

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

Albert Brinson

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

It is my happy privilege and pleasure to submit my seventeenth report of statistics of fire happenings in the Fire Service of North Carolina for the year 1956. Another twelve months have passed since the association was guest in the capitol city of Raleigh. Chief Jack Keeter and his firemen were hosts to the sixty-ninth annual convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and offered a swell program long to be remembered by all who attended.

We are here assembled at Carolina Beach by the blue Atlantic in vacationland, attending the seventieth annual convention, with Chief C. L. Snipes and his efficient firemen as hosts to the firemen of North Carolina. Carolina Beach Fire Department entertained the association in 1939, 1949, 1951, 1953, and now again in 1957. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Chief Snipes, his officers, firemen, and city officials, and the citizens of Carolina Beach for the hospitality they have extended to us.

IN MEMORIAM: John Luther Miller was reared on a farm near Rockwell, North Carolina. His parents were the late J. Allen and Margaret Lyerly Miller, who lived near Rockwell and operated a farm and grist mill. He attended "Old Field" school and North Carolina College located at Mt. Pleasant. In young manhood Chief Miller attended Teachers' Institute and was granted license to teach. He taught at the Fisher School while the late J. P. Cook was superintendent.

Mr. Miller moved to Concord in 1891 and began a business career as a grocery clerk with Christenbury Holshouser and Rufus Lippard. One year later, 1892, he was married to Miss Maggie Holshauser.

In 1897 he began his long and beloved service as Concord's fire chief with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, and hand reels as equipment. Since the post of Chief of the Concord volunteer fire department carried no salary he had to engage in other business to earn a living. In company with Fred Smith he began a grocery store and later was joined in the grocery business at that stand by the late C. A. Dry. Mr. Miller also served as postmaster of Concord from 1915 to 1925.

Chief Miller had found time to visit nearly all the 48 states and attended the democratic convention at Chicago that first nominated Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. In earlier days he held membership in the Pythian Lodge, the Woodmen of the World, the Elks, and Junior Order. He was a loyal member of St. James Lutheran church.

The city of Concord's first organized firefighting group grew

in efficiency and service under Chief Miller's leadership, and it was not many years later the department had horsedrawn wagons with the best equipment available in that period. Along about 1914 the local fire department began the change to motorized equipment. He was fire chief of Concord for over a half century, from 1897 until his retirement in 1949. He was one of the oldest firemen in North Carolina and 87 years of age when he died.

Chief Miller's interest in the welfare and safety of the firemen serving the various cities and towns of the state prompted him, along with other fire chiefs, to launch the mutual insurance program of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1908. He served as Secretary of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association from 1908 until 1954 when he retired after 46 years service to the firemen of the state of North Carolina. He was loved by all.

He was a kindly and modest man and was unaltered by both adversity and success. The firemen of the state have lost one of their most ardent citizens in his passing, and Concord and the Firemen's Association will long remember the great service he rendered as a man devoted to the fire service of North Carolina.

IN MEMORIAM: Veteran Fire Chief R. K. Hall answered the last alarm of life on Sunday, January 27, 1957. Affectionately known as "Cap'n Dick" to his legion of friends throughout North Carolina and other states, he held the distinction of being the oldest active fire chief in the United States, and possibly in the world, both as to age and years of service.

Richard K. (Cap'n Dick) Hall passed away at his home at five o'clock Sunday afternoon. He served actively as chief of the Edenton Fire Department until last summer when he was stricken with a heart ailment from which he never recovered.

Chief Hall was 91 years old last Christmas Day. He was born December 25, 1865, the year the Civil War was terminated, son of the late William Thomas and Sarah Jordan Hall of Hertford and moved to Edenton as a small boy, where his father entered business as a merchant tailor.

Cap'n Dick was elected a member of the Edenton Bucket Brigade on December 23, 1881, at the age of 16 years and was appointed Captain of the Brigade by Colonel Bob Mitchell, who was chief at the time. In the year 1886 the firemen purchased a hook and ladder outfit with funds which they earned in sponsoring various types of entertainment for the public, and Cap'n Dick was elected captain of the Hook & Ladder Company. Ten years later the fire company purchased three hose reels following the installation of fire hydrants. That year he was elected captain of the new outfit. On August 1, 1921 Mr. Hall became fire chief.

Chief Hall attended every convention of the North Carolina Firemen's Association until that of last year, and upon each occa-

sion he was feted and highly honored as the oldest fire chief in the world, both as to age and years of service rendered. The late Sherwood Brockwell, the State Fire Marshal, made the assertion not only at these conventions, but also in various states and Canada where he was conducting fire colleges, owing to his recognized authority on fire fighting. Never was the claim challenged.

Cap'n Dick was loved by all firemen of North Carolina and they were always glad to seek his counsel.

FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CLEANUP CAMPAIGN FOR 1956: The National Fire Prevention of Boston, sponsor in the non-profit educational and engineering organization devoted to improving the protection of life and property from fire in the United States, Canada, and all countries where our armed services are located, annually sponsors Fire Prevention Week and makes awards.

The grand awards went to Memphis, Tenn., with Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada placing second. First five ranking of top United States communities (out of 270 in Grand Award Competition): 1st—Memphis, Tenn.; 2nd—Phoenix, Arizona; 3rd—Louisville, Ky.; 4th—Philadelphia, Penn., tying with Chicago, Ill.; and 5th—Fort Worth, Texas.

UNITED STATES COMMUNITY RANKINGS BY STATES: North Carolina—Winston-Salem tied with High Point for 1st, and Fayetteville won 2nd. Our compliments to you chiefs, Dixon, Canady, and Cain, your firemen and the citizens of Winston-Salem, High Point, and Fayetteville.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Although not falling within any contest category, the following efforts were deemed by the judges to have contributed materially to improve public fire safety in North America during 1956. State of Tennessee: For an outstanding effort by the State Fire Marshal's office to assist and encourage effective observance of Fire Prevention Week by Tennessee communities. Province of Quebec, Canada for its successful promotion of the Fire Prevention Week campaign. Cook County, Illinois and Montgomery, Maryland for outstanding county-sponsored Fire Prevention Week programs. The United States Post Office Department and United States Department of Defense because of the successful support and coordination of effective fire prevention activities among operational elements in each department. United States General Services Administration for outstanding improvement in year around fire prevention activities. And Ford Motor Company for the most outstanding industrial fire prevention program. Fort Bragg, North Carolina placed eleventh in the Military Division out of the twenty highest awards from the 77 entries in Grand Awards competition.

INTERCHAMBER NATIONAL FIRE WASTE CONTEST: The Grand Winner was Port Angelus, Washington. Class cities with population over 500,000, Philadelphia, Penn.; 250,000 to 500,000, Dayton, Ohio; 100,000 to 250,000, Hartford, Conn.; 50,000 to 100,000, Lexington, Ky.; 20,000 to 50,000, Richland, Wash.; and under 20,000, Naugatuck, Conn. I, as your statistician, am sorry not to be able to report some cities of North Carolina as winners in this contest as I was able to do last year. I hope some North Carolina cities will be included as winners next year.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY: Mr. Robert W. Schuette, Manager, Public Relations Department of the National Fire Protection Association, advises me that the National Fire Protection Association estimates that the fire fatalities of men, women, and children in the United States for the year 1956 was 10,600. I am happy to report to you that this is 875 less deaths by fire than in 1955. No doubt the nationwide Fire Prevention programs are paying off for the firemen's efforts. As I said in my last year's report the solution by which to reduce this loss of lives by the FIRE DEMON is to practice more efficient fire prevention.

The United States fire loss of property for the year 1956 was estimated by the National Fire Protection Association as \$1,250,000,000. I am sorry to inform you this is an estimated increase of \$223,800,000. There are two redeeming thoughts about this increase, they are, first the valuation of property in the United States is greater than in 1955, and there is more property in new buildings for 1956, however we must exercise more and more fire prevention.

CAUSES OF FIRES IN NORTH CAROLINA: There were 28 main causes and 2699 fires reported by the fire chiefs of North Carolina in the state during 1956. Six causes accounted for 1795 or about 66.5% of these 2699 total fires. Unknown led with 537 fires; oil stoves and heaters 315, smoking in bed and careless handling of cigarettes 319, faulty electric wiring 226, carelessness 214 and defective chimneys and flues 184.

CHURCH FIRES FOR 1956: A decrease of 40% in church fires is noted—9 reported for 1956 against 15 for 1955. The damage on these 9 was \$54,661, an average of \$6,073 per church. In 1955 the loss was \$246,265, an average of \$16,417 on each of the 15 churches. No doubt earlier detection of the fires and quick efficient work on the part of you firemen account for this 63% decrease in loss per church fire for 1956.

HOTELS AND APARTMENT HOUSES: There were 12 hotel fires reported with damages amounting to \$22,357, ranging from \$40, the smallest loss, up to \$10,773 on the Orton Hotel at Asheville.

The 144 reported apartment house fires have the aggregate amount of \$194,723 in damage for the year 1956. The losses in

single fires ranged from \$10 to \$20,000.

SCHOOL FIRES: The Director, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Division of Insurance State Board of Education again this year was cooperative in furnishing me the following information on administrative school units. There are 174 administrative school units, and of these 64 county and 31 city units are protected by the Division of Insurance, State Board of Health.

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Losses Which Occurred During The Year 1956-57

Paid And In Process

Name of Building and School Unit	Amt. of Loss
Graham High School, Alamance County -----	\$ 1,188.00
West Buncombe Elem. School, Buncombe County -----	1,156.72
Swannanoa Elem. School, Buncombe County -----	1,259.00
Drexel Teacherage, Burke County -----	229.87
Moyock Teacherage, Currituck County -----	67.30
Glen School, Auditorium & Addition, Forsyth County --	38.78
Southwest Agriculture Shop, Forsyth County -----	259.00
Central Elementary School, Gastonia City -----	100.00
Hamlet High School Agriculture Bld., Hamlet City ---	44.50
Dunn High School Hi-Y Hut, Harnett County -----	3,877.30
Benhaven High School, Harnett County -----	105.70
Dunn High School Cafeteria & Band Bld., Harnett County	98.90
Johnston Co. Training Sch. (colored) Johnson County --	9,051.10
Clayton Grammar School, Johnston County -----	181.35
Tri City High School, Leaksville City -----	4,460.49
Moss Hill Gymnasium (Old) Lenoir County -----	5,000.00
Deep Run School Addition, Lenoir County -----	352.05
Tuckers' Grove (Colored) Lincoln County -----	185.70
Hudgins (Colored) School, Marion City -----	1,080.05
Glenwood School Annex, McDowell County -----	329.93
Pleasant Garden School Annex, McDowell County ----	13.57
Tipton Hill Principal's Dwelling, Mitchell County ----	25.45
Aberdeen Principal's Dwelling, Moore County -----	50.00
Murphy High School (New) Murphy City -----	1,474.69
Pender County Gymnasium & Auditorium, Pender Co. -	10,083.91
Topsaid Principal's Home, Pender County -----	10.05
Gray's Chapel School (New), Randolph County -----	335.21
Peachtree School, Cherokee County -----	978.11
Randleman High School, Randolph County -----	15,364.37
Rosemary School, Roanoke Rapids City -----	227.36
Junior High School, Roanoke Rapids City -----	150.00
Piney Grove Principal's Dwelling, Robeson County ---	2,400.00
Allenton Classroom Building, Robeson County -----	210.48
Landis Elementary School, Rowan County -----	1,452.22
Landis Elementary School, Rowan County -----	1,091.47
Morgan Street School, Rowan County -----	564.63

Sandy Ridge High School, Stokes County -----	583.70
Flat Rock School (Old) Surry County -----	99,877.12
Franklin Elementary School, Surry County -----	120,744.30
Lanes Creek School, Union County -----	35,000.00
Cary Home Economics Building, Wake County -----	936.59
Rolesville High School, Wake County -----	25.70
New Hope Elementary School, Wayne County -----	500.00
West Yadkin Gymnasium, Yadkin County -----	10,400.00
Clearmont Gymnasium and Lunchroom, Yancey Co. ---	13,300.00
Clearmont High School, Yancey County -----	1,000.00

Total Paid Fire and Lightning Losses -----	\$345,864.67
Total Paid Extended Coverage Losses -----	3,458.36
Estimated Outstanding Fire & Lightning Losses -	3,370.35
Total losses for the year 1956-1957 -----	3,404.50

\$356,097.88

SCHOOL FIRES REPORTED BY FIRE CHIEFS FOR 1956: Thirteen school fires were reported in 1956 by fire chiefs totaling a loss of \$181,773. The greatest single loss was the Hertford Grammar School \$112,000. Clearmont High School at Burnsville with \$30,000 and Spencer High School auditorium \$24,831 were the next two most costly school fires.

THE FIRST CASUALTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FIRES: Mr. Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, advises us to our sorrow that "One pupil and one teacher died as a result of a fire at the Flat Rock School in Surry County during the 1956-57 school year. At least twenty-one children received hospital treatment as a result of the Flat Rock School fire. The two deaths at the Flat Rock School are the only deaths our records show as having ever resulted from a school fire in North Carolina. The records are complete since 1900, and we know of no school fire casualty prior to that date."

It has been my hope and prayer that I would never have to report a school fire death.

TOWNS AND CITIES HAVING NO FIRES OR HAVING NO LOSS OVER \$25 FOR SEVERAL MONTHS: These records were given by the fire chiefs in their reports to the Insurance Commissioner: Aberdeen 8 months; Asheboro 4; Booneville 6; Candor 2; Canton 5; Cathage 1; Cary 1; China Grove 4; Clyde 7; Concord 1; Cornelius 4; Denton 7; Dobson 10; Edenton 6; Fair Bluff 1; Faison 5; Gibsonville 7; Granite Quarry 6; Madison *; Mebane 2; Mocksville 2; Monroe 4; Mooresville 2; Morganton 1; Mt. Airy 4; Mt. Olive 1; Murfreesboro 2; Newport 1; Newton 1; Pikeville 4; Pinehurst 1; Rockwell 7; Rocky Mount 1; Salisbury 1; Spencer 9;

Spindale 8; St. Pauls 4; Statesville 2; Swansboro 10; Thomasville 3; Union Volunteer Fire Department, Salisbury 1; Wadesboro 1; and Wingate 3.

FIRES CAUSING LOSS OF \$20,000 AND OVER: During 1956 there were 53 fires reported which caused a loss of \$20,000 or more each. There was a sharp increase in total loss from these large fires over that for 1955—\$1,279,860 bringing the 1956 amount to \$5,128,512. Losses like these cripple the business of our great state and cause much loss to the individual employees of these businesses.

Following is the list of large fires reported by the fire chiefs for 1956:

Asheville—Carolina Brush Co. \$20,500 Fields Clothing Store \$26,834 Pritchard Paint & Glass Co. \$45,000; W. A. McElldruff Co. \$22,000.

Bonlee—R. G. Hancock Lumber Co. \$51,800.

Burlington—Alamance Furniture Repair \$25,153.

Charlotte—Simpson-Gordon Shoe Store, Reeds Jewelry, Skippy's Bra Bar, total \$62,921; Reids Super Market \$100,000.

Chowan County—M. G. Brown Lumber Co. \$46,000.

Clinton—Underwood Milling Co. \$98,000.

Concord—Citizens National Bank \$20,000.

Davidson County—Coble Dehydrating Plant \$75,000.

Durham—Lipscomb & Gattis Co. \$39,000; Surgical Supply, Jewelry Store, and Optical Office \$21,000.

Fayetteville—Apartment and offices \$20,000; Proctor-Barbour, Parkerhouse Eastern Finance, Capitol Sales & Services (4 fires) \$157,500.

Fuquay Springs—C. W. Covington home \$23,500.

Greenville—Tobacco Sales House, Dixie Warehouse, exposure, Redrying Plant, exposure, total \$112,963; Tobacco Warehouse \$750,000.

Guilford County—Country Club \$230,000.

Hazelwood—Redroom furniture manufacturing place \$65,000.

Hickory—Foam Rubber Plant \$65,000.

High Point—Manufacturing TV cabinets \$89,690.

Kannapolis—Garage \$30,000.

Kinston—Garage \$28,300.

LaGrange—Saw mill \$25,000.

Lumberton—Longs Shoe Store \$21,774.

Madison—Gainor Hosiery Co. \$103,000.

Maxton—Maxton Cotton Co. \$111,000.

Mecklenburg County—J. E. James home \$20,500.

Morehead City—Theater and Department Store \$112,000.

North Wilkesboro—Clothing Store \$133,000.

Pinehurst—St. Matthews Chapel \$22,500; Robert L. Williams home \$25,000.

Polk County—Frank Cochran family \$22,000.

Princeton—Gurley Milling Co. \$25,000.

Reidsville—Hudson & Lester Building Supply \$42,500; Smothers Warehouse \$105,000; Virginia Tobacco Co., Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. \$98,300.

Roanoke Rapids—Rosemary Meat Co. \$46,553.

Rowan County—Spencer High School Auditorium \$24,831.

Scotland Neck—W. Jacobie Levin \$37,500.

Spruce Pine—Theater popcorn machine, total loss \$30,000.

Troutman—Chair company \$40,000.

Washington—5 & 10 Cent Store \$265,000; Lumber Mill \$50,000.

Wilson—Drake Theater \$31,000; City Market \$31,096; Star Cafe \$26,100; Eatwell Cafe \$25,000; Farmers Cotton Oil Co. \$32,500.

Winston-Salem—Mercantile Store \$20,824; B. F. Huntley Furniture Manufacturing Co. \$1,490,000.

UNUSUAL FIRES: Smoking in bed (Addor, N. C.) building damage \$3,500, contents \$2,500—one life, Roy Matthews age 49.

Fire in bathroom closet—could have been faulty wiring — could have been smoker—loss \$3,982.

Short in wiring on electric bag company sewing machine—\$1,493.

Trash can on rear platform, auto equipment store loss \$15,300.

Children playing with matches—loss \$6,850.

Floor cleaning fluid exposed to fire—loss \$6,350.

Painter using blow torch—damage \$2,044.

Church fire from cigarette—damage \$3,669.

Patient set fire to bed—damage \$1,000.

Careless handling blow torch—loss \$1,300.

Elm City, smoking in bed cost man his life—damage \$100.

Thawing pipes with torch—damage \$403.

Pouring kerosene oil on open fire—damage \$2,040.

Spontaneous combustion, bag of ladies hose in closet—loss \$1,350.

Kerosene poured on open flame, Revis Peters' first degree burns—damage \$750.

Oil stove exploded, Mrs. Graham in basement could not get to her son Carol Graham, 15 months old, in the kitchen, child burned to death—loss \$8,000.

Mrs. Ella McElwee smoking in bed suffocated—money loss \$200.

Child playing with matches—loss \$10,000.

Careless disposal of cigarette, County Club—loss \$230,000. (One cigarette caused nearly a quarter million dollar loss.)

Probable cause static electricity—loss \$108,000.

Carelessly disposed match—loss \$12,484.

Incendiary—loss \$9,600.

Convicted arson—sentenced 2 years—loss \$600.

Tobacco warehouse, redrying plant, sales and storage, 2 men lost their lives, equipment stored—loss \$141,863.

Hot charcoal put into paper bag—damage \$350.

Wire on gas tank made an arc exploding tank—loss \$1,500.

Spontaneous combustion due to poor housekeeping—loss \$2,578.

Thomas Monroe smoking in bed, suffocated.

Carelessness, car exploded while being repaired—loss to garage, etc. \$30,000.

Marvin I. James went to sleep smoking and listening to radio, burned to death.

Oil circulating heater flared up set house afire, Darlene Hairstone, age 2, burned to death—loss \$5,000.

Poured kerosene oil on hot coals in laundry heater, 3 small children suffered first and second degree burns—loss 200.

Lighted cigarette carried into birds nest—damage \$737.

Owner struck match in darkness to find light switch—gas fumes ignited—damage \$4,000.

Mother picking cotton, child playing in fire—Baby Anthony burned to death in crib.

Cotton storage, bonded warehouse, arson by small boy—damage \$111,000.

Family left electric roaster plugged in while they went away for week end—\$3,500.

Mother and son went to bed, left burner lighted on cook stove—damage \$7,500.

Two sections of drop cord from outlet to fan on oil stove were found fused together—no covering or protection from wear—result \$13,000 loss.

Heat bulb used with sow and pigs—loss \$3,000.

Quick silver caused fire—loss \$3,000.

Solvent on fire—loss \$1,600.

Christmas decorations—damage \$2,036.

Two fires believed set by boys ages 10 to 13—damage \$140.

Electric iron on couch—damage \$500.

Unknown dwelling fire, one life lost—loss \$18,500.

Foreman instructed employee to clean motor with solvent—\$12,000.

Deep fat fryer boiled over setting fire—loss \$19,210.

Hot ashes thrown on trash in basement—loss \$10,000.

Cigarette thrown in trash can set curtains afire then spread—loss \$950.

Fuel oil running from line to heater disconnected set fire—loss \$3,800.

Electric light bulb too close to inflammables—loss \$16,000.

Lady smoking in bed burned to death—damage \$357.

Lady threw kerosene on fire in fireplace—\$2,567.

Painters burned wasp nest under eaves of house—damage

\$5,000.

Electric iron—damage \$2,238.

Smoknig in bed—damage \$10,000.

Flooded oil heater 2 year old child died—loss \$2,100.

Woman 35 years old died from results of smoking in bed—loss \$75.

Suspected arson—3 people badly burned on 25 to 30% of their bodies—loss \$2,967.

FIRE TOLLS OF LIVES FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Mr. Charles R. Council, Chief Public Health Statistics Division, State Board of Health, informs me that the North Carolina death tolls for the year 1956 including protected and unprotected cities, towns, and rural areas, was 86 deaths by conflagration (in burning buildings). It is a great pleasure to inform you that this is a decrease of 38 deaths from the year of 1955. His report gives 104 deaths from fire and explosion of combustible material (other than conflagration). I am sorry to report this is an increase of 11 more deaths from fire and explosion than 1955. There were 11 deaths from hot substances, corrosive liquid and steam. This I am happy to say is 10 less deaths from hot substance, corrosive liquid and steam. These figures give us a total of 201 accidental deaths caused by or related to fire in the year 1956. It is indeed a pleasure to tell you this is a decrease of 37 total accidental deaths in 1956 from 1955. I am sure you will agree with me that the statewide Fire Prevention work and the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's Fire College and Drill School are paying off in saving lives of North Carolina citizens from the Fire Demon.

DEATHS FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS: The Bureau of Public Health Statistics Section of the North Carolina Board of Health advises me of 18 deaths in 1956 of personnel in military aircraft, one death occupant of commercial transport aircraft, 3 deaths occupants of other aircraft, 7 deaths other and unspecified aircraft accidents, and no deaths from accidents at airfields to persons not in aircraft. The total deaths from airplane accidents for the year 1956 was 29; this was 8 less deaths than in 1955. This reduction is gratifying and especially so when you consider the large increase in planes and travel miles. It is often said that air travel is the safest travel of all types when miles are considered.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS: Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal, has furnished your statistician with the estimated fire loss for North Carolina for 1956. The total fire loss figures were derived as follows. The Insurance department received from the National Board of Fire Underwriters loss figures of the stock fire insurance companies. These were exact figures. A check of the Insurance department records reveals that the mutual fire insurance companies' losses average 30% that of the stock companies.

over a period of several years. The uninsured losses according to the National Board still stand at 33 1/3% of the total fire loss. Mr. Pickard believes this to be the most accurate method of figuring the fire losses. It is his intention at this time to follow this method in years to come. Your statistician is sorry to inform you that the estimated fire loss of 1956 for North Carolina was \$31,369,621. This was an estimated \$10,583,912 increase over the estimated 1955 loss, however, it was a decrease of \$10,859,567 from the 1954 estimated loss furnished me by Mr. Everette B. Jones, Engineer and Deputy Fire Marshal of the State of North Carolina Insurance Department.

Below I submit the breakdown of estimated fire loss by the Insurance department of the causes of the various fires and the amount of loss.

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE LOSS, 1956

Code	Cause	Loss
1	Electricity and Electrical Equipment—except Lightning and Static	\$ 5,921,722
3	Lightning	2,357,117
7	Static Electricity and Static Sparks	8,995
11	Chimneys, Vents, Cupolas, Flues and Stacks	1,481,411
13	Heating Units—Liquid Fuel	1,262,670
15	Heating Units—Solid Fuel	90,887
17	Heating Units—Gas and Liquified Petroleum	31,864
13, 15, 17	Heating Units—Fuel Type Unknown	595,319
21	Sparks, Flames or Heat from Welding Torches, Cutting Torches	36,956
23	Heat, Flames, Sparks from sources other than Welding	3,202,305
25	Smoking and Careless use of Matches	1,149,780
27	Exposure	478,834
2	Sparks from Bonfires, Burning Rubbish, etc.	389,897
31	Friction and Friction Sparks	144,996
35	Backfire or Hot Exhaust from Internal Combustion Engines	22,337
37	Fireworks, Firecrackers	8,214
41	Incendiarism, Vandalism, etc.	84,116
43	Open Lights	44,626
45	Rekindles	2,599
47	Spontaneous Ignition	845,435
48	Known but not otherwise classified	268,176
49	Unknown or not determined	12,941,368
Total		\$31,369,621

Fire deaths in 1956 as reported by the State Board of Health—201.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION: Secretary Curtis H. Flanagan advises me that the following fire departments became members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association during the past year: Jackson Park, Concord; Winecoff, Concord; Elm City, Gaston, Harrisburg, Besson Cross Roads, Kernersville; Talley's Crossing, Kernersville; King, Knightdale, Lansing, Locust Parkton, Robbins, Ellis Cross Country, Salisbury; Skyland, Stony Point, Tabor City, and Tobaccoville. These eighteen new department members give an increase of eleven more new member departments than joined the association in 1955. Robbins and Tabor City were once members and have come back into the association. The entire membership of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association welcome you to the association. We also extend a cordial welcome to each of you 700 new members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association.

Curtis says that there are 304 active and 10 inactive departments members of this great association with 10,100 member firemen.

DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Chief Cosmo L. Cox reports that the city of Durham has one new fire station under construction in the Southern area of the city which will replace one old station. This station is designed for two companies. The old one to be replaced is only one engine company. Chief Cox states his department has carried out their regular training program at the training building and also during the winter in the stations. In addition to their regular programs in the schools during Fire Prevention Week they secured from Disney Studios a six minute, animated cartoon film which was shown to the grade school students during the spring of the year. Students and teachers praised the film highly. He says they plan to use it many times in the future.

CHIEF COSMO L. COX HONORED: Chief Cox was honored at the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs convention held July 8 and 9 at Nashville, Tenn., by being elected 2nd vice president. Following the usual procedure he will become President of the Southeastern in 1959. Congratulations Cosmo. The Southeastern is also honored with such a splendid chief and fireman from North Carolina on the executive staff.

FAYETTEVILLE FIRE CHIEF REPORTS: Chief Carl A. Cain reports that his department won 2nd place, state of North Carolina in Fire Prevention Week activities sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. He also reports that the following new equipment was added to his department during the year: One 1,000 gallon pumper tested April 8, 1957 and put into service; a tractor and trailer with 45,000 gallon tank and a 500 gallon pump

added on back of tank; one 3,000 watt emergency light plant with automatic switch for fire alarms; and lights installed on all fire alarm boxes in fire district. He further reports adding another pumper company at Station No. 2 making a total of 5 pumper companies, 1 aerial company, with 62 men total firemen in the Fayetteville department. Congratulations on your win in the National Fire Protection Association contest.

HIGH POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES: Chief Canady reports that a total of 10,340 man hours were spent in the educational and drill program, 1430 hours on outside drills, and 8,910 hours on classes and station study. Chief Canady and T. G. Shelton, Director of Fire Prevention, gave instructions and training to several industrial fire brigades in the city. Special schools and conferences attended by department personnel were: North Carolina Fire College and Pump School; Fire Department Instructors Conference, Memphis, Tenn.; North Carolina State Building Inspectors' Conference, Charlotte; Georgia State Fire College, Atlanta; North Carolina State Fire Pump School, Charlotte; and the Seagrave Fire Apparatus Co., Columbus, Ohio. High Point was awarded first place for the state of North Carolina in the field of Fire Prevention in a contest sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. They were awarded a Certificate of Merit in community service for fire prevention and conservation activities of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. High Point won first place state award in Fire Prevention activities in the State Jaycees Fire Prevention contest, and they have won in three years two of the first places.

The firemen of North Carolina, I am sure, are proud of the High Point firemen under the leadership of Chief Claude S. Canady for the three recognitions of awards. I salute you and your men, Claude.

High Point reports lowering its 1955-56 per capita loss from \$5.31 to \$3.20; they also report 665 alarms for 1956-57. Thanks for your reports, Claude.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT: The beloved Chief C. W. "Moon" Wyrick finished his year as President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association with a successful year for the association and "Moon" received a bronze plaque in appreciation for his efforts as president of the association. The dedication and formal opening of "Moon's" new Greensboro Training and Maintenance Center was held in October 1956. Your statistician will give you a brief history of the Greensboro Fire Department taken from the program on the opening of a truly magnificent training center in honor of "Moon," a great fireman and chief who has done something of which to be proud. Be sure to visit this center.

"If we were able to roll back the pages of time to the year 1840,

we would witness a group of men banded together to form the first fire fighting unit of the then small but progressive hamlet that was later to be the City of Greensboro. This unit was known as "General Greene" and was quartered in old fire headquarters on West Gastor Street near the present Municipal Building. The cost of this building was at that time reported to have been \$325.

Of interest to historians is the fact that this old engine is on display at the historical museum on Church Street today.

As the town grew, additional equipment was needed to cope with the ever present danger of fire so a chemical engine was purchased and placed in service in 1884 and the following year a LaFrance Steamer was bought.

The town was not only growing larger but also the heights of its impressive buildings were beginning to reach beyond the Department's roof ladders and so the year of 1890 saw the first Hook and Ladder Company organized and placed in service. A year later the need of a new Hose Company was imperative and the Eagle Hose Company became a unit of the Department. The south side of the town was rapidly expanding also and the need of a Company in that district was felt and so in 1894 that was realized by forming Southside Hose Company No. 4. The west side of the town was also in need of better protection and West End Hose Company No. 5 was placed in service about 1897.

Now even in those days of dashing horses and smoking steamers the Fire Alarm Signal System was as important as it is today so the officials of that day contracted with the Gamewell Fire Alarm Company and the year 1896 saw this system installed. It consisted of approximately 12 signal buttons on two circuits. At that time, it was something to be proud of.

Today only one engine house remains that was occupied by a horse-drawn outfit. That is the quarters of Engine Company No. 4 at 414 Asheboro Street. Some of the old timers will recall the days when the steeds of the Company such as Nick and Booker, stood in their stalls and waited the alarm that would send them dashing along the cobblestone streets of the City.

The horses served the Department well but in 1913 the first motor driven truck was placed in service. Motors gradually replaced all horses in the Department. Growing pains caused the City to extend its limits in 1924 and this affected the fire service also. Recommendations were made by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and they were closely followed to keep step with the pace of progress. As a result, the City Council authorized the sum \$300,000 to be spent on improvements. This included quarters for Engine Company No. 7 on the north side of the City and Engine Company No. 8 on the far west side and the remodeling of the quarters of Engine Companies No. 4 and No. 5. It also provided

for the construction of the present Central Station at 318 North Greene street.

About this time plans were in the making for an "All Paid" Department which became a reality June 1, 1926. At that time 47 members constituted the fighting force of the Department. All of these men were trained to make a well organized and equipped force.

The first year speaks well of its value to the citizens of Greensboro for in that year the reduction of \$200,000 in fire loss won first place for cities of its size in the United States.

So the years went by with a record to be proud of. Upon the death of Frank D. Shaw on July 13, 1946, a new era came to the Department.

On the evening of August 21, 1946, the citizens along with all City firemen picked up the Greensboro Daily Record and read with great satisfaction that the new appointed Fire Chief was Calvin W. "Moon" Wyrick, a veteran of 20 years with the Department.

Former City Manager Henry A. Yancey said on his appointing Chief Wyrick, "Chief Wyrick brings to this job not only youth and vigor but 20 years of experience and is eminently qualified for the position. He might be fittingly termed the boy veteran. He will be in complete charge with no strings upon him and will have every opportunity to use his knowledge and ability for the benefit of the Department and City."

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Charlotte Fire Department added another station to the many they already had, and dedicated it in May 1957. This new station is located on Remount Avenue. The opening of this station required an additional 12 personnel for one of the two companies housed in this station.

These 12 men, together with the 40 additional personnel employed to institute a sixty hour duty week in the department on April 1, 1957, now gives the Charlotte fire department 290 in the department including the two secretaries in the office. This of course is by far the largest department in North Carolina and most of the Southern states.

Chief Charles says that he is happy to inform me also, that bonds for another new station have been approved and that they are in the process of acquiring property on which to erect it this year.

The extension of the city limits in 1960 was approved on July 17. This move no doubt will require additional stations, personnel, and equipment to provide protection for the thirty-one additional square miles of territory and an estimated total population of around 185,000.

Chief Charles and his department are to be congratulated on building in the past five years quite a number of new fire stations.

Charlotte is growing in leaps and bounds and Donald and the City Fathers are keeping well up with the growth in their fire department and service. The Charlotte fire loss is far below the average of cities of the same size in the nation.

All North Carolina firemen should give high praise and thanks to Chief Charles and his firemen for the great sacrifice they go to each year to help conduct the Fire College and Pump School, not only from the expense standpoint but for the hours he and his firemen contribute to these schools.

Chief Charles, as you no doubt know, has been honored by the International Fire Chiefs' Association by elevating him to the First Vice Presidency of the World Chiefs' Association. No doubt he will become President of this great world organization at this coming international meeting in New Orleans, La. Chief Charles was placed on the Volunteer Fire Chiefs' Committee last year and he has been very busy traveling thousands of miles on furthering the volunteer angle, as well as other duties of the Vice President. We can rest assured he has done a swell job and will continue to do just that, knowing Donald as firemen of North Carolina do. We are proud of you, Mr. Vice President. Every Fire Chief of North Carolina would benefit greatly by becoming a member of the International.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS: Sandhill Firemen's Association—Secretary-Treasurer E. P. Leatherbury advises me the Sandhill Association is growing very, very fast; that in the past year the association has more than doubled and in some instances has tripled. The association had three well attended meetings during the year. Their first meeting was held at Deep River with the principal speakers the Honorable Charles F. Gold and Deputy Fire Marshal Sherman Pickard. Their second meeting was held at Carthage with the Honorable Chub Sewell as the principal speaker. Their last was an all day meeting held on June 12. Business in the morning with Chief Jack Keeter, of the Raleigh fire department, also a member of the Legislative Committee of the State Association, who spoke on the Firemen's Pension Bill. Other guests were Chief "Moon" Wyrick of Greensboro and Curtis H. Flanagan, Secretary of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

The officers of the Sandhill Association for the year are: President, H. W. Locklear, Pembroke; Vice President, Curtis McKenzie, Pinehurst; and Secretary-Treasurer, E. P. Leatherbury, Hamlet. We salute you for your phenomenal growth for the year and hope you can equal or better that record next year.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Again this year I am pleased to incorporate in my statistician's report the activities of the Western North Carolina Firemen's Association for the past year as reported by Secretary Mark M. Jones.

The Western North Carolina Firemen's Association has held four quarterly meetings and one Memorial Service during 1956-57.

On September 19, 1956, the Association met at Waynesville with the Waynesville and Hazelwood Fire Departments as hosts. The following officers were elected for the year: President, George Bartlett, Spruce Pine; 1st Vice President, Ed Hearn, Morganton; 2nd Vice President, Felix Stovall, Waynesville; Treasurer, O. E. Brookhyser, Sylva; Secretary, Mark Jones, Enka. At this meeting Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal of the State Insurance Commissioner's Office was speaker. The purchase of an additional film for our film library was authorized. The film "Train We Must" was purchased.

On December 5, 1956, the Association met at Enka with the Enka Fire Department as host. At this meeting Horace Elliott, President of the State Association reported on legislative action planned by the State Association and proposed changes for the State convention. This was a very interesting program as it was a panel discussion on all phases of fire fighting. Chief Donald Charles, Deputy Chief Walter Black, and Captain Dowdy of the Charlotte Fire Department were the panel.

On March 20, 1957, the Association met at Spruce Pine with the Spruce Pine Fire Department as host. At this meeting the passing of John L. Miller was recognized. The film "Fog Against Fire" was recommended to the Association and the purchase was authorized. It was purchased for the film library. The first annual Western Association Memorial Service was planned and the following committee appointed: Reverend Herman Garmon of Rutherfordton, chairman; George Brown of the American Thread Co., and J. H. Bailey. Mr. J. H. Bailey was speaker for this meeting and made a very interesting talk on "Fire in Schools and School Safety."

On June 20, 1957, the meeting was held in Burnsville with the Burnsville Fire Department as host. At this time final plans were announced for the Memorial Service to be held in Rutherfordton on Sunday, June 30, 1957. Chief Felix Stovall, Waynesville, reported on the recent hotel fire in his town and said that the Mutual Aid system sponsored by the Western Association functioned smoothly. This meeting was devoted to discussion on the recently passed Firemen's Retirement Bill and how it will operate.

On Sunday, June 30, 1957, the first annual Memorial Service was held in Rutherfordton to honor the deceased members of the association. At this service seven deceased members were honored. There were approximately 75 firemen in attendance at this service, which was conducted by Reverend H. D. Garman of Rutherfordton.

During the year we have had the pleasure of having some of our State officers present for every meeting. We held four regular meetings with an average attendance of 142, representing an aver-

age of 25 departments. Our membership now stands at 884, with number of departments at 37.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The officers of the association for 1957 are Chief Joe Hailey, Kinston, president; Chief Wesley Howell, Goldsboro, vice president; and Chief Earl W. Kinsey, secretary. One of the outstanding happenings in the year 1957 has been the fine support given by the firemen of Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association to the support of the passage of the Firemen's Pension Fund bill by the State Legislature.

The first quarter's meeting was held on January 8, 1957 with the Beaufort Fire Department as host. The swell seafood dinner was served by the Harvey Smith Fish Meal Company. The roll call showed 375 members in attendance. The guests were Chief C. W. Wyrick, Greensboro, President of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association, and the following officers of the North Carolina State Association were present: Chief I. Miller Warren, Plymouth, vice president; Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Durham, advisor; Albert W. Brinson, statistician; and Curtis H. Flanagan, Farmville, secretary. The officers of the state association made short talks. The firemen in attendance said that they never enjoyed such a fine seafood dinner in all their lives.

After the meeting Chief Hailey held a meeting of all the cities in No. 1 district of the State Fire Chiefs' Association.

The second quarterly meeting was held with Bethel Fire Department in the school gymnasium with Chief J. W. Minton and his firemen as hosts on April 9. The guests in attendance made short talks, including Chief C. W. Wyrick, President Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association, and the following officers of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association: Chief I. Miller Warren, vice president; Ed A. Johnson, treasurer; Curtis H. Flanagan, secretary; Cosmo L. Cox, advisor; and Albert W. Brinson, statistician. The barbecue dinner was enjoyed by all with plenty for the second helping. Statistician Brinson reported that the New Bern Firemen's Museum would soon be opened and all were invited to attend the dedication. There were about 300 firemen in attendance at this meeting.

The third quarterly meeting was held with the fire department of Belhaven as host, in the community building. The meeting had a large attendance and most of the member fire departments were represented. Curtis H. Flanagan, secretary, gave a run down on the Firemen's Pension Fund bill that was passed in the last State Legislature. I. Miller Warren, vice president, was a guest. Rain called a halt to the meeting. The Eastern Association will hold its next quarterly meeting in Calypso with the fire department as host.

ROANOKE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: The Roanoke Firemen's Association was organized on October 15, 1940 by members

representing six fire departments, and has been functioning since that time. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every other month and are rotated between the various members. In 1956 there were twelve department members composed of Roanoke Rapids, Rich Square, Roxobel, Weldon, Halifax, Enfield, Whitakers, Scotland Neck, Battleboro, Jackson, Hobgood, and Gaston.

"The purpose of the organization is:

1. Mutual Aid: To have an organization of neighboring departments whereby one department could call upon another in case of need, and know that help would be forthcoming.

2. To learn the equipment that each department could spare to help the others and the time it would take to reach the department in need.

3. To have regular meetings to discuss the problems facing each department and attempt to work out better methods of meeting those problems.

4. To better know the members of your neighboring departments, the type of equipment they have, and method of working.

5. To promote and build fellowship and cooperation between the members of the various departments."

The purpose of this organization is very commendable and we are glad to know that these firemen are working for better public relations within their own organization as well as in the state organization.

The officers for 1956 were: President, A. J. Jillcott, Roxobel Dept.; 1st Vice President, Fed Walker, Battleboro Dept.; 2nd Vice President, Robert Davis, Roanoke Rapids Dept.; Secretary-Treasurer, George R. Ivey, Enfield Dept.; and Critic, George A. Hux, Halifax Dept. Speakers for the various meetings were for the most part local citizens, however, during the year Everett Jones of the State Insurance Department; Curtis Flanagan, Secretary, and John Wallace, President of the State Association were present and spoke to the group. At several meetings films showing some methods of fire fighting were used.

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Forsyth County Fire Marshal, E. R. Bauguess, has furnished your statistician with a survey of activities of the 15 volunteer fire departments of Forsyth County. I list the names of the departments and their Chiefs:

110—South Fork, Chief C. A. (Jim) Woosley, Jonestown Road, Winston-Salem.

112—Lewisville, Chief G. G. (Buck) Reynolds, Lewisville.

114—Clemmons, Chief George Cooper, Clemmons.

115—Griffith, Chief Jimmy Boles, Griffith Station, New Lexington Road, Winston-Salem.

116—Triangle, Chief H. B. Self, Kernersville Road, Winston-Salem.

117—City View, Chief E. W. Whitaker, Reidsville Road, Winston-Salem.

118—Mineral Springs, Chief Burke Ferguson, School Street, Winston-Salem.

119—Forest Hills, Chief B. E. (Doc) Dockery, 29 Motor Road, Winston-Salem.

120—Mount Tabor, Chief Jack Luper, Robin Hood Road, Winston-Salem.

121—Vienna, Chief Marvin Wilson, Lewisville-Vienna Road, Pfafftown.

122—Walkertown, Chief Clyde Webster, Walkertown.

123—Rural Hall, Chief Carl Baker, Rural Hall.

Suburban, Chief Jack Helsabeck, Rural Hall.

125—Talley's Crossing, Chief Robah Whitaker, c/o Talley's Crossing Fire Dept., Kernersville.

126—Beeson's Cross Roads, Chief Edgar Idol, c/o Beeson's Cross Roads Fire Dept., Kernersville.

127—Old Richmond, Chief Ken Smith, c/o Old Richmond Fire Dept., Pfafftown.

Fire Commissioner, Wally Dunham, c/o Zinzendorf Hotel, Winston Salem

Fire Marshal, Reece Bauguess, 416 Alexander St., Winston-Salem.

For the benefit of many counties and rural towns that need county wide fire protection, as mine does, I thought that to give you the most excellent record of county-wide protection done by Forsyth would be interesting and a good pattern to study. A great deal of credit is due Forsyth County Commissioner and Fire Commissioner, Wally Dunham, and Fire Marshal Reece Bauguess along with the volunteer firemen of the above listed departments.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS—1956

(Within 3 Mile Fire Districts)

Name of Dept	No. Calls	Total Ans. Valuation	Total Loss	Total Savings	Miles Driven	Man Hrs.
South Fork -----	27	\$34,500	\$7,550	\$26,950	220	250
Lewisville -----	22	11,500	200	11,300	1230	380
Clemmons -----	21	35,950	10,860	25,090	173	190
Griffith -----	98	157,500	38,190	119,310	1250	967
Triangle -----	26	21,406	9,400	12,000	121	315
City View -----	24	18,200	5,150	12,050	106	110
Mineral Springs -----	135	211,350	77,745	133,605	812	2430
Forest Hills -----	51	978,200	12,435	965,715	371	2480
Mount Tabor -----	31	77,525	19,725	57,800	273	181
Vienna -----	22	36,925	6,610	30,315	181	150
Walkertown -----	35	90,975	4,700	86,275	346	310

Rural Hall (Surburban)	47	210,000	37,000	173,000	236	366
Talley's Crossing	31	1,820	805	1,015	225	190
Beeson's Cross Roads	33	1,500	1,015		250	250
Old Richmond	5	10,500	3,050	7,450	27	180
County (Paid Co.)	524	57,820	440	57,380	4042	
(County 299, City 225)						

Totals -----1132 1,955,665 235,410 1,720,255 9863 18,612

PIEDMONT FIRE SAFETY SEMINAR: The third annual Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar was held at the United States Armory, Stadium Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, September 14, 15, 1956 sponsored by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with the Winston-Salem Fire Department, Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association and Fire Insurance Group. This Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar was a successful educational program of outstanding success as well as the former two. Some of the outstanding fire leaders of the nation were on the program, with Chairman Wally Dunham, Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar, acting Chairman. Firemen of the year 1955, James O. Dula, Winston-Salem Fire Department gave the invocation; Chief Donald S. Charles, Charlotte, Vice President International Fire Chiefs' Association; Kern E. Church, Engineer, North Carolina Insurance Department; N. E. Cannady, Chief E. M. Dixon, Winston-Salem Fire Department; Assistant Chief Harold J. Gibson, Director, Piedmont Fire Safety Seminar; J. H. Bailey, Representative American-LaFrance Company; R. M. Russell, Assistant Chief Engineer, Factory Insurance Corp., Hartford, Conn.; Robert C. Byrus, Director Fire Service Extension, University of Maryland; L. E. Shingledecker, of Fire Safety, Nationwide Insurance Co., Columbus, Ohio; William S. Bizzell, Manager, North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau; L. C. Williams, Supervisor of Training, Winston-Salem Fire Department; E. Wade Thomas, Supervisor, Plant Protection, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., Ravenswood, W. Va.; J. Hill Clay, Chairman, Fire Prevention Committee, Winston-Salem; and T. G. Shelton, Director, Fire Prevention Bureau, High Point. This was a free school for those interested in the modern methods of fire prevention and protection.

CHAPLAIN MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION APPOINTED: The Executive Committee of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association assembled at Raleigh in its January executive meeting, appointed the Reverend Herbert D. Garmon as the official chaplain of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Reverend Garmon is a volunteer fireman of the Rutherfordton fire department. This appointment is the first time our association has had a chaplain. We welcome you to our Great Association Reverend Fireman Garmon.

SHERMAN PICKARD, DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL'S FIRE SCHOOL CONDUCTED IN 1956: Mr. Sherman Pickard, Deputy Fire Marshal's activities out of the Insurance Department's office conducting fire schools and training on the local level were very beneficial to 81 city and county fire departments throughout the state during the past year. He reports that 903 firemen attended these schools. I list these host city and county fire departments, and the number of students.

FIRE SCHOOLS CONDUCTED IN 1956

Aug. 13-17: Mount Airy—Mount Airy 26, Boonville 10, Stuart, Va. 7, Hillsville, Va. 4, Dobson 9, Elkin 11, Pilot Mountain 2. Total 69.
September: Troy—(Records Incomplete) Troy, Biscoe, Candor, Ellerbe, West End, Mount Gilead, Star.
Oct. 1-5: Roseboro—Roseboro 17, Salemburg 5, Clinton 11, Newton Grove 9, Harrells 3, Garland 11. Total 56.
Oct. 15-19: Locust 29.
Nov. 2-7: Buies Creek 26.

FIRE SCHOOLS CONDUCTED IN 1957

Feb. 4-8: 6 Forks, Wake County. Total 22.
March 11-15: Clinton—Clinton 20, Roseboro 13, Penderlea 7, Newton Grove 7, Garland 5, Salemburg 2, Harrells 24. Total 78.
April 1-5: Plymouth—Plymouth 23, Edenton 7, Columbia 4, Hertford 4, Williamston 5, Farm Life 4, Washington 2, Roper 9, N. C. Pulp Co. 2. Total 60.
April 15-18: Garland 8.
April 22-26: Mount Olive—Mount Olive 32, Calypso 16, Faison 16, Warsaw 9. Total 73.
June 3-7: Mount Airy—Mount Airy 25, Elkin 10, Dobson 9, Millers Creek 6, Boonville 14. Total 64.
June 17-21: Pinecroft Sedgefield Fire District, Guilford County—Pinecroft-Sedgefield 17, Pleasant Garden 6, Guil-Rand 6, Oak Ridge 6, 10-A District 7, Oak View 6, Gibsonville 7, Fire District 13 6, Fire District 14 6, Alamance 7, McLeansville 6, Summerfield 5, Attending one or two sessions 25. Total 110.
July 8-12: Nash County—Sharpsburg 4, Spring Hope 9, Castalia 4, Whitakers 5, Bailey 7, Red Oak 21, West Mount 24, Stoney Creek 20, Middlesex 2, Battleboro 9, West Edgecombe 15, Rocky Mount 5. Total 125.
July 22-26: Ahoskie—Ahoskie 20, Aulander 9, Harrellsville 6, Lewiston 3, Winton 7, Sunbury 13, Gatesville 2, Colerain 3. Total 63.
A total of 903 firemen have received the first phase of training on the local level for the period herein covered.

Mr. Pickard is to be congratulated by this association for the fine work of training on the local level. Sherman is well qualified with firemanic knowledge and experience from his fire service on the

local level to help any fire department's members who wish to improve their firemanic knowledge. Sherman I salute you for the fine job you are doing in your fire educational programs.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S FIRE COLLEGE AND DRILL SCHOOL: The 29th annual Fire College and Drill School was held in Charlotte at the Charlotte Fire Department Training School on May 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, 1957. There were 278 credits issued at the completion of the school. There were 115 visitors registered including those on the program, 25 representatives of manufacturers. The school had a total attendance of 470 which made it the largest one of 29 held in as many years.

The College was conducted by Chief Charles L. Burkett, Director-Conductor and Chief Cosmo L. Cox, Assistant Director. The instructors were: W. J. Black, E. L. Davis, and W. O. Dowdy of Charlotte; T. M. Ellington, High Point; H. E. Incoe, Rocky Mount; R. L. Powell, Greensboro; J. R. Stott, Wilson; C. O. Wilkie, Durham; and C. W. Wyrick, Greensboro.

When it comes to top notch brass, as the expression goes, this College had just that in some of the highest ranking Firemanic people in North America. The school was highly honored in having the following gentlemen present: Chief Reynold Malmquist, 2nd Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Minneapolis, Minn.; Robert C. Byrus, Director of Fire Service, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.; Chief Arthur Spottswood, Minneapolis, Minn.; our own Commissioner of Insurance, Mr. Charles F. Gold; G. A. Mitchell, Treasurer, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Opelika, Ala.; Wally Dunham, Chairman, Forsyth County Fire Commission; and J. C. Robertson, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. See Chief Charles L. Burkett's report for the complete details.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S PUMP SCHOOL: The fourth annual Pump School was held at Charlotte Fire Department's Training School on September 17, 18, and 19, 1956. There were three classes, divided into three sections, the first, second, and third year. The third year group completing the third year course were awarded their diplomas. The school was conducted by the Director-Conductor, Chief Charles L. Burkett and E. M. Salley, Assistant Director. The faculty in addition to Chief Burkett and Salley were: Chief C. L. Cox, T. M. Ellington, C. O. Wilkie, E. L. Davis, W. J. Black, R. L. Powell, W. O. Dowdy, and C. W. Wyrick. The Charlotte fire department, through Chief Donald S. Charles and his firemen, aided in many ways with their personal services in helping with the school. First year credit was issued to 69 firemen, 36 received credit for the second year of training, and diplomas were received by 18 third year firemen. There were 44 visitors, observers, and manufacturers who attended making a

total of 167 in attendance at the school.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS: The North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association headed by Chief Jack Keeter, Raleigh, President, achieved one of its most successful years since it was organized, by sponsoring, along with Chief Donald S. Charles and his International Association of Fire Chiefs, the first Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference.

GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE FIRE PREVENTION CONFERENCE: The first Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference was held in Raleigh on January 9, 1957, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs. For those of you who did not have the privilege to attend I thought you would like to see the outstanding program, and especially to see the names of many of the Top Notch Firemanic Educators on the North American continent. I doubt if ever before there have been so many top ranking Fire Educators gathered at the same time in North Carolina. In fact I can say that no doubt it is a true statement. Most of this credit can go to our own Chief Donald S. Charles, Charlotte, 1st Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs.

GOVERNOR SPURS FIREMEN, BIG THINKING, PLANNING: Governor Hodges called for "big city" fire protection in rural areas, and big thinking and planning to meet Tar Heel economic needs. He suggested a rural fire protection plan when he spoke before the Governor's Statewide Fire Prevention Conference in Raleigh. The program follows:

- 8:30 A.M. Registration—Auditorium State Highway Building.
- 9:30 A.M. Opening of Conference, Chief Donald S. Charles, 1st Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Presiding.
Invocation: Rev. J. W. Page, Pastor Fairmont Methodist Church, Raleigh, N. C.
Addresses of Welcome: Honorable Fred B. Wheeler, Mayor, Raleigh; Chief J. B. Keeter, President North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, Raleigh; Chief C. W. Wyrick, President Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, Greensboro, N. C.
- 9:45 A.M. Address: Honorable Luther H. Hodges, Governor of North Carolina.
- 10:00 A.M. The International Association of Fire Chiefs and its Fire Prevention Program: Chief Wayne E. Swanson, President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Rockford, Ill.
- 10:30 A.M. Address—"Let's Stop These Unnecessary Deaths From Fire," John A. Neale, President, National Fire Pro-

- tection Association; Chief Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York, N. Y.
- 11:10 A.M. Investigative Service of the National Board of Underwriters. Roland M. Smith, Special Agent, N.B.F.U., Charlotte, N. C.
Know The Cause (motion picture) Henry N. Martin, Special Agent N.B.F.U., Raleigh, N. C.
- 12:00 Noon Luncheon.
- 1:30 P.M. Fire Prevention in the Home: Jay W. Stevens Executive Secretary, International Association of Fire Chiefs, San Francisco, Calif.
- 2:10 P.M. Value of Association Membership: Chief Ray Malmquist, Second Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 2:45 P.M. Panel Discussion: "The 'HOW' of a Statewide Fire Prevention Program."
Moderator: Chief S. H. Edmondson, Pasadena, Calif.
Preparing The Public: Chief K. E. Klinger, Los Angeles County Fire Department.
Schooling The Firemen Inspectors: Chief William L. Miller, Los Angeles, Calif.
Making The Inspections: Chief William J. Taylor, Burbank, Calif.
- 3:30 P.M. Summary: Chief C. W. Wyrick, President, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, Greensboro, N. C.
- 3:45 P.M. Closing Remarks: Chief J. B. Keeter, President, North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, Raleigh, N. C.

NEW BERN FIREMEN'S MUSEUM: It is a great pleasure for me to tell you that the New Bern Firemen's Museum was completed and dedicated on June 24, 1957. The Ambassador from Switzerland, Mr. H de Torrente, honored the City of New Bern with his presence for the occasion. There was a banquet in his honor at Governor Tryon Hotel by the Firemen and City of New Bern.

The Ambassador presented the museum with many interesting fire items from the Fire Department of Berne, Switzerland, a Swiss flag from his country, and a number of beautiful colored pictures of scenes from Berne. He also unveiled a portrait in oil of the Swiss Baron Christopher de Graffenried who founded and settled New Bern in 1710.

Our museum has two world's record pieces of old equipment, a horse-drawn steamer that went into service in 1874, and a hose wagon that established a world record in Charlotte in 1911. In addition to this we have the Atlantic steamer that went into service in 1879 and another wagon that also made records prior to 1910. Many firemanic trophies, fire items, murals, old pictures, fire bell,

fire horse Fred, (head mounted) and many, many things of interest. There is no charge for admission at the present and none contemplated for the near future. You will enjoy a visit to the only exclusive Volunteer Firemen's Museum in the eleven Southeastern states.

If you would like a pamphlet enclose in a letter a 3-cent stamp your name and address and mail it to Albert W. Brinson, Secretary-Treasurer, Box 887, New Bern, N. C., and we shall be glad to send you one. The museum is open most of the day and the early part of the evening. It is located back of the Central Fire Station on Broad Street. Everyone is welcome.

Before closing my seventeenth report of statistics I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Robert W. Schuette of the National Fire Protection Association, Commissioner of Insurance, Mr. Charles F. Gold, Mr. Thomas B. Winborne, Mr. Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. Charles R. Council, Mr. Sherman Pickard, the city chiefs who furnished me their reports of growth, and the secretaries of the affiliated associations for information to use in my report. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to compile these facts and figures and I hope that you will feel repaid for the time spent in reading it by the information given about the progress in fire prevention as well as fire fighting in our great state.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT W. BRINSON, Statistician
N. C. State Firemen's Association

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

PRESIDENT ELLIOTT:

I have something to say that I feel is of great importance to all of us. It is brand new, and is being started this year for the North Carolina Firemen's Association by the Mutual Insurance Agents. They have offered to give to us or to every fireman in the State for some particular courageous fete or some particular project that he has sponsored during the year a nice plaque. They contacted me and asked if it would be permissible for them to do that. I talked to several members of the committee and they thought it would be something that we could use to a good advantage to keep a more accurate record of the things our firemen do which are worthwhile. I wrote to the Executive Secretary at that time and it was requested that the Executive Committee go ahead and accept a man that should receive this plaque.

I want each department to report anything they do, any outstanding fete any fireman might do, and sometime within the next