

will be printed in the Minutes. I believe Charlie Burkette said he had thirty pages in his report; I do not have that many and do not intend to read the entire report but there are a few things that I would like to bring to your attention and then I would like to read the full report when you get a copy of the minutes.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

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

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I submit to you my report of statistics and happenings in the fire service of North Carolina for 1953. Another year has passed since we enjoyed being guests "on the shores of the blue Atlantic," having been entertained most graciously there for the fourth time by the Carolina Beach Fire Department by host Chief J. A. Knox and his Firemen.

We have enjoyed the return of most of our military men and women from that bloody Korean War and our nation is enjoying peace again. Many of those men were firemen and the sad part is that many of our firemen citizens answered that last alarm over there, away from home and friends.

We are here assembled in our sixty-seventh convention being royally entertained by the Durham Firemen, as they also did in the years of 1891, 1902, and 1923. Chief Cosmo Cox, now president of our association, and his firemen have gone all the way out to make this convention one of the best on the record of our sixty-three conventions held and I am sure you will agree with me that they have and are doing just that. We firemen who had the privilege of attending the 1923 convention here in Durham, or ever had the good fortune to know the host of that convention, Chief Frank W. Bennett, who held the office of president of our association in 1924, 1944 and 1945 will cherish his memory for life. He loved all firemen as his very own. He knew no difference between paid or volunteer firemen, they were all his friends.

IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Will Samuel Long age 87, the second oldest fire chief in North Carolina and one of Alamance County's best known citizens, died on July 26, 1954 at his home in Graham. He helped organize the Graham Fire Department and was chief there for more than forty years. He was born in Graham on May 14, 1867, the son of the late William Samuel Long. He was educated at Graham College and Elon College, of which his father was one of the founders and the first president, at the University of North Carolina, and at Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. He wrote and spoke widely on behalf of fire prevention. Dr. Long never tired of recounting the time he led "my boys," as he called his firemen, in a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington in recognition of Graham's Fire Prevention rec-

ord in the nation. It was said that he was the last person living who was present when the Battle of Alamance Monument was unveiled on May 29, 1880, when he was 13. Dr. Long was Vice President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association for the years of 1933 and 1934. He held the office of President of our Association in 1935. He was a skilled harmonica player and played for many of our conventions by request. Dr. Long was loved by all firemen who came in contact with him.

IN MEMORIAM: Assistant Chief E. E. McDowell, Jr., 35-year-old assistant chief of the Greensboro Fire Department, died on June 21, 1954. The Rev. J. Calvin Barnes, his pastor, gave the following eulogy in preaching his funeral. "We have had the great privilege of knowing a good man and we have enriched ourselves in his friendship. His memory is a treasure he will cherish throughout our lives. His humanity—his personality—was rich and powerful. He knew no strangers. The world was his parish. He loved children; delighted in the aspirations and confidences of youth, and brought much joy to the older folk. Surely his was a jewel of life." On January 1, 1941 he joined the Greensboro Fire Department as a fireman; was promoted to a driver March 16, 1948 and on August 16, 1950 he was raised to captain. On September 1, 1951 he was promoted to Training Instructor in charge of all training, and on July 1, 1953 he was appointed Assistant Chief in charge of training and personnel, the position he held at the time of his death. Chief McDowell was very popular in the fire service throughout this country and was well known for his fire fighting capability. He was a graduate of the New York City Fire College and Drill School, graduate from the Structural Fire Fighting School of the 5th Naval District in Norfolk, Virginia, and an instructor of the North Carolina State Fire College and Pump Schools, of which he was a graduate. He appeared on the program twice at the Instructors' Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. He was a member of the new Advisory Board for setting up a training manual for chief officers in the fire service which had been conducted through the Oklahoma A & M College, was very active in Red Cross being an instructor and served on the Safety Board, a member of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association, a member of the Greensboro Life Saving and Rescue Squad, a member of the International Fire Chiefs' Association, and a member of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Fire Prevention Committee. "Mac" was a Christian and very active member taking part in all phases of church activities and as his pastor expressed it, "There was no task that "Mac" would fail to undertake for his beloved church from scrubbing floors and pots and pans to preaching the gospel from his pulpit."

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1953: The National Fire Protection Association of Boston, Sponsor, is a non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Kentville, Nova Scotia, won the Grand Awards in the United States and Canada respectively for the best 1953 municipal Fire Prevention Week Programs submitted in the International Fire Prevention Week contest.

In addition to the municipal Grand Award winners there were the following Grand Awards in the contest's Industrial and Government Divisions: Atomic Power Division of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Industry); Hickman Air Force Base, Hawaii (U. S. Air Force); Fort Lewis, Washington (U. S. Army); Naval Station, Seattle, Washington (U. S. Navy).

One thousand six hundred forty-one entries were received in the 1953 contest; 1,155 in the Municipal Division; 379 in the Government Division; and 107 in the Industrial Division. Included in the total were entries from Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and overseas military installations.

THE UNITED STATES CLASS WINNERS: Under Class IV United States communities population 50,000 to 99,000 Greensboro won the second Grand Award with Anderson, Indiana, taking first and Stockton, California, third. Under this class Winston-Salem won honorable mention along with Columbia, South Carolina, and Portland, Maine. These winnings of Awards and Honorable Mention are the results of hard work and are splendid winnings to be proud of when you consider that it is competition for the entire United States. Ranking of top United States communities (out of 436 competing in Grand Award competition): Greensboro, North Carolina, rated 14th place which is a great compliment for their work and honor in the Fire Prevention Week National Contest. Fort Bragg, North Carolina, won the second Grand Award, with Fort Lewis, Washington, winning first. These awards were selected out of 96 competing in the U. S. Army Grand Award competition. The winning awards for the state of North Carolina were as follows: Greensboro first, Winston-Salem second, and Mount Airy third; Honorable Mention going to Fayetteville, Salisbury, High Point, and Rocky Mount.

INTER-CHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST 1953: The Grand Award for 1953 was won by Hartford, Connecticut. Winston-Salem won the fourth place in Class IV population 50,000 to 100,000. This was an exceptional standing when you consider this was with competition of the entire United States, Alaska, and Canada. Winston-Salem won 10th place in 1952 so you see they made quite a stride going from 10th place to the 4th in a year. Chief Brown and his fire-

men have their eyes set on the top of the ladder in this contest for 1954. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Chief Brown for the splendid and meaty articles, under the title "A Fire Chief Says" that have been running in the publication "The Hose and Nozzle."

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: Chief Donald S. Charles, President and his Charlotte firemen entertained the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association in Charlotte, North Carolina at its 26th annual convention June 7-10, 1954. Chief Charles had full cooperation from two hundred thirty-two business and manufacturing companies making contributions that helped make the Fire Chiefs' Conference possible. Chief Charles and his firemen for many months worked on advanced preparations. They had a well filled out program of activities covering the four-day meeting for the 250 fire chiefs and their ladies from all the Southeastern states. This meeting was said, by those attending, to be one of the best ever held. The Memorial Service conducted by Reverend W. A. Rollins was one of the highlights. The conference endorsed Past President Donald S. Charles for election to Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs at its meeting at Houston, Texas. The association elected Past President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, C. W. "Moon" Wyrick to second Vice President. This means that the presidency will return to North Carolina two years hence. While visiting fire chiefs slept Charlotte had its largest fire since 1935. The Charlotte Armory-Auditorium burst into flames in the wee hours on Tuesday morning with an estimated loss of \$200,000. In paying tribute to Chief Charles and his firemen Mayor pro-tem James S. Smith said, "Donald had to show off his outstanding fire department with a large fire."

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The North Carolina death tolls for the year 1953 including protected cities and towns and combined with all of the rural area, which is only partly protected by rural fire departments and city fire departments, was 115 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings) reported by Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Section, State Board of Health. This is an increase of seven deaths over 1952. He reported 111 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This is an increase of 32 deaths from this cause over the year 1952. The Bureau further reports 19 deaths by hot substances, corrosive liquid, and steam. This shows an increase of deaths of 4 over the year 1952. The above figures from the Bureau's report show the total of 245 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1953. Your statistician was happy to be able to report to you last year there was a decrease of 60 deaths from the year of 1951. Now it is with deep regret that I have to report to you that there were 43 more lives lost in 1953 than in 1952. In comparison of the deaths in 1953 with two years back—1951 when the large number of 262 lives were snuffed out we find 1953 had 17 less lives lost from fire. In reviewing the past

five-year records of lives lost from fires or related to fire I find in 1953 there were 245, 1952—202, 1951—262, 1950—191, and in 1949—212. Were it not for the Fire Prevention programs being conducted the year round by you Firemen sitting out there and your comrades back home, no doubt the number quoted above would be considerably larger. We also must not discount the fact that the Supreme Being above has a great hand in holding down the Fire Demon.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Everett B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshal of the State of North Carolina Insurance Department has recently received from the National Board of Fire Underwriters the reported amount of fire loss in North Carolina to property covered by stock companies. He has in turn furnished your statistician the figures. The loss paid out by the stock companies in 1953 was 13,650,763.

I wish to say to you that the total fire loss in North Carolina is unknown, this is due to the fact that fire losses on property uninsured is an unknown factor. The National Board estimates the uninsured losses in the United States to be 33 1/3%. Assuming this figure of 33 1/3% for uninsured losses, the records of the North Carolina Insurance Department indicate that 38.8% of the property in North Carolina is covered by stock companies, 27.9% covered by other than stock companies. Assuming the rate of losses are the same for other companies as for stock companies per premium dollar collected the estimated fire loss for the state of North Carolina for the year of 1953 was \$35,182,378. In 1952 the total estimated report was \$30,430,148, thus we had an estimated increase in loss in the state of \$4,752,230 or 15.6%. The \$6,000,000 Wilmington waterfront fire more than accounted for the loss increase for the state. The Fire Demon was on a rampage last year and so far is still going strong regardless of the greatest Fire Prevention program ever staged in North Carolina and the nation. Of course as long as the valuation of property, buildings, and contents is increasing we can hardly expect anything more than increased fire losses.

NATIONAL LOSS OF LIFE: Mr. Richard E. Stevens, Engineer of the National Fire Protection Association, advises me that their latest estimate of deaths in the United States from fire or related to fires was 12,360 men, women, and children in 1953. This is 1030 per month and 34 every 24 hours. Just think what in most cases carelessness is doing to our population.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: Mr. Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, advises me that he has received a recent estimate from the National Board of Fire Underwriters of the total fire loss of the United States for 1953. This estimate is \$864,863,000 resulting from 918,304 reported fires. This reports a decrease of 7% in the number of fires as compared to 1952, but the fire losses for 1953 seem to have increased

by 6.1% over 1952. The National Board of Fire Underwriters has pointed out that this increase is attributable to a single industrial fire but, of course, the fact remains that we have an increase in the loss figure.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 26th Annual Fire College and Drill School was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School May 3, 4, 5, 6, 1953. President T. A. Bissett opened the school officially following a welcome address of Chief Donald S. Charles. Chief Bissett then turned the school over to Director Chief Charles L. Burkett. The registration was the largest in the history of the school. Director Burkett stated that it was the largest and best school he had ever helped conduct and attend, and the old timers were of the same opinion and high in their praise for the way Charley and his staff conducted the school.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S PUMP SCHOOL: The second pump school was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School September 28, 29, 30, 1953. The attendance at the school was 143. First year credit men 97, observers 28, manufacturers' representatives 13, director-conductor, faculty, and minister 5. All attending were outspoken in praise of the benefits they received from the school.

GREENSBORO'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS ANNUAL TRAINING: Chief Wyrick continued his Annual Advanced Training Course for officers and firemen which was held from January through March 1953. The course consisted of 90 hours and included various subjects vital to the fire service by many well qualified speakers. In April a Refresher First Aid Course was taught by 18 fire department instructors. As a result of this course, states Chief Wyrick, the Greensboro Fire Department retained its distinction of being 100% First Aid trained in both Standard and Advanced Red Cross. Thirty hours were spent in this course. A Probationary Firemen's School was held for the benefit of new men. This course consisted of 40 hours total 200 man hours. A total of 9,260 man hours were spent on drill tower and outside evolution drill. Inside drills totaled 200 man hours. Men of the Greensboro department attending the following schools: Fire Department Instructors' Conference, at Memphis, Tennessee; University of Purdue, (arson) at LaFayette, Indiana; North Carolina State Fire College and Pump School; Philadelphia Fire School; and the New Haven Fire School, New Haven, Connecticut. Chief Wyrick attended the training conference at Stillwater, Oklahoma A. & M. revising the Fire Service and Training Manual. Chief Wyrick was elected Vice President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association. This election of Chief Wyrick should bring the presidency back to North Carolina in two years. Congratulations "Moon."

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES: Chief Brown says that the firemen's training in Winston-Salem was stepped up considerably in 1953. The firemen trained in the various fire evolutions 15,357 man hours during 1953, with 130 firemen going through the training evolution. This was an increase of 3,996 hours over the year 1952. During April of this year a special training course for probationary firemen was held and proved to be very successful, Chief Brown stated. He was highly pleased with this probationary training. Chief Brown adds, "We feel that a Business Fire Prevention Campaign helped reduce major fires from three to one during 1953 in Winston-Salem." A Hospital Fire Safety Program was organized in their three major hospitals. They erected a 6 by 9-foot "Stop Fires" red neon sign for Fire Prevention week and it is now in operation the year round on the Court House square. During the past eight months Chief Brown says the Fire Prevention Bureau put on 13 television programs featuring fire prevention. The Winston-Salem Junior Chamber of Commerce paid respect to the city fire department in October 1953 by selecting Posey E. Lawson "Fireman of the Year," and they are making this an annual project. Winston-Salem fire loss for 1953 was \$219,442. They had one major fire of \$40,000. Chief Brown says leading causes for his 1213 alarms answered in 1953 were: First, carelessness in smoking; second, defective heating equipment; and third, defective wiring. The firemen at Christmas 1953 played Santa Claus with presents and Christmas carols for crippled children.

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles and his firemen entertained royally the 25th Annual Fire College on May 25, 26, 27, 28, 1953 and the 26th Annual Fire College on May 3, 4, 5, 6 of this year. Both of these schools were considered two of the best ones the association ever held. The one this year was the largest ever in attendance. Director Charley Burkett, his staff, Donald Charles, and firemen have been receiving high praise all over the state where your statistician has visited for the swell job they did. Donald Charles and his firemen entertained the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's Pump School September 28, 29, 30, 1953. Director Chief Charley L. Burkett and his staff had 143 persons in attendance and put the 125 firemen through the pump courses in a highly efficient manner and were praised by all who attended. There were 24 firemen from South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia who took the pump course. Donald Charles, President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association was host to their 26th Annual Conference in Charlotte June 7-10, 1953. The Charlotte fire department under G. H. Beckham, Director Training and Personnel, gave the regular basic training course to 12 new firemen in 1953. The Director of Training attended the Fire Department Instructors' Conference held in Memphis. Charlotte has three state appointed instructors on the Fire College and Pump School. A two weeks school was held at No. 5 station. The department members aided at

each and every opportunity through training and instructions, the 15 volunteer fire departments that surround the city. Director Walter Black has appeared before many schools, churches, and civic organizations during the year to better relations between the general public and the fire department. Joe F. Morris, Director Fire Prevention Bureau, reports that his department made 9,215 inspections in 1953. His department put on quite a number of radio and television fire prevention programs during the year. The Charlotte fire department had a total of 2,750 alarms for 1953 with 454 of them false alarms. You can see by these as our smaller cities.

figures that our state's largest city has the false alarm headache as well

HOTEL AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: There were just two less hotel fires in 1953 than there were in 1952, but a big drop in damage. In 1952 the 27 hotel fires caused a loss of \$11,902.78 while the 25 fires in 1953 caused a loss of only \$4,950.50, a decrease of \$6,952.28. Smokers caused 19 of these fire. The list follows:

Sigman Hotel \$100, Asheville; Martin Hotel \$600, Blowing Rock; Selwyn Hotel \$325, Hotel Charlotte \$350, Willard Hotel \$244, Hotel Charlotte \$400, Chester Hotel \$15, Hotel Charlotte \$100, all of Charlotte; LaFayette Hotel \$10, LaFayette Hotel \$10 of Fayetteville; Greensboro Hotel \$32.50, Gate City Hotel \$15, Clegg Hotel \$30, O. Henry Hotel \$50, Greensboro Hotel \$40, Clegg Hotel \$35, Greensboro Hotel \$35, Greensboro Hotel \$25, Gate City Hotel \$15, Greensboro Hotel \$27.50, Lennox Hotel \$601, Clegg Hotel \$180, these 12 of Greensboro; Elwood Hotel \$1,620 at High Point; McAlpin Hotel \$50 at Raleigh; and Hotel Charles \$30.50 at Shelby.

Apartment house fires reported dropped from 142 in 1952 to 127 for the year 1953. It is a pleasure to note decreases in numbers of fires and amount of damage.

The three reported hospital fires were: Memorial Hospital at Charlotte caused by lightning—damage \$15,676; Parrots Hospital at Kinston—defective wiring \$50; and at Mount Airy the Martin Memorial Hospital—cause unknown—loss \$291,000.

During 1953 there were 12 church fires with a combined loss of \$49,840. The range in damage being from \$88 to \$23,500 in the individual fires.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF \$20,000 AND OVER: The number of fires causing loss of \$20,000 and over increased from 33 in 1952 to 51 in 1953. The total loss for these 51 fires was \$9,210,423—an increase of \$6,246,333 from the \$2,964,090 loss for 1952. The greatest loss in any one fire in this group was the waterwront fire in Wilmington with a loss of \$6,000,000—cause unknown.

These 51 fires are listed:

Asheville—Asheville Furniture Co., \$25,822.75.

Carolina Beach—A. S. Causey Apartments, \$23,300.

Carrboro—Golston Lumber Co., \$54,258.
 Charlotte—Picker X-ray Corporation, \$28,841.23; Perfection Stove Co., Friece's Garage, Floyd's Glass Co., Grice's Florist, Brook's Litho Co., combined \$30,037; home on Moore's Chapel Road, \$24,000; B. & S. Motor Lines, \$21,391; Boyle Utilization Co., \$28,528; Interstate Granite Corporation, \$80,000.
 Clayton—E. W. Ellis & Co., \$65,000.
 Concord—Cabarrus Theatre, \$25,000.
 Conway—Woodard Motor Co., \$45,000.
 Durham—Sid Rancer Staple Storage Warehouse \$20,000; Carolina Surgical Supply Co., \$31,385.
 Fairmont—A. N. Mitchell cotton warehouse, \$25,500.
 Farmville—R. A. Fountain tobacco storage, \$35,000.
 Fayetteville—Highland Lumber Co., \$31,100.
 Gastonia—Kennedy's Drug Store, \$64,000; Mauney Distributing Company, \$25,350.
 Goldsboro—Dillon Bell Implement Co. and Dillon Supply Co., \$275,000.
 Greensboro—A and T College, \$22,579; Grain-O Feed Mill, \$90,000; Kennedy Shoe Co., \$90,524; exposure (Robinson's Dept. Store), \$31,152; Montgomery Ward Co., \$17,000; National Bellas Hess Co., \$2,000; Mayo's Clothing Co., \$1,000; Johnson and Aulbert's Clothing Co., \$250; Industrial Insulating Co., \$49,551; Prago Guyes Co., \$92,824.
 Greenville—N. C. Van Norwick Lumber Yard, \$60,571.
 Henderson—Watkins & Cydnor, Inc., \$135,000; R. E. Satterwhite Furniture Store, \$48,000.
 Hendersonville—Belk-Simpson Co., \$124,000.
 Hickory—Hickory Flour and Feed Mill, \$127,000.
 Hobgood—J. C. Johnson Cleaning Mill and Cotton Gin, \$35,000; James Sherrod's home, \$20,000; Hope Letggett's home, \$23,000.
 LaGrange—Hardy & Newsom, \$40,000.
 Morganton—C. D. Hamilton's residence, \$40,000.
 Mount Airy—Martin Memorial Hospital, \$291,000.
 Raleigh—Shaw University, \$35,450; McBride Albright Knitting Mill, \$23,000.
 Roanoke Rapids—Roanoke Mill Co., \$60,000.
 Sanford—Puckett & W. M. McLlum tobacco warehouse, \$160,000.
 Statesville—Rochlin Veneer Co., \$415,000.
 Tarboro—Drug Store, Dry Cleaning Est. and Radio Shop, \$30,500.
 Thomasville—S. F. McMillan & Co., Mfg., \$48,000.
 Valdese—Frederick Auto Store, \$29,500.
 Warsaw—Warsaw Flour & Feed Mill, \$40,000.
 Wilmington—Waterwront fire, \$6,000,000.
 Winston-Salem—Johnson & Cotton Mfg. Co., \$71,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES FOR 1953: Again this year in going over all of the reports sent to the Insurance Commissioner by your fire chiefs

I have listed some of the unusual fires, also a list of fires in which one or more citizens lost their lives:

Store burned by two boys, both serving prison terms. Boys say owner hired them to burn store. Case pending against owner—damage \$6,200.

Drop cord nailed to wood ceiling—damage \$1,600.

Pennies used for fuse plug—damage \$1,750.

Electric hotplate on bed cooking—\$35 damage.

Hot ashes against wall of bottling plant—damage more than \$18,000.

Dwelling—unable to determine where or how fire started, three people burned to death, Mrs. Judges, a 3-year-old child, and a 6-month-old baby.

Completed painting interior house—no one at home—suspected combustion from paint rags \$6,000 damage.

Roy Fuller, age 17, admitted setting fire to a 4-room residence—held in jail under \$5,000 bond.

Leslie G. Brown, age 10, Howard Westmoreland, age 9, admitted setting fire to apartment—damage \$500. Handled by juvenile court.

James Edgar Owens, age 11, turned over to juvenile officer for setting fire to a dwelling \$95 damage.

Persons believed to be involved in West St. Gro fire \$200, Queen City Cleaners \$500, have been apprehended and are awaiting trial.

Cleaning show window with paint remover, struck match—\$270 damage.

Stove exploded in whiskey still in shed at rear of house—\$200 damage.

James Penland burned to death—apparent cause of fire, smoking in bed.

Dr. W. H. Moseley burned to death—probable cause of fire—cigarette. Haywood Johnson and Lee Thomas burned to death. Probable cause, oil fire, property damage \$2,229.

Clayton—Eight Negroes in one small two-room house must have been a party. Fatalities: one Negro man, one Negro woman, and two children. One Negro man severely burned, one Negro woman and two children escaped unhurt.

Cook stove in building probably left on—loss \$15,000.

Store burglarized and set on fire by drunken burglar.

Two children burned to death—apparent cause overheated heater. Man smoking in bed at Lennox Hotel was convicted and had to pay \$600 damages plus court costs.

Penny behind fuse—icebox caught on fire setting wall ablaze—damage \$546.

Draining gas tank on car into buckets, gasoline caught fire from undetermined cause—damage \$1,400.

Welding torch caught spilled gasoline on fire—damage \$50.

Man smoking in bed caught fire, burned to death—property dam-

age \$4,200.

Cleaning floor with gasoline—caught fire from heating stove, \$1,500 damage.

Filling tank while motor was running \$100 damage.

Four buildings and two automobiles caught fire from children playing with matches.

Smudgepot stove fire—\$6,000 loss.

Bread left in oven—child turned stove on—damage \$100.

Hauling gas in car container turned over—loss \$750—probable cause, pure carelessness.

Carelessness—Termite men treated house in attic, set building on fire accidentally, from information we received. Men left house as soon as fire started. As yet have not been able to locate them—total loss \$4,500.

One died from burns from unknown fire—\$600 property loss.

Sparks from railroad car damage to car \$10,200.

John Litchfield started fire smoking in bed and was burned to death—neighbors reported he had set mattress on fire several times before.

Two colored children burned to death—cause unknown—property loss \$2,000.

Sara Marshburn, colored, age 81 years, suffocated—defective wiring cause—property loss \$850.

Herbert L. Moses set mattress afire by smoking. Was dead when firemen arrived—property loss \$1,700.

Clarence Love apparently set his house on fire and then committed suicide—property loss \$1,800.

Careless use of acetylene torch caused damage to one manufacturing company in the amount of \$71,000 and damaged adjoining building \$2,000.

Carrying gasoline in open buckets while smoking—gas caught fire, set fire to garage—\$938 loss.

Carelessness—Oil stove—Mozelle Bobbitt burned causing her death.

Family moved into house in cold weather—put up a stove—flue went through the ceiling but not through the roof.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health reports 26 deaths in 1953 of personnel in military aircraft. This was one more than 1952. There were 27 deaths other than unspecified aircraft accidents, which was 14 more deaths from this cause. In 1952 the bureau listed 60 occupants of other aircraft and there were none for last year. The total deaths from aircraft was 55 for 1953 and 44 in 1952 which is 11 more. There was no occupant of commercial transport aircraft who lost his life in North Carolina in 1953.

FATAL OIL TRUCK AND TANKER ACCIDENTS: The Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles has again furnished me with reports on oil truck and tanker accidents covering July 1953 through June 1954, on the streets and highways of North Carolina. There were 6 fatal accidents which was 7 less than 1952 with two on city streets and four on highways. Wilmington and Hendersonville were the cities and the highways were U. S. 1, U. S. 17, U. S. 421, and N. C. 68. There were seven people who lost their lives in the six accidents. This was eight less lives lost than in 1952-1953. There was only one person injured in 1953-1954 which was four less than the year before. Only two out of the six accidents burned. For the past number of years there has been a constant decrease in these oil and tanker accidents with fewer deaths and injured persons.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director of Division of Insurance State Board of Education, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, furnished me with the following information on school fires in North Carolina for the year 1953-1954. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 92 of the 172 administrative units of North Carolina. He could only give me information on the 92 units and his department does not have any records concerning the units not participating in this program. For the fiscal year 1953-1954 his division had 40 different school fire losses. These 40 school fires totaled a loss of \$250,812, this was \$96,259 less loss than the preceding year. There were also two less fires in these administrative units. The fire chiefs of North Carolina reported 15 school fires in protected cities and towns for 1953 with a total loss of \$162,936. This total loss is \$133,318 less than 1952 or a 55% decrease. The schools of North Carolina have been blessed for the past year with a small loss from the Fire Demon, and no doubt the Fire Prevention programs conducted by you firemen in the schools have been an important factor in holding the school fires to a minimum. There was no loss of life reported in the 55 school fires for 1953.

NEW MEMBERSHIP IN OUR ASSOCIATION: The following towns and urban fire departments have joined the State Association from July 1953 to June 1954. The membership of the association now has a total of 279 cities, towns and urban fire departments with a total of 8,825 members. Our association has been growing in leaps and bounds for the past ten years. The new members are: Bayboro, Booneville, Beaulaville, Calypso, Clyde, Faith, Hudson, Mineral Springs, Mt. Tabor, City View, Lewisville, Forest Hill, Griffith, South Fork, Clemmons, Walkertown, and Denton.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The officers of the Fire Chiefs' Association elected at Carolina Beach for 1953-54 were Charles L. Burkett, president, Salisbury; C. E. Morris, vice president, Albemarle; Miller I. Warren, secretary, Plymouth; Ralph E. Marbry, treasurer, Badin; district vice presidents: No. 1, J. S.

Gray, Kinston; No. 2, R. C. Fortune, Burlington; No. 3, H. B. Fowler, Southern Pines; No. 4, J. N. Mundy, Charlotte; and No. 5 W. B. Cope, Sylvia.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: Twenty-seven causes produced fires which were reported for 1953, six of which accounted for 1910 fires or more than 72 per cent of the total 2645. These six were: Carelessness—171; gas, oil stoves and heaters—265; defective flues, chimneys, furnaces—302, exactly double the number in 1952; defective wiring—303; cigarettes and careless smoking in bed—313; and 556 unknown. All increased except gas, oil stoves and heaters which dropped five below 1952.

TOTAL FIRES REPORTED: More than 35 towns made no reports for 1953. It is presumed they had no fire loss but I have no authority to place them on the roll of honor without their having notified the Insurance Commissioner's office. There were 2645 fires reported for 1953 which was an increase of 426 over last year, but that is accounted for by the increase of 30 more towns reporting than did in 1952.

TOWNS AND CITIES REPORTING FIRES: Each year a few more fire chiefs make their reports to the Insurance Commissioner's office which enables me to bring you more nearly accurate figures on the number and causes of fires. To date 166 chiefs have sent in from one to several hundred reports each for 1953. This number is 30 greater than reported in 1952. Let us hope that reports for 1954 will be filled in and sent to Mr. Gold on time each month so that the records may be kept accurate and up-to-date.

HONOR ROLL—NO FIRES FOR 1953: There were 15 cities and towns reporting no fires for the year 1953. Chief Charles Cochrane, Star, North Carolina, reports they have had NO FIRE LOSS since October 1951. Biscoe, Bryson City, Cherryville, Davidson, Elizabethtown, Fountain, Lillington, Mars Hill, Pink Hill, Rockwell, Roseboro, Smithfield, Wendell, West Jefferson, and Wilkesboro had no loss for 1953. I extend my congratulations to these cities and towns.

CITIES AND TOWNS HAVING NO LOSS OVER \$25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: There were 80 cities and towns having several months with no fire loss over \$25 for the year 1953. There were, no doubt, several others that could be listed along with these and some with the Honor Roll list had they only made out their reports required by law. Or they could have sent to the Insurance Commissioner or your statistician a postal card saying, "We have no fires for the month or year." I am sorry to inform you there were 35 cities and towns which made no reports of any kind to your Insurance Commissioner. The following cities and towns' Fire Prevention programs no doubt were a factor in their being able to report no fires from one to 11 months.

I say congratulations and also thanks for your giving me these reports so that I could list your town:

Ahoskie, Benson, Bessemer, Burnsville, China Grove, Claremont, Clyde, Colerain, Conover, Dunn, East Spencer, Elm City, Fuquay Springs, Granite Quarry, Halifax, Hot Springs, Linville, Lowell, Marshall, Mocksville, Pikeville, Pine Bluff, Red Springs, Reidsville, Rich Square, Severn, Spencer, Swansboro, Troy, Vass, and Weaverville each had 11 months. Carthage, Clarkton, Fairmont, Faison, Jamestown, Littleton, Louisburg, Robersonville, Southport, St. Pauls, Tryon, and Wrightsville Beach 10 months each. Conway, Cornelius, Dobson, Hendersonville, Southern Pines, Spindale, Troutman, Williamston, and Windsor each had 9 months. Aberdeen, Cramerton, Gibsonville, Mooresville, Wadesboro, Washington, and Woodlawn had 8 months each. Erwin, Hamlet, Henderson, Roanoke Rapids, and Valdese 7 months. Enka, Graham, Oxford, Rutherfordton and Spray each had 6 months. Morehead City and Winterville each had 5 months. Monroe, Newport, and Salisbury 4 each. Asheboro, Kings Mountain, New Bern, and Tarboro 3 months. Rocky Mount had one month without loss.

Before closing my report to the sixty-seventh annual convention of the North Carolina Firemen's Association here assembled in our grand host city, the Chesterfield City of Durham, I wish to express my appreciation to the following people who have furnished information for my report: Our new Insurance Commissioner, Charles F. Gold; Everett B. Jones, Deputy Fire Marshall; the Highway Safety Division; Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics North Carolina State Board of Health; Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States; Richard E. Stevens, Engineer National Fire Protection Association; Chief Donald S. Charles, Past President Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs; Charles S. Burkett, President North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs; and Thomas B. Winborne, Director Division of Insurance, State Board of Education.

In closing my report let me say, Mr. President and Fellow Firemen, it has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve our association to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, *Statistician*

Motion that the report of the Statistician be accepted. Motion seconded, carried and so ordered.

PRESIDENT COX:

You heard Ed Johnson give his report and recommendations as chairman of the committee to prepare a memorial for Sherwood Brockwell. They gave you the report and recommendation, but no action was taken. I think at this time it would be proper procedure to get your ap-