



WAY TO GO! Civietown firefighters exchange high-five's: from left are Joe Smith, Timmy Clemmons, Richard Evans, Ronnie Hicks and David Robinson.

## Relay Clinches Championship For Civietown In Brunswick County Firemen's Competition

BY SUSAN USHER

A spilled pail of water didn't keep Civietown volunteer firefighters from winning the bucket brigade event Sunday to clinch the championship at the Brunswick County Firemen's Competition.

The event is held each year as part of the N.C. Fourth of July Festival in Southport. This year eight units competed in a roped-off area in front of the Southport fire and rescue departments—six Brunswick County teams and teams from the Dale City, Va., and Clement, N.C., departments.

When the buzzer sounded Sunday evening, Civietown firefighters whooped. The barrel was full; they'd done it despite a full bucket that spilled and a moment's hesitation when an empty bucket was left behind.

Civietown Volunteer Fire Department finished in second place last year, and typically brings home one or two event trophies each year. But the 1993 team wanted more, said Assistant Chief Richard Evans, team captain and coach. "We had been practicing a couple of weeks before

this. We intended to do something this year."

Teamwork and practice paid off as the firefighters picked up first place trophies for the bucket brigade and hose relay, in addition to their best overall trophy. They also finished second in the ladder climb and in the sprinkler cut-off, a new event in this year's competition, and third in the barrel push.

Representing Civietown were Bossy Clemmons, Bill Bailey, Jackie Griffith, Ronnie Hicks, Timmy Clemmons, Joe Smith, Phillip Rhodes, Bobby Lovett and David Faircloth.

Each event requires firefighters to apply real-life skills in a fun situation while working against the clock.

In the bucket brigade, for example, firefighters use a relay to fill a barrel mounted on a stand in the shortest possible length of time. A teammate fills a bucket from a tub, runs and hands the pail to a teammate positioned halfway up a ladder, who in turn hands it to the firefighter at the top. This teammate hands off an empty bucket to the relay run-

ner and dumps the contents of the pail into the barrel. The relay runner has to "tag up" before the next runner can begin sprinting toward the ladder.

In the hose lay, teammates work quickly to stretch and connect lengths of fire hose, then use a spray of water to shoot a bottle off of a cone.

Opposing high pressure hoses are used to nudge a hanging barrel between endpoints in the barrel push, with the team pushing the barrel the farthest winning. And in the sprinkler event, firefighters must work their way through the spray and use wedges of wood to shut off the sprinkler. This event replaced another event, command post, in which a firefighter was required to direct blindfolded teammates' efforts to fill a tub of water using a hose.

Also competing from Brunswick County Sunday were the Sunset Beach, Bolivia, Boiling Spring Lakes, Winnabow and Long Beach fire departments. Clement finished first in the barrel push, while Long Beach won the ladder climb.



RUNNER BILL BAILEY tags up with teammate Ronnie Hicks as Civietown VFD pushes Sunday to win the bucket brigade event—and the Brunswick County Firemen's Competition. In the background, Bobby Lovett fills the barrel as Timmy Clemmons pauses between buckets.



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