



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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Stewart Champion Fireman of the Year

WAKE FOREST—The Fireman of the Year and a new honorary fireman were honored at the annual meeting of the Wake Forest Fire Department.

Stewart Champion received the coveted award honoring a fireman, which is given in memory of Lewis Nuckles, longtime fireman. Champion was chosen by his fellow firemen. A native of Wake Forest, Champion is employed at Wake Electric Membership Corporation in Wake Forest. The 33-year-old Champion is married to the former Patsy Moody and they have two children, Robbie, 12, and Lisa, who is 8.

The proud recipient accepted the award from last year's winner, Donnie Hight. Champion said, "A lot of good things have come into my life since I accepted the Lord."

In a special presentation fire chief Jimmy Keith made Larry Zieverink, retiring county commissioner, an honorary fireman. Keith said he hated to see Zieverink go because "He cared." Zieverink received a plaque and fireman's hat with his name inscribed.

Zieverink said he feels close to the Wake Forest Fire Department, individually and collectively.

Keith said the department is doing some work around the station. They are digging up the back and pouring a concrete pad and correcting a drainage ditch. He said it looked like they would be having their fish fries for a

while and the pad would help out with the cooking. He said a pumper ordered in January would arrive about next January.

Keith welcomed a junior fireman, Jeff Leonard, and two who are into their 90-day probation, Mike Shaffer and Scott Thorne.

Randy Bright presided at the dinner and welcomed guests who included retired firemen and families of deceased members. Out-of-town guests included, Zieverink and his wife, Ruth, county commissioner Vernon Malone, Dr. and Mrs. Randall Lolley, who are the only other honorary firemen, and fire marshall Edward Schmillzer and his secretary, Becky Tingen.

George Brown and Donald Kelly were re-elected to the board of directors.

The financial report was given by Clifton Keith. He said it was unofficial because the audited report had not been received. The income was \$171,446.64 and expenses were \$111,058, leaving an unofficial balance of \$60,388.19.

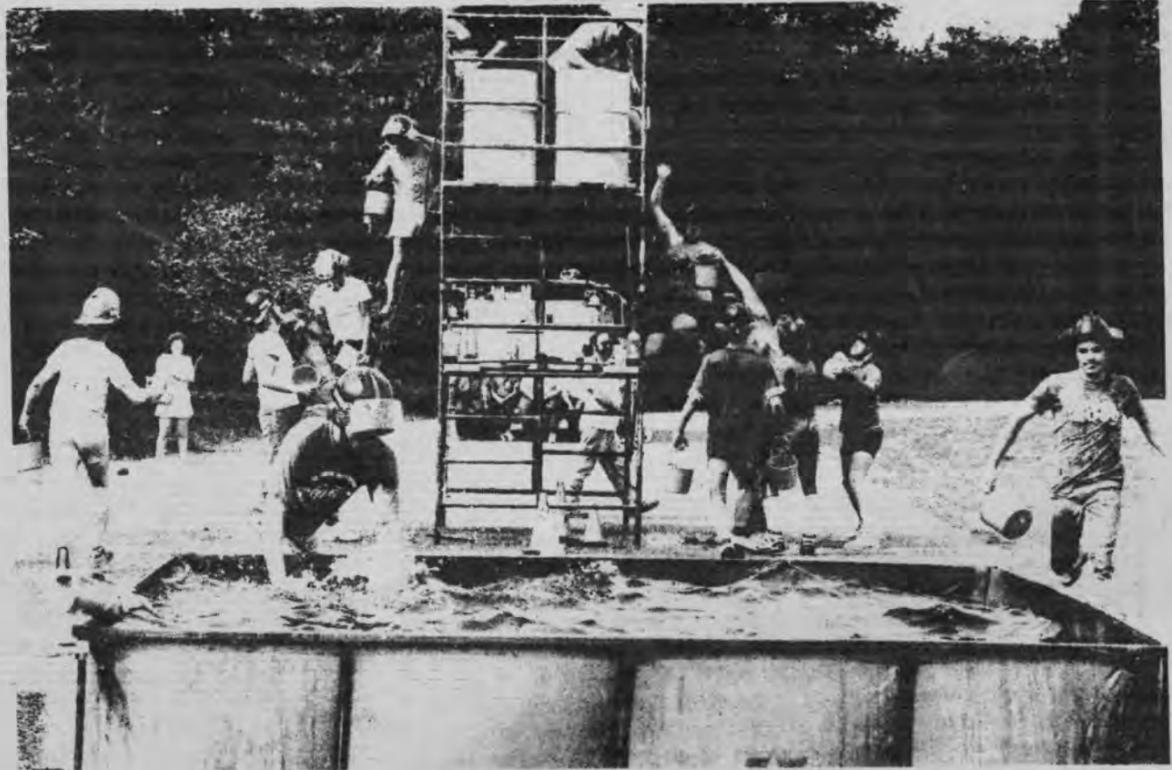
Fire destroys house

BURLINGTON—A fire destroyed a two-story frame house in Burlington according to a fire department spokesman.

At 908 Stone St. a two-story frame house, owned by Cathy Griffith of Durham, suffered \$30,000 in property damage and \$4,000 damage to its contents, said Assistant Burlington Fire Chief Milton J. Whitley. The house's value was estimated at \$34,000.

The house was occupied by Bobby Moize and his wife, Margaret Moize, and their two children. Whitley said one of the children went to get a drink of water and smelled smoke. The two children and their mother escaped injury. Whitley said the fire started in a rear bedroom wall outlet, then spread throughout the house and to the back porch. He added the family complained of having electrical problems with the outlets for the past few weeks. Whitley said the father had left for work when the fire started.

Two city engine companies responded to the two-hour fire as well as an air truck and medical van.



THE BUCKET BRIGADE—Two fire departments go head to head against each other in trying to fill up containers with water. Staff Photos, The Journal Patriot

1st Competition For Firefighters Called A Success

NORTHWILKESBORO—The Wilkes-Iredell Volunteer Fire Department walked away with first place honors in the first annual Wilkes County Firemen's Competition.

"It was all pretty close. No one was way ahead," said Wilkes County Fire Marshal Ken Walters. "I wouldn't be afraid for any of those boys to come to my house" if there was a fire.

"We all had a good time and we plan on having it bigger and better next year," Walters added.

Four other fire departments competed. Taking second through fifth place were, in order, Austin, North Wilkesboro, Broadway and Millers Creek volunteer fire departments.

Walters said there was a tie for second and third places. A rain storm arrived as the competition was ending, so those places were decided with coin tosses, Walters said.

The event, sponsored by the Wilkes Firemen's Association, began with registration at 9 a.m. in the area behind the old Bonanza restaurant at West Park Shopping Center in North Wilkesboro.

Teams competed in the bucket brigade, command

post, hose relay and the barrel roll.

The event was open to all Wilkes County firefighters.

Fire halts Production

TRINITY—A fire that broke out at Trinity Fibers of Carolina Inc. caused some \$4,000 in damages and the loss of several hours of production.

None of the second-shift employees working at the time of the blaze were injured, according to Trinity Fibers President Jerry Drye.

The company, which has about 35 employees, produces fiber insulator pads for the furniture industry.

Guil-Rand Fire Department responded to the fire, which started from a short in the duct system that removes discarded fiber from the inside of the building to an outside dumpster, officials said.

Part of an exterior wall and an area that houses the duct system were damaged. Employees used extinguishers, and the company's sprinkler system was activated before firefighters arrived, Guil-Rand officials said.

Campaign Reps Say Bush & Dukakis Support Fire Issues

BLOOMINGTON, MN—George Bush is committed to restoring the authority of the U.S. Fire Administration and will support funding, at current levels, for federal fire programs, including the National Fire Academy's stipend program.

That was the message delivered to the Officers and Legislative Committee of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) by John McNichol, the Bush campaign's new point man on fire issues. NVFC officials met August 29, in Washington, D.C., with McNichol and Fritz Wiecking, assistant director of Campaign '88 representing Michael Dukakis. The session was moderated by Hal Bruno, political director for ABC News and a volunteer firefighter.

McNichol said Bush agrees that the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), parent agency for the Fire Administration and Fire Academy, should be a person "sympathetic to the fire service." He stopped short, however, of saying that Bush would name a person from the fire service to that post.

Wiecking admitted that the Dukakis campaign was not prepared to make commitments on specific issues. He said, however, that because of its effect on people's



Stewart Champion Photo by Bob Allen Wake Weekly

Continued on page 3

Strickland's Crossroads Chief hangs up his hat

By Barry Gay
Herald
Staff Writer

STRICKLAND'S CROSSROADS—For 26 years and 11 months, D.N. Bizzell—known to everyone as "Tommy"—served as chief of the 30-man Strickland's Crossroads Fire Department. This past summer, he stepped down to let Joe David Massey take over.

Although the community's first fire chief opted for retirement at age 55, Mr. Bizzell said he still has a spot within the department. "You can't hardly quit," Mr. Bizzell said. "I'm not officially involved, but I go out and chat

with the boys some."

Mr. Bizzell, who is also the postmaster in Wake County's Willow Spring, was instrumental in establishing the volunteer fire department 27 years ago.

A community meeting was held at his general store on August 3, 1961 to see if there was enough interest in organizing a department. To say there indeed was some interest would be an understatement, for the department's officers were elected that very night.

"Before we organized the Fire Department, we used to call Smithfield and sometimes Blackman's Crossroads," Mr. Bizzell recalled.

"We had a man who had four tobacco barns. Two of them had burned and the third was smoking before help got there. That's when we realized we needed our own department."

Since its conception, the Strickland's Crossroads Fire Department has enjoyed great support from the community it serves. And that, Mr. Bizzell said, made smooth his years as fire chief.

* * *

The department bought its first truck in October 1962. The cost of the truck, a used 1947 Ford, was \$2,100. There wasn't enough money in the treasury for such a purchase, Mr. Bizzell recalled.

So, he and the other firemen sold barbecue plates at \$1 apiece. The department made \$1,500 off the fundraiser. "That and some other donations bought the truck," Mr. Bizzell said. "Of course, it cleared the treasury."

In 1982, the department set out to buy a new truck—this one costing \$65,000. It was paid for through local fundraising and proceeds from a fire district tax unanimously approved by voters.

"I'm very proud of the department and the fire district," Mr. Bizzell said. "Every voter voted 'yes.' I'd put the community support with any in the county. I'd also put the firemen with any in the county."

* * *

Over the years, Mr. Bizzell and other members of the rural fire department have seen a number of changes in the business of fighting fires. But that was the way they

wanted it, Mr. Bizzell said.

"Ever since we started, we've been trying to improve," he said. "We've got more equipment. We're involved in more training than we used to be."

"All the firemen have pagers now," Mr. Bizzell continued. "We used to have just an alarm. If you didn't hear

the alarm, then you were in trouble."

It has been through these pagers that the firemen of Strickland's Crossroads Fire Department have responded to a number of infamous fires in the area—including last year's Christmas Night fire at Four Oaks Elementary School where the department's tanker contributed about 1,800 gallons of water per minute in fighting the blaze.

Also, two years ago a tanker wrecked out in the community, spilling 8,000 gallons of a flammable liquid on Highway 701 in front of Mr. Bizzell's house.

"That was a monstrosity of a fire, and it was instant," Mr. Bizzell recalled. "We had a streak of fire 200 yards long in just an instant, and it was as high as the treetops. We let this one burn."

* * *

Just as it was 27 years ago, the Strickland's Crossroads Fire Department still has 30 men serving it. Many of them are young and "very interested," so Mr. Bizzell said it's time to give them a chance to run things.

"At my age, I think you need to retire," he said. "Fighting fires is very strenuous."

"You wear that pager so much and every time you get in and out of the car, it bumps the steering wheel," Mr. Bizzell added. "I still catch myself reaching down for it."

The former fire chief said he also has a bit of advice for the new chief—advice given to him early in his career: "If you go out there and do a good job and everything clicks, the firemen did a good job," Mr. Bizzell said. "If you go out and have a flat tire and nothing goes right, the chief did a bad job."

"And it works that way, too," he continued. "But the department's in good hands. They're a fine bunch of men."

Department Gets New Equipment

WADESBORO—The Gullledge Volunteer Fire Department has recently purchased seven sets of turnout gear, 20 pagers and three trauma kits, thanks in part to a grant from the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fund.

Gullledge Fire Chief Anthony Ratliff said the department matched a \$6,691 grant from the fund, administered by the N.C. Department of Insurance.

David Douglas of the insurance department inspected the new equipment Sept. 15 and delivered the state grant check to the department.

The Gullledge Fire Department has 21 firefighters.

Passing Fire Department Oral Interviews

NEW YORK, NY—How to prepare for the crucial oral interview portion of fire department promotion exams is explained in a new book **FIRE DEPARTMENT ORAL INTERVIEWS Practices and Procedures** just published by Fire Engineering Books.

This unique training manual will be helpful to all candidates for promotion in the fire service. It takes the reader step-by-step through the interview process. It goes into detail on how to prepare, importance of first impressions, how to answer opening questions, problem solving, personnel management and firefighting questions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORAL INTERVIEWS was written by Gene Mahoney, Associate Professor of Fire Science, Rio Hondo College District, CA, former Battalion Chief, LAFD.

Copies are available from Fire Engineering Books, P. O. Box 21288, Tulsa, OK 74121 for \$19.95.

Submitted by:
Fire Engineering

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Tommy Bizzell, who recently retired as the first fire chief for the Strickland's Crossroads Fire Department, still works as postmaster in Willow Spring. Herald photo by Barry Gay

Campaign Reps Say Bush & Dukakis Support Fire Issues

Continued from page 1

lives, fire prevention and protection would be a Dukakis priority. He pointed to Dukakis' "record of support for fire programs" as Governor of Massachusetts to illustrate his support for fire issues. He also said that, as President, Dukakis would involve the fire service in federal decision making.

Both men agreed that, to be effective, input on fire issues must continue after the election with the newly elected president's "transition team." This group orchestrates the transfer of power between Administrations and sets the tone for policy making, personnel appointments and administrative follow-through in the new Administration.

NVFC Chairman E. James Monihan gave McNichol and Wiecking an NVFC position paper containing an analysis of several important fire issues and calling for federal action to:

- restore funding for federal fire programs to levels recommended in "America Burning" (substantially higher than amounts currently available);
- establish a non-refundable income tax credit for those installing residential fire sprinkler systems;
- mandate the U.S. Department of Education to direct public schools systems to include fire safety education as part of their curricula;
- mandate the reporting of all contacts with carriers of communicable and/or infectious diseases to emergency personnel;

Monihan pledged to continue the NVFC's efforts to provide information to both candidates and to seek their support for important fire issues.

Submitted by:
Gus Welter

Fire causes heavy damage

By Cliff Hill
and Mariam H. Muir
Daily News
Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE—Fire swept through the Administration Building of Jacksonville High School, heavily damaging 17 classrooms and offices and causing fears that the roof would collapse.

The fire, which officials thought had been extinguished reignited later. Smoke billowed from second-floor windows of the Administration Building until about 10:15 a.m.

No injuries were reported. The school's students were sent home about 9 a.m.

School officials scrambled to retrieve records from first-floor offices as the blaze moved to the second floor. About 10, fire officials ordered everyone out of the building.

The school's cafeteria workers reported the fire at 7:18 a.m., according to Principal Lenwood Padgett.

"One classroom was heavily involved and three other rooms damaged," P.J. Jarman, a chief with the Jacksonville Fire Department, said. When the blaze reignited, however, the fire spread to the second floor and into the building's 16 other classrooms.

The hallway and surrounding area were blackened by smoke in the early morning fire, and at least one trophy in a hallway trophy case had melted from the intense heat.

Superintendent Everett L. Waters originally hoped to reassign the 350 students who have classes in the building into other buildings. Later, the decision was made to send all students home.

One of the 17 classrooms had computers in it, while

another had electric typewriters. Most were thought to have been damaged in the blaze.

A snorkel truck from Camp Lejeune sprayed water on the roof of the building from its rear. Other firefighters worked to pump water in second-floor windows from the other three sides of the building.

Thick smoke surrounded the Henderson Drive campus of the school.

In addition to the offices and the 17 classrooms, the building housed three other spaces where classes were held. The school's communications center and annual staff office also were in the building.

Waters also said a number of books were lost.

The fire began on the first floor, but its origin has not been determined. An investigation is under way.

At least three city fire trucks and trucks from the Rhodestown, Hubert, Pumpkin Center and Half Moon volunteer fire departments responded.

School board Chairman Fred Hargett and Board of Education member Paul Hardison also were on the scene.

Charles Hoyt, assistant superintendent of facilities, said school officials must search for temporary buildings to house the Jacksonville students. The school system has no spare temporary buildings now. "We may have to contact our neighboring counties," Hoyt said.

This is the second school fire in the past three years. Fire destroyed the offices, library and four classrooms at Trexler Middle School in Richlands on Jan. 21.

Elon Fire Department doubles size of station

By Frank Isley
Burlington
Times-News
Staff Writer

ELON COLLEGE—Reflecting growth the town of Elon College has experienced in recent years, the Elon College Fire Department opened an addition which more than doubled the size of its fire station.

Rep. Howard Coble, who assisted firemen in securing a federal loan to build the addition, was the special guest at the afternoon ribbon cutting ceremonies and open house at the fire station.

"I don't know of any more illuminating illustration of volunteerism than the volunteer fire department," Coble said in remarks prior to cutting the ribbon with Fire Chief Eddie King.

Rapid growth in the community made it necessary to expand the existing facility, King said.

What is now the old section of the fire department was built in the early 1970s, but population growth in the town in the early 1980s caused firemen to begin planning a new station, he said.

The addition includes extra bays to park fire trucks, the chief's car and the EMT and quick response vehicles.

Also added were a chief's office, conference and radio rooms, sleeping quarters for volunteer and paid firemen, a large lounge/kitchen area and a basement. An exercise room, to which workout equipment was donated, was also added.

An area in the rear of the older part of the station which was once used for everything but parking fire trucks has been converted into a training room.

King dedicated the new facility to "present and past fire fighters for all the contributions they have made."

Four paid firemen, includ-

ing himself, and 26 volunteers make up the current fire fighting force, King said.

"This building is here because many years ago people saw a need," said town Alderman Chuck Gantos, an assistant chief with the fire department. "This building depicts the strength and security the fire department provides to the community."

Although the Elon College Fire Department was formed in 1925, town records reflect it went through periods when it was not very active until 1944 when a group of townsmen joined together to make it an active organization.

Pierce, who moved to Raleigh in 1953, said he was impressed with the current department's professionalism in terms of both organization and appearance.

The men who got together to organize the fire department in 1944 built the first fire station themselves, he said. That building, located on Holt Street in Elon College, houses the current police station.

Pierce said he was also impressed by the present quality of the department's equipment.

The Elon fire department's first fire truck was a second-hand vehicle purchased from Gibsonville in 1944, he said, adding that Gibsonville had purchased the truck from Greensboro when that city bought more modern equipment.

The truck had been parked in a field and was hardly visible for the weeds growing up around it, Pierce recounted.

However, with the help of some good mechanics in the town the vehicle was brought back to life again and the town had its first fire truck, he said.

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Fire causes heavy Damage to building

By Rocky Womack
Burlington Times-News
Staff Writer

BURLINGTON—A fire on North Main Street caused an estimated \$1 million damage and required mutual aid from several Alamance County volunteer fire departments, according to Burlington fire officials.

Southland Electrical Supply of 149 N. Main St., Burlington, a new and used electrical equipment retail supplier, was engulfed with flames when Burlington firemen arrived around 10:57 p.m.

The one-story warehouse, owned by Jim Griggs of Burlington, received extensive fire damage including a burned roof and a wall that collapsed, said Fire Chief Frank Andrews of the Burlington Fire Department.

The entire interior of the 12,000-square-foot brick building burned, he said, but the fire basically was contained to the warehouse. Andrews added firemen prevented the fire from reaching a 3,500-square-foot tin building adjacent to the brick building. An elevator shaft atop a nearby television shop also received water and minimal fire damage, Andrews said.

"The warehouse was well stocked," he said. "There was everything in the building that an electrical contractor would need."

Andrews said the warehouse was once the Zimmerman Lumber Co. building. He added an accumulation of old sawdust remained under the floors. The sawdust also burned.

By 12:30 a.m., firemen had the blaze under control but remained on the scene until 3 a.m. wetting down the structure. Andrews noted that several buildings no more than 20 feet away were not damaged. He added that the firemen did outstanding work.

"I think they did a super job controlling that thing," Andrews said. "I think they did a good job due to the size of it (the fire) when we arrived. They did an excellent job."

The fire was spotted by an off-duty Burlington fireman, Lt. Frank Hodges, who was on his way home.

250 Evacuate After Harnett Chemical Fire

By Kim Oriole
Fayetteville Observer
Staff Writer

SPRING LAKE—About 250 people were allowed to return home after being forced to evacuate by a Southern Harnett County warehouse fire that threatened to send up hazardous smoke.

Steve McNeill, the principal of Western Harnett High School, where the evacuees were taken, said county emergency management officials released all of the people shortly before dawn.

Joan Parker, secretary in the emergency management office, said the danger from the fire had passed.

"At 4:25 a.m., the fire department told the emergency operating center the fire was no longer a threat," Parker said. "The hazardous material had been separated from the fire and they were just going to let the fire burn out."

The sheriff's department said two officials from the Environmental Protection Agency were on the scene investigating the fire, which destroyed the building.

The warehouse, occupied by American Cellulose, was located in the Olde Farm community in southern Harnett County north of Spring Lake.

The fire burned barrels of

the chemicals ammonium sulfate, boric acid and borax, plus piles of newsprint stored at the warehouse, which was owned by R. H. Adams.

These chemicals, if heated and combined with water, can produce noxious gases that can cause itching, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, a sore throat and burning eyes, officials said.

A low cloud cover and the possibility of rain convinced county officials that there was a threat of a toxic cloud forming out of the smoldering chemicals, so people living south of the warehouse were evacuated, Parker said.

"The chemical was not a hazard unless water was mixed with it," she said. "They were afraid that rain was coming in."

She said no toxic chemicals were ever released by the fire, but the fear of contamination was so great that county officials decided to evacuate the 250 people.

McNeill said those who came to Western Harnett High School were housed in the gymnasium, cafeteria and commissary until they were allowed to go home.

N.C. 210 was closed all night because of the fire, but the sheriff's department said it was re-opened to normal traffic.

Fire Destroys Home Of Couple Married In June

By Deborah S. Murray
Journal
Staff Writer

WILMINGTON—A fire claimed the home of Avon Stanley and Sharon Johnson Harris.

The residence, which is located at 6840 Carolina Beach Road, is a total loss. The fire started after trash that Stanley was burning in a can later ignited when it was unattended. Stanley said that he had gone to his mother's house to eat when someone knocked on the door and said that his house was on fire.

The couple, who were married in June, are currently staying at the Salvation army.

The couple lost all their clothing and possessions in the fire and now are in need of clothes. Sharon wears a size 14 dress, pants, a medium size blouse and a size 8 1/2 shoe. Stanley wears a size 32 waist pants and size 15 1/2 shirt and a size 10 shoe.

Anyone who can help the couple either through monetary donations or by donating clothes and other items can call Beatrice Kellum at 251-8536, between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to drop off a donation for the couple, or they can contact Mrs. Johnson's mother, Mammie M. Nixon, of 12 Stoney Road, Castle Hayne, North Carolina, after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to drop off a donation. Mrs. Nixon's telephone number is 675-2630.

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Heater fire damages Gamewell home

By Brent Childers
Lenoir News-Topic
Staff Writer

GAMEWELL—An early-morning fire damaged a Gamewell home when a fire apparently started near a bathroom heater.

The home, owned by Beulah Lewis, is located at the intersection of Rocky Road and East Flat Church road.

No one was at home at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported.

The Gamewell Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire at about 9:30 a.m. after a neighbor spotted smoke coming from the house.

The fire caused extensive damage to the home's interior, Coffey said. He said three rooms were heavily damaged by smoke and the rest of the home received heavy smoke and water damage.

The damage was estimated at \$35,000, he said.

Firefighters with the Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Department and the Valmead Volunteer Fire Department assisted in fighting the blaze.

Firefighters were on the scene for about three hours.

Coffey said the fire appeared to have started near an electrical heating unit recessed in the bathroom wall.

Firemen's Settlement Analyzed

STATESVILLE—The recent \$24,000 settlement between the City of Statesville and firefighters for backpay could have been a lot more, according to the president of the Statesville Professional Firefighters Association.

The city announced that it had agreed to pay firefighters about \$24,000 in back overtime, liquidated damages and attorney's fees. The settlement was the result of a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the computation of overtime for 24-hour shifts. In figuring overtime, firefighters claimed that the city subtracted their meal and sleep time from shift time.

The city knew it was violating FLSA law and had the chance to correct itself, said Fire Capt. James Orbison, president of the local professional firefighters association.

"We felt like we took the initiative (in the settlement)," said Orbison of the association's part in the settlement.

The majority of the firefighters in the fire department formed the Statesville Professional Firefighters Association in March of this year. The association is affiliated with the AFL-CIO through the International Association of Firefighters.

"Our main goal was the back pay," noted Orbison. When the association organized, it contacted the international association to try and recoup the back overtime.

The firefighters association having thrown light on the violation, the city agreed

to pay firefighters for back overtime accrued from April 15, 1986, to June 1, 1987. The law permitting overtime for public employees working 24-hour shifts went into effect in April 1986.

In June 1987, the city switched to 24-hour, 15-minute shifts for the fire department. With shifts of more than 24 hours, meal time can be subtracted from shift time if there is an implied agreement with employees.

The city claimed there was implied consent. Association members signed a member that there was not, according to Orbison.

Firefighters made a claim for back overtime pay for June 1987 to this year, but dropped this claim when the city agreed to settle for the \$24,000.

"The city has this period of time from June 1987 to make justification for this backpay," said Orbison. Firefighters had to make the violation known, he said.

The fire department just recently switched back to 24-hour shifts and to a 28-day work cycle, which produces less overtime than the 21-day work cycle.

Firefighters settled for only the 1986-87 payment in consideration of the city's current budget crunch, said Orbison. It could have been much worse for the city, he noted.

"We settled for a lot less than we probably could have got," he said.

Woman dies in Chapel Hill fire

By Tom Moore
The Chapel Hill Herald
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL—Investigators have not determined what caused a house fire that left an elderly Chapel Hill woman dead and her husband critically injured, according to Chapel Hill Fire Chief Everette Lloyd.

"It's still too early for us to say what caused it," Lloyd said in a telephone interview. "We're still looking into that."

Charlotte Kress was killed in the fire that broke out about 1:20 a.m. in her home at 204 Ridgecrest Drive in the Lake Forest subdivision in northeast Chapel Hill, Lloyd said.

Her husband, retired University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill political science professor Paul Kress, was listed in critical condition in the burn center at N.C. Memorial Hospital, said Denise Moultrie, a NCMH spokesperson.

No other people were injured in the blaze. The Kresses lived alone, Lloyd said.

The fire, which partially destroyed the Kress' single-level wood home, was brought under control a few minutes after firefighters arrived on the scene.

"When we got there the house was fully involved with fire," Lloyd said. "As

soon as we [controlled the fire], we went inside and found two people there."

Charlotte Kress, in her early 60s, was found in the house's living room and was pronounced dead at the scene, Lloyd said.

Paul Kress, who was severely burned in the blaze, was discovered in the den of the house, Lloyd said.

The fire did not completely gut the house. "Most of the damage was in the living room and kitchen," Lloyd said, adding that investigators still have not determined how much it will cost to replace the damaged structure, as well as furniture and other items lost.

About 20 firefighters, working three engines, were called out to battle the fire, Lloyd said. The department handled the fire alone and did not request back-up assistance from other area fire departments, he said.

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High Point Business Destroyed

By Wes Cashwell
High Point Enterprise
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT—A fire that destroyed a Cloverdale Street cap manufacturing plant was discovered only minutes after a caller warned that the blaze was set intentionally.

About 115 employees were evacuated from the two-story N.C. Garment Co. building when the fire was reported about 12:45 p.m. The financial loss from the fire was estimated at \$2 million for the building and contents.

A woman employee was temporarily trapped on the upper floor of the former Cloverdale School.

No injuries were reported among the employees or about 50 firefighters who responded to the call. Several off-duty firefighters were called in to help fight the blaze, which was brought under control about three hours after it was started.

An anonymous woman called the company about 12:30 p.m. and spoke to the receptionist, Angie Tedder, according to Debi Watson, the firm's general manager.

"The caller said to tell Jim (company President Jim Keever) that a fire had been set and to go find it," Ms. Watson said.

Ms. Tedder alerted plant personnel who started to search the 60,000 square foot building.

Smoke apparently triggered a fire alarm monitored by Protection Systems, and the company called N.C. Garment.

Workers in the plant have practiced emergency evacuations, Ms. Watson said, and the drills aided the quick exit from the burning factory.

Both a fire alarm system and a sprinkler system in the plant functioned properly, Ms. Watson said.

Cloverdale School, built in 1923, was the oldest operating public school in the city until it was closed in 1971.

N.C. Garment purchased the building from the high point City Schools for \$50,000 through a public auction in 1979.

N.C. Garment manufactures imprinted baseball caps and visors, using screen printing and embroidery.

The fire is believed to have originated in an area where finished goods were stored on the second floor, adjacent to the screen printing area, Ms. Watson said.

The fire ignited printing chemicals and other combus-

tible liquids stored at the plant and burned rapidly, said Fire Inspector Terry Smith.

"Our efforts were pretty much containment," Smith said. "We could do very little interior firefighting. It was a defensive effort."

He said they tried an offensive effort, but were forced out.

Firefighters contained the blaze to the building, between Kearns and Coltrane avenues, west of Cloverdale.

Fire investigators and High Point police detectives questioned onlookers at the scene.

"We've had some information that would cause us to believe this was a suspicious fire," Smith said. "There's no way to determine that until we start digging (through the debris). I'm not calling it arson, and I'm not calling it accidental."

Smith said they had taken a statement from Ms. Watson about the woman caller. He said anything he might say about the caller would be speculation pending further investigation.

"We've heard all kinds of stories, recently, and we're just going to check them out," he said.

Access to the inventory storage area could be gained only through the manufacturing area or the office, Ms. Watson said.

The company manufactures between 400 hundred and 500 hundred dozen imprinted caps and visors a day.

County and city departments to cross train

By Karen Equils
Kinston Free Press
Staff Writer

KINSTON—The Kinston Fire Department may be without a chief but changes are in the making.

In an effort to maintain maximum fire protection for the city, the Kinston Fire Department and the North Lenoir Volunteer Fire Department has worked out an agreement that will involve crosstraining of personnel and an expanded mutual aid agreement.

"Addressing concerns of the area and making the wisest use of our resources," is how fire chiefs Russ Deats, Tony Kelly and Greg Smith characterized the change.

According to Smith, an assistant chief for Kinston, when three of the city's fire units are committed to an incident, the city is left with only one fire company available. "Now when this occurs, the officer in command will request mutual aid from North Lenoir," Smith said.

"Our department will respond with one engine, equipment truck, an officer and seven personnel," North Lenoir's Chief Deats said. "And they will stand by at a city station until the situation is in hand."

"This is not a new concept. It has been considered for some time, and we feel now is the opportune time to implement this change," Smith said.

According to Deats and Smith, cross-training between the two departments has been an on-going situation. "The men have been training together. This gives them the opportunity to know what each other is doing. Our training divisions are working together for the betterment of all departments," Deats said.

Because of their involvement in contractual agreements with the city, Hugo fire personnel will also be involved in the cross-training.

"I think anything they (city and county) can do together is a plus. I think it is a good move for the city to work with the volunteers. They need to for the strength of both departments," said Hugo Fire Chief Johnny Craft.

"The change is fine with me. Something like that is up to the individual department. They have called us in the past and if they call us again, we would go," commented Southwood Fire Chief Kendall Rouse.

The only costs involved with the change will be that of adding the city fire frequency to North Lenoir's radios, and according to Deats, his department will absorb the expense.

"With the limited frequencies available, it will be to everyone's advantage to be on the city frequency. That way, if the county has a call, there will be a frequency clear for them," Deats said.

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Cary firefighters reflect on proud tradition

By Suzy Brett
The Cary News
Staff Writer

CARY—It's said firefighting gets in your blood and you can't shake it. Don Daniels and Bill Judge can attest to that.

As a young boy, Daniels faithfully attended the annual Cary Fireman's Day celebrations with his family, while Judge grew up with volunteer firefighters in his father, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. Today, Daniels is an assistant chief with Cary, while Judge is an engineer at Station No. 3. Both men are hard at work collecting information about Cary's fire department to create a museum.

It's not an insurmountable task, says Judge, because Cary has only had a department for three generations.

"You don't lose the history even with as fast as the town is growing," he said.

But there were letters to write to former firefighters seeking donations of old uniforms, firefighting equipment, and memorabilia. And everything must be dated, cataloged and stored until the display is complete.

"We're keeping the stuff in a treasure chest," Daniels said, for the items already collected are treasures to the department.

They've got a blue light that was mounted on the bumper of the volunteers' cars to warn motorists they were on the way to a fire call.

"Now we have red lights

on the dashboard," said Judge.

They have a white jumpsuit which was the first uniform ever worn by Cary's firefighters, and a blue wool uniform with button flaps which was purchased from the City of Durham when its firefighters got new uniforms.

"We want to get a sample of all the hats, too," said Daniels, noting the first ever worn were baseball caps.

Cary's first paid fire chief, Calvin F. Beck is compiling a written history of the department using Town Council minutes. The men also have a collection of old photographs, brass nozzles and hose fixtures, and former Chief Robert B. Heater's brass badge.

"We haven't gotten to the point of sitting down with people and talking about dates, names of faces," said Daniels. "We still have to find some of them."

Heater and Peter Murdoch are still in town, as are W. E. (Billy) Henderson, R. V. (Bob) Godbold.

According to Beck's research, the first mention of fire protection was in June 8, 1921, where the town made arrangements with the City of Raleigh for a fire truck and crew to answer any fire alarms in Cary.

A fire inspector was appointed a year later, and on June 6, 1922, L. A. Cathey was asked to organize a fire company.

"On Oct. 10, 1922, the Board of Aldermen voted to

accept bids on a fire truck... to be equipped with two 35-gallon chemical tanks mounted on a (Model T) Ford truck," writes Beck.

A second truck was bought for \$1,100 in August 1926, and a year later, six men were named town firefighters: W. L. Jones, L. E. Sturdivant, T. F. Wilkerson Jr., Royce Ellington, Marvin Breeze and Robert Atkins.

They were not paid, Beck notes, but were excused from payment of their taxes.

"On May 7, 1936, the (town) Board made a ruling that the town would pay for cleaning firemen's clothing when soiled in the line of duty, and to give Capt. Lee Matthews his dog tax in ex-

change for his services in coaching the fire department," Beck writes.

Cary was one of the first departments in the state to allow female firefighters, and a 1962 newspaper clipping notes "10 female firefighters went through an intensive home firefighting training course."

Over the years, a number of sites housed the town's fire station, including the former Dorcas Shop on Cedar Street, the building now occupied by the Cary Chamber of Commerce, and, what now is Station No. 1 on Academy Street.

"When I came in 1972, only half the building was there," said Daniels of Station O. 1. "Where the trucks are now was the back wall. The basement was there, but the rest wasn't built until the mid-1970s."

Cary's fire department remained all-volunteer until this year, when the auxiliary firefighting program was ended.

Department Seeks New Members

FARMVILLE—The Fountain rural volunteer fire department is seeking new members. The current membership is several members below the minimum requirement. Both men and women over the age of 16 are eligible for membership.

Interested persons are invited to come by the fire station in Fountain at one of the regular scheduled meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 o'clock.

Additional information may be obtained from J. W. Gay, fire chief, at 749-7721, or from Danny Moore, assistant chief, at 749-5191.



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Arrests Made in Restaurant Fire

By Patty Little
Cherokee Scout
Staff Writer

MURPHY—Two Murphy men were arrested recently by Cherokee County law enforcement on charges of setting fire to Riverside restaurant in July of 1987.

According to county investigator Steve Hall, the two arrested were Ronnie Clayton of Route 2, Murphy and Gordon Amlotte, Jr., of Route 7, Murphy. Both were arrested and charged with one count each of the burning of a building used for a business, Hall explained, which is a felony charge that could carry a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

Clayton and Amlotte were placed under a \$10,000 secured bond, Hall added, nothing that both have posted bond and are no longer in jail.

The July 4 fire caused extensive smoke and heat damage to the interior of Riverside, which is located near the banks of Nottely River on Dibend road off N.C. 60.

County Fire Chief Gary Kilpatrick estimated between \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of damage was sustained to the restaurant's interior.

Cause of fire At Perfect Fit Unknown

By Deb Gardner Coates
Enquirer-Journal
Staff Writer

MONROE—Fire investigators have yet to determine the cause of a recent fire that heavily damaged a Monroe bedding manufacturer.

The fire at Perfect Fit Industries Inc. about 4:47 p.m. is thought to have started in the plant's bonding room, said Monroe Public Safety Capt. Richard Helms.

There is no apparent structural damage to the building, but extensive damage has been reported to a bonding machine and production material. Fire investigator PSO C. W. Adcock said the bonding machine is about 100-feet long and 20-feet wide.

The machine is used to place layers of fiber material together to make rolls of materials used in making bedspreads, he said.

About 20 sprinklers were activated and kept the fire contained. "The sprinklers controlled the biggest part of it," Adcock said.

Clean-up crews worked through the night at the plant and Adcock said production has resumed in other areas of the plant.

Homes evacuated After gas line cut

By Tracy Rose
Wilmington
Morning Star
Staff Writer

WILMINGTON—About 10 people were evacuated from their homes on the 700 block of Campbell Street after a wrecking company demolishing a house cut through a natural gas line.

The Wilmington Fire Department placed a temporary plug on the 3 1/4-inch gas line until workers from N.C. Natural Gas arrived to permanently block off the line.

"You could smell it a block away," said Fire Department Capt. E. J. Vosnock. "You could hear it, and you could smell it."

The leak was reported around 9:15 a.m. and nearby residents were evacuated from about 30 minutes until the gas dispersed. The fire department checked each house with a meter to ensure that no pockets of gas remained before residents were allowed to re-enter their homes.

Police blocked traffic on the street for about 45 minutes.

Contractors are required to notify the gas company when a house is to be torn down so that the gas can be turned off, said Arcelia Wicker, the city's director of Planning and Development. The city contracted the work to D. H. Griffin Wrecking Co. of Greensboro, Wicker said, and the wrecking company informed him that N. C. Natural Gas had been told about the demolition work.

Steve Jackson, division superintendent of construction for the gas company, said his office has no record of a request to turn off gas to the house. "It was news to me when we heard about it this morning," he said.

D. H. Griffin said he subcontracted the demolition work to the Rike Wrecking Co. of Beaufort. He said he didn't know anything about the leak or the work itself since he was not directly involved in the project. No one answered at Rike Wrecking offices.

Wicker said the city has to ensure that similar accidents do not happen in the future by making sure that the contractor does contact N. C. Natural Gas.

Don Special Alarm Units

To improve safety for Hickory firefighters, the city's Fire Department recently purchased 12 Lifeguard II personal alarm units.

The units are for the protection of firefighters who wear a self-contained breathing apparatus and work in hazardous atmospheres, Fire Department training officer George Byers said.

Called a PASS device, the alarm unit sounds a loud, 98-decibel distress signal when a firefighter needs assistance or is unconscious.

Fire Destroys Cedar Point bar

CEDAR POINT—The Landing, a bar in Cedar Point, was gutted by a fire believed to have been caused by an electrical malfunction in a pizza warmer.

Cape Carteret and Emerald Isle firefighters responded to the 3:58 a.m. fire. Three trucks and 16 firefighters came from Cape Carteret, one truck and six firefighters came from Emerald Isle.

Cape Carteret Fire Chief Eric Campen said the inside of the single-story structure was burning extensively when firefighters arrived. The two departments went to work. They had the fire under control and started checking inside by 5:15 a.m.

While the interior and contents were destroyed, the exterior walls, made of concrete block covered in wood siding, were left standing. Chief Campen estimated the loss, structure and contents, at \$70,000.

Once inside, firefighters traced the blaze to a pizza warmer in the bar area. Also in the building were pool tables and video machines, a sandwich warmer, refrigerator, cash register and beer coolers.

Carteret County Fire Marshal J. E. Harrell was called to assist in looking for the cause of the fire.

The building is owned by Robert Holmes. The bar was operated by Mike Riggs. The bar was closed for the night by Debbie Post. When firefighters arrived, the doors were locked and the windows were secured.

Chief Campen said the fire evidently had been smoldering for quite some time before it was detected.

The unit is attached to a breathing apparatus harness and is armed before a firefighter enters a hazardous area.

"The distinctive sound cannot be confused with smoke detectors," Byers said, "and will sound continuously for up to 10 hours."

Recently, emphasis has been placed on the use of the device by fire departments. During its recent annual meeting, the National Fire Protection Association adopted a NFPA 1500 Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program.

Firefighter fatalities or near-fatalities have emphasized the need for a PASS device to be used by the department, Byers said.

The department's equipment committee, made up of firefighters from each of three shifts, recommended the purchase of the units.

Committee members are Deputy Fire Chief Ted Beshears, Committee Chairman Barry Starnes, station commanders Boyd Townsend, Jerry Jones and Buren Hamrick, and Glenn Oyler, Terry Reinhardt and Byers.

Submitted By
Hickory Fire Dept.
Hickory, N.C.

Fire Departments Receive

\$40,577.40

AVERY—Four Avery County Fire Departments received a total of \$40,577.40 from the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fund. The Fund is administered by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Jim Long, Commissioner and was enacted into law during the 1987 General Assembly with the maximum amount of grants being \$20,000 each.

Cynthia Fuller of the N.C. Dept. of Insurance delivered the checks September 16 Green Valley, Frank, Elk Park, and Fall Creek. Green Valley received \$6,000.00, Frank, \$16,742.75, Elk Park, \$10,093.15, and Fall Creek, \$7,741.50.

The money will be used to pay for turn out gear and breathing apparatus to help provide further fire protection services to the firefighters and their community.

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