

necessary to get your approval of the printed Minutes of the 1954 convention.

Motion that the reports be approved and accepted. The motion was seconded, carried and so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Albert Brinson, Statistician:

ALBERT BRINSON:

First I would like to say on behalf of the New Bern Fire Department that we are very happy to have you with us. I am sorry that in the past years when we wanted to invite this convention back to New Bern that we were not able to do so due to the fact that we did not have the facilities to accommodate you. Having Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point so near to New Bern all the rooms were taken and it was impossible to take care of you. However at this time we did our best to get rooms for every one and we hope that you are well taken care of.

I would like at this time to give my report as Statistician.

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

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

It is indeed a great privilege and pleasure to submit to you my report of statistics and fire happenings in the fire service of North Carolina for the year 1954. Another milestone has passed since we enjoyed being guests in the "Bull City" of Durham of your friends and mine, Chief Cosmo L. Cox, and his entire fire department personnel.

You are here assembled attending the sixty-eighth annual convention in the friendly, historic old city of New Bern, the second oldest city in North Carolina and the First Capitol. Here in New Bern the seventh convention and tournament were held in 1894. In 1910 New Bern's bicentennial year, the convention was again held here. That year there was no contest or tournament. New Bern also was host to the convention in the years of 1915, 1928, and 1938. We New Bernians are proud of the records our forefathers made in quick steaming and hose wagon contests with the same steamers and hose wagons you are seeing here on display in our newly created Fire Museum, located to the rear of Central Fire Station. In 1908 the two New Bern companies, Atlantic and Button tied for the Hose Wagon Contest. In 1911 the two companies won the top prizes. In subsequent years of 1912, 1913, 1914 the New Bern teams won top honors and in 1916, the last year of horse races, the Atlantic and Button Companies established the never to be broken record of 29 seconds. New Bern won first prizes in quick steaming in 1908, 1909, and 1911. In 1911 at the contest held in Asheville the Button Company established the world's record for

quick steaming in the time of 2 minutes and 3 seconds. These winning records are in the permanent records of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

So much for the long past history of our two fire companies. The citizens and firemen of New Bern are proud of our three modern stations, our Volunteer Fire Departments, and are especially honored in being your host for the sixty-eighth annual convention.

IN MEMORIAM: Jerome Bell Flora died December 5, 1954. Flora was born June 4, 1890 in Elizabeth City, graduated from Elizabeth City high school, attended Bingham School at Asheville, and Strayer Business College in Baltimore. He volunteered for service in the army during World War I and spent most of his time overseas. When the war was over he returned home and entered the wholesale grocery business with his father who operated the J. B. Flora and Company, and remained there until 1929 when he was named city manager.

Jerome joined the Elizabeth City Volunteer Fire Department in 1911 and in June 1915 he was named chief, a position he held for 34 years. He was elected mayor of the city in June 1927 and served continuously for 20 years. He served as city manager from 1929 until 1947, a period of 18 years. For the next two years he held no municipal position but was again named city manager in 1949 and served until 1953 when due to declining health he could no longer devote his full time to the job, he was named assistant city manager, a post he held at the time of his death.

He was one of North Carolina's leaders in the North Carolina League of Municipalities and was the only president of that organization named to succeed himself. He also served as director and member of the legislative committee of that organization for many years. He worked with the late W. O. Saunders in establishment of the pageant of Roanoke which was the beginning of Paul Green's Lost Colony. He also assisted in the establishment of the Wright Memorial. He was known as an historian, as far as Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City are concerned.

Jerome Flora was one of the most outstanding workers in the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. He was a member of the Association for 43 years and active up to only a few years before his death. Jerome was elected Vice President in 1936, elevated to President in 1937 and reelected in 1938. In the passing of Jerome B. Flora the Association lost a valued member and a friend to every fireman.

IN MEMORIAM: Claude Turner, retired fire Captain died last month at the age of 81 years, at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Durham. Captain Turner was drill master for the Durham Fire Department for many years, relinquishing this duty in 1937 to Cosmo L. Cox, the department's present Chief and President of

our Association. "Captain Turner was more or less the dean of the fire department for a long time, and was respected by his fellow firemen," Chief Cox said. He served with the Durham Fire Department for 53 years, retiring six years ago. He was highly respected for his fire fighting knowledge by our deceased president, Frank Bennett, under whom he worked for many years.

IN MEMORIAM: Assistant Fire Chief James McGee (Mack) Mundy died on March 8, 1955. The sound of a siren heralded the death of Assistant Fire Chief Mundy whose body was found slumped under the wheel of a fire department automobile. Chief Mundy was on his way to headquarters station after supper at home. He apparently suffered a heart attack, and sounded his fire siren in an attempt to attract attention when he realized that something was happening to him. Chief Mundy joined the fire department in December 1924 and in his 30 years fire service had worked himself up from the ranks. He was successively promoted to lieutenant, to captain, and to second assistant fire chief in 1948. At one time he was drill master of the department and later was an instructor at the annual sessions of the North Carolina Fire College and Drill School, of which he was an earlier graduate. During World War II he volunteered for military service and was commissioned a first lieutenant of ordnance. Later he assisted in the organization of the army's fire fighting services and served at various camps and was stationed at Texarkana, Texas, at New Orleans, and Ft. Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. The Charlotte Fire Department lost a valued man in the death of Mack. Every fireman who took training under him at the North Carolina Fire College and Pump Schools gained much from his instructions and knowledge of fire fighting. All who knew him loved him for his Christian character and kindness.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1954: The National Fire Protection Association of Boston, sponsor, is a non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire. The purpose of the Fire Prevention Week Contest among municipalities is to encourage a more universal observance of Fire Prevention Week as a springboard for year-around fire prevention programs. In addition, it stimulates and provides recognition of outstanding fire prevention efforts among North American industrial and governmental facilities.

Greensboro North Carolina won sixth place in Grand Award competition in the entire United States. There were 339 competing in the Grand Award and Greensboro was only excelled by Louisville, Philadelphia, Hartford, Memphis, and Chicago. "Moon" to you and your firemen we say we are proud of you.

UNITED STATES POPULATION CLASS WINNER MUNICIPAL DIVISION: Greensboro was first in the nation Class IV (population 50,000 to 99,000) with Anderson, Indiana second and Springfield, Missouri third. Greensboro was first in North Carolina, winning under the United States Communities with Fayetteville second, and Winston-Salem third. Rocky Mount and High Point were given honorable mention. Fort Bragg was third in competing in the Grand Award competition in the Government Division, only exceeded by Anniston, Alabama Ordnance Depot and Fort Lewis, Wash. There was stiff competition from 99 competing in the Grand Award. We are proud of our Fort Bragg at Fayetteville.

SALISBURY: Chief Charles L. Burkett, his firemen, and city did not enter any of the contests last year. We cannot forget to mention Charley and his firemen as they have established quite a record in their past winnings. They have won a total of twenty-three National Awards and my hat is off to them.

INTER-CHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST 1954: The grand award for 1954 was won by Providence, R. I. Awards to winners in the six population classes will be made to Cincinnati, Ohio, winner Class I; Dayton, Ohio, Class II; Allentown, Pennsylvania, Class III; Schenectady, New York, Class IV; Walla Walla, Washington, Class V; Port Angeles, Washington, Class VI. Winston-Salem, North Carolina won an Honor Certificate in Class IV—population 50,000 to 100,000. The winners of the 1954 Contest was selected from 425 entered cities and 157 contestants in the final judging. The National Chamber was organized 33 years ago. All year activity by local fire prevention committees makes up the work of the Council and participants in the annual contest are adjudged upon by fire loss records, quality of fire fighting facilities, and the community educational programs, Winston-Salem Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Brown, now retired, helped the Twin City Sentinel win an honor award from the National Board of Fire Underwriters third place in North Carolina in the Fire Prevention Week Contest.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health advises me of 20 deaths in 1954 of personnel in military aircraft. This was six less than 1953. There were 19 deaths other than unspecified aircraft accidents, which was 19 less deaths than in the year 1953. The total deaths from airplane accidents for the year 1954 was 39, this was 16 less deaths than 1953 when there were 55 deaths. The Bureau further reports that there were no deaths from commercial transport aircraft during the year of 1954. There is no way I can ascertain how many of these aircraft deaths

were involved in fires. The low mortality of plane accidents is surely an indication that travel by air is becoming safer as time goes on.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS IN LIFE AND PROPERTY: Mr. Charles T. Houston, Assistant Manager Insurance Department Chamber of Commerce of the United States informs me that the National Fire Protection Association estimated earlier this year that fire caused about 12,550 deaths in the United States and Canada during 1954, of these 12,100 were estimated to have occurred within the United States. If the National Fire Protection Association has revised these figures I have not learned of it. These estimated figures mean that the Fire Demon has taken the lives of more than 1045 men, women, and children every month for 1954. Our best and surest way to reduce this loss of lives is—practice more fire protection.

The United States fire loss in property for the year 1954 was true to form showing a steady increase beginning with 1950. Mr. Houston writes me that he has received a recent estimate, from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, of the estimated fire loss for 1954 of \$870,984,000 covering burning buildings and contents. This is \$6,121,000 increase over the 1953 loss of \$864,863,000. Mr. Richard E. Stevens, Engineer of the National Fire Protection Association advises me that their preliminary estimate of fire losses for 1954 is \$1,011,000,000. Included in this estimate is \$853,500,000 damage to building and contents, and \$157,500,000 loss in aircraft, motor vehicles, forest and other fires not involving buildings. We must take into account that values have steadily increased and naturally we must not overlook the fact that we still have carelessness which accounts for by far the greater percentage of our losses.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION PUMP SCHOOL: The third pump school was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on September 20, 21, 22, 1954. The attendance of the school was about the same as last year with 145 interested in pump operations. There were 52 taking studies in the first year course, and 57 in the second year course, 18 observers attending some classes, 10 manufacturer's representatives, and 8 Directory-Conductors and Faculty. The pump operators reported they were greatly benefitted in pumping knowledge.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 27th Annual Fire College and Pump School was held at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School, May 23, 24, 25, 26, 1955. President Cosmo L. Cox opened the school officially following a welcoming address by Chief Donald S. Charles. Chief Cox then turned the school over to Director Chief Charles S. Burkett. Chief Burkett and Chief

Charles reported one of the largest attended and one of the best schools we ever had. There were 41 visitors registered, 13 people appeared on the program other than the instructors, 14 representatives of manufacturers, and 11 instructors. The total attendance was 432 with 94 North Carolina, 9 South Carolina, and 1 Georgia departments represented. This was 54 more in attendance than in 1954.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The officers of the Fire Chiefs' Association elected at the annual meeting of the association held in Durham were I. Miller Warren, President, Plymouth; C. E. Morris, Vice President, Albemarle; Claude S. Canady, High Point, Ralph E. Marbry, Badin, district Vice Presidents; No. 1, J. S. Gray, Kinston; No. 2, J. B. Keeter, Raleigh; No. 3, H. B. Fowler, Southern Pines; No. 4, J. M. Mundy, Charlotte; and No. 5, W. B. Cope, Sylva.

The membership for 1954 was 150 regular members, 2 associate members, 7 life-time members, and 3 honorary members. There were several district meetings held during the past year and many problems discussed and solutions reached.

As President Warren stated there was some progress made in the Fire Chiefs' Association. He is anxious to see every fire chief in North Carolina become an active member of the organization.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL TRAINING: Chief Wyrick continued his Annual Advanced Training Course for officers and firemen in 1954. During the year a total of 7370 man hours were spent training and improving efficiency of the department operational forces. Tower training and outside evolutions took up 2800 hours, probationary firemen training took 120 hours, and pump operation training 1400 hours. A refresher course in First Aid was given all members in order to keep their 100% record in good standing. A check of the high value district was begun by individual companies to familiarize all members with the buildings in case of an emergency. Members checking kept in contact with their company by walkie-talkie radios which were added to the equipment in 1954. An additional training program for Auxiliary Firemen was started in conjunction with the Civil Defense Office. Seven hundred fifty man hours were spent in this training and graduates were assigned to serve one night a week with regular fighting firemen. Moon says as far as he can ascertain this is the only unit in the state.

Members of the Greensboro department attended the Fire Department Instructors' Conference in Memphis, Tenn., University of Purdue Arson Seminar, and North Carolina Fire College and Pump School. A new book of Rules, Regulations, and Procedures was written and has been adopted by the city manager, the first since 1926. Greensboro has under construction a new training area, tower,

classroom and garage which should be completed in early 1956. There were 5,593 inspections made by the Fire Prevention Bureau, 14 arrests were made with 10 convictions for various causes of unlawful burning, 152 radio talks and 121 lectures on fire prevention were given before 34,091 persons of all ages and organizations.

CHIEF C. W. "MOON" WYRICK HONORED: "Moon" was elected Vice President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association in 1954 and this year he was elected 1st Vice President of the Southeastern. No doubt he will be advanced in 1956 to the Presidency of that great Fire Chiefs' Association. "Moon" I say again, congratulations!

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director of Division of Insurance State Board of Education, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne was kind enough to again furnish me with the following information on school fires in North Carolina for the year 1954-1955. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on administrative units in 64 of the 100 counties and 32 cities in North Carolina. The Division of Insurance is carrying insurance on 96 of the 172 administrative units of North Carolina. His department does not have any records concerning the units not participating in this state program. For the fiscal year 1954-1955 his division paid losses on 105 school units. This amazing number of school losses was 65 more than that of the preceding year, or an increase of 162 1/4 %. The paid losses on the 105 city and county units represented actually 474 school buildings. Now the "Believe It or Not," is that Hurricane Hazel caused losses to 410 of the 474 school buildings that were listed as paid losses by fires and extended coverage in the amount of \$117,151.60. Hurricane Hazel alone on her one day rampage through North Carolina caused damage to the state school buildings covered by the Division of Insurance, State Board of Education amounting to 33 1/3 % of the entire loss paid by the Division of Insurance. Now we can see one reason in dollars why the papers were giving us those headline stories.

The fire chiefs of North Carolina reported to the Insurance Commissioner 17 school fires for the year 1954 with a total estimated loss of \$240,607. These 17 fires added to the 64 non Hurricane Hazel fires make 81 school fires with a combined total loss of \$419,554. In adding the extended coverage paid by the Division of Insurance of \$161,872 makes a loss to our school system of \$581,426 which does not include losses of schools not insured by the State Board of Education.

Mr. Winborne further advises your statistician that there were no casualties or deaths among the school children of North Carolina caused by fires in our public schools for the 1954-1955 period. No doubt you firemen are greatly responsible for this achievement, along with the school authorities and teachers. I am thankful to

the Supreme Being that in making my fifteen statistical reports I have not had to list the death of a school child by fire in this great state of ours.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: In 1954 there were 35 main causes of fires, five of which accounted for 1723 or more than 66 per cent of the total 2602 fires. In ascending scale these were: Defective flues, chimneys, and furnaces 200; defective wiring 245; careless smoking, cigarettes, smoking in bed 287; gas, oil stoves, heaters, furnaces 302; and unknown 689. Defective chimneys and flues dropped 102 below that for 1953 defective wiring came down 58, smoking and cigarettes caused 26 less fires in 1954 than in 1953, and unknown soared 133 fires ahead of the 1953 total of 556.

HOTEL, GUEST HOUSE, AND APARTMENT HOUSE FIRES: There was a marked decrease in the number of hotel fires in 1954—14 as against 25 for 1953, however, the amount of damage was more than 3 times as much as the 1953 damage. These 14 hotel fires totaled an estimated \$15,507 loss, \$13,000 of which was the Morris Brown Guest House of Asheville.

The apartment fires increased in number from 127 in 1953 to 140 in 1954 with light damage in the most of them.

There was only one reported hospital fire—The Albemarle Hospital at Elizabeth City with a loss of \$25.

More churches suffered fire loss last year—18, which is 6 more than there were for 1953, but the estimated damage of \$49,439 was \$401 less than for the previous year.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF \$20,000 AND OVER. There was an increase of 18 fires in the \$20,000 and over bracket, but a great decrease in the estimated loss. This drop from \$9,210,423 for 1953 to \$5,436,965 for 1954 resulted from there being no one great fire like the waterfront one at Wilmington in 1953 with an estimated loss of \$6,000,000.

Below is given an alphabetic list of the towns, cities, and rural areas suffering large fires last year.

Aberdeen—Mrs. H. A. Page, Sr., dwelling (unoccupied) \$50,000.

Asheville—I. X. L. Pearlman's Furniture Store, \$62,092; Bon Marche Store, \$29,500.

Ayden—Carolina Milling Co., \$50,000.

Blowing Rock—Mrs. M. B. Terrell (owner of house) \$21,000.

Burlington—Gaines Winningham Grocery Store, \$25,000.

Carolina Beach—R. G. Mason's home, \$21,000.

Charlotte—Publix Cafe, Mullis Barber Shop, \$20,050; Bryan-Wentz Co., \$55,135; Interstate Office Supply Co., H. J.

Withers Mfg. Co., M. Foldfarb, \$50,300

Cornelius—Workshop and Storage Building, \$20,000.

Davidson County—Furniture Mfg. Plant, \$30,000; Grubb Motor Lines, Inc., \$60,000; Recreation House, \$55,000.
 Dobson—Garage and Repair Shop, \$27,700.
 Dun—Matthews Cotton Gin Co., Inc., \$500,000.
 Durham—Radio Electric Co., Stores, Apartments, \$21,000; Dr. W. M. Watkin's home, \$23,500.
 East Spencer—Atlantic Ice & Fuel Co., \$35,000.
 Elizabeth City—Barr Bros. Jewelry Store, \$33,000; Singer Sewing Machine Co., \$52,000; R. C. Abbott Co., \$29,400.
 Fair Bluff—Ellis Meares and Son, \$30,500.
 Fairmont—Standard Plywood Corp., \$220,000.
 Gastonia—White Way Laundry, \$24,000.
 Goldsboro—First Free Will Baptist Church, \$22,000; Edward-Jernigan Furniture Co., Rose Furniture Co., \$105,000.
 Greensboro—Davis Tire Company, \$28,500; Ralph's Food Palace, \$119,217; Krigman's Furriers, Inc., \$37,139.
 Greenville—S. T. Stafford's home, \$43,456.
 Guilford—Tire Recapping Co., \$141,000.
 Hazelwood—Store and Dwelling, \$25,000.
 Henderson—F. W. Woolworth Co., 5 & 10c Store, \$207,238.
 Hendersonville—Michaelian & Kohlbert, Inc., \$20,000.
 Hickory—City warehouse and motor equipment storage, \$19,945.
 High Point—Peerless Veneer Co., \$160,000; Spaugh Paper Co., \$129,838; Matt Wall's home, \$34,000; Snow Lumber Co., \$282,869; B.&W. Upholstery, Monarch Furniture Co., High Point Lumber Core Co., Allred Metal Stamping, V. P. Carrick, and Roy Carr, \$188,156; Jiffy Manufacturing Co., \$27,691.
 Jamestown—Oakdale Cotton Mills, \$86,000.
 Kinston—Hines Bros. Lumber Co., \$50,000.
 Laurinburg—Bonded Cotton Co., \$31,000.
 Leaksville—Offices and 5 & 10c Store, \$20,000.
 Lenoir—Ballew Drug Store, Beauty Parlor, Barber Shop, \$36,350.
 Liberty—A.&M. Cafe, Jack's Grocery, Kivett Auto Service, \$75,000.
 Maxton—Maxton Supply Co., \$48,000.
 Mebane—Farmers' Warehouse, \$54,000.
 Morven—Hardison Bros. Co., Inc., \$34,080.
 New Bern—Baugh & Sons Fertilizer Co., Montgomery Ward Co., \$253,597.
 North Wilkesboro—Oak Furniture Co., \$47,500.
 Pembroke—John R. Lowery & Son Store, \$20,000.
 Raleigh—Honeycutts Produce, \$94,550.
 Richlands—Auto Agency, Westinghouse Appliances, Station, \$111,800.

Rockwell—Rockwell Flour and Feed Mills, \$112,000.
 Sanford—Brown's Auto Supply Co., \$350,000; Sanford Radio Co., \$42,000; Masonic Lodge, Lee Drug Store, Dr. Covington, Thomas Grocery, \$54,000.
 Scotland Neck—Lumber Mill, Planing Mill, Dry Kiln, \$25,000.
 Shelby—Shelby Mill Work Co., \$191,000; D. A. Beam & Co., Feed Seed Grocery, Ellis Bicycle Shop, Betty Jean Beauty Shop, \$57,862.
 Southern Pines—Southern Pines Motor Co., \$33,500.
 Spruce Pine—English Mica Co., Plant 2, \$124,500.
 Stokes County—Home of the Aged, \$100,000.
 Tarboro—Walden Soda Shop, Dry Cleaners, Radio Repairs, \$30,500.
 Warrenton—Carolina Lumber Products, \$25,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES: C. D. Strader suffocated—smoking in bed. Cleaning rug with volatile liquid from which fumes were ignited. Windows closed—damage \$1100.
 Dorcas Reid partially blind put kerosene on live coals—lost her life. Damage to house, \$500.
 Pouring gasoline in tank from bucket—lighted cigarette lighter—damage, \$550.
 Oil stove turned over setting fire to room, fatally burning Betty Vines—damage to house, \$1,200.
 Oil stove set fire to upper part of house. Roy J. Sutton was overcome by smoke—died next day—damage to house, \$3,559.07.
 Car drove off with hose nozzle in tank—pulled tank over—short circuit set fire to gas—damage, \$500.
 Boy looking for football in closet dropped lighted match—damage, \$3,000.
 Someone stealing gas from truck—barn set on fire—damage, \$600.
 Pouring kerosene on live coals in stove, can exploded and fire burned Mrs. Ford painfully—damage to house, \$375.
 Drawing gas from 50 gallon drum using lantern for light—home total loss, \$6,800.
 Putting oil in hot stove John Green lost his life—damage to house, \$900.
 Oil lamp exploded—woman perished in this fire—building damage, \$4,500.
 Pete Harrison, son of owner and occupant held for suspected incendiarism, \$3,800.
 Crippled man, William Gurley, clothes caught fire from cigarette lighter—died.
 Oil cook stove turned over trapping O. E. Robinson in trailer—he was burned to death—damage to trailer, \$400.
 Dewitt M. Bryan, 7 months old colored boy burned to death by someone smoking in bed. Father was asleep on porch at time of

fire. Home total loss, \$1,400.

Inmate of Home for the Aged smoking in closet on second floor—damage, \$100,000.

Wife claimed husband drunk set fire to house for spite—loss \$1,750.

Person threw kerosene into hot stove—damage, \$1,700.

Oil lamp—four small children were burned to death—house loss, \$400.

Fire set by Christopher Fernandez who burned to death in house—refused to be removed by others present—suicide—house damage, \$700.

Fight in house—someone kicked over stove—damage, \$50.

Four small boys playing with matches—loss, \$800.

Occupants were thawing frozen water pipes with open flame—wooden partition caught—damage, \$1,050.

Handy went home drunk—believed to have been smoking in bed—burned and died a few hours later. House damage, \$4,000.

Pigeon carried lighted cigarette to nest on church—\$500.

Occupant carried furniture to yard and set fire to same—\$25.

Defective drop cord—damage, \$11,848.

Short in baby bottle warmer—Bryan May, 7 months, removed to hospital—overcome by smoke, house damage, \$170.

Oil cook stove flared up—Joyce Mitchum, 9 months, burned to death—house damage, \$600.

Small trash burner in back bedroom—loss, \$10,000.

Raleigh Little starting fire with something combustible—burned, died—damage to house, \$50.

Propane gas explosion—5 killed, 26 injured. Loss, \$105,000.

Trash box in office—fire damage, \$17,000.

By-passer stopped—dropped lighted cigarette—loss to freight cars, \$6,750.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER \$25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: Aberdeen 8 months; Albemarle 1; Apex 7; Asheboro 4; Badin 11; Black Mountain 7; Booneville 7; Brevard 7; Candor 4; Canton 8; Carrboro 6; Carthage 4; China Grove 3; Clyde 10; Colerain 2; Denton 4; Edenton 3; Elkin 10; Fairmont 1; Faison 7; Farmville 4; Fountain 12; Fuquay 4; Gibson 3; Granite Quarry 12; Greenville 1; Halifax 3; Hot Springs 10; Jackson 12; Jacksonville 2; Laurinburg 1; Lexington 3; Lillington 10; Madison 4; Marshal 11; Mebane 5; Mocksville 1; Monroe 2; Morganton 2; Pikeville 5; Pinehurst 6; Reidsville 3; Rockwell 11; Rocky Mount 1; Salisbury 3; Spencer 1; Spring Hope 12; Spruce Pine 7; Stanley 7; Statesville 2; St. Pauls 4; Tarboro 1; Thomasville 1; Tryon 11; Valdese 10; Walstonburg 12; Whitakers 10; Windsor 2; and Youngsville 9 months.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH IN OUR ASSOCIATION: The following town and rural fire departments have joined the state association from July 1954 to June 30, 1955. The membership of the association had on June 30 a total of 296 cities, towns and rural fire departments with a total of 9080 members. Our association still is growing fast. During the past twelve months the growth in departments was fourteen which was six more than the eight cities organizing the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1888. The new members are:

Guil-Rand Fire Dept. "suburban" High Point	44	members
Mecklenburg Route 10 "suburban" Charlotte	40	"
Denton Fire Department	16	"
Fountain Fire Department	11	"
Kill Devil Hills	20	"
Lilesville Fire Department	8	"
Oak City Fire Department	?	"
Pikeville Fire Department	23	"
Rural Hall Fire Department	64	"
Vass Fire Department	18	"
Winter Park Fire Dept., Wilmington	29	"
Triangle Fire Dept., N. Main St., Winston-Salem	42	"
Stantonsburg Fire Department	15	"
Archdale Fire Department	?	"

As a matter of comparison of our growth: In 1888 the year the association was organized there were 8 departments, in 1928—120 departments with 2600 members, in 1938, 167 departments—5,000 members, and in 1955—296 departments with 9080 members.

WALLY DUNHAM GETS FIRE AWARD: Philip L. Baldwin, Washington, D. C., Executive Secretary of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Agents announced in October that Wally Dunham, Forsyth County Commissioner was selected National winner of its annual fire prevention contest. The award was based primarily on his part in helping to develop the county-wide volunteer fire fighting system in Forsyth. This was the first of its type in North Carolina. He received his award October 26 at the Hotel Statler in New York City from President Harry Uhler of the National Association. The presentation was part of the association's ceremonies. It is reported that the main basis of his award was due to the outstanding work he has done in fire prevention and his efforts in establishing the ten volunteer fire departments throughout the county. In December 1950 Wallace Dunham, a young former Jaycee President, assumed his newly-elected office as a member of the County Board of Commissioners. Since that time he has devoted considerable time and efforts in furthering fire protection and prevention throughout all communities in the county.

FIRE TOLLS FOR NORTH CAROLINA: The North Carolina death tolls for the year 1954 including protected cities and towns and combined with all of the rural areas, some of which are partly protected by rural and city fire departments, was 130 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings) reported by Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Section, State Board of Health. This is an increase of 15 deaths over 1953. His report gives 80 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). This I am happy to report is a decrease of 31 deaths from this cause over the year 1953. This decrease of deaths more than offsets the increase of 15 deaths by conflagration. The Bureau further reports 14 deaths by hot substances, corrosive liquid, and steam. This also shows a decrease of deaths by 5 from the year 1953. The above figures from the Bureau's reports show the total of 224 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1954. Your statistician is happy to say that the reports show a decrease of 21 total deaths over the year 1953. No doubt our fire prevention program throughout North Carolina is doing a wonderful job in holding down the death toll the FIRE DEMON could inflict. We must continue our Fire Prevention with increased vigor and reduce the death loss still more in North Carolina.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS: The Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association held a meeting in Walstonburg, October 1954; in Washington, January 1955; at Warsaw in April; and in Williamston during July. The Two-Man Training Program and a change in bond requirements for the Firemen's Relief Fund for small towns were the two main topics for these meetings. Thirty-three towns comprise the membership with three associate members.

The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association held four quarterly and two special meetings during 1954-55. The officers chosen to head the association were: President, George Bischoff, Hazelwood; 1st Vice President, H. E. Elliott, Rutherfordton; 2nd Vice President, George Bartlett, Spruce Pine; Secretary, Mark Jones, Enka; and Treasurer, O. E. Brookhyser, Sylva. In October a full two days' Drill School was held, the first for Western North Carolina, with some 350 men attending the four sessions. A Film Library was started with films available for loan to all fire departments. In March a special House burning meeting was held on the campus of Brevard College. The various fires were extinguished by the different fire fighting equipment. This was an instructive demonstration which was viewed by several hundred firemen and spectators. The average attendance of the Western North Carolina Association increased from 129 in 1953-54 to 175 in 1954-55. The membership now totals 37 departments with 763 members.

The Sandhill Firemen's Association held four meetings with

steadily increasing attendance—from 43 for the first meeting to 138 in attendance at the June 1955 convention held in Troy. They have capable speakers from the State Association for their meetings when possible and general discussions of their particular problems. Secretary-Treasurer Leatherbury says, "Last but not least our meets end with a delicious supper—fit for a king."

WINSTON-SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES: Retired Chief Brown says that their training program for 1954 was in line with their stepped-up program for 1953. The firemen trained in the various fire evolutions made approximately 15,000 man hours. His firemen made 6,361 fire inspections during 1954, put on 14 television shows on Fire Prevention, and 586 spot announcements on radio. The department installed a new 10 circuit control board by the Gamewell system and added additional equipment to their fire alarm system. His firemen inspected approximately 2,100 fire hydrants, this inspection is done twice each year. Fire loss for the year 1954 was \$435,266 with four deaths. There were 1,312 alarms for the year with 168 building fires. Their per capita tax loss was \$4.95 for the year. The twin city won sixth place in population class in the United States National Fire Waste Contest, helped the Twin City Sentinel win an honor award from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and won third place in North Carolina in the Fire Prevention Week Contest.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Everett B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshall of the State of North Carolina Insurance Department, received in June from the National Board of Fire Underwriters the reported amount of fire loss in North Carolina to property covered by stock companies. He has furnished me the figures which show the loss paid out by the stock companies in 1954 was \$15,996,925. This exceeds the year 1953 loss paid by the stock companies by \$2,346,158.

As I have said each year in my report the total fire loss in North Carolina is unknown, this is also true for the entire United States because of the fact that fire losses on property uninsured is an unknown factor. The National Board estimates the uninsured losses in the United States to be 33 1/3%. On assuming this figure of 33 1/3% for uninsured losses the records of the North Carolina Insurance Department indicate 38.8% of the property in North Carolina is covered by stock companies. Assuming the rate of losses are the same for other companies as for stock companies per premium dollar collected the estimated fire loss for the state of North Carolina for the year of 1954 was \$41,229,188, thus we had an estimated increase of \$6,046,810. Year before last we showed an increase over 1952 of \$4,752,230, therefore we have had an increase of \$10,799,040 in the last two years. In spite of the splendid Fire Prevention work done by virtually every fire department in the

State of North Carolina our fire losses are soaring and the Fire Demon is reaping his harvest of loss and destruction. We 9,080 firemen of North Carolina must increase our Fire Protection day by day and meet this fire destruction in advance before the Fire Demon has the alarm sounded.

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Donald S. Charles and his firemen entertained royally the 26th annual Fire College on May 23, 24, 25, 26, 1955. Chief Charles and his firemen also entertained the second annual Pump School on September 20, 21, 1954. The College had the largest attendance and the most graduates of any of the past Fire Colleges. The Pump School, which was our second one, had an increase in attendance. Director Burkett, his staff, Donald Charles and his firemen deserve a great deal of credit for the way they have been conducting the Fire College and Pump School. Many of the firemen who attended have expressed their praise for the splendid work these fellows have done for our association. We are most fortunate to have at Charlotte some of the best Fire College and Pump School facilities in the world at our disposal, and, to make a perfect combination, in having in Chief Donald S. Charles and his staff the most hospitable hosts to be found in these United States. Donald, your Statistician, along with the Firemen of North Carolina, is very grateful to you for the great work you are doing for the firemen of our state.

In April 1955 Charlotte opened a swell new fire station and activated two new engine companies and employed 24 additional firemen. Another new station has been authorized by the city council in the Southwestern area of the city which will be completed in 1956 and will necessitate two additional companies of 24 men making a total personnel of 262. Chief Charles' fire department is keeping pace with the rapid growth of Charlotte, which is the largest city in North Carolina and one of the fastest growing cities in the Southeast. Donald reports Charlotte had a loss for the first six months of 1955 of \$337,923.74, which was a decrease from 1954 of \$761,932.45, when the total for the first six months of 1954 was \$1,099,770.19. Donald we know you must be proud of this splendid reduction of losses.

HIGH POINT WINS AWARD: Chief Claude S. Canady of High Point advises your Statistician that the High Point Fire Department won First Place in the North Carolina Jay-Cee Fire Prevention Award. Congratulations, Chief Canady and your firemen.

PLYMOUTH FIRE SCHOOL: Chief I. Miller Warren and his firemen held a Fire School from April 4 through April 8. Captain Walter Black, drill and personnel director of the Charlotte Fire Department, was the conductor of the four night classes. The fire departments from the towns of Jamesville, Hamilton, Robersonville, Windsor, Edenton, Columbia, Crestwell, Roper, and Belhaven, at-

tended these classes. The program consisted of drills, demonstrations, lectures, and films.

CARY FIREMEN HOLD THIRD ANNUAL "FIREMEN'S DAY": The occasion was the third annual Firemen's Day held on May 7, 1955, which began with a large parade at 3 P.M. and ended late that night with a square dance in the center of town. R. O. Heater was master of ceremonies and Gordon Keith general chairman of the event. Civil Defense of Wake County was given a big boost with the dedication of a fully equipped emergency rescue truck by the Cary Fire Department to the cause. Officials of the state were in attendance at ceremonies. Cosmo L. Cox, President of the North Carolina Firemen's Association, had words of praise for the Cary Firemen.

In closing my report let me say, President Cox and Fellow Firemen, it has been indeed a great privilege and pleasure to have served our association for the past 15 years as Statistician to the best of my ability. We of the New Bern Fire Department are happy to have you visit with us on our sixty-eighth annual convention, and are terribly sorry to have Hurricane Diane interfere with your pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician

Gentlemen, I think under the conditions prevailing and the uncertainty of the hurricane I might conclude and not read this report in its entirety—it is some thirty pages and I know you will get this when it is printed in the Minutes.

I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to have you here with us and I hope you stay and that the hurricane doesn't upset you too much because it hasn't reached here yet.

Motion that the report of Mr. Albert Brinson, Statistician, be accepted and spread upon the Minutes. The motion was seconded, carried and so ordered.

The President read a telegram from Ex-Chief J. L. Croom, Wilmington, directed to Mr. Albert Brinson, as follows:

"Regret to inform you that due to storm warnings will be unable to attend meeting. Wish you great success. J. L. Croom."

A telegram was read from Mr. Joe Heath, Atlanta, Ga., sending his regrets that he could not attend the convention, and to give all of you good people his regards. This is the fifth convention Mr. Heath has missed in the last twenty-five or thirty years.

PRESIDENT:

During our last convention there was a motion made to have a proper resolution honoring Dr. Will S. Long, deceased, of Graham. As your president I named Chief G. B. May, Gibsonville, and Chief

R. C. Fortune, Burlington, as a committee to prepare the resolution, and will be glad to hear from them at this time.

Mr. President, and Members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association:

May 4, 1867 was the birth date of a man who was educated at Graham College, the college founded by his father. This college was later moved to Elon, N. C., and named Elon College. This man's father was the first president of Elon College. This man furthered his education at the University of North Carolina and at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.

After his graduation, he opened a dental office in Graham. This dentist and Dr. Simmons, a local druggist, worked very hard to promote the first water system for Graham, then organized the fire department about 1902. Dr. Simmons was elected the first fire chief, and Dr. Will Long its first secretary. Dr. Will was the fourth elected fire chief and served in this office almost 50 years, or until his death, July 27, 1954.

Gentlemen, I find no existing category in which I would place Dr. Will Long. I can find no better words than to say he was "a civic-minded public servant, a fireman, a lover of all firemen—most of all the North Carolina Fireman's Association."

I would like to present a brief record of his past.

He served several years as Chairman of the Democratic Party. He was a member of the Alamance County Historical Commission, and the last living person who attended the unveiling of the Battle of Alamance monument May 29, 1880. He was a member and a deacon of the Graham Presbyterian Church, and also choir director for 33 years. He rejected a chance to run for Mayor because of his love for the fire department. He served in the State House of Representatives in the late 1930's. He served as President of the North Carolina Firemen's Association in 1935, and had attended the organization of this Association. He wrote a song about firemen and had it copyrighted. For years, he served as Santa Claus for the children. He loved to entertain us with his harmonica, with his jokes and wit. He was a wonderful father: he had four daughters and two sons, all of whom are an asset to our state.

Gentlemen, I would like to read a few lines from a talk he gave to this organization when the convention was held at Greensboro, in 1952. He was presented by President Flanagan. I quote:

"Hello boys, I want to say to you all that the greatest organization in North Carolina is the Fire Department. I can prove it to you. The Good Book says, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend.' Therefore, the Fire Department is the greatest organization in the world. That's my religion: 'What shall I do to gain eternal life?' 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'. Who is my neighbor? Anybody in need."

Mr. President: In closing, I would like to offer the following

resolution:

Be it known that Whereas, the North Carolina Firemen's Association, it being in session at this fair city of New Bern, will stand for one minute in silent prayer for Dr. Will Long.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee
R. C. FORTUNE, Chief, Burlington

A moment of silent prayer was observed in honor of Dr. Long.

MR. HARRY GREEN:

Some of you seem to be under the impression that when I made the motion to change the order of the program that it was intended to nullify all activities of the convention and I wish to assure you that this was not the intention at all—this motion was made for the reason that in case an emergency should arise. This convention by any means. It was made for the reason that if an tonight. My motion was not made with the intention of ending the convention by any means, it was made for the reason that if an emergency should arise that those matters would be attended to and those who wished to go might do so. Tomorrow will be another day and Mr. John Larkin of Trenton will be the speaker.

PRESIDENT:

Thank you Harry.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Curtis Flanagan.

MR. FLANAGAN:

Gentlemen, I have the auditor's report and I will give it to you in brief.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

North Carolina State Firemen's Association

Kannapolis, North Carolina

Dear Sirs:

I have examined the financial records of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and The Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association for the year ended June 30, 1955 and submit the following exhibits and comments:

EXHIBIT:

- A—North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Assets, June 30, 1955.
- B—The Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Assets, June 30, 1955.
- C—North Carolina State Firemen's Association, Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ending June 30, 1955.