



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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November 1988



Town of Spindale, North Carolina takes delivery of new fire truck from Slagle's Fire Equipment & Supply Co., Inc. Submitted By: Jack L. Slagle, Pres., Slagle's Fire Equipment & Supply Co., Inc.

New Fire Department Plans Are Approved

By Donna Swicegood
Statesville
Record & Landmark
Staff Writer

TAYLORSVILLE—After months of waiting, the Taylorsville Fire Department has gotten the answer they have been hoping for—a new home.

The Town Board approved a set of drawings, with some minor modifications, for a new building to house the department.

The Town Board agreed in August to build a new fire department, with a cap on the cost of \$100,000 to \$120,000.

And based on Gray's recommendation that a pre-engineered building would service the needs of the fire department, the cost would be some \$75,000 less than a site built facility.

The new fire department building will be roughly 6,000 square feet and it is hoped the fire department can be in the building by next spring.

The building of a new department has been talked about for some time to alleviate the overcrowding in both the fire department and town hall, where the department is currently housed.

In another matter, the town board voted to take over a private water line that runs up to Linney's Mountain.

The owner of that line, Harlan Robertson, requested that the town take over the line and the pump that feeds

four houses and radio station WTLK. Robertson said he "wanted to get out of the water business" but would not elaborate on the reason.

After much discussion, mostly concerning the reliability of the 15-year-old pump, the town board agreed to take over the line on the condition that the users of that line would be responsible for any repairs that exceeded the cost of the revenues for a period of one year.

Concerning the pump, Robertson said that the motor in the pump had been rebuilt within the last six months and barring any natural disasters, such as lightning, it should last for some time.

In another matter, Hiddenite Center Executive Director Dwaine Coley appeared before the board to make a request concerning a vacant piece of property inside the town limits.

The property, he said, being near the entrance to town would make an ideal location for some type of park.

Discussion has been to use a portion of the lot for off-street parking, but Coley said that could be incorporated into the idea of a park. He suggested high school classes, such as horticulture and carpentry, could be placed into action to help with constructing the park.

He suggested making the transformation of the empty lot into a park a community effort and enlisting the aid of a number of groups to help

with the project.

Mayor Guy Barriger agreed that Coley's idea warranted further consideration. "I agree with you . . . I think it's a very good suggestion," he said.

In regards to a situation which developed recently concerning a contractor on one of the cities rehabilitation projects, Councilman Bob Phillips recommended that a new policy be adopted on rehabilitation projects.

The situation developed when a contractor, whose previous work for both Taylorsville and other cities in the Unifour area had been unsatisfactory, submitted the low bid on a project. Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) representative Sherry Mashburn recommended not hiring the particular contractor even though he submitted the low bid.

Phillips, at last month's meeting, recommended hiring the contractor and added that town manager Lee Rogers was to work closely with Mashburn and the contractor to ensure that the work was done properly. He said he felt it was necessary to accept the low bid.

The new policy Phillips recommended called for all contractors submitting bids on town projects to be told in writing that if they were found to be uncreditworthy or their work unsatisfactory, their bid would not be considered for that project or future projects.

NVFC Resolution Urges Caution In Ban Of Chlorofluorocarbons

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Board of Directors of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to consider the impact on fire protection before it bans the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). EPA is moving to eliminate CFCs from the marketplace because of their detrimental effect on the ozone layer. However, some CFCs are an essential ingredient in many fire suppression materials.

The NVFC resolution affirms the group's support for EPA "efforts to preserve and improve the natural environment," but it urges EPA to "refrain from removing" CFCs from use in fire suppression materials "until a ready supply of acceptable alternatives exists."

In a letter to EPA Administrator Lee Thomas, NVFC Chairman E. James Monihan expressed the NVFC's concern that "focus on long-

term environmental preservation may have overshadowed the immediate and continuing need to protect lives and property in our nation from the devastation caused by fire."

The NVFC resolution also urges chemical manufacturers to "proceed as rapidly as possible to develop and produce acceptable alternatives" that would provide the same level of fire suppression effectiveness. A copy of the resolution was sent to Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) President Robert A. Roland with a letter urging CMA to lead the chemical industry in immediate efforts to develop and produce effective, acceptable alternative products.

Copies of the NVFC resolution also were sent to leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

Submitted By:
Gus Welter
Nat. Vol. Fire Council

Destruction Won't Stop Enthusiasm to Rebuild

TARBORO—Practically destroyed by a blaze that kept Tarboro firemen busy for hours, the Hilma Country Club is down but certainly not out.

Mike Kincer, a board member of the locally owned and operated club, said the board plans to "keep on keeping on."

The fire, reported on a recent morning about 12:30 a.m. by a local resident, apparently began in the kitchen area.

Dickie Guill, of the Tarboro Fire Department, said the resident reported hearing a loud boom and seeing flames coming through the kitchen windows.

"When firemen arrived the kitchen was totally involved," Guill said. "The fire got up into the attic, and we were unable to stop it until it reached the other end (of the building)."

An aerial ladder truck, an equipment van and three

pumpers were used to fight the blaze.

Firemen brought the fire under control about 3:30 a.m. They remained until 6 a.m. to douse spot fires and make sure the building did not fall on investigators at the scene, Guill said.

During this bout, Pinetops Fire Department assisted by stationing a truck and two men in Tarboro to receive all other calls.

The top floor was a total loss. The basement, containing a pro shop, bar and several other rooms did not suffer from the fire, but instead received severe water damage.

"Basically the building is a total loss," Guill said.

No one was injured. Although an investigation is still under way, foul play is not suspected, Guill said.

Kincer and the rest of the board members met Tuesday to discuss a plan of action.

Factory Fire, Auto Fire Summon Firemen

WARRENTON—A piece of machinery was involved in an early morning fire at a local furniture plant.

According to Chief Kenny Clayton of the Warrenton Rural Fire Department, firemen were called to Cochrane Furniture, Inc., located on North Main Street in Warrenton, at 12:33 a.m. to respond to a call of a fire in the boiler room.

Clayton said that when firemen arrived on the scene, "Smoke was coming out of every end of the plant." Smoke was so dense inside the factory, he said, that it took firemen 30 minutes to ventilate the smoke so that

they could get to the fire.

Clayton reported that the fire had started from an air compressor which had malfunctioned. The smoke, he said, came from hydraulic fluid which leaked from the machine onto the hot metal of the unit and the plant's ventilation system had drawn the smoke throughout the building.

Damage to the compressor has not yet been determined, but according to Clayton, a spokesman at Cochrane said that the figure will probably range from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Another fire recently was reported on Rt. 3, Warrenton near Liberia.

400 Firefighters To Take Classes At SCC

By George B. Weaver
Stanly Community College

ALBEMARLE—Some 400 or more firefighters from North Carolina and adjoining states are expected for the eighth annual Metrolina Fire School at Stanly Community College Nov. 12 and 13, sponsored jointly by the college and the Stanly Firefighters' Association.

Lonnie Swanner, Dean for Continuing Education at SCC, said that already 200 reservations have been received, some from as far distant as Charleston and Greenville, S.C., and from Virginia.

The Metrolina Fire School, initiated in 1981, is one of the larger schools of its type in the general area, Swanner said.

There will be 16 different areas of instruction this year, each with a highly qualified instructor. The firefighters will choose their respective areas of study, so far as possible. In making reservations they are asked to state first, second, and third choices. Each subject will require 12 hours of study during the two-day school.

Assisting with the planning for the school is Aaron Deese, Stanly Fire Marshal. Firefighters will receive credit toward upward classification upon completion of the classes.

Flammable Liquids—To provide techniques and practice in handling flammable liquid fires and experience in

fighting these fires using foam. Instructor will be Hal Weill of Duke Power Company.

Compressed Gas Emergencies—Methods of handling emergencies caused by compressed gas. It includes identification of control valves and gauges and ground fire control of LP gas fires. Instructor will be Greg Arnette of the Fayetteville Fire Department.

Large Diameter Hose—Techniques and procedures for handling large diameter hose will be taught. Instructor will be Alan Cain of the Fayetteville Fire Department.

Firefighting Skills—Classes primarily for new firefighters, including the use of breathing apparatus, individual firefighting safety, protective clothing, and search and rescue. Instructors will be David Clay and James Blackwelder of the Concord Fire Department.

Fireground Engine Company Operations—Basic operating procedures for pumpers, eight steps of pump operation, working from draft, drop tanks, and hydrant systems. Instructor will be Charles Trotter of the Rockingham Fire Department.

Pump Service Testing—Includes requirements and procedures for conducting annual pump service tests and ongoing weekly and monthly service procedures. Cliff Greyson of the Char-

lotte Fire Department will be instructor.

Rural Water Supplies—All aspects of water supplies, with emphasis on tanker operations. It will include drop tank operations, relay operations, and requirements for improved ISO ratings, instructor will be Lee Sudia of the Whiteville Fire Department.

Fire and Arson Detection—Determining the point of a fire's origin, and the identification and preservation of physical evidence. Mike Wilson of the Charlotte Fire Department will be instructor.

Preparation for Incident Command—To give students understanding of the concept of incident command as it applies to initial response, pre-incident information and other aspects of any given situation. Instructor will be Buddy Wilson, Charlotte Fire Department retiree.

Commanding the Initial Response—Involves building an organizational structure beginning with the initial response and ending with termination of command. Randy Mowery of the Charlotte Fire Department will be instructor.

Volunteer Fire Service Management—Will emphasize basic management skills and techniques for fire officers, including recruitment, training, and motivation. Instructor will be Bob Groshon, retired, Arlington Fire Department, Arlington, Va.

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Chief Johnny Jones, Fuquay Varina FD; Ginger Bass, member of fire depart; and Jack L. Slagle, President, Slagle Fire Equipment Co., South Boston, VA. Shown displaying the plaque won in the Garner Fireman's Day Parade for Best of Show. The Fuquay Varina Fire Department recently purchased an FMC Pumper (shown in background) in which the fire department showed to win the award. Submitted by: Jack L. Slagle, Pres., Slagle's Fire Equipment & Supply Co.

Professional Firemen Are Quality Volunteers

By Rocky Womack
Burlington
Times-News
Staff Writer

BURLINGTON—Many city-paid firefighters, who also are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), give up their spare time to serve as volunteer firefighters in Alamance County.

"I started out as a volunteer," said firefighter Jay Smith who works as a paid employee with the Burlington Fire Department. "I like doing volunteer work and

getting more involved."

A volunteer fireman with the Mebane Fire Department since 1982, Smith began as a paid firefighter with Burlington in 1984. He left Burlington in 1985 but returned in September 1987.

Being a paid firefighter aids in his work as a volunteer. "I learn things here that can help me down there," he said. "We have fires down there like we have here."

Smith said he sees little difference between other volunteer firefighters and a Mebane volunteer fireman. He

said most county firemen when they hear a call go straight to the fire by way of their own vehicle. At Mebane, firefighters respond straight to the station when they hear a call.

In Burlington, Smith remains at the fire station on a 24-hour shift from 8 a.m. to 8 a.m., then he is off for 48 hours. In his spare time, he continues to serve as a volunteer fireman on call rather than take advantage of his free time.

An EMT, Smith said two people are assigned to go on EMT calls at Mebane from Sunday through Thursday. He estimates as a volunteer at Mebane he goes on an EMT or fire call, when not working at Burlington, about every fourth night. Smith said Mebane runs more EMT and fire calls than any other local fire department in Alamance County.

McBride said he started volunteering when he was young and was gung-ho about fighting fires, but he said the older he becomes the harder it is for him to serve as both a paid and volunteer firefighter.

Commercial Drivers License Waiver for Firefighters

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Sept. 20 decision by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to grant waivers to firefighters from provisions of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 marks an important victory for volunteer fire departments, according to E. James Monihan, chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).

NVFC, with the support of volunteer fire departments across the country, led the campaign to obtain the waiver. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) received nearly 900 comments from NVFC, fire departments and other organizations supporting the waiver and pointing out the financial burden imposed, especially on volunteers, by requirements under the Act.

Without the waiver, drivers of most fire apparatus would have been required to obtain a commercial drivers license. The new decision gives states authority to exempt operators of firefighting equipment from these requirements.

While Monihan applauded the DOT decision, he stressed that the NVFC will continue to pursue legislation, currently pending in the House Public Works Commit-

tee, to exempt firefighters from provisions of the Act.

"We know the legislation has little chance of passage this late in the current session," he said. "However, we will continue to lobby for it and will encourage its introduction and passage in the next session if necessary."

Integral to obtaining passage of the legislation, and to maintaining the DOT waiver, is the safety record of the fire service. Monihan pointed out that the 1986 Act authorized DOT to grant waivers only if they would not jeopardize overall safe operation of the vehicles covered. FHWA plans to monitor the safety records of the groups that have been granted waivers.

"The best way to ensure that our waiver is not revoked, and that legislators are willing to support making it law, is to show that we are taking aggressive action to ensure safe operation of all fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles," said Monihan.

NVFC is formulating several safe driving initiatives which its Board of Directors is expected to consider at its Fall Meeting next month.

Submitted By
Robert McKeon
Nat. Vol. Fire Council

Kitchen Of Home Damaged By Fire

HENDERSON—An early morning fire caused minor damage to the kitchen of a mobile home in the Knoll Terrace Trailer Park, Henderson firefighters reported.

Apparently a resident of the home, Sharon Coleman, fell asleep while a baby bottle was heating on the electric range in the kitchen. As a result a fire started and burned the controls off the stove and spread to a small portion of the wall above it, the fire report showed.

Firefighters used a smoke ejector upon their arrival to clear smoke from the home, owned by Elizabeth Champ. Damages were set at \$200 to the building and \$125 to its contents.

No one was injured.

Children Get Life-Saving Fire Message

LOWER CURRITUCK—Members of the Lower Currituck Fire Department spent an entire day at

House Total Loss After Second Fire

SALISBURY—Salisbury firefighters responded to a fire at a North Park Drive house recently for the second time in as many weeks.

The two-story wood frame house at 2031 N. Park Drive, owned by Nathan Bunker of Salisbury, was called a total loss by Rick Fesperman, assistant fire chief.

The fire department was called to the scene at 3:26 a.m.

"As soon as the engine left the station, the guys could see it was a working fire from where they were on West Innes Street," said Fesperman.

Two engines, a ladder truck and a command unit responded. EMS personnel were also on the scene. No one was injured.

Fesperman said the whole structure was involved in the blaze, which was under control by 4 a.m. Firefighters remained on the scene for several hours. This morning, investigators with the Loss Prevention Division of the fire department were waiting for the area to cool before beginning their investigation.

"There was so much damage. We can't tell where the fire started right now," Fesperman said.

The house was divided into three apartments, two downstairs and one upstairs. David Watson was the only occupant. He resided in a downstairs apartment, but Fesperman said it was not clear if Watson was at home when the fire began.

On Oct. 17, a fire began in the upstairs apartment of the house. The downstairs apartments suffered water damage, but were livable after the fire, according to Fesperman.

After the fire, Cleve Boulware, Salisbury battalion chief, estimated \$15,000 damage to the house with an insurance value of \$38,000.

Griggs Elementary School recently in an effort to make the students aware of fire safety procedures.

"We showed the children a fully outfitted fireman, complete with air packs and face mask," explained Captain Gary Cologgi. "The children need to learn not to be afraid of the fireman dressed like that. In a fire, they would need to go towards this scary looking creature in order to escape. We only had two children cry this year."

Students were told the importance of remembering to "stop, drop and roll" if their clothes catch fire, they were shown how to crawl through smoke to safety and learned about the need for smoke detectors at home.

The youngsters also watched a movie where puppets explained how to report a fire and what to do in an emergency. After the film and lecture, the students went outside to see the fire trucks in action and also handled the hoses and saw demonstrations of water being pumped into the truck.

Also participating in the Fire Safety Program from Lower Currituck were Frank Humphrey, Donald Ferebee, Kenny Mercer, Tommy Brothers and Jan Owens. Smokey the Bear was on hand from the Forestry Service.



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Yaupon Fire Plugs Get New Paint Job

By Richard Nubel
State Port Pilot
News Editor

SOUTHPORT—Fire hydrants in Yaupon Beach will shortly get a sprucing up. But the effort will be more for safety reasons than aesthetic reasons, commissioners said.

Police, fire and vehicle repair Commissioner Joe Broyles told fellow commissioners the most cost-effective way to make fire hydrants easily visible to firefighters at night was to coat the hydrants with reflective paint.

Caswell Beach recently installed blue reflectors on hydrants and placed reflective stripes at roadside near all fire plugs. The Yaupon Beach Volunteer Fire Department is also primary responder to fire calls in Caswell Beach and the department has suggested Yaupon Beach engage in a similar marking program.

Broyles said the cost of reflectors in Caswell Beach reached \$23 per hydrant—a cost he felt was prohibitive in Yaupon Beach, where there are far more hydrants.

It was decided town public works supervisor John Hawes would apply reflective paint to each hydrant in

town as he continues his program of flushing water lines this winter. Hydrants are opened in the flushing process and allowed to bleed-out stagnant and rusty water.

In a related matter, water Commissioner Homer Brewer reported water lines in the town had been flushed in several locations after the town received six complaints about inferior water quality.

In some instances, homeowners were advised to empty their hot water heaters in an effort to abate rusty tap water, he said.

Brewer was also authorized to expend up to \$800 to repair a control system at the town's main pump station.

In other business brought before the board of commissioners of the Town of Yaupon Beach:

—Robert Rhyne and P. E. Morgan were re-appointed to three-year terms as alternate members of the town board of adjustments. Commission-

ers still need to name a replacement on that body for Rick Tart, who has moved out of town. The board will await the recommendation of board of adjustments chairman Frank Smith. Tart's replacement will serve

Fire Trucks Were Heading For Water Drill

JULIAN—Area residents who have seen 18 or 20 fire trucks hurrying down the highway recently, heading toward southeastern Guilford County, need not worry.

It was probably a drill. The Randolph County Fire Protection Association training committee sponsored a water training exercise from 1-4 p.m. for 10 fire departments, which should lead to better insurance ratings in areas served by the departments, said Barry Johnson, deputy chief of Julian Fire Department.

The firefighters pumped water from farm ponds in the area and hauled it to Julian Mill on Folger Road, as if there were a real fire at the manufacturing plant, Johnson said.

The goal of the exercise, which included 50-60 firefighters from Liberty, Staley, Climax, Franklinville, Level Cross, Randleman and three Guilford County units, was to move enough water to the scene to be able to pump 1,000 gallons a minute on an imaginary inferno.

out his term of office, which extends to October, 1989.

—Nancy Aman was appointed to a three-year term of office on the Yaupon Beach planning board on the recommendation of its chairman, Buddy Rudd.

—Broyles was authorized to conduct an auction to dispose of excess town equipment and unclaimed items recovered by the Yaupon Beach Police Department.

Flames Destroy Home In Drewry

DREWRY—A home in the Drewry community was destroyed by fire recently, but Drewry Volunteer Fire Department firefighters were able to save some of its contents.

At 1:18 a.m., firemen responded to a call concerning a fire at the home of Rossi Humphries, located behind Paschall's Store in the Drewry community. According to the fire report, fire escaped from a fireplace in an upstairs bedroom and spread into the attic. It took firemen one and a half hours to bring the blaze under control and they remained at the scene until about 4:45 a.m.

The two-story frame house was declared a total loss, but firefighters recovered some appliances and other furnishings in the downstairs area.

Assisting at the fire with water supplies were departments from Ridgeway and Norlina.

NVFC Declares 1989 Year of "Safe Passage"

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has dubbed 1989 the year of "Safe Passage." The declaration launches planning for a nationwide campaign to improve emergency vehicle safety.

According to NVFC Chairman E. James Monihan, the campaign will emphasize the need for the public to do its part to allow safe passage of emergency vehicles by yielding the right-of-way. Public service announcements for print and broadcast media and other public education materials will be available from the NVFC to support "Safe Passage" programs by local volunteer fire departments and emergency medical services throughout the country.

As part of the campaign, the NVFC also will encourage fire departments and emergency medical services to adopt or strengthen policies and programs to ensure safe operation of fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles.

Departments participating in the "Safe Passage" campaign will be encouraged to adopt a special policy statement rededicating themselves to preserving the lives and property of the nation's citizens by responding to emergencies quickly and arriving safely.

Submitted by:
Gus Welter
Nat. Vol. Fire Council



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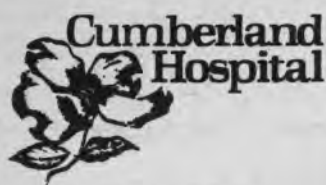
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Surry Tire Fire

COPELAND—Heavy equipment was brought in to cover 15 to 20 acres of burning tires with soil, said Kevin Dull, Surry County fire marshal and emergency management coordinator.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will supervise efforts to bury the smoldering tires that sent flames 50 feet in the air recently, Dull said. The EPA will also determine if federal money will be used for the clean-up.

Several Surry County fire departments were dispatched at 3:15 p.m. to the tire dump fire, located about 8.5 miles south of Dobson.

About a half acre of tires stacked up to 30 feet in depth were burning out of control when the fire units arrived, Dull said. Efforts were made immediately to prevent the fire from spreading to other areas of the tire dump, which is owned by Donald Gray Wilmoth and James Jones, both of Cana, Va., he said.

"Personnel began to cut a fire break but due to the wind speed and the spread of the fire, it was determined to be too dangerous to cut a fire break through the tire dump," Dull said.

"At this time, strategy was developed to cut a fire line around the tire dump and contain the fire to the perimeters of the dump. Air surveillance was established with the help of the John S. Clark Construction helicopter."

A fire break was finally made using Cleveland Dob-

son Hauling and Grading Co. bulldozers and at 6:30 p.m. the fire was considered contained, Dull said. "Because of the immense fire and problems with run-off into the Fishers Creek, no water was applied to the fire."

Because of the dense black smoke coming from the tires, five families were evacuated and were allowed to return home at 5 a.m. today, Dull said.

About 120 emergency workers were on the scene at times, Dull said.

The EPA will assess any environmental problems, including reports of people with eye irritations in eastern Surry County, Dull said. The smoke was blowing towards the northeast, away from Wilkes County.

Dull said an investigation will be conducted to determine how the fire started. He declined to say if arson is suspected.

Firefighters remained on the scene through the night and were still there at press time.

Fire departments dispatched to the scene were the South Surry, CC Camp, Central Surry, Ararat, Pilot Knob and Jot-Um-Down. Other agencies present consisted of Dobson and Pilot Mountain Rescue Squad, Surry County EMS, Surry County Arson/Haz-Mat Task Force, Surry County Health Department, Surry County Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Agency.

Leaks Deemed Fire Hazard

BURGAW—Pender County Health Department employees were told by the Burgaw Volunteer Fire department marshal not to return to work until they were notified to due to leaks in the roof which could be a fire hazard.

The county closed the agency as maintenance workers spent about four hours covering half of the flat roof with tar to keep water from leaking into the building and soaking electrical wires. The office reopened the next day.

Health Director Allie Woodcock requested the Fire Department to inspect the building. He said he had observed rainwater leaking through the roof, forming puddles around light fixtures in the waiting rooms and offices.

According to Woodcock, the flat roof has leaked over a long period of time, however, the recent leakage has been more severe than in the past.

Woodcock and the fire marshal and fire chief agreed, that the wet wiring could spark a fire.

Burgaw Chief John Frasier said that if it rains anytime soon, his department will inspect the building to see if the recent work actually prevents leaking.

According to County Maintenance Supervisor Kenneth Wells, the new roof, with an estimated cost of \$20-30,000, should be under construction soon.

Ex-councilman Loses Possessions

By Paul Bonner
Sun Staff Writer

DURHAM—Downtown businessman and former Durham City Councilman Paul Alford lost many of his personal possessions in a fire that damaged the Ida Street house he rents.

Alford, 70, said today he was at work about 7:30 a.m. at the CCB snack bar, which he owns and has operated for 45 years in the Central Carolina Bank Building on Corcoran Street, when a neighbor called and told him his house was on fire.

"I rushed on over and all the fire people were there," Alford said.

The house, at 1408 Ida St., is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leamon Warren of Clayton.

Alford said there was fire damage to the living room and a bedroom and smoke damage throughout the house.

The fire apparently started near the end of a couch, where a lamp may have caused an electrical fire, Alford said.

Although the owners carry insurance on the structure, Alford's possessions were uninsured, he said.

He said friends and acquaintances have shown concern.

"I didn't think I had that much until I started looking around," Alford said of the fire's aftermath. "People have been so good to me, it's unbelievable."

Alford was a councilman for more than 16 years.

Fire Leveled Frame House

WARRENTON—A one-story frame house was destroyed on a recent evening as firefighters were called to the scene too late to help extinguish the flames.

According to Chief Kenny Clayton of the Warrenton Rural Fire Department, a fire at the residence of Mary and Willie Jones on Rt. 1, Warrenton, located on the dirt road behind the old feed mill off SR 1305, started in the kitchen area of the home. Clayton said that Jones indicated he had been having problems with an electric stove in the kitchen. He said that Jones reported he had heard popping sounds coming from the kitchen area, but thought that his daughter was making the noise.

According to the report, Jones smelled smoke and went to investigate. That is when he discovered flames in the kitchen and made attempts to extinguish them himself.

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Halloween Fire Guts Landmark

By H. D. Koontz III
The News Record
Editor

MARSHALL—The Ossie Smith Flour Mill, a landmark built during the late 1920s and listed on the North Carolina Register of Historic Places, was destroyed by arsonists' fire recently.

Damage to the building, built by Ossie Smith and now owned by his daughter Margaret Ramsey of Forks of Ivy in North Buncombe County, was estimated at \$250,000.

Much of the original milling equipment, used until the mill closed in 1959, was destroyed by the fire, which flicked flames across the narrow road to blacken the hillside and attracted attention from motorists travelling along U.S. 19-23.

The fire began sometime around 9 p.m.; firemen received the first call at the Jupiter Volunteer Fire Department at 9:25 p.m., said Chief

Milo Ingle.

Buncombe County Fire Marshall Mike Salley is investigating the blaze, believed to be arson, as well as several other fires the same evening in nearby communities.

An abandoned wooden house across the highway was burned; another fire was reported at Crowders Sawmill.

Firemen from Jupiter, Mars Hill, Barnardville, and Weaverville helped fight the mill fire until about 2:30 the next morning, Ingle said.

No injuries were reported.

About 60 firemen were on the scene at one time, he added.

"It was intentionally set," Ingle said of the Mill fire. "There was no power there, there was no storm or lightning. There was no way it could have been an accident. There was no gas..." he could smell.

The fire apparently started next to a front wall at the building, he said.

"Right beside the road, inside the wall, was the only thing burning when we got there," Ingle said. "The first wall was on fire and it burned like wildfire. It was very old wood."

There were four trucks from the Jupiter VFD, three vehicles from Mars Hill VFD, one from Weaverville and two from Barnardville at the scene.

The fire at the sawmill was not serious, Ingle said. Just some wood shavings were set afire.

The flour mill fire, though, knocked out power in the area for electrical and telephone service, he said.

In its heyday the mill ground flour and meal for three decades, Mrs. Ramsey recalled.

Teen Club In Pilot Mountain Destroyed by Fire

By Paul Collins
Winston-Salem Journal
Staff Writer

PILOT MOUNTAIN—A fire recently gutted the Pizazz teen club on Old U.S. 52 By-pass. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

The teen club, which opened in October, is in the building that formerly housed Memories, a controversial dance hall that sold alcohol. In June, a group of residents presented a petition signed by 141 people asking the Pilot Mountain Board of Commissioners to close Memories because of profanity, fights, loud music, drinking and boisterous behavior at the club.

The business closed later in the summer. Billy T. Pell, the town manager, has said that the town was researching its legal options at the time and was not responsible for closing Memories.

The fire at Pizazz was reported at 11:34 p.m., said a dispatcher for the Surry County Sheriff's Department.

Gregory A. Inman, a firefighter with the Pilot Mountain Fire Department, said that he arrived two or three minutes after getting the call. He said that flames were rising about six feet above the roof at the back of the building. Within 15 to 20 minutes, the fire had spread throughout the building, he said.

Capt. Roger W. Holt of the Pilot Mountain Fire Department said that firefighters had the fire under control about 1 a.m. and that many of the firefighters left by 2:30 a.m.

The building was about 65 by 35 feet, with a wood-frame

first floor and a cinder-block basement. Roger L. Sams, the chief of the Pilot Mountain Fire Department, said that the contents of the first floor were destroyed but that some of the equipment stored in the basement may be salvageable.

He said that about 35 firefighters from the Pilot Mountain and Pilot Kob fire departments went to the fire.

Firefighters said that they kept the fire from spreading to the Ge-Jo's Pizza building 12 feet away by spraying water between the two buildings.

Ashani Hope "Casper" Hiatt, 18, of 375 Mears Road in Mount Airy operated Pizazz.

She said that her father, Donald G. Combs of Mount Airy, owned the building and much of its contents.

Pizazz was open from 3 to 11 p.m. Thursdays, 3 p.m. to midnight Fridays, 4 p.m. to midnight Saturdays and 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

"The kids loved it, I loved it, the parents loved it," she said.

"People said it was the best thing that could have happened in Pilot Mountain. There were no drugs, no alcohol, no profanity. We never had any complaints from the neighbors."

But one neighbor who stopped by the fire scene yesterday pointed to charred amplifiers and burned band instruments and said, "Right there was what was keeping me up."

Miss Hiatt said that her father was in Forsyth Memorial Hospital to undergo open-heart surgery. She said she hoped that she would be able to break the news about the fire to him herself.

FMC Corp. Expands Assembly Area

ORLANDO, FL—FMC Corporation's Fire Apparatus Division has expanded and rearranged its assembly area in order to accommodate increased production schedules and to improve efficiency. The Division, which manufactures commercial and custom fire apparatus, now occupies 42,000 square feet of assembly space, an increase of 40% from pre-expansion days. The enhanced assembly process provides improved material flow, reduced through-put times, and an overall improvement in productivity.

The Division manufactures fire truck bodies and related components, installing bodies, pumps, pump controls, and other equipment on commercial and custom chassis to provide a complete fire truck built to customers' specifications. The Division has state-of-the-art metal fabrication, welding, pump testing, and paint capabilities to complete its production facilities.

For further information, contact Larry McIntyre, FMC Corporation, Fire Apparatus Division, 7310 Presidents Drive, Orlando, Florida, 32809, 407/850-2850.

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Arlington Battles Two Blazes; One Considered Suspicious

By Beverly Brock Trilane Staff Reporter

ARLINGTON—In the middle of a wave of area fires recently, Arlington responded to two blazes—one suspicious, one not.

Monday night at 8:10, the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department was called to a fire at a pack house on Rena Road, approximately a quarter mile off Swan Creek Road. The unoccupied pack house was "nothing but ashes when the fire department got there," Chief Ronnie Ball said. He suspects arson in the blaze.

Ball said it is believed that the fire is related to several similar fires in Wilkes County. Fire marshals in both counties are investigating the fires.

The pack house was owned by Ola Beulen, assistant fire chief Leo Finney said. Both Arlington and a tanker from West Yadkin were called to the scene, but only a few beams were still standing when they arrived and a surrounding brush fire was doused.

In another fire, firefighters from Arlington and Jonesville saved Jerry Robinson's house at 132 Ridge St.

Ball said no one was in the house at the time, and neighbors notified the fire department after seeing smoke coming from the house.

The fire, Ball said, started behind an electric baseboard heater and did approximately \$10,000 damage. Ball said one wall was badly burned and there was some smoke damage, but no clothes, furniture or other rooms were lost.

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Couple Watches Home Burn

By Pandora Passin The Dispatch Staff Reporter

LEXINGTON—A South Ford Street couple was burned out of their home of 27 years on a recent morning when fire broke out around the chimney, apparently caused by insulation that was improperly installed.

Mabel Frady, 70, was in the den while her 73-year-old husband, Paul, was outside cutting and packing wood shortly after 10 a.m.

"I had just got through rolling my hair and sat down to put my hose on," Mabel Frady said. She said she then heard a crackling sound, looked up and saw smoke coming from around the chimney.

"I beat on the window and hollered," she said. "I just grabbed the first shoes in the bedroom. I didn't even have none on when it happened."

Paul Frady went into the house and called for help at 10:13 a.m., and both ran outside to safety.

"I got so weak, I was about to faint," Mabel Frady said, speaking in a car parked across the street from her home while Lexington firefighters continued shoveling ashes from the attic.

Capt. Jerry Smith of the Fire Department said smoke could be seen from the Fradys' house for several blocks. Flames had moved up the chimney into the attic and some fire was coming out of the gable end, Smith said.

The majority of the damage occurred in the attic and in two rooms around the fireplace, he added. Most of the Fradys' belongings were salvaged and the couple is now staying with one of their children.

The fire was caused by insulation that fell into the air space around the chimney when it was installed, Smith said. "In turn, that let the heat build up instead of dissi-

pating out," he noted.

Shirley Walser, housing coordinator for Davidson County Community Action, said the organization contracted to have the insulation installed. Community Action has been offering that free service to eligible residents for the past 15 years, she said.

"I don't know what happened this time... You want to cry," she said. "We do have insurance to take care of it."

The Fradys moved into their South Ford Street home when several of their 10 children were still small. Paul Frady, who is retired, owned Frady Tree Service.

"I ain't never had to go through this," Mabel Frady said. "I thought it was bad enough losing my two sons."

One of the Fradys' sons, Dillard, died from a heart attack in July. John Leland Frady, a professional tree trimmer, was killed in May 1987 when he accidentally cut the limb he was sitting on and fell 30 feet to the ground.

Fire Departments Conduct Drill

HIGHLANDS—The Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department conducted a live fire burn Oct. 15 at 10 a.m.

An old frame five-room house, located in Scaly Mountain on N.C. 106 across from the antique barn was the scene of operation.

The owners of the building Mr. and Mrs. McKinley, turned the structure over to the fire department several months ago for training purposes.

Teams were formed and briefed on several phases of firefighting. Small fires were set in the building and each team would attack and extinguish the fires, until the entire building was burned.

Blast, Fire At Firm Under Investigation

MOORESVILLE—An fire and explosion at the Mooresville Auto Co. at 1107 N. Main St. destroyed a small office building and two cars and damaged several other vehicles.

Chief Doug Nantz of the Mooresville Fire Department said that an explosion was heard by several occupants of nearby residences at about 12:25 a.m. Within five minutes, Nantz said, the fire department had an engine on the scene. Firefighters responding to the scene found a "very small office building" and two cars parked beside of it engulfed in flames.

According to Nantz, the fire was fed by fuel from a stand-up heater inside the office building. The heater was supplied by a 55-gallon fuel tank outside the office, Nantz said, and during the fire the fuel line ruptured and fed the fire.

The fire was so hot, according to the fire chief, that the tail lights of several vehicles parked near the street were melted. Also the extreme heat cracked the windshields and melted some grills on cars parked behind the office. Chief Nantz estimated damage at \$25,000 or more.

Nantz said that several people living near Mooresville Auto Co. reported hearing an explosion but Nantz could not say whether the explosion preceded the fire. The chief reported that some material from the building was found lying some distance away from the fire. The material, he said, hadn't been burned. Nantz said that some flammable liquid was stored inside the office.

The fire chief termed the fire "suspicious" and added that Mooresville detectives and an agent with the State Bureau of Investigation were summoned to the scene.

Courthouse Fire Still A Mystery

MARSHALL—Repair work is continuing on the fire-damaged Madison County Courthouse that was gutted by fire Labor Day, but no arrests have been made in connection with the incident.

The county sheriff's department has investigated several leads, but each has led to a dead-end, Chief Deputy Dal Peek said.

The damage to the 81-year-old building, caused when arsonists broke into the rear of the building two months ago, was mostly to the second floor courtroom.

The county has held traffic and General District Court at the Marshall School since the fire.

The next session of Superior Court is scheduled for Nov. 14, but court officials are doubtful the building will be ready by that date.

Damage to the courtroom was estimated at more than \$100,000.

A reward of \$10,000 was offered by the State Bureau of Investigation immediately after the fire. Another \$3,000 was tacked on that reward by the governor's office for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those responsible.

The fire has also forced the county commissioners to hold their meetings in an adjacent room next to the courtroom for the past two months.

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Pair of local fires reported

KANNAPOLIS—Two Kannapolis fires recently injured three persons and have done an estimated \$48,000 damage.

At 2:07 p.m., stations one and three of the Kannapolis Fire Department responded to a call at 512 S. Cannon Boulevard, where for a time, firemen believed two children were trapped inside.

"Somehow, the children escaped the house," explained Kannapolis Fire Chief Larry Phillips. "I'm really not sure at this time how they got out."

He identified them as Anthony Hancock, 1; and Cameron Hancock, 2; both sons of Florence Elizabeth Boyd, 19, who was also at home when the blaze erupted.

The children were treated in the emergency department at Cabarrus Memorial Hospital and released, Phillips said. They suffered from smoke inhalation.

Mrs. Boyd, their mother, suffered more serious injuries, according to Phillips, when she jumped through a storm window to escape after waking from a nap to find the house on fire.

Phillips said Mrs. Boyd suffered lacerations on her face and shoulder when she

jumped through the window.

A Cabarrus Memorial Hospital spokesperson said that Mrs. Boyd was still undergoing treatment. The spokesperson said Mrs. Boyd would probably be released from the emergency department.

Phillips said the fire apparently started in a chair in the living room area of the four-room house.

He said his investigation had not yet pinpointed a specific cause.

Far more extensive damage was done to the residence of Jennie Smith of 807 Skyland St., to the two houses adjacent to it and to a car parked at one of the adjacent residences.

Two From Fire Department Complete Course

RED SPRINGS—Daniel B. Hulon and Danny McPhaul of the Red Springs Fire Department have completed a course on specialized aircraft fire and rescue.

The one-day course was held at Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville on October 8th and was sponsored by Fayetteville Technical Community College.

The course is one of continuing education by volunteer firemen to keep up to date on fire fighting techniques.

Mebane gas spill

By Mary Lhowe
Mebane Enterprise
Staff Writer

MEBANE—Officials from the Alamance County Fire Marshall's office were called to Mebane to clean up a small spill of gasoline that leaked into a storm sewer at North Fifth and Graham Streets and emerged in a creek that flows along the west side of North Fifth Street.

Fire Marshall Drew Sharpe directed the work of four men who laid bundles of straw in the north-flowing creek to stop the escape of the gasoline, and then laid an absorbent material on top of the gasoline to soak it up.

Sharpe said that about 14 gallons of gasoline spilled from a Foust Oil Company truck when a hose on the truck became detached while workers were filling an underground gasoline tank at the rear of the property of Public Service Company on East Ruffin Street.

Sharpe said the spilled gasoline flowed from the back of the property, east along Graham Street, and into a storm sewer at East Graham and North Fifth Streets.

Sharpe directed the workers as they placed bales of straw on the stream to stop the movement of the gasoline, and then sprinkled onto the gasoline a fluffy gray material called Fiberpyrel that does not absorb water but will absorb oil and gasoline. Workers then raked the gasoline-sodden Fiberpyrel off the surface of the water and shoveling it into garbage cans.

Firemen Respond To Two Calls In 24 Hours

SYLVA—Fire destroyed one house and did extensive damage to another on a recent weekend. The Sylva Fire Department responded to both calls.

The fire call was around 11:15 a.m. to the W. T. Davis residence on Ridgeway Street in Sylva. When firemen arrived, heavy smoke was coming out of the attic all around the house, according to Chief Stan McMahan.

He said the roof was destroyed with damage downstairs limited to mostly smoke and water.

No one was home when the fire started, and McMahan estimated it had been burning some 30 minutes before noticed by a neighbor.

The Cullowhee Fire Department provided back-up for Sylva. Firemen were on the scene for around four hours.

Firemen were called out around 1:30 a.m. the next morning to a fire on Dicks Creek. The part time residence of Teresa Wilkey, also a Florida resident, was completely destroyed, McMahan said.

No one was home when that fire broke out, and it too had been burning for some time before spotted by a neighbor. McMahan said the structure was "fully involved" when firemen arrived.

A 1986 Nissan truck parked near the residence was also destroyed.

Firemen remained on the scene until 4:30 a.m. The Savannah Fire Department backed-up Sylva.

Donations Only Source Of Income For Firemen

YADKINVILLE—The Yadkinville Volunteer Fire Department, in its annual fund drive, is seeking donations from citizens of Yadkinville and the Middle Yadkin Fire District.

Fire Chief Gene Branon said that firemen will be out in evenings and also on Saturdays, calling on citizens and leaving information. He asked donors, in making their contributions, to consider these facts:

(1) The Yadkinville Fire Department consists of volunteers only. (2) No one gets paid for his time and expenses in the line of duty. (3) They serve because of their willingness to help their community.

Branon said the Fire Department had a total of department 2,088 hours responding to emergency call and 2,068 man hours in training last year, a total of 4,148 department man hours of service. Over the last three years, the department has averaged 200 calls per year.

The fire chief said it is becoming more difficult to operate the department from donations because of the requirements and restrictions administered by the State Fire Commission and the Department of Insurance, and the increasing cost of fire equipment.

"The Yadkinville Fire District has no fire tax," Branon said. "We are supported by donations only."

"In the next year we will be asking the county commissioners for a referendum for a fire district tax. We feel that this is the only way we can maintain our rating and keep up the equipment."

"We feel that this is the fairest way to support the expenses of the department. If you feel as we do, we ask you to sign the request sheet," Branon wrote in his message to citizens.

Daryl Williams, department secretary, in discussing the fund drive, said that firemen will perform inspections and will have smoke detectors for sale.

For further information, citizens may call Branon at 679-8064.

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