

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 course 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 liquid, 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 \$9,598 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, Ahsokie, 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, Youngs-ville, 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 McIlwhee taken out of window by firemen Shop and Flow-ers.

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 mattress 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 resi-dence—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 un-known. 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 settees 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 ACIEVE-MENT: Chief Donald S. Charles of the Charlotte Fire Department, past president of our Association for two terms, and presently a mem-ber of the Advisory board, was elected first vice president of the South-eastern Association of Fire Chiefs at the annual meeting held in Lex-ington, 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 SEV-ERAL 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 Commis-sioner'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 Com-missioner'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, Indiana, 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 attended 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 fire 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