

Fires Damage Two Shallotte Homes; Both Started In Kitchen

BY DOUG RUTTER

"I'm tired. We had a rough day." Those were the words of exhausted Civietown Fire Chief Richard Evans last Friday morning as he explained what happened the day before when he was called on to coordinate firefighting efforts at two Shallotte area residences.

Fire damaged mainly the kitchen area of a two-story home behind Smitty's Fix-It Shop late Thursday afternoon. Earlier in the day, firefighters could do nothing to save a mobile home on Madison Street.

Ironically, the homes were located almost directly across the street from one another off Holden Beach Road just outside the Shallotte limits. Evans said both fires started after pans were left unattended on stoves.

"Don't ever leave a pan on the stove," the fire chief cautioned Friday, one day too late for the two homeowners.

Firefighters were called to the Madison Street blaze around noon Thursday and found smoke pouring

Donations Sought For Smith Family

The South Brunswick Islands Optimist Club is collecting money, clothing and other supplies for the Paul Smith family of Shallotte.

The family's home off Holden Beach Road was damaged by fire last Thursday. The club is accepting donations of money, clothing, kitchen goods, food, toiletries and other items.

Anyone interested in donating should call Joe Gore at 754-9139. Items also may be dropped off at Brunswick Realty at Holden Beach.

from a single-wide mobile home.

"When we got there the heat was inside the kitchen and the trailer was completely locked up," Evans said. "The guy had left a pot on the stove. He had gone to Shallotte and when he came back he found us there."

Evans, who did not know the homeowner's name, said the trailer was a total loss. "The fire spread all over the whole house. It gutted the whole house."

In addition to Civietown Volunteer Fire Department, firefighters from Tri-Beach, Supply and Shallotte responded to the blaze.

Evans said firefighters remained

on the scene for approximately two hours and were still at the Civietown fire station when the second house fire was reported around 4 p.m.

The chief said someone was cooking on the stove at the Paul Smith residence and went outside momentarily to check on something. When he returned to the kitchen, the stove was on fire.

"It did a number in the kitchen and hallway, and there was smoke and water damage in the rest of the house," said Evans, who estimated the damage between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

At one point, Evans said there were about 50 firefighters at the scene from Civietown, Shallotte,

Tri-Beach, Supply and Waccamaw VFDs. Firefighters fought the blaze for approximately four hours.

Evans said firefighters were able

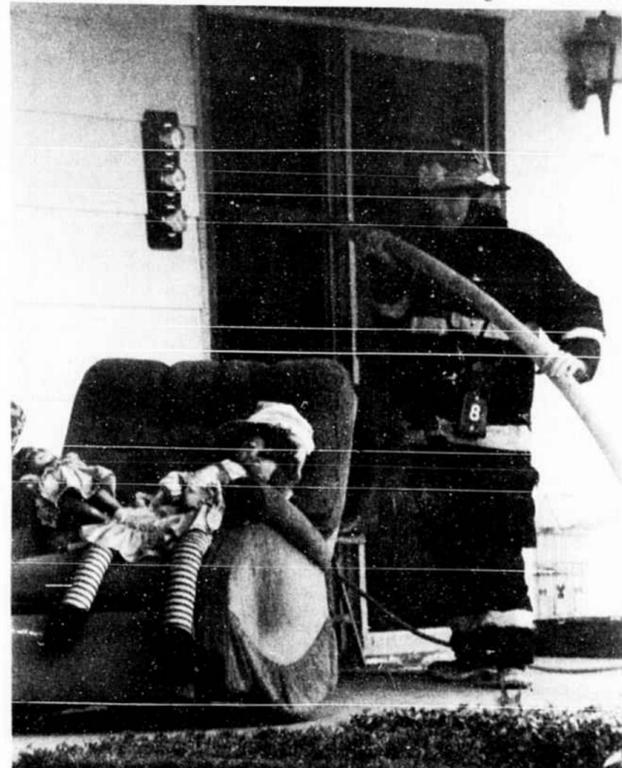
to contain the blaze to the kitchen area in part because of a quick response.

"We had never left the station

from the first fire," he said. "That's why we got there as quick as we did. We were there within three minutes of the call."



AREA FIREFIGHTERS responded quickly to the Smith house fire and contained the blaze to the kitchen in the rear of the home.



A RECLINER AND TWO DOLLS were among the items salvaged from the Smith residence last Thursday. A volunteer fireman feeds hose through a sliding front door.

Sociology Professor To Be Guest Speaker For King Day

Fred D. Hall, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be the featured speaker Friday at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration at Brunswick Community College.

The event begins at 7 p.m. in the BCC Student Center.

Hall will share his thoughts on "Keeping the Dream Alive."

Hall's teaching and research interests focus on race relations and industrial relations, with attention to the issues of poverty, unemployment and labor markets. He holds master's and doctoral degrees from UNC-CH and a

bachelor's degree from Frances Marion College in South Carolina. He taught briefly at Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio, before returning to UNC-CH for post-doctoral studies and a faculty appointment.

Also on Friday's program will be music by the Cedar Grove Young Adult Choir, The Kingsway Trio, the Mt. Hebron AME Zion Church Inspirational Choir of Hallsboro and BCC Visiting Artist Jon Thornton. Also participating will be the South Brunswick High School Army JROTC Color Guard, directed by Col. Willie Gore (U.S. Army retired); Dick Lee, news and public affairs director, WCCA; the Rev. Dr. Richard Warner, pastor of St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church; BCC President W. Michael Reaves and BCC AV Technician Adrea Womble, who will introduce Hall.



HALL

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