



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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October 1987

### Near Tragedy Breeds Heroism

**GASTON**—The scene was like something out of the movies recently as clouds of black smoke could be seen for miles over the small town of Gaston.

The accident, in which a tractor-trailer turned over spilling fuel onto the road that caught fire and spread into a trailer park, caused damages estimated into the thousands of dollars.

Two mobile homes were destroyed by fire, another four damaged to the point they could not be inhabited and four privately owned vehicles were totaled, along with the oil tanker carrying boiler fuel to Champion International in Roanoke Rapids.

Charged in the accident was Ann Stone Thacker, 59 of Garysburg with improperly making a turn in front of the tractor-trailer.

North Carolina State Trooper J.M. Haberson said the truck driver, Clarence Gaymon, 39 of Portsmouth, Va., attempted to go around the woman's Mercury Marquis while applying his brakes, but that the truck struck the Thacker car in the rear.

Thacker and Gaymon were part of six taken to Halifax Memorial Hospital in

Roanoke Rapids, where all were treated and released.

However, that figure could have been higher if not for the fast action of two men on coming up on the scene.

Bill Harrison of Roanoke Rapids was driving to work in Richmond, Va. and Jack Norton of Gaston was a member of the Gaston Volunteer Fire Department.

When the tanker, carrying 6,000 gallons of fuel, overturned, the fuel caught fire and threatened several mobile homes in Macon Price's Trailer Park.

Inside one of those homes were three people, two infants and an adult, unaware of what was going on around them.

Harrison and Norton were going from trailer to trailer to see if they were occupied when they came upon the mobile home in which Holly Walters (4-months-old), her year-old sister and 47-year-old Teresa Barber were located.

As the flames got closer, Harrison said he made a running leap into the door and broke it open. Inside, just waking from a nap, was the women. She didn't know there was a fire around her.

Harrison grabbed the children and started running with them as the woman followed. But, according to Norton, "suddenly there was a wall of flame separating the woman from Harrison and the children."

That is when Norton went into action, taking Mrs. Bar-

ber around the fire to safety. As Harrison ran through the fuel, he slipped and fell and burned his hands, but did not drop the children.

Both said they acted without thinking and that the Lord was with each of them in their heroic attempts.

Assistance was given to the Gaston Volunteer Fire Department by the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department and volunteer departments from Garysburg, Weldon, Jackson, Rhesville, Davie, Emporia, Va. and Gasburg, Va.

The clean-up of the oil spill was completed by Petro-Chem Recovery of Norfolk, Va. Sam McKay, a representative of the company, said the removed soil was being taken to a landfill.

George Walton, of the Chesapeake-based Reactive Management Co., was also involved in the clean-up operation.

Rescue assistance during the accident and fire was provided by the Gaston Volunteer Rescue Squad, Northampton Emergency Medical Services, Halifax Emergency Medical Services, Roanoke Valley Rescue Squad and the Emporia Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Law enforcement officers on the scene were from the Gaston Police Department, Northampton County Sheriff's Department, the Highway Patrol, Roanoke Rapids Police Department and the Halifax County Sheriff's Department.

### New Fire Prevention Materials Available To Volunteer Depts.

**WASHINGTON**—Ready-to-use media materials are now available to help volunteer fire departments capitalize on the public awareness of fire safety generated by National Fire Prevention Week. The new materials are included in the updated edition of the National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) resource kit, "New Tools for Volunteer Fire Fighters."

"These materials provide a low-cost way for volunteer departments to follow-up and strengthen the impact of programs which begin during Fire Prevention Week or to take advantage of the public's heightened fire safety awareness to begin new ones," said E. James Mo-

nihan, NVFC chairman.

The material includes articles and camera-ready advertisements for newspapers and magazines and scripts for radio and television spots. They are ready to use, so the time and money which goes into developing them does not have to be paid by individual departments, Monihan said.

The materials provide safety tips related to several topics including home heating, use of flammable liquids, smoke detector maintenance, home escape planning, burn prevention, and special precautions for children.

In addition to prevention-oriented materials, the "New

### News Release . . .

A call for papers has been issued for the fifth International Fire Protection Engineering Institute scheduled for 21 May to 31 May 1989 at Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Focus of the ten day event will be an exchange of the state-of-the-art in fire protection engineering as society worldwide prepares for the 1990s and the 21st Century.

Papers are invited but not limited to the following:

- hazard appraisal
- fire protection system design, installation, testing and acceptance
- incident analysis (fire investigations as an engineering reconstruction)

Areas of interest may be fire as it occurs on, above, or under the ground; in the air or into space; on or below the water. Contributions to the state-of-the-art may have

been in industry, life safety, the laboratory, a commercial application, or the public service sector.

Institute sponsors are: BVD, Zurich, Switzerland; NFPA, Quincy, MA, USA; SFPE, Boston, MA, USA; TBBS, Baarn, The Netherlands; and the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA.

Abstracts of 300-500 words together with author biographical data are due by 1 April 1988. Submit to, or for further information . . .

Institute Secretariat, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110 USA, (telephone: 617-482-0686)

Submitted By  
Society of Fire  
Protection Engineers  
Boston, MA

### New Chief To Be Sought Outside Department

By James Drew  
Wilmington Star  
Staff Writer

**WILMINGTON**—The Wilmington City Council voted recently to seek applicants statewide for fire chief, overruling a recommendation by Mayor Berry Williams and City Councilman Robert Shipp.

Williams and Shipp, a former fire chief, urged the

council to consider only candidates from the Wilmington Fire Department to succeed Lloyd Wolfe.

A 47-year veteran of the fire department, Wolfe announced his retirement Sept. 2. Wolf wanted to step down Oct. 31, but he has told City Manager Bill Farris he can remain in the post until the council selects his successor.

Councilmen Tony Pate, Don Betz, Katherine Hoyt, Irving Fogler and Luther Jordan voted to advertise the position throughout the state, with Williams and Shipp dissenting.

Williams, Shipp and Pate were members of a committee assigned to recommend how the new fire chief should be selected.

Before the vote, Williams said he didn't see any reason to look for candidates outside the department. Shipp didn't make a statement.

Pate, however, said the city would place itself in a tough position if it did not hire a chief from within the department and then started searching statewide.

"We need to advertise at least statewide. If someone within our department comes out on top, so be it. That's a better posture than deciding you don't have a candidate here. That's a slap on those individuals who have applied," he said.

### Cordova Fire Department

We would like to inform you that the Cordova and East Rockingham Fire Dept.'s were evaluated in June and were awarded ratings of 5/9 for Cordova and 6/9 for East Rockingham. The Cordova Fire Department was organized in March 1956 and operated on donations until it became a tax district in 1981. Since then we have worked toward a lower rating, buying three new trucks, hose, airpaks etc.

We now have the lowest rating of any Volunteer Fire Department in the County. In March of 1986 we celebrated 30 years of service and invited all who had served prior to the anniversary, serving some 150 men and women with barbecued pork. The pig was donated by Sunny Acres Farm who lies within our fire district.

The new rating became effective November 1, 1987.

Submitted By  
Ex-Chief Don Fisher  
Cordova, NC

## Editorial

After much "soul searching" and weighing the pros and cons, I have come to a conclusion that I very much regret, but I know it's one that I can only make myself.

You have heard me say, on numerous occasions that I was going to be like the "ole one-horse shay" and fall to pieces all at once, now it looks like I have almost succeeded. A couple of months ago, I had a serious attack of pneumonia and anemia and had to be hospitalized for 8 days. I assumed that I was alright since they had allowed me to come home. I started to try to catch up on things that should have been done before now, but to my sorrow I was back in the hos-

pital, this time in a little less than a week and also with a more serious condition. They told me that I had had a stroke, no less! So I have been very much under the weather for over two months and that "old age" it seems, has finally caught up with me. I realize I have not been able to do as good a job as I used to, and still could, if my health would allow, but I'm afraid it isn't going to do so as fast as I had hoped.

If any of you have sent material to me during the last two and a half months, would you please send another copy. With all that has occurred in my life lately, needless to say, things have been misplaced.

I'm going to hang in here, and write to you when I can, and in the meantime, may



EMILY H. KING

the good Lord watch over all of you and keep you in the palm of his hand.

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*Emily H. King*

## Smoke Blankets 75 Acres

By Jimmy Allen  
Wake Weekly News  
Editor

**WAKE FOREST**—Jeff Wooten was curious when he saw billows of smoke rising high into the atmosphere. The curiosity was enough for the Raleigh man to get in his truck and drive north until he found the source.

When he got to Diazit Company west of Youngsville he turned left and about a mile down the road he found a 75-acre controlled burning of a field that had previously been logged.

"It looks just like a cloud and there's no other clouds in the sky," Wooten said. He was in the Mini City area of

Raleigh when he saw the smoke and he thought it was a big fire.

Wooten was one of several people drawn to the rural Franklin County tract by the smoke. Depending on the wind, sometimes the smoke blew over Wake Forest and at other times over Youngsville.

By the end of the day when the wind diminished, the smoke hovered over much of the area like a blanket colored by the setting sun.

Many of those driving down SR 1139 were local folks. But many others were motorists on U.S. 1 who were curious to see what type of fire was causing the smoke

Continued on page 7

### THE TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER and Carolina Rural Fireman

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EMILY H. KING, Editor

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## Fire Destroys Historic Manor

By Jane Bangley  
Durham Morning  
Herald Hillsborough  
Bureau

**HILLSBOROUGH**—Craig Manor, built more than 200 years ago, was destroyed by fire recently.

Volunteers from the Eno and New Hope fire departments were called to the abandoned home off Rigsbee Road, but Eno Fire Chief John Raleigh said it was already too late when they arrived.

"It was a complete loss," he said. "Nothing was saved. When we arrived, the roof had caved in."

Raleigh said the firefighters didn't attempt to save the house, but worked instead to keep the fire from spreading to nearby trees.

"We couldn't put the fire out, so it will probably be burning for a few days," he said. "We established a perimeter so the fire won't spread, but we've checked on it, too."

Maj. Don Truelove of the Orange County Sheriff's Department said the owners of the property asked for an investigation of the fire, but State Bureau of Investigation agents and county deputies would have to wait to gather evidence until the fire cools.

"There were some explosions during the fire, but those have been attributed to aerosol cans and leaded glass," Truelove said.

"The owners have asked for an investigation to see if the fire was possibly set, but we have no indication of that now."

County tax records list Craig Associates as the owner of Craig Manor and surrounding land. Pete Barber, Don Lacefield and Patricia Mazza, members of Craig Associates, were attempting to see the property.

"Several preliminary plans have been done as to

what we wanted to do with the property," Barber said. "There were many options for the house."

He said plans to restore the house were investigated and some potential buyers interested in doing the restoration work were looking at the house. The house was estimated to be worth \$200,000.

No decision had been made about the property, and Barber said he and his associates were saddened by the fire.

"We're all suspicious of

how the fire got started," he said.

Truelove said the sheriff's department has investigated many reports of vandalism at Craig Manor in the past five years. The home was last occupied in 1980.

Raleigh said he was sorry that the house couldn't be saved.

"It was a beautiful place, and it was a real loss," he said. "It was a landmark of Orange County. I hate that it happened."

## Age Has Not Stopped South Surry Firefighter

By Paul Collins  
Winston Salem  
Journal  
Surry County Bureau

**WINSTON SALEM**—Irvin Stanley doesn't have the stamina he once had, but, in a pinch, he still can handle a fire hose.

At 77, Stanley is the oldest firefighter in the South Surry Volunteer Fire Department.

When there's a fire call, Stanley can be at the station in less than three minutes. He lives about 300 yards south of the station. He keeps his clothes folded by his bed and his 1978 light blue Toyota pointed toward the road to help him get to the station faster.

He often drives a fire truck to the scene and operates its water pumps while the younger firefighters spray water on the fire. Sometimes he remains at the station on standby—in case more equipment is needed at the fire or another fire is reported in the South Surry district.

Stanley, of Dobson, Rt. 2, is a retired carpenter and farmer. He spends up to several hours a day helping keep the fire station at its best.

"You come in and look around, and you see something or other to do," he said.

There's always something to do, such as making sure the equipment is stored properly on the fire trucks, washing muddy fire hoses and cleaning the station. He also checks the water in the radiator and the oil on the station's fire trucks. If a fire truck hasn't been refueled, he'll take it to get gas.

"I mow the grass once in a while," he said.

Whenever the fire department has a fund-raiser, Stanley is there. He worked from 3:45 a.m. until about 10 p.m. when the department had its semi-annual chicken supper several weeks ago. He helped barbecue 500 chickens, then he helped clean up.

Stanley is modest about the volunteer work he does with the department. "Don't make that too big when you go to writing," he said.

He helped found the department in 1978. He helped raise money. He helped cut timber that had been donated for the building and he helped build the three-bay station. "We had a lot of help in the community. People was good to us."

# Careless Use Of Heaters A Fire Hazard

By Elisa Turner  
Hickory Daily  
Record Staff Writer

**CATAWBA**—The number of fire hazards in the home increase with the winter months, but blame for a significant cause of the fires in the Unifour is attributed to kerosene heaters and improper wood burning.

"The main problem with kerosene heaters is when people accidentally pour gasoline in them and then they ignite and explode," Fire Chief Donald R. Robinson of the Catawba Volunteer Fire Department said. "The only word of advice I can give to that is know what you are doing and what you're putting into the heater."

"Be sure to buy the heater from someone who knows about the kerosene heaters and can relay that information on to the buyer," Robinson said. "A lot of people just don't know what they are doing when operating the heater."

Sheets falling over the side of the bed and long curtains falling close to the heater also are dangerous, Robinson said. Long, flowing nightgowns are a particular hazard as a spark can easily ignite the clothes as the wear walks by.

"You'd think this type of precaution was common sense, but many elderly people or young children do this quite often," he said.

But, Robinson added, the most dangerous hazard to kerosene heater users has been improper ventilation of areas where the heaters are used.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the portable heaters are unvented and will emit carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere. Energy-saving measures taken by homeowners and builders may have decreased the number of air changes per hour from four or five down to one-half or one per hour. These limited air changes limit natural ventilation and possibly allow levels of emissions from the heater to build to a dangerous level.

"This buildup of emissions will take all the oxygen out of the air. At night the owner may wake up to find himself dizzy and weak from loss of oxygen," Robinson said.

Equally as hazardous as the kerosene heater if not used properly is the fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Many residents in the Unifour use the old pot-bellied stove and Franklin Stove. Brick and stone fireplaces, popular in the 1970s for decoration, are again becoming main sources of winter heat.

Misuse and lack of knowledge about wood stoves and fireplaces are blamed for

many of the fires. Many people use flammable liquids or charcoal to start the fire. Others use a charcoal broiler or hibachi unit inside the fireplace.

All these are common occurrences, Robinson said.

"Most of us have very limited experience with wood burners," Robinson said. "Due to this inexperience, the number of fires caused by faulty installation and misuse of the wood-burning stoves is increasing at an alarming state."

Robinson estimated 20 fires in his district during 1986. Most of Robinson's district is rural with several sections of dense woods, which are cut for firewood.

"Right now—with this chilly weather—is the time when people are starting up their chimneys again," he said. "We'll start seeing problems with people not having their chimneys properly cleaned from the previous year."

"Not having chimneys cleaned before using them again the next winter is probably the main cause of chimney fires," Robinson said.

Chimneys get a buildup of creosote, remains of burned wood such as sap and soot. This creosote gradually builds to decrease the size of the chimney wall and eventually, when the heat from the fire gets hot enough, will catch on fire.

Once the creosote is on fire, flames can escape through cracks in the mortar or bricks causing a fire in the attic or walls where the chimney touches.

"A lot of people store stuff in the attic and many of the walls are just planks and insulation, which are easily caught on fire," Robinson said.

Many of the chimney fires are started because the chimneys are not flue lined. The flue is the lining inside the mortar which prevents the stove pipe, smoke or flames

from heating the brick or mortar around it.

"There are a lot of older houses in this area, and I'd say quite a few of them don't have this flue lining. It's a real problem," Robinson said.

As with the kerosene heater, Robinson said, combustible objects too near the fire are dangerous, as well as trash burning in the fireplace.

"A lot of people will burn their trash in their stoves and that is really dangerous," he said. "Wood fires have very little flame and a lot of coals, but most paper gives off a lot of flame and these flames are what go right up the chimney and catches that creosote on fire."

"Other people will put their wooden wood box or their kindling too close to the fire," Robinson added. "Some dry clothes at night by the fire to wear to work the next day or whatever and these are a problem."

## Fire Disrupts Fire Safety Party

**HAMLET**—A county-wide fire safety party being held for grade school students took an interesting turn Friday, Oct. 2 at McDonald's Restaurant when a french fry vat caught on fire, and county firemen were called into action, says the Rockingham Fire Department.

The fire, which began around 5:30 p.m., was contained to the vat, says Mary Alice Haynes, fire safety educator for the Rockingham Fire Department.

The theme of the party was "Plan to Get Out Alive," says Miss Haynes, and the children were being treated to french fries, frisbees and drinks, while firemen from the county showed fire apparatus and answered fire safety questions. McDonald's had produced fire safety pamphlets for the kickoff event for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10.

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# Fire Department Protects Citizens

Reprinted from  
Cherryville Eagle

The fire department is one of the oldest continuing institutions in America.

Although some of the causes of fire are different today than they were 300 years ago, the goal of the fire department is the same—to protect people and property from fire, and to save people caught in fires from injury and death.

In Revolutionary times, fire fighters were patriotic citizens who dropped everything and ran to help when church bells warned of fire. Our greatest patriots fought fires—men like George Washington, John Hancock, and Paul Revere.

In 1737, Ben Franklin organized the first volunteer company in the United States. Today most companies are volunteer, in the tradition of Franklin's first company.

By the industrial 1800's, the first career company was

hired and paid, adding the creation of municipal fire departments to the volunteer system. Fire fighters had the unrelenting task of protecting buildings and people from fire in all the hastily built wood cities of America.

A twentieth-century fire department is a highly specialized operation. Specific systems are employed to receive fire calls and to dispatch equipment to the scene. There are stiff fire fighter entrance requirements, and regular training is mandatory.

The fire department also carries on a 300 year old tradition of concern of people. Fire fighters have always assisted victims. Today, fire prevention activities are aimed at making people aware of fire causes and how to prevent fire. The fire department provides home and industrial fire safety inspections as well.

Codes and standards have greatly contributed to building safety today. More often than not, fires are caused by people who simply don't know there is fire danger. Unfortunately, these fires kill thousands each year, mostly the very young and old.

Hundreds of fire fighters die in the line of duty too. Often they die fighting a fire that has burned out of control because the alarm was not turned in while the fire was small.

Here are some firesafety pointers that may save your life and the lives of loved ones, as well as prevent you from losing your home possessions.

### Plan Your Escape

(1) Know your fire department phone number. (2) Develop and practice a home fire escape plan. (3) If you suspect fire, get out first and then call the fire department

fast. (4) Crawl, if you get caught in smoke.

### Personal Fire Protection

(1) If your clothes catch on fire, drop and roll to smother the flames. (2) Treat minor burns with cool water. (3) Prevent scald and fire burns by watching young children closely when they are in the kitchen or taking a bath. (4) Store matches out of reach; teach children that matches are tools, not toys. (5) Teach teenagers responsible use of motor-powered equipment and cooking fire.

### Home Fire Prevention

(1) Inspect your home for hazards and correct them, especially electrical hazards. (2) Have your heating equipment checked and maintained on a regular schedule. Be especially careful in placement and use of space heaters. (3) Don't keep gasoline in or near your home. Never use it near heat or flame—it may explode and burn you. (4) Check up after smokers—they start fires. (5) Discard things you don't need.

As fire fighters dedicated to your safety, we urge you to help prevent fire in our community!

### Learn Not To Burn!



# Fire/Rescue Beats NFPA In Adopting Safety Rules

By Don Reuter  
Greenville Reflector  
Staff Writer

GREENVILLE—The image of a firefighter racing to a blaze clinging to the back of a fire truck has gone up in smoke, Greenville Fire/Rescue Chief Jenness Allen says.

"We don't allow anybody to ride on the tailboard of the fire apparatus anymore," Allen said. "They either ride in jump seats or in the cab."

"The reason for this is not only on account of just falling off, but the thing about this is if my truck stop suddenly and somebody driving behind it doesn't stop, I get some men clipped."

Greenville's new riding rule is not federally mandated, but Allen said it soon may be.

"That's not a NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) requirement, but that is something that we're going to find later on as an NFPA requirement," he said. "That's a safety standard that I'm going by that I have set up in the Fire/Rescue Department."

The 89-member department, which includes fire inspectors, training officers and firefighters, are required to obey related regulations, according to Allen, who said firefighters riding in the city's two trucks without jump seats must ride inside the cab.

"All the personnel riding on fire equipment must wear safety belts," said Allen, the department's chief since 1978. "It's an order we put in weeks ago."

"Basically, the driver does not even start the apparatus until everybody on the apparatus has their seatbelts fastened. That way we don't have anybody falling off the

apparatus.

"If we have a man get on the fire apparatus and say he doesn't have his seatbelt on and he falls off that truck, they can even go back and sue the manufacturer of that truck for not making it safe."

The city has also initiated efforts to meet the new guidelines by purchasing a pair of 1,250-gallon-per-minute pumpers, Allen said.

"They will be here in the early spring and they have completely enclosed cabs on them where nobody will be sitting in a jumpseat in the back," he said. "They will be sitting inside of a cab with doors on it."

Meanwhile, a number of safety requirements have been implemented, making firefighting more safe and efficient, according to Allen, who joined the city's fire department as a volunteer in 1946 and became a paid employee in 1952.

"There are so many safety factors built in that weren't built in back then," he said. "When I came to work here, basically we had boots, and we had pants and we had coats. We did not have breathing apparatus. What you did was sit at the front door and watch people step out the back door because you couldn't get in it and now that's not true."

"Now, we've got a rule in the department if you go into a house that's got smoke in it, you wear a breathing apparatus. When I first came to work here you would fight a fire and breath in smoke and you'd come back out and cough for 30 minutes."

Firefighters are only wearing NFPA-approved gear, according to Allen, who said the regulations were imple-

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# Escape Plans Critical Part Of Fire Safety

By Elisa Turner  
Hickory Record  
Staff Writer

**HICKORY**—A fire breaks out at home. The smoke detector alarms your family to react. What do you do next?

Too many families can't answer this question because they have never developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. But when a fire breaks out at home, you may only have a few seconds to react and escape to safety. Knowing what to do is the key to surviving a fire emergency.

"Play It Safe... Plan Your Escape!" is the theme for the 1987 Fire Prevention Week. This year's event focused on home fire escape planning and preparedness and encouraged all families to set aside time during the week to develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

"There are two steps for a good evacuation program at home—planning and practice," Hickory Fire Chief Larson H. Moore said. "People often become confused when they discover a fire, and the home in which they live can become unfamiliar. By taking the time to devise a home escape plan, with two ways out of each room, people will be able to react more quickly in the event of a fire."

The Hickory Fire Department has suggested a formula for developing your own fire escape plan:

—Gather the entire family at a convenient time during Fire Prevention Week to develop a floor plan of your home. Each floor of your home should be included. Identify all rooms, including doors, windows and hallways.

—Plan and draw your escape plan using arrows to indicate two ways out of each

room. Sleeping areas are extra important since most fatal fires happen at night.

—Plan the place where everyone should meet once they are out of the building. This could be a neighbor's

## Another Fireman Injured

**MARION**—A second McDowell County man has been injured while fighting forest fires in western United States.

Ronald G. Hollifield of Nebo, an employee with the N.C. Forest Service, suffered a dislocated elbow while battling blazes in Idaho Falls, Idaho, according to forest service officials.

In September, McDowell County Forest Ranger John Reese was injured while fighting fires in northern California. Reese suffered a broken arm when he was hit by a falling tree. He has since returned to McDowell County.

Hollifield's wife, Martha, said her husband's injuries apparently resulted from a fall. Hollifield was taken off the fire line, but he is now working radio communications.

Hollifield had been fighting the western fires since Oct. 4 and was scheduled to return in mid October. N.C. Forest Service employees are allowed to stay on the scene two weeks.

Several specially trained McDowell County residents have joined other fire fighters from across the nation in battling the western U.S. fires that have blackened hundreds of thousands of acres.

yard, mailbox or nearby corner. Select the person who will call the fire department and decide which telephone will be used. Always leave the building first, then call from somewhere else.

—Make sure all family members are familiar with the plan you've just drawn. Remember, younger, older or disabled family members may need special assistance and should be located as close to an exit as possible. Assign someone to help those who would need assistance.

—Practice the plan. Walk through each room of the house and identify each of the escape routes. Be especially clear to young children. Be sure to practice the entire plan, straight through to the designated meeting place.

—Point out and test smoke detectors so everyone knows the sound of an alarm. If you don't have detectors, you should install them on each floor and outside each sleeping area.

—Memorize the fire de-

partment phone number.

—Since doors act as temporary barriers from smoke and fire, be sure to close bedroom doors at night when sleeping. When in a fire and the door is cool to the touch, brace your shoulder against it and open it cautiously—be ready to slam it if smoke or heat rushes in. If the door is hot, use the escape route.

—Crawl low in smoke when escaping. Since smoke rises, there's often clean, breathable air close to the floor.

Make sure children can operate windows, descend a ladder or lower themselves to the ground. Parents should practice this with their young ones. Also, during a fire, children should be lowered to the ground before adults from the window. They may be afraid and not follow, if the adult goes first.

—Never go back into a burning building. Take a head count once you have reached the meeting place.

—Know what to do if you cannot escape through either of the identified exits. A per-

son trapped by fire should stay in the room and close windows and doors. Stuff vents and cracks near the door with sheets, towels or any type of clothing. If possible, wet these materials first.

Fire officials not only emphasized the need for home safety measures, but also stressed the need for practice of the plan.

"The plan cannot work unless everyone works and practices it," Hickory Fire Inspector Mike James said during an interview. "I think that's the key to having a home escape plan."

## Fire Dept. Gets New Truck

**HICKORY**—The Startown Volunteer Fire Department recently purchased a 1987 GMC tanker truck, according to Fire Chief Cade Huffman. The truck can hold up to 1,500 gallons of water and is capable of dumping its water in about 30 seconds. Built by Craft Industries in Farmville, N.C., the truck was sold to the fire department for \$73,000 and replaced the outdated 1968 Ford unit. Huffman said purchase of the unit would not have been possible without the support of the citizens and firefighters of the Startown fire district.

## Learning About Disasters

**KILL DEVIL HILLS**—Fire fighters from Manteo, Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head received timely instruction on handling aircraft rescues, when they took a 12-hour course taught by Thomas Bender of Seymour Johnson Air Force in Goldsboro recently. "I think the area fire departments deserve a lot of recognition for asking for this course," Bender said. The course was planned before the recent plane crash at Oregon Inlet, he said, but the accident underscored the need for education about these accidents. Aircraft firefighting and rescue procedures were taught

as well as how to make a safe approach and how to quickly save the pilot and passengers. They also learned how to handle burning magnesium and jet fuel, and they became familiar with the Dare County EMS helicopter and a small private aircraft. Dean Morris of Manteo, a Dare County EMS helicopter mechanic, showed the group some features of the EMS helicopter, and Andy Maglione, a Nags Head Volunteer Fireman, showed them his personal Cessna 172 which he pilots. Twelve people took the course which was sponsored by the state community college system.



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## Firefighters Display Skills For Children

By Donna Isbell  
Hickory Daily  
Record Staff Writer

ICARD—Sirens blared, red lights flashed and plumes of water sprayed out of hoses Wednesday morning, October 7, as firefighters from the Icard Township Fire Department demonstrated their equipment and talked to students at Icard Elementary School.

The guest appearance by 17 Icard firefighters and two fire trucks was the culmination of the school's observance of Fire Prevention Week.

The firemen, who go to Icard School each year for this purpose, gave students pencil sharpeners and rulers to commemorate the visit.

According to Principal Bob Hennessee, the school sponsored a poster contest for children in kindergarten through second grade, and an essay contest for third-through sixth-graders. The contests will be judged by the firefighters, and first- and second-place winners in each

grade level will receive Icard Fire Department T-shirts.

Earlier in the week, the fire department gave students pamphlets on fire safety, and the students used the pamphlets in writing their essays.

Hennessee said students also were encouraged to watch Monday night's episode of the NBC television program, "Valerie's Family," which dealt with fire safety.

The demonstration included many aspects of fire safety, according to Thomas Houston, fire prevention officer.

"The small ones learn the emergency telephone numbers. We go over the equipment, (tell them) how to escape if their house is on fire. We also show them the air packs we wear when we go in buildings," said Houston.

He added the firemen show the children each piece of equipment on the trucks, and let them hear the siren and the horn.

"I think all the firemen in Icard Township enjoy (talking to the children). Usually about two-thirds of the men turn out . . . We try to do it to help them so they'll be safe, and teach them how to report a fire," Houston noted.

Fire Chief W.S. Perry agreed. "We hope it's a learning process for them. The children seem to get a lot of enjoyment out of it. I hope something that's said or done today will leave an impression on them. We put a lot of hours into this sort of thing."

## Great-Grandmother Fights Fires

By Martha Anderson  
Jacksonville  
Daily News Staff

PINE KNOLL SHORES—Shell Blanchard is one great-grandmother who can take the heat.

Mrs. Blanchard, 68, is the only active female firefighter who has been with the Pine Knoll Shores Volunteer Fire Department continuously since it formed in 1978.

"I joined because we needed more people in the class at Carteret Technical College," she said. "I enjoyed it and stayed."

When she's not wearing a fire helmet, Mrs. Blanchard dons a safari hat. She thrives on hard work.

Mrs. Blanchard is the grounds-keeper, landscaper and assistant manager at Jungleland. Working with heavy machinery keeps her in shape for fire emergencies. She cleans debris off both of the 18-hole miniature golf courses with a 40-pound blower strapped to her back.

"I don't like fighting fires because that's tragedy," she said. "The best part of being a volunteer firefighter is the practice and drills."

One of the drills includes rescuing a victim from a smoke-filled room while in full gear. The air packs alone weigh about 20 pounds. "You go in there with full gear, hoses and everything, and it's completely dark, and you have to come out with the body," she explained.

She has been able to retrieve the body every time.

Mrs. Blanchard plans to retire from Jungleland and the fire department in a few years, when she turns 75. She

retired for a year, but was so bored she started working again. When she was growing up on the farm, she never imagined she'd be a female firefighter.

"Pine Knoll Shores (fire department) has a big percentage of retirees," she said. "We're so unique, the insurance company took the fire department's blood pressure. I think it's because they consider us to be old."

It's not unusual for Jungleland patrons to call Mrs. Blanchard and compliment her landscaping at the golf course.

Details about her fire calls are not revealed to any of her five children—including town building inspector Lee Blanchard.

"I like to leave them on a

string, and I never go into details," Mrs. Blanchard said with a smile.

And despite those firefighting exploits, Mrs. Blanchard says the most exciting part of her life has been raising her children.

"After my first, my mother said, 'You're going to spoil that baby, and I did exactly that with all five.'"

In her spare time, Mrs. Blanchard likes to head to the beach and fish.

"I love to catch spots, sea mullet and flounder," she said.

If she's had a good day of fishing, she prepares the fish and feed the employees at Jungleland.

She also like to cross stitch and was expecting her fourth great-grandchild in October.

## Ex-Fire Captain Dies

DURHAM—Harold Garland Roberts, 71, of 3788 Guess Road, retired Captain of the Durham Fire Department, died in his home after a long illness.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 14, in Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. Conducting was the Rev. Charles Rutt and the Rev. Ervin Dillehay. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ben D. Riggs, Richard R. Jones, Talmadge H. Lassiter, C.J. Clark, Ernest L. Parrish, Greg Riggs, Randall Riggs and Gary Riggs. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Durham Fire Department, Durham Police Department, Durham County Gen-

eral Hospital Security Staff and the men of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church.

Roberts was a native of Durham and attended Durham County Schools.

He was a member of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church.

He worked for the Durham Fire Department for 38 years before his retirement. He was also an employee with Erwin Oil Co. for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Virginia Robertson Roberts; two daughters, Mrs. Jean R. Bass and Ms. Robyn L. Roberts, both of Durham; two sons, Harold Thomas Roberts and William Alan Roberts, both of Durham; 7 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

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# Grants To Help Rural Volunteer Fire Departments

By Mary Beth Starr  
Herald Staff writer

**NEW BERN**—Rural volunteer fire departments that serve fewer than 6,000 people will be eligible for matching grants of up to \$20,000 beginning Jan. 1, under a bill passed by the General Assembly.

N.C. Rep. Brewster Brown, D-Hertford, introduced the bill creating the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fund because "I saw a need

in rural North Carolina to upgrade the equipment that was available to the Volunteer Fire Departments.

"Inflation, as it relates to fire equipment, hasn't kept pace with their ability to raise money. Many are trying to have barbecue suppers and other fund-raisers. They can't charge much more than about \$3.50 a plate, while the price of fire equipment has just skyrocketed."

One tanker truck is sometimes all that is needed to

change a fire department's rating from a 10 to a 9, which can reduce insurance premiums for each family served by the department by as much as \$50 to \$100, he said.

Those trucks run between \$40,000 and \$60,000, he said.

"I felt this kind of a statewide matching fund would be an appropriate method to address the situation."

Brown is a volunteer fireman for the Winton Fire Department in Hertford County. "I don't think there is a fire department in my district that's not totally volunteer," he said.

"It didn't seem appropriate that they were volunteering their time, then having to spend more time on raising funds than on fire fighting training and developing their skills."

He said between a quarter and a third of the state's volunteer departments will be

eligible. There are 1,400 total departments in North Carolina, and approximately 300 to 400 will be eligible, according to the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

Departments must serve 6,000 people or less, be all volunteer and certified by the insurance department to receive the funds.

Angie Callahan of the fire and rescue division of the department of insurance, will handle the grant. She is now going through U.S. Census data to determine which departments are eligible.

She said individual departments should already know what population they serve, but that her department needs to verify the information.

She hopes to send out a mailing in November to eligible departments.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1988, the eligible fire departments can

apply to the commissioner of insurance for a grant.

Funds will begin to be awarded May 1, 1988, and each May 1 thereafter.

The money must be used for equipment or capital expenditures.

The money would be generated through an add-on to the premium tax that insurance companies pay on fire and casualty insurance in the state, Brown said. That tax has been raised from one percent to 1.33 percent.

The fund will generate approximately \$1 million per year, which will not cover all of the needs, he said. It would fully fund about 40 to 50 grants of \$20,000 each.

"But everybody will not ask for the full amount. We'll just have to look at the demand and find another source of revenue if it is great enough."

"This bill was just to get the fund in place, the procedures down, and enough to get going. It is the first statewide fund for volunteer fire departments ever established."

Submitted By  
Jack L. Slagle  
South Boston, Va.

## Smoke Blankets 75 Acres

Continued from page 2

cloud that could be seen as far away as Durham.

The burning was part of a reforestation project being done by a Nashville company called Forestree Management Company.

Mike Fernandez, a partner in the company who was checking the fire on a four-wheel motorcycle, said 350 acres owned by Jack Green Jr., of Charlotte, and Mattie Reddick, of Youngsville, had been logged, and 53 of those acres had been burned the previous week.

"It's a very good day for burning," Fernandez said, due to the dry ground and low humidity. Because of the weather, the smoke was carried high into the atmosphere and a cloudless sky made the smoke visible for miles.

To prevent the fire from escaping the controlled area, a 10-12 foot strip was bulldozed around the tract, and Fernandez and his partner, Bill Lewis, were constantly

watching the fire. Before burning, though, they notified the N.C. Forest Service and Franklin County's central fire dispatch.

After the land is prepared, several thousand Lob Lolley Pine trees will be planted at a rate of 622 per acre this winter, Fernandez said. These seedlings will be planted as part of a government sponsored program that provides an incentive to land owners to replant pine trees.

Fernandez said Green and Reddick are interested in properly managing the land. "They're going the whole nine yards . . . just real exceptional land owners."

When Fernandez and Lewis started working on the land, which is accessible by dirt road only, no one seemed interested in what they were doing. They usually saw only one car a day, Lewis said. But when the burning started, the cars started coming and during a 10-minute stretch, Lewis counted 25. "I wish we had a dollar for every car," he said.

## Fire/Rescue Beats NFPA In Adopting Safety Rules

Continued from page 4

mented about three years ago.

"Up until then, we used to wear cotton duck," he said. "Now, we can't do that anymore. Two years before it went into effect, we started changing it over, so by the time this law came into effect, we basically had everybody in Nomax clothes—it's a fire retardant material.

"It doesn't last as long as cotton duck, which means you have to replace it more often."

Regulations have also been implemented involving helmets and foot gear, Allen said.

"We have to wear a certain type helmet that withstands so much shock and so much pressure," he said. "All our men that fight fires are wearing safety boots, too."

"These safety boots have steel innersoles in them so if you step on a nail, it deters the nail or bends it so it doesn't go in your foot. That's something we didn't have when I came to work here."

Submitted By  
Jack L. Slagle  
South Boston, Va.

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## Firefighters Honor Crowe

**MOCKSVILLE**—Phil Crowe, a 6-year veteran of the Mocksville Fire Department, was named fireman of the year at a banquet held at the fire station Sept. 25.

Crowe was born in Burke County and attended school there. He moved to Old Richmond, N.C.

He is maintenance supervisor at Crown Wood Products in Mocksville. He lives on Salisbury Street and is married to the former Brenda Saither. They have three children.

Since joining the Mocksville department, Crowe has acquired more than 250 hours of training. He is a certified interior firefighter and has completed several sections of the Firefighter I curriculum.

In presenting the plaque, Mocksville Town Commissioner Jim Wall said that Crowe's years of experience and training, combined with his quiet, yet confident manner, have made him a respected member of the department who is always willing and able to assist other members.

## Firemen's Day Leaves Desires Burning Deep

By Terri Jamieson  
West Craven Highlights  
Staff Writer

**VANCEBORO**—People passing through Vanceboro recently and seeing lots of fire engines may have been wondering where the fire was. But there wasn't a fire, just the annual Firemen's Day.

The gathering of approximately 1,500 people, old and young is the annual even in Vanceboro that signals the arrival of fall—complete with laughter, friends renewing old ties and shrieks from children as water-gun fights broke out.

People of all ages lined the parade route. Some brought lawn chairs to sit on while others sat on the curb or perched on the tops of their cars and trucks. Everyone loves a parade the old saying goes and what better way to start a parade than with the spit and polish of the U.S. Marine Corps color guard and band marching down the street with the flags snapping to and fro in the

brisk autumn breeze and march music blaring.

The crowd applauded as it was entertained by the band and necks craned to catch a glimpse of what was coming down the street next. Little children waved and clapped, some shouted to friends as they passed by on church floats, marched by with their Scout troops or with their Brownie troops.

Woven in the parade were the politicians, bikers and riders on horseback. This year's parade offered a menagerie of animal characters as Big Bird, Yogi Bear and Smokey the Bear waved to the tots and tykes and shook hands along the parade route.

Last, but not least, were the guests of honor—the firemen. And don't forget the variety of fire engines. Polished chrome gleamed in the sunshine, sirens wailed and horns blared.

After the parade, the spectators were treated to a variety of crafts by local craftsmen at a craft show. Honey to handmade jewelry could be viewed, admired and purchased. Almost anything a person could want could be found.

Sticky-faced children ran around eating candy apples while mothers held tightly to babies. The warm morning temperatures made for favorable conditions as many local figures tested the water in the Vanceboro Fire Department's dunking booth.

The smell of wood smoke filled the air as people waited in line outside the fire station for barbecued chicken or pork plates. Family and

friends sat at picnic tables enjoying the day as the weather gradually turned cooler. In the distance, children's laughter could be heard as a fire truck pulled out of the station to take them on a ride around town. When the "secret" got out, lines formed as other children waited for their turn.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts were busy at the drink booth serving thirsty customers as volunteer cooks took care of cooking the chicken and seasoned the fowl with barbecue sauce.

The Vanceboro Fire Department met weekly in September to plan for the annual

event. Volunteers began cooking the pigs and tossed the chickens on the coals in the morning. Fourteen pigs gave their selves for a good cause—eating good Down East barbecue. Fourteen cases of chickens were broiled over the flames.

Slowly, like dying embers, people began fading away from the event. Some took home plates of food, some carried crafts bought earlier in the day and others carried off sleeping children in their arms.

Hopefully all left with fond memories of another Firemen's Day.

## No Fire Deaths In 1986-87

**MARION**—McDowell County firemen responded to 81 house fires in 1986-87, but there were no fire-related deaths during the year.

Those figures have recently been released in the annual report of the McDowell Firemen's Association.

One person has died as a result of a house fire, however, since the close of the fiscal year, which was June 30.

Fires were down sharply from 1985-86. Total fires for the year just ended were 655. Last year's fires were 839.

In addition to the house fires, the county's departments responded to nine mobile home fires, 67 auto fires, 12 commercial fires, six fires at manufacturing firms, two at public buildings, 96 grass fires, 83 mutual aid fires, 144 auto wrecks and 40 false alarms.

The report was submitted

by Association President Robert Norwood, who also promoted Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-11.

Norwood said good fire prevention is part of the success of fire protection in McDowell County. He pointed out that the annual report shows more than \$4 million in property damage was prevented by local fire fighters during 1986-87.

The McDowell County Commissioners adopted a resolution at their regular September meeting declaring Fire Prevention Week.

The resolution acknowledges that fire prevention is the responsibility of all citizens, that fire threatens life, limb and property, that house fires are often caused by improperly vented wood stoves, unscreened fire places, clogged chimneys, unsafe space heaters and other factors. The commissioners urged public awareness during this week, Oct. 4-11, and through the year as citizens make certain their homes are safe from fire hazards.

Fire departments will provide fire inspections for homeowners if asked.

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