



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER

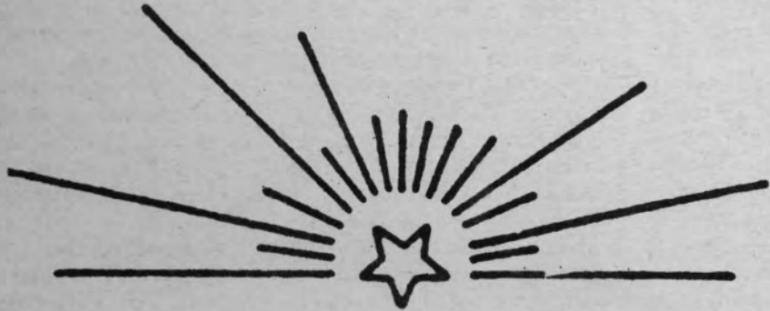


## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

Volume 22, Number 12

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

December 1988



*Once For A Shining Hour  
Heaven Touched Earth  
Hope Was Born Anew  
And Peace Reign'd In The World.*

# Support For Fire-Safe Cigarette Growing

ALEXANDRIA, VA—Fire service support is growing for federal "fire-safe" cigarette legislation. As a result of efforts by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), fire service organizations across the country have announced their endorsement of Congressional action.

When the 100th Congress adjourned in October, "fire-safe" cigarette legislation was pending in the House of Representatives. H.R. 4497, sponsored by Reps. Rick Boucher (D-VA) and Tom Bliley (R-VA), is expected to be re-introduced in the 101st Congress.

The legislation proposes to

carry out the December 1987 recommendations of the Interagency Committee on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety (IAC). The IAC oversaw a study by the Center for Fire Research, National Bureau of Standards, to determine if, and how, cigarettes might be made more "fire safe."

The IAC's recommendations, which are incorporated in the proposed bill, include developing a validated test method to measure cigarettes' propensity to ignite upholstered furniture and mattresses; testing smoke from modified cigarettes; and continuing research to improve the tracking of cigarette-related fires over time.

According to NVFC Chairman E. James Monihan, "The technical work conducted to date has been a good start. But more needs to be done. Fire service organizations that endorse this legislation are telling Congress, 'The federal government should see this job through to the end.'"

Following introduction of the Boucher/Bliley legislation in April 1988, NVFC wrote to members of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus urging its prompt passage. NVFC Board members also contacted fire service organizations in their states,

encouraging them to endorse the measure.

Among the organizations that have joined the NVFC in endorsing the Boucher/Bliley legislation are the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL-CIO), Great Lakes Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, California State Firemen's Association and Illinois Fire Inspectors Association.

Also supporting the federal legislation are the Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, New

Jersey Chiefs Association, Pennsylvania State Fire Fighters Association, Firemen's Legislative Council of Pennsylvania, Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association, Washington State Fire Fighters' Association, Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association and several other state fire service organizations and officials.

"We believe the growing fire service support has helped stimulate congressional support of this federal 'fire-safe' cigarette legislation."

Submitted By:  
Carolyn Perroni  
Nat. Vol. Fire Council

## Fire Department Develops Safety Device

HICKORY, NC—Members of the Hickory Fire Department have designed and manufactured a new safety device which will reduce firefighter injuries. The invention was a joint effort between Chief Tom Hardin, Captain Donald Brown, and Maintenance Officer Rick Huffman. The new device dubbed the "Clark Strap," was designed in response to a serious injury incurred by Firefighter Wayne Clark while attaching a hose line to a fire hydrant. Firefighter Clark was serving as a volunteer firefighter for Longview Fire Department at the time of the accident. Clark, following standard fire service procedures, wrapped his hose line around the hydrant and stood on the end, while the fire truck pulled away from the scene. Rather than smoothly dropping off the back of the truck,

the hose snagged in the hose bed causing the end Clark was standing on to pull loose and sling around the hydrant. The centrifugal force accelerated the brass hose coupling to a very high speed before it struck Firefighter Clark in the leg.

The resulting injury left Clark hospitalized and ultimately led to two skin grafts. To date Firefighter Clark has missed 3½ months work and is still unable to return. Upon hearing of the injury the Hickory Fire Department Staff set out to design a safety device that would prevent future such injuries, which are not uncommon in fire departments across the nation.

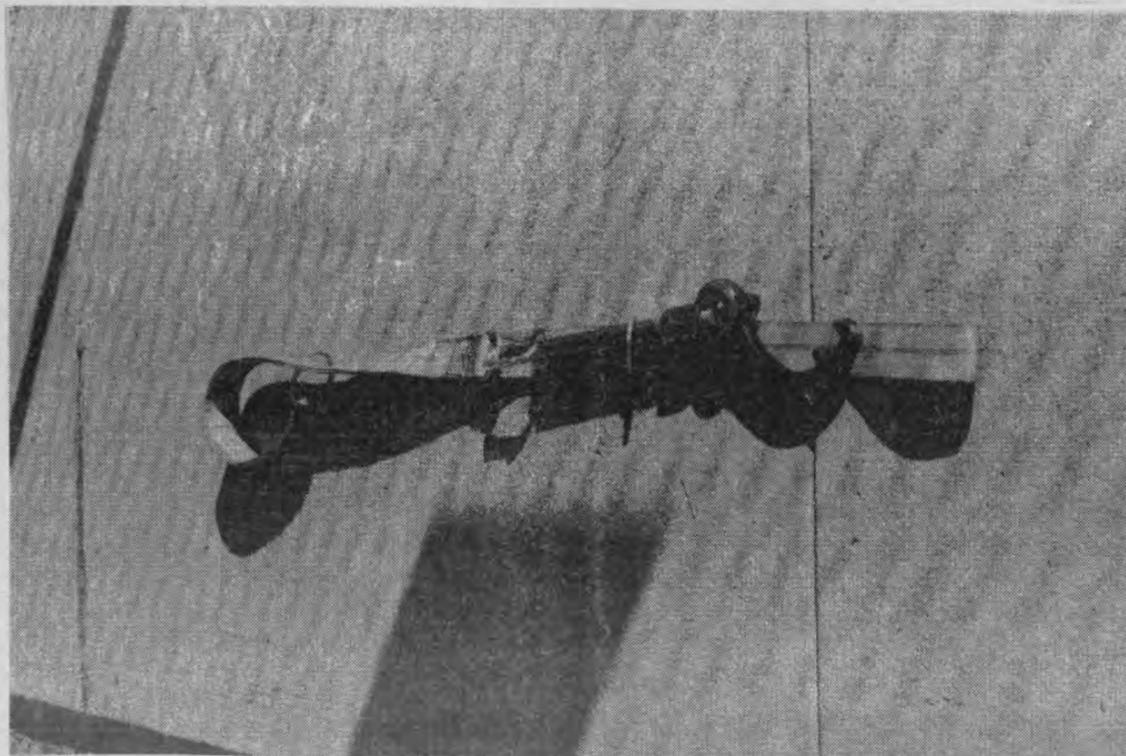
The answer was the special safety strap which grips both hose and hydrant allowing the firefighter to stand clear. The strap is designed to be quickly removed so no

valuable time is lost in making the hydrant connection. The strap also allows attachments of necessary hand tools to the strap so firefighters aren't burdened by carrying several different objects to the hydrant.

The strap was designed by Chief Tom Hardin with the assistance of Maintenance Officer Rick Huffman. Captain Donald Brown manufactured the straps, named somewhat tongue-in-cheek the "Clark Strap."

According to Chief Hardin, sufficient straps will be manufactured to provide one for every Hickory fire truck as well as providing one as a gift to the Longview Fire Department. The design will be made available to other fire departments which may copy it.

Submitted By:  
Hickory Vol. Fire Dept.



The "Clark Strap," developed by members of the Hickory, N.C. Volunteer Fire Department.

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# Help Prove Public Fire Education Works

ARLINGTON, VA—Do fire department public education programs really get people to improve their fire safety behavior? What hard evidence is there to use in arguing for more public educa-

## Charges Cause Concern In Oxford Area

By Janet Blackmon  
Henderson Daily  
Dispatch  
Staff Writer

OXFORD, NC—Fire protection assessment for industries in Oxford has concerned the Industry Division of the Granville County Chamber of Commerce in its recent meetings.

David Williams, division chairman, told the board of directors recently that the division has discovered that the city has formed a committee to increase the fire protection assessments the industries are paying. The committee has not made any recommendations, however, and the city's industries are in a holding period until they are told how much the fire protection charge will be.

Williams said he had mailed a letter to Oxford Mayor Allie Ellington informing him of the division's concerns.

Ellington said that the city is considering increasing the industries' assessments and the committee will be meeting with industry division representatives soon.

He said the total for all the industries' fire protection costs are now less than \$15,000 and the city is considering increasing that amount considerably, although he would not say how much since the division and committee have not met.

The increase, if approved by the city commissioners, will be effective in January, Ellington said.

In addition, Williams said the division has also written a letter to City Manager Thomas Ragland requesting a presentation on the steps the city takes to test the wastewater from the industries.

Williams said the division is concerned about the testing since one industry, Bاندag, was told its wastewater contained chemicals that it doesn't produce. Williams added the division is concerned that certain chemicals are in the city's incoming water.

Ellington said this morning that the city contracts with Hydro Management Services, which has been under contract with the city for three years and recently received a month-by-month extension on its contract for wastewater testing.

tion resources? What characterizes successful public education programs?

To answer these questions, TriData Corporation of Arlington, Virginia, is trying to identify fire departments across the country that have evaluated their public education programs quantitatively. While fire departments from time to time conduct in-house evaluations of the impact of their public education programs, these studies seldom get published.

"We know the evidence is out there," says Phil Schaenman, President of TriData. "If we can get help in finding it, we'll be able to provide a rich source of information both to win support for public education and to provide insights into the characteristics of successful public education programs. Any fire department whose information we use will be given full credit in our report and a chance to review it before publication."

The new research project, being conducted under a grant from the Tobacco Institute's Fire Safety Education Program, is expected to be complete with release of a project report next fall. Previous TriData studies sponsored by this program include *Overcoming Barriers to Public Fire Education* and *International Concepts in Fire Protection*. These studies revealed a lack of hard evidence for fire officials to use to drum up support for local prevention education programs.

Schaenman says TriData would appreciate hearing

from public educators and other fire officers who have evaluated their own public education programs or know of others who have. Contact TriData Corporation, 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209 or call (703) 841-2975.

Submitted By:  
Hollis Stambaugh  
TriData

## Man Arrested In Firing At Firefighters

Danny Mayes  
Asheboro Courier-Tribune  
Staff Writer

HILLSVILLE, NC—A Trinity area man was arrested recently and charged with firing a rifle at four Tabernacle Volunteer Fire Department firefighters who had been fighting a fire at his residence on a recent evening.

Det. Sgt. Gary Harris of the Randolph County Sheriff's Department said Clifton A. Biggerstaff, Rt. 1, Trinity was charged with four felony counts of assault with a firearm on a fireman. Biggerstaff, who was released on a \$2,500 unsecured bond, also was charged with communicating threats, a misdemeanor.

Michael Hoover, chief of the Tabernacle Fire Department, said that he and some of his firefighters were called to assist Guil-Rand Fire Department with a fire off Hoover Hill Road.

Hoover said Tabernacle firefighter Charles McDaniel arrived first in his personal vehicle. Timothy McDowell,

a passing motorist, also stopped to assist.

"The firemen went in the woods and were trying to put out the fire when a man came up to them and told them to get off his property," Sgt. Bruce McPherson said. McDaniel told the man he was trying to put out a fire.

The two men had almost extinguished the blaze and were attempting to leave to tell Hoover, who was en route to the scene, of the situation.

Hoover and the firefighters met in the driveway of the residence, where a woman told them to get off her property. "She said if she needed the fire department she would get them," Hoover said. "She told me it was private property and to get in my car and leave," Hoover said.

At that time approximately five shots were fired, McPherson reported.

Firefighters McDaniel and Tim Owenby, who could not be contacted, told deputies they heard the gunfire and the shots which they said came close to them, McPherson said.

"At first it sounded like a firecracker maybe, and then I realized what it was," Hoover said. "And then I realized what it was. No man in his right mind wouldn't be scared."

Harris said Biggerstaff told him he was burning a stump at his home and that he fired several shots in the air with his .22-caliber rifle to scare the firefighters.

## Haw River Honors Two

HAW RIVER, N.C.—The Haw River Fire Department held its annual Christmas Party where the following awards were given.

Phillip Snead  
Officer of The Year:  
Firefighter Of The Year:  
Co-winner of EMT of The Year:

Phillip joined the department in 1981. He joined the Fire Department EMS program also in 1981. Phillip is the Chairman of the Fire Department EMS program. He holds the rank of Captain in the fire department. He is one of the three paid firefighters for the Town of Haw River. He is married and has 2 children and lives on Keck Rd. in Haw River.

Ronnie Wade  
Rookie of The Year:  
Co-winner of EMT of The Year:

Ronnie joined the department in 1987 and became a member of the fire department's EMS program also in 1987. Ronnie works for the City of Burlington at the East Burlington Waste Treatment Plant. He is married and has one daughter, they live on Terrywood Rd. in Haw River.

These awards were voted on by the department's 27 Firefighters. Both men are Volunteers With The Haw River Volunteer Fire Department.

Submitted By:  
David L. Ray  
Chief of Haw River  
Fire Department



Trees provide lumber for your home—don't burn them up!

## International Fire Protection Engineering Institute

BOSTON, MA—Delegates from around the world will gather at Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, May 21-31, 1989 to exchange state-of-the-art expertise in fire protection engineering at the fifth International Fire Protection Engineering Institute (IFPEI-V).

Sixty-five speakers from 13 countries will address subjects in the areas of risk assessment, fire behavior, smoke control, suppression systems, fire suppression and applications, detection and alarm, fire departments, special hazards, and construction. A one-day field trip is scheduled to the Fire Research Field Station of the National Research Council, Canada.

Sponsors are: Brand-Verhutungs-Dienst fur Industrie and Gewerbe (BVD), Switzerland; National Fire Protec-

tion Association (NFPA), USA; Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), USA; Technisch Bureau ter Bevoordering van Schdepreventie (TBBS), The Netherlands, and the University of Maryland, USA.

The Conference language is English and the registration fee is US \$485.00 (C \$597.00). Accommodations at Carleton University are extra. To register or for further information, contact: Institute Secretariat, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110, USA. Telephone: (617) 482-0686; FAX: (617) 482-9303.

Submitted By:  
D. Peter Long  
Exec. Director  
Society of Fire Protection Engineers

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# Field Fire Gets Out Of Hand

ADVANCE, NC—A controlled burning got out of hand off Underpass Road on Friday, Nov. 11.

Firemen from five fire departments were called to help extinguish the blaze, which charred several acres about a mile off N.C. 801, where the road becomes dirt.

Advance firemen were first to get the call. They were backed up soon thereafter by Smith Grove, and later by firefighters from Cornatzer-Dulin and Farmington departments.



This field fire blazed out of hand one afternoon off Underpass Road in Advance.

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**PRACTICE TIME**

**HENDERSON, NC—** This fire is real, but it's no cause for alarm. The firefighters set the house on fire on purpose as an on-the-job training exercise for new firefighters. Some of the newer members of the Vance County and Henderson Fire departments got in lot of practice recently on this house on this house on North Chestnut Street. Firefighters from the Watkins Volunteer Fire Department also helped by bringing a tanker, needed because of low water pressure in that part of the city. The house was located behind City Road United Methodist Church, near the Chestnut intersection with North Garnett Street. About 20 firefighters were involved in the exercise which lasted much of the day.



Firefighters work at putting out this practice fire. Daily Dispatch Photos by Ricky Stilley and Katherine Edwards

**Department Honors Businesses**

**BURLINGTON, NC—** Various area businesses were honored recently with a reception at the Burlington Fire Department headquarters for donations to a books for fire safety program sponsored by the fire department.

As part of the program, official fire safety manuals will be given to all children in the Burlington City Schools who are in grades kindergarten through five. The books give tips on how children should avoid fires and ways to escape fires should they break out.

Among the businesses contributing to the program were: Adhesive Technologies Corporation; Annedeon Hosiery Mills; BB&T; MBOC; Brown Wooten Mills; Burlington Industries; Burlington Manufacturers Outlet Center; Burlington Motors; Carolina Biological Supply; Central Carolina Bank; Chandler Concrete; Community Federal Savings & Loan; David Wescott Buick & Isuzu; Financial First Federal Savings Bank; Firequip; Glen Raven Mills; Golden Corral; Haywood Simpson Insurance; Heilig-Meyers Furniture; Holt Hosiery Mills; James L. Massey; Kayser-Roth Hosiery; Matkins Glass; NCNB National Bank; Newlin Hardware; Newton's Fire & Safety Equipment; Nichols Pontiac—Dodge; Pickett Hosiery Mills; Piedmont Natural Gas; Pioneer Savings Bank; Preferred Savings Bank; R.H. Barringer Distributing Co.; Roche Biomedical Labs;



**Plans Not Something To Hide**

**DURHAM, NC—**Secrecy surrounding the Durham Fire Department's proposed staff increases has turned out to be just one more case of government paranoia.

Chief Nathaniel Thompson presented his request for 12 more firefighters to the City Council's Finance Committee recently. The plan—which won't add anything to the current city budget but will increase spending about \$34,000 annually in coming years—won the committee's endorsement.

An accompanying five-year plan that includes personnel and equipment needs was also well-received although the committee made no recommendation on it.

Before he made his proposal public, Thompson complained about the attention it received from the media and the Durham Firefighters Association. Other city officials also declined to discuss the plan.

Thompson's rationale was that publicity would jeopardize the plans. That could still happen, but the initial reception indicates that he'll probably get at least most of what he wants.

Most of it also is needed as Durham grows.

The discouraging aspect of the controversy is the city officials' apparent desire to avoid public discussion of public business for as long as possible.

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# Fire Destroys Family's House

By Meredith Barkley  
Staff Writer

**GREENSBORO, NC**—Michael McCormick couldn't bear to look.

It was a recent morning and he had gone to inspect the burned out hull of the two-story frame house in western Guilford County that his family had rented for nine years. But no sooner had he arrived and beheld the charred embers, singed furniture, burned clothes, then he turned and left.

"It was emotional," he said.

The fire, which one of his sons accidentally started on the front porch, roared through the front living room and bedroom.

It then moved upstairs to two bedrooms and, finally, into the attic and through the roof.

The kitchen was spared fire damage, but the heat was so intense it melted a pile of pennies. A pet kitten was found dead, huddled under a table against the far wall of the kitchen.

"The house is gutted on the inside," said Roger Duncan, assistant chief of the Deep River Fire Department. His department along with the Colfax Fire Department fought the fire.

The front part of the house, hammered together with long wooden pegs, was built in 1865 and once served as a school, Duncan said.

No one was injured in the blaze. But McCormick, his wife, Mary, and their four children lost everything. They had rented the house on Pegg Road near the intersection of Gallimore Dairy Road and had no insurance on its contents.

They'll no doubt eventually replace most of their

losses—their clothes, the new living room furniture. Friends and others in the community already were responding to their need with clothes and other items. Someone even gave them a new washer and dryer.

"Everyone's been just great," said McCormick, 37. But the baby pictures of the children, the 25 baseball trophies McCormick's sons won through the years . . . all gone.

"They were tickled to

death over those things," McCormick said of the trophies.

The fire started soon after his sons John, 5 and Joshua, 9, got home from Colfax Elementary School.

Both Michael McCormick and his wife were at work—he at Southern Foods and she at McDonalds. Only minutes later, John and Joshua would have left for their grandparents house to spend the rest of the afternoon, Michael McCormick said.

After dropping off their books, John headed out to play. The child had a book of matches with him, McCormick said.

After five minutes, Joshua, who was in the living room, heard glass breaking. It was his bedroom window. Alarmed, he looked outside and saw flames shooting up the outside of the front of the house.

"John had been outside playing and accidentally set something on fire," McCormick explained. The youngster had inadvertently set fire to an old sofa that had been put out on the concrete front porch to be hauled away.

Joshua grabbed a bucket of water and tried to douse the flames, McCormick said, but it was not use. So he and John ran a half mile to their grandparents house where McCormick's sister, Doris Orner, dialed 911 and reported the fire.

By then it was too late.

"In 15 minutes time, the whole front of the house was consumed in fire," Michael McCormick said. "That's the first time John ever did anything like that. It really tore him up."

"They didn't sleep too good, Mary McCormick said. "They tossed and turned all night."

The couple's daughter, Rebecca, 3, was at her babysitter's when the fire broke out, and another son, Kevin 11,

was at Northwest Middle School.

After 13 years of marriage, the fire knocked the McCormicks down at a time when they finally were about to free themselves from debt.

"We had just about paid all our bills," the father said. "We had about \$600 to \$700 left to go. Everything was looking great. The last 13 years hasn't been easy. Seems like every time we get going something happens."

"This just about wiped us out," Mary McCormick said.

"Can't get much lower, can you?" Michael McCormick added. "Tell parents to sit down and have a good talk with their kids about playing with fire. It can destroy everything you have, plus it can kill."

Those wanting to donate clothes or household goods can telephone the Deep River Fire Department at 454-1949. The McCormick Trust Fund has been set up by Southern National Bank of N.C. Donations can be made at any branch or can be mailed to Southern National Bank of N.C., 606 College Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27410.

## Fire Breaks Out At Plant

**WILMINGTON, NC**—A dust-collecting machine caught fire recently at a gypsum wallboard manufacturing plant on Sunnyvale Drive. No one was injured.

The machine had been turned off for cleaning when flames erupted around 1:15 p.m. at the Gold Bond Building Products Division. Dust apparently had backed up in the collector, causing it to overheat and ignite the bags inside.

"That will happen if it goes over a certain temperature," said plant manager Bill Dungan.

Continued on page 7

## Fire Destroys Shop

By Peggy Gosselin

**CANTON, NC**—Dan Warren's dreams literally went up in smoke recently when his business was destroyed by fire.

Warren's Paint & Body Shop, located on Hwy. 19-23 just east of Canton, was completely consumed by flames when a welding spark came in contact with paint lacquer or some other form of thinner or solvent, said Center Pigeon Fire Chief Wayne Dotson.

The afternoon blaze was reported at 12:57 p.m., Dotson said. Four trucks and 17 men immediately rushed to the scene of the fire, along with two trucks from Canton, two trucks and 10 men from North Canton and a truck with eight firefighters from Clyde.

Firefighters contained the fire within an hour, but continued to monitor the smoldering embers throughout the evening. Dotson said.

"Anyone that thinks metal won't burn is wrong," Warren said as he watched a bulldozer begin to clear away the rubbish and debris.

The fire spread so rapidly. Warren said, that he and others were unable to get two vehicles out of the building. One was an old expensively restored pickup truck which already had about \$5,000 worth of work in it.

Warren was also unable to retrieve any of his tools trapped inside the heated inferno.

Power was interrupted briefly for neighboring residences while firefighters attempted to get inside the building, Dotson said.

The future looks bleak for Warren, who noted that he nor the building's owner, J.L. Westmoreland, had insurance on the structure.

"There isn't much profit in a small business like this to begin with," Warren said. "I just don't know what I'll do now."

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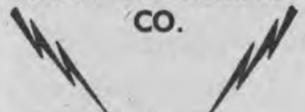
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# 100 Flee Fire In Durham

By Kammie Michael  
Durham Herald  
Staff Writer

DURHAM, NC—A kitchen fire grew into clouds of thick, choking smoke that filled the Eagle Manor boarding house on Pilot Street recently, causing the evacuation of about 100 people. Two Durham firefighters were injured, and six residents were overcome by smoke.

No one was hospitalized. The fire began about 10 p.m. in the first-floor kitchen of the former Durham Business College dormitory, which contains more than 100 rooms.

Kevin Langley, the night manager, said a pan of grease apparently caught on fire.

"I knocked on every door I could get to. It must have been 20 rooms," Langley said. "There were no fire extinguishers on the first floor."

A second-floor resident, Wendell McFarland, said he tried to throw blankets on the fire, but it spread too quickly.

When firefighters arrived, the kitchen was in flames and smoke had spread throughout the three-story dormitory.

Assistant Durham Fire Chief William A. Bibby III said firefighters made a quick, sweeping search of the building, warning residents to evacuate.

Firefighters then made a more thorough check of all three floors.

"They checked the broom closets. They went through every room," Bibby said.

Firefighters rescued six residents from their rooms on the third floor.

"They were all conscious, just disoriented," Bibby said. Battalion Chief J. M. Beck

said a rescue method called "buddy-breathing" was used to bring one resident to safety. A firefighter, E. F. Delucia, helped the resident breathe by sharing her air mask as they negotiated three flights of stairs to safety.

Two residents were trapped in a room at the back corner of the third floor. The two men clung to a window frame while firefighters raised a ladder to the window.

"You're all right. You're all right," one firefighter yelled to the men as they tried to climb out the window onto an air conditioner vent before the ladder was in place.

In the end, the firefighters did not use the ladder. They were able to take the men through the building to the fresh air outside.

Bibby said the search of the building took about 30 minutes.

Firefighter A. J. Green pulled a chest muscle when he kicked in a door while firefighters were searching the building. Firefighter Steve Peeler suffered a minor leg injury.

The fire completely destroyed the kitchen, which was beside the front entrance. The rest of the building received smoke damage.

Residents stood outside the building, not knowing if they would be able to return to their smoky rooms during the night.

Six engine companies were sent to the three-alarm fire, and 28 firefighters were at the scene.

At 11:30 p.m., hundreds of nearby residents were standing in the street watching. All the boarding house occupants were outside. The fire was out, but firefighters continued to battle the thick, gray smoke filling the building.

# Exploding lighter caused Blaze at Stem home

By Paul Bonner  
Durham Sun  
Staff Writer

STEM, NC—Fire officials said recently an exploding cigarette lighter tossed onto a bed apparently caused a recent fire that destroyed the home of 87-year-old Lessie Riley.

Kenneth Harp, a deputy with the Granville County Sheriff's Department and volunteer with the Stem Volunteer Fire Department, said relatives told firefighters the fire began when Mrs. Riley's adult daughter, Ruby Riley, lit a cigarette in a bedroom and the lighter exploded.

Apparently Ruby Riley was frightened and threw the lighter on a bed, which caught fire, Harp said.

The flames spread quickly, engulfing the bedroom and coming out windows and eaves by the time Harp, one of the first firefighters to arrive, got there. Firefighters were unable to contain the blaze.

"Once it burnt through the roof, it spread like wildfire," Harp said.

Meanwhile, a 4-H Club is collecting clothing and other items for Mrs. Riley and her two adult children who lived with her.

Mildren Carden, a member of the Stem Sunrises 4-H Club, said people wishing to donate items or get more information can call her at 528-3703; Mrs. Dorothy Suitt—Mrs. Riley's daughter—at 528-1796; or 4-H member Linda Reeves at 528-1901 after 3 p.m.

Ms. Carden said Mrs. Riley discovered the fire sometime between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. at her home, whose mailing address is Route 6, Box 820, Bell Town Road, Oxford.

She said Mrs. Riley called her daughter, Dorothy Suitt, and son-in-law, O'Neal Suitt, who live next door, and told them her house was on fire,

said Susan Couch, Mrs. Suitt's daughter.

By the time the Suitts ran next door, the house was fully in flames, Ms. Couch said. Firefighters from the Stem Volunteer Fire Department were joined by the Providence Fire Department in battling the blaze.

Mrs. Riley said her children, Ruby Riley and Raymond Riley, got out of the house safely, but they and the Suitts were treated for smoke inhalation at Granville County General Hospital.

One firefighter also was treated for smoke inhalation and another for a cut hand, Ms. Carden said.

## Fire Breaks Out At Plant

Continued from page 6

"It just took off," said Capt. E. J. Vosnock of the Wilmington Fire Department. "It melted itself down."

Part of the roof was torn back to ensure the fiberboard in the ceiling had not caught fire.

Firefighters feared the flames would spread to the roof or through the grid-type floors, but the blaze did not cause any structural damage to the five-story building, said Lt. I. H. Bordeaux of the Fire Department.

"It burned in both directions—up and down," Bordeaux said.

Twelve firefighters, using three engines and an aerial platform, worked to put out the fire, which was under control within 30 minutes and extinguished within two hours.

The dust collector, on the third floor of the building, received an estimated \$3,500 in damage, Vosnock said.

# Damage In Fire Minor

MOREHEAD CITY, NC—A small fire broke out recently in the Donut Palace, 4109 Arendell St., Morehead City, but firefighters quickly brought the situation under control, and damage was minimal.

Fire Chief Jerry Leonard said he was in the area when the fire call was dispatched about 10 a.m. He went inside and tried to knock down the fire with an extinguisher, but flames already had gotten into the wall framing.

Three fire trucks, a utility truck and a Morehead City Rescue Squad ambulance were sent to the restaurant.

Firefighters put out the blaze, removed smoldering insulation and vented smoke from the building.

Officials checked the building after the fire was extinguished. Chief Leonard said the fire possibly was caused by an electrical malfunction in a back room near some cooking equipment.

There was minor damage to the structure, and there was smoke damage throughout.

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## Dunn Firefighters Called To 3 Blazes, Arson Eyed In Two

DUNN, NC—Members of the Dunn Fire Department responded to three fires recently. Fire Chief Joe Campbell said two of the fires—one at an abandoned building and another at the Dunn Shrine Club—were set and may be related.

"They were close together in location and three was no known source of ignition," Chief Campbell said.

The Dunn Police Department is conducting an investigation into both fires. "We think at least two of the fires had some help," said Chief Campbell.

Dunn Police Chief Bill Powell was at the scene of the Shrine Club fire and said officers are conducting an investigation at the request of the fire department.

The incident was listed as "a fire of suspicious nature," according to a report filed by Dunn Police Sgt. J. D. Hudson.

The Carolina Components fire was outside the city limits.

The first call was received at 5:42 p.m. at Carolina Components on S.R. 1800 just off U.S. 301 at the old Wellons Candy Co. property north of Dunn.

An office building was well involved when firefighters arrived.

The structure was located inside a fenced-in area and firefighters had to cut a chain to get inside the fence.

The owner, Bill Godwin, asked the fire department to allow the fire to burn, but fire fighters extinguished the fire because they wanted to determine the cause of the fire.

Campbell said the building was not occupied and the facility was not operating.

There are two large warehouses and the burned office building at the site. The facility has not been in operation for several years.

Firemen were still at the scene of the fire at 6:45 p.m., when firemen received a call for Curve-Craft, 600 Powell Ave. A dumpster was on fire at the rear of the building. The fire caused three sprinkler heads to discharge.

There was minor damage to the back of the building.

"I don't feel this was related to the other incidents," Campbell said.

At 7:40 p.m. firemen had returned to both fire stations and the call came for the Shrine Club at 300 E. Wake St.

"We're still checking on the shrine club fire," Campbell explained. "It started in the back of a storage building behind the Shrine Club."

The small building was well involved and the rear of the Shrine Club building also caught fire.

"If we had not been at the station, that extra four or five minutes, there would have been more damage," Chief Campbell said.

Damage, according to a member of the Shrine Club, may be \$15,000.

The fourth call was a rekindling of the initial fire at Builders Components. Firefighters returned to the scene, but allowed the building to burn to the ground at Mr. Godwin's request.

At 11 p.m. firemen received a report of a woods fire in the Route 2 area.

Fire officials attributed that call to a mistaken caller instead of a false report.

Campbell said a citizen probably saw a yellow glow from sodium vapor street lights and believed it was a woods fire.

## Metrolina Fire School

By George B. Weaver  
Stanly Community College

ALBEMARLE, NC—Well over 400 firefighters from throughout North Carolina and adjoining states flocked to Albemarle for the two-day specialized training offered by the Metrolina Fire School on a recent weekend.

The school, sponsored by Stanly Community College, provided the firefighters training in 16 subjects associated with the protection of life and property from possible ravages by fire.

## Blowing Rock Council Hears About Fire Problems

By Caroline D. Walker

BLOWING ROCK, NC—Blowing Rock Town commissioners had to face some critical issues at a recent meeting concerning fire protection in the Green Park Inn area.

George Sudderth, Blowing Rock's fire chief, said the highest fire load with the least amount of fire protection is the Green Park Inn.

The hotel's insurance company recently tested the flow of the nearby fire hydrants and found it to be inadequate.

Sudderth said he knew the town had some problems with water pressure in the area near Green Park, but officials thought there was more water flow than there actually was.

"There definitely is a problem out there, and something does need to be done," Sudderth said. "Right now there is only 250-300 gallons per minute flowing through the hydrant. We would like to see 1,500."

Some three and a half years ago, Sudderth said, 12-inch fire lines were laid, but the lines are fed by 6-inch lines, which do not deliver enough water.

"It doesn't just affect the

## Fire Kills Henderson man

HENDERSON, NC—Fire investigators still are trying to figure out what caused a house fire recently, that killed a 24-year-old man.

Jimmy Malcolm Manning Jr. of Raleigh Road died of smoke inhalation in the fire, which filtered through a house where he was spending the night, authorities said.

The home is owned by Herman Clark, but was occupied by Morris Pendergrass, who called the fire department about the blaze.

Pendergrass also said he tried in vain to rescue Manning from the home, which was engulfed in flames.

When firefighters brought the fire under control, they found Manning lying in the bed. Damages to the home and contents were estimated at \$13,000.

Green Park Inn but the condominiums in the area as well," Sudderth said.

Commissioner Charlie Tarr said he felt the town owed everybody fire protection and that something needs to be a part of the general plan.

Charles Clement, attorney for the Green Park Inn, told commissioners that maybe it was time for them to "bite the bullet" and attend to the problem.

"We didn't come here to litigate tonight, but we came here to tell you that we have a problem," Clement said. "I came with a 2-by-4 to get your attention, but I don't want to use it."

Commissioner Carl Underwood said he did not appreciate a comment Clement made referring to whether the Blowing Rock Fire Volunteer Department could even handle a dumpster fire in the area of the hotel. Clement apologized for the remark.

Sudderth said the fire flow wasn't as bad as that, but that there was a problem.

"Yes, we can put out a dumpster fire, but I'm going to be upfront with you, we don't have enough to handle a good outhouse fire," Sudderth said. "I'm telling the both of you, you don't have anything out there to be proud of."

Concerned commissioners asked Sudderth if there were any other areas in Blowing Rock where sufficient fire flow as not being afforded. Sudderth said there are a few areas that need work, but they aren't as critical as the Green Park area.

"If they can get us 1,500 feet to a good hydrant, we can get it there," Sudderth said. "We'd have to lay some hose on the ground but we could do it."

Sudderth said that with a hydrant, the fire department's tanker can act as a supplement. But if a fire were to break out in large structure like the Green Park Inn, a tanker would not be sufficient.

"With the Green Park, a tanker would be like a bee attacking an elephant," Sudderth said.

The fire department did present a plan to the town

which would extend some of the 12-inch lines. The plan would be done in four phases which Sudderth said would expand over a four-year period.

The cost of the phases would be broken down into \$50,000-\$60,000 a year increments. Sudderth reminded the commissioners that the sooner the matter is taken care of, the better.

"And it's not going to get any cheaper," Sudderth added. "The longer you wait, the more it is going to cost."

## Arson Suspected In Fire At Vacant House

MOREHEAD CITY, NC—Arson is suspected in a fire recently that damaged a vacant house off Highway 70 in Davis.

Firefighters were called shortly after 10:30 p.m. to the two-story wood-sided house, the residence of the late Daisy Ipock. The structure is now owned by her daughter, who also is named Daisy.

Davis firefighters responded to the call and requested mutual aid from Stacy and Marshallberg fire departments. An estimated 35 firefighters, six fire trucks and one utility truck were dispatched to the blaze.

When they arrived, fire was showing through windows on both floors of the house. Davis Assistant Fire Chief Lee Davis was in charge of the firefighting. Volunteers went inside and extinguished the blaze, which was believed to have started in a closet under a staircase in a bedroom on the first floor. Firefighters stayed out until shortly before midnight.

Carteret County Fire Marshal J. E. Harrell, who helped investigate the fire, said there was no electrical power to the house, and it was not furnished. The fire damaged about 25 percent of the structure.

Officials collected evidence to be submitted to the State Bureau of Investigation laboratory in Raleigh. They also posted arson reward information on the house.

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