



Firefighters Request Special Fire Truck

ZEBULON—The Zebulon Board of Commissioners has a prime opportunity in coming weeks to perform a great service to the town and, in a secondary capacity, to help its sister towns in eastern Wake County.

The Zebulon Fire Department has requested that the 1987-88 town budget include funds—approximately \$400,000—for a special fire truck with a 95-foot revolving ladder based on an aerial platform. The money for this special firefighting equipment would not necessitate a tax increase for local citizens; it is available in a special capital reserve fund created by revenues from the voluntary annexation of the Glaxo pharmaceutical plant last year.

Although the truck would not be put into service until early 1988 at best (due to the bid process and construction requirements), it could be an invaluable tool for future fire protection in an area with a substantial industrial base and a growing business community. Fighting a blaze in a large industrial complex can be extremely difficult with a standard fire truck; the aerial-ladder design would enable Zebulon firefighters to rise above the scene and spray a particular area of a plant that otherwise might be almost impossible to reach from the ground without great risk to the volunteer firefighters and the plant.

An advanced piece of

equipment of this type could also provide secondary assistance to Wendell and Knightdale volunteer fire departments during cases of extreme emergency at businesses in those nearby fire districts. Local fire departments generally make themselves available now for mutual aid when extra hands are needed, and increasing the technological capability of any one fire department may eventually prove to be an advantage to all eastern Wake residents and businesses.

We have no way of knowing whether the \$400,000 price tag is a comparatively reasonable one, since this type of fire truck is so specialized and is unlike any equipment the local department currently uses, but the fact that the amount is high should not deter Town Board members from approving the purchase. With plants the size of Omark, Naomi Knitting Mills, Devil Dog and Glaxo within its boundaries, the Zebulon Fire Department needs to have the best equipment the town can provide, as long as the costs can be covered by a reasonable taxation program.

Fire Donation

GOLDSBORO—A \$200 donation from the Saulston Ruritan Club for the Saulston Volunteer Fire Department was presented by Ruritan President David Callis, to Fire Chief Henry Labrecque.

spill into the lake," Bryant said.

"Thanks to Lt. Randy Clements, our hazardous-materials expert, we decided to put out the fire in the van and let the gas burn off. It was a dangerous situation, because the tank had just been loaded. We could see where the fire was three miles before we got there."

The driver of the van, which is registered to Julie E. Cole, 4420 Guess Road, was identified as Vard M. Vardon. He suffered first-degree burns on his arm but refused medical treatment, Bryant said.

Bryant estimated damage to the vehicle at \$10,000.

Fire Chief Makes It Official; He's Retiring After 41 Years

By Elizabeth Coady
Staff Writer
Greensboro New-Record

GREENSBORO—With a grin on his face and a gleam in his eye, Greensboro Fire Chief R. L. Powell confirmed Friday, June 19, he is retiring from the department after 41 years.

"It's been an exciting career," said Powell, 62, who will step down Sept. 30. "I'm going to be doing a lot of things that I haven't had time to do in 44 years."

Powell, fire chief for 10 years, announced his decision at a news conference at the Central Fire Station on North Church Street.

City Manager William Carstarphen said he greeted the news with both "regret and satisfaction, but with the satisfaction of knowing what a tremendous job that he has done."

"There is no question about it: R. L. Powell has been a leader," Carstarphen said. "You will never find a gentleman who is more a pleasure to work with."

Floating Fire

KINSTON—North Lenoir firefighters with portable extinguishers went down the bank and waded into the river in an effort to reach a burning boat that was floating approximately 200 feet from the dock. The fire was reported at 5:40 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, at the N.C. Wildlife boat ramp. Fire spokesman said the fire appeared to have been caused by a gasoline leak and accumulation of fumes that rapidly ignited. The boat was owned by Kenneth Edward Raynor. Raynor and two passengers, Marshall Thomas and Richard Moody, were in the boat at the time of the fire.

Restoration

Project Displayed

GOLDSBORO—Members of the Mount Olive Volunteer Fire Department recently displayed the 1926 American LaFrance fire truck they have restored. The truck is used for displays and parades. On hand were Lloyd Warren, captain; Michael Taylor, fireman; and Ralph Hollingsworth, assistant chief.

Because the city requires firefighters to retire at age 62, Powell's retirement was expected. Sources said Powell would announce the decision at the morning news conference. Powell could have sought a waiver of the rule.

Carstarphen said Powell's successor will be chosen from inside the department.

Eighteen firefighters of battalion chief or higher rank, are eligible to apply.

Powell said he is "thankful" for Carstarphen's decision.

"I feel that we have a number of competent people who can lead this department," Powell said.

The list of candidates include First Deputy Chief R. B. Kent and Operations Deputy Chief J. L. Coble, both second-in-command under Powell.

Kent, who has worked 37 years for the department, said in recent years he has avoided thinking about the prospect of becoming chief.

"Now it's time for me to make a decision, and I haven't made that decision yet," he said.

Coble, a 34-year veteran, said he will apply for the job. He now oversees the firefighting and maintenance divisions.

Assistant Chief R. K. Flowers, commander of Battalion One, also said he will apply for the job. He has been a firefighter for 27 years.

"I am able to, and yes, I will be," Flowers said.

Other firefighters who may apply to be chief include W. F. Jones, commander of Battalion Two; J. L. Box, assistant chief in charge of fire prevention; and B. C. Cox, assistant chief in charge of training.

Carstarphen called Powell a good administrator who has been a financial "steward" for the fire department. As chief, Carstarphen said, Powell has sought to have the city buy the most up-to-date equipment "within the limits of the public's ability to finance them." Firefighters have expressed mixed feelings about Powell's retirement.

Some, such as Kent, said Powell will be missed.

Former Fire Chief Dies

SOUTHERN PINES—Former Southern Pines Fire Chief Frank Haylander Kaylor, 89, died Wednesday, June 25, at Moore Regional Hospital. A model railroad hobbyist, he was a founder of the Southern Pines Rescue Squad.

Mr. Kaylor moved from Raleigh to Southern Pines in 1915 to work as a mechanic at a local garage. He joined the Southern Pines Fire Department as a volunteer and later became a fulltime paid fireman who worked his way up to chief. He retired in 1962.

He was noted for his hobby of making scale models of locomotives.

Firefighters' Action Prevents Lake Pollution

DURHAM—Quick thinking by members of the Redwood Volunteer Fire Department prevented possible pollution of Falls Lake, recently.

The department sent three trucks and 22 men to a fire in a mobile dog-grooming van on Cheek Road at the Falls Lake bridge near the Durham-Wake county line.

Chief Nick Bryant said the blaze apparently started because of a leaking fuel line. He said firefighters extinguished the fire in the van but allowed the 40 gallons of gas to burn until the tank was empty.

"We didn't want the gas to

Dalmation Puppy Given To Fire Department

GOLDSBORO—The Goldsboro Fire Department has a new mascot—a Dalmation puppy.

Goldsboro Fire Chief Willard Herring said a Pink Hill woman who works at Seymour Johnson AFB donated the nine-month-old female puppy to the fire department.

He said Anita Brenberger told him that she works long hours and does not have enough time to spend with the young dog. She said she wanted to find a good home for the Dalmation, Herring said.

Dalmations have worked as fire department mascots through history, functioning

as an escort and guard dog for the old horse-drawn fire trucks of the earlier part of the century.

Herring said the dog, named Dorothy Elaine, is registered with the American Kennel Club and very friendly. Herring said he would like to keep the dog at the fire station, if she can get used to the loud sound of the fire alarm. But, he said, he does not know if that will be a practical idea.

He said several of the firefighters vied to take Dorothy Elaine home and offered to keep her, but the chief decided he should be the one she stayed with.

Editorial

An update on the Field & Stream Turkey Shoot for 1987 has been received from Mike Edison. In it, he states that he is aware that you have not received your razors and Field & Stream pictures yet, but you will get them in due course, and he is working on it.

Also, another item has been added to this year's Turkey Shoot; the winning Fire Department will have its earnings (up to \$1,000.00) matched by Field & Stream—in other words, if your department has the Grand Prize Winner, and you write and tell them that you earned \$1,000.00, they will send you an extra \$1,000.00. If you earn \$2,000.00, you will still only get \$1,000.00 extra from Field & Stream, but after

all, that's just extra "gravy", right?

The 1987 winners will be pictured in the November issue of Field & Stream. The winners of course, will have to send in the pictures.

Any department who wishes to sell subscriptions to Field & Stream will retain \$4.00 for each subscription sold. Simply fill in the slip following this editorial and mail it to Mike Edison.

I have also received a letter from F. M. Menzies of the city of Prince George, British Columbia, who wants the addresses of Fire Departments in the U.S.A. He has been appointed to start a patch collection for his department and has received a copy of our publication and a patch from a firefighter in Burlington.

He says in the past 6 weeks



EMILY H. KING

he has written for and sent out over 50 patches and has received at least 100 of them in return, which have been mounted and look very impressive. He asked that I send him a list, if possible of the names and addresses of some of our North Carolina de-

partments. Since I do not have an updated list at my disposal at present, or have the time to take care of this, I am unable to do this. I am passing it on to you and hopefully you will drop him a card or note and give him your address and perhaps a patch also.

It's nice to know we are now reaching out to British Columbia and Canada with our publication.

Write to: F. M. Menzies, per E. Parent, Director of Fire Services, Fire Hall #1, 1111 Seventh Ave., Prince George, B.C. V2L 3N8.

Emily H. King

Stash your trash.

Masters Degree

BLACK MOUNTAIN— Joseph T. Flack has received a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Hartford Graduate Center in affiliation with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, N.Y.

He is the son of Max and Peggy Norton Flack, former residents of Black Mountain. He is married to the former Tamii Humphries of Asheville. They live in Connecticut.

He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Miles P. Flack, the late Ernest M. Norton Sr. and Ada Norton McDevitt, all former residents of Black Mountain.

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We reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us. Please note that when submitting a newspaper clipping we need to know the name of the newspaper, the town it is located in and the date of the article. We also need to know who wrote it if it has a byline. If you submit original photographs, please make a note on the back of each photo if you want them returned.

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Fireman Injured In Blast

By Carol Dorn
New Bern: Sun Journal

NEWBERN—A volunteer fireman was injured in one of two fires that kept city and county firefighters busy in June.

David Works, a volunteer fireman, was treated and released from Craven County Hospital, after receiving minor injuries at the scene of the fire at the old Damco Inc. building at 1219 Pollock St., Fire Chief Ralph Gaskins said.

Gaskins said a gallon can of an unknown material exploded and hit Works in the chest area causing "deeply bruised ribs."

Firefighters helped Works out of the building and gave him oxygen. Works was alert and breathing on his own when the ambulance arrived.

Gaskins said the fire began about 4:15 p.m. when "sparks from a cutting torch were exposed to other materials."

The fire was extinguished in about 30 minutes, Gaskins said. He said that two trucks and an equipment van responded with 25 men.

Young World Clothing House, housed in front of the building, received \$15,000 in damage to its contents, and an apartment, housed in the upper portion of the building, received \$1,000 damage.

The back of the building,

used for storage, received \$7,000 in damage, Gaskins said.

In an unrelated fire, Little Swift Creek Fire Department responded to a mobile home fire on Macedonia Church

Road in Ernul about 2 p.m. the same day.

According to the fire report, five trucks with 15 men put out the blaze that caused \$12,000 damage to the \$24,000 mobile home and its contents.

Fire Doused Fast

MANTEO—A spark ignited a flame causing a wood fire on the storage dock at Andmar Gas Co. on U.S. Highway 64 in June.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 11, James Hatton, an employee of Andmar, discovered a leakage around the valve threads of a new 20-pound customer-bought grill tank.

Hatton turned the tank over in order to drain it when a spark apparently caused by the tank scraping on the concrete dock ignited the gas and sent a blaze towards pine straw located at the wooden platform behind the dock. The platform stores empty cylinder tanks. Although the fire was concentrated in one area, on and under the dock, a truck filled with propane gas was 10 to 15 yards away.

Hatton rushed to notify the fire department and then returned to the platform with a fire extinguisher.

Lynn Davis, another employee, a volunteer fireman, returned from the field to as-

sist Hatton.

The Roanoke Island Volunteer fire department responded to the scene in approximately three minutes from the Manteo station and with the assistance of the Wanchese station extinguished the fire in five minutes. Involved were five fire trucks and 21 volunteer firemen.

One injury occurred to volunteer fireman Fred Parker who twisted his back. According to Ted Moseley, manager at Andmar, there was no damage to the area. Moseley said he was pleased at how his employees handled the incident.



Fire Guts Old Mill Building

By Benjy Hamm
Rowan County
The Salisbury Post

ROWAN COUNTY—A three-alarm fire gutted the former Wormser Knitting Mills building on Klumac Road Saturday evening, June 27, but firemen managed to keep the flames from spreading to adjacent buildings.

The two-story building that burned apparently was empty, according to owner Robert Saunders. He had leased the building — one of four on the 13-acre site — to Worsmer, and the company had recently moved out its equipment.

Saunders estimates the replacement cost at \$150,000. He has insurance on the structure.

The spectacular fire started about 7 p.m., and thirty-six Salisbury firefighters were called to the scene. They had the fire "under control" — meaning contained in one building and able to halt with the units on hand — after about 45 minutes. Several firemen and investigators were still on the scene at midnight and firemen maintained a watch on the building through the night.

Assistant fire chief Rick Fesperman said investigators do not know what caused the fire and could not get inside the building for clues until it cooled. The building was still extremely hot at midnight and could stay hot until afternoon, he said.

Responding firefighters spotted smoke from Innes Street and knew they would be facing a battle, he said. Battalion Chief Timmy Lowman called for a second alarm en route. A second alarm calls in all off-duty firemen.

Fesperman called for the third alarm when he arrived. A third alarm calls in outside units as replacements in case any other fires are started while the units are out. Units from South Salisbury, Granite Quarry and Spencer assisted and had to respond to several automatic alarm calls and one brush fire on Carolina Avenue which was caused by

ashes floating away from the mill.

The Rowan County Emergency Medical Service and Rowan County Rescue Squad aided firefighters on the scene.

Spectators, drawn by bright orange flames and billowing black and white smoke which towered over the building, gathered at Old South Main and Carolina streets to watch the burning. Intense heat kept them from getting much closer.

Several firefighters suffered heat exhaustion, according to Fire Chief Sam Brady. However, no one was seriously hurt.

Brady said the building was totally involved when firemen arrived on the scene. "It was a write-off then," he said.

Firemen concentrated their efforts on saving adjacent buildings, which were as close as 15 feet. They sprayed a steady stream of water on the brick walls and roof of the closest building and knocked down flames that attempted to cross the divider between the buildings. An adjacent building stored shingles which could have caught on fire easily if flames had jumped across the divider, Brady said. A few flames popped up in the building, but firemen quickly snuffed them out.

Small fires also sprung up in undergrowth and grass around the building. They, too, were quickly washed out.

Brady and Fesperman credited the department's new "Quint" truck, a powerful unit which sprays water from the ladder and several hoses, and personnel with containing the fire in one building. "They fought like the devil," Fesperman said.

Saunders arrived just a few minutes after firefighters and said they did an incredible job saving the other buildings. A friend of Saunders, Joe Cutler, a physician's assistant at Rowan Memorial Hospital, arrived with him and helped firemen.

Cutler drove to a 7-11 store, plunked \$10 on the shelf and ordered all the ice it would buy and a cooler to put it in. He took the ice and water to ex-

hausted firefighters.

The building was once part of the McCanless Custom Fabrics plant and the old Klumac Mills. Klumac Mills was built in 1918 by Charles Kluttz and well-known Salisbury businessman Walt F. McCanless. The mill took its name from the first three letters of each man's name.

The McCanless plant went bankrupt in 1980.

The 13-acre site has been used recently for flea markets, antique shows and craft exhibits.

Ground Near N.C. 32

WASHINGTON—The ground—or 40 acres of it—is on fire in northern Beaufort County.

Robert Fleming, a smoke chaser for the forest service, said that about 40 acres of 15-foot deep peat is burning near N.C. Highway 32. Fleming said that about 20 people from the forest service and Georgia Pacific, whose land the fire is on, are fighting it.

"There's stuff burning about 10 feet into the ground and trees falling over because there's no root system to hold them up," Fleming said.

He said that the firefighters' main concern is trying to contain the fire because they do not have a large enough water supply to do much else.

"It's going to burn for a long time," Fleming said.

The fire, which apparently was started by lightning, had probably been burning for more than a week, Fleming said, but had not been reported until Wednesday, June 10.

He said there had not been much damage to timber because the area recently had been logged.

Fire Season Rained Out

HENDERSON—Weather conditions have been rather dry for some parts of North Carolina during the last few weeks, with some crop stress threatened. During the early spring, it was just too wet, at least for some agriculture interests.

For the most part, however, the rainfall in North Carolina has been abundant so far this year. In general, the total actually has been about an inch and a half above normal for the year to date.

That is especially appreciated when one recalls the devastating drought and heat experienced by the Tar Heel State and most of the Southeast during the spring and summer last year.

In addition to the effect on agriculture, the improved situation this year has provided another bonus.

After two consecutive years of severe forest fires, 1987 could go into the Tar Heel history books as the year with the smallest number of acres lost to wildfire on record, according to a report from the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The department's mid-year statistics show that from January through June this

year, 1,865 fires burned 8,256 acres of land across North Carolina. Compare that with 1986, when during the same six-month period 4,952 fires seared 109,873 acres over the state.

The year with the least number of acres burned was 1983, when 2,897 fires scorched 12,644 acres, according to the department record book.

The relative scarcity of fires and acres burned so far in 1987 is attributed to the abundant rains the state had during the first four months of the year.

During last year's drought, the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources battled a 73,000-acre fire in Pender and Onslow counties during the month of May. In comparison, the largest fire to date this year has been a 450-acre fire that burned near Swansboro in May.

Although the forest fire danger has been relatively low in 1987 up until now, it could, of course, increase if the Tar Heel State encounters another period of dry weather during the summer or fall months. For the first half of the year, however, there is good reason for rejoicing in that respect.

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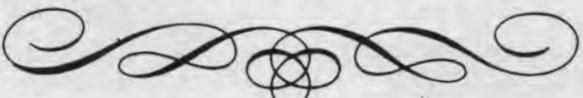
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Firefighters-Aid Technicians Worried

By Richard L. Williams
Raleigh Times
Staff Writer

RALEIGH—Like all Raleigh firefighters, who often are the first to respond to calls for help from sick and injured people, Randy Bagwell said he sometimes is teased about AIDS.

"We might go out on a call and some guy at the house (might) say, 'If I were you, I wouldn't treat that guy. He has AIDS,'" said Bagwell, of Station 7 on Glascock Street.

Nowadays, "you never know when they're joking," he said.

Last week, in an effort to protect firefighters from being exposed to the deadly virus, all Raleigh fire stations received goggles and face masks and probably will be supplied with smocks as an extra precautionary measure. Fire Chief Sherman A. Pickard has ordered firefighters to wear the extra garb on all rescue calls.

"All the doctors we have talked to about what we can do to prevent getting this thing, this is what they're recommending we do," District Chief J.B. Sandy said. "We're taking every precaution we can."

The AIDS issue has been quietly debated by city fire administrators since an incident involving firefighter Matilda A. (Tilly) White.

Ms. White said she was

unaware that a man she treated on an emergency call was an AIDS victim. Family members including the victim's wife, Ms. White said, watched as she and other rescue workers treated the man. No one, she said, informed them the man had AIDS.

"It's not like we would not have treated him if they had said something, but we would have put on (gloves)," Ms. Smith said. "But they stood there and said nothing."

Not until later, when she arrived at Rex Hospital with the patient, was it discovered the man had AIDS.

"People are trying to play it down," said Ms. White, a nine-year firefighter. "But it's time to say it's here and deal with it. We want action, and we want it now."

"It's a real devastating thing when someone walks up to you and says: 'Hey, guess what. You've been exposed to AIDS.'"

Ms. White said tests revealed no signs that she has contracted AIDS, the acronym for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"This really has gotten firefighters extremely concerned," said Bobby H. Brown, president of the Raleigh Professional Firefight-

ers, an organization made up of nearly 85 percent of the city's firefighters. "I'm going to be super cautious. We're going to find ourselves treating everybody the same—like everyone has a deadly or infectious disease."

But Wake Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Director Gerald Y. Brown said he was concerned that what he called firefighters' "paranoia" over contracting AIDS could adversely affect medical attention given to patients.

"We're in the emergency care business, and our response time is most important to us and most important to the patient," he said. "If we were paranoid anytime we transported an AIDS patient, we'd have been gone a long time ago."

Wake EMS ambulances respond to more than 13,000 calls a year, Brown said.

Firefighters are first to arrive on most emergency calls, and must stabilize patients until rescue squads arrive. That often involves treatment for gunshots or other puncture wounds.

Bagwell said, "We've answered calls before, and before we'd know it we were already covered with blood."

Brown said emergency workers are more threatened

by other highly contagious diseases, such as hepatitis and meningitis, than they are with AIDS.

The main problem on an emergency call, Brown said, is knowing who has what.

"In my opinion, there're a lot of people that know people have contagious diseases but don't say anything because they're afraid it would affect the treatment of that individual," he said. "All I ask is that a family that knows, that they let us know so we can further protect ourselves and protect the patient and decontaminate our equipment."

EMS personnel wear plastic surgical gloves when responding to calls.

Although firefighters now must be certified EMTs (emergency medical technicians), the AIDS scare has some older firefighters saying they were hired as a firefighter, not as an emergency management technician.

"We may be overreacting to the AIDS thing," Bagwell said. "But one thing's for sure, it'll kill."

David H. Jolly, head of the state Division of Health Services on AIDS control, said, "Although it's a deadly virus, it's a very difficult virus to contract."

But recently, three hospital workers from different regions of the United States, none of whom belong to any known risk groups for AIDS, tested positive for the virus after each came in contact with the blood of an infected person, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

AIDS, which attacks the body's immune system, is transmitted through body fluids such as blood and semen. Most often, its victims are homosexual men and intravenous drug users.

As of May 1, North Carolina had 206 confirmed AIDS cases. Some 146 people in the state have died of AIDS since 1983. Since that same time, there have been 24 confirmed AIDS cases in Wake. It is projected that 1,200 cases would

Fire Destroys Chickens

SILER CITY—A fire at Harpers Crossroads destroyed a chicken house and between 5-6,000 chickens that were to be sold the following week.

The fire, which county fire marshal Mark Scott said was apparently caused by lightning, occurred at the farm of Billy Joe and Edna Phillips.

Thirty firefighters from Bonlee, Bennett, and Goldston were on the scene to handle the blaze. "But by the time the first unit arrived about 7:15," Scott said, "the house had already fallen in."

"The blaze spread rapidly," he said, "because the insulation used in the house was a urethane product that's highly flammable and gives off a toxic smoke when it burns."

Firefighters were also concerned about the closeness of the blaze to a 500-gallon propane gas tank. "They kept it wet down," he said, "because we sure didn't want it to get hot and vent itself."

Scott said he thinks lightning was the cause of the blaze after an investigation showed brittle wires at one point. "That's a good sign of lightning burn," he said, "plus the wires in the rest of the house still had some elasticity. And some of the neighbors said there had been a storm in the area before the fire."

Scott said the house had an estimated replacement value of \$50,000. The chickens were hens and roosters being grown for an egg-laying operation and had a value of \$5.00 each.



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Continued on page 7

Lumber Yard Fire Damages Top \$2 Million

By Deuce Niven
Tabor City Tribune

TABOR CITY—A blaze of undetermined origin destroyed the sawmill at Waccamaw Lumber Co. early Tuesday evening, June 9, leaving behind more than \$2 million in damages, officials said.

The blaze started suddenly and spread quickly according to Austin Gore, night watchman for Waccamaw Lumber Co. and its parent company, Tabor City Lumber Co. Gore said he had checked the sawmill area during his usual rounds at 7:10 p.m. Gore reported the fire 30 minutes later.

"When I found it, it was a ball of fire from one end to the other," Gore said. "It hadn't been five minutes since we'd been talking and looking over there."

All of the firm's 60 employees had gone home for the evening, Gore said.

"If the whole crew had been down here I don't believe they could have stopped it," Gore said.

Water was a critical factor in controlling the spread of the blaze, said Tabor City Fire Chief Jerry Watts. Because there was no hydrant on the lumber company property, tankers from throughout Columbus County were called in to assist in firefighting efforts, Watts said.

Firefighters were hampered at first because of a lack of water, Watts said.

"A sawmill fire is a unique kind of fire," Watts said. "It's like a powder keg. If we had had a hydrant we might only have had a burned out shelter, not all of this destruction."

Although the cause of the fire was not determined Tuesday, Watts said equipment overheating during

Tuesday's hot weather could have started the blaze. Watts said he did not suspect arson in the fire.

Damaged equipment included saws, conveyor systems, and other equipment used to move and cut yellow pine lumber, said Dan Sanders, vice president and one of the family owners of the company.

"It would cost \$2 million to \$3 million to replace," Sanders said. "It wasn't worth that much because a lot of it had depreciated out. But we had some new equipment. A conveyor put in in November cost \$100,000 or so."

The Tabor City Town Council earlier this year approved a request from lumber company officials to run a six inch water main several hundred yards to the company property. The company would have continued the line to hydrants on the property. But the line has yet to be installed.

Ironically, council was meeting as the fire raged and agreed to seek state funding to help defray the cost of running the line. Town manager Al Leonard, on the scene of the fire, said he was not sure of the cost of running the line but that it would not have been a major expense for the town.

Ten fire departments from throughout the county brought 17 fire trucks and more than 100 men to help battle the fire. Generators for lights were provided by two rescue units, including Tabor City, which also brought an ambulance.

A large bark chip and sawdust pile to the west of the sawmill also burned, and Williams Township firefighters joined company workers

Continued on page 7

Freak Accidental Fire Injures 2

By Terri Likens
Staff Writer
Wilmington Star

WILMINGTON—A fire fueled by natural gas Thursday destroyed a Wilmington house and two cars, and injured two people. It started when a car lurched into a gas meter.

The fire at the home of Mack Rowell of 927 S. 11th St. began when his 22-year-old daughter, Silvia Pricilla Maxine Rowell, turned on the engine with the standard-shift car in forward gear.

According to a report by Wilmington police, the car lurched into the meter, breaking the gas main leading to the house.

William M. Johnson Jr. of Virginia, who was in town visiting relatives, heard hissing and smelled the gas when he drove by. The gas had not yet caught fire, but when Johnson saw a second car pull up, he turned back.

"I realized it was a hazard-

ous situation," he said.

While Johnson instructed the women to get away and call the proper authorities, the gas exploded into flame.

Johnson suffered second-degree burns to both arms and minor burns to his face.

Another of Rowell's daughters, Joyce, who had driven up in the second car, was also burned, and taken to the hospital by a neighbor. Both Johnson and Joyce Rowell were treated and released.

Meanwhile, Wilmington firefighters who had arrived at the scene were put in the precarious position of trying to contain the fire as much as possible, but not put it out.

Fire Captain H. M. Gore explained that if the flames had been extinguished before the main was shut off, the gas hissing out at about 60 pounds of pressure would have spread through the neighborhood until it was ignited from another source.

"If it had, we would have had a major problem then," Gore said.

Firefighters cast a fine spray on the orange glow that pulsed from the meter while N.C. Natural Gas employees dug frantically in several spots. Other gas company employees scurried about the scene with briefcase-shaped "pipe locators" before they finally reached a valve to shut off the gas.

Gore said gas company employees appeared to have had trouble finding a valve.

However NCNG employee Doug Fields said the problem was finding the quickest way to turn off the gas. He said the valve in the Rowell's yard was deep in the ground and the water from firefighters' hoses was flooding the area.

When gas company employees finally dug up a valve across the street, the fire was put out almost instantly. However, it had already spread through walls to the roof, doing heavy damage.

Fields denied that the company couldn't find a valve, but said by trying to find the valve that would stop the gas the quickest, they

ended up prolonging the effort.

Rowell, at work when the fire began, spent the afternoon poking through the blackened ruins for anything he could save. He said he planned to rebuild his house.

Around the corner, Johnson stood outside his brother's store with bandages on both arms and his burned face shiny with ointment. He didn't seem to mind that he was injured on his vacation.

"I'm not one of those heroic-type persons," he said. He said he only stopped to warn the women they were in danger.

"We need to do that for one another, you know," he said.

According to the police report, damage to the house was estimated at \$30,000. Both the Toyota that struck the house and the Monte Carlo that pulled up afterward were destroyed, and valued at \$5,000 and \$2,500, respectively.

Volunteer Fire Departments Receive Funds

PLYMOUTH—One hundred twenty-eight North Carolina volunteer fire departments including two in Tyrrell and Beaufort Counties, will receive matching fund grants as part of the Rural Community Fire Protection Program, according to Gov. James G. Martin.

Kilkenny Volunteer Fire Department in Tyrrell County will receive one of the largest grants awarded at \$2,000. The Pungo River department in Beaufort County will get a grant for \$470.



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Workers Jump To Escape Blaze

By Nelson Bland
Staff Writer
Mount Olive Tribune

SUMMERLINS CROSSROADS—Donald Outlaw, 18, said fire suddenly surrounded him and another farm worker in a packbarn filled with hay and there was nothing they could do except jump from a second-floor door.

Outlaw and a co-worker, Scottie Kornegay, 18, both of Duplin County community about 12 miles southeast of Mount Olive, said they "Literally jumped through the fire" to escape.

"I could see fire. A lot of fire. I was thinking of nothing but getting my (self) out," Outlaw said. He said he landed in some hay below. Neither he nor Kornegay were injured.

"We won't hurt, but it scared us. I don't know how Scottie got out, but he was out when I was," Outlaw said while drinking a soft drink at Summerlins Crossroads General Store across the road from the still-smoking packhouse.

The two, along with co-workers Wayne Holmes and Robert Romariez, were unloading hay when a motor on a conveyor apparently started the blaze, according to Steve Grady, who along with his father, Jim Grady of Mount Olive, owned the building and hay.

Steve Grady also operates the general store here.

The blaze quickly engulfed the old landmark structure, consuming with it a 1964 pickup, a hay trailer from which the men were unloading the hay, and other farm equipment, including an antique tractor.

The farm workers quickly

removed another tractor that was attached to the hay trailer, saving it from the blaze.

Grady said he was "sick" when he saw the antique tractor burning.

He then explained how the blaze started.

"We were using a gas-operated conveyer and the motor was close to the hay and evidently it backfired and threw some sparks in the load of hay.

"I was over at the store and heard it pop and saw the smoke rise up and said, 'Good gracious,' and I ran across here and time I got here it was

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going to town.

"It blazed up real quick, faster than you could do anything about."

Grady said the barn was fully engulfed when Oak Wolfe, Pleasant Grove and Calypso firefighters arrived. Mount Olive Rescue Service provided mutual aid assistance.

Firefighters said the blaze was "so hot you couldn't stand it." At one point they were driven back across the road by the intense heat.

Grady's wife, Betty Lou Grady, who was at the store several hundred feet away and across the road, said, "You could feel the heat through the window in the store."

A crowd of spectators gathered under the store shelter to watch firefighters battle the blaze.

Ironically, Oak Wolfe Fire Chief David Summerlin was in the store drinking a soft drink when he heard someone say, "They got a fire over there." And I looked up and saw the flames coming across the top of the barn, so I went back in the store and called

Continued on page 7

Tanker Fire Is Doused

WILSON—A liquid asphalt tanker that workers at Interstate Coatings, Inc., U.S. 301 North, were repairing caught fire Friday afternoon, sending poisonous fumes spewing from the building. No one was injured in the incident but a family living next to the business was evacuated for several hours.

Wilson Assistant Fire Chief Roy S. Spell said firefighters were called to the scene at 2:33 p.m. shortly after the fire ignited.

"They (employees) were welding a brace underneath the tanker when it ruptured," Spell said. "That's what caused the fire."

According to Spell, firefighters were able to get to the scene quickly and put out the flames, eliminating the danger of hazardous fumes seeping out.

"The wind was in our favor," Spell said, noting that employees at Regal Service Station, which sits directly across from Interstate, were told of the fire but not evacuated.

After the blaze was under control, Spell said firefighters were concerning themselves with "damming up" any runoff from the tanker.

"We didn't want any of the runoff getting out of the building and into the ditch," Spell said.

There were only 300 gallons of liquid asphalt in the tanker at the time of the incident, Spell said. The tanker normally holds up to 6,200 gallons of liquid asphalt.

Wilson fire companies 5, 3 and 7 responded to the call.

On The Job

CLINTON—Fire thought to have been caused by an electrical shortage in an attic exhaust fan led to smoke and fire damage at the home of Steve and Dixie Reedy, 303 Grove Street. Clinton Fire Department responded to the call. Emergency Services director Thad Bryson was on the scene and said the department "did an excellent job of knocking down the fire in the attic." The Reedys were at home when the fire was discovered and escaped unharmed.



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Workers Jump To Escape Blaze

Continued from page 6

the fire department."

Summerlin said there was little firefighters could do at the blaze so far as saving anything. They managed to keep the blaze from spreading to an unoccupied house just feet away.

One spectator observed, "The firemen did a good job. If they hadn't, I reckon every-

thing at the crossroads would have caught on fire."

Grady said the packhouse used to be located across the road beside the store.

"It was moved over here several years ago. They drug it over here with logs. We have been using it to store hay for ten years or more. We used to use it for tobacco."

Grady said 2,000 bales of hay, valued at \$1.75 per bale

were destroyed. He said he did not have a value, other than "priceless", on the building, the pickup and his father's antique tractor.

"Daddy bought the tractor brand new," he said.

Grady said he learned how to drive a tractor on the old machine.

Grady said neither the hay, the barn or any equipment was insured.

"It's just a total loss," he said. "I think we may try to restore the tractor. I don't know. I'm just sick about it."

Veteran Fireman Receives Top Honor

By Scott Schwebke
Roanoke Rapids Herald
Staff Writer

ROANOKE RAPIDS—A 14-year veteran of the Davie Volunteer Fire Department has been named as the department's 1986 Fireman of the Year.

David Padgett of Roanoke Rapids, who is the department's assistant fire chief, was honored and presented with a plaque during a banquet held in March, at Claude's Restaurant here. Approximately 20 firemen and their wives attended.

The presentation marked the second time Padgett has received the award, previously being named Fireman of the Year in 1975.

In accepting the award, Padgett said he was honored to be selected. He also praised "the comradery that exists in the department."

"The department is made

up of a great bunch of guys," he told the firemen and their wives. "I enjoy working with every one of them."

Padgett was presented the plaque by Fire Chief Steve Edmonds, who said Padgett was selected because he was "the best representative of the fire department" in 1986.

"David has continually done a lot for the department and has proven to be a great asset," he said.

In addition to recognizing Padgett, the dinner also featured comments from Halifax County Sheriff M.L. Stallings.

He also called on the firemen to help the sheriff's department by serving as its "eyes and ears" in observing and reporting crime.

"Be a good, but nose neighbor," Stallings told those at the dinner. "You can be our eyes and ears in the community by reporting any suspicious activities to the sheriff's department."

Stallings also said he welcomed comments regarding how his department can improve and requested the firemen as well as the public to call his office and offer suggestions.

Following Stallings' address, Ronald Jones, chairman of the Davie Volunteer Fire Department's board of directors, briefly traced the history of fire fighting and commented on its future. The Davie unit is located west of Roanoke Rapids on U.S. 158.

Building Confidence And Expertise

HICKORY—The city of Hickory Fire Department, in an effort to build confidence and expertise among its ranks of firefighters, underwent a firefighting training exercise recently at an empty house on Fourteenth Avenue, NE. Fire Departments—both paid and volunteer—undergo such practice sessions when structures targeted for demolition are available. The firefighters recreate conditions department personnel face during actual emergencies. During

the practice session, two firefighters battled blazes in an upstairs room, a worker examined equipment during the exercise, Scott Huffman cooled off his partner, Tim McConnell, with a sheet of water, and then turned the spray on himself to cut through the piercing heat. Practice fires are just like "real" ones—the smoke still chokes and the flames still burn. The personal risk to firefighters is diminished, but only a little.



McGruff, The Crime Dog

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Lumber Yard Fire Damages Top \$2 Million

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with heavy equipment in efforts to separate the burning bark from the pile and douse the flames.

"If we don't do this it'll burn for a year," said Williams Township Fire Chief William Hannah.

Many of the fire units were released shortly after 11 p.m., with the fire contained about two hours earlier and most of the hot spots out. Tabor City firefighters left the scene about midnight.

Area residents were in evidence all over the property during the height of the blaze, and some assisted with drinks for the firefighters.

Company President E.C.

Sanders Jr. said he would discuss rebuilding plans with his brothers Dan and Rod, who are vice presidents of the company.

"We'll probably build back," E.C. Sanders said.

"I imagine we will," Dan Sanders said later. "Probably not right there. We'll probably have to pour new concrete in another area."

"They say every sawmill is supposed to have a fire once in a while," E.C. Sanders said. "But this one couldn't have come at a worse time. Business has been really good."

The company was founded in 1937 by E.C. Sanders Sr. Tabor City Lumber Co. is the town's largest taxpayer, Leonard said.

Firefighters-Aid

Continued from page 4

be reported in North Carolina by 1992, Jolly said.

"AIDS is a major public health problem in North Carolina, and we're very concerned about it," Jolly said.

In April, Pickard told his firefighters to contact fire administrators immediately if they came into contact with an AIDS victim.

Public health officials have long said that the risk of health care workers' becoming infected with the AIDS virus while caring for patients is minimal, but new case reports provide evidence that a greater risk may exist for health care workers and that greater precautions are necessary.

The Centers for Disease Control recommend that

health-care workers coming into contact with blood take additional precautions to protect themselves from AIDS, including wearing surgical gloves and in some cases masks, gowns and eye protection.

"There are still a lot of myths and a lot of stigma attached to the AIDS situation," said P. Michael Edinger, deputy director of the state Emergency Medical Services. But emergency personnel "are going to be better safe than sorry" when responding to emergency calls, he said.

Firefighter J. Mike Clayton said he welcomes the extra protective gear. "In answering fire calls, we never know what we're going to run up on," he said.

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Top Fireman Grew Up With Department

By Darla Godwin
Sanford Herald
Staff Writer

SANFORD—In the early 1960s, Jimmy Bridges' chicken house caught on fire. Since there was no fire department in the Northview area, the Tramway department was called in. By the time they arrived, the house was a total loss. That fire, plus one in 1961 across the street from Bridges' Perkinson Road home, set him to thinking about the need for a fire department in the area.

Bridges has been chief of the Northview Volunteer Fire Department since 1962, when the department was founded. At the end of June, after 25 years with the department, Bridges retired.

Firefighting is almost an inborn trait for Bridges. His father, James Bridges, was with the Sanford Fire Department for more than 50 years and was fire chief for a great many of those years, Bridges said, adding that he grew up in the fire department.

"Once it gets in your blood, it's there to stay," he said.

Bridges said if he hears a fire alarm when he's out of town, he has to go to the fire to see what is going on.

Although Bridges loves being a fireman, he said it's time to give it up to the younger members of the department, which he calls "the best in the world." Ronnie Campbell has been elected to succeed Bridges as chief.

"I don't plan to go to meetings or to fires, but I'm available if they need me," Bridges said.

Bridges has many memories of his time with the department, especially of the early days when they were

trying to get everything together.

Calling himself the "instigator" of the department, he said he began by calling people he thought would be interested in being firemen. And then, they began work on financing.

"You can have a fire department, but if you don't have firemen you're in trouble," he said.

At that time, Bridges said, the county gave each new fire department \$1,500 to get started. Every member of the fire department gave \$100, and many members of the community contributed money, he said. They also had many fundraisers.

"I've never served so much chicken stew and barbecue in my life," he said.

The original building was built from donated materials, and the first fire truck was purchased from Baker Equipment Co. in Charlotte for about \$13,000, he said. The truck arrived in 1963, and Northview became "a bona-fide fire department."

Bridges remembers the department's first fire. They were called in to assist with a fire at the old WWGP Transmitter Building.

"We were so proud of our new truck and new equipment," he said.

The building burned to the ground, and Bridges said he learned that they needed more than just nice equipment to put out a fire.

Soon afterward, the members of the Sanford Fire Department were going to a training class, and Bridges' father had room for five of the Northview members to go along.

"It was like night and day," Bridges said of his first training session. "They showed us

the use of things we'd never even seen before."

The first time he went into a burning building was during this training, Bridges said.

"I had butterflies in my stomach," he said. "But I realized if I kept my cool and did what I was taught, I could put the fire out."

They all came home very proud of themselves, Bridges said, and were called to a fire, which was in the second story of a Colon house, at six o'clock the next morning. The men were able to enter the house and put the fire out fairly easily, he said.

It was after this fire that Bridges said he decided training was the only answer, and they started scheduling their own classes.

"We take as much training as we can possibly take," he said.

Ernestine Bridges has shared in her husband's experiences. She said she was always worried when he went out to the fires.

"Jimmy's been mighty lucky all these years," she said. "To be a volunteer, it sure is dangerous sometimes."

She also has been a dedicated volunteer for the community. After 16 years of working with Northview Community Water System,

she will retire at the end of June.

She has been responsible for reading the meters each month, doing all of the billing, collecting money and cutting on and off water for customers.

She has gone out on steaming days and on freezing days, had experiences with dogs, spiders, snakes, frogs and an assortment of other animals, and been available to collect money and handle problems at all hours of the day and night, she said.

"It's been interesting," she added.

Neither of the Bridges are ready for full retirement and will remain at their regular jobs. Bridges is a warehouse superintendent for Steel & Pipe Corp. and Mrs. Bridges is a teller at First Citizens Bank in Kendale Shopping Center.

They also have many activities that will keep them busy. They are members of Flat Springs Baptist Church, belong to the Wolfpack Club and are avid NCSU fans.

Their granddaughter Kelly, who just turned three, is their favorite hobby, Mrs. Bridges said. They also like to spend time with their two sons, Jay and Billy.

Bridges also enjoys playing golf, woodworking and mak-

ing stained glass.

"He works in his shop every night," Mrs. Bridges said. "He's got a shop that most men would give anything to have."

But, in spite of all these activities, the Bridges say they will miss their volunteer work.

Mrs. Bridges said she will have a hard time getting used to not waking him up whenever she hears the fire alarm go off.

"It's kind of sad because Jimmy and his father started this," she added.

"I'm going to miss it, and I'm not going to miss it," Bridges said. "I've put in a lot of time over the years. I'm going to miss the fellowship, my friends and going to the fires."

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Fire Department Progresses

By Karen Equils
Staff Writer
Kinston Free Press

KINSTON—"The difference is as different as night and day from when I was here a year ago," said Rick Evans.

"The interaction of the firefighters, their responses and the intelligent and articulate questions they asked concerning the material covered . . . they asked detailed questions concerning the technical aspects of the school," Evans said.

Evans, a captain with the Tuscon, Arizona Fire Department, conducted training sessions for Kinston and Lenoir County fire personnel.

A 15-year-veteran of fire protection experience and 10 years of college-level teaching, Evans taught the classes

through Lenoir Community College.

Evans was in Kinston in June 1986 and at that time said he had seen only "one department that was worse."

The sessions for local personnel dealt with fire control operations, structure ventilation, engine company operations and integrated fire-ground functions.

"You have come from a scary critical level of fire protection to a department that is on the move."

"I have taught several classes in North Carolina and at this point, Kinston is ahead of the other places we have been."

"It is due in good part because the people who are now here have decided to do it."

"The firefighters (of Kinston) are excited and have a

very professional attitude," Evans said.

The training scheduled by Evans and the local Fire Department at the warehouse in the 400 block of Gordon Street got quickly out of control, but according to Evans "they performed admirably."

"I have seen them first-hand on two very well-involved structure fires and first-hand in the biggest fire I have seen in a year. They are not yet on par with western metropolitan fire departments, but have come a long way in a short time."

"The warehouse fire was a no-win situation from the point that fire began to roll. The firefighters managed their meager resources and saved over 100 cars, and there wasn't a business or a home in the area lost."

"That fire was a fact and had to be dealt with. They placed proper priorities and employed the best possible tactics to their advantage. There is nothing in their operation I would have changed using the same equipment and personnel."

"They are at a point now where there are a lot of ways to go, but personally I see high spirits and excitement about learning. They are providing professional, quality service to the community at this point," he said.

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