

Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association



BEESON CROSSROADS

Station #26

BELEWS CREEK

Station #31

CITY VIEW

Station #17

CLEMMONS

Station #14

FORSYTH COUNTY

Station #9

FOREST HILL

Station #19

GRIFFITH

Station #15

GUMTREE

Station #35

HORNEYTOWN

Station #29

KERNERSVILLE

Station #41, 42

KING

Station #30

LEWISVILLE

Station #11

MINERAL SPRINGS

Station #18

MOUNT TABOR

Station #20

OLD RICHMOND

Station #27

PINEY GROVE

Station #32

RURAL HALL

Station #23

SALEM CHAPEL

Station #24

SOUTH FORK

Station #10

TALLEY'S CROSSING

Station #25

TRIANGLE

Station #16

UNION CROSS

Station #28

VIENNA

Station #21

WALKERTOWN

Station #22

Winter 1990-91

Forsyth County, Fire Departments

HISTORY OF BEESON CROSS ROADS FIRE AND RESCUE, INC. STATION NUMBER 26

Beeson Cross Roads Volunteer Fire Department was first discussed on March 9, 1954 at Ernest Tilley's Store by a group of men concerned about the fire protection in their immediate vicinity. Mr. Clarence Whicker, Sr. was made chairman of the meeting with Mr. R.T. Hedgecock chosen to be secretary and treasurer. A building committee was named shortly thereafter. Mr. Robert Joyce gave a 99 year lease of a small track of land. Mr. Carl Linville gave the lumber on the stump for the building. Such was the birth of the Beeson Cross Roads Volunteer Fire Department.

The first official meeting was held on November 5, 1954. At this first meeting Mr. Pleasant H. Smith was elected President of the organization. At later meetings Mr. Edgar Idol was officially elected Chief of the department with Joe Davis Smith Assistant Chief.

As is always the case, some names seem to stand out in the brief history of this organization, but the amazing accomplishments and success of the department can not be considered the work of a few. There have been many who have given freely of their time, energy, and ability. It would be a difficult task to give credit to every individual who has been a part of the success of this department.

Residential and industrial growth brought additional fire problems into our district. It is the fire department's responsibility to replace the equipment and maintain the latest training techniques in order to provide the best protection for the citizens of our district. The department has strived to obtain the latest equip-

ment and in doing so began to expand beyond the limits of the original building. Under the guidance of Mr. Holland Shields, Chairman of the Board of Directors, a new building was completed in July 1983 with room for future growth.

At the present time the department is equipped with two rescue trucks, three fire trucks, and a cascade air trailer. The personnel includes 44 active firefighters and 10 junior firefighters. The department feels fortunate to have had only three chiefs during its 35 year history. Mr. Edgar Idol was chief until his retirement. Mr. Joe Smith was chief until his retirement. Mr. Stan Swaim was elected as chief at that time and remains so today.

Beeson Cross Roads Fire and Rescue wants to thank other departments in Forsyth and Guilford Counties for their assistance during the past years. Many problems have been reduced by the help of our neighboring departments.

The first call to active duty was a call to a brush fire on the property of Mr. Stokes Willard on October 27, 1955. Since that time the three biggest fires the department has responded to were Robertson's Dairy, Kernersville Lumber Company, and Adams-Millis Company. In each of these cases, the fire fighting was a joint task in cooperation with other departments.

The department was involved mainly with fire fighting until 1960 when a rescue squad was added. Then the name was changed to Beeson Cross Roads Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. With community growth and increased responsibility the department looks toward the future, with a prayer for the prosperity and safety of the citizens of Forsyth County.



HISTORY OF BELEWS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. STATION NUMBER 31

The first meeting with the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire department in the community was called at Goodwill Community Center on October 6, 1962.

On October 20, 1972, the community met to receive the steering committee report. The committee recommended that a fire department be established and a fire station be built near Crims Cross Roads. A building committee was appointed and the Belews Creek firemen organized and began training.

In March, 1963, we purchased a used fire truck.

In May, 1963, a ladies auxiliary was organized.

In November, 1963, the two bay 30 feet by 40 feet building with full basement was completed.

In April, 1973, two more bays were added to the building making it 60 feet wide and 40 feet deep with full basement.

In July, 1982, a contract was awarded for a one story building 30 feet by 40 feet. We purchased our first pumper from Forsyth County on June 12, 1965.

On March 31, 1970, a new Chevrolet pumper fully equipped was delivered.

In October, 1972, with encouragement of the firemen and people from surrounding communities the director's voted to support the firemen in their effort to form a rescue squad.

In April, 1973, the rescue unit was in operation with temporary vehicle and limited equipment.

In May, 1985, the people in the fire district voted for a fire tax to fund the needs of the fire department. This has enabled

the department to purchase equipment that otherwise could not have been done. Every effort is made that tax money is spent wisely to better our fire department.

In October, 1989, a new pumper tanker with a 1,000 gallons per minute pump and a 1,000 gallon tank was delivered.

In January, 1990, a second rescue vehicle was put into operation. With these additions the department now has two pumpers, one tanker and one brush unit for fire protection, two squad trucks for emergencies and two boats for water rescue.

This department has had four chiefs since we organized in the fall of 1962: Don Neal, Conrad Parham, J.W. (Pete) Fare. Harold Parham is chief at the present time. We now have thirty-three fire and rescue personnel and two junior personnel.

For this department to survive from the beginning from 1962 until 1985 it took hard work from the firemen, ladies' auxiliary, and all interested residents. We have had chicken pie, bar-becue suppers, chicken stews, auction and bake sales, raffles and have helped Paul Myers with catering.

This organization was made possible only by co-operation of the entire community and was built in a patriotic manner this country was founded upon. Where can you blow a siren knowing that your neighbors will be at your side in less than five minutes with equipment to serve your needs while at the same time they know expenses or salary will not be paid. Only in a rural area with an active fire and rescue department.



HISTORY OF CITY VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 17

One Sunday morning during church services, Crews Church caught fire, the congregation ran outside and watched as it burned to the ground for there was no fire department organized in the county. It was the end of the 2nd World War and our attentions were returning home to our communities. The City View area, named for its high elevation lending it a view of the city, began to grow and other homes and business' saw the perils of fire. Concerned citizens gathered in 1949 at the City View School and decided to organize a fire department. Under the guidance of Commissioner Wally Dunham, a Fire Chief, M.G. Peddycord was elected and others volunteered as firefighters. The group obtained a small truck with some equipment and stationed it at Bud Sinks Service Station near our present station. Dispatching was handled by the Winston-Salem Fire Department via telephone to individual firefighters homes. City View was one of the first fire departments in the county. It had no territorial limits and handled calls in Eastern Forsyth County and assisting other fire departments such as Walnut Cove, High Point, and Mocksville. In 1952 City View received its legal charter and in 1954 a Fire House was completed. This building served as a department and community meeting facility that firefighters utilize for business and training meetings which have been held every Tuesday night since 1954. Later in the 1950's and early 1960's, City View assisted in the formation of other departments. The Department of Insurance established legal fire districts and the existing fire departments developed mutual agreements. This along with the installation of communication equipment enhanced this county's fire protection service.

Today City View Volunteer Fire Department has remodeled its facility to accommodate its expanding needs. The Department maintains a 1500 g.p.m. Class A Pumper, a 750 g.p.m. Class A Pumper/Tanker and a Quick Response/Brush Unit. City View is manned by 21 volunteer firefighters and 7 volunteer officers who are required to be trained to a minimum of N.F.P.A. Level II and III standards. City View is governed by a 9 member board elected by and from the citizens of the City View District who then elect the Fire Chief. The department also sponsors Junior and Cadet programs for persons ages 14 and up. A resident program was established in 1989 to provide support for senior members and to improve equipment response time.

City View obtained a ISO rating of 6 after being the 1st to challenge the rating system in Forsyth County along with Mt. Tabor. The result was lower insurance rates for homeowners and businesses. The community reciprocated by placing their Fire Department on Special Fire District Tax, providing continued and consistent financial support, thereby assuring the necessary funds for the provision of excellent fire protection.

Today as in 1949 we remain a community oriented Fire Department and wish to thank our community for their continued support. A special appreciation is also in order for the men and women who presently and in the past have unselfishly volunteered their time, effort and skills to protect the lives and property of this and surrounding communities.



HISTORY OF CLEMMONS FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

STATION NUMBER 14

The Clemmons Fire Department was organized and chartered in 1951 by a group of concerned citizens from the Clemmons Civic Club. The 17 original incorporators have now evolved into a fire department of 29 volunteer fire fighters, 2 paid fire fighters, and a paid fire chief.

Clemmons first fire apparatus was purchased from the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners in 1952 and was housed in the Hunter Brothers Service Station until the fire station located on Highway 158 could be completed. In the year 1960 the Clemmons Fire Department Board of Directors purchased their first UL approved fire apparatus. With the purchase of the UL approved apparatus and the hard work of the volunteer fire fighters the fire department was rated 9AA in 1964. With this rating came the lowering of insurance rates for the home owners of the community.

In the year of 1972 the Board realized that there was a need for a faster response to emergency medical calls in the community. As a result of this need, a first responder, EMT program was started in the fire department and now has 18 EMT's and 11 first responders operating a basic life support vehicle for emergency aid in the community.

The year 1982 proved to be the biggest year in the history of the Clemmons Fire Department. With growth of the community of 2500 people in 1951 to over 12,000 people in the year 1982 the decision was made by the Board that the department could no longer provide the services needed to the community from

the 2500 square foot fire station built in 1952. As a result of this decision a new 8000 square foot fire station was built on James Street and occupied in 1982-1983. With the fire fighters always striving to provide the best services possible to the citizens to the community, they were able to lower the insurance rating to Class 6. By the lowering of the rating a very substantial lowering of insurance premiums was realized by the homeowners and the business community. In the year 1982 the biggest step forward for the existence of the Clemmons Fire Department was taken by the Board, by seeking a referendum for the formation of a fire protection district funded by a special tax, that can only be used for fire protection and rescue services in the Clemmons Fire District. This vote was supported by the community by a 6 to 1 vote in favor of the tax.

The fire fighters have now earned their Level III Fire Fighter Certification from the N.C. Fire Commission making the Clemmons Fire Department one of the first in the state to have accomplished this certification program. With the on going growth in the community the Board has now employed the chief of the department and 5 fire fighters to supplement the volunteer fire fighter program.

The Board of Directors and the fire fighters of the Clemmons Fire Department will continue to strive for the best possible fire protection and life support services for their fire district community through their dedicated commitment to the community.



HISTORY OF FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 09

In early 1951 when property was involved by fire in Forsyth County, there was no fire department to respond. At the urging of County Commissioner Wally Dunham, Forsyth County hired the first paid firefighters in March 1951. A fire truck which was a jeep that pulled a water trailer, was purchased by the county and the two men to operate. This was the beginning of the Forsyth County Fire Department.

In the early days of operation the personnel on duty responded to fires in the rural areas of the county, inspected the public schools and worked with various community groups to help organize volunteer fire departments. During the short period of 1951-1954 a total of twelve volunteer fire departments was organized in Forsyth County.

In August 1954 Forsyth County appointed its first Fire Marshal to head the County Fire Department and to coordinate the activities of the Volunteer Fire Departments.

The Forsyth County Fire Department and the Volunteer Fire Departments serving Forsyth County have grown tremendously since 1951. Today there are 21 volunteer fire departments serving rural fire districts which are made up of over 700 certified firefighters and many more support people such as board members and ladies auxiliaries which are extremely important to the departments.

The Forsyth County Fire Department located at Smith Reynolds Airport continues to have the same basic responsibilities today as the organization was founded upon-the support of the assistance to the volunteer fire departments serving the county. The County Fire Department employs 40 people who work in four divisions: Administrative, Fire Suppression, Communications and Fire Prevention/Investigation.

The administrative division ensures that each fire department maintains standards in the areas of training and equipment in order to provide the lowest possible insurance rates for citizens of the county and maintains firefighters eligibility for local, state and federal benefits.

The division is staffed by the Fire Administrator and a secretary who work closely with each Fire Chief and serve as the liaison between each fire departments, the firemen's association, fire chiefs council, training committee and local, state and federal governments.

The Fire Suppression Division employs eleven firefighters. Two firefighters each shift are assigned to "Truck 109", a fire apparatus designed as a service company truck that carries various types of specialized equipment for firefighting. A third firefighter on each shift is assigned to a Crash/Fire/Rescue truck which remains on the airport property to coordinate fire suppression and emergency activities involving aircrafts.

The primary function of the fire suppression division is to coordinate and support fire suppression activities for the volunteer fire departments. "Truck 109" continues to respond throughout the county with volunteer departments to structural fires and major incidents.

The Suppression Division also conducts inspections of business occupancies in the county.

Emphasis on training continues to be an important part of the division. Our personnel, serving as instructors, are an active part of the training programs within the various volunteer departments.

The Communications Division operates the emergency communications center that receives and disseminates request of fire and emergency medical service. The radio network today consist of 5 fire frequencies, three primary emergency medical telementary system that allows EMS paramedics to send EKG's from patientside to doctors in the hospital emergency rooms. The entire radio system involves approximately 450 base, mobile and portable radios. Also, each volunteer uses a radio receiver which they carry for notification of calls. The communications network also uses state-of-the art remote receiver/microwave technology to expand the radio coverage area and reduce recurring cost to taxpayers.

In addition, the communications center is in radio contact with Stokes, Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, Davie, Davidson, Surry and Yadkin counties, the Winston-Salem Fire Department, Kernersville Fire Department and the National Weather Service.

The division is staffed by 16 communications operators, four lead operators and a supervisor.

The communications manager assists the volunteer departments with frequency coordination, FCC licensing, radio purchasing and maintains the county's E-9-1-1 system database.

During 1989 the division handled a total of 28,734 emergency calls.

The Fire Prevention and Investigation Division has the primary responsibility of enforcing the county's fire prevention code. The division is staffed by the Deputy Fire Marshal, three Assistant Fire Marshals and a secretary.

Residential fires continue to be Forsyth County's most serious fire problem, 36% of all fires reported in were residential.

Our primary means of attempting to reduce the number of residential fires is through Public Safety Education Programs and private home fire safety inspections.

Through the support of the Fireman's Association, smoke detectors are provided free of charge to any resident of the county. This program is proving very instrumental in reducing the number of fire related injuries and deaths.

The Fire Prevention and Investigation Division also conducts a program to review new building plans to ensure compliance with Fire Code Regulations.

The division continues its program to investigate the origin and cause of all fires in Forsyth County. During 1989, 99 investigations were conducted. Incendiary fires continue to be the leading cause of property damage by fire in Forsyth County. Investigations of these incendiary fires and false alarms resulted in 28 cases being cleared, which represents a clearance rate of 28 percent. As a result of these investigations, division personnel made 28 arrests in 21 cases.

The Fire Prevention and Investigation Division continued its participation in the overall fire service training program for our 22 volunteer fire departments with division personnel providing over 150 hours of instruction in 1989.

In closing, please let me acknowledge the hard work of these people over the past 39 years who have made the fire service program in Forsyth County what it is today. The dedication and commitment of the volunteer and career firefighters of Forsyth County cannot be surpassed. Also the tremendous number of people who have worked behind the scenes without recognition over

the years have been instrumental in providing the level of service our citizens have come to expect.

I feel very fortunate to be associated with Forsyth County who has been a leader in providing rural fire protection and with the many men and women of the Forsyth County Volunteer

Firemen's Association who give so freely of their time and talents.

Very Truly yours,

Jerry B. Lewis

Fire Administrator

Forsyth County Fire Department



If your house is not properly and visibly numbered . . . or if there is no street sign to identify your location . . . important time can be lost in trying to locate you in case of an emergency.

HISTORY OF FOREST HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 19

To the men who started it all this was a dream come true; the result of many, many hours of work, miles of walking and knocking on doors; meetings, discussions and more meetings. The object of their admiration was a brand new Mack fire truck, all shiny chrome and completely equipped; just arrived by special messenger from the factory. They were there in the parking lot of Mineral Springs High School in late June of 1953 to receive instructions from a factory representative in operating this beautiful but highly complicated piece of equipment.

It all began at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Forest Hill Civic Club on June 14, 1951. The real kick-off came at a board meeting on March 22, 1952. Representatives of local businesses along with members of the Civic Club and other interested residents were present. Mr. Wally Dunham, County Commissioner, spoke on organizing a volunteer fire department. Mr. Dunham had given much time and study to the subject and had helped other communities get started, so he was able to give good advice and the benefit of his experience.

In April, 1952 plans for raising funds were presented to the Civic Club by President Al Spillman; each street in the area was assigned to a volunteer worker.

In the meantime, after legal consultation, it was decided to draw up a trust agreement and establish a trust fund, administered by trustees elected from the Civic Club membership into which all funds and properties would be placed. The Forest Hill Volunteer Fire Department was thus organized under the sponsorship and trusteeship of the Forest Hill Civic Club; this framework was adopted on May 6, 1952.

After exhaustive efforts, the truck committee recommended on October 16, 1952 that a Mack fire truck would best suit the needs of the community. This recommendation was accepted. The financial goals were reached and the truck was paid for upon its acceptance.

The work had just begun with the arrival of the truck. Training and organization of the department continued. Bayless E. Dockery was elected as the first chief of the department. He instituted a training program in fire fighting and first aid. The first alarm was answered on August 12, 1953 to a woods fire.



At this time plans were being made to raise additional funds to build a fire station. Plans drawn and donated by a local architect were accepted by the building committee. In July of 1953, a lot was purchased on North Cherry Street on which to build a fire station. Construction was started in January, 1954; the fire truck was housed in the Johnson Farm Supply Company until construction of the station was completed.

A tragic fire on the 7th of September, 1954, at the Lewisville Methodist Church presented the county departments their first real test in mutual aid and cooperation. The companies worked together in a very credible manner.

The department was called to assist the city of Winston-Salem during a major fire at the B.F. Huntley Furniture Company in February, 1956. Mutual aid was rendered on other major fires including the roller mill fire in Walnut Cove (1959), the Rural Hall Hotel Fire (1960), the Carver School Fire (1960), the riots in Winston-Salem (1967) and Graylyn Estates (1980).

At the annual dinner meeting of the Civic Club, April 18, 1963, Chief B. E. Dockery, having completed ten years as chief of the department, was presented a plaque in recognition of this outstanding service to the department and to the community. In May, 1965, the department regretfully accepted his resignation. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Harold H. Garner was elected Chief.

On March 23, 1966, the department suffered a great loss in the passing of former Chief Dockery. He had contributed much, much more than fighting fires to the people who knew him and his community.

In April, 1966 a tanker was purchased to supplement the pumper. A new pumper was added in 1972, this being a GMC Howe pumper. Other improvements that year were the purchase of additional land and the building of two new bays.

Chief Harold Garner retired as Chief on July 15, 1975 and was replaced by K. Michael James who presently serves as Chief.

In December 1978 a new Mack pumper was added which replaced the tanker; the tanker was sold to Eastside Fire Department in Albemarle.

Much time was spent during the early eighties on two important projects. The first was working toward a rating inspection by the insurance services office; this inspection was conducted in August 1982 which resulted in an improved rating. The second was the vote to create a tax district for fire and rescue protection in the Forest Hill Area.

The department organized a rescue squad which went into service on June 1, 1983. This unit serves the Forest Hill Fire District as well as other areas including some annexed areas within the city of Winston-Salem.

On June 6, 1985, Former Chief Harold H. Garner died unexpectedly. Chief Garner had remained active with the department as a Trustee and continued to help the department and Civic Club in many ways. From the beginning, when he served as General Chairman to develop plans for raising funds for the fire department, and through the years as he served as Assistant Chief, Chief, and Trustee, Mr. Garner proved himself to be a valuable leader.

During the summer of 1985 the approval was given to write specifications for a new Mack Pumper-Tanker and a new Wheeled Coach Squad Vehicle. This apparatus was placed in service during the Spring of 1986. The 1972 GMC Pumper was sold to the Altopass Fire Department in Spruce Pine. A 1989 Suburban Service Vehicle was placed in service in June, 1989.

Our department answered a record number of calls in 1989; a total of 892 fire and emergency medical calls. Our members spent 2029 hours in training and drills.

HISTORY OF GRIFFITH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 15

The initial meeting to organize a fire department within the Griffith community was held at the home of A. Crouse Jones. This move was brought about following a fire in a garage and a home that was a total loss. Buck Reynolds, Chief of the Lewisville department, and Wally Dunham, a county commissioner, presided at the meeting. They explained the procedure needed to start a fire department. Dunham stated the county would advance \$1,000 to any community within Forsyth County wishing to organize a fire department. This appropriation would be self-liquidating over a ten year period.

An organization meeting was held at Griffith School on April 17, 1952. The government body elected at that time were W.F. Kern, chairman; G. B. Tuttle, treasurer; Glenn Ray, secretary; Clinton Lee, Crouse Jones, Raymond Hill, and Albert Berrier. Charles Fox was named chief. An order was placed for a Mack pumper which cost \$12,000. It was delivered during the latter part of June, 1953. The department received its first alarm on July 2, 1953.

Groundbreaking for the station, 1400 West Clemmonsville Road, was held on Easter Monday, 1953. Dedication and open house was held on Easter Monday April 18, 1954. Costs of material for the building was approximately \$15,000. The first full year budget was \$1,780.00.

Due to Winston-Salem's growth and annexation program it was necessary for Griffith to seek a new location for a station or discontinue operation. A suitable location, 5190 Peters Creek Parkway, was purchased from the Kiwanis Club. The new building, 40'x130', was completed mid-1984. Griffith serves both Forsyth and Davidson County.

The department has experienced two fatalities. Milton Garwood died on the scene of a fire from a massive heart attack; David Cooke drowned while assisting in a search for a body in the Yadkin River.



HISTORY OF GUMTREE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENTS STATION NUMBER 35

In 1973, a group of community members saw a need to provide a better fire service to the Gumtree area, which include Forsyth and Davidson Counties. The only fire protection available for this area at that time was approximately five to eight miles away. A group of 17 men decided to form and charter the Gumtree Volunteer Fire Department.

Our first truck was a 1947 Dodge pumper. Then, we bought a 1957 Pirsh pumper. After that, we converted a 1956 Ford oil tanker to a water tanker. At first, our trucks were parked in a local garage until we could build our station. In mid-1974, we were ready to move into our four-bay station — with a lot of pride — because our community helped us to help them by providing donations to build and support their fire department.

In 1977, the men at Gumtree saw a need to provide an am-

balance assist program to our fire district. Training started with Advanced First Aid and CPR. Some men chose to further improve their knowledge by becoming EMT's. In 1977, we changed our name to Gumtree Volunteer Fire and Rescue. In 1978, we established a heavy rescue unit so we could provide further rescue service to our neighbors in Forsyth and Davidson Counties.

As of July 1989, we have a membership of ten board of directors, 32 fire and rescue personnel, plus 7 junior firemen. Equipment includes a 1987 rescue truck, a 1980 heavy rescue, a 1977 pumper, a 1980 pumper/tanker, and a 1985 pumper/tanker.

Gumtree also has another group of people. Without them and their support, we would not have any history. That group is our Ladies Auxiliary which consists of 10 members. They are always there when we need them — night or day.



HISTORY OF HORNEYTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 29

On June 10, 1958, a group of interested residents of the Horneytown Community met for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire department to provide fire protection services to the community which includes the southeastern corner of Forsyth County as well as areas in both Davidson and Guilford Counties. A Board of Directors was elected and the charter for the Horneytown Volunteer Fire Department was signed on July 14, 1958. A tract of land was purchased and a two-bay fire station was erected on the Horneytown Road, near the intersection with US Highway 311.

The department's first Fire Chief, Roger Canada, was elected on August 28, 1958 and a group of men, willing to serve as firefighters, was organized on September 24, 1958. Plans were drawn for a new pumper and, on December 8, 1958, an order was placed for a 1959 Ford Howe 500 GPM pumper which was delivered to the department on March 31, 1959, just three days before the department responded to its first fire alarm. In addition, a 1946 International fuel oil delivery truck was purchased and used as a tanker until it was replaced by a 1957 chassis in 1966.

During the initial planning of the department, a Ladies Auxiliary was organized and met for the first time on July 17, 1958. Not only was this group of ladies instrumental in getting the department organized with both their moral and financial support, but continues to be a very important part of the department today, sponsoring fund-raising activities to help meet the financial needs of the organization. With the Auxiliary's support, an addition was added to the original station in the early 1960's and serves as both a dining/kitchen facility and meeting room for the fire department and other community activities.

The year 1970 was a busy one for the department in that a new 750 GPM Ford-Howe pumper was purchased as an additional piece of equipment and a rescue squad was formed to provide the additional services to the community. Forsyth County donated a used 1968 Chevrolet ambulance to the department which was refurbished and used until 1975 when a new Chevrolet modular rescue unit was purchased. During the same year the fire station was again enlarged with an additional two bays and office.

In 1977, a Ford-Howe "Quick Response" pumper was purchased and serves as both a pumper and heavy rescue vehicle. Specialized equipment was purchased to be carried on this truck, including an Amkus Rescue System for extrication work.

The most recent major equipment purchase was in August 1983 when the 1959 model pumper was sold and replaced with a Ford-Grumman 150 g.p.m. pumper/tanker. This truck is equipped with a 1,000 gallon tank and "quick dump" system and is the department's first vehicle with a diesel engine and automatic transmission.

Through its years of operation, the department has continued to improve its insurance rating, going from a 9A rating to a 9AA rating during the 1970's. As of November 1, 1984, the Insurance Services Office granted a rating of 6/9A to the department which resulted in the insurance premium reduction for the residents of the fire district served by one of the county water systems. One of the goals of the department is to obtain an improved rating for the entire fire district within the near future.

The Horneytown Volunteer Fire Department has made much progress in its twenty-seven years of operation and realizes the efforts must continue if the needs of the community are to be met. We are proud to be a part of the Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association and the high standards it represents.



HISTORY OF KERNERSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBERS 41 AND 42

The Town of Kernersville encompasses slightly over 6 square miles with a population of 10,000 to 12,000. Kernersville is located 7 miles from the Triad International Airport and is within a 20 minute drive to the centers of three major cities forming the Piedmont Golden Triad.

The Town is made up of a variety of industrial and residential areas all of which is experiencing rapid growth. Local government provides a wide range of services employing 135 personnel. Fire protection is provided by a combination career/paid-on-call department. Fire Department facilities are located in two stations located at opposing ends of the Town. Front line response equipment includes a command van and two engine companies with a combined pumping capability of 2750 g.p.m. with an additional reserve capacity of 1000 g.p.m.

Fire suppression is accomplished by a minimum on duty staffing of 5 certified fire fighters per shift with additional off-duty shift personnel and paid-on-call personnel responding on designated alarms. Supporting forces are marshalled through a

network of mutual aid arrangements with surrounding volunteer departments. Through the use of these resources, Kernersville is fortunate to maintain a Fire Protection Class 5.

Due to existing risk and future growth, the Town has recently ordered a ladder/platform apparatus. The apparatus will have a working height of 102' and a pumping capacity of 2000 g.p.m. Delivery of the apparatus is slated for July/August 1990 and will necessitate the employment of 11 new fire fighters. Long range planning includes the construction of two fire stations and replacement of outdated equipment.

The Kernersville Fire Department also operates a Fire Prevention Program including public education, inspections, plans review and investigation. Through their combined efforts the Kernersville Fire Department provides housing for a paramedic unit of the Forsyth County EMS.

Through planning and resource management, the Kernersville Fire Department hopes to continue to provide the highest possible level of fire protection.



HISTORY OF KING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 30

In 1955 the only fire protection in King was a 50 lb. dry chemical extinguisher on wheels that was rolled out on the sidewalk during the day. At this time the question of fire protection in the small town became a concern of several members of the community.

The King Lions Club formed a committee to start a fire department for the town. Shortly thereafter, construction was begun on a two story, two-bay fire station. Through the efforts of the people in the community, practically all the material for the fire station was donated. People throughout the community donated such things as cement, blocks, bricks, trees to be made into lumber and all labor.

About the same time construction began on the station, a 1955 Chevrolet pumper was ordered for the department. The truck arrived before the station was finished and had to be stored in the chief's garage. During the same time the firemen had built a 1400 gallon tank for a 1952 Chevrolet chassis to be used as a tanker.

The King Volunteer Fire Department opened its new fire station in the spring of 1956. The department was second in the state to receive a 9AA rated four mile fire district. In November of 1984 through further efforts to improve fire protection to the citizens of the fire protection district, the Insurance Service Office re-rated the district to a 6/9A rated district. This enabled all commercial and residential properties to pay lower insurance premiums. This district includes part of Forsyth County. The King Volunteer Fire Department joined the Forsyth association from

the very beginning and received tremendous help in obtaining training as well as organization of the fire department itself.

In 1958 two additional bays were added to the station and the acquisition of a rescue squad marked progress for the fire department. In 1961 an additional pumper was purchased to better serve the community. In April of 1988 construction of our present station began. After nine months of construction the department occupied the new station in December of 1988. The new facility consists of 10,858 square feet including dormitory, training-meeting room, lounge, communications room, administrative office area, conference room, kitchen-dining room, storage room and also four drive through bays. Incorporated in the facility is a drafting pit to test pumps on fire apparatus and train pump operators. Another feature is a in house air compressor for refilling self-contained breathing apparatus for firefighting.

Presently, the King Volunteer Fire Department maintains two pumpers, one pumper-tanker, one mini-pumper, one brush vehicle, one squad vehicle, and one heavy rescue truck.

The population has grown in King from approximately 1000 in 1955 to 15,000 in 1990. In 1989 the King Volunteer Fire Department responded to 530 fire and rescue emergency calls.

The King Volunteer Fire Department is presently in its 35th year of fire service to the citizens of King and is maintained by one chief, two assistant chiefs, three captains, three lieutenants, and traffic officers — totaling forty men on the roster.



HISTORY OF LEWISVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

STATION NUMBER 11

The Lewisville Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1951 by the Lewisville Civic Club. During our 39 years of fire protection in the Lewisville Community, several accomplishments have taken place.

In 1959, we started running rescue calls with our International panel truck which was given to us by Civil Defense. In 1971, we purchased a Pierce 50-foot Telesquirt with 1000 g.p.m. pump that carries 500 gallons of water; we were the first volunteer fire department in the State of North Carolina to purchase an aerial unit. In 1976 the Lewisville Jaycees helped us to purchase a new second vehicle for our department.

At this time, our equipment consists of: one 1977 Ford Grumman 1000 g.p.m. pump that carries 750 gallons of water; one 1974 Ford Pierce Telesquirt 1000 g.p.m. pump that carries 500 gallons of water; one 1981 GMC Grumman 1000 g.p.m. pump that carries 350 gallons of water and also is our heavy rescue truck that carries the Hurst Power Tool, jacks, air bags, Porta Power and other tools that are needed; one 1982 GMC Tanker that carries 1200 gallons of water; one 1981 GMC one-ton pickup

with slide in unit with four-wheel drive for wood and grass fires; one 1986 Ford truck that is used for squad calls and two boats with 9 horse-power Mercury engines for water rescue.

We are in the process of building a new station which will consist of an administration section and five drive-thru bays totaling 11,000 square feet. Hopefully, it will be ready to move into in late spring of 1990.

Currently we have 40 dedicated members and seven cadets within our department; 15 of the members are Emergency Medical Technician certified and/or have higher training.

During the 34 years this department has been organized, it has had five chiefs: 1951-1961, G.G. Reynolds; 1961-1974, Paul Jennings; 1974-1978, Walter Sowers; 1978-1983, J.W. Hege; and our present chief since 1983, Phillip R. Dull.

Under the leadership of Phillip R. Dull, his staff of officers and the Board of Directors, the Lewisville Fire and Rescue Department will continue to grow and provide the best possible fire protection to the citizens of the Lewisville Community.



HISTORY OF MINERAL SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. STATION NUMBER 18

The Mineral Springs Volunteer Fire Department dates back before 1951, when Mr. T.R. (Dink) Styers built and operated from his garage a 400-gallon trailer tank with a 60 g.p.m. pump and 100 feet hose. Realizing the great need for more and better equipment, a group of interested citizens (representing the Mineral Springs Civic Club, the White Rock Compliment Club, and the Ogburn Station Fire and Protective Association) met with Mr. Styers in 1951 and laid the groundwork for a fire department. A 21-member Board of Directors was named from the membership of the sponsoring organizations. That fall the Mineral Springs School District Volunteer Fire Department came into existence and in the following January received its charter of incorporation.

A very successful fund-raising campaign in 1952 netted the department over \$10,000 which paid for the first truck, which had a 600-gallon water capacity and was ordered from the John Bean Company. Jack Tally was named Day Chief; C.R. (Bud) Young, Assistant Day Chief and W. Gray Allen, Night Chief; and Lawrence Duggins, Assistant Night Chief, Tally and Allen were sent to Bean Company for intensive training in the operation of the new truck. The truck was housed in Tally's Service Station and from that time the Mineral Springs Department was in operation.

In 1953 a lot at Ogburn Station was purchased and a fire house was built by Mr. Styers at a cost of about \$8,000 with Mr. Styers donating his time to the project. Another successful financial campaign paid for the lot and building, the department operating on a pay-as-you-go basis. Firefighting clothing and equipment were bought the next year.

1955-56 brought reorganization in the department. C.R. Stender became Chief, with Lawrence Duggins and "Bud" Young Assistant Chiefs. The firemen were being trained to be efficient firefighters and realized strong moral and financial support from the community. John L. Hampton was named Forsyth County Fireman of the Year for 1956 in recognition of his outstanding achievement in firemanship. Mineral Springs' Fire Queen, Miss Jean West, was crowned Fire Queen of the County.

In 1957, "Old Betsy", a 1500-gallon war surplus oil tanker, was bought and rebuilt into a water tanker. Chief Stender moved to Kentucky and Blake Ferguson was elected Chief, the position he holds to date. With the efficient help of the two Assistant Chiefs, Duggins and Young, Chief Ferguson initiated a very intensive and successful training program for the firemen. The department continued to pay its way and managed to accumulate a balance in the bank. In 1959 Chief Ferguson was named Forsyth County Fireman of the Year.

In 1960 a committee, composed of "Dink" Styers, Gray Allen, Blake Ferguson, and C.W. Williams of Rocky Mount, spent many hours drawing up plans for a new truck that would offer the best protection to the community. This truck was built to order by the W.S. Darley Company of Chicago at a cost of \$22,000. The first truck was sold and two years later a badly needed 1500-gallon water tanker was bought from Darley, costing about \$18,000. At this time, a grass and brush truck was also bought from Darley. A financial campaign left the year with all equipment paid in full.

1964 brought drastic changes to the department in the form of city enlargement through annexation. Part of Mineral Springs territory was taken into the city limits; however, a contract was made with the city for Mineral Springs to continue service to the annexed area on a financial basis. Cooperation with city units, especially Company #9, has been most satisfying.

In 1964 the department entered into very strong competition for the \$300 award presented by the Fire Prevention Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Assisting the Mineral Springs Civic Club by conducting a fire prevention parade with many cars and all the mobile firefighting equipment; by holding open house at the station all week, with refreshments, souvenirs, literature, films, educational exhibits; and by helping prepare a very attractive scrapbook describing details of the project, Mineral Springs was declared the winner. The following year the department won the state competition in Fire Service Efficiency, sponsored by the Association of Independent Insurance Agencies. This award was a check for \$800, plus a banquet at the Pinebrook Country Club for the firemen, the Directors and wives.

Since its beginning, Mineral Springs has placed great emphasis on the caliber of men it takes into the department. Only those men with real interest in firefighting, of high moral character, of good physical stamina, of willingness to attend all meetings and train regularly, are considered. Department leaders know that only through constant training, the neverending search for new and better methods of firefighting, harmony and cooperation can the department offer the community effective fire service. Through the years the men have been expected to be able to operate all equipment properly, to be trained in First Aid, to assist in all training programs, to answer every fire call possible, and take their turn on Sunday duty, when they clean the firehouse, check the equipment, and stand by for fire calls at a time when many firemen are normally away from their telephones. These conditions are made clear before applications are ever accepted for consideration.

From 1965-72 work to maintain the equipment in proper manner and the training of the firemen continued, always open to learn to do the jobs better and safer at all times. The building did not go without repairs nor the proper upkeep inside and out. The grounds were always nicely maintained. It is a place the community is proud of.

After some of the district was annexed the department went under contract with the city to keep the area safe.

In March, 1972, Mr. T.R. "Dink" Styers resigned his office of President of the Board of Directors. He had served faithfully for 20 years and always did an excellent job at anything he undertook. Mr. C.A. Stewart, Jr. was elected to be President of the Board of Directors of the Mineral Springs Volunteer Fire Department. He continues serving in this office.

In the last part of 1972, it was decided to form a rescue squad for the Mineral Springs Fire District. A committee was appointed and the group started investigating the equipment needed and just how many trained men and women they would need. In August of 1973 the Chairman of the Board had talked to Colonel Ratcliff and found out that Mineral Springs could not get a rescue truck so the Heart-Lung Resistor would not be purchased. So the rescue squad was tabled.

All the firemen had the proper training with First Aid courses which they would be able to use anywhere they might be needed.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors appointed a committee to investigate an area for the satellite station in the Baux Mountain Road and Red Bank Road area. The committee reported that the land at the intersection of Baux Mountain and Red Bank Road was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Bowman and could be bought for the future Mineral Springs Fire Station.

The Board of Directors agreed to give Mr. and Mrs. Hubert

Bowman the first refusal to the land purchased in October, 1973 if the department decided to sale this land at market price.

In December, 1975, it was decided to buy two lots 200' x 230' location on Highway #66 approximately 500 feet west of Flynt's Store and then it was decided to sale the lots on Baux Mountain Road and Red Bank Road.

In April, 1976 it was decided to get an architect to draw a set of plans for the new building to the committee's specification and to investigate buying a new fire truck.

At the October, 1977 meeting a gift of the Old Hollow Civic Club and a track of land adjoining the Civic Club was given to the Mineral Springs Fire Department. They decided best to demolish the club house and then sale the land.

In June, 1979 they started the bay station on the lot on Highway #66 to be finished by September, 1979.

In April, 1980 it was discussed and voted in favor of discontinuing the contract with the city of helping inside city limits.

It was decided in March, 1981 to buy another lot adjoining the property on Highway #66 where the bay station was built. The lot was purchased from the same lady.

In June, 1981 they agreed on building the remainder of the building with a meeting hall, kitchen and office space.

The New Fire Station was dedicated December 27, 1981 with an Open House.

A fire hydrant and a cement lane to wash the fire hose was installed in April, 1985.

Special training goes on from month to month with the firemen. Every one is most cooperative so the fire department can be a Class A Department.

The success of the fire department was advanced throughout the years by the contributions made by the twenty deceased members.

An auxiliary has existed during periods of the fire department's history. The wives of the firemen and Board of Directors assisted

with projects and supported the work of the department. A deceased member, Mrs. Mary Worth Ferguson, was instrumental in the success of the auxiliary.

Mineral Springs has been proud of its progress throughout the past 35 years. The number of well-equipped mobile fire fighting units and other equipment have done much to save and protect property in the community. An electrically operated map, built by Chief Ferguson, is an example of the way this firefighting unit strives to find better ways of rendering fire service, which is its only reason for existing.

During its history Mineral Springs has received a considerable amount of money in donations, which has been used for the purchase of fire fighting equipment, operating expense and service to the people of the district. It has always operated on a sound financial basis and hopes to continue thus.

In the past 35 years this department has answered several thousand calls; has driven the equipment many thousand miles; has covered thousands of miles driven by the firemen; has spent thousands of man-hours in actual fire service. The valuation of property loss amount to thousands, while the valuation of property saved has been in the millions.

In recent years the department has realized a significant reduction in the number of fire calls within the district. It is hoped that this indicates success in the department's efforts at making the citizens more fire-conscious and more careful in regard to fire safety. The gospel of fire prevention has been carried into the homes, into places of business, into the churches, and into classrooms of the schools. It is hoped that education in fire safety is responsible for the reduction in the number of times the department has been called to serve recently. Mineral Springs is very grateful to the cooperation of the people in the community, to neighboring city firefighting units, and especially to the Forsyth County Fire Department, which has been a great help.



HISTORY OF MOUNT TABOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. STATION NUMBER 20

The men of the Mount Tabor Civic Club saw the need for fire protection in their community in the early 1950's and they began planning for a fire department. These individuals began knocking on doors collecting donations, soon money for a building and apparatus was raised. The Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department began operation on May 16, 1953.

The department started with one truck, a GMC/John Beam high pressure pumper. The station was a two bay building built on land leased from Mr. Carl R. Sapp a long time member of the Mount Tabor Civic Club. The department had six officers and 24 firefighters.

Soon after they began operation the department began planning for the purchase of a second truck. The second truck would allow for better service to the community and would provide a reduction in insurance costs for the property owners in the fire district.

Over the years the department has strived to provide the very best in fire protection to the community. Hundreds of thousands of man hours have been spent in training, maintenance and upkeep of the equipment and in fundraising. Fundraising enabled the department to replace apparatus in order to keep up with the ever growing fire protection needs of the community. The original truck was replaced in 1970 with a 1970 Chevrolet/Howe 750 g.p.m. pumper. The second truck was replaced in 1974 with a Chevrolet/Howe 1,000 g.p.m. pumper. In 1975 a Jeep brush truck was added to handle fires off the road.

The department's greatest change occurred in 1976. On July 4, 1976 the Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department began operating a rescue squad. The rescue squad was operated by men and women from the department who had taken extensive medical training and were certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Advanced First Aid and several were North Carolina Emergency Medical Technicians. At first the 1970 pumper was

used to carry the rescue equipment, in September of 1976 a used 1965 Cadillac ambulance was purchased from the Vienna Fire Department.

Growth and advancement has continued in the Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department. In 1980 a second building was built to better house the squad and brush truck. In late 1980 a new Chevrolet Rescue / Ambulance was purchased and the 1965 Cadillac affectionately known as "Leroy" was finally retired from emergency service.

In 1984 the community demonstrated its overwhelming support of the fire department by enacting a special fire and rescue protection tax district. The property tax provides revenues to support the department's operations and freed the membership of the burdens of fundraising. This relief was greatly needed as increased call volume, increased costs and increased training and maintenance requirements were beginning to strain the abilities of the department.

To improve our fire protection capabilities a new Ford/Grumman Pumper-Tanker truck was placed in service in March of 1986. The demand for rescue and emergency medical services increased to the point where a second truck was needed. In January of 1988 a Ford/Ashley diesel van ambulance was placed in service.

The dedicated men and women of the Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department are constantly trying to improve their service to the community. They spend thousands and thousands of hours every year in service to their neighbors on actual emergencies, on stand-bys for athletic events, in training and on upkeep and maintenance of equipment and facilities. The department is now facing (as are many others) one of its greatest challenges — recruitment of personnel in a society where volunteerism is on the decline. If you are willing to contribute your time and talents to helping your fellow man please join your local fire department.



HISTORY OF OLD RICHMOND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

STATION NUMBER 27

In the early 1950's, the citizens of the Old Richmond community saw a need for fire protection in their area. The Old Richmond Grange took the first step to organize a volunteer fire department. In 1954 the charter was granted for this department. It purchased an old Army surplus fire truck in 1954.

In 1956 the department felt it was necessary to operate separately from the Grange, so it was reorganized. The new Board of Directors saw a need for a place to store the fire truck and a donation drive was started, land was leased, and a building was started. In the fall of 1956, a new fire truck (pumper) was ordered and delivery was made in October, 1956. Money was raised by door-to-door donations and suppers.

The ladies saw that the firemen needed help in these suppers, so a ladies auxiliary was started. They have been a real help through the years. They have raised money by having suppers, bake sales, rummage sales, and by selling tickets for lawn mowers, weed eaters, quilts, and family pictures.

Marvin Doub was the first fire chief. K.L. Smith was appointed as chief in 1956 and served until 1974. Greek Long was the next chief and served until 1985. Lloyd McCormick is the chief at the present time.

In 1963 another pumper was purchased. In 1972 another pumper was purchased.

In 1976 we saw the need for a rescue squad. A 1970 Chevrolet station wagon was purchased and a rescue squad was started to assist the ambulance service in our district. The Army surplus fire truck was sold at this time.

In 1979 a one-ton Chevrolet truck was purchased and equipped with a modular body and equipment to assist in all types of

medical assistance. At this time, the 1957 fire truck was sold.

In 1980 a 1981 GMC pumper/tanker was purchased in order to get a lower insurance rate for the district. We now have a 9/6 insurance rating.

In 1970, two additional bays were built onto the fire station. In 1983 more land was acquired and two more bays were added to the station with separate heating and air conditioning. The old station has been insulated overhead, all wiring and lighting have been changed, and all doors are equipped with electric openers and closers. The meeting room and kitchen have been remodeled. New windows and vertical blinds have been installed. In 1985, a new heating and air conditioning unit was installed in the old part of the station.

In October, 1985, a new GMC 3/4-ton pick-up truck was delivered with a slide-in unit to be used on brush and wood fires.

In 1987, we sold the 1970 Chevrolet station wagon and purchased a 1985 Ford van to be used as a backup unit for the squad.

In July, 1988, a new 1989 Mack 1250 g.p.m. pumper was ordered. This truck was delivered in March, 1989. In November, 1988, the 1963 Chevrolet fire truck was sold to Skull Camp Volunteer Fire Department.

At this time, we have 40 volunteer firemen that give of their time and knowledge to make the Old Richmond community safe and better place in which to live. We would like to thank the people of this community for their support, both financial and otherwise.

E. G. LONG, JR.
Chief (Retired)



HISTORY OF PINEY GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT STATION NUMBER 32

Piney Grove Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department is located on the northern border of Kernersville, NC. In August of 1967, several members of this community decided that a fire department was needed to protect their lives and investments. The first meeting was held on August 24, 1967 in the Piney Grove United Methodist Church. This group realized, with no money, that working together and working hard was the only way their dream would become a reality so they set their goals, rolled up their sleeves, and went to work. September 29, 1967, the department was incorporated, in November the first truck, a 1950 Ford 550 gallon pumper, was purchased and Piney Grove became a fire department.

Our department had one monitor so when a call was received the Chief would call another member whose wife would call two more members and so on. We finally got a 1953 Mack, but without a building some members had to keep the vehicles at their homes. When a call was received, the members with the trucks could respond, wives or children would respond, wives or children would call other members, and the truck drivers would stop small bags of lime at every turn so the others could follow. Three years old, Piney Grove moved into our new building with its trucks and personnel. The hard work had not ended, only begun anew because the goal that had been set was to provide the best protection possible for our community. With this goal in mind, in 1973, we decided to add a rescue department to pro-

vide a more complete service. With this new expansion Piney Grove wanted to be able to give the community the best emergency care. So with this in mind it meant getting the best possible training, at this time over two thirds of our rescue are certified EMT's.

In 1983, after a lot of training and hard work by Ken Young, one of our volunteers, we decided to add the Dog Search and Rescue. We now have four dogs, all of these dogs are trained for a specific job. The arson dog is train to sniff out fuels, such as gas, oil, lighter fluid. The tracking dog is for tracking missing persons. The water dog is train to find bodies in water, and the cadaver dog is used for finding dead bodies. These dogs are used to assist police departments and fire departments throughout the state.

In 1989, we purchased our heavy rescue truck. This truck was designed by one of our volunteers, Billy Royal. What makes this truck so special is the fact that it is equipped to handle any rescue call regardless to how minor or major the incident may be.

We, at Piney Grove Fire-Rescue realize that we have a great heritage. There have been many hours of hard work and many sacrifices made to bring us where we are today. We still have the same goals as we did in 1967, and that is to provide the best fire and rescue service possible for our community. With this goal and God's help, we are looking forward to the challenges of the future.



HISTORY OF RURAL HALL FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 23

All too often, a shrill siren punctuates the silence of Rural Hall and firefighters dash to their automobiles to answer alarms. They have been rushing from ball games, dinner tables and leisurely evenings to extinguish fires since 1939, when the Rural Hall Fire Department was formed. It was the first volunteer fire department in Forsyth County.

A few months earlier, in 1939, citizens managed to save a local business from fire by borrowing hoses loaned by other businesses in the community. From this spark was kindled the fire department. At the beginning, the department purchased a 1941 Plymouth truck for \$500 and spent \$25 to paint it "Fire Engine Red." The truck was equipped with ladders, lanterns, extinguishers, and hose.

A one ton truck was added in 1948. Built mainly by C.M. Baker, the first fire chief, it carried 150 gallons of water and was equipped with a pump which could dispense 350 g.p.m. from a fire hydrant or other water sources. Although the equipment was jerry-rigged to a great extent, the firefighters were able to make use of it.

The department got a home in 1949. A two-story building near Rural Hall School gave the department a place to house the trucks so that the water would not freeze during the cold winter. In the upstairs area was room for meetings and offices for the water department.

The department has grown in other ways, also. The Rural Hall Fire Auxiliary was formed in 1955. The Rural Hall Junior Fire Department was added in 1968 and was the first organized junior fire department in Forsyth County.

In 1972 a Rescue Squad was organized that consisted of a 1972 GMC van fully equipped for rescue and Emergency Medical Service. Later, a 1977 Dodge Maxivan squad unit was placed in service.

In 1988 renovation and additions to the existing fire station began and were completed in 1989. The finished product left no signs of the old station that had housed the growing fleet of equipment for years. The new building includes a 5 bay station with 3 drive-through areas. A large training room, along with offices, bath facilities, a lounge and completely furnished kitchen compliments the first floor of the building. The second floor consists of sleeping quarters for the Forsyth County Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Unit which is stationed at the building. Currently, a recreation room for the firefighters is under construction, with completion expected in 1990.

Fire and Rescue activities have increased considerably, currently answering over 700 calls annually. The Department is currently operating on a budget of over \$180,000.

The current list of apparatus includes a 1988 GMC 1,000 g.p.m. Pumper-Tanker, a 1982 Spartain 1,250 pumper, a 1981 GMC 4x4 Brush Truck, and a 1974 International 1,000 g.p.m. Pumper. The Rescue vehicles include a 1985 Horton Ambulance, a 1980 GMC Heavy-Rescue vehicle which is equipped with a Hurst Power Rescue Tool, Heavy Duty Air Bags, and other modern rescue equipment.

The Department currently has 40 Firefighters along with 8 Junior Firefighters.



HISTORY OF SALEM CHAPEL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. STATION NUMBER 24

The idea of some form of fire protection for the Dennis-Salem Chapel area actually originated at the annual meeting of the Walkertown Volunteer Fire Department in January 1982. During the course of the meeting the new pumper/tanker the department had on order was discussed and the question was raised about what would be done with the truck that it was replacing. This truck was a 1954 GMC pumper. There was a request made by Gene Reid that the Board of Directors, rather than sell the truck, consider placing it in the Dennis-Salem Chapel area. This area was located in the northern part of the Walkertown Fire District.

A committee was appointed to study the feasibility of this request. The committee consisted of members of the Walkertown Department and members of the Dennis-Salem Chapel Community. After serious consideration the committee recommended that the people of this community organize a new fire department and for Walkertown to donate the truck to them.

An organizational meeting was held at the Fulp Moravian Church August 29, 1982 and a Board of Directors was selected at that time. They were: Danny L. Thomas, President; Roscoe Smith, Vice President; Robert E. Reid, Secretary; George O. Seivers, Treasurer; Clarence Campbell, Eddie Campbell, Michael H. Pierce James W. Tilley, J. Harvey Wilson.

The Salem Chapel Volunteer Fire Department was chartered

October 21, 1982 and soon thereafter land for a station was donated by Edards Reid. Construction of the building began January 16, 1983. During the construction period the firemen received many hours of training and in April 1983 the building was completed and the department began serving the community.

The department consists of approximately 28 firemen and 25 ladies auxillary members.

Until May 1985 the department operated on donations. At that time the residents of the district voted to enact a fire tax for department funding.

The department operates the following apparatus:

- 1972 Ford Pumper
- 1965 Ford Pumper
- 1963 Mack Pumper
- 1967 International Tanker
- 1980 Dodge Brush Truck

The 1972 Ford was recently refurbished with the majority of the work being performed by the firemen. This is the third truck that our personnel have refurbished.

We just completed our seventh year in operation and we feel we have come a long way in that amount of time. This is due to many generous individuals who have given freely both of their time and money.



HISTORY OF SOUTH FORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NUMBER 10

During the spring of 1951, it was recognized that a need existed for a fire department in the South Fork Community. The area was building up and there was little rural fire protection for the western part of the county.

Several meetings were held at the South Fork School, and in August of 1951 the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department was one of the first in Forsyth County to receive a charter.

The Forsyth County Fire Department had just purchased a new fire truck and loaned our department the Jeep and water trailer used previously by them. This equipment was used until a more useful truck could be obtained. Construction was started on the firehouse and after many nights and Saturdays it was completed.

During this time a used truck chassis was obtained and outfitted with an 800 gallon tank, pump and other equipment. The depart-

ment then had a better piece of equipment and responded to many fires over the north, south, and western half of the county. A short time later a small Army truck was acquired for use in woods fires. Since this time nine other pieces of fire fighting equipment has been purchased and used by this department.

Very little money was available during the early years, so the department sponsored various projects including barbeque suppers and annual donation drives. This department is now tax supported thanks to the support of the residents of the fire district.

During the past 38 years the department has continued to provide the most up-to-date equipment available and has responded to well over 4,300 calls. The support of the community and the dedication of our fire fighters has made this endeavor a success.



HISTORY OF TALLEY'S CROSSING FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

STATION NUMBER 25

The organization of the Talley's Crossing Fire Department began in the spring of 1954 after a near disaster was averted when a group of local residents managed to extinguish a large field fire with rakes, shovels, hoes and whatever other implements that were at hand. The need for a fire department was apparent and the people of the community overwhelmingly responded, with sufficient pledges and donations to fund the establishment of the department.

A track of land was purchased from Mrs. Nannie Harrell. This property is at the intersection of Hopkins Road and West Mountain St. The original building 30'x30' on the south side of the building, in 1975 they added two more apparatus bays 30'x30' on the north side. The current station now has on the 1st floor, a small kitchen, lounge area, exercise area, four apparatus bays, upstairs is the bunk rooms, chief's office, training room and an area for the department's 80826 computer.

In July 1955 the contract was drawn for the first fire engine of the new department. This was a pumper which had mounted a Berkeley volume single stage pump on a two ton GMC chassis, this also carried 800 gallons of water. At the time of delivery of the new truck there were about thirty department members who began their training in earnest. Shortly thereafter, a traffic control group was organized to aid the department and community in emergency situations and in community activities in which traffic congestion is a problem. In June 1957 the department purchased a 1945 International 1,200 gallon tanker (military vehicle) which further increased fire protection in the community.

In the same year a well was dug (again by department labor) and a barbecue pit was constructed. This barbecue has been used an average of three times each year to cook barbecue to raise revenue for operating expenses. These barbecue/chicken pie suppers, along with auction sales and community donations have enabled the department to continue operations through the years. In November 1984 the voters in the Talley's Crossing Fire Protection District overwhelmingly elected to have the district established as a fire tax district.

The Ladies' Auxiliary was established in 1955 and has been instrumental in augmenting department operations, most notably in fund raising over the years. The auxiliary has also contributed to the building maintenance and in 1983 donated \$1,500.00 toward the purchase of OSHA/NFPA approved structural firefighting protective gear for the safety of the firemen.

In 1963 the department replaced the aging 1945 tanker (military vehicle) with a new modern 1,000 gallon tanker with a 250 gpm PTO pump on a Ford chassis, 1972 the department replaced the aging 1955 fire engine with a new modern up-to-date 1972 GMC 1,000 gpm pumper and tank capacity of 800 gallons of water by HOWE Apparatus manufacturers.

In 1978 the department was given a surplus four-wheel drive military vehicle which was converted to off road fire apparatus for fighting field/brush/woods fires. This piece of apparatus carries 200 gallons of water and is equipped with a 200' booster line and 100' of 1" forestry hose and many hand tools. In 1990 we added a small generator and four quartz lights on telescoping poles to help provide lighting at night for all responses. This unit is known as Brush 325.

In 1982, the board of directors contracted the building of a 1,000 gpm pumper/1000 gallons tank capacity with jet assist for drop tank operations in areas with no hydrants.

In 1986, the board of directors contracted the building of a custom 1,500 gpm pumper capable of carrying five men seated with seat belts, to meet NFPA safety standards, and a tank capacity of 750 gallons of water mounted on a Duplex/Grumman 1,000 gpm pumper with tank capacity of 800 gallons of water, would become our hydrant supply pumper and as a training engine, for driving and pump operations. In this same year the department sold the aging 1963 Ford tanker and funds received were used to purchase 4" supply hose and necessary adapters. Each piece of rated equipment now carries 1200' of the 4" supply hose as we are very fortunate to have 90% of the district covered by fire hydrants.

In 1987, the board of directors contracted to enlarge the present building to give 10 more feet in depth to all four engine bays.

In 1988, Kernersville annexed parts of the Hopkins Road area, thus contracting with Talley's Crossing to provide fire protection in the new annex area under a five year contract. With this contract, Talley's Crossing was to hire a full time firefighter for the work day Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. This would guarantee immediate response during normal work days, because there is a shortage of day time people. With the administrative workload becoming heavier, they also agreed to hire a part time secretary and pay their Fire Chief for administering the management of the department. This action taken by the board of directors would make this the first volunteer fire department in Forsyth County to provide a paid firefighter in the day time, which would be setting the pace for other volunteer fire departments to follow suite. We are currently under a new annexation of 818 acres on the west side of Kernersville. We are negotiating with the Town of Kernersville for another five year contract. The Talley's Crossing Board of Directors has authorized hiring the second full time paid firefighter for the community.

The planning that is now possible has been brought about by the support of the community, which in 1984 voted to give its financial support through a fire tax. This support was sought by the department because of the increasing cost of equipment and the expanding population within the community which has resulted in many more emergency responses than in years past. As development within the area continues, the need for fire protection can only become greater.

The increasing complexity of fire protection has emphasized the need for training in the volunteer fire service and the members of the Talley's Crossing Fire Department average 142 hours of training in 1989. This compares with the minimum of 36 hours per year required by the State of North Carolina and the current requirements of the SARA bill that was passed by law.

The department currently has 29 members on the rolls. We, the members of the community are indebted to the charter members who organized the department and to all the people who have supported and maintained it through the years.



If your house is not properly and visibly numbered . . . or if there is no street sign to identify your location . . . important time can be lost in trying to locate you in case of an emergency.

HISTORY OF TRIANGLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

STATION NUMBER 16

Triangle Volunteer Fire Department was first organized as Sedge Garden Volunteer Fire Department. It started to organize in April, 1949 when several Civic Club members decided they needed to do something to help protect homes and other property from fire. After checking around they found they could buy a used fire truck from the city of Winston-Salem. This was the first volunteer fire department in Forsyth County. They were to serve Sedge Garden, Beesons Cross Roads and Union Cross. Both of these areas now have their own departments. They also helped at City View, Thomasville and High Point. Mr. H.B. Self was chairman. The first fire chief was Robah Thomas.

In 1955, they changed the name to Triangle Volunteer Fire Department. This was when they decided to reorganize. At that time, Mr. H.B. Self was elected chief.

In 1956 they proceeded to get their State Charter, and shortly after were incorporated.

They purchased the land that Triangle now stands on and

dedicated their new building at 3260 Kernersville Road on June 16, 1963. The community and buildings have kept increasing until Triangle needed to ad a large bay at the back of the building to accomodate another fire truck. They now have an aerial, a pumper, two brush trucks, and one light unit.

The Chief today is Ray Smith with James Baker and Butch Trotter Assistant Chiefs. They have a roster of 30 firemen. Each fireman is required by law to have 36 hours of training each year. Many have more training in phases such as radioactive accidents, explosives, arson, LP gas leaks, drivers training, first aid EMT and CPR.

They now hold their training meetings on the first and second Tuesday nights of each month. The day crew holds their meetings on Friday mornings. We, at Triangle, are very proud of what we have accomplished, and will continue to do our very best to serve those in our district to the best of our ability.



HISTORY OF UNION CROSS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. STATION NUMBER 28

The Union Cross Volunteer Fire Department began operation as an auxiliary unit of Triangle Volunteer Fire Department in 1957. A 1957 Dodge truck with a 800 gallon tank and a 350 gpm pump was purchased. The equipment was housed at 1780 Union Cross Road in a building owned by Union Cross Moravian Church. The department was officially incorporated in May of 1958. Engine 128 was put into service July of that year. Oscar Weavil was elected the department's fire chief. Mr. Weavil served as the fire chief until 1966. Paul Stephens was elected the new chief.

In April 1967 the department voted to purchase a modern fire truck. A 1968 GMC with 800 gallon tank and a 500 gpm pump was put into service april 1968.

By 1972 Union Cross had matured into a complete and competent fire department. As a result the department received a 9AA fire rating in 1972. This helped the residents in our district to get the low fire insurance rates they are enjoying today.

In 1978 a study committee was formed to assess our needs into the 80's and beyond. It was determined, that in order to continue to offer top quality fire protection service, a new truck was needed. After months of planning, specifications were drawn up and a new truck was ordered. A 1979 Ford with a 800 gallon tank and 1000 gpm pump. Our original pumper was converted to a tanker with a 1000 gallon tank and quick dump capabilities. This greatly aided our water supply requirements. Later the tank from this truck was mounted on a GMC chassis donated by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. This truck is currently called Tanker 428.

In 1982 the Union Cross Rescue Squad was formed. Don Atkins was elected the squad's first captain. A used rescue squad vehicle was purchased from Forsyth County in October of 1982.

It required an extensive amount of work to get it ready for operation and was put into service in March of 1983. It was fully equipped and was transport capable. It has been a valuable addition to our community.

1982 was also the year Paul Stephens retired as Chief. Robert Tucker, a long time Union Cross fireman and resident, was elected to fill the post.

With the addition of the rescue squad it became apparent that the department had outgrown the building on Union Cross Road. In 1986 planning began for the construction of a new fire station. Land was purchased at the corner of Watkins Ford Road and Old U.S. Highway 311 for the new station. Several years of planning followed. The new station was constructed with a 3600 sq. ft. bay area and 2400 sq. ft. meeting area. Fire trucks and equipment was moved to the new station in November of 1989.

Robert Tucker retired as chief after 7 years of dedicated leadership in December of 1989. Robert Welch became the fourth fire chief to serve the Union Cross Volunteer Fire Department. Union Cross currently has 30 active firemen. Twelve department members are Emergency Medical Technicians.

Union Cross Fire and Rescue has come a long way since our first barbecue supper on June 8, 1957 where \$350 was made. Countless man-hours have been spent in training, and fund raising to get the department to where it is now. While we look back with a feeling of pride at our accomplishments, we plan for the future ways to make our department better. With the continued support of the community and the willing support of our members, we will strive to improve the quality of the service rendered.



HISTORY OF VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

STATION NUMBER 21

The Vienna Fire Department had its beginning at an August 1954 meeting of the Vienna Civic Club when Mr. Marvin Beroth proposed that the Civic Club spearhead a move to establish a fire department for the Vienna community. At that time, Lewisville and Mt. Tabor were providing fire service to part of the community. By the end of September 1954, a steering committee had been formed, a fund drive started, and incorporation papers filed. The first fire truck was purchased from Lewisville and delivered on October 6, 1964. The first official meeting of the Vienna Fire Department was held on October 14, 1954. At this meeting a constitution was adopted and Marvin Wilson was elected Chief.

By May 15, 1955 a two bay building had been constructed at the intersection of Highway 421 (now Yadkinville Road) and Vienna-Dozier Road. In January 1956 the Vienna Fire District was established and recognized by the insurance companies. The department was able to add a second truck in April of 1956. A 500 g.p.m. pumper was purchased in 1959 and in 1970 a 750 g.p.m. pumper was added. The 1970 pumper was somewhat unique in that it was one of the first pumpers in the area with top mounted pump controls instead of the more traditional controls on the left side.

In 1974, after more than 21 years of service, Marvin Wilson decided to step down as Chief. Harold Jent, then became the department's second chief. In April of 1975, the department decided to start a rescue squad. The Vienna Rescue Squad became operational in August of 1975 with a fully equipped used ambulance, and started responding to calls in Vienna and also Mt. Tabor and Old Town areas of the Mt. Tabor Fire District. A new rescue truck was purchased in May of 1976 and put into service in July of that year.

In 1977, the fire department was beginning to see a decrease

in contributions and a study was undertaken to establish a fire-tax district. An election was held on November 6, 1979, the tax was passed and set at 3.5 cents per \$100.00

In 1980, a 1000 g.p.m. pumper was purchased. The department was expanded in 1982 with the addition of a three bay building behind the original and the purchase of a 1982, 1250 gallon tanker. This was part of the effort required to obtain a Class 6 Fire Protection rating for all the residents of the Vienna Fire District (40% of which has no water lines or hydrants).

In October 1988, Harold Jent passed away with 14 years of service as chief. Assistant Chief J.D. Beroth served as chief until his retirement in January, 1989, with over 30 years of service. Currently, F. Walter Beroth serves Vienna as chief.

In order to maintain the fire protection rating for the residents of Vienna Fire District, we took delivery of a Pierce Lance pumper in October, 1989. This was 35 years almost to the day since the first official meeting of the fire department. The new pumper is capable of pumping 1250 gallons of water per minute from draft and has a fully enclosed seating capacity for 6 personnel. This was the first unit of this type to be delivered to the Forsyth County, Winston-Salem area.

The Vienna Fire Department is always looking for volunteers to serve as firefighters and rescue personnel. Anyone wishing to serve their community should contact Chief Walter Beroth at 945-5631 on Monday or Tuesday nights between the hours of 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Inc. meets quarterly and all meetings are open to the public. The corporation is composed of fire department members and community leaders. Any Vienna residents are welcome to attend as prospective members or guests.



HISTORY OF WALKERTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. STATION NUMBER 22

On February 27, 1953, Walkertown Civic Club recommended to the Walkertown Community Council that a community conduct a campaign to establish a community fire department.

One week later this group set a goal of \$15,000 for the initial purchase of fire equipment. Also, boundary lines were the entire Walkertown School District.

On April 24, 1953, a public meeting was held at the school and the name Walkertown Volunteer Fire Department was adapted.

On April 23, 1953 a GMC truck with John Bean Equipment was purchased at the cost of \$9,276. The truck arrived on October 16, 1953. On September 17, 1953, property was purchased for \$1,300 in central Walkertown business district for a station.

In May 1954, the fire station was in operation and authority was granted to purchase a Ford truck with a 1,000 gallon water tank.

In 1955 a Sanitary District was formed and Clyde Webster was appointed Chief. The Department started with Chief Webster and fifteen men from the community.

In 1961 the Sanitary District purchased a 500 g.p.m. pumper and fire fighting equipment.

In May 1963 the fire department purchased a new Ford truck with Howe fire fighting equipment with an 800 gallon water capacity at a cost of \$16,500.

In 1971 a Ford fire engine with a 1,000 gallon pump was purchased at a cost of \$33,500.

In January 1975 the Ladies Auxiliary was formed with fifteen members. Their purpose was to support the firemen, have fund-

raising projects, and furnish refreshments.

In 1976 a Chevrolet brush truck with a 250 gallon tank was purchased. A new addition was added to the fire station which made the present station consist of five bays, a kitchen area and a large meeting room.

In 1977 Gray Martin had a dream of forming a rescue squad. This was talked about and in November of 1977 the first meeting was held. There were 38 members present. The first rescue squad truck was a 1963 International truck given by the Civil Defense Department.

In 1979 a new Ford truck was purchased and equipped for the rescue squad and dedicated in memory of Captain Gray C. Martin.

In 1982 a new Ford fire truck with 1,000 g.p.m. pump was purchased. It was put into service in 1983. The cost of this truck was \$98,000.

In 1983, a van was given from the county surplus. Its use is to carry extra equipment and supplies.

In 1987 a new Spartan fire truck with a 1,500 g.p.m. pump was put in service at a cost of \$156,000.

In March 1990 a new Spartan Fire Truck was ordered with a 6 man enclosed cab and a 1750 g.p.m. pump.

The present fire department has 50 members: 34 firefighters, 22 rescue workers, 10 traffic officers — 50% of the members qualify in more than one division.

The Ladies Auxiliary has nine members and are a very important support group to the fire department.

In 1989 the fire department answered 582 calls: 244 fire calls and 338 rescue calls.

