

Some time ago, there was a fire on Yaupon Drive that pretty well destroyed the house involved. Afterward, the owner told our Fire Department that he had kept in the house a quite valuable ring which had disappeared in the fire. Any chance of finding it seemed impossibly remote. Yet Dave Ennis, one of the PKS firemen, walked through the rubble and happened, against all odds, to poke his hand into a particular pile of ash which, mirabile dictu, contained the ring!! Miracles really do happen!

NEEDLE

IN A

HAYSTACK

But perhaps finding a tiny ring in a large mass of rubble is no more than a commonplace for the efficient PKS Fire Department! That service is owned by the Town, though it is manned (scratch the last word and substitute "staffed") by 30 to 35 Town residents who have volunteered for such duty. The Department maintains, in addition to its fire-fighting units, a Traffic Control Unit managed by George Eastland, erstwhile Editor of the Shore Line.

Fire Department volunteers held their first meeting on March 6, 1978, when the Department had one piece of equipment - a surplus Army truck received as a grant from the State Forestry Service. A pump installed on that truck could pump 320 gallons of water per minute. The spiffy La France job, which all of you have seen, was acquired on September 15, 1978 and is capable of pumping 1,000 gallons of water per minute. The original Army truck is now more elegantly known as an "auxiliary brush-fire truck".

The Department's 1983 budget totalled \$57,960. of which \$42,000. was reserved for the purchase of a new fire truck, largely to transport water. Later it was decided not to use the money for that purpose when the Water Company agreed to install water lines along the eastern part of Oakleaf Drive. Instead, some portion of the reserved funds will be employed in the purchase of hydrants.

The Commissioner in charge of the Department is Jack Thompson and the Police Chief, Ed Crawford, doubles as Fire Chief. Bob Slack is the Assistant Chief for Administration and Ed Norman is his lieutenant. The Assistant Chief for Training and Equipment is Haywood Quinn. George Hickey is his lieutenant.

Of course, our volunteers are not going to accumulate great personal wealth from their services to the Town, however necessary those services may be. We understand that the compensation of each member of the Department amounts to a full One Dollar (\$1.00) per year. In addition, if they serve 20 years (considering the percentage of retirees in our community, service of that length will be a phenomenal feat in itself!) they will receive a magnificent State pension, if they have properly qualified, of \$50. per month.

The numerous new hydrants sprouting on Oakleaf Drive must be a welcome sight to our fire-fighters, for lack of water in that area would certainly have made things difficult in case of fire nearby.

There are seven motels in PKS. Because they play an important role in the life of the Town, the Shore Line hopes to present a brief story about each of them in this and subsequent issues. Taking them alphabetically, the first is the Atlantis Lodge.

THE

ATLANTIS

LODGE

The Atlantis has long been a landmark on Salter Path Road. Many residents of PKS stayed there upon their arrival in Carteret County and many were first charmed by the area because of the warm reception extended them by Ruth Bray.

The Lodge is owned by a corporation whose stock is held by Ruth and by her son-in-law, A. C. Hall, and his family. The property on which the Lodge is situated was bought in 1958 and its first two units were built in 1963. In those early days, development consisted of little more than a few of the north-south streets that connect Oakleaf Drive with Salter Path Road. The initial Lodge contained 4 rooms and 8 apartments.