

there was a roster of 25 men and women, when pagers were just being put into use, and Bill Uebele was the chief and Turner Williams the assistant.

In the beginning, we had a contract with Atlantic Beach, and they covered us on fires until September of 1978, after which we were completely on our own.

Since then, progress has been great, and our little old fire department has grown, right along with the town, and all three trucks start all the time - guess they always did, and there is comfort in that, as well as in the fact that, as one sifts through the minutes, one realizes how conscientious these fire people have been all these years, keeping equipment maintained, testing hydrants, and training the volunteers to fight the fires.

Said Si Bezuyen, one of the first hardy firemen, "We had an extremely dedicated bunch of people." When the very capable Bill Uebele resigned, after doing a fine job, to become building inspector, O. K. Foster took command. Si tells us O.K. was "very considerate, never took risks, went faithfully to County fire fighters' meetings to review past fires, always learning something new about fire fighting."

In July 1978 a committee was chosen to write by-laws; on that committee were its chairman, Bob Ames, along with Bill Uebele, Ken Knight, A. C. Davis and John Eubanks.

When a Miss Flame contest was announced at the September, 1978 meeting, Kimberly Salchow was chosen to represent the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department. She later won and went on to participate in the Oyster Festival at Mill Creek and the Morehead City Christmas parade.

On September 27, 1978 the minutes, in those days being recorded by Mary Catherine Smith, ended this way: "Meeting was adjourned to go outside to get acquainted with the new truck." New fire trucks for grown-ups are just like new fire trucks for kids. There was a little boy we knew once long ago who loved trucks so much that he kept a toy one beside his bed every night, and in thoughtful moments, would look at it, or at any truck he saw, and say quietly, in his direct and perfectly articulate three year old way, "Trucks I do!" Everybody's childhood dreams about riding the fire truck "when I grow up" were coming true right here in Pine Knoll Shores. Everybody who was a volunteer fire fighter anyway. "Truck they did!"

Through the years of meetings every two weeks, there were several writers of minutes. They appear to include, besides Mary Catherine Smith, Dixie Eubanks, Vivian Macdonald, Bill Robbins, George Eastland, and now, Brenda Cox. The names of all the fire fighters would make a list too long to find space for in the Shore Line. However, we do have a plaque in the Town Hall listing the names of all who served at least five years.

As the department grew and continued to serve our community well, it gained a rating of 7A for insurance purposes, and our insurance rates went down, and have stayed down.

The Women's Auxiliary was organized and held its first meeting August 18, 1980. They continue to remain active, providing coffee, etc. at the scene of the fire, holding pig pickings and other fun parties, to encourage and back up the fire fighters, and to honor them individually from time to time for outstanding service as well as for numbers of years of service. Of course, some of the fire-persons are women, too, so perhaps one ought to refer to this support group as just the Auxiliary.

On one historic occasion, the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department was asked by Jungleland, in its first days, to fill up their pool. Everyone had a fine time with that, and many free Jungleland tickets were given out to the pumpers of the water.

Meanwhile, O. K. Foster moved out of the community, and for an interim period, starting in December of 1980, Bill Robbins took over in an administrative capacity, with Bezuyen as his assistant. Then, in June of 1981, Ed Crawford became the fire chief as well as the police chief, and that's where the departments stand today.