

Quest For New And Better Ways To Train Firemen Being Made

By **NANCY DUCKETT**
North Carolina's technical institutes and community colleges are blazing the trail in their quest for new and better ways to train firemen in the art of fire prevention and protection.

These institutions offer a variety of educational programs geared to make the fireman more proficient in his job.

Keith Phillippe, supervisor of firemanship training for the Department of Community Colleges, says that of the approximately 24,000 firemen in North Carolina, 20,459 received instruction in community colleges and technical institutes during the fiscal year 1966-67. These programs range from three-day firemanship training schools to a two-year fire and safety engineering technology program that leads to an associate in applied science degree and

is designed for the high school graduate.

The short-term firemanship training schools are held at several locations in the state. When these schools are in action, a paradox is portrayed. Groups of firemen stand still and watch while fires are being ignited all around them. It might seem that they are firebugs, but this is far from true. This situation is typical of the firemen's training. When the fires are at their peak, the trainees, under the guidance of their instructors, pitch in and extinguish the blazes.

At one particular firemanship training school in Wilson, 106 men, representing 17 counties and 323 fire departments were enrolled. Volunteer firemen made up 80 per cent of the class.

Volunteers in a typical firemanship school are by profession farmers, engi-

neers, business men, doctors, clerks, preachers and service station attendants. Their ages range from the teens to the sixties. The instructors are all experienced firemen.

The primary aims of the school are to offer instruction in different fire situations—ones that the men may encounter back home—and to give them a chance to become accustomed to heat.

In each situation, the instructors brief the students before the fire is started; then they give critiques on their performances when the fire is extinguished.

Fire and safety engineering technology is offered at just one institution in the state—Rowan Technical Institute in Salisbury. Because of its uniqueness, the program

attracts students from all over the state. It is also the only program of its kind in eastern United States.

The two-year technology program provides a basic background in fire prevention and safety as well as related subjects. As an important part of the program, the students are taught to identify fire hazards before fires occur.

Each fire and safety engineering technology student is expected to serve an internship in a fire department during the course of the program. Even though it is not the intent of the program to train young men to be firemen, it is to their advantage to be familiar with the workings of a fire department in that their future jobs may involve experiences

that are directly or indirectly connected with the fireman and his particular problems.

Upon the completion of the two-year program, the students are ready for jobs with fire insurance companies, industrial firms, equipment manufacturers and government agencies.

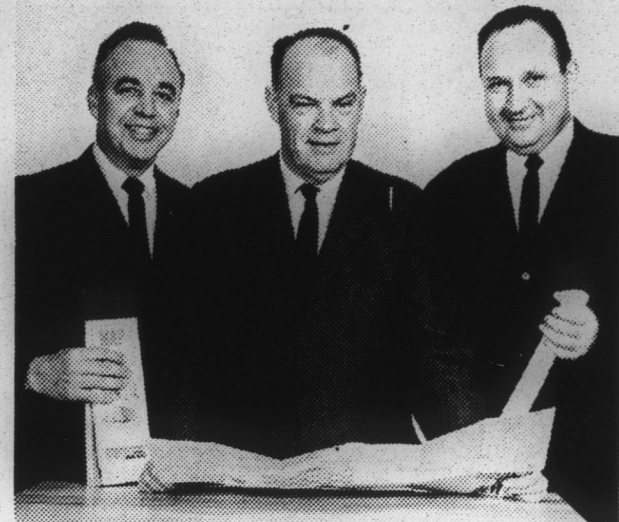
The fire and safety engineering technician may be involved in teaching the use of basic fire protection and safety equipment, in demonstrating equipment and in supervising installation of equipment. Or he may become a member of a team concerned with research projects, and in this capacity, he may serve as a link between the engineer and skilled employees.

A Rowan Tech official, in explaining why "finding jobs for these graduates is no problem," gave North Carolina's thriving Piedmont Crescent, stretching from Raleigh to Charlotte, as an example.

He explained that this section, covering the majority of the state's major cities, is growing at a rapid rate unknown before. With this growth is coming increased urbanization, accompanied by an additional number of fire hazards. Consequently, there is a tremendous need today and there will be a greater need tomorrow for people who are well trained in the techniques of fire prevention.

According to Firemanship Supervisor Phillippe, a program in fire science technology recently was developed and is being offered in Charlotte, administered by Central Piedmont Community College; Pope Air Force Base, administered by Richmond Technical Institute; and Salisbury, administered by Rowan Technical Institute.

As Phillippe explained, this new program is designed for the person al-



GROUP ELECTED — New officers of the N. C. Highway Users Conference are shown discussing far-reaching plans for the improvement of urban-market roads in various sections of the State during 1968. With offices in Raleigh, they are, left to right: Carl Lowendick of the N. C. Petroleum Committee, secretary; Thompson Greenwood, N. C. Merchants Association, chairman; and W. B. Austin, Jr., of the N. C. Cattlemen's Association, vice chairman.

My pride fell with my fortunes. —Shakespeare.

Pride goeth before and shame cometh after. —Richard Hilles.

Baptists In State Plan For Home In The West

THOMASVILLE — Trustees of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina voted to exercise an option on a 90-acre tract of land near Waynesville as a proposed site for a Western Carolina Children's Home.

The 18-member Children's Home board approved plans to move ahead toward establishment of the Western Carolina Home 5½ miles east of Waynesville.

Dr. W. R. Wagoner, president of the Baptist Children's Homes, describes the site as a picturesque mountain valley at about 3,000 feet altitude with hospital facilities, churches and schools nearby.

Many groups have expressed sincere interest in establishing a Children's Home in this area of the state, according to Dr. Wagoner.

Plans call for a com-

plete campus that will serve as the Western Carolina base for multiple child care services to dependent and neglected children and their families.

The home will provide group care for about 50 children and will include four family-style cottages where brothers and sisters live in the same cottage, a superintendent's home and a Children's Home Center. The center will include offices, administrative services area, educational and recreational facilities.

Each cottage will provide complete living facilities for about 12 children and house parents, similar to new structures at Mills Home in Thomasville and Kennedy Home near Kinston.

"The proposed Western Carolina Home is the result of six years of exhaustive study," said Dr. Wagoner.

"The home would serve children in need regardless of church affiliation or the lack of it," the child care leader said.

The Western Home would be a local agency that has the advantage of the experience and overall leadership of the largest and oldest church related child care agency in the state.

North Carolina Baptists began a ministry to children in need with the establishment of the Mills Home at Thomasville in 1885. Since that time the child care services have grown to include group care on five campuses—Mills Home, Kennedy Home, Greer Home in Chapel Hill, Odum Home in Pembroke and Wall Home in Wallburg.

Ministries also include foster home services, family services with financial assistance, case work services for individuals and families, referral services, care for children in need of specialized assistance and medical treatment and a demonstration program of pre-school child care and development.

The homes also operates regional centers in Charlotte, Raleigh and Asheville to provide assistance to local church leaders and others in strengthening family life.

Bank Earnings Show Increase

Peoples Bank and Trust Company has reported 1967 net operating earnings of \$712,231 or \$3.10 a share, up 35.6 per cent from the 1966 figure of \$525,293, or \$2.28 a share.

Resources totaled \$87,240,148, an increase of 12 per cent, compared with \$77,959,860 last year. Deposits were \$77,818,040 compared with \$70,576,902.

Heard This One?

Benny—Hey, look at that bunch of cows!
Dale—Not bunch, herd.
Benny—Heard what?
Dale—Herd of cows.
Benny—Sure I've heard of cows.
Dale—I mean a cow herd.
Benny—What do I care if a cow heard?

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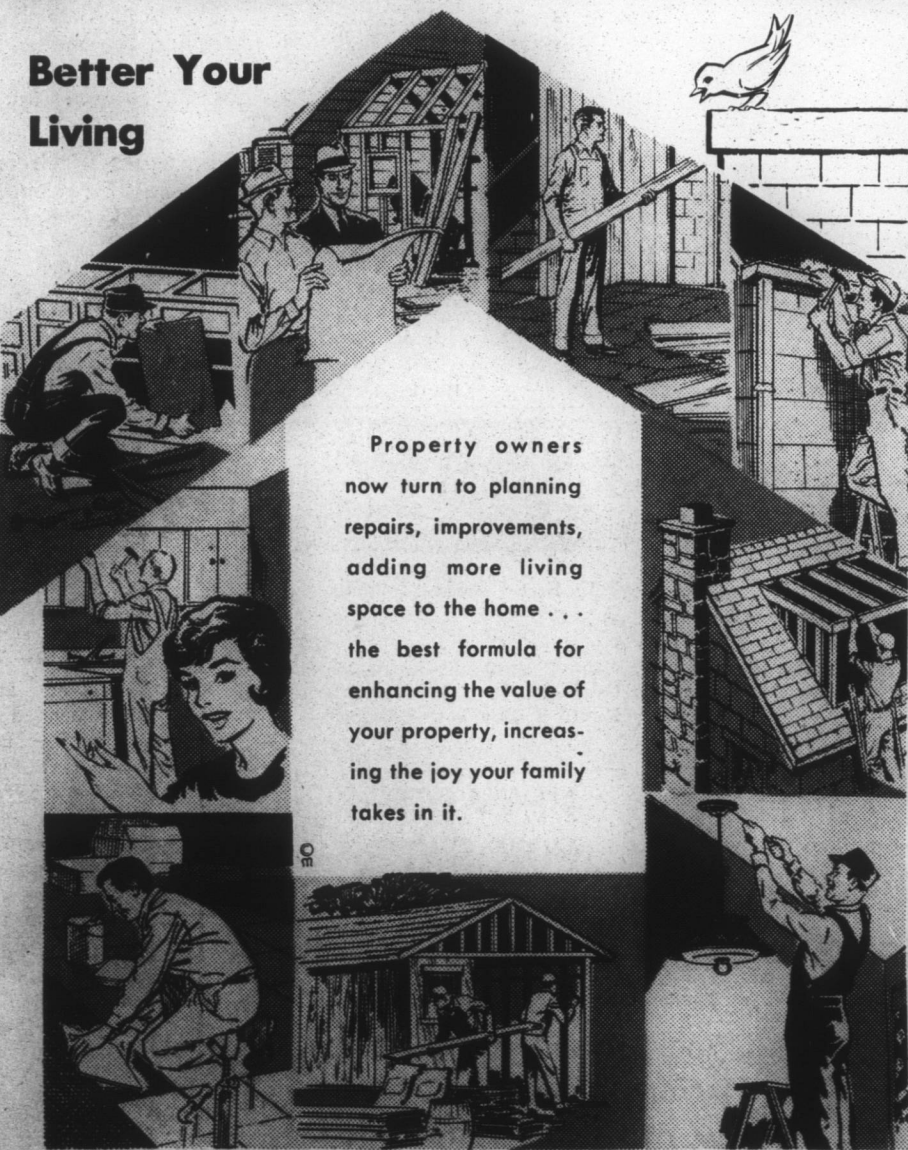
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