

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 thee 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 children 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 \$13,527,000 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, in-

stead 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 burning 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 and 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 all 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 ashes 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.

Arson—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, 1913, and worked hard as a fireman from the ground up. He was 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 adjusting 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,