

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
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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
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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 phenomenal 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 inflammable 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
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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 phenomenal 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 repre-

senting 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—Tobacco 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
Charlotte—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
Ahoscie—Wholesale grocery warehouse	250,000
Siler City—Chair factory	100,000
Raeeford—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.

Zinzendorf 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 asleep. 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 Asheville 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 occurrence 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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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 occurrence 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.

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