
"Post Volunteer Fire Department"



Fort Oglethorpe
Georgia

"Post Volunteer Fire Department"

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

Annual Fire Report

Volume No. 1

1958

Written and Compiled by Nick A. Matula, Jr.

Photographs by Jimmy Sampley



COMPLIMENTS OF THE FORT OGLETHORPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, WHOSE COMBINED EFFORTS HAS MADE THE TOWN OF FORT OGLETHORPE AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES A SAFER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE. THIS BOOK OUTLINES THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THEIR FORMATION IN 1953.

Preface

When a group of people, who are interested in making their Town a safer place in which to live, and combine their ideas and skills towards achieving such a goal, the result is bound to spell success. Thus, it has been with the group of men known as the "VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF FORT OGLETHORPE".

Throughout the years that this organization has been in existence, these men have seen the physical and financial needs faced by the various city administrations in their efforts to make Ft. Oglethorpe a better place in which to live, to raise a family and to operate a business.

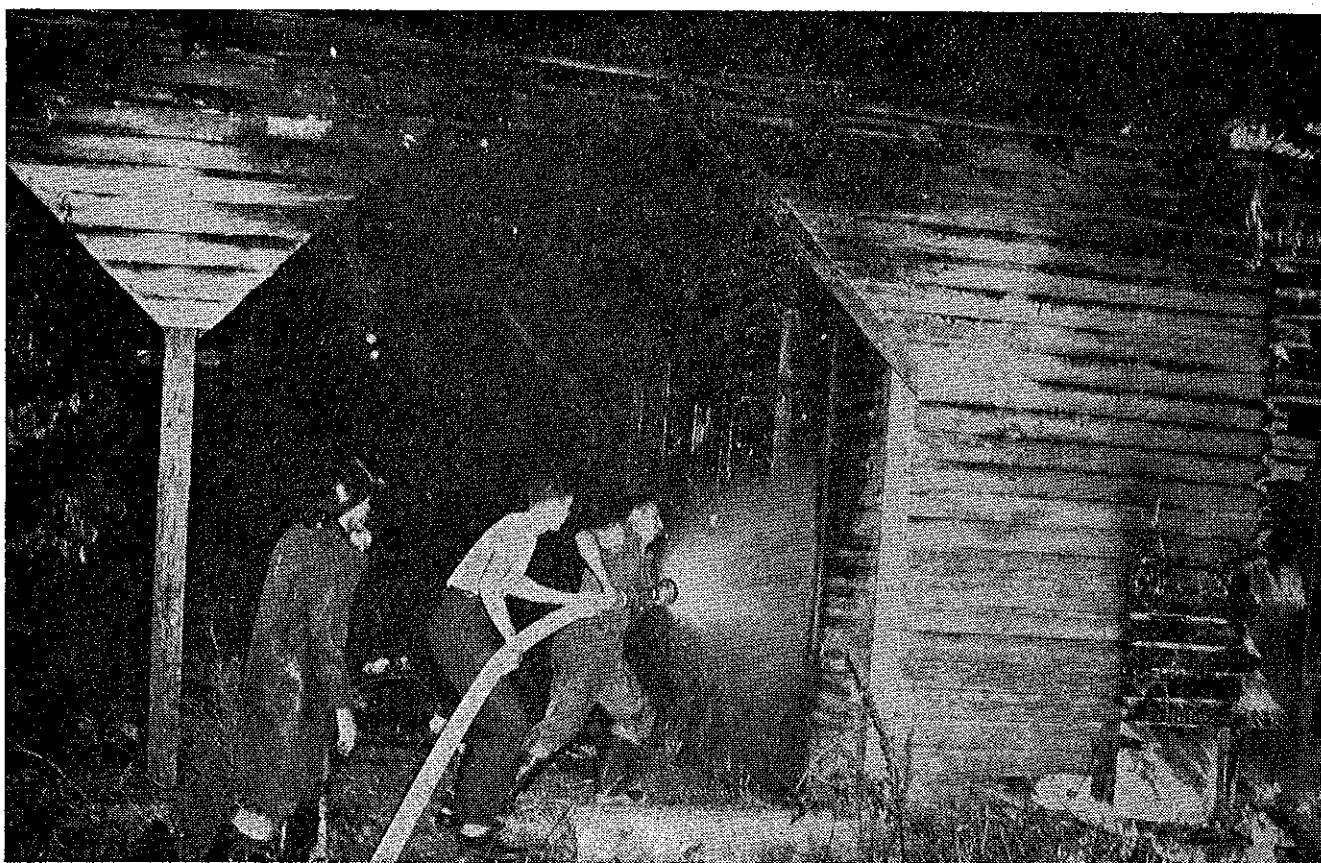
Physical help has been given by the formation of a volunteer fire department which has required weekly training in the art of fire fighting. These men did this because they knew that the town could not pay a paid fire department. Because of these men, The Fort Oglethorpe Fire Department can compete with any other Town in the matter of fire protection.

Financial aid has made all this possible. The yearly Bar-B-Que and the fire subscription contracts which guarantee fire protection to surrounding communities, are among the many projects sponsored by the Volunteers.

When the Volunteers buy new equipment, such as the fire engine, two-way radio and other miscellaneous items, it is completely paid for through some project, and only then is it presented to the Town.

Naturally, it is through the generosity of you, the people, that these projects are successful. To all of you, the Volunteers say "Thank You". They hope you will continue to support their work.

To the different administrations that have been in office through the years that the Volunteers have been organized, goes an expression of gratitude for all that they have done. We wish to thank, especially, the present group of men, upon whose shoulders most of the weight of this project fell. Our Mayor, the Honorable A. D. Phillips, and all the Councilmen have supported this project from the time they took office. Their cooperation has hastened the completion of the Municipal Building.



What Makes a Volunteer Fireman?

What makes an otherwise average man give his time — his money — his efforts — and sometimes his life — to help other people?

There are many kinds of volunteers, but none can match the fireman for complete generosity. He donates time he could be spending on pleasures or projects to benefit himself. He gives money to buy equipment because sometimes it is the only way to get it. He offers whatever skills he has to improve his fire station. He is ready to drop everything and run whenever one of his neighbors is in trouble. Then, because he believes so strongly in his cause, he spends more time trying to get others to support it. The fact that he seeks this support from those he is dedicated to help should make this his easiest task. But, it isn't so. Sometimes he has to prove the need. Sometimes the proof lies in the smouldering ashes of a house he hasn't been able to save. Sometimes he becomes discouraged, resentful and bitter at the apparent lack of interest in his cause. But his own belief is not shaken. He is a fireman

A VOLUNTEER FIREMAN. Such are the dedicated men of the Fort Oglethorpe Fire Department.



A Letter From The Chief:

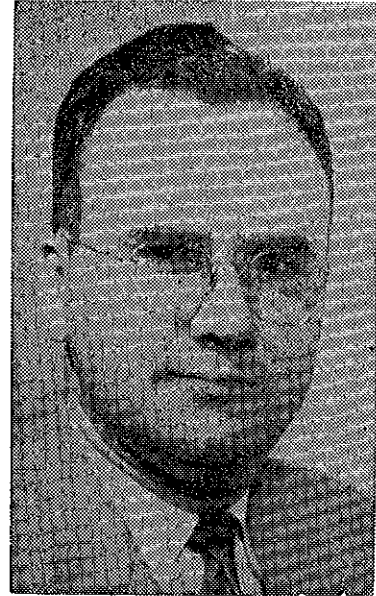
During the 7 years that I have been connected with the Fire Department, I have always had a group of men that were interested in the advancement and betterment of their Fire Station and Town.

Having such a crew, my job, as head of this organization, has been an enjoyable task. It is because of the teamwork that these men have shown that your fire department is as advanced as any other fire department located in a Town the size of Fort Oglethorpe.

I urge everyone to continue to support this organization so that our work, which is protecting you with the most modern fire fighting equipment available, will continue.

Ruben V. Satterfield, Chief

A Letter From The Mayor:



Having watched the Post Volunteer Fire Department for the past seven years as a citizen, as a member of the fire department, as alderman and now as mayor, I have been in a position to see them in action, to have knowledge of their sincere devotion and their untiring efforts. I have found that they are one of the most civic minded groups that I have ever had the opportunity or privilege of knowing. They are ready at all times, not only to protect, but to strive for the advancement of their town and surrounding territory. This letter will not permit me to even begin to tell you how many hours, and the amount of money that they have channeled through and with the Post Volunteer Fire Department.

May, with these added facilities, both the fire department and every phase of our town's interest be greatly enhanced.

Yours very truly,

TOWN OF FORT OGLETHORPE

A. D. Phillips, Mayor



A Letter From Our Fire And Police Commissioner

“Somebody said that it couldn’t be done,
But they with a chuckle replied;
That maybe it couldn’t,
But they wouldn’t say so ’til they tried”.

Paraphrasing a well known poem, I’m speaking of a group of men known as the Police and Post Volunteer Fire Department of our fair town. Things that are tangible just don’t materialize out of thin air. Plans must be made, blue prints drawn and it takes men with a vision and not afraid of hard work to do these things. True they did not do it by themselves, but they were the nucleus who shouldered the responsibility and we followed.

We as citizens of Fort Oglethorpe have much to thank this group for. Looking over some of their achievements we find a modern Fire Engine and also an up to date two-way Police Radio Station, the envy of many a larger city than ours, paid for by these men and donated to our town. The crowning point of their ventures is a beautiful Municipal Building, that we can call ours, through their efforts.

We owe much to this group for our safety and well being, day in and day out; men who answer the call to duty at any hour and whose pay is not much more than the satisfaction of a job well done.

I consider it a privilege to work with you and feel that I am in a small way a part of your organization. I salute you for your zeal and celerity in your attainments.

Sincerely,

V. E. Warren,

Commissioner Fire & Police

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The Volunteer Firemen

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W. F. Friel, Captain

T. G. Hixon, Jr., Captain

J. F. Holder, Lieutenant

H. P. Hoover, Chaplain

L. B. Nicholson, Ass't. Chaplain

J. P. Allen

J. H. Ballew

D. E. Bowen, Jr.

C. H. Buck

H. F. Cook

M. H. Cook

G. E. Crawford

Z. W. Daugherty

R. W. Dial

D. D. Jackson

W. L. Jones

N. A. Matula, Jr.

J. R. Millard

W. V. Moore

F. H. McDowell

J. M. Newcom

M. E. Nichols

L. E. Norton

A. D. Phillips

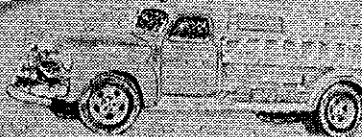
B. G. Stephens

J. L. Sampley

W. P. Wagner

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

ERECTED IN 1959 BY



POST VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

BUILDING COMMITTEE

R. V. SATTERFIELD CHAIRMAN
N. A. MATULA JR. CO-CHAIRMAN
T. G. HIXON JR.
A. D. PHILLIPS
D. F. STEVISON

THIS MONUMENT was given to the Volunteers by Leo McCormick, owner of "McCormick Monument Company", and "Tenn.-Georgia Memorial Cemetery", both located on Hogan Road. The monument is located in front of the Municipal Building.

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"Post Volunteer Fire Department, Inc."

The Post Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., was originally known as the "Post Firemens Club". This club was formed in 1953, and at that time had 24 members. The purpose of this club was to handle business affairs of the Fire Department by promoting different projects from which to raise money to better the equipment being used at that time. It was then, and it is known now, that all the equipment that the club purchased, regardless of what it might be, was to be given to the Town of Fort Oglethorpe when the men of the Club paid for it through their projects.

Each year the club has a special meeting, the first Thursday of December. At this meeting the club elects the officers for the following year. The officers elected are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Assistant Chaplain, Historian and Sergeant At Arms. The officers for the year 1959 are: R. V. Satterfield, President; W. P. (Billy) Wagner, Vice President; Nick Matula, Treasurer; Dennis Stevison, Secretary; H. P. Hoover, Chaplain; L. B. Nicholson, Assistant Chaplain; Jimmy Sampley, Historian, and H. Cook, Sergeant At Arms.

During the six years that this club has been operating, they have bought and paid for approximately \$20,000.00 in equipment, and **GIVEN** it all to the Town of Fort Oglethorpe.

In order for a man to be a member of this club he must be a member of the Fire Department, and then he is voted into the club. The club functions are in no way connected with the city, it is an independent organization with its own governing body. All prospective members are screened thoroughly before their name is brought up on the floor to be voted upon. No member of the Fire Department or club receives pay for his services as a Fireman.

The club incorporated itself in 1958 so that they could raise the funds necessary to build the municipal building. The club is now a non-profit organization and all money donated to this organization is tax exempt.

There are presently 31 members — men from all walks of life — painters, laborers, draftsmen, machine accountants, Clergymen, machinists, printers and businessmen. All working together with one aim, to help their neighbor.

COMPLIMENTS

**Chickamauga Post
No. 3679 V.F.W.**

FT. OGLETHORPE, GA.

COMPLIMENTS

**Nick Napier Post No. 214
American Legion**

FT. OGLETHORPE, GA.

COMPLIMENTS

Ladies Auxiliary
to the
V.F.W. Post 3679

CHICKAMAUGA
FT. OGLETHORPE, GA.

COMPLIMENTS

Veterans' Organization

FT. OGLETHORPE, GA.



Fire Engine No. 3

PROJECT NO. 1

The Chevrolet fire engine pictured above was the first major project that the Volunteers undertook at a cost to them of \$10,000.00.

This truck was purchased in the early fall of 1954, and took the place of a 1941 Chevrolet fire engine.

This engine will pump 500 gallons of water per minute. It has a 750 gallon water tank mounted on its bed and carries all the necessary small fire fighting equipment. It carries 900 feet of 2½ inch hose, 600 feet of 1½ inch hose and has a 350 foot booster line.

The fire department also has another fire engine, which is a Ford. It is used primarily as a hose truck.

Both of the above trucks are equipped with 2-way radio receivers and transmitters.

Captain W. F. Friel and Captain T. G. Hixon, Jr. are in charge of the crews assigned to each of the engines.

The fire department has another group of men known as the fire police. Their duty is to see that the Firemen are not hindered by traffic or people while they are fighting a fire. This crew is under the supervision of Lieutenant Joe Ballew. They are: Nick Matula, A. D. Phillips, Z. W. Daugherty.

Congratulations Volunteers

A. D. PHILLIPS

T. G. HIXON

MARK FLETCHER

V. WARREN

E. WATSON

TONY DIFIGIO



Thanks to Harold and Max Cook for allowing the Volunteers to keep on their premises at all times this tractor and trailer truck. It is used to transport water to rural areas to fight fires.

This truck is a 1954 White and holds 4,050 gallons of water. It has seen action and proved itself beneficial to the fire department.

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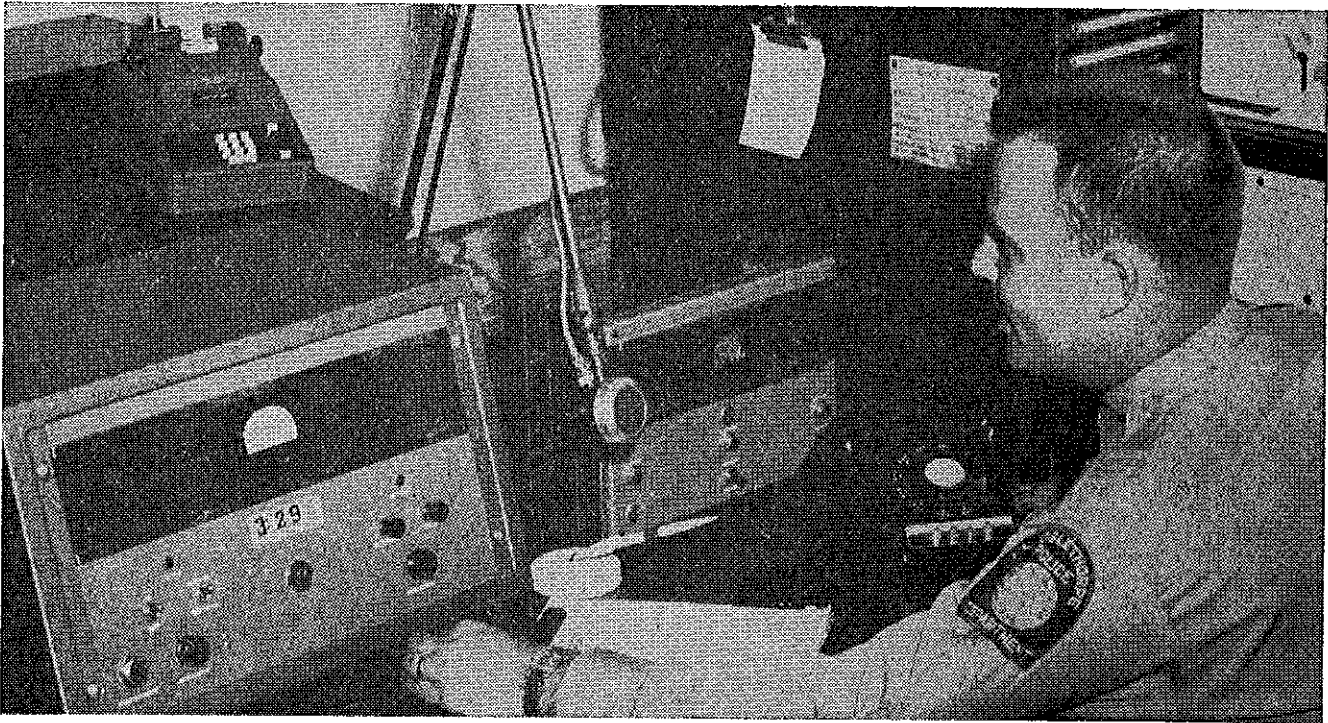
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R. C. A. 2-Way Radio Unit

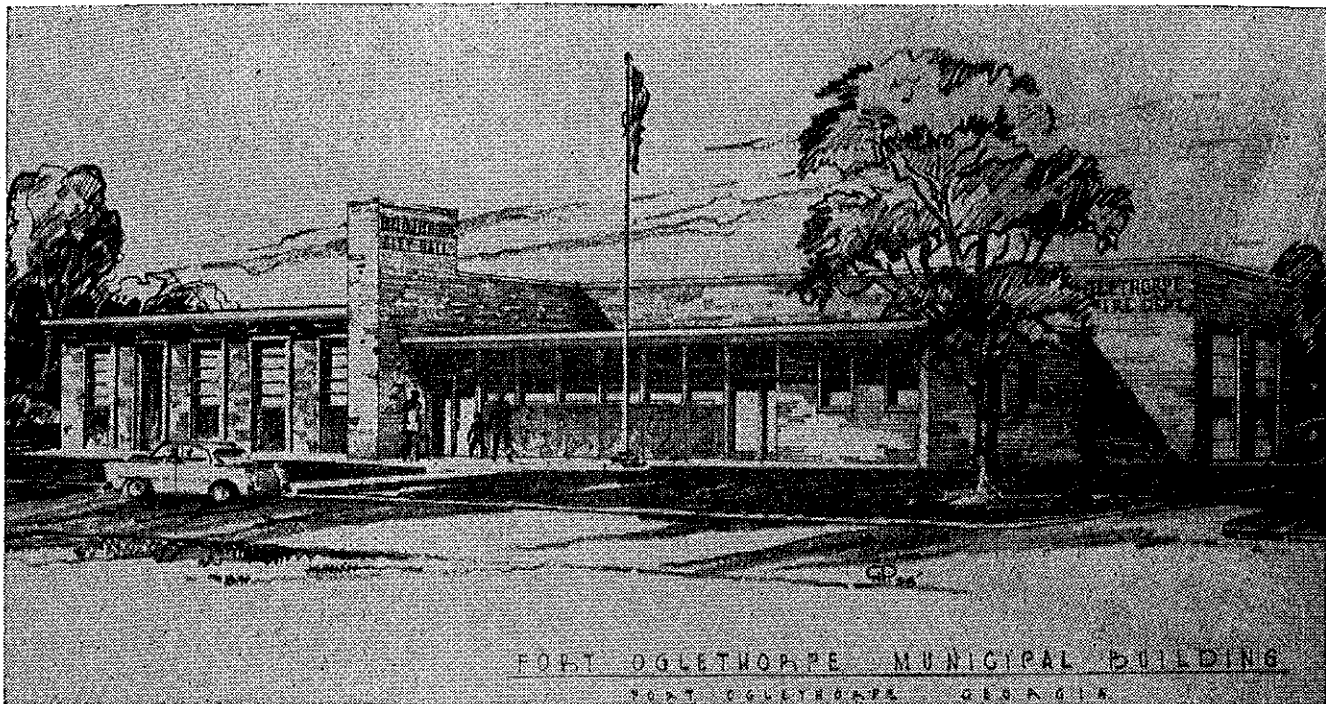
PROJECT NO. 2

The R. C. A. Radio pictured above was purchased by the Volunteers at a cost to them of \$3,700.00.

This radio consists of a base station of 250 watts and a two way radio unit was installed in each of the fire trucks and police car consisting of 55 watts.

This radio is operated by licensed radiomen, otherwise known as Dispatchers. Each of these men are members of the Fire Department and Police Department, and are trained to interpret the various signals used by other police departments. Fort Oglethorpe is in direct contact with the Georgia State Patrol at Dalton through this radio and they can be contacted immediately when the cause arises.

This entire unit was given to the Town of Fort Oglethorpe.



Municipal Building

PROJECT NO. 3

This is indeed the pride and joy of the Volunteers. This was project #3, and it was their biggest. The building was built at a cost to them of over \$50,000.00.

The Municipal Building consists of a Court Room, Police Office, Radio Room, Mayor's Office, Utilities Office — which are in the front part of the building — and in the back it has the jail, mess hall, bunker room and apparatus room.

This building is air conditioned and is heated by gas.

The most important part of this building to the fire department is the radio room. This is the "Brain" center. When the radio man on duty receives a fire call he has control, by means of switches, to turn on the red lights in town, open the doors in the apparatus room and direct the fire truck to the scene of the fire.

There are seven (7) telephones installed throughout this building. All the phones have one phone number, and they were installed whereby if one phone is busy another phone on the same line can take the call.

This building has an inter-com system throughout whereby anyone can be reached from any one point in the building. The municipal building was built under the supervision of Mr. Jimmy Lusk and Marvin Caldwell. They certainly did a magnificent job. Their untiring efforts to make this building as modern a municipal building as possible will always be appreciated by the Volunteers.

Following is a brief account of how the Volunteers obtained the necessary funds and land for this building: The Councilmen had purchased some property some time ago. Two men, representing the Firemens Club, went to the Council in October, 1958 and outlined their plans for a municipal building. They asked if the town would give them the property. The Council agreed, and also, offered to pay the architects fee for the drawing of plans and writing specifications. This saved the Firemens Club approximately \$3,000.00.

The design of the building was taken from a magazine and the original floor plan was drawn by Nick Matula, a member of the fire department and presented to the club for comments and approval. After this, it was given to the architects for final drawing.

To start the fund raising campaign, the fire department adopted the slogan "Won't You Help Us, Help Our Neighbor?" Letters were sent out describing the work of the Volunteers and telling of aims to improve the

town. People from Chattanooga to Atlanta responded with contributions. Their names will be placed on a plaque as a token of appreciation.

A further means of acquiring money, was the issuance of \$50,000.00 in bonds which guarantee five (5%) per cent interest upon date of maturity. All these bonds were sold. This meant that the Volunteers were ready to build. Along with this, the Town Council has agreed to pay the Volunteers \$2,500.00 a year for the use of the building. This money will be used to pay the bonds as they come due.

After five months of intense planning, with only one goal in view — to begin construction — work on the building was started on March 16, 1959. In July, 1959 came the completion of this civic project.

This building we give to the people of Fort Oglethorpe. It is one we can all be proud of — now, and for many years to come.



"The Building Committee"

The five men below were elected by the Firemens Club to handle all matters concerning the building of the Municipal Building.

Mr. R. V. Satterfield, Chairman

Mr. Nick A. Matula, Jr., Co-Chairman

Mr. Dennis Stevison

Mr. T. G. Hixon

Mr. A. D. Phillips

The Volunteer Firemen's Club, through the efforts of these men are now incorporated as a non-profit organization. The name of this corporation is "THE POST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INCORPORATED".

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Fire Subscription Contracts

It is through the purchase of a fire contract that the Volunteer Fire Department brings to the surrounding communities of Fort Oglethorpe fire protection. These contracts range in price from \$10.00 per year on up, according to the kind of property which is to be covered.

All Churches and Schools are covered free of charge.

The fire contracts, along with the other projects that the fire department sponsors are the means through which they are able to raise the necessary funds to buy fire equipment.

Anyone wishing to obtain a fire contract, can do so, by contacting any fireman and asking him about it. He will be glad to discuss in detail all the benefits received by those who hold one.

The fire department does not answer a fire call outside the City, unless the party has a contract or there is a human life in danger.



The Yearly Bar-B-Que

Each year on Labor Day the fire department sponsors a Bar-B-Que. This is one day that everyone looks forward to because of the fun that is enjoyed by all.

We have a dunking tank, a greasy pole, bike races, cake walks, and the greased pig, which all the children chase, and to the one that catches it, he or she gets to keep the pig.

With all of this we give away prizes to the lucky ticket holders, prizes that the local merchants donate to the fire department for this occasion.

The yearly Bar-B-Que is under the strict supervision of the Fire Department and Police Department.

Usually the Fire Department permits another organization, such as the local P.T.A. to assist them.

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Circuit Probation Officer
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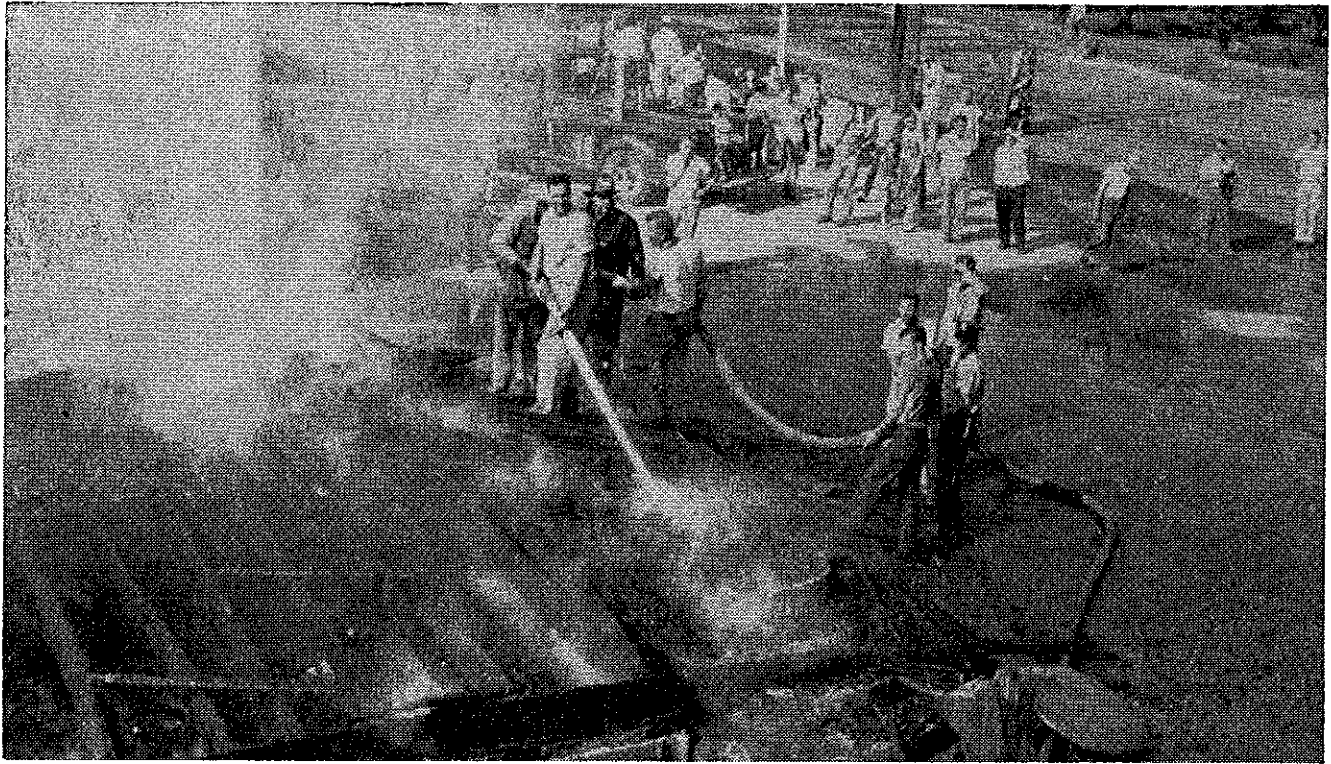
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JESSIE OSTEEN
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MARY CAPPINGER

DENNIS STEVISON
Assistant Fire Chief

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#2



“Major Local Fire Of 1958”

Pictured above is the remains of what was “The Post Grill”. Although the Fire Department lost this building, their quick action in bringing the fire under control resulted in saving the other business buildings surrounding it.

All proprietors should periodically check their buildings, in this way, a fire can be prevented before it starts.

The recommendations of the Fire Marshall should be carried out without question. He is an authority on fire prevention. When he makes his inspections and outlines the necessary corrections that should be made — make them — they are for your benefit.

Fort Oglethorpe is growing into a beautiful Town, let's not mar its beauty by the sight of a burned-out building.

RUBEN SATTERFIELD

Fire and Police Chief

W. L. JONES FAMILY

and

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"Something To Remember"

By Ricky Lee Liner, 7th Grade St. Gerard School

Most woods fires are caused by careless people who do not think of others. Let us go along with a fellow on a camping trip. We will call him Joe.

While Joe is driving, he lights a cigarette with a match. Without extinguishing it, he throws it out the window on some dried leaves. If he is lucky, no fire will start, but it is a common way of starting one. Later Joe throws his still glowing cigarette out the window. This too, could cause a fire. Finally, he gets to his camp site. Again he lights up. This time it is a camp fire. While he is watching it, all is fine, but when he is ready to leave, he puts it out—so he thinks. He does not make sure, but drives off. Perhaps he reads in the next morning's paper of the millions of dollars worth of timber and property and wild life, lost, because of a forest fire. **Does Joe realize he did it?** Now we will see how Joe can prevent fires. Joe is getting ready to go on a camping trip. As he drives along, he lights a cigarette and puts the match in an ash tray. Later on, down the road, he starts to throw the cigarette out the car window, but remembers seeing dried leaves along the roadside. He puts the glowing cigarette butt in the ash tray. Arriving at camp, he makes a fire, after first making a pit for it. When he is ready to leave, he recalls the best way of being sure the fire is out—he pours water over it and then scatters it. The last thing he does is to pour dirt over it. Joe will not be reading about a woods fire, for he has kept in mind what Smokey, the Bear says; **"REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES"**.

Compliments

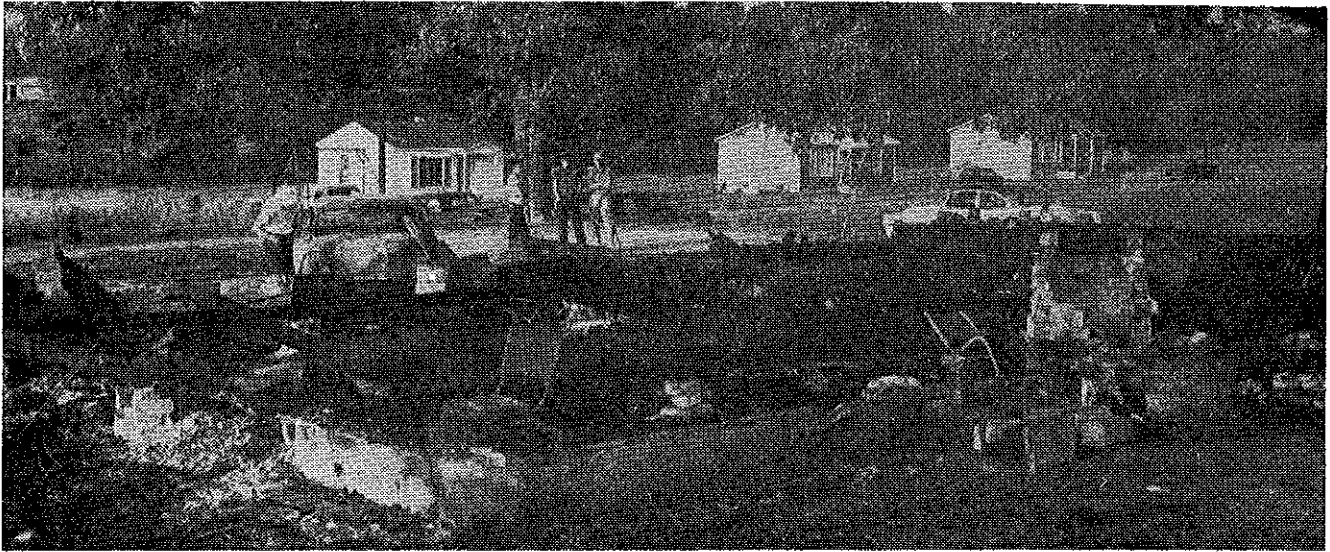


Inc.

Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.

Ringgold, Ga.

Trenton, Ga.



“Causes And Prevention Of House Fires”

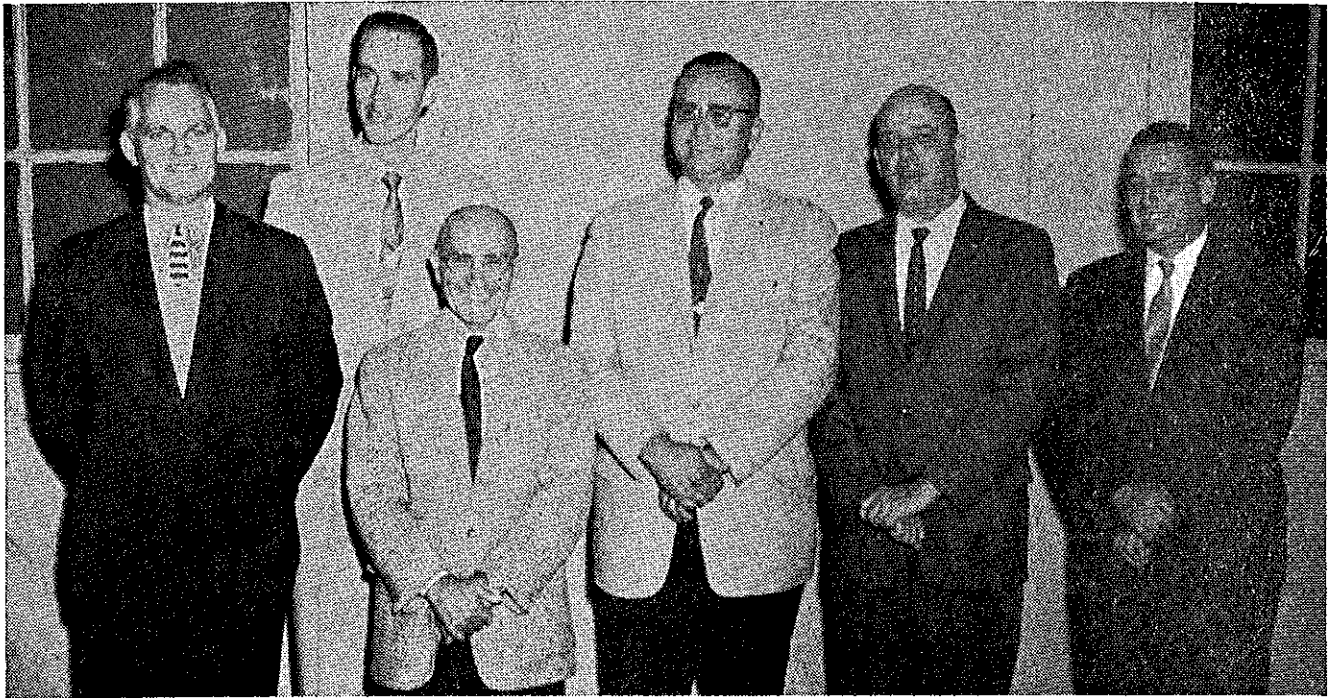
By David Guy — 6th Grade
Ft. Oglethorpe Elementary School

Some precautions of house fires are:

- Attics should be kept free from piled-up odds and ends that easily catch fire.
- Cellars should be kept free of trash, especially near furnaces and chimneys.
- Worn cords for lamps, toasters and irons should be replaced or expertly repaired.
- Electric appliances should be disconnected promptly when not in use.
- Fireplaces should be kept well screened to prevent danger from flying embers.
- Matches should be kept on a high shelf or other place, well out of reach of children.
- Trash, leaves, and oily rags should be burned in a guarded fire, away from buildings.

Unfortunately it is easier to adopt these fire laws than it is to enforce them. Laws will be obeyed when the citizens of a community realize that enforcement is for the benefit of everyone.

A good fire record in a city means a reduction in insurance rates, and in needless loss of life and property.



“Fort Oglethorpe City Officials”

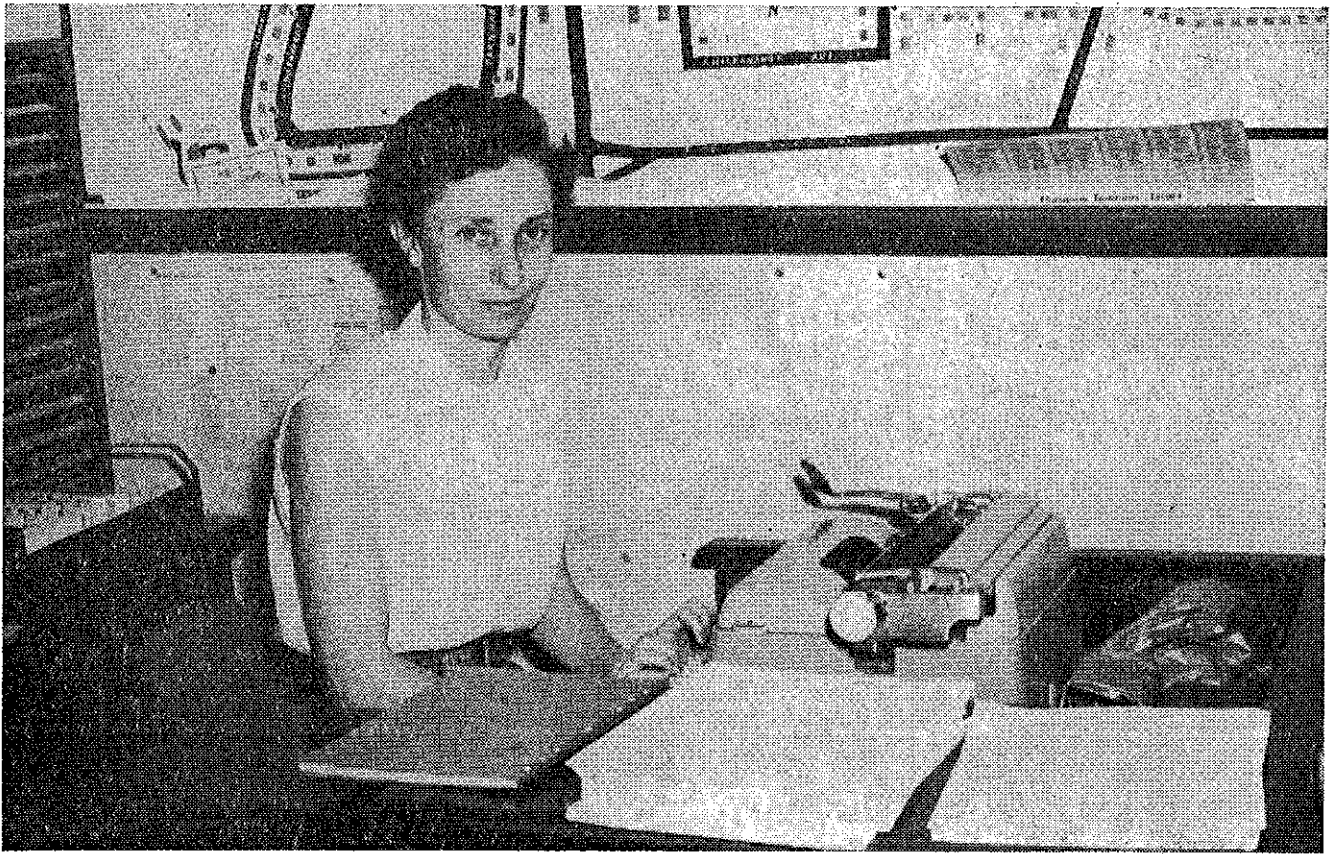
Although the building of the Municipal Building was strictly the project of the Volunteers, a great deal of help, which hastened its completion, came from our present Administration.

These men, although already burdened with city problems, took time to assist the Volunteers, in their legal problems, helping obtain labor and material at a discount, and assuring them of whatever help they may need.

The City Officials are:

Mr. Earl Watson, Dept. of Health and Education; Mr. Mark Fletcher, Dept. Streets-Street Lighting and Revenue; Mr. Tony DiFigio, Dept. of Recreation; Mr. A. D. Phillips, Mayor; Mr. V. E. Warren, Dept. of Public Safety; Mr. T. G. Hixon, Dept. of Public Utilities.

To these men, the Volunteers say, “Thank You”.



Mrs. C. Faye Matula

Deputy Clerk, Ft. Oglethorpe



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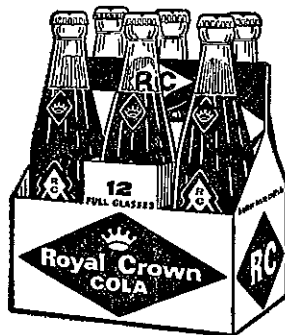
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Cash Receipts And Disbursements Year 1958

CASH RECEIPTS:

Cash on deposit— January 1, 1958		\$ 200.00
Cash transferred to checking account from building account less 1958 receipts		1,288.81
Fire Subscription Contracts		4,142.00
Dues		140.00
Projects: Bar-B-Que	\$ 802.90	
Building	595.66	1,398.56
		\$ 5,680.56

DISBURSEMENTS

Commissions		\$ 784.00
Flowers		80.51
Town of Fort Oglethorpe		1,732.68
Jackson T. V.		7.86
Western Auto		4.22
North Georgia Printing		52.50
Ladies Auxiliary		45.00
L. Nicholson		3.00
Shop Rite		89.63
T. H. Payne		35.27
Reece Walden		6.00
C. Wilhoit		35.00
C. D. Genter		24.75
Donations (Little League)		10.00
Stephenson Hardware		1.76
H. Cook		6.00
Vincent Letter Service		224.27
American Seal & Stamp		9.33
Chattanooga Rubber Stamp Co.		1.49
Morgan Produce Co.		1.50
Office Supplies		40.00
Provident Church Plan		500.00
J. G. Tanner		6.00
R. B. Bates		6.00
School Cafeteria		15.60
Catoosa News		66.00
Miscellaneous		102.50
		\$ 3,899.87
BALANCE		\$ 1,780.69

Cash on deposit January 1, 1959		\$ 3,269.51
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Nick Matula, Treasurer

Fire Protection, The Community And You

Fire protection in the specific sense refers to fire control and extinguishment, but as used commonly by national, state, and local organizations it refers both to the control and prevention of fire. Thus we have the National Fire Protection Association, and kindred organizations whose purpose is to develop fire prevention as well as fire control. On the local level we find municipal, rural and industrial fire departments, each with an avowed purpose of protecting life and property against fire, flood, wind, storm, and any other possible emergency and as such emphasize preventive measures as well as protection, if the emergency occurs.

History is a systematic account of events that portrays the development of a worthwhile institution, from which those interested may learn the cause and effect of happenings and profit thereby. The fire protection service is an institution of that sort; so let us look briefly at its development from its beginning to the present. Perhaps a consideration of the fire service will help us to better appreciate what has been done, better understand what is being done, and inspire us to make it much better in time to come.

History records that during the early years of modern civilization people were concerned about protection of life and property against fire. Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome, instituted the first regular fire department on record for the purpose of protecting his capitol.

In America the first record of purposeful fire protective measures is that of New York City, under the Director-Generalship of Peter Stuyvesant in 1648. In that year, in addition to directing the people to build better chimneys and keep them clean of soot, he appointed four Worshipful Fire Wardens to inspect every hearth and chimney in the city. Thus, the Worshipful Fire Wardens became the first New York Fire Department.

A thorough study would reveal that fire protection in the United States was developed through the efforts of municipal government, the insurance interests, and groups of citizens. As in New York, many city governments centered their interests on fire protection primarily. In Philadelphia in 1701 an act was passed imposing a fine upon anyone in the city who permitted his chimney to catch fire. The act also provided that each householder keep in his house a swab, at least twelve feet long, and two leather buckets to be kept available for use in case of fire. The mayor with two aldermen was given authority to manage and direct activities at all fires.

Insurance companies organized and maintained fire brigades as early as 1752 for the protection of property insured by them. To assure insurees that their property would be protected, officials placed markers over the front doors bearing the name of the insurer, and in some cases the number of policies was indicated on the marker. Although inconceivable in view of modern fire protection, it was customary for a fire brigade to protect only the property bearing its sponsoring insurance company's mark. Should a brigade respond to an alarm and find that the property bore the wrong mark or no mark at all, the owner was left to the ravage of the fire and the help of his neighbors.

In 1736 Benjamin Franklin was a leader in the formation of the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia, a volunteer association of citizens, for the purpose of fighting fires. Membership was limited to thirty, and each member agreed to keep in his home six leather buckets and two large bags for carrying to safety the goods in a burning building. The company had an engine, a hand-operated pumper, the only kind available at that early date. By 1752 Philadelphia had seven fire companies, all volunteers and dedicated to the protection of life and property against fire.

Whether the fire companies were sponsored by municipal government, insurance interests, or fire-conscious citizens, their efforts soon were centered upon community service, and the economic, rather than selfish insurance fire patrols were unable to confine their services to their own insurees, and then soon gave way to municipal and volunteer fire departments. Although in some instances a volunteer company became a social organization for the elite of a community, the spirit of community service prevailed, and always there were enough down-to-earth fire fighters in the organization to do the job of fire fighting.

The spirit of community service, the inherent desire to help people when they no longer can help themselves, even at the cost of personal welfare, has lived in the hearts of enough men through the years to assure the development of one of the most outstanding dependable services to humanity, the protection of life and property against the hazard of fire, wind, storm, flood, and other emergencies.

The fact that some of the early fire brigades or companies were sponsored by the property insurance companies cannot be ignored and bears a keen significance to the fire service even today. It is true that the primary purpose of these fire companies was to protect their insurance investments. If the insured property was not protected against fire, it either would prove a losing game, or insurance rates would be so high that none could afford it; consequently a part of the insurance premium was used to protect the investment by employing trained, well equipped men to control fire and thereby prevent expensive losses. The efforts of such fire companies, however, could not be confined to the protection of investments, and soon their activities became humanitarian as well as monetary.

Even today we are apt to think of insurance companies as strictly monetary organizations but that is not the case. After all, property insurance is the assurance of value replacement if the property is destroyed and as such is a service to humanity. But property insurance cannot replace life, not even the value of life. Neither can it replace personal belongings cherished by the owner; consequently there is a broader aspect to property insurance than just paying off, and insurance companies, even though they no longer sponsor fire companies as such, make every effort possible to aid fire protection organizations to assume this highly desirable community responsibility; monetary, perhaps but highly humanitarian.

It is much more desirable that fire departments be able to provide adequate fire protection and thereby merit desirable insurance grading than to spend their efforts in meeting grading requirements only. Once the

service task of adequate life and property protection is accomplished to a favorable degree of satisfaction, city grading and insurance rating follow as a consequence.

Fire protection is a community service and as such deserves a high degree of respectful consideration from the citizens of a community, if it is serving the purpose for which it is intended. Whether a fire department be paid or volunteer the respect shown it and the degree of dependence upon it for emergency service will be in a direct ratio to services rendered.

Fresh in the memory of most fire chiefs are the Coconut Grove fire, the Winecoff Hotel fire, the recent tragic Chicago school fire, and several other major disasters due to fire, and more caused by tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. All this indicates that in any community human lives are being lost at the hand of the very things that were meant to sustain them, fire, air, and water, and apparently no matter how we strive to use them advantageously, they get out of control, and lives must be protected against their ravages.

Thus life protection becomes a necessity in community welfare and some well-equipped, well-trained, and well-mannered group must be standing by ready to help people when, under circumstances beyond their control, they no longer can help themselves. That group is the fire department.

It is evident that life protection in any community is a top responsibility and the fire department is the unit of city government upon which this responsibility rests, and we have only to list the first-aid and life-saving activities of an up-to-date department over a period of time to realize the many such services that they render to a community.

Space will not permit our listing the services that a fire department renders to a community; nevertheless, citizens are, or at least should be, concerned about it; government is, or at least should be, determined to provide this service for the citizens; and, most of all, a fair percentage of the male citizens possess that essence of service, that "something" that will be satisfied in no other way than in fire department service.

The experiences of the volunteer fire department can be exasperating at times. If the alarm comes in the daytime, they must leave their business and make a special effort to reach the station in time to catch the truck. At night they are at home in bed, yet they must respond with extra effort if they are to be in time to save life and property. And the outstanding factor is that although the employed men are paid for their services, the volunteers get nothing, or nearly nothing. More than that, it may cost them for ruined clothing, cleaning and pressing and the like, the things that they must expect if they are to provide this community service.

The time was when fire departments appeared to be a necessary nuisance because they just sat around waiting for a fire to occur. But that is no longer true. They have found that whereas they had to undo the thing that was happening and resulting in fire, with a different effort but with greater ease, they could keep the elements of fire separated and thus prevent many fires from happening. This type of service became known as "fire prevention", and now is a necessity with all fire departments, paid and volunteer. In fact, smaller volunteer departments have done such eminent work in fire prevention that they too have won national recognition for it.

All firemen should be fire preventionists. There is no better way of building good public relations for a fire department than for its men to merit the respect of the citizens by being concerned with the home situations that create fire hazards and to counsel with the owners and occupants as to how to prevent fires happening. Certainly fire prevention is a community welfare activity and as such is a part of fire protection and consequently is the responsibility of the fire department.

An old proverb says "Never ride a free horse to death", and that is about the way a good fire department is treated. It is called for any and all emergencies, until the department becomes the general security agency for the community. Some departments resent such menial service, whereas others let it be known that they are the general security agency and ready to respond to any emergency that ever hazards the welfare of human life.

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