

Plain View Elementary School, housed in buildings about 60 years old, is well-kept, still attractive and the center of community activities. Once all grades through high school were taught here, but the school now serves some 300 students in grades K-8.

Other than the churches, Plain View only has two active organizations, the fire department and the school's very strong Parent-Teacher Organization.

"The local people usually

join civic organizations in Dunn," Tew said.

Fred Tew Sr. first opened for business in 1942, a very tough time even for established stores to obtain enough merchandise to operate.

"I heard him talk about how hard things were to get," said Fred. "Just about everybody had things under the counter so they would be able to take care of their regular customers."

"He used to buy molasses by the barrel and nails came in 100-pound kegs," he said.

The elder Tew's first store was in a building next to the school, now occupied by Glenn Jackson's Plain View Grocery and Grill.

In 1951 the operation moved to a building no longer standing, across the road from the present store, built a few years later and expanded and remodeled in 1980.

For years the Plain View Gin, opposite the church, was a major industry in the area, as were gins in practically all localities, large and small. The gin buildings are also gone.

Tew's store has been associated with cooperatives in the past, but is now totally independent. Name-brand merchandise is stocked and, through careful buying, most prices are kept competitive with much larger stores.

The full line of groceries includes a meat department and the hardware line alone would stock a small store.

In 1970, Fred arranged to buy out his father's interest in the business and is now in the process of buying his sister's share of the real estate. The elder Tew died in 1980.

There are three employees, plus help part time by Tew's daughter, Tiffany, a 10th grader at Midway High School. Fred and his wife, the former Joyce Allen of Dunn, have one other daughter, Suzanne Fichette of Raleigh.

"We sell hoop cheese right off the counter," Fred said. "They can buy the same cheese anywhere but they claim mine tastes better."

Plain View Township extends to Mingo Swamp, which separates Sampson and Harnett counties and crosses

U.S. 421 two miles south of Dunn.

In all, there are at least 10 churches within the township.

Along the highway at the extreme upper limits just below the county line are two tobacco warehouses on the Dunn Market and several industrial plants.

The fire department, chartered in 1965, has enjoyed continuous growth and progress.

Plain View was one of the first county areas whose patrons voted to tax themselves to provide better fire protection. Except for one or two small sections, all of Sampson County is now served by fire districts.

The successful referendum was conducted in the mid-60s and the fire station was built then. A few years ago the building was expanded, adding two more bays, each deep enough for two vehicles.

"Marion Bass came over here from Halls to help us get the fire department started," Tew said. "He really helped us and we appreciated it."

There were about 30 members when the department was organized. The first chief, who served for three years, was P. M. Sills.

In those days qualifications were much less rigid.

All firemen are now members of the auxiliary until 240 hours of training are completed.

Membership now numbers 46, including 10 fire medics not trained in firefighting. There are also 10 members certified both as firefighters and fire medics.

Fire medics administer first aid at the scene and assist rescue squad workers, but can not transport patients.

The fire district abuts Dunn's on the north and Spivey's Corner's to the south and southwest into Mingo Township as far as the old school. Mingo has no fire department, being served in other areas by Herring, Clement and Dunn.

Plain View's fire equipment now includes two pumpers, three tankers, a brush truck and fire medic unit, stocked with oxygen and complete first-aid equipment.

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# Firefighters Battle House Fires

By Lynn Earley  
Lexington Dispatch  
Staff Reporter

LEXINGTON—Firemen feverishly searched a burning Hill Street residence for several minutes recently, fearing children were trapped in the house.

The West Lexington and Welcome volunteer firemen soon learned the children of Wayne and Debbie Blackwell were not trapped in the blazing house, however. They then confined their work to squelching the flames, which destroyed most of the two-bedroom, white frame house as rain pelted down on the smoking roof.

Elsewhere, two more houses in the Lexington area sustained heavy damage from fires on Eighth and Foyell streets.

In the Eighth Street fire, flames and smoke damaged much of the residence, which belongs to occupant Howard Hinton. "It's major damage to that house," Lexington Fire Chief Tommy Williams said.

The style of the house, which had a false ceiling as well as an original ceiling, hampered firefighters' efforts, Williams said. By the time firemen arrived, flames had damaged a staircase so much firemen could not use it. In addition, firemen apparently were not called to the scene when occupants first noticed the blaze around the fireplace.

The residents tried to put out the fire by themselves before calling the fire department, fire reports show.

"Those old houses don't have fire stops in the walls and fire spreads so fast in the hidden areas," Williams said. "My firemen knocked the fire down but it was burning in the walls and between the ceilings and in the attic."

Fire officials have not pinpointed the cause of the blaze. "They told us they detected the fire in the wall first so I don't know what started the fire," Williams said. Firemen were called to the house about 8:25 P.M. and stayed until about 20 minutes after midnight.

In the Foyell Street fire, a front bedroom was ablaze when firemen arrived around

3:40 this morning. The cause of the fire, which resulted in fire damage to the bedroom and smoke damage to the rest of the house, is under investigation by the Fire Marshal and the Davidson County Sheriff's Department.

Occupant Ernest Corbett had suffered burns on his hands and a cut on his head. He was taken to Lexington Memorial Hospital. Ardell Lanier owns the one-story frame residence. Firemen were there until about 5 A.M.

In the Hill Street fire, neighbors had worried someone might be in the four-room house, West Lexington Assistant Fire Chief Foy Young said. "The lady next door said she thought there were children and even thought the woman who lived there was home," Young said.

Even after other neighbors said they were confident the Blackwells were not home, firemen still checked the residence for occupants, Young said. They searched under beds and mattresses, in closets and in other areas where children might have hidden, he said.

A neighbor had spotted the Hill Street blaze and hurried to his house to use the telephone, Dennis Martin said as he stood outside his residence, watching smoke darken the rainy sky around the house. "She was walking down the road and saw the flames coming out of the roof," Martin said. He called for help after the neighbor spotted the fire.

When firemen arrived, flames and billowing black smoke had engulfed the house, assistant chief Young said. Rain continued to pour, as firemen worked on the blaze. Later, firefighters and Fire Marshal Charlie Corn checked for the cause of the fire, which started in the living room.

The father, Wayne, wears size 15 or 15½ shirt, 9½ shoes and 31 medium pants. The mother, Debbie, wears a medium or large top, size 11 pants or 31 in waist and size 7½ shoes. The two girls are 5 and 12. Jodie, 5, wears an 11½ or 12 shoe, size 6x clothing and Patty wears size 7½ shoe, small tops and size 12 pants.

# New Fire Dept. Could Be Under Roof by February

By Jim Aycock  
Black Mountain News

BLACK MOUNTAIN—Fire Chief Gary Bartlett and Larry Traber, the architect, presented plans for a new public safety building to the Black Mountain Board of Aldermen at their regularly scheduled November meeting. They said bids on the job could be expected by the December meeting and the structure could be under roof by the end of February.

The presentation was of Phase I, which is mainly the fire station. Other departments of city government will be built later.

The most visible part of the whole job will come at once, the construction of fire truck bays on what is now vacant property in front of the old Big Buy building. The new structure will be a metal building with decorative stone

facing on the street side.

"I feel real good about these plans," Bartlett told the board. "This building will blend into the natural beauty of the area and is well within the budget."

Traber said the plans were complete but would require about a month of waiting for approval by the Department of Insurance. However, he continued, bids can be accepted within another week and should be in-house by the second week of December. Nothing can happen until January, he said, but the structure can be under roof

quickly after that, by the end of February.

The town completed purchase of the Big Buy building earlier in November. The plans are a major step forward in a long process that began when the old fire station became unsafe and too far gone to repair cost-efficiently.

One feature of the new building is a display window on the street end which will show off vintage firefighting equipment. While we call it a museum, it is really just another truck bay, Bartlett said, making it cost efficient in operation and attractive at the same time.

# Fire Claims Chiefs Home

By Phil Gurkin  
Dunn Daily Record  
Managing Editor

DUNN—A fire Wednes-

day, November 19, destroyed the home of the fire chief of Clement Volunteer Fire Department located in western Sampson County.

Chief Thomas Williams and his family lost everything they owned in the blaze and their many friends throughout the area are doing everything possible to assist the family. Chief Williams and his wife, Joanne, have three children.

No one was home when the fire was discovered at 8:30 a.m. and no one was injured. Mr. and Mrs. Williams had left home for work and the children were in school.

The home was a large double-wide type mobile home and it burned quickly. Firemen had not yet pinpointed the exact cause of the fire, but it is believed it started in the utility room.

Firemen from three Sampson County volunteer units responded to the call including the Clement, Spivey's Corner and Herring Volunteer Fire Departments.

Assistant Clement Chief Danny Strickland said the fire had broken through the roof when firemen arrived and the entire inside was already gutted by flames. He said unfortunately there was no way the home could be saved. It is

Continued on page 6

# Major Fire Averted by Swift Action

Mount Airy  
News Staff Report

MOUNT AIRY—About nine residents of Moody's Apartments on Franklin Street were forced to stay elsewhere after a fire gutted one resident's living room.

The blaze was reported at 4:25 p.m. in the apartment of Ricky and Robin Rudisill, according to Mount Airy Fire Chief Bill Joe Woodruff.

No cause has been determined, but Woodruff said the fire started in a living room couch. The fire chief added that Mrs. Rudisill, who was home at the time with her 3-year-old son, doesn't smoke.

"She had lit a candle, but we don't know if that was the cause," Woodruff said.

The fire sent smoke pouring from the rear of the building as firemen donned air packs and made their way through the structure, checking to see if all the residents were out.

A group of tenants huddled together in a car to keep warm as the blaze was brought

under control.

"There was right much fire in the back room," Woodruff said of the incident.

However, he credited Mrs. Rudisill's alertness to preventing a major disaster in the building, owned by Robert Moody.

"She did a real good job," Woodruff said, noting that the woman shut the door to the room, which kept the fire from spreading.

"If the door had been open, we would have had a tremendous amount of fire."

Although no damage estimate has been given, most of the family's belongings, which were uninsured, were destroyed, Woodruff added.

He said the tenants were forced to find a place to stay as a safety precaution. Several stayed with friends, while others went to local motels.

The fire chief said the fire had created an odor in the building, which is home to several elderly persons, and he wanted to prevent any chance of lung infections.

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# Fire Dept. Has 100th Birthday

Continued from page 2

partment has nine separate bedrooms and a training room located upstairs. There also are two poles for the firefighters but Sizemore confessed that he usually uses the stairs instead. Domino the dalmatian and last mascot of the Reidsville facility died in 1968, but according to Sizemore, plans are being made to re-

## Keys for New Fire Station

**MOUNT AIRY**—David Hughes, chief of the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, recently accepted keys to the department's new Greenhill Station from Guy Money, president of the unit's board of directors. Secretary, Worth Haynes was also present.

An open house was held Sunday, November 16, at the new station, which expands the Franklin Fire District to include River Hill Estates, the White Pines Country Club section and additional areas of the Pipers Gap Road section.

## Gasoline Spill Contained by Yanceyville VFD

**CASWELL**—A potentially explosive situation involving a gasoline spill in Yanceyville was handled quickly and without problems by the Yanceyville Volunteer Fire Department recently.

The spill took place when a gasoline tanker overfilled the tanks at Ron's Quickie Mart on Main Street in Yanceyville. Approximately 100 gallons of the explosive fluid spilled out onto the store's lot and ran down the street.

Yanceyville firemen quickly cordoned off the street from both sides of the store lot, and moved trucks in position to

place Domino and restore the familiar symbol to the fire house.

A staff of 21 full-time firefighters are supported by 20 volunteers, all well trained to handle emergencies, according to Sizemore. The firefighters are rigorously trained in the classroom and in the field in the latest methods and techniques by six certified instructors within the department.

With an average age of 30 at the Reidsville department, five men are assigned to a shift and are on-call at any time. A schedule of a Reidsville firefighter is to work at 24-hour shift and be off 48 hours.

Firefighting methods have been revolutionized during the history of the city's fire department. In the early days and until the 1950s, firefighting was done mainly from the street, flooding buildings and houses to extinguish the fire. The method was effective in fighting fires but the excessive amount of water caused more damage than the fire.

Today's firefighter uses water sprays, fog nozzles and a self-contained breathing

apparatus to battle blazes. The equipment uses very little water compared with earlier methods and allows the firefighters to perform rescue operations while keeping water damage minimal.

During 1985, the Reidsville Fire Department answered 318 alarms; 92 were for house fires, to property valued at \$1,508,950 with total fire loss estimated at \$210,650. The figure represents a savings of \$1,298,300 to the taxpayers of Reidsville. According to Sizemore, the leading cause of house fires is a problem chimney. No deaths due to fire were reported during the year.

In addition to station duties, maintenance of apparatus and training, the Reidsville Fire Department offers a first responder assistance program to the Rockingham County Emergency Medical Service, a home inspection and smoke detector program, fire inspections, Sparky's school program and periodic presentations to civic and industrial organizations.

Officials of the fire department held a presentation ceremony commemorating 100 years of service November 19, and sponsored a memorial service and open house Sunday, November 23, to honor the retired firefighters who have died.

## Stone Elected Fire Marshal

**RAEFORD**—Charles Jesse Stone Jr., of Raeford, a graduate of Hoke County High School, has been elected to serve residents of his floor in Parker Hall as fire marshal. Parker Hall, a residence facility for 280 men, was constructed in 1970 and named in memory of Elwood W. Parker, a long-time benefactor of Chowan College.

Stone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Stone, 1002 N. Magnolia, Raeford, is studying health and physical education at Chowan College. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Raeford.

Chowan is a two-year residential college with 900 students who represent 20 states and 14 countries. Over 40 associate degree programs are offered.

# Gas Fire Training Conducted in Nash

**ROCKY MOUNT**—Things heated up recently when 103 volunteer firemen from Nash County attended liquid petroleum gas training schools in Spring Hope and Red Oak.

Members from the Red Oak, Spring Hope, Nashville, Momeyer, Bailey, Whitakers, Middlesex, West Mount, Stony Creek, Castalia, Battleboro, Sharpsburg, Ferrells, Coopers, Momeyer, Salem and Stanhope volunteer fire departments attended.

The training included three hours of classroom instruction and four hours of technique application.

The highly volatile petroleum fires are difficult to extinguish.

The firefighters are taught to use water hoses to spray a fog pattern to beat back the blaze. While flames spew overhead, a fireman goes to the source of the gas leak,

finds the gas nozzle and turns it off.

Once the gas source is disconnected, firefighters can concentrate solely on containing the fire.

Brian Brantley, the assistant director of Nash County Emergency Medical Services, said the project was a success. The classes and participation were excellent, he said.

"We hope to try to continue this annually," Brantley said.

The training instructors were Nash County Fire Marshal Dave Cauble and Tim Bradley, the executive director of the North Carolina Fire Commission.

The county's Emergency Medical Services and Nash Technical College sponsored the exercise. The Little River Gas Co. of Nashville furnished the tanker truck, which was driven by E.C. Wiggs of Spring Hope.

## Fire Claims Chiefs Home

Continued from page 5

located just over a mile from the Clement Fire Department of which Williams is chief.

Strickland said it took some 20 minutes to knock the fire down. He said extreme heat and pressure had built up inside the home as the fire had been burning uncontrolled. A solid wooden back door was blown from the structure as a result of the pressure, he said.

A local resident, R. J. Stewart, was the first to see the fire. He saw smoke coming from the home as he passed in his car. He went to a nearby home to call the fire department and by the time he looked again, flames had broken through the roof.

Ironically, Williams' own Clement department which was closest to the fire had only two vehicles to send to the call. One of its pumper trucks was in the shop for repairs and a brand new fire truck was sitting in the fire department, but could not be driven because final paperwork required for a Farmers Home Administration loan had not been completed. The depart-

ment bought the new truck with the assistance of an FHA loan.

But, this was not a factor in the loss of the chief's home, firemen report. The home was already totally engulfed in flames upon their arrival and equipment from the other two departments answering the call arrived very quickly and was sufficient to have saved the home if it has been possible.

Chief Williams and his family are now living with his mother who resides nearby in the Clement community. They were pretty certain it started in the utility room area which contained the home's electric furnace, electrical panel and washer and dryer.

The Williams family includes three children still at home. They have a pair of six-year-old twins and a 12-year-old, all girls. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams said their local community has already been very generous to them in supplying clothes and other needs, but any and all useful items of this nature are appreciated.

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# Fireman's Day A Roaring Success

By Jamey Jones  
Sampson Independent Staff Writer

CLINTON—Roseboro's fire department hosted its first Sampson County-Roseboro Fireman's Day Saturday, November 22.

Garland's fire chief stood on the side line watching his boys prepare for the relay. He yelled to inspire his squad, "Come on now boys!"

The train of firemen took off, lugging a ten or twelve foot black hose. First through two sets of tires — stumbling all the way, then on the ground groveling under a rope barrier. The caboose lay outstretched, half under, half out from under the rope, reaching for the ever elusive black hose that the men kept dropping.

Rounding the barrels, the remaining three firemen managed to make it around the first two barrels, but carried the third barrel with them a few feet.

"Kenny keeps us in line," said one of the Cumberland County Cotton Volunteer firemen.

"That's the reason I wear these boots," said Kenny Locklear, digging his heel in the ground and pointing his boot toe up.

"I think it turned out pretty good," said Roseboro fire chief Billy Herring, after five of the seven events had been decided.

Roseboro's firefighters were playing host to the games and therefore did not compete.

For a first year effort, the Sampson County-Roseboro Fireman's Day seemed a success. Seven teams competed: Pembroke, Plain View, Auryville, Raynham, McDonald from Lumberton, Garland, Cotton from Hope Mills, and two teams from Stedman.

The firemen rode high in their red trucks during the 11 a.m. parade, part of the fireman's day celebration.

The fire fighting competition included the ladder climb, putting on air packs, a water barrel fight, turn out gear competition, and command post competition.

In the command post competition one fireman tried to direct blinded firefighters where to spray water. Firefighters raced to get geared in turn out and air packs. One fireman represented each team in these events.

They seemed to have the most trouble with the tire, rope and barrel obstacle course they ran while carrying a hose. Four or five were to carry the hose through the course, but most teams lost a man or two along the way.

On lookers hee hawed as they watched the faltering firemen run the course.

One lady in the crowd yelled, "My house has burned down by now!"

The score sheet showed the two Stedman teams running neck in neck from event to event, followed closely by Plain View.

When the competition ended, Stedman II had earned the first place overall, Stedman I, runner-up, and Plain View took third.

In the individual events the teams placed as follows:

Turn out — Stedman II, Plain View, Stedman I.

Air Pack — Stedman II, Stedman I, Plain View.

Obstacle — Stedman I, Cotton, Stedman II.

Ladder — Stedman II, Stedman I, Plain View.

Catch a Hydrant — Stedman II, Plain View, Stedman I.

Command Post — Pembroke, Stedman I, Stedman II.

Water Brigade — Pembroke, Raynham McDonald, Garland.

Water Barrel Fight — Stedman I, Cotton, Raynham McDonald.

Shirts with the Roseboro fire department seal were sold.

The Roseboro squad expects to make Fireman's Day a annual event said Dan Caison of the squad. He hopes the competition will be hosted by different Sampson County fire departments.

Give Heart Fund



# Firefighters Take The Heat

By Lisa Taylor  
Morehead City—Beaufort News-Times Staff Writer

MOREHEAD CITY—It's hot, dirty and sometimes dangerous work. Yet somebody has to do it.

The many paid and volunteer firefighters in Carteret County, however, see their jobs a little differently. They like what they do, although they never know when they will be roused from sleep during the wee hours or what they will find when they roll up to the scene of a fire.

They must be ready to jump and less than a moment's notice and must be proficient at what they do.

That's why firefighters, and especially fire chiefs, appreciate any opportunity for training, as was the case in October, for Morehead City Fire Chief Jerry Leonard and his brother, Atlantic Beach Fire Chief Jimmy Leonard.

Paid and volunteer firefighters from both departments trained using an abandoned house just west of Morehead City for a residential sprinkler demonstration and working on various firefighting techniques.

Before the drills began, one room of the single-story house was set up with a sprinkler head. Five firefighters (and one nervous newspaper reporter) sat in the room while fire, which was started in a bucket, licked its way up to a pair of curtains. Within 55 seconds after the curtains ignited, the sprinkler head went off, immediately dousing the fire, and those sitting in the room.

Next, all windows and doors were shut, and the house was filled with smoke from

smoldering bales of damp straw. Firefighters donned airpicks, crawling through the house in groups of two or three, in search of "fire victims."

They pulled fire hoses along with them and moved through the pitch black house by following the walls, reaching behind couches and beds in search of bodies (other firefighters playing dead), checking closed doors for heat and searching for the source of the fire.

In situations where smoke completely blocks vision, firefighters may have to stop breathing for a moment so they can listen for a telltale crackling sound and follow that noise to the flames.

By the time the last group entered, the house had heated up considerably, and so had the firefighters, with most admitting they would rather fight fire during cooler winter months. The heat that builds up around them and underneath their heavy suits, combined with the strenuous work of pulling hoses and carrying other gear can be exhausting. In more serious fires, it might take several "strike teams" to knock down a blaze. The groups work like tag teams, trading off to get a brief rest and full airpicks.

In the drill, the real heat came at the end, when firefighters set the house ablaze. That was the real reason it had been donated to the fire department in the first place.

It didn't take too long for the dwelling to catch. And once the fire got rolling, it sent a massive cloud of dense smoke high into the sky. Curious spectators began inching away from the blaze as the heat made the cool, fall day

seem more like a sweltering Carteret County summer day.

The firefighters surrounded the houses with hoses and watered down nearby trees and flying embers. A tanker truck would leave to fill up with water and return to unload into two holding tanks.

By evening, all that was left were the cement floor and chimney bricks.

Morehead City Fire Chief Jerry Leonard said his department burned abandoned houses about three to four times a year and conducted other training sessions.

All state firefighters must meet a minimum of 36 hours a year in training and meetings to be eligible for state death benefits.

The city, however, requires its firefighters to meet Level I of the National Fire Protection Agency's "1001 Fire Training Standard." They have two years to complete the 120-hour training.

Atlantic Beach Fire Chief Jimmy Leonard said his volunteers were not required to meet that standard. However, many of his firefighters completed the training on their own.

Both chiefs said they would like to sign up a few more "good" volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the Morehead City department should contact Chief Jerry Leonard at 247-2611. Anyone interested in joining the Atlantic Beach department should contact Chief Jimmy Leonard at 726-7361.

"Everybody's hunting for volunteers," Chief Jerry Leonard said of all the municipal and rural fire departments in Carteret County. "We just need to get the word out that people can become volunteers."

## First Substation

KINSTON—The Hugo Volunteer Fire Department will soon be the first department in the area to have its own substation which will serve approximately 300 residences. With three-fourths acre of land on RPR 1742 donated by Clyde Cunningham, the department will begin construction of a 2-bay, 40-foot by 36-foot facility which will

be built by the R.N. Rouse Co. of Goldsboro.

The projected date of completion is mid-January. On hand for the ground breaking were: Fleming Taylor, Hugo V.F.D., president; Clyde Cunningham; County Commissioner Lynwood Barwick and Hugo V.F.D. Chief Johnny Craft.

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# Firemen Make Wish List, In Light of Study

By Lynn Earley  
Lexington Dispatch  
Staff Reporter

**L E X I N G T O N** — Lexington firemen have compiled a wish list, of sorts, for the new fire station they hope the city soon will build.

"With the Fire Department, we've got to define what they want first," City Manager Duke Whisenant told the City Council recently, saying he will seek firefighters' input so the city can push forward on the project.

Discussion of the city's space needs has surfaced in recent weeks as a result of a study the city received in October. This study, by the consulting group CE Maguire, lists as a pressing need a new fire station to replace headquarters on West Center Street, at an estimated cost of \$865,000, without land costs.

In the first step toward making a new station a reality, Fire Chief Tommy Williams has ordered a book with floor plans of other situations. Firemen also hope to visit a few other stations to gain an idea of what they need.

In addition to recommendations for a new fire station, the study also shows a need for expansion in most departments, at least in the next 10 years. The study shows the best way to combine offices and sets up time tables for building projects.

Department directors had given the consulting group information about their cur-

rent number of employees and their current space needs. They also predicted how many employees they would need in the next 10 years. The consultants also visited each department and interviewed people.

The city has about 398 employees in 11 major departments. "These agencies are now located in a number of locations around the city and lack a degree of centralization," the study says.

Most of the city's buildings are re-used older facilities which lack efficient design, other than the new police station and fire station No. 3 on Biesecker Road, the report says. The city has maintained and renovated its buildings to meet quality standards, however, other than some of the public works and public utilities buildings, the study says.

A new administrative building should be the city's second priority, after the fire station, the study says. Estimated cost is \$2.2 million. This building would house the city manager and mayor, two department directors and the department of finance, personnel building and engineering.

At the Police Department, more space may be needed by 1992, the study says, recommending adding another story to the building, for an estimated cost in current dollars of \$873,000.

The Recreation Department needs another gym, more

storage and shop space and a larger service area, with an estimated \$483,000 price tag, unless the city builds a new gym, which would boost the cost to \$1.2 million. Some other departments need centralized offices, more storage, expanded office space and other changes, the study indicates.

In addition to its evaluation of building needs, the study also points out the need for more parking in the future, with their estimate of the demand ranging from about 120 to 160 slots.

The Fire Department needs more space for its trucks, Williams said. The three trucks are parked in the largest part of the building, with the ladder of one truck extending so far back it reaches beyond offices, almost into a hallway.

Firemen, whose 19 beds are squeezed into one dormitory-style bedroom, also names semi-private sleeping quarters as one suggested improvement.

There is no heat in the current bedroom, Williams said. The only heat register in the sleeping area is in a small bathroom to one side of the bedroom. A window unit air conditioner cools the large bedroom in summer and firemen share one toilet and two showers upstairs, with a couple of more toilets downstairs near the office area.

Wiring in the building is inadequate for the number of appliances used in the Fire Department and City Hall, Williams said. Although the study calls the department a fire hazard, Williams does not go that far in his comments.

"It's just a dilapidated building," he said. "You can take an old building that would look bad, as long as it's kept up and has safety devices, I don't know that I would call it a fire hazard. I would say this, if it ever does catch fire, it would be hard to stop because of the construction."

# Fire 'Pre-Plans' Slated for Schools

Boon Watauga Democrat  
By Brent Childers  
Staff Writer

**BOONE** — The county currently is developing "pre-plans" for the nine schools in the Watauga County school system in an effort to prepare schools and emergency service agencies for the worst of possible fire emergencies, County Fire Marshall Lester V. Rich said recently.

Rich said his office recently completed the first pre-plan, which will be for Parkway Elementary School. He said the plans detail the groundwork on how school students and personnel, fire departments and law enforcement agencies are to respond in case the elementary school would experience a fire emergency.

"What we are doing with the pre-plans, are preparing for the worse," Rich said.

Although Rich said Parkway Elementary School has several unique problems related to fire emergencies, he said there is no specific reason for completing the first pre-plan on that school and that his office now is preparing to draw up the plans for the remaining eight schools.

He said the pre-plans include detailed instruction for all fire departments which would be expected to respond to a fire emergency. In addition, personnel with the Emergency Medical Service, the Watauga County Sheriff's Department and the N.C. Highway Patrol are included in the planning.

The planning takes into account what accommodations could be made for school students and personnel in case a fire emergency occurred at a time when weather conditions are severe, how to handle traffic in congested areas, which agencies are to respond and what duties each agency will be responsible for.

The fire marshal office's pre-plans encompass all aspects of a fire emergency, unlike a situation when only one

or two fire trucks would respond to a fire drill at a school. The pre-plans include conducting mock emergency drills where school, fire department, law enforcement personnel, and other emergency service agencies will make a test run of the newly established pre-plan.

One particular problem the fire marshal's office has encountered during planning for an emergency at Parkway Elementary School is the lack of a sufficient water supply.

The fire marshal said statistics show that a fire can double its size every two minutes.

The job of getting enough water immediately for an emergency at Parkway Elementary via fire department tankers is compounded by the fact that the nearest volunteer departments have limited capacities and the loaded tankers must travel steep grades, while the response time for a larger tanker truck from Boone could be as long as 12 minutes.

Rich said the pre-plans are designed to help the Boone departments and other area volunteer departments coordinate their efforts to cut down on the initial response time.

Rich completed a week-long fire inspection of all the schools. N.C. General Statutes require the inspections to be made every 90 days, which amounts to about four inspections each year.

He said the inspections consist of general observations about fire safety, such as checks on fire alarm systems, making sure fire exits are accessible and easy to open, and whether or not any unsafe housekeeping practices exist at any of the schools.

Rich said all the schools were in good shape overall.

The only significant violation noted by the fire marshal was a faulty fire alarm at Watauga High School. Rich said officials with the company which installed the system have been contacted and the problem is being corrected. He said he has found one fire exit which would not open and several fire extinguishers that need replacing, but that no major problems have been discovered.

"All in all, we feel the schools are safe in regard to warnings, evacuations and housekeeping," Rich said. "But in case there is a fire at one of our schools, the new pre-plans are going to better prepare everyone involved in such an emergency."



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