

Meet Landon Figg

By Phyllis Makuck



PKS Firefighter: Landon Figg is literally between a rock and a hard place.

Editor's Note: This is another in the series on town employees.

Landon Figg and her husband Coleman Drummond (Drum) Figg Jr. have made firefighting a family affair. Landon is a firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) in Pine Knoll Shores. Her husband is the fire chief in Newport.

Landon began working with the fire department here in 2005, when her husband took a job with Atlantic Beach Fire Department and with Carteret County as a medic, firefighter, and EMT.

Landon left firefighting for a time and went to work with Crystal Coast Landscaping at Beacon's Reach. Then, she and her husband moved to Virginia Beach. In May 2009, they moved back to take the jobs they currently have.

Originally from Virginia, Landon and Drum, both avid skiers, met in Snowshoe, West Virginia, a ski resort, where friends introduced Landon to firefighting. She explains: "The year-round community was tiny, and just about everyone that lived on or near the resort was a volunteer firefighter." She was also a ski patroller and decided to go to paramedic school to become an EMT. Drum was the Fire Chief at Snowshoe. He held weekly training

drills and business meetings. Landon says participating was a social outlet, but when an alarm went off, they were ready and willing to do what was necessary to respond.

She learned how firefighters pull together as a team. "You had to trust that each and every firefighter would put their life on the line for you, and you would do the same," she says. As the resort grew, demands for firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS) increased. Landon became one of Drum's first paid staff members.

Landon says she loves what she does and the people she works with at the Fire Department in Pine Knoll Shores: "We have a smart, well-educated, articulate staff. It's a great mix of people from in and out of state. They are progressive and will not hesitate to take the initiative." She also speaks highly of the volunteer staff, who, she says, are passionate about what they do and are very much a part of the team, showing up on every fire call and on many EMS calls.

The Figgs found the Crystal Coast through a friend who moved to Atlantic Beach from Snowshoe. They currently live in Brandywine with their Black Labrador, Scout.

It's a Small World

By Richard Seale

It is not uncommon for folks from PKS to be wandering the world. It's not all that unusual for folks to be off to similar destinations. But when not travelling together on the same tour, it is pretty unusual for PKS'ers to be able to set up a luncheon meeting halfway round the world! But for the Karlssons and Seales this happened in June when their independent travel itineraries put them both in Oslo, Norway, for a day. By chance, each couple had travelled on the Hurtigruten Line from Kirkinnes to Bergen, Norway, just two days apart. Once in Bergen, each couple had travelled on to Oslo on the "Norway In A Nutshell" bus, boat and train trip through Songefjord and Flam, arriving in Oslo still just two days apart. They had learned of these plans at a dinner in PKS just before leaving and exchanged hotel information in hopes of being able to set

up a meeting in Oslo. And so it came to pass that in a gentle rain they met at the Grand Café of the Grand Hotel next to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament Building) for a wonderful luncheon. There is something very special about being able to meet friends and neighbors under such faraway conditions. Pine Knoll Shores and its people are special. After the meeting, Ulf (who is a native Swede) and Ilene Karlsson boarded an overnight train and headed for Stockholm and a 130 member family reunion with Ulf being the patriarch. Linda and Richard Seale rejoined Linda's Duke Nursing School roommate and her husband with whom they had "done" Finland (where in Ivalo, Lapland it snowed on us) and Norway for some additional Oslo adventures. Yes, it is a small and wonderful world!



Unlikely Meeting: Ulf and Ilene Karlsson join Richard and Linda Seale for lunch in the Grand Café at the Grand Hotel in Oslo, Norway.

Electric Rate Hikes

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) members may have noticed rate increases in their basic charge. For residential consumers, the basic charge has gone from \$12.50 to \$20.00 per month. CCEC explained in its news brief to customers that the new rate structure is the result of a Cost of Service Study that examined not only the cost of purchased power, but also the cost of materials, labor, and capital.

Craig Conrad, CCEC's Chief Executive

Officer and General Manager said, "As a member-owned, non-profit organization, we work hard to minimize cost increases, but we have little control over energy markets and state and federal mandates . . . as a member-owned cooperative we have no reason to generate a large profit. . . ." In fact, Conrad explained, any money earned above and beyond expenses is actually returned to members over a period of time.