



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

Volume 24, Number 9

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

September 1987

AFB Firefighters Stand Ready

By Jason Brady
Fayetteville Observer-
Times
Sunday Staff Writer

FAYETTEVILLE—When 500 gallons of jet propulsion fuel erupts into a ball of fire, it can melt the skin of an airplane in seconds.

On constant guard against the spread of such fires—like the one that engulfed a Lockheed C-130 Hercules during a crash on July 1 at Fort Bragg—are Air Force firefighters, a mix of soldiers and civilians who must be ready to respond to aircraft incidents on runways in one minute.

"There's no problem making it," said SSgt. Robert Gruber, who mans the Pope Air Force Base Fire Station's communications center.

Gruber is part of a 79-man firefighting contingent located near Pope's control tower and runway, among the busiest in the Military Airlift Command. The department responds to every aircraft alarm, as well as alarms at base family housing and other facilities.

Airman 1st Class James Shields of Maryland said he became an Air Force firefighter for excitement.

"I've been in on a crash most people haven't seen," said Shields, a nine-month veteran who was on the scene of this summer's C-130 crash in which five servicemen died.

Also at that crash was Senior Airman Sidney Henderson of Florida, an Air Force firefighter for the past four years.

Fuel fires are unpredictable, Henderson said.

"You can walk along through the foam and kick up a fuel fire," he said. "You got to be aware of what the fire is doing around you. If you get tunnel vision and only concentrate on putting out one part of the fire you can find yourself surrounded."

In the last three months, the department has responded to 105 alarms on base and 192 on runways that include six landing strips at Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. Although those landing strips are on Army property, a Pope crash truck routinely is assigned to any airborne operation using Air Force aircraft.

The communications room, the department's nerve center, monitors all fire, smoke and heat alarms

and sprinkler systems on base. A "crash telephone" links it directly to the control tower which monitors every aircraft in Pope's flight zone. The center also has direct communication with other base agencies and the Fort Bragg Fire Department. Pope also has a mutual aid agreement with the fire departments in Cumberland County, Spring Lake and Fort Bragg.

A computer hooked to the alarms on base tells the dispatcher the location, source and type of fire activating an alarm. The computer displays a floor plan of the building on fire, shows the type and location of the fire, an estimate of the water needed to put out the fire, location of utility connections, the type of materials in the structure and the location and distance of nearby fire hydrants.

The department is headed by Chief Willie Bell, a former Air Force firefighter who retired and took over the top civilian job. His deputy is a senior master sergeant, the highest military rank in the department.

The "risk factor" of a \$30 million aircraft catching fire is what makes an Air Force fire department different from any other, Bell said. During his 30 years in the job, Bell said new technology and chemical firefighting agents have been the greatest change in how fires are fought.

Air Force fire departments are 40 percent civilian and 60 percent military, said Grady M. Gregory, assistant chief of training.

Gregory said military members can be deployed while civilians remain on base.

Pope's fire department is part of the 317th Civil Engineering Squadron. While most members fight fires, a five-man technical services section under Jacob Emmert enforces base fire codes in 459 housing units, 227 base buildings and in new construction. Emmert's department also conducts fire prevention programs and inspects civilian motels or hotels that provided contract loading for the base.

But the emphasis is on aircraft fires and the department trains regularly by putting out such fires in a burn pit. The pit measures 75 feet in diameter and contains a mock aircraft made with discarded metal dumpsters.

Gregory said the department conducts two hours of training per 24 hour shift. In all, 23 training events must be conducted weekly, monthly or annually. The department conducts two 500- to 600-gallon fuel burns every three months, Gregory said.

"Before any fuel burn, we go through a briefing and discuss the scenario," said Gregory, an Angier native who started his firefighting career with the Raleigh Fire Department, then went to Fort Bragg before coming to Pope 13 years ago.

The fuel is piped into the pit from a 2,000-gallon underground storage tank onto a three-inch bed of water that keeps the fuel from soaking into the underlying rock. Wearing a protective suit, a firefighter ignites the fuel and within seconds a huge black cloud of smoke arches skyward. A nearly unbearable heat radiates up to 75 feet from the pit.

Two P-2 pumpers immediately respond. Each carries 2,300 gallons of foam mixed at 3 percent with water to produce a liquified solution able to suppress a 2,000-degree fuel fire. The trucks are capable of pumping 1,400 gallons of the mixture per minute, expending their load in 1.6 minutes.

Also part of the department's 14-vehicle inventory are several P-19s, the newest crash truck in the Air Force.

Gasoline Nozzle Hitting Pavement Blamed In Blaze

Barbara Blake
Asheville Citizen

ASHEVILLE—Fire destroyed four gasoline pumps and a portion of the Express Lane market and gas station on Charlotte Street after a car pulled away from a pump with the nozzle still in its tank and caused a spark to ignite fuel spilled on the parking lot.

District Chief Ray Whitt of the Asheville Fire Department said the fire occurred about 8:45 p.m. Sunday, September 6, after a cab driver inadvertently pulled away from the gas pump with the nozzle still attached to the car on automatic fill. When the taxi pulled away the nozzle fell out of the tank and onto the lot, causing a spark that ignited fuel that had spilled onto the pavement, Whitt said.

Whitt said the cab driver immediately radioed his dispatcher to call the fire department, and the manager of the market quickly implemented the emergency shutdown system regulating the gas pumps, minimizing the damage and avoiding the likelihood of an explosion.

A 1987 Volvo valued at \$20,000 that was parked in front of the market received

extensive damage, Whitt said. The canopy over the pump station was destroyed, and the front glass on the market building was cracked, he said.

Three engine companies, one water company and 15 firefighters remained at the scene until 11:16 p.m., Whitt said. No charges were filed against the cab driver.

"A lot of people are very careless when they put the gas nozzle in the tank and set it on automatic, go in and pay, then come out and forget they haven't replaced the nozzle," Whitt said. "What occurred can occur again if people aren't cautious. They should pump the gas and replace the nozzle and tank cap before they go in to pay."



NEW TRUCK

West Hoke Fire Department's new pumper truck is the only diesel fire truck in the county. The \$72,000 truck, purchased from Jack Slagles out of South Boston, Virginia, holds 1,000 gallons of water. "We'd like to thank the people of the West Hoke Community for providing the funds to purchase the fire truck," said Lt. Sidney Harris of the West Hoke Fire Department. "We'd also like to thank the Faberge fire brigade for training with us."

Editorial

TriData Corporation, a member of the SPC group, based in Arlington, Va. has occasionally sent me news releases pertaining to fire service.

This latest one is concerning a matter I have always had strong feelings about; "Overcoming Barriers to Public Fire Education." They ask "Why doesn't the United States do a better job in public fire education? And why aren't we making better use of our top notch public educators in our communities, with the fine programs we have? What can we do to increase fire safety education in our communities?"

They have prepared a strategic report that deals with

obstacles in four key sections:

City Management, the Fire Service, Education and the Insurance Industry. This has recommendations for getting more resources, training and public support for fire prevention education.

The Tobacco Institute Fire Prevention Program has sponsored a study, based on in-depth interviews with more than 100 practitioners in the four sectors considered to be the prime actors in the delivery of Fire Prevention at the local level.

According to Philip Schaeenman, President of Tri-Data, the report deals with those interviewed about the attitudes, motivations, traditions, organizational constraints and financial considerations that get in the way of improving public fire



EMILY H. KING

education in this country. "Although attitudes are changing, fire prevention education continues to be one of the least supported functions in U.S. Fire Departments" he said. "Many Fire Departments have good public education programs but they only reach part of the

population they protect and only a few reach most of their citizens on a regular basis."

Other countries borrow U.S. Materials and ideas because we have some of the "World's Best" Public Fire Educators, however the United States has a higher fire death rate than most other industrialized countries. Getting past the obstacles to increasing public awareness and saving lives is what this report is all about.

Copies of "Overcoming Barriers to Public Fire Education," are available at no cost. Contact: TriData Corporation, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. 22209 or call them at (703) 841-2975.

Emily H. King

Arson Probed In State Line Blaze

TABOR CITY—Arson is suspected in a pre-dawn blaze Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Wayne Ward's night spot in Horry County, SC, just south of Tabor City on S.C. 410, authorities said.

Firefighters responding to the 4:34 a.m. alarm found plenty of smoke, said assistant Tabor City Fire Chief Don Hughes.

"When I got here there was smoke coming out all around the roof," Hughes said. "I haven't seen any fire."

The blaze began in a booth that housed records and sound equipment in front of the dance floor, said Fire chief Jerry Watts.

Continued on page 7

THE TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER and Carolina Rural Fireman

"An Independent Voice for Tarheel Firefighters"

Published Monthly
Subscription Rates:
\$2.00 — 1 Year
\$3.00 — 2 Years

EMILY H. KING, Editor

Send All Editorial Material, Subscription Requests and Advertising Copy to:

P. O. Box 643
New Bern, North Carolina 28560

Let Us Hear From You

Please feel free to submit any story or pictures to us for publication in this paper. We may not receive information on your department that you feel would be of interest to others, so we ask that you send items of interest to us.

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.

Let us hear from you. We appreciate your support.

Changing Address?

PLEASE STAPLE OLD ADDRESS LABEL HERE

New Address:

Name _____

P.O. Box or

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Jones Named Fire Chief

By Elizabeth Coady
News Record
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO—W. Frank Jones, a popular 31-year veteran of the Greensboro Fire Department, became the city's new fire chief October 1, which City Manager William Carstarphen announced in August.

Jones, 50, assumed the post Chief R.L. Powell has held for 10 years. Powell stepped down after 41 years with the department.

The announcement came at a press conference, where Carstarphen presented Jones with a chief's badge and bugle pins. About 50 people, including firefighters, Jones' family, Police Chief Sylvester Daughtry and Guilford County Sheriff Walter "Sticky" Burch, applauded the gesture.

Jones thanked Carstarphen and Chief Powell for their support. He also thanked firefighters. "They are the ones that are on the job ... and make me look good."

During an interview recently, Jones said, "I'm very happy. It's an ambition I guess that everyone who has a career has: to reach the top."

Jones was chosen from a field of 14 department candidates.

Reaction to Jones' selection was met with approval and excitement by firefighters in the department.

Firefighters are "excited about his style of management, his openness, his willingness to listen," Battalion Chief C.M. Culbreth said.

Firefighter G.E. Patterson from Station 7 on Wendover Avenue said Jones "would have been my pick."

"Everybody trusts Frank Jones," he said. "Everybody feels that, from the bottom man to the top man. When I grow up, I want to be just like

him."

The new chief said he'll work to improve the department's hazardous materials operations, and will address firefighters' concerns about manpower shortages. He also said, "quality circles"—employees' groups—would be created to improve communications within the department.

Jones, who lives outside the city, said he will move to Greensboro within 12 months. City employees are required to live in Greensboro. Jones said the promotion was worth the move.

When asked how his administration will differ from Powell's, Jones joked that he was not a very smart man so he would "be looking forward to help from my staff."

The comment was a signal that Jones intends to encourage a two-way dialogue with the department's firefighters.

Jones said his popularity with firefighters stemmed

from the fact, "They have confidence in me, and I have confidence in them," he said. "I guess I'm just an open fellow."

Jones' appointment was announced over department radios, notifying the rank-and-file before the public. Some firefighters said it was a nice beginning for the new administration.

Jones joined the department in 1956 when he was 19 years old. He rose through the ranks, eventually being promoted to captain, battalion chief, and then became assistant chief and training supervisor in 1980.

"It's been a very satisfying career for me," he said.

Jones said he began making goals for himself a few years after he joined the department. One of them was to be chief.

"That was an accomplishment I was to strive for, but not everyone gets to meet that goal," he said.

Alarm Saves Woman

By Paul Bonner
Durham Sun

DURHAM—A smoke detector alerted a sleeping Durham woman in time for her to escape the blaze that destroyed her Route 2, Morrisville home.

Helen Dunnigan was awakened in an early morning fire, by a smoke detector alarm and found her home on Highway 54 near the Wake County line filled with smoke, Parkwood Volunteer Fire Chief Robert Wynne said.

Unable to find the source of the smoke, Ms. Dunnigan went to her daughter's home in a trailer behind the house and alerted relatives. The relatives also were unable to discover the smoke's source and dialed 911 for help.

The Parkwood Volunteer Fire Department responded shortly with two pumper units and two tankers.

The Morrisville Fire Department also sent two tankers and an equipment truck.

Firefighters battled the fire for about an hour before bringing it under control, Wynne said.

No one was injured, but the home, a large, older house, was a total loss, Wynne said. The value of the house and its contents was estimated by Ms. Dunnigan at \$85,000.

The fire apparently started below the house's floor, which hampered firefighters in locating it, Wynne said. One Parkville firefighter fell through the floor but was not hurt, he said.

Cause of the fire is not known, Wynne added.

Firefighters Back Fire

Resistant Furniture

By Kerry Carden
Enquirer-Journal
Staff Writer

MONROE—Local firefighters agree a campaign for legislation in five states to require that furniture in hotels, office buildings and other structures be fire resistant is a good thing.

McClure Is New Chief

LEXINGTON—Randy McClure had been named chief of the Silver Valley Volunteer Fire Department after serving several years as assistant chief.

He was elected to the position by the fire department's board of directors at a meeting on August 4.

The fire department held its annual meeting on July 25 and elected four new members of the board of directors—Bill Starbuck, Bruce Wright, Darrell Cody, and Mickey Harrison. They joined incumbent members Benny Ward, Halton Hughes, Roscoe Porter, and McClure.

Tim Walton was named Fireman of the Year at the annual meeting. A veteran of about four years with the department, he was later elected by the firemen to serve as second assistant fire chief.

Robert Halker and Jerry Overcash were co-winners of the department's Community Service Award.

At the first meeting of the new board of directors on August 4, Benny Ward was elected chairman and McClure was named vice-chairman and secretary as well as being elected fire chief. Veteran fireman Troy Jarrell, a member of the department since its organization about 25 years ago, was re-elected treasurer. Although Jarrell is not a member of the board of directors, he was picked to continue in the office he has held since the department's beginning.

Firemen held their own meeting on August 11 and elected the following officers: Jerry Overcash, first assistant chief; Tim Walton, second assistant chief; Chris Hughes, captain; Chris Hedrick, first lieutenant; Milton Hedrick, second lieutenant and training officer; George (Chuck) Carter, traffic director; and Robert Halker, policeman. Overcash was elected secretary, and Clyde Jarrell (who had served as fire chief for several years) was named treasurer.

Submitted by Chief Randy McClure
Silver Valley VFD

"It is definitely a problem, because of the toxic fumes created are in such large amounts that people don't get out in the proper time," said Gene Torres, president of the Union County Fire Chiefs Association.

"Years ago even firefighters had a better chance, but it's an extreme danger to us... We no longer can afford to go into a building without a breathing apparatus."

The International Association of Fire Fighters claims more than 1,000 lives could be saved each year if such furniture had to be fire-resistant.

On the other hand, the upholstered furniture industry claims its own testing program is already protecting consumers from dangerously flammable furniture.

Torres said a "big concern" over the last 10-15 years has been the proliferation of plastics in office and home-type furnishings. Another danger is the foam used in furniture, which he said also can give off deadly fumes.

"The gases produced are a type of material that gets so much more deadly so much quicker," he said.

'Glad To See It Burn'

By Michael D. Esposito
Franklin, Times Staff
Writer

LOUISBURG—Franklin firefighters let an unoccupied house west of town burn to the ground because the owner had previously told them they could burn it as a training exercise.

"I was glad that it burned," owner Carol Holder said of the abandoned wood-frame house. "Take it from this insurance agent, it was uninsurable property."

Franklin firefighters were called to the house, which sits on 10.8 acres of land between U.S. 1 and south Cheatham Street.

Flames were coming from the windows when firefighters arrived.

Despite the flames, two Franklinton firefighters checked the inside of the house to make sure no one was inside. Once it was learned no one was inside, Fire Chief Norris Collins instructed the firefighters to stand by and let it burn.

Instead of trying to put out the blaze, the firefighters sprayed the area around the outside of the house to keep the flames from spreading.

Collins was quick to explain Holder had previously asked them to burn it, adding he didn't want people to think the firefighters would

simply let any uninsured house burn.

"It was being torn down," Holder explained later, acknowledging she had told the firefighters they could burn the house "wherever they needed something to do."

"I'm glad that what happened happened without bothering anybody else's property."

Although Holder, who has owned the house and property for almost two years, had previously said the house could be burned, the cause of the blaze is still not known.

"Probably a transient sleeping in there left a cigarette burning," Collins said.

Holder acknowledged it was no loss adding, "It was in my favor."

Rare Barn Fire

MOUNT OLIVE—You don't see them much any more, old-timey tobacco barn blazes. But an old wooden barn burned recently in the Ronces Chapel area of Duplin County. Mount Olive Asst. Fire Chief Ralph Hollingsworth uses his portable radio to direct fire trucks to the blaze in the middle of a soybean field off N.C. 403. Many years ago, before most area farmers started using metal bulk barns to cure tobacco, barn fires were frequent sights around Mount Olive. That was back in the days when the fire department had an old converted gasoline tanker to haul the water to the blazes. Today fire fighters use a modern fast dump method, where water is hauled from area water points, such as farm pond, and dumped in a portable tank at the site.



When a
problem drinker
drives, it's your
problem

ALMOST ANYTHING STORE

Dial 447-3740

Traders Shopping Ctr.
Havelock, NC

Compliments Of

Guss Carpenter, Inc.

289-3021 • Monroe, North Carolina



Cumberland
Hospital

3425 Melrose Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

919 485-7181

20th CENTURY HEATING CO.

Lennox Air Conditioning — Residential/Commercial
2-Way Radio Equipped Service Trucks

Sales — Service — Repairs

Dial 274-3682 Asheville, NC

CRAFTIQUE, INC.

Phone 563-1212

Mebane, NC

Carolina Container Company, Inc.

Phone 883-7146

Prospect Road

High Point, North Carolina

FOR SALE

1960 FORD C-800 TILT CAB

332 cubic inch gas engine, John Bean FMC Model HPV 750 gpm.
Combination two stage volume & high pressure class A

Pumper with 500 gal. tank.

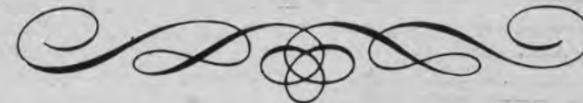
Only 9,400 actual miles, excellent condition.

Being sold with most NEPA equipment, including dual booster reels, booster hose, & nozzles, roof extension ladder, 20' hard suction.

Serviced regularly by qualified mechanic. Truck ready for use.

Contact: Chief Richard W. Harris, Kenbridge Fire Dept.
Kenbridge, Va. 23944
Phone 804-676-8281

ETHAN ALLEN INCORPORATED



PINE VALLEY DIVISION

Drawer 639

OLD FORT, NORTH CAROLINA

CHIMNEY CLEANING

CERTIFIED
BY
NATIONAL
GUILD
OF
CHIMNEY
SWEEPS



"CLEAN"

FULL SERVICE BY
FULL TIME PROFESSIONALS

- COMPLETE STOVE INSTALLATION & REPAIR • CHIMNEY RELINING
- CHIMNEY CAPS • ACCESSORIES • CONTRACT RATES FOR APTS & CONDOS
- LIGHTING PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

"Sir Ken" CHIMNEY SWEEP

"ON A QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE"

Safety Inspections—Phone 891-5296

MARY ANNE & KEN RUTTER—OWNERS
HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

"Member N.C. Guild"

Smoking May Have Caused Fatal Fire

By Lisa Puller
and Jim Wrinn
Observer Staff Writers

CHARLOTTE—Cabarrus County fire officials believe a cigarette may have caused a blaze that killed a Harrisburg man as he struggled to escape from his burning home.

Raymond Robert Machlett, 58, was found dead just inside the back door of his two-story white frame house on Stallings Road, about a half-mile from the city limits, officials said. He apparently died of smoke inhalation.

His death was the second one linked to Cabarrus County fires.

Neighbors in the rural area had reported the fire after seeing smoke and flames pouring from the house, set about 100 yards from the road. When Harrisburg Volunteer Fire Department Capt. Steve Flowers arrived first on the scene, he heard Machlett's screams for help.

Neighbors had already tried to enter the house, but were unsuccessful. Flowers said he made two attempts, but was driven back by the

thick smoke and flames, which were leaping out the windows and front door.

"That's a helpless feeling," Flowers said.

"He was just hollering,

Man Loses Home To Fire

By Reggie Ponder, Jr.
Franklin Times Staff
Writer

LOUISBURG—"It was all I had in the world." Herman Terry, 51, Rt. 3, Louisburg, lost his mobile home to fire in late August, and with the mobile home he lost all his other possessions.

Terry's mobile home was located in Twin Oaks trailer park in the Kearney community.

Epsom and Gold Sand Fire Departments answered the call shortly before noon Tuesday, August 25, but found the home already engulfed in flames upon their arrival.

Neither Terry nor the firemen are sure what caused the fire. Terry said all he knew was it started in a room at the back of the trailer.

"I don't know how it caught, but it caught from the back room," he said. "I was in the living room asleep.

"I woke up and it was smoking."

The mobile home was totally destroyed.

"Everything I got is burnt up," Terry said. "The only thing I got out was myself.

"I had to work a lifetime for something to go down like that. That's bad, ain't it?"

A neighbor, John Henry Hicks Jr., 41, came over to try to comfort Terry. "People will help you," Hick said when Terry told him he didn't have any place to stay. "Somebody will help you."

'Get me out of here.' I couldn't even get in the door."

Said Ellen Goan, Harrisburg Rescue Squad member: "It was terrible . . . There was nothing we could do."

Flowers ordered a crew equipped with air packs into the house as soon as firefighters and equipment arrived—about four minutes later, he said. But rescue workers were unable to revive Machlett.

The 30 or so firefighters—from Harrisburg, Jackson Park and Flowes Store volunteer departments—brought the fire under control about an hour later.

Cabarrus Emergency Services Director Ben Mabrey said it appears the fire began in the area of a chair in the living room where a pile of letters and papers, lying on the floor, were ignited. The living room, kitchen and a downstairs bedroom were destroyed.

Mabrey described Machlett as a retired man who kept horses and dogs and was a licensed pilot, flying ultralight and experimental aircraft. He lived alone.

It was a difficult day for firefighters.

Harrisburg and Jackson Park firefighters earlier in the day battled a house fire on Roberta Church Road where 18-year-old volunteer firefighter Brian Keith Rodgers of the Poplar Tent department was run over and killed by a fire truck.

Then, at the Stallings Road fire, the hot weather and intense smoke and heat plagued firefighters and sent two to Cabarrus Memorial Hospital, where they were treated and released for minor smoke inhalation.

Special correspondent Helen Arthur contributed to this article.

Fire Insurance Rates Affected

RALEIGH—House Bill 166 introduced by Representative Brewster Brown, 5th District, to provide matching funds to reduce rural fire insurance rates was ratified by the General Assembly recently.

The bill creates a Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fund to provide matching grants to rural volunteer fire departments to purchase equipment and make capital improvements.

A similar bill which will provide funds for rural rescue squads, according to Brown, has passed the House and will be eligible for consideration by the Senate during the "short session."

The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fund will be set up in the Department of Insurance. The State Treasurer will invest its assets, according to the law, and the earnings will remain in the Fund.

The Fund will be distributed beginning January 1, 1988, and eligible fire departments would have to apply to the Commissioner of Insurance for a grant under this section.

Beginning May 1, 1988, and on each May 1, grants will be awarded subject to the following limitations:

—the size of a grant may not exceed \$20,000;

—the applicant shall match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis;

—The grant may be used only for equipment purchases or capital expendi-

tures necessary to provide fire protection services; and

—an application may receive no more than one grant per fiscal year.

A fire department is eligible for a grant under the following guidelines:

—it serves a response area of 6,000 or less in population;

—it is all volunteer; and

—it has been certified by the Department of Insurance.

Brown introduced the bill in hopes that it would assist rural fire departments and better protect the lives and property of those people in their service area.

Fire Alarm Malfunction

By Nancy Webb
Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE—Fire officials are investigating complaints that smoke alarms failed to sound when a small fire broke out at Strawn Apartments, a Charlotte Housing Authority complex for the elderly and disabled, in August.

The fire started in a closet in an apartment on the eighth floor. No one was in the apartment at the time.

About 200 residents were evacuated from the 12-story building on South Caldwell Street for about 40 minutes.

Apartment manager Joan Johnson said alarms sounded but apparently did not stay on.

"The alarm people are here now checking it," she said recently.

Terry Lacy of the Charlotte Fire Investigation Task Force said the matter has been referred to the fire department's fire prevention bureau.

"They're going to look into it," he said.

NEWTON GROVE DRUG CO.

Phone 594-1183
Newton Grove, NC

McNeely Trucking Co.

Phone 966-4270
Sapphire, NC 28774

Toxaway Concrete

Phone 743-3239
Cashier, NC

**DON'T PLAY
with FIRE!**

Sponsored By

Ligon Electric Supply, Inc.

Winston-Salem, NC



**HICKORY
INTERNATIONAL**

Trucks
Parts
Maintenance
Rental & Leasing

704-322-8150
800-222-8190

CAROLINA SURGICAL SUPPLY

Ebenezer Church Road
Call 782-8400
Raleigh, NC 27603

Clapp's Convalescent Nursing Center, Inc.

20 Bed Capacity 2 Locations
Asheboro & Pleasant Garden
North Carolina

THRUWAY SHOE SHOP

Phone 725-5720

136 B. Oakwood Drive
Winston-Salem, NC

Bingo World

2322 Onslow Drive
Jacksonville, NC

Rodgers Brothers Laundry

"Self Service"
Open 6 am-10:30 pm
Phone 792-3451
702 W. Main, Williamston, NC

THE BANK OF CURRITUCK

Moyock, NC
Grandy, NC
Camden, NC

Colonial Pharmacy, Inc.

Dial 398-3138
704 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, NC

Sandhills Photography & Framing

Custom Framing/692-7632
712 S.W. Broad
Southern Pines, NC

Toodle's Funeral Home

Funeral Directors
A Personalized Service
For All Faiths
Where Dignity is Our Watchword
Dial 793-4867
305 Wilson Street
Plymouth, NC

China Grove Roller Mills

"Purina Distributor"
Custom Grinding
857-7619/308 N. Maint St.
China Grove, N.C.

HUGH'S SHEET METAL, INC.

872-4621
1312 Barkley Road
Statesville, NC

We Support Our Volunteer
Fire Department

Area Sheet Metal

Air Conditioning
Contractor

Phone 738-8101

Rt. 2 / Marion, NC

Fire Destroys Half Of Plant

By Phoebe Zerwick
Winston-Salem
Journal Davidson
County Bureau

A fire destroyed half of a veneer plant owned by Linwood Manufacturing in August and left 80 workers uncertain about their jobs.

State and local investigators are trying to determine what caused the fire, and whether it was related to a fire in an adjacent building, a week before.

Bob Lineberry, the plant manager, said: "I really don't suspect foul play. I don't know of anyone trying to hurt us."

Investigators could not get into the plant to look for evidence because the fire was still smoldering.

A spokesman with the Davidson County Sheriff's Department said that a fire gutted an abandoned house on property owned by the business and that it is being investigated as a possible arson.

Ronnie Cheek, the county fire marshal, said that is too

soon to determine whether the fires are connected.

Thirteen fire departments, using more than 20,000 gallons of water, brought the fire under control in about two hours, officials said.

The fire was discovered by the third-shift supervisor, who noticed smoke coming from the rear of the plant near the kilns, Cheek said. Five people, including a guard, work the late-night shift, Lineberry said.

Most of the 50,000-square-foot building had been lost to the fire at mid-morning yesterday, while the damp remains of kilns, dryers, clippers, charred sheets of veneer and twisted metal pipes smoldered.

Damage to the remainder of the plant in an adjacent building was minimal, officials said.

Timothy B. Nance, the plant supervisor, said, "I just stood right here and watched a whole dock of finished goods burn up."

He said that the company hopes to keep some of the

work force on doing cleanup work and that others may be kept on to run the beginning phases of the veneer manufacturing process in the building unharmed by the fire.

Lineberry said that some of the workers may be hired by the sister company of the veneer plant, Mannington Wood Floors in High Point.

Some of the company's workers hadn't heard about the fire "I didn't know a thing till I got right out there," said Elmer Morrison, 22, pointing to the road overlooking the plant.

Morrison said he moved to the area from West Virginia this spring to find work, and he said he hopes that he will be kept on to clean up the debris.

Several maintenance and supervisory workers at the plant estimated that the finishing and drying operation could be rebuilt within six months.

Nance estimated that \$180,000 worth of inventory was destroyed.

Firefighters Battle Solvent Spill

DURHAM—Durham firefighters worked to contain a spill of solvent from a tank at Southchem in southeastern Durham recently.

Southchem employees labored through the night to pump the solvent from diked pools in a creek into 50-gallon drums.

Up to 125 gallons of the solvent, xylene, escaped from a 6,000-gallon tank that was filled yesterday. People living near the chemical plant noticed an odor and reported it at about 8 p.m.

Xylene is an aromatic hydrocarbon used in paints and lacquers and as an additive to unleaded gasoline. It does not pose an immediate health threat in the quantity spilled, Assistant Fire Chief Ray Taylor reported.

No one was evacuated from the area of the spill, according to Assistant Fire Chief Bill Bibby.

Southchem officials said they still are not sure how the spill occurred.

Drinking-water supplies

were not harmed by a chemical spill in East Durham, Durham Fire Chief N.L. Thompson said.

About 125 gallons of xylene, a solvent used in paints and unleaded gasoline, leaked from an overfilled tank and a retaining basin at Southchem Inc., at 2000 E. Pettigrew St., Thursday, Sept. 3, the Fire Department reported.

Some of the solvent flowed into a nearby ditch, known as Rocky Creek, but firefighters and Southchem employees pumped much of it out of the creek, Thompson said.

The solvent is not harmful unless people drink it or come into contact with large quantities, firefighters said. No one was evacuated because of the spill.

Thompson said Southchem employees apparently overfilled a large tank with xylene, which spilled into a concrete retaining basin. The basin was supposed to contain any spills from the tank, but a rainwater drain in the basin had been left open and allowed the solvent to flow out and toward the creek.

Get 'Em While They're Hot!

ROXBORO—One wonders if the 'Yard Sale' sign in front of a burning dwelling would better have been labeled 'Fire Sale.' Actually, the abandoned home was being used by the Roxboro Fire Department for a training exercise, with firefighters learning to use hoses, ladders and breathing apparatus to deal with house fires. The training exercise was conducted in August at the intersection of U.S. 158 and N.C. 49, across from the Open Kettle Restaurant in Roxboro. The entire process was captured on videotape for use in future instruction.

Man Rescued From Apartment

By Anne M. Ferguson
The Salisbury Post

SALISBURY—Power outages scattered throughout Salisbury may have led to an apartment fire that sent one resident to the hospital and injured a firefighter.

The living room in 310-B at Westview Court Apartments on Mahaley Avenue was ablaze when firefighters arrived after the call at 4:38 a.m., September 8.

"We had one person trapped in the bedroom, and the fire was in the living room," Assistant Fire Chief Rick Fesperman said this morning. "He was conscious, but suffered some smoke in-

halation.

"By the time (firefighters) reached him, a crew had knocked the fire down," he said. "They took him to the window and gave him air from a fireman's tank . . . and were then able to take him back through the living room."

Fesperman said the fire started in a chair in the living room. There was no power on in the building, and the residents of 310-B had been burning candles.

"They went to sleep with the candles still burning near the chair," he said.

Randy Yost, 27, was transported to Rowan Memorial

Continued on page 7

Fire Damages Moose Lodge

By Scott Yates
Elizabeth City Advance
Staff Writer

ELIZABETH CITY—Fire broke out recently at the Moose Lodge on Ehringhaus Street, gutting the front portion of the building.

No cause or damage estimate had been determined.

One fireman was taken to the Albemarle Hospital for heat exhaustion. Fire Chief Doug Allen said fireman Mike Copeland was treated and released. In all, six fire

Continued on page 7



**associated
fire detection inc.**

Call 553-4021 or
In Emergencies
Call 553-7693

Rt. 2, 5121 Widespan Drive
Raleigh, NC

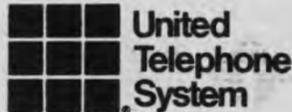


Margie Motel

We Welcome You

- Telephone in Every Room
- Air Conditioning
- Tub & Shower
- Color TV — Swimming Pool
- Wall to Wall Carpets
- Large Conference Rooms

107 Units
Phone 623-9161
213 Van Buren Road
(Hwy. 14) Eden, NC



**United
Telephone
System**

Carolina Telephone

720 Western Blvd.
Tarboro, North Carolina

AAA MUFFLER
Phone 222-1155
408 W. Harden St.
Graham, NC 27253

**C & T
UPHOLSTERY**
Call (919) 599-6562
Route 5, Box 70
Roxboro, North Carolina

Ethridge Superette
For all your grocery needs
977-0864
Main St./Battleboro, NC

**R & M
Electrical Supply, Inc.**
Industrial — Commercial
Call 997-5038/Off US 1 S
815 Airport Rd.
Rockingham, N.C.

Sparta Florist
Jimmy Gillespie
—Owner—
Dial 372-8344
Sparta, North Carolina

Compliments Of
**ANDERLEY
ACADEMY LTD.**
Call (704) 262-5332
210 Rogers Drive
Boone, NC

**CENTURY
CARE CENTER, INC.**
919-642-7139
316 West Burkhead
Whiteville, NC 28472

Worsley Oil Co.
LP Gas Service
Wholesale American Products
Heating & Air Conditioning
Dial 259-2568
Burgaw, North Carolina

Keep Carolina Green
Plant More Trees
Prevent Forest Fires
**Troy Lumber Sales
Corp.**
652-4251
Norman, N.C. 28367

**McLaurin-McArthur
Chevrolet Co.,
Inc.**
Dial (919) 276-1821
1609 South Main Street
Laurinburg, NC

**Woodlawn
Lumber
Co., Inc.**
Wholesale Lumber
Dial 756-4524
Marion, NC

**Ralph's
Barbecue**
Barbecue,
Oysters and
Catering Service
1401 Woodruff Street
Weldon, NC

Two Forest Fires Put Out

By John W. Hubbard
Journal-Patriot

NORTH WILKES-BORO—Two forest fires were quelled by Champion Fire Department, assisted by Millers Creek firemen in one, and the North Carolina Forest Service.

The first fire was a hot one which kept jumping fire lines. It was located two miles southwest of the fire station adjacent to the Mount Pleasant Road on land owned by Harry Foster and Tony Davis. Wilkes Forester Edwin McGee, who coordinated the fire fighting effort with Forest Ranger Charles Hale, said that the fire was in cut-over Virginia pine (old field pine) and dead tree laps. "It really got hot when it hit the tree laps."

The fire was confined to a five-acre area. Firemen were pressed to keep the flames from leaping into a stand of timber on the Carol White property. There is also an old house and several buildings on the land.

A forest service bulldozer was used to cut a fire line completely around the fire. The fire was contained, but it jumped across the line when wind fanned the flames. Champion and Millers Creek firemen went back into the woods and contained the fire. Millers Creek Dept. was using its brush buggy.

Robert Eric West, 21, a Champion fireman, was stung by yellow jackets 16 times while fighting the fire. He was taken to Wilkes General Hospital by Wilkes EMS where he was treated and released.

Firemen were on the scene all night putting out the hot spots and making sure that the fire didn't flare again.

McGee said that Hale and he determined that the fire caught from power lines touching tree limbs. "The line was still sizzling against the limbs almost two days later. We called Duke Power, and they sent out a crew to trim back the limbs."

A lightning strike caused a forest fire in the Lewis Fork Creek section of western Wilkes near Lewis Fork Church. This was a small fire which burned about an acre, McGee said.

Champion Fire Department and the Forest Service put the fire out. A line was put around the fire with the forest fire bulldozer.

Fire fighters were on the scene for several hours.

Unusually Dry

Wilkes is experiencing an unusually early fire season, McGee point out, because of the dry conditions of woods caused by a four-week drought.

Usually fires are reported during dry conditions after frosts and in the early spring when its dry.

McGee said that grass now is dry enough to burn very easily. He urges everyone to be very careful with a kind of outdoor burning, with campfires and in smoking.

Until there is a good rain, McGee emphasized that the forest fire hazard remains high.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME.

A message from the Crime Prevention Coalition and the Ad Council. ©1984 The Advertising Council

Fire Hits Tire Dump Again

By Anne M. Ferguson
The Salisbury Post

SALISBURY—Fire officials were investigating a suspicious blaze at a tire dump off Artz Road in Faith that kept four fire departments at the scene several hours in Aug.

"It had to be set," Rowan County Fire Marshal Randall Faggart said later. "Either that, or it was struck by lightning. And I don't think that happened. We are checking into allegations made."

The dump, owned by Ken Kluttz Grading of Salisbury, was formerly used as a storage site by Brad Ragan Inc., a Salisbury tire recapping company. According to a company spokesman, the firm has not stored tires at the dump in years. But the site has continued to pose problems to nearby residents.

The dump has burned at least four times since 1984, and each summer mosquitoes hatching in the stagnant water collected by the tires descend upon Faith residents. The N.C. Department of Human Resources had ordered a mosquito-control program implemented four years ago.

Kluttz's wife, Sue, said people are prohibited from dumping tires on the site now. Mrs. Kluttz also said her husband has been treating the area with pellets from the department to kill the mosquitos. "He's been doing all he can to clean up the place," she said.

Bostian Heights Assistant Fire Chief Rick Yost said the fire was called in at 7:18 p.m. Sunday, August 16 by a firefighter who lives nearby and saw the smoke. Yost said the tower of black smoke was visible from "a good many miles away. But the smoke wasn't that much of a problem for us. It was rising straight up."

Fire departments from Faith, South Salisbury, Rockwell, and Mount Mitchell in Cabarrus County also answered the alarm. The Rowan County Rescue Squad arrived soon after the

fire was called in, and Rockwell Rural stood by at the Bostian Heights fire station.

Fire reports said the blaze was declared under control at 10:39 p.m., but most firefighters were on the scene past midnight. "We were trying to keep (the fire) away from the other tires," Yost said. "The owner had a front-end loader and he was moving tires out of the way. It's almost impossible to move

them by hand."

The six-foot tires are used for earth-moving vehicles such as graders.

One firefighter was treated for exhaustion by the rescue squad at the scene. "He just tried to overextend himself," one rescue worker said. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters pumped water from a nearby pond which Faggart said is owned by Kluttz.

3-Alarm Fire Reported

By Anne M. Ferguson
The Salisbury Post

SALISBURY—Firefighters were still clearing out smoking debris the following morning at a screen printing plant after a three-alarm fire had burned through the rear of the building and caused heavy smoke damage throughout.

"It's pretty well a mess," said Alton Thompson, owner of Thompson Screen Prints, Inc. at 1416 Walnut St. He could not estimate the amount of damage to the business.

Four firefighters were overcome by smoke and heat, and a fifth fell while battling the blaze and injured his knee, said Assistant Fire Chief Rick Fesperman. Two of them, J.B. White and B. Stevens, were transported to Rowan Memorial Hospital, where they were treated and released, a hospital spokesman said.

Detectives from the city CID said that rags, possibly soaked in a flammable solvent, were stored in a drum in the rear of the plant and may have spontaneously caught fire. Thompson also mentioned the rags as possible cause of the blaze.

Between 45 and 50 firefighters responded to the automatic alarm at 10:57 p.m. Sunday, August 30, Fesperman said. Most were from Salisbury, he added, but a few from Spencer were also on the scene. A fire watch was maintained until Fire Chief Tim Lackey ar-

rived at 8 a.m. the next day, to investigate.

Fire showing

"When the first units arrived, we did have fire showing," Fesperman said. "They used a quick attack and knocked it down, containing the fire to the rear."

"Once we ventilated the roof, we were able to get some of the smoke and heat out (that was spreading through the structure). By that time, it was under control (about 12:05 a.m.)," he said.

Fesperman said most firefighters were back at their stations by about 3 a.m., but some remained at the scene in case the fire flared up again.

Fire damage was extensive to the rear of the building, where chemicals, machinery and synthetic and flame-retardant materials created problems with heavy smoke that damaged the rest of the plant, Fesperman said.

"(At first) we couldn't get to the scene of the fire (in the rear) because of the heavy smoke," he said. "It was a stubborn fire."

"The heat coming off (the burning materials) was tremendous," Thompson said.

Machinery destroyed

The Granite Quarry resident, who has owned the business for 10 years, said his largest and best machine was destroyed, along with most of 27,000 dozen panels used in making garments such as t-shirts.

"This was our best year

Continued on page 7

MOUNTAIN VIEW MOBILE COURT

1503 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28739
704-693-5323

Little's Nursery

Dial 756-3626

Farmville Highway
Greenville, NC

We thank the Bries Creek
Volunteer Fire Department
for their continuing support

—2 Locations—

Adams & Kinton
Nursing Home

John Kinton—Adm.

Box 789/Call 893-5141

Kinton Family Care

Box 700/Call 834-6668

Lillington, North Carolina 27546

TOM CROCKETT IRRIGATION, INC.

Manufacturers & Distributors
of
Agricultural Irrigation
Liquid Manure Pumps



Call 792-3121
E. Main
Williamston, NC

Country Curls Beauty Salon

Call for Appointments/929-3387
Dairyland Road
Hillsborough, NC

Owsley & Sons Incorporated

Call 919/668-2454
I-40 & NC 68
Greensboro, NC

—Also—
Call 803/548-3636
Fort Mill, SC

Acme Oil Company, Inc.

Diesel Oil — Fuel Oil
Counts Gasoline — Kerosene
Valvoline Motor Oil
Phone 287-6510
Shallotte, NC

A-1 ALTERATIONS

Phone 919-859-1533

5563-60 Western Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27606

QUALIFIED METAL FABRICATORS, INC.

Phone 996-5570
940 Old Winston Road
Kernersville, NC

MASTERCRAFT CHIMNEY SWEEP

(919) 226-1094

1910 Belmont St.
Burlington, NC

City Paint & Body Shop

"Expert Paint & Body Work"
Phone 447-2223
806 E. Main St.
Havelock, NC

Green Accounting & Tax Service

Mrs. Dorothy Green—Owner

Accounting & Tax Service

145 Rowan Street
Fayetteville, NC

Spontaneous Combustion Destroys Plant

ASHEBORO—Spontaneous combustion of flammable chemicals apparently was the cause of a mid-day fire which destroyed a family-operated furniture finishing plant in Archdale.

Fire Marshal Don Heard said that the Guil-Rand Fire Department received a call at 12:32 p.m. Saturday, August 29, that smoke was coming from a one-story concrete block building which houses the Marshall Finishing Company at 222 Liberty Road (NC 62) in Archdale.

A neighbor who called the fire department, Charles James (Chuck) Hiatt, said that when he saw the smoke coming from under the eaves and a vent on the southwestern corner of the building he knew that he would soon see a flash of fire.

Clarence Edward Marshall, who operates the firm along with other family members, said that they had worked refinishing chairs until about 11:30 a.m. They were wiping stain and applying lacquer and sealer in a spray booth, he said. All of the power had been shut off to equipment at the panel before they left, Marshall said.

Fortunately, firemen were able to contain the fire to the furniture plant itself.

Arson Probed In State Line Blaze

Continued from page 2

"Everything doesn't add up," Watts said. "We don't know the cause."

Horry County, SC arson investigators were called in and evidence was collected by the fire officials, Watts said.

Damage to the disco booth was extensive, and the ceiling fell in over the dance area. Damage to the rest of the building, including the bar, appeared to be caused by smoke and water, Watts said.

Ward has operated the night spot and adjacent record store for more than two decades.

Getting Serious About Safety

GREENSBORO—The Greensboro Fire Department has made a wise decision in stepping up its school inspection schedule to meet the minimum requirements of state law. We may never know if this effort has saved a life. Better such ignorance than the knowledge that one has been lost to indifference.

Local fire officials are required by statute to give every school building a full-dress inspection three times a year. In other urban counties examined by the News & Record, the law has been followed as a matter of course. Guilford County and Greensboro are conspicuous exceptions to the rule. For most of the past decade, this city has had no systematic school inspections at all.

The legislature's judgment in mandating three annual

inspections tends to be supported by Greensboro's experience over the past year. The first round of inspections after years of neglect turned up an accumulation of thousands of code violations. Clearly, compliance and safety-consciousness on the part of school officials are directly proportionate to the frequency of inspections.

Greensboro School Superintendent John "Pete" Elberhart welcomed the news that the Fire Department is at long last going to do its job. He noted the value of keeping his employees attuned to code requirements. We assume that Eberhart will do his part by reminding Greensboro principals that the law also requires them to survey their buildings for fire safety twice a month.

Fire prevention can be tedi-

ous, and even seem silly at times. We all have our memories of school fire drills. A janitor confronting the gaping emptiness of a boiler room may find the temptation to fill it with cartons overwhelming. A principal may have a compelling reason to lock the gym exits during a basketball game.

That's why it's important to have frequent visits by a skeptical fire marshal who is immune to the day-to-day exigencies of school life, but obsessed by a vision of the worst that could happen.



Drive as if your best friend's life depends on it!

Man Rescued From Apartment

Continued from page 5

Hospital by Rowan EMS, where he was treated for smoke inhalation and remains under observation, said hospital spokeswoman Carolyn Bird.

Firefighter Joe Monday was treated at the scene for heat exhaustion, Fesperman said.

The fire was declared under control at 4:56 a.m. Most units left the scene by 6:15 a.m., Fesperman said. Some remained until about 7:30

a.m. to help with the salvage job and assist Fire Marshal Tim Lackey in his investigation, he said.

The fire was contained to the living room area, Fesperman said. There was fire damage in that room and smoke and water damage to the rest of the apartment.

The apartment below suffered some water damage, he said.

"It was a very quick, smooth operation," Fesperman said. "The guys did excellently on the rescue."

Fire Damages Moose Lodge

Continued from page 5

trucks responded to the call.

Allen said when firemen first arrived on the scene, smoke from the blaze ignited in what is called a "flash over." Allen said, "It was an extremely dangerous situation. Since there were no occupants, the safety of the firemen was our first priority, but they were able to keep three attack lines on the fire."

Robert Russell, governor of the Moose Lodge 1847, said the organization purchased the building in 1965. Prior to the purchase, he said the building was used for the Pasquotank Hosiery Mill.

The bar room, game room, club room and storage room were all in the front part of the building which was gutted by the blaze. The lodge had planned a dance for this Saturday night. Lodge members at the fire scene said the dance would probably be cancelled, but a final decision was pending.

2 Escape Unhurt As Truck Burns

HICKORY—Two occupants of a truck which caught fire recently escaped from the vehicle shortly before the truck's cab became engulfed in flames.

They were not injured.

Thomas Eugene Shuford of Rt. 2, Maiden, the truck's owner, was driving the 1968 Chevrolet truck north on N.C. 127 about 4.1 miles south of Hickory, according to Catawba County Sheriff's Department reports.

Shuford and a passenger reportedly discovered that the truck was on fire after they were signaled by another motorist that something was wrong.

As soon as the truck stopped, the passengers fled the burning vehicle as the flames engulfed the cab area.

Damage to the cab and the truck's cargo were estimated at \$1,000 each.

The cargo included furniture, vegetables, mattresses, and lawn furniture.

Landmark Burns

WINDSOR—A landmark at Merry Hill was destroyed by fire recently. The White Store, previously a three-story building that sat at the edge of the road, was known as an historic building but no

Continued on page 8

3-Alarm Fire Reported

Continued from page 6

ever," Thompson said at the plant. "I don't know if I have enough insurance to cover this. I can't afford (to be shut down) . . . more than a couple of weeks. This is our busiest time."

Wayne Ashworth, director of Emergency Services, said despite the smoke, there were no chemical problems at the scene.

The two firefighters taken to Rowan Memorial were

sent home for the remainder of the night's shift to rest, Fesperman said.

County fire departments from Spencer, South Salisbury and Granite Quarry provided backup aid at city fire stations during the three-alarm blaze. All off-duty firefighters were also called in to work, Fesperman said.

The Mobile Air Supply System and the Rowan County Rescue Squad were also at the scene, Fesperman said.

D. J. ROSE & SON, INC.
216 Mayo Street
Drawer 351
Rocky Mount, NC

GLENOIT MILLS, INC.
Tarboro, N.C.

Walter Carter Incorporated
2021 Wilkesboro Rd.
Salisbury, NC

Thompson Grocery
Groceries — Meats — Produce
Call 279-4698/Rt. 3
Salisbury, NC

Odum's Garage
24 Hour Wrecker Service
"We Tow Them All, Large or Small"
Phone 326-4394
Queen's Creek Road
Hubert, NC

Price Well & Pump Co., Inc.
Residential & Commercial Complete Water Systems Pump Sales & Service Over 20 Yrs. Exp. in WNC
Joe Price, Contractor
Call 627-2817 or 627-6275
93 Chambers Mountain Rd.
Clyde, N.C.

C.A. Seaford & Sons Lumber Company

634-5148
Jericho Road
Mocksville, North Carolina

Evan's Well Drilling Company
Modern Equipment to Serve You Better
Call (919) 388-2504
Route 1, Box 467
Providence, NC 27315

A Capitol Coffee Systems
919-467-5535
303 E. Durham Road
Cary, NC 27511

W E T C Famous 54 Radio
Pure Gold—Beach Classic
—PHONE—
(919) 266-1255
P.O. Box 1580/State Road 1003
Wendell, North Carolina 27591

S. T. WOOTEN CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
Highway Construction
Water — Sewer Lines
Main Office:
Black Creek Road
Wilson, NC
Other Locations:
Henderson-Sims
Smithfield &
Roanoke Rapids, NC

Firefighter Dissolves Gender Barrier

By Paul Bonner
Sun staff writer

DURHAM—There are many reasons why more women should be firefighters, says Durham Fire Lt. Elizabeth Delucia.

But, she adds, the question should be asked the other way around: Why shouldn't they?

"There's no reason not to have women here," she said of the Durham Fire Department.

Overcoming a presumption that women won't fit in is the difficulty she and other women entering the department face, she said.

"When a man comes here it's expected that he can do the work, but when a woman comes here, everyone expects her not to be able to do the work" said Ms. Delucia.

She has proven the naysayers wrong since becoming the Fire Department's first woman firefighter in 1985, when the department separated from the Durham Public Safety Department. This month she became the first female lieutenant in the department.

Two more women, Gloria Bailey and Sue Katz, have joined the department recently, and if the recruitment efforts of Ms. Delucia and others in the department succeed, many more female firefighters will follow.

Ms. Delucia and fire driver Van Davis were making contacts throughout the area to encourage as many women as possible to apply for service with the department during the department's current recruitment period.

The application period is

open only during Oct. 5-9 at the Fire Training Academy at 2008 E. Club Blvd.

Ms. Delucia said this is the department's first active women-recruitment drive. It's necessary, she said, because women haven't been made aware of the possibility of firefighting work.

"I think women have not ever thought of this," Ms. Delucia said. "It's not like police work, where they see women officers on TV."

Moreover, when firefighters arrive at a blaze, burdened with helmets and heavy "turnout gear," female firefighters may be indistinguishable from their male counterparts. Consequently, the public may not notice when women are fighting fires. Female police officers, on the other hand, often have high visibility.

The job's excellent pay and benefits make it a career more women should consider, Ms. Delucia said.

True, the job takes stamina an indifference to getting dirty and more powerful arms and shoulders than the average woman possesses, Ms. Delucia said. But women can develop the strength to handle hoses and equipment by working out with weights or doing pushups for a couple of months, she said.

Women firefighters may be flying in the face of traditional gender roles, she admits. However, people have to recognize that roles are changing in other occupations, too.

"I think a lot of women are afraid of losing their femininity, that they'll become one of the guys," Ms. Delucia said. "I don't think that's the

case, though. There's no fear that men who go into nursing will become one of the girls."

As a lieutenant with Durham's Fire Department, Ms. Delucia supervises a crew on the ladder truck at Station No. 3 at the corner of main and Driver streets. She may direct the truck's ladder and bucket, or she may go into a burning building with a hose.

Her day begins at 6:45 a.m., when she checks with other officers and does administrative work. Then the crew at Station 3 does exercises and training until lunch. More training and proficiency drills take up the afternoon. As a lieutenant, Ms. Delucia helps schedule and direct the training sessions.

Firefighters work 24-hour shifts, with one day on and the next day off. After working five days, they get a six-day respite.

Ms. Delucia began as a fire driver on one of the department's pumper trucks.

Landmark Burns

Continued from page 7

one could readily come up with a date of construction. Operated through various renovations and by several owners and at one time serving as the community's post office, the business was currently operated by James Love. Smoke was pouring from the building when it was sighted by Sammy Adams and the Midway-Merry Hill Fire Department summoned. Windsor firemen also were called to the scene and assisted. While the building continues to stand, it was ravaged by the blaze. Investigation as to the cause is continuing.

TRI-FLEX HOSE & FITTINGS
REPRESENTING GATES RUBBER CO.
Phone 723-1054
1305 Ivy Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC

Faison's
Funeral Home
Call 589-3351
Seaboard, NC

Mooring
Contractors
Phone 398-3114
1302 W. Main St.
Murfreesboro, NC

GLOVER'S FABRICS
Phone 537-3038
32 W. 2nd Street
Roanoke Rapids, NC



PILOT KNOB
A BED & BREAKFAST INN
• 100 Year Old Log Tobacco Barns
• Secluded, Wooded Settings
• Whirlpools for Two
• Stone Fireplaces
• Antique Furnishings
• Dry Sauna
• Swimming Pool
• Nearby Golf & Historical Attractions
• Next to Pilot Mtn. State Park Entrance
Join us for our Inaugural season on the Sunny Side of the Mountain.
For Reservations: P.O. Box 1280
Pilot Mountain, N.C. 27041
(919) 325-2502

EAST COURT MOTOR
COMPANY
24 Hr. Wrecker Service
Auto — Truck
Call 652-7050
Nites — Sun — Holidays
652-6668 — 724-4701
656 East Court
Marion, N.C.

DIESEL ENGINE &
HEAVY EQUIPMENT
REPAIR
Diesel & Gasoline
Trucks • Tractors • Trailers
Farm & Construction Equipment
Road Service
Dale Phillips
—Owner—
Dial 227-8782 or 229-4383
1515 North Graham Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, North Carolina

First Free Will
Baptist Church
Rev. Stanley E. Buck, Jr.
Pastor
Sunday Service 9:45 am
11 am and 7:30 pm
Jr. Church 11 am for Ages 4-12
Office: Call 823-4611
112 Hope Lodge
Parsonage: 823-3964
Tarboro, North Carolina



COMPOSITION DIVISION
Of Virginia Publishers Wing, Inc.
—OVER 11 YEARS EXPERIENCE—
TYPESETTING—PASTE-UP
Catalogs—Brochures—Office Forms
Magazines and Tabloids
Church Bulletins—News Letters
Camera ready or type only
TELECOMMUNICATION AVAILABLE
FAST DEPENDABLE SERVICE
For FREE Quotations
Call (804) 788-7058 Write P.O. Drawer 2-Y
Richmond, VA 23205
COMPOSITION
Div. VA Publishers Wing, Inc.
301 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

CAPE FEAR MANOR
REST HOME
60 Beds • Semi-Private Rooms • State Licensed
"24 Hour Professional Care"
Phone 647-2421
Smith St., Clarkton, NC
We will not make a distinction on the grounds of race, color or national origin in the admission and treatment of patients, the accommodations provided and the assignment of personnel to provide services.
SCOTCH MEADOWS
REST HOME
60 Beds • Semi-Private Rooms • State Licensed
"24 Hour Professional Care"
Dial 276-8140
Country Club Rd., Laurinburg, NC

ACE HOME
& BUILDING
CENTER, INC.
Ace Hardware
All Kinds Of Building Supplies
Telephone 694-4181
Highway 86 South
Yanceyville, NC

MILE AWAY
FARM
Purina Feeds
Phone 692-3347
Southern Pines, NC

This digital copy of The Tarheel Firefighter and Carolina Rural Fireman was created by Mike Legeros in January 2020, from copies collected by retired Fire Chief Donald E. Whitaker in Pleasant Garden, NC.