

I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. There is an adage which says that, "Nothing can be destroyed except by fire." We strive to preserve from destruction the wealth of the world, which is the product of the industry of men, necessary for the comfort of both the rich and the poor. We are defenders from fires of the art which has beautified the world, the product of the genius of men and the means of refinement of mankind. But, above all, our proudest endeavor is to save lives of men — the work of God Himself. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even at the supreme sacrifice. Such considerations may not strike the average mind, but they are sufficient to fill to the limit our ambition in life and to make us serve the general purpose of human society.

*Chief Edward F. Croker
New York City Fire Department*

Circa 1910

KEEPSAKE™

**ROWAN COUNTY
FIRE and RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**

Rowan County, North Carolina

YEARBOOK



The Mobile Air Supply System was delivered to Rowan County on July 3, 1995. It is mounted on a Kodiak chassis with the body by Hackney and Sons. The compressor, a Bauer K-15, is driven hydraulically. This system was custom built by Safe Air Systems.

SPRING 1996

FIREFIGHTERS CAN'T WIN

We, too often, take our efficient, well-equipped fire department for granted, and do not give the credit due them for their outstanding and unselfish service. More often, we are apt to criticize and find fault where criticism is not due. The following item, "Firefighters Don't Have A Chance," speaks for itself.

When the fire trucks are delayed 40 seconds in traffic, people say: "It took them 20 minutes to get here."

When the truck races at 40 miles-an-hour, it's "Look at those reckless fools."

When four men struggle with an eight-man ladder: "They don't even know how to raise a ladder."

When firefighters open windows for ventilation to reduce heat while fighting a fire: "Look at the wrecking crew."

When they open a floor to get to the blaze, people point and say: "There goes the ax squad."

If the chief stands back where he can see and direct his firefighters, people say: "He's afraid to go where he sends his personnel."

If firefighters lose a building during an emergency: "It's a lousy and unprofessional fire department."

If a lot of water is necessary: "They are doing more damage with the water than the flames."

If a firefighter is injured on the job there are some who will say: "He was a careless guy."

If just one citizen is injured while firefighters fight a fire, some will say: "It's a crazy fire department."

If a firefighter inspects a citizen's property: "He's meddling in somebody's business."

If a firefighter, during an inspection, wants a hazard corrected, some will say: "I'll see the mayor about it."

If a firefighter is killed and leaves a family destitute: "That's the chance he took when he joined the fire department."

Though they are at times severely criticized, firefighters go right on doing a good job of protecting our community. A firefighter's lot is not an easy one. Firefighters are called out at all hours of the night and day. So there are some, most, who really say, "Thank God that we have such a good fire department that can be called on at all times to handle situations above and beyond the call of duty."

Keepsake™ Yearbook

Spring 1996 Edition Volume 2



Official Publication
Rowan County
Fire and Rescue Association

Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association is the collective voice of the 29 volunteer fire departments in Rowan County and the Rowan County Rescue Squad.

This publication is intended to showcase the emergency services in Rowan County, and to inform citizens of the pride, dedication, commitment and many services that are being performed for the protection and well-being of each respective community.

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Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association

Emergency: 911

Business: 704-638-0911

A Letter From The Association

Rowan County Residents,

The Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association with its members would like to thank you for your support. We would like to especially thank each business and individual who purchased an advertisement in this book which makes it a great success.

The professional firefighters, men and women alike, are proud of what they have worked for and accomplished throughout the years. You the residents of Rowan County should be proud of what the firefighters have accomplished. Each and every resident in Rowan County needs to get to know the volunteers and let them know you appreciate their dedication. We put in many hours each year, training, working, fighting fires and learning newer, faster and safer ways to protect the county.

Please read through this booklet and get to know your firefighters of the county. Contact the members of the Association and get involved. Thanks again for your support and may God bless you and protect you in years to come.

Eric O. Bonds
President

Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association

"Learn NOT To Burn"

Rowan County Fire Marshal's Office

The Fire Marshal's Office was created in 1974 with the first Fire Marshal being Robert C. Gunn. Mr. Gunn held the office until 1986. When he retired, Randall M. Faggart was in-



Randall M. Faggart, Fire Marshal

stalled. This was a one-man department until 1990 when three assistants were hired on a part-time basis. These men are: Mr. Dan Peters, Mr. John Thomason, and Mr. Jim Hartsell. They, along with the Fire Marshal, take calls after regular office hours and on weekends. This arrangement has been very successful.

The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) continues to be the lead in all investigations where there is a question on the origin and cause of a fire and in all fires where there are serious injuries or death. The office also works



Jim Hartsell, Assistant Fire Marshal

with individual fire departments to reduce their I.S.O. rating. The FMO assumes the fire ground safety role at most working fires and assists the chief in the incident command system. The fire departments look to the FMO to advise them at hazardous material incidents and to provide them with the appropriate resources. The Fire Marshal's Office also aids the fire departments in setting up tax or service districts for funding. Today we have only two departments that are not in a tax or service district.



Dan Peters, Assistant Fire Marshal



John Thomason, Assistant Fire Marshal



Gwen Thomason, Secretary

Station 40

Atwell Volunteer Fire Department

Atwell Fire Department, on Deal Road, protects an area of Rowan

County that stretches between Iredell and Cabarrus counties. Its 2,900 property holders depend on the department's pumper tanker, tanker, brush truck and certified ambulance for fire and first responder services.

The department has 35 volunteers, headed by Gary McLaughlin, chief. Other officers include Tim Beaver, assistant chief; Mac McDonald, first captain; Steve Benfield, second captain; Mike McLaughlin, third captain;

and Hubert Adams, Johnny McLaughlin, Henry Goodnight, Martin Whitson and Bill Waller, lieutenants.

Last year, the department answered 79 fire calls. First responder services began in March. Fund-raising projects for the department include hamburger and hot dog suppers and barbecue chicken dinners.

Station 41

Bostian Heights Fire Department

Bostian Heights Fire Department began in 1958 as a community effort of area people. The first meetings were held in area churches such as Mt. Hope and Ebenezer to see how many people were interested in starting a fire department. From these meetings a Chief and Secretary was selected, and a system of financing the department was devised.

Land was acquired at the intersection of Old Concord Rd. and Highway 152, and a station was built through donations of money, materials and labor.

The first apparatus was a surplus military two-and-a-half ton truck which was equipped locally with a pump and tank for use as a tanker. A new 1961 Ford commercial pumper equipped with a 500 GPM pump and a 500 gallon water tank were later purchased. Another surplus military vehicle was later equipped as a brush unit for fighting grass and woods fires.

Financing for the department was begun with yearly dues paid by the people of the community, and fund raisings conducted by the firefighters. Through the years fund raisers have included fish fries, barbecues, dances, auctions, go-cart races, raffles, and hot dog/hamburger sales, to name a few. At this time financing comes from a tax assessment based on the property values in the district and through barbecues held by the firefighters. Three annual barbecues are held — one in the fall, one at Thanksgiving and one at Christmas.

Through the years five (5) chiefs have served the Bostian Heights Fire Depart-



ment. The first chief was James Mason, followed by Cuthrell Misenheimer, Robert Blackwelder, Brady Yost and Rick Yost.

At this time the Fire Department operates five vehicles which include the following: E-411 — 1979 Chevrolet E-One Pumper, 1000 GPM pump, 750 gal. tank; T-414 — 1993 Freightliner 4-Guys Tanker, 1000 GPM pump, 2500 gal. tank; T-415 — 1987 Chevrolet 4-Guys Tanker, 750 GPM pump, 1500 gal. tank; B-417 — 1966 Ford F250 4x4 Brush truck; S-419 — 1990 Ford F350 First Responder Unit.

An auxiliary also serves the Department with refreshment at major incidents, assisting at fund-raising events, and also sponsoring fund raisings such as hot dog/hamburger sales. The Ladies also sponsor a Halloween Carnival for the community.

At this time twenty-eight firefighters/first responders serve the Department. Each Firefighter receives personal protective clothing for their protection and pagers for notification of alarms.

Through the years the Department has continued to grow, both with equipment and training, to better serve the community that has supported us through the years.

In 1994 we responded to 214 EMS calls and 208 fire related calls.

Department Officers:

Rick Yost — Chief/FR
Larry Weaver — Asst. Chief/EMT
Nelson Barbee — Asst. Chief/EMT
Lynn Hauss — Captain
Johnny Glover — Captain/EMT
Mike Zimmerman — Captain/FR
Ronnie Fulcher — Lieutenant/FR
Darrell Efird — Lieutenant/FR
Cindy Brewer — First Responder Lieutenant/EMT

Firefighters/First Responders:

Gene Basinger — FF/EMT
Terry Beaver — FF
Mark Causey — FF/FR
Robert Coble — FF
Barry Corriher — FF/FR
Jason Corriher — FF/EMT
Chad Crainshaw — FF
Bill Cress — Traffic
Brian Deal — FF/FR
Randall Faggart — FF/EMT
Scott Flowers — FF
Charles Guessford — FF/EMT
Steve Lovette — FF/EMT
Derek McDaniel — FF
Lee Myers — FF
Steve Osborne — FF/EMT
Mike Shue — FF/EMT
James Solomon — Ff/FR
Harry Troutman — Traffic

Station 42

Centenary Volunteer Fire Department

Established around April of 1962 by citizens of the community, the newly organized group bought a 1942 Chevrolet 250 GPM pumper. The truck was kept at Overcash's store, located on Highway 150. In 1967, a new brick station was built, located on Highway 150, one mile from the Rowan-Iredell county line. The '42 pumper was semi-retired when Centenary purchased a new 1974 American La France pumper. The '42 is still owned by Centenary and can be operational if needed. Also housed in the station are a 1977 ambulance and a 1961 1200-gallon pumper-tanker. On January 17, 1992 Centenary took delivery of a new GMC pumper-tanker 500 GPM, 1800-gallon tank.



Station 43

China Grove Fire Department

China Grove Fire Department currently has 26 personnel. In 1994 China Grove Fire Department answered 295 Fire and EMS calls. We operate six pieces of equipment. 1994 Quality Pumper/Tanker 1250/1500 1992 Seagrave Pumper/Tanker 1250/1500 1992 AEV Rescue Ambulance 1983 FMC Pumper 750/1000 1977 Chevrolet Support Unit — Fire/EMS 1973 Ward LaFrance Pumper 500/750

We also have the first fire engine that China Grove purchased in 1929 (1929 American LaFrance).



Station 45

Cleveland Community Fire Department



Station 46

Gold Hill Fire Department

Gold Hill Station 46 was built in 1961 to serve the Eastern part of Rowan and Cabarrus Counties. We serve and cover approximately 14 square miles, mostly rural lots of farmland and woods. We average about 90 to 100 calls a year, one half of which are EMS calls.

These are pictures of our station and our newest truck, a pumper-tanker combination, which we are very proud of.



Station 47

Town of East Spencer Fire Department



Station 48

Ellis Cross Country Volunteer Fire Department

Ellis Cross Country Volunteer Fire Department is located at 3420 Old Mocksville Road in the Franklin Township. This department serves a northern Rowan County community known as Ellis Crossroads which has a population of about 2,100. The Ellis Crossroads area has few businesses and is mostly suburban and rural residential with tracts of farmland and undeveloped property fairly evenly dispersed.

Ellis Fire Department was organized in 1951 to work in conjunction with the newly forming Franklin Fire Department. Under the leadership of the late W.D. "Billy" Kester, the department was incorporated on August 4, 1951. The station was built by the citizens of the community, and a 1951 Ford fire engine was purchased. Over the years Ellis and Franklin Fire Departments, which are only two miles apart, have maintained a close working relationship to provide the best possible fire protection for both fire districts. This spirit of working together has paid off in recent years as both departments have lowered their ISO ratings to class 6.

When the Ellis Fire Department was organized it raised operating funds through the collection of fire dues and fund raisers such as the popular micro-midget racetrack. The department was able to sustain itself for twenty-five years using this method but by the mid-1970's it became apparent that another method of raising capital was necessary. In 1976 a fire tax district was voted in by the resident freeholders in the fire district. Since that time the tax rate has varied between 5 and 8 cents and for the last several years the tax rate has been 6 cents per 100 dollar valuation.

The Ellis Fire Department provides fire suppression services to property within its own fire district as well as assistance to neighboring fire districts and municipalities. In 1993 the department answered 57 fire related calls. The department also offers first responder service in conjunction with Rowman EMS and in 1993 answered 62 medical calls.

The present fire station was built in 1983 and houses 5 pieces of equipment, which are as follows: a 1985 Ford pumper with a 1000 GPM pump and 1000 gallon water tank, a 1977 Ford tanker with a 250 GPM pump and a 1200 gallon

water tank, a 1958 International pumper with a 500 GPM pump and a 800 gallon water tank, a 1979 GMC four-wheel drive Brush Truck with a 500 GPM pump and a 250 gallon water tank, and a 1989 Chevrolet Astro Van used as a first responder unit.

ROSTER

Karen Barbee
 *Robert Myrick
 Jerry Dudley
 David Fesperman
 Bill Freeze
 **Jerry Kepley, 1st Lieutenant
 **Bill Knight
 **Mike Haas, 1st Responder Captain
 *Tony Peeler
 **Charles Ridenhour
 Chuck Ridenhour
 Bill Roseman
 Kirby Sells
 Tim Smith
 Bobby Pegram
 Keith Taylor
 **Jill Hamilton
 *Melinda Hall
 **Rosalee Fesperman
 *Kim Ridenhour
 Dave Bates
 *Jeff Whitley, Chief
 James "Rube" Fesperman, Asst. Chief
 Wayne Foutz, Asst. Chief
 *Chuck Wetmore, Captain
 Bob Kennerly, 2nd Lieutenant
 **Chris Poplin
 Kyle Fesperman

* First Responder

**EMT

FIRE CHIEFS

1951-1955 John C. Smith
 1955 John Watkins
 1956-1975 Dewey Watkins
 1975-1990 John Lee Smith
 1990-present Jeff Whitley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Dudley, President
 Bill Freeze, Vice President
 Bob Kennerly, Secretary-Treasurer
 Chuck Wetmore
 Charles Ridenhour
 Jeff Whitley
 Mike Haas

FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Terry Fries, Chairman
 William Simmerson
 Vernon Troxell
 Gene Plummer
 John Kennerly

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Ellis Cross Country Volunteer Fire Department began in 1984 when the following officers were elected: President, Rosa Lee Fesperman; Vice President, Wanda Rainey; Secretary, Irma Lackey; Treasurer, Kathy Smith; Project Chairman, Dolly Smith. Fourteen members were on the roll with an average of 8 attending monthly meetings through May of 1986, at which time we quit meeting but were still available to help the firemen when needed.

In April, 1992, Irma Lackey mailed letters to prospective members so that we could become more actively involved and begin our meetings again.

During the last two years we have assisted with a Halloween Party, held benefits for needy families, planted azaleas and bought appliances and kitchen equipment for the fire department. Money-making projects have been a yard sale, served food at Country Day in the Park, Rowan County Firemen's Muster, and Ellis Saddle Club; saved Food Lion cash register receipts; and our large project has been a cookbook "Red Hot Favorites" which we have available for \$6.00.

Once a month a "fun supper" is planned for our members, or any firemen, and our families so we can get together, have a good time, and keep interest up.

We plan to start a monthly newsletter soon. Present officers are: President, Irma Lackey; Vice-President, Dot Whitley; Secretary, Pat Wetmore; Treasurer, Robin Taylor; Project Chairman, Cathy Kepley and Angela Bates.

We have 11 active members. To be an active member, one must attend 4 meetings a year held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Ellis Park.



Station 49

Enochville Fire and Rescue Department

The Enochville Fire and Rescue Department was begun in the late fall of 1965 when a small group of concerned citizens in the Enochville community saw the need of a fire department to protect the property and lives of its citizens.

Approximately ten community members met at the home of Dallas Campbell to lay out the future plans for the department. In the early spring of 1966 the Enochville Fire Department was officially organized and its charter established. The task of acquiring equipment and man-power was initiated. With only \$248.00 of donations in the bank the department went

\$11,800.00 in debt to purchase a 1966 Ford 550 GPM pumper. The new pumper along with a large siren were housed in a garage owned by R.O. Upright. This pumper is still in operation, and the original siren still wails when the fire tones are set off.

A building to house the new equipment was the next priority. A plot of land donated by the Karriker family became the site for the department. Outside help was hired to lay the foundation, then the building was finished by community members. The building was completed in 1967. The Enochville Fire District extended to three miles from the station. The department began with 20 firemen who did most of their training out of Saint Enoch Lutheran Church. In 1972 a 1971 55 GPM Ford pumper was acquired.

For a number of years the Enochville Fire Department depended on donations and various fund raisers, such as ham dinners, to operate. It had some lean years until the district voted a tax to support the squad.

In 1978 a new building was completed and the old station adjacent to the new building became a multi-purpose facility for community use. The department also added a brush truck at this time, and in 1980 a crash truck was purchased.

Dallas Campbell, who spear-headed the organization of the department was its first fire chief followed by Lee Smith, John Sims and Fred Jordan. John Sims is the present department chief.

In 1974 Enochville became one of the first fire departments in this part of North Carolina to add a rescue service. In 1974 and 1977 van-type ambulances were purchased for the rescue department. A 1989 Mack 1250 GPM pumper was purchased in 1990.

In 1991 the department purchased a 1987 Chevrolet modular type ambulance from Cabarrus County Emergency Services to replace one of the older models and then extended services to an Intermediate Emergency Medical Service level. Today the department proudly boasts of 28 firemen of which ten serve in both areas and 19 rescue members of which 8 are certified as Intermediates. The department is also proud of its Junior Fire Brigade which was established in 1987 and presently has 11 Junior firemen from the ages of 14-17.

The Enochville Fire Department began out of concern for the community and operates as a team with the same concern today. The department is governed by a 12 member elected board of directors.



Stations 51, 52, 53

City of Salisbury Fire Department

The Salisbury Fire Department has been responding to and extinguishing fires since 1817. Any fire department with 167 years of dedicated service has a tremendous amount of history and tradition. The City of Salisbury Fire Department is a fine mix of fire service, fire service tradition and state-of-the art technology.

The traditions of ol' time firefighters run deep at the Salisbury Fire Department as can be seen at the fire department history display at Station 51. Firefighters still eat their meals at the fire house and some of the fire department's "Firehouse Chefs" were featured in the Salisbury Post, boasting their favorite recipes. Salisbury firefighters still, in true firefighter tradition, seem drawn to help the community's needy. Firefighters passed out Halloween

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS



Chief Brady and Assistant Chief Fesperman



Logistics Officer Rendleman and Projects Analyst Moore

treats to children confined to Rowan Memorial hospital's pediatric ward, fixed bicycles to give to children at Christmas, and installed smoke detectors for handicapped and elderly all year 'round. The firefighters help raise funds for abused women by setting up the Great Rubber Duck race, for burned children through an aluminum can recycling program, and for St. Jude's Children's Hospital through a trike-a-thon.

Firefighters often go unrecognized in the course of their duties, and most of them like it that way. The last thing they want is special recognition for "just doing their job." At times however, firefighters are recognized by their peers for taking an extra step to make a difference. In 1993, the Salisbury Rotary Club awarded Chief Sam Brady and Firefighter Dave Morris as Veteran and Rookie Firefighters of the Year respectively. 1994 recipients were Engineer Bobby Fox and Firefighter Rick Barnhardt. These members were recognized for their contribution to the citizens of Salisbury through Fire Prevention and Leadership efforts within the Fire Department. Firefighter Rick Barnhardt was also awarded the 1994 Rowan County Fire and Rescue

(Continued next page)

Salisbury continued

Association's Firefighter of the Year.

Fire service tradition doesn't hold the Salisbury Fire Department from delivering the best possible services to its 25,000 citizens. Technology and new programs introduced in 1994 include the implementation of the Salisbury/Rowan Hazardous Material Emergency Response Team. This team, a fully cooperative effort of the Rowan County and City of Salisbury governments, is manned 24 hours a day by the Salisbury firefighters and responds county-wide. The team has worked several incidents including truck accidents on Interstate 85 and poison gas release from industrial facilities. Firefighters on the hazmat team use computerized chemical databases and highly technical air monitoring equipment to classify and identify unknown toxic material leaks.

The City of Salisbury firefighters are the first in our region to become fully equipped and functional in the service of confined

Training on November 12, 1994, the Salisbury Fire Department conducted a multi-department master stream drill at Towne Mall. Fifteen units operated to pump over 5,000 GPM onto the simulated three alarm fire. The following units participated: Salisbury Engine Companies 511, 522, 533, 521, 531, Salisbury Ladder Companies 516, 517, Salisbury Tanker 528, Salisbury Command Post, Spencer Engine 752, South Salisbury Engine 741, Granite Quarry Engine 572, Rockwell City Squirt 703, Franklin Engine 556, and Rowan Ambulance 851.



All 15 companies line up in the staging area before the drill.

STATION 51 — CHIEF 501, ENGINE 511, LADDER 516



Shift Commanders Tony McCain and Tom Lowman, (not pictured: James Geter)



Engine Company 511

space rescue. This technical rescue team attend many hours of training and equipment familiarization to prepare for such emergencies. This team uses state-of-the-art respiratory protection and communication equipment to operate in deep shafts, confined areas, and industrial vaults. A confined space rescue simulator was constructed for and is used by the firefighters to practice their skills.

Salisbury Fire Department is rapidly approaching full computerization for all administrations functions. A microcomputer network is the hub of this development. At the conclusion of this year, all three fire stations will be networked together and computerized communications between fire department vehicles and fixed sites will be possible. Direct computerized communications to the Rowan 911 office, City Police, and county Sheriff's Office and other emergency service agencies will be possible using new technologies presently being installed. The Salisbury Fire Department's technology plan will allow the department to upgrade the phone, computer, radio, and data systems to meet the changing needs of the department and its customers for many years.

Multi-Department Master Stream Training



Just a few of the many master streams in operation

Station 54

Faith Fire Department

The Faith Fire Department originated in June of 1952 with Mr. Leon Barger as Fire



Chief. The Department's only truck was a 1951 Chevy Pumper. Fire calls were first turned into Powles Funeral Home in Rockwell, then the Department was called and the alarm was set off.

In 1954 a second truck was added. This truck was a 1954 Ford Pumper, which is the present Engine #542. Around 1974 an addition was made to the original station and town hall on Main Street, to make room for a new 1976 model Ford Pumper. This Pumper is the present Engine #541.

1984 proved to be a busy year for the Department as its First Responder group went on-line. This event was followed

closely by the station's first Tanker #543, a converted oil truck. Finally, an International four-wheel-drive, one-ton Brush truck rounded out the year — Brush #544.

In 1986, the Fire Department was moved across the street to the old "Tire Center". In 1988 the First Responders placed Rescue #546, a van, in service. Finally, in 1989, a new Ford Diesel Pumper was placed in service to round out the field as Engine #545.

The Department currently has 30 firefighters and 14 First Responders. Chief Keith Deal has served the Department well since 1982.

Stations 55, 56

Franklin Fire Department

On May 1, 1951, Rev. Milton B. Faust and Quintin Weant called a meeting at Franklin Presbyterian Church for the purpose of organizing a rural fire department. Twenty-eight residents attended the meeting. Elected to serve as the original officers and Board of Directors were: C.E. Hartley, D.W. Jarrett, Charles Bolden, Harold McCullough, Graham Weant, Ross Williams, Joe Penley and Quintin Weant. Weant was elected to serve as the Department's first Fire Department Chief and so until May of 1964. The Directors adopted Bylaws and voted that a resident wishing to be a member and receive service from the new Department would pay \$10.00 per unit as joining fee. Yard signs were distributed to identify members.

The Department's first vehicle was a 1924 American LaFrance purchased from the City of Asheville for \$600.00. Another \$80.00 worth of equipment was added to fully compliment the truck, and it was placed in service in Mr. Herman Brown's garage until a fire station could be built. In July, a second truck, a 1937 Chevrolet, was placed in service. Calls to the Department were relayed either by private phone or by calling the local store next to Brown's garage. Later, a siren was connected to a telephone line to sound by residents if a fire occurred.

A close working relationship was developed with both the City of Salisbury Fire Department, under the direction of Chief Charles Burkett, and the adjacent Ellis Cross Country Fire Department, with sharing of advice and training between Departments. This relationship is credited for the success of the Franklin Department.

A two-bay fire station was constructed at a cost of \$1,243.00 and dedicated on November 17, 1951 with a celebration and parade. In 1952 the department purchased a new GMC truck. A second celebration was held a year later with many public officials in attendance including Waldo Cheek, Insurance Commissioner.

In 1954 another new truck, a 1954 International, was purchased to upgrade the Department efforts. This truck remains in service today as a tanker for the Department. These two 1950's model trucks would be the Department's fleet until a reconditioned army jeep would be placed in service in the mid sixties as a brush unit. In May 1, 1964, Leroy Morgan succeeded Weant as Chief and



STATION 55



STATION 56

served until July of 1966 when John Thomason Sr. became Chief.

All the while, the department continued to upgrade its training and efforts to serve the community. In 1976, a fire tax was approved by the residents of the district. This allowed the department to begin an upgrading effort which included the replacement and enlargement of the fire station building on US 601 to a four-bay building, along with the purchase of a 1978 Engine. In 1978 a second station was constructed on Statesville Blvd. at Hurley School Rd. to provide protection to residents in the western portion of the Franklin Township. In 1982 a new truck purchased replaced the 1951 GMC Engine, and plans began to upgrade the Department's fire district rating.

January of 1983 saw troubled times for the Department as a group of residents successfully petitioned the County to call for a vote to abolish the Department's fire tax. On May 3, 1983, a vote was held and the residents of the district supported the continuance of the fire tax by a vote of 800 for to 133 against. This overwhelming support from the community set the stage for the department to continue its efforts to improve its service. In June of 1983, John Thomason Sr. retired as Chief and was replaced

Franklin continued

by Wade Myers, Jr., who still serves as Chief today.

In January of 1988, the Department applied to the Insurance Services Office to re-rate the Department, which has been a life long goal of many members. This drill and test resulted in a new classification of "6", which only two rural departments in the county — Franklin and Ellis — currently have today. This rating serves to

allow lower insurance premiums for residents and business owners alike.

In December 1990, the Department began offering Emergency Medical Services through a First Responder Program. Mid 1991 has seen a building expansion at the US 601 station to house the Department's Brush and First Responder units.

Currently the department operates two stations. Station 55 located at 4370 U.S. 601 Highway houses a 1988 Ford FMC 1500 GPM Engine, a 1985 Ford FMC 1500 gallon tanker, a 1978 Ford Darley 1000 gallon tanker, a 1974 Ford Utility Equipment truck, a 1980 Chevrolet Brush truck and a 1987 Oldsmobile Station used as a first

responder vehicle. Station 56 located at 3965 Statesville Boulevard houses a 1994 International KME 1500 GPM pumper, and a 1983 Chevrolet Darley 1000 tanker.

The Department is guided by a seven member Board of Directors which is overseen by three Fire Tax Commissioners. Other department officers include Wade Myers Jr. as Chief, Tony Hager Sr. Assistant Chief, John Thomason Jr. and Ronnie Fesperman Captains. Frank Thomason, Kirby Sells, Rodney Mahaley and Jack Mahaley are Lieutenants. Numerous other department personnel compliments this staff with various operational duties.

Station 57

Town of Granite Quarry Fire Department



Granite Quarry Fire Department is located at 143 N. Salisbury Ave. and covers a population of 1,800.

Mike Brinkley serves as Chief of the Department. Other officers include Bill Fraley and Chris Lyerly, Assistant Chiefs; Hugh Smith, Captain; Greg Johnson, Lieutenant; Allen Wilkerson, Medical Officer; and Lonnie Haynes, Secretary.

The department has 33 firefighters who are paid \$25.00 quarterly, up to a maximum of \$100.00 yearly.

There were about 40 fire calls and 60 emergency medical services calls during 1990.

The department was organized in February 1950 by the Town Board. P.H. Lefler Jr. served as its first Chief. Seven

other chiefs have followed Lefler.

The Department was located on South Main Street until 1976, when it was moved with Town Hall to its current location on North Salisbury Avenue.

Equipment includes three engines, a light plant, an EMS/fire support van and a squad truck for personnel transport.

Station 58

Landis Fire Department

The Landis Fire Department is an all volunteer department with 26 members. Operating out of one central station, the department provides protection to the approximately 2800 residents of the town of Landis, N.C. In addition to a residential area, the department also protects a downtown district, along with several textile manufacturing plants and other industries within the town.

Protection is provided by a 1986 1500 GPM Seagraves Engine Company, a 1976 750 GPM Howe Engine Company, and a 1991 American Rescue unit. A staff vehicle is also in service and is used for firefighter transport and command post operations.

Chief officers of the Department are: Fire Chief Reed Linn, Assistant Chief Dennis Brown, and Assistant Chief Mike Wilhelm. Other officers include: Captain Rick Fleming, Captain Dennis Lowery, Lieutenant David Barlow, and Lieutenant Keith Belk.

The Landis Fire Department was organized in 1947 with Harry Brown serving as the Fire Chief. The first firefighting

apparatus was a 1947 American LaFrance, open cab, 750 GPM pumper (Foamite 700 series). This engine is still owned by the Town of Landis and is being restored by the retired firefighters of Landis. In 1947 all firefighters were paid 50 cents per call and now, in 1994, the firefighters are paid \$100 per quarter.

Training opportunities are offered twice weekly, on Tuesday morning for 2 hours and Wednesday evening for 2 hours. During the year of 1993, the Landis Fire Department conducted 112 weekly training drills, 12 regular business meetings, 5 officer meetings, and 3 special called business meetings. Along with the weekly training drills, the fire department also conducted several drills with other local fire departments, and attended many special training classes on the community college level. In all, the fire department had 5106 hours of training and other duties for the year. Two of our firefighters attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Over one half of our firefighters are now certified at the Haz Mat Operations level. Joint training with other departments has taken the form of Live Structure Burns, Hydrant Operations, Tanker Shuttle Operations, and High Angle Rescue.

Another project this year included tagging and mapping our 193 fire hydrants and supporting an Eagle Scout project to paint the hydrants with a band of retro-reflective paint for ease in location.

Other duties include hydrant main-

tenance, apparatus, station, and equipment maintenance, fire investigations, administration work, and our annual testing of pumps, ladders, hose, breathing apparatus, and other equipment. On average each firefighter spent approximately 196 hours volunteering for their community. This does not include any emergency incident alarm time.

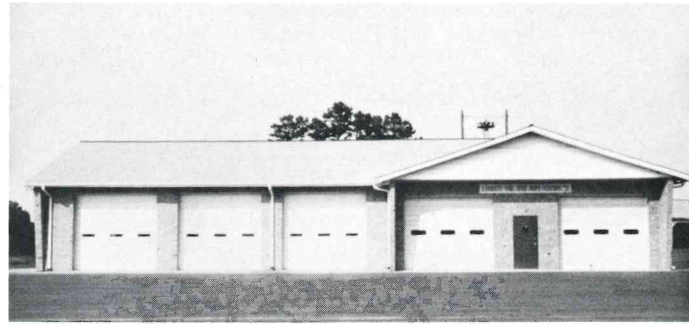
Landis Fire Department operates a First Responder program and a public education program to the citizens of the town. The Firefighter's Burned Children's Fund, in which the department collects aluminum cans for cash donations to the burn center in Chapel Hill, is another of the public service projects that the department is involved in.

The will to serve your fellow man as a firefighter is a calling. It is because of this calling that the fire service in Landis appears to have a progressive future and hopes to be among the leaders.

Stations 59, 60

West Liberty Fire Department

Liberty, located in eastern Rowan County, was formed in 1954 with 56 charter members. Herman Ribelin was named its temporary Chairman, with Calvin Shaver as temporary Secretary. Bill Misenheimer serves as Chief of the Department



Stations 61, 62, 63

Locke Fire Department

Locke Fire Department was organized in 1956. The first truck was delivered on July 4, 1956. This truck is still in service today.

In the past 40 years, Locke Fire Department has grown quite a bit. Locke Fire Department district covers about 49 square miles of Rowan County.

Locke Fire Department now operates out of three stations:

Station 61 is located on Moorsville Highway just inside the city limits of Salisbury.

Station 62 is located on Mooresville Highway at Briggs Road.

Station 63 is located on Grace Church Road just east of Shue Road.

Locke now operates a fleet of nine pieces of apparatus:

Engine 621: a 1956 International with House Fire apparatus body carrying 800

gallons of water with a 500 GPM pump.

Engine 622: a 1991 Peterbuilt with a Gruman apparatus body carrying 1000 gallons of water with a 1500 GPM pump.

Tanker 623: a 1980 Mack Superliner with a Four Guys apparatus body carrying 2500 gallons of water with a 500 GPM pump.

Brush 614: a 1954 military Dodge 4 x 4 with a fire department built skid unit carrying 150 gallons of water with a 100 GPM Homelite pump.

Engine 615: a 1970 International with a House apparatus body carrying 750 gallons of water with a 750 GPM pump.

Tanker 636: a 1987 Ford with a Gruman apparatus body carrying 1200 gallons of water with a 450 GPM pump.

Engine 617: a 1979 GMC with a Howe apparatus body carrying 1000 gallons of water with a 750 GPM pump.

Engine 638: a 1983 Chevrolet with a Gruman apparatus body carrying 1000 gallons of water with a 1000 GPM pump.

Brush 629: a 1986 Dodge 4 x 4 with a Slagle skid unit carrying 200 gallons of water with a 100 GPM Hale pump.

In December 1993 Locke Fire Department began answering First Responder calls. Locke Fire Department is operated by 63 personnel, of which 22 are First Responders.

OFFICERS OF LOCKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Narvie Bonds	Chief
Delane Turman	Asst. Chief Station 61
Bob Sloop	Asst. Chief Station 62
John Miller	Asst. Chief Station 63
Jackie Efrid	First Responder Chief
Bob Rector	Captain Station 61
Ronnie Goodnight	Captain Station 62
Jim Shue	Captain Station 63
Jason Brown	Lieutenant Station 61
Eric Bonds	Lieutenant Station 62
James Miller	Lieutenant Station 63
Bill Klutz	Traning Officer
Glenda Shrewsbury	F/R Capt. Station 61
Mitzi Connell	F/R Capt. Station 62
Jimmy Wilhelm	F/R Capt. Station 63



Station 64

Miller Ferry Fire Department

Miller Ferry Fire Department is located on Long Ferry Road in Northern Rowan County. The Fire Department covers 786 homes and 25 businesses.

Martin Trexler serves as Chief with Mike Gobble and Greg Shue as Assistant Chiefs, Hal Brandon as Captain, Bobby Fox as Captain and Training Officer and Kim Starnes as Lieutenant. The Department has an active roster of 32 Firemen and First Responders.

Bill Gobble is Chairman of the Board of Directors. Reg Gobble serves as Vice President and Kim Starnes serves as Treasurer.

Board members include Ben Gobble, Fred Shepherd, Marvin Feezor, Greg Shue, Larry Gobble, Ted Rary and Bobby Fox.

The Department was founded in August, 1954 out of an idea by Burt Miller.



The original station was built on the Myers property of Miller Ferry Road now known as Long Ferry Road. It housed two trucks, but was later enlarged to house four.

A new station was just completed in March 1992 at 2650 Long Ferry Road. It has three double bays, training room and kitchen. Present equipment include three engines, brush truck and two drop tanks. A first responder program was started in

July 1990. The department is funded by taxation, chicken and dumpling suppers held throughout the year and a bass tournament held in the spring. The Department handles about 95 fire calls and 55 Emergency Medical calls during the average year.

Stations 66, 67, 68

Mount Ulla Fire Department

Mount Ulla and Bear Poplar have stations on NC 150, NC 801 and Graham Road. There were 36 charter members.

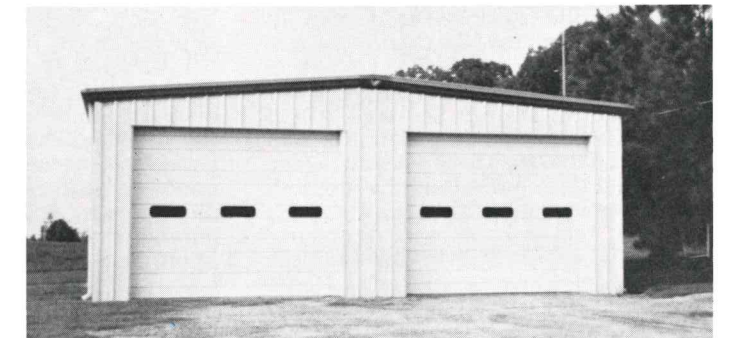
The Department was organized in February 1953 and was the fifth county department. John Lee Morrison serves as Chief.



STATION 66



STATION 67



STATION 68

Station 69

Pooletown Volunteer Fire Department

Realizing the need for fire protection, a group of concerned citizens decided that the community of Pooletown should organize a Fire Department. Initial organization of the Department began in 1972 with Pooletown Volunteer Fire Department being officially incorporated

Station 70

Rockwell City Fire Department

The Rockwell City Fire Department has gone through many changes since its formation in late 1939 upon completion of the original elevated water tank and the municipal water system. It was originally started with a small trailer which carried some fire hose with a nozzle, an axe, a chemical extinguisher, and a short ladder. It was kept near the base of the water tank under a small shed. When an alarm came in, the first member there would back his vehicle up to the trailer and hitch it, and go off to the call. When a person had a fire, they had to call the chief's residence and then he would sound the alarm. This went on for several years until late 1942, when the town was able to finally get a small Ford pickup truck. (This was during World War II, and vehicles around here were very hard to get, with most of them being used by the Dept. of Defense.) The 1942 pickup was equipped with the firefighting equipment from the original trailer plus more hose and equipment was purchased and placed on it. At this point, there was still no communications radios in any of the volunteer fire stations or apparatus. During this period, Rockwell made and installed a simplified fire alarm system around town similar to what the city of Salisbury had... (their Gamewell Fire Alarm Box System). In Rockwell, it was just a series of pushbuttons mounted in little boxes on the street light poles and when you would push the button, the fire siren on the water tank would sound.

In 1953, Rockwell purchased its first real piece of fire apparatus from Oren-Roanoke Corporation of Roanoke, Virginia. It was a 1953 Ford with a 500 GPM fire pump and a 600 gallon water tank. In 1953, it was state of the art. At that time, they also purchased the first two Self-Contained

on March 15, 1973. Charter No. 178725 lists 37 community families as original incorporators of the Department.

The first fire truck was a 1949 Ford. Pooletown's current firefighting equipment consists of a 1967 Dodge, 1974 Ford, 1973 Ford, 1971 Ford and a 1978 Chevrolet Rescue van.

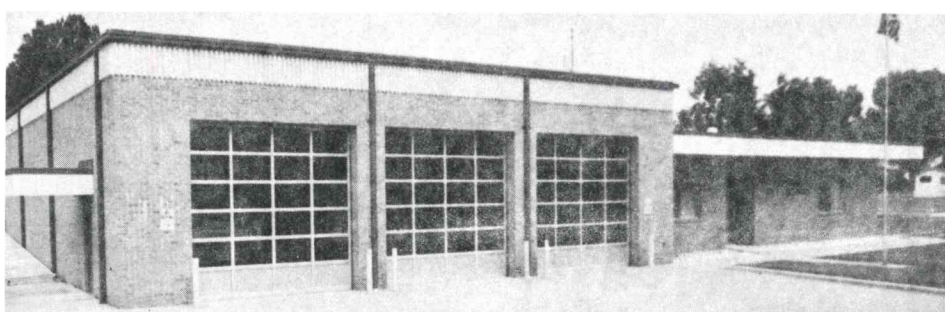
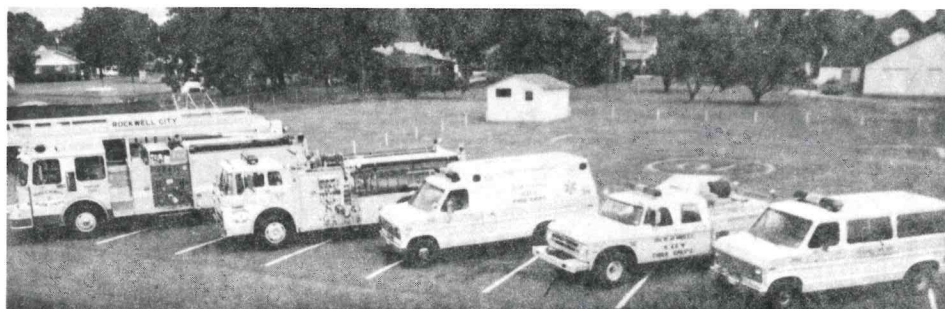
In June 1975, a Tax District was established to help finance the Department. By this procedure, all property within the Fire District was taxed according to property value at a rate of \$.08 per one hundred dollars. In May of 1981, the Tax Levy rate was decreased to \$.05 per one hundred dollars, which is the current rate.

Our first Fire Chief was Ed Listerman. Others serving through the years were W.R. Wilson, Larry Shaver, Carlton Wilson, Jimmy Stillier, and now our current Chief, Joe Gobble.

In July of 1987, another measure of pro-

tection was added to the Department and community. The First Responders Group was officially ready for dispatch in emergency situations. The Group is dispatched by EMS and renders assistance at the scene of an accident or in a home emergency until the ambulance arrives. The group currently consists of 6 First Responders and 4 EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). The 1978 Rescue van is equipped with a Trauma kit and oxygen tank. The unit also responds to working structure fires, in case it is needed for the firemen.

The Department protects an area of approximately 15,360 acres — 75% of which is woodland. We have a good Fire Department and the people of the District have every right to be proud of the Group. We are proud to be celebrating 23 years of service to our great community.



Breathing Apparatus (S.C.B.A.) and soon after received their first two-way communications radio for the fire engine through the Civil Defense Program.

In 1968, Rockwell purchased a new Ford pickup for the fire department and the old 1942 pickup was sold. The new pickup, then known as Truck 3, had the equipment transferred from the old one to the new one, and through the years more equipment was purchased and added.

In 1975, Rockwell purchased another new fire engine from Howe Fire Apparatus, which had recently purchased the Oren-Roanoke Corp. plant in Virginia. The new apparatus was a Ford "Cab-Over" with a 1000 GPM pump and a 500 gallon water tank. At this time change began taking place, as the new engine was ordered as lime green and white and the town adopted the new color scheme as a safety improvement because of increased visibility over the prior dark red.

Prior to 1975, the Rockwell City Fire Department had been located at 202 East Main Street in the Rockwell Municipal Building, and the Rockwell Rural Fire

Department had also shared the building with their one truck. When the town purchased the new fire apparatus in 1975, the Rockwell Rural Department then purchased a used building and moved out on their own to allow the town the space they needed for their new apparatus.

In April 1985, 10 years later, we had again outgrown the space available in the Town Municipal Building and moved into a new six-bay station located at the corner of Carolina Avenue and South Cherry Street, our present location. This was constructed on property which the town of Rockwell had purchased several years prior, allowing us to be more centrally located within our town limits. It was also a move to get the fire station out of the downtown business district where we had very limited apparatus space. This was a safety concern because apparatus was entering the highway across the sidewalk from within parked cars, there was little parking space for the members, and there were no facilities in which to have a meeting other than to park the fire ap-

(continued next page)

Rockwell continued

paratus out on the street and use the engine room. The new facility, in addition to six drive-thru apparatus bays, has a meeting/training room, equipment storage and supply room, communications, office, kitchen, bedroom, bath/shower room, and a day area.

In early 1986, our department received a surplus Onan Engine/Generator Set from our local telephone office, ALLTEL, Inc., and our members in their spare time converted it from a stationary generator set to a mobile unit, built a trailer and mounted it along with telescopic area lighting. It was completed and placed in service as UNIT-709 in September of 1986. Realizing the size and capacity of the unit, we then made necessary changes to the electrical system at our station whereas it would be connected to our station during power failures/outages and would allow us to continue normal operations.

We went on-line with Rowan County E.M.S. as a First Responder Agency in January 15, 1986. Then in 1987, after having been a First Responder Agency about a year and seeing the operation cost and response time of answering first responder (medical) calls with a fire engine, we were able to purchase a piece of equipment specifically for the purpose. We were able to purchase a used 1980 Ford Type II Ambulance which was being traded by another fire department in Greene County, N.C. Again, members of the department took on the project of getting the unit ready for service. It was completed and placed in service as RESCUE-705, in April of 1987. It is currently equipped with only medical equipment and answers all first responder-type calls. However, we did not have it recertified as an ambulance as we did not have enough staffing within our department to get into the ambulance business also.

About a month after placing RESCUE-705 in service, our good fortune came through again...for, you see, when we were looking for a first responder unit, we had made application for a brush truck which was government surplus property in hopes that we would come across a vehicle for the first responders that way. The unit we received was a 4-wheel-drive crash rescue truck that came from the Airport Fire and Rescue Station of the North Carolina Air National Guard in Charlotte, N.C. We received it through the North Carolina Forestry Service Fire Department Cooperative Program whereas they assign fire department surplus equipment to be used as a brush firefighting unit. When it arrived, it looked very rugged...but our members came to the call of duty, and within a couple of months had removed and rehabilitated the equipment, installed

a 250 GPM P.T.O. pump, small booster tank, hose reel, small generator unit with lighting, and additional equipment to create a small brush fire fighting apparatus, and in September of 1987, BRUSH-707 was placed in service at Rockwell City Station 70.

In December of 1988, we awarded a contract to the FMC Corporation for the construction of our new apparatus. It was delivered to us in December of 1989, and placed in service in January, 1990. Engine 703 is a custom fire apparatus manufactured on a Spartan Fire Apparatus Chassis with a 1500 GPM and a 500 gallon tank. The apparatus has a canopy type cab which has seating for six firefighters who can be in full firefighting gear with self-contained breathing apparatus. It also has a 50' elevated device which can flow 1000 gallons of water per minute from the remote controlled nozzle. It also includes a rescue ladder and allows for local operation of the nozzle from the boom tip. This is the first piece of apparatus of this type in our county within a volunteer department.

In July of 1987, our department was one of the first fire departments in our county to place into service the use of 5" large diameter hi-volume supply hose. It improved our water supply capabilities at the scene by what we refer to as "laying an above ground water main," and therefore theoretically placing the hydrant at the fire scene.

In early 1990, we completed the installation of a helicopter landing zone adjacent to our fire station. It is a turfed helipad with flush corner markers and center marking and perimeter lighting to make it usable 24 hours a day.

We currently have six pieces of apparatus in service at our department here in the town of Rockwell. These are:

Engine 701 — a 1975 1000 GPM Pumper
Engine 703 — a 1989 1500 GPM Pumper w/Elevated Device

Rescue 705 — a 1980 Type II First Responder Unit

Brush 707 — a 1972 250 GPM 4-Wheel Drive Brush Truck

Squad 708 — a 1982 Squad Van for manpower, training, fire prevention

Unit 709 — a 1986 Trailer Mounted 30 KW Engine-Generator Light Unit

We are presently working on the specifications for the replacement of Engine 701 which is to be replaced in 1995.

We currently have 34 members on the roster of our department, of which 8 are First Responders and 12 are E.M.T.s. In addition to providing fire protection, we also provide basic life support as a First Responder Agency which we have been since January 15, 1986. Our department answered 171 calls this year, of which 52% are first responder medical calls. Our members are encouraged to receive 240 training hours per year as the requirement by I.S.O., and training is a continuous ongoing thing at our department. During

the past year our members put in a total of 7,485 man/hours of training and service time. We are currently working on the N.C. State Firefighter Certification Program with 15 members who are currently state certified to the levels of Firefighter I, II, III, and Instructor II. We presently have 14 members who are Haz-Mat Level I or better certified and our department serves as the "Decon" unit for the Salisbury-Rowan Haz-Mat Team.

Since the formation of the department, we have had four different members to serve as the fire chief. The first fire chief was G.H. Moose who served from 1939 through 1943, followed by L.C. Barringer who served from 1944 through 1967, A.L. Linker who served from 1968 through 1976, and Hugh Bost, Jr. who served from 1977 till present.

Under our current administration, we have the following members who presently make up the fire control and administrative staff:

Fire Chief — Hugh Bost, Jr.; Assistant Fire Chief — Tim C. Linker; Company Captains — Tony Misenheimer, Terry Beaver; Lieutenants — Allen Misenheimer, Don Gobble; Safety Officer — James F. Poole; Training Officer — Gary L. Allison; Medical Officer — Timothy A. Draper; Haz Mat Officer — Jeff Youngblood.

We completed a fire insurance rating upgrade by I.S.O. (Insurance Services Office) in 1991. We are presently rated Class "3", and were one of the first volunteer departments in the state to be rated a "3". Some of the things which we have completed for a rating improvement is the municipal water system improvements, requiring members to meet higher levels of firefighter training, preplanning targeted hazards within our district and initiating multi-department responses to these areas, upgrading equipment to meet standards required by I.S.O., and implementing an in-house computerized records-keeping system.

Our department serves a little over 3 square miles of district within the corporate limits of the town of Rockwell having a population around 1800. The department is funded by property taxes from within Rockwell along with donations and fund raisers initiated by the firefighters. The department operates on an annual budget of around \$35,000.00.

The department also provides automatic aid to our neighboring departments answering some calls outside of our district along with receiving automatic mutual aid from some of our neighboring departments.

Station 71

Rockwell Rural Fire Department

Rockwell Rural Fire Department is located on NC 152 in Rockwell. It covers a four-mile radius.



Charles W. File serves as Chief of the department, with Rod Poole and Jim Brady as Assistant Chiefs. Terry Jones and George Cress serve as Captains. Terry Johnson and Randy Corl are Lieutenants.

Ray Shipton is Chairman of the Board of Directors. Other officers and members include: George Cress, Vice President; Lucille Patterson, Secretary; Dean Beaver, Treasurer; Lloyd Eidson, Rod Poole, Raymond Haynes, Mayford Miller, Charles File and Jimmy Brady.

The Department's 43 volunteers man two engines, a tanker, a brush unit and a first responder truck.

Funding is through a county fire district tax and donations. Recent fund-raising projects included a circus in 1989 and a candy sale in 1990.

Firefighters respond to about 40 fire calls each year. In 1990, there were 96 first responder calls.

Founded in 1954, the Department was first located at 202 Main Street. Ray Peeler was the first chief. Other chiefs have included Charles Odom, Hugh Beaver and Mayford Miller.

Station 72

Rowan Iredell Volunteer Fire Department

In the mid 1970's, the residents of the most Northwestern area of Rowan County began the process of organizing, building and equipping a Volunteer Fire Department to provide protection for their community. Prior to this, fire protection was provided by neighboring Volunteer Fire Departments. This area was beyond all existing 4-mile rated fire districts, and departments answering calls within this area were sometimes forced to leave their respective districts unprotected.

The original community meetings were

held at the Scotch Irish Community Building and Old Providence Presbyterian Church. The first annual meeting of the fire department was held in June of 1977. The Rowan-Iredell Volunteer Fire Department was chartered as a non-profit organization in September 1977. The Fire Station was completed in late 1980. The department was dispatched to its first call in December 1980.

Our department is funded by yearly dues collected from residents and property owners throughout the district. A pork and chicken barbecue is held each March and October. Firemen also sell smoked turkeys and pork shoulders each Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In December of 1991 our community began the process of organizing a First Responder Program to operate within our fire district. Training began in January of 1992 and our First Responders began operation on June 1 of that year. An ambulance was purchased from the Rowan County Rescue Squad and carries all of the equipment required for our emergency

medical dispatches.

With the addition of our First Responder vehicle in mid 1992 we were in the position of having more apparatus than we could house in our Fire Station. We were already parking our Pumper, Tanker and Brush unit in the two bay station in such a manner as to cause many anxious moments on emergency responses, not to mention backing our trucks into the building cross-ways. The First Responder van had to be parked in our barbecue building.

In March of 1993 we applied for a grant from the N.C. Dept. of Insurance Volunteer Fire Department Fund for the purpose of building a 40 x 60 four bay addition onto the original Station. In May we were notified of our Grant approval for \$14,750 to fund 1/2 the total cost of the addition. Construction began on June 5 and was completed on September 3.

Our Volunteer Fire Fighters and First Responders put in countless hours training, maintaining the station and equipment and answering emergency dispatches. The support from our Ladies' Auxiliary and the community allows us to continue providing the services which mean so much to each of us in the Rowan Iredell District.



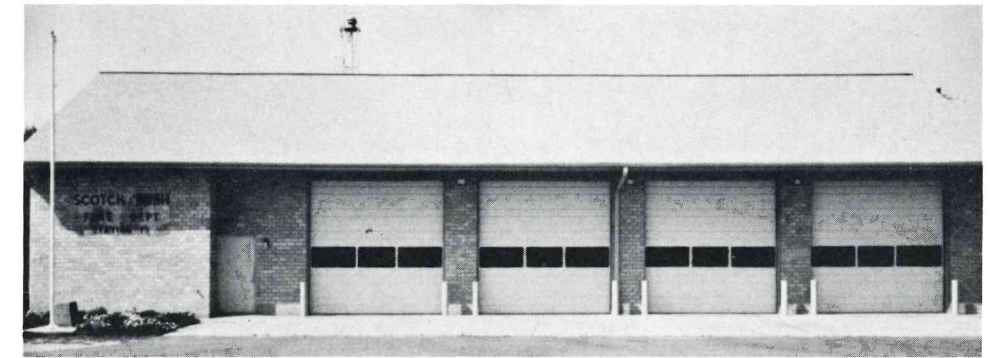
Station 73

Scotch Irish Fire Department

The Scotch Irish Station is located in western Rowan County on the intersection of Needmore and Powell Roads. It serves over 450 households and 20 businesses.

Roger McDaniel serves as Chief. Leroy Denton and Joe Owens are Assistant Chiefs. Kenneth Steele is Board Chairman. Other officers include: Leroy Denton, Vice President; Cathy Boles, Secretary-Treasurer. Other board members include Fred McDaniel, William Ijames, Donald Morrison, Tom Everhardt, Harold Chaffin, Jeff McCulloh, John Sherrill III and Donald Cranford.

The Department was founded in 1953.



It services the community with two 1,000-gallon pumper tankers, a first line pumper and a first responder unit. Responders average 12 fires and 35 emergency medical service calls during the year.

Fund-raising projects include the St. Patrick's Day Parade, chicken pie suppers and a ham breakfast. Other funding is through a fire tax.

The Department's most unusual call was when firefighters were called to a tree fire

— in the rain — started when a man was trying to smoke skunks out of the tree.

The Department also has an active auxiliary headed by Mrs. Boles. Other officers include Rebecca Cranford, Vice President; Kathleen Chaffin, Secretary-Treasurer; Laura Denton, Fundraising Coordinator; and Virginia Kinley, Advertising Chairman. There are 15 to 20 women in the community who work with the auxiliary, which began in 1965.

Station 74

South Salisbury Fire Department

The South Salisbury Fire Department began organizational meetings in 1950 when the community saw there was a need for organized fire protection. The Department began operation in 1951 when it received its state charter. Although it wasn't the first volunteer department in the county, it was the first rural fire department. It was also one of the first rural fire departments chartered in the state of North Carolina.

The fire department has had three different stations in its history. The first station was located on the Old Concord Rd. where the I-85 bridge crosses over Old Concord Rd. The second station was located one-half mile south of the first station. At one time the Department shared the building with a service station that helped support the Department's finances. The present station was built and occupied in 1976 and is located one-half mile south of the county health department on the Old Concord Rd.

In the mid-sixties, the Department added a dormitory to the station to house students that attended Rowan Tech's Fire & Safety Engineering programs. This proved to be a benefit to the Department as well as the school. It provided full-time firefighters to the Department and housing for six of the schools' out-of-state

students. The Department continued to provide student housing until the program was dropped by the school.

At present, the Department operates with one engine company, two tankers, and a brush truck which also doubles as a first responder unit. The Department carries a roster of 35 personnel. The chain of command consists of a fire chief, deputy chief, assistant chief, two captains, two lieutenants and a safety officer. The first responders are under the direction of an EMS chief and EMS captain. There is also a traffic captain and two traffic control officers. The current fire chief is Thomas E. (Chip) Grubb. He is the 11th chief in the Department's 40 year history. The Department is governed by a board of directors that oversee the operation of the Department. The board consists of seven directors. Jack Hendren serves as chairman of the board.

The Department is supported by a fire tax district which funds the operation of the fire department. The tax money is used solely for operational expenses and equipment purchases and/or replacement and repairs. The manning of the Department

is totally by volunteers who receive no monetary compensation. They are a very dedicated and proud group of men and women who give of their time to help their friends and neighbors. The Department is rich with tradition and pride that appears to be as strong as ever as South Salisbury moves toward its golden anniversary.

Although it wasn't the first volunteer department in the county, it was the first rural fire department. It was also one of the first rural fire departments chartered in the state of North Carolina.



Station 75

Spencer Fire Department

Spencer Fire Department began in 1901 with a team of volunteers who pulled the fire wagon to fires. The men were led by J.T. Morgan as Chief.

The Department organized in 1903 with W.H. Burton as Chief and 22 volunteers. The alarm was sounded by calling the power plant at Spencer, which would sound the ward number with a steam whistle. Once the whistle blew, any horses in the area were drafted to pull the wagon to the fire.

Joseph R. "Jody" Everhart Jr. serves as Chief of the Department, which is located on Fourth Street. Other chiefs have included B.F. Lee, R.B. Stewart, J.C. Vaughn, T.C. Neill, Marvin Rone, R.L. Harrison and H.W. Everhart.

Other fire officers include David Lomax, Assistant Chief; Mark Everhart and Mitch

Grubb, Captains; and Sam Morgan, Jackie Moore, Wayne Everhart and Richard Simms, Lieutenants.

The Department's Board of Directors is led by Calvin Hendrix. Other board members include Everhart and Curtis Rogers.

Equipment includes a 1949 Mack pumper, a 1966 Mack pumper and a 1978 Mack pumper. The Fire Department also has 12 air packs for firefighters' use. Each firefighter is paid \$5.50 a fire, with payments made quarterly.

The Department answers about 60 calls each year. Its most unusual call was removing a baby from a locked bathroom.

Station 76

Union Volunteer Fire Department

The Union Volunteer Fire Department was organized March 31, 1956. Marvin Boger was the first Fire Chief. J.H. Barringer was President. The building was located on Ridge Crest and Bringle Ferry Roads.

The first fire truck was a 1950 Chevrolet,

built by members. The Department operated from the Ridge Crest/Bringle Ferry location until April, 1988, at which time the Fire Department relocated to Union Church Road.

Present operation consists of five pieces of equipment and 22 firemen.

Station 77

Woodleaf Volunteer Fire Department

In the early 1950s, the need for better fire protection in the Woodleaf Community was evident. After several meetings by a group of local men, the Woodleaf Volunteer Fire Department was organized in May 1952.

Mr. C.W. Harrell was elected President and Guy Etheridge was the first Chief. There were 19 charter members who served as a Board of Directors. This dedicated group of men worked long hours to raise money to buy their first truck.

The truck was a 1952 Chevrolet cab and chassis. Several firemen who were em-

ployed by Southern Railway Spencer Shops, used the shop facilities to add a 750 gallon water tank to the truck. A 500 gallon per minute front mounted pump was then installed. This truck was housed at the garage of a local fireman. In the later 1950s, another truck, bought from Derita Fire Department, was added in order to qualify for decreased insurance rates.

After the purchase of this truck the first fire station was built. Under the direction of Rev. J.C. Swaim, a new fire station was constructed by the firemen and other community volunteers.

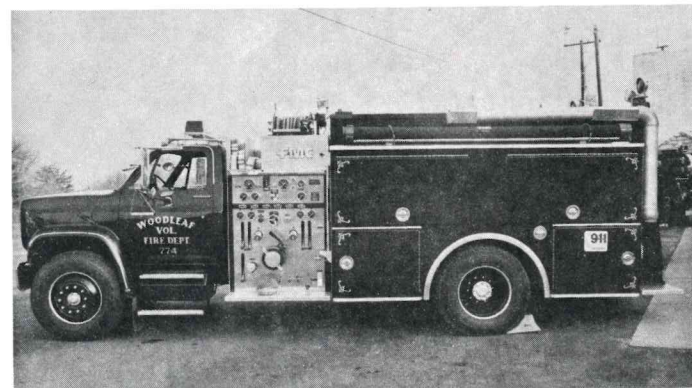
In order to pay for equipment, buildings and trucks, the fire department asked each property owner in the district to pay \$10.00 per year membership dues. The firemen also sponsored auction sales and fund raising meals. The \$10.00 per year dues remained in effect until 1986 when a fire service tax district was established to fund the growing needs of the department.

Much has changed in the forty years since WVFD was established. The Department now has 25 volunteers who are equipped with pagers and the latest fire

protection gear.

A new building was constructed in 1987 under the direction of current Chief James Gray. In 1988, a new 1,000 gallon per minute pumper/tanker was placed into service. Woodleaf now has five pieces of apparatus, including a brush truck and a 1,500 gallon tanker.

Woodleaf began providing basic life support services to area residents in 1986 when it became a First Responder Agency. The Woodleaf Department also serves as a satellite station of the Rowan County Rescue Squad, housing a heavy rescue crash truck for response in the western part of Rowan County.



Station 79

Mt. Mitchell Fire Department

Mt. Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department began October 23, 1967 by citizens of the community at Mt. Mitchell Fellowship Hall. Mt. Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department is located at the intersection of Lane Street and Old Concord Salisbury Road. The beginning crew consisted of eight firefighters: 1) Paul Hileman, 1st Fire Chief, 2) Clarence Walters, 3) Earl Wise, 4) Doyle Weatherman, 5) Bob Kanipe, 6) Paul Hogan, 7) Woodrow Linker and 8) Ken Eddleman.

Mt. Mitchell's goals for the future are to maintain a district with the best possible service available, and to serve with growth and training of our firefighters as well as our community. We are very proud to see our community's interest grow. We are also proud of the unity of our fire department's desire to become a progressive department. Mt. Mitchell firefighters show their interest by continuing education and exceeding minimal training requirements, as well as showing interest in the community on personal levels. Mt. Mitchell currently has 30 firefighters and 13 First Responders.



SITTING: Darren Rushing, Roger Cline, Donna Johnson, Shirley Mason, Walt Rex, Brian Ritchie. **KNEELING:** Alan Thompson, Robert Tidwell, Donald Deal, Charlie Correll, Chris Ridgewell, Randal Ritchie, Max Deal (Chief). **STANDING:** David Thompson, Suzanne Spencer, Joe Freeze, Everette Sloop, Kevin Ritchie, Bob Kanipe. **BACK ROW:** Assistant Chief Ralph Beck, Chris Wensil, Assistant Chief Mike Hill. **NOT PICTURED:** Tim Baxter, Tim Cook, Neva Hollipetes, Jeff Russell, Kim Hinson.

OFFICERS

Chief Max Deal
Assistant Chief Everette Sloop
Assistant Chief Ralph Beck
Assistant Chief Mike Hill
Captain Randall Ritchie
Captain Tim Baxter
Captain Alan Thompson
Lieutenant Donald Deal

BOARD OFFICERS

President Clarence Walters
Vice President Clyde Clough
Secretary Dale Wooten
Treasurer Margaret Moore

OFFICERS OF THE FIRST RESPONDERS

Coordinator Alan Thompson
Captain David Thompson
Lieutenant Donna Johnson

APPARATUS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1979 Ford 1000 GPM Pumper
1968 Ford 500 GPM Pumper
1974 Chevy 1200 gallon Tanker
1970 GMC 1500 gallon Tanker
1981 Chevy Brush Struck
1979 Chevy Van-First response vehicle

Station 90

Army Guard Fire Department

The Army Guard Fire Station is located on the northwest side of the Rowan County Airport at the Army Aviation Support Facility. It is operated and maintained by a full-time fire chief who is assisted by

other full and part-time national guard personnel. These guardsmen are referred to as a fire fighting team. They have extensive experience and training in fire protection and emergency medical services. They also have a state and federal fire protection mission when and where they are needed.

The primary responsibility of the fire fighting team is to provide aircraft rescue and fire fighting services to all aircraft owned or operated by the United States or military aircraft of any foreign nation within the area for which the team normally provides fire protection. In addition, the team must also be prepared to resolve

structural, flammable liquid, natural cover, rescue, emergency medical, and hazardous materials incidents as they occur on or off the airfield.

The fire fighting team presently operates two primary pieces of equipment: A 750 GPM (530-c) pumper with around the pump foam proportioning system and a Quick response, foam attack and rescue unit. This equipment has been available since June, 1976 for emergency support on or off the airport property upon request by civilian fire and rescue agencies.

