



Firemen Rush To Burning House....

Classwork, Burning Train Young Firemen

By GARY STEWART
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The travelers on busy U.S. 74 slowed down for a closer look.

Residents of the area came for city blocks to see the blaze.

The whole area must have been burning down.

But the fire which appeared so serious was a practice burning by 38 firemen from nine Cleveland County fire departments who had spent four nights of intensive training conducted by the N.C. Department of Insurance.

The firemen could have some fun, knowing no one was inside the house and there was no danger of anyone losing life or property.

Firemen from Kings Mountain, Grover, Chestnut Ridge, Forest City, Number Seven, Cleveland, Shanghai, Oak Grove and Number Three took part in the "Unit One" class which included classroom work on Monday through Wednesday, and the house burning on Tracy Street in Kings Mountain Thursday.

Earl Denny, a training officer with the Fire-Rescue Division of the Department of Insurance, taught the class and supervised the burning. The old wooden house, donated by a local corporation, was set ablaze and extinguished several times by small groups of firemen, and finally burned to the ground.

Denny, who has worked for the Department of Insurance for 18 years, said the class was designed primarily for inexperienced firemen who have only recently joined the departments. It was a way for them to gain experience without the pressures that will face them in the real thing.

The class covered protective clothing, breathing apparatus, nozzles and their uses, and the actual fighting of the house fire. "They all performed well,"

said Denny. "Chestnut Ridge has no building and was using borrowed equipment, but their men performed like experienced firemen."

One group that included a Chestnut Ridge fireman entered the burning house, and that fireman's bell which signals the near-end of oxygen sounded.

"You hear that bell?" asked Denny. "That means he has only five minutes of air. Most people would knock a whole in the side of that building trying to get out. But he stayed calm."

While Denny was conducting classes in Kings Mountain, other training officers were at other departments in the county conducting more advanced classes. In all, seven classes were conducted in the county last week.

The program was begun in the late 1950's after a statute was discovered that the Commissioner of Insurance is the Fire Marshal of North Carolina.

Training officers, who are based in Raleigh, average 42 to 45 weeks a year conducting classes. Since it was found impossible to cover all phases of firefighting in one week of classes, the department was broken down into units.

Over 95 percent of the firemen the department works with are volunteers, thus, Denny says it is simpler for the training officers to go to the firemen instead of them going to Raleigh.

"I've been with the department for 18 years and we've never been caught up," said Denny. "We stay about a year behind.

"We start with the basics," he went on, "such as self-protection. The fireman first has to take care of himself before he can save others."

The "Second Unit" class moves up to breathing apparatus. "We're putting much more emphasis on that nowadays," Denny said. "We have a lot of



Earl Denny Talks With Firemen....

firemen injured from toxic gases. Some of them don't realize the importance of having the breathing equipment on every time they go into a fire."

Cleveland County, Denny explained, is fortunate to have the fire protection that it has. The county has its own training committee, which meets regularly with County Fire Marshal Delane Davis, and it decides what training is needed and assigns the firemen to whichever

class he needs to attend. "That method is much better than letting the firemen decide for themselves," Denny said. "If the individual firemen decided which class they wanted to attend, most of them would go to the burning class and you'd have only two or three people in the other classes.

"The young ones need to be in the burning classes," he said, "because they've never done it before."

Davis Heads Sixth Region

Kings Mountain District School's Superintendent William F. Davis has been installed as president of the Southwest Region Superintendent's Council for the Sixth Education Region.

Region Six includes 16 school administrative units including Anson County, Union County, Monroe City, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Cabarrus County, Concord City, Rowan County, Stanley County, Albemarle City, Kannapolis City, Gaston County, Cleveland County, Shelby City, Kings Mountain District, Salisbury City, and Lincoln County.

The Superintendent's Council meets on the third Thursday of each month, usually in Charlotte, to consider issues and concerns which are common to the superintendents of the 16 administrative units in the region.

The Superintendent's Council also serves as an advisory board to the regional office of the State Department of Public Instruction which is located in Albemarle.

Supt. Davis said that Region Six has established seven high priorities during the 1981-82 school year. They include: to request the Institute of Government to set up a special meeting for Southwest Region administrators relating to policies on drugs and discipline by June 30, 1982; to continue one



renewal credit workshop for superintendents and key assistants based on a special management topic to be chosen by participants; to fully support and seek ways of coordinating with the new District IV North Carolina School Boards Association; to investigate alternatives for improving two-way communication between local boards of education and county commissioners; to continue to hold the fall and spring conferences and the Duke Management Symposium for superintendents and assistants; and to pool information on strategies for promoting the School Bond Referendum.

Graduation Set Friday

Commencement exercises for the Class of 1981 of Kings Mountain Senior High School will be held Friday night at 8 p.m. in John Gamble Memorial Football Stadium.

Senior class officers will lead the program and special music will be presented by the KMSHS Chorale and Ensemble.

Diplomas will be presented to 230 seniors will be presented by Principal Bob McRae, assisted by Supt. William Davis and Chief Marshal Pamela Hatch.

Stephen Joseph Gnant, Jr., Vice President of the Class of 1981, will give the welcome and Class President Jane Hambricht will present the Class of 1981. Edie Schronce, class treasurer, will present the class gift which will be accepted by Mrs. George

B. Thomasson, chairman of the KM District Board of Education.

Janice Marie Scoggins, class secretary, will recognize honor graduates. Mary Ann McClain will pronounce the benediction.

The KM Junior High Ninth Grade Band will play the processional, under the direction of Christopher C. Cole.

Rev. Tom Patterson, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, delivered the baccalaureate sermon to graduating seniors Sunday evening at B. N. Barnes Auditorium. Other ministers of the community participated in the service.

Awards Day at Kings Mountain Senior High School begin Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

City Police Report Larceny

Kings Mountain Police are investigating several incidents of vandalism and larcenies during the weekend.

Police reported that Trailer 12 at Dixie Trailer Park was vandalized with approximately \$75 in damages.

Lee Sullens, of 1009 N. Piedmont Ave., reported that someone broke a window on the back porch of his residence.

Bob Causby, of 105 McGinnis St., reported damage to his property, larceny and communication of threats. A juvenile was charged in the incident.

Patricia Logan, of Bessemer City, a nurse at Kings Mountain hospital, reported that hub caps were stolen from her vehicle while it was parked in the hospital parking lot. The hub-caps were valued at \$400.

Irene Irvin, of 29 Dixie Trailer Park, reported that \$50 was stolen from her residence during the weekend.

Corbet Nicholson, of Henry st., reported the theft of a lawnmower.

Jesse Price, of 1910 Alpine Street, reported that \$4 worth of gasoline was stolen from her car.

KMHS Drama Students Tour New York City

Twenty-three Drama Club students from Kings Mountain Senior High School spent an exciting day in New York City recently.

Participating in the excursion

were Lisa Roark, Deana Lovelace, Louisa Wood, Karen Dixon, Sandy Horn, Dana Horne, Linda Gsellman, Mary Anne White, Philip Wright, Mark McSwain, Lee Ann

Wilson, Gaye Caveny, Teresa Leonhart, Todd Weaver, Todd Chastain, Wanda Witherspoon, Anne Tate, Daune Brazzell, Brad Curtis, Toasty Hardin, Suzanne Thornburg, Sharon

Bumgardner, and Glynis Drumm. Accompanying the students were Miss Francoise Picaronny, Mrs. Vivian Duncan, Miss Jeanne Cornett, Mrs. Sandra Murphrey, Mrs. Lois Curtis,

Mrs. Jerry Gantt, Mrs. Betsy Wells, Mrs. Nancy Clay and Principal and Mrs. Bob McRae. Mrs. Betsy Wells, head of the KMSHS Drama Department, had been planning the trip since

October. The group flew via Eastern Airlines, departing from Charlotte on Saturday morning,