



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

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### Depot Fire Destroys Link To City's Past

By Elizabeth Coady and Jim Schlosser  
Staff Writers  
Greensboro News-Record

**GREENSBORO**—The Southern Railways Freight Station, one of Greensboro's last architectural links to the 19th century, burned in a three-alarm fire still being investigated by police and fire officials.

"She moved fast," Capt. Jim Alexander of the Greensboro Fire Prevention

Bureau said of the fire. The building already was ablaze when the fire was reported at 1:14 a.m., Friday, Dec. 11, but it was put out with no injuries.

The freight depot, at 421 S. Davie St. in south Greensboro, was built in the late 1880s, after the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley train line was founded, Southern Railways officials said.

The property had been used as a freight station until about 25 years ago, railroad officials said. The building was leased

out until about five years ago.

Since then, the massive wood-frame structure, estimated to be 600 feet long and 50 feet wide, has been used for storage and by transients trying to stay warm, officials said.

Half of the building was razed by the fire; the other half will be torn down. A city building inspector condemned the freight depot.

"It is unsafe and weak," Alexander said. "Part of the building was falling when I

was down there."

Investigators are trying to determine whether the fire was started by a vagrant or set by someone seen throwing plywood on the tracks in front of an oncoming train shortly after the fire began.

"At this point, I'm not ruling out anything," Alexander said.

Firefighters were at the scene combing through the charred and smoldering remains.

"It looked like it started on . . . the east side of the building," Alexander said at the scene. "We found clothing, beverage bottles, stuff which is consistent with transients being in the building."

The clothing and bottles were practically all that was left among the rubble. Smoke and water damage was visible in the surviving part of the building, which was littered with plastic cups, old wooden chairs and desks.

Old business cards and telephone numbers lay inside the desks; on top of one, lay an old Southern Railways train schedule.

Under one set of wooden steps outside was an empty Wild Irish Rose wine bottle.

When it was built, the Cape Fear became the third railroad company to serve Greensboro. The others were the North Carolina Railroad, and the Richmond and Danville Railroad.

"Sometime shortly after

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### Woodstove Fire Damages House

**FOREST CITY**—A fire, apparently started by a woodstove, did \$7,000 worth of damage to a home in December.

Forest City Fire Chief Mark McCurry said the department was called to the home of Lewis Blanton on Oak Ridge Road.

No one was injured, McCurry said, and the fire damage was contained to the living room. There was smoke damage to the rest of the house, however.

McCurry said it appeared that newspapers which were close to the stove ignited from the heat, and spread to other combustibles nearby. The blaze was brought under control in about five minutes, McCurry said, adding that Blanton was insured.

### Fire Dept. Truck Damaged

**GOLDSBORO**—A 1987 Dudley Volunteer Fire Department truck sustained \$12,000 in damages following a two-vehicle accident near Arrington Bridge.

Driver of the truck was Luther Daniels, 27, of Rt. 5, Mount Olive. He was charged by the state Highway Patrol with failure to reduce speed. Also involved in the collision was a truck operated by Purvy Lofton Jr., 42, of Seven Springs. He complained of

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### Hillsborough Firefighters Battle Blaze

By Paul Brown and Edison McIntyre  
Durham Sun Staff Writers

**HILLSBOROUGH**—Firefighters were battling a blaze this December in a house at 211 Churton St.

Initial reports said the house was unoccupied, and no injuries were reported by the Orange County Communications Department. The house is located next to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church.

An eyewitness at the scene reported that the house appeared to be fully consumed in flames, with smoke billowing from the house.

Official damage reports, however, were unavailable at the time.

Allen Walker, owner of Walker's Funeral Home across the street, said the white frame house had belonged to Alda Bivens, who died recently.

About 15 firefighters from the Hillsborough and Eno Volunteer fire departments responded to the call, as did an ambulance, the eyewitness reported.

Hillsborough police closed off the 200 block of Churton Street while the firefighters worked to bring the blaze under control.

A spokesman for the Hillsborough Police Department said the fire was reported there about 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3.

Walker said he understood the house, built in the early 1900s, was to have been left by Mrs. Bivens to Oxford Orphanage.

He said the fire appeared to start in one room in the house, but that flames coming out of the front window ignited an overhanging porch roof.

### Students Fight Fires In Their Spare Time

By Kim Cable  
Hunter Huss High  
Reprinted from  
Gastonia Gazette

**GASTONIA**—Imagine an atmosphere in which the temperature is over smoky 1000 degrees and there is a limited amount of oxygen to breathe. These conditions would not appeal to most, but to Mike Carpenter, Kenny Parker, Eddie Woods and Mike Yelton, it is considered adventurous and exciting.

These brave Huskies are volunteer firemen for the South Gastonia Fire Department. "Volunteer" means working without pay. So what attracts these young men to firefighting?

"It gives you a good feeling inside to know you are helping," Parker said.

Carpenter, whose father is part of an advisory committee at the station, said, "I have been wanting to volunteer for as long as I can remember. I like helping out in the community."

"My dad, who is now retired, was a fireman," Woods said. "I'm just following in his tracks."

Yelton, like the others, says he likes helping out in the community.

There is a minimum age requirement of 16 before joining the squad. Firemen between the ages of 16-18 are considered junior firemen. Junior firemen are not allowed to fight fires except for practice fires. They help out with equipment such as making sure an airpack is filled.

All firemen have a Training Test Fire. In this test, the fireman has to enter a burning house, find a hidden dummy, and pull it out to safety. After passing this test, junior firemen are promoted to firefight-

ters. Parker and Yelton have passed this test. Carpenter and Woods have not yet taken the test because they recently joined the squad.

Not only is being a firefighter dangerous, but it is also inconvenient. Each fireman has a scanner in his bedroom. The scanner alarm could go off at any hour, not only waking them, but waking their families too. Whether the volunteers go to the fire or not is optional.

Do parents approve of their sons getting involved in such danger?

"My parents are afraid I will get hurt, but they are still supportive," Parker said.

The rest of the parents are also supporting and encouraging.



Pinewood Fire Department, Goldsboro, N.C.

Firemen inspecting new 1250 GPM, Hale Midship pump, Class "A" Pumper with 1,000 gallon tank with Jet Dump system, mounted on a Kenworth chassis with 300 HP L.N. Cummings engine—automatic transmission.

Submitted by:  
Jack L. Slagles  
Fire Equipment & Supply Co., Inc.  
South Boston, Va.

# Editorial

This month's editorial is an excerpt from "Overcoming Barriers to Public Fire Education in the United States Published by TriDate Corp.

This entire report is available without charge to fire service professionals upon request. Contact TriData Corporation, 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209, (703) 841-2975.

## Fire Service Attitudes

Fire service attitudes toward public fire education may be the most critical barrier, because they hinder progress toward overcoming all the others. There is a dearth of resources for prevention education in part because there is a widespread lack of interest, lack of tradi-

tion for doing prevention, lack of models, and lack of belief that it works.

## Self Image of the Firefighter

Prevention is not what 99 percent of firefighters sign up for. It has not been part of the image of what a firefighter is, nor is it a heart-felt part of the job for the majority of the fire service today. "Firefighters join to fight fires, not to talk about them," said Gus Welter, official of the National Volunteer Fire Council.

The image of a firefighter in children's books is of someone rushing to fires and physically rescuing people. What is the image of a police officer in children's books? Officer Friendly patrolling a neighborhood to deter (prevent) crime. Police see themselves as peacekeepers who

will apprehend criminals but who try patrol/deterrence first. Deterrence, not apprehension, has been the focus of much police research since the 1960's. There has been nowhere near the proportionate interest in fire prevention research.

What has been the firefighter's self-image? What motivates him or her to join the fire service? There are only a few published studies of this. The most common perception portrayed by leaders of the fire service is that the firefighter is interested in helping people, in saving lives, "doing good" with personal, hands-on assistance; being physically active; exhibiting courage; having an exciting job; and enjoying the camaraderie and team spirit of the fire service. This is especially true to the typical volunteer firefighter. "Prevention is not what I volunteered for," say many firefighters.

Public fire education sometimes is perceived as a dull job which requires working as an individual, being a teacher, being "cerebral," being "soft." There is little risk or danger, little excitement (on the surface). "Public fire and burn safety education lacks the glamour associated with a two or three alarm incident," said Roger McGary, President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. "Firefighters who work full-time on prevention are not viewed as true firefighters by the others," said a big city public educator.

Public education work is particularly resented by older firefighters. They object to having prevention "tacked on" to their duties. They tend to have less education and did not have public education defined as an integral part of their job early in their careers.

In the past, public education has been one of the few places in the department where the fire service welcomed women. In many places, it is still the only place they are welcome, said a former city manager. It has also often been the desk job for firefighters on disability—for the sick and the lame. How to "de-sissify" the job image is an important hurdle to overcome.

Firefighters see themselves as good guys, and know the public also has that image of them. Most firefighters do not want to engage in activities where they have to criticize, correct, or enforce. They prefer being the citizen's friend. Though some prevention education is neutral or positive, there also is much education provided through commercial and home inspections, which carry an enforcement image.

Increasing prevention efforts threatens the image of the traditional firefighter. Time spent on public education reduces the physical/macho side of the job, especially if the program is successful and there are fewer calls to respond to. Lancaster

Fire Chief Don Mummaw believes that some union leaders and firefighters consciously or unconsciously feel threatened about the potential of good fire prevention programs: they might work too well. Less fire over time could mean loss of jobs.

The firefighter has an internal conflict: he or she wants to reduce the number of people hurt by fire, and wants to alleviate pain and suffering. But if public education tasks are emphasized and prevention is highly successful, the job that has been loved and died for may change.

The fact is, they are right. The job will change. The question is whether it should change, and whether the "new" job will offer great personal rewards of its own.

The Japanese firefighter had perhaps the most macho image and tradition in the world. The first arriving company traditionally sent its bravest member to the roof of a burning house with the unit's pennant. He flew it from the roof until his company extinguished the blaze, or he

died in the fire if they were unsuccessful. Today the Japanese firefighter is trained to a high degree in firefighter safety, and spends triple the time of his counterpart in the United States on prevention. The Japanese firefighter is highly motivated to help the population prevent fires. His service's record is his honor, not his own brave contribution.

One can change the image of the firefighter. The firefighter is admired by children while he teaches prevention. There is enormous satisfaction to be gained in that role. There is also the satisfaction of knowing that when a rescue has to be made, all that could have been done to prevent it has been done.

There are far more firefighters today than there were a decade ago who believe that public education is an important part of the job. Certainly more chiefs feel that way. The National Fire Academy's public fire education courses are filled to capacity. But there still are many who question public education's role.

## Haw River Fire Dept. Awards Presented

The Haw River Fire Department held its annual Christmas party and several awards were presented.

Bruce Dawson was honored for 15 years of service and Jeff Fogleman was honored for 5 years of service.

Richard Apple was presented the Firefighter of the Year award. He joined the fire department in 1971. He and his wife, Barbara, live on Circle Drive.

Ricky Honeycutt was presented the Rookie of the Year award. He joined the fire department in 1985. He is a Lieutenant with the department. He and his wife, Penny,

have one daughter and live on Boundary St.

Robbie Everhart was presented the EMT of the Year award. He joined the department in 1978. He is an Assistant Chief with the department. He and his wife, Gena, have 2 sons and live on Rolling Rd.

David Ray was presented the Officer of the Year award. He joined the department in 1970. He is the Chief of the department. He and his wife, Betty, live on Rolling Rd.

Submitted by  
Marshall Lynch  
Haw River VFD

## Fire Units Stretched Thin During Multiple Calls

By Karen Equils  
Staff Writer  
Kinston Free Press

KINSTON—Kinston firefighters were called to three fires within an hour recently, stretching their equipment and manpower to the maximum.

The first call was to the residence of Angie Carper at 316 Sherwood Ave. When fire units arrived, the center portion of the house was engulfed in flames.

According to fire reports, Ms. Carper was at home when an electric heater apparently caused nearby combustible chemicals to ignite, causing the fire.

The house had been divided into three separate apartments. Fire damage was confined to Ms. Carper's apart-

ment. While fire units were still at the Sherwood Avenue fire, a call was issued to the Word of Life Ministry at 2105 Ivy Road when smoke was seen coming from the heating units.

Fire reports indicate a belt on the heating unit had ignited and smoke was forced into the church. Damage was confined to the heating unit.

A third call to 1701 Hardee Road proved to be a false alarm, but North Lenoir fire units were called to provide mutual aid because all of the Kinston units were at the two previous calls.

At 12:22 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, two young boys ran into the fire station at King Street and said that a building on Bright Street was on fire.

Continued on page 6

### THE TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER and Carolina Rural Fireman

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# Depot Fire Destroys Link To City's Past

Continued from page 1

that track arrived here, they built a center portion of the building that burned last night, and it was used as a combination passenger and freight station," said Olin Mills, a division superintendent with Southern Railways.

When the Cape Fear line was completed, it gave Greensboro railroad tracks almost in every direction—as well as a nickname.

"It was this line that made us the Gate City," said Gayle Frupp, curator at the Greensboro Historical Museum and author of a book about Greensboro. "It gave us 66 passenger and freight trains a day."

But the railroad eventually went bankrupt and was sold at a public auction in March 1894, Mills said. The property was sold four years later and reorganized as the Atlantic and Yadkin on Jan. 13, 1899.

In 1904, Southern Railways took over the line. Eventually, the station was expanded and used only to transport freight. Freight from box cars would be unloaded on one side; trucks would pull up on the other side for loading.

Greensboro Fire Captain J.E. McCarter, 53, who helped fight the fire, remembered visiting the station as a young boy.

"I used to come down with my granddaddy," McCarter said. "Trucks would be lined up here waiting to get into these docks. They used to bring Christmas trees here on flat cars."

Even fire trucks were delivered there. McCarter said Engine No. 11 was delivered in 1959, a few months before Station 11 was opened at 2605 S. Elm-Eugene St. The truck is now out of service.

Through the years, developers eyed the depot for renovation, but no projects materialized. "If something had been done to the building, it would have been the heart of the Old Greensborough District," said John Tasker, former president of the Old Greensborough Preservation Society, which promotes the south side of downtown.

In recent decades, the building has been used for different purposes. Circus elephants were unloaded there each year and marched to the Coliseum. During the 1986 drought, box cars of hay donated by California farmers arrived at the depot for distribution to local farmers.

"It is a substantial historical loss, not only for Old Greensborough but the entire city," Tasker said. "But I doubt if it is a substantial economic loss."

Mills, of Southern Railways, said the railroad planned to continue using the area for freight storage.

The fire was the second in three years to destroy an historically significant downtown building.

A fire April 13, 1985, destroyed eight buildings on Davie Street, including the old Dixie Bell Textile Building. The buildings were to be part of the Greensborough Court at Hamburger Square project.

Investigators later determined that the fire, the worst in city history, was caused by a vagrant who fell asleep while smoking in one of the buildings. The man's remains were found a week after the fire.

## IFSTA Release

**STILLWATER**—Fire Protection Publications announces the publication of the International Fire Service Training Association's **Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement**, 5th Edition.

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# National Vol. Fire Council News

## NVFC Comments On Proposed Sprinkler Law

"The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) supports the idea behind a proposed law requiring installation of fire sprinkler systems in hotels and motels," according to NVFC Chairman E. James Monihan, "but we cannot support the method chosen to enforce the bill's provisions."

The bill, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives Dec. 4, would penalize states which fail to comply by barring their firefighters from the National Fire Academy. The legislation was introduced by Congressmen Doug Walgren (D-PA), Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) and Manuel Lujan (R-NM), all members of the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology which has oversight responsibility for the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy.

Monihan says the Council will offer testimony on the proposal. Hearings are expected to be scheduled for early 1988. He says he has been encouraged by statements by Congressman Walgren which recognize that better, more equitable methods of enforcement should be incorporated into the bill before it becomes law.

"We will do all we can to help the Committee come up

with those methods, because asking firefighters to bear sole responsibility for the action of their state legislatures is just not fair," he said.

## Monihan Represents USA

E. James Monihan, chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), represented the U.S. volunteer fire service at a meeting in November of the Federation of World Volunteer Firefighters Organizations in Beijing, China.

The Federation was founded in 1982 to foster world peace and an international exchange of ideas and technical assistance among volunteer firefighters throughout the world.

Program for the meeting included an announcement by

the People's Republic of China that it is establishing a foundation for scientific research on petrochemical firefighting. In addition, delegates discussed the impact of Federation activities to influence the reduction of freight tariffs on imported fire apparatus. Chile and Argentina, with the help of the Federation, have realized a 50 percent reduction in freight tariffs, and other countries are expected to take similar action in the near future.

"The Federation offers an important opportunity to exchange of information with volunteers in other countries and improving our effectiveness worldwide," Monihan said.

For additional information, contact Gus Welter, (612) 881-8114.

## Station Plans Redrawn

**DURHAM**—Plans are being redrawn for two Durham fire stations to serve recently annexed areas after bids for the stations far exceeded city budget allocations.

Nick Curtis, an administrative officer for the Durham Fire Department, said the bids for the two stations were \$200,000 or more over what the city had planned to spend—a bigger gap than could be closed by modifying the original building plans. Consequently, architects have had to start over with more modest designs.

Curtis said the new plans will still meet the fire department's needs, however.

The two new stations were scheduled to be built several months ago in southern and

western Durham. Station 12, which is to be built on Carpenter Fletcher Road, will cover most of the southern area that was annexed into the city in August. Station 11 will be built near the intersection of Cornwallis and Ridge Roads in Colony Park.

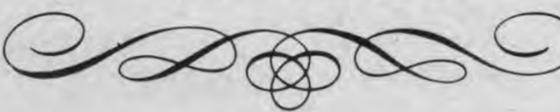
Both areas currently receive adequate fire protection from existing city stations and an agreement with Parkwood and Bethesda volunteer fire departments, Curtis said.

Curtis also said the city plans to reopen bidding on Station 12 on March 1, with construction tentatively set to begin April 1.

New bids on Station 11 will be taken beginning July 1 with construction to follow a month later.

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# Officials Break Ground For Fire Station

By Pandora Passin  
Lexington Dispatch  
Staff Reporter

LEXINGTON—City officials, architects, contractors, and many firemen gathered on an unseasonably warm December afternoon to dig the first shovel of dirt where the new Lexington Fire Department headquarters will be housed about eight months from now.

The groundbreaking marked a long-awaited day for firemen who have been making do with what they consider an outdated fire department facility for the past several years.

The new fire station, to cost nearly \$900,000, will be built on the corner of East Center and North Pugh streets.

A vintage 1922 Lexington fire engine was brought to the location, as well as the department's official Dalmatian representative, Mack, to help commemorate the occasion. The mayor, City Council members, and most of the firemen on that day's shift took a dig at the dirt.

Plans for a new fire station have been underway for about a year. In late 1986, a study was conducted of the existing fire headquarters adjacent to

City Hall on West Center Street. It pointed out that the structure, which has housed the fire department since the early 1930's, is in poor shape and represents "a definite fire hazard."

Firemen also have complained about lack of heat in their upstairs sleeping dormitory-style quarters, and generally cramped conditions with 9,195 square feet to accommodate 24 firemen. This all will be a thing of the past come August, when the firemen will move into the new headquarters measuring 14,900 square feet.

The design, prepared by the local architectural firm of Briggs & Mathews, calls for a single-story structure in three basic sections, including a training area, a fire apparatus area and a dormitory/dining

hall/lounge area. Other features of the building will include three bays to house two pumper trucks, one aerial truck, a utility truck and a shift commander's mini-van.

A reception area will face East Center Street. There also will be offices for the permanent fire chief, the on-duty chief, the training officer, fire inspection officer and fire prevention officer, plus a tree-lined patio, an exercise room and laundry facilities.

Each on-duty fireman will have more privacy at night since there will be nine bedrooms at the station, each containing three beds. This will allow each fireman to have his own room to sleep in per shift.

Presently dispatching for all fire calls in the city and county are done at the West Center Street headquarters. That system no longer will be used once the move is made, and the Council now is making plans for centralizing all city police and fire calls at the Police Department.

County fire calls will have to be done elsewhere next year. Construction of the site will include leveling the hill of the property to street level so fire trucks can more easily maneuver in and out. Trucks will

be entering on North Pugh Street and will exit on East Center Street.

Some signals are expected to be installed at East Center Street to warn passing motorists when the trucks are going out.

The price of the new station has turned out to be less than originally expected. City officials first thought they would have to pay about \$1 million for construction, but were able to reduce that figure to \$896,138 during the November Council meeting after low bids were approved.

C.J. Kern Contractor was hired to do the general construction of the station. Other companies contracted to work on the project were Castor Plumbing & Heating, Webb Heating & Air Conditioning and Lilly Electric.

The City Council hasn't decided what will be done with the old station once it is vacated. However, the possibility of converting the station into new City Council chambers is being considered.

"With the expanding of the Council, we need a larger Council room and this is one of the things we'll be taking a look at," said Mayor Harold Bowen. "Beyond that we haven't really discussed what will take place down there."

## Electric Heater Caused Fire

By Jim Schlosser  
News-Record  
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO—An electric baseboard heating unit coming into contact with combustible materials caused the fire that killed three Greensboro youngsters in a small house off Spring Garden Street, investigators ruled Dec. 2.

In a related ruling, the state medical examiner said the three siblings—James "Jay" Whitley, 8, and twins Caroline and Cary Whitley, who would have been 5 on Dec. 10—died of carbon monoxide poisoning from the heavy smoke through the house in the early morning hours.

The children were alone while their mother, Carol Groover, was delivering newspapers, one of two jobs she held to support her children.

Capt. Louis Martin of the Greensboro Fire Prevention Bureau said that the fire investigation is basically complete, with no indications that the fire was anything but accidental, he said.

The blaze, one of the city's worst ever in terms of lives lost, offers a lesson that could prevent other fires and deaths this winter, Martin said.

"At this time of year, we have our heating systems in place. A good lesson would be to make sure those heating systems are serviced and that you don't have combustible materials close to them."

Martin declined to identify the materials that ignited. He said various items were in the utility room where the base-

board heating unit was located.

Baseboard heating units are common, particularly when rooms are added but not connected to the central heating system of a house. The unit is usually placed on the floor against a wall.

Capt. Martin said he was not surprised by the medical examiner's ruling that carbon monoxide killed the three children. It is a common cause of death during fires, he said.

State Medical Examiner John Butts said it is difficult to say how long the youngsters lived after the fire broke out.

"It could be a few minutes or longer," he said.

The fire may have started long before firefighters arrived. A neighbor said she noticed smoke in the neighborhood about 5:30 a.m., but thought it was heavy fog or harmless smoke coming from a woodburning stove. A passerby reported the fire at 6:08 a.m.

When firefighters arrived, flames were shooting out of the rear of the house. After firefighters kicked down the front door, flames surged to the front of the house.

The two brothers apparently tried to escape the one-story, shingled house. Their bodies were found near the front door. They would have needed a key to open the door from within because it was secured by a double deadbolt lock. Investigators think the mother had the key.

The children were buried during a graveside service at Westminster Gardens.

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## S-D-O Fire Dept. Directors Named

**RUTHERFORDTON**—More than 409 resident taxpayers in the Danielstown fire district elected four citizens of the district to the board of directors for the Shiloh-Danielstown-Oakland volunteer fire department. Eight men had been nominated for the four positions and four were elected by secret ballot at the fire station, in December.

Elected were the four nominees sponsored by the fire department—Clarence Campbell with 362 votes; Paul Chapman, 356 votes; William Roberson, 346 votes and

Harry Taylor 341 votes. Taylor and Chapman are members of the department.

Defeated were Johnny Bradley with 68 votes; Danny Ferguson, 59 votes; Mickey Reepe with 54 votes and Larry Henson with 40 votes.

The four new board members were elected for two-year terms and join George White, James Davis Sr. and James Queen on the board of the directors. The three directors were appointed when the S-D-O department was organized during an election by secret ballot.

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# Fire Marshal Learned Craft At Early Age

By Kathy Chaffin  
Davie County Enterprise-Record

**MOCKSVILLE**—Davie County's new fire marshal was in elementary school when his father helped organize a volunteer department in Carroll County, Va.

"I just kind of tagged along," said Glen E. Stanley Jr., who started work for the county Dec. 1.

Stanley later became a junior fireman in the department where his father was chief for 10 years after its inception.

At 17, Glen Stanley Jr. was eligible to become a Virginia state fire instructor except for his age. The minimum age requirement was 19.

While it was his father that got him involved in firefighting, Stanley said it was "the excitement of fighting fires and winning" that led him to pursue it as a career. "It's like a battle," he said.

At age 31, Stanley has had 16 years experience as a firefighter, nine years training experience and six years management and supervisory experience.

He came to Davie County from Whiteville, where he was chief of the city's fire department for 17 months. While there, Stanley was also a fire service and industrial fire brigade instructor at Southeastern Community College.

Before going to Whiteville, Stanley worked for the Salisbury City Fire Department. He started in December 1977 as a full-time firefighter and was an acting company officer when he left in June 1986.

During his time with the department, Stanley also owned and managed the Salisbury Sprinkler Company, which handled fire protection systems installation and consultation, and was a fire science curriculum and fire service and industrial fire brigade instructor at Rowan Technical College.

After almost eight years in Salisbury, Stanley decided he was ready to move on. "I needed a job change," he said.

It was then that he applied to become Davie County's

first fire marshal. "I was turned down for the position and later on got the job in Whiteville," he said.

Stanley was at a firemen's conference in Greenville this past summer when he heard that Jim Tourville, Davie's fire marshal from Oct. 1, 1985, until June 30 of this year, had resigned to take a job in Cabarrus County.

Stanley applied again for the job, and this time, he got it.

Commission Chairman R.C. Smith introduced Stanley at a county commission meeting recently. "We're looking forward to a good, lengthy relationship," Smith said.

County Manager John Barber said members of the Davie County Firemen's Association were taking Stanley around to meet the firemen in the county's 12 volunteer departments.

Stanley said in an earlier interview that he wanted to meet with all the fire departments "to see what they've been doing and what I can help them do." He said he also wanted to meet with citizens to hear their concerns about fire protection.

As fire marshal, Stanley said his role is to investigate suspicious fires and handle inspections of businesses and other facilities. He will also serve as a resource person for the fire departments.

Stanley, whose office is on the bottom floor of the county office building, said he wanted to talk with the departments before going out on fire calls.

"If they don't want me there, I want to stay out of the way," he said.

The new fire marshal declined comment on his goals and issues facing the fire departments until he has all the facts.

Stanley did say he had been impressed by what he had seen and heard of the fire departments in Davie County. "I've seen paid departments and part-paid departments that aren't nearly in the position this county is," he said.

The fact that the county has a 911 emergency telephone line says a lot about it.

"It's a progressive county," Stanley said. "You don't put up a flag and say, 'Hey, we're good.' It's just that the things you do show you to be good, and that's impressive."

Despite their hard work, Stanley said firefighters never get the credit they deserve.

"But they don't do it to get a pat on the back or a dollar in the pocket," he said. "I guess self-gratification is the big thing. People enjoy what they do. It's something that gets in your blood."

Stanley said he and his wife, Debra, are happy to be back in this area of the state. "We really like the people here, the way they think," he said. "It's a lot different."

The Stanleys and their two daughters, Lisa, 5, and Jessica, 2, are currently living in a house they own in Salisbury.

"Hopefully, after the holidays, we'll start looking for a house up here," Stanley said. "Any help in finding us a home will be appreciated."

## New Officers At East Bend

**YADKINVILLE**—The annual meeting of the East Bend Volunteer Fire Department was held at East Bend Seafood. The following persons were elected as officers.

President, Charlie Webb; vice-president, Bill Hardy; secretary, Ronnie Vanhoy; treasurer, Arzie Matthews.

Operations officers elected by the board for 1988 were chief, Donnie Norman; assistant chief, Jack Adams.

Promoted from captain to assistant chief was Gary Martin. Promoted from lieutenant to captain was Charlie Webb. Promoted from fireman to lieutenant was Wayne Johnson.



When a problem drinker drives, it's your problem

# Chief Pender Retired After 37 Years On Job

By Neil Furr  
Statesville Record & Landmark  
Staff Writer

**MOORESVILLE**—Whenever Fire Chief Howard (Pete) Pender hears the wailing siren of an approaching fire engine now he might just stroll out onto his front porch to see where it goes, but he's not going to jump into his "turn-out gear," listen to his scanner or bother to call the station.

When Pender retired on the last day of this year after 37 years with the Mooresville Fire Department, he meant to retire completely.

"This has been half my life," the fire chief said while sitting in an office that was only his for another half month. "I would be telling something if I said that was not so. I care and my heart will always be in the fire department. But as for me interfering and trying to tell the new chief how to run it—well, I'm never going to interfere and I'm not going to give advice unless I'm asked."

Pender said that he has enjoyed his years as Mooresville's only paid fire chief but now is the "time to get out." But in doing so, he will have to give up his most constant companion—his pager.

It was that infernal squawking box that summoned him about six years ago to Western Auto, the scene of one of his worst fires.

At about 9:20 p.m. that night, he was at home relaxing in his pajamas when the contraption let him know something was amiss at the uptown store. Pender jumped into his turn-out gear, with his pajamas on, and was on his way.

"I came up West Wilson and when I turned on Broad, I saw the flames," he recalled. Minutes before the fire had blown glass all the way across the street and engulfed the building in flames, Chief Pender learned later, a fortunate police officer had checked the front door and gone on.

The chief spent the entire night fighting the blaze while still in his pajamas but nobody ever knew it because of the turn-out gear.

Such turn-out gear did not exist at the Mooresville Fire Department when Pender first came on board 37 years ago as a dispatcher, police officer and fireman. "All we had were rubber rain-coats and three or four helmets," Pender said.

The fire department then consisted of three paid officers, about 25 volunteers and a volunteer fire chief. The rolling stock consisted of the old 1921 American LaFrance, now refurbished and used to brighten up Christmas parades, and a 1938 Ford. With these already antiquated pieces of equipment, the department not only answered city calls but helped take care "of most of southern Iredell County."

"That was a lot of territory to cover with only two trucks," the chief admitted, "especially when neither one had hydraulic brakes and power steering."

The county bought Moores-

Continued on page 7



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# 150 Evacuated During Blaze

By Wyllisa Bennett  
Elkin Tribune  
Staff Reporter

**ELKIN**—About 150 customers were evacuated from Adams Seafood & Steakhouse restaurant in Jonesville recently, when a grease fire in the kitchen spread into vents and threatened the rest of the building.

No one was injured in the blaze but firefighters from Jonesville and Arlington fought the blaze for two hours before bringing it under control, and Brenda Adams, owner, reported about \$10,000 damage.

The building, located on 225 S. Bridge St., caught fire when a cooker, used to fry hush-puppies and french fries ignited, Adams said.

Adams immediately reported the fire to the Arlington Fire Department, and a firefighter who happened to be eating dinner there started clearing out customers.

Steve Swain, an Arlington firefighter, saw flames shooting out the back portion of the roof as he was driving by.

"I pulled in and went in, and there was still a lot of people in the building, but a firefighter who was there was getting people out," Swain said. "I just helped him."

The fire extended through the exhaust vent over the cooker, Adams said, and the blaze traveled through the exhaust vents to the top of the building. Firemen had to remove the exhaust fan and its cover, located on the top of

the building, to extinguish the flames, Lindbergh Swaim, Jonesville fire chief, said.

Although the automatic fire extinguisher over the cooker was activated, it did not put the fire out. Arlington firefighters had to extinguish the fire with foam.

The restaurant was filled with smoke, and most damage occurred because of that, Adams said.

The fire appeared to have been an accidental grease fire, Swaim said, adding it could have been serious if it had not been extinguished in time.

None of the cooks in the kitchen at the time of the fire were injured.

Two fryers and a breaker panel were burned, and the ceiling and a wall were melted and blackened by the fire. A water pipe was melted and burst during the fire.

Despite the fire, the restaurant was still operating under regular hours the following morning.

Adams commended the fire departments for their quick response to the fire and their work in saving the restaurant from further damage.

## New Addition To Snow Hill Fire Station

**SNOW HILL**—The Town Board of Commissioners have allocated \$40,000 for a new addition to be built to the Snow Hill Fire Station according to Mayor Melvin Oliver.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in late November. The Snow Hill Town Fire Department was organized in the 1920's with the Snow Hill Rural Department beginning in 1962.

The present building was built in 1957 when Wick Exum was serving as mayor. The Rural Department began op-

eration with one pumper for \$12,000, and today, the department has six pieces of equipment valued in excess of \$170,000.

Horace Moore served as the first fire chief, followed by Sila Brown, and Bobby Carraway is currently serving as chief. Donald Hart serves as assistant chief.

There are currently 35 members in the department, and they have spent over 1700 manhours in training and 757 hours at fire scenes.

Continued on page 7

## Fire Units Stretched Thin During Multiple Calls

Continued from page 2  
Grass behind L&J Manufacturing at 107 East Bright St. had apparently been set on fire and burned behind the brick building.

The building sustained no damage from the fire. An unoccupied house at 304

E. Blount St. was the scene of a fire that evening, when a mattress caught fire.

Fire damage was confined to the mattress in a bedroom on the first floor of the two-story structure. The building is owned by L.E. Lewis of 2006 Towerhill Road.

## Firemen Save Two Homes

**NORTH WILKESBORO**—Wilkes County firemen saved two homes recently. Both fires were reported on the same day.

North Wilkesboro Fire Department was dispatched to the home of Arnold Bynum, 10 Park Road North Wilkesboro and found the home filled with smoke.

North Wilkesboro fire chief Conley Call said that his firemen found a sofa and chair on fire in a basement room. Firemen pulled the burning furniture from the house after entering using oxygen masks. Chief Call said that the damage was confined to the furniture, ceiling and smoke in the house.

Bynum said that he was awakened by the smoke and got his family out of the home. It is a family of five, Bynum said. He rents the home from Bill Welborn of Wilkesboro.

Chief Call said that his firemen were on the scene for two and a half hours. A cigarette may have caused the fire, the chief said. "We searched thoroughly for the cause of the fire. That's the only reason we could come up with."

Bynum said that his family was in the house at the time of the fire, his wife, Betty Bynum and three children, Arnold Jr., Mike and Melody, and Mabel Spicer, Betty Bynum's mother. Betty Bynum said that they were all asleep

except for Mabel Spicer who was up and awake. Ms. Spicer smelled smoke and alerted the rest of the family who got out of the house with no injury.

Officer Tim Cheek investigated for Wilkes Sheriff's Department.

Arnold Bynum, Cheek reported, told Chief Conley Call that he had been in the basement about 3:30 a.m. smoking a cigarette. Policeman Cheek called the fire "accidental."

Mulberry-Fairplains volunteer firemen extinguished a fire at the home of Debbie Teague, Windy Ridge Acres Development, about 1:30 p.m. after the fire had made some headway in a hall.

No one was at home, and the flames were spotted by a neighbor who turned in the alarm. Terry Barlow went into the house and used a garden hose to help douse the flames before firemen arrived.

Heat was intense in the home. It was so hot that a plastic lamp shade in the living room melted. Using their oxygen breathing equipment firemen quickly went into the house and got the fire under control.

Fire Chief Ron McGrady said that Ms. Teague had closed all doors leading off the hall before leaving her home, and this kept the fire from spreading.

"The closed doors kept the fire out of the bedrooms."

No cause for the fire was determined. There was fire damage in the house. Ms. Teague, an employee of Peerless Hosiery, has three children, Richard, 20, Timmy, 18, Kim, 17, and a foster child, Dawn, who is six.

Mulberry-Fairplains Department stayed on the scene for about two hours.



## Fire Dept. Truck Damaged

Continued from page 1

pain. Lofton was driving a truck owned by Goldsboro Milling Co. The vehicle sustained \$250 in damages.

The accident occurred on state road 1120 near Arrington Bridge Road.

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## Parker Is Praised As Town Fire Chief

**NORTH WILKESBORO**—Jay Parker, chief of the Wilkesboro Fire Department for about 10 years and a member of the department for over 40 years, submitted his resignation to the Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners, in December.

Parker, defeated in a bid for another two-year term as chief in a Nov. 2 fire department election, presented two written statements to the board when he announced his retirement.

One stated that his retirement was effective as of 10:01 a.m., Dec. 8. "Therefore, I would not be a candidate for

### Kiwanians For Fire Safety

**MOORESVILLE**—Mooreville Fire Chief Howard Pender accepted a \$50 check from Carroll Teeter, who chairs the youth services committee of the Mooreville Kiwanis Club. Pender forwarded the gift to the National Safety Council, which, in turn, will invest a portion of it in this community through literature and other assistance it provides the fire department for the fire-safety program it conducts in local schools.

re-election as fire chief," the statement said, apparently a reference to the possibility of an election in place of the Nov. 2 vote.

Since the election, Parker had continued to act as chief at the request of the board, pending its approval of new officers.

"I consider that it has been a privilege to serve for more than 40 years as a member of the Wilkesboro Volunteer Fire Department. I am grateful to the members of the fire department who have served with me and for their loyalty during the time I have been a member of the fire department, and also during the time that I have served as chief," the statement said.

In his second written statement, Parker informed the board that he was taking his retirement, effective at the same time as the resignation.

Parker, who said he joined the department a few days before his 16th birthday, asked that he be allowed to keep his helmet and badge as keepsakes.

The board unanimously approved allowing Parker to do so.

A Wilkesboro firefighter in the audience said at the meeting that the department members appreciate Parker for his years of service to the

town. "He's done a real good job."

The board unanimously approved a resolution honoring Parker. It said the board wants to "acknowledge with gratitude the fine leadership and services which Jay Parker has given to the Town of Wilkesboro for more than 45 years of service with the Wilkesboro Fire Department. His leadership as a fireman and chief, which he has so graciously rendered to the Town of Wilkesboro and its citizens, is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated."

Mayor Fidell Frazier and Commissioner Ray Triplett both praised Parker, and said they knew he did a good job through serving with him on the fire department years ago, and through their association with Parker later.

### Saluda Firemen Elect Officers

**TRYON**—The Saluda Volunteer Fire and Rescue Inc. had its annual election of officers on November 30. Officers elected are: Chief—Danny Todd; 1st Assistant Chief—Dennis Kuhar; 2nd Assistant Chief—Roger Ward; 1st Captain—Jerry F. Pace; 2nd Captain—John Russell; 1st Lieutenant—Walter B. Gordon Jr.; 2nd Lieutenant—Glenn Gray; Secretary—Larry K. Pace; Representative to The Henderson County Firemen's Association—Larry K. Pace; Assistant Representative to The Henderson County Firemen's Association—Marc Hare; Board of Directors—Ray Alger, Harold Foster and Harold Phillips; Traffic Officers Appointed—Ed Smith, Jr., Harold Foster and Larry Pace.

## Chief Pender Retired After 37 Years On Job

Continued from page 5

ville a new truck in 1951, a 500-gallon American LaFrance pumper, and put the old LaFrance out of operation.

Pender's initial job as a desk officer—a sort of fireman-policeman—was a deceiving title. When the sirens began blaring and the engines began to roll, desk officers didn't stay at their desks rooted to their chairs but grabbed their

### Officers For 1988

**BLOWING ROCK**—George Sudderth was re-elected Chief of the Blowing Rock Fire Department in action by the department during the regular monthly business meeting.

Chief Sudderth will begin his third year at the helm of the local Fire Department, which is ranked among the highest volunteer units in the state of North Carolina.

Re-elected as 1st Assistant Chief was Steve Sudderth, while Larry Hampton was elected 2nd Assistant Chief of the Department.

Mark Lindenmuth was re-elected Captain, while Benny Bolick will return as Lt.

Elected to his first term as President of the Department was Mike Steele, replacing former President Nat Pergerson, who served the Department as President for the past two years. Named Vice President was Bob Lopel.

Carol Bolick was re-elected Department Treasurer, while Jerry Burns was re-elected Secretary.

Officers for the Fire Department are elected for a one year term of office.

raincoats and boots and ate smoke with the volunteers.

"Back then," Pender said, "we worked 16 hours on and then had 32 hours off." During the ensuing years, Pender saw every type of shift but believes the current shift of 24 hours on and 48 hours off is the best.

Pender served under three volunteer fire chiefs during his tenure including Troy Sherrill, Charlie Troutman and finally Phil McLaughlin. When Pender was made fire chief in 1972, he had been the fire inspector for quite a while, which means he took care of the fire station, the equipment and the men. However, when he arrived on the scene of a fire, the volunteer fire chief took charge. While such a set-up might make some professional men resentful, Pender said that he was always able to maintain a good working relationship with the volunteer chiefs.

In 1972 the town had grown to the point, Pender said, that the town leaders felt the need to have a paid fire chief. Since Pender had been doing the work for years, he was their natural choice.

In Pender's 15 years as chief, the fire department's paid roster has grown to 14 paid firemen working three shifts. Each shift consists of three men and a captain, which Pender says leaves the station somewhat undermanned when someone is out.

## New Addition To Snow Hill Fire Station

Continued from page 6

These volunteer firemen have saved over \$8 million worth of property.

According to Commissioner and Fireman Paul Miller, the new addition is needed to handle the growth of the department. Some of the fire

equipment has to set out in all kinds of weather, and the fire station is not large enough to accommodate all the vehicles including the rescue squad truck.

Allen Hardy Construction Company is the contractor for the job, and it is expected to be completed in January.

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# Fire Department Of The Year

By Oren Coin  
Franklin Press

**FRANKLIN**—Cullasaja Gorge Volunteer Fire Department was recognized as the "Fire Department of the Year" in North Carolina on Thursday, December 3, by leaders of the North Carolina Grange.

A capacity crowd of more than 100 packed the Cullasaja Community Building for a banquet in honor of Cullasaja firemen. Organized just five years ago, the Cullasaja VFD became the first fire department in Macon County to win the Grange's annual Fire Department of the Year award.

State Grange Master Robert Caldwell, of Greensboro, presented the award to Cullasaja Fire Chief Tom Hixon and the president of the Cullasaja Gorge Fire Association, Bill Stanfield. Caldwell commended firemen and other members of the fire association for their "dedicated service to the Cullasaja community."

Cullasaja Gorge VFD prevailed over a field of six finalists in voting for department of the year honors, according to Caldwell, who said all rural, volunteer fire departments in the state are eligible to win the award. The department was nominated for the award earlier this year by Gene Huscusson, of Franklin, Grange master in Macon County.

Fire departments nominated for the award were judged on the basis of fire response, facilities and equipment, training and overall community service. Nominees were judged by a committee of rural firemen from Guilford County, which serves as headquarters for the North Carolina Grange.

"We felt that the Cullasaja fire department was especially strong in the area of community service," Caldwell explained. "Not only is this an excellent fire department, it is an excellent community organization that does many

things in addition to the fire service it provides."

Cullasaja Gorge VFD became the 12th fire department to win Fire Department of the Year since the Grange began its awards program in 1976. The award carries with it a \$400 cash prize, which was presented to the department during the banquet.

"This award is in recognition of what a few good men can do," remarked Caldwell. "These 32 men who make up the Cullasaja fire department are to be commended, as are their families and other people in the community who support them. It's really a community-wide effort, and there's a lot of support behind the men on the front line."

Cullasaja firemen also

heard congratulations from Rep. Jeff Enloe, 53rd District representative to the state General Assembly and a member of North Carolina Grange. Enloe, in a surprise announcement, said Cullasaja Gorge VFD will receive federal financial assistance in the near future.

Also present were representatives from each of Macon County's seven other volunteer fire departments.

Cullasaja Gorge VFD began as a committee of five community residents, with an initial income of \$40, in the fall of 1982. The fire department was chartered on Feb. 7, 1983, at which time the department operated with 23 firemen and only one truck.

## Heath Named "Fireman Of The Year"

**SNOWHILL**—Members of the American Legion Shirley Hill Post 94 named Gerald Heath of Walstonburg, a retired volunteer fireman for the Castoria Fire Department, as their first "Fireman of the Year" and presented him with a plaque.

This is the first time a fireman has been selected by the American Legion, and they plan to do this each year.

Mr. Heath was instrumental in helping to organize the Castoria Fire Department in 1967 where he has held all positions in the local department and is presently treasurer of the Greene County Fire Department. He has seen the Castoria Fire Department grow from one fire truck and ambulance to a membership of thirty-five with a rescue truck, a fire truck, water wagon and a crash truck.

Heath retired in May 1987 with twenty years of volunteer fire service. "I'm proud to have been a part of the Greene County Fire Association and to have seen the progress that has been made over the last twenty years," he said.

He serves as Tax Supervisor for Greene County. A member

of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, he is active in the male chorus, the Laymen's League and Sunday School. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of Farmville Child Development Center.

Heath is married to the former Sarah Jarman, and they have three children, Robert Gerald Heath, Jr., an in-

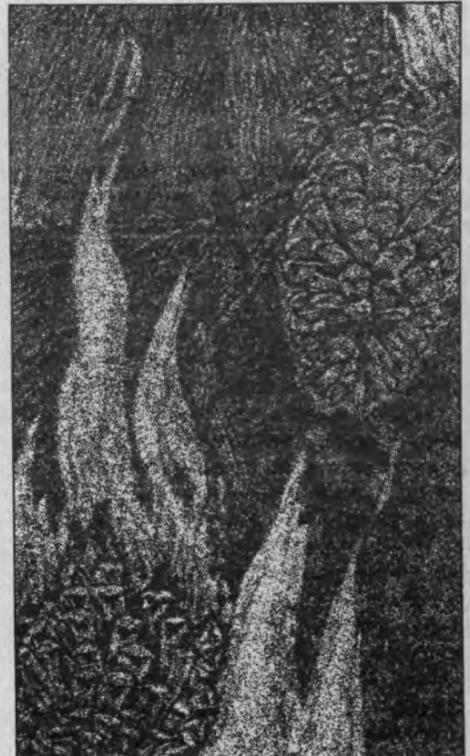
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## Firefighters Receive Instruction

**BOONE**—Several Boone firefighters recently received instruction at two different training sessions at Albemarle and at Emmitsburg, Md.

Firefighters William Greene, Stacy Miller and Edwin Owens attended classes in firefighter safety, preparation for command and arson detection at the Metrolina Fire Seminar at Albemarle, Boone Fire Department Lt. Bill Hartley said.

Hartley along with Assistant Chief Reggie Hassler, Captain/Inspector Ronnie Marsh and firefighters Tom Redmond, Jimmy Isaacs and Cindy Fuller attended the North Carolina/South Carolina Weekend at the National Fire Academy at Emmitsburg.

At the training session, which was sponsored by the federal government, the local firefighters studied incident command, tactical operations, volunteer fire service management and firefighter safety and survival, Hartley said.



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