Mortuary Fund	67,051.05	
General Fund	4,687.11	71,738.16
Total		$118,380.53

Exhibit "L"

Motion that the report of the treasurer and the audit be accepted and printed in the Minutes. Motion duly seconded and carried.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

President Shuford, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In submitting to you my first report of statistics of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's fifty-fourth annual convention, with the fine City of Asheville as our host, I am happy to inform you that you have made real progress in your endeavor to save lives and property in the Grand Old State. Your association has had a remarkable year and has made real progress, and every fireman of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association should feel proud of this as each one has contributed toward this success. We should not be satisfied with this progress but should be especially mindful and alert to redouble our efforts in preparing against any future possibility of what our unfortunate friends across the Atlantic are going through. With the War Clouds hovering more closely to the **Land of the Free**, we as firemen of this great state should take inventory and become better prepared to meet that destructive Demon—"FIRE", if and when it comes.

LOSS OF LIFE: In the year 1940 there were 53 lives lost by fires in burning buildings in the state. This was a decrease of 16 lives lost over 1939. In this decrease you played an important part. The lives lost other than in burning buildings were 179 from causes such as careless handling of oils and other inflammable fuels, outdoor fires, playing with matches, scalding and many others. This makes a total of 232 lives destroyed by fire. This does not give account of the lives lost from burning automobiles, trucks and tank cars on the North Carolina highways and streets. These figures are not available. However, Dr. Stimson, head of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, says that his office, with the cooperation of the U. S. Bureau of Census and the North Carolina State Traffic Authority, will be able to give your statistician next year the number of deaths caused by burning automobiles, trucks and oil tankers. This loss of these 232 lives by fire is very saddening to us all; however, this is a reduction of 8 lives lost over 1939.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: The fire loss in the United States in 1940, as estimated by the National Board of Fire-Underwriters, was $285,878,697, with a per capita loss of $2.17. This is $31,660,943, or approximately 10 per cent, decrease over 1939. This to me seems to be an outstanding record, especially when one considers the increase of buildings and property values, and we must also take into consideration fires that might have been caused by sabotage.

STATE FIRE LOSS: The reported fire loss in the State of North Carolina in 1940 based on actual reports furnished the Insurance Commissioner by Fire Department Officials was $3,828,685 or an increase of approximately 7 per cent over the year 1939. The formula used by your present and past statisticians to ascertain the unreported fire loss is 40 per cent of our total loss, or $2,552,456. This gives reported and estimated loss in 1940 of $6,381,141, with a per capita loss of $1.91. If the formula used by the National Board of Underwriters in computing the national fire loss of 30 per cent for unreported loss is used, the total state loss would be $5,469,550 with a per capita loss of only $1.53. When we take into consideration the national per capita loss of $2.17, the North Carolina per capita loss is very favorable.

Your statistician wishes to call your special attention to the information received from all reports available, which shows that the actual fire loss in protected cities and towns in North Carolina, this including all departments represented in the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, is **less than three per cent of the actual values** involved in all the fires.

This year it is not possible to give you any figures or reports on fires causing destruction to our school buildings due to there being no special data on this specific class released by the N. C. Inspection and Rating Bureau for 1940-41. However, I am especially happy to inform you that **not one single child** in the State of North Carolina lost his or her life in the burning of a school building in 1940. Neither can I give you any comparison of the

Southeastern States loss with ours, nor compare the losses for the different cities and towns of our state, as this data is not available at present.

In checking the 1940 census of North Carolina I find that there are 26 cities and towns of more than 10,000 population, and 50 with populations ranging from 2500 to 10,000, and all of these cities and towns are members of the N. C. State Fire Association.

Of the 411 towns with a population of less than 2500 only 94 are members of the state association. There are 27 towns with a population ranging from 1000 to 2323, with a combined population of 36,851, which are not members of the association.

I would like to suggest that members of our organization who are neighbors of the following towns, as well as the officers of the association, contact these towns during the coming year and try to interest them in becoming members of this GREAT ASSOCIATION. These towns are: Archdale, Aulander, Burgaw, Conover, Catawba, Dallas, East Bend, East Flat Rock, East Lumberton, Granite Falls, Hazelwood, Jonesville, Kenly, Landis, Hemp, Lowell, Marshville, Mayodan, Murfreesboro, Norwood, Pineville, Ramseur, Randleman, Stanley, Walnut Cove, and any of the other smaller towns having fire departments.

We are indeed glad to welcome into our organization two new members, Halifax and Dillsboro, for the year 1940-41. I am sorry not to be able to report a greater number of new towns as joining our association this year.

TIME OF NATIONAL DEFENSE: In 1937 our beloved statistician, R. A. Joyner, brought to this association for the first time, I believe, a group summary of the fire equipment of the State of North Carolina. Again in his 1938 report he gave us another fine summary.

Since this information of equipment has been of so much value to the various departments, and the following inventory table of fire fighting equipment provides data which can be easily converted into National Defense information, your statistician, with the assistance of our good friend the State Fire Marshal, Sherwood Brockwell, has checked the fire fighting equipment of every city and town from the reports filed with the Insurance Commissioner by your city clerks as of October 1, 1940.

Your State Fire Marshal, in full cooperation with the Insurance Commissioner's office, the N. C. State Firemen's Association, and the State Volunteer Association, has set up for National Defense a clearing house for the benefit of every city and town in

North Carolina. Should a major emergency arise, this information would be invaluable. There is now being prepared by this office from this data a card index system showing trained men, apparatus, equipment, and water supplies available to all cities and towns within a radius of twenty-five to fifty miles. The State Volunteer Fire Department will have at its disposal when completely organized 3341 volunteer firemen and 797 paid men with a grand total of 4138 firemen protecting your and my life and property. There are 175 cities and towns represented in this report with a combined population of 1,130,915 men, women and children being protected by our wonderful organization.

This equipment consists of ten aerial trucks; twenty-nine ladder trucks; sixty-four auto hose trucks; two hundred seventy-six combination pumpers with the combined pumping capacity of 175,300 gallons of water per minute; eighty-four hand reels, 566,-150 feet of 2½-inch fire hose, with a total investment of $3,324,026 and a per capita investment of $2.94.

During the past decade from 1930 to 1940 the population of these protected cities and towns has increased 269,655 in number. In the past two years the number of volunteer firemen has increased 168 and the paid firemen 66, or a total increase of 234 men. You have increased your aerial trucks to 19 and your combination pumpers to 276, or an increase of 41, and your water pumping capacity increased 20,690 gallons per minute. Along with this progress you have increased the total value of all equipment $161,897 and lowered your per capita investment thirty-five cents.

Fire prevention through education has become almost universal in this great country of ours. Back in 1914 North Carolina being foremost in the realization of the need for EDUCATING its fire-fighters, established the first Fire College and Drill School in America. This was indorsed by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and has, as you know, cintinued uninterrupted since under the able leadership of that noble leader and Fire College educator, Sherwood Brockwell. Thirty-eight states conducted fire colleges with an attendance of over 75,000 firemen in 1941.

Your 1941 Fire College incorporated into its education programa new feature which was the Information Section. The Information Group of outstanding fire fighters consisted of Chief Hendrix Palmer, President of the International Fire Chiefs' Association; Chief Frank W. Bennett, the immediate past president of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association; Chief John T. Waldron, Division Chief Fire Department Headquarters of the Greater City of New York Brooklyn Headquarters; Colonel L. L. Simpson, en-

gineer in charge of construction, of Fort Bragg, N. C.; Lieutenant Kenlon H. Brockwell, Post Fire Marshal, Fort Bragg, N. C.; Fire College Drill School committee; four uniformed firemen from the Durham Fire Department; Major R. P. Bishop, superintendent of traffic of the Durham Police Department, and our own esteemed conductor, State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell. The information given by this group of men, in the opinion of your statistician, is of inestimable value to the attendants of your Fire College and Drill School, and this training was, no doubt, taken home by the 304 firemen in attendance and put into everyday, practical use in protecting property and saving lives.

Fire Departments of North Carolina again received national recognition in awards and honorable mention from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce in its Educational program. Competing in this national contest were 281 cities reporting a combined population of 31,000,000. The First Award in the final classification class six, cities under 20,000 population, went for the first time to Salisbury, North Carolina. Two years ago Salisbury stood seventh in its class, and last year it was third. It has been steadily improving its record and today it stands at the top of its class. The educational program launched by the Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Fire Department has brought excellent results. Salisbury has been steadily reducing its fire losses since inauguration of the program four years ago, when its per capita fire loss was $2.87. This has been reduced to a low of twenty-nine cents during the year 1940.

Durham and Greensboro received honorable mention for cities between 50,000 and 100,000. This, in my opinion, furnishes undeniable, indisputable evidence of North Carolina's sustained leadership in fire prevention, she having led the processing in one group and placing two honorable mentioned cities in group Four, thus winning **National Recognition** in two groups out of three.

I am pleased to tell you that many cities and towns in North Carolina have built, or have under construction, for their fire departments new fire stations during the past year. These cities are: Concord, Goldsboro, Greenville, Reidsville, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, Ahoskie, Siler City, Scotland Neck, Granite Falls, Kinston, Roanoke Rapids, Windsor, and others.

Since the inventory table of fire fighting equipment was compiled, your statistician has learned in the past few days that this valuable National Defense information has been requested of all the forty-eight states. The Honorable J. M. Broughton received a short time ago an urgent request from Mayor H. F. LeGuardia, the United States Director of National Civilian Defense, for a

complete inventory of all fire fighting equipment in each city and town in North Carolina.

This was one of Mayor LeGuardia's chief requests in his program of National Defense, and as this information had previously been compiled by the statistician, in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal and the Insurance Commissioner's office, it was immediately available for National Defense.

In conclusion let me say that in the days to come, whether they be days of peace, defense, or aggression, the FIRE DEPARTMENTS of NORTH CAROLINA will furnish PEACE OF MIND as well as PROTECTION to its citizens, just as they have been doing for the past one hundred years.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert W. Brinson, Statistician.

(See next page for Statistician's Table)

marine, praying we wouldn't find one. One day I was going down the street with a Colonel and a General. We met lots of soldiers, and every time the Colonel would salute a soldier he would say "You're another" and "You're another" and finally the General said "What do you mean by saying that every time you salute a soldier?" The Colonel said "I have been a soldier in the ranks and I know what they are saying."

I would like to attend all firemen conventions and stay all the time they are convened, but now as they have given me a real job I really don't have time. I hurried back here from Morehead City to tell you one thing and that is this: In civilian defense the most important phaze of it is civilian protection, and the most important phaze of civilian protection is fighting fire, fire bombs.

You fellows took the bit in your teeth a long time before I was appointed State Director and before there was a civilian defense, and began to teach yourself and others how to fight fire. You may not think that has meant very much to the people of North Carolina but I tell you it has. The auxiliary department in North Carolina are possibly futher ahead because of the work you have done than any other department unless it would be the air raid wardens You men all over North Carolina under the direction of Sherwood Brockwell, who, by the way, was reappointed State Coordinator for the Fire Department and Civilian Defense, have done a good job. He has done a good job and the Chiefs and officers of the Fire Department and every member have done well in teaching the people. The untimate aim of civilian defense is to teach every housewife in North Carolina, rural as well as urban communities, how to take care of their own home. It is obvious that if a Jap plane came over and dropped bombs and set fire to a hundred or two hundred homes your department couldn't cope with it, so the answer is to train every house holder to take care of their particular home. I appeal to you to take that job on yourself to teach the people in your community to take care of fire bombs. Much has been said about the change in the way to fight fire bombs. A great many other changes will come about before we win this war, and we are going to win it—don't you doubt that for a minute.

I hope the American people, certainly the fire departments, will take it for granted that more changes are coming, and when they do come accept them in the same spirit given you. If it hadn't been found to be the best way to fight a fire bomb it wouldn't be changed. I heard Sherwood Brockwell in a speech many months ago say that if a fireman was fighting a fire bomb he would fight it not with a spray but with a stream of water, because he knew how to fight it. That is true. Now they tell the civilians to

fight it like you knew it ought to be fought all the time. If we find other changes necessary we will make them and ask you to accept these changes as they come. Civilian defense is a common sense proposition. Certain planes come over and drop incendiary bombs, high explosives and other bombs, fire starts and people are injured and it takes the Fire Department and the Emergency Medical staff to take care of them.

So I come today not only to thank you for what you have done but urge you to keep doing. You know our enemies would like us to set up a fine civilian defense operation and because there was nothing to do we would gradually sway off, wouldn't attend meetings, would say "After all no bombs have been dropped, why do this?" Our enemies would like that, and then when we backed off and failed to keep up with the times, then they will come over and drop some bombs. I ask you to keep the interest up in your community and through the fire department, as much as any department of any City Government can, because even though we get tired at times, no country has been able to withstand the onslaught of Hitler and his hoard except the country who has trained civilians. To train everybody how to do and what to do is the only way to win this war. So fellows, keep up the good work and let's do it.

PRESIDENT JOYNER:

Mr. Douglas, we are delighted to have you and appreciate your visit and assure you that the Firemen of North Carolina are with you in your civilian defense program.

STATISTICIANS'S REPORT

President Joyner, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I submit to you my report of statistics for the fifty-fifth annual convention assembled here with our fine host—Greensboro—the city of the birth of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

Since our association met last year history has again been made and we find our country deep in war, with our forces in all parts of the world, in a world wide conflict, to fight not a fire,—but to fight for our continued freedom—for our democracy—which have been our heritage. On our home front we can proudly say that the firemen of North Carolina have girded on their fighting uniforms and are prepared for any attack from our common enemies—

the Fire Demon from the Sky, Espionage, or any other Hitler or Jap form of menace.

NATIONAL LOSS OF LIFE: Fires take an average of 10,000 lives a year. Since 1900 about 400,000 people have lost their lives by fire in the United States. In the last twenty-five years more Americans were burned to death than fell in World War 1 and the Civil War. We have about 700,000 fires a year in the United States. But here is a more significant figure: About 400,000 of those fires occured in homes. A home fire occurs somewhere in the United States every minute and a half on the average. About once every 50 minutes some person is burned to death in a fire. The principal causes are well known and easily understood. They are; Carelessness with cigarettes and matches, defective or overheated chimneys and flues, misuse of electrical equipment, carelessness in handling gasoline and kerosene, sparks on wood shingle roofs and unnecessary accumulation of rubbish in attics, closets and basements. The final fire hazard suggests a theme of more fire prevention.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: The Fire loss for the United States for the year 1941 was $304,000,000. This is the heaviest loss since 1932 when the loss was $400,859,000. The 1941 loss of $304,000,000 is $18,121,303 increase over the year 1940 or an increase of 6 per-cent, making a per capita loss of $2.34.

The property losses during the past eleven years have been estimated as follows by the National Board of Underwriters:

1931	$451,643,000	1936	$266,659,000
1932	400,859,000	1937	254,959,000
1933	271,453,000	1938	265,591,000
1934	271,197,000	1939	274,943,000
1935	235,263,000	1940	285,878,697
		1941	$304,000,000

Annual Fire Losses by Causes—Approximate Estimate from State Fire Marshall's Reports:

CAUSE		
Chimneys, flues—defective or overheated	58,000	$15,000,000
Sparks on roofs	79,500	14,000,000
Defective or overheated heaters	19,000	8,600,000
Rubbish	26,000	4,000,000
Combustibles near heaters	15,000	4,500,000
Open lights, flames, sparks	7,500	1,700,000
Hot ashes, coals	16,000	2,500,000
Oil burners	7,000	2,000,000

Smoking	87,000	14,000,000
Children and matches	23,000	2,500,000
Matches	22,000	3,200,000
Electrical	55,000	26,000,000
Electrical appliances, motors	10,000	1,500,000
Flammable liquids, Misc., home dry cleaning and starting fire	20,000	4,000,000
Torches, welding	8,000	2,700,000
Films (Nitrocellulose)	1,000	150,000
Lamps and stoves	22,000	5,200,000
Gas and appliances	4,000	1,900,000
Grease, tar, etc.	10,500	2,000,000
Spontaneous ignition	19,500	15,400,000
Fireworks	1,500	200,000
Lightning	24,000	8,500,000
Thawing pipes	1,000	350,000
Sparks from machinery, friction	3,000	1,300,000
Incendiary, suspicious	8,500	11,000,000
Miscellaneous	11,500	6,800,000
Unknown	78,000	114,000,000
Explosions	10,500	9,000,000
Exposure	37,000	18,000,000
TOTALS	685,000	$300,000,000

Annual Fire Losses by Occupancies—Approximate Estimate from State Fire Marshall's Reports.

	Occupancy	No. of Fires	Loss
(a)	Public Buildings (Including hospitals, schools, churches, theaters)	13,300	$19,650,000
(b)	Dwellings (including hotels, apartments, homes etc.)	393,000	$92,000,000
(c)	Mercantile (Including office buildings, warehouses, resturants, and other mercantiles)	72,000	70,100,000
(d)	Manufacturing (Including mills, packing plants bakeries, cleaners, etc.)	23,700	52,900,000

(e)	Miscellaneous (including barns, lumber yards, railroad and wharf properties, powder plants, automobiles, etc.)	183,000	65,350,000
	TOTALS	685,000	$300,000,000

UNITED STATES FIRE LOSSES EXCEED TOTAL OF BRITISH BOMBINGS:

If the average American citizen was to stop and think of the terrible destruction caused by the bombings of Great Britain for the first two years of the present war he probably would consider it as the greatest devastation ever caused in the history of man. Great as has been such destruction, however, it does not equal the loss caused by fire in our own country during the same period of time.

Recently, the Economist, a leading London financial paper, estimated the damage caused in Great Britain by bombing during the first two years of the war at $480,000,000. During this same period of time the loss caused by fire in the United States was nearly $600,000,000, and it is entirely likely that this fire loss figure would have been far greater were it not for the fire prevention activities carried on by the Fire Departments of North Carolina and the other forty-seven states.

STATE FIRE LOSS: The reported fire loss in the state of North Carolina in 1941 based on actual reports furnished the Insurance Comissioner by Fire Department officials was $3,684,000, a decrease of $144,685 or approximately 4 per cent decrease over the year 1940. The formula used by your statistician to ascertain the unreported fire loss is 40 per cent of our total loss or the amount of $1,473,600. This gives reported and estimated loss in 1941 of $5,157,600 with a per capita loss of $1.44.

Your statistician was this year able to obtain amounts of approximately all losses actually paid by Insurance Companies in the state during the fiscal year of 1941. This totals around $4,316,936. The formula generally used by the National Board of Underwriters in computing the National Fire Loss is to add 30 per cent to the amount actually paid by all forms of insurance companies, exclusive of automobile insurance, to the amount of actual insurance paid. This means adding $1,295,080 to the $4,316,-936 thus making a total loss of insured and uninsured of $5,612,-

016. From the figures and formula above would be established a per capita loss for North Carolina (based on 1940 census) of $1.57. Taking into consideration the National per capita loss of $2.34 the North Carolina per capita loss is especially gratifying and something every fireman should be proud of.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: Fire Prevention Week for 1941 was again a week of extended activity by the Fire Departments throughout the State of North Carolina. The Honorable J. Melville Broughton, State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell, and Lieutenant Kenlon Brockwell, Post Fire Marshall, Fort Bragg, featured the week at Salisbury in their Fire Prevention week, vividly portraying Civilian and Army collaboration in "Fire Defense is National Defense."

Fire Departments of North Carolina once again received National recognition in awards and honorable mention from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce in its educational program. There were approximately 300 cities, reporting a combined population of over 30,000,000, competing in this national contest. For the second consecutive year the first award in the final classification, class six, cities under 20,000 population, was awarded to the city Salisbury, North Carolina. Rocky Mount received national recognition and honorable mention in class six as well as being rated second in our state. Durham and Greensboro again received honorable mention for cities between 50,000 and 100,000 population.

The second consecutive winning by Salisbury of the national award and the three honorable mention cities place North Carolina firemen once more in the outstanding leadership in the nation in Fire Prevention activities. This is reflected in the reduction of our per capita loss.

Closely following Fire Prevention week, Sherwood Brockwell, Chairman of the Educational Committee of your association, entered the United States Army School of Chemical Warfare at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. Immediately upon his return on November 18 he inaugurated a Program of Defense in North Carolina in co-operation with the Fire Departments—appearing in Scotland Neck for the Roanoke River Association; at Farmville for the Fire Department and joint Civic Clubs meeting; at Tarboro with a joint meeting of Tarboro and Rocky Mount Fire Departments and city officials; in Greensboro for the Kiwanis Club; and for the Federation of Woman's Clubs of Johnston County at Clayton.

NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN IN TIME OF WAR AND DEFENSE: On that history making day, December 7, 1941, when

the United States was plunged into the war by that dastardly stab in the back at Pearl Harbor, the Firemen of North Carolina answered that alarm. On the night of December 7 every Fire Chief in North Carolina was notified of a special meeting for National Defense to be held in Raleigh December 10. Representatives of over 150 fire departments answered that roll call. After hearing a stirring address by the Governor, the Honorable J. Melville Broughton, the day was devoted to a study of the methods used by our enemies in raids, espionage, and incendiary activities in War Production Plants. In the meeting Mr. Brockwell was assisted by Captain J. M. Munday of the Charlotte Fire Department graduate of Edgewood Arsenal School, and Lieutenant Kenlon H. Brockwell, Fire Marshal of Fort Bragg.

This initial meeting was followed by a Critique for East Carolina cities and towns in Farmville on January 13 and for Western Carolina in Charlotte, March 16. Both these Critiques were attended by representatives fo practically all fire departments in the East and West. The North Carolina Fire College and Drill School was conducted along similar lines at Asheville June 2, 3, 4 with Chief Sam J. Pope of the Boston Fire Department guest member of the Faculty.

Since the declaration of war, Sherwood Brockwell, representing the North Carolina Insurance Department and the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, acting with local fire departments, has appeared before many mass and group meetings in furthering the War and Defense Educational Program. Following is a list of these meetings: State College at Raleigh 2 meetings, the University of North Carolina 2 Defense Schools, a Virginia state wide O. C. D. Meeting at Richmond, Roxboro 2, Lexington 2, Badin 3 including entire adult population, Burlington 2, Farmville 2, Red Springs joint meeting of all fire departments in that section, at Campbell College a county wide meeting for Harnett County, St. Mary's School at Raleigh 1, Greensboro 3, Henderson 1 including the North Carolina State Guard Encampment, Sanford 2, Raleigh 4, and one each for the following: Durham, Fort Bragg, Thomasville, Wilmington, Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount, Wilson, Goldsboro, Leaksville Spray, Kinston, Clinton, Plymouth, Washington, Littleton, Sylvia, and Asheville.

The enthusiastic response of fire departments throughout the state and the activities and interest by those departments, following the December 10 meeting in Raleigh and subsequent meetings in Farmville and Charlotte, in forming and training auxiliary fire units has, to a large extent, counted for the very favorable standing of North Carolina Fire Departments in an All Out War Effort.

Your statistician has again this year, in cooperation with Mr. Brockwell and the Insurance Commissioner's office, made a complete summary of the fire fighting equipment of all the cities and towns of the state of North Carolina, as reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office. There are 176 cities and towns represented in this report with a combined population of 1,132,467 men, women, and children being protected by you men.

The equipment consists of 10 aerial trucks, 31 ladder trucks, 62 auto hose trucks, 86 hand reels, with total capacity of 34,100 feet of hose, and 290 combination pumpers with a combined pumping capacity of 184,750 gallons of water per minute, 584,500 feet of 2 one-half inch fire hose, new or in good condition, with a total investment of $3,454,756 and per capita investment of $3.05.

It is very gratifying when we compare the equipment for 1941 with that for 1940, as you have increased your ladder trucks by 3, hand reels 2, combination pumpers 14, 2 one-half inch fire hose 18,350 feet, and your water pumping capacity 9450 gallons per minute. In the past year there was a growth of 29 among the voluntary firemen and of 48 for the paid firemen, in spite of the fact that many departments have lost men to the Defense and Armed forces of our country. Along with this improved equipment you have increased the total value of all equipment $130,730 with your per capita investment only raised 15 cents.

Your annual Fire College and Drill School was held in Asheville June 2, 3, and 4, under the able leadership of Sherwood Brockwell, your educational director. Despite the great distance and the necessary location of the school, Asheville, necessitating long trips for many representatives during a period of acute tire shortage and gasoline rationing, the number in attendance bespeaks volumes for the importance with which the Fire College and Drill School is regarded by the rank and file in the fire departments of the state. There were 77 North Carolina towns, 2 industrial plants, 4 out-of-state cities and towns, and 3 U. S. Army posts represented, making a total of 86 fire departments taking part, with 329 firemen attending the School to gain more knowledge in fire fighting and protection of lives and especially to learn what to do with those destruction and death bombs from the air, which we may expect in times of war.

NEW MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION: The towns of Catawba, Huntersville, and Liberty have reported as having qualified for membership in the Association since our last convention and we are happy to welcome them into our organization. These towns have not submitted data as to their personnel and equipment which will, in all probability, be listed in the next report.

DEATH OF TREASURER:

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death and loss of our **Friend** A. B. Horney, Treasurer. He organized the High Point Fire Department in 1887, and was continuius chief from 1887 until 1917 and was re-elected chief in 1919, serving in that capacity to 1931. Mr. Horney then was appointed Fire Marshall of the city of High Point and held this post until his death on Sunday, May 24, 1942. He was president of the North Carolina State Fire Association in 1925 and became your treasurer in 1933, remaining guardian of your funds until he answered the last alarm.

Mr. Horney was one of the original number of men who organized the North Carolina State Fire Association. At that time (55 years ago) our state was just emerging from the most trying time it has ever lived through—Reconstruction—and the leaders of that time were hoping to find a way to serve the people. This they did when, in that memorial year of 1887, they organized the North Carolina State Firemen's Association here in our host city of Greensboro,—and this great Association stands as a living memorial to their efforts.

In conclusion I wish to express to our friend Sherwood Brockwell and the office of the Insurance Commissioner my sincere appreciation for the wonderful co-operation their offices have given me in helping to secure the information and data necessary in compiling my report.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. Brinson, Statistician

(See next page for Statistician's Table)

ABSTRACT FROM STATISTICIAN'S REPORT—AUG. 12, 1942

Summary of the Fire Fighting Equipment in Various Cities and Towns of the State of North Carolina as Reported to the Insurance Commissioner as of October 1, 1941.

Cities and Towns	Population 1940 Census	Volunteer Firemen	Paid Firemen	Aerial Trucks	Ladder Trucks	Auto Hose Trucks	Auto Hose Truck Capacity	Combination Pumper	Pumping Capacity Gallons	Hand Reels	Hand Reel Capacity	Number Feet Fire Hose	Alarm System	Total Value All Equipment
Aberdeen	1076	18						2	800	1	500	2050	Sirene	$15,000
Ahoskie	2313	16	2			2	1500	2	1500			3000	Telephone	13,000
Albemarle	4060	20	7					2	1150			4400	Telephone	18,000
Andrews	1520	20						1	400			1800	Sirene	4,000
Angier	1028	26				1	500					1700	Telephone	4,800
Apex	977	26						2	1000			2000	Sirene	6,000
Ashboro	6981	28	3			1		2	1350			3500	Sirene	23,500
Asheville	51310		66	1	1			7	5500			13550	Gamewell	83,600
Ayden	1884	25						1	500	1	300	1800	Telephone	8,000
Beaufort	3272	44	1		1			3	1850			3600	Gamewell	28,000
Belhaven	2360	20			1			1	800			3200	Sirene	10,000
Benson	1837	10						1	500	1	250	2050	Sirene	5,000
Belmont	4356	15	1			1	1200	1	600			2500	Sirene	8,500
Bessemer City	3567	15				1	500	1		1	500	1600	Sirene	7,500
Bethel	1383	22						1	500	1	500	1500	Sirene	4,000
Biltmore Forest	476	20						1	250			2250	Gamewell	4,000
Black Mountain	1042	53	1					1	750			1900	Gamewell	12,000
Blowing Rock	654	20						2	1250			2200	Sirene	10,000
Boone	1788	14	1			1	400	1	500	1	500	1600	Telephone	9,000
Brevard	3061	16	2					1	750			1500	Sirene	7,500
Bryson City	1612	18						2	700			4000	Sirene	10,000
Burlington	12198	40	4	1				3	2000			6500	Gamewell	30,000

Auditing services	22.52	4.81
Total disbursements	$1,981.92	$4,866.33
Increase in cash balance during year	$2,125.08	$ 905.34
Cash balance July 1, 1942		3,542.04
Cash balance June 30, 1943	$2,125.08	$4,447.38

Note: The victory tax withheld from the salary of the secretary for the three months ended June 30, 1943, was paid to the Collector of Internal Revenue during the month tof July, 1943.

EXHIBIT E

THE FIREMEN'S FRATERNAL INSURANCE FUND OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ed. A. Johnson, Treasurer, Kannapolis

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

For The Year Ended June 30, 1943

CASH RECEIPTS:	Mortuary Fund	General Fund
John L. Miller, secretary, assessments and initiation fees	$25,563.01	$2,555.70
Income from investments:		
Interest:		
U. S. Savings bonds, series G	125.00	12.50
N. C. 3¼% bonds due 7-1-46	157.50	
N. C. 4¾% bonds due 1-1-48	71.25	
N. C. 4¼% bonds due 1-1-49	127.50	42.50
N. C. 3¼% bonds due 8-1-55	81.25	
Liberty Storage 4% bonds due 1-1-48	50.00	
Dividends:		
Brown Manufacturing Co., 50 shares	150.00	
Chatham Manufacturing Co., 6% cumulative preferred, 25 shares	75.00	
First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Charlotte, N. C., 50 shares	75.00	
Piedmont Building and Loan Association, 20 shares	30.00	
Piedmont Federal Savings and Loan Association, 50 shares	87.50	
Total receipts	$26,593.01	$2,610.70

CASH DISBURSEMENTS:		
Death claims (19)	$19,000.00	
Investments—$12,000 par value—U. S. defense bonds, series G	11,000.00	$1,000.00
John L. Miller, secretary, salary		1,484.79
Ed. A. Johnson, treasurer, salary		125.00
Stationery and postage		131.78
Surety bond premiums		42.19
N. C. State license and fees		58.00
Custodian service	54.16	5.30
Audit fee	39.77	2.90
State examiner fee		62.70
Intangible tax		13.92
Total disbursements	$30,093.93	$2,926.58
Decrease in cash balance during year	$ 3,500.92	$ 315.88
Cash Balance July 1, 1942	16,505.02	2,316.33
Cash balance June 30, 1943	$13,004.10	$2,000.45

Note: The victory tax withheld from the salary of the secretary for the three months ended June 30, 1943, was paid to the Collector of Internal Revenue during the month of July, 1943.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

Mr. Charley L. Burkett, President, and Fellow Firemen of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association:

I herewith submit to you my report of statistics for the fifty-sixth year of our Association.

During the past year since our Association met in Greensboro our nation has been struggling under the ALL OUT WAR of World War II. We have seen once more what war can do for a peace loving people. History has been made many times during this period and our fighting forces have made history that will stand forever.

The soldiers on the home front, THE FIREMEN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION, have also made history that will go down in the war time records in fighting the FIRE DEMON, who has as his accomplice that Black Traitor—WAR SABOTAGE.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: Fire Prevention Week of October 4-10, 1942 was once more a week of real activity throughout the entire state. Rocky Mount has been named the first city in North Carolina in Fire Prevention Week activities. Gastonia was named for second place, and honorable mention went to Lenoir, Asheville and Wilmington. As compared with cities in the whole United States, Rocky Mount stood thirty-sixth and was awarded a merit grade of between 80 and 90 per cent. The reports submitted represented 1,172 cities from the United States, Alaska and Canada.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: Your annual Fire College and Drill School was held in May with the city of Charlotte as our fine host. The school was well attended, much was accomplished and never was a keener interest exhibited. There were 350 firemen in attendance representing 90 cities and towns and industrial plants, and as many fire departments. The United States government had men from the following camps and bases for instruction and to gain knowledge in modern fire fighting in war times and how to handle incendiary bombs: United States Marine Air Base, Cherry Point, United States Anti-aircraft Firing Range, Camp Davis, United States Camp Sutton, United States Quartermaster Corps, Charlotte, Camp Butner, Durham, Seymour Johnson Flying Field, Goldsboro, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, Raleigh-Durham Air Field and Laurinburg-Maxton Air Base. The North Carolina Insurance Commissioner, William P. Hodges was in attendance and made an inspiring speech which was enjoyed by all.

Your statistician wishes to pass on to you the contents of a letter written to the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner from the Secretary-Treasurer, Daniel B. Tierney, of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The letter, I am sure, is self explanatory and every fireman of North Carolina should be more than proud to have a man like Sherwood Brockwell as his Fire College and Drill School instructor.

International Association of Fire Chiefs
8 Robbins Road
Arlington, Massachusetts

Insurance Commissioner William P. Hodges
State House
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Commissioner:

President Callahan of the International Association of Fire Chiefs,

Chief Mitchell, Fred Shepperd and I were greatly impressed with the splendid class conducted for the firemen of North Carolina by Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell in Charlotte which we witnessed in our recent visit.

It was a revelation to us who are familiar with Firemen Training Programs to see a class handled so expertly and efficiently. In our opinion it is the outstanding one in the entire country. The college, drill yard and complete set-up are ideal. The large number in attendance, the keen interest and excellent deportment while in class were extremely edifying and it must be a source of pride to you, Chief Palmer, Chief Brockwell and all others to know that your efforts have been richly rewarded.

We need Sherwood Brockwell on our educational program for the Conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Chicago, August 31, September 1-3, 1943, and President Callahan requests that you delegate him to attend that Conference.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

(Signed) DANIEL B. TIERNEY, Secretary-Treasurer.

Your Educational Program Chairman Sherwood Brockwell has conducted many meetings in cities and towns in all parts of the state during the past year. These included meeting with the Roanoke River Association and the extraordinary meeting of the East Carolina Fire Association held at Greenville, North Carolina, in April at which time the new Greenville Fire Station and Drill Tower were dedicated. It is reported that practically every city and town in the state have set up a corps of auxiliary firemen and have them well trained for any emergency.

I have once more this year, with the cooperation of Mr. Brockwell and the Insurance Commissioner's office, made another complete summary of the fire fighting equipment as reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office. This report represents 176 cities and towns with a combined population of 1,132,467 (1940 census) men, women, and children who are being protected by the firemen of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

When we compare the equipment for 1942 with that of 1941 we are happy to note such a nice increase, especially when we consider how hard it is to make purchases and how slow the deliveries have been, due to the war conditions.

In spite of many of our firemen having answered the call to arms and many cities and towns not having their usual number of

firemen other cities and towns have increased their personnel and others have replaced those who answered the military call.

Your equipment consists of 12 aerial trucks, 33 ladder trucks, 73 auto hose trucks with a capacity of 63,200 feet of hose space, 86 hand reels with 35,100 feet of hose capacity, and 300 combination pumpers with a combined pumping capacity of 193,150 gallons of water per minute, 609,950 feet of 2½-inch fire hose, new or in first class condition. The total number pieces of motor apparatus is 419 and the total investment of all equipment is $3,618,-218 with a per capita investment of $3.19.

When the year of 1942 is compared with that of 1941 we should be thankful for the improvement made in the fire fighting equipment. You have increased aerial trucks by 2, ladder trucks 2, auto hose trucks 11, and combination pumpers 10, with an increased pumping capacity of 8400 gallons per minute, and 25,450 feet of 2½-inch fire hose. You have increased your total value of all equipment $163,462 with an increase of only 14 cents per capita investment.

STATE FIRE LOSS: The losses reported paid by insurance companies to the Insurance Commissioner for 1942 were $4,684,-396. The formula generally used by the National Board of Underwriters to determine the National Fire Loss is to take 30 per cent of the amount actually paid by all insurance companies, exclusive of automobile insurance, and add to the actual insurance paid. The 30 per cent of reported insurance is $1,405,318 and added to the $4,684,396 thus makes a total loss of insured and uninsured of $6,089,714.

Based on the formula and figures above a per capital loss for North Carolina for 1942 and on the estimated population of 3,809,-731 would be $1.59. This is only 2 cents per capita increase over 1941 which is gratifying when we take into consideration that the figures listed for North Carolina and the estimated population of the state do not include the vast number of people of all races who came into the state during the year of 1942. These newcomers are engaged in war work of various kinds and capacities thus creating living conditions with subsequent fire hazards never before experienced in our cities and towns.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: The firemen of North Carolina are well aware of the number of fires that have been in public school buildings in the state in recent years. Many of these fires have been in rural districts and in many cases have received aid from your various fire departments. A representative of the North Carolina

State Firemen's Association has made recommendations and assisted in preparing a special report which has been presented to the recently created State Board of Education.

These recommendations include the following:

1. Removal of all shops, wherever and whenever practicable, from school buildings already erected and placing such shops in separate buildings removed from regular buildings.
2. The same for Home Economics classes using kerosene, gasoline and or kindred products in cooking, cleaning, etc.
3. Designing all school buildings erected in the future except those of approved Fire Resistive Construction throughout, so that shops, brooders, home economics class rooms using highly inflamable vapors, gases and heating appliances be taken care of in separate buildings removed from the regular school buildings.
4. That the use of school buildings be limited during school year and during time when not regularly occupied to school purposes only.
5. That all furnaces and fuel room areas be properly segregated from remainder of such buildings and kept so.
6. That all trash chutes and other openings between floors of school buildings be eliminated and prohibited in new buildings.
7. That whereas the state of North Carolina has millions of dollars invested in school buildings, each superintendent and each principal be instructed to see that all trash, debris, and like matter be removed from school buildings each day before he or she leaves such building and that if the school is equipped with electric and or gas apliances that main switch controlling same be pulled before such superintendent and or principal leaves building.
8. That each city school system and each county school system have employed a responsible person whose duty shall be to go from school to school to see that fire dangers are not allowed to exist.
9. That school authorities in the counties, cities and

towns seek cooperation of police and other law enforcement agencies to the end that all school buildings be better policed at night, week ends and vacation periods.

10. That legally required exit areas be utilized for no other purposes.

11. That the practice of locking outside doors during school hours be discontinued.

12. That the facilities of the nearest fire department be utilized by school officials in any matter pertaining to fire protection.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: Industrial fires in the first four months of 1943 equals the entire industrial fire total for 1942. While authentic date on the fire loss for the United States is so far unavailable, such information as your statistician has been able to secure shows a decided uptrend, as illustrated by release of the United States Chamber of Commerce July 1, 1943. The fire losses in 1943 thus far have shown an alarming upward trend in industries providing or storing war materials and essential civilian supplies. For the five months ended May 31, 1943, the total fire losses for the United States as estimated by the National Board of Fire Underwriters reached $163,000,000 (one hundred sixty-three million) or more than $15,000,000 (fifteen million) increase over the same period of 1942. These figures are entirely outside of the toll of thousands of lives lost and many thousands more disabled by that DEMON—FIRE.

FIRE TOLL: Preventable fires and explosions take a toll, not only of property, valuable furnishings, family portraits and paintings, irreplaceable heirlooms, clothing and important documents, but a disastrous toll of human life. The United States Census Bureau figures indicate that between 1933 and 1937, total fatalities from fires numbered 40,140 persons, of whom 13,789 were children whose ages ranged from 4 to 14 years.

In conclusion I again wish to express to our friend Sherwood Brockwell and the office of the Insurance Commissioner my sincere appreciation for the 100 per cent cooperation and their time they have given me in helping secure the information necessary in compiling my reports.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician.

(See next page for statistician's table).

ABSTRACT FROM STATISTICIAN'S REPORT 1943

Summary of the Fire Fighting Equipment in Various Cities and Towns of the State of North Carolina as Reported to the Insurance Commissioner as of October 1, 1942.

Cities and Towns	Population 1940 Census	Volunteer Firemen	Paid Firemen	Aerial Trucks	Ladder Trucks	Auto Hose Trucks	Auto Hose Truck Capacity	Combination Pumper	Pumping Capacity Gallons	Hand Reels	Hand Reel Capacity	Number Feet Fire Hose	Alarm System	Number Peices Equipment	Total Value All Equipment
Aberdeen	1076	18						2	800	1	500	2100	Sirene	2	$ 15,000
Ahoskie	2313	16	2			2	1500	2	1500			3000	Telephone	4	14,000
Albemarle	4060	21	7					3	1750			5900	Telephone		22,500
Andrews	1520	20				1	500	1	400			1300	Sirene	1	4,000
Angier	1028	26										1700	Telephone	1	4,800
Apex	977	26				1	1000	2	1000			2000	Sirene	2	6,000
Asheboro	6981	28	3					2	1350			3700	Sirene	3	23,500
Asheville	51310		60	1	1	1	1000	7	5500	1		13550	Gamewell	9	95,000
Ayden	1884	25						1	500		800	1500	Telephone	1	8,000
Beaufort	3272	39			1			3	1350	1		3600	Gamewell	4	28,000
Belhaven	2360	20						1	800			3200	Sirene	1	10,000
Benson	1387	10						1	500		250	2050	Sirene	1	5,000
Belmont	4356	15	1			1	1200	1	600	1		2500	Sirene	2	10,000
Bessemer City	2567	24				1	500	1	500		500	1600	Sirene	2	7,500
Bethel	1333	22						1	500	1	500	1500	Sirene	1	4,000
Biltmore Forest	476	20						1	750			2250	Gamewell	1	5,000
Black Mountain	1042	40	1					1	750			1900	Gamewell	1	12,000
Blowing Rock	654	20						2	1250			2200	Sirene	2	10,000
Boone	1788	14	1			1	400	1	500	1	500	1600	Telephone	2	9,000
Brevard	3061	16	2					1	750	1	500	1500	Sirene	1	7,500
Bryson City	1612	14						2	700			4000	Sirene	2	10,000
Burlington	12198	40	4	1				3	2000			6500	Gamewell	4	30,000

Burnsville	997	16			1			1	500	1	400	2000	Telephone	2	8,000
Canton	5037	21	2		1			1	750	3	900	2700	Gamewell	2	15,000
Carolina Beach	537	35				1	500	1	600	1	500	2100	Sirene	2	12,000
Carboro	1455	37				1	900			1	300	1500	Sirene	1	3,000
Carthage	1381	19	1					2	600			3200	Sirene	2	5,000
Cary	1141	10				1	1500	1	350			1000	Sirene	2	3,500
Chadbourne	1576	25						1	500			2000	Sirene	1	5,750
Chapel Hill	3654	19	2					1	750			1900	Gamewell	1	7,000
Charlotte	100899		140	1	3			9	7250	2		28000	Gamewell	14	200,000
Cherryville	3225	16	2					1	750	2	600	2500	Sirene	1	15,000
China Grove	1567	15						1	500			2100	Sirene	1	2,300
Clayton	1711	16				1	700			2	800	1400	Sirene	1	5,000
Clinton	3557	23						2	1100			3800	Sirene	2	13,500
Columbia	1090	16	1					2	850	1	500	2700	Sirene	2	12,000
Concord	15572	16	8			1	1000	2	1600			7050	Telephone	3	27,500
Davidson	1550	20						1	500			1800	Telephone	1	5,000
Dillsboro	290	No report													
Dunn	5256	21	2					3	1850			8000	Sirene	3	30,000
Durham	60195		65	1	1	2	2000	4	4400			10500	Gamewell	8	145,000
East Spencer	2181	20				1	500	1	500	1	500	2600	Whistle	2	5,000
Edenton	3635	18	3					2	1350			3750	Sirene	2	20,000
Elizabeth City	11564	42	10		1	1	1000	4	3500			8000	Gamewell	6	70,000
Elizabethtown	723	15						1	250			1500	Telephone	1	2,700
Elkin	2734	14	1			1	500	2	1250			2450	Sirene	3	8,000
Elm City	946	20				1	1000	1	450	1	500	2050	Bell	1	3,600
Enfield	2208	21			1			2	1000	2	600	1800	Sirene	2	8,500
Fairmont	1993	10						1	500			2300	Electric	1	6,000
Faison	751	21				1	800			1	500	1500	Sirene	1	3,000
Farmville	2980	35				1	800	2	1250	1	500	3400	Gamewell	3	22,500
Fayetteville	17428	29	6		1			4	3250			9800	Sirene	5	66,000
Forest City	5035	16				1	700	1	500			3000	Sirene	2	6,000
Franklin	1249	18				1	500	1	700			1900	Sirene	2	4,500
Franklinton	1273	18				1	1200					1300	Sirene	1	1,500
Fremont	1264	25						1	500			3000	Sirene	1	4,500
Fuquay Springs	1323	11	1			1	1000			1	250	1700	Sirene	1	3,000
Gastonia	21313	1	24					5	3600			17500	Gamewelll	5	60,000
Gibsonville	753	20						1	550	1	750	1250	Electric	1	2,500
Goldsboro	17274		16		1	1	1000	3	2750			7500	Gamewell	5	4,500
Graham	4339	32						2	1000			2300	Gamewell	2	8,000
Greensboro	59319		71	1	1			7	5250			13700	Gamewell	9	200,000

Greenville	12674	36	5	1				4	2600			5500	Gamewell	5	40,000
Halifax	374	No report													
Hamlet	5111	19	1					2	1350			3200	Sirene	2	19,000
Henderson	7647	16	7			1	1200	3	2400			4500	Gamewell	4	25,000
Hendersonville	5381	16	2			1	750	2	1500	1	500	5100	Sirene	3	27,000
Hertford	1969	14				1	750	1	500			2000	Sirene	2	6,000
Hickory	13487	40	6		1			4	3250			6900	Gamewell	5	88,675
High Point	38495		59	1		1	800	5	3750			12350	Gamewell	7	110,000
Hot Springs	773	32						1	650	1	300	1800	Sirene	1	7,000
Hillsboro	1311	19						1	500			2000	Sirene	1	4,500
Jacksonville	873	22						1	500	1	500	1400	Sirene	1	3,000
Kannapolis	25000	22	4					2	1000	2	1000	5500	Telephone	2	15,000
Kernersville	2103	12						1	350	1	500	2800	Sirene	1	6,000
Kings Mountain	6547	26	1		1			2	1100		250	3500	Sirene	3	1,500
Kinston	15000	16	11		1			4	2750	1	500	6800	Gamewell	5	64,000
La Grange	1647	11						1	500			2100	Sirene	1	6,000
Laurinburg	5635	18	1			1	1000	2	950			3500	Gamewell	3	13,000
Leaksville	1886	21	1					1	750			2600	Sirene	1	16,000
Lenoir	7598	28	5		1	1	1000	3	1850			5300	Gamewell	5	71,000
Lexington	10550	18	7			1	1400	3	2000			6000	Gamewell	4	55,000
Lillington	914	13	2					1	500	2	400	2400	Sirene	1	9,776
Lincolnton	4525	17	1			1	300	2	1250			3200	Telephone	3	20,000
Littleton	1200	12						1	300			2500	Sirene	1	3,500
Louisburg	2309	22	2					1	750			3000	Sirene	1	10,000
Lumberton	5803	13	12					2	1250			2700	Gamewell	2	15,000
Madison	1688	8	1			1	1000					1900	Sirene	1	3,000
Maiden	1803	15						1	350			2000	Sirene	1	3,500
Manteo	571	28						1	450			1000	Sirene	1	3,750
Marion	2889	23	1									3400	Sirene	2	15,000
Marshal	1160	22				1	1000					2100	Sirene	1	2,500
Maxton	1556	13				1	1000	1	500	2	800	1500	Sirene	2	4,000
Mebane	2060	19						2	850	2	1000	2000	Sirene	2	10,000
Mocksville	1607	15	3			1	300	2	600			2000	Sirene	3	8,000
Monroe	6475	16	3		1			2	1000			4300	Telephone	3	32,000
Mooresville	6682	22	2			1	750	2	1250	2	500	5600	Gamewell	3	14,000
Morehead City	3695	43	2		1	1	1000	2	1500			4000	Gamewell	4	45,000
Morganton	7670	20	2		1			2	1250			4500	Sirene	3	50,000
Murphy	1873	23			1	1	1000					1500	Sirene	2	7,500
Mount Airy	6286	22	3					2	1250			3250	Telephone	2	26,600
Mount Holly	2055	11	1					2	800			1850	Gamewell	2	15,000

Mount Olive	2929	43				1	800	1	750	1	500	3500	Sirene	2	22,000
Nashville	1171	20						1	600			3000	Sirene	1	4,750
New Bern	11815	90	5					6	4500			9000	Gamewell	6	53,000
Newton	5407	18	2					2	1350	1	300	3000	Sirene	2	25,000
North Wilkesboro	4478	27	2			1	800	1	750			2300	Sirene	2	14,375
Old Fort	774	25	1			1	500	1	500	1	700	2000	Sirene	2	6,000
Oriental	535	24						1	600			1100	Sirene	1	2,500
Oxford	3991	17	2			1	1200	2	1250			5600	Gamewell	3	15,000
Pembroke	783	21						1	500			1000	Sirene	1	3,900
Pine Bluff	3330	14						1	400	1	500	1400	Sirene	1	1,500
Pinehurst	1800	22	2			1	1000	2	1050			2800	Gamewell	3	15,150
Pinetops	713	14				1	800					2000	Sirene	1	4,000
Pittsboro	826	13				1	800					1000	Sirene	1	1,600
Plymouth	2461	24	1			1	1200	1	750			2750	Sirene	2	1,800
Raeford	1628	25						2	850			2500	Sirene	2	9,000
Raleigh	46897		59	1		2	1000	7	5000			10400	Gamewell	10	128,500
Red Springs	1559	20						1	500	1	500	2100	Sirene	1	5,000
Reidsville	10387	21	3					2	1500			2900	Sirene	2	25,000
Roanoke Rapids	8545	23	2		1			2	1100			3000	Sirene	3	12,000
Rockwell	825	23				1	750					1500	Sirene	1	1,450
Robersonville	1407	23						1	600	3	1000	2100	Sirene	1	12,000
Rockingham	3657	10	2					2	1250	1	500	2200	Gamewell	2	12,500
Rocky Mount	25568	37	15	1		1	1000	4	3350			8150	Gamewell	6	60,000
Roseboro	939	16				1	1000	1	500			1800	Sirene	2	5,500
Rowland	999	12						1	200	2	500	1200	Sirene	1	5,000
Roxboro	4599	24	3			1	1000	1	750	2	400	3500	Sirene	2	17,000
Rutherfordton	2326	15	1					1	750	2	500	3000	Sirene	1	17,500
Salisbury	19037	17	21	1	1	1	1000	3	2500			8550	Gamewell	6	89,000
Sanford	4960	18	3					3	1550			3900	Gamewell	3	38,500
Scotland Neck	2559	20				1	1400	2	850			1900	Telephone	3	6,500
Selma	2007	15			1			2	850	1	350	2300	Sirene	3	7,000
Shelby	14037	28	4		1			3	1850			4000	Telephone	4	55,000
Siler City	2197	23						2	750	2	500	1900	Sirene	2	5,000
Smithfield	3678	14	1					2	1250			3500	Sirene	2	16,250
Snow Hill	928	13	1			1	800					1800	Sirene	1	2,500
Southern Pines	3226	19	1					2	1250			2850	Sirene	2	30,000
Southport	1760	16			1	1	750			2	1000	3000	Bell	2	7,000
Spencer	3072	16						2	850			3000	Whistle	2	10,000
Spindale	3952	20	1			1	800	1	600			1400	Sirene	2	8,800
Spring Hope	1222	11				1	1000					2000	Sirene	1	2,500

Spruce Pine	1968	16						1	500			1300	Sirene	1	3,200
Statesville	11444	30	5		1			3	2250			5500	Gamewell	4	50,000
St Paul	1923	16				1	1000			1	500	2000	Sirene	1	2,100
Swannanoa		No report													
Sylvia	1409	16				1	750	1	350			2000	Sirene	2	4,000
Tabor City	1552	16						1	500	1	300	1850	Sirene	1	5,000
Tarboro	7148	31	3		1			2	2000	1	500	5500	Gamewell	3	45,000
Taylorsville	1122	15				1	1000	1	500	2	500	1750	Sirene	2	6,500
Thomasville	11041	17	3			1	1000	2	1750			5000	Gamewell	3	42,000
Troutman	566	20								2	1000	1100	Telephone		1,900
Troy	1861	12				1	750	1	250	1	500	1700	Sirene	2	4,500
Tryon	2043	17	2		1	1	1000	1	500	2	1000	2000	Sirene	3	16,000
Valdese	2615	20				1	1000	1	500			2400	Telephone	2	8,700
Wadesboro	3587	18	1					2	1250	1	400	2500	Sirene	2	12,000
Wake Forest	1562	28						1	400			1700	Gamewell	1	4,500
Wallace	1052	20				1	800	1	500			2600	Sirene	2	6,300
*Warrenton	1147	22						1	500	3	1200	1900	Sirene	1	5,000
Warsaw	1483	18				1	1000	1	1000			2700	Sirene	2	5,000
Washington	8569	47	2		1			3	2200	2	800	6250	Gamewell	4	35,000
Waynesville	2940	16	2					2	1250			3000	Telephone	2	21,000
Weaverville	880	15				1	1000					1200	Sirene	1	3,712
Weldon	2341	16						1	350			1800	Sirene	1	2,250
Wendell	1132	14						1	500	3	1500	2400	Sirene	1	2,500
Whitakers	882	12						1	500			1500	Telephone	1	4,500
Whiteville	3011	19	2					2	1000	2	1000	3700	Sirene	2	15,000
Wilkesboro	1209	12				1	500					500	Sirene	1	2,000
Williamston	3956	17						1	750			2250	Sirene	1	13,000
Wilmington	33407		68	1	1			6	4200			8700	Gamewell	8	75,000
Wilson	19234	26	11		1			3	2250			5700	Gamewell	4	57,000
Windsor	1747	27						1	500			2200	Sirene	1	4,500
Winston-Salem	79815		82	1	1			7	6500			15000	Gamewell	9	84,330
Wrightsville Beach	252	20				1	800			1	750	2000	Sirene	1	1,500
Yanceyville	1000	14						1	750	1	750	1000	Sirene	1	2,700
Zebulon	1070	6				1	1000			1	250	1550	Sirene	1	2,400
TOTALS	1,132,467	3441	836	12	33	73	63200	300	193150	86	35100	609950		418	$3,618,218

Per Capita Invested: $3.19

* Warrenton: Colored fire department.
Wilmington: One Fire Boat
Charlotte: One Lighting Truck

Note: The withholding tax withheld from salaries of the officer for the three months endede June 30, 1944 was paid to the collector of internal revenue during the month of July, 1944.

Exhibit E

THE FIREMEN'S FRATERNAL INSURANCE FUND OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ed. A. Johnson, Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1944

	Mortuary Fund	General Fund
CASH RECIPTS:		
John L. Miller, secretary, assessments and initiation fees	$29,422.49	$2,942.24
Bonds sold or redeemed:		
Liberty Storage Company	1,000.00	
N. C. State Highway bonds (due 1-1-49)	6,916.20	2,305.40
N. C. State Highway bonds (due 1-1-48)	3,409.80	
N. C. State Highway bonds (due 1-1-46)	7,429.80	
Stock redeemed, Piedmont Building & Loan	2,000.00	
Income from investments:		
Interest:		
U. S. savings bonds, series G	525.00	50.00
State of North Carolina bonds	712.50	85.00
Liberty Storage Company bonds	98.33	
University of N. C. bonds	162.50	
Dividends:		
Brown Manufacturing Company	300.00	
Chatham Manufacturing Company	150.00	
First Federal Savings & Loan Association	150.00	
Piedmont Building & Loan Association	60.00	
Piedmont Federal Savings & Loan Association	150.00	
Total receipts	$52,486.62	$5,382.64
CASH DISBURSEMENTS:		
Death claims (25)	$25,000.00	
Investments, U. S. Savings bonds, series G	23,000.00	$4,000.00
John L. Miller, secretary, salary		1,468.59
Ed. A. Johnson, treasurer, salary		142.50
Stationery and postage		93.20
Surety bond premiums		34.38

N. C. State license and fees		58.00
Custodian fees	59.75	3.42
Auditing services	71.79	5.59
Intangible tax		12.78
Total disbursements	$48,131.54	$5,818.46
INCREASE IN CASH BALANCE DURING YEAR (DECREASE $435.82 included under general fund)	$ 4,355.08	$ 435.82
CASH BALANCE, July 1, 1943	13,004.10	2,000.45
CASH BALANCE, June 30, 1944	$17,359.18	$1,564.63

Note: The withholding tax withheld from the salary of the secretary for the three months ended June 30, 1944, was paid to the collector of internal revenue during the month of July, 1944.

It was moved that the auditor's report be accepted and spread upon the minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By A. W. Brinson

President Burkett, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I submit to you my report of statistics for the fifty-sixth annual convention assembled here in Charlotte, the friendly host of our Association.

It has been two years since we met, as last year's convention was called off on account of the war. Since our last meeting in Greensboro we have been in the midst of the greatest war in the history of all time. Many firemen of our Association have answered the call to serve their country in this global conflict. The Firemen not called on to fight in this war have been fighting here at home and have won one of the greatest battles of time against that ever present enemy, the FIRE DEMON, who is forever taking lives and destroying property and more especially so since he has as his accomplice that Black Traitor—WAR-SABOTAGE.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: Your annual Fire College and Drill School was held again this year in our host city of Charlotte May 23, 24 and 25. The school was one of the largest in attendance having more than 400 registered. The whole program was considered by all as one of the most outstanding in the history of the school. The high lights were the lectures and demonstrations by Chief of Maintenance, O. E. Fearn, of the District of Columbia Fire Department, Washington, D. C., and Lieutenant Sherwood Brockwell, Jr., of the Bomb Disposal School of the United States Army. Among those attending and receiving certificates

were eighty odd members of the Engineering Corps of the United States Army, Camp Sutton, North Carolina.

The State Fire College and Drill School was followed by the Eastern Carolina Fire College and Drill School held at Greenville on June 29 and 30. This school was well attended by firemen from a number of Eastern Carolina cities and towns. The feature of this school was an elaborate demonstration of Crash Trucks. These demonstrations were conducted with crash trucks and men from the United States Marine Corps at Seymour Johnson Field and from the Greenville Air Field. Eighteen members of the United Stataes Marine Air Field yere issued certificates from the school. This school is an extension of the North Carolina State Fire College and Drill School and was conducted by our conductor Sherwood Brockwell and Chief George W. Gardner.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: Fire Prevention Week was observed in October 1943 and most cities and towns throughout the entire state were active in teaching prevention of fires of the future. Gastonia having come from second place in 1942 to the highest place of all cities and towns in North Carolina won the honor of taking first place in North Carolina for 1943. Rocky Mount was a close runner-up to Gastonia and was named for second place along with Asheville, Durham, Greensboro and Salisbury, all having won positions in the National Contest. Albemarle, Burlington, Charlotte, Dunn, High Point, Lenoir, Oxford, Reidsville, Tarboro and Washington received creditable mention in their respective classifications. The reports submitted represented considerably over a thousand cities and towns in the United States, Alaska and Canada. This speaks within itself praise for North Carolina Firemen.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: The Educational Program, exclusive of the State and Regional schools, has initiated instructive programs in all meetings of the several Regional Associations and groups of the State Association. Also talks and lectures have been given by the chairman of the Educational Committee before civic clubs and other organizations throughout the state. Since the last report the National Board of Fire Underwriters has published a bulletin (Bulletin No. 189) and distributed it throughout the United States, Alaska and Canada, which is composed of excerpts from a speech "Fire Department Personnel Training" delivered before the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Chicago, Illinois, by Sherwood Brockwell, Chairman of the Educational Committee of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION: Governor Broughton on May 10, 1944, presented our dearly beloved Sherwood Brockwell with a 30 year CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION, which is as follows and speaks the feeling of every fireman's heart in the state of North Carolina:

WHEREAS, Sherwood Brockwell has served as State Fire Marshal of the State of North Carolina for over 30 years, in which position he has rendered distinguished service to the State of North Carolina and to its various municipalities; and Whereas, Fire Marshal Brockwell has cooperated in every possible way in building up the fire departments of the municipalities of the State and has served untiringly to promote the best interest of these men who protect the property and lives of our citizens; and Whereas, his unusual talents and capable leadership in the field of fire protection have many times attracted national attention to the extent that he is recognized throughout the nation as one of the leading men in this field of public service

NOW, THEREFORE, in recogniion of his long period of public service and of his devotion to the high public service to which his life has been dedicated, I, J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, do confer upon the said Sherwood Brockwell, State Fire Marshal, this CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION and expression of appreciation.

Witness my hand and seal of the State of North Carolina, this 10th day of May, A. D., 1944.

J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON,
Governor of North Carolina

FIRE TOLLS: Again it is gratifying to be able to report to you that NO school children lost their lives in North Carolina school fires in 1943.

There were 77 deaths in North Carolina in 1943 caused from conflagrations of buildings. Accidental deaths took a toll of 160 lives of our men, women and children. This does not include deaths from automobiles and planes. These deaths came from such causes as careless handling of oil and other inflammable fuels, outdoor fires, playing with matches, scalding, smoking in bed and many others.

A NOTE OF INTEREST: Two hundred thirty-eight people lost their lives in aeroplane accidents and crashes in North Carolina in 1943. Compared with the total loss of lives from burning buildings and accidental deaths in the state this exceeds the combined toll by one. Many of these aeroplane accidents and crashes caused death by fire, however, I was unable to ascertain the number of people who were burned from such accidents. There are no figures available at present for the loss of life caused by fires for the United States in 1943.

FIRE CHIEFS' MEETING: The North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association met in Salisbury on March 8, 9 and was well attended. Fire chiefs from every section of the state were present and the two days were well spent in furthering the cause of fire protection. President Palmer reported one of the most successful meetings ever held. Chief Burkett, President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, was a grand host, as usual, and escorted the members attending through the Southern Railroad Company's shops which was an interesting trip to all.

STATE FIRE LOSS: The 1943 fire losses reported paid by the various insurance companies to the North Carolina Insurance Commis-

sioner were $5,920,000. Using the 30 per cent formula generally used by the National Board of Underwriters to determine the uninsured loss we find it to be $1,776,000. When we add the insured loss of $5,920,000 to the uninsured loss of $1,776,000, it shows North Carolina had a loss of $7,696,000. Using the formula and figures above a per capita loss for North Carolina for 1943 and on the estimated population of 4,928,785 would be $1.95. The estimated per capita loss for the United Staates in 1943 was $2.79, thus North Carolina still has a favorable per capita loss in spite of our 36 cents increase over 1942.

In comparing our 1943 loss with 1942 we find that we have an increase of $1,606,286, which gives the per capita increase of 36 cents. There are many contributing factors that have caused our loss by fire to rise in the year of 1943. First, we will all agree, could be named WAR SABOTAGE. Second the increase could be caused to some extent by many men going into military service being forced to store their furniture in all kinds of places, many of which proved to be fire hazards. In some cases fires have originated in service men's homes when their wives went to visit the men and left their homes locked and not properly protected. Another possible factor could be the draft which has taken numbers of experienced volunteer and paid firemen from many departments through the state so that the possible effect has reflected in state fire loss increase over 1942.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: The fire losses for 1943 in the United States as reported by the National Board of Fire Underwriters was $380,235,000 or $65,940,000 increase over the year 1942. The 1943 loss was the highest loss since the depression year of 1932 when there was a reported loss of $400,859,554.

Fire losses for the first five months of 1944 are reported by the National Board of Fire Underwriters as $183,497,000. This compares with a loss of $163,660,000 reported for the same period of 1943 and represents an increase of 12 per cent. These figures, based upon insurance losses, with a fixed percentage of allowance for uninsured and unreported losses, do not reflect the increased contribution of the national fire loss made by fires in uninsured government-owned properties. Such losses are not currently reported through any central agency but it appears clear from the fragmentary information that is available if these uninsured government losses were included, the fire loss curve would show a still more pronounced upward trend. The National Fire toll figures are not yet available.

PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT: I have again this year, with the cooperation of Mr. Brockwell and the Insurance Commissioner's office, made a complete summary of the number of paid and volunteer firemen and fire fighting equipment as reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office. This report represents 177 cities and towns with a combined population of 1,132,467 (1940 census) men, women, and children who are being protected by the firemen of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

When we compare the equipment for 1943 with that of 1942 we must take into consideration that it is war time and the comparisons are especially interesting in noting the improvements in the state fire fighting equipment and personnel. First we find that we have a gain of 50 in number of paid fireman over 1942, with a corresponding loss of 44 in the number of volunteers. This gives us a total of 4283 firemen as of October 1, 1943 with a gain over 1942. We do find that many paid and volunteer firemen answered Uncle Sam's call to service from all over the state, however these firemen have been replaced in most instances with some cities and towns increasing the number of firemen.

Our equipment consists of 13 aerial trucks, 27 ladder trucks, 71 auto hose trucks, with hose capacity of 61,900 feet, 301 combination pumpers, 83 hand reels with a capacity of 35,300 feet of hose. There was reported new or in first class condition 616,970 feet of hose. This is an increase of 7,020 feet.

I especially wish to call your attention to the increases in your equipment and its value. You had one rescue truck, one aerial and one pumper again, but many new pumpers replaced old and wornout jobs. We find two hose trucks and six ladder trucks replaced with pumpers. Your pumping capacity was increased by 650 gallons thus giving a total pumping capacity of 193,800 gallons per minute.

It is with extreme pleasure that we see the cities and towns increase the value of our total equipment a quarter million dollars. The total value as of October 1, 1943 reported to the Insurance Commissioner was $3,867,309.

In closing I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our good friend Sherwood Brockwell and the Insurance Commissioner's office for their full cooperation in helping me to secure the necessary information to compile my reports.

Respectfully submitted,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

DONALD SHUFORD:

Since listening to the report of the Statistician I don't think we ought to pass it by with just a motion that it be accepted. I think his Association should thank Albert Brinson for the fine work he has done. He has spent days and weeks in research work to get these figures. I, myself, would like a copy of it. It will be published in the minutes I know, and if you will get that report and study it you will find out a lot of things you didn't know.

I, personally, make a motion to thank him for his report and that it be adopted and spread upon the minutes, and I want to thank him for the information that I personally get out of the report.

MOTION seconded and unanimously carried.

Burnsville	997	16			1			1	500	1	400	2,000	Telephone	2	8,000
Candor		22				1	1,500			2	1,000	1,500	Sirene	1	2,200
Canton	5,037	22	2		1			1	750	3	900	2,400	Gamewell	2	15,000
Carolina Beach	537	35				1	500	1	600	1	500	2,100	Sirene	2	12,000
Carboro	1,455	22				1	900			1	300	1,250	Sirene	1	2,500
Carthage	1,281	18	1					2	600			2,300	Sirene	2	4,500
Cary	1,141	16				1	1,500	1	350			1,350	Sirene	2	3,000
Chadbourne	1,576	25						1	500			2,000	Sirene	1	5,750
Chapel Hill	3,654	19	2					1	750			1,900	Gamewell	1	7,000
Charlotte	100,899		138	1	3			9	7,000			28,000	Gamewell	14	384,210
Cherryville	3,225	16	2					1	750	2	600	2,500	Sirene	1	15,000
China Grove	1,567	15						1	500			2,100	Sirene	1	3,000
Clayton	1,711	17				1	700			2	800	1,500	Sirene	1	3,660
Clinton	3,557	23						2	1,100			3,700	Sirene	2	13,500
Columbia	1,090	16	1					2	850	1	500	2,700	Sirene	2	12,000
Concord	15,572	16	8			1	1.000	3	2,350			8,500	Telephone	4	35,500
Conover		17						1	500			2,000	Sirene	1	7,770
Davidson	1,550	20						1	500			1,600	Telephone	1	5,000
Dillsboro	290	No report													
Dunn	5,256	21	2					2	1,850			8,500	Sirene	3	30,000
Durham	60,195		65	1	1	2	2,000	4	3,650			11,500	Gamewell	8	140,000
East Spencer	2,181	18				1	500	1	350	2	1,000	2,800	Whistle	2	3,600
Edenton	3,635	18	3					2	1,350			3,500	Sirene	2	18,000
Ellerbe		10				2	1,800					2,000	Sirene	2	2,000
Elizabeth City	11,564	32	10		1	1	1,000	4	3,500			8,000	Gamewell	6	70,000
Elizabethtown	723	18						1	250			1,500	Telephone	1	3,800
Elkin	2,734	14	1			1	500	1	750			2,600	Sirene	2	8,500
Elm City	946	20				1	1,000	1	450	1	500	2,050	Bell	2	3,600
Enfield	2,208	20						2	1,000			2,400	Sirene	2	8,500
Fairmont	1,993	10						1	500			2,300	Electric	1	6,000
Faison	751	30				1	800			1	500	1,500	Sirene	1	2,500
Farmville	2,980	35				1	800	2	1,250	1	500	3,300	Gamewell	3	22,500
Fayetteville	17,428	39	8		1			4	3,250			12,000	Sirene	5	100,000
Forest City	5,035	15	2			1	700	1	500			3,000	Sirene	2	5,000
Franklin	1,249	18				1	500	1	500			1,750	Sirene	2	4,500
Franklinton	1,273	18				1	1,000					1,300	Sirene	1	1,500
Freemont	1,264	25						1	500			3,000	Sirene	1	4,500
Fuquay Springs	1,323	11				1	1,000			1	250	1,700	Sirene	1	3,000
Gastonia	21,313	1	24					5	3,600			8,000	Gamewell	5	60,000

ABSTRACT FROM STATISTICIAN'S REPORT 1944

Summary of the Fire Fighting Equipment in Various Cities and Towns of North Carolina as Reported to the Insurance Commissioner as of October 1, 1943.

Cities and Towns	Population 1940 Census	Volunteer Firemen	Paid Firemen	Aerial Trucks	Ladder Trucks	Auto Hose Trucks	Auto Hose Truck Capacity	Combination Pumper	Pumping Capacity Gallons	Hand Reels	Hand Reel Capacity	Number Feet Fire Hose	Alarm System	Number Pieces Equipment	Total Value All Equipment
Aberdeen	1,076	17	1					2	800	1	500	2,100	Sirene	2	$ 15,000
Ahoskie	2,313	13	2			2	1,500	2	1,500			3,000	Telephone	4	14,000
Albemarle	4,060	13	7					3	1,750			5,900	Telephone	3	22,500
Andrews	1,520	20						1	400			1,300	Sirene	1	4,000
Angier	1,028	9				1	500					1,700	Telephone	1	4,800
Apex	977	20						2	1,000			2,000	Sirene	2	6,000
Asheboro	6,981	25	3			1	1,000	2	1,350			4,000	Sirene	3	23,500
Asheville	51,310		61	2	1			7	5,500			12,800	Gamewell	10	92,000
Ayden	1,884	24						1	500	1	400	1,500	Telephone	1	8,000
Beaufort	3,272	39			1			3	1,850			3,600	Gamewell	4	28,000
Belhaven	2,360	20						1	300			3,200	Sireen	1	10,000
Benson	1,837	11						1	500	1	250	2,050	Sirene	1	5,000
Belmont	4,356	15	1			1	1,200	1	600			2,500	Sirene	2	10,000
Bessemer City	2,567	24				1	500	1	500	1	500	1,600	Sirene	2	7,500
Bethel	1,333	22						1	500	1	500	1,500	Sirene	1	4,000
Biltmore Forest	476	20						1	750			2,250	Gamewell	1	5,000
Black Mountain	1,042	40	1					1	750			1,950	Gamewell	1	12,000
Blowing Rock	654	20						2	1,250			2,300	Sirene	2	10,000
Boone	1,788	14	1			1	400	1	500	1	500	1,600	Telephone	2	9,000
Brevard	3,061	18	2					1	750	1	500	1,500	Sirene	1	7,500
Bryson City	1,512	14						2	700			4,000	Sirene	2	10,000
Burlington	12,198	04	4	1				3	2,000			6,500	Gamewell	4	60,000

Gibsonville	753	20						1	550	1	750	1,250	Electric	1	2,500
Goldsboro	17,274		16		1	1	1,000	3	2,750			8,300	Gamewell	5	30,000
Graham	4,339	32						2	1,000			2,300	Gamewell	2	8,000
Greensboro	59,319		71	1	1			7	5,250			16,900	Gamewell	9	190,000
Greenville	12,674	36	5	1				4	2,600			5,300	Gamewell	5	40,000
Halifax	474	No report													
Hamlet	5,111	19	1					2	1,350			3,000	Sirene	2	19,000
Henderson	7,647	16	7					3	2,400			4,500	Gamewell	3	25,000
Hendersonville	5,381	16	2			1	750	1	750	1	500	5,400	Sirene	2	25,000
Hertford	1,969	17				1	750	1	500			2,400	Sirene	2	5,000
Hickory	13,487	40	6		1			4	3,250			6,900	Gamewell	5	88,000
High Point	38,495		59	1		1	800	5	3,750			11,150	Gamewell	7	110,000
Hot Springs	773	16						1	650	1	300	1,800	Sirene	1	7,000
Hillsboro	1,311	19						1	500			2,000	Sirene	1	4,500
Jacksonville	873	26						1	500	1	500	2,700	Sirene	1	5,000
Kannapolis	25,000	23	4					2	1,000	2	1,000	2,500	Telephone	2	15,000
Kernersville	2,103	12						1	350	1	500	2,800	Sirene	1	6,000
Kings Mountain	6,547	26	1		1			2	1,100	1	250	3,500	Sirene	3	1,500
Kinston	15,000	15	12		1			4	2,750	1	500	7,100	Gamewell	5	63,000
LaGrange	1,647	11						1	500			2,150	Sirene	1	6,000
Laurinburg	5,685	18	1					2	850			3,500	Gamewell	2	10,000
Leaksville	1,886	21	1					1	750			2,700	Sirene	1	16,000
Lenoir	7,598	29	4		1			3	1,850			8,100	Gamewell	4	71,000
Lexington	10,550	18	7					3	2,000			6,600	Gamewell	3	50,000
Lillington	914	12	2					1	500	1	400	2,450	Sirene	1	8,000
Lincolnton	4,525	16	1					2	1,250			2,900	Telephone	2	25,000
Littleton	1,200	12						1	300			2,400	Sirene	1	2,000
Louisburg	2,309	20	2					1	750			2,000	Sirene	1	7,000
Lumberton	5,803	12	3					2	1,250			3,200	Gamewell	2	15,000
Madison	1,688	8	1			1	1,000					1,900	Sirene	1	3,000
Maiden	1,803	16						1	350			1,500	Sirene	1	2,500
Manteo	571	28						1	450			1,000	Sirene	1	3,750
Marion	2,889	23	1					2	1,100			3,000	Sirene	2	15,000
Marshal	1,160	22				1	1,000					1,200	Sirene	1	2,000
Maxton	1,556	13				1	1,000	1	500	2	800	1,500	Sirene	2	4,000
Mebane	2,060	23						2	850	2	1,000	2,200	Sirene	2	10,000
Mocksville	1,607	23				1	300	2	800			2,000	Sirene	3	8,000
Monroe	6,475	9	5		1			2	1,000			5,600	Telephone	3	25,000
Mooresville	6,682	24	2			1	750	2	1,250	2	500	6,100	Gamewell	3	14,000
Morehead City	3,695	43	2		1	1	1,000	2	1,500			4,000	Gamewell	4	45,000
Morganton	7,670	20	2		1			2	1,250			5,600	Sirene	3	60,000

Murphy	1,873	26			1	1	1,000					1,500	Sirene	2	7,500
Mount Airy	6,286	17	4					2	1,250			2,750	Telephone	2	25,000
Mount Holly	2,055	11	1					2	800			1,800	Gamewell	2	15,000
Mount Olive	2,929	36						2	1,250	1	500	2,700	Sirene	2	22,800
Nashville	1,171	20						1	600			3,000	Sirene	1	4,750
New Bern	11,815	90	5					6	4,500			9,000	Gamewell	6	53,000
Newton	5,407	18	2					2	1,350	1	300	3,100	Sirene	2	25,000
North Wilkesboro	4,478	22	2			1	800	1	750			2,400	Sirene	2	14,368
Old Fort	774	25	1			1	500	1	500	1	700	2,000	Sirene	2	6,000
Mount Pleasant		22				1	800			1	500	1,150	Sirene	1	3,500
Oriental	535	24						1	600			1,100	Sirene	1	2,500
Oxford	3,991	17	2			1	1,200	2	1,250			5,000	Gamewell	2	15,000
Pembroke	783	21						1	500			1,000	Sirene	1	3,900
Pine Bluff	3,330	13						1	400	1	500	1,400	Sirene	1	1,500
Pinehurst	1,800	20	2			1	1,000	2	1,050	1	500	2,800	Gamewell	3	15,000
Pinetops	713	14				1	800					2,000	Sirene	1	4,000
Pittsboro	826	12				1	800					1,200	Sirene	1	2,284
Plymouth	2,461	24	1			1	1,200	1	750			2,750	Sirene	2	1,800
Raeford	1,628	25						2	850			2,500	Sirene	2	9,000
Raleigh	46,897		52	1		2	1,000	7	5,750			9,000	Gamewell	10	132,000
Red Springs	1,559	20						1	500	1	500	1,550	Sirene	1	5,000
Reidsville	10,387	18	3					2	1,500			2,500	Sirene	2	25,000
Roanoke Rapids	8,545	23	2		1			2	1,100			3,900	Sirene	3	12,500
Rockwell	825	23				1	750					1,500	Sirene	1	1,450
Robersonville	1,407	23						1	600	1	500	2,100	Sirene	1	10,000
Rockingham	3,657	16	2					2	1,250	1	500	2,200	Gamewell	2	12,500
Rocky Mount	25,568	33	17	1		1	1,000	4	3,350			8,500	Gamewell	6	60,000
Roseboro	939	16				1	1,000	1	500			2,300	Sirene	2	5,500
Rowland	999	12						1	200	2	500	1,200	Sirene	1	5,000
Roxboro	4,599	24	3			1	1,000	1	750	2	400	2,500	Sirene	2	17,000
Rutherfordton	2,326	15	1					1	750	1	500	3,000	Sirene	1	16,000
Salisbury	19,037	17	21	1	1	1	1,000	3	2,500			8,000	Gamewell	7	89,000
Sanford	4,960	18	3					3	1,550			3,950	Gamewell	3	38,500
Scotland Neck	2,559	20			1	1	1,400	2	850			1,900	Telephone	3	6,500
Selma	2,007	15			1			2	850	1	350	2,500	Sirene	3	7,000
Shelby	14,037	28	4		1			3	1,850			4,000	Telephone	4	55,000
Siler City	2,197	22				1	1,000	1	750	2	500	1,950	Sirene	2	5,000
Smithfield	3,678	15	1					2	1,250			3,500	Sirene	2	16,000
Snow Hill	928	13	1			1	800					1,800	Sirene	1	2,500
Southern Pines	3,226	19	1					2	1,250			3,300	Sirene	2	30,000
Spencer	3,072	16						2	850			2,900	Whistle	2	10,000

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STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By A. W. Brinson

Mr. Frank W. Bennett, President and Fellow Firemen of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association:

I herewith submit to you my report of statistics for the fifty-eighth year of our Association.

Since our Association met last with that great host and friendly city of Charlotte we have seen the peace loving people of the world crush and utterly destroy that mighty German army which Hitler had proposed should rule the world under the New Nazi order. Among those peace loving people who did this magnificent job to free Europe were many, many members of the NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. You know who these men are from your own home departments.

ABOUT CONVENTIONS: Through May 1, more than 600 associations had been denied permission to hold meetings, while 15 meetings had been approved. Those approved included Labor Unions, Church Organizations, United Service Organizations and the Red Cross.

Up to May 1, not a single firemanic organization had received permission, all who had applied had been denied conferences by Washington—so that the chance of our Association holding this year's meeting is controlled entirely by the War Committee on Conventions at Washington.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK CONTEST: The National Fire Prevention Association's committee on fire prevention and clean-up campaign announced the awards to cities for excellence in the 1944 National Fire Prevention week.

A total of 2121 reports were received from towns and cities in the United States, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii, of which 498 are from Canada and 1623 from the United States. This is a large increase over any previous year.

Winning cities in each state are:

Alabama	Tuscaloosa	Iowa	Burlington
Arizona	Prescott	Kansas	Wichita
Arkansas	El Dorado	Kentucky	Louisville
California	Los Angeles	Louisiana	New Orleans
Colorado	Fort Collins	Maine	Portland
Connecticut	New Haven	Maryland	Baltimore
Florida	Fort Lauderdale	Massachusetts	Boston
Georgia	Atlanta	Michigan	Grand Rapids
Idaho	Nanysa	Minnesota	Minnapolis
Illinois	Chicago	Mississippi	Hatiesburg
Indiana	Gary	Missouri	St. Louis

Montana	Billings	South Carolina	Columbia
Nebraska	Beatrice	South Dakota	Aberdeen
Nevada	Reno	Tennessee	Memphis
New Hampshire	Concord	Texas	Corpus Christi and El Paso
New Jersey	Jersey City		
New Mexico	Carlsbad	Utah	Salt Lake City
New York	New York	Virginia	Roanoke
North Carolina	Wilson	Washington	Spokane
North Dakota	Valley City	West Virginia	Parkersburg
Ohio	Lakewood	Wisconsin	Stevens Point
Oregon	Portland	Wyoming	Heart Mountain
Pennsylvania	York	Alaska	Ketchikan
Rhode Island	Providence	Hawaii	Hilo

FIREMEN TRANSFER PATIENTS: Fire Chief W. Hendrix Palmer and members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Fire Department assisted the Charlotte Variety Club on March 5, 1944, in the greatest mass transfer of polio patients in history—the movement of caravan of 88 polio patients from the emergency polio hospital at Hickory, North Carolina, a distance of 75 miles to the permanent polio clinic of the Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The caravan consisted of fifteen ambulances, seventy-four automobiles and a number of trucks. Escorting the caravan, which traveled at 30 miles an hour, were members of the Charlotte Fire Department, the State Highway Patrol and Charlotte and Hickory policemen.

At Hickory, North Carolina, Chief Palmer carried the first little polio patient to the caravan and placed her aboard an ambulance. The Chief led the procession. The caravan idea of mass transfer was sponsored by the Charlotte Variety Club, motion picture and showmen's organization, assisted by Fire Chief Palmer and Chief Walter Anderson of the Charlotte Police and Chief Henry C. Severs, of the Mecklenburg County Police.

IMPORTANT FIRES FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 1944 TO JUNE 7, 1945: I have grouped 354 typical fires reported to the N. F. P. A. during a nine months period from September 7, 1944 to June 7, 1945. In this group have been included fires destroying vital war supplies, delaying production in defense plants, or damaging finished products. Also other important fires not immediately related to military operations but having an indirect effect upon the war program.

These fires only represent a small fraction of the total number in the United States and Canada in the same period. In this group are included fires in military properties only where such fires have been reported through civilian channels. Other fires in military properties where all information about the circumstances of the fire has been restricted, are not included in this group survey.

These statistics taken from preliminary reports to the N. F. P. A. office

are not complete and are subject to correction when further information is available.

This group of 354 typical fires represents a loss of $141,674,500, and are listed below:

There were 18 food canning and packing plants with an estimated loss of $42,454,853; 21 lumber plants and building supplies $4,517,745; eight oil wells and refineries $1,527,000; four miscellaneous fires $423,000; 23 group business fires $6,330,250; 42 storage warehouses and ordnance depots $7,474,300; six department stores $2,290,000; six alcohol plants $689,050; 15 buildings of various kinds $2,852,000; one bowling alley $500,000; four foundries $1,316,000; two race tracks $700,000; 73 factories $15,897,902; five cleaning plants $630,000; seven hospitals $485,000; four coal tipples $630,000; 17 grain elevators and feed mills $4,039,000; six feed oil mills $1,488,500; three dairies $625,000; 19 munition plants $4,688,-000; 10 oil storage tankers, etc., $540,500; eight airplane hangars, equipment, etc., $3,988,000; 23 shipyards, ships, piers, truck and rail terminals $9,796,450; 23 camps and training stations $1,445,000; one public school $80,000; one power station $75,000.

The city of Lansing, Michigan, reported a series of incendiary fires all taking place within 22 minutes with a loss of $192,000. On October 20, 1944, disaster struck and devastated part of the industrial zone of Cleveland, Ohio, causing great loss of life and $6,000,000 damage to property. Two containers of liquified natural gas exploded and threw sheets of flame over nearby residential areas thereby bringing death to not less than 130 people.

STATE FIRE LOSS: From the best information obtainable, including the known amount paid in 1944 by insurance companies doing business in the state, I estimate that the gross fire loss in North Carolina was $8,443,100. This gives us an increase of only $747,100 over 1943 loss raising our per capita tax to $2.02 which is small increase of 7 cents, accounted for in 18 major fires reported by North Carolina fire chiefs during the year 1944.

Fires in North Carolina with over $25,000 loss for 1944 reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office by the fire chiefs are:

Wilmington, January 2, St. Lukes Zion Church	$ 27,000
Elizabeth City, January 21, business	115,000
Winston-Salem, February 20, Forsythe Recreation Center	46,600
Charlotte, February 22, Swift & Co., warehouse	72,250
Charlotte, March 3, Witt Tire Company	27,158
Statesville, March 30, North State Box Company	27,000
Pasquotank County, April 8, Forman-Derrickson Lumber Co.	450,000
Rocky Mount, July 3, 4 cars rolled canvas, U. S. government	68,000

Greensboro, July 7, Morton Chemical Company	38,250
Durham, July 8, Big 4 Warehouse and surrounding property	278,214
Charlotte, July 10, Rayless Department Store	66,659
Charlotte, July 23, Piedmont Feed Mills	50,000
Gastonia, August 21, Matthews Belt Company	59,000
High Point, September 12, Broyhill Warehouse	31,000
Greensboro, November 9, Graves Dairy Specialty Company	35,165
Kannapolis, November 4, Kannapolis Bakery and adjoining property	52,500
Forest City, December 2, Rose's 5 & 10c Store and adjoining property	65,000
Mebane December 10, Mebane Theater	27,000

Another fire bordering on major proportions was the one at Bethel in the business district caused by the collission of an automobile and gasoline tanker resulting in a fire with a loss of $18,600. The largest fire in the state was out of incorporated cities, this being the Forman-Derrickson Lumber Company in Pasquotank county, loss estimated at $450,000.

The Durham fire in 1944 at one time threatened to reach further conflagration proportions. The Durham Fire Department working valiantly was ably assisted by a large number of military personnel, army and navy, on this Saturday night. Camp Butner firemen and others from surrounding towns assisted with this large conflagration.

The Durham Chamber of Commerce gave a barbecue dinner in appreciation to the Durham Fire Department and their invited guests.

PERSONNEL AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT: Following is a summary of increases or decreases in the Fire Fighting Equipment in various cities and towns of North Carolina as reported to the Insurance Commissioner as of October 1, 1944.

I find that in spite of the armed services taking so many of our firemen the various departments have received into the fire fighting field on the home front enough men to show a total of 4,337 firemen in the state of North Carolina. This represents an increase of 54 men. While the paid departments have been hard hit yet they have been able to replace their heavy losses so well that from a total of 886 in 1943 they only have a small loss of nine men. This shows that the chiefs of these various departments have been able to maintain their normal personnel. The volunteer firemen have increased by 63 over 1943 representing 3460 men. It can be well said that when it comes to the protection of our loved ones and our homes and property on the home front you can most surely count on 4,337 loyal firemen of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

In view of the fact that equipment has been hard to obtain because of war conditions, the state as a whole has shown material gains. There was an increase of one aerial truck, three ladder trucks, three reels and

14 combination pumpers. There was a decrease of seven hose trucks which were, in most cases, replaced with combination pumpers. By this increase of pumpers the pumping capacity has been raised 7300 gallons per minute. This gives a total state-wide pumping capacity of 201,100 gallons per minute. There has been a considerable amount of new hose purchased during the year to replace much that had to be discarded. The reports in the Insurance Commissioner's office show that there was on hand new and good condition 649,550 feet of hose. There are many cities and towns that have also purchased a considerable amount of 1½ inch hose. In comparing this year's reports against last year's there was an increase of 32,580 feet of hose.

In compiling the estimated value of the state-wide equipment I find that on October 1, 1943 there was $3,867,309 worth and on October, 1944 $3,946,194 total value. This shows a net gain of $78,885. From these figures I find the per capita investment to be $3.44.

FIRE TOOLS: The Bureau of Vital Statistics recorded 71 deaths in North Carolina in 1944 caused by conflagrations of buildings, this number of lives represents a decrease of six less deaths than in 1943. Accidental deaths from outdoor fires, playing with matches, smoking in bed, scalding, and handling of oil and other inflammable fuels, etc., was 144 men, women, and children. This was a decrease in deaths of 16 over 1943.

AIRPLANE DEATHS: There were 254 deaths from airplane accidents and crashes. This shows an increase of 16 deaths over 1943. I could not ascertain how many of these deaths were caused from burning planes.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: The North Carolina State Fire Association, cooperative sponsor of the Fire College and Drill School, was unable to obtain a permit from Washington to conduct the 1945 session of the oldest state-wide sponsored fire personnel training program. The members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association have taken full advantage of such educational programs available and through their agencies have in no manner violated the restricted mandate of our nation at war. They have conducted the local and regional educational programs in which the conductor of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School, the working officers of the Association and the Insurance Commissioner have participated.

Included in last year's meetings of the Eastern Carolina Fire Association were Le Grange, Mount Olive and Morehead City; Roanoke River Association, Scotland Neck, Roanoke Rapids, Rich Square and Whittakers; the Sand Hills Association and several local meetings not included in the regional groups. The Sand Hills Association will conduct their regional school at Hamlet during the month of September and will

be followed by a regional school at Greenville by the Eastern Carolina Association.

The present war conditions including the deployment of military personnel across the nation and re-assignment of returned soldiers north and south and with the high probability of the returning of many thousands before the end of 1945 precludes, in the opinion of the conductor of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School, any possibility of modification of travel restrictions and assembling of large groups just as a wartime measure precludes the possibility of having the Fire College and Drill School during 1945.

The observation of the conductor states that there is a fine interest among the fire departments throughout the state for the 1946 Fire College and Drill School. Back of it other facilities have been maintained intact and will be ready when wartime restrictions are lifted.

SCHOOL FIRES: School fires reported from protected cities and towns only are listed below:

January 2, 1944, Wilmington, Sunday School Building St. Luke's A. M. E. Zion Church $4,000 risk, loss $300, caused from exposure of church fire.

February 28, 1944, Morganton, Avery Avenue Grammar School involving $25,000 risk, loss $750, report shows indications of incendiary origin.

May 3, 1944, Kannapolis, J. W. Canon High School involving $100,000 risk, loss $25, cause children playing with matches.

May 7, 1944, Winston-Salem, Kimberly Negro School involving $152,000 risk, total loss contents $525, probable cause accidental.

November 6, 1944, Greensboro, Gillispie Park School involving $25,000 risk, loss $20,000, apparent cause defective flue.

November 16, 1944, Greensboro, Spring Street Central Junior High School involving $90,000 risk, loss $165.

There were several rural school fires in the various counties during the year which were in unprotected areas and unreported. These six school fine had a total risk of $396,000 with a total small fire loss of $21,765. This represents one of the smallest losses in the state schools in many years.

I am unable to give any figures on the national death and fire loss in the United States as this information has not been released.

In concluding my report I wish to pay tribute to Sherwood Brock

well for his 31 years of service to the State of North Carolina and the firemen as State Fire Marshal. I wish also to express my sincere appreciation to my friend Sherwood Brockwell and the Insurance Commissioner's office for their 100 per cent cooperation in making available the many records from which I have compiled my report.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

Auditing and legal services		88.16
Postage		83.90
Office supplies		37.38
N. C. State license and fees		58.00
Intangible tax		15.96
Total disbursements	$34,071.95	$3,554.01
Increase in cash balance during year (decrease in the second column, this line)	$ 933.49	*110.95
Cash balance July 1, 1945	20,080.77	2,105.44
Cash balance June 30, 1946	$21,014.26	$1,994.49

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT W. BRINSON

Mr. Frank W. Bennett, President and Fellow Firemen of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association:

I herewith submit to you my report of statistics for the fifty-ninth year of our association.

Since I completed my last year's report we have seen World War II come to a close with the surrender of Japan, those cowardly, yellow-bellied murderers. We have settled down once more to the pursuit of life and happiness. Most of the service men who were members of your department and mine, and members of the North Carolina State Fire Association have returned home. In most cases they have returned to their former fire fighting services. We each and every one now have another big job to do and that is to conquer that devastating, murderous DEMON FIRE who is on a rampage like the United States has never seen before.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: Our growing national fire losses are most disturbing. What should worry all of us is that with the stopping of war losses our losses did not stop or slow down but have continued to increase. "The National Board of Fire Underwriters reports an alarming increase in fire losses. During June for example, the nation's loss totalled more than $44,000,000, an increase of 29 per cent over June 1945. And the total for the first six months of this year reached the record-breaking figure of $297,-206,000. That is greater than the aggregate fire loss for any single full year from 1933 through 1940." I give you below the annual fire losses of the United States from the beginning of World War I through World War II:

1917	$289,535,000	1933	$271,543,000
1918	354,000,000	1934	271,197,000
1919	321,000,000	1935	235,263,000
1920	448,000,000	1936	266,659,000
1921	495,400,000	1937	254,959,000
1922	506,541,000	1938	4 258,477,000
1923	535,372,000	1939	275,102,000
1924	549,062,000	1940	285,879,000
1925	559,418,000	1941	303,895,000
1926	561,981,000	1942	314,295,000
1927	472,934,000	1943	380,235,000
1928	464,607,000	1944	423,538,000
1929	459,446,000	1945	455,329,000
1930	501,981,000	1946—See figures for the following six months.	
1931	451,644,000		
1932	400,859,000		

January	$49,808,000	April	$52,153,000
February	51,759,000	May	46,094,000
March	53,252,000	June	44,000,000

It is estimated now that the 1946 fire loss will reach $600,000,000. If so it will be an all time high. Death and desolation by fires this year are the greatest in our history. It is reported that a home is damaged or destroyed by fire every 79 seconds. A life is lost every hour or an average of 29 deaths a day by fires. In the big fire of the La Salle Hotel in Chicago on June 5, 61 persons lost their lives. It is reported that 5 out of the 29 daily deaths are children under five years of age. The fire alarm

bells in the United States ring every 53 seconds. All of America must do something about this death and desolation.

STATE FIRE LOSS: From the total fire reports rendered the Insurance Commissioner's office by the fire chiefs of North Carolina for the year of 1945 I find that there were 61 protected cities and towns represented in these reports and fire losses. There were 1,622 fires with a total loss of $3,323,372, averaging $2,049 for each fire. The per capita loss covering these 61 protected cities and towns (based on the 1940 census) is $4.01 per person in population involved. I find included in the 1622 fires 871 dwellings with a total loss of $410,567; 84 apartment houses with a total loss of $91,613; 19 hotel fires, including 2 YMCA and one YWCA buildings, with many hundreds of human lives involved with a total loss of $26,159; 10 churches with a loss of $43,124; 8 school buildings with a loss of $6,479; and 2 hospitals with the loss of $7,643.

Out of the 1622 fires 25 were major ones with losses exceeding $20,000 per fire. These 25 majors only represent 1 1-2 per cent of the total reported fires in North Carolina yet they represent a total loss of $2,027,950 or 61 per cent of the entire state reported losses. Three of these 25 major fires had a total loss of $1,075,000 or 32 per cent of the entire reported state loss.

Listed below are the 26 major fires, types of business, cities in which located, amount reported and probable cause, if known:

Business buildings in Mebane, $44,000, unknown.
Manufacturing plant in Mocksville, $93,000, unknown.
Business buildings, Greenville, $22,450, from boiler room of pressing club.
Business buildings in Lenoir, $23,000, unknown.
Manufacturing plant in Lenoir, $25,000, unknown.
Theatre and business block in Lexington, $31,000, undetermined.
Church, Statesville, $35,000, started in furnace room.
Dry cleaning plant and laundry in Charlotte, $24,182, started from electric iron.
Garage and Storage in Charlotte, $44,038, back-fire from auto.
Warehouse in Charlotte, $68,000, unknown.
Warehouse in Statesville $32,600, unknown.
Business buildings, Statesville, $65,830, unknown.
Taylor's Tobacco Storage Warehouse and exposed property in Winston-Salem, $660,500, unknown, probably careless smoker.
Warehouse in High Point, $23,560, from fire in adjoining building.
Furniture manufacturing plant, storage and stock room in Winston-Salem, $89,000, unknown, probably careless smoker.
Business building in Winston-Salem, $32,500, unknown, probably careless smoker.
Feed and flour mill in High Point, $42,590, unknown.
Department Store in Asheville, $85,000, unknown.
Department Store in Asheville, $105,000, unknown.
Department Store and Pool Room in Asheville, $23,500, from fire in adjoining building.
Talley Machine Shop in Greensboro, $42,500, unknown.
Hackney Brothers storage building in Wilson, $52,900, spontaneous ignition from burlap bags.
Shoe string factory in Gastonia, $35,000, unknown.
Laundry and dry cleaning plant in Siler City, $21,000, unknown.
Garage in Goldsboro, $28,000, electric drop cord fell on gasoline soaked floor.

PROBABLE CAUSES OF FIRES: Out of the 1,622 fires reported probable causes listed include: 342 unknown, undertermined or not given; 157 from defective chimneys and flues and associated causes; 47 from electricity, not including lighting or electric irons; 26 from accumulation of trash, 186 from careless smoking; 151 from oil stoves used for cooking and heating; 98 fires on roofs; 2 curtains too close to electric lights; 59 from stoves, furnace and pipes thereof too close to woorwork; 2 rats and matches; 3 accumulation of dust; 30 carelessness with gasoline or derivatives; 16 from electric irons; 9 from Christmas trees; 7 thawing pipes; 46 from overheated stoves and furnaces; 20 from hot ashes; 39 children and matches; 12 from lightning; 25 from exposure; 29 spontaneous combustion; 8 from brooders; one moving picture film; 9 reported as of incendiary origin, grass fires, automobile, and fires from burning grease. The unclassified group includes the following: Radio near curtain became overheated, match got in ironer in laundry,, boys playing with fire crackers set fire to cotton warehouse, light bulb in bed, tobacco falling on hot flue (this is a common cause for rural fires but is seldom encountered in cities or towns), smoldering ironing board put in closet, electric clock ignited cleaning fuel, truck load of cotton seed broke through floor allowing gasoline to flow out of tank on a short circuit in the wiring, a child ironing, sun rays through show window, working on auto carburetor set house on fire, Lee McCoy hit his wife over her head with a lighted kerosene lamp and set the house on fire, pig caught fire in a barbecue pit and set adjoining property on fire, comb caught on fire seting house afire, and a match ignited methyl chloride.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOLS: The 1946 Fire College and Drill School was held May 21, 22, 23 in the grand old host city of Charlotte, which has been host to the North Carolina State Fire Association and the North Carolina Fire College and Drill Schools on many, many occasions. The Fire College and Drill School was conducted by our own Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., and an able and outstanding faculty including North Carolina and out of state firemen. The College and School was atended by over 300 North Carolina State Fire Association members, many receiving their diplomas. The conductor, as usual, will file his detailed report.

The Eastern Carolina Fire College and Drill School was held in Greenville and the Sand Hills was held in Hamlet in 1945.

The Eastern Carolina Fire Association and the Roanoke River Fire Association were active during the year with the Roanoke River holding six meetings and the Eastern Association four. All these meetings were well attended and most of them well represented by state association officers. Various fire department problems and state association matters were fully discussed.

SCHOOL FIRES: There were only eight school fires reported by the Fire Chiefs of North Carolina to the Insurance Commissioner's office during the year 1945. These are only the school fires reported from the protected cities and towns in the state. There were some rural school fires which I have no way of reporting the loss. The eight school fires reported above had a reported total small loss of $6,479. This no doubt is one of the smallest losses the state has had for many years. This loss of $6479 to eight school buildings compares very favorably with 1944, with six buildings with a total loss of $21,765. This record two year period, of the years of 1944 and 1945, surely reflects the fact that the school officials, teachers, fire department personnel and school children throughout North Carolina exercised real fire prevention. There was no death or casualty reported to a school child or teacher for the two year period.

FIRE TOLLS: The state death total of 1945 shows a total of 76 deaths recorded by the Bureau of Vital Statistics compared with 71 for the year 1944, caused by conflagrations of buildings. There was a total of 144 accidental deaths of men, women and children from outdoor fires, smoking in bed, playing with matches, scalding and handling of oil and other inflammable fuels, etc. This gives an increase in deaths of 5 over 1943. There were no recorded deaths of school children in this state during 1945.

AIRPLANE DEATHS: I am pleased to be able to report to you that there was a decrease of 190 deaths from airplane accidents and crashes, there having been 64 deaths during 1945 and 254 from the year of 1943. It was not possible to ascertain how many of these deaths were caused by burning planes. This large decrease in deaths was no doubt brought about, to a great extent, by the lessened activities of the various military groups.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS: For the past number of years the North Carolina firemen have been much interested in the oil trucks and tankers plying our highsways and streets. Through the courtesy of Major H. J. Hatcher, commanding State Highway Patrol and director of Highway Safety Division, I have been furnished with all reports of fatal oil truck and tanker accidents for the past two and one-half year period. I find there was a total of 23 fatal accidents with 26 persons killed and 37 injured. Five of these tankers burned, including the one that burned in Bethel, destroying considerable city property. Four of these accidents were in cities. Of these 26 killed 5 were burned to death. There were 9 tankers and cars burned in the tanker accidents. Thirty-nine vehicles were involved in fatal accidents including a bus and tanker collision which resulted in 7 deaths and 24 injured.

I am not quoting these fatal accidents as a matter of criticism but as a means of bringing to the atention of the state firemen the importance of urging city officials of all cities and towns which have not established oil tanker routes to establish truck and tanker lanes through the cities and towns in order to protect life and property. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Major Hatcher and his department for furnishing us with these reports.

ABOUT CONVENTION: The 1946 North Carolina State Fire Association's Convention could not be held this year due to a host city not being able to take care of a convention the size of ours. Each and every one of your officers did everything in his power to get some city to try to accommodate our convention but with no results. All cities contacted gave the same reason, that due to the hotel accommodations being inadequate they could not ask for the convention however much they would like to do so.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: Fire prevention and cleaup week was observed throughout the state of North Carolina by virtually every city or town. The campaign was conducted along the usual course of teaching cleanup and prevention of future fires. In the National Campaign the judges placed the 1945 Merit Awards for the United States standings with cities having a special merit grade of between 80 and 89 per cent in the order of their standing:

Columbus, Ohio
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Scranton, Pa.
Wichita, Kan.
Camden, N. J.
Fayetteville, N. C.
Bremertown, Wash.
New Orleans, La.
Roanoke, Va.

Hartford, Conn.
York, Pa.
Portland, Ore.
Stevens Point, Wis.
Atlanta, Ga.
Decatur, Ill.
Parkersburg, W. Va.
Rochester, N. Y.
Beatrice, Neb.
Marietta, Ga.
Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Toledo, Ohio
Indianapolis, Ind.
Topeka, Kan.
Erie, Pa.
Newburgh, N. Y.
San Antonio, Tex.
Cape Girardeare, Mo.
Schenectady, N. Y.
Chattanooga, Tenn.
El Dorado, Ark.
Wausau, Wis.
Watertown, N. Y.
Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.
Gadsden, Ala.
Sacramento, Calif.
Atlantic City, N. J.
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Pittsfield, Mass.
Richmond, Va.
El Paso, Tex.
Wilson, N. C.
Muskegon, Mich.
Athens, Tenn.
Allentown, Pa.
Newton, Kan.
Salt Lake City, Utah
Holyoke, Mass.
Johnson City, Tenn.
Baton Rouge, La.
Chelsea, Mass.
Marion, Kan.

It is of special interest to note that Fayetteville, North Carolina rates 19th and Wilson 33rd, out of the 52 highest rated cities in the Merit grade between 80 and 89 per cent. This surely shows that North Carolina cities are among the highest rated ones in the United States when it comes to fire prevention. Winning cities in North Carolina receiving First and Second positions and Honorable Mention were: Fayetteville 1st., Wilson 2nd. Cities receiving Honorable Mentioned were Greensboro, Asheville and Greenville.

APOLOGY TO CITY OF DURHAM FOR 1944: I failed to get the information of Durham receiving Honorable Mention in 1944. The plaque hanging on Chief Frank W. Bennett's office wall reads, "National Fire Protection Association Committee on Fire Prevention, Hereby certifies that Durham has been awarded, Honorable Mention for the State of North Carolina. Record of Merit October 8, 1944."

ABOUT PRESIDENT FRANK W. BENNETT: The firemen of Durham Honoring their leader on his 22nd. anniversary as chief of the department presented Chief Bennett with a plaque which reads as follows: "An Appreciation Presented to Frank W. Bennett Faithful and efficient public Servant from the Members of the Durham Fire Department on the twenty-second Anniversary of your Services as Our Chief Because of Your Intelligent Leadership, Kindly Consideration and helpful Cooperation you have not only endeared yourself for all time to the personnel of this Department, but also Have Earned the Genuine Esteem of The Citizens of Durham, North Carolina."

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY: The Atlantic Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 of New Bern, North Carolina last year on May 10 celebrated its 100th anniversary. This company was organized May 10, 1845 and was granted its Charter by the North Carolina State Legislature. The company has continued voluntary fire fighting services to the city of New Bern for 101½ years.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF FRANK D. SHAW: Fire Chief Frank D. Shaw died August 11, 1946, after serving the Greensboro Fire Department for nearly 40 years. It is largely because of such fine leadership that the

Greensboro Fire Department attained and maintained a high degree of efficiency as is reflected in a very commendable fire record over a long period of time.

Chief Shaw had been an outstanding worker in the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, having been Vice President for two years during the years of 1930 and 1931. He served as President in 1932 and put his heart and soul into serving the firemen of all sections of the state. When the firemen met they always could count on Frank being there with that smile that his friends welcomed, and each fireman liked to call him by his first name. Frank and his able firemen acted as host to five annual meetings of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association with that same friendly spirit that Greensboro has always exhibited. The firemen of North Carolina will cherish his memory as a great fireman who served well and long.

With the closing of my statistician's report I wish to again thank my friend and your friend, Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., North Carolina State Fire Marshall, and the office of the Insurance Commissioner for their cooperation in helping me to secure the necessary data for my 1946 report.

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

Piedmont Federal Savings and Loan Association	125.00	
Redemption of Brown Manufacturing Co. stock	5,000.00	
Total receipts	$42,407.94	$3,685.80
DISBURSEMENTS:		
U. S. Defense Bonds, Series G	$24,000.00	$1,000.00
Custodian services	83.60	6.96
Death claims paid	20,000.00	
Officers' salaries:		
Secretary		1,770.60
Treasurer		155.88
Withholding tax		286.00
Officers' expenses:		
Secretary		68.23
Fidelity Bonds for officers		34.38
Auditing services		79.43
Postage and printing		135.51
Registration and insurance on stock for redemption		.72
Licenses and fees		48.00
Intangible tax		23.59
Total disbursements	$44,083.60	$3,609.30
Decrease and increase in cash balance during years	**$ 1,675.66**	$ 76.50
Cash balance July 1, 1946	21,014.26	1,994.49
Cash balance June 30, 1947	$19,338.60	$2,070.99

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD I have the Auditor's report here and shall ask Mr. Miller to read it. It is like Greek to me.

. . . Mr. Miller, the Secretary, read the Auditor's report.

SECRETARY MILLER: I want to tell you that in our history we have lost only $287. That was interest that had accumulated when the banks fell and that we could not collect. Let's go forward now and do more for our Association. It used to be that the officers traveled around to see you, but the secretaries are doing such a fine job now that it is not necessary. I send out the assessment always the first of the month, and in a few days I have those assessments back. We want to go on and get 2,500 members. I appeal to you in the name of everything that belongs to an organization of this kind. We are nothing but a big set of loyal people in our community. We do things that other people don't do in the community, and we ought to be proud of it. I can not think of any man nobler than a fireman, who goes out in the nighttime and fights fire for his neighbor, sometimes without reward or hope of reward. I appeal to you to stand shoulder to shoulder, and let's go down to the brink of that final river together.

I thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: What will you do with the Auditor's report, gentlemen?

. . . Motion by Mr. Jones, of Nashville, to accept the report. Motion seconded by Mr. Seymour, of Sanford, and unanimously carried.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Let's hear now from Albert Brinson, our Statistician.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT W. BRINSON

President Fitzgerald, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I submit to you my report of statistics for the sixtieth year of our association assembled here in the fine host city of Morehead City, which has now been host for the fifth time to the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

It has been three years since our association last met, in Charlotte, and since that time we have seen World War II close and our fighting forces return home to their loved ones once more. Most of the North Carolina Firemen who returned home have gone back into WAR on the home front, not fighting men but fighting that greatest enemy of all, FIRE DEMON, who takes approximately 11,000 lives of men, women and innocent children in about 1,700,000 fires in the United States annually.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: President Truman's conference on Fire Prevention, held at Washington, D. C., May 6, 7, and 8 brought more than 2,000 fire chiefs, fire leaders and insurance executives from all sections of the United States for the full purpose of waging war to conquer the terrible Fire Demon who is on rampage as never before. This conference no doubt is the beginning of reducing our phenominal losses of death and property by greater fire prevention.

Quote: "The serious losses in life and property resulting annually from fires cause me deep concern. I am sure that such unnecessary waste can be reduced. The substantial progress made in the science of fire prevention and fire protection in this country during the past forty years convinces me that the means are available for limiting this unnecessary destruction."

Signed, HARRY S. TRUMAN

Since 1934 our fire toll has been rising at a rapid rate. In 1933 our national loss was $235,263,000 and last year it reached the staggering toll of $561,478,000 or an increase of $326,224,000. If prompt action is not taken to curb this needless waste the loss for 1947 will be much greater.

The losses for the first three months of 1947 are reported to be approximately $193,862,000. It is interesting to note that 80 per cent of the nation's fire loss comes from only 5 per cent of the total fires so it seems that extra effort of prevention should be directed at the larger or major fire hazards.

EVERY DAY the United States has approximately 1,650 fires causing 28 deaths; 760 home, 140 store, 80 factory, 6 church, 6 school, and 3 hospital fires.

We have about 600,000 building fires every year! Here is where most of them occur (according to available figures). Dwellings 276,000, stores and shops 50,300, motor vehicles 56,000, apartments and rooming houses 47,200, manufacturing plants 28,500, garages and filling stations 26,000, hotels and boarding houses 8,800, restaurants and taverns 7,900, theaters and amusement place 3,900,(schools 2,200, churches 2,100, hospitals and institutions 1,000.

Here are the principal causes of fire (one year record):

CAUSES	NUMBER OF FIRES	LOSS
Smoking and matches	93,000	$38,000.000
Misuse of electrical equipment and defective wiring	47,000	36,000,000
Defective heating equipment	45,000	25,000,000
Defective or overheated chimneys and flues	40,000	17,500,000
Sparks on wooden shingle roofs	39,000	15,500,000
Careless handling of infammable liquids	28,000	16,000,000
Children playing with matches	26,000	4,500,000

FIRES THAT HAVE CAUSED GREATEST LOSS OF LIFE:

	Dead
1908 Collinwood, Ohio, school	175
1911 New York, shirtwaist fires	145
1918 Minnesota, forest fires	559
1929 Cleveland, hospital	125
1930 Columbus, Ohio, prison	320
1934 S. S. Morro Castle	125
1937 New London, Texas, school	294
1940 Natchez, Miss., dance hall	207
1942 Boston, night club	492
1944 Hartford, Conn., circus	168
1944 Cleveland, Ohio, gas plant	130
1946 Chicago, hotel	61
1947 Centralia, Ill., mine explosion	111
1947 Texas City, Texas, waterfront explosion	468

GREAT CONFLAGRATIONS IN AMERICA:

1871 Chicago—17,000 buildings	$168,000,000

1872 Boston—776 buildings	75,000.000
1904 Baltimore—80 city blocks	50,000,000
1906 San Francisco—28,000 buildings	350,000,000
1914 Salem, Mass.—1,600 buildings	14,000,000
1922 Astoria, Ore.—30 city blocks	10,000,000
1922 New Bern, N. C.—40 city blocks	1,500,000
1923 Berkley, Calif—640 buildings	6,000,000
1934 Chicago—stockyards	5,000,000
1941 Jersey City—waterfront	11,000,000
1941 Fall River—rubber factories	11,000,000
1942 New York—steamship	53,000,000
1944 Rockaway, N. J.—warehouse	11,000,000
1944 Cleveland, Ohio—gas plant	7,000,000
1945 Richmond, Fla.—air station	30,000,000
1946 Muskegon, Mich.—business buildings	2,000,000
1947 Texas City, Texas—waterfront explosion	67,000,000

WHY PEOPLE BURN TO DEATH

In Homes:

Careless smoking.
Smoking in bed.
Children playing with matches.
Clothing ignited by open fireplace or bonfire.
Children left alone in home.
Dry cleaning with gasoline or naphtha.
Kindling fires with kerosene.
Re-entering burning buildings to rescue pets or belongings.

In Other Places:

Careless smoking.
Trapped in burning buildings.
Careless handling of flammable liquids.
Dust explosion.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FARM FIRES: Lightning, defective chimneys, sparks on roofs, stoves and furnaces, gasoline and kerosene, hot ashes, matches and smoking, spontaneous ignition of hay and misuse of electricity.

WHAT ABOUT FARMS: The farm loss is estimated at $85,000,000 annually. There are approximately 3,500 people burned in farm fires annually; this is over one-third of the total loss of life by fire. There are over 16,600 farm fires annually.

FIRE DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Under 5 years of age	28 per cent
Five years to 14	13 per cent
Fifteen to 64	42 per cent
Sixty-five and over	15 per cent
No data	2 per cent

FACTS ABOUT FIRE

There are 760 home fires every day!

A dwelling fire occurs every 2 minutes!

Once every 50 minutes some one is burned to death!

800,000,000 matches are used daily—every one a potential fire hazard.

250,000,000,000 cigarettes are smoked a year—each a fire hazard if carelessly discarded.

STATE FIRE LOSS: In 1946 fire chiefs from 53 cities and towns in North Carolina reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office a total of 1403 fires for the year, with a reported loss of $2,879,060. Figuring an estimated population of 937,552 for these protected cities and towns reporting, it would give us a per capita loss of $3.07 and $2,052 average loss per fire.

Figures compiled by the Insurance Department show a total paid by all insurance companies for the year 1946 to be $6,071,598. This represents an estimated 70 per cent of all fires during the year 1946 and adding 30 per cent for estimated uninsured makes a total estimated loss of $8,673,700. Taking the estimated population of North Carolina of 4,166,893 people our capital loss for every man, woman and child for the year 1946 was $2.08. The estimated capita loss for the United States in 1946 reached the phenominal figure of $3.72 so you can see that North Carolina's loss of $2.08 speaks well for North Carolina firemen.

I am pleased to call your attention to the following favorable comparisons of 1946 with 1945. In 1946 53 cities and towns reported 1,403 fires for the year which was 219 less reported fires than the 1,622 for 1945. The reported loss for these 1,403 fires was $2,879,060 or $344,312 less than 1945 loss of $3,223,372. Further comparisons show the 1946 per capita loss of these reported fires to be $3.07 or 81 cents less than the 1945 per capita loss of $3.88. The 1,403 reported destructive fires include:

		Total Loss	Average Loss Per Fire
814	dwellings	$479,240	$ 589
67	apartment houses	90,783	1,355
11	churches	31,477	2,816
9	schools	73,095	8,122
22	Hotels	22,440	1,020
3	hospitals	600	200
2	nurses' homes	410	205
1	football stadium, Asheville	1,767	1,767
926	Buildings	$699,812	$ 756

Out of the 926 buildings 905 were sleeping quarters.

Below I give 24 of the reported major destructive fires, each representing a loss of over $20,000 for each fire, with a total loss of $1,499,616, establishing average loss per fire at $62,484.

Winston-Salem—Furniture manufacturing plant	$ 25,000
Forsyth county (outside)—Fertilizer plant	31,000
Wilson—Truck manufacturing plant	45,000
Wilmington—Laundry	27,000
Statesville—Cotton warehouse	116,000
Concord—Church	25,000
Concord—School	52,000
Goldsboro—Tobbacco redrying plant	90,000
Gastonia—Cotton warehouse	20,000
Elizabeth City—Business building	150,000
Elizabeth City—Dwelling	30,000
Elizabeth City—Bank building	25,000
Charlotte—Warehouse	36,500
Charlote—Business and church property	20,706
Charlotte—Garage	20,700
Charlotte—Textile and laundry equipment	122,500
Fayetteville—Millwork plant	60,000
Raleigh—Southern states warehouse	28,850
High Point—Feed warehouse	30,000
High Point—Belk Stephens Department Store	49,360
Greensboro—A and P Store	70,000
Ahoskie—Wholesale grocery warehouse	250,000
Siler City—Chair factory	100,000
Raeford—Mill and storage warehouse	75,000
Total	$1,499,616

When you compare the foregoing table of 24 major fires, the 24 fires accounted for 52.09 per cent of total reported loss for the 1,403 fires and four of the 24 fires accounted for 29.12 per cent of the total reported loss.

PROBABLE CAUSES OF FIRES: Out of the 1,403 fires reported by the various fire chiefs probable causes include: Unknown 254, electricity 151, gasoline and cleaning fluids 9, flash fire 1, defective chimneys, flues and heating systems including oil burning furnaces and cook stoves 163, overheated stoves, furnaces and woodwork too close to stoves, pipes and flues 47, sparks from chimneys and flues on roofs 57, oil stoves and oil heaters 186, Christmas trees 5, suspected incendiary 12, spray booths 2, exposure 33, not listed 65, sparks from trains 4, foundry furnace overheated 1, starting fires with kerosene, gasoline and thinner 7, spontaneous combustion 15, smoking in bed HOTELS (see special list below) 14, grass, weeds, and leaves 15, burning grease 10, careless smoking including smoking in bed 146, hot ashes 14, general carelessness 52, children with matches 34, lightning 13, rats and matches 4, carelessness with acetylene torches 9, mechanical friction 5, matches left in

clothes 5, food left on stoves 3, thawing water pipes 2, window curtains too close to stove 2, drying clothes too close to stove 3.

SPECIAL CAUSES: Hotels:

Proctor Hotel, Greenville, cause listed, "Drunk set fire to bed in hotel," damage to contents in sprinkler protected building $200.

Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, cause listed, "Unknown," probable cause carelessness. Damage to building $900, contents $1,500. Total $2,400 Building is of fire resistive construction.

Yorker Hotel, Raleigh, probable cause, "Mattress on fire," damage $35.

Andrew Johnson Hotel, Raleigh, probable cause "Carelessness," damage to contents $300.

Andrew Johnson Hotel, Raleigh, probable cause "Carelessness," damage to building $202, contents $103, total $305.

Carolina Hotel, Raleigh, probable cause "Carelessness," damage to building $50, contents $100, total $150.

King Cotton Hotel, room 1103, Greensboro, cause listed "Cigarette on bed," damage to building $600, contents $400, total $1,000.

Harris Hotel, Greensboro, probable cause "Cigarette on mattress," damage to contents $25.

Gaston Inn, Gastonia, overheated stove, damage $10.

J. E. Rudisall, 100 Block South St., Gastonia, cafe and hotel $15,000.

Travelers Hotel, Charlotte, probable cause "Cigarette on mattress," damage to building $32, contents $110, total $142.

Home Hotel, Elkin, probable cause "Careless smoker," damage to building $100, contents $25, total $125.

Grand Hotel, Greensboro, cause reported grease on stove, damage to building $200.

Carolina Hotel, Greensboro, probable cause "Cigarette on bed," damage to contents $72.

Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, cause unknown, room damage to building $920, contents $250, total $1,170.

Prince Charles Hotel, Fayetteville, probable cause "Occupant smoking in bed," damage to contents $50.

Barringer Hotel, Charlotte, defective ice box, damage to contents $100.

Hotel March, Lexington, probable cause "Smoking in bed setting mattress and bed clothing on fire," damage to building $75, contents $100, total $175.

Zinztndorf Hotel, Winston-Salem, probable cause "Careless smoker." Damage to building $400, contents $300, total $700.

Grocery Hotel and Cafe, Wilmington, caused by oil stove, damage to contents $229.

Briggs Hotel, Wilson, cause overheated electric motor, damage $102.

Carolina Hotel and Theater, Winston-Salem, probable cause "Carelessness with hotplate being too close to combustible material," damage

to contents $50.

SPECIAL CAUSES OF FIRES AS REPORTED BY FIRE CHIEFS:

"Caught from auto near house."

"Possible careless smoker in which was parked by side of house in which four people were asl[illegible] One, Mr. Ed Call so badly burned died two hours later from the burns."

"Child 5 years old left alone in house by mother who went to visit neighbors, believed to have been playing with matches, set house on fire and was fatally burned."

"Men working on large tar tank. Flames ignited causing explosion. Three burned to death and several burned badly on face and hands."

"Sparks from metal fragments from machinery set fire to building."

"Defective oven in bakery."

"Fuel truck went out of control, struck parked Buick car, bursting fuel tank on Buick, contents caught fire from friction."

"Gas furnace left burning on wood bench in shop."

"Attempting to use oil as fuel in coal stove."

"Dresser in upstairs room against open flue connected with downstairs stove, set fire to house."

"Painter burning paint off of house, set house on fire."

"Attendant in wash pit, presumably smoking while washing car, set car on fire."

"Four men now in jail charged with burning home. Isaac Glover, owner of the home, died from burns received."

"House set on fire by occupant using wooden fire poker."

"Merchandise packed against stove flue in store set building on fire."

"Lint in vent pipe set fire to laundry."

"Gas burner in dental laboratory."

"Spark from passing train into load of cotton."

NOTE: during the year of 1946, notwithstanding the universal use of electricity both in urban and rural communities, four dwellings were burned from the use of kerosene lamps. Two of these in Charlotte, the home of the Duke Power Company and one in Durham, original home of the "Dukes."

"Smoking in bed in rooming house, James Leon Warson suffocated."

"City bus hauling gasoline in open can."

"Lizzie Radford, who lived next door, caught fire and ran into Henry Edwards's home, damage to Edwards's home $1,000." Report does not mention "what became of Lizzie."

"Popcorn machine overheated, ignited and smoked up building."

"Passenger bus mechanic tried to start motor with booster battery, sparks ignited, flooded carburetor."

"Turning car and trailer around on street, ran up on curb, overturned lighted oil heater."

"Carelessness with gasoline at service station. Three men burned, one, Gaston Banks, fatally."

"Belt jumped pulley, friction set fire to building."

"Heating tar in can on cook-stove."

"Clothes hanging too close to stove."

"Fire originated in box of children's toys."

"Portable oil stove used in rooming house set fire to house. John Cannady, colored, aged 65, Rose Lee Wilson, colored, aged 60, died in fire."

"Coal burning stove exploded from unknown cause, ruptured the stove and scattered fire all over the rooms."

"Owner threw rags saturated with alcohol into hot water heater. He was hospitalized for burns received."

"Pouring flammable liquid into hot water heater, E. L. Holder, 45 years of age, died from burns received."

"The loss, $5,263 is the estimated damage caused by burning gasoline flowing in gutters from the Sir Walter Hotel garage, the garage was not damaged, the $5,263 applying to cars parked on the street."

"Overheated coffee urn in drug store, damage to contents, $1,100."

"Chief's report lists cause unknown. Hotel room 920 on fire, $250 damage. Use your own judgment for cause.

"Butane Gas Company of North Carolina, Concord Street, Raleigh, pump house. Damage to building $10, contents $140 (gas explosion)."

"Static in tub of clothes being dry cleaned."

"Gasoline in auto tank exploded from torch, damage building. $100."

"Greensboro—Owner burning hornets' nest off garage, damage $150."

"Barrel of tar set fire to building."

"Person in show room of garage struck match to light cigarette. Set bucket of gasoline on fire."

Carolina Beach: "Sun reflecting on glass vase caused paper to catch on fire. Damage to building $400, contents $100."

Unreported fire to the Insurance Commissioner's office but reported personally to your Statistician: Chief Vernon Guthrie, Morehead City, reported that he had an unusual—believe-it-or-not—fire, a cemetery fire, no further information available.

SCHOOL FIRES: There were 9 school fires reported by the fire chiefs of North Carolina to the Insurance Commissioner's office for 1946. This is only one more school fire in protected cities and towns than 1945. The total loss was reported at $73,095 which was $66,616 above the 1945 small loss. One school fire accounted for $52,000 or the greatest part of the total loss. Taking into consideration the combined losses for the past three years there were 23 school fires with a total loss of $101,339 with an average for $4,406 per fire which I believe is a low record for any three year period for many, many years in the past. This low record no doubt reflects the direct results of the fire prevention program that has been conducted by fire departments personnel in cooperation with school officials and teachers. There was no school death or casualty reported to a school child for the two year period.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The state death tolls for 1946 from conflagration of buildings showed an increase of 9 more deaths than 1945. The Bureau of Vital Statistics recorded 80 deaths in 1946 from conflagration of buildings with 71 for the year 1945. There were 35 less men, women and children who lost their lives in 1946 over 1945 from accidental deaths, from smoking in bed, children playing with matches, outdoor fires, scalding and handling of oil and other inflammable fuels, etc. The Bureau reported 109 for 1946 and 144 for the year 1945. There were no recorded deaths of school children in the state during 1946.

AIRPLANE DEATHS: With the conversion from war times to peace there has been a decided decrease in deaths in North Carolina by airplane accidents. The Bureau of Vital Statistics report 254 deaths in 1944, 64 in 1945 and only 29 in 1946. It is gratifying to see such a reduction in loss of life especially with the increased civilian and commercial activities. It was not possible to ascertain how many of these deaths were caused by burning planes.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK CONTEST: The 1946 Fire Prevention week was full of activity in most every town in North Carolina. A total of 2,164 reports were received from towns and cities in the United States, Canada and Alaska. Of these 515 were from Canada and 1,649 from the United States.

The committee was composed of the following: Mr. F. A. Christensen, President of the National Board of Fire Underwriters and Vice President of the American Fire Companies; Mr. C. W. Pierce, President of the National Fire Protection Association and President of the Factory Insurance Association; Mr. Fred Shepperd, General Manager of the International Association of Fire Chiefs; Mr. A. H. S. Stead, Manager of the Dominion Board of Insurance Underwriters of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Outstanding in the leadership, planning and execution of the program are: Fire chiefs, paid and volunteer fire departments, fire marshals, Chambers of Commerce (Junior and Senior), Western Actuarial Bureau, Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., Safety Councils, Fire Prevention Associations, insurance companies, agents and local boards, civic and women's clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, and 4-H clubs, agricultural bureaus, granges, schools, radio, press, theaters, the forestry service and many industrial and mercantile groups. The records show that 6,063 Boy Scouts passed the required "Merit Badge Test" in firemanship.

Wilmington was first in the winning city list for North Carolina with Asheville in second position. Durham and Asheboro both received honorable mention.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The annual North Carolina Fire College and Drill School was held June 17, 18, and 19 in the grand old host city of Durham, which has been host to the College and the North Carolina State Fire Association on many occasions in the past, with our deceased, good friend, Chief Frank Bennett acting as host. Chief Cox, Assistant Chief Cannady, Assistant Chief Lawson along with all Durham firemen personnel went all the way in seeing that the 1947 North Carolina Fire College and Drill School was one of the best ever held. It was agreed by all that they did just this. Conductor Sherwood Brockwell was pleased at the success and interest of the College. J. M. Broughton, former governor, who served the North Carolina Firemen's Association as lobbyist during the last session of the General Assembly, was the principal speaker. Broughton's speech explained the provisions of the recently North Carolina State hotel fire laws. He also discussed the new law giving compensation to firemen injured while fighting fires outside the city limits. Twelve men who attended the first fire school conducted by the North Carolina Firemen's Association in Asheville in 1929 were recognized and made short talks. Conductor Sherwood Brockwell and his faculty worked hard and long hours in conducting one of the best I ever had the pleasure to attend.

The Eastern Carolina Fire College and Drill School was held in Greenville in 1946 and Chief George W. Gardner, Vice President of the North Carolina State Fire Association and the Greenville firemen did a swell job.

The Eastern Carolina Fire Association, Roanoke River Association and the Sands Hills Association report a year of activity and splendid results.

The National Fire Protection Association reports the following North Carolina cities per capita loss for a 5 year average including 1946: Asheville $2.52, Burlington $2.30, Charlotte $3.15, Durham $2.17, Gastonia $2.23, Greensboro $2.28, High Point $6.06, Raleigh $2.13, Rocky Mount 95c, Wilmington $1.74, and Winston-Salem $3.02. This five year average of low per capita loss compares especially favorably with our bordering states.

Cities over 10,000 (1940) census) reporting no fire during months in 1946:

High Point—May, September.
Gastonia—June
Goldsboro—June, August.
Rocky Mount—May. September.
Lexington—January, May.
Kinston—August.
Salisbury—May.
Concord—February, September.
Spring Hope and Whitakers report no fires during the year of 1946.
Dr. Long, chief fire department, Graham, North Carolina, reports

under date of December 29, 1946: "I am happy to say I have had no fires to destroy a house in Graham since February 1942. We have had many calls for oil stoves, grass fires, cigarette stumps which smokers left in bed, sparks on shingle roofs, etc., but very little damage, all told. I have preached fire prevention."

Ed. Note: Presumably none of the "calls" amounted to fire damage of as much as five dollars.

THE YEAR OF 1946 SETS A TRAGIC RECORD: When 1946 closed a record year of fire frightfulness and dire disaster had been recorded in the United States ending with the burning of the Hotel Winecoff, in Atlanta, Georgia, with the lives of 117 snuffed out—the nation's worst hotel disaster of all time.

This tragedy in most respects parallels closely that of the Hotel La Salle catastrophe. The hotels were about the same type and age, both being misleading by advertising as "fireproof." Both fires got under way while the guests were asleep, from unknown or undetermined causes.

NORTH CAROLINA HOTEL LAWS: The North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association, an integrate part of the North Carolina State Fire Association following the disastrous holocausts in three major hotel fires in the nation, these resulting in the loss of 200 lives, undertaking to prevent such occurence in North Carolina, in cooperation with the National Fire Protection Association and other national associations presented the matter to the General Assembly of North Carolina which enacted into laws at the last Legislature protective measures that give added protection to hotel guests. J. M. Broughton, former governor, served your association as lobbyist without compensation in getting these laws enacted. You have had a copy of these laws from Mr. Brockwell and it is up to you fire chiefs to see that they are carried out in your community. The power is in your hands, Mr. Chief, to see that hotels put these requirements into operation and in turn protect their guests with this added protection.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF FRANK W. BENNETT: Fire Chief Frank W. Bennett, president of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, died November 26, 1946. He had served the Durham fire department since 1909 and had been chief of the department about 25 years. He was active in the state and national association of firemen. He was known nationally as the "Singing Fire Chief From North Carolina." He was elected vice president of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association assembled at Durham in 1923. He was elected president of the association in High Point in 1924 and for a second term at the meeting in Charlotte in 1944 and served until his death. He was made president of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs in 1938.

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Frank was stricken when he was supervising the fighting of a fire Durham Mattress Factory on November 6 and was taken to the hospital where he remained until his death.

Frank Bennett was a friend to all firemen and was loved by all who knew him. Frank, as he was called by all firemen largely because of his fine, respected leadership, had developed and maintained one of the outstanding fire departments of the country and it had attained a high degree of efficiency which has been reflected in a very commendable fire record for a long period of time. He was an outstanding leader and worker and proposed many policies adopted by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Frank and his personnel had been host to a great number of our association meetings and fire college and drill schools and had spread that friendly good will that makes all firemen love to go back to Durham.

In closing let me read you an editorial from the Durham paper:

FRANK BENNETT

Frank Bennett, Durham fire chief,
Is dead at 63 years. He was an unusual type
For a fire department executive.
He won his way into Durham's hearts
By his golden voice and his gentle manner;
But he achieved respect and honor in his field,
By a quiet diligence, a persistent progressiveness
In fire-fighting practice and a firm insistence
On character as well as performance,
In his fire department.
He led his firemen to an amazingly high level
Of both discipline and performance.
He instilled in his department civic spirit
As well as professional efficiency;
And we believe that is exceptional.
The Durham Fire Department is something
Of a monument to the man. It is,
In a very real sense, a manifestation
Of his own personality and purpose.

Again with the closing of my statistician's report it is with the deepest appreciation that I wish to convey to your friend and mine, Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., North Carolina State Fire Marshal and the office of the Insurance Commissioner my gratitude for their full cooperation in making available the necessary data for my reports since 1940.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician.

. . . Albert W. Brinson, the Statistician, read his report.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD That is a splendid report. About the only thing he left off was how much gasoline the fire trucks used in going to those fires.

What disposition do you wish to make of it, gentlemen?

. . . Motion to accept the Statistician's report; seconded; unanimously carried.

THE PRESIDENT: I now ask Mr. E. Stanley Davis, of Morehead City, to present a gentleman who is going to speak to us for a few minutes.

E. STANLEY DAVIS, MOREHEAD CITY: I was asked to serve on this most important committee appointed to devise some means to work with the moving-picture industry to safeguard the children and others in the moving-picture shows of the State. Mr. H. E. Buchanan, legislative representative of the Theater Association of North Carolina, has kindly consented to give you an outline of what the committee is proposing to this Association for your approval. Mr. Mr. Buchanan.

H. E. BUCHANAN, HENDERSONVILLE, Legislative Representative, North Carolina Theater Association: Gentlemen, I know the hour is getting late and you are tired, and I am not going into details. I simply submitted to your committee a formula which has been adopted by a great many cities in North Carolina as a fire-prevention measure and a panic-control measure.

The theater owners of America are meeting in their national convention in Washington on September 19, 20 and 21. Mr. Gardner, one member of the committee, has submitted the thought that some sort of reel or film should be presented to teach the audiences how to safeguard themselves and their children. We hope that out of this may arise a national reel to be shown in all the theaters in America to teach children, as well as adults, how better to handle themselves in case of fire. We are going to submit to this committee this manual, which is in use in many theaters as the result of years of study. It will be submitted to the Insurance Department and edited by them and then sent to every fire chief in North Carolina and to every theater owner in North Carolina, so that they may get together and workout what we think will be better service to the patrons and better and safer operation of our theaters. We assure you that we, as theater owners, realize that our chief responsibility rests in taking care of the patrons from whom we make our living. In my city of Hendersonville we work in cooperation with the fire department at all times. We have talks by the fire chief and run a film for the children showing them how to take care of themselves and how to cooperate with the fire department. We believe that the use of this comprehensive plan will react more and more for the safety of the children, as well as the adults, in our theaters. We hope that we

EXHIBIT E

THE FIREMEN'S FRATERNAL INSURANCE FUND OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ED A. JOHNSON, *Treasurer,* Kannapolis

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the Year Ended June 30, 1948

	Mortuary Fund	General Fund
RECEIPTS:		
John L. Miller, Secretary, assessments	$36,440.67	$3,644.06
Income from investments:		
Interest:		
U. S. Savings Bonds, Series G	2,200.00	200.00
N. C. State University Dormitory Bonds	162.50	
Dividends:		
First Federal Savings and Loan Association	100.00	
Piedmont Federal Savings and Loan Association	125.00	
Total receipts	$39,028.17	$3,844.06
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Officers' salaries:		
Secretary (less $70.40 withholding tax)		$2,359.60
Treasurer		225.00
Additional officers' salaries for period from July 1, 1942 to June 30, 1947, authorized by members at meeting of the Association on September 10, 1947:		
Secretary		1,870.00
Treasurer		163.90
Officers' expenses:		
Secretary		26.81
Withholding tax for quarter ending June 30, 1947		71.50
U. S. Savings Bonds	17,000.00	
Death claims paid	30,000.00	
Custodian service		99.19
Auditing service		81.98
Office supplies, stamps, etc.		139.37
Surety bond premiums		34.38
Intangible tax		17.10
Insurance license, etc.		48.00
Total disbursements	$47,000.00	$5,136.83
Decrease or increase in cash balance during year	*$ 7,971.83	*$1,292.77
Cash balance July 1, 1947	19,338.60	2,070.99
Cash balance June 30, 1948	$11,366.77	$ 778.22

* Decrease

A MEMBER: I move that the report be accepted. Motion accepted and carried.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD:

Next is the report of the Statistician.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT W. BRINSON

President Fitzgerald, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I submit to you my report of statistics for the sixty-first year of your association assembled here in the historical city of Fayetteville, the home of that Great Fire Leader and one of the incorporators and fathers of your North Carolina State Firemen's Association. In the year 1889 James D. McNeill along with C. D. Benbow, J. T. Fowler, H. J. Elam, A. T. Boyd, C. F. Thomas, J. R. Donnell, Charles Whittington and S. D. Wilson of Greensboro; J. T. Thacker, W. F. Keith, S. A. Sink, C. D. Snipes, F. H. Vogler, F. C. Meinug, of Winston-Salem; E. B. Englehard, T. W. Blake, F. H. Lumsden and F. Brannon of Raleigh; H. E. Heartt, of Durham; J. B. Swinson of Charlotte, had enacted an act to incorporate the North Carolina State Firemen's Association by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened. In that year they created what is now an association of 206 fire departments, 206 active fire chiefs, 206 active assistant chiefs and 5,983 active and honorary firemen, all working for the same cause and with the purpose in mind of saving lives and property in North Carolina. I believe their ideals set forth in that March 11, 1889 act, can best be explained by the Preamble of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association which I now quote:

"We, the members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, in order to form a more perfect organization, establish harmony of action, insure prosperity and promote the best interests of the Firemen of North Carolina, and compile statistics of information concerning the practical working of various systems and the merits of the different apparatus in use for the extinguishing of fires, also the cultivation of fraternal fellowship between the several Fire Departments of the State do, here establish the following Constitution and By-Laws which are printed in all proceedings of your meetings."

James D. McNeill was elected vice president of your association in 1889, he was again elected to this position in 1893, elected to the presidency in 1894 and served in this capacity through 1919, making a total of 26 years at the head of your association. What a contribution to the growth of those ideals set forth by those fine old firemen with a vision of saving property and lives. During James D. McNeill's reign the present host city of Fayetteville acted as host to three of your annual conventions, the years of 1897, 1912 and 1919, and here we are again assembled in this fine old city in 1948.

JAMES D. McNEILL MONUMENT: While here in Fayetteville I hope every fireman attending this convention will visit the monument placed here in tribute to that "Fire Daddy" of this association, who gave his all to help establish and carry on the Fire Tradition of North Carolina and of your association. This monument will be an all-time symbol of what James D. McNeill stood for and represented for the firemen of North Carolina.

In passing, I think it only fair to state that at the Hendersonville meeting, following the Committee Report on the James D. McNeill Monument, which to many denoted "floundering," Sherwood Brockwell, a lifelong friend and admirer of Chief McNeill and one of the last to visit him during his last weeks, asked for permission to take the responsibility of seeing that the monument was erected. The result was the unveiling of the fine monument the last Sunday in June 1930.

The ceremony was of marked dignity and those attending from fire departments all over the state, with ranking members of the Congress of the United States and the General Assembly of North Carolina—showed the never to be forgotten esteem in which this great Volunteer Fireman, participating, as he did, in forming every benefit we now enjoy, was held.

FIRE ON RAMPAGE IN THE UNITED STATES: In my report before this convention assembled at Morehead City last September, I read to you President Truman's call to the nation's fire chiefs, fire leaders, and insurance executives from all sections of the United States, for the full purpose of waging war to conquer the terrible Fire Demon who was on rampage as never before. He called on these fire leaders and insurance executives to do something about curtailing this national holocaust.

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, as the Fire Consultant to the Office of Civil Defense Planning, has appointed Chief Frank C. McAuliffe, President of The International Association of Fire Chiefs, as Fire Consultant to the Office of Civil Defense Planning. In filling this important post Secretary Forrestal has recognized the broad experience and clear thinking of a man who is one of the nation's outstanding leaders in the Fire Service Field.

YOUR PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM: I quote from the Fire Chief's News Letter issued by The International Association:

"The alliteration in the above caption might well be extended by saying, though repetitiously, 'Your Progressive President Proposes Progressive Program.' His leadership this far, and his views of the future of the Association are convincing evidence of the widom in the election of Chief Frank C. McAuliffe as President. Recently he outlined a '12-Point Program' which is set forth herein as worthy of serious consideration by every member.

1. To bring fire chiefs and their associates together in convention at least once each year to discuss problems of fire prevention and protection, to submit educational reports and other informative data for the enlightenment of the membership, and to transact such business of the organization as may be necessary.
2. To assist fire chiefs in maintaining high standards of personnel and departmental efficiency through study and application of modern methods of fire department administration, and constantly advancing techniques of fire fighting and fire prevention.
3. To seek aid and counsel from those experts in equipment, building, engineering, chemical and research fields who are interested in, and work with, the mutual problems of fire prevention, protection and allied subjects.
4. To cooperate with government agencies to promulgate and effectuate plans for all phases of civilian defense in which all fire departments may best serve their individual communities.
5. To assist in the formulation of plans for mutual aid and assistance to communities that may be afflicted by widescale disasters.
6. To help develop and expand public relations of the Fire Service at local, state and national levels.
7. To cooperate with all agencies in promoting fire prevention programs.
8. To enlist public support in all matters of legislation that may be relevant, pertinent and for the best interests of fire chiefs and the service they represent.
9. To promote the expansion of present facilities for fire department training and to sponsor higher education for officer personnel in technical branches and specialties of fire prevention and protection.

10. To sustain the high traditions of the Fire Service and to promote the welfare of all of its members.

11. To devise plans for providing adequate, modern facilities and equipment that will be commensurate with demands made upon the Fire Service.

12. To coordinate the efforts of all engaged in the field of fire protection to the end that such concerted action shall gain the confidence of the public and achieve steady progress against the ravages of fire."

Again quoting President McAuliffe, "These are not visionary objectives. They are real live issues which we must meet, solve and translate into *action* if we wish to take a leading position in the field of the Fire Service."

No impossible task has been outlined, but the Program is one which requires the wholehearted support of every member. *Your* association is counting on *your* support.

THE FIRE DEMON STREWS HIS FLAMING TORCH, SOWING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION: Fire has joined War, Famine, Pestilence and Death! In every corner of America it is a constant menace of death and destruction—every minute day and night. Its toll takes close to 12,000 live a year of men, women, and children burned to death or killed by its sources of deadly gas and fumes. It destroys $700,000,000 worth of property annually in homes, factories, stores, hospitals, schools, warehouses, and farms, and forests. There will be approximately 1,000 men, women and children who will lose their lives each month.

I quote a clipping dated New York, December 27, 1947, "Fire cost the nation more in property damage this year than the German blitz cost Great Britain, the National Board of Fire Underwriters said today. About $700,000,000 went up in smoke in the United States this year to set an all-time high for fires according to the Underwriters annual report. Just 33 of these fires destroyed property estimated to be worth $100,000,000, or about one-seventh of the total. The Texas City disaster last April was listed as the greatest fire that year, killing 512 persons, injuring 3,000 and causing property damage of more than $32,000,000."

"The Fire Demon last year cost each family in the United States $26 per family," and that loss is the highest on record, I believe. "The $700,000,00 fire loss if apportioned equally among America's 60,000,000 jobholders would cost each wage earner $11.66. The United States cities fire protection costs about $3.69 per capita, according to the President's Conference on Fire Prevention. Thus public protection against fire would cost each family of four a total of $14.76. Adding $11.66 to $14.76 equals $26.42, the average family's share in the direct cost of fire and the protection made necessary to the threat of fire. This only covers the direct costs of destructive fire; the indirect costs—credit medical expenses, and other factors, which can only be estimated, cost the nation two to three times the direct property loss."

"$8,000,000 IS COST OF BLAZE FROM CIGARETTE—Shapleigh, Me., Oct. 28. (AP)—A one-cent cigarette, Game Warden George Townsend reported today, started a forest fire which caused $8,000,000 damage in central York county.

"One of many forest blazes which have scourged Maine for two weeks, it laid waste the villages of Lyman and East Waterboro and parts of six other small communities.

"Townsend said he discovered the blaze October 17 while patrolling his district. The fire was easily traceable, he said, to remains of a cigarette beside a Shapeleigh-Newfield road."

The following is taken from a statement by the National Board of Fire Underwriters: *"THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW!"* "Remember the recent fire tragedies? Remember the demand that swept the nation for building codes, laws and law enforcement? An aroused press and citizenry asked for—but didn't get—an end to wholesale death by fire.

What happened in your community to guard your own life and welfare? It's time to take a serious look—in light of these shocking facts:

Of 16,220 municipalities in the nation, less than 2,000 have adopted a building code for the legal protection of the community against known fire hazards. Many of the 2,000 building codes in effect are fifteen to fifty years old—so obsolete as to be practically worthless.

Fire prevention must start with law and law enforcement. It isn't enough to cry *"there ought to be a law,"* after bodies are taken from smoking ruins.

Action—concerted action must come now through the collective will of every citizen. Action—before disaster strikes! Such action must have the unified support of state and local officials charged with fire safety.

Dangerous buildings must no longer be allowed to escape the regulation which is essential to the safety of human life.

The President of the United States has recognized the need for action now. He has declared all-out war against fire—a serious menace to our national life.

The fire insurance industry has perfected building codes for all communities. Responsibility for their adoption rests with local authorities and you, whose lives are at stake"

What are we going to do about it? The firemen of North Carolina will assure the world that they will render every ounce of service (paid or volunteer) to the principles laid down by our forefathers to save property and life.

OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS: Several years back the various cities and towns of North Carolina had very few oil truck routes designated around the business sections, and during that time there were a number of accidents involving these oil laden trucks which spread destruction to business sections. The North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association meeting in the city of Salisbury started a program of Truck Routes. Following this action with the cooperation of your associations, mayors, boards of aldermen, city councils, city managers and others, many towns and cities have set up truck routes away from business sections, with results of much improved conditions and less fatal and destructive accidents and fires. Mr. Samuel L. Gaynor, Jr., Assistant Director, Highway Safety Division has furnished your statistician again this year, as usual, a report on all oil trucks involved in fatal accidents in North Carolina. This report for 1947-48 shows only four oil trucks involved in fatal accidents with five lives lost and seven people injured. Of the four accidents there was only one in a city and this one was in Wilmington, killing two and injuring two. The other three were on highways. His report for 1946-47 showed 9 oil truck accidents with the results of 10 deaths and 6 injured, not one of these accidents occurred within city limits. The report does not mention any loss to property. If your town or city has not set up truck routes then you as firemen will do an act of fire prevention for your fellow citizens by going home and seeing that your city government sets up these protective truck routes through your home town. By the same token you will lessen your fire hazard and possibly save property and lives.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The North Carolina State Fire College and Drill School held its 20th annual school in the friendly city of Durham, North Carolina, June 16-17-18 under the direction of Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., State Fire Marshal and Dean of the school. Chief C. L. Cox of the Durham fire department along with his able staff and his fire department personnel offered every bit of their facilities to the school and maintained that friendly attitude that has so many years made Durham stand out in the hearts of all firemen as living up to the precedent set years ago as the "Firemen's Friendly City." The Durham fire department put on an exhibition of fire tower drills for the benefit of visiting students that was equal to or better than any ever exhibited to the firemen before, under the supervision of Chief C. L. Cox, Assistant Chief B. C. Cannady, Assistant Chief Claiborne Lawson, Captain Claude H. Turner, and others of the Durham fire department. This school was well attended by former students and the first year class was unusually large which showed that the towns and cities of North Carolina wanted their fire departments to be represented and

gain knowledge in modern fire fighting and life saving, from our experienced friend Sherwood Brockwell and his capable faculty. Mr. Brockwell had able speakers on the program including Mr. William P. Hodges, State Commissioner of Insurance, Frank A. Pierson, Secretary of the Durham Chamber of Commerce Mayor W. F. Carr, City Manager R. W. Flack, Chief J. C. Fitzgerald, President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and many other prominent firemen of North Carolina. Mr. Warren Y. Kimball of the National Fire Protection Association of Boston who is also editor of "Volunteer Fireman" was guest speaker. Taking inventory your statistician considers this as one of the most successful fire college and drill schools the association has ever sponsored.

STATE-WIDE FIRE DRILL: As the result of what the firemen of North Carolina did about the state-wide fire drill in response to Sherwood Brockwell's proposal at our convention in Morehead City last September, the records in the State Fire Marshall's office show that on October 9, 1947 at 11 a. m. over 800,000 school children and teachers, in every county in North Carolina participated in the largest simultaneous fire drill ever conducted in the United States. These fire drills were, in many cases, followed by inspections of the school buildings involved by fire department officials and school officials, the subremoval of many fire hazards and structural deficiencies. Then fire drills came in the months in which the heating plants were first used and served to acquaint all teachers and children with the location and use of all available exits, for danger often resulted from use of such heating facilities.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE: As an educational feature for the fiscal year 1947-48 Sherwood Brockwell, conductor of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School, has made available to all the departments sending representatives mimeographed copies of instructions, including Ammonium Nitrate, Fire Streams and High Tension Electric Lines, The Ignition Temperature of Wood, and The Application of Water on Fires. Your conductor should receive credit from every town and city in North Carolina for the great amount of work required in preparing this material for your benefit. This is just another one of his many beneficial acts for which he deserves praise from every fireman in North Carolina.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The state death tolls for 1947 from conflagration of burning buildings showed an increase of 15 more deaths than 1946 and an increase of 21 more than 1945. The Bureau of Vital Statistics recorded 95 deaths in 1947 from burning buildings, 80 deaths for 1946 and 71 for the year 1945. The Bureau reported 126 deaths in 1947, men, women, and children, from accidental deaths from fires, smoking in bed, children playing with matches, outdoor fires, scalding and handling of oil and other inflammable fuels,

etc. This is 17 more lives lost by fire than the year 1946 when the number was reported by the Bureau to be 109. In the year of 1945 there was a total of 144 so we can take some condolence that 1947 loss from this cause was 18 less lives snuffed out than in 1945. The firemen can appreciate the fact that in almost every case these lives were taken before their arrival at the scene of fire, or conditions were so advanced it was impossible to save them.

AIRPLANE DEATHS: The Bureau of Vital Statistics also reported to your statistician 254 deaths in 1944 by airplane accidents in North Carolina, 64 deaths in 1945, 29 in 1946 and 42 in 1947. These figures of deaths since war activities ceased are surely gratifying as a comparison of war conditions versus peace times, especially when one considers the increase of private and commercial flying since 1944. You will note the 1944 deaths of 254 against a total for the three years following 1944 of 135. These figures are something to remember as a contrast of war and peace. In this connection may we all recall the Bible line of "Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men." It is impossible to ascertain how many of these deaths were caused by burning planes as the Bureau does not segregate them.

STATE FIRE LOSS: For several years past the State Fire Marshal and your statistician have collaborated in making available data tending to present a state-wide picture of the fire loss for each preceding year. This we believe expedint to discontinue this year and until something near normal conditions again prevail. Due to terrific differences in estimates of fire damage to buildings and contents, since these have fluctuated from month to month for the past several years, in our opinion makes any estimate of such loss or losses more or less futile.

As an example of the foregoing: A dwelling which the fire chief knows cost $6,000 when it was built 20 years ago, sustains a fire damage involving not over half of such building. The natural presumption would be the damage was $3,000. He later finds that under a revised policy the owner collected an amount far in excess of the $3,000 and in rebuilding the burned portion finds the cost of such rebuilding in excess of the amount collected under the terms of the revised contract. From this it can be readly seen that statistics undertaken to establish an intelligent estimate of the fire loss in the state is practically out of the question.

Your statistician has, however, reviewed reports from the towns and cities which are members of the North Carolina State Fire Association and these show a definite decrease in number of fires. A further perusal of reports of fire conditions from fire chiefs throughout the state shows marked improvement in new apparatus, hose and equipment purchased and delivered in the past 24 months. With very few exceptions, this applies to all departments in the state.

THE FIRE SERVICE OF AMERICA: When we go back to what the Fire Service of America started from we think in the terms of the bucket brigade, then the advancement to the hand pumps that created some pressure through hose to the point of the fire, then we think in terms of steam pressure through hose and nozzle and these pieces of apparatus drawn to the scene of fire by horses and the old timer will say "those were the good old days." Frankly I well remember when I first entered the fire service we still used horses. The modern way of fire fighting is with the fast motorized trucks which can get there faster and afford pressures and capacities never dreamed of by the "old timers." It still requires manpower to handle the situation when the trucks arrive on the scene. We have grown from small villages to towns and on to large cities and large fire departments, but after all it still requires a lot of manpower—paid or volunteer—for we are all fighting and giving our service for the same cause. Here is a clipping that should interest all firemen: "Of the 800,000 municipal fire-fighters in America, only one out of eight is a professional, full-time fireman, the rest being volunteers."

TOBACCO BARN FIRES: To best give you a slant on the FIRE DEMON's menace to the farmers of North Carolina I give you a portion of Phil Ellis's Newscast over WPTF on March 25, 1948 on the subject. "Anything that tends to destroy profits from North Carolina's number one crop is . . . naturally . . . of some concern to many citizens. One constant danger is fire.

So, as a result of the numerous reports of tobacco barn fires in 1946, Dean I. O. Schaub, Director of the State College Extension Service, recommended that a study be made in an effort to learn the causes of these fires.

Well, today the report is out, and, its findings tell a story.

Uniform questionnaire forms were supplied to county agents by the North Carolina State College Extension Division, and county agents called on community committeemen and Triple-A committeemen to report the name and address of any grower who had lost a tobacco barn in a fire. The county agent then contacted these farmers who had lost tobacco barns by fire . . . filled in the questionnaires, and sent them to State College to be summarized.

A summarization of these reports reveals that the number of tobacco barns burned was greatly decreased in 1947 from 1946. In 1946, 1412 barns burned as compared to 888 in 1947. However, 56 counties reported in 1946 and only 51 in 1947.

Number one cause of fires for both years was listed as falling sticks and leaves which accounted for 18 per cent of the total number in 1946.

Losses were estimated at more than $2,000,000 in 1946 and over $1,114,000 in 1947. At an estimate of $750 per barn, it would take about $666,000 to replace the barns actually burned in 1947, and at 3 cents a stick, it would cost $16,000 to replace the destroyed tobacco sticks."

REFRESHMENTS CONVENIENT AT SOME FIRES: A North Carolina city had virtually a city block on fire recently when one fireman found a cool spot in a hot spot. I quote a clipping from a state paper:

"Fireman Finds Beer . . . One of the firemen took his hose into the hottest part of the fire in one of the poolrooms. Bystanders shrank from the heat as the fireman kicked in a window to get inside the store.

"As the fireman sprayed hundreds of gallons of water through the inferno, he found a drink-cooling box filled with beer.

"Bottle after bottle went down the fireman's parched throat as bystanders stood and cheered. And pretty soon, the poolroom fire was out."

SOME UNUSUAL FIRE CASUALTIES: A performer in a fire-eating act used gasoline in mistake for alcohol.

Lighting a cigarette with a match ignited flimsy costumes. Four burned to death.

Two children were cremated in a dog kennel when a match set fire to straw.

A Detroit child burned to death in a locked automobile while playing with matches.

A 6-year-old child burned to death when burning leaves ignited her crepe paper costume.

Woman stood on lighted gas stove to wash window.

Man poured gasoline on legs to relieve rheumatic pains. Gasoline fumes ignited.

Five women injured when one mistakenly threw gasoline on blaze in trailer.

Short circuit in home-made burglar trap ignited drapes. Girl cremated.

Celluloid combs ignited when girl leaned too close to stove.

Similar case where book matches in man's clothing ignited.

A 60-year-old Texas man, worried over illness, sprayed gasoline over himself, wife and three children. All died.

A St. Louis window washer fell into a 300-gallon tank of grain alcohol. The liquid splashed on a motor running nearby. He died.

At Paris, Arkansas, two were killed and three injured in a trailer when gasoline was added to paraffin which was being melted.

A workman, in an eastern shoe factory, whose clothing was damp with a volatile solvent, reached through the paymaster's wicket to receive his check. A static charge, which he had collected, caused a spark to jump between his hand and that of the paymaster. A fire resulted, severely burning the workman.

Strangest of all was the man who was burned to death while turning in a fire alarm at a street box. A leaky gas main has filled the box with gas. When the handle was pulled a resulting arc caused an explosion, igniting the operator's clothing."

CHIEF HENDRIX PALMER HONORED: When I mention the name of Hendrix Palmer it brings my mind back to some of the things I had to say about our founders inasmuch as Hendrix took on, along with others, where those old fellows had to turn the responsibility over to younger chiefs and firemen to carry on that tradition I spoke of. As history goes, Hendrix Palmer rode a horse drawn buggy into the Charlotte Fire Department back 44 years ago; he rode out two months ago in a 1949 Buick automobile, a gift by citizen admirers, of the city of Charlotte, in tribute to his 21 years reign as the Fire Chief of Charlotte and his career as an outstanding, honored public servant. Mayor H. H. Baxter, in presenting the keys to the car, referred to Hendrix's distinguished service and revered standing in city, state and nation. "You have been the Charlotte Fire Department, and the Fire Department has been you," the mayor added. Chief Palmer in his response said, "I leave my congratulations to the man who succeeds me as chief of the finest fire department in the world." He of course referred to Chief Donald S. Charles, who was among the 50 or more fire officers, city officials and others who attended the ceremony.

As your statistician I wish to call your attention to the fact that when your association needed a place to hold our Fire College and Drill School and Convention, Hendrix Palmer and his firemen said, "The latch string hangs outside, come on—we will be glad to have you." Our convention was held in the city of Charlotte in the following years, 1890, 1901, 1911, 1934 and 1944. I cannot tell you how many times Hendrix and his firemen were host to our fire college and drill school but it has been on a number of occasions and some of those times were at a time we could not get accommodations in any other city. Hendrix Palmer was the only fire chief from North Carolina who achieved that high honor of being President of the International Fire Chiefs Association and he stands as a national figure on that score. He has been President of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association since it was

founded and has surely built up another affiliated organization of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association which is a vital part of our association. He was elected to the vice presidency of our organization in 1932 and served as our president for the year of 1934. Hendrix Palmer is just another carry on of our association founded by those great incorporators and visionaries mentioned earlier.

ANOTHER FIREMAN MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE: On December 26, 1947 the day following Christmas, when most families were gathered with loved ones enjoying Christmas holidays throughout this great America of ours, another *Loyal Fireman* sacrificed his life to help save property and life. This time it was in the little town of Weldon, North Carolina. He was Everett A. Carr, a volunteer fireman whose life was crushed out by a falling wall during a fire that destroyed the Lebon Theater of his home town. Several of his fellow firemen, including a neighbor fireman of Roanoke Rapids, received severe injuries. Everett A. Carr left, on that fatal day, his wife, two sons and a daughter. Let it be said that here was another of those supreme sacrifices that are carrying on the spirit of James D. McNeill and those other Grand Old Firemen, referred to before.

With the closing of my ninth statistical report let me say to you that it has been a pleasure to serve you in this capacity to the best of my ability. I again wish to express my thanks to my friend Sherwood Brockwell and his office for furnishing me with such material as was available.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

A MEMBER: I move that the report be accepted. Motion seconded and carried.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD:

We have several towns that did not send in a report to the Insurance Commissioner at Raleigh. I will ask Mr. Johnson to read the list.

MR. JOHNSON (Treasurer):

I have before me a list of the towns that do not qualify for their relief fund for the year ending June 30th, 1947. The reason you did not qualify for your relief fund at that time was that somebody failed to make out a report as required by the statute in North Carolina; somebody certainly went to sleep in these different departments and some lost considerable money that you didn't get and the North Carolina Association's Relief Fund had to take credit for it instead. I will read the list and hope that you will look after this matter not later than the first of October of each year.

To The North Carolina State Firemen's Association
In Convention Assembled, Fayetteville, N. C.
Greetings:

The 1948 Session of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School was conducted at Durham, N. C., June 16th, 17th and 18th, with a total of 289 in attendance. This total of 289 represented 70 North Carolina Fire Departments, one South Carolina Fire Department and one representative of the Stillwater, Oklahoma Fire Department.

263 firemen attended all lecture periods and observed or participated in all drill periods and were awarded Fire College Certificates.

153 firemen participated in all of the drill periods and were awarded Drill School Certificates.

81 of these were Advanced Drill School students and 72 were First Year Drill School students.

The following firemen, having satisfactorily completed four full sessions of the Fire College and Drill School, were awarded 1948 Diplomas:

EDWARD PARKER SIMMONS, JR.—Lenoir, N. C.
JAMES LEIGHTON HATCH—Fayetteville, N. C.
ARRINGTON LEE SANFORD—Goldsboro, N. C.
GEORGE EDGAR SUMMERLIN, JR.—Mount Olive, N. C.
DANIEL TALMADGE SMITH—Washington, N. C.
LEON HAYWOOD SHEPARD—Washington, N. C.
WILLIAM WINFRED HAMRICK—Spindale, N. C.
PAUL RAY WARD—Spindale, N. C.
VIRGIL JAMES SIMMONS—Spindale, N. C.
CLARENCE JASPOND McCURRY—Spindale, N. C.
ROBERT JOYCE OWEN—Canton, N. C.
FRED KYLE WILLIAMS—Thomasville, N. C.
ALLIE JAMES MELTON—Farmville, N. C.
ROBERT WINFIELD BOYD—Lenoir, N. C.
KENNETH OWEN PATTERSON—New Bern, N. C.
COLE BLEASE EPPS—Rock Hill, S. C.
ERNEST BURCH—Pisgah Forest, N. C.
CLYDE CLAY THARPE—Tryon, N. C.
CLARENCE JOHNNIE BLACKMON—Goldsboro, N. C.
JAMES HARPER PRIDGEN—Wilson, N. C.
RAYMOND JAMES CRITZ—Kannapolis, N. C.
GEORGE MOLTON BARTLETTE—Spruce Pine, N. C.
PAUL WESLEY WYATT—Valdese, N. C.
JAMES MONROE DURHAM—Durham, N. C.
PENDER LEE FRANKLIN—Durham, N. C.
JOHN LOUIS PICKETT—Durham, N. C.

Surety bond premiums	7.50	11.25
Transportation		6.64
Cetrtified copy—1949 session		8.90
Injury benefits	420.00	
Total disbursements	$1,479.03	$10,097.82
*Decrease or increase in cash balance during year	$1,282.97	$*1,537.30
Cash balance, July 1, 1948	1,381.67	6,002.19
Cash balance, June 30, 1949	$2,664.64	$ 4,464.89

EXHIBIT E

THE FIREMEN'S FRATERNAL INSURANCE FUND OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ED. A. JOHNSON, *Treasurer,* Kannapolis

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1949

	Mortuary Fund	General Fund
RECEIPTS:		
John L. Miller, Secretary, assessments	$39,826.78	$3,982.68
Income from investments:		
Interest:		
U. S. Savings Bonds, Series G	2,625.00	200.00
University of North Carolina Dormitory	162.50	
Dividends:		
First Federal Savings and Loan Association	125.00	
Piedmont Federal Savings and Loan Association	137.50	
Total receipts	$42,876.78	$4,182.68
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Officers' salaries:		
Secretary		$2,167.20
Treasurer		225.00
Officers' expenses:		
Secretary		24.50
Withholding tax		267.50
Death claims paid	$30,000.00	
Refund—Fayetteville Fire Department	21.00	2.10
Custodian fees		124.39
Surety bond premiums		34.40

Auditing service		81.69
Stationery and postage		101.80
Intangible tax		12.81
Mimeograph repairs		60.63
Insurance license, etc.		48.00
Total disbursements	$30.021.00	$3,150.02
Decrease or increase in cash balance during year	$12,855.78	$1,032.66
Cash balance July 1, 1948	11,366.77	778.22
Cash balance June 30, 1949	$24,222.55	$1,810.88

It was moved and seconded that the Auditor's report be adopted. Motion carried.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT W. BRINSON

President Gardner, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I submit to you my report of statistics for the sixty-second year of our association, assembled here at Carolina Beach, one of the most famous resort beaches on the Atlantic. Here our convention was entertained in 1939, when our friend President Jerome Flora was at the helm of this great association, and only two years before this great nation was thrown into World War II by those yellow-bellied Japs. Since this the meeting in 1939 on this beach we have seen millions of dollars worth of property go up in smoke; we have had hundreds of thousands of innocent American lives snuffed out and millions of men, women, and children injured by war, accidents and fire. We have seen that war of all wars won victoriously, and now America is fighting that post war of fire and destruction, and loss of human lives which has reached the PINNALCE, so say firemanic officials of the United States.

What are we 6,000 North Carolina Firemen going to do about it? I feel that I can answer that, to some degree, for you. We are going to do every thing we possibly can to prevent that fire from ever starting and causing death and destruction. The Firemen of North Carolina have always met the situation that was at hand, and the tradition of James D. McNeill and his co-founders of the great North Carolina Firemen's Association will go forward as it has in the past to bring the loss of life and property back down from the pinnacle. The real answers is FIRE PREVENTION—FIRE PROTECTION—FIRE FIGHTING.

FIRE PREVENTION FOR THE LADIES: "To The Ladies—God Bless 'Em." The National Board of Fire Underwriters reports

that 70 *per cent* of building fires break out in the HOME. Women who spend most of their time at home can do much to protect it against fire—by taking very, very simple precautions, requiring little effort. About the only extra effort that is required, beyond ordinary good housekeeping duties, is to *THINK*—of what carelessness can and does cause when not avoided. Spring housecleaning is a tradition in nearly every home—yet few housewives ever consider that they are then engaged in a fire prevention program, which usually is an annual affair. Here are some daily suggestions by The International Association of Fire Chiefs:

(1) Keep electrical extension cords in good condition. Replace frayed ones NOW! Next week your main problem might be replacing your HOUSE!

(2) Turn off the electric iron before you leave it. If you answer the doorbell and leave it on, your next callers may be the Fire Department.

(3) Of millions of gallons of gasoline produced each year, not one drop is intended for cleaning purposes. It will clean clothes—BUT—it is made to explode—in engines. It can explode in the house! Don't give it the opportunity.

(4) Don't throw dust from the vacuum cleaner into a fire. It can cause a terrific explosion. Put it in the ash barrel—don't let it put you in the hospital!

These and many others are simple rules. There are dozens more, among which is "DON'T SMOKE IN BED!" Set aside an evening now and then for a "family conference on fire safety"—it will pay dividends—it may save your home—it may save your life!

Have you a plan for escape from FIRE? Make a family plan for escape if fire should come. Turn radio off at night, close basement door, close bedroom doors, open windows; when you learn of fire cry out the alarm HELP! Fire! If near a phone call the fire department immediately giving location. Feel door and if hot don't open, coolest and best air is 12 inches from floor, crawl to window and climb to porch roof, if other ways are blocked.

HOSPITAL FIRES: The failures to provide adequate fire protection was the chief contributing factor in the fire that claimed the lives of 77 hospital patients, including 11 babies, "Fire Engineering" says of the disastrous St. Anthony's Hospital, Effingham, Illinois fire which burned the night of April 4, 1949. It was the second worst disaster in such occupancy, being surpassed in number of fatalities only by the Cleveland Clinic tragedy, which claimed 124 lives on May 15, 1929.

Editor Fred Sheppard has this to say, "In a release dated June 16, 1949, the National Board of Fire Underwriters announced that

"representatives of nineteen national and regional organizations met in New York yesterday to make organizational plans for the fire safety inspections of more than 6,000 hospitals . . ."

It is estimated, the release says that the inspections will cover some 6,000 hospitals in the United States "including state, city, and privately-owned and voluntary hospitals of all kinds." The plan is to have inspections made by "trained fire prevention and safety engineers" from the inspection and engineering bureaus of the National Board "and all other organizations in both fire and casualty insurance business, with the aid of specially qualified field men of the individual (insurance) companies."

"There was no representative of the fire service present at the meeting, nor is any on the Committee.

Perhaps we're off the beam, but inspections of whatever nature, to better safeguard private, public and religious hospitals and kindred institutions against fire might advisedly include qualified representatives of the nation's fire service, both on the national and local level. Or is it to be left to the fire chiefs to work out their own inspections and cooperation with the insurance field and others listed as cooperating agenies?"

Mr. Chiefs, does it not seem that each and every fire chief in North Carolina should exert every effort to have his home hospitals rigidly inspected, and see that they are put in shape to ward off such tragic loss of life of the helpless babies, children, aged, and the afflicted?

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The state death tolls for 1948 from conflagrations of burning buildings showed an increase of 47 more deaths than 1946, and 32 more than 1947. The Bureau of Vital Statistics' recorded deaths from burning buildings are, 80 deaths for 1946, 95 for 1947, and, just listen, 127 innocent North Carolina men, women, and children paid the supreme sacrifice to that Demon FIRE in 1948. The Bureau reported 118 deaths in 1948 as accidental deaths from fires, smoking in bed, outdoor fires, scalding, handling of oil and other inflammable fuels, children playing with fire and plain carelessness. However, it is gratifying to note that there were eight less accidental deaths in 1948 than in 1947. When we compare the 1948 record on deaths from accidental and careless means with 1944 or a spread of four years we find there were 26 less deaths. There is no way to appraise or valuate in dollars and cents just what it means to reduce the loss by just *one* life, much less 26. God in His High Heaven is the only one who can do that. There is one thing the Firemen of North Carolina can do, and that is to take credit where credit is due, in that the Fire Prevention program carried on throughout the entire state for the past number of years has paid off *Big* dividends in reducing the loss of lives from carelessness.

AIRPLANE DEATHS: The Bureau of Vital Statistics reported to your statistician the following airplane deaths by accidents in North Carolina: 254 in the year 1944, 64 deaths in 1945, 29 in 1946, 42 in 1947, and 45 in 1948. You will note that the combined deaths since the war, comprising the years of 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 amount to a total of 180 deaths, as compared with 254 deaths for 1944 alone. We have no way to ascertain just how many of these deaths were fire deaths, however, we assume that the majority were fire deaths. We often hear the expression "there shall be wars and rumors of war," but after comparing the above figures of death let's say that with a civilized Christian world there should be no reason for wars.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS 1948-1949, July-June: The Highway Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles has again furnished your statistician with the record of fatal oil truck and tanker accidents. Bladen county had one wreck, truck ran off roadway and came back on, turned over and burned, burning the driver to death; Columbus county had one, tire came off tanker and went through the windshield of a car killing one person; Cabarrus county had two accidents, a tanker skidded, ran into bridge abutment, burned and burned two people; Sampson county had one accident, car came out of intersection into path of truck, one killed; Wake county had one, motorcycle ran into side of a tanker as it made a turn killing one, injuring one; Brunswick county had one, truck ran off road, came back on road as tanker was passing and swerved into tanker, one killed and one injured. You will note that the six oil tanker accidents were all outside of city limits. Most cities have set up truck and tanker routed around the congested business areas, hence lessening the danger of catastrophe like Bethel, North Carolina, had from a wrecked burning tanker several years ago.

URBAN FIRES IN 1948: A new survey reveals that there were 802,545 urban fires in the United States during 1948, the National Board of Fire Underwriters reported recently at its annual meeting in the Hotel Commodore, New York.

The survey, made by the National Board's committee on Statistics and Origin of Fires, indicated that 388,935 of these fires were in buildings, while 413,610 were non-building fires, including grass and brush fires. This represents an increase of 7.8 per cent in building fires and 5.7 per cent in non-building fires over 1947.

The totals were compiled on the basis of questionnaires answered by 1,954 fire chiefs in towns and cities of 2,500 population or more. The survey did not include rural areas.

The survey indicated a slight drop in the number of fires in "manufacturing" occupancies, while the number of "storage" fires increased by 11.8 per cent, "residential" fires by 8.8 per cent, and "mercantile" fires by 6.1 per cent.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 21st annual fire college and drill school at Charlotte, North Carolina, drew over 400 fire officials and fire fighting trainees to Charlotte on May 11, 12, 13. The school and drills were held at Firemen's Hall on East Seventh street.

Because of the illness at his home in Raleigh of State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell, Chief Charles L. Burkett of the Salisbury, North Carolina, fire department, served as director of the school.

Classes were held morning, afternoon, and night during the three-day meet, with a dance Friday night for the visiting firemen and their wives and friends.

The college meeting was called to order Wednesday morning by George W. Gardner of Greenville, North Carolina, president of the State Firemen's Association. An address of welcome was made by Mayor H. H. Baxter.

School Lectures: Industrial Fire Protection—Chief E. M. Salley; Ventilation—Deputy Chief J. F. Morris; Characteristics and Control of Petroleum Fires—Assistant Chief J. M. Munday; Electric Fires—Assistant Chief C. M. Griswold; Fire Prevention—Chief George Brinkley; Public Water Supply—Superintendent of Waterworks W. M. Franklyn; Duties of Fire Prevention Bureau—Captain H. C. Kissiah; Tactics and Technique For Fire Fighting—Assistant Chief J. M. Munday; Sprinkler Systems—Assistant Chief C. M. Griswold; Teacher Training —Chief Charles L. Burkett. The school started a pumping class this year and a good sized class participated with a number of graduates from the Fire College and Drill School. Chief J. L. Croom supervised this class each day with pumping instruction, hose layouts and nozzle pressure. The Fire College and Drill School Committee was composed of Sherwood Brockwell director-chairman, Charles L. Burkett acting director, J. L. Croom instructor, A. Y. Cottrell instructor, J. M. Munday instructor, C. L. Cox instructor, E. M. Salley instructor, and J. C. Fitzgerald instructor.

I consider this Fire College and Drill School as good with as much or more interest shown, regardless of the excessive heat, as I ever had the opportunity to attend. Surely each and every one of the officers and faculty should receive the highest praise for their untiring efforts put forth to make a real success of the school.

HOTEL FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: Fire chiefs' reports to the Insurance Commissioner indicate most of these fires probable causes: Hotel Battery Park, Asheville, loss $75—careless smoker; Hotel Charlotte, Charlotte, loss $12—cigarette on mattress; Walton Hotel, Charlotte, loss $25—cigarette; Hotel Charlotte, Charlotte, loss $50—cigarette in bed; Hotel Charlotte, Charlotte, room 9, loss $25—cigar-

ette in bed; Walton Hotel, Charlotte, loss $25—cigarette; Y.M.C.A., Charlotte, loss $75—cigarette; Hotel Barringer, room 807, loss $100—cigarette; Dr. J. E. Alexander Colored Hotel, Charlotte, $350—defective flue; LaFayette Hotel, Fayetteville, loss $15—cigarette in bed; Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, damage $250—carelessness; Colonial Hotel, Raleigh, loss $10—carelessness—fire on bed; Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, damage $25—awning on fire; Cape Fear Hotel, Wilmington, damage $390—carelessness; Orton Hotel, Wilmington, total loss $331,000—carelessness; Astor Hotel, Wilson, loss $100—defective flue.

NORTH CAROLINA CITIES AND TOWNS WITH NO LOSS OR SLIGHT LOSS FOR 1948: Secretary Miller sent out from his office on June 16, to every fire chief in the state upon the request of your statistician, a questionnaire requesting the chiefs to give me data about your fire equipment, fire losses, etc. The results were not so gratifying as out of 214 cities and towns which are members of the association I received 69 replies, for which I thank you. However, there was enough information in these that I am passing it on to you fellows.

At this time I wish to call your attention to the fact that a great many fire chiefs in North Carolina are not complying with the state law that requires you as chiefs to report your fire losses to the Insurance Commissioner. I have personally gone over every fire chief's report that was sent to the Insurance Commissioner's office for the year 1948 and there are many, many towns not represented in so much as one report for the entire year 1948. I would like to recommend to every fire chief who has any month during the year his city or town has no fire loss, that by all means he advise the Insurance Commissioner by letter or a postal card that he has had no loss for the month. There are many chiefs who do this religiously. You can consider that your city is on the honor roll for each and every month you have no loss. These are only friendly suggestions and I hope you accept them as such.

CITIES AND TOWNS WITH NO YEARLY LOSS, MONTHLY LOSSES, AND SLIGHT LOSS: Chapel Hill—Secretary Vashaw writes, "This past year in March we had had only *one* call, no loss for 1948. This is unusual for Chapel Hill," he further states.

Spindale—No fire loss for entire year 1948.

Graham—Dr. Will S. Long, past president of our association, writes, "Graham had no fires for 1948. Several calls but no damage. We practice prevention.'

Wilkesboro—1948 eleven months no loss, February 1 fire.

Spring Hope—Chief Johnny R. Sykes writes, "We had only one fire during 1948, eleven months no loss."

Norwood—Chief Hutchinson reports, 11 months no loss and one fire for the year.

Mooresville—Ten months no loss.

Siler City—Chief Stout writes, "We are pleased to advise that in 1948 Siler City did not have any fire losses during 10 months, small loss in July and November.

Valdese—Chief Lee Ribit writes that the only fire losses for the town of Valdese were on the following dates of 1948, May $250, November $800, 10 months no loss.

Clinton—January, February, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December no fire loss for 1948.

Hendersonville—Chief Edney writes, "No fire loss in February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and December."

La Grange—Letter from Chief E. W. Kinsey, "We had no fire loss in January, February, April, May, June, August, November and December."

Morganton—May, June, July, August, October, November, and December no fire loss.

Enka—Chief E. M. Salley, Jr., writes, "Our department had no fire losses during six months of 1948, namely, January, February, April, July, August and September."

Statesville—Chief Gaither reports, five months 1948 no loss namely, February, March, July, August and November.

Monroe—Secretary Carl Small writes, "We had no loss for five months in 1948."

Waynesville—Chief Fitzgerald reports no loss for May, June, July and August.

Hamlet—Chief J. C. Worley reports no fire loss for four months, namely, April, May, June, and July.

Mooresville—Chief Brantley reports no loss for January, February, March, May.

Lexington—Chief Owen reports no fire loss occurred in four months of 1948.

Farmville—Secretary Ed Warren reported April, May and June with less than $5 loss for the three months.

Mount Airy—Reported no loss for June, July, and August losses very low.

Nashville—Secretary Ward writes, total fire loss for 1948, $500.

Concord—Chief Miller reports May, June, July and August losses very low.

Greensboro—Chief Wyrick writes, "Low fire loss per risk September, 1948, $575.

Some chief wrote no fire loss for two months in 1948 but failed to sign or show what town.

Gastonia—Chief McLaughen writes, "June, 1946, no fire loss recorded, June, 1947, $35 loss, September, 1948, $35 loss, May, 1949, no fire loss."

Goldsboro—Chief Gurley writes, "There have been several months in the last four years in which this department has been on the honor

roll as there were no fires exceeding $5 damage."

I am sure there are many cities and towns which made the honor roll but there is no way your statistician can record them unless you report them to the Insurance Commissioner's office. Let's do better this year and in the future in making these reports to Raleigh.

SPECIAL CAUSES: Here I list quite a number of peculiar or special loss fires. I quote from the reports you fire chiefs made to the State Insurance Commissioner's office. I thought these would be of interest to you fellow firemen. Most of them are probable cause, and all are North Carolina fires.

Gases and fumes from dry cleaning establishment probable cause, loss $24,474.25.

Probable cause, flash fire, dwelling must have used oil or gasoline in a five-gallon can to start a fire in heater. The can must have exploded, Mr. Dollan lost his life in fire. Loss to house $8,500.

Gallon jug gasoline broken in the office, fumes sucked into gas heater thereby causing explosion. Calvin Miller, 26, received severe burns.

Transferring quantity kerosene from oil truck, pump cut off causing backfire, setting off kerosene. Warehouse and garage total loss, $27,000.

Hallowe'en candle in window caught curtain setting house afire.

Carolina Beach—Sun reflecting on auto mirror set fire to car, $1,000 damage. Better look out, fellows! You can see things are hot here on Carolina Beach.

Christmas tree destroyed home, $9,000 loss.

Small child playing with matches set fire to wood shop, $1,965.

Putting oil in coke fire, explosion set fire to house.

Insane person set fire to house.

Lighted cigarette thrown into gas set fire to oil truck.

Incendiary probable cause.

Starting fire with gasoline set house on fire.

Electric iron left on $250 damage.

Kerosene lamp exploded, doing $2,000 damage to apartment house.

Short in light fixture, penny behind fuse in apartments, loss $900.

Chemicals in satchel used in giving permanents, loss $653.

Heater knocked over by a drunk burning his mother to death.

Christmas lights set house on fire.

A small child left alone in home, oil ran out of stove instead of filling tank. Child attempted to pour oil into fire pot, loss $1,631.00.

Trash box near elevator shaft probable cause department store loss $387,500.

One Negro man died from suffocation in this building, rooming house, from a careless fire.

Cigarette left on furniture at closing of business in furniture store, loss from one cigarette $16,835.

Pouring anti-freeze on open flame.

Kerosene oil too close to hot flame, loss $2,283.

Defective wires setting two cots on fire and in turn they set a glider on fire on the back porch, thus setting the side of the house on fire and no one home, loss $1,225.59.

Drying cabinet, forgot to turn dryer off and cabinet caught fire setting manufacturing plant on fire, $10,935.

Gases and fumes from dry cleaning, loss $24,474.25.

Trash in back of store, loss $400.

Corn shucks scattered around feed mill, loss $6,615.

Acetylene tank exploded, loss $6,860.

Negro sleeping in tobacco warehouse rest room drunk, loss $174.

Children playing with fire in back yard, loss $275.

Plumbers at work with torch, loss $625.

Glue pot left on too long, water damage $5,760.

Building fire with kerosene, Mr. G. L. Ashwell died from burns received in this fire.

Child playing with fire, Bernice Brice was burned to death in the fire, $650 loss, a future American woman lost, no way to appraise that loss, I say.

Building fire with kerosene, W. G. Brown still in hospital in a serious condition from burns.

Electric bulb burst over some wool blankets, loss $40,700.

Man went to bed smoking, set fire to bed and burned himself to death.

Children playing with matches, loss $3,500.

Gasoline iron exploded, caused fire to spread to gasoline container which set fire to house, two persons were seriously burned and one fatally burned.

Child playing with matches, loss $325.

Seven weeks old baby, Louise White badly but not seriously burned.

Bed too close to overheated stove, bed clothing caught fire burning invalid woman, Mrs. Carrie Burton, critically.

It is rumored that Boots Shays came home drunk and kicked the stove down. The fire occurred shortly. The local police had him up for questioning two times but could not get proof. One colored woman burned with the house, small boy had severe burns.

Spark in boiler room or shaving house, loss $50,000.

Bed clothes too close to stove caught fire, Delia Jones, age 66,

soda and acid fire extinguishers, 36 CO-2 extinguishers, 12 hose wagons or service trucks, 7 fire chief cars, 1 rescue truck complete with emergency equipment, 5 two-way radio speaking outfits, 4 aerial trucks, 226 fire alarm boxes, and the city of Charlotte is shortly to install a $200,000 new manual fire alarm system to replace present overloaded automatic system. The new system will double the present box capacity; 3 rectifiers and voltage regulators, 3 inhalators, 20 fire hydrants, 2 smoke ejectors, 2 fire alarm systems, 5 sets aluminum ladders, 11 flood lights, 1 trailer pumper, 1 truck fire alarm service, 5 A-C generators 1,000 watts each, 1-2500 watts generator, 1 portable generator, 2 wet water, 3 electrical hose dryers, 4 air pack breathing apparatus, 1 portable skill saw, 1 resuscitator, 2 deluge sets, 55 fog nozzles, 1 chemical fog unit truck equipped with 500 gallon pumper, 600 gallon tank, 4-100-foot fog lines with applicator.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSSES FOR 1948: Below is a tabulation of fires by occupancy that occurred in North Carolina in 1948. The list is for the property covered by stock insurance companies only. We estimate that the mutual insurance companies write about 20% as much business in North Carolina as do the stock companies. It is estimated that at least 40% of the fires occur on property not covered by any insurance. There were 5103 claims of the stock insurance companies. Estimated mutual and uninsured losses of 3061 making total stock claims, mutual, and uninsured losses, or total fires of 8164 for 1948. The total whole losses presented to the stock insurance companies represented $11,880,873, the estimated mutuals and uninsured fires were $7,128,523, making a whole or total loss of stock companies, mutual and uninsured estimated grand total of $19,009,396. The stock companies paid a loss of $7,906,640. The estimated loss paid by the mutuals was $1,581,328 thus making a grand total paid losses by the stock companies and estimated losses paid by the mutuals of $9,487,968 for the year of 1948.

Causes of all fires in North Carolina on a percentage base are as follows: Matches and smoking caused 9.9%, misuse of electricity 9.5%, petroleum and its products 9.4%, faulty chimneys 7.8%, lightning 7.6%, and stoves, furnaces, stove pipes, flues 6.5%, the remaining 49.3% covers the unknown and many other causes.

Tabluation by occupancy follows:

1948 NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS

Occupancy Class	No. of Claims	Whole Loss	Loss Paid
Household contents in mercantile buildings	3	$ 4,658	$ 3,580
Boarding and Rooming houses (except seasonal), nurses and sisters' homes, fraternity and all sorority houses—building and contents	25	78,803	48,625
Household contents of dwellings, when contents are written on separate policy	639	423,079	319,480
Seasonal dwellings, seasonal boarding and rooming houses, camps, auto courts, tourits cabins—buildings and contents	27	148,447	43,670
Dwellings—buildings and contents, when both are written on same policy	458	687,339	433,343
Farm property including tobacco barns, livestock, growing crops and hay and grain in stacks—buildings and contents	875	1,518,836	772,019
Dwellings—buildings only when written on separate policy	1603	1,668,961	1,153,166
Large area housing developments under single ownership (which receive special rating consideration)	2	10,501	8,383
Apartment buildings (more than four families) without mercantile occupancy	9	17,888	5,164
Household contents of apartments (classes 030,031 and 032)	17	3,918	3,876
Stores and dwellings (designed for not more than four families), schedule or class rated	20	52,683	25,747
Mercantile buildings (without dwelling occupancy), class rated	94	434,239	250,449
Mercantile buildings (other than class 041) Schedule rated	174	444,864	263,109
Heavy stocks including machinery (including those of low susceptibility	10	40,336	28,046
Wearing apparel and textiles	19	61,547	58,273
Good products and beverages (excluding restaurants and bars)	75	1,842,852	1,634,032
Restaurants and bars	52	95,511	77,010
Light merchandise including mixed stocks	100	409,123	211,882
Extra hazardous stocks (including those of high susceptibility)	7	9,199	5,678
Office and bank risks including telephone exchanges and telegraph central stations and radio broadcasting facilities	32	80,000	63,395
Hotels, commercial boarding and lodging houses, clubs (city and country)	43	189,211	92,942
Theaters and auditoriums	27	224,257	186,070
Places of amusement, sports and public assembly, not included in *803	14	69,873	41,999
Hospitals, sanatoriums, orphanages, homes for the aged and asylums, (except where inmates are under restraint)	8	17,390	11,598

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Hospitals, sanatoriums, orphanages, homes for the aged and asylums, (except where inmates are under restraint)	8	17,390	11,598

Churches and chapels	39	225,033	81,157
Automobile garages, service and filling stations	90	220,960	156,258
Penal institutions including institutions where inmates are under restraint	1	145	145
Educational institutions (public or private) including libraries and museums and auxiliary buildings on premises	55	291,956	150,083
Builders' risks (except dwellings as classified by rating bureau and designed for not over 4 family occupancy. See classes Nos. 011,019, and 029	9	19,597	17,515
Warehouses—general, merchandise, wool	18	354,568	184,374
Warehouses—household furniture	1	1,388	1,357
Warehouses—cold storage	4	2,806	2,305
Warehouses—grains, beans, seeds, peanuts and rice	2	27,658	16,628
Warehouses—waste paper, rag and junk	3	20,272	15,413
Warehouses—whiskey, wines and spiritous liquors	1	1,366	1,366
Warehouses—tobacco, including sales, storage and rehandling houses (for tobacco barns, see class 021)	9	13,965	10,660
Lumber yards, coal and wood yards, building material yards	11	142,457	81,082
Dairy products including ice cream manufacturing and ice factories	8	93,694	94,559
Meat products—slaughtering, packing, curing, canning and quick freezing, including stock yards	6	44,363	14,853
Fish products—packing, canning, curing and quick freezing	3	10,319	10,319
Grain milling and other milling and cereal factories, including feed mills and stock food manufacturing and starch factories	14	89.172	36,970
Bakeries and confectionery products including cracker, cake, macaroni and chewing gum factories	4	9,855	7,588
Beverages (not made in distilleries,, breweries or wineries) including vinegar works	5	217,289	162,961
Cotton gins including auxiliary buildings	78	196,963	86,134
Cotton, woolen and textile knitting and weaving mills, thread and yarn Mfg., bleacheries, dye and print works, embroidery and felt, carpet, rope, cordage and twine factories	15	56,321	50,383
Clothing factories	1	535	535

Cloth products (other than clothing) including mattress factories and sewing risks (except as otherwise classified) and window shade factories	8	22,003	12,492
Tanneries including hide processing	1	296	296
Sawmills and planing mills, shingle, lath and stave mills	7	46,331	23,277
Mill yards (for other yards, see class 165)	2	35,344	34,474
Veneer mills and laminated wood factories	1	16,427	13,810
Woodworking including furniture factories, shops and cabinet work	15	70,130	28,083
Cooperage—boxes, baskets, crates, excelsior mills, wood flour manufacturing, cork products	1	12,381	10,000
Broom and brush factories	3	12,200	7,997
Paper products including coating and finishing, boxes, tubes, bags, etc.	1	480	480
Printing, newspapers, periodicals and job including book binding	10	77,003	15,888
Chemical works—non-hazardous	3	58,761	57,655
Chemical works—hazardous	3	10,897	10,222
Brick, tile and clay products	5	6,296	5,148
Mining risks (other than coal) including salt works	3	2,979	2,857
Heavy metalworkers including structural steel, heat treating, foundries and heavy machinery	7	8,230	7,503
Light metalworkers—machine shops and light machinery and metal specialties including cutlery manufacturing	9	51,245	38,936
Electric traction property including trackles trolleys (excluding auto buses)	1	4,233	4,233
Electric generating stations and auxiliary risks	15	40,300	39,098
Coal, water and oil gas plants and natural gas pumping stations	2	2,651	2,651
Water works, pumping stations, filtration and sewerage plants, police and fire Dept. stations and disposal plants and incinerators	2	2,264	2,260
Scheduled railroad property	3	6,355	5,387
Hand and power laundries including dry cleaning establishments using only approved solvents (except for spotting)	25	23,306	18,641
Laundries and dry cleaning establishments (other than as classified under Class No. 780)	13	17,920	15,775
Oil distribution and tank wagon stations	1	412	417

Non-mineral oil works—cottonseed, linseed, fish, soy bean, etc.	3	53,095	34,867
Sprinklered risks (other than manufacturing) buildings	29	28,711	25,753
Sprinklered risks (other than manufacturing) contents	17	102,404	101,428
Sprinklered risks (other than manufacturing) buildings and contents—blanket	6	10,152	6,288
Sprinklered risks (manufacturing) buildings	24	34,199	22,157
Sprinklered risks (manufacturing) contents	10	61,401	56,938
Sprinklered risks (manufacturing) buildings and contents—blanket	139	438,244	334,395
Totals	5103	$11,880,873	$7,906,640

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: Fire losses for the year 1948 exceeding the highest total ever recorded in the United States, the National Board of Fire Underwriters announced. For the twelve months period ended September 30, 1948, fire losses were estimated at $711,576,000. For the previous 12 months losses were $660,890,000. There was an increase of 4.1 per cent last month to $49,945,000 as compared with a year ago but there was an increase of only .8 per cent in September over August, 1948. Last year the fire demon destroyed or damaged 325,000 homes and killed nearly 12,000 men, women, and children in this peace time of 1948. Don't leave yourself wide open to a tragedy that may cost the lives of those you love. Follow these rules . . . in your home . . . on your job:

1. Chaperone your cigarette, don't let it go out alone.
2. Put every match out cold. Keep live ones out of reach of children.
3. Avoid improper use of gasoline and benzine for home cleaning.
4. Use only electric working appliances with seal of Underwriters Laboratories. Don't overload circuits.
5. Clean, repair, and insulate your heating plant, stove, and chimneys.
6. Always be careful with fire of any kind.

ACTIVITIES IN OTHER ASSOCIATIONS: It is reported that the Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association, Roanoke River Association and the Sands Hills Association had well representing meetings each quarter with these meetings scattered over eastern Carolina. Roanoke River Association had their last meeting on July 19, which was well atended, according to President George Gardner, President of the North Carolina State Friemen's Association.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: The Fayetteville Fire Department with the full co-operation of the merchants civic organization went all the way in bringing home the bacon as far as winning awards and honors. Chief Brinkley and his men in co-operation with the Junior Chamber of Commerce are to be highly cangratulated for their activities and for seeing that no other North Carolina city could beat them, when it came to Fire Prevention. They not only practice it during the Fire Prevention week but it is a daily motto with the Brinkley boys. Fayetteville won top honors in the state and won first place in the nation in their population group. They also won the Sweepstakes award for cities in all population groups. Kinston also was on the job as Chief Gray's firemen were batting too. Kinston won second place in North Carolina Junior Chamber program. Grand work Fayetteville and Kinston, we salute you.

'FIRE TRAP' CATCHES 25 ENGINE CHASERS: Belvedere, N. J. (AP)—Twenty-five motorists swallowed it hook, ladder and sinker.

They came roaring after the Belvedere Fire Department yesterday as the trucks rolled through town.

The engines clanged out to a rural area, cut up into a dead-end lane and came to a quick halt. But there was no fire.

Instead the firemen jumped from the trucks carrying only small pads of paper and pencils.

They swirled around the 25 cars that had followed them into the lane, took the license numbers and warned them not to get caught again chasing fire engines.

My! But this is food for thot, for a lot of North Carolina cities and towns, I'll bet you.

FIREMEN HAVE A HOT TIME IN TEXAS EXPERIMENT: College Station, Texas (UP)—More than 500 firemen from 300 Texas towns attended a week-long special school here on the Texas A&M College campus to learn the latest methods of fighting fires. Three thousand gallons of gasoline, 11,000 gallons of crude oil, two carloads of railroad ties, two junked automobiles and several small houses were burned during the week as firemen used all types of equipment to extinguish the flames.

THE OLD TIMER SAYS—The days when a fireman who wore a "gas mask" was considered a sissy are past. It's better to be a "live sissy" and come out of a stinker in good shape, than to shove in without respiratory protection and 'take it'—and come out a dead hero!

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE CONTROL RECORD: The record of fire prevention and control turned in by Winston-Salem for 1948 was

better than that of most cities in the United States with populations over 20,000. The findings are based on a survey of 498 cities made by the National Fire Protection Association.

Winston-Salem's fire loss for the year amounted to $152,904 or $1.92 for every resident of the city. This per capita rate compares favorably with that of the other cities, which averaged $3.45. It was also lower than Winston-Salem's own five-year average loss, $3.71 per person.

There were 2.0 building fires in Winston-Salem last year for every 1,000 residents, less than the national record of 4.4 fires per 1,000 people.

The effectiveness of the local fire department is shown by its success in rapidly controlling the 157 building fires it had to fight and keeping damage to a minimum. The loss per fire was $973.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: President George Gardner upon instruction from the association appointed a legislative committee composed of the following members: Chief Charles L. Burkett, Chairman, Salisbury; Chief C. L. Cox, Durham! Chief George A. Brinkley, Fayetteville; Assistant Chief C. H. Flannagan, Farmville; and Captain B. T. Gibson of Charlotte. This committee met with the Executive Committee of the Association on a number of occasions at Charlotte and Raleigh. The services of Honorable J. C. B. Ehringhaus and Son were engaged, and Mr. Francis Clarkson, attorney of Charlotte, volunteered his services.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW FIREMEN: Let me tell you that this committee deserves all praise from high heaven for the energy—vitality—hard work they exercised in putting these bills through. Mr. Ehringhaus and Son along with Mr. Clarkson deserve much credit for the punch and push they employed in carrying through and getting each and every bill presented to the Legislature enacted into law.

We also can say that many chiefs and firemen throughout the state rendered wonderful aid in the successful conclusion of these most valuable bills. Charles L. Burkett, Chairman, deserves a glad hand as he spent hours and hours, and miles and miles between Salisbury and Raleigh, as well as other members of the Legislative Committee. Your Executive Committee also was on the job with them with full co-operation and help. Your secretary, Mr. John L. Miller, deserves especially high praise for his untiring effort put forth in this legislative battle.

SHERWOOD BROCKWELL, SR.—35 YEARS SERVICE: On August 1, 1949, our friend Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., had completed 35 years as Deputy Commissioner and State Fire Marshal. I doubt seriously if this record has ever been attained by any other marshal in the United States. I was informed not long ago that in all these years of service "Brock" had never taken a vacation, what another record to

have set. It is needless for me to say any more about our good friend Brock because every single fireman in North Carolina knows him, knows what he stands for, what he has meant and still means to the fire service of North Carolina. I wish to read you a letter from the Honorable Waldo C. Cheek, Commissioner of insurance, on the subject:

Insurance Department, State of North Carolina, July 14, 1949

To The Fire Department of The State of North Carolina,

Gentlemen:

On August 1, 1949, Sherwood Brockwell will have completed 35 years with the North Carolina Insurance Department as Deputy Commissioner and State Fire Marshal.

I am happy to be serving as your Commissioner of Insurance on this occasion, so that I can join with you and his thousands of friends throughout the State in wishing for him many more happy years with this Department. I would approach the important duties of this office with a much greater degree of awe, were it not for the fact that I expect to lean heavily upon the wisdom and sound counsel of Brock in the years to come. Sincerely Waldo C. Cheek, Commissioner of Insurance.

AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF SERVICE: Chief Richard K. Hall of the Edenton Fire Department has set a record to be proud of. He became a member of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in the year 1893, a total of 56 years continuous active membership. Chief Hall has been an active fireman of the Edenton Fire Department for 69 years. He has been active fire chief of the Edenton Fire Department for 35 years, the oldest active fire chief in the United States of America, and, I suspect, in the world. Chief Hall we are proud of you and may God bless you.

IN MEMORY OF HONORABLE JOHN C. B. EHRINGHAUS: On July 31, 1949, a great man died in the capital city of Raleigh—this was the Honorable John C. B. Ehringhaus, of Elizabeth City, Honorary Member of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, the sixth person to be made an honorary member of our association.

He served as governor of North Carolina during the depression years of 1932-36. It is said that regardles of that trying economic period he brought the state through with reestablished credit and put North Carolina among the most outstanding progressive states in the Union. He was a Christian gentleman, with friends of all North Carolinians including the firemen of the state. Mr. Ehringhaus and his son's services were secured by your Executive and Legislative Committees to present our proposed "Heart Disease" bill to the last legislature. He, guiding the bill with his son's assistance, carried it through to enactment. This was among the last of his activities in life. Every fireman should be very grateful for this beneficial work he did for the

North Carolina firemen. Many of us older firemen will remember that outstanding address Mr. Ehringhaus made before our 1926 convention at Morehead City.

In closing my report to the sixty-second annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association I wish to take this opportunity to thank the new Insurance Commissioner, Honorable Waldo C. Cheek, for making available in his office a lot of material in this report. I also wish to express to your friend and mine, Sherwood Brockwell, Deputy Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal, my heartfelt thanks for his co-operation in making available to me vast stores of material for the past ten years which has gone into my reports. I am grateful to Mr. J. Mark Boone, Jr., for his full co-operation as well as to many fire chiefs throughout the state who wrote me personally giving me data about their equipment, records, etc. It has been a pleasure to serve you to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

It was moved that the Statistician's report be accepted. Motion seconded and carried.

PRESIDENT GARDNER:

We will now have the report of the Legislative Committee.

CHIEF BURKETT:

Officers and Members N. C. Firemen's Association, I herewith in behalf of the Legislative Committee submit the report of the Legislative committee.

It was during one of the Fire Chiefs meeting that the important part of our Legislative work was originated. Later Captain Gibson presented the subject at our Fayetteville Convention(see page 83). Further interest was manifested at the call meeting of the Fire Chiefs in Charlotte on December 13, 1948. The Legislative Committee was appointed by Chief George Gardner, President N. C. State Firemen's Association, on January 1st, 1949. The speaker was appointed chairman and called a meeting at Salisbury on January 13th, 1949, for the purpose of organization, present with this committee was Chief John L. Miller, our secretary, Chief Donald Charles, Vice President, and Captain G. H. Beckham of Charlotte.

The next meeting was held in Raleigh on the 4th of February, 1949, and at which time the firm of Ehringhaus & Ehringhaus of Raleigh and Francis Clarkson of Charlotte were employed to represent the Firemen with our Legislation. On the same date the Committee with representation from the Fire Chiefs Association, the Firemen's

Association and the Fire Fighters Association met with the N. C. Industrial Commission and discussed the proposed amendments to the Compensation Act as was requested by our Firemen.

Many days and a lot of hard work was required in getting our legislation through. Chief Charles of Charlotte rendered a valuable service and he also gave such assistance as having two of his officers at Raleigh during the seven weeks required. He also had twenty-five or more of his firemen there for the committee hearing meeting.

Special consideration and hard work was rendered by Chief John L. Miller, Concord, Chief Lloyd of Raleigh, Chief Bissett of Wilson, Chief Glover of Lumberton, Chief Owens of Lexington, Firemen H. E. Blackman of Charlotte, Fireman Copley of Durham, Alonzo Squires of Charlotte and the Executive Committee of the three Fire organizations of Firemen; The N. C. State Firemen's Association; The N. C. Fire Chief's Association and the N. C. Fire Fighters Association.

There was a real sense of Cooperation from the chiefs and firemen of our state and the Committee wishes to thank each one and we bow our heads in shame if we have omitted any one who assisted us in this work. The Committee wishes to thank everyone regardless of rank or association for the valuable services rendered in this work.

I will now read the four bills as ratified by our General Assembly and is now law:

HOUSE BILL NO. 312

An Act To Amend Section 118-6 of The General Statutes of North Carolina Relating To The Appointment of Trustees of The Firemen's Relief Fund

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. G. S. 118-6 of the General Statutes, as the same appears in the 1947 cumulative supplement of the General Statutes, is hereby rewritten so that the same shall hereafter read as follows:

"S 118-6. In each town or city complying with and deriving benefits from the provisions of this Aarticle, there shall be appointed a local board of trustees, known as the trustees of the Firemen's Relief Fund, to be composed of five members, two of whom shall be elected by the members of the local fire department, two elected by the mayor and board of aldermen or other local governing body, the remaining member to be named by the Commissioner of Insurance. Their selection and term of office shall be as follows:

a. The members of the fire department shall hold an election each January to elect their representatives to above board. In January

Total receipts	$44,055.85	$4,299.34

DISBURSEMENTS:

Officers' salaries:		
Secretary		$2,167.20
Treasurer		225.00
Withholding tax		262.80
Death claims paid	$32,000.00	
U. S. Savings Bonds, Series G, purchased	12,000.00	
Custodian services		128.00
Auditing services		81.69
Bond premiums		18.75
Office supplies		266.46
Insurance commission report		17.50
Insurance license, fees, etc.		48.00
Total disbursements	$44,000.00	$3,215.40
Decrease or increase in cash balance during year	$ 55.85	$1,083.94
Cash balance July 1, 1949	24,222.55	$1,810.88
Cash balance June 30, 1950	$24,278.40	$2,894.82

Motion that same be adopted. Motion seconded and carried.

REPORT OF COURTESY COMMITTEE

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association in convention assembled in this hospitable, friendly and most gracious city of Hendersonville, North Carolina, in the Land of the Sky and the Apple of our Eve, nearing the close of a very successful and constructive meeting, knowing that every effort has been made by the citizenry of Hendersonville in its behalf, and being cognizant that much of the success of the 1950 session is due to these fine efforts, encouragement and hospitality shown by these good people of the City of Hendersonville, as they did in our convention of 1929 that was held here, will leave with a debt of lasting gratitude and happy memories, with the sincere hope that the members thereof will again, in the near future, be privileged to meet in this fine city.

As evidence of our appreciation—

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association thank the citizens of the City of Hendersonville for the hospitality and inspiration derived therefrom.

2. We extend our most humble and gracious thanks and appreciation to His Honor Mayor A. V. Edwards, Mr. P. M. Camak of the Chamber of Commerce, and to Chief E. E. Edney and the entire personnel of the Hendersonville Fire Department for their efforts in our behalf.

3. That we thank the ministers of the community, the quartet, Dr. Ralph Connally of Brevard, and all others who participated, for their splendid contributions to the Memorial Service, making it a most beautiful and inspiring ceremony.

4. That we express our humble appreciation to all other committees and individuals contributing to make this, our Sixty-third Convention, an outstanding event in the history of our Association.

J. B. FLORA, Elizabeth City
B. J. RAMSAUR, Lincolnton
J. MILLER WARREN, Plymouth
CHAS. C. ROBINSON, Enka
ALFORD KOFER

There was a motion that the report of the Courtesy Committee be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT W. BRINSON

President Charles, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am again pleased to submit to you my report of statistics for the sixty-third year of our association, assembled here in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina in the splendid host city of Hendersonville, which is a great vacation city "In The Land of The Sky." Our convention was entertained royally here during the summer of 1929. Your friend and mine, A. Lon Duckett, then chief of the sister city, Asheville, presided as President of our Association. We are very grateful to Chief Edney and his firemen, as well as the Mayor and City Fathers, Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs, the hotels, motor and tourist courts and citizens who have made it possible for us to hold our convention here this summer, in spite of their rushed tourist season.

A year ago I told you that America was fighting that post-war of FIRE and DESTRUCTION and LOSS of LIVES, of which firemanic officials of the United States predicted we had about reached the pinnacle. I am happy to say that the reduction of the 1949 estimated loss in North Carolina and the Nation bear out that prediction, and let's hope and pray that we Firemen of North Carolina and the United States shall be able to continue that reduction of loss of lives and property.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL LABORATORIES: The fire chiefs reported only three fires in hospitals and medical laboratories during the year 1949. They were listed as Gastonia Colored Hospital, Gastonia, damage $25; Duke Medical Research Laboratory, Durham, damage $3500; and the Charlotte Dental Laboratory, damage $904. The combined estimated loss for the three institutions was the small sum of $4429.

CHURCH FIRES: The North Carolina fire chiefs reported the following church fires for the year 1949 in the protected cities and towns only: Friendship Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, estimated damage $15,000.00; Holy Trinity, Winston-Salem, estimated damage $2,050; First Cavalry Baptist, Winston-Salem, estimated damage $1550; Heidelburg Reform, Thomasville, estimated damage $1500; Fayetteville Street Baptist, Raleigh, estimated damage $2500; St. Joseph Catholic, Kannapolis, estimated damage $4000; First Baptist, Kannapolis, estimated damage $75; Calvary Baptist, Elizabeth City, estimated damage $10,000; Catholic Church, Benson, estimated damage $1,200; Ebenezer Baptist, Charlotte, estimated damage $41,000; St. Matthews C. ME., Durham, estimated damage $46,000; St. Pauls Episcopal, Edenton, estimated damage $50,000; Cherry Grove, Wilson, estimated damage $2250. The total estimated loss of buildings and contents for the 13 churches for the year was $177,125.

SCHOOL FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: The following are the school fires reported to the Insurance Commissioner for the year 1949. These only represent school fires in protected cities and towns: Catawba College, Salisbury, damage $2,000; Braswell Graded School, Rocky Mount, damage $15,779; North Carolina State College, Raleigh, damage $784; Dunbar Negro School, Lexington, damage $800; Greenville School, Greenville, damage $4,538; Clara J. Peck (old school), R. F. D., Greensboro, damage $21,000; Armstrong School, Gastonia, $100; Central High School, Durham, damage $3,000; Aberdeen Grammar School, Aberdeen, damage $70,000. The total loss is estimated in your Fire Chiefs' reports to be $118,001 to buildings and contents on these 9 reported schools.

The Division of Insurance of the Educational Department only has the amount of losses paid by them since July 1949, so I am not in a position to give you losses for the entire year. I do not find any report where a school child lost its life in North Carolina school fires for 1949.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS FOR 1949-1950, July-June: Once more the Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles has been kind enough to supply me with report by report of each fatal oil truck and tanker accident. The following counties had one fatal accident: Sampson, Martin, Gaston, New Hanover, Pender, Rockingham, Guilford, Scotland, Johnston, Rowan, Nash and

Robeson. Wake and Columbus had two each. All these 16 accidents occurred on highways except one each in the cities of Wilmington, Greensboro, Rocky Mount and Lumberton. There were 19 lives lost and eight persons injured. These accidents took 12 more lives than the 1947-1948 tanker accidents, and six more persons were injured. Of the killed 1948-1949 period five were pedestrians and four were children. No deaths from burns were involved in all the accidents. All trucks involved were oil trucks. The established truck lanes seem to be doing a real job.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: Deaths reported for 1949 in North Carolina from airplane accidents to your statistician by The Bureau of Vital Statistics have given a summary of three personnel in military aircraft, 12 occupants of commercial transport aircraft, seven occupants of other aircraft, and one other unspecified aircraft accident, thus making a total of 23 deaths. Beginning with 1945 and through 1949 covering a period of five years, there was a total of 203 deaths compared with the war year of 1944 when 254 lives were lost. This is a decrease of 51 deaths. We assume that the majority of these were fire deaths, however, we have no way to determine this. With the advent of our Korean war fighting the Communists, let's hope and pray that North Carolina will not have anything comparable to the loss of life by airplane accidents such as we had in 1944.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Our state death tolls for North Carolina including protected cities and towns, protected by you firemen, and combined with all the rural unprotected areas of our state last year was 80 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings) reported by The Bureau of Vital Statistics. This is 47 lives less lost than the year of 1948 when that ghastly number of 127 men, women and children met their doom by a violent raging of FIRE in buildings in this great commonwealth of ours. We are, and should be, very happy to see our loss drop back to where it was in 1946. The Bureau reports 119 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). They also report 13 more lives were consummated from hot substance, corrosive liquid and steam. When we add all these victims' lives up we learn that the FIRE DEMON continues to wield his scythe of death in our fair state. When we take our total accidental deaths caused by or related to fire for 1949 we have 212 or 33 less total deaths than 1948 when it was the highest in many long years with a total of 245.

You boys out there, along with your comrades back home, are no doubt the big factor in the reduction of this loss by death. May God in His High Heaven give us strength and wisdom to continue to further reduce the loss of our loved ones.

WHAT CAUSES DESTRUCTIVE FIRES: Here are some of the answers: Matches and smoking caused 29.26 per cent of all fires reported

to the National Board of Fire Underwriters in the ten-year period ending December 31, 1945. That means that nearly three out of ten fires were caused by smokers and the reckless use and careless disposal of burning or smoldering matches.

The following table lists other known causes as well and was compiled from a study of several million fires for which the causes could be ascertained. Fires reported for which the causes are unknown are not included in this study.

The dollar cost of fire waste in the United States during the ten-year period, from fires of all causes, known or unknown, insured or uninsured, reached an estimated TOTAL OF OVER THREE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS.

CAUSE	PER CENT
Matches - Smoking	29.26
Misuse of Electricity	10.38
Fire originating off premises	8.00
Lightning	6.94
Defective Chimneys, Flues, etc.	6.88
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and Pipes	6.31
Petroleum and Its Products	6.17
Sparks on Roofs	5.74
Open Lights	5.41
Hot Ashes and Coals—Open Fires	4.03
Ignition of Hot Grease, etc.	3.06
Spontaneous Ignition	1.83
Gas—Natural and Artificial	1.41
Sparks from Combusion	1.00
Rubbish and Litter	.93
Explosions	.81
Miscellaneous (known but not classified)	.81
Friction, Sparks from Running Machinery	.76
Fireworks, Balloons, etc.	.27
	100.00%

ALONZO SQUIRES: We firemen who attended the North Carolina State Firemen's Association assembled at Carolina Beach last August, had the privilege of hearing one of the most heartfelt addresses ever delivered to our convention. To you Firemen of North Carolina who did not have the privilege of attending and hearing Alonzo Squires' message, you will find his speech in the 1949 Proceedings of the Convention on page 84, I have asked our President, Donald Charles, if he would be so kind as to give me a sketch of the Life History of Alonzo Squires in order that I might give it to you—the story of a blind boy who did not let one of the greatest handicaps of life hold him back in his pursuit of the happy, useful life he wished. Below I am pleased to

quote his history:

"Alonzo G. Squires was born in the Cape Fear section of the state, about four miles below Kelly, North Carolina; and received his elementary, grammar, and high school education in Raleigh at the North Carolina School for the Blind.

While a student at this institution his keen intellect and great ability of working with people were utilized in toutoring his fellow students, the quality of his instruction being of such a character as to encourage the members of the school's staff to urge him to enter the teaching profession.

However flattering and tempting the suggestion might have been, Alonzo, upon being confronted with such an understandably difficult decision, displayed a maturity of thought and strength of will not usually found in a person of high school age and, after evaluating his abilities, sought the advice of friends with a professional background.

It was after this thorough approach to the problem that he decided to enter the University of North Carolina and prepare himself for a legal career. After completing his undergraduate studies, he entered the Law School of the University, a great portion of his expenses being paid with money earned as an after-dinner speaker and entertainer.

It was during this period that he won a talent contest conducted by the University by Fred Allen, the famous radio comedian, the prize being an all expenses paid trip to New York for an appearance on a national radio hook-up. Alonzo's ad-libbed imitation of the late Wendell Wilkie created such an immediate sensation that he was offered a contract by MGM Studios, which he refused to continue his education.

He did, however, from time to time, at the request of National Committeemen, appear as an entertained on such programs as the "March of Dimes" campaign in Washington and a $6,500,000 War Bond sales drive in Baltimore, where he held the spotlight with such well-know entertainers as Ed Wynne, Beney Venuiti, Arthur Tracy (The Street Singer), and John McIntyre.

His outstanding ability to imitate famous people resulted in an urgent call from Fred Allen requesting him to substitute for one of his radio characters who could not appear on the weekly program.

Following this experience he tourned the Keith Orpheum circuit with a group comprised of "Big Bill" Childs, the dancer; "Beulah"; Joe Parsons, baritone; Cliff Sabier (now of the movies); and Gus Vann who became famous as a member of the team of "Vann and Schenck", the "Two Black Crows."

For a while he forsook the stage in order to return to the Uni-

versity. He paid his expenses by working in the dining hall of the Navy Pre-Flight School in positions ranging, at first, from dishwasher to Purchasing Agent.

By this time show business was in his blood and he went to Washington where he was M. C. on the WWDC program "Captain Cash." Later he relieved Norman Brokenshire, of "Chesterfield" fame, and conducted the program "Breakfast With Squires."

From WWDC in Washington he came to Charlotte by the way of Chapel Hill and handled the "Squires Musical Tea Garden" program on WBT so well that his time was extended to thirty minutes and the program changed to "Squires Comes Calling." A friend suggested an early morning program on another station. It was not long until he changed to WAYS in Charlotte and re-established his old program "Breakfast With Squires."

Since April 10, 1944, he has conducted this early morning program of "Music Chatter and Homespun Philosophy" with a record of having been late but one time and no sponsor having ever cancelled his contract.

During his stay in Charlotte, Alozno has evinced quite an interest in civic and fraternal affairs, and is at the present time serving as a Junior Governor in the Local Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose. He has at all times stood ready to champion any cause which would improve and promote the welfare of the community and its people."

His activity in connection with Senate Bill 261 was related at the convention in Carolina Beach, 1949, in a very modest way in his address, but believe me you, the Committee who steered the Firemen's Heart Bill through the 1949 legislature know and appreciate what great help Alonzo was.

Past President Charlie Burkett had this to say in introducing him to the convention, "We have a fellow here with us today who is one of the most loyal friends the firemen ever knew. He is a radio announcer in the city of Charlotte. That boy has spent money out of his own pocket, thirty or forty dollars, sending telegrams, and has sat at the radio pleading and asking them to help the firemen of North Carolina. I am happy to present so worthy a friend, Alonzo Squires, radio announcer of Charlotte. Alonzo, I want to tell you that every man in the house is standing. We appreciate you and love you."

FIRE CHIEF RETIRING AFTER 43-YEAR HITCH: Greensboro, Jan. 26.—"Captain Paul B. Shaw, a member of the Greensboro Fire Department for the past 43 years, will retire at the end of the month, Fire Chief C. W. Wyrick announced Wednesday.

"A native of the Alamance Church community, Captain Shaw joined the local fire department on August 1, 1907, in the horse-drawn

engine days. His first post was at the West End Station, and he was later transferred to the South Side Fire Station on Asheboro Street. A bachelor, Captain Shaw has made his home at the fire station for the past 35 years."

FIREMEN GET PRAISE AT GRAHAM MEETING: Graham, Nov. 17.—Dr. Will S. Long, veteran fire chief and member of Graham's voluntary fire department were paid a tribute at a dinner arranged in their honor by a group of local women this week at the Graham Presbyterian church.

Dr. Long and Lon G. Turner, organizers of the local fire department in 1902, were the principal speakers and briefly reviewed many of the hardships and amusing incidents which they experienced together with other original members of the company in the early days of the fire department.

Dr. Will S. Long, Chief of the Graham Fire Department, has been active chief of that department many, many years since he and Lon G. Turner organized the department in 1902. Dr. Long was vice president of our association in 1933 and 1934, and was president in 1935. He has attended every convention I have ever attended and many more before I was old enough to go.

HOTEL AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: The reported hotel fires for the year of 1949 by the fire chiefs of North Carolina consisted of a total of 18 fires in 13 hotels, with two each in two Greensboro hotels three in one Fayetteville hotel and two in another; the other seven had one each. These fires were reported to be mostly probable of careless smoking in bed to unknown. The total estimated damage was $152,405, and one man was burned to death. When one realizes that better than 90 per cent of all hotel fires are started by careles smoking in bed it should make every person stop and think twice. These acts not only endanger ones own life but in hotels they jeopardize the other people in the hotel as well. With the burning of the Orton Hotel at Wilmington with an estimated loss of $150,167 there was about half a block of exposed business property when up in smoke, to the tune of an additional $249,128 or a quarter million dollars. Chief Ludy Croom and his men did an excellent job in saving the rest of the block.

The hotel fires were as follows: Cherry Hotel, Wilson, estimated damage $20; Orton Hotel, Wilmington, estimated damage $150,167; Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, estimated damage $360; New Carolina, Greensboro, estimated damage $46.75; O. Henry Hotel, Greensboro, estimated damage $226; O. Henry Hotel, Greensboro, estimated damage $336; Princess Hotel, Greensboro, estimated damage $62; Princess Hotel, Greensboro, estimated damage $40; Francis Hotel, Winston-Salem, estimated damage $50; La Fayette Hotel, Fayetteville, estimated damage $407; La Fayette, Fayetteville, estimated damage $20; Las

Fayette, Fayetteville, estimated damage $40; Millbrook Hotel, Fayeteville, estimated damage $50; Millbrook Hotel, Fayetteville, estimated damage $65; Prince Charles Hotel, Fayetteville, estimated damage $50; New Southern Hotel, Elizabeth City, estimated damage $25; Duke Inn, Elizabeth City, estimated damage $240; Earle Hotel, Asheville, estimated damage $200. The total estimated damage to hotels was $152,405.

Apartment houses: There were 73 apartment fires reported in North Carolina last year, and you just stop and guess how many lives were at stake with that great number of places where babies, older children, women and men were asleep and at rest. Your guess is as good as mine, but you can bet there were hundreds of lives endangered and many of those fires were caused by pure carelessness. The following towns are listed as having these apartment fires: Siler City 1; Rocky Mount 1, Raleigh 3, Lumberton 1, Lexington 2, Kinston 3, High Point 1, Greenville 1, Greensboro 7, Goldsboro 2, Fayetteville 2, Elizabeth City 2, Charlotte 25, Asheville 4, Albemarle 1, Winston-Salem 9, Wilson 1, Concord 1, Durham 1, Gastonia 1, and Mooresville 1. The total estimated damage to buildings and contents was $64,383. The total loss representing 73 fires in apartment buildings can be considered not a great loss in dollars and cents, but my! what a risk of those several hundred lives at stake.

FIRE TOLLS OF OVER $20,000 LOSS: Again I have prepared for you a list of all fires with damag estimated to be over $20,000. In 1948 we had 33 fires in this bracket, and last year we had only 29, or 4 less in number of fires. The 33 fires in 1948 totaled a combined estimated loss of $2,899,781. In comparing the 29 fires in 1949 they total up to $2,174,267 showing a grand reduction of $725,514 in spite of the Orton Hotel and adjoining property contributing $399,298 of our 1949 loss. I list the fires below:

Aberdeen — Tobacco warehouse $60,000; Abergdeen Grammar School $70,000; residences owned by Georgia Pacific Plywood & Lumber Company $66,400.

Asheville—Clicquot Club Bottling Co., $29,000; Slosman Salvage Co., $105,000.

Carthage—Tobacco warehouse and show $475,000.

Charlotte—Wrights Mill Remnants Co., $68,394; Dixie Waste Co., cotton waste $30,000; Piedmont Auto Exchange $109,375; Ebenezer Baptist church $41,000.

Durham—St. Matthews C. ME Church $46,000.

Edenton—St. Pauls Episcopal Church $50,000.

Elizabeth City—Economy Auto Store $24,900.

Goldsboro—Tobacco Sales warehouse $40,000.

Greensboro—Clara J. Peck School (old school) spontaneous combustion $21,000.

Greenville—Tobacco warehouse $87,500.

High Point—Carolina Springs Company's factory $25,000.

Kannapolis—Cafe $35,000; Hillcrest Furniture Store $45,000.

Mooresville—Cotton gin $53,000; Troutman Shirt Factory $23,000.

Norwood—Cafe, hardware and living quarters upstairs $24,250.

Raleigh—Efird's Department Store $53,214.

Spencer—Skating rink and storage of Machinery $53,000.

Wilmington—$399,298 (Orton Hotel fire, barber shop, poolroom, Fashion Center, Cinderella Bootery, total $150,167 Whitlock Robbins Shoe Store $10,000; Women's Wearing Apparel $60,000; Cross Seed Co., $45,078; A. Abrams $11,942; Taylor's Clothing Store $456; Atlantic Glass Co., $1,616; Hanover Iron Works $65,059; Glenmore Clothiers $14,224; Su-Ann Shoe Store $40,000; Sidbury Apartments $40; Crawfords Women's Apparel $1,968; Royal Theater and Haberdashery $57,748); Tidewater Power Co. offices and garage cause lightning $49,067; Jacobi Hardware $25,819.

Winston-Salem—Garage and storage apartment house on second and third floors, bottling company, radio and plumbing shops first floor $23,000; Town Tire Service, Roadway Express Garage, Reynolds Painting and Lettering Service, Radio Company $41,050.

PECULIAR FIRES: While going over every report our fire chiefs made to the Insurance Commissioner's office for 1949 fires I have picked out a number of these somewhat special causes that I thought you would be interested in hearing about. No doubt some of these fires were in your home town. All of them are North Carolina fires and most of them are listed as probable cause. You will agree that a majority can be traced to purely plain carelessness.

Fire started in pile of rubbish in corner of room—damage $3,433.

Housewife pouring kerosene in hot wood stove from five-gallon can, can exploded—damage $806.

Spark flashed on cotton while electrician was working on electric system—damage $550.

Car knocked down gasoline pump, car caught fire—damage $200.

Smoking while fumigating for rats and insects caused explosion—damage $400.

Smoking—while unloading gasoline—damage $120.

Unknown fire, as a result of this fire three people died of asphyxiation and one man hospitalized from burns—damage to property $4,000.

Looks like an inside planned job under investigation, market $6,450 damage.

Tobacco warehouse, loss $475,000, probable cause best information was shortage in electric wiring.

Butane gas explosion when boy lighted stove, leaking gas, fire damage $1,550 including damage to other nearby stores.

Using torch near open gas—damage $600. "What could you call it

but gross carelessness?"

Wax fumes, spontaneous combusion $94,000 damage.

Arson—damage $5,000.

Malicious incendiarism, Roy A. Green, age 20, during a fit of anger threw oil lamp against wall which set fire to building—damage $1,276.

Cleaning machinery with gasoline, spark from live switch set fire to building—damage $450.

Motor stalled, tried to start by pouring gas into carburetor—back-fire, cost $150.

Repairing gas line, lit cigarette, it cost $25 for one puff, could have been his head.

Clothing over radiator while hot—damage $2,577.

Cigarette on sofa, two people suffocated in this fire, property value $7,421.18.

SPECIAL: Solomon Goldston, Negro man, was burned to death by three Negro boys, namely Charles Edward Kittrell, age 12, Wesley Kittrell, age 10, and Joe Junior Raines, age 10. They set fire to trash box next to Buswanger Glass Co., after locking Colomon Goldston inside.

Spotlight in department store window shining on fabric—damage $15,863.67.

Incendiary—cafe—damage $2,587.

Cleaning grease pit with gasoline—damage $525.

Lighted match thrown into waste basket—damage $4,985.

Cafe fire probable cause stove—damage $35,000.

Electric iron left connected—damage $3,300.

Dwelling fire—damage to his home $6,000, his two neighbors $350, probable cause, a drunk.

Smoking in chair Clarence Hussey was burned, but not seriously.

Charles Bursell is charged with arson. With the assistance of Mr. Martin, Charles Bursell and his wife, Grace Bursell and Lloyd Cummings confessed. Case to be tried during our next term of superior court.

Dual wheel picked up torch pot and set tire on fire.

Two small Negro boys set fire to stage curtain—damage $800.

Spark from train set fire to blase of cotton on platform—damage $500.

Children set fire to trash bin—damage $350.

Chair too close to coal heater set fire to house—damage $1,090.

Draining gasoline tank—$1,750.

Cigarette thrown into paint rags—damage $4,491.

Oil can too close to tin heater, Lester Eddie, age three years, lost life in fire. Roosevelt Eddie, Jr., age 10 years, second degree burns. Roosevelt Eddie, Sr., first degree burns—damage $900.

Smoking in bed, fire out upon arrival—damage $1,036.

Grass caught fire, set fire to house—damage $310.

Carelessness, ironing board on fire—$10.

Carelessness—hoboes built fire under bridge—damage $800.

Fire in basement during absence of family had burned itself out before family returned—damage $1,500.

Fire in theater projection booth—damage $1,200.

Carelessness, children playing with lighted candles—damage $1,386.

Cigarette left on shelf at store closing time spread to alcohol anti-freeze—damage $2,350.

Treating house and furniture with chemicals for eradication of termites and moths—chemical used exploded $800.

House set fire by Crawford Roberts, 16-year-old orphanage boy, was tried and convicted, given one-year sentence, suspended for five years on good behavior, report to probation officer. He also set fire to 21 more buildings—no damage.

Hauling lighted warning torches on truck with barrel of gasoline—damage $300.

Carelessness with kerosene, building fire with kerosene Marshal Werts first degree burns and sent to hospital.

Out of city limits, Wallace Gentry threw burning oil lamp at his wife setting house on fire, leaving 31 persons out of a home. One person was burned, a Gentry boy about 15 years of age.

Careless smoker Gilmore Truesdale, Negro, found burned to death on bed when fire was under control. Truesdale's body was lying on the foot of the bed on his back, found pipe, smoking tobacco can and box of short stemmed matches near his head—damage $1,475.

Children and matches, ten months Mae Dillard, colored, was badly burned. Her five-year-old brother was playing with matches. The ten months old child was sleeping in a baby crib when she was heard crying. She was removed to hospital and later died.

Arson—case has already been tried in court, estimated damage $1,775.

Flammable material stored too close to defective stove pipe, note —Wiley Holmes, aged invalid died from burns received in this fire.

Undetermined—note two children were burned to death in this fire.

Timber built into chimney—damage $1,267.

Tobacco warehouse estimated damage $87,500, cause unknown, thinks started from loafer sleeping in building.

Burning trash inside building—estimated damage building $695, contents $170, total $865.

Christmas decorations caught from candles.

Cigarette probable cause—damage estimated $7,500, exposure loss next door damage $3,700. Carelessnes with one cigarette.

Carelessness with use of kerosene—estimated damage $2,111.

Believe it or not a fire station fire—Durham fire station, the fire originated in small penthouse and extended under floor into attic space. My town of New Bern also had one of these a few years back.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSSES FOR 1949: You will note North Carolina had an estimated 8,624 total fires for 1949 with 8,164 for 1948 or an increase of 460 fires. In spite of this increase of 460 fires last year we are very happy to be able to report to you that the staggering loss of 1948 of $19,009,396 was reduced in 1949 to $15,959,-965 with a grand reduction of $3,049,431.

In order to arrive at above estimated number of fire and fire loss for the entire state we use the formula generally used by other states and in figuring the national loss in estimating that mutual insurance companies write about 20 per cent as much business in North Carolina as do stock companies. It is estimated that at least 40 per cent of the fires occur on property not covered by any insurance. The number of claims by occupancy, as reported by stock insurance companies were increased by 60 per cent, the whole loss figures as reported by stock companies were increased by 60 per cent and the loss paid figures as reported by stock companies were increased by 20 per cent.

You will note the above loss paid was reduced in proportion to the whole loss. In 1949 the state paid loss of $8,814,157 was $673,811 less than the 1948 loss of $9,487,968. It is more than gratifying to know that our 1949 fire losses in North Carolina had turned downward once more.

Tabulation by occupancy is listed below:

Occupancy Class	No. of Claims	Whole Loss	Loss Paid
Household Contents in Mercantile Buildings	115	$ 80,669	$ 48,814
Boarding and Rooming Houses (except seasonal), Nurses' and Sisters' Homes, Fraternity and Sorority Houses Buildings and Contents	299	98,614	63,240
Household Contents of Dwellings, when contents are written on separate policy	600	559,088	285,364
Seasonal Dwellings, Seasonal Boarding and Rooming Houses, Camps, Auto Courts, Tourist Cabins—Buildings and Contents	34	77,894	36,157
Dwellings—Buildings and Contents, when both are written on same policy	901	1,577,450	779,226
Farm Property including Tobacco Barns, Livestock, Growing Crops and Hay and Grain in Stacks—Buildings and Contents	1,466	1,140,654	1,165,636
Dwellings—Buildings only when written on separate policy	2,522	3,087,803	1,688,539
Large Area Housing Developments under Single Ownership (which receive special rating consideration)	10	3,875	2,999
Apartment Buildings (more than four families without Mercantile Occupancy	27	7,888	5,900
Apartment Buildings (more than four families) with Mercantile Occupancy	1	13,825	4,200
Household Contents of Apartments (Classes 030, 031, and 032)	21	11,089	6,532
Stores and Dwellings (designed for not more than four families) Schedule or Class Rated	34	74,294	36,386
Mercantile Buildings (without dwelling occupancy) Class Rated	78	205,110	113,012
Mercantile Buildings (other than Class 041) Schedule Rated	298	754,986	420,540
Heavy Stocks including Machinery (Including those of low susceptibility)	34	211,045	126,714
Wearing Apparel and Textiles	21	46,989	21,276
Food Products and Beverages (Excluding Restaurants and Bars)	158	365,901	217,903
Restaurants and Bars	91	225,376	125,557
Light Merchandise including Mixed Stocks	194	789,414	358,738
Extra Hazardous Stocks (Including those of high susceptibility)	6	8,622	4,147
Office and Bank Risks including Telephone Exchanges and Telegraph Central Stations and Radio Broadcasting Facilities	51	112,442	52,571
Hotels, Commercial Boarding and Lodging Houses, Clubs (City and Country)	70	444,275	203,992
Theatres and Auditoriums	38	139,253	99,588
Places of Amusement, Sports and Public Assembly, not included in *083	27	93,043	49,582
Hospitals, Sanatoriums, Orphanages, Homes for the Aged and Asylums (except where inmates are under restraint)	19	49,942	17,716
Churches and Chapels	59	405,864	131,580
Automobile Garages, Service and Filling Stations	120	317,859	187,556
Airplane Hangars	2	1,899	1,424
Penal Institutions including institutions where inmates are under restraint	None	None	None
Educational Institutions (Public or Private) including Libraries and Museums and Auxiliary Buildings on Premises	83	1,033,378	411,193

Builders' Risks (except Dwellings as classified by Rating Bureau and designed for not over 4 family occupancy —See Classes Nos. 011, 019 and 029	13	9,984	5,512
Warehouses — General, Merchandise, Wool	46	353,974	205,928
Warehouses—Household Furniture	2	7,738	1,890
Warehouses—Cold Storage	6	6,229	4,144
Warehouses—Grains, Beans, Seeds, Peanuts and Rice	10	412,904	136,376
Warehouses—Cotton including Cotton Compresses and Yards	22	17,139	11,760
Warehouses—Waste Paper, Rag and Junk	3	17,280	12,900
Warehouses—Tobacco, including Sales, Storage and Rehandling Houses (for Tobacco Barns, See Class 021)	22	221,870	142,952
Lumber Yards, Coal and Wood Yards, Building Material Yards	13	64,830	9,174
Dairy Products including Ice Cream Manufacturing and Ice Factories	19	328,834	163,628
Meat Products—Slaughtering, Packing, Curing, Canning and Quick Freezing, including Stock Yards	6	1,885	1,205
Fish Products—Packing, Canning, Curing and Quick Freezing	16	175,933	110,603
Grain Milling and Other Milling and Cereal Factories, including Feed Mills and Stock Food Manufacturing and Starch Factories	21	320,482	142,309
Bakeries and Confectionery Products including Cracker, Cake, Macaroni and Chewing Gum Factories	2	93	70
Beverages (not made in Distilleries, Breweries or Wineries) including Vinegar Works	5	49,579	37,184
Cotton Gins including Auxiliary Buildings	134	163,286	69,820
Cotton, Woolen and Textile Knitting and Weaving Mills, Thread and Yarn Mfg., Bleacheries, Dye and Print Works, Embroidery and Felt, Carpet, Rope, Cordage and Twine Factories	42	160,442	77,304
Clothing Factories	4	1,474	1,105
Cloth Products (other than Clothing) including Mattress Factories and Sewing Risks (except as otherwise classified) and Window Shade Factories	4	5,141	3,329
Veneer Mills and Laminated Wood Factories	5	94,517	19,566
Sawmills and Planing Mills, Shingle Lathe and Stave Mills	8	57,016	32,875
Woodworking including Furniture Factories, Shops and Cabinet Work	16	252,110	158,335
Broom and Brush Factories	2	2,957	1,680
Printing, Newspapers, Periodicals and Job including Book Binding	2	165	124
Chemical Works—nonhazardous	5	3,795	2,557
Chemical Works—hazardous	2	6,568	4,806
Brick, Tile and Clay Products	14	32,870	15,973
Mining Risks (other than Coal) including Salt Works	2	3,302	2,477
Heavy Metalworkers including Structural Steel, Heat Treating, Foundries and Heavy Machinery	6	5,323	3,992
Light Metalworkers—Machine Shops, and Light Machinery and Metal Specialties including Cutlery Manufacturing	21	124,758	82,036
Water Works, Pumping Stations, Filtration and Sewerage Plants, Police and Fire Dept. Stations and Disposal Plants and Incinerators	10	12,621	9,254
Scheduled Railroad Property	3	10,338	2,640
Hand and Power Laundries including Dry Cleaning Establishments using only approved solvents (except for spotting)	24	83,635	24,677
Laundries and Dry Cleaning Establishments (other than as classified under Class No. 780)	30	112,112	58,223
Oil Refining—Mineral and Petroleum including all Property used in connection therewith	2	114	64
Non-Mineral Oil Works—Cottonseed, Linseed, Fish, Soybean, etc.	16	119,134	70,002
Sprinklered Risks (other than Manufacturing) Buildings	5	39,917	29,938
Sprinklered Risks (other than Manufacturing) Contents	19	40,818	30,349
Sprinklered Risks (other than Manufacturing) Buildings and Contents—Blanket	2	6,867	5,153
Sprinklered Risks (manufacturing)			

Buildings	2	565	388
Sprinklered Risks (Manufacturing) Contents	22	31,294	22,672
Sprinklered Risks (Manufacturing) Buildings and Contents—Blanket	624	579,006	385,475
1949 Totals	8,624	$15,959,965	$8,814,157
1948 Totals	8,164	$19,009,396	$9,487,968

CAUSES OF NORTH CAROLINA FIRES: I have gone over the 1698 fire reports your fire chiefs sent into the Insurance Commissioner for the year 1949 and tabulated the causes of the fires. You will note that the first four causes represent 902 or considerably over half of the entire causes: Unknown—303; careless smoking in bed, etc.—227; oil, gas stoves and heaters—217; defective flues, chimneys and furnaces—155; defective wiring, short circuits, etc.—144; cars, trucks and trailers—99; plain carelessness—87; grass fires and leaves —61; sparks from flues and chimneys—57; exposure from other burning buildings—56; motors defective and hot—43; wood too close to stoves, heaters, furnaces and chimneys—36; spontaneous combustion, oil rags, etc.—29; hot grease and food—26; lightning—23; children playing with matches and fire—21; hot irons—19; overheated stoves, dryers and furnaces—19; arson and probable incendiary type—14; handling candles and oil lamps—13; burning trash—12; hot ashes and coals—10; explosion—9; matches other than children—8; blow torches and acetylene—5; friction—4; sun reflection—1.

FIRE LOSS BELOW PAR: New York—Statistics gathered from 502 cities with more than 20,000 population show that Winston-Salem had a better fire safety record during 1949 than did most cities. The survey, conducted by the National Fire Protection Association, has just been made public.

The damage caused by building fires in Winston-Salem during the year amount to $167,315, equivalent to $1.64 per capita. This fire loss rate compares favorably with the average reported for all cities, $3.11 per person.

The incidence of fires in buildings was lower in Winston-Salem than was the case in most other cities. For every 1,000 people locally, there were 1.5 building fires. Elsewhere the average was 4.2 such fires per 1,000.

How effective the Twin City Fire Department was is indicated by its succes in rapidly controlling the 149 building fires it had to fight and keeping damage to a minimum. The loss per fire was $1,125.

A decline was noted during the year, reports the NFPA, in the number of "malicious" false alarms turned in. Such alarms, distinguished from honestly made false alarms, dropped from 8.1 to 7.7 per cent of the total calls. In Winston-Salem, 54 of the 772 calls received by

the Fire Department were classified as malicious false alarms.

Chief Brown writes the following on his $50 fire report of August 31, 1949: "We only lacked a day and two nights getting on the Honor Roll for August. That is the lowest fire record that we have had since we started keeping records in 1914. August 1936 we only had $35 damage to buildings and $65 to contents, making a total of $100 for that month." Chief Brown and his firemen deserve a great deal of credit for such outstanding records as indicated by the National Fire Protection Association.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: It is gratifying to learn from the National Board of Fire Underwriters that the estimated fire loss for the twelve months ending September 30, 1949, was a reduction of $44,040,-000 under the 1948 loss. The loss for 1948 was estimated at $711,576,-000, the highest ever recorded in our country and the loss of $667,536,-000 in 1949 bears out the prediction made by the Nation's Fire Officials last year. The nation is still seeing around 12,000 of its men, women and children's lives taken by the FIRE DEMON annually.

WILMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Raleigh News and Observer devoted the greater part of a half page in their Sunday morning July 23, 1950 edition entitled "Old Fire Department Kept On Run." The article starts back at the turn of the century, December 1, 1899 stating "The City's scant 32-man force at the turn of the century were literally kept on the run fighting fires resulting from open fireplaces, oil lamps and just plain carelessness. Among other interesting things the faded record reveals is that 50 years ago youngsters as well as older persons gleaned particular joy in turning in a false alarm and scooting to a hiding place to see the smoking fire engine drawn by horses dash on the scene to quell the expected blaze."

"The record discloses 26 false alarms were turned in during the year 1899. Last month, Chief Croom said recently, there were 74 such alarms. Sparks from burning chimneys were listed as being the cause of 37 fires during that year."

VIGILANCE: Certainly vigilance was the price of protection from fire in those days just as it was for freedom earlier and down through the years, even up until the present time.

Wilmington's first paid fire department was organized in 1897 with Charles Schnibbens as the first chief and W. P. Monroe as assistant. Both men were to die later by motor accidents on Fourth Street, the city's fire lane which leads north and south from the main station on Fourth between Market and Dock. Monroe was killed in an accident at Fourth and Chestnut in 1932 and Chief Schnibbens died less than a year later at Fourth and Dawson." Chief Schnibbens was the treasurer of our Association from 1914 through 1932 or a total of 18 years.

"J. F. Sellers became head of the department in 1933 and Chief J. Ludie Croom stepped into the driver's seat in 1937. Today the department numbers 86 men who are trained and equipped with modern machines and appliances.

A small certificate modestly framed hangs on the wall of the chief's office. It says J. Ludie Croom is a graduate of the Fire College of New York City Fire Department. There are only three others of its kind in North Carolina. They belong to Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., State Fire Marshall, Chief Fink of the Lenoir Fire Department, and Charles L. Burkett. Chief Croom has been one of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School instructors since it was started. In spite of the Orton Hotel fire and immediate adjoining business properties, Chief Croom and his firemen deserve high praise for confining this fire in the small area they did.

"Wilmington maintains the only fire boat in North Carolina. Captain C. H. Register, skipper of the Atlantic III, who has been fighting fires from the water for 31 years, tells us that the unit is capable of pumping 2500 gallons a minute. The boat's power is such that in the event of failure of the city's water system, its lines may be connected with land pumpers blocks away to supply a steady flow of water. Without its presence insurace rates would be much higher for those terminals and warehouses located along the old Cape Fear river, the stream that gave the city its birth and raised Wilmington to the state's first city prominence in past years."

CHARLOTTE HOST TO NORTH CAROLINA FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The North Carolina State Firemen's Association held its annual Fire College and Drill School in the host city of Charlotte on May 8-11, 1950. This was the 22nd year of the school and Charlotte has acted host many times.

Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., State Fire Marshall is director and chairman of the school faculty committee, vice-chairman is Charles L. Burkett, Chief of the Salisbury fire department. Instructors were Chiefs E. M. Salley, Enka; J. C. Fitzgerald, Asheville; J. L. Croom, Wilmington; A. Y. Cottrell, Lenoir; C. L. Cox, Durham, and Assistant Chief J. M. Munday of Charlotte.

The attendance was well over the 400 mark and this school was considered by all to be the finest one conducted so far.

Fire department delegations from four South Carolina cities, Columbia, Charleston, Rock Hill and Greenwood, were special guests of the college on May 9.

Classes in the very latest methods and controls of fire fighting continued from Monday, May 8, through May 11 with the presentation of certificates in the afternoon.

MARVIN W. DUNCAN: Marvin W. Duncan died on September 25, 1949. He had served the Charlotte Fire Department with twenty-six years of active service. He was an outstanding fireman and was loved by all his comrades. His death will be a loss to the department.

IN MEMORIAM—Marvin W. Duncan, born January 16, 1901, died September 25, 1949, 26 years service in the fire department.

NEW MEMBER FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Your association has had fourteen cities, towns and suburban organized fire departments join the association from September 1949 through July 1950. They are as follows: Aurora, Jackson, Fair Bluff, Newland, Seaboard, Norlina, Marion, Cross Mills, Lowell, Granite Quarry, Sparta, Hiddenite, Woodlawn Volunteer Charlotte, Pinoca Volunteer Charlotte, and Columbus.

WINNERS IN FIRE PREVENTION CONTEST ANNOUNCED: The city of Memphis, Tennessee, was chosen from 3,762 American and Canadian municipalities, fire departments and military establishments as a winner of the annual National Fire Prevention week contest, it was announced on December 27.

Sponsored for the 26th year by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the National Fire Protection Association to judge the fire safety efforts of cities and industries during the annual National Fire Prevention Week in October, the competition was broadened this year for the first time to include United States Army, Navy and Air Force bases. Of the 3761 entries 2,608 were from United States municipalities, 648 from Canadian cities, 34 from industrial plants in the United States and Canada, 194 Army, 252 Navy, and 26 Air Force bases, with reports coming from as far as Saudi, Arabia.

Second and third places among the U. S. cities went to Atlantic, Iowa, and Ft. Collins, Colorado, respectively. The first place winning city in Canada was Arvida, Quebec, with Ottawa, Ontario, in second place.

Atlantic, Iowa, was rated highest among those municipalities with volunteer fire departments. Others which were in the 90 to 100 per cent class included Fayetteville, North Carolina, ranking twelfth in this class. No other North Carolina city or town got in the win. Hats off to Chief Brinkley and his firemen and fellow townspeople for doing such a fine job. This is a challenge to all other North Carolina fire departments for the next Fire Prevention Week.

It is pleasing to note how the city of Fayetteville has reduced its fire loss for the past three years. No doubt the Fire Prevention work Chief Brinkley and his men have done for the past several years has been a real factor in the following reduction of its loss:

1947 an estimated loss of $249,300.45
1948 an estimated loss of $68,228.50
1949 an estimated loss of $38,735.00

I again say to you, Chief Brinkley, this is something for which you and your men should be proud.

CITIES AND TOWNS WITH NO YEARLY LOSS, MONTHLY LOSS AND SLIGHT LOSS: Aberdeen seven months no loss; Albemarle two months; Asheboro had only $26,515 total damage for 1949 with a total of 47 fires for the year; Belmont ten months; Benson ten months; Brevard nine months; Canton eight; Carolina Beach one month with no loss; Carthage eight; Charlotte one month; Clinton seven; Concord four; Dunn eleven months with no loss; Durham one month; Elizabeth City two; Enka eight; Erwin ten; Forest City nine; Gastonia one; Gibsonville eleven months; Goldsboro one; Graham ten; Greenville one; Hamlet nine; High Point one month; Jackson eleven; Jacksonville eight; Kannapolis two; Kinston one; LaGrange eleven; Landis eleven; Lexington two; Lumberton three; Mebane ten; Mocksville nine; Monroe nine; Mooresville ten; Morganton ten; Mount Airy nine; New Bern six months with no loss; Newport nine; Norwood eleven; Pembroke eleven; Pittsboro ten; Raeford ten; Rockwell eleven; Rocky Mount seven; Salisbury eight; Scotland Neck ten months; Shelby seven; Siler City eleven months; Spencer eleven; Spring Hope ten; Statesville seven; Thomasville four; Valdese eleven months; Williamston nine; Wilmington four; Wilson six months with no loss.

I am sure there are many cities and towns which had no fire losses for months and possibly the year of 1949. However, there is no way your statistician can record your town on the honor roll unless you so advise the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner at Raleigh of these months or year of no loss.

CARELESS SMOKERS: Last spring the New York Fire Department reported that careles smokers were responsible for $5,828,000 of the $20,249,930 property damage done by fires in New York City in 1949. No other single cause of fire did so much damage.

Obviously it isn't very bright to throw away or leave around a tiny glowing torch like a cigarette. Remember, warns an Aetna Insurance advertisement in Newsweek that the temperature of the lighted end ranges from 800 to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. Remember too, that paper burns at 450 degrees Fahrenheit, wood at about 475 degrees.

Mishandling of cigarettes four years ago started the terrihle hotel fires at the LaSalle hotel in Chicago and the Canfield in Dubuque. The La Salle fire, which cost 61 lives, first broke out in a cocktail lounge, but exhaustive investigation afterward disclosed that the fire setting agent must have come through a ventilation hole from the elevator shaft, and only a cigarette could have started the fire.

Too long we Americans have believed that the fire started is just too bad. In many European countries persons who cause fires are considered to have committed a crime against society and are liable for the damage it does others property. Thus held to strict account the European is more careful, as is reflected in the fire records of his cities. Per capita fire losses in Vienna prior to the war were eight cents. In Hamburg six cents. Bordeaux's record shows 52 cents, Lisbon's 20. Then by contrast during the sam year, 450 American cities were marking up an average per capita fire loss of $2.22. Yes, just think here in North Carolina last year, 1949, there were 227 known fires that were attributed to careless smoking and most of them in bed. Below I quote a few canons of good smoking behavior—reprint from The Readers' Digest:

1. When you smoke outdoors, break your match in two before throwing it away; and always stamp out or grind out your butts.
2. Never lay down a lighted cigarette, except in an ash tray that balances in or snuffs out the butt.
3. Don't smoke where "No Smoking" signs forbid.
4. Never throw a cigarette out of a window or out of an automobile.
5. When you're in a closet, an attic or a barn—don't smoke.
6. When smoking, never go near flammable liquids, such as turpentine, gasoline.
7. In bed—especially if alone—*never smoke.*

These precautions may save you from a home burned down, a death in the family, or from being yourself the victim in a horrible and excruciating end.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION: There are so many activities of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and its allied associations including the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association headed by Charles L. Burkett, the Sandhills Association, Roanoke River Association and the Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association that it would take a book to hold them. The Forsyth Volunteer Firemen have been very active and many other county formed Volunteer Firemen are doing a swell job in saving in rural fires. The North Carolina Fire Chiefs indorse campaign toward stricter local laws. The Fire Chiefs called a meeting in session at Raleigh, a state-wide meeting, last December 13 on rural protection needs. This meeting was attended by 100 fire chiefs from various cities and towns in North Carolina. The meeting was climaxed with a large banquet that night. Governor Scott was the principal speaker and he promised to appoint a committee to study the plans submitted at this meeting. He has since set up a state-wide committee. You will hear more about this later on in our convention.

CLIMBING AGAINST DEATH: Greensboro as well as other

firemen are frequently called on to do odd jobs, such as retrieve pet cats on poles and trees, but on one July day 1948 a young steeple or flagpole climber was working on the 365-foot WBIG radio tower out from Greensboro, giving it a fresh coat of paint. The young man had been sick with his stomach for a few days prior to this eventful day. He climbed the tower, fastened his rig seat and set to painting—suddenly the ladder slipped and plummeted to the ground. Bystanders responded to his shouts and attached the ladder to a rope.

Seconds later an anguished scream froze workmen in their tracks. Squinting up at the tower they saw a terrible sight. Harper had fallen; now he balanced precariously on a thin crossbeam 30 feet below his former perch. Fortunately, he had landed upright.

Engineer Kerr quickly called the fire department and ambulance numbers. At the foot of the tower men debated excitedly. How to rescue Harper?

Meanwhile, the emergency call from Kerr had reached Greensboro Central Fire Station. Assistant Fire Chief M. D. Barnes, jumped to his feet. "Henderson! Fortune!," he called.

Upstairs Fireman Charles Henderson was cleaning equipment. Near him was Captain Roma Fortune. Both were veteran firemen, both had participated in previous rescues. Scrambling into an emergency truck the two sped to the radio station five miles away. "We've got to climb up and get him," said Fortune. "I'll try it first. A cry of pain from Fortune as he grapsed the ladder spike. The electric current coursed through the structure. The fireman unwittingly had been a human conductor, his hands were seared, but Fortune shook off help, then with a running start he jumped to the first rung avoiding simultaneous contact with steel and earth.

Slowly, his tortured hands gripping sun-heated steel, Fortune made his way higher. He was 42 and his legs and lungs protested against the unaccustomed exertion, yet he climbed on.

Finally he reached the span 310 sickening feet from the ground to which Harper had fallen. "I think I have some broken bones," the painter muttered weakly. "My stomach is crushed too." Fortune surveyed his prospects. He could not lower Harper straight down alone for the tower was studded with diagonal beams, so he called for Henderson to join him. Henderson, a 38-year-old 6-footer, slung a coil of rope about his neck and began a 310-foot climb. A slight breeze had grown into a stiff wind. It tore at Henderson's clothes and brought blinding tears to his eyes. Suddenly the tower began to sway. As the two firemen had securely tied the painter for the lowering he fainted. They brought his unconscious body to safety on the ground after a struggle of 45 minutes. He was rushed to the hospital and 20 days later he left the

hospital, his body in a huge cast.

Fortune and Henderson were officially commended by the Greensboro Fire Department. Later Henderson was promoted to fire captain and then superintendent of the city fire alarm system. Last year Fortune was hired as chief of the fire department at Burlington, North Carolina.

Both men shrugged off any mention of heroism. "After all," one commented, "we could have refused, but a man's life was at stake so we did our duty."

What fireman could be more of a hero in saving life than these two North Carolinians? The complete story was in the October 1949 issue of the Coronet magazine. Thanks to it for the story.

In closing my report to the sixty-third annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association here assembled in "The Land of The Sky." I must take this opportunity to express my thanks to our Insurance Commissioner, Honorable Waldo C. Cheek and Mr. J. Mark Boone, Jr., for making available certain materials that have gone into this report. I also want to express to my good friend, Sherwood Brockwell, Sr., Deputy Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshall, my heartfelt thanks for his co-operation in making available to me a magnitude of material for the past eleven years, a good part of which has been used by me. It has been a great privilege to serve you to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

Motion that the report of the statistician be adopted. Motion duly seconded and carried.

COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THE FIRE CHIEFS TO STUDY RELIEF FUND

Assistant Chief Dixon, Winston-Salem.
Chief Ludy Croom, Wilmington.
Chief T. Norman Owens, Lexington.

Motion that the Minutes of the 1949 convention be adopted. Motion duly seconded and carried.

MR. MILLER:

We have in the past years included in our Minutes the laws of our several features. We have tried to disseminate that this year and get the laws in one book. All laws pertaining to the Firemen State Relief Fund, Firemen's Relief Fund, Insurance feature and every law, by-laws and Constitution, and laws passed in the Legislature are in this

Gilbert Abbe
College Park, Maryland
Herbert V. Grubbs
Greensboro, North Carolina
Irvine Leslie
The Seagrave Corporation
Newberry, South Carolina
Gordon Leslie
The Seagrave Corporation
Newberry, South Carolina
Sherwood Brockwell, Jr.
Eureka Fire Hose
Charlotte, North Carolina
R. E. Manning
Rockwood Sprinkler Co.
Charlotte, North Carolina
Michael C. Turner
National Welders Supply Co.
P. O. Box 950
Charlotte, North Carolina
Howard A. Turner
National Welders Supply Co.
P. O. Box 950
Charlotte, North Carolina
J. H. Bailey
American LaFrance Co.
Asheville, North Carolina

Respectfully submitted,

SHERWOOD BROCKWELL,
Chairman

Motion by Chief Taylor that the report of Sherwood Brockwell be accepted and made a part of the proceedings; seconded by A. A. Kafer, and duly carried.

Chief Will Long of Graham entertained the audience by his rendition of "Mammy's Lil Baby Loves Shortnin' Bread".

The meeting adjourned until ten o'clock Wednesday morning.

At six o'clock the firemen and their guests enjoyed a fish fry.

BUSINESS SESSION

Wednesday 10:00 A. M.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

INVOCATION

By CAPT. GIBSON of Charlotte

Let us pray. O, God, we come to thee this morning thanking thee for life; thanking thee for every blessing that thou hast sent our way from time to time through our lives. We come realizing that if it were not for the blessings that thou hast bestowed upon us we would not be here this morning. God, we would ask thee to come first of all and be with us today and if there is anything in our hearts that should not be there we ask thee to remove it now, and O, God, we would ask thee as we come into another business session of this great convention to lead the leaders and the ones upon whom responsibility rests to transact today's business and lead them in everything that is said or done. We ask thee to bless each and every member of this convention, bless our families back home; be with them this day, and Heavenly Father we would not forget to ask theee to bless the bereaved families of this great circle. We ask thee to be very near those fifty odd families that were effected by death this past year; help them and give them strength in this sad hour. We ask thee to come and be with us through every exercise of this day, go with us through life and watch over and save us from our sins and when thou art through with us on this earth we ask thee to give us a home in Heaven where we may ever praise thee. In Jesus' name, we make this prayer.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT W. BRINSON

President Charles, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am again happy to submit to you my report of statistics and happenings in the fire service of North Carolina. Another year has passed since we enjoyed the good fellowship at Hendersonville "In the Land of the Sky." And another two years has passed by since we were assembled here on the shores of the blue Atlantic, being royally entertained by our friendly host Carolina Beach Fire Department. We are grateful to Chief Hewitt, the Firemen of Carolina Beach, the City Fathers, Chamber of Commerce, hotel owners and others for inviting us back so soon, especially in their busy season.

In 1948 I told you that our firemen of America were fighting that post war of Fire and Destruction and Loss of Lives. That year the United States scored the heaviest loss of life and property ever recorded. There were approximately 12,000 men, women and childrnn whom the Grim Fire Reaper took away, and a property loss estimated at $711,-576,000. Thank high Heaven the Firemen of North Carolina and the United States as a whole have done something about it.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS AND LOSS OF LIFE: Again I am happy to report to you that Mr. John A. Neale, Chief Engineer, National Board of Underwriters, has informed me that the 1950 fire loss in the United States was $648,909,000. This shows a decrease of $18,527,000 from 1949. The years 1949 and 1950 showed a combined reduction of $62,567,000 less than 1948, which was the highest loss ever recorded in the United States with that staggering figure of $711,576,000. The per capita loss for 1950 was $3.22 compared with $3.96 for 1949, which shows a reduction of 74 cents for each person in the United States.

The National Board estimates the loss of life in 1950 as 11,000. Every fireman in the United States should be very happy that he has taken part in helping, to some extent, in reducing the loss of life by fires during the year 1950 by an estimated 1,000 under the 12,000 for 1949.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS FOR 1950: It is a pleasure to be able to report another reduction of fire loss in 1950 from that of 1949. The estimated fire loss using the National Fire Underwriters' report on insurance paid for fire losses during 1950 by the stock and mutual companies was $9,143,232. The estimated uninsured property amounted to $3,918,528 thus an estimated insured and uninsured total is $13,061,760. The reduction of 1950 loss from that of 1949 amounts to $2,898,205. In comparing 1950 with 1948 we find the big reduction in fire losses in North Carolina amounted to $5,947,636.

Comparing the 1950 fire loss with that of 1940, the 1950 fire loss of North Carolina being approximately $13,000,000 and that of 1950 being approximately $9,000,000 one would, at first glance, be alarmed at an increase of approximately $4,000,000 in our fire loss of 1950 above that of 1940 but, when we consider that the increase of population in 1950 over that of 1940 is 14.3 per cent the natural increase would bring the $9,000,000 total for 1940 up to $10,287,000 this, in turn, leaving a difference of $2,713,000.

This, however, is well taken care of by the fact that the burnable property in 1950, this including buildings and contents, is easily 100 per cent over like values in 1940. We can see a vast improvement in the fire service of North Carolina because by this increase in population plus the increase of value would run the total to $20,000,000, instead of the actual fire loss in 1950 of $13,000,000, certainly a fine testimonial and reflection to the improved efficiency of the North Carolina fire service in 1950 over that of ten years ago.

Another factor to be seriously considered is that within the past few years there has been erected over practically the entire area of the state housing units meeting only the minimum requirements of the North Carolina Building Code, many of these housing units providing "multiple occupancy" i.e., several families occupying the same frame structure and "multiple occupancy" has long been considered by qualified authorities as being a pronounced factor in increased fire losses.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The death tolls including protected cities and towns combined with all the rural unprotected areas of our state last year were 84 deaths by conflagration (in buirning buildings) reported by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. This is eight more than 1949, however, this is 43 less deaths than the year 1948, when that violent raging of FIRE in buildings ran through this great state of ours. The Bureau reports 87 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). It is gratifying to learn that we had a reduction of 32 less deaths in 1950 than in 1949 from fire and explosion. We regret to learn that in 1950 there were 20 deaths caused from hot substance, corrosive liquids and steam, this being seven more than in 1949. The bright side of the picture is that there was a total reduction for the year 1950 over 1949 of 31 less men, women and children's lives snuffed out by that FIRE DEMON. You firemen out there and the boys back home are the big factor in holding our death loss down. Another vital cog in this wheel of saving lives and property we have not mentioned too often, which deserves high praise from Heaven is our City Fathers in making available new and modern fire fighting equipment for us men. In my travel all over the state of North Carolina I see from our largest cities to our smallest towns many new, modern fire houses, and too many new modern fire trucks to enumerate. I also find many, many counties cooperating with the cities, like my county, through the state in buying fire trucks and equipment as well as furnishing compensation. The Fire Service of North Carolina is on the march and you fellows should be proud, keep it on the move.

During the year 1950 there were 2257 fires in North Carolina which were reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office. A small percentage of these fires caused no loss, but the majority caused losses ranging from $5 to $250,000. This is an increase of 559 reported fires over the 1698 reported for 1949.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: From the 2257 reported fires for 1950 my tabulation shows the following to be the chief causes of our North Carolina fires. The first three of these account

for 940 fires or 41.65 per cent of the total: Unknown—431, as against 303 for 1949; gas, oil stoves and heaters—273, also an increase; grass and leaf fires—236, of these 222 were reported from Fayetteville; defective flues, chimneys and furnaces—189; careless smoking in bed, etc.—181, which is a drop of 46 from the 227 from this cause in 1949; defective wiring, short circuits, etc.—173, up 29 since last year, possibly too many "home" electricians; overheated and defective motors—141, this is really a big jump from only 43 in 1949; carelessness—78; sparks from trains, flues and chimneys—76; burning trash anf fire dropped in trash—76, this is an increase of 64 over the fires from this cause in 1949. This would seem to be an indication of increasing carelessness on the part of some of our citizens; children playing with fire and matches —49, up 28; spontaneous combustion or ignition of oil rags, etc.—41; overheated stoves, dryers and furnaces—40; stock, furnishings, wood, etc., too close to stoves and furnaces—37; hot grease and foods—34; exposure from other burning buildings—32; other causes—29; explosion—18; mostly oil stoves and oil heaters; leaking gas lines—17; hot coals and ashes—15, the favorite receptacle for these seemed to be cardboard boxes; arson and probable incendiary—13; overheated irons —13; matches (and rats)—11; lightning—10; acetylene and blow torches—10; heat radiation—9; careless handling of candles, lamps and Christmas lights—9; friction—7; starting fires with oil and gas—6; flash fire—1; electric bulb in brooder—1; cars and trucks—1, this last really came down, from 99 for last year to one for 1950.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: There were 22 fires during 1950 with a loss of $20,000 or more. The combined loss in these fires was $1,562,665 which is seven fires and $611,602 less than for 1949. We feel a justifiable pride in the fact that these large fires have decreased in number and in monetary loss for the past two years. The list for 1950 follows:

Asheville—Asheville Ice Plant $30,600.

Charlotte—Rulane Gas Co., $30,000; Piedmont Carton Co., $65,551.

Durham—Southern Storage Co., $23,600.

Fayetteville—Theater $52,000.

Greensboro—Foster and Caviness $91,748.

Kinston—Lester Grady Feed Mill $55,000.

High Point—Cosard Furniture Manufacturing Co. $32,911; Universal Furniture Manufacturing Co. $125,000.

La Grange—Storage and workshop $60,000; J. B. Eason Corn Mill $35,000.

Lumberton—Storage Warehouse $49,892.

North Wilkesboro—Wilkes Milling Co. $40,000; Brown Lumber Co. $250,000; Motor and Express Terminal $24,000; North Wilkesboro Ice and Fuel Co. $65,000.

Raleigh—Lewis Sporting Goods, Inc. $88,863.43; St. Augustine College $63,750.

Shelby—Bridges Auto Parts Co. $38,000.

Statesville—Star Milling Co. $50,000; Morrison-Lail Corp. $21,500.

Troy—Troy Lumber Co. $180,000.

Winston-Salem—Robert Rominger Furniture Co. $150,000 damage.

HOTEL AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: Whether it is the new fire laws for hotels or just plain luck I cannot say, but certainly there is an almost unbelievable drop in the loss resulting from hotel fires this year over 1949. Last year there were 18 hotel fires reported with a total estimated damage of $152,405 and for 1950 there were 13 reported with a total estimated damage of $3,391, five less fires and $149,014 less—our hotel laws must be doing some good. As usual a majority of these fires were caused by guests smoking in bed.

These hotel fires with estimated damage are listed below: Central Hotel, Raleigh, $100; March Hotel, Lexington, $100; Wyrick Hotel, Greensboro, $25; Martin Hotel, Greensboro, $300; Lennox Hotel, Greensboro, $25; Manhattan Inn, Greensboro, $300; Goldsboro Hotel, Goldsboro, $2,000; this is the largest reported damage for any hotel during 1950; Rogers Hotel, Goldsboro, $5; La Fayette Hotel, Fayetteville, two fires $25 each; Yarborough Hotel, Fayetteville, $20; Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, $25, caused by hot motor; Concord Hotel, Concord, $441.

The number of apartment house fires this past year was the same as in 1949—73, but the total estimated damage shot up to $96,746.20 —an increase of $32,373.20 with no means of estimating the number of lives jeopardized.

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING FIRES: It is very gratifying to report to you that the estimated loss in North Carolina churches dropped 91.5 per cent in 1950 from that of 1949. In 1949 there were 13 church fires with an estimated loss to buildings and contents of $177,125, while in 1950 there were 12 reported fires with the loss estimated at $15,112. These were: Reynolds Temple Church, Winston-Salem, $2,500; Temple Holiness Church, Winston-Salem, $3,000; Church of God, Goldsboro, $3,000; United Church, Raleigh, $100; Undenominational Church, Kinston, $750; Jewish Synagogue, Goldsboro, $200; Baptist Church, Elkin, $4,500; M. E. Church, Durham, $250; Catholic Church, Fayetteville, $50; Providence Holiness

Church, Raleigh, $30; Methodist Church, Statesville, $32; Methodist Congregation Church, Graham, $700.

HOSPITALS: The combined losses reported from hospital fires is $1,005; these fires occurred at Sternberger Hospital, Greensboro, $1,000, and Pittman Hospital, Fayetteville, $5.

The Charlotte Y. W. C. A. had a small damage fire, $65 caused by some young woman enjoying her smoke in bed.

SCHOOL FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: There was but one major school fire reported to the Insurance Commissioner by the fire chiefs of North Carolina in the protected cities and towns in 1950, this was the fire at St. Augustine College, Raleigh, $63,750 damage. Two smaller fires were reported, one a classroom at State College $150, and the other at Lumberton public school $354 damage. No student was injured in either of these fires. In a letter to me, dated August 10, 1951, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Clyde A. Erwin says: "My term of office as State Superintendent began in October, 1934. There have been no deaths of children by fire in our public schools during my administration as State Superintendent." This is, I am sure, a record of which we are all justly proud.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS FOR 1950-1951 July-June: As given in the reports by the Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles there were 11 oil truck accidents on the state highways from July 1, 1950, through June 30, 1951 in which a total of 15 people lost their lives and nine others were injured. The fatal accidents by counties were: Duplin one, Edgecombe one, Chatham two, Guilford two, Orange one, Brunswick one, Sampson two accidents with one person killed in each, Lee one, Mecklenburg two, and Bertie two. Not any of these accidents occurred in towns which seems to show that having special truck lanes does pay.

ROOF FIRES DROP IN THE NATION: Statistics compiled by the National Fire Protection Association show an encouraging decline in the incidence of roof fires throughout the nation. Not so long ago, fires originating in the roof of homes and other structures ranked second among the principal causes of fire. But now, reports Percy Bugbee, head of the NFPA, roof fires have dropped to tenth on the list.

Bugbee attributes this decline in part to enforcement of building codes in 600-odd cities prohibiting flammable roofing. In addition, practically alll new buildings have roof of fire resistant materials.

UNUSUAL FIRES: Carelessness with electric iron—a small child placed it on the floor setting fire to room.

Carelessness in dropping trash into hot air duct.

Careless smoker—$8,750 damage.

Apparently smoking in bed cost the life of Beulah McComb.

Pressure cooker exploded, knocked oil range over setting the house on fire—damage $1,900.

Carelessness with blow torch—$50.

Child playing with cigarette lighter—damage $40.

Spilled oil on cook stove—$899 damage.

Cigarette caused spontaneous ignition—loss $21,500.

Throwing kerosene oil in stove on hot coals caused death of Lizzie Long—damage to house $600.

Cigarette in bedclothes—damage $125.

Cleaning grease gun with gas, ignited when someone struck a match, and in running from building they kicked over a bucket of gas —damage $38,000.

Cigarette in wastepaper basket—$500 damage.

Electric soldering iron left on—$6,816 damage.

Cigarette left on divan—damage $4,050.

Match or cigarette by drunk man $800.

Cigarette ashes emptied into trash box on back porch $1,500.

Cigarette on couch—$1,060.

Cigarette on settee—$645.

Motorbike on fire in basement—damage to building $2,400.

Rubbish in closet—apparently internal combustion—damage to residence $2,200.

Welding part of machinery with acetylene torch at North Wilkesboro—4 large fires—damage $379,000.

Incendiary—party convicted and sent to State prison.

Carelessness in disconnecting oil burner on heating system $7,800.

Children playing with candles—damage $305.

Workman accidentally dropped hot casting into paint vat causing an immediate fire—damage $60,000.

Grass fire outside of building spread to building—damage $32,911.

Blind man burning trash inside building—$550.

Betty Jean Williams burned to death by defective oil stove.

Hot aches in cardboard box—damage $950.

Smoking in bed, Preston Blackwell died from suffocation, age 32 years.

Sudie Gautier, age 37, lost her life in a defective oil stove fire.

Emptying ash tray into trash box—$1,402.

Electric iron left on—$1,400 damage.

Christmas tree fire—damage $300.

Leo Rhew, age 60, died of suffocation from mattress set afire by smoking in bed.

Vicki Sue Davis burned to death—smoking in bed.

Children playing with matches—loss $3,000.

Refrigerator motor fire in $38,000 stone veneer house—about 25 minutes delay in turning in alarm due to telephone wire being burned in two—damage $14,000.

Children playing with stove—fire damage $1,200.

Falsh fire from gasoline ignited by open fire—C. L. Vicors badly burned.

Asron—subject has signed confession to setting the fire—Tom Rutherford, age 48, Asheville man had not been tried December 28, 1950.

Oil heater exploded killing Mrs. Annie Farris.

Arson suspected—found about nine fruit jars of gas at different places in grocery store—3,915 damage.

FIRE PREVENTION CONTEST WINNERS: North Carolina cities again win national awards and honorable mention in the Fire Prevention week. Mr. Melvin R. Freeman, Public Relations Manager, National Fire Protection Association, advises your statistician: "Fayetteville placed thirtieth nationally. In North Carolina Fayetteville first, Greensboro second, with Wilmington and Gastonia receiving honorable mention."

WINNERS AND HONOR CITIES—INTER-CHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTESTS: Chief Carles L. Brukett and the Salisbury firemen pulled down second prize awarded by the United States Chamber of Commerce for Fire Prevention Educational Activities, and Chief Burkett received the award in Washington, D. C., in May, 1951. I feel that when a North Carolina city wins national and state awards 12 years out of 14, with a national first and second award, six first prizes for the state of North Carolina, and five second awards by the United States Chamber of Commerce, it is only befitting to tell the firemen what city it is. I will tell you by quoting Chief Charles L. Burkett's letter:

"City of Salisbury, North Carolina, August 10, 1951. Mr. A. W. Brinson, Statistician N. C. State Firemen's Ass'n., New Bern, N. C. Dear Albert: As per your request the following information: Hanging upon the walls of fire department headquarters in Salisbury, N. C., of which Charles L. Burkett is chief is one of the largest collections of awards in the nation for fire prevention activities. Since Chief Burkett was appointed chief in this city 14 years ago his city has won 12 awards consisting of six first prizes for the state of North Carolina in fire prevention work during fire prevention week and five second prizes awarded by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and one first prize of the Nation awarded by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce for educational activities. This year Chief Burkett went to Washington when the U. S. Chamber of Commerce awarded him another second prize for his splendid work.

"This work was accomplished by the splendid cooperation of his citizens and the wonderful assistance of the officers and personnel of his department. Yours truly, Charles L. Burkett, Chief Fire Dept., Salisbury, N. C."

CITIES AND TOWNS HAVING NO LOSS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Asheboro no loss for three months; Thomasville three; Albemarle three; Concord three; Carthage nine; Carolina Beach ten, (three fires with a total loss of $43.75 for year of 1950); Graham eleven; Monroe eight; Aberdeen ten; Lexington two; Morganton six; Youngsville five; Siler City eight; and Salisbury one month. There are no doubt many cities and towns which have as many and in some cases likely more months without any fire loss. There is no possible way your statistician can record them unless you report to the insurance commissioner the months you have no fire loss.

AFFILIATED FIRE ASSOCIATIONS: The allied associations have had a year of activity that it would take pages to tell about. The North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association headed by Chief Charles Burkett has had a very busy year. The Roanoke River Association had one of its largest attended meetings in years. The Eastern North Carolina Firemen's Association had over 300 firemen from 35 eastern towns in attendance at the April quarterly supper session in Greenville. The Sandhills Firemen's Convention was held on June 13 and celebrated its 25th anniversary.

FIRE SETUP FOR DEFENSE: Chief M. G. Brown of the city of Winston-Salem reported recently to C. E. Perkins, deputy director of the public service division, that his fire department civil defense setup is virtually complete and the auxiliary training program is well under way. I know other cities are making progress along this line, but are we taking the possibility of an all-out war seriously? Have we forgotten what Mr. Ralph Connally of Brevard College told us about the atomic bomb last year in Hendersonville?

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN: Of the more than 800,000 municipal fire fighters in the United States, only one in eight or 100,000 is a professional full-time fireman, the rest or 700,000 being volunteers.

NEW MEMBER FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Our President, Chief Donald Charles has no doubt set an unprecedented record in his two years as president of our association in many good things; however, your statistician feels sure that he has set a record for many years, and likely an all-time high, in having more new fire departments join the association than any previous two-year period. During this fiscal year there have been 20 new towns united with the association representing approximately 536 men. Last year there were 14 towns thus making a total of 34, and I say, what a record! There are many other firemen who deserve credit along with Donald and I cannot leave out our good friends, Charles L. Burkett and Ed A. Johnson.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The North Carolina State Firemen's Association held its 23rd annual State Fire College and Drill School in the host city of Charlotte, on May 21, 22, 23, 24 and had

the largest attendance in the history of the institution, according to Fire Chief Donald S. Charles in a release to Fire Engineering. This, one of the most successful schools yet held, was conducted by Sherwood Brockwell, Directing Chairman, Charles L. Burkett, Vice Chairman, J. C. Fitzgerald, advisor, J. L. Broom, A. Y. Cottrell, J. M. Mundy, C. L. Cox and E. M. Salley, instructors.

IN MEMORIAM: Albert W. Jody—Albert W. Jody, age 51, died April 30, 1951 after an extended illness of several months. He joined the Atlantic Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1, New Bern, N. C., in January, 1918, and worked hard as a fireman from the ground up. He wac nicknamed by his comrades as "Popcorn" the fireman who could knock off more wood shingles with an axe than any one else, and he took pleasure in doing this at roof and chimney fires so that the owners would have to replace the roof with metal. He held every office of the company and in 1927 was made assistant chief. In 1928 he became chief of New Bern fire department. For 23 years he served on the New Bern Fire Board. In 1942 when Cherry Point Air Base was established he was chosen Civilian Fire Chief of Cherry Point Marine Air Station, and remained chief until his death. Albert Jowdy missed very few State Fire Conventions or Fire College and Drill Schools in his 33 years as a member of our association. He never was made an officer of the association but was placed on many committees and served faithfully. The last committee he headed was in the purchase and presentation to Sherwood Brockwell of a silver service in recognition of his long years of service to the association. Albert's friends in the State Fire Service can be counted in the hundreds.

Before closing my report to the sixty-fourth annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association here assembled along the shores of the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and the swell Carolina Beach, I wish to take the opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to our Insurance Commissioner, Honorable Waldo C. Cheek, the Highway Safety Division, Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics section, and Dr. Clyde A. Erwin, Superintendent of Public Instruction for making available certain materials that have gone into this report. Again I am happy to express to my good friend and yours, Sherwood Brockwell, Deputy Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshall, my many thanks for his full cooperation in making available to me a mountain of material for the past eleven years, a good part of which has been used by me. I can assure you it has been a great privilege to serve you to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

Motion that the report be accepted; seconded and duly carried.

Motion by Earl Bowers, of Plymouth, that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

The Chair recognized Miss Mary Brockwell, honorary member of the State Firemen's Association. (Applause).

PRESIDENT CHARLES:

I would like to introduce a friend of mine and a friend of the firemen of North Carolina. I know he will help solve our problems as he has in the past, Honorable Waldo Cheek, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Carolina.

HON. WALDO CHEEK:

President Charles, Members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association, Guests and Friends:

It is certainly a pleasure to be here again to attend your convention.

First I would like to review some of the figures reported in the report of the Statistician.

You were told that the fire loss for 1940 in North Carolina was approximately nine million dollars and in 1950 it was thirteen million dollars. That, with nothing more, would indicate that the fire loss has gone up fifty per cent in ten years, but you were also told that the population of North Carolina in than ten-year period has increased fifteen per cent, and addjusting the figures to reflect the increase in population the actual increase would be two and three-quarter million in 1950 over what it was in 1940. That would still be a pretty big increase for ten years but when you go further and find that the increase in value of property from 1940 to 1950 is approximately one hundred per cent you can see that the fire loss was greater in proportion to value in 1940 than in 1950. The loss in 1950 is in reality low because based on property valuation if the loss had been the same in 1950 as 1940 it would have been approximately twenty million dollars instead of thirteen million. So when you take the increases in property and the valuation it would indicate that there has been a reduction in fire losses in the ten-year period. But, no matter how much the loss is in property, or how much we are able to reduce that loss, or how much we are able to recover that loss through fire insurance, there is one type of loss in the state in which there has been no measure of recovery, and that is the loss of human life.

In the April issue of the Journal of FIRE ENGINEERING is an article which I would like to read to you.

LEFT ALONE WITH DEATH!

Statisticians may debate the details of the nation's financial losses from fire, whether the mounting figures are the result of the inflationary dollar or not, but one detail of present-day destruction by fire cannot be argued: that is the problem of the growing fatalities, particularly among the very young and very old, from this scourge!

Those who are in touch with the fire mortality figures of the nation,

Elworth Repton Pope, Goldsboro.
Francis Young Weddington, Concord.
James Ellis Fields, Pinehurst.
John A. Fisher, Concord.
Parks Franklin Elmore, Rock Hill, S. C.
Albert Ray Small, Lincolnton.
Andrew Carl Small, Monroe.
James Roy Thompson, Kannapolis.
Clyde Whitaker Dellinger, Kannapolis.
Clyde Walsh Robinson, Charlotte.
Terrell Grady Womack, High Point.
James Heyward Hull, Shelby.
Odell Welsey Young, East Spencer.
Charles Dewitt Ware, Kings Mountain.
Arthur Henry Nelson, Rowan Mills.

Chief Palmer, Ex-President International Fire Chief's Association, made a splendid address during the Convention which impressed the students at the Fire College and Drill School.

Respectfully submitted

SHERWOOD BROCKWELL, *Chairman and Director of the Fire College and Drill School*

Motion by W. D. Morgan that the report be accepted; seconded by June Gray, Chief of Kinston, and duly carried.

Motion by A. A. Kafer that the meeting adjourn; seconded by Capt. Keeter, and the meeting adjourned to reconvene Wednesday morning at ten o'clock a.m.

From 5:30 to 8:30 the firemen and ladies attending the convention enjoyed a most delicious brunswick stew at the Police Club House.

BUSINESS SESSION

Wednesday, August 6th, 1952, 10 O'clock A. M.

The meeting was called to order by President Flanagan.
Song: America.

INVOCATION

By Rev. Barnes

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that we can meet again. We thank Thee for thy wonderful mercies and blessings; we thank thee for the fellowship we have enjoyed, for the new things we have learned, for the opportunity to serve our fellowman. Bless us in our convention; may we live lives that are pleasing in thy sight and determine to do more for the upbuilding of thy kingdom. Bless each home

represented, be with loved ones wherever they are, and when thou art through with us here may we stand before Thee and hear "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of our Lord." Amen.

At this time we will have the Staistician's report.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

By ALBERT L. BRINSON

President Curtis, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I submit to you my report of statistics and happenings in the fire service of North Carolina for 1951. Another year has passed since we enjoyed the good fellowship at Carolina Beach "on the shores of the Blue Atlantic," having been entertained royally there by our host and good friend, Chief C. W. Hewett and his firemen. We are grateful to Chief C. W. Wyrick, vice president of our Association, the Firemen of Greensboro, the City Fathers, Chamber of Commerce, hotel operators, and others for inviting our Convention to their Gate City for the sixth time. Greensboro was the host city for our first North Carolina Firemen's Association convention in 1888. We came back to Our Mother City in the following years—1898, 1927, 1937, and 1942. Now we are again assembled to enjoy that hospitality which the Gate City has always offered to its conventions, especially that of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Wyrick reports a year of intensive training in his department. Training program consisted of 19 tower evolutions, 16,256 hours of drill. Probationary Firemen's School held for new men of the department 450 hours. A man was sent to the Norfolk Naval Base for a 30-hour course in pumping and a 60-hour hourse in structural fire fighting. In January 1952 an officers training school was held for 21 days, and in addition to the 22 officers of the Greensboro Fire Department 21 officers from surrounding cities attended. Various films were shown for the benefit of the men, totaling in all 3,870 hours. Standard Red Cross and Advance Red Cross First Aid courses were taught 2,000 hours. During the year many talks to other departments over North Carolina were made on Rescue and Firematic problems. Pumping school was taught for the benefit of divers for 1,760 hours. For the past year 25,344 man hours have been used up in teaching and drilling here in Greensboro. A year of training activity! I say, Moon, and a job well done.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The death tolls including protected cities and towns combined with the entire rural area of our State last year was 109 deaths by conflagrations (in burning buildings) reported by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. This I am sorry

to report to you was an increase of 36 deaths over 1950. The Bureau reports 140 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This is an increase of 37 more than in 1950. It is gratifying to note their report shows 7 less deaths by hot substance, corrosive liuid, and steam, or 13 deaths from this cause in 1951. The above figures from the Bureau report show a total of 262 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in 1951. The figures also show 196 for 1950 and that means that the FIRE DEMON reached out into this great State of ours and took away the lives of 66 more of our men, women, and children than he did in 1950, in spite of the fire service in all ranks being, in the opinion of your statistician, at its most efficient period in its history. The fire protection furnished by our city and town fire departments in the State is now being supplemented in many rural areas by county fire departments, in helping hold down the FIRE DEMON'S TOLL.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau reports 18 deaths of personnel in military aircraft during 1951. There were 7 in 1950 which shows an increase of 11, and no doubt the increased military training operations in North Carolina could be credited to some extent for this. There were 12 deaths from occupants of other aircraft in 1951 with three for 1950. Four deaths were reported as other and unspecified aircraft accidents in 1951, with 8 in 1950. The report shows no deaths of commercial transport aircraft passengers for 1950 and 1951. There is no way I have of knowing just how many of these 34 deaths reported were involved in fires.

TOTAL FIRES REPORTED: For the year 1951 the Fire Chiefs of North Carolina reported 1,700 fires to the Insurance Commissioner's office. This is a decrease of 557 fires from the number reported for 1950. Several of these fires caused no loss, but the most of them caused low or medium loss, while 32 caused losses of $20,000 or more. We are satisfied that there were some more fires that are not included in these figures, due to the failure of some Fire Chiefs to report all fires as required by law. The only thing upon which your Statistician can base his report for your Convention is the Fire Chiefs' reports sent to the Insurance Commissioner.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: Five causes are responsible for 1,056 fires, or 62.1 per cent of the total 1,700 fires for 1951. In the order of climax these causes are: Defective flues, chimneys, and furnaces—147, a drop of 42 from 1950; defective wiring—165, down 8 since last year careless smoking in bed, etc.—220, an increase of 39 for this past year; gas, oil stoves, and heaters—220, which is a decrease of 53 from the 273 reported for 1950; and 304 for unknown, which is the greatest difference—127 under the number reported in 1950. The remaining 29 causes were responsible for 644 fires, which is somewhat more than one-third of the total 1,700, they

are: Carelessness—78; overheated, defective, and hot motors—65; sparks on roofs from trains, flues and chimneys—41; spontaneous combustion of oily rags, etc.—38; children playing with matches—44; stoves, furnaces, and dryers overheated—31; burning trash—26, this is a decrease of 50 fires from this cause in 1950; hot grease and food —27; hot coals and ashes—23; stock and wood too close to stoves and furnaces—35; exposure from another burning building—19; explosion—15; lightning—19; grass and leaf fires—12; floor furnaces—14; arson and probable incendiary—11; acetylene and blowtorches—10; overheated irons—13; friction 9; starting fires with oil or gas—5; rats between walls—4; tobacco leaves on flue irons—4; short in television set—3; rats and matches—2; oxygen tank—1; overheated light bulb —1; and defective paint sprayer—1.

SCHOOL FIRES: Information received from Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Director Division of Insurance, State Board of Education shows that the Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 87 of the 172 administrative units in North Carolina. The information he could give is based only on the 87 units, as he does not have records available concerning units not participating in this program. He states that for the fiscal year 1951-1952 this division had a total of 29 different school fire losses amounting to $40,816.81 with the largest single loss being $10,000.

The Fire Chiefs reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office 11 school fires for the year 1951 with a total of $145,697 loss. Of this amount $136,075 was from two fires, the Kinston Colored School $26,075 and the Greensboro Lindley Junior High School's disastrous fire which caused a loss of $116,000.

I quote a letter from our deceased friend and one of the great, great educators of North Carolina. "July 2, 1952, Mr. A. W. Brinson, Statistician North Carolina State Firemen's Association, New Bern, N. C. Dear Mr. Brinson: We know of no fire casualties or deaths among school children of North Carolina for the year beginning July 1, 1951 and ending June 30, 1952. We have been extremely fortunate in this State in having no catastrophe of that type for many, many years and I hope that we can continue that record. With best wishes, I am, very truly yours, Clyde A. Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction."

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: During 1951 there were 32 fires with a loss of $20,000 or more each. This is an increase of 10 large fires in 1951 over the 22 in 1950, and there is an increase of $140,505 in the combined loss, this year's being $1,703,170 against $1,562,665 for the year 1950. We are indeed sorry to see that the loss has increased. The list for 1951 follows:

Asheville—Kahn Co. rag processing plant $93,638; Three Moun-

taineers, Inc. antique shop $53,000; Asheville Industrial Supply Warehouse $47,200; Hans Reece and Son—hair processing room for tannery $20,000.

Charlotte—Honeys Poolroom and Harris Horne Shoe Store $31,120; Oil Equipment Service—office and storage $68,118; Avondale Pharmacy and Culp Bros. Grocery $32,410, (cause oil stove); First Christian Baptist Church $25,000.

Gastonia—Eagle Store $130,000, and other places damaged in same fire are Carolina Hotel, Sidney's Clothing Co., Commercial Bank Building, Seymour's Clothing Co., Walker's Shoe Shop, Young Men's Shop, Spindale City Cafe, and Stanley Jewelers, $30,000.

Goldsboro—Paint Shop and Storage—Pontoon bridges for United States Government $52,000.

Greensboro—Lindley Junior High School $116,000.

Greenville—Carolina Sales Corp. $150,000; J. J. Perkins Lbr. Yard and Saw Mill $150,000; J. A. Watson Hdwe. Store $31,364; Sinclair Oil Bulk Plant $32,500.

High Point—Dick Culler Sporting Goods $47,325; Tobias, Inc., Ladies Ready-to-wear $23,500.

Kinston—Harry Pearson Dept. Store $29,500; Cafe and Armory, Cafe $19,800, Armory $83,900; Kinston Colored School $26,705.

Landis—Landing Milling Co. and Landis Plumbing Shop $60,000.

Monroe—Henderson Roller Mill Co. $97,500.

Saluda—John R. Rivers and Hugh G. Gaddy residence $22,620.

Scotland Neck—G. L. Hancock, gin house, work shop, seed house $29,000.

Shelby—Cleveland Lbr. Co. $22,500.

Siler City—Darden & Sons Retail Furn. Store $35,000.

Winston-Salem—K. & W. Restaurant and others $37,000; J. T. Barnes, residence $20,000; Paschal-Farrell Shoe Store and others $38,100; Romanger Furniture Company $49,000.

HOTEL AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: In 1951 hotel fires more than doubled over the number for 1950—a jump from 13 to 31 reported fires and a slight increase in damage. Smokers again caused the greater part of the $3,429 loss. The individual hotel fire loss ranged from $5 to $1,153.

Following are the hotel fires with estimated damages for different cities: Selwyn Hotel $25, Travelers Hotel $450, Willard Hotel $100, all of Charlotte; Concord Hotel $103, Concord; Millbrook Hotel $50, Prince Charles Hotel $15, Fayetteville; Terminal Hotel $25, Goldsboro; O. Henry Hotel $75, Greensboro Hotel $7.50, Greensboro Hotel $9.73, Gate City Hotel $12, Greensboro Hotel $39.50, King Cotton Hotel $60, Cleggs Hotel $25, King Cotton Hotel $71.28, King Cotton Hotel $41.50, hotel owned by Greensboro Hotel $25, King Cotton Hotel $42, New Carolina Hotel $59, Clegg Hotel $18, O. Henry Hotel $555, King Cotton Hotel $50, all of Greensboro; Sheraton Hotel $113, High Point; Hotel Kinoco $100, Kinston; Queen Anne Hotel $300, New Bern; McAlphin Hotel $5, Colonial Inn $75, Raleigh Hotel and offices $150, of Raleigh; and Briggs Hotel $100, Wilson. The chiefs reporting these hotel fires reported about 90 per cent caused by smoking in bed. What gross carelessness, I say.

During 1951 there were 92 apartment house fires causing a total estimated loss of $106,444. The lowest reported was $10 and the highest, $8,300. There were 19 more fires with the loss increased by $9,698 over those reported for 1950.

There were just two hospital fires reported for 1951, these being High Point Memorial Hospital—damage $250, and Mt. Airy's Martin Memorial Hospital—damage estimated to be $1,200.

CHURCH FIRES: During 1951 there were 11 church fires reported, a drop of one in number from that of 1950. However, the estimated loss for 1951 was $32,530, an increase of $17,418 over the damage to our churches in 1950. The church fires for this year follow: Asheville Broadway Church, Asheville, $650; Seventh St. Presbyterian Church, Charlotte $150, First Christian Baptist, Charlotte, $25,000; First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, $300; Friendship Baptist Church, Lexington, $130; St. John Missionary Baptist Church, New Bern, $250, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, New Bern, (second fire) $250; dwelling and church, Raleigh, $300; First Baptist Church, Salisbury, $4,000; First Christian Church, Winston-Salem, $1,000; Congregational Christian Church, Winston-Salem, $500.

TOWNS AND CITIES REPORTING FIRES: I know there are 232 active fire departments in the State which are members of our association, but I find from the reports furnished the Insurance Commissioner that only 64 have turned in any report for the year 1951. Nine of this 64 give one report for the entire year, and one city had 276 reported fires. The ones reporting are listed below:

Aberdeen, Ahoskie, Albemarle, Asheboro, Asheville, Benson, Brevard, Canton, Carolina Beach, Carrboro, Carthage, Charlotte, Clinton, Concord, Cramerton, Davidson, Durham, Elkin, Elm City, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Faison, Forest City, Gastonia, Gibsonville, Goldsboro, Graham, Greensboro, Greenville, Hamlet, Hendersonville, High Point, Kannapolis, Kinston, LaGrange, Landis, Lexington, Lumberton, Mebane, Mocksville, Monroe, Mooresville, Morehead City, Morganton, Mt. Airy, New Bern, Pembroke, Pittsboro, Raleigh, Rockwell, Salisbury, Saluda, Scotland Neck, Shelby, Siler City, Spring Hope, Stanley,

Statesville, Thomasville, Troy, Wilson, Winston-Salem, Valdese, Youngsville, Wilmington.

UNUSUAL FIRES FOR THE YEAR 1951: Cleaning floor with gasoline—spark ignited—$800 damage.

Struck match in paint room, damage $22.

Kerosene poured on stairs leading to upstairs apartment. Police investigating.

Lucille McIllwee taken out of window by firemen Shop and Flowers.

Hot iron left on ironing board, pushed ironing board against wall and set the house afire—damage $250.

Oil stove fire, 7 people occupied the house. B. B. Childers burned to death. Two sent to the hospital.

A cigarette caused the death of Willie F. Gaspon, found burned to death in an apartment.

W. H. Turner burned to death by gasoline explosion, two others seriously injured.

Philip Paul Brooks, 7 1-2 months old, burned to death in bed placed too close to stove.

Acetylene torch—suspected robbery.

Grass fire caused $16,500 damage to a paint store.

Poured gasoline in stove—damage $300.

Light bulb in popcorn machine—damage $800.

Box of trash under electric switches $356 damage.

Trash left on back porch—damage $1,250.

Smoking cigarette set mattres afire—Greensboro city jail $6.

Frank Walker, 65 years of age, lost his life in fire from defective oil stove fire.

Phosphorous spilled on laboratory floor—$200 damage.

Incendiary—kids playing, age from 10 to 12 years. Vacant residence—damage $275.

Smoking in paint shop—damage $555.

Oil stove left burning in a closet—$4,200 damage to house.

Three children on second floor unable to escape died from fire—ages 4 years, 3 years, 13 months.

Hot plate left on—just a matter of $9,000 damage.

Walter Dicker was burned to death in dwelling fire—cause unknown. Loss of $4,000 to the building.

Steam pipe leaked on electric water heater causing electrical arc to trash accumulated around heater$2,000.

Robert Ray Blackwelder, age 1 1-2 years, burned to death in fire caused by defective refrigerator.

Wiping floors with white gasoline—$1,300 damage.

Occupant had $1,120 in money burned from oil stove fire. House was damaged $3,500.

C. H. Edwards died of burns from explosion of gas in lighting hot water heater.

After a drinking party one of the drunks sleeping on settee dropped match—$1,500.

Rats between walls caused fire of $3,750 damage to dwelling.

Iron left on—no one home—$100.

Burning fire pot to smoke meat—damage $175.

Matches used for making flowers—rats probably set off—$455.

Shirley Ann Tillman age 5 years, James Robert Tillman age 3 years, burned to death in their home, cause of fire unknown.

Rats and matches in an old house—damage $1,600.

Carelessness in starting fire in oil circulator—$1,500.

Miss Lelia Hamilton's body, badly burned, was found on the springs of bed. She was last seen about 1 a.m. and her room was locked. The fire smoldered and burned until 8:14 a.m. when a cab driver saw smoke coming from her room. Dr. W. N. Dalton, Forstyth County coroner, ruled she came to her death by smoking in bed.

I believe you will agree with me that most of the above fires were caused by plain carelessness and could have been prevented.

DONALD CHARLES ON THE MARCH TO HIGHER ACIEVEMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles of the Charlotte Fire Department, past president of our Association for two terms, and presently a member of the Advisory board, was elected first vice president of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs at the annual meeting held in Lexington, Kentucky, last June. He held the office last year of second vice president and with the plan of advancing officers he will become president of that great association in 1953.

CITIES AND TOWNS HAVING NO FIRE LOSS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Aberdeen reported no loss for ten months; Faison one; Carthage no loss for seven months; Graham four; Monroe seven; Morganton one; Salisbury two; Siler City none for eight months; and Statesville had two months with no reported fire loss.

Mr. Chairman: It is a great privilege to be able to read the names of the towns and cities which have reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office the fact that they had a month or months without any any fire loss. On the other hand it hurts me, as your statistician, for you to fail to report these no loss honor months as they cannot be read at your convention. I know there are many more towns and cities that have had months without fire loss during 1951. As I stated last year in my report to the convention, unless you so advise the Insurance Commissioner's office you cannot be placed on this honor roll.

SAFETY PROGRAM: President Curtis Flanagan has stressed a safety program for firemen and equipment during the past year, and he has surely devoted a lot of study, thought, and time to this program everywhere he has gone. He has attended most of the affiliated asso-

ciations' meetings, driving many, many miles and this has been his theme. He says that records show that per miles driven the fire equipment of North Carolina has made by far better safety records than that of privately owned cars. He further says, "that this is a record of which the fire services of North Carolina should be proud."

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 24th annual Fire College and Drill School was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on May 19, 20, 21, and 22. The school was reported to be one of the most successful ever held and was well attended, with interest and enthusiasm never before shown to be any greater. Sherwood Brockwell, director-chairman, and Charles L. Burkett, vice chairman, along with the instructors are due high praise for conducting such a fine North Carolina Fire College and Drill School.

FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN WINNERS: Your statistician has received a release that gives all the winners of the Fire Prevention Week contest, from Mr. Richard E. Stevens, Engineer of the National Fire Protection Association: "Boston, Massachusetts—Fort Wayne, Indians, won the Grand Award in the United States for the best 1951 Municipal Fire Prevention Week program in the international contest, annually sponsored by the Fire Prevention Clean-up Campaign Committee of the National Fire Protection Association, it was announced by Percy Bugbee, Chairman of the committee and General Manager of the National Fire Protection Association. The purpose of this contest is to stimulate competition and encourage the use of Fire Prevention Week as a 'Springboard' for year-round fire prevention programs. Louisville, Kentucky, Atlantic, Iowa, Los Aamoa, New Mexico, and Fort Collins, Colorado were judged next in that order of all United States communities entering."

Winner of the first place in the Government division of the contest was United States Army, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Winning towns and cities in North Carolina in the Honorable Mention Class V (population 20,000 to 50,000) were Fayetteville and Salisbury which tied for first honors. Winston-Salem won second place and Greensboro third. We are proud of these cities for winning these honors. They worked hard and did a swell job. We salute them!

AFFILIATED FIRE ASSOCIATIONS: The State Allied Associations have had one of the most active years in their history, it is reported. Chief Charles Burkett, President of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association reports that organization has had a very active and successful year. The Sandhills Firemen's Association was entertained by the Hamlet Firemen with a good attendance. Last month Southern Pines was the host to the annual meeting of the Sandhills Convention, with Insurance Commissioner Waldo Cheek and State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell being the principal speakers. The East Carolina

Firemen's Association held meetings at the following places during the year; January at La Grange, April at Morehead City, and July at Mount Olive. Mr. George R. Ivey, Secretary of the Roanoke River Association, told me that their association had had a successful year with considerable activity. A meeting was held every other month for the entire year. These meetings were held in Jackson, Enfield, Rocky Mount (with Battleboro acting as host), Weldon, Rich Square, Whittakers, and Halifax. Mr. Ken Church and Mr. Dick Brantley, representing the State Insurance Department, attended some of these meetings. The following guest speakers were also present on some occasions: Mr. Sherwood Brockwell, State Fire Marshal, Congressman-elect Fountain, Associate Justice Itimous Valentine, and the Honorable Wayland Spruill. These meetings were atended by an average of 100 or more firemen.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS AND LOSS OF LIFE: Mr. Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, advises me, "A statistical report of the National Board of Fire Underwriters places the estimated fire losses in the United States for the year 1951 at $730,084.000." The last printed report available to me, the National Fire Protection Association, stated that "the approximate total loss for 1950 was $776,440,000." If the 1951 estimate by the National Board of Fire Underwriters is not excessive then our 1951 loss would be a drop of $46,356,000. In 1950 there were 600,000 building fires in the United States with an estimated loss of $699,600,000. There were an additional 1,200,700 fires other than buildings—aircraft, grass fires, motor vehicles, forest, ship rubbish, etc. —which represented an additional loss of $76,840,000. These combined made a total of 1,800,700 fires and the total loss approximately $776,440,000 in the year 1950. Breaking down these 1,800,700 fires shows:

Public buildings accounted for	12,000; loss	$ 40,700,000
Residential	387,000; loss	218,200,000
Mercantile	59,300; loss	128,000,000
Manufacturing	32,000; loss	155,750,000
Miscellaneous	109,700; loss	156,950,000
Other than building fires	1,200,700; loss	76,840,000

The National Fire Protection Association at this date has no concrete figures on the number of deaths caused by fire for 1951. They are only estimating in the near number of 12,000 or 1,000 each month. We hope and pray that like 1950 over 1949 another 1,000 or more lives were saved in 1951 from the estimated 12,000 annually lost from fire.

THE HOSE & NOZZLE: No doubt most all of the fire departments in the State have, by this time, had the privilege of seeing and reading one of the ten issues of The Hose & Nozzle. This firemen's publication devoted to the fire service of North Carolina is owned and published by the Troy Fire Department. Chief of the Troy Fire Department is H. R. Holt, the Editor is John C. Wallace, and the Assistant

Editor is Bob Kernes. Your Statistician has had the privilege of receiving each of the first ten issues, and believe me I have enjoyed reading each and every one of them. The caption on the front cover reads, "The Hose & Nozzle covers all departments of North Carolina State Firemen's Association." These boys are more than anxious for every fire department in North Carolina, at any time they have a news item pertaining to the fire service of their home town or State, to send it in to them for publication.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENTERTAINED: The Executive Committee met in a business session at the Cannon Mills' Y. M. C. A., Kannapolis, North Carolina on Friday, February 1, 1952. Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer, acted as host to the meeting. After the business session was concluded Ed took the group through the Cannon Mills on a tour. Moon Wyrick bragged to Ed all through the tour about how beautiful the towels were and asked where were the samples. Ed said it was not sample day, so Moon drove back to Greensboro towel-less. The tour was very interesting and educational. When you are in Kannapolis I know Ed Johnson would be delighted to take you through the plant.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF C. W. "WOODY" HEWETT: C. W. "Woody" Hewett, Chief of the Carolina Beach Fire Department since 1948, died at Duke Hospital on December 30, 1951, after an illness of two months, at the age of 35 years. Chief Hewett was one of Carolina Beach's most widely known and highly respected citizens. He was the winner last year of the "Man of the Year" award given by the Lions Club. City Manager Hamilton paid high tribute to Chief Hewett for his effective administration of the fire department. During his tenure Mr. Hewett was cited on two occasions by State Fire Officials for his high degree of efficiency. Under his administration the fire loss for Carolina Beach dropped from $2.50 to 50 cents per capita. Chief C. W. "Woody" Hewett, as we who attended the 1949 and 1950 conventions will remember, was a host unexcelled to our conventions.

IN MEMORY OF J. B. RAWLS, Jr. For the first time in the history of the Rockingham Fire Department tragedy attended their efforts. On the afternoon of Thursday, July 24, 1952, when the men responded to a grass fsire alarm, one of their most devoted firemen attempted to crawl over a wire fence in order to kill the blaze nearing a house. In this attempt about 4,000 volts of electricity passed through the body of this loyal and devoted fireman, J. B. Rawls, Jr., killing him almost instantly. The firemen, his brother firemen, started giving him artificial respiration immediately and continued to do so on the trip to the Hamlet Hospital, where Dr. Long pronounced him dead on arrival.

J. B. Rawls, Jr., served his country in the armed services for four years during World War II, doing overseas duty. Chief Covington stated he was a courageous fireman, and was not excelled by any man on the

force for initiative and for expenditure of the physical energy necessary to carry through on a fire-fighting job. He was first and foremost a fireman when the alarm sounded. At approximately 50 roll calls this year (fire drills and meetings) J. B. was counted absent only one time. He was loved by the Rockingham Fire Department for his loyalty, sincerity, and devotion to duty.

In closing my report to the sixty-fifth annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association here assembled in our Mother Host City of Greensboro, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to our Insurance Commissioner, Waldo C. Cheek, the Highway Safety Division, Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics section, and to our departed friend Dr. Clyde A. Ervin, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the past 18 years. You can be assured it has been a privilege to have served you to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

Gentlemen: I am happy to be here with you. I know you have lots of business ahead and if you will allow me, not to read the report but to present it to the Association for your later reading.

Motion by J. T. Lloyd of Chapel Hill that the report be accepted; seconded by W. W. Creasman, of Tryon, and duly carried.

The Chair recognizes Chief Bissett of Wilson, N. C.

CHIEF BISSETT: I would like to make a motion to the effect that we, the 65th convention of the Association of North Carolina State Firemen, send flowers to one of our beloved members who is unable to be here; he has been seriously ill for some time, and I am speaking with reference to our friend Sherwood Brockwell. I am sure that will go a long ways toward enlightening his heart.

Motion was seconded by S. T. Dunn, of Southern Pines, and duly carried.

The Chair recognizes Secretary John L. Miller.

MR. MILLER:
Mr. President, Young Fellows:

I desire now to present to you two sections that we desire to have added to our by-laws. Amend the by-laws of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association as follows:

Under "Management" article 2, by adding section 5, following section 4, these words:

"Section 5: No Negro fireman shall be eligible for membership in this association."

A change in the by-laws, if any, requires the Executive Committee to hear same before this convention is opened. The by-laws were not

Brockwell, had died a few weeks back and that the position had not been filled. Under the laws of the State of North Carolina that appointment is made by the State Insurance Commissioner, and actually by law that man's position, being purely technical, is deputy insurance commissioner; that the deputy is the man that works directly with the fire departments, organizing fire departments of the State of North Carolina. Mr. Cheek's proposal was this: He said, "I have not made an appointment and am not going to unless and until we can get together in this meeting. My proposal is this: That your Executive Board of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association be authorized to appoint three active men from your own organization and let these three men plus your insurance commissioner, plus an appointee by the Insurance Commissioner form a trusteeship totalling in number five men. The purpose of that five men board roughly is to go over the field, see what we have got, make the necessary appointment or appointments to fill Mr. Brockwell's place and have that board set up a program and help bring an educational and instructional program to the firemen of the State of North Carolina on a local level and let this program be a supplement to your North Carolina Fire College and Pump School."

He pointed out this fact, which is true. By law the Commissioner does not have to consult you. He can appoint whom he pleases but he chooses not to do this. He wants to get men to work with you that you are willing to work with. Then so far as the set-up is con-cerned in North Carolina the Fire College and Pump School remains as it is and let that annually be the basis upon which you work.

In general that is the resolution that I read to you. And he pointed out this fact: That the Board of Trustees that you yourself have three men on and that by virtue of that fact you can out-vote the commissioner, he wants to take the position of coordinator. His personal observation of it is this. He said "I have not in my lifetime ever answered a fire call. For that reason I do not feel that I or any insurance commissioner following me would be technically qualified to instruct a group of firemen. So I feel that the office needs your assistance to that degree, to set up that trusteeship and that trusteeship make its own recommendations to that office."

The expense that Board goes to is paid through the State Insurance Commissioner's office, which is no cost to you or to your association. The president of the Association has the privilege of sitting in on any meetings or call meetings so he can stay in touch with what is going on. So as Chairman of your Executive Committee he can make any report back that he sees fit. Gentlemen, I am frank to tell you, that is an offer that has no precedent.

That is the resolution that was voted on.

This board can make recommendations but the appointment, whatever it may be, has to be made by the Insurance Commissioner to comply with the statutes of the State of North Carolina.

There was a motion that the session adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried, and the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday morning, August 19th, at ten o'clock a.m.

BUSINESS SESSION

Wednesday, August 19th, 1953, Ten O'clock A. M.

The meeting was called to order by President C. W. Wyrick.

INVOCATION

By REV. D. C. WEBBER

Pastor Carolina Beach Community Church

Our heavenly Father, we thank Thee that we can gather here as a group of men to carry on some of the activities that surround us, and O, Father, help uto to live more ordered lives. We pray that we may be mindful of God in Heaven who sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins and not only for our sins but for the sins of the whole world. Create in us a great desire to serve in a greater capacity than before. May Thou grant unto Thy servants strength and wisdom to carry on the activities of this meeting that we may bring glory and honor to Thy name. We thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Minutes of the 1952 meeting of the State Firemen's Association held in Greensboro, N. C., were presented.

There was a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded, duly carried and it was so ordered.

PRESIDENT WYRICK:

We will now have the report of the Statistician.

MR. ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician:

Mr. President, Fellow Firemen:

I am pleased to be here at Carolina Beach for a lot of reasons. They have been host to us for many years and we are grateful to them for the privilege of coming back. I assure you that I have worked many many days on my report as statistician but I am not going to bore you by reading the entire report but there are some things I want to call to your attention. The full report will be found in the Minutes.

President Wyrick, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to submit to you my report of statistics and happenings in the fire service of North Carolina for 1952. Here we meet again on the sandy shore of the blue Atlantic enjoying the hospitality of Carolina Beach Fire Department and the citizens of this friendly seashore city. We are saddened, however, that we firemen have lost our host and friend of two years ago, in the death of Chief C. W. Hewitt, who with his firemen and citizens entertained royally our convention in 1938, 1949, 1951. Now we are here to hold our sixty-sixth meeting and we are especially grateful to Chief Knox and his firemen for extending us their invitation to hold our convention here this year the fourth time since 1938.

IN MEMORIAM: Sherwood Brockwell, age 67, Deputy Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshall answered his last call on June 1, 1953, after a lingering illness of several years. In spite of being a sick man for almost five years he still carried on his work in his office and worked with the Fire Service in North Carolina almost to the very end. He was the first full time paid fire chief for the city of Raleigh. He was appointed in August, 1914, by Colonel James D. Young as the Commissioner of Insurance for North Carolina, as the first state's Fire Marshal and held that position for nearly 39 years and in point of service was the nation's oldest fire marshal. His tenure made him one of the oldest state employees in length of service. He became a special member of the Raleigh fire department in 1902 because he was too young to be a regular member. In 1912 he took training with the New York City Fire Department. Following this he organized Raleigh's first paid fire department and was the nation's youngest paid fire chief. Brockwell had been in his state office two years (1916) when he announced a state wide program for training firemen. It was the nation's first such statewide program. The program led to the first annual statewide fire college and drill school which was held at Asheville in 1929. He helped write the state's building code and the hotel fire law which was passed in 1947 shortly after the Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta which claimed 121 lives. Brockwell considered the two laws among the top accomplishments of his career.

I had the pleasure of knowing "Brock" for the past 33 years. For 13 years since becoming your statistician I was associated closely with him and he cheerfully worked with me in furnishing me material for use in my annual statistician's report to you. I am very grateful to have had the pleasure of knowing and working with such a fine Christian man. Never have I been associated with a fireman who was any more Firemanic and Dynamic in his plain down-to-earth fire work. Putting it in other words, he was a Fireman, an Educator of Firemen of all capacities from buck private volunteer or paid fireman to top brass

firemen. He was a friend to every fireman who ever knew him and was known to most of the 8,500 members of our Association as "Brock." He was loved by all firemen as a Dad.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1952: Memphis, Tennessee was winner of the Grand Award of the National Fire Protection Association in the United States in the International Fire Prevention Week contest. Atlantic, Iowa, (population 6,472) tied with New York City for second place, with Louisville, Kentucky, Chicago, and Providence, Rhode Island, third.

The government division winners included Ft. Bragg which was third out of all the United States army entries.

In Class V population (20,000 to 50,000) Salisbury received Honorable Mention which is surely quite an honor in the International contest. They tied in twelfth place with Martinsville, Virginia, which was the twelfth position winner out of all municipalities in the United States. Winning cities and towns in North Carolina were Salisbury 1st, Fayetteville 2nd, and Winston-Salem 3rd, honorable mention going to Rocky Mount and Gastonia.

INTER-CHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST: Salisbury won 2nd place and Winston-Salem took 10th place in the National Fire Waste contest in 1952 in fire prevention activities in the United States. While Salisbury won 2nd place in the Class V population (20,000 to 50,000) Winston-Salem pulled down the 10th win in the nation, Canada, and Alaska contest in Class IV population (50,000 to 100,000). Your statistician wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the chiefs, firemen, and other citizens in the above cities who assisted in winning these outstanding awards.

Chief Brown of Winston-Salem fire department reports that in connection with his Fire Prevention program for 1952 the city of Winston-Salem received four honors. The twin city company won an honor award from the National Board of Fire Underwriters for outstanding public service in fire prevention. His local radio station WSJS also won the same award for outstanding public service in the fire prevention contest. One of the top 10 awards in the National Fire Waste Council Chamber of Commerce fire contest was won by Winston-Salem.

Chief C. W. Wyrick and his Greensboro firemen working in cooperation with radio station WFMY helped the station to win second place in the nation, tying with Baltimore, Maryland, and Dallas, Texas. A second place Honor Award was won by TV station WFMY, with the coperation of the Fire Prevention Bureau, for outstanding service in fire prevention. This award was presented by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and competition was open to all TV stations throughout the United States. Baltimore, Maryland, and Dallas, Texas, were the other two cities that tied with Greensboro.

DONALD S. CHARLES HONORED BY SOUTHEASTERN: Chief Donald S. Charles, past president of our association for two terms, was honored by the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs at their 25th annual convention at Valdosta, Georgia, by elevating him to the presidency of the Association. The Southeastern is comprised of the chiefs of the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Chief Charley Burkett has been appointed as state vice president of the Southeastern, and is conducting a drive for membership in the association.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The death tolls including protected cities and towns combined with the entire rural area of our state last year was 108 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings) reported by Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Section State Board of Health. This is an increase of one death over 1951. The Bureau reported 79 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This is 61 less deaths than from this cause in the year 1951. His report shows 15 deaths by hot substance, corrosive liquid, and steam, this being two more deaths than the year 1951. The above figures from the Bureau report show a total of 202 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in 1952. Thank God when we compare the total of 202 deaths in 1952 with the 262 lives taken by the Fire Demon of our men, women, and children in the year 1951 it makes us realize that we firemen of North Carolina have exercised our efforts of Fire Protection with the help of the Supreme Chief, in reducing it to 60 less deaths. We can not pass here without saying and recognizing the fact that North Carolina's suburban and rural areas now have protection of life and property in many areas and counties by urban and county fire departments.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: The Insurance Department of the state of North Carolina has received information from the National Board of Fire Underwriters listing $12,963,243 as the amount of fire loss of all property in North Carolina on which insurance is carried through stock companies. The estimated loss of uninsured property in North Carolina is placed at $10,133,240. The estimated mutual companies loss in North Carolina is placed at $7,333,665. Therefore the estimated total fire losses in the state for the year 1952 are $30,430,148. The records of the Insurance Department after taking the National Board of Fire Underwriters' figure of 33 1-3 per cent for uninsured property, find that 42.6 per cent of the property in North Carolina is covered by stock companies and 24 per cent covered by mutual companies. Assuming that the rates of losses are the same for stock, mutual, and uninsured property they arrive at the figure of $30,430,148 as being the estimated fire loss for the state for the year 1952. The above loss

is by far the greatest loss the FIRE DEMON has taken from the citizens of the Grand Old State since I have been statistician for the past thirteen years. We may take consolation in the fact that one big reason for an increase in our losses in North Carolina and the United States is, as we all know, that cost of buildings is considerably higher and naturally valuations of property higher and property owners have increased their insurance to offset the higher cost, so we can readily expect our fire losses to rise in proportion.

UNUSUAL FIRES FOR 1952. For the past several years I have reported many unusual causes of fires which brought disastrous results. The 1952 reports list very few out-of-the-ordinary fires, but the few given follow: Penny behind fuse plug—$900 loss.

Television antenna falling on power line—$500 damage.

Christmas decorations at Elizabeth City school—$12,000 damages.

Ashes left on porch—$700.

Colon Clymer convicted of attempted arson—given 2 years of hard labor.

Three persons lost their lives at a Greensboro fire—Lewis Thorpe, 65, Daisy Small, 65, Katherine Lindsay, age 4; the ones suffering burns were Benjamin Holt, age 9, Madeline Holt, age 8, Charles Holt, 10; Madeline Holt, mother of the children, tried in July, 1952, and sentenced to two years for negligence of children. Apparent cause—careless smoking.

Paper box of hot ashes left on back porch—$800 loss.

Burning sulphur candles to get rid of squirrels—$8,670 damage.

Fire started on work bench probably from electric soldering iron—loss $19,469.

Fire in barrel to warm by set oil on fire—damage $3,885.

Fire from oil heater explosion caused only $600 damages but killed three children.

There were 37 unusual fires during 1951 reported by the fire chiefs and only 11 in 1952 or a reduction of 26. The reduction of these peculiar fires is, no doubt, a reflection, to a great degree, of the fire prevention program conducted by most fire departments throughout the state.

FRIES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: In North Carolina during 1952 there were 33 fires with a loss of $20,000 or more each. This shows only one more large fire than occurred in 1951, but there was a sharp increase in loss. For 1952 the 33 fires caused a loss

of $2,964,090 as against $1,703,170 loss in 1951. This increase of $1,260,920 is one of the greatest in any one year during my term of office as statistician.

These fires are listed below:

Aberdeen—Aberdeen Lumber Co., $37,500.

Asheville—Candler Transfer Co., $40,000.

Boone—Hotel, B. Shop, meat market, $95,000.

Carthage—Warehouse, $50,000.

Charlotte—The Henry Walke Co., wholesale machinery, $59,000; Stanley Drug Store, $29,687; Al Goodman Shoe Co., $140,000; Myers Park Methodist Church, $20,000; Clean-Sweep Co. and Allison-Erwin Co., manufacturing and warehouse, $81,950; Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, $40,977; Harris-Horne Shoe Co., $28,403.

Clayton—Central Oil and Milling, $125,000.

Cleveland County—Cotton gin, $40,000.

Columbia—Englehardt, storage warehouse, $75,000.

Davidson—The Southern Cotton Oil Co., $38,000.

Durham—Durham Baking Co., $258,000; (Damaged in one fire), Dixie Wholesale Co $8,070, Piedmont Coffee Co. $12,000, Wholesale Gro. $176, Southern Wholesalers $35,000, Dixie Wholesale Co. $171,-235, total loss in this fire $226,481.

Dunn—Colonial Stores, Inc., and Carolina Power & Light Co., $67,000.

Elk Park—Cafe, storage building, meeting hall, $23,000.

Fayetteville—Theatre, $50,000.

Forest City—Peeble-Kimball Co., $30,550.

Gastonia—Hotel Gaston Inn, $32,000.

Gibson—The Southern Cotton Oil Co., $75,000.

Greensboro—Rucker Frozen Foods, Inc., $40,000; Davis Tire Co., $19,850.

Greenville—Super Market $26,800; Drs. Graves and Battle dental offices, $21,461; St. Raphael Catholic School, $53,622.

High Point—Universal TV Manufacturing Co., $26,125; High Point Mattress Co., $24,589; warehouse, offices and apartments, $31,909.

Kannapolis—Bell Music Co. and Davis Dees, $40,305.

Leaksville—Blue Ridge Furniture Co., $29,000.

Linville—Linville Golf Club, $72,000.

Mt. Airy—Weddle Grocery Co., $20,400.

New Bern—Hamilton's Cafe, Holton's Garage, Sanderlin Battery Shop, $150,000.

Raleigh—Restaurant $22,000; K. & W. Motor Co., $152,598; A & P Food Store, $74,383.

Rutherfordton—Alexander Schools, Inc., Gym and equipment, $35,000.

Sampson County—Lumber mill, $40,000.

Sanford—Sanford Tobacco Co., $100,000.

Shelby—North Lake Country Club $41,000.

Statesville—Sechrest Veneer Co., $85,000.

Washington—Whitford Drug Store, Colonial Stores, $24,000.

Wilmington—Temple Baptist Church—$35,000.

Wilson—W. A. Lucas dwelling, $22,000; Wilson Lumber Co., $25,000.

Winston-Salem—Efird Department Store, $54,500; Railroad Salvage Co., $35,000.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: Twenty-nine causes are listed as being responsible for the 2,219 fires reported for 1952, six of which represent 1551 fires, or 69.9 per cent of the total 2,219 fires. These are: Carelessness—129; defective flues, chimneys, and furnaces—151; defective wiring—230, an increase of 65 over those reported from this cause in 1951; gas, oil stoves, and heaters—270, up 20 in number; cigarettes and careless smoking in bed—286, an increase of 66 fires from this cause during 1952; and 485 unknown, or ones for which no definite cause could be ascertained. This latter cause shows the greatest increase—181 more fires from unknown causes than occurred in 1951.

TOTAL FIRES REPORTED: While not all fires are yet reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office there has been, however, a helpful increase in the number of reports submitted by the fire chiefs. In 1951, 1,700 fires were reported and for the year 1952 there were 2,219 reports submitted to the Commissioner. This increase of 519 fires does not necessarily mean that our state had more fires in 1952, but rather that the records were more accurately kept and reported.

TOWNS AND CITIES REPORTING FIRES: It is most interesting to note the increase in the number of towns and cities reporting their fires in 1952. In 1951 just 64 turned in reports to the Insurance Commissioner's office, while in 1952 there were reports from 136 ranging from one report to 463 each. This increase of 72 chiefs in towns and cities complying with the law in furnishing the Commissioner the required information about fire losses in their jurisdiction is commendable, and I hope that for 1953 the unreported ones will turn in reports for all fires with losses.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRE LOSS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Aberdeen reported no loss for six months; Albe-

marle two; Asheboro three; Carthage three; Concord four; Farmville three; Gastonia one; Graham had no fire loss for five months; Lexingtno two; Monroe led with no loss for seven months; Mooresville one; Mount Airy two; Salisbury three; Siler City one; St. Pauls four; and Statesville had no loss for one month during 1952. There is no doubt in your statistician's mind that there are many more cities and towns in North Carolina that would have been added to the above ones which had one or more months with no fire loss, had you only taken a minute to drop the Insurance Commissioner a card or letter stating this fact as the given cities and towns did. I plead with you to do this, as I have done in the past, so you can join the Honored List.

SCHOOL FIRES: Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Director Division of Insurance of the State Board of Education, furnished me the following information about school fires of North Carolina for the year 1952-1953. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 88 of the 172 administrative units of North Carolina. He said he could only give these facts on the 88 units as his department does not have any records concerning the units not participating in this program. For the fiscal year 1952-1953 his division had 42 different school fire losses. Thirty-two of these losses amounted to a total of $231,571,16, and the other ten outstanding losses estimated at $105,500, making the total losses for the fiscal year $337,071.16. The largest loss was $194,000 on the Franklinville School in Randolph County on January 1, 1953. In comparing the above total estimated loss on these 42 different fires with the 29 school fires in 1951-1952 period we find an increase of 13 more school fires with $296,254.35 increase the FIRE DEMON exacted from our school system in these 88 administrative units.

The fire chiefs reported an additional eight school fires other than the administrative units, with only negligible losses.

Your statistician received the following letter from the Honorable Charles F. Carroll, Superintendent Public Instruction:

"July 23, 1953. Mr. Albert W. Brinson, State Firemen's Association, New Bern, N. C. Dear Mr. Brinson: I have your request of July 20. After checking with the Division of Insurance, we think there were no casualties from fire in the schools of North Carolina during 1952-53. Most of the recent fires occcurred at night when buildings were not occupied by pupils. Sincerely yours, Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent Public Instruction."

I, as your statistician, am happy to be able to state that I have not had to report the death of a single school child in my thirteen reports covering the same number of years.

HOTEL AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: Twenty-seven hotel fires were reported for 1952—a decrease of four from the 31 listed

in 1951. As usual cigarettes and smoking in bed account for the greater number—24 of the 27 hotel fires. The loss in each fire ranged from $10 to $7,777.53.

The hotel fires follow with estimated damages for each city: Little Home Tourist Court $15, Asheville; Adams Plaza $156, Charlotte; Duke Hotel $85, Elizabeth City; Millbrook Hotel $10, La Fayette Hotel $10, Millbrook Hotel $20, La Fayette Hotel $20, Millbrook Hotel $25, all of Fayetteville; Gate City Hotel $19.95, Gate City Hotel $25, Clegg Hotel $25, Hotel Greensboro $34.50, Hotel Greensboro $32.30, Clegg Hotel $25, Hotel Greensboro $28, Hotel Greensboro $18, O. Henry Hotel $425, Hotel Greensboro $22.50, Hotel Greensboro $29.50, Hotel Greensboro $35, Hotel Greensboro $24.50, all of Greensboro; Hotel Proctor $425, Hotel in Greenville $7,777.53, these two of Greenville; Hotel March $150, Lexington; Sir Walter Hotel $60, Hotel Raleigh $1,055; Raleigh; Robert S. Lee $1,350, Winston-Salem.

There were 142 apartment house fires during 1952 which is an increase of 50 over the 92 reported for the year 1952. It would be difficult to estimate the number of lives endangered in this large number of fires in apartments.

Only one hospital fire was listed and that was for slight damage. Two orphanage dormitory fires were reported although neither was serious. There were 12 church fires which was one above the 11 listed for 1951.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS AND LOSS OF LIFE: Mr. Charles T. Houston, assistant manager insurance department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States advises me that a statistical report of the National Board of Fire Underwriters places the estimated destruction of property by fire in the United States at a new peak of $815,134,000, an increase of $11.6 per cent over 1951. It was also pointed out that this is in excess of the preliminary estimate. The estimated loss for 1951 was $730,084,000 or an increase of $85,050,000 in 1952. The National Board estimated losses for the first six months of 1953 at $432,081,000 or an increase over the first six months of 1952. These estimated losses include an allowance for uninsured and unreported losses.

ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF UNITED STATES FIRES BY OCCUPANCY, 1951:

Public buildings accounted for	13,300	$ 49,570,000
Residential	404,800	197,300,000
Mercantile	61,700	138,600,000
Manufacturing	36,500	172,750,000
Miscellaneous	108,700	181,330,000
Total building fires	625,000	$739,550,000

Other than building fires, aircraft, motor vehicles, forest fires, rubbish, grass, brush and miscellaneous	1,164,000	$97,050,000
Other than building fires, aircraft, motor vehicles, forest fires, rubbish, grass, brush and miscellaneous	1,164,00	$97,050,00
Grand hotal	1,789,000	$836,600,000

LOSS OF FIRE IN THE UNITED STATES BY FIRES IN 1952: At this time your statistician has not been able to get concrete figures on the number of deaths caused by fire in 1952. The estimated number is placed at around 12,000 which was 1,000 each month or 33 lives taken by the Fire Demon every twent-four hours.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: SILVER ANNIVERSARY: The 25th annual Fire College and Drill School was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on May 25, 26, 27, and 28. President C. W. Wyrick opened the school officially following a welcome address by Chief Donald S. Charles, with response by I. Miller Warren of Plymouth, President of the Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association. Chief Wyrick then turned the school over to Assistant Director, Chief Charles Burkett of Salisbury. The school had record breaking attendance and was considered by all to be the most successful in the history of the school.

ANNOUNCING THE NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S PUMP OPERATOR'S SCHOOL: August 10, 1953. "In view of the widespread interest evidenced in the Pump Operators' School which heretofore has been conducted in conjunction with the Annual Session of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School, the Executive Committee of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, sponsor of the statewide training program, in a meeting held in Concord, N. C., on February 26, concluded that it would be to the best interest of all concerned to conduct a separate school for the instruction of pump operators.

It was felt that such a plan of operation would make it possible for a greater number of students to receive a more thorough and comprehensive course of instruction in this very important phase of fire department operations.

The Pump Operators School, sponsored by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association will be held in Charlotte beginning the 28th of September and continuing through September 30, 1953, and will supplant the annual Pump School conducted by the Charlotte Department.

The course as authorized by the Executive Committee will consist of three years of instruction. A credit card will be issued at the end

of the first and the second year and upon satisfactory completion of the third year a diploma will be awarded by the Association.

Inasmuch as credit received through attendance at the Pump Schools held in conjunction with the Annual Fire College and Drill School has already been applied in issuing diplomas, only attendance at this and future sessions of the school can be considered in the issuance of credit cards and the awarding of Pump School Diplomas.

It is requested that this announcement be given widespread publicity and that arrangements be made for representatives of your department to attend this school. Charles L. Burkett, Chairman N. C. Firemen's Fire College and Operators' School Committee."

PUMP SCHOOL: The Charlotte Fire Department under the supervision of Chief Donald S. Charles held Charlotte's "First of its kind" pump school September 22 and 23, 1952. The total number of firemen attending was 155, with 45 towns represented. The city of Charlotte bore the entire expense of this school. The school was reported to have been an outstanding success and enjoyed by all. In order to give you a clearer picture of the function of the school and the faculty, I list the complete program:

Monday, September 22, registration.

Invocation—Captain B. C. Gibson, Charlotte, N. C.

Address of Welcome—Chief Donald S. Charles, Charlotte, N. C. Chief Charles turns school over to Captain Walter J. Black, Director of Training, Charlotte Fire Department. L

The Design and Basic Operation of All Types of Fire Pumps—Mr. Harry M. Blank, Chief Engineer, The Seagrave Corporation, Columbus, Ohio.

Pump Operation and Maintenance—Harry M. Blank

Lunch (sandwiches, pies, cakes and drinks are available in the school building if you care to remain on the grounds).

Fire Streams, Pumps, Nozzle Pressure and Friction Loss—Capt. E. E. McDowell, Drillmaster, Greensboro Fire Department.

Hose Lines Up Inside Stairways and Fire Escapes—Chief C. L. Cox, Durham Fire Department.

Sprinkler Systems—Asst. Chief C. M. Griswold, Charlotte Fire Department.

Indirect Application of Fog Streams (Movie)—Made by the Miami Fire Department (General Information).

Adjourn.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Opening Prayer—Captain E. E. McDowel.

"Hose Evolutions and Hose Line Equipment"—Captain Walter J. Black, Director of Training, Charlotte Fire Department.

Subject: *"Rotary Gear Pumps"*—Roy T. Rogers, American-La-France, Foamite Corp., Atlanta, Ga., and H. R. Burton, Jr., Winston-Salem Fire Department.

Subject: *"Mack Pumping Engines"*—Mr. Styron, Mack Motor Truck Corp., Atlanta, Ga., and Capt. Grady O. Lindler, Columbia, S. C., Fire Department.

Subject: *"Centrifugal Pumps"*—Robert Youman, The Seagrave Corp., and Chief J. Ludie Croom, Wilmington Fire Department.

Lunch.

"The Aerial Ladder As a Water Tower"—Assistant Chief J. M. Munday, Charlotte Fire Department.

"Field Operations With Pumping Engines"—All Instructors and Engineers.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL TRAINING COURSE: Chief Wyrick again reports a year of intensive training in his department and groups of invited firemen. Twenty-one visual demonstrations to various groups and fire departments and 241 fire prevention talks were presented to audiences totaling 42,220 persons. A three months annual advanced training course for officers and firemen was held from January through March, consisting of 74 hours in the course. One hundred and one firemen and officers took the course, 28 of whom were firemen and officers from neighboring cities around Greensboro who completed the course. Greensboro held a Pump School with the entire department participating along with 22 visiting firemen. In July they held a school on Gas Technology enrolling 100 firemen and officers. Chief Wyrick reports that the department sent 13 men to various schools over the nation during the past year.

AFFILIATED FIRE ASSOCIATIONS: I feel as though my report would be amiss if I failed to tell you of some of the activities of our affiliated fire organizations. They are doing a wonderful work in furthering friendship and brotherly love in this great fire service from the mountains to the sea, in this grand old state of North Carolina. There are five of these associations, they are: The Western N. C. Firemen's Association, Sandhill Association, Roanoke River Association, Eastern Carolina Association, and the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association.

The North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association is statewide and the majority of the active fire chiefs throughout the state comprise the membership. This association meets each year the day before the State Firemen's Association convenes. They hold the N. C. Fire Chief' Conference on this day in the host city of the state convention and this is more or less a prelude to the convening of our convention. Ex-president of the N. C. State Firemen's Association, Charles L. Burkett, is president, C. E. Morris vice president, I. Miller Warren secretary, and Ralph E. Marby treasurer. Vice presidents by districts are No. 1 J. S. Gray, Kinston, No. 2 C. J. Lawson, Durham, No. 3 Frank J. Viall, Southern Pines, No. 4 J. H. Munday, Charlotte, and No. 5 W. B. Cope, Sylva.

The Western N. C. Firemen's Association officers are H. L. Setzer, president, Canton; Wayne Creasman, vice president, Tryon; M. M. Jones, secretary, Enka; and Edwin Smathers treasurer. Secretary Jones advises your statistician that their association elected the above officers in July, 1952, at Enka and laid the groundwork for a mutual aid program. In September 1952 they met at Tryon and adopted a resolution favoring the sponsoring of law to permit volunteer firemen to use red lights and sirens on their cars. This resolution was passed on to President W. C. Wyrick for presentation to the Legislative Committee. Captain Fred Truelove and Fireman Eddie Smith of the Greensboro fire department presented to their association a program of fire prevention. Their next meeting was at Brevard with speaker of the day John Wallace, editor of Hose & Nozzle, who spoke on "Relationship of the Fire Department to the Public." In March, 1952, they met at Waynesville with the Hazelwood and Waynesville fire departments acting as hosts. President W. C. Wyrick was the guest speaker. The Mutual Aid program was discussed. In June past they met at Rutherfordton as guests of the fire department with ex-president of the N. C. Firemen's Association, Chief Donald Shuford, speaker with the subject "Service Above Self." Visitors from other departments were recognized, among them two members of the Fire College and Drill School, A. Y. Cottrell of Lenoir and Mack Mundy of Charlotte. The association had 90 per cent attendance at these five meetings. All were dinner meetings and their next get together is slated for September at Canton. You will have to agree with me that the Western Firemen had a full year of activity.

Mr. E. P. Leatherbury, secretary and treasurer of the Sandhill Firemen's Association reports on the activities of his association. The Sandhill group met with the following member fire departments from June 1951 to January 1953, Pinebluff, Southern Pines, and Wadesboro. The following member towns attending these association meetings were Aberdeen, Carthage, Clinton, Ellerbe, Gibson, Hamlet, Norwood, Pembroke, Pinebluff, Pittsboro, Pinehurst, Red Springs, Rockingham, Sanford, Southern Pines, St. Paul, Troy, Wadesboro, McCain, and Vass. This represented 20 departments attending the association meetings. There are 42 departments with membership in the Sandhill Association. The secretary states that some of the departments had to travel a considerable distance to attend. He also says that the association plans to have quarterly meetings beginning with September. Their annual convention was held in Wadesboro this past June with two business

sessions—morning and early afternoon—followed by a parade of fire equipment from the hand type pumps and hose to one of the newest 1953 fire trucks belonging to the Rockingham Fire Department. They also sponsored a beauty contest. Their next meeting will be held in Rockingham in September. The officers of the association are H. B. Fowler, Southern Pines, president; John C. Wallace, Troy, and editor of Hose & Nozzle, vice president; E. P. Leatherbury, Hamlet, secretary and treasurer. The secretary also reported that at their business meetings general discussions pertaining to fire fighting, handling equipment, and the importance and necessity of having representatives attend the state convention are stressed.

The Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association reports a year of activities, meeting July 1952 through June 1953 each second Tuesday in July, October, January, and April. They held their election meeting in New Bern in October with a membership attendance of about 150 members. The New Bern Fire Department entertained the group with a barbecue dinner. Talks were made by President W. C. Wyrick and Albert W. Brinson, statistician of the N. C. State Firemen's Association. Everett Jones represented the Insurance Commissioner, made a talk, and answered questions about the insurance of firemen. I. Miller Warren, chief of the Plymouth fire department, was elected president, Hodges McLawhorn from Ayden was chosen vice president, and E. W. Kinsey from La Grange was reelected secretary-treasurer. Their January meeting was held with the Newport fire department, and believe me you, they really treated the group to a delicious barbecued chicken dinner with all the accessories. The April meeting was held at Pinetops and they were entertained by the Pinetops Fire Department with a splendid meal. The last meeting was held in July at Plymouth with President I. Miller Warren and his Plymouth firemen as hosts. Mr. Duncan Arson, Division of Insurance Commissioner's office, made a short talk on preservation of evidence and immediate consultation with his office when in doubt as to the origin of the fire. Chief Gardner spoke on the subject of starting a movement toward establishing a fitting memorial to the late Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell. Following the meeting the various chiefs had a round table general session. Their October meeting is scheduled to be held in Robersonville. The Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association membership consists of the following cities and towns: Aurora, Ayden, Beaufort, Belhaven, Bethel, Columbia, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Faison, Farmville, Goldsboro, Hertford, Greenville, Kinston, LaGrange, Morehead City, Mount Olive, New Bern, Newport, Plymouth, Robersonville, Rocky Mount, Roper, Snow Hill, Walstonburg, Washington, Warsaw, Williamston, Windsor, and Winterville.

For the Roanoke River Association I have not been able to get any information as to their activities. I am sure that their association has had, as usual, a year of successful fire activities and firemen get

together friendships. The officers are: President, R. E. Sherwelte; first vice president, J. C. Bolton; second vice president, Boston Anthony; secretary-treasurer, Robert Ivey.

NEW MEMEBERSHIP IN OUR ASSOCIATION: The association has gained twelve new departments since our last meeting; they are Boiling Springs, Conway, Dobson, Four Oaks, Longview, Hickory, Mayodan, Pink Hill, Princeton, Pine Level, Star, Winton, and Kure Beach. The association now has a total membership of 263 cities and towns and approximately 8,000 firemen.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau report shows 25 deaths in 1952 of personnel in military aircraft. There were 18 deaths in 1951 and this is an increase of 7 more for 1952. There were six deaths of occupants of other aircraft which was six less than 1951. There were 13 other and unspecified aircraft accidents in 1952 with four for 1951, showing an increase of nine deaths. There was not one death reported by commercial transport aicraft for the year. The total of 44 deaths for 1952 is 10 more than the year 1951. The increase of military training operations in North Carolina could be credited to some extent for this increase in fatalities. There is no way I have of knowing just how many of these 44 deaths reported were involved in fire.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS: The Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles gives your statistician reports on oil truck and tanker accidents July 1951—June 1952 in North Carolina as 11 fatal accidents, with one or more deaths in each accident, with 15 total deaths and with one accident taking a toll of four lives. In the 11 fatal accidents there were nine persons injured. Nine of these accidents took place on highways and two in cities. The Safety Division report for July 1952-June 1953 states there were 13 fatal accidents with 15 deaths and five persons injured. All 13 accidents occurred outside of city limits. There were from one to four deaths in each of the 24 accidents covering the two-year period. You will note that there were only two out of the 24 that occurred in city limits. Over a period of years your statistician has noted less and less accidents from this source in cities and towns, and it is his belief that this has, no doubt, come about by the many cities and towns establishing truck routes through their streets and in most cases avoiding bad traffic hazards. I do not know how many of these oil truck and tanker accidents developed into fires but I suspect the majority did when they were loaded with combustibles.

In closing my report to the sixty-sixth annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association here assembled in the Grand Host City by the sea, Carolina Beach, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the following people who have furnished information

for my report: our Insurance Commissioner, Waldo C. Cheek; Everett B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshal; the Highway Safety Division; Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics North Carolina State Board of Health; Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States; Richard E. Stevens, Engineer National Fire Protection Association; Chief Donald S. Charles, President Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs; Charles S. Burkett, President North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs; E. P. Leatherbury, Secretary-Treasurer Sandhill Firemen's Association; I. Miller Warren, President East Carolina Firemen's Association; Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent Public Instruction; Marsh M. Jones, Secretary Western North Carolina Firemen's Association; T. B. Winborne, Director Division of Insurance State Board of Education; and E. E. McDowell, Supervisor of Training and personnel Greensboro Fire Department. I wish to say to every fireman who is a member of this fine organization that it has been a privilege to serve you to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

Motion that the report be accepted and seconded and duly carried, and it is so ordered.

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association
Concord, North Carolina

Dear Sirs:

The records of Mr. John L. Miller, Secretary, and Mr. Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer, of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, for the year ended June 30, 1953, have been audited by me and I submit herewith the following exhibits and comments:

EXHIBIT:

A—The North Carolina State Firemen's Association
Assets—Relief Fund and General Fund, June 30, 1953.

B—The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund
Assets—Mortuary Fund and General Fund, June 30, 1953.

C—John L. Miller, Secretary, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ended June 30, 1953.

D—The North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ended June 30, 1953.

E—The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ended June 30, 1953.

All receipts recorded by Mr. John L. Miller, Secretary, were deposited to proper accounts and subsequently remitted by check to Mr. Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer, who then recorded the remittances received by him and deposited them to the proper accounts. All disbursements were made by properly approved vouchers signed by the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

The records held by the Secretary and also by the Treasurer were found to be in agreement at June 30, 1953. This dual system of accounting creates a good internal control.

Verification of all bank balances were confirmed by the depository. The securities held as investments for all funds, were verified by confirmation from the custodian, The Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, High Point, North Carolina.

On February 25, 1953, the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company ceased being the custodian of the securities and became the investment management agency. Under this program, the investment management agency is authorized to keep all securities (other than bearer bonds); clip and collect all interest coupons on bonds; collect all interest on registered bonds and mortgages and all dividends on stocks including stock dividends; collect all amounts due upon the mautrity or call of bonds and preferred stocks or upon the sale or exchange of securities and to remit at convenient intervals to Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer. The investment management agency is not authorized to sell or purchase any securities unles instructed to do so by the investment committee.

The annual investment management agency commission is one-third of one per cent of the current value of all capital assets of the agency up to $250,000.00 and one-fourth of one per cent of such current value in excess of $250,000.00, except that only one-tenth of one per cent shall be charged with respect to the current value of all direct obligations of the United States Government.

On May 6, 1953, the Executive Committee appointed C. W. Wyrick, President, Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer, and John L. Miller, Secretary or their successors in office as an investment committee authorized to sell, exchange, assign, or transfer stocks, bonds or other securities of the Association.

The investment management agency may be terminated upon ten days notice in writing by either party.

Death claims were paid to beneficiaries of thirty-four (34) members of the Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund. Thirty-three (33) assessment calls were made, of which fifteen (15) were paid from the surplus. Four (4) death claims were paid on which no assessment calls have been made. No asset value has been recorded in the accompanying statements for the uncalled assessments, nor for any called assessment not collected at June 30, 1953.

will be printed in the Minutes. I believe Charlie Burkette said he had thirty pages in his report; I do not have that many and do not intend to read the entire report but there are a few things that I would like to bring to your attention and then I would like to read the full report when you get a copy of the minutes.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

President Cox, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I submit to you my report of statistics and happenings in the fire service of North Carolina for 1953. Another year has passed since we enjoyed being guests "on the shores of the blue Atlantic," having been entertained most graciously there for the fourth time by the Carolina Beach Fire Department by host Chief J. A. Knox and his Firemen.

We have enjoyed the return of most of our military men and women from that bloody Korean War and our nation is enjoying peace again. Many of those men were firemen and the sad part is that many of our firemen citizens answered that last alarm over there, away from home and friends.

We are here assembled in our sixty-seventh convention being royally entertained by the Durham Firemen, as they also did in the years of 1891, 1902, and 1923. Chief Cosmo Cox, now president of our association, and his firemen have gone all the way out to make this convention one of the best on the record of our sixty-three conventions held and I am sure you will agree with me that they have and are doing just that. We firemen who had the privilege of attending the 1923 convention here in Durham, or ever had the good fortune to know the host of that convention, Chief Frank W. Bennett, who held the office of president of our association in 1924, 1944 and 1945 will cherish his memory for life. He loved all firemen as his very own. He knew no difference between paid or volunteer firemen, they were all his friends.

IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Will Samuel Long age 87, the second oldest fire chief in North Carolina and one of Alamance County's best known citizens, died on July 26, 1954 at his home in Graham. He helped organize the Graham Fire Department and was chief there for more than forty years. He was born in Graham on May 14, 1867, the son of the late William Samuel Long. He was educated at Graham College and Elon College, of which his father was one of the founders and the first president, at the University of North Carolina, and at Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. He wrote and spoke widely on behalf of fire prevention. Dr. Long never tired of recounting the time he led "my boys," as he called his firemen, in a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington in recognition of Graham's Fire Prevention rec-

ord in the nation. It was said that he was the last person living who was present when the Battle of Alamance Monument was unveiled on May 29, 1880, when he was 13. Dr. Long was Vice President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association for the years of 1933 and 1934. He held the office of President of our Association in 1935. He was a skilled harmonica player and played for many of our conventions by request. Dr. Long was loved by all firemen who came in contact with him.

IN MEMORIAM: Assistant Chief E. E. McDowell, Jr., 35-year-old assistant chief of the Greensboro Fire Department, died on June 21, 1954. The Rev. J. Calvin Barnes, his pastor, gave the following eulogy in preaching his funeral. "We have had the great privilege of knowing a good man and we have enriched ourselves in his friendship. His memory is a treasure he will cherish throughout our lives. His humanity—his personality—was rich and powerful. He knew no strangers. The world was his parish. He loved children; delighted in the aspirations and confidences of youth, and brought much joy to the older folk. Surely his was a jewel of life." On January 1, 1941 he joined the Greensboro Fire Department as a fireman; was promoted to a driver March 16, 1948 and on August 16, 1950 he was raised to captain. On September 1, 1951 he was promoted to Training Instructor in charge of all training, and on July 1, 1953 he was appointed Assistant Chief in charge of training and personnel, the position he held at the time of his death. Chief McDowell was very popular in the fire service throughout this country and was well known for his fire fighting capability. He was a graduate of the New York City Fire College and Drill School, graduate from the Structural Fire Fighting School of the 5th Naval District in Norfolk, Virginia, and an instructor of the North Carolina State Fire College and Pump Schools, of which he was a graduate. He appeared on the program twice at the Instructors' Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. He was a member of the new Advisory Board for setting up a training manual for chief officers in the fire service which had been conducted through the Oklahoma A & M College, was very active in Red Cross being an instructor and served on the Safety Board, a member of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association, a member of the Greensboro Life Saving and Rescue Squad, a member of the International Fire Chiefs' Association, and a member of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Fire Prevention Committee. "Mac" was a Christian and very active member taking part in all phases of church activities and as his pastor expressed it, "There was no task that "Mac" would fail to undertake for his beloved church from scrubbing floors and pots and pans to preaching the gospel from his pulpit."

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1953: The National Fire Protection Association of Boston, Sponsor, is a non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Kentville, Nova Scotia, won the Grand Awards in the United States and Canada respectively for the best 1953 municipal Fire Prevention Week Programs submitted in the International Fire Prevention Week contest.

In addition to the municipal Grand Award winners there were the following Grand Awards in the contest's Industrial and Government Divisions: Atomic Power Division of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania (Industry); Hickman Air Force Base, Hawaii (U. S. Air Force); Fort Lewis, Washington (U. S. Army); Naval Station, Seattle, Washington (U. S. Navy).

One thousand six hundred forty-one entries were received in the 1953 contest; 1,155 in the Municipal Division; 379 in the Government Division; and 107 in the Industrial Division. Included in the total were entries from Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and overseas military installations.

THE UNITED STATES CLASS WINNERS: Under Class IV United States communities population 50,000 to 99,000 Greensboro won the second Grand Award with Anderson, Indiana, taking first and Stockton, California, third. Under this class Winston-Salem won honorable mention along with Columbia, South Carolina, and Portland, Maine. These winnings of Awards and Honorable Mention are the results of hard work and are splendid winnings to be proud of when you consider that it is competition for the entire United States. Ranking of top United States communities (out of 436 competing in Grand Award competition): Greensboro, North Carolina, rated 14th place which is a great copliment for their work and honor in the Fire Prevention Week National Contest. Fort Bragg, North Carolina, won the second Grand Award, with Fort Lewis, Washington, winning first. These awards were selected out of 96 competing in the U. S. Army Grand Award competition. The winning awards for the state of North Carolina were as follows: Greensboro first, Winston-Salem second, and Mount Airy third; Honorable Mention going to Fayetteville, Salisbury, High Point, and Rocky Mount.

INTER-CHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST 1953: The Grand Award for 1953 was won by Hartford, Connecticut. Winston-Salem won the fourth place in Class IV poulation 50,000 to 100,000. This was an exceptional standing when you consider this was with competition of the entire United States, Alaska, and Canada. Winston-Salem won 10th place in 1952 so you see they made quite a stride going from 10th place to the 4th in a year. Chief Brown and his firemen have their eyes set on the top of the ladder in this contest for 1954. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Chief Brown for the splendid and meaty articles, under the title "A Fire Chief Says" that have been running in the publication "The Hose and Nozzle."

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: Chief Donald S. Charles, President and his Charlotte firemen entertained the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association in Charlotte, North Carolina at its 26th annual convention June 7-10, 1954. Chief Charles had full cooperation from two hundred thirty-two business and manufacturing companies making contributions that helped make the Fire Chiefs' Conference possible. Chief Charles and his firemen for many months worked on advanced preparations. They had a well filled out program of activities covering the four-day meeting for the 250 fire chiefs and their ladies from all the Southeastern states. This meeting was said, by those attending, to be one of the best ever held. The Memorial Service conducted by Reverend W. A. Rollins was one of the highlights. The conference endorsed Past President Donald S. Charles for election to Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs at its meeting at Houston, Texas. The association elected Past President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, C. W. "Moon" Wyrick to second Vice President. This means that the presidency will return to North Carolina two years hence. While visiting fire chiefs slept Charlotte had its largest fire since 1935. The Charlotte Armory-Auditorium burst into flames in the wee hours on Tuesday morning with an estimated loss of $200,000. In paying tribute to Chief Charles and his firemen Mayor pro-tem James S. Smith said, "Donald had to show off his outstanding fire department with a large fire."

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The North Carolina death tolls for the year 1953 including protected cities and towns and combined with all of the rural area, which is only partly protected by rural fire departments and city fire departments, was 115 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings) reported by Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Section, State Board of Health. This is an increase of seven deaths over 1952. He reported 111 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This is an increase of 32 deaths from this cause over the year 1952. The Bureau further reports 19 deaths by hot substances, corrosive liquid, and steam. This shows an increase of deaths of 4 over the year 1952. The above figures from the Bureau's report show the total of 245 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1953. Your statistician was happy to be able to report to you last year there was a decrease of 60 deaths from the year of 1951. Now it is with deep regret that I have to report to you that there were 43 more lives lost in 1953 than in 1952. In comparison of the deaths in 1953 with two years back—1951 when the large number of 262 lives were snuffed out we find 1953 had 17 less lives lost from fire. In reviewing the past

five-year records of lives lost from fires or related to fire I find in 1953 there were 245, 1952—202, 1951—262, 1950—191, and in 1949 —212. Were it not for the Fire Prevention programs being conducted the year round by you Firemen sitting out there and your comrades back home, no doubt the number quoted above would be considerably larger. We also must not discount the fact that the Supreme Being above has a great hand in holding down the Fire Demon.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Everett B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshal of the State of North Carolina Insurance Department has recently received from the National Board of Fire Underwriters the reported amount of fire loss in North Carolina to property covered by stock companies. He has in turn furnished your statistician the figures. The loss paid out by the stock companies in 1953 was 13,650.763.

I wish to say to you that the total fire loss in North Carolina is unknown, this is due to the fact that fire losses on property uninsured is an unknown factor. The National Board estimates the uninsured losses in the United States to be 33 1/3%. Assuming this figure of 33 1/3% for uninsured losses, the records of the North Carolina Insurance Department indicate that 38.8% of the property in North Carolina is covered by stock companies, 27.9% covered by other than stock companies. Assuming the rate of losses are the same for other companies as for stock companies per premium dollar collected the estimated fire loss for the state of North Carolina for the year of 1953 was $35,182,378. In 1952 the total estimated report was $30,430,148, thus we had an estimated increase in loss in the state of $4,752,230 or 15.6%. The $6,000,000 Wilmington waterfront fire more than accounted for the loss increase for the state. The Fire Demon was on a rampage last year and so far is still going strong regardless of the greatest Fire Prevention program ever staged in North Carolina and the nation. Of course as long as the valuation of property, buildings, and contents is increasing we can hardly expect anything more than increased fire losses.

NATIONAL LOSS OF LIFE: Mr. Richard E. Stevens, Engineer of the National Fire Protection Association, advises me that their latest estimate of deaths in the United States from fire or related to fires was 12,360 men, women, and children in 1953. This is 1030 per month and 34 every 24 hours. Just think what in most cases carelessness is doing to our population.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: Mr. Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, advises me that he has received a recent estimate from the National Board of Fire Underwriters of the total fire loss of the United States for 1953. This estimate is $864,863,000 resulting from 918,304 reported fires. This reports a decrease of 7% in the number of fires as compared to 1952, but the fire losses for 1953 seem to have increased

by 6.1% over 1952. The National Board of Fire Underwriters has pointed out that this increase is attributable to a single industrial fire but, of course, the fact remains that we have an increase in the loss figure.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 26th Annual Fire College and Drill School was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School May 3, 4, 5, 6, 1953. President T. A. Bissett opened the school officially following a welcome address of Chief Donald S. Charles. Chief Bissett then turned the school over to Director Chief Charles L. Burkett. The registration was the largest in the history of the school. Director Burkett stated that it was the largest and best school he had ever helped conduct and attend, and the old timers were of the same opinion and high in their praise for the way Charley and his staff conducted the school.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S PUMP SCHOOL: The second pump school was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School September 28, 29, 30, 1953. The attendance at the school was 143. First year credit men 97, observers 28, manufacturers' representatives 13, director-conducter, faculty, and minister 5. All attending were outspoken in praise of the benefits they received from the school.

GREENSBORO'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS ANNUAL TRAINING: Chief Wyrick continued his Annual Advanced Training Course for officers and firemen which was held from January through March 1953. The course consisted of 90 hours and included various subjects vital to the fire service by many well qualified speakers. In April a Refresher First Aid Course was taught by 18 fire department instructors. As a result of this course, states Chief Wyrick, the Greensboro Fire Department retained its distinction of being 100% First Aid trained in both Standard and Advanced Red Cross. Thirty hours were spent in this course. A Probationary Firemen's School was held for the benefit of new men. This course consisted of 40 hours total 200 man hours. A total of 9,260 man hours were spent on drill tower and outside evolution drill. Inside drills totaled 200 man hours. Men of the Greensboro department attending the following schools: Fire Department Instructors' Conference, at Memphis, Tennessee; University of Purdue, (arson) at LaFayette, Indiana; North Carolina State Fire College and Pump School; Philadelphia Fire School; and the New Haven Fire School, New Haven, Connecticut. Chief Wyrick attended the training conference at Stillwater, Oklahoma A. & M. revising the Fire Service and Training Manual. Chief Wyrick was elected Vice President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association. This election of Chief Wyrick should bring the presidency back to North Carolina in two years. Congratulations "Moon."

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES: Chief Brown says that the firemen's training in Winston-Salem was stepped up considerably in 1953. The firemen trained in the various fire evolutions 15,357 man hours during 1953, with 130 firemen going through the training evolution. This was an increase of 3,996 hours over the year 1952. During April of this year a special training course for probationary firemen was held and proved to be very successful, Chief Brown stated. He was highly pleased with this probationary training. Chief Brown adds, "We feel that a Business Fire Prevention Campaign helped reduce major fires from three to one during 1953 in Winston-Salem" A Hospital Fire Safety Program was organized in their three major hospitals. They erected a 6 by 9-foot "Stop Fires" red neon sign for Fire Prevention week and it is now in operation the year round on the Court House square. During the past eight months Chief Brown says the Fire Prevention Bureau put on 13 television programs featuring fire prevention. The Winston-Salem Junior Chamber of Commerce paid respect to the city fire department in October 1953 by selecting Posey E. Lawson "Fireman of the Year," and they are making this an annual project. Winston-Salem fire loss for 1953 was $219,442. They had one major fire of $40,000. Chief Brown says leading causes for his 1213 alarms answered in 1953 were: First, carelessness in smoking; second, defective heating equipment; and third, defective wiring. The firemen at Christmas 1953 played Santa Claus with presents and Christmas carols for crippled children.

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles and his firemen entertained royally the 25th Annual Fire College on May 25, 26, 27, 28, 1953 and the 26th Annual Fire College on May 3, 4, 5, 6 of this year. Both of these schools were considered two of the best ones the association ever held. The one this year was the largest ever in attendance. Director Charley Burkett, his staff, Donald Charles, and firemen have been receiving high praise all over the state where your statistician has visited for the swell job they did. Donald Charles and his firemen entertained the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's Pump School September 28, 29, 30, 1953. Director Chief Charley L. Burkett and his staff had 143 persons in attendance and put the 125 firemen through the pump courses in a highly efficient manner and were praised by all who attended. There were 24 firemen from South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia who took the pump course. Donald Charles, President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association was host to their 26th Annual Conference in Charlotte June 7-10, 1953. The Charlotte fire department under G. H. Beckham, Director Training and Personnel, gave the regular basic training course to 12 new fire men in 1953. The Director of Training attended the Fire Department Instructors' Conference held in Memphis. Charlotte has three state appointed instructors on the Fire College and Pump School. A two weeks school was held at No. 5 station. The department members aided at

each and every opportunity through training and instructions, the 15 volunteer fire departments that surround the city. Director Walter Black has appeared before many schools, churches, and civic organizations during the year to better relations between the general public and the fire department. Joe F. Morris, Director Fire Prevention Bureau, reports that his department made 9,215 inspections in 1953. His department put on quite a number of radio and television fire prevention programs during the year. The Charlotte fire department had a total of 2,750 alarms for 1953 with 454 of them false alarms. You can see by these as our smaller cities.
figures that our state's largest city has the false alarm headache as well

HOTEL AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: There were just two less hotel fires in 1953 than there were in 1952, but a big drop in damage. In 1952 the 27 hotel fires caused a loss of $11,902.78 while the 25 fires in 1953 caused a loss of only $4,950,50, a decrease of $6,952.28. Smokers caused 19 of these fire. The list follows:

Sigman Hotel $100, Asheville; Martin Hotel $600, Blowing Rock; Selwyn Hotel $325, Hotel Charlotte $350, Willard Hotel $244, Hotel Charlotte $400, Chester Hotel $15, Hotel Charlotte $100, all of Charlotte; LaFayette Hotel $10, LaFayette Hotel $10 of Fayetteville; Greensoro Hotel $32.50, Gate City Hotel $15, Clegg Hotel $30, O. Henry Hotel $50, Greensboro Hotel $40, Clegg Hotel $35, Greensboro Hotel $35, Greensboro Hotel $25, Gate City Hotel $15, Greensboro Hotel $27.50, Lennox Hotel $601, Clegg Hotel $180, these 12 of Greensboro; Elwood Hotel $1,620 at High Point; McAlpin Hotel $50 at Raleigh; and Hotel Charles $30.50 at Shelby.

Apartment house fires reported dropped from 142 in 1952 to 127 for the year 1953. It is a pleasure to note decreases in numbers of fires and amount of damage.

The three reported hospital fires were: Memorial Hospital at Charlotte caused by lightning—damage $15,676; Parrots Hospital at Kinston —defective wiring $50; and at Mount Airy the Martin Memorial Hospital—cause unknown—loss $291,000.

During 1953 there were 12 church fires with a combined loss of $49,840. The range in damage being from $88 to $23,500 in the individual fires.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: The number of fires causing loss of $20,000 and over increased from 33 in 1952 to 51 in 1953. The total loss for these 51 fires was $9,210,423—an increase of $6,246,333 from the $2,964,090 loss for 1952. The greatest loss in any one fire in this group was the waterwront fire in Wilmington with a loss of $6,000,000—cause unknown.

These 51 fires are listed:

Asheville—Asheville Furniture Co., $25,822.75.

Carolina Beach—A. S. Causey Apartments, $23,300.

Carrboro—Golston Lumber Co., $54,258.

Charlotte—Picker X-ray Corporation, $28,841.23; Perfection Stove Co., Friece's Garage, Floyd's Glass Co., Grice's Florist, Brook's Litho Co., combined $30,037; home on Moore's Chapel Road, $24,000; B. & S. Motor Lines, $21,391; Boyle Utilization Co., $28,528; Interstate Granite Corporation, $80,000.

Clayton—E. W. Ellis & Co., $65,000.

Concord—Cabarrus Theatre, $25,000.

Conway—Woodard Motor Co., $45,000.

Durham—Sid Rancer Staple Storage Warehouse $20,000; Carolina Surgical Supply Co., $31,385.

Fairmont—A. N. Mitchell cotton warehouse, $25,500.

Farmville—R. A. Fountain tobacco storage, $35,000.

Fayetteville—Highland Lumber Co., $31,100.

Gastonia—Kennedy's Drug Store, $64,000; Mauney Distributing Company, $25,350.

Goldsboro—Dillon Bell Implement Co. and Dillon Supply Co., $275,000.

Greensboro—A and T College, $22,579; Grain-O Feed Mill, $90,-000; Kennedy Shoe Co., $90,524; exposure (Robinson's Dept. Store), $31,152; Montgomery Ward Co., $17,000; National Bellas Hess Co., $2,000; Mayo's Clothing Co., $1,000; Johnson and Aulbert's Clothing Co., $250; Industrial Insulating Co., $49,551; Prago Guyes Co., $92,824.

Greenville—N. C. Van Norwick Lumber Yard, $60,571.

Henderson—Watkins & Cydnor, Inc., $135,000; R. E. Satterwhite Furniture Store, $48,000.

Hendersonville—Belk-Simpson Co., $124,000.

Hickory—Hickory Flour and Feed Mill, $127,000.

Hobgood—J. C. Johnson Cleaning Mill and Cotton Gin, $35,000; James Sherrod's home, $20,000; Hope Letggett's home, $23,000.

LaGrange—Hardy & Newsom, $40,000.

Morganton—C. D. Hamilton's residence, $40,000.

Mount Airy—Martin Memorial Hospital, $291,000.

Raleigh—Shaw University, $35,450; McBride Albright Knitting Mill, $23,000.

Roanoke Rapids—Roanoke Mill Co., $60,000.

Sanford—Puckett & W. M. McLlum tobacco warehouse, $160,000.

Statesville—Rochlin Veneer Co., $415,000.

Tarboro—Drug Store, Dry Cleaning Est. and Radio Shop, $30,500.

Thomasville—S. F. McMillan & Co., Mfg., $48,000.

Valdese—Frederick Auto Store, $29,500.

Warsaw—Warsaw Flour & Feed Mill, $40,000.

Wilmington—Waterwront fire, $6,000,000.

Winston-Salem—Johnson & Cotton Mfg. Co., $71,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES FOR 1953: Again this year in going over all of the reports sent to the Insurance Commissioner by your fire chiefs

I have listed some of the unusual fires, also a list of fires in which one or more citizens lost their lives:

Store burned by two boys, both serving prison terms. Boys say owner hired them to burn store. Case pending against owner—damage $6,200.

Drop cord nailed to wood ceiling—damage $1,600.

Pennies used for fuse plug—damage $1,750.

Electric hotplate on bed cooking—$35 damage.

Hot ashes against wall of bottling plant—damage more than $18,-000.

Dwelling—unable to determine where or how fire started, three people burned to death, Mrs. Judges, a 3-year-old child, and a 6-month-old baby.

Completed painting interior house—no one at home—suspected combustion from paint rags $6,000 damage.

Roy Fuller, age 17, admitted setting fire to a 4-room residence—held in jail under $5,000 bond.

Leslie G. Brown, age 10, Howard Westmoreland, age 9, admitted setting fire to apartment—damage $500. Handled by juvenile court.

James Edgar Owens, age 11, turned over to juvenile officer for setting fire to a dwelling $95 damage.

Persons believed to be involved in West St. Gro fire $200, Queen City Cleaners $500, have been apprehended and are awaiting trial.

Cleaning show window with paint remover, struck match—$270 damage.

Stove exploded in whiskey still in shed at rear of house—$200 damage.

James Penland burned to death—apparent cause of fire, smoking in bed.

Dr. W. H. Moseley burned to death—probable cause of fire—cigarette. Haywood Johnson and Lee Thomas burned to death. Probable cause, oil fire, property damage $2,229.

Clayton—Eight Negroes in one small two-room house must have been a party. Fatalities: one Negro man, one Negro woman, and two children. One Negro man severely burned, one Negro woman and two children escaped unhurt.

Cook stove in building probably left on—loss $15,000.

Store burglarized and set on fire by drunken burglar.

Two children burned to death—apparent cause overheated heater.

Man smoking in bed at Lennox Hotel was convicted and had to pay $600 damages plus court costs.

Penny behind fuse—icebox caught on fire setting wall ablaze—damage $546.

Draining gas tank on car into buckets, gasoline caught fire from undetermined cause—damage $1,400.

Welding torch caught spilled gasoline on fire—damage $50.

Man smoking in bed caught fire, burned to death—property dam-

age $4,200.

Cleaning floor with gasoline—caught fire from heating stove, $1,500 damage.

Filling tank while motor was running $100 damage.

Four buildings and two automobiles caught fire from children playing with matches.

Smudgepot stove fire—$6,000 loss.

Bread left in oven—child turned stove on—damage $100.

Hauling gas in car container turned over—loss $750—probable cause, pure carelessness.

Carelessness—Termite men treated house in attic, set building on fire accidentally, from information we received. Men left house as soon as fire started. As yet have not been able to locate them—total loss $4,500.

One died from burns from unknown fire—$600 property loss.

Sparks from railroad car damage to car $10,200.

John Litchfield started fire smoking in bed and was burned to death—neighbors reported he had set mattress on fire several times before.

Two colored children burned to death—cause unknown—property loss $2,000.

Sara Marshburn, colored, age 81 years, suffocated—defective wiring cause—property loss $850.

Herbert L. Moses set mattress afire by smoking. Was dead when firemen arrived—property loss $1,700.

Clarence Love apparently set his house on fire and then committed suicide—property loss $1,800.

Careless use of acetylene torch caused damage to one manufacturing company in the amount of $71,000 and damaged adjoining building $2,000.

Carrying gasoline in open buckets while smoking—gas caught fire, set fire to garage—$938 loss.

Carelessness—Oil stove—Mozelle Bobbitt burned causing her death. death.

Family moved into house in cold weather—put up a stove—flue went through the ceiling but not through the roof.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health reports 26 deaths in 1953 of personnel in military aircraft. This was one more than 1952. There were 27 deaths other than unspecified aircraft accidents, which was 14 more deaths from this cause. In 1952 the bureau listed 60 occupants of other aircraft and there were none for last year. The total deaths from aircraft was 55 for 1953 and 44 in 1952 which is 11 more. There was no occupant of commercial transport aircraft who lost his life in North Carolina in 1953.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS: The Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles has again furnished me with reports on oil truck and tanker accidents covering July 1953 through June 1954, on the streets and highways of North Carolina. There were 6 fatal accidents which was 7 less than 1952 with two on city streets and four on highways. Wilmington and Hendersonville were the cities and the highways were U. S. 1, U. S. 17, U. S. 421, and N. C. 68. There were seven people who lost their lives in the six accidents. This was eight less lives lost than in 1952-1953. There was only one person injured in 1953-1954 which was four less than the year before. Only two out of the six accidents burned. For the past number of years there has been a constant decrease in these oil and tanker accidents with fewer deaths and injured persons.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director of Division of Insurance State Board of Education, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, furnished me with the following information on school fires in North Carolina for the year 1953-1954. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 92 of the 172 administrative units of North Carolina. He could only give me information on the 92 units and his department does not have any records concerning the units not participating in this program. For the fiscal year 1953-1954 his division had 40 different school fire losses. These 40 school fires totaled a loss of $250,812, this was $96,259 less loss than the preceding year. There were also two less fires in these administrative units. The fire chiefs of North Carolina reported 15 school fires in protected cities and towns for 1953 with a total loss of $162,936. This total loss is $133,318 less than 1952 or a 55% decrease. The schools of North Carolina have been blessed for the past year with a small loss from the Fire Demon, and no doubt the Fire Prevention programs conducted by you firemen in the schools have been an important factor in holding the school fires to a minimum. There was no loss of life reported in the 55 school fires for 1953.

NEW MEMBERSHIP IN OUR ASSOCIATION: The following towns and urban fire departments have joined the State Association from July 1953 to June 1954. The membership of the association now has a total of 279 cities, towns and urban fire departments with a total of 8,825 members. Our association has been growing in leaps and bounds for the past ten years. The new members are: Bayboro, Booneville, Beaulaville, Calypso, Clyde, Faith, Hudson, Mineral Springs, Mt. Tabor, City View, Lewisville, Forest Hill, Griffith, South Fork, Clemmons, Walkertown, and Denton.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The officers of the Fire Chiefs' Association elected at Carolina Beach for 1953-54 were Charles L. Burkett, president, Salisbury; C. E. Morris, vice president, Albemarle; Miller I. Warren, secretary, Plymouth; Ralph E. Marbry, treasurer, Badin; district vice presidents: No. 1, J. S.

Gray, Kinston; No. 2, R. C. Fortune, Burlington; No. 3, H. B. Fowler, Southern Pines; No. 4, J. N. Mundy, Charlotte; and No. 5 W. B. Cope, Sylvia.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: Twenty-seven causes produced fires which were reported for 1953, six of which accounted for 1910 fires or more than 72 per cent of the total 2645. These six were: Carelessness—171; gas, oil stoves and heaters—265; defective flues, chimneys, furnaces—302, exactly double the number in 1952; defective wiring—303; cigarettes and careless smoking in bed—313; and 556 unknown. All increased except gas, oil stoves and heaters which dropped five below 1952.

TOTAL FIRES REPORTED: More than 35 towns made no reports for 1953. It is presumed they had no fire loss but I have no authority to place them on the roll of honor without their having notified the Insurance Commissioner's office. There were 2645 fires reported for 1953 which was an increase of 426 over last year, but that is accounted for by the increase of 30 more towns reporting than did in 1952.

TOWNS AND CITIES REPORTING FIRES: Each year a few more fire chiefs make their reports to the Insurance Commissioner's office which enables me to bring you more nearly accurate figures on the number and causes of fires. To date 166 chiefs have sent in from one to several hundred reports each for 1953. This number is 30 greater than reported in 1952. Let us hope that reports for 1954 will be filled in and sent to Mr. Gold on time each month so that the records may be kept accurate and up-to-date.

HONOR ROLL—NO FIRES FOR 1953: There were 15 cities and towns reporting no fires for the year 1953. Chief Charles Cochrane, Star, North Carolina, reports they have had NO FIRE LOSS since October 1951. Biscoe, Bryson City, Cherryville, Davidson, Elizabethtown, Fountain, Lillington, Mars Hill, Pink Hill, Rockwell, Roseboro, Smithfield, Wendell, West Jefferson, and Wilkesboro had no loss for 1953. I extend my congratulations to these cities and towns.

CITIES AND TOWNS HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: There were 80 cities and towns having several months with no fire loss over $25 for the year 1953. There were, no doubt, several others that could be listed along with these and some with the Honor Roll list had they only made out their reports required by law. Or they could have sent to the Insurance Commissioner or your statistician a postal card saying, "We hav no fires for the month or year." I am sorry to inform you there were 35 cities and towns which made no reports of any kind to your Insurance Commissioner. The following cities and towns' Fire Prevention programs no doubt were a factor in their being able to report no fires from one to 11 months.

I say congratulations and also thanks for your giving me these reports so that I could list your town:

Ahoskie, Benson, Bessemer, Burnsville, China Grove, Claremont, Clyde, Colerain, Conover, Dunn, East Spencer, Elm City, Fuquay Springs, Granite Quarry, Halifax, Hot Springs, Linville, Lowell, Marshall, Mocksville, Pikeville, Pine Bluff, Red Springs, Reidsville, Rich Square, Severn, Spencer, Swansboro, Troy, Vass, and Weaverville each had 11 months. Carthage, Clarkton, Fairmont, Faison, Jamestown, Littleton, Louisburg, Robersonville, Southport, St. Pauls, Tryon, and Wrightsville Beach 10 months each. Conway, Cornelius, Dobson, Hendersonville, Southern Pines, Spindale, Troutman, Williamston, and Windsor each had 9 months. Aberdeen, Cramerton, Gibsonville, Mooresville, Wadesboro, Washington, and Woodlawn had 8 months each. Erwin, Hamlet, Henderson, Roanoke Rapids, and Valdese 7 months. Enka, Graham, Oxford, Rutherfordton and Spray each had 6 months. Morehead City and Winterville each had 5 months. Monroe, Newport, and Salisbury 4 each. Asheboro, Kings Mountain, New Bern, and Tarboro 3 months. Rocky Mount had one month without loss.

Before closing my report to the sixty-seventh annual convention of the North Carolina Firemen's Association here assembled in our grand host city, the Chesterfield City of Durham, I wish to express my appreciation to the following people who have furnished information for my report: Our new Insurance Commissioner, Charles F. Gold; Everett B. Jones, Deputy Fire Marshall; the Highway Safety Division; Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics North Carolina State Board of Health; Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States; Richard E. Stevens, Engineer National Fire Protection Association; Chief Donald S. Charles, Past President Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs; Charles S. Burkett, President North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs ;and Thomas B. Winborne, Director Division of Insurance, State Board of Education.

In closing my report let me say, Mr. President and Fellow Firemen, it has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve our association to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

Motion that the report of the Statistician be accepted. Motion seconded, carried and so ordered.

PRESIDENT COX:

You heard Ed Johnson give his report and recommendations as chairman of the committee to prepare a memorial for Sherwood Brockwell. They gave you the report and recommendation, but no action was taken. I think at this time it would be proper procedure to get your ap-

necessary to get your approval of the printed Minutes of the 1954 convention.

Motion that the reports be approved and accepted. The motion was seconded, carried and so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Albert Brinson, Statistician:

ALBERT BRINSON:

First I would like to say on behalf of the New Bern Fire Department that we are very happy to have you with us. I am sorry that in the past years when we wanted to invite this convention back to New Bern that we were not able to do so due to the fact that we did not have the facilities to accommodate you. Having Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point so near to New Bern all the rooms were taken and it was impossible to take care of you. However at this time we did our best to get rooms for every one and we hope that you are well taken care of.

I would like at this time to give my report as Statistician.

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

President Cox and Fellow Firemen,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a great privilege and pleasure to submit to you my report of statistics and fire happenings in the fire service of North Carolina for the year 1954. Another milestone has passed since we enjoyed being guests in the "Bull City" of Durham of your friends and mine, Chief Cosmo L. Cox, and his entire fire department personnel.

You are here assembled attending the sixty-eighth annual convention in the friendly, historic old city of New Bern, the second oldest city in North Carolina and the First Capitol. Here in New Bern the seventh convention and tournament were held in 1894. In 1910 New Bern's bicentennial year, the convention was again held here. That year there was no contest or tournament. New Bern also was host to the convention in the years of 1915, 1928, and 1938. We New Bernians are proud of the records our forefathers made in quick steaming and hose wagon contests with the same steamers and hose wagons you are seeing here on display in our newly created Fire Museum, located to the rear of Central Fire Station. In 1908 the two New Bern companies, Atlantic and Button tied for the Hose Wagon Contest. In 1911 the two companies won the top prizes. In subsequent years of 1912, 1913, 1914 the New Bern teams won top honors and in 1916, the last year of horse races, the Atlantic and Button Companies established the never to be broken record of 29 seconds. New Bern won first prizes in quick steaming in 1908, 1909, and 1911. In 1911 at the contest held in Asheville the Button Company established the world's record for

quick steaming in the time of 2 minutes and 3 seconds. These winning records are in the permanent records of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

So much for the long past history of our two fire companies. The citizens and firemen of New Bern are proud of our three modern stations, our Volunteer Fire Departments, and are especially honored in being your host for the sixty-eighth annual convention.

IN MEMORIAM: Jerome Bell Flora died December 5, 1954. Flora was born June 4, 1890 in Elizabeth City, graduated from Elizabeth City high school, attended Bingham School at Asheville, and Strayer Business College in Baltimore. He volunteered for service in the army during World War I and spent most of his time overseas. When the war was over he returned home and entered the wholesale grocery business with his father who operated the J. B. Flora and Company, and remained there until 1929 when he was named city manager.

Jerome joined the Elizabeth City Volunteer Fire Department in 1911 and in June 1915 he was named chief, a position he held for 34 years. He was elected mayor of the city in June 1927 and served continuously for 20 years. He served as city manager from 1929 until 1947, a period of 18 years. For the next two years he held no municipal position but was again named city manager in 1949 and served until 1953 when due to declining health he could no longer devote his full time to the job, he was named assistant city manager, a post he held at the time of his death.

He was one of North Carolina's leaders in the North Carolina League of Municipalities and was the only president of that organization named to succeed himself. He also served as director and member of the legislative committee of that organization for many years. He worked with the late W. O. Saunders in establishment of the pageant of Roanoke which was the beginning of Paul Green's Lost Colony. He also assisted in the establishment of the Wright Memorial. He was known as an historian, as far as Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City are concerned.

Jerome Flora was one of the most outstanding workers in the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. He was a member of the Association for 43 years and active up to only a few years before his death. Jerome was elected Vice President in 1936, elevated to President in 1937 and reelected in 1938. In the passing of Jerome B. Flora the Association lost a valued member and a friend to every fireman.

IN MEMORIAM: Claude Turner, retired fire Captain died last month at the age of 81 years, at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Durham. Captain Turner was drill master for the Durham Fire Department for many years, relinguishing this duty in 1937 to Cosmo L. Cox, the department's present Chief and President of

our Association. "Captain Turner was more or less the dean of the fire department for a long time, and was respected by his fellow firemen," Chief Cox said. He served with the Durham Fire Department for 53 years, retiring six years ago. He was highly respected for his fire fighting knowledge by our deceased president, Frank Bennett, under whom he worked for many years.

IN MEMORIAM: Assistant Fire Chief James McGee (Mack) Mundy died on March 8, 1955. The sound of a siren heralded the death of Assistant Fire Chief Mundy whose body was found slumped under the wheel of a fire department automobile. Chief Mundy was on his way to headquarters station after supper at home. He apparently suffered a heart attack, and sounded his fire siren in an attempt to attract attention when he realized that something was happening to him. Chief Mundy joined the fire department in December 1924 and in his 30 years fire service had worked himself up from the ranks. He was successively promoted to lieutenant, to captain, and to second assistant fire chief in 1948. At one time he was drill master of the department and later was an instructor at the annual sessions of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School, of which he was an earlier graduate. During World War II he volunteered for military service and was commissioned a first lieutenant of ordnance. Later he assisted in the organization of the army's fire fighting services and served at various camps and was stationed at Texarkana, Texas, at New Orleans, and Ft. Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. The Charlotte Fire Department lost a valued man in the death of Mack. Every fireman who took training under him at the North Carolina Fire College and Pump Schools gained much from his instructions and knowledge of fire fighting. All who knew him loved him for his Christian character and kindness.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1954: The National Fire Protection Association of Boston, sponsor, is a non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire. The purpose of the Fire Prevention Week Contest among municipalities is to encourage a more universal observance of Fire Prevention Week as a springboard for year-around fire prevention programs. In addition, it stimulates and provides recognition of outstanding fire prevention efforts among North American industrial and governmental facilities.

Greensboro North Carolina won sixth place in Grand Award competition in the entire United States. There were 339 competing in the Grand Award and Greensboro was only excelled by Louisville, Philadelphia, Hartford, Memphis, and Chicago. "Moon" to you and your firemen we say we are proud of you.

UNITED STATES POPULATION CLASS WINNER MUNICIPAL DIVISION: Greensboro was first in the nation Class IV (population 50,000 to 99,000) with Anderson, Indiana second and Springfield, Misscuri third. Greensboro was first in North Carolina, winning under the United States Communities with Fayetteville second, and Winston-Salem third. Rocky Mount and High Point were given honorable mention. Fort Bragg was third in competing in the Grand Award competition in the Government Division, only exceeded by Anniston, Alabama Ordnance Depot and Fort Lewis, Wash. There was stiff competition from 99 competing in the Grand Award. We are proud of our Fort Bragg at Fayetteville.

SALISBURY: Chief Charles L. Burkett, his firemen, and city did not enter any of the contests last year. We cannot forget to mention Charley and his firemen as they have established quite a record in their past winnings. They have won a total of twenty-three National Awards and my hat is off to them.

INTER-CHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST 1954: The grand award for 1954 was won by Providence, R. I. Awards to winners in the six population classes will be made to Cincinnati, Ohio, winner Class I; Dayton, Ohio, Class II; Allentown, Pennsylvania, Class III; Schenectady, New York, Class IV; Walla Walla, Washington, Class V; Port Angeles, Washington, Class VI. Winston-Salem, North Carolina won an Honor Certificate in Class IV—population 50,000 to 100,000. The winners of the 1954 Contest was selected from 425 entered cities and 157 contestants in the final judging. The National Chamber was organized 33 years ago. All year activity by local fire prevention committees makes up the work of the Council and participants in the annual contest are adjudged upon by fire loss records, quality of fire fighting facilities, and the community educational programs, Winston-Salem Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Brown, now retired, helped the Twin City Sentinel win an honor award from the National Board of Fire Underwriters third place in North Carolina in the Fire Prevention Week Contest.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health advises me of 20 deaths in 1954 of personnel in military aircraft. This was six less than 1953. There were 19 deaths other than unspecified aircraft accidents, which was 19 less deaths than in the year 1953. The total deaths from airplane accidents for the year 1954 was 39, this was 16 less deaths than 1953 when there were 55 deaths. The Bureau further reports that there were no deaths from commercial transport aircraft during the year of 1954. There is no way I can ascertain how many of these aircraft deaths

were involved in fires. The low mortality of plane accidents is surely an indication that travel by air is becoming safer as time goes on.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS IN LIFE AND PROPERTY: Mr. Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department Chamber of Commerce of the United States informs me that the National Fire Protection Association estimated earlier this year that fire caused about 12,550 deaths in the United States and Canada during 1954, of these 12,100 were estimated to have occured within the United States. If the National Fire Protection Association has revised these figures I have not learned of it. These estimated figures mean that the Fire Demon has taken the lives of more than 1045 men, women, and children every month for 1954. Our best and surest way to reduce this loss of lives is—practice more fire protection.

The United States fire loss in property for the year 1954 was true to form showing a steady increase beginning with 1950. Mr. Houston writes me that he has received a recent estimate, from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, of the estimated fire loss for 1954 of $870,984,000 covering burning buildings and contents. This is $6,121,000 increase over the 1953 loss of $864,863,000. Mr. Richard E. Stevens, Engineer of the National Fire Protection Association advises me that their preliminary estimate of fire losses for 1954 is $1,011,000,000. Included in this estimate is $853,500,000 damage to building and contents, and $157,500,000 loss in aircraft, motor vehicles, forest and other fires not involving buildings. We must take into account that values have steadily increased and naturally we must not overlook the fact that we still have carelessness which accounts for by far the greater percentage of our losses.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION PUMP SCHOOL: The third pump school was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on September 20, 21, 22, 1954. The attendance of the school was about the same as last year with 145 interested in pump operations. There were 52 taking studies in the first year course. and 57 in the second year course, 18 observers attending some classes, 10 manufacturer's representatives, and 8 Directory-Conductors and Faculty. The pump operators reported they were greatly benefitted in pumping knowledge.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 27th Annual Fire College and Pump School was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School, May 23, 24, 25, 26, 1955. President Cosmo L. Cox opened the school officially following a welcoming address by Chief Donald S. Charles. Chief Cox then turned the school over to Director Chief Charles S. Burkett. Chief Burkett and Chief

Charles reported one of the largest attended and one of the best schools we ever had. There were 41 visitors registered, 13 people appeared on the program other than the instructors, 14 representatives of manufacturers, and 11 instructors. The total attendance was 432 with 94 North Carolina, 9 South Carolina, and 1 Georgia departments represented. This was 54 more in attendance than in 1954.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The officers of the Fire Chiefs' Association elected at the annual meeting of the association held in Durham were I. Miller Warren, President, Plymouth; C. E. Morris, Vice President, Albemarle; Claude S. Canady, High Point, Ralph E. Marbry, Badin, district Vice Presidents; No. 1, J. S. Gray, Kinston; No. 2, J. B. Keeter, Raleigh; No. 3, H. B. Fowler, Southern Pines; No. 4, J. M. Mundy, Charlotte; and No. 5, W. B. Cope, Sylva.

The membership for 1954 was 150 regular members, 2 associate members, 7 life-time members, and 3 honorary members. There were several district meetings held during the past year and many problems discussed and solutions reached.

As President Warren stated there was some progress made in the Fire Chiefs' Association. He is anxious to see every fire chief in North Carolina become an active member of the organization.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL TRAINING: Chief Wyrick continued his Annual Advanced Training Course for officers and firemen in 1954. During the year a total of 7370 man hours were spent training and improving efficiency of the department operational forces. Tower training and outside evolutions took up 2800 hours, probationary firemen training took 120 hours, and pump operation training 1400 hours. A refresher course in First Aid was given all members in order to keep their 100% record in good standing. A check of the high value district was begun by individual companies to familiarize all members with the buildings in case of an emergency. Members checking kept in contact with their company by walkie-talkie radios which were added to the equipment in 1954. An additional training program for Auxiliary Firemen was started in conjunction with the Civil Defense Office. Seven hundred fifty man hours were spent in this training and graduates were assigned to serve one night a week with regular fighting firemen. Moon says as far as he can ascertain this is the only unit in the state.

Members of the Greensboro department attended the Fire Department Instructors' Conference in Memphis, Tenn., University of Purdue Arson Seminar, and North Carolina Fire College and Pump School. A new book of Rules, Regulations, and Procedures was written and has been adopted by the city manager, the first since 1926. Greensboro has under construction a new training area, tower,

classroom and garage which should be completed in early 1956. There were 5,593 inspections made by the Fire Prevention Bureau, 14 arrests were made with 10 convictions for various causes of unlawful burning, 152 radio talks and 121 lectures on fire prevention were given before 34,091 persons of all ages and organizations.

CHIEF C. W. "MOON" WYRICK HONORED: "Moon" was elected Vice President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association in 1954 and this year he was elected 1st Vice President of the Southeastern. No doubt he will be advanced in 1956 to the Presidency of that great Fire Chiefs' Association. "Moon" I say again, congratulations!

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director of Division of Insurance State Board of Education, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne was kind enough to again furnish me with the following information on school fires in North Carolina for the year 1954-1955. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on administrative units in 64 of the 100 counties and 32 cities in North Carolina. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 96 of the 172 administrative units of North Carolina. His department does not have any records concerning the units not participating in this state program. For the fiscal year 1954-1955 his division paid losses on 105 school units. This amazing number of school losses was 65 more than that of the preceding year, or an increase of 162¼%. The paid losses on the 105 city and county units represented actually 474 school buildings. Now the "Believe It or Not," is that Hurricane Hazel caused losses to 410 of the 474 school buildings that were listed as paid losses by fires and extended coverage in the amount of $117,151.60. Hurrican Hazel alone on her one day rampage through North Carolina caused damage to the state school buildings covered by the Division of Insurnce, State Board of Education amounting to 33 1/3% of the entire loss paid by the Division of Insurance. Now we can see one reason in dollars why the papers were giving us those headline stories.

The fire chiefs of North Carolina reported to the Insurance Commissioner 17 school fires for the year 1954 with a total estimated loss of $240,607. These 17 fires added to the 64 non Hurricane Hazel fires make 81 school fires with a combined total loss of $419,554. In adding the extended coverage paid by the Division of Insurance of $161,872 makes a loss to our school system of $581,426 which does not include losses of schools not insured by the State Board of Education.

Mr. Winborne further advises your statistician that there were no casualties or deaths among the school children of North Carolina caused by fires in our public schools for the 1954-1955 period. No doubt you firemen are greatly responsible for this achievement, along with the school authorities and teachers. I am thankful to

the Supreme Being that in making my fifteen statistical reports I have not had to list the death of a school child by fire in this great state of ours.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: In 1954 there were 35 main causes of fires, five of which accounted for 1723 or more than 66 per cent of the total 2602 fires. In ascending scale these were: Defective flues, chimneys, and furnaces 200; defective wiring 245; careless smoking, cigarettes, smoking in bed 287; gas, oil stoves, heaters, furnaces 302; and unknown 689. Defective chimneys and flues dropped 102 below that for 1953 defective wiring came down 58, smoking and cigarettes caused 26 less fires in 1954 than in 1953, and unknown soared 133 fires ahead of the 1953 total of 556.

HOTEL, GUEST HOUSE, AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: There was a marked decrease in the number of hotel fires in 1954—14 as against 25 for 1953, however, the amount of damage was more than 3 times as much as the 1953 damage. These 14 hotel fires totaled an estimated $15,507 loss, $13,000 of which was the Morris Brown Guest House of Asheville.

The apartment fires increased in number from 127 in 1953 to 140 in 1954 with light damage in the most of them.

There was only one reported hospital fire—The Albemarle Hospital at Elizabeth City with a loss of $25.

More churches suffered fire loss last year—18, which is 6 more than there were for 1953, but the estimated damage of $49,439 was $401 less than for the previous year.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER. There was an increase of 18 fires in the $20,000 and over bracket, but a great decrease in the estimated loss. This drop from $9,210,423 for 1953 to $5,436,965 for 1954 resulted from there being no one great fire like the waterfront one at Wilmington in 1953 with an estimated loss of $6,000,000.

Below is given an alphabetic list of the towns, cities, and rural areas suffering large fires last year.

Aberdeen—Mrs. H. A. Page, Sr., dwelling (unoccupied) $50,000.
Asheville—I. X. L. Pearlman's Furniture Store, $62,092; Bon Marche Store, $29,500.
Ayden—Carolina Milling Co., $50,000.
Blowing Rock—Mrs. M. B. Terrell (owner of house) $21,000.
Burlington—Gaines Winningham Grocery Store, $25,000.
Carolina Beach—R. G. Mason's home, $21,000.
Charlotte—Publix Cafe, Mullis Barber Shop, $20,050; Bryan-Wentz Co., $55,135; Interstate Office Supply Co., H. J. Withers Mfg. Co., M. Foldfarb, $50,300
Cornelius—Workshop and Storage Building, $20,000.

Davidson County—Furniture Mfg. Plant, $30,000; Grubb Motor Lines, Inc., $60,000; Recreation House, $55,000.
Dobson—Garage and Repair Shop, $27,700.
Dun—Matthews Cotton Gin Co., Inc., $500,000.
Durham—Radio Electric Co., Stores, Apartments, $21,000; Dr. W. M. Watkin's home, $23,500.
East Spencer—Atlantic Ice & Fuel Co., $35,000.
Elizabeth City—Barr Bros. Jewelry Store, $33,000; Singer Sewing Machine Co., $52,000; R. C. Abbott Co., $29,400.
Fair Bluff—Ellis Meares and Son, $30,500.
Fairmont—Standard Plywood Corp., $220,000.
Gastonia—White Way Laundry, $24,000.
Goldsboro—First Free Will Baptist Church, $22,000; Edward-Jernigan Furniture Co., Rose Furniture Co., $105,000.
Greensboro—Davis Tire Company, $28,500; Ralph's Food Palace, $119,217; Krigman's Furriers, Inc., $37,139.
Greenville—S. T. Stafford's home, $43,456.
Guilford—Tire Recapping Co., $141,000.
Hazelwood—Store and Dwelling, $25,000.
Henderson—F. W. Woolworth Co., 5 & 10c Store, $207,238.
Hendersonville—Michaelian & Kohlbert, Inc., $20,000.
Hickory—City warehouse and motor equipment storage, $19,945.
High Point—Peerless Veneer Co., $160,000; Spaugh Paper Co., $129,838; Matt Wall's home, $34,000; Snow Lumber Co., $282,869; B.&W. Upholstery, Monarch Furniture Co., High Point Lumber Core Co., Allred Metal Stamping, V. P. Carrick, and Roy Carr, $188,156; Jiffy Manufacturing Co., $27,691.
Jamestown—Oakdale Cotton Mills, $86,000.
Kinston—Hines Bros. Lumber Co., $50,000.
Laurinburg—Bonded Cotton Co., $31,000.
Leaksville—Offices and 5 & 10c Store, $20,000.
Lenoir—Ballew Drug Store, Beauty Parlor, Barber Shop, $36,350.
Liberty—A.&M. Cafe, Jack's Grocery, Kivett Auto Service, $75,000.
Maxton—Maxton Supply Co., $48,000.
Mebane—Farmers' Warehouse, $54,000.
Morven—Hardison Bros. Co., Inc., $34,080.
New Bern—Baugh & Sons Fertilizer Co., Montgomery Ward Co., $253,597.
North Wilkesboro—Oak Furniture Co., $47,500.
Pembroke—John R. Lowery & Son Store, $20,000.
Raleigh—Honeycutts Produce, $94,550.
Richlands—Auto Agency, Westinghouse Appliances, Station, $111,800.

Rockwell—Rockwell Flour and Feed Mills, $112,000.
Sanford—Brown's Auto Supply Co., $350,000; Sanford Radio Co., $42,000; Masonic Lodge, Lee Drug Store, Dr. Covington, Thomas Grocery, $54,000.
Scotland Neck—Lumber Mill, Planing Mill, Dry Kiln, $25,000.
Shelby—Shelby Mill Work Co., $191,000; D. A. Beam & Co., Feed Seed Grocery, Ellis Bicycle Shop, Betty Jean Beauty Shop, $57,862.
Southern Pines—Southern Pines Motor Co., $33,500.
Spruce Pine—English Mica Co., Plant 2, $124,500.
Stokes County—Home of the Aged, $100,000.
Tarboro—Walden Soda Shop, Dry Cleaners, Radio Repairs, $30,500.
Warrenton—Carolina Lumber Products, $25,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES: C. D. Strader suffocated—smoking in bed.

Cleaning rug with volatile liquid from which fumes were ignited. Windows closed—damage $1100.

Dorcas Reid partially blind put kerosene on live coals—lost her life. Damage to house, $500.

Pouring gasoline in tank from bucket—lighted cigarette lighter—damage, $550.

Oil stove turned over setting fire to room, fatally burning Betty Vines—damage to house, $1,200.

Oil stove set fire to upper part of house. Roy J. Sutton was overcome by smoke—died next day—damage to house, $3,559.07.

Car drove off with hose nozzle in tank—pulled tank over—short circuit set fire to gas—damage, $500.

Boy looking for football in closet dropped lighted match—damage, $3,000.

Someone stealing gas from truck—barn set on fire—damage, $600.

Pouring kerosene on live coals in stove, can exploded and fire burned Mrs. Ford painfully—damage to house, $375.

Drawing gas from 50 gallon drum using lantern for light—home total loss, $6,800.

Putting oil in hot stove John Green lost his life—damage to house, $900.

Oil lamp exploded—woman perished in this fire—building damage, $4,500.

Pete Harrison, son of owner and occupant held for suspected incendiarism, $3,800.

Crippled man, William Gurley, clothes caught fire from cigarette lighter—died.

Oil cook stove turned over trapping O. E. Robinson in trailer—he was burned to death—damage to trailer, $400.

Dewitt M. Bryan, 7 months old colored boy burned to death by someone smoking in bed. Father was asleep on porch at time of

fire. Home total loss, $1,400.

Inmate of Home for the Aged smoking in closet on second floor—damage, $100,000.

Wife claimed husband drunk set fire to house for spite—loss $1,750.

Person threw kerosene into hot stove—damage, $1,700.

Oil lamp—four small children were burned to death—house loss, $400.

Fire set by Christopher Fernandez who burned to death in house—refused to be removed by others present—suicide—house damage, $700.

Fight in house—someone kicked over stove—damage, $50.

Four small boys playing with matches—loss, $800.

Occupants were thawing frozen water pipes with open flame—wooden partition caught—damage, $1,050.

Handy went home drunk—believed to have been smoking in bed—burned and died a few hours later. House damage, $4,000.

Pigeon carried lighted cigarette to nest on church—$500.

Occupant carried furniture to yard and set fire to same—$25.

Defective drop cord—damage, $11,848.

Short in baby bottle warmer—Bryan May, 7 months, removed to hospital—overcome by smoke, house damage, $170.

Oil cook stove flared up—Joyce Mitchum, 9 months, burned to death—house damage, $600.

Small trash burner in back bedroom—loss, $10,000.

Raleigh Little starting fire with something combustible—burned, died—damage to house, $50.

Propane gas explosion—5 killed, 26 injured. Loss, $105,000.

Trash box in office—fire damage, $17,000.

By-passer stopped—dropped lighted cigarette—loss to freight cars, $6,750.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Aberdeen 8 months; Albemarle 1; Apex 7; Asheboro 4; Badin 11; Black Mountain 7; Booneville 7; Brevard 7; Candor 4; Canton 8; Carrboro 6; Carthage 4; China Grove 3; Clyde 10; Colerain 2; Denton 4; Edenton 3; Elkin 10; Fairmont 1; Faison 7; Farmville 4; Fountain 12; Fuquay 4; Gibson 3; Granite Quarry 12; Greenville 1; Halifax 3; Hot Springs 10; Jackson 12; Jacksonville 2; Laurinburg 1; Lexington 3; Lillington 10; Madison 4; Marshal 11; Mebane 5; Mocksville 1; Monroe 2; Morganton 2; Pikeville 5; Pinehurst 6; Reidsville 3; Rockwell 11; Rocky Mount 1; Salisbury 3; Spencer 1; Spring Hope 12; Spruce Pine 7; Stanley 7; Statesville 2; St. Pauls 4; Tarboro 1; Thomasville 1; Tryon 11; Valdese 10; Walstonburg 12; Whitakers 10; Windsor 2; and Youngsville 9 months.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH IN OUR ASSOCIATION: The following town and rural fire departments have joined the state association from July 1954 to June 30, 1955. The membership of the association had on June 30 a total of 296 cities, towns and rural fire departments with a total of 9080 members. Our association still is growing fast. During the past twelve months the growth in departments was fourteen which was six more than the eight cities organizing the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1888. The new members are:

Guil-Rand Fire Dept. "suburban" High Point	44	members
Mecklenburg Route 10 "suburban" Charlotte	40	"
Denton Fire Department	16	"
Fountain Fire Department	11	"
Kill Devil Hills	20	"
Lilesville Fire Department	8	"
Oak City Fire Department	?	"
Pikeville Fire Department	23	"
Rural Hall Fire Department	64	"
Vass Fire Department	18	"
Winter Park Fire Dept., Wilmington	29	"
Triangle Fire Dept., N. Main St., Winston-Salem	42	"
Stantonsburg Fire Department	15	"
Archdale Fire Department	?	"

As a matter of comparison of our growth: In 1888 the year the association was organized there were 8 departments, in 1928—120 departments with 2600 members, in 1938, 167 departments—5,000 members, and in 1955—296 departments with 9080 members.

WALLY DUNHAM GETS FIRE AWARD: Philip L. Baldwin, Washington, D. C., Executive Secretary of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Agents announced in October that Wally Dunham, Forsyth County Commissioner was selected National winner of its annual fire prevention contest. The award was based primarily on his part in helping to develop the county-wide volunteer fire fighting system in Forsyth. This was the first of its type in North Carolina. He received his award October 26 at the Hotel Statler in New York City from President Harry Uhler of the National Association. The presentation was part of the association's ceremonies. It is reported that the main basis of his award was due to the outstanding work he has done in fire prevention and his efforts in establishing the ten volunteer fire departments throughout the county. In December 1950 Wallace Dunham, a young former Jaycee President, assumed his newly-elected office as a member of the County Board of Commissioners. Since that time he has devoted considerable time and efforts in furthering fire protection and prevention throughout all communities in the county.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The North Carolina death tolls for the year 1954 including protected cities and towns and combined with all of the rural areas, some of which are partly protected by rural and city fire departments, was 130 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings) reported by Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Section, State Board of Health. This is an increase of 15 deaths over 1953. His report gives 80 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This I am happy to report is a decrease of 31 deaths from this cause over the year 1953. This decrease of deaths more than offsets the increase of 15 deaths by conflagration. The Bureau further reports 14 deaths by hot substances, corrosive liquid, and steam. This also shows a decrease of deaths by 5 from the year 1953. The above figures from the Bureau's reports show the total of 224 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1954. Your statistician is happy to say that the reports show a decrease of 21 total deaths over the year 1953. No doubt our fire prevention program throughout North Carolina is doing a wonderful job in holding down the death toll the FIRE DEMON could inflict. We must continue our Fire Prevention with increased vigor and reduce the death loss still more in North Carolina.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS: The Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association held a meeting in Walstonburg, October 1954; in Washington, January 1955; at Warsaw in April; and in Williamston during July. The Two-Man Training Program and a change in bond requirements for the Firemen's Relief Fund for small towns were the two main topics for these meetings. Thirty-three towns comprise the membership with three associate members.

The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association held four quarterly and two special meetings during 1954-55. The officers chosen to head the association were: President, George Bischoff, Hazelwood; 1st Vice President, H. E. Elliott, Rutherfordton; 2nd Vice President, George Bartlett, Spruce Pine; Secretary, Mark Jones, Enka; and Treasurer, O. E. Brookhyser, Sylva. In October a full two days' Drill School was held, the first for Western North Carolina, with some 350 men attending the four sessions. A Film Library was started with films available for loan to all fire departments. In March a special House burning meeting was he d on the campus of Brevard College. The various fires were extinguished by the different fire fighting equipment. This was an instructive demonstration which was viewed by several hundred firemen and spectators. The average attendance of the Western North Carolina Association increased from 129 in 1953-54 to 175 in 1954-55. The membership now totals 37 departments with 763 members.

The Sandhill Firemen's Association held four meetings with

steadily increasing attendance—from 43 for the first meeting to 138 in attendance at the June 1955 convention held in Troy. They have capable speakers from the State Association for their meetings when possible and general discussions of their particular problems. Secretary-Treasurer Leatherbury says, "Last but not least our meets end with a delicious supper—fit for a king."

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES: Retired Chief Brown says that their training program for 1954 was in line with their stepped-up program for 1953. The firemen trained in the various fire evolutions made approximately 15,000 man hours. His firemen made 6,361 fire inspections during 1954, put on 14 television shows on Fire Prevention, and 586 spot anncuncements on radio The department installed a new 10 circuit control board by the Gamewell system and added additional equipment to their fire alarm system. His firemen inspected approximately 2,100 fire hydrants, this inspection is done twice each year. Fire loss for the year 1954 was $435,266 with four deaths. There were 1,312 alarms for the year with 168 building fires. Their per capita tax loss was $4.95 for the year. The twin city won sixth place in population class in the United States National Fire Waste Contest, helped the Twin City Sentinel win an honor award from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and won third place in North Carolina in the Fire Prevention Week Contest.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Everett B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshall of the State of North Carolina Insurance Department, received in June from the National Board of Fire Underwriters the reported amount of fire loss in North Carolina to proprty covered by stock companies. He has furnished me the figures which show the loss paid out by the stock companies in 1954 was $15,996,925. This exceeds the year 1953 loss paid by the stock companies by $2,346,158.

As I have said each year in my report the total fire loss in North Carolina is unknown, this is also true for the entire United States because of the fact that fire losses on propery uninsured is an unknown factor. The National Board estimates the uninsured losses in the United States to be 33 1/3%. On assuming this figure of 33 1/3% for uninsured losses the records of the North Carolina Insurance Department indicate 38.8% of the property in North Carolina is covered by stock companies. Assuming the rate of losses are the same for other companies as for stock companies per premium dollar collected the estimated fire loss for the state of North Carolina for the year of 1954 was $41,229,188, thus we had an estimated increase of $6,046,810. Year before last we showed an increase over 1952 of $4,752,230, therefore we have had an increase of $10,799,040 in the last two years. In spite of the splendid Fire Prevention work done by virtually every fire department in the

State of North Carolina our fire losses are soaring and the Fire Demon is reaping his harvest of loss and destruction. We 9,080 firemen of North Carolina must increase our Fire Protection day by day and meet this fire destruction in advance before the Fire Demon has the alarm sounded.

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles and his firemen entertained royally the 26th annual Fire College on May 23, 24, 25, 26, 1955. Chief Charles and his firemen also entertained the second annual Pump School on September 20, 21, 1954. The College had the largest attendance and the most graduates of any of the past Fire Colleges. The Pump School, which was our second one, had an increase in attendance. Director Burkett, his staff, Donald Charles and his firemen deserve a great deal of credit for the way they have been conducting the Fire College and Pump School. Many of the firemen who attended have expressed their praise for the splendid work these fellows have done for our association. We are most fortunate to have at Charlotte some of the best Fire College and Pump School facilities in the world at our disposal, and, to make a perfect combination, in having in Chief Donald S. Charles and his staff the most hospitable hosts to be found in these United States. Donald, your Statistician, along with the Firemen of North Carolina, is very grateful to you for the great work you are doing for the firemen of our state.

In April 1955 Charlotte opened a swell new fire station and activated two new engine companies and employed 24 additional firemen. Another new station has been authorized by the city council in the Southwestern area of the city which will be completed in 1956 and will necessitate two additional companies of 24 men making a total personnel of 262. Chief Charles' fire department is keeping pace with the rapid growth of Charlotte, which is the largest city in North Carolina and one of the fastest growing cities in the Southeast. Donald reports Charlotte had a loss for the first six months of 1955 of $337,923.74, which was a decrease from 1954 of $761,932.45, when the total for the first six months of 1954 was $1,099,770.19. Donald we know you must be proud of this splendid reduction of losses.

HIGH POINT WINS AWARD: Chief Claude S. Canady of High Point advises your Statistician that the High Point Fire Department won First Place in the North Carolina Jay-Cee Fire Prevention Award. Congratulations, Chief Canady and your firemen.

PLYMOUTH FIRE SCHOOL: Chief I. Miller Warren and his firemen held a Fire School from April 4 through April 8. Captain Walter Black, drill and personnel director of the Charlotte Fire Department, was the conductor of the four night classes. The fire departments from the towns of Jamesville, Hamilton, Robersonville, Windsor, Edenton, Columbia, Crestwell, Roper, and Belhaven, attended these classes. The program consisted of drills, demonstrations, lectures, and films.

CARY FIREMEN HOLD THIRD ANNUAL "FIREMEN'S DAY": The occasion was the third annual Firemen's Day held on May 7, 1955, which began with a large parade at 3 P.M. and ended late that night with a square dance in the center of town. R. O. Heater was master of ceremonies and Gordon Keith general chairman of the event. Civil Defense of Wake County was given a big boost with the dedication of a fully equipped emergency rescue truck by the Cary Fire Department to the cause. Officials of the state were in attendance a ceremonies. Cosmo L. Cox, Presiden of th North Carolina Firemen's Association, had words of praise for the Cary Firemen.

In closing my report let me say, President Cox and Fellow Firemen, it has been indeed a great privilege and pleasure to have served our association for the past 15 years as Statistician to the best of my ability. We of the New Bern Fire Department are happy to have you visit with us on our sixty-eighth annual convention, and are terribly sorry to have Hurricane Diane interfere with your pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

Gentlemen, I think under the conditions prevailing and the uncertainty of the hurricane I might conclude and not read this report in its entirety—it is some thirty pages and I know you will get this when it is printed in the Minutes.

I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to have you here with us and I hope you stay and that the hurricane doesn't upset you too much because it hasn't reached here yet.

Motion that the report of Mr. Albert Brinson, Statistician, be accepted and spread upon the Minutes. The motion was seconded, carried and so ordered.

The President read a telegram from Ex-Chief J. L. Croom, Wilmington, directed to Mr. Albert Brinson, as follows:

"Regret to inform you that due to storm warnings will be unable to attend meeting. Wish you great success. J. L. Croom."

A telegram was read from Mr. Joe Heath, Atlanta, Ga., sending his regrets that he could not attend the convention, and to give all of you good people his regards. This is the fifth convention Mr. Heath has missed in the last twenty-five or thirty years.

PRESIDENT:

During our last convention there was a motion made to have a proper resolution honoring Dr. Will S. Long, deceased, of Graham. As your president I named Cihef G. B. May, Gibsonville, and Chief

R. C. Fortune, Burlington, as a committee to prepare the resolution, and will be glad to hear from them at this time.

Mr. President, and Members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association:

May 4, 1867 was the birth date of a man who was educated at Graham College, the college founded by his father. This college was later moved to Elon, N. C., and named Elon College. This man's father was the first president of Elon College. This man furthered his education at the University of North Carolina and at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.

After his graduation, he opened a dental office in Graham. This dentist and Dr. Simmons, a local druggist, worked very hard to promote the first water system for Graham, then organized the fire department about 1902. Dr. Simmons was elected the first fire chief, and Dr. Will Long its first secretary. Dr. Will was the fourth elected fire chief and served in this office almost 50 years, or until his death, July 27, 1954.

Gentlemen, I find no existing category in which I would place Dr. Will Long. I can find no better words than to say he was "a civic-minded public servant, a fireman, a lover of all firemen—most of all the North Carolina Fireman's Association."

I would like to present a brief record of his past.

He served several years as Chairman of the Democratic Party. He was a member of the Alamance County Historical Commission, and the last living person who attended the unveiling of the Battle of Alamance monument May 29, 1880. He was a member and a deacon of the Graham Presbyterian Church, and also choir director for 33 years. He rejected a chance to run for Mayor because of his love for the fire department. He served in the State House of Representatives in the late 1930's. He served as President of the North Carolina Firemen's Association in 1935, and had attended the organization of this Association. He wrote a song about firemen and had it copyrighted. For years, he served as Santa Claus for the children. He loved to entertain us with his harmonica, with his jokes and wit. He was a wonderful father: he had four daughters and two sons, all of whom are an asset to our state.

Gentlemen, I would like to read a few lines from a talk he gave to this organization when the convention was held at Greensboro, in 1952. He was presented by President Flanagan. I quote:

"Hello boys, I want to say to you all that the greatest organization in North Carolina is the Fire Deparment. I can prove it to you. The Good Book says, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend.' Therefore, the Fire Department is the greatest organization in the world. That's my religion: 'What shall I do to gain eternal life?' 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'. Who is my neighbor? Anybody in need."

Mr. President: In closing, I would like to offer the following

resolution:

Be it known that Whereas, the North Carolina Firemen's Association, it being in session at this fair city of New Bern, will stand for one minute in silent prayer for Dr. Will Long.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee
R. C. FORTUNE, Chief, Burlington

A moment of silent prayer was observed in honor of Dr. Long.

MR. HARRY GREEN:

Some of you seem to be under the impression that when I made the motion to change the order of the program that it was intended to nullify all activities of the convention and I wish to assure you that this was not the intention at all—this motion was made for the reason that in case an emergency should arise. This convention by any means. It was made for the reason that if an tonight. My motion was not made with the intention of ending the convention by any means, it was made for the reason hat if an emergency should arise that those matters would be attended to and those who wished to go might do so. Tomorrow will be another day and Mr. John Larkin of Trenton will be the speaker.

PRESIDENT:

Thank you Harry.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Curtis Flanagan.

MR. FLANAGAN:

Gentlemen, I have the auditor's report and I will give it to you in brief.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

North Carolina State Firemen's Association

Kannapolis, North Carolina

Dear Sirs:

I have examined the financial records of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and The Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association for the year ended June 30, 1955 and submit the following exhibits and comments:

EXHIBIT:

A—North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Assets, June 30, 1955.

B—The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Assets, June 30, 1955.

C—North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ending June 30, 1955.

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

Albert W. Brinson

Mr. President, Fellow Firemen:

I think I would be a sorry statistician if I did not tell you this in regard to my report. There is one thing in connection with this, while we are thinking along the line of these reports. Some Fire Chifs probably don't realize what they are doing in respect to the State law requiring you to report every fire and fire loss beyond twenty-five dollars. I happen to take home every year from the office of the Insurance Commissioner, who has been so nice in supplying me with material to go in my report, many hundreds of reports. Many towns were not represented in those reports. The law says that you, as fire chiefs, should report that fire, and if the Insurance Commissioner don't get the report I don't get it, and I want to call your attention to that fact—it is very important, and it is the law that you should report these losses beyond twenty-five dollars.

Another thing injected in the report is that I have tried to recognize which years the towns have had months with no fire loss. That is quite an honor to your City to have months without any fire loss. In connection with these reports, if you chiefs would sign the blank the Insurance Commissioner often sends you for this information that we have had no fires whatever month it might be it would be a great help. You can use a postcard or anything, and send it to the Insurance Commissioner's office. He will appreciate it and I will appreciate it, and will be glad to recognize the fact that you have had no losses during that period of time.

Allow me to thank you Harry for your suggestion that I not read all of this report.

I have secured a lot of information from the National Government and from various towns throughout the State, and anything that you wish included in your report, whomever your statistician may be in the future, if you will just send the report in you will be in the report, and you will be recognized for doing a nice job I know.

I am happy to be here. Thank you one and all.

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

President Wallace and Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a happy privilege and pleasure to submit my sixteenth statistician's report of statistics and fire happenings in the Fire Service of North Carolina for the year 1955. Another year has passed since the association was guest in the old friendly city of New Bern, by the enchanting waters of the Trent and Neuse. The New Bern Fire Department, headed by Chief Albert Stocks and more than 110 volunteer firemen were hosts to the sixty-eighth

annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, in spite of Diane's visit to our convention on the last day's session.

We are here assembled attending the sixty-ninth annual convention in our friendly capital city, with Chief Jack Keeter and his efficient firemen as hosts to the firemen of North Carolina. Raleigh Fire Department entertained the second convention of our association in 1889, the fifteenth in 1902, the twenty-ninth in 1916, the forty-ninth in 1936, and now our sixty-ninth. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Chief Keeter, his officers, firemen, the city officials, and the citizens of Raleigh for the splendid new headquarters building, along with the other stations they have contributed to the Raleigh Fire Department.

IN MEMORIAM: William Hendrix Palmer, former Chief of the Charlotte Fire Department, died August 27, 1955, in a Charlotte hospital. His funeral was held on Sunday, August 29. The Reverend James Rink of Memorial Methodist Church, Charlotte, officiated. Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park. Serving as active pallbearers were E. M. O'Herron, Joe Monroe, Harry Curlee, Dr. Claude B. Squires, J. W. Bennick, and A. W. Sims.

Honorary pallbearers included the uniformed officers and men of the Charlotte Fire Department, members of the Shrine Divan and past potentates of Oasis Temple of the Shrine, and Dr. A. M. McDonald, C. M. Griswold, and Kenlon Brockwell. Also Dr. T. C. Bost, Dr. John Ranson, Jr., all of Charlotte. J. L. Croom of Wilmington, Sherwood Brockwell, Jr., of Southern Pines, John L. Miller of Concord, Ed A. Johnson of Kannapolis, Albert W. Brinson of New Bern, Cosmo L. Cox of Durham, W. E. Holland of Raleigh, J. C. Fitzgerald of Asheville, A. Y. Cottrell of Lenoir, Charles Burkett of Salisbury, and John C. Wallace of Troy.

Chief Palmer joined the Charlotte fire department October 1, 1904 and retired in May 1948. During his 44 years with the department he held every job in the organization except that of superintendent of the fire alarm system.

Chief Palmer designed and promoted the manufacture of the first enclosed fire truck in America. This equipment is now uniform throughout the nation. In 1941 he was elected President of the International Fire Chiefs' Association, the highest honor within the North American fire service.

Born in York County, South Carolina, July 10, 1884 Chief Palmer was the son of the late James Patrick and Alice Stedman Palmer. He had spent the greater part of his life in Charlotte. His wife, the former Miss Idelette Alexander, died January 27, 1955.

Chief Palmer served two terms as president of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and promoted the organization of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association, of which he

was named the first president. For eleven years he served as president of that organization. He was also a director of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association.

The North Carolina Fire College and Training School, which has become a model for fire departments throughout the country, was organized by Chief Palmer and the late Sherwood Brockwell, then State Fire Marshal. Chief Palmer also organized a training school for members of the Charlotte fire department and promoted the construction of the fire school building on East Seventh Street, which was named the Palmer Fire School in his honor.

Chief Palmer was instrumental in organizing the Shrine Bowl Football game, which is played in Charlotte annually for the benefiit of the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital at Greenville, South Carolina.

During World War II, Chief Palmer was a representative of the nation's fire chiefs on the National Civilian Defense Committee. He was a prominent leader of the Shrine organization and was potentate of Oasis Temple.

Hendrix Palmer will be missed by the firemen of North Carolina and was loved by all firefighters who had the privilege of knowing this great, friendly fireman.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1955: The National Fire Prevention of Boston, sponsor, is a non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire in the United States, Canada, and all countries where our armed services are located. Fire Prevention Week started as Fire Prevention Day. It was first observed throughout the United States on October 9, 1911. It began when the Fire Marshals' Association of North America (now a section of the National Fire Protective Association) suggested that the 40th anniversary of the great Chicago fire (October 9, 1871) be set apart for bringing before the public the much needed lesson of fire protection. In 1920, Prsident Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. But it was not until 1922 that the whole week including Fire Prevention Day was officially proclaimed Fire Prevention Week by President Harding. He urged that it be observed "by every man, woman, and child, not only during the week designated in this pronouncment but throughout every hour of every day of the year." Traditionally, therefore, Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the calendar week which includes October 9, the anniversary date of the Great Chicago Fire.

The Grand Awards went to Philadelphia, with Kentville, Nova Scotia placing second (based on Fire Prevention Week activities). First five cities of Ranking of Top United States Communities

(270 entries) in Grand Award competition, follow:

1. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 2. Memphis, Tennessee. 3. Louisville, Kentucky. 4. Hartford, Connecticutt, and 5. Providence, Rhode Island. North Carolina ranking in Municipal Division United States Community Rankings: Fayetteville placed first, High Point 2nd, and Rocky Mount and Greensboro tied for 3rd. Fort Bragg placed 4th in the Grand Awards on the Government Division United States Army, the 1st having gone to Anniston Ordnance Department, Alabama, 2nd to Presidio of San Francisco, California, with Valley Forge Army Hospital, Pennsylvania winning 3rd.

INTERCHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST, 1955: The grand winner award for 1955 was won by Richland, Washington; Class Winners: Class I San Antonio, Texas; Class II, Dayton, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky tied; Class III, Hartford, Connecticutt; Class IV, Portland, Maine; Class V, Wausau, Wisconsin; and Class VI, West Milwaukee, Wisconsin. North Carolina "Honor Award" winners Greensboro 4th in Class IV; Salisbury 4th in Class V. I wish to express my congratulations to you, Moon and Charlie, and your firemen for your winnings and recognition in the Inter-Chamber National Fire Waste Contest for 1955. Charlie Burkett writes me that this last National Award makes 24 National Awards that the Salisbury Fire Department has received. Charlie, I doubt if any other department can match your record.

FAYETTEVILLE - HIGH POINT - WINSTON-SALEM - JAYCEE WINNERS: Chief Claude S. Canady of High Point advises me that Fayetteville won first place in JayCees 1955 Fire Prevention Contest, High Point won second, and Winston-Salem won third. In the 1954 contest High Point won first place with Fayetteville winning second.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Aberdeen 9 months; Asheboro 7; Candor 2; Canton 3; Carthage 1; Chapel Hill 1; China Grove 3; Claremont 1; Clyde 9; Concord 3; Davidson 1; Dobson 10; Fair Bluff 10; Fairmont 7; Granite Quarry 10; Gibson 4; Gibsonville—Reported no fires for 1954 and no fires for 4 months of 1955; Goldsboro 1 month; Greenville 1; Hazelwood 1; Jacksonville 6; Kinston 1; Laurinburg 1; Lexington 1; Madison 9; Mebane 10; Mocksville 4; Morganton 4; Murfreesboro 7; Pinehurst 5; Pikeville 2; Pinetops 4; Reidsville 1; Rockwell 7; Salisbury 8; Spencer 7; Stanley 2; St. Paul 8; Thomasville 1; and Wrightsville Beach 8 months.

These are based on chiefs of these departments having advised the Insurance Commissioner's office of the fact that their departments had no fires for this number of months. Why doesn't your town do the same so it can be recognized?

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH IN OUR ASSOCIATION: Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan has advised me that the following

fire departments became members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association during the past year:

Fire Department, Dublin, Chief C. E. Cleveland, 17 members.

Icard Township Department, Chief Harold Perry, 16 members.

Highlands Fire Department, Chief C. E. Cleveland, 21 members.

Beeson Cross Roads Fire Department, Chief V. E. Idol, Route1, Kernersville, 22 members.

Newell Fire Department, Chief Baxter Caldwell, 51 members.

Vienna Fire Department, Pfafftown, Chif Marvin Wilson, 22 members.

Union Fire Department, Route 8, Salisbury, Chief M. C. Boyer, 16 members.

We are happy to welcome these 165 firemen, from the 7 towns and counties listed above, into our association. Curtis says the association has 291 active departments and 10 inactive departments. He also says we now have as of July, 9,410 membership in our great North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS IN LIFE AND PROPERTY: Mr. Robert W. Schuette, Manager, Public Relations Department of the National Fire Protection Association, advises me that the National Fire Protection Association estimates that the fire fatalities of men, women and children in the United States for the year of 1955 was 11,475. These are estimated figures. This means that 956 lives were lost every month in the year 1955 in the United States. The solution to reduce this loss of lives by the Fire Demon is practice more efficient fire prevention.

The United States fire loss of property for the year 1954 was stimated by the National Fire Protection Association as $1,026,-200,000. Mr. Schutte advises me that of the above estimated total fire loss $876,200,000 was damage to buildings and contents plus $150,000,000 loss in aircraft, motor vehicles, forest, and other fires not involving buildings.

It is surely gratifying to note that we had a decrease of $15,-200,000 in 1955 over the year 1954 in our great nation. No doubt the nationwide fire protection programs are responsible for this decrease in loss.

FIRE TOLLS OF LIVES FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Division, State Board of Health, advises me that the North Carolina death tolls for the year 1955 including protected, unprotected cities, towns, and rural areas, was 124 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings). This I am pleased to say was 6 less deaths than in 1954. His report gives 93 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This is 13 more deaths from fire and explosion than in 1954, I am sorry to have to report. There were 21 deaths from hot substance, corrosive liquid and steam. This is 7 more deaths from the above causse. These figures give us a total

of 238 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1955, which was 14 more deaths than in 1954. We must increase our Fire Prevention with more vigor than ever before in order to reduce these deaths from the Fire Demon, who is on the alert 24 hours every day in the year, in North Carolina and all over the world.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health advises me of 19 deaths in 1955 of personnel in military aircraft one death accident at airfield to person not in aircraft, and 14 deaths other than unspecified aircraft accidents. The total deaths from airplane accidents for the year 1955 was 37; this was two less than in 1954 and 18 less than 1953. The Bureau reports there were no deaths of occupants of commercial aircraft for 1955 in North Carolina. There is no way I can ascertain how many of these aircraft deaths were involved in fires. The low mortality of plane accidents in North Carolina year in and year out is a good indication that travel by air is becoming more and more safe as the years go by.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Information furnished your statistician by Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal, advises that since the actual fire loss figures are not available the figures below represent a per-premium dollar collcted loss ratio of 48.5%. Again assuming the National Board figures of 33 1-3% as representing the uninsured losses in the United States and the records of the Rating Bureau indicate that 46.6% of the property is covered by stock companies and 19.9% is covered by Mutuals and others. Assuming the loss ratio to be the same for stock companies and other companies per premium dollar collected the estimated fire loss for the State of North Carolina for 1955 is $20,787,709. The figures broken down are as follows:

Stock companies collected $22,500,000 in premiums for 1955. Mutual companies collected $9,642,850 in premiums for 1955. The loss ratio per premium dollar collected was 48% which gives a loss of $15,589,282 suffered by stock and mutual companies.

The 33 1-3% uninsured loss would equal $5,196,427. These figures totaled will equal $20,785,709. Mr. Pickard checked with Mr. Fred Chambers, Actuary of the Insurance Department and he agrees that this figure will not be far wrong for the estimated fire loss for North Carolina for 1955.

I am very happy to report that the above estimated fire loss of $20,785,709 for North Carolina. by Mr. Pickard, shows a decline of $20,443,479, or approximately half of the estimated loss the department furnished to me for 1954. If the formula is figured correctly then we can say with happy hearts, that our long years of Fire Prevention, Fire College and Drill Schools, Fire Pump

School, and many other Fire Schools throughout North Carolina have paid off in the year 1955. We an also include the improved fire fighting equipment that has been added throughout the state since the closing of World War II. Let's keep up the good work, is your statistician's desire.

UNUSUAL FIRES: Smoking in bed, died on bed.

Poured gasoline on hot exhaust pipe—damage $750.

Smoking in bed—damage $2047.

Child playing with matches—$256.

Bucket of hot ashes left on porch—damage $2585.

Starting fire with gasoline, one person burned to death—damage $1600.

Oil stove fire, one Laura Snead burned to death—damage to house $2250.

Child threw kerosene on coal stove, results: Coleman Steele cut on right arm, Jessie Steele burned from waist down, Jackie Steele cut middle of right hand, Anthony Adams third degree burns both hands, Will Clover internal burns—damage to building $1500.

Men fighting in dwelling knocked over oil stove starting fire, late reporting fire and it spread to house next door—damage $2250.

Tree limb over chimney caught, sparks set roof on fire—loss $2,701.

Miss Pritchard, age 55, burned about face—inhaled smoke getting car out of garage, died 4 days later. Damage to property $500.

Children playing with matches in garage—damage $1,316.

Careless handling acetylene torch ignited gasoline, set garage on fire—loss $26,678.

Auto ran over gasoline pump, caught fire—loss $467.

Careless handling gasoline—damage $1,000.

Playing cards in cotton gin room, using candles—damage $275.

Boys smoking in barn—damage $1,100.

Penny behind fuse, electric short caused cafe and apartment fire—loss $19,000.

Incendiarism—city hall and jail—damage $40.

Christmas tree fire—damage $200.

Careless use of workman's torch while repairing machine—loss $4250.

Two highly intoxicated men believed caused fire from cigarette smoking, both suffocated, property loss $19,000.

Children set grass afire around house—damage $1,325.

Louis G. Sherman smoking in hotel bed, suffocated, damage to room $800.

A trailer loaded with furniture caught fire while sitting at loading platform—loss $986.

Walter Little convicted of arson, setting fire to a rooming house—damage $800.

Ocupant emptied hot ashes into paper box—loss $1,204.

Children playing with matches—loss $4,200.

Arson—eleven-year-old schoolboy admitted setting school building on fire—damage $56.

Children building fire set house on fire—damage $2,400.

Short in Christmas lights Y.W.C.A.—loss $1,500.

Light bulb too close to cumbustibles—loss $8,500.

Hot grease from barbecued pigs ignited—loss $2,150.

Spraying fuel oil under house for termites caused explosion—loss $1,300.

Nail driven through electric light wire—loss $1,750.

Hot ashes on porch—loss $3,250.

Six-year-old child playing with fire—died next day, damage to house $125.

Poured kerosene from 5 gallon can into hot ashes—can exploded, burned 7 people badly.

Short circuit in motor, burned dairy barn—loss $40,000.

Thawing water pipes with burning newspaper—loss $600.

Careless operation of oil cook range—loss $1,662.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: As in the past defective stoves, furnaces, chimneys, and flues led in known causes of fires with 37.07% and a monetary cost of $1,197,696 loss. Electrical—wiring, motors, and appliances—held second place with 20.1% and $648,546 destruction. Spontaneous ignition placed third for 1955 with 8.1% of the fires and $262,529 loss. Careless smoking and matches dropped to fourth position, causing only 7.9% of the fires and damaging and destroying $255,677 worth of property. Lightning with fire following drew a heavy toll—$165,964 loss from "acts of God." These figures would have been much higher had not you firemen been so prompt in reaching and putting out the flames. The lowest loss from any known cause was .03% with $960 damage caused by explosions with fire following.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: It is most gratifying to be able to report 11 less fires of $20,000 and over for 1955 than for 1954, and it is with added pleasure that I can report a decrease of $1,588,313 in loss from the $5,436,965 for the year 1954. The 1955 loss of $3,848,652 is less than one-half the loss for 1953, and just about three-fourths that for 1954. May we firemen of North Carolina continue the struggle against our common enemy—Fire—and protect the property and lives of the people in our great State.

This list, no doubt, is incomplete as a number of fire chiefs are still not turning in reports for all fires of $25 and over. The state department and your statistician can only compile the number of fires and losses from the reports turned in to the Insurance Commissioner's office.

The large fires reported for 1955 are as follows:

Asheville—Hans Rees Sons, cause undetermined $34,869.

Benson—Parrish Ford Dealer, cause undetermined $30,000.

Charlotte — Royal Manufacturing Co. spontaneous combustion $35,150; Auditorium and National Guard quarters, unknown $334,307; residence, unknown $27,000; Blythe Construction Co. warehouse, unknown $25,000; Boars Head Restaurant—suspected arson $44,467; Southern Railway freight depot—cause decomposition of nitro cellulose picture film $540,000.

Clinton—Tobacco warehouse and storage, unknown $83,000; Cliton Truck and Tractor Co., Newman Cotton Picker and Storage, Tom Stevens, Arthur Hines, and George Newkirk, exposure to the above tobacco warehouse, combined loss $51,000.

Clyde—Jarrett Williamson, unknown $24,000.

Davidson—Morre Theater, overheated heating system $20,000.

Dunn—Godwin Building Supply Co., thought caused by sanding machine $40,000.

Durham—Kimbrell Furniture Co., undetermined $60,000; Matthews & Farrow Co., gasoline ignited from acetylene torch $26,678.

Edenton—Albemarle Peanut Co., unknown $50,000; Leary Bros., Storage, unknown $29,987.

Elizabeth City—Economy Auto Supply Co., $70,000; Evans & Etheridge and others, cause unknown $24,000; Atlantic Discount Corporation, Carolina Amusement Co., and others, cause unknown $32,500.

Erwin—Erwin Mills, Inc., cause unknown $185,000.

Forest City—Unknown $21,500.

Goldsboro—Wayne Poultry Co., careless smoking $46,000.

Greenville—Appliance Store, unknown $29,246.

Henderson—Chrysler & Plymouth Auto dealer, faulty oil furnace $50,857.

Highlands—Lightning $23,350; Recreation Building, cause gas heater or electric heater $24,500.

High Point—Carson's, Inc., cause unknown $30,000.

Kinston—Standard Drug Co. No. 1, unknown $21,000.

Lenoir—Hilbriten Chair Co., cause unknown $40,000; Fred W. Laufesske Drug Co., cause unknown $20,000.

Lexington—Yarbrough Hosiery Mill, cause unknown $60,000.

Maiden—Flour Mills, unknown $60,000; Farmers' Federation, unknown $70,000.

Mocksville—Young Fur Co., spontaneous combustion $35,000.

Monroe—Cotton warehouse, spontaneous cmobustion, $25,000.

Murfreesboro—Undetermined $50,000.

New Bern—Railroad freight depot, cause unknown $111,000.

Newport—Saw Mill and Store, carelessness $75,000.

Pikeville—Medical Supply Co., unknown $35,494.

Pittsboro—Parsonage, furnace $30,000.

Raleigh—Newton Laundry, cause unknown $32,000.

Roxboro—Redrying plant, oil heater $70,000.

Sanford—Makepiece Millwork Co., unknown $200,000.

Statesville—Piedmont Lumber Co., unknown $108,235.

Thomasville—North State Manufacturing Co., unknown $35,000. Cannon Mills, unknown $37,500; High Point Paper Box Co., unknown $125,000.

Washington—Griffin Dairy, short circuit $40,000; Taylor Farm Implement Co., unknown $87,000.

Winston-Salem—Briggs-Shoffner Co., undetermined $50,000; Residence, undetermined $21,600; Dewey's Bakery and others, spontanous combustion $127,412; Johnson & Cotton Furniture Manufacturing Supplies, overheated motor $80,500; Bare Ball Pork, careless smoker $30,500.

Wrightsville Beach—Summer hotel, cause unknown $150,000; Residence, cause unknown $20,000.

CHURCH FIRES FOR 1955: There were 15 church fires reported by the fire chiefs of North Carolina in 1955. The total estimated loss as reported for the 15 fires was $246,265. Charlotte reported having 6 of the 15, Fayetteville reported 2 and the following cities repotted one each: Durham, Elizabeth City, Elm City, Fremont, Gastonia, Whitakers, and Raleigh. The reasons the chiefs gave as causes of these fires were: 6 unknown, 3 overheated furnaces, 1 carelessness, 1 spontaneous combustion, 1 grass fire, 1 candles, 1 electric shortage, and 1 defective motor.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Division of Insurance State Board of Education, was again this year very cooperative in furnishing me the following information on school fires and loss in 1955. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 96 of the 174 administrative school units—64 county and 32 city units in North Carolina.

Below I list the name of school unit and amount of loss which occurred during the year 1955:

Prospect School (Old), Union County	$ 206.50
T. S. Cooper Colored School (New), Gates County	4,952.25
Hildebran High School, Burke County	553.78
Spring Hope Gymnasium, Nash County	10,900.00
Hiwassee Dam High School, Cherokee County	1,200.00
Howards Creek School, Lincoln County	77.21
Murphy School Dressing Room, Murphy City	2,438.72
Whiteville High School, Whiteville City	47.00
Morven Cafeteria, Morven City	34.74
Maffitt Village Elementary School, New Hanover Co.	47,600.00
Fremont Elementary School, Fremont City	3,742.36
Franklin High School (New), Surry County	32.00
Spencer High School, Rowan County	16,238.66
Edward Best Gymnasium, Franklin County	7,200.00

Edward Best Agriculture Shop	430.00
Southwood Gymnasium, Lenoir County	3,185.75
Emma Gymnasium, Buncombe County	10,665.44
Chinquapin Colored School, Duplin County	7,300.00
1302 Market Street Building, New Hanover County	50.00
Friendship Colored School, Edgecombe County	43.75
Marshville Lunchroom & Cannery, Union County	400.00
Hamlet High School, Hamlet City	40.02
Dixon Agriculture Building, Onslow County	3.300.00
Franklinville Gymnasium, Randolph County	15,200.00
Courtney School, Yadkin County	23.97
T. S. Cooper Colored High School, Gates County	28,000.00
Total Paid Fire & Lightning Losses	$163,735.15
Estimated Outstanding Fire Losses	1,800.00
Total Paid Extended Coverage Losses	20,627.34
Total Losses for the year 1955-56	$186,162.49

The Fire Chiefs' reports for 1955 showed 7 school fires. They were: St. Frances High School, Asheville, loss $245.; Gastonia Colored School, loss $750; Johnson Street School, High Point, loss $78; Fairview School, High Point, loss $56; Rich Square Creecy High School, loss $80,000; Edenton School, loss $50; Halifax County School, loss $11,500. These 7 schools reported a total loss of $92,679, which was not reflected in the list of school fires reported by Mr. Winborne. This gives the State Public Schools a total loss of $278,741.49 for the year 1955-56. I am glad to report the total fire loss and extended coverage loss was $302,585 less than 1954-55 in the schools of North Carolina.

Mr. Winborne further advises your statistician that there were no casualties or deaths among the school children of North Carolina, caused by fires in our public school buildings during the year 1955-56. No doubt the Fire Prevention programs carried out by the firemen, school officials, and teachers in every school of the state are responsible for this achievement, I am again thankful to the Supreme Being that in making my sixteen statistical reports there has not been a death of a school child or student by fire in our great state.

HOTEL, GUEST HOUSE, MOTEL, AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: One hundred seventy-one fires in this group were reported for 1955, with a heavy increase in loss. Careless smakers accounted for 59 of these fires, gas and oil stoves 23, carelessness 17, undetermined 27, and several other causes contributed to the list. The damage as reported varied from $10 to $30,000 per fire, with apartment houses hardest hit. The total reported damage and loss added up to $176,404 for the year 1955.

TABULATION OF FIRE DATA: For the first time since 1942

I have tabulated the Inventory Sheets the city clerks send to the Insurance Commissioner's office during October of each year, under oath and penalty of each fire department losing its insurance money if it does not comply with the law.

I find the comparison of the 1955 Inventory with my report of 1943 very interesting, and I thought you would enjoy seeing the terrific increase in man-power—volunteer and paid firemen—along with the increase in pumpers, total hose stock, and the increase in valuation of the equipment for the entire state. (There were 4 towns which failed to give the value of quipmnt).

Volunteer Firemen given on report	3441	6537
Paid Firemen given on reports	836	1579
Total Firemen given on reports	4277	7936
Aerial Trucks	12	5
Exclusive ladder trucks	33	11
Combination pumpers	300	584
Total GPM pumpers capacity	193,500	357,343
Total number feet of hose	609,950	1,083,384
Total value of equipment	$3,618,218	$9,247,263

As you can see the growth of the Fire Service has been phenomenal from 1942 to 1955. There has been a praiseworthy increase in the building of new fire stations all over North Carolina. I do not have these figures available to offer you.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS: The officers of the Sandhill Firemen's Association for 1956 are: P. C. Covington, President, Rockingham; Travis Wicker, Vice President, Southern Pines; and E. P. Leatherbury, Secretary-Treasurer, Hamlet. The Sandhill Firemen's Association held its first quarterly meeting September 1, 1955, with Star Fire Department as host. That meeting had 17 fire departments represented with 92 members present. John C. Wallace, President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association was the main speaker. The association missed its December meeting. The third quarterly meeting was held in April with the Southern Pines Fire Department as host. Nineteen departments were represented with 112 firemen attending. The fourth and final meeting was the Sandhill convention held Jun 20, 1956, with Pembroke acting as host. There were 20 departments represented with approximately 300 firemen members present. The main speakers were: the State Fire Commissioner, Honorable Charles F. Gold and Honorable Alton R. Lennon, Congressman from the 7th district. The next meeting will be held in September wtih the Vass fire department as host.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: I am pleased to incorporate in my statistician's report the report of Secretary Mark M. Jones, of the Western North Carolina Firemen's Association activities for 1955-56, which are as follows: The

Western North Carolina Firemen's Association has held four quarterly meetings during 1955-56. On September 28, 1955, the Association met at Morganton, with the Morganton Fire Department as host. The following officers were elected: President, Horace Elliott, Rutherfordton; 1st Vice President Georg Bartltt, Spruce Pine; 2nd Vice President Ed Hearn, Morganton; Secretary Mark M. Jones, Enka; Treasurer O. E. Brookhyser, Sylva. At this meeting past officers of the Association were presented lapel pins as mementos of their service to the Association. Chief Donald Charles, Charlotte, made the presentations. Pins were supplied by Mr. J. H. Bailey. Mr. Charles F. Gold, Insurance Commissioner for North Carolina was speaker for this meeting.

On December 14, 1955, the Association met at Enka, with the Enka Fire Department and the American Enka Corp. as hosts. At this meeting the disastrous Unagusta fire at Hazelwood, North Carolina, was discussed and it was reported that the Mutual Aid program, sponsored by the Western Association functioned smoothly. Congressman George H. Shuford was the speaker for the evening.

The Association again met at Enka, on March 14, 1956, for the March meeting. It was discussed and decided at this meeting, that at all future meetings the attending firemen would pay for their meals. The host department to make their charge on cost of meal. It was announced that a new print of the film "Using Water Wisely" had been secured for the film library.

The Association met on June 22, 1956, at Marion, with the American Thread Co. and Marion Fire Department as hosts. The speakers for this meeting were Chief Donald Charles, who spoke on Fire Prevention in the community, and Chief Mac Salley, who spoke on Fire Prevention in Industry.

During the year we have been honored by the attendance of the officers of the State Association. We have had some of them at each of our meetings, and at our September meeting the following were made honorary members of the Association: Chief Donald Charles, Chief Clarence Morris, Commissioner Charles F. Gold, and Chief Cosmo Cox.

During the year we held four meetings with an average attendance of 166, representing an average of 28 departments. Our membership increased from 789 in 1954-55 to 846 in 1955-56, although the number of member departments dropped from 37 in 1954-55 to 36 in 1955-56.

EASTERN CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The offiers of the Association for 1956 elected at the Wilson meeting were: Chief Tyrus Bissett, Wilson, President; Assistant Chief Joe Haley, Kinston, Vice President; and Chief E. W. Kinsey, LaGrange, re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. The Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association is composed of 40 Eastern Carolina cities and towns

membership.

The fourth quarterly meeting for last year was held October 11, 1955 at Windsor with President Spivey presiding. The feature speaker was Mr. Charles F. Gold, Insurance Commissioner of North Carolina.

The first quarterly meeting was held in Wilson, January 10, 1956. The officers listed above were elected at this meeting. The city of Ahoskie was accepted into the Association. Mr. Charles F. Gold, Insurance Commissioner, and Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary of the N. C. State Firemen's Association, were the speakers for the meeting.

The second quarterly meeting was held in Winterville on April 10 with the Winterville Fire Department acting as host. The following officers of the State Association attended this meeting: John C. Wallace, President; Horace C. Elliott, Vice President; Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary; Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer; Albert W. Brinson, Statistician; Charles L. Miller, Advisory; and Cosmo L. Cox, Advisory. Mr. Charles F. Gold was the main speaker.

The third quarterly meeting was held on July 10, 1956 with the Aurora Fire Department being host. Mr. Charles F. Gold and Curtis H. Flanagan were again the feature speakers. The next meeting will be held in Ayden on October 9, 1956. All firemen are welcome.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 28th annual Fire College and Drill School was held in Charlotte at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on May, 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1956. The Honorable Phil Van Every, Mayor, gave the welcome address and the response to the address of welcome was mad by Chief Cosmo L. Cox of Durham. Chif Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor, conducted the most successful four day college ever held anywhere.

The School was very fortunate to have taking part in the lectures Chief William Fitzgerald, President International Association of Fire Chiefs, Seattle, Washington; Chief Wayne Swanson, Vice President, International, Rockford, Illinois; Chief Donald S. Charles, Second Vice President International, Charlotte, North Carolina. Other topics used were: Human Relations by Dr. George D. Heaton, Pastor Myers Park Methodist Church, Charlotte; Testing Ladders by Mr. Hugh Walker, Manager of the Sales Engineering American La France, El Mira, New York; Health and Fire Hazards by Mr. H. E. Whitmire, St. Louis, Missouri; National Fire Protection Association Fire Service Activities by Mr. Warren Y. Kimball, Manager National Fire Protection Association, Boston, Massachusetts; Modern Fire Equipment by Mr. H. M. Blank, Chief Engineer The Seagrave Corporation, Columbus, Ohio; and many other men of great importance in the fire field. You will see these listed in Conductors.

The total attendance of the school was 470 including 98 visitors, 22 people appearing on the program, 20 representatives of manufacturers, and 11 instructors.

President Fitzgerald announced at the school the appointment of Chief G. A. Mitchell, Opelika, Alabama, Secretary of Southeastern Fire Chiefs Association, to the Treasurer of the International Fire Chiefs' Association.

As your statistician I was sorry not to be in a position to attend the Fire College and Drill School. It was the first one I have missed in many, many years. From all I have talked with who attended, there was only praise for the finest school they had ever attended, and for the ones responsible for the excellent school.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION PUMP SCHOOL: The fourth pump school was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on October 17, 18, and 19, 1955. The school was conducted by the Director-Conductor, Chief Charles L. Burkett, and Assistant Director, Chief E. M. Salley, Enka, North Carolina. The attendance was 155 with the registration up 19 from 1954. Credits were issued to 57 first year men, 21 second year, and 55 third year men. There were registered 22 visitors (observers and representatives of manufacturers). Your statistician has heard many in attendance to our schools say, "Believe me you, I learned more about fire pumps than I had ever dreamed of."

SHERMAN PICKARD DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL: Honorable Charles F. Gold, Commissioner of Insurance appointed Sherman Pickard, former member of the Burlington Fire Department, as Deputy Fire Marshal of the Insurance Department in 1955. Mr. Pickard comes to the department well qualified with firematic knowledge and experience from the fire service. We welcome Sherman to the department and to the local level of firemen's training. Sherman Pickard assisted with conducting the Plymouth Firemen's Training School at Plymouth, April 2-6, 1956. He conducted a fire school at Mount Olive, May 14-16, 1956, under the sponsorship of the North Carolina Insurance Department. Classes were held each night from 7:30 until 10 p.m. The four towns that were represented were Mount Olive, which was host, Calypso, Faison, and Warsaw. In their program fires were fought in four different ways. Foam, low pressure fog on line, low velocity fog, using applicators, and dry chemical extinguishers 20 and 30 pound size. He conducted a similar training course at Gibsonville November 1-6, 1955, of 60 hours with 17 firemen participating. Also on February 26 through March 3 a similar program of training was conducted by Mr. Pickard with 40 hours and 26 firemen participating. Mr. Pickard advises me that he has training schools planned for October and November at Mount Olive, Roseboro, Locust and Buies Creek Fire Departments. He states he will be happy to make plans to work with your fire department on the

training program, at the local level, upon your request.

PLYMOUTH FIRE SCHOOL: Chief I. Miller Warren and his firemen held another Fire Shool the first week in April. There were 14 men reporting for the first year course. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal directed the first year course. Captain Otis Dowdy, Drill and Prsonnel Director of the Charlotte Fire Department directed the 47 men reporting for the second year work. Thre were six towns and one rural fire department represented and took part in the courses. They are making plans to continue the courses next year. Miller reports his city is enjoying the lowest fire loss in many years.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The officers elected to the Fire Chiefs' Association at the annual meeting of the Association held in New Bern were: Clarence E. Morris, President, Albemarle; Jack B. Keeter, Vice President, Raleigh; J. A. West, Secretary, Wilmington; Ralph E. Marbry, Treasurer, Badin. The following Vice Presidents for the districts are: No. 1. T. R. Bissett, Wilson; No. 2 R. B. Heater, Cary; No. 3 H. B. Fowler, Southern Pines; No. 4 Ed Brannock, Mount Airy; and Nd. 5 Gladson Hayne, Canton. The membership for 1955 was 163 regular members, which was a gain of 13 cities and towns over the year 1954.

The address of welcome was given by Chief Albert Stocks. Response to address of welcome was made by Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer, N. C. State Firemen's Association. President I. Miller Warren presided over the meeting. Mr. Knneth Scott of the North Carolina Rating Bureau gave words of greeting to all the chiefs from the Bureau. Mr. L. E. Shingledeck of Columbus, Ohio made a few remarks on his pleasure at attending the meeting. Presidnt gave his report and added he had traveled about 3,500 miles during the year.

He also praised the work of the Secretary and Treasurer. Chief Canady urged all chiefs and assistant chiefs to mail their dues in promptly. Chief Burkett reminded the chiefs of the state that the North Carolina Fire College and Pump School was for the training of their firemen. All the officers of the Chiefs' Association attended the Fire College in Charlotte in May 1956.

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS WITH C. W. "MOON" WYRICK HONORED: The Southern Association of Fire Chiefs covers ten Southeastern states, and their last meeting was held in the city of Lexington, Kentucky, which was a very successful meeting. The host chief was Mr. Earl McDaniels, who at that time was the President of the Southeastern. At that meeting Mr. Troy O. Richardson of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was elevated to President. Our Mr. C. W. "Moon" Wyrick was elevated to first Vice President, Mr. Bernard J. Padgett, Chief of fire department, Alexandria, Virginia, was elected second Vice Prsident, Mr. G. A. Mitchell, Chief of Opelika, Alabama was re-elected Sec-

retary-Treasurer, Mr. Earl R. McDaniel was elected Director to the International Association of Fire Chiefs. They voted to hold their next meeting in Miami, Florida on November 11, 1956, just prior to the opening of the International Association of Fire Chiefs meeting in Miami. Due to the death of Daniel Tierney, who was Treasurer of the International for a long number of years, the Southeastern was honored by the appointment of G. A. "Squirrel" Mitchell as Treasurer of International. One other outstanding thing that the Southeastern did was the endorsement and the backing and support of our own Chif Donald S. Charles, who was unanimously elected second Vice President of the International, which has meant a great honor not only to the Southeastern but to the state of North Carolina and to the city of Charlotte. Moon writes "We are all supporting Donald again at this coming conference to become first Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs." Moon urges that all chiefs in our state, if not members, to become members and to attend these conferences. It will mean much to each one of them and if it is the willingness of the members he will be elevated to the Presidency of the Southeastern in November. I also urge every chief, not a member of the Southeastern to become a member and go to Miami and help elect Moon to the Presidency.

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles and his 236 firemen entertained royally, as usual, the third annual North Carolina Firemen's Association Pump School on October 17, 18, 19, 1955, with a registration of 155, and on May 7, 8, 9, 10 1956 were host to the 28th annual Fire College with a total attendance of 470. The College was the largest and best college of the 28 held and sponsored by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. I wish to say that every fireman and citizen of North Carolina should be happy, proud, and indebted to Chief Charles, his firemen, and to the city of Charlotte for going all the way out in acting host to our College and Pump School, along with placing their department and training facilities at our disposal for free. Thanks Donald and your firemen and city officials. The record of Charlotte speaks for itself and I quote an article entitled "Fire Control Rating High In Charlotte" reprinted from The Charlotte Observer, Thursday, April 28, 1956:

"New York—On the basis of its fire control showing during the past year, Charlotte's fire department turned in a more efficient performance than did most cities in the United States.

"This is shown in connction with reports from some 650 municipal fire departments in the United States and Canada, gathered by the National Fire Protection Association. The cities covered were of 20,000 population or over.

"The local fire fighters showed up well in the figures with their success in bringing conflagrations under control quickly and thus holding damage to a minimum.

"Charlotte's fire loss for the year, the result of 773 building fires, came to $614,868. Per fire it amounted to $794, which compares favorably with the record of the other American cities, $931 per fire.

"Automobile fires posed a problem for the nation's fire fighters. This situation has assumed larger proportions than before because of the increase in car usage. Now, about one-fifth of all fires are auto fires. In Charlotte there were 152 during the year.

"In nearly all cities, fire departments were also plagued by intentional false alarms. Such alarms, which are apart from those turned in error, comprised 1-14th of the total calls. There were 350 in Charlotte."

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL TRAINING: Chief Wyrick as usual continued the annual Advanced Training course for the officers and firemen of the Grenesboro Fire Department in 1955. First on his program began with a First Aid Refresher course by the personnel and a complete standard and advanced course for men hired during the year. Two members of the department received American Red Cross citations for more than 300 hours of First Aid Teaching. A course for officers "Fire-fighting Tactics" was the second training course. This was a two week course and involved 22 officers. A 30 hour course with 20 operators went through a pump school for first and second drivers was the third course. Testing of hose was the next operation. Two 30-hour classes for auxiliary Civil Defense Firemen were conducted to bring up a total of 60 men in the unit. Members of the department traveled to various parts of the United States to increase their firemanic knowledge. Three members attended the Instructors' Conference in Memphis, Tennessee; 1 attended the Arson School at Gainesville, Florida; 2 attended th Fire Prevention School at the Maryland University; 1 served as member of the staff of the Arson School at Chapel Hill; 2 members served on the staff of the North Carolina Fire College and Pump School; 2 members served on the committee for the edition of "Pre-Planning Fire Attack" and 1 of a group of training manuals being published by Oklahoma A and M College. Their new training facilities are being finished for the first training of the 18 new recruits added to the department to begin the new 72 work week. The Fire Prevention Bureau had a busy year in prevention of fires and with a result they had their lowest fire loss on record, considering present day valuation and increase in buildings and population. Their loss was $147,967.99, or a per capita loss of $1.66. They had 6,350 inspections and re-inspections for the year. Three of their members of the Bureau have had arson training at the University of Purdue, Chapel Hill, and the University of Florida, which was a great asset in the 432 investigations they made of fires dur-

ing the year. The Bureau distributed 56,000 pieces of literature to school children, civic clubs, and stores; showed fire prevention films to 7,850 persons, and issued and checked 416 permits to burn. Moon, we say keep up the good work you and your men are doing.

DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Cosmo Cox of the Durham Fire Department advises me that the city has completed a nice, large, new fire station to replace the old No. 3 station. This building has 5,600 square feet of floor space and was built to accommodate three active companies in the future. At the present two active companies are operating and h says they keep one reserve pumper in the building. Durham purchased a new 750 gallon per minute pumping engine in March and placed it in headquarters station.

Cosmo states that his department "answered 997 calls in 1955, 818 in the city, and 179 in the county. The total value of property in the city involved by fire was $1,141,190. Total loss was $217,679." He says his training program during both the summer and winter seasons has been continued vigorously. Inspections have been regular. "On June 10, this year was the third year we have continued a six-day radio program. This program is designed to report on all fire activities, also give helpful safety suggestions and preventive measures. During last Fire Prevention Week we had a thirty-e minute live TV program from which we received many nice compliments," stated Chief Cox.

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES: Chief E. M. Dixon of the Winston-Salem Fire Department furnished me with their 1955 annual report covering expansion program, training activities, etc., for 1955. They report 1222 alarms for the year with 816 fires, 95 rescue and emergency calls, and 246 smoke scares, non-malicious false alarms, etc. Their total fire loss for the year was $447,621 with total value of $6,679,-245 in buildings and value of contents. Their fire loss per capita was $4.97. Their Fire Prevention Bureau reported his men made 6,639 inspections, found 830 violations, and corrected 251. Their Fire Prevention Education consisted of distribution of 23,000 pieces of literature, 38 newspaper articles, 12 radio programs, 4 television programs, 2 on safety, 3 campaigns, 1 display, and 19 talks and movies. Ten of their firemen attended the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School for 1955, 5 of the men received diplomas. Two of their men attended the Fire Department Instruction Conference at Memphis, Tennessee; 1 attended the Arson School at Chapel Hill, with 62 attending a one-day school "Invstigation of Arson and Other Unlawful Burnings," and 4 attended a "Crash Fire Fighting and Rescue School" conducted at Pope Air Field. Chief Dixon and his officers are continuing to do a bang-up job with the program which retired Chief Brown started several years ago on educating his firemen and fire protection. I am happy to

make mention of their achievement in the fire service.

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT: Forsyth County Fire Marshal, E. R. Baugess, reports "During the year 1955 our 27 pieces of equipment made a total of 656 calls, valuation involved $6,500,000, with a fire loss of only $119,000 and with no loss of life in our rural area. We are complete with a training program, inspection program, traffic department, and certainly the finest equipment that money can buy. Last year we sent 26 delegates to the state convention. All of our first trucks are equipped with two-way radio, scott-air packs and fully equipped, some with portable pumps and portable light plants.

Below are the departments of the Forsyth County Fire Department: City View, Clemmons, Beeson's Cross Roads, Griffith, Forest Hills, Lewisville, Mineral Springs, Mount Tabor, Triangle, Talley's Crossing, South Fork, Suburban, Vienna, Walkertown, and Old Richmond.

FIRST CARTERET COUNTY-WIDE FIRE SCHOOL: The following was reprinted in The Hoze & Nozzle, November 1955 edition:

"47 Carteret County Firemen Complete First County-Wide Fire School. Cards, wallet size, to denote graduation from Carteret's first county-wid fire school were presented Friday night, September 23 to firemen at a dinner at the Sanitary Resaurant, Morehead City.

Presenting the cards was Captain Otis Dowdy of the Charlotte Fire Department, who conducted the training sessions Tuesday through Thursday of that week.

Vernon Guthrie, Chief of the Morehead City Fire Department, acted as master of ceremones. J. C. Robrtson, Charlotte, introduced Lloyd Layman, Battle Creek, Mich., who spoke on "Indirect Method" of fire fighting.

Guest speakers at the meeting were Curtis Flanagan, Farmville, Secretary of the State Firemen't Association; Cecil Lilly, Farmville; Moses Howard, chairman of the county Board of Commissioners; Wilbur Garner, Newport Fire Commissioner; Chief Charles Harrell, Beaufort; Chief B. T. Smith, Jr., Newport; Gerald Woolard, Beaufort, secretary of the fire school; and Leon Mann, Jr., mayor of Newport.

J. Ludie Croom ,former chief of the Wilmington Fire Department, showed slides on the devastating Wilmington port fire of 1953. Chief Croom was head of the Wilmington Fire Department for 47 years.

The color slides were shots of the fire in which a warehouse containing nitric soda and a sugar warehouse were destroyed. Total loss was $11,800,000, the most costly fire ever to occur in the state, Chief Croom said.

In closing my report as your statistician, I would like to stress the importance of every fire chief and assistant fire chief becoming

a member of the Southeastern and International Fire Chiefs' Association. You will receive free monthly, more valuable information on how best to fight every type of fire that is known, than you ever dreamed could be available. Also I wish to especially call to your attention the Governor's proposed statewide Fire Prevention Conference which is to be arranged for this early fall. Every fireman in North Carolina, and Mr. Curtis H. Flanagan, our secretary, tells me there are 9,410, should take part in this Fire Prevention program.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Honorable Charles F. Gold, Insurance Commissioner, Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal, and the many other people who have assisted me by providing material for my 1956 report.

I wish to say before closing this report, President Wallace and Fellow Firemen, that it has been indeed a great privilege and pleasure to have served our Association in the capacity of member of your Advisory Committee for three years, and as your statistician for 16 years to the best of my ability. To Chief Keeter and his officers and firemen, I say that I am happy to have the privilege to enjoy your hospitality in the friendly capital city.

Respectfully submitted,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Office of Statistician

New Bern, North Carolina
August 30, 1956

Mr. Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary
North Carolina State Firemen's Association
Farmville, North Carolina
Dear Curtis:

Attached is my Statistician's report, I am am attaching a sheet covering the Forsyth County Fire Department.

I received this late, is the reason I was unable to inject into my report. Will appreciate you adding to my report on page 28, following the Winston-Salem Fire Department article that starts on page 27. I have marked on page the place it is to follow.

By the way, I still have not received my salary check.

Sincerely yours,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

Motion by Harry Green that the Statistician's report be adopted in its entirety and a copy be sent to each Fire Department in North Carolina. The motion was seconded and duly carried.

REPORT ON AUDIT OF FINANCIAL RECORDS
For the Year ending June 30, 1956

To the Members of the North Carolina State
Firemen's Association and the Fraternal Insurance Fund
of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

Dear Sirs:

I have examined the financial records of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and the Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association for the year ending June 30, 1956 and submit the following exhibits and comments relative thereto:

EXHIBIT:

A—North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Assets, June 30, 1956.

B—The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Assets, June 30, 1956.

C—North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year ending June 30, 1956.

D—The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year ending June 30, 1956.

E—North Carolina State Firemen's Association and The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund, Statement of Secretary's Cash Receipts and Remittances to the Treasurer for the Year ending June 30, 1956.

All receipts recorded by the Secretary were remitted by check to the Treasurer, who recorded the remittances received and deposited same in the proper bank account. All disbursements were made by properly approved vouchers. The dual records maintaind by the Secretary and the Treasurer were reconciled at June 30, 1956, and the differences have been pointed out for the necessary adjustments to be made.

Cash balances and investments held for all funds at June 30, 1956 were verified by direct confirmation from the depositories and the investment management agency, Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, High Point, N. C. Details regarding cash balances and investments held at June 30, 1956 are shown in Exhibits A and B and changes or transactions during the year under examination are set forth in Exhibits C and D.

A comparative statement of assets as of June 30, 1956 and 1955, by funds, is shown below:

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

Albert Brinson

President Elliott and Fellow Firemen,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my happy privilege and pleasure to submit my seventeenth report of statistics of fire happenings in the Fire Service of North Carolina for the year 1956. Another twelve months have passed since the association was guest in the capitol city of Raleigh. Chief Jack Keeter and his firemen were hosts to the sixty-ninth annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and offered a swell program long to be remembered by all who attended.

We are here assembled at Carolina Beach by the blue Atlantic in vacationland, attending the seventieth annual convention, with Chief C. L. Snipes and his efficient firemen as hosts to the firemen of North Carolina. Carolina Beach Fire Department entertained the association in 1939, 1949, 1951, 1953, and now again in 1957. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Chief Snipes, his officers, firemen, and city officials, and the citizens of Carolina Beach for the hospitality they have extended to us.

IN MEMORIAM: John Luther Miller was reared on a farm near Rockwell, North Carolina. His parents were the late J. Allen and Margaret Lyerly Miller, who lived near Rockwell and operated a farm and grist mill. He attended "Old Field" school and North Carolina College located at Mt. Pleasant. In young manhood Chief Miller attended Teachers' Institute and was granted license to teach. He taught at the Fisher School while the late J. P. Cook was superintendent.

Mr. Miller moved to Concord in 1891 and began a business career as a grocery clerk with Christenbury Holshouser and Rufus Lippard. One year later, 1892, he was married to Miss Maggie Holshauser.

In 1897 he began his long and beloved service as Concord's fire chief with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, and hand reels as equipment. Since the post of Chief of the Concord volunteer fire department carried no salary he had to engage in other business to earn a living. In company with Fred Smith he began a grocery story and later was joined in the grocery business at that stand by the late C. A. Dry. Mr. Miller also served as postmaster of Concord from 1915 to 1925.

Chief Miller had found time to visit nearly all the 48 states and attended the democratic convention at Chicago that first nominated Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. In earlier days he held membership in the Pythian Lodge, the Woodmen of the World, the Elks, and Junior Order. He was a loyal member of St. James Lutheran church.

The city of Concord's first organized firefighting group grew

in efficiency and service under Chief Miller's leadership, and it was not many years later the department had horsedrawn wagons with the best equipment available in that period. Along about 1914 the local fire department began the change to motorized equipment. He was fire chief of Concord for over a half century, from 1897 until his retirement in 1949. He was one of the oldest firemen in North Carolina and 87 years of age when he died.

Chief Miller's interest in the welfare and safety of the firemen serving the various cities and towns of the state prompted him, along with other fire chiefs, to launch the mutual insurance program of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1908. He served as Secretary of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association from 1908 until 1954 when he retired after 46 years service to the firemen of the state of North Carolina. He was loved by all.

He was a kindly and modest man and was unaltered by both adversity and success. The firemen of the state have lost one of their most ardent citizens in his passing, and Concord and the Firemen's Association will long remember the great service he rendered as a man devoted to the fire service of North Carolina.

IN MEMORIAM: Veteran Fire Chief R. K. Hall answered the last alarm of life on Sunday, January 27, 1957. Affectionately known as "Cap'n Dick" to his legion of friends throughout North Carolina and other states, he held the distinction of being the oldest active fire chief in the United States, and possibly in the world, both as to age and years of service.

Richard K. (Cap'n Dick) Hall passed away at his home at five o'clock Sunday afternoon. He served actively as chief of the Edenton Fire Department until last summer when he was stricken with a heart ailment from which he never recovered.

Chief Hall was 91 years old last Christmas Day. He was born December 25, 1865, the year the Civil War was terminated, son of the late William Thomas and Sarah Jordan Hall of Hertford and moved to Edenton as a small boy, where his father entered business as a merchant tailor.

Cap'n Dick was elected a member of the Edenton Bucket Brigade on December 23, 1881, at the age of 16 years and was appointed Captain of the Brigade by Colonel Bob Mitchell, who was chief at the time. In the year 1886 the firemen purchased a hook and ladder outfit with funds which they earned in sponsoring various types of entertainment for the public, and Cap'n Dick was elected captain of the Hook & Ladder Company. Ten years later the fire company purchased three hose reels following the installation of fire hydrants. That year he was elected captain of the new outfit. On August 1, 1921 Mr. Hall became fire chief.

Chief Hall attended every convention of the North Carolina Firemen's Association until that of last year, and upon each occa-

sion he was feted and highly honored as the oldest fire chief in the world, both as to age and years of service rendered. The late Sherwood Brockwell, the State Fire Marshal, made the assertion not only at these conventions, but also in various states and Canada where he was conducting fire colleges, owing to his recognized auhority on fire fighting. Never was the claim challenged.

Cap'n Dick was loved by all firemen of North Carolina and they were always glad to seek his counsel.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1956: The National Fire Prevention of Boston, sponsor in the non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire in the United States, Canada, and all countries where our armed services are located, annually sponsors Fire Prevention Week and makes awards.

The grand awards went to Memphis, Tenn., with Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada placing second. First five ranking of top United States communities (out of 270 in Grand Award Competition): 1st—Memphis, Tenn.; 2nd—Phoenix, Arizona; 3rd—Louisville, Ky.; 4th—Philadelphia, Penn., tying with Chicago, Ill.; and 5th—Fort Worth, Texas.

UNITED STATES COMMUNITY RANKINGS BY STATES: North Carolina—Winston-Salem tied with High Point for 1st, and Fayetteville won 2nd. Our compliments to you chiefs, Dixon, Canady, and Cain, your firemen and the citizens of Winston-Salem, High Point, and Fayetteville.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Although not falling within any contest category, the following efforts were deemed by the judges to have contributed materially to improve public fire safety in North America during 1956. State of Tennessee: For an outstanding effort by the State Fire Marshal's office to assist and encourage effective observance of Fire Prevention Week by Tennessee communities. Province of Quebec, Canada for its successful promotion of the Fire Prevention Week campaign. Cook County, Illinois and Montgomery, Maryland for outstanding county-sponsored Fire Prevention Week programs. The United States Post Office Department and United States Department of Defense because of the successful support and coordination of effective fire prevention activities among operational elements in each department. United States General Services Administration for outstanding improvement in year around fire prevention activities. And Ford Motor Company for the most outstanding industrial fire prevention program. Fort Bragg, North Carolina placed eleventh in the Military Division out of the twenty highest awards from the 77 entries in Grand Awards competition.

INTERCHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST: The Grand Winner was Port Angelus, Washington. Class cities with population over 500,000, Philadelphia, Penn.; 250,000 to 500,000, Dayton, Ohio; 100,000 to 250,000, Hartford, Conn.; 50,000 to 100,000, Lexington, Ky.; 20,000 to 50,000, Richland, Wash.; and under 20,000, Naugatuck, Conn. I, as your statistician, am sorry not to be able to report some cities of North Carolina as winners in this contest as I was able to do last year. I hope some North Carolina cities will be included as winners next year.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY: Mr. Robert W. Schuette, Manager, Public Relations Department of the National Fire Protection Association, advises me that the National Fire Protection Association estimates that the fire fatalities of men, women, and children in the United States for the year 1956 was 10,600. I am happy to report to you that this is 875 less deaths by fire than in 1955. No doubt the nationwide Fire Prevention programs are paying off for the firemen's efforts. As I said in my last year's report the solution by which to reduce this loss of lives by the FIRE DEMON is to practice more efficient fire prevention.

The United States fire loss of property for the year 1956 was estimated by the National Fire Protection Association as $1,250,000,000. I am sorry to inform you this is an estimated increase of $223,800,000. There are two redeeming thoughts about this increase, they are, first the valuation of property in the United States is greater than in 1955, and there is more property in new buildings for 1956, however we must exercise more and more fire prevention.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: There were 28 main causes and 2699 fires reported by the fire chiefs of North Carolina in the state during 1956. Six causes accounted for 1795 or about 66.5% of these 2699 total fires. Unknown led with 537 fires; oil stoves and heaters 315, smoking in bed and careless handling of cigarettes 319, faulty electric wiring 226, carelessness 214 and defective chimneys and flues 184.

CHURCH FIRES FOR 1956: A decrease of 40% in church fires is noted—9 reported for 1956 against 15 for 1955. The damage on these 9 was $54,661, an average of $6,073 per church. In 1955 the loss was $246,265, an average of $16,417 on each of the 15 churches. No doubt earlier detection of the fires and quick efficient work on the part of you firemen account for this 63% decrease in loss per church fire for 1956.

HOTELS AND APARTMENT HOUSES: There were 12 hotel fires reported with damages amounting to $22,357, ranging from $40, the smallest loss, up to $10,773 on the Orton Hotel at Asheville.

The 144 reported apartment house fires have the aggregate amount of $194,723 in damage for the year 1956. The losses in

single fires ranged from $10 to $20,000.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Division of Insurance State Board of Education again this year was cooperative in furnishing me the following information on administrative school units. There are 174 administrative school units, and of these 64 county and 31 city units are protected by the Division of Insurance, State Board of Health.

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Losses Which Occurred During The Year 1956-57
Paid And In Process

Name of Building and School Unit	Amt. of Loss
Graham High School, Alamance County	$ 1,188.00
West Buncombe Elem. School, Buncombe County	1,156.72
Swannanoa Elem. School, Buncombe County	1,259.00
Drexel Teacherage, Burke County	229.87
Moyock Teacherage, Currituck County	67.30
Glen School, Auditorium & Addition, Forsyth County	38.78
Southwest Agriculture Shop, Forsyth County	259.00
Central Elementary School, Gastonia City	100.00
Hamlet High School Agriculture Bld., Hamlet City	44.50
Dunn High School Hi-Y Hut, Harnett County	3,877.30
Benhaven High School, Harnett County	105.70
Dunn High School Cafeteria & Band Bld., Harnett County	98.90
Johnston Co. Training Sch. (colored) Johnson County	9,051.10
Clayton Grammar School, Johnston County	181.35
Tri City High School, Leaksville City	4,460.49
Moss Hill Gymnasium (Old) Lenoir County	5,000.00
Deep Run School Addition, Lenoir County	352.05
Tuckers' Grove (Colored) Lincoln County	185.70
Hudgins (Colored) School, Marion City	1,080.05
Glenwood School Annex, McDowell County	329.93
Pleasant Garden School Annex, McDowell County	13.57
Tipton Hill Principal's Dwelling, Mitchell County	25.45
Aberdeen Principal's Dwelling, Moore County	50.00
Murphy High School (New) Murphy City	1,474.69
Pender County Gymnasium & Auditorium, Pender Co.	10,083.91
Topsaid Principal's Home, Pender County	10.05
Gray's Chapel School (New), Randolph County	335.21
Peachtree School, Cheroee County	978.11
Randleman High School, Randolph County	15,364.37
Rosemary School, Roanoke Rapids City	227.36
Junior High School, Roanoke Rapids City	150.00
Piney Grove Principal's Dwelling, Robeson County	2,400.00
Allenton Classroom Building, Robeson County	210.48
Landis Elementary School, Rowan County	1,452.22
Landis Elementary School, Rowan County	1,091.47
Morgan Street School, Rowan County	564.63

Sandy Ridge High School, Stokes County	583.70
Flat Rock School (Old) Surry County	99,877.12
Franklin Elementary School, Surry County	120,744.30
Lanes Creek School, Union County	35,000.00
Cary Home Economics Building, Wake County	936.59
Rolesville High School, Wake County	25.70
New Hope Elementary School, Wayne County	500.00
West Yadkin Gymnasium, Yadkin County	10,400.00
Clearmont Gymnasium and Lunchroom, Yancey Co.	13,300.00
Clearmont High School, Yancey County	1,000.00
Total Paid Fire and Lightning Losses	$345,864.67
Total Paid Extended Coverage Losses	3,458.36
Estimated Outstanding Fire & Lightning Losses	3,370.35
Total losses for the year 1956-1957	3,404.50
	$356,097.88

SCHOOL FIRES REPORTED BY FIRE CHIEFS FOR 1956: Thirteen school fires were reported in 1956 by fire chiefs totaling a loss of $181,773. The greatest single loss was the Hertford Grammar School $112,000. Clearmont High School at Burnsville with $30,000 and Spencer High School auditorium $24,831 were the next two most costly school fires.

THE FIRST CASUALTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FIRES: Mr. Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, advises us to our sorrow that "One pupil and one teacher died as a result of a fire at the Flat Rock School in Surry County during the 1956-57 school year. At least twenty-one children received hospital treatment as a result of the Flat Rock School fire. The two deaths at the Flat Rock School are the only deaths our records show as having ever resulted from a school fire in North Carolina. The records are complete since 1900, and we know of no school fire casualty prior to that date."

It has been my hope and prayer that I would never have to report a school fire death.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: These records were given by the fire chiefs in their reports to the Insurance Commissioner: Aberdeen 8 months; Asheboro 4; Booneville 6; Candor 2; Canton 5; Cathage 1; Cary 1; China Grove 4; Clyde 7; Concord 1; Cornelius 4; Denton 7; Dobson 10; Edenton 6; Fair Bluff 1; Faison 5; Gibsonville 7; Granite Quarry 6; Madison *; Mebane 2; Mocksville 2; Monroe 4; Mooresville 2; Morganton 1; Mt. Airy 4; Mt. Olive 1; Murfreesboro 2; Newport 1; Newton 1; Pikeville 4; Pinehurst 1; Rockwell 7; Rocky Mount 1; Salisbury 1; Spencer 9;

Spindale 8; St. Pauls 4; Statesville 2; Swansboro 10; Thomasville 3; Union Volunteer Fire Department, Salisbury 1; Wadesboro 1; and Wingate 3.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: During 1956 there were 53 fires reported which caused a loss of $20,000 or more each. There was a sharp increase in total loss from these large fires over that for 1955—$1,279,860 bringing the 1956 amount to $5,128,512. Losses like these cripple the business of our great state and cause much loss to the individual employees of these businesses.

Following is the list of large fires reported by the fire chiefs for 1956:

Asheville—Carolina Brush Co. $20,500 Fields Clothing Store $26,834 Pritchard Paint & Glass Co. $45,000; W. A. McEldruff Co. $22,000.

Bonlee—R. G. Hancock Lumber Co. $51,800.

Burlington—Alamance Furniture Repair $25,153.

Charlotte—Simpson-Gordon Shoe Store, Reeds Jewelry, Skippy's Bra Bar, total $62,921; Reids Super Market $100,000.

Chowan County—M. G. Brown Lumber Co. $46,000.

Clinton—Underwood Milling Co. $98,000.

Concord—Citizens National Bank $20,000.

Davidson County—Coble Dehydrating Plant $75,000.

Durham—Lipscomb & Gattis Co. $39,000; Surgical Supply, Jewelry Store, and Optical Office $21,000.

Fayetteville—Apartment and offices $20,000; Proctor-Barbour, Parkerhouse Eastern Finance, Capitol Sales & Services (4 fires) $157,500.

Fuquay Springs—C. W. Covington home $23,500.

Greenville—Tobacco Sales House, Dixie Warehouse, exposure, Redrying Plant, exposure, total $112,963; Tobacco Warehouse $750,000.

Guilford County—Country Club $230,000.

Hazelwood—Redroom furniture manufacturing place $65,000.

Hickory—Foam Rubber Plant $65,000.

High Point—Manufacturing TV cabinets $89,690.

Kannapolis—Garage $30,000.

Kinston—Garage $28,300.

LaGrange—Saw mill $25,000.

Lumberton—Longs Shoe Store $21,774.

Madison—Gainor Hosiery Co. $103,000.

Maxton—Maxton Cotton Co. $111,000.

Mecklenburg County—J. E. James home $20,500.

Morehead City—Theater and Department Store $112,000.

North Wilkesboro—Clothing Store $133,000.

Pinehurst—St. Matthews Chapel $22,500; Robert L. Williams home $25,000.

Polk County—Frank Cochran family $22,000.

Princeton—Gurley Milling Co. $25,000.

Reidsville—Hudson & Lester Building Supply $42,500; Smothers Warehouse $105,000; Virginia Tobacco Co., Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. $98,300.

Roanoke Rapids—Rosemary Meat Co. $46,553.

Rowan County—Spencer High School Auditorium $24,831.

Scotland Neck—W. Jacobie Levin $37,500.

Spruce Pine—Theater popcorn machine, total loss $30,000.

Troutman—Chair company $40,000.

Washington—5 & 10 Cent Store $265,000; Lumber Mill $50,000.

Wilson—Drake Theater $31,000; City Market $31,096; Star Cafe $26,100; Eatwell Cafe $25,000; Farmers Cotton Oil Co. $32,500.

Winston-Salem—Mercantile Store $20,824; B. F. Huntley Furniture Manufacturing Co. $1,490,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES: Smoking in bed (Addor, N. C.) building damage $3,500, contents $2,500—one life, Roy Matthews age 49.

Fire in bathroom closet—could have been faulty wiring —could have been smoker—loss $3,982.

Short in wiring on electric bag company sewing machine—$1,493.

Trash can on rear platform, auto equipment store loss $15,300.

Children playing with matches—loss $6,850.

Floor cleaning fluid exposed to fire—loss $6,350.

Painter using blow torch—damage $2,044.

Church fire from cigarette—damage $3,669.

Patient set fire to bed—damage $1,000.

Careless handling blow torch—loss $1,300.

Elm City, smoking in bed cost man his life—damage $100.

Thawing pipes with torch—damage $403.

Pouring kerosene oil on open fire—damage $2,040.

Spontaneous combustion, bag of ladies hose in closet—loss $1,350.

Kerosene poured on open flame, Revis Peters' first degree burns—damage $750.

Oil stove exploded, Mrs. Graham in basement could not get to her son Carol Graham, 15 months old, in the kitchen, child burned to death—loss $8,000.

Mrs. Ella McElwee smoking in bed suffocated—money loss $200.

Child playing with matches—loss $10,000.

Careless disposal of cigarette, County Club—loss $230,000. (One cigarette caused nearly a quarter million dollar loss.)

Probable cause static electricity—loss $108,000.

Carelessly disposed match—loss $12,484.

Incendiary—loss $9,600.

Convicted arson—sentenced 2 years—loss $600.

Tobacco warehouse, redrying plant, sales and storage, 2 men lost their lives, equipment stored—loss $141,863.

Hot charcoal put into paper bag—damage $350.

Wire on gas tank made an arc exploding tank—loss $1,500.

Spontaneous combustion due to poor housekeeping—loss $2,578.

Thomas Monroe smoking in bed, suffocated.

Carelessness, car exploded while being repaired—loss to garage, etc. $30,000.

Marvin I. James went to sleep smoking and listening to radio, burned to death.

Oil circulating heater flared up set house afire, Darlene Hairstone, age 2, burned to death—loss $5,000.

Poured kerosene oil on hot coals in laundry heater, 3 small children suffered first and second degree burns—loss 200.

Lighted cigarette carried into birds nest—damage $737.

Owner struck match in darkness to find light swich—gas fumes ignited—damage $4,000.

Mother picking cotton, child playing in fire—Baby Anthony burned to death in crib.

Cotton storage, bonded warehouse, arson by small boy—damage $111,000.

Family left electric roaster plugged in while they went away for week end—$3,500.

Mother and son went to bed, left burner lighted on cook stove—damage $7,500.

Two sections of drop cord from outlet to fan on oil stove were found fused together—no covering or protection from wear—result $13,000 loss.

Heat bulb used with sow and pigs—loss $3,000.

Quick silver caused fire—loss $3,000.

Solvent on fire—loss $1,600.

Christmas decorations—damage $2,036.

Two fires believed set by boys ages 10 to 13—damage $140.

Electric iron on couch—damage $500.

Unknown dwelling fire, one life lost—loss $18,500.

Foreman instructed employee to clean motor with solvent—$12,000.

Deep fat fryer boiled over setting fire—loss $19,210.

Hot ashes thrown on trash in basement—loss $10,000.

Cigarette thrown in trash can set curtains afire then spread—loss $950.

Fuel oil running from line to heater disconnected set fire—loss $3,800.

Electric light bulb too close to inflammables—loss $16,000.

Lady smoking in bed burned to death—damage $357.

Lady threw kerosene on fire in fireplace—$2,567.

Painters burned wasp nest under eaves of house—damage

$5,000.

Electric iron—damage $2,238.

Smoknig in bed—damage $10,000.

Flooded oil heater 2 year old child died—loss $2,100.

Woman 35 years old died from results of smoking in bed—loss $75.

Suspected arson—3 people badly burned on 25 to 30% of their bodies—loss $2,967.

FIRE TOLLS OF LIVES FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Division, State Board of Health, informs me that the North Carolina death tolls for the year 1956 including protected and unprotected cities, towns, and rural areas, was 86 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings). It is a great pleasure to inform you that this is a decrease of 38 deaths from the year of 1955. His report gives 104 deaths from fire and explosion of cumbustible material (other than conflagration). I am sorry to report this is an increase of 11 more deaths from fire and explosion than 1955. There were 11 deaths from hot substances, corrosive liquid and steam. This I am happy to say is 10 less deaths from hot substance, corrosive liquid and steam. These figures give us a total of 201 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1956. It is indeed a pleasure to tell you this is a decrease of 37 total accidental deaths in 1956 from 1955. I am sure you will agree with me that the statewide Fire Prevention work and the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's Fire College and Drill School are paying off in saving lives of North Carolina citizens from the Fire Demon.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health advises me of 18 deaths in 1956 of personnel in military aircraft, one death occupant of commercial transport aircraft, 3 deaths occupants of other aircraft, 7 deaths other and unspecified aircraft accidents, and no deaths from accidents at airfields to persons not in aircraft. The total deaths from airplane accidents for the year 1956 was 29; this was 8 less deaths than in 1955. This reduction is gratifying and especially so when you consider the large increase in planes and travel miles. It is often said that air travel is the safest travel of all types when miles are considered.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal, has furnished your statistician with the estimated fire loss for North Carolina for 1956. The total fire loss figures were derived as follows. The Insurance department received from the National Board of Fire Underwriters loss figures of the stock fire insurance companies. These were exact figures. A check of the Insurance department records reveals that the mutual fire insurance companies' losses average 30% that of the stock companies

over a period of several years. The uninsured losses according to the National Board still stand at 33 1/3% of the total fire loss. Mr. Pickard believes this to be the most accurate method of figuring the fire losses. It is his intention at this time to follow this method in years to come. Your statistician is sorry to inform you that the estimated fire loss of 1956 for North Carolina was $31,369,621. This was an estimated $10,583,912 increase over the estimated 1955 loss, however, it was a decrease of $10,859,567 from the 1954 estimated loss furnished me by Mr. Everette B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshal of the State of North Carolina Insurance Department.

Below I submit the breakdown of estimated fire loss by the Insurance department of the causes of the various fires and the amount of loss.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS, 1956

Code	Cause	Loss
1	Electricity and Electrical Equipment—except Lightning and Static	$ 5,921,722
3	Lightning	2,357,117
7	Static Electricity and Static Sparks	8,995
11	Chimneys, Vents, Cupolas, Flues and Stacks	1,481,411
13	Heating Units—Liquid Fuel	1,262,670
15	Heating Units—Solid Fuel	90,887
17	Heating Units—Gas and Liquified Petroleum	31,864
13, 15, 17	Heating Units—Fuel Type Unknown	595,319
21	Sparks, Flames or Heat from Welding Torches, Cutting Torches	36,956
23	Heat, Flames, Sparks from sources other than Welding	3,202,305
25	Smoking and Careless use of Matches	1,149,780
27	Exposure	478,834
2	Sparks from Bonfires, Burning Rubbish, etc.	389,897
31	Friction and Friction Sparks	144,996
35	Backfire or Hot Exhaust from Internal Combustion Engines	22,337
37	Fireworks, Firecrackers	8,214
41	Incendiarism, Vandalism, etc.	84,116
43	Open Lights	44,626
45	Rekindles	2,599
47	Spontaneous Ignition	845,435
48	Known but not otherwise classified	268.176
49	Unknown or not determined	12,941,368
	Total	$31,369,621

Fire deaths in 1956 as reported by the State Board of Health—201.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION: Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan advises me that the following fire departments became members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association during the past year: Jackson Park, Concord; Winecoff, Concord; Elm City, Gaston, Harrisburg, Besson Cross Roads, Kernersville; Talley's Crossing, Kernersville; King, Knightdale, Lansing, Locust Parkton, Robbins, Ellis Cross Country, Salisbury; Skyland, Stony Point, Tabor City, and Tobaccoville. These eighteen new department members give an increase of eleven more new member departments than joined the association in 1955. Robbins and Tabor City were once members and have come back into the association. The entire membership of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association welcome you to the association. We also extend a cordial welcome to each of you 700 new members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association.

Curtis says that there are 304 active and 10 inactive departments members of this great association with 10,100 member firemen.

DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Chief Cosmo L. Cox reports that the city of Durham has one new fire station under construction in the Southern area of the city which will replace one old station. This station is designed for two companies. The old one to be replaced is only one engine company. Chief Cox states his department has carried out their regular training program at the training building and also during the winter in the stations. In addition to their regular programs in the schools during Fire Prevention Week they secured from Disney Studios a six minute, animated cartoon film which was shown to the grade school students during the spring of the year. Students and teachers praised the film highly. He says they plan to use it many times in the future.

CHIEF COSMO L. COX HONORED: Chief Cox was honored at the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs convention held July 8 and 9 at Nashville, Tenn., by being elected 2nd vice president. Following the usual procedure he will become President of the Southeastern in 1959. Congratulations Cosmo. The Southeastern is also honored with such a splendid chief and fireman from North Carolina on the executive staff.

FAYETTEVILLE FIRE CHIEF REPORTS: Chief Carl A. Cain reports that his department won 2nd place, state of North Carolina in Fire Prevention Week activities sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. He also reports that the following new equipment was added to his department during the year: One 1,000 gallon pumper tested April 8, 1957 and put into service; a tractor and trailer with 45,000 gallon tank and a 500 gallon pump

added on back of tank; one 3,000 watt emergency light plant with automatic switch for fire alarms; and lights installed on all fire alarm boxes in fire district. He further reports adding another pumper company at Station No. 2 making a total of 5 pumper companies, 1 aerial company, with 62 men total firemen in the Fayetteville department. Congratulations on your win in the National Fire Protection Association contest.

HIGH POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES: Chief Canady reports that a total of 10,340 man hours were spent in the educational and drill program, 1430 hours on outside drills, and 8,910 hours on classes and station study. Chief Canady and T. G. Shelton, Director of Fire Prevention, gave instructions and training to several industrial fire brigades in the city. Special schools and conferences attended by department personnel were: North Carolina Fire College and Pump School; Fire Department Instructors Conference, Memphis, Tenn.; North Carolina State Building Inspectors' Conference, Charlotte; Georgia State Fire College, Atlanta; North Carolina State Fire Pump School, Charlotte; and the Seagrave Fire Apparatus Co., Columbus, Ohio. High Point was awarded first place for the state of North Carolina in the field of Fire Prevention in a contest sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. They were awarded a Certificate of Merit in community service for fire prevention and conservation activities of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. High Point won first place state award in Fire Prevention activities in the State Jaycees Fire Prevention contest, and they have won in three years two of the first places.

The firemen of North Carolina, I am sure, are proud of the High Point firemen under the leadership of Chief Claude S. Canady for the three recognitions of awards. I salute you and your men, Claude.

High Point reports lowering its 1955-56 per capita loss from $5.31 to $3.20; they also report 665 alarms for 1956-57. Thanks for your reports, Claude.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: The beloved Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick finished his year as President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association with a successful year for the association and "Moon" received a bronze plaque in appreciation for his efforts as president of the association. The dedication and formal opening of "Moon's" new Greensboro Training and Maintenance Center was held in October 1956. Your statistician will give you a brief history of the Greensboro Fire Department taken from the program on the opening of a truly magnificent training center in honor of "Moon," a great fireman and chief who has done something of which to be proud. Be sure to visit this center.

"If we were able to roll back the pages of time to the year 1840,

we would witness a group of men banded together to form the first fire fighting unit of the then small but progressive hamlet that was later to be the City of Greensboro. This unit was known as "General Greene" and was quartered in old fire headquarters on West Gastor Street near the present Municipal Building. The cost of this building was at that time reported to have been $325.

Of interest to historians is the fact that this old engine is on display at the historical museum on Church Street today.

As the town grew, additional equipment was needed to cope with the ever present danger of fire so a chemical engine was purchased and placed in service in 1884 and the following year a LaFrance Steamer was bought.

The town was not only growing larger but also the heights of its impressive buildings were beginning to reach beyond the Department's roof ladders and so the year of 1890 saw the first Hook and Ladder Company organized and placed in service. A year later the need of a new Hose Company was imperative and the Eagle Hose Company became a unit of the Department. The south side of the town was rapidly expanding also and the need of a Company in that district was felt and so in 1894 that was realized by forming Southside Hose Company No. 4. The west side of the town was also in need of better protection and West End Hose Company No. 5 was placed in service about 1897.

Now even in those days of dashing horses and smoking steamers the Fire Alarm Signal System was as important as it is today so the officials of that day contracted with the Gamewell Fire Alarm Company and the year 1896 saw this system installed. It consisted of approximately 12 signal buttons on two circuits. At that time, it was something to be proud of.

Today only one engine house remains that was occupied by a horse-drawn outfit. That is the quarters of Engine Company No. 4 at 414 Asheboro Street. Some of the old timers will recall the days when the steeds of the Company such as Nick and Booker, stood in their stalls and waited the alarm that would send them dashing along the cobblestone streets of the City.

The horses served the Department well but in 1913 the first motor driven truck was placed in service. Motors gradually replaced all horses in the Department. Growing pains caused the City to extend its limits in 1924 and this affected the fire service also. Recommendations were made by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and they were closely followed to keep step with the pace of progress. As a result, the City Council authorized the sum $300,000 to be spent on improvements. This included quarters for Engine Company No. 7 on the north side of the City and Engine Company No. 8 on the far west side and the remodeling of the quarters of Engine Companies No. 4 and No. 5. It also provided

for the construction of the present Central Station at 318 North Greene street.

About this time plans were in the making for an "All Paid" Department which became a reality June 1, 1926. At that time 47 members constituted the fighting force of the Department. All of these men were trained to make a well organized and equipped force.

The first year speaks well of its value to the citizens of Greensboro for in that year the reduction of $200,000 in fire loss won first place for cities of its size in the United States.

So the years went by with a record to be proud of. Upon the death of Frank D. Shaw on July 13, 1946, a new era came to the Department.

On the evening of August 21, 1946, the citizens along with all City firemen picked up the Greensboro Daily Record and read with great satisfaction that the new appointed Fire Chief was Calvin W. "Moon" Wyrick, a veteran of 20 years with the Department.

Former City Manager Henry A. Yancey said on his appointing Chief Wyrick, "Chief Wyrick brings to this job not only youth and vigor but 20 years of experience and is eminently qualified for the position. He might be fittingly termed the boy veteran. He will be in complete charge with no strings upon him and will have every opportunity to use his knowledge and ability for the benefit of the Department and City."

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Charlotte Fire Department added another station to the many they already had, and dedicated it in May 1957. This new station is located on Remount Avenue. The opening of this station required an additional 12 personnel for one of the two companies housed in this station.

These 12 men, together with the 40 additional personnel employed to institute a sixty hour duty week in the department on April 1, 1957, now gives the Charlotte fire department 290 in the department including the two secretaries in the office. This of course is by far the largest department in North Carolina and most of the Southern states.

Chief Charles says that he is happy to inform me also, that bonds for another new station have been approved and that they are in the process of acquiring property on which to erect it this year.

The extension of the city limits in 1960 was approved on July 17. This move no doubt will require additional stations, personnel, and equipment to provide protection for the thirty-one additional square miles of territory and an estimated total population of around 185,000.

Chief Charles and his department are to be congratulated on building in the past five years quite a number of new fire stations.

Charlotte is growing in leaps and bounds and Donald and the City Fathers are keeping well up with the growth in their fire department and service. The Charlotte fire loss is far below the average of cities of the same size in the nation.

All North Carolina firemen should give high praise and thanks to Chief Charles and his firemen for the great sacrifice they go to each year to help conduct the Fire College and Pump School, not only from the expense standpoint but for the hours he and his firemen contribute to these schools.

Chief Charles, as you no doubt know, has been honored by the International Fire Chiefs' Association by elevating him to the First Vice Presidency of the World Chiefs' Association. No doubt he will become President of this great world organization at this coming international meeting in New Orleans, La. Chief Charles was placed on the Volunteer Fire Chiefs' Committee last year and he has been very busy traveling thousands of miles on furthering the volunteer angle, as well as other duties of the Vice President. We can rest assured he has done a swell job and will continue to do just that, knowing Donald as firemen of North Carolina do. We are proud of you, Mr. Vice President. Every Fire Chief of North Carolina would benefit greatly by becoming a member of the International.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS: Sandhill Firemen's Association—Secretary-Treasurer E. P. Leatherbury advises me the Sandhill Association is growing very, very fast; that in the past year the association has more than doubled and in some instances has tripled. The association had three well attended meetings during the year. Their first meeting was held at Deep River with the principal speakers the Honorable Charles F. Gold and Deputy Fire Marshal Sherman Pickard. Their second meeting was held at Carthage with the Honorable Chub Sewell as the principal speaker. Their last was an all day meeting held on June 12. Business in the morning with Chief Jack Keeter, of the Raleigh fire department, also a member of the Legislative Committee of the State Association, who spoke on the Firemen's Pension Bill. Other guests were Chief "Moon" Wyrick of Greensboro and Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

The officers of the Sandhill Association for the year are: President, H. W. Locklear, Pembroke; Vice President, Curtis McKenzie, Pinehurst; and Secretary-Treasurer, E. P. Leatherbury, Hamlet. We salute you for your phenominal growth for the year and hope you can equal or better that record next year.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Again this year I am pleased to incorporate in my statistician's report the activities of the Western North Carolina Firemen's Association for the past year as reported by Secretary Mark M. Jones.

The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association has held four quarterly meetings and one Memorial Service during 1956-57.

On September 19, 1956, the Association met at Waynesville with the Waynesville and Hazelwood Fire Departments as hosts. The following officers were elected for the year: President, George Bartlett, Spruce Pine; 1st Vice President, Ed Hearn, Morganton; 2nd Vice President, Felix Stovall, Waynesville; Treasurer, O. E. Brookhyser, Sylva; Secretary, Mark Jones, Enka. At this meeting Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal of the State Insurance Commissioner's Office was speaker. The purchase of an additional film for our film library was authorized. The film "Train We Must" was purchased.

On December 5, 1956, the Association met at Enka with the Enka Fire Department as host. At this meeting Horace Elliott, President of the State Association reported on legislative action planned by the State Association and proposed changes for the State convention. This was a very interesting program as it was a panel discussion on all phases of fire fighting. Chief Donald Charles, Deputy Chief Walter Black, and Captain Dowdy of the Charlotte Fire Department were the panel.

On March 20, 1957, the Association met at Spruce Pine with the Spruce Pine Fire Department as host. At this meeting the passing of John L. Miller was recognized. The film "Fog Against Fire" was recommended to the Association and the purchase was authorized. It was purchased for the film library. The first annual Western Association Memorial Service was planned and the following committee appointed: Reverend Herman Garmon of Rutherfordton, chairman; George Brown of the American Thread Co., and J. H. Bailey. Mr. J. H. Bailey was speaker for this meeting and made a very interesting talk on "Fire in Schools and School Safety."

On June 20, 1957, the meeting was held in Burnsville with the Burnsville Fire Department as host. At this time final plans were announced for the Memorial Service to be held in Rutherfordton on Sunday, June 30, 1957. Chief Felix Stovall, Waynesville, reported on the recent hotel fire in his town and said that the Mutual Aid system sponsored by the Western Association functioned smoothly. This meeting was devoted to discussion on the recently passed Firemen's Retirement Bill and how it will operate.

On Sunday, June 30, 1957, the first annual Memorial Service was held in Rutherfordton to honor the deceased members of the association. At this service seven deceased members were honored. There were approximately 75 firemen in attendance at this service, which was conducted by Reverend H. D. Garman of Rutherfordton.

During the year we have had the pleasure of having some of our State officers present for every meeting. We held four regular meetings with an average attendance of 142, representing an aver-

age of 25 departments. Our membership now stands at 884, with number of departments at 37.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The officers of the association for 1957 are Chief Joe Hailey, Kinston, president; Chief Wesley Howell, Goldsboro, vice president; and Chief Earl W. Kinsey, secretary. One of the outstanding happenings in the year 1957 has been the fine support given by the firemen of Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association to the support of the passage of the Firemen's Pension Fund bill by the State Legislature.

The first quarter's meeting was held on January 8, 1957 with the Beaufort Fire Department as host. The swell seafood dinner was served by the Harvey Smith Fish Meal Company. The roll call showed 375 members in attendance. The guests were Chief C. W. Wyrick, Greensboro, President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association, and the following officers of the North Carolina State Association were present: Chief I. Miller Warren, Plymouth, vice president; Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Durham, advisor; Albert W. Brinson, statistician; and Curtis H. Flanagan, Farmville, secretary. The officers of the state association made short talks. The firemen in attendance said that they never enoyed such a fine seafood dinner in all their lives.

After the meeting Chief Hailey held a meeting of all the cities in No. 1 district of the State Fire Chiefs' Association.

The second quarterly meeting was held with Bethel Fire Department in the school gymnasium with Chief J. W. Minton and his firemen as hosts on April 9. The guests in attendance made short talks, including Chief C. W. Wyrick, President Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association, and the following officers of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association: Chief I. Miller Warren, vice president; Ed A. Johnson, treasurer; Curtis H. Flanagan, secretary; Cosmo L. Cox, advisor; and Albert W. Brinson, statistician. The barbecue dinner was enjoyed by all with plenty for the second helping. Statistician Brinson reported that the New Bern Firemen's Museum would soon be opened and all were invited to attend the dedication. There were about 300 firemen in attendance at this meeting.

The third quarterly meeting was held with the fire department of Belhaven as host, in the community building. The meeting had a large attendance and most of the member fire departments were represented. Curtis H. Flanagan, secretary, gave a run down on the Firemen's Pension Fund bill that was passed in the last State Legislature. I. Miller Warren, vice president, was a guest. Rain called a halt to the meeting. The Eastern Association will hold its next quarterly meeting in Calypso with the fire department as host.

ROANOKE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The Roanoke Firemen's Association was organized on October 15, 1940 by members

representing six fire departments, and has been functioning since that time. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every other month and are rotated between the various members. In 1956 there were twelve department members composed of Roanoke Rapids, Rich Square, Roxobel, Weldon, Halifax, Enfield, Whitakers, Scotland Neck, Battleboro, Jackson, Hobgood, and Gaston.

"The purpose of the organization is:

1. Mutual Aid: To have an organization of neighboring departments whereby one department could call upon another in case of need, and know that help would be forthcoming.

2. To learn the equipment that each department could spare to help the others and the time it would take to reach the department in need.

3. To have regular meetings to discuss the problems facing each department and attempt to work out better methods of meeting those problems.

4. To better know the members of your neighboring departments, the type of equipment they have, and method of working.

5. To promote and build fellowship and cooperation between the members of the various departments."

The purpose of this organization is very commendable and we are glad to know that these firemen are working for better public relations within their own organization as well as in the state organization.

The officers for 1956 were: President, A. J. Jillcott, Roxobel Dept.; 1st Vice President, Fed Walker, Battleboro Dept.; 2nd Vice President, Robert Davis, Roanoke Rapids Dept.; Secretary-Treasurer, George R. Ivey, Enfield Dept.; and Critic, George A. Hux, Halifax Dept. Speakers for the various meetings were for the most part local citizens, however, during the year Everett Jones of the State Insurance Department; Curtis Flanagan, Secretary, and John Wallace, President of the State Association were present and spoke to the group. At several meetings films showing some methods of fire fighting were used.

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Forsyth County Fire Marshal, E. R. Bauguess, has furnished your statistician with a survey of activities of the 15 volunteer fire departments of Forsyth County. I list the names of the departments and their Chiefs:

110—South Fork, Chief C. A. (Jim) Woosley, Jonestown Road, Winston-Salem.

112—Lewisville, Chief G. G. (Buck) Reynolds, Lewisville.

114—Clemmons, Chief George Cooper, Clemmons.

115—Griffith, Chief Jimmy Boles, Griffith Station, New Lexington Road, Winston-Salem.

116—Triangle, Chief H. B. Self, Kernersville Road, Winston-Salem.

117—City View, Chief E. W. Whitaker, Reidsville Road, Winston-Salem.

118—Mineral Springs, Chief Burke Ferguson, School Street, Winston-Salem.

119—Forest Hills, Chief B. E. (Doc) Dockery, 29 Motor Road, Winston-Salem.

120—Mount Tabor, Chief Jack Luper, Robin Hood Road, Winston-Salem.

121—Vienna, Chief Marvin Wilson, Lewisville-Vienna Road, Pfafftown.

122—Walkertown, Chief Clyde Webster, Walkertown.

123—Rural Hall, Chief Carl Baker, Rural Hall.
Suburban, Chief Jack Helsabeck, Rural Hall.

125—Talley's Crossing, Chief Robah Whitaker, c/o Talley's Crossing Fire Dept., Kernersville.

126—Beeson's Cross Roads, Chief Edgar Idol, c/o Beeson's Cross Roads Fire Dept., Kernersville.

127—Old Richmond, Chief Ken Smith, c/o Old Richmond Fire Dept., Pfafftown.

Fire Commissioner, Wally Dunham, c/o Zinzendorf Hotel, Winston Salem

Fire Marshal, Reece Bauguess, 416 Alexander St., Winston-Salem.

For the benefit of many counties and rural towns that need county wide fire protection, as mine does, I thought that to give you the most excellent record of county-wide protection done by Forsyth would be interesting and a good pattern to study. A great deal of credit is due Forsyth County Commissioner and Fire Commissioner, Wally Dunham, and Fire Marshal Reece Bauguess along with the volunteer firemen of the above listed departments.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS—1956

(Within 3 Mile Fire Districts)

Name of Dept	No. Calls Ans.	Total Valuation	Total Loss	Total Savings	Miles Driven	Man Hrs.
South Fork	27	$34,500	$7,550	$26,950	220	250
Lewisville	22	11,500	200	11,300	1230	380
Clemmons	21	35,950	10,860	25,090	173	190
Griffith	98	157,500	38,190	119,310	1250	967
Triangle	26	21,406	9,400	12,000	121	315
City View	24	18,200	5,150	12,050	106	110
Mineral Springs	135	211,350	77,745	133,605	812	2430
Forest Hills	51	978,200	12,435	965,715	371	2480
Mount Tabor	31	77,525	19,725	57,800	273	181
Vienna	22	36,925	6,610	30,315	181	150
Walkertown	35	90,975	4,700	86,275	346	310

Rural Hall (Surburban)	47	210,000	37,000	173,000	236	366
Talley's Crossing	31	1,820	805	1,015	225	190
Beeson's Cross Roads	33	1,500	1,015		250	250
Old Richmond	5	10,500	3,050	7,450	27	180
County (Paid Co.)	524	57,820	440	57,380	4042	
(County 299, City 225)						
Totals	1132	1,955,665	235,410	1,720,255	9863	18,612

PIEDMONT FIRE SAFETY SEMINAR: The third annual Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar was held at the United States Armory, Stadium Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, September 14, 15, 1956 sponsored by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Winston-Salem Fire Department, Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association and Fire Insurance Group. This Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar was a successful educational program of outstanding success as well as the former two. Some of the outstanding fire leaders of the nation were on the program, with Chairman Wally Dunham, Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar, acting Chairman. Firemen of the year 1955, James O. Dula, Winston-Salem Fire Department gave the invocation; Chief Donald S. Charles, Charlotte, Vice President International Fire Chiefs' Association; Kern E. Church, Engineer, North Carolina Insurance Department; N. E. Cannady, Chief E. M. Dixon, Winston-Salem Fire Department; Assistant Chief Harold J. Gibson, Director, Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar; J. H. Bailey, Representative American-LaFrance Company; R. M. Russell, Assistant Chief Engineer, Factory Insurance Corp., Hartford, Conn.; Robert C. Byrus, Director Fire Service Extension, University of Maryland; L. E. Shingledecker, of Fire Safety, Nationwide Insurance Co., Columbus, Ohio; William S. Bizzell, Manager, North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau; L. C. Williams, Supervisor of Training, Winston-Salem Fire Department; E. Wade Thomas, Supervisor, Plant Protection, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., Ravenswood, W. Va.; J. Hill Clay, Chairman, Fire Prevention Committee, Winston-Salem; and T. G. Shelton, Director, Fire Prevention Bureau, High Point. This was a free school for those interested in the modern methods of fire prevention and protection.

CHAPLAIN MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION APPOINTED: The Executive Committee of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association assembled at Raleigh in its January executive meeting, appointed the Reverend Herbert D. Garmon as the official chaplain of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Reverend Garmon is a volunteer fireman of the Rutherfordton fire department. This appointment is the first time our association has had a chaplain. We welcome you to our Great Association Reverend Fireman Garmon.

SHERMAN PICKARD, DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL'S FIRE SCHOOL CONDUCTED IN 1956: Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal's activities out of the Insuance Department's office conducting fire schools and training on the local level were very beneficial to 81 city and county fire departments throughout the state during the past year. He reports that 903 firemen attended these schools. I list these host city and county fire departments, and the number of students.

FIRE SCHOOLS CONDUCTED IN 1956

Aug. 13-17: Mount Airy—Mount Airy 26, Boonville 10, Stuart, Va. 7, Hillsville, Va. 4, Dobson 9, Elkin 11, Pilot Mountain 2. Total 69.
September: Troy—(Records Incomplete) Troy, Biscoe, Candor, Ellerbe, West End, Mount Gilead, Star.
Oct. 1-5: Roseboro—Roseboro 17, Salemburg 5, Clinton 11, Newton Grove 9, Harrells 3, Garland 11. Total 56.
Oct. 15-19: Locust 29.
Nov. 2-7: Buies Creek 26.

FIRE SCHOOLS CONDUCTED IN 1957

Feb. 4-8: 6 Forks, Wake County. Total 22.
March 11-15: Clinton—Clinton 20, Roseboro 13, Penderlea 7, Newton Grove 7, Garland 5, Salemburg 2, Harrels 24. Total 78.
April 1-5: Plymouth—Plymouth 23, Edenton 7, Columbia 4, Hertford 4, Williamston 5, Farm Life 4, Washington 2, Roper 9, N. C. Pulp Co. 2. Total 60.
April 15-18: Garland 8.
April 22-26: Mount Olive—Mount Olive 32, Calypso 16, Faison 16, Warsaw 9. Total 73.
June 3-7: Mount Airy—Mount Airy 25, Elkin 10, Dobson 9, Millers Creek 6, Boonville 14. Total 64.
June 17-21: Pinecroft Sedgefield Fire District, Guilford County—Pinecroft-Sedgefield 17, Pleasant Garden 6, Guil-Rand 6, Oak Ridge 6, 10-A District 7, Oak View 6, Gibsonville 7, Fire District 13 6, Fire District 14 6, Alamance 7, McLeansville 6, Summerfield 5, Attending one or two sessions 25. Total 110.
July 8-12: Nash County—Sharpsburg 4, Spring Hope 9, Castalia 4, Whitakers 5, Bailey 7, Red Oak 21, West Mount 24, Stoney Creek 20, Middlesex 2, Battleboro 9, West Edgecombe 15, Rocky Mount 5. Total 125.
July 22-26: Ahoskie—Ahoskie 20, Aulander 9, Harrelsville 6, Lewiston 3, Winton 7, Sunbury 13, Gatesville 2, Colerain 3. Total 63.

A total of 903 firemen have received the first phase of training on the local level for the period herein covered.

Mr. Pickard is to be congratulated by this association for the fine work of training on the local level. Sherman is well qualified with firemanic knowledge and experience from his fire service on the

local level to help any fire department's members who wish to improve their firemanic knowledge. Sherman I salute you for the fine job you are doing in your fire educational programs.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 29th annual Fire College and Drill School was held in Charlotte at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on May 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, 1957. There were 278 credits issued at the completion of the school. There were 115 visitors registered including those on the program, 25 representatives of manufacturers. The school had a total attendance of 470 which made it the largest one of 29 held in as many years.

The College was conducted by Chief Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Assistant Director. The instructors were: W. J. Black, E. L. Davis, and W. O. Dowdy of Charlotte; T. M. Ellington, High Point; H. E. Inscoe, Rocky Mount; R. L. Powell, Greensboro; J. R. Stott, Wilson; C. O. Wilkie, Durham; and C. W. Wyrick, Greensboro.

When it comes to top notch brass, as the expression goes, this College had just that in some of the highest ranking Firematic people in North America. The school was highly honored in having the following gentlemen present: Chief Reynold Malmquist, 2nd Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Minneapolis, Minn.; Robert C. Byrus, Director of Fire Service, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.; Chief Arthur Spottswood, Minneapolis, Minn.; our own Commissioner of Insurance, Mr. Charles F. Gold; G. A. Mitchell, Treasurer, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Opelika, Ala.; Wally Dunham, Chairman, Forsyth County Fire Commission; and J. C. Robertson, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. See Chief Charles L. Burketts report for the complete details.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S PUMP SCHOOL: The fourth annual Pump School was held at Charlotte Fire Department's Training School on September 17, 18, and 19, 1956. There were three classes, divided into three sections, the first, second, and third year. The third year group completing the third year course were awarded their diplomas. The school was conducted by the Director-Conductor, Chief Charles L. Burkett and E. M. Salley, Assistant Director. The faculty in addition to Chief Burkett and Salley were: Chief C. L. Cox, T. M. Ellington, C. O. Wilkie, E. L. Davis, W. J. Black, R. L. Powell, W. O. Dowdy, and C. W. Wyrick The Charlotte fire department, through Chief Donald S. Charles and his firemen, aided in many ways with their personal services in helping with the school. First year credit was issued to 69 firemen, 36 received credit for the second year of training, and diplomas were received by 18 third year firemen. There were 44 visitors, observers, and manufacturers who attended making a

total of 167 in attendance at the school.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association headed by Chief Jack Keeter, Raleigh, President, achieved one of its most successful years since it was organized, by sponsoring, along with Chief Donald S. Charles and his International Association of Fire Chiefs, the first Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference.

GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE FIRE PREVENTION CONFERENCE: The first Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference was held in Raleigh on January 9, 1957, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs. For those of you who did not have the privilege to attend I thought you would like to see the outstanding program, and especially to see the names of many of the Top Notch Firemanic Educators on the North American continent. I doubt if ever before there have been so many top ranking Fire Educators gathered at the same time in North Carolina. In fact I can say that no doubt it is a true statement. Most of this credit can go to our own Chief Donald S. Charles, Charlotte, 1st Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs.

GOVERNOR SPURS FIREMEN, BIG THINKING, PLANNING: Governor Hodges called for "big city" fire protection in rural areas, and big thinking and planning to meet Tar Heel economic needs. He suggested a rural fire protection plan when he spoke before the Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference in Raleigh. The program follows:

8:30 A.M. Registration—Auditorium State Highway Building.

9:30 A.M. Opening of Conference, Chief Donald S. Charles, 1st Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Presiding.
Invocation: Rev. J. W. Page, Pastor Fairmont Methoddist Church, Raleigh, N. C.
Addresses of Welcome: Honorable Fred B. Wheeler, Mayor, Raleigh; Chief J. B. Keeter, President North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, Raleigh; Chief C. W. Wyrick, President Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, Greensboro, N. C.

9:45 A.M. Address: Honorable Luther H. Hodges, Governor of North Carolina.

10:00 A.M. The International Association of Fire Chiefs and its Fire Prevention Program: Chief Wayne E. Swanson, President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Rockford, Ill.

10:30 A.M. Address—"Let's Stop These Unnecessary Deaths From Fire," John A. Neale, President, National Fire Pro-

tection Association; Chief Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York, N. Y.

11:10 A.M. Investigative Service of the National Board of Underwriters. Roland M. Smith, Special Agent, N.B.F.U., Charlotte, N. C.
Know The Cause (motion picture) Henry N. Martin, Special Agent N.B.F.U., Raleigh, N. C.

12:00 Noon Luncheon.

1:30 P.M. Fire Prevention in the Home: Jay W. Stevens Executive Secretary, International Association of Fire Chiefs, San Francisco, Calif.

2:10 P.M. Value of Association Membership: Chief Ray Malmquist, Second Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Minneapolis, Minn.

2:45 P.M. Panel Discussion: "The 'HOW' of a Statewide Fire Prevention Program."
Moderator: Chief S. H. Edmondson, Pasedena, Calif.
Preparing The Public: Chief K. E. Klinger, Los Angeles County Fire Department.
Schooling The Firemen Inspectors: Chief William L. Miller, Los Angeles, Calif.
Making The Inspections: Chief William J. Taylor, Burbank, Calif.

3:30 P.M. Summary: Chief C. W. Wyrick, President, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, Greensboro, N. C.

3:45 P.M. Closing Remarks: Chief J. B. Keeter, President, North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, Raleigh, N. C.

NEW BERN FIREMEN'S MUSEUM: It is a great pleasure for me to tell you that the New Bern Firemen's Museum was completed and dedicated on June 24, 1957. The Ambassador from Switzerland, Mr. H de Torrente, honored the City of New Bern with his presence for the occasion. There was a banquet in his honor at Governor Tryon Hotel by the Firemen and City of New Bern.

The Ambassador presented the museum with many interesting fire items from the Fire Department of Berne, Switzerland, a Swiss flag from his country, and a number of beautiful colored pictures of scenes from Berne. He also unveiled a portrait in oil of the Swiss Baron Christopher de Graffenried who founded and settled New Bern in 1710.

Our museum has two world's record pieces of old equipment, a horse-drawn steamer that went into service in 1874, and a hose wagon that established a world record in Charlotte in 1911. In addition to this we have the Atlantic steamer that went into service in 1879 and another wagon that also made records prior to 1910. Many firemanic trophies, fire items, murals, old pictures, fire bell,

fire horse Fred, (head mounted) and many, many things of interest. There is no charge for admission at the present and none contemplated for the near future. You will enjoy a visit to the only exclusive Volunteer Firemen's Museum in the eleven Southeastern states.

If you would like a pamphlet enclose in a letter a 3-cent stamp your name and address and mail it to Albert W. Brinson, Secretary-Treasurer, Box 887, New Bern, N. C., and we shall be glad to send you one. The museum is open most of the day and the early part of the evening. It is located back of the Central Fire Station on Broad Street. Everyone is welcome.

Before closing my seventeenth report of statistics I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Robert W. Schuette of the National Fire Protection Association, Commissioner of Insurance, Mr. Charles F. Gold, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Mr. Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. Charles R. Council, Mr. Sherman Pickard, the city chiefs who furnished me their reports of growth, and the secretaries of the affiliated associations for information to use in my report. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to compile these facts and figures and I hope that you will feel repaid for the time spent in reading it by the information given about the progress in fire prevention as well as fire fighting in our great state.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician
N. C. State Firemen's Association

Motion that the report be accepted, seconded, carried, and so ordered.

PRESIDENT ELLIOTT:

I have something to say that I feel is of great importance to all of us. It is brand new, and is being started this year for the North Carolina Firemen's Association by the Mutual Insurance Agents. They have offered to give to us or to every fireman in the State for some particular courageous fete or some particular project that he has sponsored during the year a nice plaque. They contacted me and asked if it would be permissible for them to do that. I talked to several members of the committee and they thought it would be something that we could use to a good advantage to keep a more accurate record of the things our firemen do which are worthwhile. I wrote to the Executive Secretary at that time and it was requested that the Executive Committee go ahead and accept a man that should receive this plaque.

I want each department to report anything they do, any outstanding fete any fireman might do, and sometime within the next

Secretary's office expenses:		
Supplies, etc.		285.65
Postage and meter rent		185.40
Telephone		1,060.60
Office rent		150.00
Equipment		89.05
Auditing fee		190.20
Fidelity bond premiums		18.75
Intangible tax		18.86
Death message		28.04
Total operating expenses	$42,000.00	$5,276.29
Total disbursements	$128,872.01	$7,243.79
Increase or (Decrease) In Cash During Year	$11,882.00	$(162.94)
Add Cash Balance June 30, 1957	16,928.18	4,178.68
Cash Balance June 30, 1958—Exhibit A-2	$28,810.18	$4,015.74

EXHIBIT C

North Carolina State Firemen's Association and The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund

Statement of Secretary's Cash Receipts and Remittances to Treasurer For the Year Ended June 30, 1958

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Cash Balance June 30, 1957		$ None
RECEIPTS:		
Membership dues and initiation fees	$11,415.50	
Sale of twenty-five year emblems	106.15	11,521.65
Total		$11,521.65
Remittances to Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer		11,521.65
Cash Balance June 30, 1958		$ None

FIREMEN'S FRATERNAL INSURANCE FUND

Cash Balance June 30, 1957		$ None
RECEIPTS:		
Death assessments (calls 739 through 780, twenty-four (24) of which were paid from surplus)		51,439.10
Total		$51,439.10
Remittances to Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer:		
Mortuary Fund	$46,762.82	
General Fund	4,676.28	51,439.10
Cash Balance June 30, 1958		$ None

Motion that the report be accepted, seconded and so ordered.

STATISTICIANS REPORT

by Albert W. Brinson

President Warren and Fellow Firemen,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

It is my happy privilege and great pleasure to submit my eighteenth report of statistics of fire happeingings in the fire service of North Carolina, for the year 1957. Another year has passed since our association was guest on the shores of the blue Atlantic, in the friendly vacation city of Carolina Beach. The Carolina Beach Fire Department, city officials, and citizens were host to the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1939, 1949, 1951, 1953, and 1957. All these conventions will be long remembered for the swell programs offered by the firemen on the Atlantic.

We are here assembled at Lumberton, in tobacco-land, for the first time, attending the seventy-first annual convention, with Chief Ed. J. Glover and his most efficient firemen as hosts to the firemen of North Carolina. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Chief Glover, his officers, firemen, city officials, and the citizens of Lumberton for the hospitality they have extended us.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD "DICK" JOYNER: Richard "Dick" A. Joyner, a true and faithful fireman, and a gentleman in the real sense of the word, died suddenly Wednesday afternoon, March 5, 1958, at his home in Farmville, North Carolina, at the age of 65 years. Funeral services for the civic, religious, business leader, and volunteer fireman were held at his home on Thursday, March 7, with burial in Forest Hill cemetery in Farmville.

Mr. Joyner was the son of the late Bertha Joyner and R. L. Joyner. He retired in 1946 as town clerk of Farmville, a position he held for 26 years. Since that time, he had been associated with his son in the insurance and fertilizer business. Although his activities had been somewhat restricted, because of health, since his retirement from the clerk's office, Mr. Joyner followed his usual daily routine to the day of his death.

Actively associated with all the work of his church, Mr. Joyner served as Sunday school superintendent for many years, and had been chairman of the board of stewards. At the time of his passing he was an honorary member of that body. He was a past master of his Masonic lodge and served for several years.

He served as President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1941, Vice President in 1940, and Statistician from 1936 through 1939. He served as assistant chief of the Farmville fire department from 1926 through 1945 covering a period of 19 years. Dick, as he was called by his fire comrades, served his city as a volunteer fireman for 36 years. Richard "Dick" Joyner was loved by all firemen throughout the state.

CHIEF DONALD S. CHARLES, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, AND HIS CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Rather than for me to elaborate on our North Carolina fireman who has reached the "Pinnacle of Firemen," I am reproducing a letter about and a biographical sheet of Donald S. Charles, from Joe F. Morris, Director Fire Prevention Bureau, Charlotte Fire Department.

City of Charlotte, North Carolina, July, 1958. Mr. Albert W. Brinson, Statistician, North Carolina State Firemen's Association, P. O. Box 887, New Bern, North Carolina. Dear Mr. Brinson: Prior to leaving for a few days vacation with his family, Chief Charles requested me to forward to you the information he had compiled pursuant to your request of June 28.

I am enclosing a biographical sheet which gives a rather complete coverage of Chief's life and accomplishments. In addition to the information shown on the sheet, Chief is an honorary member of the South Carolina State Firemen's Association, the South Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, the Western North Carolina Firemen's Association, the Eastern North Carolina Firemen's Association, as well as the New England, the Eastern and Great Lakes Divisions of the International Association.

He was also the recipient of the first annual award given by the North Carolina Association of Mutual Fire Insurance Agents at the 1957 Convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association at Carolina Beach.

Chief Palmer was President of the International Association in 1940. He and Chief Charles are the only two Chiefs from North Carolina to have served as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

When Chief Charles was appointed Chief of the Department there were nine stations, with nine engine companies, five ladder companies, and one crash unit in service; and one reserve engine company, a lighting truck, three Chief's cars, one Fire Alarm service truck, and two maintenance trucks. There were 195 employees and an annual budget of $574,258.14. The station and personnel of the Airport station are included in the above figures.

At the present time we have eleven stations with thirteen engine companies, six ladder companies, and two 0-10 crash units in service; and six reserve engine companies, three Chief's cars, one lighting truck, one high pressure unit, four fire alarm service trucks, three maintenance trucks, one gasoline tank truck, one Fire Prevention Division car, and one Training Division car. There are 304 employees and an annual budget of approximately $1,500,000.00. The station and personnel of the Airport station are included in the above figures.

Bids have been received and construction has been started on a new two-piece station and a maintenance shop. It is anticipated that this new facility will be activated in April, 1959.

Chief, of course, has been quite busy during the year attending various local, State, Divisional, and International meetings. He is quite proud of the fact that the present 8,000 membership of the Association represents an increase of approximately 1,500-1,800.

I am sure you will be interested in knowing that the Fire Prevention Conferences, sponsored by the International, have been held in twenty-eight states, several of which have had two such meetings. These conferences have been enthusiastically received and it is felt that much good will result from this work.

The Volunteer Committee has met several times during the year and, no doubt, will be in a position to make an outstanding report at the annual conference in Los Angeles.

North Carolina has two men on International Committees: Chief Wyrick on the Constitution and By-Laws, and Chief Burkett on the Nominating. (Chief Wyrick, as you know, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Southeastern at Wheeling).

Aside from his election to this high office, perhaps the outstanding event locally during the year was the Testimonial Dinner given in honor of Chief as President of the International on May 6 by the Mayor and various civic groups in the city.

On this occasion we were honored by the presence of members and officials of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, the South Carolina State Firemen's Association, the Mecklenburg County Volunteer Firemen's Association, the regional Associations in the State, and the Southeastern and New England Divisions of the International.

The International Association was represented by Chief Ray Malmquist, First Vice-President, Minneapolis, Minn.; Chief Art Lintelman, Second Vice-President, Baytown, Texas; Chief G. A. Mitchell, Treasurer, Opelika, Ala.; and Chief Jay Stevens, Executive Secretary, San Francisco, Calif.

Chief Bernard Padgett, Alexandria, Va., President of the Southeastern Association, represented that group.

Approximately five hundred people attended the dinner.

If time and space permit, Chief wished to request that you stress membership in the International and attendance at the annual conference which is to be held in Los Angeles, Calif., September 15-18. An outstanding program has been arranged and it is anticipated that this conference will equal or top any previous meeting in program content, entertainment, and attendance.

It is hoped this information will be of some help to you. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

With kindest personal regards, I am Sincerely yours, Joe F. Morris, Director, Fire Prevention Bureau.

BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET—DONALD S. CHARLES

Born: Charlotte, North Carolina, June 11, 1901.
Parents: William S. Charles and Ida G. Charles.
Educated: Charlotte Public Schools, Graduate of North Carolina Fire College and Pump School.
Appointed to Fire Department: October 15, 1917.
Promotions: Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Chief June, 1948.
St. John's Baptist Church.
Married: January 1922; wife, Helen Brock Charles; children, Donald, Jr. and Edward; grandchildren, six.
St. Andrew Lodge No. 702, Masonic Order.
Carolina Consistory, Scottish Rite.
Oasis Temple, Shrine.
Royal Order of Jesters, Court 109.
Assistant Director, Oasis Temple, 1955; Director, 1956, 1957, and 1958.
Board of Governors, Carolina Shrine Bowl Football Game and Chairman of Stadium Committee.
Executive Board, Meckenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America.
Mecklenburg County Rural Fire Protection Committee.
Chairman Civil Defense Fire Fighting and Rescue Committee, City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.
Member of North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs.
Member of North Carolina State Firemen's Association.
Vice-President 1946; President 1950 and 1951; Advisory Committee since 1952.
Member of Southern Association of Fire Chiefs.
Second Vice-President 1951; First Vice-President 1952; President 1953.
Member of International Association of Fire Chiefs.
Second Vice-President 1955, Omaha, Neb.; First Vice-President 1956, Miami, Fla.; President 1957, New Orleans, La.

NEW BERN FIREMEN'S MUSEUM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD: To the happy surprise of the Firemen's Museum committee, firemen, and citizens of New Bern early in October 1957, they received word from Columbus, Ohio that the American Association for State and Local History had awarded the New Bern Firemens Museum a National Award of Merit. The award is as follows:

"The American Association for State and Local History
Presents an
Award of Merit
to
New Bern Firemen's Museum

for preserving a vital and interesting facet of North Carolina history, dated at the annual meeting of the Association in Columbus, Ohio, October 5, 1957."

The award was selected from nominations from all states and Canada and was presented by the North Carolina Historical and Literary Society on December 6, 1957, at Raleigh, North Carolina. The award was the only one of its kind presented in North Carolina for 1957 by the Society. The Chairman of the Museum Committee, L. R. Tucker, received the award for the museum. It was presented by W. S. Powell of the University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill, past editor of the American Association for State and Local History News. The members of the museum committee attending the presentation of the award were Chairman L. R. Tucker, Secretary-Treasurer Albert W. Brinson, committee members C. Walker Hodges, John T. Pugh, R. Clyde Smith, and Mayor R. L. Stallings, Jr. Visiting firemen of the New Bern Firemen's Museum and fire department were at the morning and luncheon session of the annual meeting in full force, along with representatives of the Craven County commissioners, New Bern Historical Society, New Bern City Schools, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Professional and Business Women's Club, and Tryon Palace Commission, as well as the City Manager, the Mayor, and board of aldermen. Some 50 people from New Bern made the trip expressly for the occasion.

PLAQUES PRESENTED: At the 30th annual North Carolina Fire College and Drill School held in Charlotte in May 1958, Treasurer Ed A. Johnson and Statistician Albert W. Brinson were presented the North Carolina State Firemen's Association Service Plaque. Reverend Herbert D. Garmon, Chaplain of the North Carolina Firemen's Association, presented Ed A. Johnson's plaque, and Chief Donald S. Charles, President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, presented Albert W. Brinson's. The Plaques read: "Presented to Ed A. Johnson for Distinguished Service Rendered as Treasurer by th North Carolina State Firemen's Association 1958; Presented to Albert W. Brinson for Distinguished Service Rendered as Statistician By North Carolina State Firemen's Association."

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION: Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan advises me that the following fire departments became members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association during the past year: Buies Creek, Conetoe, Elm City, Gatesville, Pinecroft, Sedgefield (Greensboro), Lansing, Midland, Red Oak, Rockwell Rural, Cleveland County, C. D. (Shelby), Brogden Rural (Smithfield), Stoneville, Welcome, Sea Gate (Wilmington), and Corinth-Holder (Zebulon). It is nice to see Elm

City department come back into the association. The entire membership of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association welcome you new departments, and each member of these departments is more than welcome. Curtis says that we now have 319 active departments in the association and 4 inactive departments, with a total membership of 10,408. Your statistician made his first report at the Asheville convention in 1941, and in checking our growth during these 17 years I find that in 1941 there were 186 departments; so this gives an increase of 133 departments. In 1941 there were 4533 members and today we have 10,408, which is a growth of 5875 members or considerably more than double in membership. By further comparison, in 1941 there were only 180 active chiefs and now there are 319. This shows we have increased our chiefs by 139. Our association is growing rapidly and will continue to grow.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1957: The National Fire Prevention Association, sponsor of the non-profit educational engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire in the United States, Canada, and all countries where our armed services are located, annually sponsors Fire Prevention Week and makes awards.

The grand award for the United States went to Phoenix, Arizona. The first five ranking of top United States communities (out of 259 in Grand Award competition) 1st Phoenix, Arizona; 2nd Hartford, Connecticutt; 3rd Oshkosh, Wisconsin; 4th Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 5th; Providence, Rhode Island.

UNITED STATES COMMUNITY RANKINGS BY STATES: North Carolina—Fayetteville and High Point, tied for 1st; and Greensboro 2nd. Our compliments to you chiefs, "Moon" Wyrick, Claude Canady, and Carl Cain, and your firemen. We are wishing for more North Carolina cities to report on winnings next year.

INTERCHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTROL: Mr. A. L. Kirkpatrick, Manager, Insurance Department of Chamber of Commerce of the United States, has furnished me with the winners of the 1957 National Inter-Chamber Fire Safety Contest. The Grand Winner was Hayward, California, Class III, population 100,000 to 250,000; 1st Hartford, Connecticutt; 7th Greensboro, North Carolina. Class V cities with population 20,000 to 50,000 1st Oshkosh, Wisconsin; 3rd Burlington, North Carolina. Congratulations Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, your Greensboro firemen and citizens; Chief R. C. Fortune, congratulations to you, your firemen, and the citizens of Burlington. We hope to see Greensboro and Burlington again winners, along with other North Carolina cities.

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE FIRE PREVENTION CONFERENCE: The first Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference was held in Columbia, South Carolina, on May 2, 1958. This conference was sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the South Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, and South Carolina Firemen's Association. Chief Donald S. Charles, President International Association of Fire Chiefs, Charlotte, North Carolina, was one of the main speakers. North Carolina held its first Statewide Governor's Conference January 9, 1957.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY: Mr. Deuel Richardson, Manager, Public Relations Department of the National Fire Protection Association, advises me that the National Fire Protection Association estimates that the fire fatalities of men, women, and children in the United States for the year 1957 was 11,300. It is saddening to learn that the Fire Demon, in spite of all the fire protection for lives that was done last year throughout the entire 48 states, took an added death toll of 700 lives. It is gratifying that North Carolina had a decrease in loss of lives. All citizens and firemen must practice continued and added fire protection to conquer the Fire Demon from his quest for taking lives by fire.

The United States fire loss of property for the year 1957 was estimated by the National Fire Protection Association as $1,275,000,000, in spite of the nation's greatest fire protection program ever known. The Fire Demon destroyed $25,000,000 more of property than in 1956. Major industrial fires were the principal factor in the overall increase in the total. The solution to curb this Deadly Demon is more, more, more and improved Fire Protection before the fire strikes.

There were over 825,000 building fires in 1957. I list a few specified fires: dwellings 523,500; barns, outbuildings 73,400; stores, amusement halls, theatres, 42,200; manufacturing plants 38,300; apartments, 29,500; garages, filling stations 18,000; hotels 12,000; warehouses, grain elevators 11,200; schools, colleges 4,100; and churches, 3,200.

BOSTON, April 23—Industrial plants in the United States and Canada were involved in more major fires and recorded the sharpest increase in total damage in history during the past year, according to a report just issued by the National Fire Protection Association.

Nearly $95,000,000 worth of industrial property was destroyed in 125 fires and explosions, exceeding 1956's previous record-breaking figure by more than $25,000,000.

The analysis, compiled by the non-profit fire safety organiza-

tion's Fire Record Department, covers only "large loss" fires in 1957—those with individual losses of a quarter million dollars or more.

Industrial fires of all sizes take an annual toll in excess of $200,000,000, other NFPA estimates indicate. The far-above-average tendency of industrial fires to be big ones is pointed up by the fact that close to 50 percent of the total is in the large-loss class.

Cost of all large loss fires in North America during 1957 reached an unprecedented level of almost $350,000,000, about $20,000,000 higher than the previous worst year.

Major industrial fires were the principal factor in the overall increase in the total, offsetting improved records in hotel and other residential buildings, schools, churches and aircraft.

The increasingly serious problem facing industry as the biggest single loser from fire is underlined by a comparison with 1954, when its large loss damage was just over $36,000,000.

According to the NFPA study, absence of automatic sprinkler systems was the prime cause of the extensive damage noted in individual fires.

In more than 75 percent of the 114 buildings involved, there were no sprinklers. In most of the 26 instances where sprinkler protection was supposedly at hand, inadequate design, poor maintenance or insufficient water supply cancelled out the system's effectiveness. Explosions made three inoperative, and in four cases water feeding into sprinklers was shut off before or during the fire.

Absence of automatic sprinklers and supervised detection systems bear a direct relation to delayed discovery and reporting of fires, the study says. This occurred in about two-thirds of the cases, allowing fire to grow to serious proportions before fire-fighting equipment and manpower could reach the scene.

The largest single building fire loss in the United States and Canada during 1957 was the $14,000,000 conflagration which destroyed the Pequanoc Rubber Co. plant at Butler, N. J.

The $5,000,000 destruction of a chemical plant at Nitro, West Virginia, and a $5,000,000 fire at a Corner Brook, Newfoundland, pulp and paper mill, were other major losses.

BUILDING FIRE CAUSES

No. of Fires		Cause
U. S.	Canada	
127,000	31,000	Smoking, matches
108,500	5,400	Defective, overheated heating, cooking equipment
106,200	6,900	Electrical
67,400	10,800	Unknown
57,000	3,000	Rubbish, ignition unknown
47,500	1,800	Flammable liquids
45,200	2,200	Lightning
35,000	4,600	Chimneys, flues
34,500	2,300	Children and matches
18,500	4,000	Open lights, flames, sparks

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal, has furnished your statistician with the estimated fire loss for North Carolina for 1957. The estimated total fire loss figures are derived as follows. The insurance department received from the National Board of Underwriters loss figures of the stock fire insurance companies. These were exact figures. A check of the insurance department records reveals that the mutual fire insurance companies' losses average 30% that of the stock companies over a period of several years. The uninsured losses, according to the National Board, still stand 33 1/3% of the total fire loss. Mr. Pickard and your statistician believe this to be the most accurate method of figuring the fire losses. It is our intention, at this time, to follow this method in years to come. I am very happy to inform you that the estimated fireloss of 1957 for North Carolina is $27,763,424. This was $3,606,197 decrease from the 1956 $31,369,621 estimated loss.

Below I submit the breakdown of estimated fire loss for 1957—the causes of the various fires and the amount of loss.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS, 1957

CODE	CAUSE	LOSS
1	Electricity and Electrical Equipment, except lightning and Static	$ 6,082,274
		$ 6,082,274
5	Lightning	1,096,747
11	Chimneys, Vents, Cupolas, Flues & Stacks	988,259
13	Heating Units — Liquid Fuel	929,497
15	Heating Units — Solid Fuel	110,686
17	Heating Units — Gas & Liquified Petroleum	63,086
13. 15	Heating Units—Fuel Type Unknown	795,214
21	Sparks, Flames or Heat from Welding Torches Cutting Torches	54,399
23	Heat, Flames, Sparks from Sources other than Welding	1,632,781
25	Smoking and Careless Use of Matches	2,142,420
27	Exposure	203,909
29	Sparks from Bonfires, Burning Rubbish, etc.	284,755
31	Friction and Friction Sparks	165,967
33	Crash of Airplanes, Motor Vehicles, etc.	320
35	Backfire or Hot Exhaust from Internal Combustion Engines	16,705
37	Fireworks — Firecrackers	1,733

41—Incendiarism, Vandalism, etc.	94,027
43—Open Lights	108,148
45—Rekindles	346
47—Spontaneous Ignition	620,859
48—Known but not otherwise classified	533,537
49—Unknown or not Determined	11,837,743
Total	$27,763,424

Fire deaths in 1957 as reported by the State Board of Health—186.

FIRE TOLLS OF LIVES FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief, Public Health Statistics Division, State Board of Health, informs me that the North Carolina death tolls for the year 1957, including protected and unprotected cities, towns, and rural areas, was 99 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings). This is an increase of 13 over 1956. His report gives 87 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). I am pleased to report this is a decrease of 17 less deaths from fire and explosion than in 1956. There were 11 deaths from hot substance, corrosive liquid, and steam. This was the same number of lives lost as in 1956. These figures give us a total of 197 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1957. This is a decrease of 4 less lives lost than in 1956. Our decrease in 1956 from 1955 was 37, therefore, our reduction for the past two years is 41 less lives lost by fire and related to fire causes. I will repeat what I said a year ago in my report, and I am sure you will agree with me, that the statewide fire prevention work and the North Carolina State Firemen's Association Fire College and Drill School are paying off in saving lives of North Carolina citizens from the Fire Demon.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health advises me that there were 7 seven deaths in 1957 of personnel in military aircraft. This was 11 less than in 1956. The report shows no deaths of occupants of commercial transport aircraft, none of occupants of other aircraft, none by accident at airfields to persons not in aircraft. Other and unspecified accidents showed 18 deaths. In comparing the total deaths from airplane accidents for the year there is a reduction again this year of 4 deaths, these being a total of 25 for 1957, and 29 for 1956. There is no way for me to determine how many of these deaths were fire victims, however, the majority of crashes seem to end in fire.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: During 1957 there were 2724 fires reported by fire chiefs, and again six major causes accounted for the greater part of these fires—2115 of the total 2724, which was 77.6% of the fires reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office. Unknown causes increased to 665 for the past year; overheated stoves and furnaces 462; faulty electric wiring 275; cigarettes and smoking in bed 253; defective flues, chimneys, and fireplaces 242, and carelessness 218.

CHURCH FIRES FOR 1957: There were 17 church fires reported which is an increase of 8 over 1956. The combined loss was $69,509. The exceptionally cold, rough weather and, possibly, carelessness, may have contributed to this sharp increase in the number of fires in the churches of our state.

FIRE CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: It is a pleasure to report a decrease of $1,062,275 from 1956 in the loss in our state from fires of $20,000 and over. There were 49 large fires, five of which caused losses of $105,000 to $260,000 each. This is not a complete report as a good many fire chiefs have turned in no reports to the Insurance Commissioner's office from which to compile the information needed for a report.

The large fires reported for 1957 follow:

Asheville—Ness Brothers, cotton waste $67,000; Citizens Hardware warehouse $36,801.

Bayboro—T/A Hurry Back Service Station $20,000.

Carthage—Smothers Brothers warehouse $50,000.

Charlotte—Gulf Atlantic warehouse $29,655; Furniture Appliance Center $44,000; C. A. Beatty Restaurant $25,000.

Concord—Kale-Lawing Co., Pilot Life Insurance, George Griffin, Architect, Selective Service, and Charles Boger, Textiles $41,834.

Durham—W. R. Kimbro (house vacant, under repair) $20,000; St. Johns Baptist Church $34,500 Mrs. Mary Duke Biddle's home $50,000.

Elm City—Mark Lee Ellis' home $20,000.

Erwin—West Candy Co. manufacturers $60,000.

Fairmont—Printing Shop and Barber Shop $22,000.

Fayetteville—Eastern Guano Co. $60,25$; Fred Chaisen Bar and Cafe $23,038; Corder & Vossler Tire Recapping $105,000.

Four Oaks—Feed, Flour, Corn Meal Mill $197,000.

Gastonia—Peoples Bonded warehouse $54,000.

Goldsboro—Jewel Box, Kirby Shoe Store $95,000; Tobacco Sales warehouse $105,000.

Greensboro—Army Surplus Store $43,670; Mrs. Meyer Sternberger's residence $69,259.

Greenville—Auto Sales & Tire Recapping Garage $46,714.

Henderson—North State Equipment Co. $44,000; Standard Bonded warehouse $260,000.

Hertford—Perquimans High School Garade, set by crashed jet plane $36,400.

High Point—Johnson Street Grade School $67,000.

Lake Lure—A. J. Evans' summer home $43,000.

Lexington—Dixie Furniture Corp. warehouse $53,000.

Lincolnton—Bonded Warehouse $70,000.

Monroe—Orange Bowl Restaurant $20,000.

Newport—Masonic Hall $25,000.

Pine Bluff—Silver Springs Dairy $23,000.

Pinehurst—Pinehurst Warehouses, Inc. $73,000.

Raleigh—Powell, Stewart Motor Co. $90,714.

Southport—Brunswick County Courthouse $50,000.

Thomasville—Model Supply Co. $28,680; Thomasville Chair Co. $30,000.

Moore County—J. M. Canoy house $20,000.

Tryon—Jess Rhodes house $25,000.

Troutman—J. L. McLain residence $35,000; George McNeely residence $30,000.

Walstonburg—J.&H. Milling Co. $50,000.

Williamston—Gurganus Dry Cleaning Plant $20,800.

Winston—Collins Food Market $70,000; Albert A. Fillmore and others $24,538; Jacards, Inc. $27,524.

Washington—Colored Elementary School $250,000.

HOTELS AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: The number of hotel fires reported dropped from 12 for 1956 to 7 for 1957; however, the loss was some greater, $24,088 total. The losses ranged from $50 to $11,500, the latter was sustained by "The Friendly Inn" at Goldsboro.

Apartment house fires increased in both number and loss—156 fires with $219,309 damage for 1957.

HOSPITAL AND ORPHANAGE FIRES: The fire chiefs reported 7 hospital fires with $15,350 damage; and 2 fires in orphanages, one with a $50 damage and the other with $950 damage from fire, smoke, and water.

UNUSUAL FIRES: One jet airplane crashed near a school—damage to school property $36,400.

September 1, 1957, Wade Shipman's 3 year old son alone in car burned to death.

Psychiatric patient, in carefully prepared manner, set a mattress fire in an outside window of hospital room.

Workmen repairing house used portable oil heater—damage to house $20,000.

Fourteen year old boy at home by himself probably went to bed smoking—burned to death in fire.

Two year old child set fire to paper in kitchen—damage $3,500.

Two boys aged 11 and 12 years confessed to setting fire, were tried in Juvenile Court and given suspended sentence.

Five adults in house at time of fire, three died during fire, one died 48 hours later, and one seriously burned from unknown fire.

Yadkin Hotel—Occupant smoking in bed (was arrested and tried in court and fined $50 and cost, under the new law).

Cleaning paint off wall with blowtorch, set attic on fire, $800 damage.

Sun shining through acid jugs—damage $1,200.

Careless smoker—loss $16,000.

Using cutting torch too close to chemical, spark ignited chemical—loss $12,000.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: These are the records furnished the Insurance Commissioner by the fire chiefs. Two departments, Booneville and Swansboro had perfect records with no fires for the year 1957. Congratulations! Aberdeen 9 months, Asheboro 3, Biltmore Forest 2, Booneville 12, Canton 2, China Grove 5, Clyde 1, Cornelius 4, Davidson 9, Denton 7, Dobson 10, Fair Bluff 11, Faison 5, Gibsonville 8, Granite Quarry 9, Oak View Fire Protective Association (High Point) 4, Kinston 1, Lexington 3, Mebane 3, Mt. Airy 3, Mt. Olive 1, Pikeville 1, Pinehurst 2, St. Paul 2, Union Volunteer Fire Department (Salisbury) 2, Salisbury 1, Rockwell 2, Brogden Rural Fire Department 2, Spencer 9, Spindale 1, Stanley 11, St. Paul 5, Swansboro 12, Thomasville 1, Wrightsville Beach 8.

NO CASUALITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FIRES: Your statistician was saddened to report in his statistics for 1956, for the first time, the death of a North Carolina school child and of a teacher. This was in the fire of the Flat Rock school in Surry County. Mr. John L. Cameron, Director, Division of School Planning, advises me that to the best information of the Department of Public Instruction of North Carolina, there has been no deaths in the state since the Flat Rock tragedy. There have been many fire hazards in our schools remedied since the Flat Rock school fire, thanks to the Insurance Department, school offcials, and firemen of our state.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director, Thomas B. Winborne, Division of Insurance State Board of Education, was kind enough again this year to co-operate in furnishing me the following information on administrative public schools. Out of the 174 administrative school units, sixty-four county and thirty-two city units are protected by the Division of Insurance, State Board of Education.

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LOSSES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR 1957-1958 — PAID AND IN PROCESS.

Name of Building and School Unit	Amt. of Loss
Dunbar Colored School, Rowan County	$ 228.29
Lumber Bridge Community House, Robeson County	2,000.00
Prince Ibraham School, Forsyth County	651.00
Central High School, Mooresville City	50.76
Booneville Cannery, Yadkin County	23.50
Walter Williams High School and Gymnasium, Burlington City	4,674.03
A. T. Allen Elementary School, Cabarrus County	14,162.50
Lakeside School, Leaksville City	1,602.11

Burlington Colored School, Hoke County	75.00
Asbury School, Lincoln County	6,157.43
Ashpole Center Classroom Building, Indian, Robeson County	1,927.68
Fremont Colored Grammar School, Fremont City	7,500.00
Yadkinville Cafeteria, Yadkin County	328.00
Springfield Home, Colored, Leaksville City	50.00
Walkertown Agriculture Shop, Forsyth County	47.60
Clayton High School Classroom and Gymnasium, Johnston County	1,038.43
Tipton High School, Mitchell County	29.42
Central High School, Colored, Orange County	152,000.00
Chowan High School Garage and Gymnasium, Chowan County	116.38
Leaksville-Spray-Draper Jr. High School, Leaksville City	140.00
Blowing Rock School and Gymnasium, Watauga County	680.58
Total paid fire and lightning losses	$193,482.71
Total paid extended coverage losses	8,662.37
Estimated outstanding fire and lightning losses	8,055.55
Estimated outstanding extended coverage losses	10,374.80
Total losses for the year 1957-1958	$220,525.43

SCHOOL FIRES REPORTED BY FIRE CHIEFS FOR 1957: A total of 13 school fires were reported by the fire chiefs with a total loss of $389,254. Johnson Street Grade School at High Point suffered damages of $67,000, and the Colored Elementary School at Washington was listed at $250,000.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 30th annual Fire College and Drill School was held in Charlotte at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on May 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1958. There were 269 credits issued at the completion of the school. There were 112 visitors registered, including those of the program; 20 representatives of manufacturers and 11 instructors, thus making a total attendance of 412. The college was conducted by Chief Charles L. Burkett, Director-Chairman, and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Vice Chairman. The instructors were: W. J. Black, W. O. Dowdy, T. M. Ellington, H. E. Inscoe, Sherman Pickard, R. L. Powell, J. R. Stott, C. O. Wilkie and C. W. Wyrick. Again the college was honored with top notch brass of the United States—Chief R. C. Malmquist, First Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Minneapolis, Minn.; Chief A. H. Lintelman, Second Vice President, International Baytown, Texas; Chief G. A. Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer, International, Opelika, Ala.; Jay W. Stevens, Executive Secretary, International, San Francisco, Calif.; R. Richter Townsend, Secretary-Manager, International, New York; Chief A. P. Spottswood, Minneapolis, Minn.; L. E. Shingledecker, Supervisor of Fire Safety, National Insurance Co., Columbus, Ohio; Robert C. Byrus, Director of Fire Service, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.; J. M. Whitbeck, Products Enginee, Crouse-Hinds Co., Charlotte; Russell C. Nicholson, Assistant State Civil Defense Coordinator, Raleigh; and Raymond J. Casey, Executive Director National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control Association, New York, N. Y.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION PUMP SCHOOL: The fifth annual Pump School was held at Charlotte Fire Department's Training School on September 23, 24, and 25, 1957. The school was conducted by the Director-Chairman, Chief Charles L. Burkett, and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Vice-Chairman. The instructors were W. J. Black, E. L. Davis, W. O. Dowdy, T. M. Ellington, R. L. Powell, J. R. Stott, and C. W. Wyrick. There were 57 first year credits, 35 second year credits, and 28 third year or graduates. There were 42 visitors (observers and representatives of manufacturers) making a total of 171 in attendance. In traveling over the state your statistician has heard many fine compliments from the boys who have attended the Pump School, saying they had gained considerable knowledge on pumps and operating pumps. Our conductors and faculty are doing a swel ljob.

FIRE INSTRUCTORS' SHORT COURSE: The North Carolina State College conducted the first Fire Instructors' Short Course July 7-11, 1958. This is to be an annual affair to be known as the North Carolina State College of the University of North Carolina School of Education, Fire Instructors Training. The following firement attended this first year program: J. S. Allen, Greenville Fire Department, E. Reece Bauguess, Forsyth County Fire Marshal, Thurman C. Bishop, City of Fayetteville, R. C. Black, Burlington Fire Department, J. W. Casteen, Wilmington Fire Department, C. H. Christopher, Greenville, T. M. Ellington, High Point Fire Department, Jimmie Grimes, Goldsboro Firefighter, David L. Lee, Kinston Fire Department, Perry J. O'Berry, Nash County Fire Marshal, D. K. Phillips, Burlington Fire Department, R. L. Powell, Jr., Greensboro Fire Department, William T. Rose, Rocky Mount Fire Department, Segsby C. Tadlock, Fire Marshal, Charlotte, Julius Thompson, Jr., Graham Fire Department, L. H. Wolfe, Wilmington Fire Department, and Elwood Inscoe, North Carolina Insurance Department, Raleigh. The staff was Sherman Pickard, North Carolina State Insurance Department, and Robert T. Troxler, North Carolina State College, Raleigh.

SHERMAN PICKARD, DIRECTOR FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT INSURANCE PROGAM: Sherman Pickard, assisted by Elwood Inscoe, Fire Department Instructor of the North Carolina Department of Insurance,

has done a bang-up job of training firemen on the local level. Beginning July 1, 1956 through June 30, 1957, the Fire Service Training Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance conducted 20 regional fire schools involving 170 fire departments and 1446 students. Since the inception of the local level training program in November 1955, there have been 37 regional schools conducted, involving 257 fire departments with 2276 students.

ELWOOD INSCOE: The North Carolina State Firemen's Association and the North Carolina Chiefs' Association officers had a meeting with Governor Hodges and requested that he support Commissioner Gold in his request and appropriation for two men to train the firemen of North Carolina on the local level. Governor Hodges was sympathetic on the subject. The result was allowed appropriations for one man. Commissioner Gold selected Elwood Inscoe for this position to assist Sherman Pickard, Director Fire Service Training. Elwood Inscoe's training background for this position is as follows: He was formerly employed by Rocky Mount Fire Department for 10½ years. Graduated from the North Carolina State Fire College and Drill School. Attended New Haven, Conn., Fire School for six weeks, attended Fire Department Instrutors' Conference, Memphis, Tenn., in 1954, attended Short Course for Firemen, University of Maryland, in 1957, Instructor North Carolina State Firemen's Fire College and Drill School since 1954, completed week of training for Fire Instructors at North Carolina State College, July 7-11, 1958. He is married and has one child.

Now you can see why Commissioner Gold selected Elwood Inscoe for this training program.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association officers are: Chief J. A. West, Wilmington, President; Chief R. C. Fortune, Burlington, Vice President; Chief Ed Summerlin, Jr., Mount Olive, Secretary; and Chief Ralph E. Marbry, Badin, Treasurer. The Fire Chiefs' Association was a big factor in helping the Legislative Committee and Executive Officers in getting our Firemen's Pension Bill through the last Legislature. The chiefs of the state worked tooth and toenail on this bill.

SOUTHEASTERN CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION: The Southeastern Chiefs' Association comprises the ten Southeastern states, and their last meeting was held in the city of Wheeling, W. Va., which was an outstanding meeting. Our own C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Chief of the Greensboro Fire Department, presided as president of the association's convention and was completing his year in that office. Your statistician has been informed that the association had one of its most successful years in its history under "Moon." At the West Virginia convention the following officers were elected: President, N. L. Wheeler, Chief of the Miami fire department;

1st Vice President, our own Cosmo L. Cox, Chief, Durham fire department; 2nd Vice President, C. A. Fisher, Chief of the Orangeburg, S. C. fire department; International Director, Earl R. McDaniel, Chief of Lexington, Ky. fire department and Secretary-Treasurer, our Past President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, C. W. "Moon" Wyrick. Secretary-Treasurer Wyrick says, "We know there are a large number of chiefs in our state who do not belong to the Southeastern Chiefs' Association who would benefit greatly by being a member. We strongly urge them to affiliate and support this organization. Your statistician can assure you that you will receive many times the cost in valuable fire-fighting information.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Again this year I am pleased to incorporate in my statistician's report the activities of the Western North Carolina Firemen's Association for the past year, as furnished to me by Secretary Mark M. Jones.

"The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association held four quarterly meetings, and one Memorial Service during 1957-58.

On September 18, 1957, the Association met at Tryon, N. C. with the Tryon, Columbus and Landrum, South Carolina Departments serving as hosts. The following officers were elected for 1958: President, Ed Hearn, Morganton, N. C.; 1st Vice President, Felix Stoval, Waynesville, N. C.; 2nd Vice President, George Brown, American Thread Co.; Treasurer, Felix Picklesimer, Sylva, N. C.; Secretary, Mark Jones, Enka, N. C.

Win Donat, Secretary of the Firemen's Pension Fund was present and spoke at length on the status of the tund.

On Dcember 4, 1957, the association met at Brevard, with the Brevard fire department as host. A very interesting question and answer program had been prepared and many valuable points were discussed.

On March 12, 1958, the Association met at Enka, with the Enka fire department as host. At this meeting a past president badge was presented to Chief George Bartlett of Spruce Pine, and a past treasurer's badge to O. E. Brookhyser of Sylva. Several state officers were present at this meeting and spoke in behalf of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School.

Mr. Dick Merrill, of the Motorola Co. was principal speaker of the meeting on Radio Communications.

We were authorized to purchase another film for the Film Library. The film, "Getting the Most out of Water" was purchased.

On June 11, 1958, the association met at Valdese. At this meeting 25-year service pins were presented to four members. Jim Bailey was master of ceremonies. State officers present were: Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary; Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer; Albert

W. Brinson, Statistician; Herbert D. Garmon, Chaplain; Charles L. Miller, Advisory; Cosmo L. Cox, Advisory; Charley L. Burkett, Director-Conductor, North Carolina Fire College and Pump School; C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Secretary-Treasurer, Southeastern Fire Chiefs; and Win Donat, Secretary, Firemen's Pension Fund. All made short talks. Moon Wyrick was the principal speaker and Albert W. Brinson spoke about the New Bern Firemen's Museum and invited all firemen and their friends to visit the only Volunteer Firemen's Museum of its kind.

On Sunday, June 29, 1958, the association met at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Asheville for its second annual Memorial Service. At this time the Western Association honored the memory of six deceased firemen. The Rev. C. E. Shannon, minister fo St. Paul's Church gave the memorial address.

During the year we have been honored by having some of the state officers at each of our meetings. There has been an average attendance of 175 at the four regular meetings, and approximately 65 in attendance at the Memorial Service.

Our membership is now 967, with 39 member departments."

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The officers for 1958 are: Chief Wesley Howell, Goldsboro, President; Charles Lee Pope, Vice President; Chief Earl W. Kinsey, Secretary. The meteings were held at the following cities: Belhaven, Calypso, Clinton, and Edenton. The membership includes 41 Eastern Carolina cities. Associate members include Cherry Point Marine Base, Edenton Air Base, and Seymour-Johnson Field, Goldsboro, and the cities of Durham and Raleigh. The Belhaven meeting was reported to be well attended considering the heavy rain storm. Chief Windley and his firemen had prepared a swell meal enjoyed by all. Several of the State officers were present. The Calypso Volunteer Fire Department was host to 176 mmbers of the East Carolina Association, which was the first time the association had met with the Duplin group. The Firemen's Pension Fund and the new fire inspection laws were discussed by a number of the leading fire officials. Among the State officers present were Miller Warren of Plymouth, President of the State Association; Curtis H. Flanagan of Farmville, Secretary; and Albert W. Brinson of New Bern, Statistician of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association; Henry Bridges of Raleigh, State Auditor; Berry C. Gibson, Charlotte, Trustee of the Firemen's Pension Fund; Win Donat of Farmville, Secretary of the Pension Fund; Chief J. A. West of Wilmington, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association; and Chief Edgar Summerlin, Secretary of the Fire Chiefs' Association.

The Clinton meeting was attended by 300 visiting firemen. Chief Joe Hailey of Kinston, presided over the meeting. Charles F. Gold, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner, was the main

speaker and his subject was the Firemen's Pension Law enacted at the last legislature. Albert W. Brinson invited the firemen to visit the New Bern Firemen's Museum. The meeting was attended by the following State officers: Chief Miller Warren, President; Chief Jack Keeter, Vice President; Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer; Albert W. Brinson, Statistician; Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary; Chief Charles L. Miller, Advisory; and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Advisory. Sherman Pickard, North Carolina Deputy Fire Marshal, Chief J. S. West, President; and Chief Fortune, Vice Persident of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association, all were recognized.

Thirty-nine Eastern Carolina cities attended the Edenton meeting on April 8 with some 275 firemen in attendance. Host Chief Yates requested a silent prayer in memory of deceased Fire Chief R. K. Hall who died in 1957. Chief Hall, at the time of his death at 91, was considered to be the oldest active fire chief in the world. President Wesley Howell of Goldsboro, presided over the meeting. Officers of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association attending were: Miller Warren, President; Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary; Albert W. Brinson, Statistician; Chief Charles L. Miller and Chief Donald S. Charles, Advisory members.

Chief Donald S. Charles, President of the International Fire Chiefs' Association was the principal speaker. He spoke of the great work carried on by the volunteer and paid firemen of the world in risking their lives to save life and property. He stated that 90% of the firemen of the United States and Canada were volunteer men without pay. Chief Charles was made an honorary member upon motion by Statistician Albert W. Brinson.

Win Donat, Secretary of the Firemen's Pension Fund, talked on the growth of the Pension Retirement. Others making talks were Deputy Chiefs, Charlotte Fire Department, Walter Black and Floyd Martin; Chief Ed Summerlin, Mount Olive; Sherman Pickard, Deputy State Fire Marshal; Past-President Joe Hailey, Kinston; and Chief George Gardner, Greenville, Past-President of the State Firmen's Association. The Association passed a motion to buy films to start a film library for the Association.

DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Chief Cosmo L. Cox says, "We are happy to report that we have not lost a life by fire inside the city limits since January 2, 1956. In my opinion this is the outstanding fire prevention feature of our city. Our population is now 79,000. Things have been fairly normal during the year of 1957. We did have an increased fire loss over 1956, as the following shows: 1956 total fire loss $154,824; 1957, total fire loss $238,786." Your statistician says, Chief Cox, that this is a low loss for a city the size of yours.

CHIEF COSMO L. COX HONORED: Chief Cox was again honored at the Southeastern Chiefs' Association convention held at

Wheeling, W. Va., by being elevated from 2nd vice president to 1st vice president. If the usual procedure is followed by the Southeastern, Chief Cox will be elevated to the presidency of the Southeastern at the next convention, following Chief N. L. Wheeler of Miami, Fla. Congratulations, Cosmo.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick reports the past year has been one of noteworthy progress for the Greensboro Fire Department.

"First of all, the city has doubled its size. It now has a square mile area of 49.5 miles—the largest square mile area of any city in the state. This expansion naturally meant the enlargement of the fire department to cover this new territory. Three new stations have been built and additional men have been employed. Two new 1,000 gallon American LaFrance pumpers have been purchased and placed in service at two of the new stations.

For un-watered areas two 500 gallon pumper tankers have been purchased. These pumpers each carry water tanks of 1200 and 1500 gallon capacities.

Sites have also been purchased for two more new stations to be built in the coming year.

At present our total personnel is 149 men and 2 female secretaries.

The purchase of an additional 100 foot aerial and two more 1,000 gallon pumps has been approved by the City Council.

Four additional Fire Inspectors have been added to the Fire Prevention Bureau, making a total of eight to cover the expanded area.

Much of the year's training has been devoted to training of new probationary firemen and the study of streets in the new annexed territory. Courses for regular firemen both in new firemanic tactics and reviews were conducted throughout the entire year."

HIGH POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES: Chief Claude S. Canady reports a total of 10,171 man hours of classroom study under the supervision of company officers, 2560 man hours were spent on the training grounds in hose lines, ladder, and pump evolutions. This gives a grand total of 12,731 man hours spent in the department educational program last year.

Schools and Conferences attended by department personnel during the year are:

November 18-20, 1957—T. G. Shelton, Director of Fire Prevention attended fall conference of National Fire Protection Association held in Richmond, Va.

January 28-31, 1958—Chief C. S. Canady, Asst. Chief T. M. Ellington, Asst. Chief C. R. Shelton, and Director of Fire Prevention T. G. Shelton attended "Short Course" in Fire Prevention held in Greensboro.

February 18-21, 1958—Asst. Chief T. M. Ellington, Capt. H. E. Sloop and Fireman-Driver R. L. Long attended Fire Department Instructor's Conference held in Memphis, Tenn.

May 5-9, 1958—Asst. Chief T. M. Ellington (Instructor at college) J. D. Farrington and T. L. Byerly attended N. C. State Firemen's Association Fire College held in Charlotte.

May 26-30, 1958—Master Mechanic B. F. Lewallen attended American LaFrance factory, Elmira, New York.

June 11, 1958—House on East Lexington avenue was burned for training purposes. New personnel were given training in combating fires.

KINSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Joe T. Hailey, Chief of the Kinston fire department writes, "This year we have put on 16 new men, including six for Lenoir County fire department, which we operate. We have also started a full time training program with Captain David Lee as instructor. The city has purchased land for a new fire station, which when built will be our No. 4 station. We will open bids on a new 1,000 gallon pumper on August 4, 1958; this truck will replace a 1932 Mack that we presently operate. Our fire loss for the year will be a little more than last year, due to two major fires we had in the Midyette Hardware building supply warehouse, with a $45,000 loss; the other, Humphrey Tire Recapping plant with about $25,000 loss."

Kinston has grown considerably in the last few years, since the Dupont plant was built near the city. Chief Hailey served as President of the Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association last year.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT: Jack Keeter, Chief of the Raleigh fire department gives me, through his secretary, V. Volentir, the following activities of his fire department:

"Raleigh Fire Department Activities for 1957-58:

1. The Raleigh Fire Department added one 750 gallon American LaFrance pumper and one 100 foot tractor drawn American LaFrance aerial truck to their apparatus in 1957-58.

2. Bids were received in May, 1958 for Fire Station No. 7, $77,000.

3. The Fire Prevention Bureau started a Baby Sitter course for young girls in the City of Raleigh. To date 100 girls have completed the course.

4. House to house in-service inspection program was started with the trucks in contact with the dispatchers at all times by walkie-talkie.

5. Fire prevention courses were taught in all the schools and hospitals.

6. The firemen painted toys for the underprivileged children of Raleigh at Christmas and stuffed thousands of envelopes for the Wake County Easter Seal Campaign.

7. The per capita loss was $7.25 in 1956 and $2.32 in 1957.

8. The Raleigh Fire Department answered 1130 calls in 1957.

9. Two men retired from the Raleigh Fire Department in 1956-57.

10. The Raleigh fire department drill tower was completed June 3, 1958, at a cost of $26,000 plus paving. The building has five stories above ground and a basement which is used for drafting water. On one occasion, the City Council, City Manager, and other interested citizens were the guests of the fire department for an exhibition drill at the tower. This drill consisted of various drills and evolutions, including rescue and pit fires.

11. A total of 27,984 man hours was spent on classroom study and drill; 18,656 classroom, and 9,328 drill."

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT: E. R. Bauguess, Fire Marshal, lists some of the activities of the Forsyth County Fire Department since the convention met at Carolina Beach last year:

We have hired a full time Fire Inspector to inspect our schools (City and County) complying with the new law governing school inspections. This man went to work February 1, 1958.

The installation of the new quick-call system for alerting each fire department in the county has just been completed. This system also is used for setting off Civil Defense sirens. Incidentally, this system cost about $16,000.

We have added one new department, Union Cross, also three new trucks were put into service. This puts our total equipment at 35 pieces. New trucks went to: Old Richmond, Rural, and Union Cross.

We held our annual Fire Safety Seminar during September, 1957. Attached you will find a proposed program for this year.

Our County Association set up a Benevolent Fund for each man (numbering over 550) for $500, for each death, with $1.00 assessment for each death. Our Association advanced to this fund $500. We also set up a relief fund to help any of our men who became in bad health or in bad financial condition.

Our 35 pieces of equipment made a total of 1,152 calls with total valuation of $1,900,000 and our loss was $135,000. We had three deaths attributed to fire during the year.

In closing my eighteenth report of statistics I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Deuel Richardson, Manager, Public Relations Department National Fire Protection Association, Mr. A. L. Kirkpatrick, Manager, Insurance Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Mr. C. A. Fischer, President, South Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, Chief Claude S. Canady, High Point; Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan, Farmville; Chief J. A. West, President, North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs; Chief Donald S. Charles and Joe Morris of the Charlotte fire

department; Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief, Public Heath Statistics Section State Board of Health; Chief Charley L. Burkett, Director-onductor, North Carolina Fire College and Pump School; Chief Jack Keeter, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs; Chief Joe T. Hailey, Kinston fire department; Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Director, Division of Insurance State Board of Education; Chief E. W. Kinsey, Secretary, Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association; Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Greensboro fire department; Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Durham fire department; Mark Jones, Secretary, Western North Carolina Firemen's Association; Mr. Charles F. Gold, Commissioner of Insurance; Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal; and others for their co-operation in supplying me with material that has gone into this report. I trust you enjoy reading these statistics and activities as much as I have enjoyed compiling them.

Respectfully submitted,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician
N. C. State Firemen's Association

Motion that the report be accepted, seconded, carried and so ordered.

FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL

Charles Burkett, Director-Conductor

Officers and Members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association in Convention at Lumberton, N. C.:

As Director and Conductor of the North Carolina Fire College and Pump School it is my pleasure to submit the report of the 1958 Session of the North Carolina Fire College, conducted in Charlotte, N. C., on May 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1958.

You will be interested to know that the 30th Annual Fire College issued 269 credits during the school and that 96 North Carolinians, 6 South Carolinians, 1 Albama, 2 Georgians, and 1 Virginia departments were represented.

There were 112 visitors registered, including those appearing on the program, 20 representatives of manufacturers and 11 instructors, making a total attendance of 422. The total attendance in 1957 was 429.

The Fire College was opened by Chief I. Miller Warren, President of the North Carolina Firemen's Association. The presiding officer was Chief Charles L. Burkett, Director and Conductor of the North Carolina Fire College and Pump School. The invocation was by Rev. Herbert Garmon, Chaplain of the State Firemen's Association. The welcome address was by the Honorable James Smith, Mayor of the City of Charlotte and Chief Donald S. Charles of the Charlotte Fire Department. Response to the address of welcome was by Chief Charles L. Burkett of Salisbury.

the group on the pump that you are interested in mostly and maybe next year you can come back and take up another pump. We feel that if you spend one week with the type pump you are most interested in that you will get more out of it.

We want to build up our pump school. The preparation that has been made and all the work that has been done in preparing for this school has been extensive and if we do not have any attendance from your department it looks bad. If you don't have department training, fellows, we are just obsolete. A man has got to know how to operate a pump. We are going to have something important and we are going to have outstanding men there. It is your school, sponsored by your association and certainly we would like you to be there and take advantage of this training.

Motion by Chief Donald Charles that the report be accepted; seconded by Chief Bob Whitley of New Bern; motion carried and so ordered.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

by Albert Brinson

President Keeter and Fellow Firemen,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a happy privilege and great pleasure to submit my nineteeth report of statistics of fire happenings in the fire service of North Carolina, for the year 1958, to the 72nd annual convention of the great North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Another year has rolled by with a full program of activities in our cities, towns and rural sections from the blue Atlantic to the Great Smokies. Last year on July 29 and 30 Chief Ed Glover, his officers, firemen, city officials, civic clubs, and the citizens of Lumberton went all the way out, despite the hot weather, to offer the visiting firemen a program of entertainment that will long be remembered.

We are here assembled in the friendly city of Durham which was host to the 4th convention in 1891 when Thomas A. Green of New Bern, the fourth president, presiding; in 1904 with Captain James D. McNeill serving his eleventh year as president, it was again host in what was then called the Bull Durham city; then in 1923 she played host with J. L. Foster, president, and our dearly loved Chief Frank W. Bennett, vice president. The following year the firemen's singing friend became president and again served as vice president in 1942 and 1943, and was so well thought of that he was elected to serve as president again in 1944 and 1945. Then upon the death of Chief Bennett our young friend, Cosmo L. Cox, succeeded him as Durham's fire chief. In 1953 Chief Cox was elected vice president and in 1954 served the association as president and host to our convention.

Again Chief Cox, his officers, firemen, city officials, and citizens are acting as royal hosts who will long be remembered by all attending. I wish to take this opportunity to express to Chief Cox, his firemen, and citizens our appreciation for the hospitality they have extended to us.

IN MEMORY OF VOLUNTEER FIREMAN ROY CASHION: North Wilkesboro Volunteer Fireman Roy Cashion was killed October 21, 1958, when the front wall of a blazing mill building fell on him.

Fireman Cashion, 37, a son of Mayor A. A. (Dick) Cashion of North Wilkesboro, was one of several volunteer firemen who left their warm beds and homes at 5 A.M. on that chilly October morning to rush to the Elizabeth Hosiery Mill in East Wilkesboro to save property of others. The building was a mass of flames when the firemen arrived. Cashion in front, Assistant Fire Chief Claude Key rushed a hose line to the right front of the building. Conley Call and Harold Brown, on another nozzle were beside them.

Entire Wall Falls: Just as they were able to reach the blazing structure the entire front wall collapsed on them. "Roy was buried," said Brown, as he pointed to a pile of rubble and bricks. "My helmet was knocked off and my leg was hit, but was not hurt bad. I saw another helmet lying there so I put it on and tried to drag him out. Conley had a broken arm but Claude was not hurt much. We finally got Roy out." He was rushed to Wilkes County General Hospital where he died at 7:15 A.M. of head injuries. His burns were minor. He never regained consciousness.

The two story building was described by firemen as a complete loss. The owner of the building, John Adams, and his family, who lived in the second story, escaped partially clad but uninjured.

Fireman Roy Cashion was survived by his wife, the former Ardena Vanhoy of North Wilkesboro, and four children: Carol 12, Virginia 10, Marie 9, and Archie Cashion 2.

Let us stop and say here was a young volunteer fireman with a wife and four young children who answered that last ALARM on that chilly October morning, leaving behind his loving family, with one thought in mind as a volunteer fireman to help save lives and property of others.

NEW BERN FIREMEN'S MUSEUM CHAIRMAN, LEE ROY TUCKER, IS DEAD: Lee Roy Tucker answered his last call on July 1, 1959 with a heart attack. He had been a volunteer fireman of the New Bern Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1 since September 6, 1909 and was an active fireman until his death at the age of 67.

He was a member of the New Bern Button Fire Company Hose Wagon Team when in Charlotte on May 19, 1911, he and teammate firemen broke the previous record of the North Carolina State Firemen's Tournament and established the world record of 26 2/5 seconds. The record never has been broken. Captain James D. McNeill, one of the founders of our association, was president and supervised the tournament races.

Mr. Tucker was retired from the position of Superintendent of Mails at the New Bern post office in 1956, after which he devoted most of his time in furthering the completion of the Firemen's Museum. On October 7, 1955 he, along with three other firemen and two board of aldermen members, organized the New Bern Firemen's Museum. He was elected the first chairman and served in that capacity to the time of his death.

He put all he had into helping to bring about and establishing the museum and developing it to where on October 9, 1957, The American Association for State and Local History presented its national award of merit to the New Bern Firemen's Museum. He was of great help with others in getting the Honorable H. de Torrente, the Swiss Ambassador to attend and take part in the dedication of the museum on June 24, 1957.

He was a member of the Elks Lodge, St. John's Lodge No. 3, A.F.&A.M., Scottish Rite Consistory, Sudan Shrine Temple, and the First Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Alma Taylor Tucker; one son, Lee Roy Tucker, Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. J. W. Becton; a sister, Mrs. Marion Lynch of Goldsboro, and three grandchildren.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION: Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan advises me that the following fire departments joined our association during the past year: Barnardsville, Bridgeton, East Bend, Fletcher, Guilford College, Lewiston, Oakboro Rural, North Catawba (Granite Falls), Saw Mills (Granite Falls), New Hope (Gaston County), New Hope (Wake County), Horneytown (High Point), Union Cross (Kernersville), and Rutherford College. Last year there were sixteen new departments and with the fourteen above for this current year we have thirty new departments for the past two years. You members of these new departments are to be congratulated for establishing fire protection in your communities, and all firemen in our great association welcome you into the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

Curtis says that we now have 340 active departments in the association with only 8 inactive, and this gives us 348 departments in the state and is 162 more than were in the association when I made my first report to you 18 years ago. In 1941 there were only 4,533 members and now there are 10,783, so you can see what a terrific growth has taken place in less than two decades. Our association will continue to grow as long as men become firemen.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1958: The National Fire Prevention Association, sponsor of the non-profit educational engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire in the United States, Canada, and all countries where our armed services are located, annually sponsors Fire Prevention Week making awards.

The contest, as sponsored by the Fire Prevention and Clean-Up Campaign Committee of the NFPA, aims at stimulating universal fire safety consciousness and encouraging a broader use of modern techniques in both public and private fire prevention education. It is an effort, also, to provide suitable recognition of the past year's outstanding fire prevention programs in North America.

The National Fire Protection Association was organized in 1896 to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection and prevention, to obtain and circulate information on these subjects and to secure the cooperation of its members in establishing proper safeguards against the loss of life and property by fire. Its membership includes a hundred and ninety national and regional societies and associations and more than seventeen thousand individuals, corporations, and organizations.

MUNICIPAL DIVISION, UNITED STATES, NATIONAL RANKING (232 communities competing): 1. Oshkosh, Wisc.; 2. Minneapolis, Minn.; 3. Philadelphia, Penn.; 4. Memphis, Tenn.; 5. W. Milwaukee, Wisc.; 6. Boston, Mass.; 7. Louisville, Ky.; 8. Wausau, Wisc.; 9. Anchorage, Alaska; 10. Martinville, Va.; 11. Bloomington, Ind.; 12. Fort Worth, Texas; 13. Hartford, Conn.; 14. Providence, R. Island; 15. Chicago, Ill.; 16. Fall River, Mass.; 17. Winnetka, Ill.; 18. Portland, Maine; 19. Hayward, Calif.; 20. Billings, Mont.; 21. Houston, Texas; 22. Phoenix, Ariz.; 23. Flint, Mich.; 24. Lexington, Ky.; 25. Dayton, Ohio; 26. Eugene, Ore.; 27. Richmond, Calif.; 28. Nashville, Tenn.; 29. Merced, Calif.; 30. Oakland, Calif.

UNITED STATES MUNICIPAL DIVISION RANKINGS BY STATES: North Carolina winning communities: 1. High Point; 2. Greensboro; 3. Fayetteville, and Honorable Mention Thomasville. Congratulations to you Chiefs Claude B. Canady, High Point; C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Greensboro; Carl A. Cain, Fayetteville; Lindsay Loftin, Thomasville, and double congratulations to you other officers and firemen, as you are the boys who really do the work to win these awards.

MILITARY DIVISION: United States army (61 facilities competing) Grand Award, Fort Ord, California; Fort Bragg, North Carolina placed thirteenth out of 61 competing. Congratulations Fort Bragg.

THE 63RD ANNUAL MEETING, N.F.P.A.: Some 2,000 international leaders in fire safety attended the 63rd annual convention of the National Fire Protection Association at Atlantic City, N. J., on June 1-5, 1959.

THE NATIONAL INTER-CHAMBER FIRE SAFETY CONTEST: Saving Lives, Conserving Property, Improving Fire Prevention Work, Promoting Better Fire Protection, and Raising Safety Standards are the subjects for grading winners. Grand Winner, Port Angeles, Wash.; Class winners: I. Philadelphia, Penn.; II. Louisville, Ky.; III. Hartford, Conn.; IV. Lexington, Ky.; V. Muskegon,

Michigan.; VI. West Milwaukee, Wisc.

Class III cities with population 100,000-250,000, Greensboro won the Third Honor award in this class. Last year they won the Seventh Honor in this class. Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, your firemen, and citizens, here's our heartiest congratulations and praise for doing a swell job. We are pulling for you to run Hartford, Conn. out of the top honor which they have placed for the last two years.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY: Again this year Mr. Deuel Richardson, Manager, Public Relations Department of the National Fire Protection Association has furnished me with the estimated fire loss and the loss of lives by fire in the United States for 1958. U. S. fire deaths for the past year totalled 11,500 according to preliminary estimates by the non-profit organizations Fire Record Department. This was an increase of approximately 200 over 1957, but under the 12,100 record set in 1954. Fire killed almost 1,000 people a month in the United States during 1958. The worst loss of life from fire in the United States during 1958 was the December 1 school tragedy in Chicago, which killed 90 pupils and 3 teachers. But the same number of lives—93 were taken in individual fires over the 4-day Christmas holiday, the National Fire Protection Association points out. Canada was able to reduce its fire deaths in 1958, but experienced an increase in property losses. The NFPA estimates show Canadian fatalities totalled 620, a decrease of about 20 from 1957. The Montreat apartment house fire of November 9 took the largest toll of life with 16 dead. Property damage cost $180,000,000 compared with 1957 loss of approximately $139,000,000.

UNITED STATES FIRE LOSS: The 1958 United States property loss of $1,305,000,000 includes $1,095,000,000 damage to buildings and contents. The balance of $210,000,000 covers aircraft, motor vehicles, forest, and other non-building fires. Corresponding revised figures for 1957 were $1,068,115,000 and $211,811,000. Monthly fire losses ran more than $100,000,000 in 1958. It is appalling and tragic to see that the FIRE DEMON is still on the War Fire Path with an increased loss of $25,074,000 in spite of more and better fire fighting equipment and increased fire protection training in every state's cities, towns, and rural areas. The only answer to this, as your statistician views it, is continued plain carelessness of our citizens at large.

The country's second largest, in terms of property loss, was an oil refinery fire in Signal Hill, Calif. on May 22 with a damage total of about $9,000,000. The property loss total of $1,305,000,000 was the highest in history. It was an increase of approximately $25,000,000 over the 1957 figure.

Devastating major fires struck American property at the rate of almost one a day during the past year. Nearly $295,000,000 worth of buildings, industrial installations, forests, and other property in the United States and Canada was wiped out by 356 "large loss" fires in 1958, so reports the NFPA. On 64 occasions $1,000,000 or more went up in smoke in a single fire.

Industry made the greatest stride in reducing losses from major fires. The number of industrial plants involved dropped from 125 in 1957 to 85 in the past year, with reduction of almost $42,500,000 in dollar cost. The 1958 loss was $52,260,000. Percentage-wise, the largest drop was 75 per cent reduction in major church fires—from 15 the previous year to 4 during 1958. Major school and college fires were down also, to a total of 17 with losses of about $6,500,000, a reduction of approximately $900,000 from the previous year. There were no fatalities in these fires. The record did not include the Chicago school fire of last December, since property loss there was under $250,000. Sharply counter to this trend was a rise in major store fires. Losses were up more than $11,000,000 to a total in excess of $37,000,000 and the number rose from 58 in 1957 to 81 last year. Automatic sprinkler and alarm system protection would have prevented 239 of the 286 large loss building fires. In 151 cases discovery and fire department notification were delayed because there were no sprinklers, alarm systems, or watchmen. The NFPA described its analysis of loss fires as record of the "major fire protection failures of the year, the errors of judgment, the equipment that didn't work, the planning that was never done." The largest single fire loss in either the United States or Canada during 1958 was the crash fire of a B-52 bomber at Ellsworth Air Force base, South Dakota on February 11. Damages totalled in excess of $10,000,000. Nine major forest fires were reported for the year, half as many as in 1957. Losses in 1958 were under $7,000,000 in contrast to the more than $32,000,000 in timber and property destroyed the previous year. Lightning caused the largest fire, a $2,165,000 conflagration in northwestern Alberta. But children playing with matches touched off a $2,000,000 blaze in Monrovia, Calif. which destroyed 12,759 acres of watershed and 40 summer cabins.

The National Fire Protection Association has just released its final, comprehensive report on the tragic Chicago school fire of last December.

It called the 93 deaths in that fire "an indictment of those in authority who have failed to recognize their life safety obligations in housing children in structures which are fire traps."

Immediate action was urged to correct conditions in older-type schools that "lack adequate exit facilities and automatic sprinklers, and that have excessive amounts of highly combustible interior finish, substandard fire alarms and poor housekeeping conditions."

These were the principal factors responsible for the large loss of life in the fire at Chicago's Our Lady of the Angels School, the

report said. Basically important was failure to provide adequate facilities to get children safely and quickly out of the school, according to the report.

The 28-page analysis, based on investigations at the scene by two NFPA engineers, also contains a section on planning for school fire safety. One of a long series issued by the 62-year-old nonprofit organization, the authoritative report is designed primarily for study by school and fire authorities as well as all others concerned with the operation, maintenance and construction of public buildings.

Its ultimate aim, however, is to spur local authorities into action to correct dangerous conditions in their own communities.

"How much longer will it be before the lessons so tragically brought home by repeated school disasters are applied to all schools," the Association asks.

Copies of 'The Chicago School Fire" are available (at 25c each) from the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Mass.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Again Mr. Sherman Pickard, Director, Fire Service Training, State of North Carolina Insurance Department, has furnished your statistician with the estimated fire loss for North Carolina for 1958. The estimated total fire loss figures are derived as follows. The insurance department received from the National Board of Underwriters loss figures of the stock fire insurance companies. These were exact figures. A check of the insurance department records reveals that the mutual fire insurance companies' losses average 30% that of the stock companies over a period of several years. The uninsured losses according to the National Board, still stand 33 1/3% of the total loss. Mr. Pickard and your statistician believe this to be the most accurate method of figuring the fire losses. It is our intention, at this time, to continue to follow this method.

It is a pleasure to inform you in my 1958 report that the North Carolina fire losses for 1957 were $3,606,197 less than 1956. It is now a double pleasure to be able to report a further decrease of $322,258 for 1958 over 1957. The 1958 estimated fire loss was $27,441,166, and the combined reductions for 1957 and 1958 is $3,928,455 less than the 1956 losses. The firemen of North Carolina can justly be proud of these nice reductions from the Fire Demon and we can give credit where credit is due, and I believe you will agree with me that we can give a lot of credit to the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's training program, the insurance department's local level training, along with all the cities constant training programs. Let's keep the good work up and beat that Fire Demon before he moves again. Taking into consideration the terrific rise in the United States fire losses you firemen and citizens are to be congratulated on North Carolina's

decreased losses.

Below I submit the breakdown of estimated fire loss for 1958—the causes of the various fires and the amount of loss furnished me by the North Carolina Insurance Department:

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS 1958

1	Electricity and Electrical Equipment, except Lightning and Static	$ 5,636,605.00
5	Lightning	614,589.00
11	Chimneys, Vents, Cupolas, Flues and Stacks	683.00
13	Heating Units—Liquid Fuel	2,197,832.00
15	Heating Units—Solid Fuel	991,445.00
17	Heating Units—Gas and Liquified Petroleum	127,195.00
13, 15, 17	Heating Units—Fuel Type Unknown	105,024.00
21	Sparks, Flames or Heat from Welding Torches—Cutting Torches	1,073,351.00
23	Heat, Flames, Sparks from Sources other than Welding	9,157.00
25	Smoking and Careless Use of Matches	1,388,025.00
27	Exposure	2,475,704.00
29	Sparks from Bonfires—Burning Rubbish, etc.	193,254.00
31	Friction and Friction Sparks	344,376.00
33	Crash of Airplanes, Motor Vehicles, etc.	192,666.00
35	Backfire or Not Exhaust from Internal Combustion Engine	1,271.00
37	Fireworks—Firecrackers	16,007.00
41	Incendiarism, Vandalism, etc.	1,070.00
43	Open Lights	94,198.00
45	Rekindles	143,610.00
47	Spontaneous Ignition	624,432.00
48	Known but not otherwise Classified	245,019.00
49	Unknown or not Determined	10,965,653.00
	Totals	$27,441,166.00

FIRE TOLLS OF LIVES FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Again this year Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics, Division State Board of Health, informs me that the North Carolina death tolls for the year 1958, including protected and unprotected cities, towns and rural areas was 122 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings). This is a terrible increase of 23 lives lost over 1957, there having been 99 last year. He reports 120 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This is a tragic increase of 33 over the 87 in 1957. The year 1957 showed a decrease of 17 from 1956. There were 10 deaths from hot substance, corrosive liquid, and steam. This was one less than 1957. These figures give us an alarming total of 252 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year of 1958. This is an increase of 55 more lives lost than the 197 in 1957. The only com-

ment to be made I suppose is that a lot of our citizens have been more careless than usual, in the year 1958.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health advises me that there were 19 deaths in 1958 of personnel in military aircraft. This was 12 more than the 7 in 1957. In 1956 there were 18 deaths. It is pleasing to note, however, that there were no deaths of occupants of commercial transport aircraft and none from occupants of other aircraft in 1958, and this was also true for the year 1957. In 1956 there was one occupant of commercial transport and 7 deaths other than unspecified aircraft. In 1958 there were 8 occupants in other and unspecified aircraft accidents and one accident at airfield to person not in craft. This made a total of 28 persons died from aircraft accidents, which was three more than in 1957 and four less than in 1956. There is no way for me to determine how many of these deaths were fire victims, however, the majority of crashes seem to end in fire.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: There were 2,846 fires reported by fire chiefs for 1958. Eight causes—ranging from 101 to 607 fires each—accounted for 2,159 of the total 2,846. The other 17 causes totaled 687 fires. Unknown causes led with 607; overheated and defective chimneys and flues 327; overloaded and defective wiring 308 (an increase of 33 over 1957); flooded and defective oil stoves, heaters, and furnaces 286; careless smokers and smoking in bed 275; carelessness 153 (a decrease of 65 from 1957); burning leaves, trash, and grass 102; and children playing with matches and cigarette lighters 101.

HOTELS, MOTELS, AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: The number of hotel and motel fires increased to 18 in 1958 and suffered $76,711 total loss.

Apartment house fires numbered 157 with a total loss of $211,399 —a decrease of $7,910 from that of 1957.

Hospital and nurses' home fires totaled ten reported with losses of $5,865, which is slightly more than one third of the loss for 1957.

CHURCH FIRES FOR 1958: The church fire loss rose sharply over that for 1957—an increase of $47,517 with three more fires or a total of eleven reported. The greatest single loss was that of $40,000 in the First Nazareth Baptist church at Asheville.

SCHOOL FIRES REPORTED BY FIRE CHIEFS FOR 1958: There were 18 school fires reported by fire chiefs for 1958 with a combined loss of $262,504. The largest public school loss was Central Elementary school at Greensboro $71,300, and the highest college loss was $99,899 for Livingstone College at Salisbury. There were five more school fires than in 1957, but an appreciable decrease of $126,750 in damage.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: There were 59 fires causing losses of $20,000 and over reported for 1958 with a combined loss of $4,037,768 which is $28,469 less than the loss for

1957. It is very gratifying to report decreases for two consecutive years. Below are listed the large fires from the information sent in by North Carolina fire chiefs for 1958:

Asheboro—Hudson Belk Co. $260,000.

Asheville—Valdale Co., Inc. $201,200; Avon Yarn Mill $105,000; Residence of Dr. M. F. Keleher $24,000; Champion Paper and Fiber Co. $810,000.

Burnsville—Feed and Seed Store $60,000.

Chapel Hill—Swain Hall $50,000; University N. C. warehouse $55,000.

Charlotte—R. H. Bouligny & Co. $20,000; Myers Auto Service $30,084; Tool shed $20,250; Mystery Package Co. $43,754.

Clinton—Brookbank Insulation $51,500.

Concord—Kerr Bleachery $25,000; Cato's Ladies Clothing Store $20,792.

Davidson—Storage shed $26,000.

Durham—Ingold Tire Co. $21,127; Ruth Gordon Fashion Shop $21,000.

Edenton—Providence Baptist Church $20,000.

Erwin—Service station and dwelling $20,000.

Gastonia—Spencer-Rhyne Co., Dee's Clothing, Hudson Cotton Co., Cotton Office, Office Supply Co., Clothing store $146,500; Caldwell Ins., Gaston Beauty School, Jaque's Beauty School $21,000.

Goldsboro—F. W. Woolworth Co. $55,000; A. T. Griffin Mfg. Co. $75,000; Jackson Trucking Co., North American Van Lines, Inc. $81,000.

Henderson—Glamor Shops of Henderson, Inc. $20,000; Parker's Drug Store $33,114.

Hickory—Warehouse $38,250.

High Point—Davis Milling Co. $165,000; High Point Chemical Co. $53,666; Silvercraft Furniture Mfg. Co. $39,317; Southern Seating and New-Products Co. $68,294.

Kings Mountain—Dan Mitchens' home $24,204.

Kinston—Auto Parts Store $26,700; Humphrey Tire Co. $25,427; Midyette Hardware $54,500.

Lexington—Coble Dairy Products Cooperative, Inc. $28,110.

Lincolnton—Western Auto Associated Store $45,000.

Madison—Clothing store $21,000.

Mebane—Twin States Warehouse $20,000.

Monroe—John Crowley Processing Co.

Mooresville—Warehouse $31,000.

Pinehurst—Captain H. B. Williams' home $18,500.

Raleigh—Lassiter's Mill $30,000.

Rocky Mount—A.C.L. freight station $71,407; Rocky Mount Mills $20,636.

Salisbury—Livingstone College $99,899.

Shelby—Gardner Business Fire (9 business places) $32,798.
Washington—Parish House, Episcopal $200,000.
Williamston—Rose's 5 & 10 cent store $90,000; City hall $65,000.
Wilmington—Carolina Warehouse Co. $25,000; Southeastern Poultry Co. $21,050.
Wilson—Army and Navy Store, N. C. Employment Office $85,000.
Winston-Salem—School of Dance $49,989; Mrs. Robert D. Shore's residence $33,000; Taylor Warehouse Co., Inc. $117,000.
Woodland—Parker Manufacturing Co. $70,000.
Wrightsville Beach—W. M. Hill's home $29,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES: Elctric stove left on—damage $9,185, expensive carelessness.

Boy soaked rags in fuel oil and set Shell oil plant fire—burned $12,000.

Carelessness in thawing out pipes—loss $5,000. There were 41 fires from thawing frozen water pipes.

Psychiatric patient set fire to hospital wing—$1,000.
Unoccupied house, cause unknown, damage $10,000.
House under construction, cause undetermined—damage $10,500.
Child drying hair on sofa—damage to furnishings $973.
Cigarette carried to attic by pigeon—result $2,600 damage.
Hot ashes placed in closet—damage $137.
New mown hay improperly ventilated—loss $7,000.
Careless smoker—result $15,000 loss.
Police car being worked on—undetermined—damage $266.40.

Occupant put broom in stove, took out and laid on trunk—damage $1,441.

Fire in basement—sun reflecting through window glass—damage $2,230.

Lighting stove with kerosene—stove exploded, damage $4,500.
Child playing with cigarette lighter—damage $4,665.

Heating oil to pop corn o nstove—went off and forgot about it—damage $11,716.66.

Overheated wood stove—parents left home—five children in bed—fire started in upstairs room, one child leaped to safety, other four burned—Danny Ross 13 years, Willard 5, Patricia Ann 4, and Woodrow Wilson 1 year.

Smoking in closet while looking for clothing—damage $1,600.
Electric light bulb burst and set fire to cotton—damage $5,000.

Probably smoking in bed—Dr. Luther Fultz burned to death—house total loss $8,000.

Poured kerosene in hot stove—monetary loss $4,500—lives lost two children—one died in fire and the other in hospital a few days later.

Smoking on couch—went to sleep—delayed alarm—carelessness and nap cost $16,000.

Smoking in bed—one 55 year old man dead—property damage $1,700.

Overheated grease in electric deep fryer—loss $15,000.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: This information has been gathered from the reports furnished the Insurance Commissioner by the fire chiefs. There were only two departments—Rockwell and Vienna Fire Department—with perfect records of no fires for the year 1958. Our congratulations to these. For the others reported the records are: Aberdeen 11 months, Asheboro 4, Canton 2, Concord 1, Cornelius 7, Davidson 1, Denton 3, Dobson 8, Fair Bluff 9, Faison 3, Gibsonville 6, Granite Quarry 8, High Point—Oak View Dept. 1, Mebane 2, Mount Airy 2, Mt. Holly 1, Spencer 11, Stanley 8, Swansboro 7, and Wrightsville Beach 8.

Mr. W. J. Woosley, secretary of the Vienna Fire Department, writes me as follows: "I am always glad to 'brag' about our fire department and this gives me another opportunity to do so.

"After carefully checking our department records with the Fire Chief, I am happy to report to you that during the period beginning with 12:01 A.M. November 3, 1957 and ending at 4:00 P.M. July 28, 1959, we have had no fire loss in the Vienna Fire District. The record book looks like a fireman's dream when one looks at more than year's operation and sees 'no fire loss' listed after every entry.

"We have been trying to tell our people that they and they alone can prevent fires—we can only come and do our best to put them out after they are started. We believe that our program of fire prevention has done much to bring our loss down so low. But the one thing that has been the greatest help is the fact that we have a very fine community in which to serve."

This is certainly an enviable record and we wish to congratulate Secretary Woosley and the members of his department for the fine work they are doing in teaching fire prevention.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 31ST ANNUAL FIRE COLLEGE: The 31st annual Fire College was held in Charlotte, May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1959 at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School. The College was conducted by Chief Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Vice Chairman. The instructors were T. C. Bishop, G. L. Barnett, Walter J. Black, W. O. Dowdy, T. M. Ellington, John Godwin, P. C. Hinson, H. E. Inscoe, Sherman Pickard, R. L. Powell, J. R. Stott, C. O. Wilkie, and C. W. "Moon" Wyrick. Chief Jack Keeter, President, N. C. State Firemen's Association officially opened the College at 10:00 A.M., Monday, May 25, 1959. The presiding officer was Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor, N. C. State Fire College and Pump School. Invocation was given by the Rev. Herbert Garmon, Chaplain, N. C. State Firemen's Association, welcome by Hon. James S. Smith, Mayor, City of Charlotte and Chief Donald S.

Charles, Chief of Charlotte Fire Department. Response to welcome by Chief Charles L. Burkett. Lectures were given by Robert C. Byrus, Director of Fire Service, University of Maryland, subject "The Room at the Top"; B. Richter Townsend, Secretary-Manager, International Association of Fire Chiefs, New York City, subject "Our Responsibilities"; L. E. Shingledecker, Supervisor of Fire Safety, Nationwide Insurance Co. of Columbus, Ohio, subject "A Substitute for Aspirin"; Chief Arthur P. Spottswood, Minneapolis, Minn., subject "Responsibilities That Face the Fire Service"; Roger Cholin, Vice President and Instructor Safety First Products, Elmsford, N. Y., "Dry Powder Extinguisher Demonstration."

You will be interested to know that 318 credits were issued during the school and that 91 North Carolina, 7 South Carolina, 1 Alabama, 2 Georgia, and 1 Virginia departments were represented. There were 121 visitors registered, including those appearing on the program, representatives of manufacturers and instructors, making a total of 439. The total attendance in 1958 was 422.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION PUMP SCHOOL: The sixth annual Pump School was held in Charlotte on September 29, 30, and October 1, 1958, at the Charlotte Fire Department's Training School. The school was conducted by the Director-Conductor, Chief Charles L. Burkett and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Assistant Director. The faculty members were Deputy Chief W. J. Black, Charlotte; Assistant Chief T. M. Ellington, High Point; Captain W. O. Dowdy, Charlotte; Captain R. L. Powell, Greensboro; Captain J. R. Stott; Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Greensboro; and Sherman Pickard, N. C. Department of Insurance, Raleigh, N. C. The engineers participating on the program were: Harry M. Blank, Chief Engineer, Seagrave Corporation; Hugh Walker, Chief Engineer, American La France Corporation; Robert Youmans, Engineer, Seagrave Corporation; and a representative of the Hale Fire Pump Co. There were 50 first year credits issued, 28 second year credits, and 34 third year credits issued. There were nine instructors and 21 visitors (observers and representatives of manufacturers). The total attendance was 142.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE: The local level Fire Service Training program of the North Carolina Department of Insurance is headed by Director Sherman Pickard. He is ably assisted by Elwood Inscoe, Fire Department instructor of the North Carolina Department of Insurance. These men have done almost the impossible as a more or less two men team since the program started, and especially for their 1958 program.

They have conducted thirty-one schools with two hundred twenty-six departments attending and, believe it or not, two thousand four hundred twenty-two firemen attending. There were one thousand four hundred ninety-three completing cards issued.

Below I list the fire departments attending the fire schools wit the number of firemen participating.

Ahoskie 17, Alamance 15, Angier 3, Arcadia 9, Archer Lodge Atwell 11, Aulander 13.

Battleboro 2, Bayboro 10, Beulaville 20, Bethany 4, Biscoe 1 Boiling Springs 12, Bonnie Doone 13, Boonville 12, Broadway 1 Brogden 8, Buies Creek 26, Burlington 13.

Calypso 17, Candor 15, Castalia 3, Central 7, Cherry Poin Marine Base 3, China Grove 7, Chinquapin 11, Churchland 8, Clay ton 5, Cleveland County 7, Cleveland Rural 10, Clinton 7, Col Water 22, Colfax 20, Columbia 2, Concord 2, Conetoe 21, Conway 11 Corinth-Holders 23, Creswell 19, Cricket 12.

Deep River 15, Denton 3, Derita 9, District 13—10, District 14—3 Dobson 9, Dunn 30, Draper 9.

Eagle Springs 7, East Bend 4, East Spencer 9, Edenton 7, Elki 19, Ellis Cross Road 3, Endy 3, Erwin 5.

Fairgrove 6, Faison 18, Faith 15, Fall Creek 3, Fayetteville 4 Forsyth County 2, Franklin 20.

Garland 4, Garner 13, Gaston 4, Gatesville 9, Goldsboro 3, Gran ite Quarry 7, Griffin Township 10, Grover 6, Guil-Rand 7.

Halifax 7, Hamptonville 13, Harrells 6, Harrelsville 7, Harrisburg 16, Harrison 1, Henderson 25, Hertford 12, Hobgood 19, Hickory Grove 5, Holly Grove 7, Huntersville 3.

Jackson 1, Jackson Park 18, Jamesville 7.

Kannapolis 11, Kenly 7, Kinston 19, King 3, Kings Mountain 22, Knightdale 20.

Lawndale 2, Leaksville 11, Lexington 14, Liberty 13, Linwood 6, Littleton 4, Locke 15, Long Creek 2, Locust 31, Louisburg 6.

Macclesfield 6, Madison 12, Mallard Creek 3, Matthews 5, Mayodan 25, McLeansville 11, Midland 33, Midway 8, Millers Creek 10, Millers Ferry 9, Mint Hill 2, Moravian Falls 13, Moores Chapel 13, Mountain Park 3, Mountain View 5, Mount Airy 28, Mount Gilead 17, Mount Mourne 3, Mount Olive 34, Mount Pleasant 18, Mount Ulla & Bear Poplar 24, Mulbrerry-Fairplanes 17, Murfreesboro 8.

Nash County 7, Nashville 8, New Bern 58, New Port 3, New London 2, Newton Grove 4, New Hope 12, N. C. Finishing Co. 1, N. C. Pulp Co. 4, North Wilkesboro 23, Norlina 3.

Oakboro (city) 9, Oakboro (rural) 2, Oakhurst 8, Oak Ridge 10, Oak View 8, Oriental 3, Oxford 6.

Penderlea 5, Pilot 1, Pinecroft-Sedgefield 42, Pinetops 7, Pinoca 5, Pineville 13, Pleasant Hill 30, Plymouth 22, Plymouth Scouts 19, Pope Air Force Base 3, Powellsville 8, Providence 6.

Randleman 17, Red Oak 23, Reeds 6, Rich Square 8, Roanoke Rapids 22, Roaring River 15, Rockwell 2, Rockwell (rural) 8, Rocky Mount 7, Rolesville 10, Roper 7, Rose Hill 10, Roseboro 13, Roxobel 5.

Salemburg 7, Salisbury 17, Scotland Neck 9, Seaboard 3, Sea-

grove 5, Selma 13, Sharpsburg 18, Shelby 2, Smithfield 6, Southmont 6, Southport 23, South Lexington 6, South Salisbury 14, Speed 5, Spencer 1, Spencer Shops 6, Spray 8, Spring Hope 10, Star 18, Statesville Road 3, Steelberry 7, Stony Creek 32, Summerfield 7, Sunny Point Army Terminal 13, Sunbury 13.

Tarboro 5, Ten-A 8, Trap 3, Trenton 3, Triangle 8, Tri-City Motor Co. 1, Troy 18, Tyro 4.

Union 12, Vandemere 2.

Wallace 33, Wallburg 6, Walnut Cove 22, Warrenton 1, Warrenton (rural Vol.) 14, Warsaw 10, Washington 8, Welcome 7, Weldon 9, Wendell 20, West Edgecombe 16, West Lexington 8, West Mount 20, Whitakers 1, Wilkerson Blvd. 1, Wilkesboro 5, Winecoff 15, Windsor 12, Woodland 5, Woodlawn 12, Woodleaf 13.

NO CASUALTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FIRES: Your statistician is very happy to be able to report to you that during the past year there were no deaths from school fires in the State of North Carolina. This glad news was given me by Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Director, Division of Insurance of the North Carolina State Board of Education. Since the Flat Rock School in Surry County tragedy which I reported in my statistics for 1956, there have been hundreds of fire hazards in our schools throughout North Carolina corrected, and will continue to be improved. The credit for these fire corrections can be attributed to Mr. Charles F. Gold and his Insurance Department, school officials, building inspectors, and firemen of our state.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director, Thomas B. Winborne, Division of Insurance State Board of Education, again this year was kind enough to cooperate in furnishing me the following information on administrative public schools. Out of the 174 administrative school units, 64 county and 34 city units are protected by the Division of Insurance, State Board of Education; this is two more city units than in 1957-1958.

DIVISION OF INSURANCE ,STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LOSSES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR 1958-1959 — PAID AND IN PROCESS.

Name of Building and School Unit	Amount of Loss
Graham High School Grandstand, Alamance County	$
Altamahaw-Ossippee School, Alamance County	4,700 00
Deep Creek Elementary School, Anson County	58,500.00
Deep Creek High School, Anson County	31,400.00
Park Street School, Asheboro City	95,692.56
David Millard Junior High School, Asheville City	250.00
Hildebran Gymnasium, Burke County	150.70
Hillcreast School, Burlington City	322.05
Charles B. Aycock School, Cabarrus County	213.40
Highland Elementary Colored School, Gastonia City	1,498.15
Draper Junior High School, Leaksville Township	

Public Schools	3,324.14
Rock Hill Colored School, Lincoln County	50.00
Peabody Colored Principal's Dwelling, Montgomery Co.	2,200.00
Vance Street School, Roanoke Rapids City	43.13
Cary Teacherage, Wake County	477.18
Pikeville Training High School (Col.) Wayne County	132.00
Whiteville High School, Whiteville City	330,000.00
Bald Creek Elementary School, Yancey County	4,914.07
Total paid fire and lightning losses	$533,799.02
Total paid extended coverage losses	30,474.91
Estimated outstanding fire and lightning losses	0
Estimated outstanding extended coverage losses	6,193.56
Total losses for the year 1958-59	$570,467.49

The total losses for the year 1958-1959 of $570,467.49 is an increase of $349,942.06 over the 1957-1958 of $220,525.43. You will note the above loss of the Whiteville High School of $330,000.00 accounted for all the increase except $19,942.06. These 18 school units' losses are very small compared to the total risk involved.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION: At the meeting of the association held jointly since it was organized, with the North Carolina State Firemen's Association at Lumberton last year they voted to hold their meeting separate due to needing more time than one day to conduct their business. President Roma C. Fortune invited the association to Burlington. The 1958 officers elected at Lumberton were: Chief Roma C. Fortune, Burlington, president; Chief C. W. Howell, Goldsboro, vice president; Chief G. E. Summerlin, Jr., Mount Olive, secretary; and Chief Ralph Marbry, Badin, treasurer.

The annual convention of the association was held at Burlington on April 20, 21, 1959 in the National Guard Armory, with President Roma C. Fortune presiding. The President opened the meeting with a welcome to the fire chiefs assembled and announced that Chaplain Garmon was unable to attend due to a sudden death in his home town, and that Burlington's City Manager, Mr. J. D. Mackintosh, Jr., was sick and would not be able to appear on the program. Group singing was led by Eddie Smith of the Greensboro Fire Department, Assistant Chief J. E. Beasley of the Burlington Fire Department gave the invocation, after which Eddie Smith closed the devotional period with the Lord's Prayer. Mayor Calloway Pollard, Jr. of Burlington extended a most cordial welcome to the group. Mr. Ed A. Johnson, Treasurer of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, gave the response to the Mayor's welcome on behalf of the fire chiefs.

The President appointed the following committees: Courtesy committee, Chief Tyrus Bissett, chairman, Wilson, Chief C. L.

Snipes Carolina Beach and Chief Earl Moser, Hickory; By-laws committee, Chief Joe Hailey, Kinston, chairman, Chief Claude Canady, High Point and Chief W. B. Parrish, Rocky Mount; Life Membership committee, Chief Ralph Handsel, Stanley, chairman, Chief Joe Hailey, Kinston, Chief Jim Reid, Shelby, and Chief Joe Ledbetter, Gibsonville; Sergeant-at-Arms, Chief Carl Cain, Fayetteville, and Assistant Chief Jack McIntyre, Badin.

Chief Donald S. Charles, chairman of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's Legislative Committee, stated the old Firemen's Pension Bill was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and that all who took part in the drafting the new bills felt they would stand up. He explained the bills and asked all fire chiefs to lend all aid possible to help get them through the Legislature. Chief Jack Keeter, President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, spoke on the bills and said that he thought they would pass. Dale Auck's recording on the Chicago school fire in December which took the lives of 90 children and 3 teachers was heard with slides to illustrate his remarks. Mr. Pat Murphy, Engineer, Southeastern Underwriters spoke on "Requirements for Classifications"; Mr. Sherman Pickard from the State Insurance Department spoke on "Needs for Officers Training"; Mr. Hugh Walker, Sales Engineer for American La France Corporation spoke on "Practical Apparatus Specifications." A panel of fire chiefs and newspapermen discussed ways in which each can work with the other in presenting news on fires to the public. Mr. Kenneth Scott, Chief Engineer of the North Carolina Rating Bureau was moderator. Serving on the panel was Chief Joe Hailey, Chief Claude S. Canady, A. C. Smor, columnist and reporter for the Raleigh Times, and Mr. Howard White, Managing Editor of the Times News. Mr. D. R. Fonville of the Alamance Exchange told how it operated so that it had funds to promote fire prevention. Mr. Bob Leonetti, President of the Burlington Junior Chamber of Commerce, told the association how the Burlington Fire Department and Jaycees work together in promoting fire prevention, Mr. Bob Turnage of the N. C. Insurance Department talked on "Unlawful Burning Investigation." A panel composed of Chief Keeter, Walter Black, and Kenneth Scott with Sherman Pickard as moderator answered questions which had been dropped into a question box during the convention. The association gave George F. McLaughen, Gastonia, 34 years, and Robert L. Rhyne, Gastonia, 32 years (6 years chief) life memberships in the association.

The new officers elected were Chief C. W. Howell of Goldsboro, president; Chief G. E. Summerlin, Jr., Mt. Olive, vice president; Chief Ralph Marbry, Badin, secretary-treasurer; Chief W. B. Parrish and Chief R. C. Fortune, board of directors.

Chief C. L. Snipes of Carolina Beach invited the 1960 convention and the Carolina Beach invitation was accepted.

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs held its 31st annual convention in Durham, N. C., on May 18, 19, 1959 with Chief Cosmo L. Cox, vice president and his Durham firemen hosts to the convention. The officers of the association were Chief Newton L. Wheeler, Miami, Fla., president; Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Durham, N. C., first vice president; Chief Clarence A. Fischer, Orangeburg, S. C., second vice president; Chief C. W. Wyrick, Greensboro, N. C., secretary-treasurer; Chief Earl R. McDaniel, Lexington, Ky., International director. The meetings and annual banquet were held at the Washington Duke hotel.

President Wheeler opened and conducted the meeting. The invocation was given by Rev. L. B. Scarborough, pastor of Holloway Street Christian church, Durham; Presentation of Colors followed by Pledge of Allegiance—Assistant Chief Claiborne H. Lawson, Durham; address of welcome, Mayor E. J. Evans, Durham; response Mr. W. H. Barnett, superintendent, Florida State College, Ocala, Florida; Memorial service, Rev. Robert T. Henderson, pastor Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian church, Durham; Chief C. W. Wyrick, secretary-treasurer, called the roll of deceased members. The following gave addresses: President Chief Newton L. Wheeler, Vice President Cosmo L. Cox, Mr. Robert F. Hamm, director of public relations—Fire Department Training, Indiana Rating Bureau, Indianapolis, Ind., Mr. O. G. Carpenter, engineer Southeastern Underwriters Association, Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. Mary B. Semans, Durham, Chief Jack B. Keeter, president, North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Chief J. N. Farmer, Petersburg, Va., Chief Clarence A. Fisher, second vice president, Agy/Sgt. A. C. Smith, Sherman Pickard, Honorable Charles F. Gold, Commissioner of Insurance, and Chief G. C. Wuchae, Greensboro.

Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Durham, was elected president of the Southeastern; Chief Clarence A. Fischer, Orangeburg, S. C., first vice president; William McFadden, Wheeling, W. Va., second vice president; Chief C. W. Wyrick was reelected secretary-treasurer; Chief Earl R. McDaniel, Lexington, Ky., was reelected International director.

SANDHILL FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Mr. E. P. Leatherbury, secretary, advises me the Sandhill Association is still growing and that President Pearle T. Smith has done a lot of visiting among their many member departments in the various towns during his term of office. One of his visits was at Mt. Gilead while they were conducting a fire school. There were about 60 firemen attending the classes. The towns of Troy, Star, Biscoe, Candor, Eagle Springs, and Seagrove attended Sherman Pickard's classes. He also visited Southern Pines while Captain Wilkie of the Durham Fire Department was conducting a school October 20-24 with 50 firemen attending from Cameron, Vass, Aberdeen, Pinebluff, and Pinehurst.

President Smith also visited the following departments during his term: Spring Lake, Cumberland Road, Hamlet, Pinehurst, Cape Fear Rural, Deep River, Troy, Candor, Laurinburg, Gibson, Star, Pembroke, Red Springs, Carthage, Ellerbe, Hoffman, Mt. Gilead, Pinebluff, Southern Pines, Sanford, Tramway, West End, Locust, St. Paul, Mar West Area, Biscoe, High Falls, Vander, Raeford, Robbins, Seagrave, Lilesville, Wadesboro, and LaFayette. During the year he visited about 45 departments, with approximately 700 members.

Rockingham held a training school on August 30 and April 3 with Mr. Elwood Inscoe of Rocky Mount as instructor. The following towns attended: Wadesboro, Ellerbe, Hamlet, Laurinburg, Lilesville, Cardova, Hoffman, and Morven. The attendance was 50 chiefs and firemen.

Mr. Smith attended the Robeson County Firemen's Association on April 24 with 72 in attendance. New departments joining the association during the year were: Cotton, West Area, Pierces Mill, Raeford Road, Bonnie Doon, and Vander.

On June 24, 1959 the Sandhill Firemen's Association held its 33rd annual convention at Rockingham with Chief Perry C. Covington and his firemen as hosts and President Pearle T. Smith presiding. Sherwood Brockwell, Jr. gave the invocation, with Mayor Thomas B. Hunter giving the address of welcome and Sherwood Brockwell, Jr. making the response.

Visitors speaking were Albert W. Brinson, New Bern, Statistician of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Chief Edgar Summerlin, Secretary of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association, Win Donat of Farmville, and Sherwood Brockwell, Jr. of Southern Pines. After the business meeting the following officers were elected: Simeon Oxendine, Pembroke, president; Chief H. Raymond Holt, Troy, vice president, and E. P. Leatherbury, Hamlet, secretary.

HOST CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles and his fire department were hosts to the 6th annual North Carolina State Firemen's Association's Pump School, September 29, 30, October 1, 1958, and the 31st annual North Carolina Firemen's Association's Fire College on May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1959. We, the firemen of North Carolina, should be very grateful to Chief Charles, his officers, firemen, and city officials who have been very kind for years in being host to our College and Pump School. Thanks a million, Donald and your associates, who have been so good to us.

Chief Charles has given your statistician a few facts about the Charlotte fire department, the largest fire department in the Carolinas and many other states.

"At the present time we have 12 fire stations with 15 engine companies, 6 ladder companies, and two 0-10 crash units in service; and 6 reserve engine companies, 4 chiefs' cars, one lighting truck,

3 maintenance trucks, one gasoline truck, one fire prevention car, and one training division station wagon. There are 342 employees and an annual budget of approximately $1,500,000.00. The station and personnel of the airport station are included in the above figures."

WILSON COUNTY OKAYS FIRE DISTRICT: The county's first rural fire district has been approved by the Wilson County Commissioners.

The governing body will be made up of one county commissioner, one fire chief and up to as many as 10 citizens at large to represent each of the 10 townships in the county.

Action on the far reaching proposal came when Rupert Stott, a captain with the Wilson Fire Department, appeared before the Board with a resolution calling for the creation of the fire district.

DARE TOWNS GET FIRE EQUIPMENT: Kitty Hawk—Two fire trucks have been delivered to the Dare Beaches Sanitary District, to be used for fire protection in Kitty Hawk and Nags Head. Kill Devil Hills, which is part of the Sanitary District, has its own fire department and has been exempted by legislative aciton from taxes to operate and equip the Sanitary District fire department.

Each of the one-ton Ford Trucks has a 300-gallon water tank, a 600-gallon-per-minute pump and other equipment to meet the North Carolina Insurance Rating Bureau's specification.

With W. H. Smith as Sanitary District fire chief, one company has been organized in Kitty Hawk and another will be formed in Nags Head. The Kitty Hawk volunteers have arranged to buy a lot in approximately the center of that area of the beach and will build a 26x40 foot fire house, to house the truck. The other truck will be housed at the Army radar installation in Nags Head.

FIRE PROTECTION TOPIC AT MEETING: Edenton—Interest in rural fire protection was increased in Chowan county after hearing Nash county Commissioner Henry H. Milgrom, speak on the fire service program of his county.

Milgrom's talk was before the Chowan County Ruritan Club and other interested citizens throughout the county. Organization, financing and training on the local and county levels were discussed by the commissioner.

He commended the State Insurance Commissioner's office for the training program it is conducting. At the present time Chowan county is served by one rural truck stationed in Edenton.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: After Chief Donald S. Charles served out last year as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the association still kept the good man in harness by keeping him on the Volunteer Fire Committee and on the Board of Trustees of the International Fire Administration Institute. The present officers of the International are Chief R. C. Malmquist, Minneapolis, Minn., president; Chief A.

F. Lintelman, Baytown, Texas, first vice president; Chief G. A. Mitchell, Opelika, Ala., treasurer; and B. Richter Townsend, New York, N. Y., secretary-manager.

Chief Charles urges you fire chiefs of North Carolina who are not members to join the association and by all means go to the international at Grand Rapids, Mich., on August 31, September 1, 2, 3, 1959.

NEWPORT REPORTS BUSY YEAR; NEW BUILDING PLANNED IN 1959: C. A. Gould, Jr., Newport fire chief, has made his annual report on fire department activities. The report for the year 1958, follows:

From December 1, 1957 through December 31, 1958, the Newport Fire Department answered 25 fire alarms. Four of the fires were in town. The total value of the properties involved directly or indirectly amounted to $67,000. Actual fire damage was $20,100, of which $20,000 was in the Howard's Garage fire. Property saved amounted to $46,900.

Firemen completed plans for a new fire station with two double length apparatus places, and two standard size apparatus places, meeting room, firemen's office, mayor's office, kitchen, lounge, and repair room. Firemen plan to begin work on the building during the early spring. Additional property was purchased by the town on which to build the new station.

The department received a new inhalator during 1958, a gift from the widow of Dr. W. Z. Wentz. The ambulance now carries two inhalators.

One of the latest style 2½-inch adjustable fog nozzles was added to the equipment carried on the town truck; 35 and 50-foot aluminum ladders were added primarily for possible rescue work at the local school.

Twenty firemen attended this year's county fire school, sponsored again by the Beaufort, Morehead City, and this department. Captain Otis W. Dowdy, Charlotte Fire Department training officer, conducted the course. Chief Frank Schlarp conducted portions of the course, and other assistance was rendered by Chief Mike Jowdy of Cherry Point.

Two firemen attended the state fire college at Charlotte. Captain George Green completed the four-year course and received his graduation diploma. Two firemen attended the annual firemen's convention at Lumberton in July.

One of the dreams of the firemen came to realization during 1958 with the completion and placing into use of the completed water system. The new 100,000-gallon tank and new 10, 8, and 6-inch mains went into use. The town now has as modern and complete water distribution facilities as any town its size. Particularly noteworthy is the emergency pumping unit which provides water while power is off.

An emergency auxiliary gasoline-powered generator was also added to the equipment during 1958, as well as more filing cabinets.

NEW BERN HOST TO TRAINING SCHOOL: The New Bern Fire Department had its first-year North Carolina Fire Service Training School during the month of September. The school was instructed by H. Elwood Inscoe of the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

The school was attended by the following fire departments: Bayboro, Oriental, Vandemere, Newport, Trenton, Kinston, Cherry Point Marine Base and a volunteer fireman from Rocky Mount.

The first-year training course on a local level was considered very beneficial instruction and was enjoyed by all. The course included a burning and extinguishing of an old condemned house. which was the climax of the school.

The city of New Bern and the fire department served a buffet supper.

EASTERN CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The Eastern Carolina Association had a most successful year with their four large quarterly meetings. These meetings were held in Clinton, Farmville, Goldsboro, and Greenville. The annual meeting was held in Farmville on January 13, and the following officers were elected: Charles Lee Pope, Clinton, president; Chief Earl Kinsey, LaGrange, vice president; and Mark Lassiter, Jr., secretary-treasurer. Hosts to the meeting were Chief Haywood Smith of Farmville, Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary, North Carolina State Firemen's Association, firemen and city officials. In the absence of President Wesley Howell of Goldsboro, due to illness, Vice President Charles Lee Pope of Clinton presided. Short talks were made by: Henry Lee Bridges, State Auditor; Chief Jack Keeter, President of the State Association; Chief Charles L. Miller, First Vice President, State Association; Albert W. Brinson, Statistician State Association; Chief I. Miller Warren, past president of the association; Chief Edward Summerlin, Jr., Secretary of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association; Chief Joe Hailey, past president of the Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association; and Elwood Inscoe who talked on local level training of firemen. President Pearle Smith of the Sandhills Firemen's Association was a guest and invited everyone to visit the Sandhills association. Goldsboro was chosen for the April meeting. The average attendance will run from 275 to 325.

BRIDGETON, NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT AND NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBER: For many, many years a thriving little town one mile across Neuse River from New Bern had fire protection from the New Bern Fire Department, but when the Craven County Commissioners and the New Bern Board of Aldermen could not agree on compensation the Aldermen of New Bern stated that if the county did not meet their requirements for giving service out

of the city the service would have to be discontinued. A group of Bridgeton citizens headed by Edward N. Brinson, decided what their town needed was local fire protection. They began planning and creating a fire department of their own, until they could get a truck, build a station and get organized. The town officials made an agreement with New Bern for protection until that time. The mayor appointed a temporary chief to organize a department, and on August 20, 1958 a group of 36 interested young men met and organized the Bridgeton Fire Department No. 1. They elected a chief, assistant chief, captain, 1st lieutenant, secretary, and treasurer. They also sent a committee to investigate the possibility of securing a government surplus truck but upon their return and report they decided it best to buy a new truck to start with. The Board of Aldermen purchased a new truck suitable for their requirements with a 600-gallon water tank and a 500-gallon pump with which they can draft water from the river, use fog, or straight stream. The truck was selected to meet the requirements of the North Carolina rating bureau.

While the young members were waiting for delivery of the truck they took the old city hall and jail and completely renovated them, tearing out the jail cells and making a nice suitable fire station and city hall. They furnished all the labor and the city furnished the materials. All the members were very cooperative and have been attending meetings and drills with a lot of enthusiasm. Their truck arrived in April and a new fire department was born in a community that needed this added fire protection.

In May after the requirements of the association were met, they made application to our association and were accepted and became a member.

They have two delegates who are sent by the Bridgeton Fire Department, attending this convention.

The acting chief, Edward N. Brinson, who deserves a lot of credit in establishing this new department, was elected chief of the department.

GREENSBORO HAS ANNUAL FIREMEN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE: The annual Firemen's Memorial service conducted by the Greensboro Fire Department was held at Central Fire Station at 2:30 p.m., June 14 with the ceremony honoring four members of the original volunteer department.

V. E. Kirkman, who died in the fall of 1958; William M. Woltz, who died March 12; Percey W. Burnside, who died April 14; and R. N. Fleming, who died June 24, 1958, were eulogized by Assistant Chief G. C. Wuchae in the brief ceremony, after which wreaths were placed on graves of the four former firemen.

Mrs. R. L. Powell, Jr., presented the prelude opening the services on the second floor of the central station, and Dr. Claude R. Bowen, department chaplain, led the audience in recitation of the 23rd

Psalm. Dr. Bowen then gave an invocation and Don W. Moore sang a solo, accompanied by Mrs. Powell.

Following Wuchae's eulogy, David Schenck, member of the City Council, made the principal address. Taps were sounded by Eddie B. Smith. Dr. Bowen gave the benediction and Mrs. Powell played the postlude.

PIEDMONT FIRE SAFETY SEMINAR: The fifth annual Safety Seminar was held on September 15, 1959 in the Balinese Roof Garden of the Robert E. Lee Hotel, Winston-Salem. It was sponsored by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Winston-Salem Fire Department, Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and Fire Insurance Organizations. Invocation by Rev. Harley M. Williams, pastor Central Terrace Methodist church. Chairman for the morning session was Wally G. Dunham. Keynote address "Is Your Defense Down?" by L. E. Shingledecker, Supervisor of Fire Safety, Nationwide Insurance Company, "It Can Happen to You," panel discussion, "A Retail Establishment Fire" by Ralph R. Wilkerson, "An Industrial Building Fire" by Edgar A. Cotton, "A Home Fire" by W. Frank Blackmore, "Fire Prevention—Everybody's Business" by Rev. Ralph L. Underwood. The chairman for the afternoon session was Harold J. Gibson, Director of Seminar. "Inspections" by Kern E. Church, N. C. Insurance Department, "Sprinklers Can Be the Difference" by Raymond J. Casey, Executive Director National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control Association, New York, N. Y., "Extinguishers—First Aid For Fire" by E. Reece Bauguess, Fire Marshal, Forsyth County, "Fire-Safe Housekeeping" panel discussion, "Industry" by Wilford G. Jones, Safety Engineer, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., "Business" by Lt. E. L. Hatcher, Fire Prevention Bureau, and closing remarks by John W. Googe, Chairman, Fire Prevention Committee, Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce.

FORSYTH COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Forsyth County Fire Marshal Bauguess has given me items of the activities and records for the past year which follow:

1. Fire Safety Seminar held September 15, 1958 in Winston-Salem.
2. Fire and Pump School, January 26—39. Directed by Sherman Pickard and Elwood Inscoe. Attendance averaged 150 men nightly.
3. New department, Horneytown Volunteer Fire Department, one piece new equipment, 1958 Ford Chassis, built by Howe Equipment Co.
4. Four lives lost in Forsyth, due to fire.
5. Lost one member of our Volunteer Departments, John Ray Redmon, Talley's Crossing Volunteer Fire Department.
6. Sent representatives into eight counties to organize or help organize Volunteer Fire Departments.
7. Added 32 Monitor receivers to homes of volunteer firemen to

make our quick-call system more effective; 30 more of these receivers are now on order, giving us a total of 78 receivers in homes of firemen.

8. Helped in Greensboro, Lexington and Walnut Cove on mutual aid basis. Our departments are willing and ready to help our neighbors at all times.

9. New equipment added at the following departments: Forest Hills—Jeep for brush fires. Lewisville—Rescue Truck through Civil Defense funds. Horneytown—New pumper. City View—Replace one pumper. South Fork—Replaced one pumper.

Name Of Department	No. Calls	Out Of Dist.	In Dist.	Total Valuation	Value Lost	Value Saved	Mi. Truck Driven	Mi. Cars Driven	No. Man Hours
South Fork	44	5	39	$ 16,124	$3,500	$12,624	219	1540	400
Lewisville	28	7	21	24,600	9,100	15,500	550	1400	600
Clemmons	27	6	21	33,200	10,660	27,540	320	1340	205
Griffith	65	5	60	44,810	6,710	38,100	752	4875	520
Triangle	45	2	43	76,840	3,885	72,775	240	3375	340
City View	38	4	34	51,155	11,150	40,063	210	2280	360
Min. Springs	115	32	83	306,095	18,805	287,290	523	4184	900
Forest Hills	58	8	50	451,594	10,850	440,645	270	7500	2150
Mt. Tabor	39	5	34	88,650	4,835	83,815	460	1380	1345
Vienna	8	1	7	7,000	0	7,000	43	255	36
Walkertown	38	15	23	61,200	40,000	21,200	314	1500	200
Rural Hall	44	4	40	979,700	36,250	943,450	500	2500	880
Talley's Crossing	28	18	10	21,200	12,100	9,100	448	1212	408
Beeson's Cross Roads	40	20	20	46,500	14,615	31,885	300	3600	400
Old Richmond	42	4	38	41,000	4,500	36,500	269	1890	624
Union Cross	19	8	11	49,000	5,000	44,000	90	950	105
County	333	4	10 city	275.	40.	235	5800		550
Totals	1011	148	863	$2,303,644	$191,980	$2,111,684	11,308	39,781	10,023

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief E. M. Dixon's report on the department's training program for the year was fuller than usual, it follows: The 1958 Fire Loss—In Winston-Salem 5 people lost their lives and $415,360 worth of property was destroyed by fire in 1958. In 1957 the loss amounted to $297,554 and one death. Fire loss continued on the increase everywhere as the national figure went over the $1,000,000,000 mark.

The fire department's record of alarms shows the following: 507 alarms were to buildings. These include residential, non-residential, assembly, mercantile, manufacturing, storage, miscellaneous, etc.

Also 1,215 alarms were answered to such burnings as grass, brush, automobiles; 517 alarms were turned in for non-fires such as false alarms, smoke scares. emergency, stand-bys, etc. Total separate alarms answered 1,767. In 1957 the total amounted to 1,339.

Of the $415,360 annual loss two fires, one at First and Hawthorne and the other at Taylor's Warehouse, accounted for $166,979 loss. The average loss per building fire was $812.83.

Savings for citizens: There was at stake $29,017,057 worth of buildings and contents where fire occurred last year. Less than one and one-half per cent of the total value was damaged by fire.

Fire Prevention—Increased activity to take care of an enlarged city limits has been the rule and guide for fire prevention work done by the Fire Prevention Bureau, assisted by fire fighting personnel, during 1958.

The number of fire inspections reached an all time high during the year, 7,821 inspections were made as compared to last year's 6,402; 36 investigations of fire that were suspicious, or to determine cause, were made as compared to 24 in 1957. Four convictions for violations of the fire laws were received in court.

An enlarged educational program on fire prevention was carried out that totaled 271 features. There were 250 in 1957. The number of fire prevention permits issued were doubled in 1958. In addition to the regular routine of fire prevention work Bureau Personnel attended 70 meetings, prepared 657 special reports, gave 2 lectures outside of the city, and attended 4 schools and conferences in behalf of fire prevention. Working with fire fighting personnel, members of the Bureau made 76 pre-fire inspections as a part of the department training program.

This increased activity is partly responsible for keeping our per capita fire loss below most cities of our size.

Benefit to citizens: There are 3 specialists and 138 firemen available around the clock to give fire prevention advice on how to prevent a fire in the home or place of business. For a free fire inspection call the fire department.

Training Report—More time was devoted to training during the past year than ever before in the fire department history. A grand total, which includes special classes and schools in addition to the in-service company training, amounted to 20,802 man hours. During the past year emphasis was placed on specialized training. Special classes were taught in: hydraulics, public speaking, pre-fire surveys, municipal fire administration and civil defense. A total of 1,233 hours were devoted to these subjects. In addition to specialized training taught in the city, various members traveled to other parts of the country for advanced training. Assistant Chief L. C. Williams completed the Muncipal Administration Course at Chapel Hill (166 hours), attended classes at Memphis, Tenn. (officers training). Fireman J. L. Parham traveled to Olney, Md. for rescue training. Assistant Chief A. B. Casey and Lt. Paul M. Crim attended the N. C. Fire College at Charlotte. Captain Norman Hastings attended a Building Inspectors conference at Asheville.

Other training included: 5 members of the department at-August 10, and in December 57 members took fire department protended a 4-week induction training school in January; all members took part in an advanced training program from June 2 through motional examinations.

WINSTON-SALEM CURB MARKET FIRE LOSS SET AT $500,000: Winston-Salem's huge curb market was destroyed by fire, with damages estimated up to $500,000, March 5, 1959.

The flames started in the north end of the building and flashed through the 65,000-square-foot structure in moments, fed by gas and oil in the produce trucks inside.

Several persons inside narrowly escaped with their lives.

Five pumper companies and two aerial units battled the blaze. They saved the buildings on each side and the main city market across the street, but were unable to do anything for the raging inferno at the curb market.

Destroyed were at least a dozen vehicle, from big tractor-trailer units worth about $20,000 each to ordinary farm trucks and one passenger car. It appeared that the loss in automotive equipment alone would be at least $100,000 to $125,000.

Fire Chief E. M. Dixon said his men had been unable to determine what caused the fire. It apparently originated in the north end of the building.

HIGH POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Claude S. Canady has furnished me the record of his department's fire prevention activities for the past year which are as follows:

"The Fire Prevention Bureau participated with other organizations in a spring clean-up fix-up week during the week of May 11-16, 1959. During this week nearly 2,000 loads of trash were removed from buildings by the City.

In other fire prevention activities: 205 inspections were made in

public buildings; 10,299 in dwelling occupancies; 2,083 in mercantile; 251 in manufacturing; and 237 in miscellaneous buildings. Of these inspections 4,260 were made by the Fire Prevention Bureau and 10,481 by company inspections. Two hundred thirty-eight violations were found; 224 reinspections and 213 corrections have been made to date. We have maintained night inspections each Saturday night and each night during the month of December. We issued a total of 1,112 burning permits; we participated in 37 radio programs; 117 talks and lectures were presented to an estimated audience of 10,860 people; 107 photographs were made; 217 fires investigated with 174 being determined accidental; 13 suspicious; 2 incendiary, and 33 undetermined. Ten persons were arrested for unlawful fires and we secured ten convictions in court. Five court actions were instituted for hazard violations and five convictions were secured in court. In investigations of false alarms, 6 juveniles and 2 adults were apprehended. The juveniles were referred to the juvenile division of the local Domestic Relations Court and the adults were convicted and fined in Municipal Court. One adult was convicted in Municipal Court of following a fire truck to the scene of a fire. Eight juveniles were apprehended in connection with setting fires. Seven of these were of a minor nature while the eighth boy, a ten year old, admitted to setting fire to the Johnson Street School in July of 1957. All of these were referred to the juvenile authorities.

Furnace and gas installation inspections have increased from 420 for the year 1957-1958 to 1,152 for the year 1958-1958. The number of these inspections will increase during the coming year. The Fire Prevention Bureau of the fire department does not have adequate personnel to make these inspections. I would like to recommend that these inspections be removed from this department inasmuch as they are not directly related to the important work of fire prevention and safety that is the primary duty of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The City of High Point was awarded first place for the state of North Carolina in the field of fire prevention in an international contest sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association of Boston, Mass. We also received honorable mention in the National Inter-Chamber Fire Safety Contest sponsored by the National Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

I would like to express my appreciation to the following: The Mayor, City Manager, and members of the City Council for interest shown in the work of the Fire Prevention Bureau."

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: It is a pleasure again this year to incorporate in my Statistician's report the activities of the Western North Carolina Firemen's Associaion, for the past year as furnished me by Secretary Mark M. Jones.

The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association has held four quarterly meetings during 1958-1959.

On September 17, 1958, the association met at Weaverville, N. C., with the Marshall, Bernardsville and Weaverville Fire Departments as hosts. At this meeting the following officers were elected: President, Felix Stovall, Waynesville; First Vice President, George Brown, American Thread Co.; Second Vice President, Bob Harrill, Forest City; Treasurer, Felix Picklesimer, Sylva; Secretary, Mark N. Jones, Enka.

The speaker for this meeting was Mr. J. D. Brown, Safety Director for American Enka Corporation.

On December 10, 1958, the Association met at Enka, with the American Enka Corp. and Enka Fire Department as hosts. A very interesting program on "Equipment Maintenance" was presented by Mr. George Pickard, Georgia Delivery Engineer for the American La France Co.

On March 11, 1959, the Association met at Sylva, with the Sylva and Mead Corp. Fire Department as hosts. Dr. Phillip DeWesse was speaker for this meeting and spoke on "Atomic Explosion and Fall-Out."

On June 10, 1959, the Association met at Spruce Pine, with the Spruce Pine Fire Department as host. The program was presented by Mr. David Wyrick of Greensboro, representative of the Southern Oxygen Co.

During the year we have had an average attendance of 121 members, representing an average of 28 departments at each meeting.

We have had the honor of having one or more of our State officers present for each of our meetings.

Our Association went on record and urged all of our representatives in both the House and Senate to support the Firemen's Pension Plan Bills.

Our Association now has a membership of 1,016, representing 45 fire departments.

YADKIN COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.: Dewey R. Scott, secretary, RFD 1, East Bend; Mick Brown, president, Jonesville; Clyde Hoots, treasurer, Yadkinville; Roy Hobson, vice president, RFD 1, East Bend.

This is in reply to your letter of July 31, 1959, requesting information relative to our county association. As you already know we are in the process of organizing. Officers as shown above have been elected. There are a total number of seven members on the Board of Directors, one member from each Fire Departmnt in the county. Members and the Department from which they were selected are as follows: Mick Brown, Arlington Dept.; Hazel Poplin, Booneville Dept.; Dewey R. Scott, East Bend Dept.; Roy Hobson, Fall Creek Dept.; C. J. Holcomb, Jr., Jonesville Dept.; Mac

Long, West Yadkin Dept.; and Clyde Hoots, Yadkinville Dept.

Most all the Departments have two trucks which consists of one new truck and one used truck. There is one exception and that is the West Yadkin Department, which at this time is awaiting delivery on their new truck. I understand that the truck is suppose to be delivered within a very few days. There are approximately 250 volunteer firemen in the seven Departments in Yadkin county. The Departments are well equipped and the men are well trained, however, I do not mean to say each member is considered a professional fire-fighting expert but they are trained to the point that they have been able to take care of all emergencies that have arisen in a very satisfactory manner.

I trust that the above information will be of some help and please excuse my giving you approximate figures but due to time element involved I thought it would be better to give you the above information and give you a little more time to compile it with your other reports than to wait and try to contact each Department. If there is any way I can assist you please write to me at the address as shown above or if it is neccessary for you to call me my telephone number is 6-2690 Forbush Ex.

Very truly yours, Dewey R. Scott

Congratulations Secretary Scott, to the Yadkin County Volunteer officers, and men.

DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Chief Cosmo L. Cox, his officers and firemen, were hosts to the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs' 31st Annual Convention on May 18, 19, 1959. Now they are being the friendly host to our great North Carolina State Firemen's Association's 72nd Annual Convention, which is being enjoyed by all delegates, their wives and friends.

Chief Cox reports this past year's program has been similar to many in respect to training, both in the summer and winter sessions, physical training with equipment at the drill tower is stressed in the summer and classroom work at each station during the winter.

Our new pumper with a 750 gallon water tank for Durham county was placed in operation last fall. This unit replaced one which was wrecked while answering a fire call.

One 10-man additional pumper company was activated last October 1, which increased our personnel to 116.

A new 750 gallon pumper with a 500 gallon water tank is scheduled to arrive by rail delivery about August 3. It should be tested and fully equipped before the convention meets here.

Chief Cosmo L. Cox honored: Chief Cosmo L. Cox was again honored by the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs at their 31st Annual Convention held in Durham, May 18-19, 1959. He was elevated from the First Vice President to the President of the Southeastern.

BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Roma C. Fortune, President of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association, his firemen, city officials, and citizens were hosts to the Association, April 20-21, 1959. Chief Fortune reports the program consisted of some of the highest caliber men in the fire service throughout the Southeastern United States.

Chief Fortune writes, I am sending you the fire loss comparison that we compiled this year.

Our City is expanding its city limits and it has become necessary for our Fire Alarm Supervisor to extend all his circuits and install new boxes.

Our Training Program for the past year has been extensive with master streams, ladders and hose evolutions. We also helped in organizing two more rural departments in our country. (Altamahaw-Ossippee and Sylvan).

Our Fire Prevention Programs were a big success in our schools, churches, civic clubs, etc. Our Mock drill has proven to be a great asset to our department. It has developed well with our preplanning in the study of our buildings and all the existing conditions as well as all exposures.

Our Inspction Bureau has done a good job with its inspection program, (1238 man hours inspecting). We feel that our well-planned inspection program is one of the big factors involved in making the Department a success, with such a low fire loss. ($47,364.85).

We of the Burlington Fire Department feel that we owe the citizens of the City of Burlington a great deal of gratitude for their splendid help in our best year since 1948 with the lowest fire loss in the last nine years. The fire loss for each year is as follows: 1949—$350,000.00; 1950—$91,627.67; 1951—$63,111.50; 1952—$80,600.62; 1953—$50,166.86; 1954—$82,835.68; 1955—$90,463.78; 1956—$93,116.84; 1957—$70,753.49; 1958—$47,364.85.

It is felt further, that this low fire loss was made possible through the wonderful co-operation we received from all people, including civic clubs, churches, P.T.A. groups, and grammar and high schools, through fire prevention and fire and home inspection programs.

The mock fire drills, initiated this year in the business area, also proved invaluable. This procedure has provided an extensive training program and thorough knowledge of interiors of major buildings in the down-town area.

All this has been accomplished in addition to the keen interest displayed by members of the fire department.

Since the fire department has begun in-service inspection program, 2000 homes have been inspected. The figure given for the United States show that 98 per cent of all fires are caused by carelessness.

The fire department has made an extensive study on the prevention of fires. We find that a vast majority of the people do not recognize or detect fire hazards. Therefore, we realized the need to educate the people of these facts through our in-service inspections. This effort, we feel, is responsible for a tremendous reduction in our annual fire loss of the year, 1958.

In our fire prevention programs since 1953, we have reached a total of 53,267 people. In many of these cases, we have been invited to put on these programs, which indicate the people are aware of the hazards and dangers of fires, and desire to know what they can do to prevent them.

It is realized that without the co-operation of the citizens of Burlington, we could not have reduced our fire loss for the year, 1958, and we wish to extend our thanks to each and everyone and hope that the fire loss in 1959 will be reduced from our fire year of 1958.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick furnished me with some of the activities of another year of progress in his fine expanding fire department which I am pleased to put into my Statistician's report.

A new 100 ft. aerial truck and two new 100 gallon La France pumpers have been put into service in the past year to keep pace with the growing new annexed part of the City.

A site has been chosen and money appropriated for a fourth new station to be built as soon as contracts are awarded.

Fire Prevention efforts were rewarded by Greensboro placing first in the state in the U. S. Chamber of Commerce Awards and second in the state in the N.F.P.A. contest.

Traveling to other parts of the country for the purpose of obtaining new fire fighting skills and the exchanging of ideas with other departments was also a major promotion.

Four men attended the N. C. Fire College at Charlotte.

Three men attended the Instructors Conference at Memphis, Tenn.

One man attended the I.M.S.A. Conference in Philadelphia, Pa.

Four men attended the Pump School in Charlotte.

One man attended the short course on Aerial Ladders at the University of Maryland.

Two men attended the Arson Seminar at Redington Beach, Fla.

Chief Wyrick attended the Fire Training Conference at Oklahoma A.&M. College in Stillwater, Okla.

Chief Wyrick and Assistant Chief G. C. Wuchae attended the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Convention in Durham. Chief "Moon" was re-elected secretary-treasurer and Assistant Chief Wuchae addressed the convention on Fire Department Public Relations.

Chief Wyrick attended both the South Carolina Firemen's Convention and the South Carolina Fire Chiefs' Convention, where he appeared on the program for both meetings.

While time was spent sending personnel off for further education, much of the knowledge acquired was put into good practical use.

21,682 manhours were spent studying the following subjects and evolutions: Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems and supplying water to them; Raising and Lowering Company Ground Ladders; Rotary Gear and Centrifugal Pumps; Pump Pressures for Pumpers using various supply lines and Nozzles; Scott Air Pak and Resuscitator Drills; Cutting Torch Practices and Territory Study. A course for officers on Leadership Training was also given.

The 3rd annual statewide Fire Prevention School was conducted in March. A school and demonstration for claim adjustors on automobile burning was held and ten classes for Radiological Meter Operators by the Civil Defense Office were also given.

Chief Wyrick reported a total of 560 members paid dues in the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs for 1959, but he still urges the many chiefs who are not members to join and get some worthwhile information and other literature very useful to the fire service by doing so.

KINSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Joe Haley reports: I am happy to say that the department is still advancing. I think the City of Kinston has one of the finest crew of men as firemen as any town in North Carolina. They work with me 100% all the time, and I think this accounts for the upward trend of our department. We have had only one major fire this year, which was the Paramount Theater, about $75,000 fire. The fire department received a new 1000 GPM pumper (Seagrove) in February 1959. We have also purchased land for a fourth fire station and are now looking a site to move No. 3 fire station 3/4 of a mile further towards Goldsboro. Our full-time training and fire inspection programs are both working fine and is a credit to this department.

The best improvement of all came July 17, 1959, when the City of Kinston (Fire Department) received word from the N. C. Fire Insurance Rating office that this town had come from a Class 6 rating to a NBF Class 4 town which will bring a lower insurance rate for the people of Kinston. This is the first time this town has had a reduction in rates in a long time.

The Fire Department has a personnel of 42 paid members to date. All of our radio equipment is in the process of being changed which will give us our own system where as before we worked with the Police Department. We hope to complete this in about 30 days. The department is also completing an emergency truck to carry all emergency tools, rescue equipment and light plant, this project will be completed in about two weeks.

Albert, these are a few of the improvements of this year; I

hope this information will help you in your report.

FIREMEN'S PENSION BILLS: Your statistician is not going to elaborate on this subject too much, however, I cannot overlook the one thing that should mean more to the firemen, who put in those thirty years of risking their lives to save lives and property, than anything that has ever been done for those faithful servants, whether they be paid or volunteer. It was a pleasure, in 1957 and again in 1959, for me, in my feeble way as an Executive officer of our association and firemen, to give what little help I could in assisting with the final passage of these three last bills, and the one in 1957 that the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional.

I concur with what has been said many times by your Executive and Legislative Committee, as well as our able attorneys, that without the help of you firemen back home we would not have a Firemen's Pension Bill today.

I do want to congratulate our Legislative Committee, other members of the Executive Committee, the officers and members of The Fire Chiefs Association, our able attorneys, our friends in the legislature, others who assisted us, and you firemen back home.

I wish to express to our devoted Captain Berry Gibson my personal thanks and appreciation and for the entire membership of our association, for the wonderful job he did down at Raleigh lobbying for our bill. We who worked with him know that without the fine work he did we would not have a Pension Bill today. I personally feel we have three bills that will pass the test of the Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court, if it should go before it.

In closing my nineteenth report, I wish to say to all who furnished me information, data, records, and statistics that you have my sincere appreciation for your valued assistance to me. The list is too long to include, so I again say, Thank you.

I trust you enjoy reading these statistics and activities as much as I have enjoyed compiling them.

Respectfully submitted,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician
N. C. State Firemen's Association

Motion by Chief Lloyd of Chapel Hill that the report be adopted; seconded by Chief Rich of Graham; carried and so ordered.

PRESIDENT KEETER:

We have several outstanding men that I would like to recognize, some are possibly here today. If they are I would like to ask them to come and say a few words. We appreciate your presence.

Yesterday and Sunday we had present the son of one of our fine men in our organization, a man who has done a considerable amount of work for the organization, Captain Berry Gibson. His

son is pastor of a church at Winston-Salem. He doesn't seem to be here at this time—possibly he will come in this afternoon. I want him to speak to you. I know that his father is very proud of him and we are proud to know that one of our members has such a fine son.

These boys I wanted to recognize are not here at this time.

I would like to say this about our minutes. Several members have asked me why and how we are spending money and what you spend that money for. I tried to tell some of them and they asked where did I get that record. That record is the record of the North Carolina State Firemen's association published by your secretary; every penny listed by your secretary and treasurer, and audited and accounted for, and every fire department in North Carolina has been sent as many as two copies and the departments that have a number of men have been set more copies. I would suggest to you that if you, individually, have not seen that copy of the minutes that you go to your secretary and tell him that you know that he was mailed two copies of the minutes of the last convention and that you would like him to bring it to your monthly or weekly meeting and show it to you because it is yours; it is not sent to him individually, not sent to the Chief for him to tuck it away, because you pay your dues and this is your organization. If your department has not received a copy you will contact Curtis Flanagan and he will be glad to mail you one with all of the information, whatever occurs. I say to you again, that is why Miss Wade is here. She takes every word that is said, who said it and what is said. The thing that I am interested in is that every fireman in North Carolina has the right to know where every penny of the money goes.

PRESIDENT KEETER:

May I extend to any one else who is a visitor, or someone who has something important to say to us, an invitation to come up. We will be happy to hear from you and certainly visitors are welcome with us. You may sometime decide to become a member of the organization, and certainly we welcome you.

PRESIDENT KEETER:

How many men in this room have belonged to this organization more than fifty years? (The following answered): Mr. Don Seymour, Sanford; Thomas Rich, Graham; Chief Bob Whitley, New Bern; Chief Edgar Summerlin, Sr., Mt. Olive.

CHIEF WHITLEY:

They have been the happiest years of my life. I have been in the service fifty-one years and have not missed but three convention. It has been very pleasant. I hope I can continue on for maybe another fifty years.

CHIEF SEYMOUR:

I have been coming since 1904, fifty-five years. The first con-

rabbits and I had to shoot him." I just wanted to let you know how I feel toward Harry Greene.

CHIEF CHARLIE BURKETT of Salisbury:

Fellows, this is a democratic conference. Every man in this organization has a right to get up and express his opinion as he sees fit. I want to commend my good friends, Harry Greene and Jack Keeter for expressing themselves.

I would like to make a motion that Harry Greene and Jack Keeter be given a vote of thanks for bringing this matter before us so that we could express our views as to it. This motion was seconded by Chief Rich of Graham, carried and so ordered.

MR. CARL CAINE:

I would like to make a motion that the Executive Board and the Pension Fund Board be given authority to spend whatever money they need to support the pension fund through the courts and the legislature.

PRESIDENT MILLER:

That has already been passed.

We will now have the report of the Statistician, Mr. Albert Brinson.

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

by Albert W. Brinson

President Miller and Fellow Firemen,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

It is a happy privilege and great pleasure to submit my twentieth report of statistics of fire happenings in the fire service of North Carolina, for the year 1959, to the 73rd annual convention of the great and fast growing North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Another year has passed by in this great and glorious state of ours with full programs of training fire fighters to save life, property, and fire prevention in our cities, towns, and most rural sections, from the blue Atlantic to the Great Smokies. Last year on August 10 and 11, Chief Cosmo L. Cox and his officers, firemen, city officials, civic clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the citizens of friendly Durham, the "Bull City" went all the way out, despite the hot weather, to offer the visiting firemen a program of entertainment that will long be remembered.

We are here assembled on the shores of the blue Atlantic, in the host city of Carolina Beach, which is now host to our great convention for the sixth year, and six out of our last sixteen conventions were graciously entertained here by you. We were here as your guests for the first time in 1939 with Clyde A. Hildebrand, President; in 1949 with Donald S. Charles as President; 1951 our fine Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan, President; 1953 Tyrus Bissett, President; 1957 I. Miller Warren, President; and now in 1960 with Charles "Pete" L. Miller our beloved President presiding.

Again Chief Knox, his officers, firemen, city officials, and citizens are acting as royal hosts, as they have so often in the past, who will be remembered by all attending this sixth convention on the shores of the blue Atlantic. I wish to take this opportunity to express to Chief James Knox, his firemen, and citizens our appreciation for the hospitality they have extended to us.

IN MEMORIAM OF FIREMAN LEE ROY CRUMPLER: On March 3, 1960, Lee Roy Crumpler died of a heart attack unexpectedly at his Greensboro home. This death was a terrible loss to the fine Greensboro Fire Department. Firemen Crumpler, a native of Sampson County, had lived in Greensboro 36 years and was a member of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant.

He joined the Greensboro Fire Department in 1924 as a driver for Engine Company No. 1 and transferred to Central fire station in 1926. He was promoted in 194 to Captain and became Deputy Chief in 1955.

The funeral was held at Forbis & Dick Memorial Chapel with Dr. Joseph Garrison, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and Dr. Claude Bowen, Chaplain of the Greensboro Fire Department officiating. Burial was in Green Hill cemetery, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick and his firemen lost a true friend and a devoted fireman.

IN MEMORY OF VOLUNTEER FIREMAN VERNON LEE THOMPSON: It is sad when any fireman has answered the last alarm, and when we have a volunteer fireman answer that last alarm by accidental means in serving humanity, in saving lives, and property of others, without reward or compensation it seems a little more sad.

Vernon Lee Thompson, of the Cary Fire Department, answered the alarm, with Fireman Willis Edward Henderson, fire truck driver, at 10 A.M., June 16, 1960, from the Camp Polk State Prison. When the heavy fire truck-tanker carrying 4,200 gallons of water turned off U. S. highway No 1 with speed reported about 15 miles per hour, overturned throwing driver fireman Henderson clear and Fireman Thompson was trapped under the cab where he died from the burning cab.

Fireman Thmpson answered his last alarm with the fiery death under the cab of the Cary fire truck, leaving behind his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Thompson.

NEW MEMERSHIP AND GROWTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION: Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan advises me that the following fire departments joined our association during the past year: Shallotte, Snow Camp, Dare Beaches, Lucia-Riverbend, Hopeville, Millers Creek, and Mulberry-Fairplains. Curtis says we now have 321 active departments and 12 inactive departments in the state. The association now has 10,700 members. There are many newly organized departments in our state that should be members of our

great association. We firemen, members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, should contact these new departments near us and encourage them to join the association in order to take advantage of the fine things the association has to offer them.

We welcome these 7 new departments into one of the greatest organization in America.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN FOR 1959: Boston, Massachusetts, January 20—Louisville, Kentucky, and Vancouver, British Columbia, have been named grand award winners in the National Fire Protection Association's annual fire prevention Contest for 1959.

The awards, for which more than 1,500 entrants from the United States and Canada competed, are based on year-round efforts to reduce fires and to educate people in fire safety.

The Contest is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association of Boston, a 17,000-member, non-profit, educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire. The Association's membership is drawn principally from U. S. and Canadian business and industry, fire departments, and governmental officials throughout North America.

There were six additional grand award winners in other divisions of the Contest, which has been sponsored annually for 33 years by the National Fire Protection Association.

Industry—Montreal Transportation Commission, Montreal, Quebec; Government—United States Post Office, Chicago, Ill.; U. S. Army—Fort Sam Houston, Texas; U. S. Navy—United States Naval Station, Norfolk, Va.; U. S. Air Force—Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, S. C.; and Department of National Defense, Canada - RCAF Station, Falconbridge, Ontario.

A total of 1541 entries was received in the 1959 Contest: 744 in the Municipal division; 458 in the Military division; 125 in the Industrial division; 205 in the Government division; and 9 special entries.

The purpose of the contest is to stimulate universal fire safety consciousness and to encourage broader use of modern techniques in both public and private fire prevention education.

UNITED STATES MUNICIPAL DIVISION RANKINGS BY STATES: North Carolina winning communities were: 1st, High Point; 2nd, Asheville; 3rd, Thomasville. Congratulations to you chiefs, officers, and firemen; Chief Claude B. Canady of High Point, Chief J. C. Fitzgerald of Asheville, and Chief Lindsay Loftin of Thomasville.

Chief Canady, you and your firemen deserve high praise for winnings for the past five years as you have been in the first or second places or tied.

MILITARY DIVISION: Fort Bragg won 15th place out of all U. S. Army posts. There were 77 facilities competing. Fort Bragg has been in the winning group for many years past. Congratulations Fort Bragg Fire Department.

THE NATIONAL INTER-CHAMBER FIRE SAFETY CONTEST: Mr. George E. Morrison, Assistant Manager, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, has advised me of the winners for 1959 of the National Inter-Chamber Fire Safety Contest. Grand Winner, Philadelphia, Penn. Winston-Salem, N. C. won Honor Award in Class III with population 100,000 to 250,000. Congratulations Chief Dixon, officers, firemen, and Chamber of Commerce of Winston-Salem.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY: Again this year Mr. Deuel Richardson, Manager, Public Relations Department of the National Fire Protection Association has been kind enough to furnish me with the estimated loss of lives and fire loss for 1959.

Fires in this country killed almost 950 people a month during 1959, the National Fire Protection Association announced on January 5, from their Boston office. About 30 per cent of the casualties were children. More than half of all the deaths occurred in home fires Every day, in the United States, fire kills 31 people; every 45 minutes fire kills 1 human being; 11,600 or more persons die every year; and untold numbers are seriously injured, burned, or maimed for life every year in the United Stats.

The worst loss of life by fire in the U. S. during 1949 occurred in Meldrim, Ga., on June 28. Fire and explosion of LP-Gas following a freight train wreck killed 23 adults and children picnicking in a nearby recreational area on the Ogeechee River.

Almost as many died when fire struck a state-operated boys' industrial school at Wrightsville, Ark., on March 5. Of the 68 boys locked in dormitory for the night, 21 could not escape.

This is the average for the last ten years. Plan now your Escape Before It's Too Late:

FIRES ARE NOT ACCIDENTS: The record of approximately 600,000 fires and 6,000 fire fatalities each year in U. S. and Canadian homes is a sorry one. Most tragic of all is to know by far the greater part of this death and destruction is avoidable.

There is nothing mysterious and complicated about the causes of most home fires. A cigarette is carelessly left to smolder in an overstuffed chair, a portable oil heater is refilled while still burning, electrical circuits are over-loaded and overfused, rubbish is not cleared out and becomes fuel for fire.

UNITED STATES FIRE LOSS: Property lost to fire costs in excess of $100,000,000 monthly.

According to preliminary estimates by the international fire safety organization, the United States slightly improved its fire death record last year. Total fatalities were 11,300, approximately 200 less than the figure for 1958. Including the 1959 loss, however,

means that fire has taken an estimated 116,000 lives in this country during the past 10 years, the National Fire Protection Association pointed out.

The 1959 U. S. property loss total, an estimated $1,275,000.00, was under the previous year's figure. The decline was approximately $3,800,000.

Included in the 1959 total are $1,055,000,000 worth of buildings and contents destroyed by fire. The balance of $220,000,000 covers air craft, motor vehicle, forest and other nonbuilding fires. Corresponding figures for 1958 were $1,056,308,000 and $222,500,000.

In terms of property loss, the country's worst disaster took place in Roseburg, Ore., on August 7, when fire touched off explosives in an unattended parked truck. The explosion and fires which followed destroyed more than $10,000,000 worth of property and killed 13 persons.

The second largest, according to National Fire Protection Association records, was the Pentagon fire of July 2. Available estimates indicate the damage cost at $6,699,000.

OVER 950,000 BUILDING FIRES LAST YEAR: Schools, Colleges, 4,000; Dwelling 558,000; Manufacturing plants 76,500; Barns, Outbuildings 65,500; Stores, Amusement Halls, Theatres 73,300; Churches 4,200.

Building Fire Causes

Most frequent causes	No. of Fires U. S.	Canada
Smoking, matches	150,000	36,052
Defective, overheated heating, cooking equip.	121,800	7,036
Electrical	117,100	7,546
Rubbish, ignition unknown	57,900	386
Flammable liuqids	53,500	1,129
Open lights, flames, sparks	52,500	1,668
Chimneys, flues	41,700	3,372
Lightning	33,400	1,903
Children and matches	31,600	2,309
Incendiary	21,000	466

Every Day In The United States

Fire kills 31 people
Fire destroys 1525 homes
Fire ravages 11 churches
Fire scathes 11 schools
Fire damages 4 hospitals
Fire burns down 97 barns
Fire demolishes 149 stores
Fire ruins 105 factories
Every 15 seconds fire breaks out somewhere in U. S. or Canada
Every 45 minutes fire kills ONE human being

Yearly Fire Cost

Dwellings	$309,000,000
Schools, Colleges	23,981,000
Churches	18,166,000
Barns, Outbuildings	105,500,000

Apartments	33,272,500
Stores, Amusement Halls, Theatres	118,936,500
Hotels	17,717,000
Garages, Service Stations	27 100,000
Warehouses, Grain Elevators	73,965,000
Manufacturing, Industrial Property	262,916,500

U. S. fire loss total in 1959 was $1,278,808,000 in about 2,000,000 fires. (Latest available National Fire Protection Association estimates).

FIRE TOLLS OF LIVES FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Again this year, as during many years in the past, Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Division, State Board of Health, informs me that the North Carolina deaths for the year 1959, including protected and unprotected cities, towns, and rural areas, was 122 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings). This is the same number as the year 1958 and the appalling increase of 23 lives lost over the year 1957, which was 99.

He reports 100 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). Thanks to the Supreme Being this was 20 less than the year 1958. There were 4 deaths from hot substance, corrosive liquid, and steam. This also showed a decline of 6 less deaths than 1958. These figures give us a total of 226 accidental deaths for 1959 and a drop of 26 less deaths than 1958. The majority of these deaths can be attributed to plain carelessness. However, it is gratifying to see the decline of 26 less deaths.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Heath advises me that there were 17 deaths in 1959 of personnel in military aircraft. This was two less than 1958. There was one death of occupant of commercial aircraft for 1959 and none for 1958, with one for 1957. These are remarkable records when there were probably hundreds of thousands of passengers in North Carolina for these three years.

There were no deaths to occupants of other aircraft and no deaths or accidents at airfield to persons not in aircraft. There were 17 other and unspecified aircraft accidents; this was an increase of 9 deaths over 1958. This makes a total of 35 persons who died from aircraft accidents, which was 7 more than in 1958. There is no way for Mr. Council or your statistician to determine how many of these deaths were fire victims, however, the majority of crashes seem to end in fire. This data by place of occurence.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: Two thousand three hundred fifty-three fires were reported by fire chiefs for 1959. This is a decrease of 493 fires from the 2,846 reported for 1958. Loss per fire ranged from less than $25 to the largest reported of $310,685. Six causes accounted for 1958 of the total 2,353 reported fires. As usual cause unknown led with 468 (a drop of 139 from 1958); overloaded and defective wiring and short cir-

cuits accounted for 265 fires; oil stoves and furnaces with 265 tied for seond place with defective wiring; smoking in bed and careless smoking totaled 263 (with several lives lost); faulty flues and chimneys 180; and carelessness causing 157.

Lightning caused an unusually large number of fires—54—during the year 1959. Burning trash, grass and woods fires, sparks, and hot grease each caused more than a half hundred fires for the year.

HOTELS, MOTELS, AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: There was a marked decrease in the number of fires and the sustained loss in 1959. Nine hotel and motel fires were reported with a combined loss of $10,785, one half the number of fires and less than one seventh of the loss reported for 1958.

Apartment house fires also declined—157 with loss of $211,399 in 1958—and only 124 with a reported loss of $199,335.

Four hospital and public health office fires were reported with a loss of $14,616. This is nearly three times the damage for 1958. One orphanage fire was reported with an estimated damage of $850.

CHURCH FIRES FOR 1959: There were 16 church fires reported by the fire chiefs during 1959 with a combined loss of $121,444. The greatest single loss was $48,870 in the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church at Charlotte.

SCHOOL FIRES REPORTED BY FIRE CHIEFS FOR 1959: During 1959 there were 23 school fires reported by the fire chiefs with a combined loss of $167,628. This is an increase of 5 fires over 1958, but a decrease of $94,876 in damage. A school at Asheboro suffered the greatest fire loss, $95,000 for the year 1959.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF $20,000 AND OVER: For the year 1959 there were 50 fires causing losses of $20,000 and over reported, with a combined loss of $3,602,099. This is 9 fires and $435,669 less loss than for 1958. It is a real pleasure to report this—the third consecutive year showing a decrease. The towns and cities having these large loss fires and the company or business are given below:

Ahoskie—Lumber mill and box factory $35,000.
Asheboro—City school $95,000.
Asheville—Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. $26,500; Eli Argintar residence $36,572; A.&P. store $135,000.
Ayden—First Baptist Church $25,000.
Charlotte—Potts Hardware Store $22,000; Mt. Olivet Baptist Church $48,870; Ervin Construction Co. $60,697; Textile Waste Co. $20,000; Read Tull Office Bldg. $66,240.
Durham—J. M. Mathes Co., Inc. $105,000; Dr. James H. Semons home $22,193.
Fayetteville—Standard Supply Co. $33,900; Greyvan Lines $183,240; Johnson Cotton Co. $59,000; Cumberland Co. School Board $35,000.

Gastonia—Allen H. Simms home $35,000.
Greensboro—New Home Bldg. Supp. Co. and Charles D. Roberts Co. $96,630.
Greenville—Brown's Furniture Store $55,674; Rose's 5 & 10c Store $202,000.
Henderson—Charles Stores Company, Inc. $50,000.
Hendersonville—Winn-Dixie Grocery store $90,000.
Hickory—Hickory Supply and Paper Co. $61,546.
High Point—High Point Savings & Trust Bank $33,350.
Kinston—Paramount Theater $80,000.
Lexington—Lexington Chair Co. $33,500.
Mecklenburg County Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Department—Imperial Dye Products $55,000.
Monroe—Carolina Manufacturing Co. (estimated) $50,000.
Mooresville—C.&H. 5 & 10c Store $32,700.
Mt. Holly—Massey Brothers Hardware (estimated) $250,000.
Raleigh—925 Holt Drive $30,000.
Roanoke Rapids—George Wilkes Motor Co. $70,000.
Rural—Rockingham County—Joe Garrity residence $25,000.
Salisbury—Salisbury Lumber Co. $130,000.
Shelby—Hoyt Keeter Motors, Inc. $110,000; Cohen's Department Store, Inc. $35,395; Arey Oil Co., Inc. $30,509.
Statesville—Gilliam Furniture Co. $62,500; Christman Interior Decorators $21,500.
Walnut Cove—Monitor Roller Mill $130,000.
Washington—Swain Buick Co. $55,000; Colored school $40,000.
Wilmington—Simon's Department Store $53,892; Carolina Dry Goods, Inc. $62,000.
Wilson—Tot's Teen Shop $31,500.
Winston-Salem—Wrights Clothing Store $23,746; Produce Market $310,685; Produce Market $245,761.

UNUSUAL FIRES: Undetermined—textile waste—$4,564 damage and Arthur A. Rogers, age 43, burned to death in fire.

Cigarette—office supplies—damage $14,000.

Smoking in bed—loss 900.

Probably smoking—caught sofa—result $18,000 loss.

Starting fire in stove with gas—result $1,676 damage.

Cigarette in a furniture factory—$16,017—very expensive smoking.

Smoking in bed—monetary loss $3,798—one man, Wilbur J. Spraney, burned to death.

Portable oil heater—two deaths—Marie McLean, Ella Marie McLean.

Welding torch, loss $10,500.

Children playing with matches—loss $5,000.

Undetermined dwelling fire—Helen Baker, negro woman, age 48, burned fatally.

Oil tanker in collision with car—$15,000 money loss—two people killed in accident.

Carelessness—electric toaster was left on in a "Rest Home for the Aged."

Clothes ignited from stove—monetary loss $1,500, occupant burned to death.

Careless smoking—$3,000 damage—James Miller lost life in fire.

Ether left near Bunsen burner in laboratory—$9,000.

A 12½ year old boy playing with matches in a sawdust bin caused a $96,630 fire.

Fire in clothes closet set by 4 year old boy—$750.

Careless smoking in wholesale house—$19,000. Careless smoking $5,300, one man burned to death. Careless smoking—only $400 in money loss—one man burned to death. Careless smoking $3,500 —one man burned to death.

Two boys, ages 9 and 13, set cotton warehouse afire—loss $14,027. Juvenile handled case.

Overheated motor on a cash register caused fire loss of $50,000.

Short circuit in wiring of record player—result $7,094 damage.

Fire station—undetermined—damage $2,666.

A four year old boy set fire to clothes in closet—loss $5,000.

Smoking in bed—$1,700 damage, one person died of suffocation.

Clyde Weaver Williams took the clothing out of closets, piled it by porch, topped with kindling, poured kerosene on pile, put on a sack of coal, and set all afire. Tried in McDowell County on charge of arson.

Lighted cigarette left on pile of soiled clothes on top of dresser damage $2,200.

Trash fire behind stove—damage $4,210.

City power plant — broken oil line—damage $6,500.

Child playing with matches in closet—damage $4,000.

Boy 12 years of age confessed setting fire to packhouse and sheds—damage $6,650.

Cigarette dropped on chair, later put in kitchen sink, then put on floor—set kitchen cabinets on fire—damage in money $11,730 —Roy Proctor died from smoke and grass.

Clothing in plastic bag placed against light bulb in refrigerator —damage $165.

Pile of shucks and corn cobs in alley behind roller mill—probably illegal parker dropped cigarette—loss $130,000.

Flooded 2 burner wick type oil stove—Willie Stott, age 72 years, suffered 30 per cent burns and died next day.

Cleaning floors with gasoline—monetary loss $651—Mrs. Jessie Timmons, age 30, died as a result of burns sustained in this fire.

Occupants poured gasoline on live coals and received 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 90 per cent of his body. He died as a result of these burns.

Unattended kettle of food on stove—result $2,970 damage.

Clothes thrown over floor furnace—damage $4,421.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER $25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Eighteen fire departments reported to the Insurance Commissioner's office from 1 to 11 months with no fires. I am sure there are many more departments which should have been honored. However, I can only give in my report the information turned in to Commissioner Gold's office. The 18 are listed below: Albemarle 1 month, Bridgeton 11 months, Brogden Rural Fire Dept. Johnston Co. 1, Canton 2, Concord 2, Dobson 7, Fair Bluff 7, Faison 2, Gibsonville 7, Granite Quarry 4, Greenville 1, Lexington 3, Mount Holly 1, Rockwell 11, Rocky Mount 1, Spencer 10, Swansboro 10, Wrightsville Beach 9.

North Carolina Fire Loss

By comparison, the fire losses for North Carolina for 1956 amounted to $31,369,621, 1957—$27,763,424, 1958—$27,441,166, 1959 —$26,550,537. The 1959 loss represents a reduction over 1958 of $890,629. We are very proud of our decreasing fire loss trend and hope that we can continue to maintain such a record.

Following is the North Carolina Fire Losses for the year ending January 31, 1959:

CAUSE	AMOUNT
Electricity and Electrical Equipment except Lightning and Static	$ 6,638,755
Lightning	1,052,204
Static Electricity and Static Sparks	8,946
Chimney Vents, Cupolas, Flues, and Stacks-Defective, Burned Out, or Overheated	1,036,070
Heating Units—Liquid Fuel—Overheated, Defective or Improperly Installed	1,474,189
Heating Units—Solid Fuel (Coal or Wood)—Overheated, Defective or Improperly Installed	278,157
Heating Units—Gas and Liquidfied Petroleum—Overheated, Defective or Improperly Installed	238,589
Heating Units—Type of Fuel Unknown—Overheated, Defective or Improperly Installed	1,160,647
Sparks, Flames, or Heat from Welding Torches, Cutting Torches and Simliar Devices	97,407
Heat, Flames or Sparks from Sources other than Defective Units Mentioned above and other than Welding Torches Igniting Combustible Material	810,258
Smoke and Careless Use of Matches	1,798,657
Exposure	361,637
Sparks from Bonfire Burning Rubbish, etc.	202,659
Friction and Friction Sparks	300,829
Crash of Airplanes, Motor Vehicles, etc.	29,892

Backfire or Hot Exhaust from Internal Combustion Engines	31,933
Fireworks — Firecrackers	2,996
Incendiarism — Vandalism, etc.	87,871
Open Lights	57,978
Rekindles	420
Spontaneous Ignition	419,122
Known, but not otherwise classified	328,483
Total	$26,550,537

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 32nd ANNUAL FIRE COLLEGE: The 32nd annual Fire College was held in Charlotte at the Palmer Training Memorial May 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, 1960. The College was conducted by Chief Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor, and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Assistant Conductor. The instructors were: Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor, Salisbury; Cosmo L. Cox, Vice Chairman, Durham; T. C. Bishop, Fayetteville; W. J. Black, Charlotte; W. O. Dowdy, Charlotte; T. M. Wellington, High Point; John Godwin, Raleigh; H. Elwood Inscoe, Rocky Mount; D. L. Lee, Kinston; Sherman Pickard, Raleigh; R. L. Powell, Greensboro; J. R. Stott, Wilson; C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, P. C. Hinson, and C. L. Barnett, Greensboro. Charles L. Miller, President, North State Firemen's Association, officially opened the College at 10 A.M., Monday, May 9, 1960. The presiding officer was Charles L. Burkett, Director Conductor, N. C. State Fire College and Pump School. Invocation was given by the Rev. Herbert Garmon, Chaplain, N. C. State Firemen's Association. The address of welcome was by the Honorable James S. Smith, Mayor, City of Charlotte; W. G. Veeder, City Manager, City of Charlotte; and Chief Donald S. Charles of the Charlotte Fire Department. The response to the addresses of welcome was by Chief Joe T. Hailey of Kinston.

It is interesting to know that 289 credits were issued during the school that 89 from North Carolina, 8 South Carolina, 1 Alabama, and 4 Georgia departments were represented.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION PUMP SCHOOL: The seventh annual Pump School was held in Charlotte at the Palmer Memorial Training Center on September 28, 29, 30, 1959. The school was officially opened by Chief Charles L. Miller, President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. The invocation was given by Rev. Herbert D. Garmon, Chaplain of the association. The address of welcome was made by Chief Donald S. Charles of Charlotte. Chief Charles L. Burkett, Conductor-Director was the presiding officer assisted by Assistant Director, Chief Cosmo L. Cox. The faculty members were instructors, George L. Barnett, W. J. Black, W. O. Dowdy, T. M. Ellington, John Godwin, P. C. Hinson, Sherman Pickard, R. L. Powell, J. R. Stott, and C. W. "Moon" Wyrick.

There were 193 in attendance with 51 increase in students. Visitors appearing on the program, observers, and representatives of manufacturers numbered 55.

First year credits were issued to 73 firemen, second year credits were received by 30 firemen, and third year credits issued and diplomas were awarded to 23 firemen.

NO CASUALITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FIRES: Your statistician is again very happy to be able to report to you that during the past year there was no death from school fires in the state of North Carolina. This pleasing news was given me by Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Director, Division of Insurance of the North Carolina State Board of Education. There has been an avalanche of fire hazards corrected in the schools of North Carolina since the Flat Rock School fire in Surry County in 1956. The school officials of the State, Fire Insurance Commissioner Charles F. Gold, and his department along with the Fire Service of North Carolina deserve a tremendous amount of high praise for making the schools of North Carolina safer for our children.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director, Thomas B. Winborne, Division of Insurance, State Board of Education, again this year was kind enough to furnish me the following information on administrative public schools. He states they are now carrying insurance on ninety-eight of the one hundred seventy-four administrative school units; sixty-five county and thirty-three city.

Division of Insurance, State Board of Education
Losses Which Occurred During The Year 1959-1960
Paid And In Process

Name of Building and School Unit	Amount of Loss
Manteo School (old), Dare County	$ 88.82
Franklin County Training School (old), Colored, Franklin Co.	31,123.63
Peachland Primary School, Anson County	278.94
Elkin High School, Elkin City	222.35
Washington County Union Colored Agriculture Bldg., Washington Co.	60.00
Washington County Union Colored, Washington Co.	150.00
Washington County Union Colored, Washington County	1,269.15
Washington County Union, Colored Classroom Bldg., Washington Co.	16,600.00
Shallotte Teacherage, Brunswick County	101.99
Benhaven School Cannery, Harnett County	403.75
Dwelling on Old Ramseur Battleground, Lincolnton City	3,000.00
White Plains Agriculture Shop, Surry County	6.50
Winecoff School Cannery, Cabarrus County	69.99
Carver Elementary & High School, Colored, Cabarrus Co.	264.04

Seven Springs Cottage No. 1, Wayne County	320.02
Emma Elementary School, Buncombe County	110.00
Oakley Grammar School, Buncombe County	107.50
Sand Hill Elementary School, Buncombe County	135.00
Glenwood School Annex, McDowell County	698.78
Kingsville Elementary Colored School, Albemarle City	50.26
Wadesboro Elementary School, adesboro City	1,088.43
Brunswick County Training School Colored Cafeteria, Brunswick County	500.00
Southwest Principal's Dwelling, Forsyth County	83.42
Griffith Cafeteria & Classroom Building, Forsyth County	6,455.00
Barnesville Graded School, Robeson County	282.38
Ashpole Center Elementary School, Robeson County	455.01
Harnett High School Teacherage, Colored, Harnett Co.	162.46
Southwood School Contents, Lenoir County	15.15
Elon College Colored School, Alamance County	600.00
Leland Principal's Dwelling, Brunswick County	25.00
William H. Blount Colored School, New anover County	6,486.66
Total paid fire and lightning losses	$ 71,214.23
Total paid extended coverage losses	1,495.21
Total estimated outstanding fire and lightning losses	41,000.00
Total estimated outstanding extended coverage losses	3,050.00
Total losses for the year 1959-1960	$116,759.44

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION: When the Fire Chiefs' Association met in Burlington, N. C., on April 20 and 21, 1959, Chief C. L. Snipes of the Carolina Beach Fire Department extended an invitation to the convention to holds its 1960 association at Carolina Beach. The association accepted the invitation. President Keeter at our Durham convention stated that the executive officers of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association had requested him to bring the matter to the convention asking our association if we would be willing to hold our convention the same week as they do, preferably that they have theirs Monday and Tuesday and our association Wednesday and Thursday. Previous to President Keeter's presenting the request of the executive officers of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association our convention had voted to go to Carolina Beach in 1960. The association voted that the executive boards of the two associations get together and plan their conventions for the same time at Carolina Beach.

The officers elected to serve the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association at the Burlington meeting were: Chief Wesley Howell, Goldsboro, President; Chief Ed Summerlin, Mount Olive, Vice President; Chief Ralph Marbry, Badin, Secretary-Treasurer; Chief W. B. Parrish, Rocky Mount and Chief Joe Hailey, Kinston, Board of Directors.

SANDHILLS FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Mr. E. P. Leatherbury, Secretary, advises me the Sandhills Association has had a successful year. It was a real pleasure for me to attend the Rockingham Sandhills Association meeting which was an all day meeting, it being their annual convention. The following officers were elected at the Rockingham meeting: Simeon Oxendine, Pembroke, President; Chief H. Raymond Holt, Troy, Vice President; and E. P. Leatherbury, Hamlet, Secretary. A summary of the associations meetings follows:

"The first district meeting of the Sandhills Firemen's Association met with the Mt. Gilead Fire Department on September 11, 1959, with 15 companies and 80 firemen present. Our principal speaker at this meeting was Mr. Charles L. Miller, President of the State Association. Also present was Vice President E. G. Glover.

"The second district meeting was at Pinehurst, January 9, 1959, with Pinehurst Fire Department as host. The principal speaker at this meeting was Mr. Charles F. Gold, State Insurance Commissioner. Twenty-five companies were represented, and 166 firemen present.

"District meeting three was held at Star, March 27, 1959, with the Star Fire Department acting as host. The principals at this meeting were: Past President J. R. Wallace of Troy, who showed us a film of a recent fire which took place near Troy where five companies participated, showing how the five companies worked together. Next on the program was Mr. Win Donat, who brought us a message of great importance to all firemen in the state, namely, The Firemen's Pension Fund, and last but not least, was Mr. Curtis Flanagan who gave us a very important message on the firemen's retirement plan.

"The fourth meeting, which was the convention, convened in Rockingham, June 24, 1959, with the Rockingham Fire Department as host. This being the last meeting of the year and an all day meeting, we had some very prominent members of the state association, who at some time during the day gave us some good sound advice. Some of the speakers were as follows: Mr. Albert W. Brinson, Mr. Win Donat, Mr. J. R. Wallace and others who brought us messages of importance concerning fire fighting.

"We try to make it a point to have well informed men at all our meetings to give us all the necessary facts concerning the saving of lives and property."

ROANOKE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: It was with a great deal of pleasure that I received the following data about the activities of the Roanoke Firemen's Association from Mr. George R. Ivey, Secretary.

The member departments of Roanoke Firemen's Association are: Enfield, Halifax, Weldon, Jackson, Hobgood, Roanoke Rapids, Scotland Neck, Rich Square, and Roxobel. Roanoke Firemen's

Association operates upon a calendar year basis instead of a fiscal year. Listed are the officers who will serve for the year 1960: President, Glenn Collier, Rich Square; 1st Vice President, J. R. Pruden, Jackson; 2nd Vice President, Grover Parker, Rich Square; Secretary-Treasurer, George R. Ivey, Enfield; Critic, R. G. Anthony.

Roanoke Firemen's Association meetings are held every other month; beginning with January each year. All meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

The 1960 meetings have been held with Scotland Neck Fire Department, January 19, principal speaker W. D. Harding of Scotland Neck. Guests in addition to association members were: State Secretary Flanagan, Pension Fund Secretary Win Donat, Sheriff's Department, Town Commissioners and others. The March meeting was held on March 15, 1960, with Jackson Fire Department. The guests were Fire Insurance Commissioner Gold; Win Donat, Secretary of Pension Fund; the Mayor and Commissioners. The May meeting was held with the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department as host on May 17. Present besides the firemen were the Mayor, Commissioners, Sheriff and Deputies, Sherman Pickard, Director of State Fire Training Program, H. Elwood Inscoe, a state training officer, and Secretary Flanagan of the state association.

The July meeting of Roanoke Firemen's Association was held with the Hobgood Fire Department on July 19. The principal speaker was Henry Milgrom, a member of Board of Commissioners of Nash County, and a former president of Roanoke Firemen's Association. Mr. Milgroom is fast becoming known as an advocate of better fire protection for the rural areas under a centralized county fire marshall. The talk that Mr. Milgrom delivered was based upon the formation of the Nash County Fire System. Other guests recognized were: State Senator Lunsford Crew, all members of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, the Mayor, and Board of Commissioners of Hobgood, Secretary Flanagan, and Secretary Win Donat.

The September meeting of Roanoke Firemen's Association will be held with Enfield Fire Department on September 20, the November meeting will be with Weldon Firemen, November 15, and the officers for 1961 will be elected at the November meeting.

As you can see we rotate the meetings around our association membership, and the 1961 meeting will begin with Halifax in January, Roxobel in March, Rich Square in May and after this we will start all over again with Scotland Neck.

We are always glad to have representatives from other departments and other associations meet with us. Quite often we hold an informal, open discussion of some problems or of some method of fighting a particular type of fire. Always some information is given that is helpful.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

Secretary Mark M. Jones of the Western North Carolina Firemen's Association was kind enough to furnish me a copy of his yearly report of the Western meetings. It was with pleasure that I attended the Rutherfordton and Weaverville meetings of the association. I am also grateful to the Western Association for making me an honorary member.

The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association held four quarterly meetings and one Fire School Training session during 1959-1960. On September 16, 1959, the Association met at Rutherfordton. At this meeting the following officers for 1960 were elected: President, George Brown, American Thread Co.; First Vice President, Bob Harrill, Forest City; Second Vice President, Fred Dalton, Skyland; Secretary, Mark M. Jones, Enka; Treasurer, Boyd Sossaman, Sylva. The speaker for this meeting was the Honorable Toliver Davis, Representative from Rutherfordton County, who spoke on the Firemen's Pension Fund.

During the week of September 23-26, the association held a four-day Fire School at Brevard, on the training grounds of the Brevard Fire Department. The school was developed to train new or rural departments. It is planned to hold a school of this type annually. This school is held to supplement the annual N. C. Firemen's Association Fire College and Drill School sessions. There was a nightly attendance of 85 firemen.

On December 2, 1959, the association met at Weaverville, and Mr. George Yelverton of Akron Brass was the speaker for this meeting. We had a large display of equipment on hand and explained the many uses of it.

March 16, 1960, the association met at Enka. At this meeting we had Sgt. Ed Guy of the North Carolina Highway Patrol as speaker. Sgt. Guy spoke on the responsibility of volunteer firemen and discussed many laws pertaining to firemen. He cleared up several cloudy points concerning the use of equipment on the highways. As a result of this meeting an official ruling from the Attorney General's office was obtained concerning the use of uniformed firemen attending traffic lights at intersections.

On June 22, 1960, the association met with the West Buncombe Fire Department. At this meeting the 1960 Fire School was announced for September 6-9 at Brevard. We had for this meeting Captain Dalton of the Inspection Division of the Asheville Fire Department, who spoke on the inspection of buildings and homes.

For each meeting held we had several of the state officers present.

Our association now consists of 37 paid up member departments, with 911 members.

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs held its 32nd annual convention June 9, 10, 1960, at the Hotel Robert Meyer, Jacksonville,

Fla. Our very own loved Chief Cosmo L. Cox of Durham, presided over the meeting as president.

The Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs is comprised of the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. The 1959-60 officers were: President, Chief C. L. Cox, Durham, N. C.; First Vice President, Chief C. A. Fischer, Orangeburg, S. C.; Second Vice President, Chief W. S. McFadden, Wheeling, W. Va.; Secretary-Treasurer, Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Greensboro, N. C.; International Director, Chief Earl R. McDaniel, Lexington, Ky.

Mr. B. Richter Townsend, Secretary-Manager International Association of Fire Chiefs, addressed the association on the subject, "The Fire Chiefs' Responsibility in 1960." Mr. Edward M. Booth, Assistant County Solicitor, spoke on, "Importance of A State Training Program." Chief J. Edwin Larson, State Fire Marshal of Flridao, spoke before the association; Chief J. N. Farmer, Petersburg, Va., spoke on "Flameproofing of Drapes and Drops in Hospitals." Chief J. Herman Pooser, North Charleston, S. C., State Statistician, showed slide films of Esso Standard Oil Fire. Mrs. Alma Armstrong, Civil Service Board, spoke on "Personnel Procedures in the Fire Fighting Program." Judge Marion W. Gooding, Juvenile Court of Duval County, talked on "Juvenile Fire Setters and Problems."

The officers elected to serve 1960-61 were: President, C. A. Fischer, Orangeburg, S. C.; First Vice President, W. S. McFadden, Wheeling, W. Va.; Second Vice President, W. Earl Levy, Talahaslsee, Florida; International Director, Earl R. McDaniel, Lexington, Ky.; Secretary-Treasurer, C. W. "Moon" Wyrick, Greensboro, N. C. The association selected Orangeburg, S. C. as the place for their 1961 meeting.

Chief "Moon" Wyrick, Secretary-Treasurer and Deputy Chief Wuchae of the Greensboro Fire Department attended the convention. Chief "Moon" is still urging all North Carolina chiefs to affiliate with the organization and begin receiving valuable information regarding the fire service. This is one way to stay abreast with modern changes in fire fighting tactics.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The 86th annual conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs was held August 31-September 3, 1959, at Grand Rapids, Mich. The officers were A. H. Lintelman, Baytown, Texas, President; William J. Taylor, Burbank, Calif., 1st Vice President; Edward F. Deigan, Elizabeth, N. J.; Jay W. Stevens, San Francisco, Calif., Secretary; G. A. Mitchell, Opelika, Ala., Treasurer; and R. Richter Townsend, New York, N. Y., Secretary-Manager.

Chief Donald S. Charles, Fire Chief of Charlotte, was president of the International in 1957 and is serving on the Volunteer Committee, and is also a member of the Trustees. The 87th annual

conference will be held in Rochester, N. Y., on September 12-15, 1960.

ASHEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief J. C. Fitzgerald of the Asheville Fire Department has favored me with his annual report of the Asheville Fire Department for the year ending 1959. He advises me that Asheville opened two new stations on June 6, 1960, Nos. 8 and 9, Beverly Hills and Oakley sections. These stations each have a 750 gallon pumper. Asheville now has a total of 9 stations with 112 men.

Asheville abolished answering calls outside of the city limits effective January 1, 1960.

The fire department headed by Chief J. C. Fitzgerald has two assistant chiefs, thirteen captains, fourteen lieutenants, and three relief officers. The department has four 1000-gallon pumpers, two 750-gallon, and one 500-gallon pumper. This gives them a pumping capacity of 6,000 gallons. They have one 75-foot aerial and one 65-foot, one service truck, two chief's cars, one fire prevention bureau car and one fire alarm truck. The department answered 778 alarms for the year, and for the past five years has averaged 708 alarms for each year. During 1959 they had 71 false alarms. Asheville's estimated loss on buildings was $112,157.18 and on contents estimated $142,676.32 with a total loss of $254,833.50. The estimated value was $6,402,100 with $5,050,200 insurance. The per capita loss with population estimated at 60,000 is $4.25. Oil stoves and furnace fires led the direct causes.

General fire inspections for 1959 were 2,110, special inspections 247, and miscellaneous inspections 302, making a total of 2,659 for the year. The Fire Prevention Bureau found 605 defective buildings with 520 corrected. At the direction of the bureau 26 fire escapes were installed on schools, multi-family, and business buildings. One hundred thirty-seven churches were inspected and a total of 180 inspections were made in public and parochial schools. The bureau also assisted in the inspection of all Buncombe County schools and made 63 lectures on "Fire Prevention and Safety" to schools, hospitals and civic clubs; participated in 8 radio and television programs on fire safety, and organized fire patrols in all city elementary schools.

The pay-off for the above and many other activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau, Chief Fitzgerald, his officers, and firemen came when Asheville won second place among cities of North Carolina in the Fire Prevention Contest sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association.

Chief Fitzgerald entered the Asheville fire service on October 1, 1916, and since becming chief many years ago has done a bang-up job for that fine city, in the beautiful Smoky ountains, where his population for the summers increases many times. "Fitz" I say you have done a swell job as fire chief for Asheville, and I wish to say

to you it was a pleasure to serve under you as statistician and on your executive committee while you were president of our association in 1946 and 1947.

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Your statistician thought you would be interested in a brief summary of what makes North Carolina's largest fire department click. Chief Donald S. Charles was kind enough to furnish me again this year with his annual report consisting of 76 pages giving a detailed account covering all phases of the fire department operations for the year 1959. With the continued rapid growth of the city of Charlotte and with the annexation of 32 square miles of territory that will require 300 additional alarm boxes, Chief Charles is requesting four new stations in the annexed area to give necessary fire protection. He also is requesting the purchase annually of one additional fire truck to replace old apparatus.

The fire department is developing into one of the larger departments in the Southeast and it is predicted to become larger than Atlanta, not too many years in the future. Chief Charles advises me that recently he has added two more inspectors to the Fire Prevention Bureau, and one man to the Training Division which makes a total personnel of 345, also an additional car was purchased for the Prevention Bureau.

Chief Charles, Ex-President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, is still serving on the Volunteer Committee of the Association and also the Board of Trustees of the International Fire Administration Institute.

The annual fire budget of the Queen City is approximately $1,800,000. They have 12 fire stations with 15 engine companies, 6 ladder companies, and 2 0-10 crash units in service; 6 reserve engine companies, 4 chief's cars, 1 lighting truck, 3 maintenance trucks, 1 gasoline truck, 1 fire prevention division car, and 1 training division station wagon.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: Blocks run 131,610, number of times booster pump used 24, number times CO2 extinguishers used 6,365, feet of ladders raised 6,363, lines of 2½" hose laid 264, feet of 2½" hose laid 104,100, lines of 1½" hose laid 410, feet of 1½" hose laid 80,500, number times pumps were used 182, how long pumps were used 135 hours 2 minutes, number tarpaulins used 99, man hours in station classroom training 13,021, number building surveys conducted 643, times Scott-Air-Paks used 67, times light generators used 17, times smoke ejectors used 10, feet of 1" hand lines laid 1,795, and times out of quarters 2,326 hours and 30 minutes. Alarms: Total building fires 1,070, vehicles 256, grass, brush and woods 322, trash, rubbish, etc. 104, other outside fires 82. Total fires 1,834, unlawful alarms 585, smoke scares and honest mistakes 168, defective sprinkler systems 91, service calls 209, first aid emergencies 8, to standby 111, thus making 3,040 total alarms for the year 1959.

WHAT BURNED IN CHARLOTTE DURING 1959: Residential alarms 850, loss $221,249.48, mercantile 93 alarms, loss $102,628.33, non-residential assembly 37 alarms, $165,264.88 loss, manufacturing 38, $132,485.53, storage, etc. 24, $43,896.50, miscellaneous 7 alarms, loss $2,116, all other fires 440 alarms and $42,945.92 loss.

In the largest 6 fires the estimated loss was $267,586; total insurance loss for 1959 $597,952; total uninsured estimated loss for 1959 $112,733.76; total estimated loss for 1959 $710,686.64. Value of building and contents at risk $14,550,569.66, insurance on buildings and contents at risk $12,459,124.25.

Retirement system total reserve for benefit payments $1,178,865.40, fire department credit union total assets $128,390.98.

In closing with the above summary thanks to Chief Donald S. Charles, his officers, city officials, and firemen for being annual hosts to our North Carolina Fire College and Pump School. The firemen of North Carolina owe you a debt of gratitude.

NEWPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT: Secretary Elliott of the Newport fire department writes that they had only 2 town fires and 13 rural fires during the past year. Total loss for the 2 town fires was only $50 and the 13 rural was $4,000. Eight were caused by burning trash with too high winds, 5 were from overheated oil heaters, 1 chimney and 1 ignition. One was from lighter fluid in a restaurant, which has been investigated. There were several months with no fires, including May and June.

He reports that they have the foundation of a new fire station with the walls up to floor level. It will be a six stall unit, with ready room, bunk quarters, meeting hall, and an office for the chief and mayor. The firemen are paying for the materials from the small amount the town is able to pay the firemen, and contributions from citizens in the area. The labor is being done mostly by the firemen.

The rural fire association has been reorganized and made a contract with the town for fire protection. They are deeply interested in fire protection and prevention and have gone out and got many members signed up with contributions. They have funds on deposit to carry this program for two years, paying the town of Newport monthly.

Chief Gould and his faithful firemen have literally built a fine fire department from nothing to speak of. They have put in water mains and hydrants and paid for them. This spirit is what it takes to establish a fire department and protection. Chief Gould, you and your firemen deserve high praise, and I say you have done and are doing a job which you and your citizens will always be proud of. More power to you.

BRIDGETON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Last year I wrote a story about a new fire department and a new member of our association,

the Bridgeton Fire Department. The men who got on the ball and built their fire house out of what was once the town jail, bought a new truck, hose, and full equipment that many departments would be proud to have, deserve a lot of credit and praise. Some citizens bucked the idea of spending this money as their taxes would be higher, which has not come about, and after the rating bureau went in and gave them an OK inspecting the entire buildings they now have lower insurance rates which will average about 30c per hundred dollars. It will not take many years for this saving to offset the cost of building themselves a nice fire department. The New Bern Fire Department has had them to join drills and assisted them in any way possible. Their department has sent some of the firemen to the North Carolina Firemen's Association Fire College since becoming a member of our association for the last two years.

Several times they have come to New Bern to assist with their firemen and truck on large fires. Edward N. Brinson, let me again say you and your firemen deserve high praise for a job well done in establishing a swell fire department from scratch.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick of the Greensboro Fire Department informs me that the past year was again considered a year of progress and one of many changes influenced by a National Board of Fire Underwriters survey.

A new station, No. 11, is now under construction and a new 1000 gallon pumper has just been delivered to be placed in service as soon as this station is finished. Ten additional men have been authorized to man this equipment in the new budget and will begin training in the near future.

New communication equipment has been added and improved and four additional dispatchers have been hired to handle this new improved system.

A light rescue unit has been added to handle light emergencies and a new truck has been purchased to replace our old heavy rescue unit.

A change in the organizational setup as recommended by the National Board has elevated Asst. Chief G. C. Wuchae to First Deputy Fire Chief, a new position created, and Capt. R. L. Powell, Jr. has stepped up to Asst. Chief in charge of training.

During the year death claimed two of our members. Deputy Chief L. R. Crumpler, who died at the age of 58 years and a veteran of 36 years with the department, and June M. Pendergrass, member of Engine Co. No. 2 for 11 years died at the age of 37 years.

A variety of training courses were taken by members of the department offered by various schools and departments throughout the state and other parts of the country. Three men attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Memphis, Tenn. Four men attended the North Carolina Fire College at Charlotte, four

attended the Pump School at Charlotte, four the Arson Seminar at Charlotte, and one man graduated the 8 month Municipal Administration Course at the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill. Chief Wyrick attended the Annual Conference of the Fire Service Training meeting at Oklahoma A&M University at Stillwater, Okla. Eighteen men completed the Aircraft Crash and Rescue Course at Seymour Johnson Air Base. Chief Wyrick and 1st Deputy Chief Wuchae attended the Southeastern Chiefs convention at Jacksonville, Fla. Chief Wyrick was again re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Chief "Moon" is still urging all chiefs to affiliate with this organization and begin receiving valuable information regarding the fire service. This is one way to stay abreast with modern changes in fire fighting tactics. The Southeastern Convention will be held in Orangeburg, S. C., in 1961, and Chief "Moon" would like to see a large turnout of North Carolina chiefs there.

An extensive training program was carried on during the year on all phases necessary to improve the efficiency of the department. The following subjects were included in the program: First air, territory study, rotary and centrifugal pumps and priming devices, company equipment, hydraulic formulas and pressures, standpipe and sprinkler systems, ladder evolutions, ventilation practices, water supply and water mains, officer leadership training course, radiation hazard class and radiological refresher course. A drafting pit is now under construction at the training center which will be a great help in training pump operators and testing equipment."

C. W. "Moon" Wyrick addressed the Georgia State Firemen's Association held at Savannah, Ga., on August 2, 1960.

GREENSBORO HAS ANNUAL FIREMEN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE: The Firemen's Memorial Rite was held June 12, 1960. Seven persons, all regular, volunteer or honorary firemen, were honored during the Greensboro Fire Department annual Firemen's Memorial Service at Central station June 12. The service was held in the assembly room at 2:30 p.m. and was highlighted by a eulogy of the men, all of whom have died in the last year, by Fire Chief C. W. Wyrick and an address by City Councilman David Schenck.

Three regular firemen were the roster for the service—Deputy Chief L. R. Crumpler, T. W. Johnson, and June M. Pendergrass. In addition, J. L. May and Sam W. Davis, Sr., as volunteers, and W. H. Reeves, Jr., and Frank M. Hood as honorary firemen were honored. The service began with a piano prelude played by Mrs. R. L. Powell, Jr., with a hymn by the audience, recitation of the 23rd Psalm in unison and another hymn followed. The Rev. Jack Causey led in a prayer and then Don W. Moore sang a tenor solo accompanied by Mrs. Powell at the piano. Wyrick's eulogy and Schenck's address completed the memorial, with Mrs. Powell at the piano playing the postlude.

THE C. W. "MOON" WYRICK DAY: Your statistician along

with several of the officers of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association joined with 438 friends of "Moon" to do honor to the plain talking Greensboro fire chief, C. W. Wyrick, on March 31, 1960. I quote the articles from the Greensboro Daily News and Greenboro Record, which are self-explanatory.

MOON TO HAVE HIS DAY—THIS TIME BY PROCLAMATION: Greensboro is going to tip its hat March 31 to one of its most popular citizens. That date, by proclamation of Mayor George H. Roach, will officially be "Moon Wyrick Day," honoring the city's fire chief.

The date has no special significance in Moon's life. He's not getting ready to retire or anything like that. Herbert G. Bailey, Jr., chairman of the Moon Wyrick Day Committee, says it just worked out to be the best time.

Unless he's heard some of the whispering that has been going around as plans for the special day went forward, this will be the first word the affable fire chief has had of what lies in store for him. Even when Enry C. Green, Jr. asked him to pose for a newspaper picture in his office yesterday afternoon, Moon wasn't told what it was all about. There's a chance he may be in for some more surprises before the big day (it's Thursday of next week) is over.

There will be no chance of keeping it a secret however, that he will be the guest of honor that evening at a banquet for which his friends will gather at Greensboro Country Club. Sale of the tickets is already quietly underway at the clothing store of one of Moon's best friends, W. C. (Red) Cornatzer.

The idea of setting aside the special day grew spontaneously, Bailey says, from a remark made by Green in conversation with a group of men. Pretty soon the committee to plan for the event had been formed and was at work. Serving on it with Bailey, Green and Cornatzer were John W. Caffey, C. C. Fordham, Jr., John R. Foster, Odell Lambeth, C. W. Martin, R. E. L. Peterson, May Roach, and G. C. Wuchae.

"Although he's a good one, Moon is not being honored as a fire chief," Bailey said. "Instead it is recognition of him personally as one of the city's finest citizens." The times Moon has jumped to the task when there was a hospital to be built or a Santa Claus was needed for the Christmas parade are known publicly, Bailey said, but few people, if any, know of all his good deeds.

Christmas, it seems is not the only time he has assumed the role of Santa Claus. Whenever somebody's in trouble, he's there to help. He has been the real friend of the unfortunate in his town—and generous to a fault.

The proclamation officially designating "Moon Wyrick Day" was signed today by the mayor. The banquet will be somewhat informal in nature. Caffey will be master of ceremonies, and Foster

will do the honors in a program of recognition for the honored guest."

MOON WYRICK HONORED: "Greensboro's plain-talking fire chief was almost stumped last night—not quite—just almost. It was the end of "Moon Wyrick Day," officially designated as such by Mayor George H. Roach and 438 friends gathered at Greensboro Country Club to pay him honor.

Wyrick, who gets his mail as C. W. but responds more quickly to the nick-name hung on him years ago, had just seen John R. Foster present him shares of stock worth several thousand dollars, a $500 savings bond, a framed copy of Mayor Roach's proclamation declaring him "Greensboro's Citizen Superb, 1960," and an engraved silver bowl. On top of that, Fire Chief Donald S. Charles of Charlotte presented him a plaque on behalf of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

Moon, rarely at a loss for words, was overwhelmed with the surprises. "I've never had much to give to the people but hard work and service," he said.

The stocks were shares in a number of companies either based in Greensboro or operating here on a major scale, including Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Co., the Bank of Greensboro, Security National Bank, Cone Mills Corp., P. Lorillard Co., Vick Chemical Co., Blue Bell, Inc., J. P. Stevens & Co., Wachovia Bank & Co., Burlington Industries, Blue Gem Manufacturing Co., and Dillard Paper Co.

The dinner and gifts grew out of a remark made by Emory C. Green, Jr. several weeks ago while he and friends were having coffee in the downtown area. Green said there ought to be some way to recognize Wyrick's contributions to the community without regard for his service as chief of the fire department. The idea grew as it was passed around."

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief E. M. Dixon's report on the department's activities for the year 1959 follows: Fire Loss for 1959 Shows an Increase. There's no place like home for a fire, according to fire department records, 396 homes received the fire fighter's attention last year. Seven persons lost their lives, nineteen persons were injured by or at fires and $558,855 worth of property was destroyed as a result of 1,707 alarms in Winston-Salem last year. Each of the loss categories shows an increase over the previous year as the number of alarms showed a decrease of 60 runs.

The 1958 loss amounted to $415,360 and five people lost their lives because of fire.

Because of fire in buildings, there were 513 alarms; in outdoor equipment, motor vehicles and all other fires, 198 runs were made and 452 calls came into the fire department on account of brush, grass and rubbish. Firemen answered last year in Winston-Salem

164 rescue and emergency calls; 228 smoke scares and all other unnecessary calls, and 144 malicious false alarms. End results: Building and contents at risk where fire occurred amounted to $70,991,595; $558,855 represents total damage done which means firemen saved $70,432,740 worth of property last year with modern fire-fighting methods.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES: The Fire Prevention Bureau completed ten years service as a division of the fire department during 1959. The good work of Fire Prevention Bureau, during the past ten years was recognized by local press, radio, and television stations. During the year the Fire Prevention Bureau continued to make use of company firemen in the overall inspection program. A combination of three specialists in fire prevention and firemen from the city's nine fire companies made a total of 7,800 inspections. This is an increase of 1,178 inspections over last year's program. Inspections, however are only one part of the prevention program of the Winston-Salem fire department. Other phases are: Investigation, prevention education and engineering advic on fire protection.

Investigations: More time than ever before in the Bureau's history had to be spent on the investigation of fires. Records show that better than one fire alarm per week last year had to be investigated. Two convictions for unlawful burnings were made and eight juveniles were placed on probation as a result of the investigations. Also 25 fires were investigated to determine cause.

Prevention Education: Spring clean-up, fire prevention week and Christmas fire safety were special programs again put on to help educate the public on fire safety. Other educational devices used included: 74 newspaper articles; 17 radio programs; 12 television programs; 4 special safety programs; 3 displays; 7 fire extinguisher demonstrations; 54 talks and movies on safety, and 60,279 pieces of literature were distributed. Technical Fire Prevention Advice: 91 meetings were attended by members of the department to give advice on fire safety; 147 special reports were given; 2 schools attended to further fire prevention knowledge; assisted in 40 prefire surveys and took 299 photographs for the fire department.

It is not known how much good the fire prevention program did in the city last year, but national fire protection leaders claim that a good fire prevention education program "alone" will stop 25% of a city's fire loss.

FIRE-POLICE PATROL ACTIVITY REPORT: Number of arrests 377, parking tags 246, traffic lights out 33, street lights out 671, notices served 3, witnesses subpoened 13, hours municipal court 104, hours superior court 30, hours Federal court 0, quarts whiskey seized 264, homes checked for burglary and fire 8,916, hours special duty 97¾, property recovered $5,301.85, number break-ins found 8, number doors open 42, hours patrol duty 15,745, hours firefighting

56¾, hours fire-training 395½, hours police-training 1, hours hydrant testing 113, hours fire inspection 85, hours special check 163, hours license-auto inspection 20, hours clean-up detail 95½, fire calls answered 68, in answered fire calls arrived: Before truck 32, after truck 11, same time as truck 15, truck alone 3, patrol alone 7, fire found 6, emergencies found 1, building permits checked 102, police calls answered 464.

FIRE COMPANY OPERATIONS: In Winston-Salem there are 9 fire companies in service around the clock to give fire protection to over 100,000 citizens. In these 9 companies, there are 129 men who are located in stations in every section of the city. The work of these companies is coordinated by three assistant fire chiefs under the direction of a fire chief.

There are eight 1000 gallon per minute pumpers, 2 ladder trucks and 1 patrol car kept in service 24 hours per day by company personnel with the help of a department mechanic. There is of course reserve equipment that is often placed into operation. In addition to keeping equipment ready to roll, the station is maintained and sometimes repaired by firemen, small tools and equipment are also looked after by the firemen and last year the 9 fire companies answered a combined 2,806 alarms.

PIEDMONT FIRE SAFETY SEMINAR: The 6th annual Safety Seminar was held September 15, 1959 at the Robert E. Lee Hotel, Winston-Salem. It was sponsored by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Winston-Salem Fire Department, Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and fire insurance organizations.

Program: Tuesday, September 15, 1959. 9:00 a.m. Registration, 9:30 a.m. Opening of Seminar, Invocation by Lt. E. L. Hatcher, Winston-Salem Fire Prevention Bureau. Morning Session, Chairman—Wally G. Durham, chairman, Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar; Forsyth County Fire Commissioner, Keynote Address: "They Are There" by L. E. Shingledecker, Supervisor of Fire Safety, Nationwide Insurance Co., Columbus, Ohio, Panel composed of "Speakers Bureau" members from Winston-Salem Fire Department; Home Fire Prevention . . . Sgt. M. H. Gilbert, Mercantile Fire Prevention . . . Sgt. E. M. Vestal, Industrial Fire Prevention . . . Sgt. J. L. Parham, "Special Hazard Protection Can be The Answer" . . . J. E. Thomas, Automatic Sprinkler Corp. of America, Charlotte. 11:45 a.m. Discussion; 12 noon, Luncheon . . . Balinese Roof, Inspirational talk . . . Dr. Jack R. Noffsinger, Pastor Knollwood Baptist Church. Afternoon Session, Chairman—Harold J. Gibson, Director of Seminar, Assistant Chief, Winston-Salem Fire Department, School Fires: Case History—Sherman Pickard, N. C. Director, Fire Service Training, Responsibilities of School Officials . . . Ned R. Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Winston-Salem Public Schools, Inspections . . . Tom Andrews, Fire Inspector, Forsyth County Fire Department,

"Protecting Our Heritage" . . . Color Slide Presentation . . . Chief Elliott W. Joyne, Williamsburg, Va., "The Aftermath of An Industrial Fire" . . . Ralph M. Stockton, Vice President, B. F. Huntley Furniture Company, Summary of Seminar . . . Tom B. Follin, Chairman, Fire Prevention Committee, Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, Closing Remarks, 1959-60 Fire Safety Seminar Chairman . . . Wally G. Dunham. Adjournment.

FORSYTH COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Forsyth County Fire Marshall Baugess has written me the following letter giving a summary of the activities of the Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association: "Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Winston-Salem, N. C., 1508 N. Liberty St., July 22, 1960. Mr. Albert W. Brinson, Statistician, N. C. State Firemen's Association, New Bern, N. C., Dear Albert: We would like to give you and the State Association a report of the activities of our firemen in Forsyth County. Our County Association is now made up of 640 volunteer firemen, representing a total of 17 departments.

Our "Donation Day" was very much of a success in 1959. This of course is our one week that we knock on doors and get the bulk of the money which we operate our departments with. This was carried on October 31 through November 7.

Training is still a must in Forsyth County. We carry on a year round training program with all our departments. We are presently carrying out a ten phase program of training. This program not only brings new members up to date, but keeps older members on their toes.

Our County Association has made a move in the Piedmont area to form what would be known as the "Piedmont Firemen's Association." We feel with practically everyone else covered by a district association, we would greatly benefit in the Piedmont by forming our own association, within the state association.

We have had one serious fire since our last meeting. This was at our consolidated negro school. The fire did approximately $25,000 damage to building and equipment. This fire smoldered practically all night, in what is considered a good fire resistant building. The cause was determined as an overheated ceramic cooker.

Our Forsyth County Firemen's Benevolent Brotherhood has now boosted its membership to 621 members. This will pay $500 to beneficiary within 24 hours after death.

We had three men who attended the Fire College in Charlotte.

Vienna replaced an old pumper with a new 500 GPM, 3-stage pumper, built by Darley. We have two other companies who have placed their orders for trucks to be delivered within the next 90 days. They are Mineral Springs and Clemmons departments.

We lost two of our members, R. R. Amos of City View department, and H. J. Shoaf of South Fork department. Their names will be held in memoriam.

Looking to see you at the convention. Very truly yours, E. R. Bauguess, Fire Marshal Forsyth County Fire Department.

DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Cosmo L. Cox reports that, "During this year we have been fortunate to have a Fire Prevention Bureau established effective July 1, 1960. Captain L. E. Foster was named Chief of the Bureau. Also, the creation of the classification of Training Officer under the supervision of the Deputy Chief of department. Captain J. A. Letzing was named Training Officer. Also, the promotion of six additional Captains to further meet the recommendations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters to provide an officer on duty for each piece of apparatus. Greater emphasis on fire prevention and training is now in progress.

BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief R. C. Fortune of the Burlington Fire Department was kind enough to furnish me his decade report, which covers his years as fire chief of the Burlington fire department. I am giving you his summary report of 1959 and their planned expansion program for 1960. I especially wish to call your attention to the reduction of fire losses from 1949 of $350,000 down to $30,244.07 for 1959. Chief, you, your firemen, and city fathers deserve much praise for such a swell job in rebuilding the Burlington Fire Department to one among the tops.

"1959—This is the last year of this decade, (the fifties). The fire department feels that with the increased city limits, the large growth in residential construction, and the growth of business and industrial buildings (new and remodeled) that our city has really grown. The taxable property valuation of our city at the close of 1959 was about 75 million dollars. We estimate the actual valuation of our real estate and personal property is in excess of 200 million dollars. With this amount of property that could be destroyed by fire we, ourselves, were shocked at the very low fire loss we had for the year of 1959. We are very proud, too, when we think of the tremendous increase in values, and yet we ended this decade with the lowest fire loss of that priod.

A total of 589 fire calls with a fire loss of $30,244.07 were answered in 1959, this breaking all previous years' records of low fire losses. We had only 9 fires this year that had a fire damage loss of $1,000 or over. Two buildings with a combined fire damage of $11,000, seven houses with a combined fire damage of $27,864.30. The largest single damage was $6,200.

Our in-service home fire inspection program again was most beneficial in keeping our home fire losses to a minimum. We inspected 1,006 homes during September, October, and November. Through this inspection we are able to assist the occupants of these homes in having a safer place to live.

We are including the results of this year's in-service home inspection for your information, study carefully: 523 homes—impro-

per size of fuses, 160 homes—improper storage of gasoline, 109 homes—electrical wiring, 60 homes—oil tank or leaking lines, 34 homes—bad appliances, cords, 29 homes—general cleaning, 17 homes—defective flues, 10 homes—oil, wax and furniture rags, 5 homes—defective heating, 1 home—pennies behind fuse. Most of the above hazards were corrected.

The fire prevention bureau had a very successful year. They gave demonstrations, lectures, movies, instructing first aid, fire prevention programs, tagged over 5,000 Christmas trees with safety instructions, inspections and other public educational programs, revised our fire prevention code. This was adopted. Attended schools and lectures for our improvement. Our fire prevention programs in our schools were improved greatly.

We did a tremendous job in maintenance and installations in our fire alarm system. We added 15 more fire alarm boxes, installed three miles of fire alarm wire, reconstructed, repaired, relocated, and re-routed fifteen miles of wire. We purchased more wire, cable, and hardware to continue our fire alarm expansion in the new annexed areas. We had the very minimum of troubles with our fire equipment through good maintenance.

EXPANSION OF THE BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: The present expansion of the Burlington Fire Department started in 1949. The fire loss for that year was $350,000. We are proud to give you the fire losses for the 1950's: 1950—$91,627.67; 1951—$63,111.50; 1952—$90,222.91; 1953—$50,166.86; 1954—$82,835.68; 1955—$90,463.78; 1956—$93,116.64; 1957—$74,486.67; 1958—$47,364.85; and 1959—$30,244.07.

PLANNED EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR THE 1960's: The 1960's will bring continued expansion in the Burlington Fire Department and an effort at even greater fire-fighting efficiency.

One of the hopes for the future is a new central headquarters station. The present station lacks ample room for the growing department. More room is needed for growth in training, for officers and for personnel.

At the present time, eight men sleep in facilities for six in the main station, with five sleeping in the annex, causing a crowded situation. Construction of an adequate headquarters station in the near future would provide ample facilities for growth over the next 50 years.

The department is to continue its expansion in training, fire prevention, home inspection and other services to the public. Efforts will be made to move towards a new insurance rating classification with the hope of reducing insurance rates for the public.

The location of a station in the vicinity of Western Electric and Alamance County Hospital is planned also.

One piece of equipment, the 1940 model Diamond T pumper, will have to be replaced. After 20 years of use, insurance raters no longer consider it first line equipment.

We hope the 1960's will find a continuation of low fire loss experienced here in recent years. Working towards this will be one of the department's main objectives and we will strive to do this is our training and fire prevention programs."

KINSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Joe Hailey reports, "We of the Kinston Fire Department are happy to say we are still going forward. The money has been approved for our Number 4 fire station. It is hoped that this station will be completed sometime during the late fall of 1960. The people in Kinston have also approved a bond issue for a new city hall and also a new central fire station to be completed sometime during 1961. We have also acquired a site for the relocation of our Number 3 fire station. This work will also probably start sometime during 1961. This department has been fortunate this year as we have had no large fire losses to report out of the 544 fire calls answered in 1959-1960. Our fire loss for this period amounted to only $45,838.90, which we think is very good. This we can credit to our training and fire prevention programs. These two types of programs go a long way in making an efficient fire department.

I would like to thank every member of the State Firemen's Association and every fireman in the State of North Carolina and also the fire service that the state training division of the Insurance office has given to this department. It is from these people that new ideas come to make better working conditions in any fire department.

GOLDSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief C. Wesley Howell of the Goldsboro Fire Department, also president of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association, was kind enough to write me the following letter giving a summary of his department for the past year, which is as follows:

"August 4, 1960, Mr. Albert W. Brinson, Statistician, N. C. State Firemen's Association, New Bern, North Carolina. Dear Sir: I am happy to report that our department is progressing rather well, however, we are kept on our toes at all times trying to keep pace with our rapidly growing city. With our city's rapid growth and the fact that Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is adjacent to us, our responsibilities have increased many fold. We are faced with new problems and at time, they become somewhat complex.

However, with our additional problems and greater responsibilities, we have been able to cut our fire loss considerably. Our loss for 1959 was estimated at $39,900 while the estimated value of proprety at risk was $12,618,550. This is a much better record than for the year 1958 when the property loss was estimated at $231,561 with the estimated value at risk $11,990,150. It is my firm belief that this cut in loss is due to a more rigid training program, a very good fire prevention ordinance and a good Fire Prevention Bureau.

I am also very happy to report that very good relations exist between this department and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Fire Department. We exchange ideas, plan and train together, with special emphasis on crash fire-fighting and rescue procedures. Mutual aid agreements in writing have been worked out so as to cut red tape when an emergency arises.

During the year our city limits were extended greatly. A considerable amount of water mains and hydrants have been installed, several new fire alarm boxes have been added, and our full time personnel have been increased by eight men.

Our department now has a personnel of 45 paid members to date. All of our radio equipment is in the process of being changed which will give us our own system whereas before we worked with the Police Department.

The only major fire during the year 1959 occurred on November 11 when a gasoline tanker and an automobile collided at U.S. 117 and North George street at 6:05 p.m. and 5,400 gallons of gasoline was spilled and became ignited. Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Fire Department was called and did a very good job in helping control and extinguish this fire. Two people lost their lives in this accident. However, they were killed in the collision and were not touched by the fire. Yours very truly, C. Wesley, Chief, Fire Department, Goldsboro, N. C."

WILMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief J. A. West of the Wilmington Fire Department has furnished me a summary of the activities of his department as follows: "City of Wilmington, North Carolina, August 3, 1960. Mr. Albert Brinson, c/o New Bern Fire Department, New Bern, N. C. Dear Sir: I will endeavor to give you a few of the highlights of the activities of the Wilmington Fire Department, during the past fiscal year, for the statistician's report.

First: I am happy that our new training tower is almost completed; however, other facilities—such as a smoke building, oil and gasoline pits, drafting pit and grounds are still to be taken care of. We feel that we will have not only a nice outlay when finished, but also a beautiful site.

Second: Our training officers, of which we have two, are graduates of our State Fire College, and have attended and completed various other courses pertiment to the fire service, including instructors courses and teaching methods, and they are doing a swell job. We have had 24,300 man hours of preparation and training during the year in the various phases of the fire service. We have a library of training materials obtained from Oklahoma A&M, the N.F.P.A. and others. We grade on all teaching classes and drills, so that we have a picture of each man's ability in the personnel file. This also includes a quarterly personality grade. We use all the latest methods.

Third: Our Fire Prevention Bureau has three men assigned to

it, who have attended and completed various courses in fire prevention and in arson. They are doing excellent work in their field. We feel that our activities on installation of heating and air conditioning appliances are bringing in good results in the prevention of fire, along with other general inspection work. They made 4,191 regular inspections during the year. Our fire loss was somewhat smaller than the previous year. We had programs at all civic clubs, schools, and other places during Fire Prevention Week. We also had a display in the post office, and used a public address system throughout the city all during the week.

Fourth: We had a wreck on November 30, 1959, putting a 1,000 gallon pumper and five men out of service. Two of the injured men soon returned to duty. The other three, however, are still not able to do fire duty. The oil truck hit the fire truck broadside, and ruptured the tank and spilled 6,000 gallons of gasoline on the streets. This could have been disastrous if ignited, but we were lucky. The gasoline softened the asphalt streets and made them very slick, which could have caused many wrecks later; but I had the city to immediately haul sand and cover the affected areas, which not only eliminated that hazard, but also saved the surface of the street, which I think is very good to know. We are expecting delivery of a new 1,000 gallon pumper in September.

Fifth: We are very badly undermanned although we have our allotted number of men. Various positions that men have been placed in have been taken from company personnel with no replacements. This has us handicapped on manpower. We have 84 men in the department.

I attended Southeastern Chiefs Association meeting in Jacksonville Fla., and enjoyed it very much.

We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to and express our appreciation for the excellent support we have received from the press, radio, TV, all civic clubs, school authorities, business and industrial operations, and all those from whom we have received fire service information. And last, but not least, we would like to commend the entire personnel of our department for the splendid cooperation and fine spirit of brotherly love and team work that has been so evident. Sincerely, J. A. West, Chief, Wilmington Fire Department."

HIGH POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Claude S. Canady of the High Point Fire Department has favored me with a summary covering his department's activities for the year 1959-60. Thanks, Claude. You will note no deaths for the year due to fire, also their per capita loss of $4.09. Congratulation on your second consecutive win of 1st place for the state of North Carolina in the International Fire Prevention Contest sponsored by NFPA.

"City of High Point, North Carolina, July 11, 1960. Mr. Albert W. Brinson, Statistician, North Carolina State Firemen's Associa-

tion, New Bern, North Carolina. Dear Albert: Enclosed herewith are some of the highlights surrounding the High Point Fire Department during the fiscal year 1959-60.

On January 1, 1960, the City of High Point annexed approximately twenty square miles into the city giving a total of approximately thirty square miles to which we much furnish fire protection. With this annexation program we have a new population estimate of 65,000 and property valuation estimate in excess of $190,000,000.

We have added one new fire station during the past year and in addition have purchased three building sites for new stations. We purchased two new engines during the past year; one for replacement of No. 3 engine and one for the new station.

During the past year thirteen men were added to our department's strength, giving a total of eighty-six men, including officers and administrative personnel.

Our training program has greatly expanded since our drill tower was completed and placed into service during the past year. A total of 11,832 man-hours were spent in classroom study and outside drill evolutions.

Our efforts in fire prevention were rewarded by winning first-place for the State of North Carolina in an International Fire Prevention Contest sponsored by NFPA. This is the second consecutive year we have won this award. For the two preceding years we have tied with other North Carolina cities for first-place. Fire prevention work has greatly increased with the annexation program. Over 4,000 buildings were added due to this program giving an approximate total of 20,000 buildings in the city.

During the past year the City of High Point experienced a fire loss in the amount $251,042. This gives a per capita loss of $4.09. We were fortunate in that no lives were lost due to fire. The High Point Fire Department answered 897 calls during 1959-60 of which 367 were building fires.

The foregoing are a few of the highlights of the past year; I hope this information will be helpful in preparing your report. I am also enclosing our annual report for the fiscal year 1950-60. Very truly yours, C. S. Canady, Chief of Fire Department."

MOUNT OLIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT: 398 years of Fire Fighting Time Are Honored: "Ten Mount Olive firemen, whose combined service to the local department totaled 398 years, and their wives were honored Wednesday evening at the department's annual Ladies' Night banquet held in the elementary school cafeteria.

The retiring firemen were presented gold plaques and heard testimonials of appreciation from Mayor B. E. Bryan, Fire Chief Edgar Summerlin and visiting officials. Their wives were presented pictures of the department personnel. Those retiring and the number of years they served the community as fire-fighters were:

George Summerlin, a charter member, 56 years; Leon Simmons, 50 years; Ennis Kornegay, 41 years; Dan Kornegay and Durald Wilson, 40 years each; Robert Summerlin and Dudley Kornegay, 37 years each; Wade Kornegay and William Byrd, 34 years each, and Leon Britt, 33 years.

In recognizing the honored guests, who sat with their wives at the head table, Chief Edgar Summerlin told something about each man, his specialty in fire-fighting and the offices he held.

George Summerlin was chief for 29 years. Ennis Kornegay was head of the department for four years. Simmons served 28 years as assistant chief. Wilson and Robert Summerlin also served as assistant chiefs, while Wade Kornegay and Britt had served as captains.

At the conclusion of the meeting, following a film showing the local department in action, Mayor Bryan read a resolution from the town board, expressing appreciation to the 10 men for their service to the community.

The movie, which was made by the state for showing in training programs to other fire-fighting groups, was presented by Sherman Pickard, dupty fire marshal, who, with his wife, was among a number of out-of-town fire officials attending the meeting.

Other special guests included Chief and Mrs. Hiram Cook of Calypso, Chief and Mrs. Lonnie Stevenson of Seymour Johnson AFB, Chief Wesley Howell of Goldsboro, Capt. and Mrs. Dave Lee of Kinston, Capt. Tom Fisher of Concord, Chief Cosmo Cox of Durham, president of the Southeastern Firemen's Association.

C. L. Miller of Concord, president of the N. C. Firemen's Association; Ed Glover of Lumberton and Joe Hailey of Kinston, vice presidents of the state association, and their wives; Curtis Flanagan of Farmville, secretary of the state association, and Mrs. Flanagan, and Win Donat, secretary of the firemen's pension fund, and Mrs. Donat.

Other guests included Mr. and Mrs. Henry Belk of Goldsboro, local highway patrolman, members of the police department, physicians, members of the town board, rescue squad, ex-fireman Roy Barwick of Warsaw, W. T. Bell and George Parker, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Barwick, and Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Inscoe of the state fire commission.

IREDELL FIREMEN RECEIVE DONATION: Statesville—The Statesville Flour Mill Co. presented a check for $1,000 Thursday to help purchase equipment for a newly-organized volunteer fire department in eastern Iredell county.

The flour mill owned the unoccupied home in which four members of two families were burned to death 10 miles east of here the night of February 22.

The fire deaths sparked the drive to organize a volunteer fire department to serve the rural area which is now served only by the

Statesville Fire Department.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN HONORED AT WAYNE MEET: Goldsboro—Wayne County's Young Democrats paid honor to the county's 21 volunteer fire departments at a meeting at which State Insurance Commissioner Charles Gold was speaker. Some 150 firemen and friends attended the meeting held at Patetown's new fire station and community center.

Gold presented scrolls for community service to each of the county's rural fire chiefs on behalf of the YDC. He urged the firemen to "become politicians for your departments—sell your organization." To the Young Democrats, he charged: "If you want a good YDC, act like firemen. Work like firemen." Gold urged participation of politics on the precinct level, declaring that "Participation is the basis of one's right to criticize."

Fire Commissioner Norwood Vinson reported the county has 17 fire districts set up, of which seven already have lower insurance rates: 15 stations have been built and three more are under construction. The departments have equipment valued at a quarter of a million dollars and boast 450 voluntary firemen, Vinson said.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR COOL SPRINGS: The residents of this small Iredell county community, spurred by a tragedy which killed four persons have organized a volunteer fire department. About 100 persons met Monday night in the high school auditorium to organize the department—exactly one week after a fire destroyed a dwelling and killed four persons and seriously injured four. Reuben Starrette was chosen chief and 12 persons were named to a finance committee, charged with raising funds to buy equipment. The committee plans a door-to-door fund drive over an area extending from Statesville east to the Davie county line.

Retired Fire Chief L. M. Gaither and two captains of the Statesville Fire Department attended the meeting to help organize the volunteer squad.

GRANDY TO BUILD NEW FIRE HOUSE: Grandy—Ground will be broken Saturday for a fire house for the first fire department to be established in Currituck county. Two adjacent 50-foot lots on Highway 158 for the building site have been given by Junior Baum of Grandy and Mrs. Sarah Hoverstock of Emporia, Va.

The building, of concrete block, is to house two fire trucks and provide a meeting room, kitchen, rest rooms and working space, with adequate concrete parking space outdoors for training of volunteer firemen.

The south end of the county has been broken up into five fire districts, but for the present the equipment at Grandy will serve the whole area from Point Harbor through Coinjock.

The project was sponsored by the Poplar Branch Ruritan Club, which raised more than $1,600 in subscriptions for the building. The club already has bought and equipped a fire truck.

TWO MONTH FIRE TOLL IN NEW YORK DECLINES FIRST TIME IN 94 YEARS: For the first time in the 94-year history of the New York Fire Department, the number of fires recorded in October and November dropped below the figures for the corresponding months of the previous year.

This was reported recently by Fire Commissioner Edward F. Cavanagh, Jr., who said the drop "demonstrates that the fine people of this city are taking our fire prevention education program to heart." Mr. Cavanagh said the number of fires last month was 639 below the total of 4,939 recorded in November, 1958. Similarly, October the figure this year was 197 below the total of 3,977 reported in October, 1958.

LOS ANGELES REPORTS 6% DROP IN NUMBER OF FIRES LAST YEAR: In his annual report on the Los Angeles Fire Department, Chief William L. Miller has disclosed that the department responded to 36,667 alarms during 1958-59, a not-too-surprising increase, he said, of 692 over the year before. With thousands of people moving to Los Angeles, Chief Miller pointed out, increase in the number of alarms is to be expected.

However, the number of actual fires, Chief Miller reported, did not increase in proportion to the population, but rather decreased slightly. There were 14,022 actual fires in 1958-59, compared with 14,868 the previous year.

Chief Miller told the citizens of Los Angeles, whom he described as part-owners in a $21 million public service organization, that while the number of fires is somewhat erratic from year to year, due to such factors as rainfall, brush fires, etc., some conclusion must be drawn from the fact that over a 20-year period population has increased in Los Angeles by almost 72%, while fires have increased by only 10%. In 1938 there were 9 fires per 1,000 people in the city. During the past fiscal year, after two decades of population growth and industrial expansion, there were only six fires per 1,000 population. This reduction is largely attributed to the growing fire safety consciousness resulting from the fire prevention and public efforts of the Fire Department.

HALF OF NATION'S SCHOOL CHILDREN NEEDLESSLY EXPOSED TO FIRE HAZARDS: The National Fire Protection Association has reported that there are now an estimated 63,500 public schools in the United States meeting basic standards to assure adequate safety to life from fire. The total includes 16,500 schools which made major fire safety improvements last year following the Chicago school fire.

The wave of school inspections, which followed the Chicago fire, resulted in the permanent closing of over 200 school buildings. About 250 more were closed, or had sections closed, on a temporary basis until life safety hazards were reduced.

Approximately 68% of all U. S. communities initiated and com-

pleted fire safety improvement projects in the 12 month period. Cities in the 10,000 to 100,000 population class led with a 74% record. This was slightly better than the 72% record of larger cities of 100,000 and upward. About 60% of the communities under 10,000 came to grips with their public school fire safety problems.

Regionally, the percentage of communities acting ranged from a high of 87% in the Mountain States to a low of 56% in the Middle Atlantic.

While the NFPA esimates, based on questionnaires sent to more than 2,000 communities, present an encouraging picture, there is a dark side too: No needed improvements in life safety from fire have been made in about 30,000 schools housing 8,250,000 children. In another 36,000 schools housing 9,700,000 children, where some fire hazards have been corrected, conditions are still below the minimum basic standard needed to make reasonably sure that these children can escape in case of fire.

While more than 17,000,000 public school children are being taught under fire-safe conditions, there are still about 18,000,000 children needlessly exposed to fire hazards.

NEW BERN FIREMEN'S MUSEUM HONORED: At the opening of New Bern's 250th anniversary on June 11, a banquet was given in honor of the visiting Dr. Edward P. Friemuller, President of Berne, Switzerland.

President Friemuller presented to Chairman W. M. Pugh, for the Firemen's Museum from the Berne Fire Department, an antique candle fire lantern over 150 years old, and a Bernese fireman's hand axe. Both had engraved plates.

Secretary-Treasurer Albert W. Brinson in turn presented to President Friemuller, as a token of friendship from the New Bern Firemen's Museum and firemen, a beautiful hand made and engraved fire plaque, and also a fire plaque for him to take back to Switzerland Fire Department, as a token of appreciation for the many Swiss firemanic items presented to the New Bern Firemen's Museum. In presenting the plaques, Secretary-Treasurer Brinson said to President Friemuller, "We are anxious that your beloved City of Berne, our Motherland, shall have these plaques as an expression of our gratitude for the many gifts with which the ties of our relationship have been so firmly cemented. Our Firemen's Museum Committee, therefore, has prepared this beautiful plaque to present to you as President of the City of Berne, Switzerland."

On Sunday, June 12, the President and Mrs. Friemuller and their party visited the Firemen's Museum, where Mayor Stallings and the Museum Committee greeted them. Chairman Pugh and Secretary Brinson presented them with booklets and souvenirs. They were especially interested in seeing the items presented to the Museum by the Berne Fire Department, City of Berne, Ambassador H. d Torrente, and the Swiss Government. They also were interested in seeing the two old horse drawn steamers, two horse drawn hose wagons that had won world records as well as the other firemanic items on display.

NEW BERN HOST TO TRAINING SCHOOL: The New Bern Fire Department held its second-year North Carolina Fire Service Training School September 21-25, 1959. The school was honored by having H. Elwood Inscoe, of the North Carolina Department of Insurance, as instructor for its second year with the subject "General Firemanship."

The Training School course was for 12 hours with classes of three hours for four nights. The newly formed Bridgeton Fire Department was well represented in the school with a number of their members. The school was attended by: Oriental, Vandemere, Newport, Trenton, Bridgeton, the newly formed Craven County 7th Township Fire Department, Vanceboro, Dover, and Triangle Fire Department consisting of Bayboro, Alliance, and Stonewall. The second-year training course on the local level was highly successful and profitable in fire fighting training and prevention. The firemen were in high praise for Conductor Inscoe. As one fireman put it, "I learned more in those four nights about fire fighting, than I had since becoming a fireman three years ago."

The city dug a pit for use of the training course, and 600 gallons of fuel oil were used. Water fog, high and low pressure fog, and dry chemical were used to extinguish the oil fires.

NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S PENSION FUND: Win Donat, Secretary of the North Carolina Firemen's Pension Fund, reported under date of July 29, 1960, that, "almost 2,700 firemen are members of the Pension Fund. They have contributed approximately $175,000 to date." He points out this acceptance is an indication of the value they place on this principle of state compensation for their services. These men disregard the contest by the insurance companies in favor of the knowledge that, at least, they have saved money, and, if we win the contest, they will be "way ahead." They know that it is impossible to lose one cent.

Many of you have asked for the latest news of the constitutionality suit. To this date, there has been no action by the Wake County Superior Court on the suit filed by the insurance industry in December 1959. The case may be called for a hearing next month and, depending on the outcome, could be a long or relatively short time going through the Supreme Court. We have been quite encouraged by the "perfect bill-of-health" given the Pension Fund Acts of 1959, in the North Carolina Law Review of recent issue. This is an analysis of the laws by the N. C. Law School faculty and some foremost students of the law school.

Only 11 months remain until June 30, 1961. After this date it will be impossible for a fireman to get free credit for the time he was in the fire service prior to July 1, 1959, if he should want to

join the Firemen's Pension Fund.

In addition, the amount due with the application increases by $5 every month that the application is delayed. For instance: If you are claiming prior service credit and make application next month (August 1960) you must pay $70 from July 1, 1959. If you delay application until June 1961, $120 will be due with the application."

Your statistician urges you by all means to get your application in to the secretary as quickly as possible. You have everything to gain and not one penny to lose. If you are a comparatively young fireman, say 30 years old, and you have to pay in $5 per month for 30 years, you will invest $1,800 and at 60 years of age you start drawing $50 per month, within three years you get your money back plus $50 per month for the rest of your life. If, for any reason you wish to withdraw your money, you can get every penny back, and bear in mind these funds you pay into the Pension Fund are deposited with the Treasurer of the State of North Carolina.

$700,000 FIRE RAZES NEW BERN BOAT FIRM: The Associated Press was in error in stating that this fire was in New Bern. It was a Craven County fire about three miles south of New Bern on Highway 17.

New Bern—Fire swept through the Commodore Boat Works here early Thursday, doing an estimated $700,000 damage as the flames destroyed the plant.

But less than three hours after the 6:30 a.m. blaze, owner Ed Weigl stood amid the ruins and made plans to rebuild. He told his 55 employees that he hoped to be back in some kind of production within 30 days.

A worker spotted the flames but their origin was not determined. In addition to the plant, lumber and equipment, the flames devoured eighteen 25-foot boats, several 32-foot boats and several small runabouts. The boats were in stages of construction ranging from half-finished to completed but awaiting final outfitting. Eighteen inboard engines also were destroyed.

Weigl, who made the damage estimate, said the loss was partly covered by about $200,000 worth of insurance. The boat works is one of the largest on the East Coast.

The fire had gained too much headway by the time it was found and firemen notified for it to be controlled. The plant was in full production to meet the increased summer demand of its dealers.

Weigl told his workers that he would use as many of them as possible in clearing away the debris and rebuilding the plant. However, he promised, if a worker found it necessary to seek employment elsewhere, his job would be waiting him when the plant resumes full production. The boat works has a weekly payroll of $4,00 to $4,500.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING DIVISION, N. C. DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE: Sherman Pickard, Supervisor of Firemen's Training has furnished me with the following information relative to the activities of the Fire Service Training Division, N. C. Department of Insurance for the period from July 1, 1959 through June 30, 1960.

Fire Schools held	52
Students completing course	1,923(*)
Fire departments represented	294

(*Represents only those students who successfully completed the training course by 80% attendance.)

OTHER TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

1. N. C. State College, Instructor Training Program, August 17-28, 1960, consisted of 60 hours. Program involved subject matter only. The following persons received certificates of completion:

Baugess, E. R. ____ Forsyth County Fire Dept., Winston-Salem
Bishop, T. C. _____ Fayetteville Fire Dept., Fayetteville
Christopher, C. H. _____ Greenville Fire Dept., Greenville
Ellington, T. H. _____ High Point Fire Dept., High Point
Ellis, M. J. _____ Nash Co. Fire Marshal's office, Nashville
Kimberlin, G. T. _____ Statesville Fire Dept., Statesville
Lee, David _____ Kinston Fire Dept., Kinston
Little, E. T. _____ Roanoke Rapids Fire Dept., Roanoke Rapids
Godwin, John _____ Raleigh Fire Dept., Raleigh

2. Instructor Training Program, N. C. State College, June 8-12, 1959, 30 hours. This program involved teaching methods only. Following persons received certificates:

M. J. Ellis _____ Nash Co. Fire Marshal, Nashville
John W. Godwin _____ Raleigh Fire Dept., Raleigh
Roy Gupon _____ Henderson Fire Dept., Henderson
G. T. Kimberlin _____ Statesville Fire Dept., Statesville
Ernest T. Little ___ Roanoke Rapids Fire Dept., Roanoke Rapids
M. J. Oliver _____ Brogden Rural Fire Dept., Rt. 2, Smithfield

3. Instructor Training Program, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, April 11-22, 1960, 30 hours. This program involved training methods only. The following persons received certificates:

Charles Hamrick _____ Long Creek Vol. Fire Dept., Salisbury
James Jamison _____ Charlotte Fire Dept., Charlotte
Sigsby Tadlock _____ Mecklenburg Co. Fire Marshal, Charlotte
Tyler Garris _____ Woodlawn Vol. Fire Dept., Mecklenburg Co.
Otis Dowdy _____ Charlotte Fire Dept., Charlotte

4. Instructor Training Program, Rowan County, Salisbury, June 13-16, and July 5-8, 1960, 30 hours. This program involved teaching methods only. The following received certificates:

George Lee Brady, Jr. _____ Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
George Elmer Cline _____ Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
William Archie Lyerly _____ Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
Garland Michael _____ Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury

Ross Bernard Penley ——— Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
John David Poole ——— Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
Albert Fred Shipton ——— Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
Marvin Lewis Stone ——— Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
Robert L. Yarbrough ——— Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury
Marvin Ray Yost ——— Salisbury Fire Dept., Salisbury

5. N. C. Fire College, Charlotte, May 9-13, 1960, 30 hours. The program involved teaching methods only. The following persons attended the course:

Albert Fred Shipton ——— 121 S. Long St., Salisbury
Albert Clayton Hall, Jr. ——— Wallace
E. Bryce Teague ——— P. O. Box 63, Elkin
James E. Lee ——— 51 St. Mary St., Concord
John A. Fisher ——— 42 Glendale Ave., Concord
R. E. Langford ——— 3609 Cornell Blvd., Winston-Salem
Orion Dalton Lee ——— Fire Station No. 1, Kinston
John A. McGlohon ——— 1003 Westwood Dr., Asheboro
Jack Elderton ——— Elkin
Aaron Reason ——— 1302 North Drive, Goldsboro
John P. Isenhour ——— 608 N. Grover St., Gastonia
Howard P. Hand ——— 607 E. 7th Ave., Gastonia
Allen F. Cozart ——— P. O. Box 617, Oxford
Alford D. Miller ——— Route 1, Box 130-A, Thomasville

Other activities of the Training Division consisted of organizing new fire departments, assistance in preparing fire apparatus specifications and other services to the fire departments.

CRAVEN COUNTY HAS ADDED FIRE SERVICE: For generation the only fire service in Craven County was the New Bern Fire Department, the first organized fire department in North Carolina, which dates back shortly after New Bern was settled by the Swiss in 1710.

Bridgeton, Vanceboro, and Township 7, have well organized fire departments, with all new apparatus and equipment. Cove City and Dover have organized and secured surplus fire trucks. Cherry Point Marine Base has established one of their units off the base, and in one of the Government housing projects in Havelock.

The taxpayers in No. 7 township voted the 10 cents special tax and Craven County is now giving that department $100 a month.

The New Bern fire department is still answering fires in the county with a county purchased fire truck.

It is pleasing to know that finally Craven County has decided to do something about fire protection, other than depending altogether on the New Bern fire protection.

In closing my report, I beg to say to all those who furnished me information, data, records, and statistics that have gone into this statistical report that I am sincerely grateful for your cooperation and valued assistance to me in making this, my twentieth report to this grand and glorious association of seventy-three years. The list is too long to include, so I again say, Thank you!

Respcetfully submitted,
ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician
N. C. State Firemen's Association

Motion by Marvin Jones that the report be accepted, seconded by Chief Horace Elliott and duly carried.

PRESIDENT MILLER:

At this time I would like to recognize the firemen who have fifty years service.

CHIEF WYRICK:

Mr. President. When you were recognizing these men I know one of them is not a life member. These three men who stood, if they have not been made life members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association I move that they be made life members.

The motion was seconded by Chief Berry Gibson and carried that the following be honorary life members: Ludy Croom of Wilmington; Bob Whitley of New Bern; and McBride Rich of Graham.

The chair recognizes I. Miller Warren.

I. MILLER WARREN:

Mr. President and Fellow Firemen:

I have something on my mind I would like to pass on to you. We have installed in our town the most efficient communication that I have heard any one say anything about. We have installed a system whereby a normal call is received at your station and upon receipt of the call by the dispatcher there is an instantaneous telephone signal by merely raising the receiver off the hook—they do not have to dial. The very minute the receiver is raised twenty telephones start ringing the homes of the firemen. They have a very definite code, so you learn very quickly that it is a fire or an emergency coming over your telephone into your home; then the dispatcher will say for instance "John Jones, 24 Walnut Street," or "Plywood plant," or whatever it may be, and he repeats it several times. He gives a distinct call and knows it is received by the firemen, and that means you have twenty men moving almost simultaneously. We have a siren but with certain wind conditions sometimes it is impossible for the boys to hear it, and this system we now have is a great improvement. It dispatches you direct to the fire. Now the trucks can run with one man, the driver, because we know we will have men at the fire. We got this unit from the Carolina Telephone Company. The original cost was twenty-five or thirty dollars for installation and the rental service is $22.50 a month. That is just a fraction over a dollar a month per man to have twenty men at your command at any time in any emergency. You must have a one party line in your home. The Carolina Telephone Company charges seventy-five cents a month on my bill.