



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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Teenager Rescues Woman From Fire

By Veronica Cogdell
Rocky Mount Telegram
Staff Writer

ROCKY MOUNT, NC—An 18-year-old Rocky Mount man saved the life of an elderly woman when he carried her from her burning Gay Street home.

The fire, which caused \$25,000 damage to two homes at 721 and 723 Gay St., was the second fire that occurred at the duplex within a matter of hours. Rocky Mount firefighters were dispatched to the same address the previous day. Damage was reported at \$400 from that fire.

Rocky mount police say they are investigating the fires, which were started with kerosene, as arson.

Police have no suspects.

No injuries were reported. The occupant of 721 Gay St., Edna James, was not at home at the time of the fire, witnesses at the scene said. But apparently the news of the fire caused her to become ill. She was transported by Stony Creek rescue workers to Nash General hospital for chest pains.

The occupant of 723 Gay St., 77-year-old Beatrice Jones, might not have been as lucky if it hadn't been for a quick thinking neighbor.

Keith Little, 18, who also lives on Gay Street, said when he learned the house was burning, he ran to Jones' rescue.

"I was at home looking at television when my friend came in and said he saw smoke coming from the house," Little said. "I immediately called the fire department. I saw a lot of smoke coming from the house and I knew Miss Bea was kind of old.

"So, I put my shirt over my mouth and somehow I managed to get her from the back of the house. Then I ran around to her sister's house and by the time I got back, the fire department was here.

"My main concern was getting Miss Bea out," he said.

Jones said she lost everything in the fire.

"There was just so much smoke," she said. "I was in the kitchen trying to take my pill when the boy next door picked me up and carried me out."

Lt. G.K. Cooper of the RMPD said the fire was started in a high crime area of the city.

"This is a high crime area at Tillery and Gay," Cooper said.

Byerly Top Firefighter In Davie County

By Kathy D. Chaffin
Davie County
Enterprise-Record

DAVIE COUNTY, NC—Jerry W. Byerly can remember watching the Mocksville Fire Department battle the fire that ravaged Anchor Seafood on June 11, 1981.

Byerly, a jailer for the Davie County Sheriff's Department at the time, was off that day and was riding with a deputy on patrol. They drove by the restaurant at about the time the first firemen arrived.

The deputy stopped to direct traffic, and Byerly helped. Afterward, "I just stood around sort of helpless and watched the firemen," he said. "I remember thinking, 'I wish I knew what to do to help them.'"

It was a month after the fire at Anchor Seafood, which has now reopened and is operating as Captain Steven's, that Byerly joined the Mocksville Fire Department.

Two years ago, he was certified as an fire instructor, and last year, Byerly was named training officer for the department. In May of this year, he started a rookie school for firemen with less than four years experience.

Byerly is also one of two members representing the Mocksville department on the Davie County Fire Investigation Task Force.

Recently, Byerly was bestowed his greatest honor when he was named the Davie County Firefighter of the Year for 1988.

In presenting the award at the annual firemen's banquet, Commissioner Bill Foster reviewed Byerly's background:

"Our winner tonight is 28 years old. He's a graduate of Davie High and Catawba College. He's been a firefighter since 1981. He's completed over 450 hours of training.

"He has a reputation of being dependable and thorough. The only problem is he's not here."

Pete Dwiggin, chief of the Mocksville department, accepted the plaque on Byerly's behalf.

"This is one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon a Davie County fireman," Dwiggin said. "I thank you and I'm sure Jerry thanks you."

Byerly, 29, was still embarrassed about having missed the banquet when interviewed for this story.

He said he had every intention of going, but lost track of time while working on renovating the homeplace of his wife, Mocksville attorney Lynne Hicks, on Wilkesboro Street.

Byerly said he had planned to quit by 6 p.m. to

get ready. But by the time he remembered to check his watch, it was 6:45 and he was covered with soot after having removed an old furnace.

Byerly decided he wouldn't have time to make the 7:30 p.m. banquet at the County Line Fire Department. Besides, he said he figured the odds were 11-to-1 that someone else would be named Firefighter of the Year.

The members of each of the county's 12 volunteer fire departments selected their own Firefighter of the Year to compete for the county title. The winner was selected by Wayne Ashworth, Emergency Services Director for Rowan County, on the basis of resumes provided by each nominee.

Byerly said he got home after 9 and had just gotten out of the shower when Dwiggin called to tell him he had won. "I was real surprised," he said. "I was speechless."

Byerly expressed his gratitude for the award and his apology for missing the banquet in a letter to the editor of the *Davie County Enterprise-Record* last week. "Had I been there in person, I could not be more proud," he said in the letter.

Helping people

Byerly referred to the banquet again when asked what made him a good fireman. "I can't say dedication because I wasn't there to receive the

plaque," he said, shaking his head.

Byerly smiled and continued: "I guess wanting to help other people. That's what a volunteer fireman is. You've got to be willing to give your time to help other people."

It's not always easy.

"Sometimes, it's hard to get up and go," he said. "It really is in the middle of the night."

One night, in particular, Byerly said Lynne heard his pager go off and awakened him. He said he put on his clothes and sat on the side of the bed to put on his shoes.

He was sitting there asleep when Lynne awakened him again 30 minutes later.

These days, Lynne has help awakening Byerly—their 10-month-old son, Jerry Jr., whom they call "JJ." The pager awakens him first, "and then he wakes me up and I'll go," Byerly said.

An employee of the town of Mocksville at the water plant, Byerly said he likes the teaching aspect of his fire department work the best. "I like to further my education as best I can and share that with everyone in the department," he said.

Byerly has attended the National Fire Academy in Wilmington and has completed numerous firefighting courses at Forsyth Technical College and Davidson County Community College. As an instructor, he is required to complete 16 hours of upgraded instructor training per year.

Much of the training deals with fire safety. "If we can keep one person from getting hurt or help him do his job better, it's worth the time to go," Byerly said.

Political force

Byerly said he is pleased to see the firemen in Davie County beginning to take an active role in politics. The Davie County Fire Association earlier sent out questionnaires to the six candidates for the three available seats on the Davie County Board of Commissioners and plans to meet with them next Tuesday night.

Byerly, who earned a degree in political science from Catawba, said it's going to take firemen getting more involved in local elections for them to get the financial support they need. "If we tell them what we need often enough and loud enough, eventually we'll get more support from them," he said.



Mocksville fireman Jerry Byerly was named Davie County Firefighter of the Year last week. (Davie County Enterprise photo by Robin Fergusson)

RURAL WATER SUPPLY: Utilizing Resources

Water supply for tanker shuttle operations in rural areas often presents concerns for fire departments. Location of water point, accessibility, available gal-

lons of water, and methods of drafting are all factors to be considered when setting up a pumping station. In this article I would like to examine different methods of

drafting and possibly assist in utilizing that much needed water source.

One of the least expensive methods of drafting from a rural water source is the use of flotation devices on suction trainers. Starting around \$200 dollars, Floats are effective and simple to use. Good accessibility to water source is a must when using this drafting method.

Another good and inexpensive option are troughs. Troughs are normally constructed of wood in a "V" shape, sloping down into the water's edge several feet, preventing suction strainers from touching bottom. But this method requires a water source with good access up to the water's edge, therefore preventing its use in many instances.

Perhaps the most popular method of water supply in rural areas is the dry hydrant system. Dry Hydrants normally consist of six-inch PVC SCH 40 pipe. Installation involved digging a trench several feet below water level and extending outward from the water source as far as necessary to attain good access. The pipe is preassembled and set in place, then the trench is covered with fill dirt. TIP: When pipe is assembled and before installing, attach a two-inch PVC pipe in a vertical position using threaded rods (see illustration) and label in feet 1, 2, 3, etc. so you will always know pipe depth. This also very helpful in determining available gallons of water. We have 10 dry hydrants in our district, cost averaging approximately \$225 dollars per hydrant. SCH. 1120 pipe can also be used and is a heavier pipe but costs much more.

Some situations where a water source is not available, above ground storage tanks can be used. This is not the most attractive method because it is difficult to obtain and construct above ground tanks. The most obvious disadvantage to this method is the number of gallons of water available per tank. Above ground tanks cannot supply enough water for a major structure fire, but could be an effective method for fighting the average size dwelling type structure.

Portable and floating pumps present another option to be considered. They can be too expensive for many volunteer organizations since they cost several thousand dollars each. Portable pumps can also be time consuming in set-up and in the case of larger structure fires, may not provide the needed GPM.

Permanently fixed pumps, whether driven electrically or mechanically presents another expensive options. Rivers, streams, or where the water level is too low to draft

Waynesville Fire Fighters To Work 40 Hrs.

By Kathy Nanney
Waynesville Mountaineer
Staff Writer

WAYNESVILLE, NC—The Town of Waynesville and the U.S. Department of Labor are apparently nearing a payment settlement on a complaint that nine town fire fighters were not adequately compensated for overtime.

And to keep such issues from arising again, Waynesville Town Manager William Sutton announced recently fire fighters will be placed on a 40-hour work week, a decision he said employees probably will not like.

Town attorney Frank Queen told the Waynesville Board recently the town might have to pay about \$30,000 to nine fire fighters the Labor Department charges were not adequately compensated for overtime.

Initially, the Labor Department asked Waynesville to pay \$75,000 in back wages after a complaint was filed by former department fire fighter Carl Bryant.

Waynesville fire fighters work 24-hour shifts, with eight hours designated for sleep and the rest allotted for work.

But to avoid further overtime pay issues and confusion, Sutton said he would change the fire fighters' schedules so they would work 40-hour weeks on eight-hour shifts.

"They're not going to like this," he said. "The old shift was a traditional thing . . . but it looks like we're going to have to change. . . I liked the 24-hours-on, 48-hours-off shift myself."

conventionally, a fixed pump may become a necessity before the water source can be utilized. IN this situation, digging an access driveway with dozer or backhoe would be a cheaper solution.

When choosing water points, try to space out pumping stations so that all structures in your district are within 1.5 miles from a water source. This will give more uniform fire protection throughout your district.

Antioch's five mile district uses 10 dry hydrants and one permanently fixed pump. We will be installing a few more to give us total coverage. This has been an ongoing project since 1986, and other departments in Johnston County are working hard to achieve this goal as well.

Submitted By:
Stan Creech,
Fire Chief
Antioch VFD
Johnston County, NC

Technology Reports Released

Electrical Equipment in Hazardous (Classified) Locations, TR 88-1 by Jane I. Lataille, P.E. and Full-Scale Fire Tests on FRP Furniture, TR 88-2 by A.K. Kim are now available from the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE).

TR 88-1 explains the measures that can be taken to use electrical equipment safely in areas containing such materials. Revisions now being made to the current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard on intrinsically safe electrical equipment are also reviewed.

TR 88-2 reports on three full-scale fire tests carried out to study the incremental fire hazard in a dormitory room contributed by three different types of Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) furnishing. Room temperatures, heat-release rate, optical density in the exhaust duct, and toxicity of the fire gases were measured. Results showed that when a door was closed the fire growth was severely hindered due to lack of oxygen. However, the fire gases that accumulated posed an extreme hazard to the occupants. The results also showed that when a fire retardant was used in furniture, ignition was delayed and the furniture's contribution to room fire severity was reduced.

TR 88-1 is priced at \$5.35; TR 88-2 at \$7.50. To order: Society of Fire Protection Engineers, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110 (617) 482-0686.

Submitted By:
D. Peter Lund
Executive Director
Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Southport Firefighters Certified

SOUTHPORT, NC—Southport volunteer firemen are Brunswick County's first state-certified firefighters.

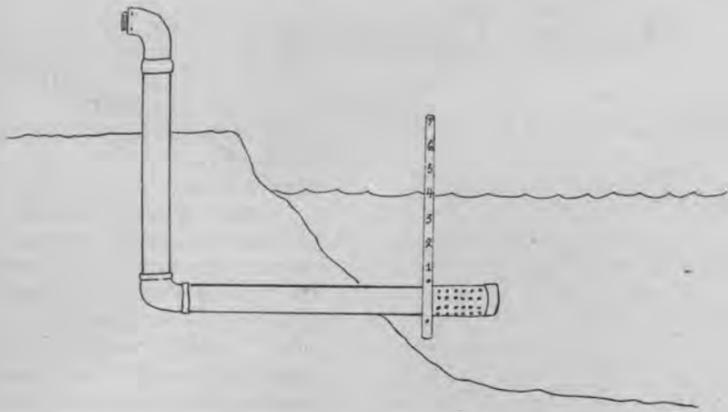
"We're the first ones in the county to complete this certification," said Chief Harold Aldridge.

"This is going to benefit the community in that our firefighters will be better qualified and more knowledgeable in the duties they perform."

The 14 men in the department took the comprehensive six-month course offered at Brunswick Community College by the National Fire Academy, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Greg Arnett of Fayetteville was the state-certified instructor.

The course is not required by the state, but it is recommended. Aldridge said,

TYPICAL DRY HYDRANT



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We reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us. Please note that when submitting a newspaper clipping we need to know the name of the newspaper, the town it is located in and the date of the article. We also need to know who wrote it if it has a byline. If you submit original photographs, please make a note on the back of each photo if you want them returned.

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Fire Guts Tarboro Country Club

By Marc Chandler
The Daily Southerner
Staff Writer

EDGECOMBE—A popular Tarboro club was gutted in a spectacular blaze that kept firemen busy until day-break.

A neighbor of the Hilma Country Club reported the fire to the Tarboro Fire Department around 12:30 a.m. after hearing an explosion and seeing flames shooting from a kitchen window, according to Tarboro Fire Chief George Cherry.

"When firemen arrived, there was a heavy concentration of flames in the kitchen area, and extending into the attic," Cherry said. "They were able to enter the building in two places, but they had to get out when the roof started caving in."

An aerial ladder truck, three pumpers and an equipment van from the fire department were used to combat the flames, which extended as high as 30 feet.

"While the neighbor called in after hearing an explosion, that doesn't necessarily mean the fire was caused by an explosion," Cherry said. "The explosion could have merely been the result of the fire venting itself. At this point, we're just not sure."

The fire was brought under control about 3:30 a.m. Cherry said firemen remained at the scene until after 6 a.m. to wet down "hot spots." Pinetops firemen assisted by stationing a truck in Tarboro to monitor other calls.

He said the overnight rain was not a hindrance to firefighters, but was also not a main factor in helping to control the blaze. Excess water from the hoses and rain accumulated knee-deep in the basement.

Home Damaged by Fire

NEW HOPE—New Hope Fire Department firefighters reported damages totaling \$32,500 after a house fire recently.

Unattended cooking was blamed for the fire at the home of Charles Ford at 310 Norlee Drive.

Mutual aid was provided by Pinewood Fire Department.

Pikeville Fire Department firefighters reported damages totaling \$7,600 after a house fire at 100 Britt St. The home is owned by Patricia Case. Fremont Fire Department and Fremont Rescue Squad provided assistance.

"The building is a total loss," Cherry said. "What isn't burned is soaked."

Lloyd Owens, president of the club's board of directors, stayed at the scene until the fire was brought under control. He said he is unsure of the club's future.

"We won't know anything until there is a meeting with the board of directors," Owens said. "Hopefully, a meeting will be scheduled soon."

"Hilma has been sort of a landmark in Tarboro," he continued, "but it's too early to make any determinations of its future."

The club, which was activated in the late 1940s, had about 300 members.

Dog Detects Eden House Fire

By Ann Fish
Reidsville Review
Staff Writer

EDEN—A family pet detected a house fire in time for a boy and his mother to escape from their burning home, but the dog died in the fire, Eden Fire Chief Larry Rhodes said.

Rhodes said the dog began barking when fire broke out about 1:15 a.m. at the home of Judy Duke, 215 Bridge St. The dog apparently went into the child's bedroom and woke him. The boy alerted his mother and they both escaped from the house. The little dog, later found in the mother's bedroom, apparently died of smoke inhalation, Rhodes said.

The fire apparently started in the kitchen, which was gutted. It also gutted a bedroom and an enclosed back porch, the chief reported. The rest of the house received smoke, heat and water damage.

Firemen from the Leaksville Station as well as the aerial ladder truck from the Central Station responded to the scene and remained at the site for about two hours, Rhodes said.

The boy, whom Rhodes was unable to identify by name, was wearing only his pajamas when he ran from the house. Salvation Army officials were called to bring a coat and other clothing to the child. The officials also put the Dukes up at Mar-Gre Motel for the remainder of the night, Rhodes said.

Appreciation Banquet Held For Local Firemen

WARRENTON—Norlina citizens said a collective "thank you" to members of the town's volunteer fire department during a steak dinner held at the Norlina Landmark. Wives of firemen were special guests for the 7 p.m. event.

Underwritten by contributions from Norlina business firms and individuals, the gala affair was the outgrowth of residents' desire to show their appreciation to the fire unit which was named Warren County's best all-round fire department for the second year in a row.

Fire Chief Gene Medlin thanked retired firemen for their efforts in staging the meal, and paid special tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Ebin Willis, owners of Norlina Clover Farm, for spearheading the dinner.

Mayor Bill Delbridge served as master of ceremonies, telling firemen and guests during the evening that he hoped that as much as \$20,000 in matching state funds—provided under provisions of House Bill 300—might be available to assist in an expansion of the town's fire house.

Henderson Home Fires Probed Arson Is Suspected

By Ed Brackett
Asheville Citizen
Tri-County Bureau

ASHEVILLE—Separate fire that heavily damaged two Henderson County homes near here may have been deliberately set, lawmen said.

Dispatchers received word about midnight of a fire at a house on Bobs Creek Road in Green River township about nine miles south of Hendersonville. Henderson County Sheriff's Department Detective Randy Stepp said the house's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Ward, both of Hendersonville, did not live in the house and no one was in the two-story structure when it burned.

Volunteers for the Green River and Blue Ridge fire departments put the fire out by 4:30 a.m., he said.

Damage was "fairly extensive," Stepp said, declining to give a dollar estimate. "There was heat and smoke damage throughout the house."

Stepp said Ward lives in a area retirement home, while his wife lives in Hendersonville. The detective said two fires burned in the homes—one upstairs, the other downstairs—but refused to give

specifics on why arson is suspected.

The second fire damaged a home some 20 miles away in Bat Cave, just off U.S. 64-74 and N.C. 9 near the Rutherford County line.

Sheriff's Detective Walter Harper said the fire probably began between 8:35 and 9 a.m., about the time dispatchers were notified. Bat Cave Fire Department crews, assisted by Gerton and Edneyville firefighters, secured the blaze by 10 a.m., but not before smoke and fire damage took a heavy toll on the one-story ranch house.

Neither the home's owner, Candy Enloe, nor its renter, Enloe's brother Russell Albright, were in the structure during the fire, Harper said. Enloe, who lives in another Bat Cave home, was apparently out of the area, while Albright was working at Ralph Wilson Plastics Co. plant near Fletcher, Harper said.

Harper said detectives do not believe the two fires are related, and investigations into both are continuing. The sheriff's department had no suspects in either blaze in custody the night of the fire.

The State Bureau of Investigation is assisting in the cases.

Wiring Short Suspected As Downtown Roxboro Fire Cause

ROXBORO, NC—A wiring short between floors is thought to have started the fire that destroyed the old Person Furniture Co. on North Main Street, said Roxboro Fire Chief Buddy Hall.

"We are speculating wiring," Hall said. "We found the point of origin and there were some beaded wires."

The fire kept about 100 firefighters from nine departments tied up nearly all afternoon fighting to keep it from

spreading to adjoining businesses.

Damage to the building owned by Dallas Rhodes was estimated at \$200,000 with \$45,000 to the contents.

Hall said other buildings were damaged by smoke. Damaged to Jan's Studio of Dance was estimated at \$1,500, the Desert Sand bar \$3,000, and empty building owned by Tom Pass \$2,000 and The Bootery \$2,000.

Fire At Home Kills Man, 68

By Danny Mayes
Asheboro Courier-Tribune
Staff Writer

RAMSEUR—A 68-year-old Ramsey man, who had been heating his mobile home with a kerosene heater, was killed after the heater overturned and the residence caught fire.

Charles Benjamin Isley, Rt. 2, Ramsey, was pronounced dead at the home, off N.C. 49 just north of the Ramsey town limits, Randolph County Sheriff's Department Det. Sgt. Tony Lowe said. Isley's body was sent to the N.C. Medical Examiner's Office, Chapel Hill, to determine the cause of death.

Lowe said Isley, who had been living in the three-room mobile home for about three years, had no electricity in the residence and used kerosene lamps and a kerosene heater. Lowe said the heater was old and smoked badly.

"He had gotten sick about a week or two weeks ago and the doctor said he'd been breathing too much carbon monoxide," Lowe said.

Neighbors saw Isley standing on the front porch of his residence, Lowe said. The door of the home was open and smoke was billowing out.

"That wasn't unusual because it (the residence) smoked all the time," Lowe said.

Later, a neighbor saw a lot of smoke coming from the mobile home's windows and noticed the doors were closed. The neighbor checked a door, discovered it was hot, looked inside a window and saw what appeared to be a fire.

When Franklinville Volunteer Fire Department personnel arrived, they found Isley's body on the floor near the front door of the residence, Lowe said. The front door was padlocked.

Lowe said Isley kept the front door locked and used the back door as a means of entering and exiting the residence.

"The kerosene heater was in the 'on' position, wide open, and was lying on its side," Lowe said. "In my opinion, he either knew the fire had started and he could not get past it (the fire) to the back door or the smoke overwhelmed him."

Isley's niece, Shenna Cheek, who lives in Ramsey, said that Isley, a lifetime native of Ramsey, was a World War II veteran and had served in Germany. She said Isley was highly thought of and would help anybody who needed assistance.

Fireman Driving by Helps Put Out Blaze

SALISBURY—A stove fire that spread to the kitchen of a South Fulton Street home recently caused \$2,000 damage in a blaze

Smokey Says:



When winds blow... fire hazards increase! Avoid the use of outside fire on windy days!

where no one was hurt, fire officials say.

Jean Bass, who lives at 817 S. Fulton St., apparently had set a pan of food on her stove about 7:20 p.m. and went next door to check her clothes at the coin laundry, said assistant fire chief Rick Fesperman.

When she returned a few minutes later, Fesperman said, she noticed flames through the window and called the Salisbury Fire Department.

But firefighters got a jump on the blaze.

As the call went out from the 911 emergency operations center on Old Concord Road, Salisbury Fire Department Shift Commander Capt. Jim Hartsell was in his car at a stop light in front of the house.

That helped the arriving fire engines considerably, Fesperman said.

"He was able to get a quicker size-up of the fire, find the hydrants and as the company was coming in give them their assignments," he said. Crews from two engines and a ladder truck used one hose to extinguish the fire in about five minutes.

The house, valued at \$50,000 and owned by Ola Trexler of Old Concord Road, was damaged about \$2,000 by fire and smoke, Fesperman said.

"We were able to get a quick call on it, so we were able to knock it down quickly," Fesperman said.

Electrical Worker Is Freed

By Dennis Hill
News-Argus
Staff Writer

DEEP RUN—Neighbors and rescue workers labored for six hours amid knee-deep piles of corn here to free a man trapped beneath a collapsed grain bin.

It was necessary to amputate two of Herman Deaver's fingers to free him, authorities said.

Deaver, in his 50s, was doing electrical work beside a corn bin on the farm of J.C. Howard Jr. on Rt. 1, Deep Run, when the bin collapsed on him, burying him beneath tons of corn.

Fast action by nearby workers and neighbors called to the scene saved the life of Deaver, who was wiring a recently erected bin about 2 p.m. when the walls of the cylinder gave way.

"I bet there were 50 people who helped dig him out," said Howard, who operates a grain business in addition to farming.

Howard said several workers standing close by began to dig immediately to prevent Deaver from suffocating. Others were called in from outlying operations on the Howard farm and from neighboring farms.

Some simply happened to be in the area when they heard the call for help. Many were still on the scene when Deaver was finally freed by rescue workers using a crane. He was rushed to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville.

Units of the Pink Hill Res-



cue Squad and Deep Run Volunteer Fire Department were the first on the scene. Eventually, rescue and fire units from across Lenoir County and as far away as Jacksonville were called in.

Deaver's arm and leg were pinned beneath the crumpled metal. By nightfall, hundreds of people surrounded the stand of high bins,

awaiting word on his condition.

At 6 p.m. a surgeon flown in by helicopter freed his arm by amputating two fingers. At five minutes to eight his right leg was freed. As workers pulled him to safety a cheer went up and neighbors formed a cordon of clasped

Continued on page 7

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Ormond, Carraway and Taylor Honored by HVFD

SNOW HILL—Hookerton Fire and Rescue Departments recently honored its outstanding fire and rescue personnel at the annual Christmas Party at the fire station.

Charles Carraway was named "Fireman of the Year" and was presented a plaque by Fire Chief Buck Joyner.

"This award is very special to me because it is voted on by the members of the department. I have always enjoyed helping others, and I really appreciate this honor," Carraway said.

He has been employed at DuPont for the last twenty-six years where he serves on their rescue squad. He has served on the fire department for approximately 20 years and also serves as a member of the rescue squad.

Carraway and his wife, Ada, have two children, Pam, who is a freshman at East Carolina University in Greenville, and Christina, who attends who attends Greene Central Junior High.

The Carraways attend Hookerton Methodist Church.

For relaxation he enjoys all sports and gardening.

Ricky Ormond, a native of the Hookerton Community, was selected as the "Rescue Person of the Year," and Charles Carraway presented his plaque.

A native of Hookerton, he is a graduate of Mt. Calvary Christian Academy and Le-noir Community College. He

is self-employed as a farmer.

Ormond is very active in the fire and rescue departments where he has been a member for three years and serves as secretary of the rescue squad.

His hobby is fishing. Fire Chief Buck Joyner presents a fireman with a "Chief's Award" each year. This person is one who is always there and willing to help the chief in any endeavor.

Danny Taylor was the recipient of this award.

He has been a member of the fire department for three years and rescue squad for two years.

Taylor is employed by Randa Corporation in Kinston as a shipping manager.

He and his wife, Jennifer Rose of Ayden, attend Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Hookerton.



NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTTS.

PSOs Join County Fire Marshal in Effort to Distribute Fire Alarms

By Deb Gardner Coates
Monroe Enquirer Journal
Staff Writer

MONROE—The Monroe Public Safety Office has joined the county fire marshal's office in its efforts to put smoke detectors in every home in the city and county.

PSO Capt. Don Howard said city residents began calling his office after reading about the new program starting in the county.

The program, a brainchild of Union County Fire Mar-

shal Melvin Broome, puts smoke detectors in homes of individuals that can either not afford them or are unable to install the units themselves.

In response to the requests in the city, smoke detectors provided from those donated to the fire marshal's office will be placed in Sells Street and Charlotte Avenue residences, Howard said.

Howard said, as in the county, there are no funds available in the city to pur-

chase the units and the program will rely on donations. "If we can get them, we will be more than happy to install them."

"When ever we get smoke detectors donated, the city will get some of them if they need them," Broome said. "It will be a combined effort to cover the city and the county."

All fire stations in the county are helping in the effort by installing the devices, Broome said.

Names of individuals who can benefit from the program can be submitted through individual request or by the Department of Social Services.

For further information about the program or an civic organization interested in donating detectors or financing the purchase of detectors, should call Broome at 283-3622 and Howard or PSO fire inspector C.W. Adcock at 289-3181, ext. 284.

County's First Fire Marshal To Start Feb. 1

By Clara Cartrette
Whiteville News-Reporter

WHITEVILLE—A Taylorsville man has been hired as Columbus County's first fire marshal. He began work Feb. 1.

Stephen A. Townsend, 44, accepted the job this week for a salary of \$26,500, according to County Administrator Roy Lowe. He is married and has two children.

"Commissioners authorized me to offer him the job at this salary, and he has accepted," Lowe said. "I think Columbus County is extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to hire someone with his experience and enthusiasm."

An attempt to reach Townsend by phone failed.

He was out on a fire call.

Sam Koonce, chairman of county commissioners, echoed Lowe's sentiments, stating that he thinks Townsend is the type of person who will make the fire marshal's program work well for the county.



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Being Prepared

NORTHWILKSBORO—Around 375 firemen attended the fifth annual Northwest Fire and Rescue Workshop at the John A. Walker Center, which was described by Wilkes County Fire Marshal Ken Walters as being "the best ever."

The workshop began with a keynote speech on the K and W Cafeteria explosion, given by Winston-Salem's assistant fire chief Steve Sloan and fire captain Adrian Krites.

Krites and Sloan recounted last year's gas explosion, which leveled the K and W Cafeteria in Winston-Salem and heavily damaged an adjoining motel. The force of the explosion burst windows in an excess of 600 feet from the site of the gas leak.

Because a motel was involved, a major part of the responder's work was a rescue operation. The speakers advised other firemen how to deal with this type of disaster.

Nashville Firemen Make Gains in 1988

By Chris Johnson
Nashville Graphic

NASHVILLE—A record was set in December, 1988 by the Nashville Fire Department. In December, the firemen responded to 75 calls, breaking the previous record, set only this past Aug., of 67 calls in one month.

Until Aug. 1986 when the town of Nashville hired Jay Dornseif and Ricky Dorsey, its first two paid firemen in the town's history, dedicated volunteers had been the town's protectors.

In Sept. 1988, increased property taxes provided funds to create two more paid positions which Danny Whitman and Bill Aycock fill during the night-duty (11 p.m. to 8 a.m.) hours. Dornseif and Dorsey are at the fire station from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During the hours from 5-11 p.m. and on weekends, no one is at the station. But the 32 volunteer firemen, who are away from their jobs and more available for emergencies, respond to the calls.

The state recently started keeping records of fire calls. Their graph coincides with local records indicating that peak call times are around 3:00 in the afternoon.

"People are beginning to fix dinner about that time," said Dornseif, who indicated that a lot of house fires occur around dinner time.

Nashville firemen, also trained in life-saving techniques, respond to medical emergency calls as well. In December, the teams responded to 40 calls for emer-

gency medical assistance.

There are four Emergency Medical Technicians among local fire officers. To receive state certification as an EMT the applicant is required to complete 160 hours of classes in emergency care and pass a state certification exam.

Three other Nashville fire officers are classified as First Responders. That training is similar but is shortened. Only 60 hours of classes are required and although the student must pass the class, he is not required to pass a state exam.

Both EMTs and First Responders, who have to be recertified every two years, are trained in lifesaving techniques and have even succeeded in bring two patients back to life.

"You don't think about what happened until it's over," said Dornseif when asked about arriving at the scene of an emergency, adding, "you just go on instinct."

The area served by the Nashville Fire Department is an approximate five mile radius and is named the Newton S. Gully Fire District, after one of the town's former dedicated volunteer firemen.

Wear proper gear

The now deceased Gully, who was seriously burned late in his career while responding to a call, stressed to his successors the urgency of dressing appropriately in fire retardant turn-out gear (which he had not done) before responding to a call.

Dornseif and Dorsey spoke

almost in unison on that matter. "Our men have to have that gear on before they get on the truck!" they said emphatically. "You never know what you'll come up against."

They also never know what kind of weather they'll be working in. Dorsey told *The Graphic*, "Sometimes we come back and can stand our ice-coated coats up on the floor." And during the summer, "it can be so hot that you can't breathe."

The Nashville Fire Department has earned an excellent State Department of Insurance rating.

"There are no 'ones' in the whole state," said Dornseif. There are three big cities in the state with a "2" rating, and six or seven towns larger than Nashville, including Rocky Mount, with fully paid fire departments that are rated "3."

Nashville Fire Department has a current rating of "4" in the town limits and a "6" in Nash County. "There are only 15 fire departments in the state with ratings that low," Dorsey stated.

Homeowners in the Gully District benefit because of this rating. Insurance rates are considerably lower. When someone buys a house, insurance companies call the fire department to get the department's rating before finalizing a policy.

"We're always trying to improve our rating," said Dorsey, whose four-month-old Dalmatian puppy, Ranger, came in to see what was going on.

Two Die in Fire; Alarm Unplugged

By Dennis Hill
Goldsboro News-Argus
Staff Writer

GOLDSBORO—A disconnected smoke alarm may have contributed to the deaths of a Wayne County woman and her son recently.

Ellen Byrd, 76, and her son John Wesley (J.W.), 46, died from smoke inhalation after their mobile home at Rt. 5, Mount Olive caught fire about 10:30 p.m.

Firemen said they found the home's smoke detector unplugged.

"That's the terrible part," said Pricetown Fire Chief C.W. Smith. "If they'd just had the thing turned on..."

Unattended cooking was blamed for the fire. A scorched pot was found on a back burner in the kitchen, Smith said, with the burner turned up high.

Mrs. Byrd's body was found in a front bedroom, according to a report filed by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. J.W. Byrd's body was found in a bedroom at the opposite end of the home.

The Byrds lived at the intersection of N.C. 55 and N.C. 403 near the Duplin County line.

Smoke pouring from the mobile home was spotted by relatives living next door about 10:15 p.m. The home was not completely engulfed by the fire, Smith said, because of its tight construction, which prevented air from reaching the flames.

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hands to escort him to the waiting helicopter.

Doctors at Pitt Memorial described his condition as favorable.

Deaver works for Grady Electric.

Howard's daughter, Vivian, said Deaver was conscious during the ordeal, and could be heard calling for help.

"He was outside working on the dryer and couldn't move fast enough to get away from it," she said. "It fell on him and his arm is trapped under the grain bin. They can even see him and he's been yelling and screaming, 'Help, help,' and talking to them."

Terry Varnell of J.C. Howard Grain, said Deaver was working around the bin, hooking up wires.

"The next thing we knew, it had collapsed," Ms. Varnell said. "It fell, it hit another bin, rolled around, hit the dryer and ended up two of them burst open."

No one else was hurt in the accident.

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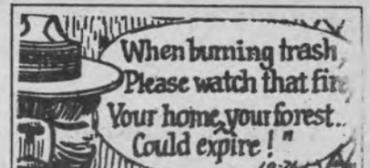
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John Baker Re-elected Chief of Farmville Fire

FARMVILLE—John Baker was re-elected chief of the Farmville fire department. The following officers were elected with him: Lyman Craft and Ralph Cash, assistant chiefs; W. E. Wooten, secretary; Ben Cotton, Beasley Everette, Milton Elks, captains; Richard Tripp, James Blalock, Sam Summerlin and Ray Mewborn, lieutenants.

In 1988, the department answered 58 fire calls inside Farmville, and 49 in the rural areas. The department spent 1426 hours on fire calls, and 3110 man-hours training during the year. This is an average of about 125 man-hours per person.

Chris Powell responded to 91% of all calls, answering 107.

George Gay had the largest number of training hours,

268. He attended the N.C. State Fire College in Wilson for a 40-hour class on pumps.

Jay Morris attended a 40-hour class on hazardous

chemicals. he and Chief Baker attended a class at the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland.

Fire Destroys Home

By Jimmy Allen
Wake Weekly News
Editor

WAKE FOREST—A fire, believed to have started in a kitchen, destroyed a family's home near Wake Forest recently.

"When we got there flames were coming out of the front bedroom window and the carport door (on opposite sides of the house)," Wake Forest fire chief Jimmy Keith said.

The house, at the intersection of Forestville and Ro-

gers roads about a mile south of Wake Forest, is owned by Phil and Linda Stroud. The Strouds were part owners of Marshall-Stroud Dairy until the operation was sold.

One of the Stroud's two sons, Reid, was home when the fire started about 2:30, Keith said. He smelled smoke, called the fire department and then tried to extinguish part of the fire by spraying water into a bedroom window with a garden hose until firemen arrived.

"That was a sight—Reid trying to put that fire out with a hose," Keith said. In his 17 years with the fire department, Keith said he has seen others lose all of their belongings and can imagine what it is like to completely start over again.

Three other department—Rolesville, Stony Hill and New Hope—responded in mutual-aid with tankers, Keith said, while two other departments—Falls and Youngsville—had firemen wait at Wake Forest's fire station in case more help was needed or in case of another fire.

With the three departments' tankers and one of Rolesville's fire trucks drawing water from the Stroud's swimming pool, fire fighters had an ample supply of water, Keith said. The problem was the intensity of the blaze which sent a huge column of gray smoke into a cloudy sky.

Firemen Discover Fire While Owner Tries to Call

By Jimmy Allen
Wake Weekly News
Editor

WAKE FOREST—A jammed phone system prevented a Rolesville woman from using the 911 emergency telephone number after she discovered her mobile home was on fire.

But the system did not delay the arrival of fire fighters because some of them noticed smoke in the distance and investigated without getting a call from dispatchers in Raleigh.

"It was just about burned up when we got there," Rolesville fire chief Roy Ed Jones said about the home on U.S. 401 about a quarter mile north of the town's center.

Luwanda Briles had just returned from dropping her child off at school about 9:15 a.m. when she opened the front door and saw fire, Jones said. She was unable to enter the home so she got back into her car and drove to Rolesville's police station to call for help. When she dialed 911 though, the line was busy, the chief said. A policeman then called for help via radio.

Emergency response teams in the county had been warned by the county dispatcher that the 911 lines were not working properly. So Jones and some other firemen went to the fire station to stand by in case of a fire. From the station, they saw smoke and Jones said they probably responded about the time Mrs. Briles was at the police station.

Despite the quick response time, firemen were unable to save the mobile home because of the blaze's severity.

"I would consider it a total loss," Jones said.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but Jones said it started in the living room beside a couch. "I'm not sure if it was cigarette or what," he said.

The 911 system has been out of service before. This is the first time, though, a local fire or rescue department has

had a call during the outage.

A spokesman for Southern Bell said the problem with 911 was the result of an unusually heavy phone load at North Carolina State University. The university has initiated a new system of registering for classes by using the telephone. The quicker a student preregisters, the more likely he or she will get their preferred classes.

The day of the fire, sophomores could call and many of them live on campus and those phone lines go through the same switching station as does the 556 exchange, said Mark Collins of Southern Bell. That slowed service.

With the load so heavy, it would likely take more than one call to get through, he said.

"It won't happen again," Collins said. Southern Bell is working on a system to cap the number of calls processed through the switching station to save room for special services lines like 911 to proceed through the station without delay.

Jones said something needs to be done and he is going to make a formal complaint.

If the fire had been farther from the station where smoke could not have been seen, the firemen would have been delayed.

"It's just not right," he said.

If callers trying to report an emergency cannot get through to Raleigh on 911, they should call either the Wake Forest (556-3176) or Rolesville (556-3506) police stations. Wake Forest's station is manned 24 hours a day.

Cary votes to buy land for new fire station

RALEIGH—The Cary Town Council voted to buy two acres on Hi House Road near the Upchurch community as a site for a fire station.

The town will pay \$80,000 for the property, in an undeveloped area inside the town limits, from the Heartland

Group of Durham and Seattle, Wash.

Fire Chief Ned K. Perry guessed it might be 1992 or 1994 before a station is built there. "We're a little ahead of the game," he said. The town has four fire stations, with No. 4, at the entrance to the Oxxford Hunt development, the nearest to the new site.

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