

ALIDA VOL. FIRE DEPT.

February 2, 1925

Si Turner and John Pedigo, Salida Mail printers, suffered burns when a gasoline tank used in a stereotype machine exploded as they were

pumping air into it. Water used by the fire department soaked the presses, linotype and paper stock.

February 6, 1965

George Eichman has returned to his duties as principal of Kesner Junior High School after a siege of the flu. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Gulliford at Poncha Springs was burglarized Tuesday. Money, jewelry, clothes and bedding were taken. Firechief Milton Myers reported a fire in a storage shed at the football field was caused by a cigarette dropped in a pile of sawdust.

January 25, 1965

Between \$10,000 and \$12,000 property damage resulted from a fire early this morning at the Main Bar on F Street. Salida captured a distinguished achievement award in the 1964 National Cleanest Town Contest. Cheryl Bondurant was installed as Rainbow Worthy Advisor. Miss Emily D. Goode attended the symphony concert in Colorado Springs featuring Jose Sturbi, noted pianist.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1975

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Brush fire here put out quickly

The Salida Fire Department extinguished a brush fire in short order Thursday.

The firemen arrived at the property of Harry Bender at about 5:30 and subdued the fire in less than an hour. Some trees and brush burned, but a nearby house was not damaged.

The cause of the fire just west of Salida on Highway 50 is unknown.



HELICOPTER CREW and members of the Monarch Ski Patrol transfer the

stretcher bearing Thomas Willett to the waiting 'copter.

'Copter lands in Salida to transport ski victim

A victim of a skiing accident at the Monarch Ski Area was rushed to Salida Sunday afternoon and loaded into a waiting U.S. Army helicopter.

The Fort Carson 'copter attracted a large crowd of spectators when it touched down in Salida Hospital's rear parking lot at 3:35, almost an hour before a Monarch Ski Patrol van arrived with the patient.

Thomas Willett, 31, of Pueblo, fractured and dislocated his left shoulder in a fall.

The 'copter was called by the Ski Patrol and was first to set down at Monarch. Weather

conditions, however, prevented the helicopter pilot from setting down there and he was re-routed to Salida.

Willett was loaded in a van and driven to Salida. The van arrived here at about 3:30 and Willett was on his way to St. Mary-Corwin Hospital in Pueblo in a matter of minutes.

Cruisers from the Colorado State Patrol and the city police department blocked the parking lot to keep spectators back from the 'copter.

A Salida Fire Department truck was also at the scene as a precaution.

Willett underwent surgery Sunday night and was reported in satisfactory condition.

Vandalism mounts in city

\$100 reward offered -

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1975

In response to the growing number of vandalism incidents in Salida, the Chaffee County Insurers have established a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

According to Chaffee County Sheriff Harold Thonhoff, the damages have been primarily to cars. "A number of cars have had their rear windows smashed by rocks," he said.

Radio antennas have also been snapped off, and eggs thrown at parked cars.

Another incident earlier this week ran up a damage bill of some \$200. Vandalism threw

stones through four windows of a home on D Street.

Vandalism is also suspected in the case of a fire Thursday night at Fairview Cemetery. A tree stump and bushes were set afire and the Salida Fire Department was called to the scene.

The firemen extinguished the small blaze in less than a half hour.

Another incident was reported to city police Thursday night when a group of children were seen letting the air out of truck tires.

"We would like to think that

the \$100 reward will help to catch these people who are committing these wanton, reckless acts," said Wallace Koster of Koster Insurance. "Maybe a little bit of bait will help."

"We think that these people ought to be caught, restitution ought to be made, and some hands ought to be slapped pretty hard."

The participating insurers offered the reward, Koster said, because the police have no leads now and the money "might induce some one to spill the beans."

City pool crusion



GAPING HOLE—Councilwoman Sunny Waggoner skirts a gaping hole left in the floor of the pool building. She was on

hand to help direct the clean-up operation.

By Brodie Farquhar
A violent explosion tore through the Salida Swimming Pool at 410 W. Rainbow at 9:10 this morning.

Huge concrete slabs were tossed and cracked all over the pool.

No one was injured, although Robert Browning, manager of the pool, was knocked to the ground in a near-by office.

"I was the only one not in the pool, thank God. I was standing right there minutes before it blew," Browning, pointing at a



Buena V

One wishes to be wanted, needed, appreciated, and, if the fates will it, to be adored.

To be adored...thought to be special. The answer to all the things one person feels is needed in one other person. To hold hands is special. To walk side by side, no matter where one goes, is special. In a room together, whether with others or just you two, is special. The things one says to another for no other ears. Special. What would it be like?

Wake up, you dreamer. It is six a.m. A hot cup of tea is just the thing for a cold morning. The snow casts warm shadows in the soft light you dress by.

Holding the steaming mug in your hands you glide to the windows. (You glide, I stumble.) Ice on the car windshield makes silver patterns in hair-line scrolls. The porch steps are covered with a deep pile of frozen



SHATTERED TILE—Firemen and members of the city Department of Public Works view the wrecked tile bordering the pool. Pieces of the tile were blown throughout the room.

New Dist. Tanker



Star-Journal

Fire de north

SALIDA (C-S) destroyed a three-frame home of old Carstens 291 northwest on Saturday morning.

Salida firemen responded to the call at 3:15 a.m. with equipment and were on the scene by 7 a.m.

Two young people were in the house at the time of the blaze escaped. Kent Belde Havens said he was up the house.

TUESDAY

Don for S after

A Salida family was burned out of their home being offered.

A drive in to collect cash for various houses. Arnold and Johnson their three children.

The fire started in the living room from the fireplace at 3 a.m. Carstens home engulfed in flames. Fire department moments later.

"Everything was lost," Rev. Arnold said. First Lutheran Church, one of the collection drives.

"They need Rev. Boehnke will have to you can use clothing."

FRIDAY

Stokes fire sta

Insurance Stokes denied made any claim "spontaneous combustion" relation to Ideal Rooms.

A reference to combustion attributed to Mountain Mountain the fire on Thursday.

Fire destroys home

Pool crumbled by explosion

By Brodie Farquhar

A violent explosion ripped through the Salida Swimming Pool at 410 W. Rainbow Blvd. at 9:10 this morning.

Huge concrete slabs were tossed and cracked all around the pool.

No one was injured, although Robert Browning, manager of the pool, was knocked to the ground in a near-by office.

"I was the only one near the pool, thank God. I was standing right there two minutes before it blew," said Browning, pointing at a gaping

hole of concrete, dirt and broken pipe.

"The force of the explosion knocked me down in that room. When I picked myself up, I could swear I smelled gunpowder," said the shaken Browning.

The Salida Fire Department, Salida Police Department and Sheriff Harold Thonhoff quickly responded to the scene.

Various police and firemen expressed doubt about gunpowder or dynamite being the cause of the explosion.

Several of the officers, including Sheriff Thonhoff, expressed the theory of a gas explosion. It was noted that the explosion seemed to follow the path of a trench around the pool.

Several officers believed that some kind of gas could have filled the trench, which then exploded.

Just to repair the broken concrete and tile, "would cost \$45,000, at a minimum," said Browning.

Police Chief Harry Cable said, "I'm glad it didn't happen three months from now, with a bunch of kids here. We could easily have had many killed, let alone the injuries. Heck, a little later in the day, we could have lost several city employees."

Councilwoman Sunny Waggoner, head of the city's swimming pool committee, was in the thick of things, helping to direct the cleanup operations.

According to Fred Irvin, city director of public works, the water has been turned off, but it will take two hours to drain.

"We're investigating the cause of the blast, and checking for structural damage. We had just remodeled the whole thing for \$70,000.00. What a mess," said Irvin.

At the time of the blast, said Irvin, one of his city crews was working in the pool's locker rooms. "They thought it was a sonic boom, until they heard everything falling. We're really lucky no one was killed," said Irvin.

"Well, the kids are going to be out on the streets this summer," said Chief Harry Cable. "That's bad news," said another officer.

ed a three-bedroom home owned by Arnold Carstens on Colorado 291 northwest of Salida early Saturday morning.

Salida firemen received the call at 3:15 a.m. and responded with three pieces of equipment and 12 men. They were on the scene until after 7 a.m.

Two young men in the house at the time of the blaze escaped uninjured. Kent Belden and Gary Havens said when they woke up the house was full of

the fire burning upstairs. Carstens is out of town.

The fire department reported the fire had been burning for some time before it was discovered and it had spread throughout the upstairs of the building.

Bob Freeman, fire captain, reported a possible cause was a fire in the fireplace had overheated the roof. A total damage estimate has not been made.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1975

Donations sought for Salida family after house fire

A Salida family whose home was burned down Saturday is being offered a helping hand.

A drive is underway to collect cash, clothing and various household items for Arnold and Jessie Carstens and their three children.

The fire which may have started in the attic from sparks from the fireplace, was reported at 3 a.m. Saturday. The Carstens home was already engulfed in flames when the fire department arrived moments later.

"Everything was lost," said Rev. Arnold Boehnke of the First Lutheran Church. He is one of the coordinators of the collection drive.

"They need everything," Rev. Boehnke added. "They will have to have everything you can use in a home: clothing, kitchen items,

furniture and everything."

Rev. Boehnke said that cash contributions are also being accepted. They are tax deductible, he added.

According to Rev. Boehnke, the Carstens family has no place to put the donated items at the moment. Names of donors and descriptions of the items are therefore being taken now. The items will be picked up later.

The pastor said that Mr. and Mrs. Carstens are staying in a small camper on their property until more permanent living arrangements can be worked out. Their children, Joan, Jane and Jim, are staying here with relatives.

Persons wishing to contribute anything to the drive should call 539-4311 or 539-4943.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1975

Stokes denies fire statement

Insurance evaluator John Stokes denied today that he made any comment regarding "spontaneous combustion" in relation to the flash fire at Ideal Rooms here.

A reference to spontaneous combustion was indirectly attributed to Stokes in The Mountain Mail's article about the fire investigation on Thursday.

and to help direct the clean-up operation.

New Dist. Tanker



Fire destroys home northwest of Salida

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire destroyed a three-bedroom frame home owned by Arnold Carstens on Colorado 291 northwest of Salida early Saturday morning.

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FIREPLACE STANDS as mute sentinel amidst the debris of the still smoldering Carstens house.

Area home gutted by Saturday blaze

Fire raged through the Arnold Carstens home, Saturday morning, utterly destroying the structure with intense heat and leaping flames.

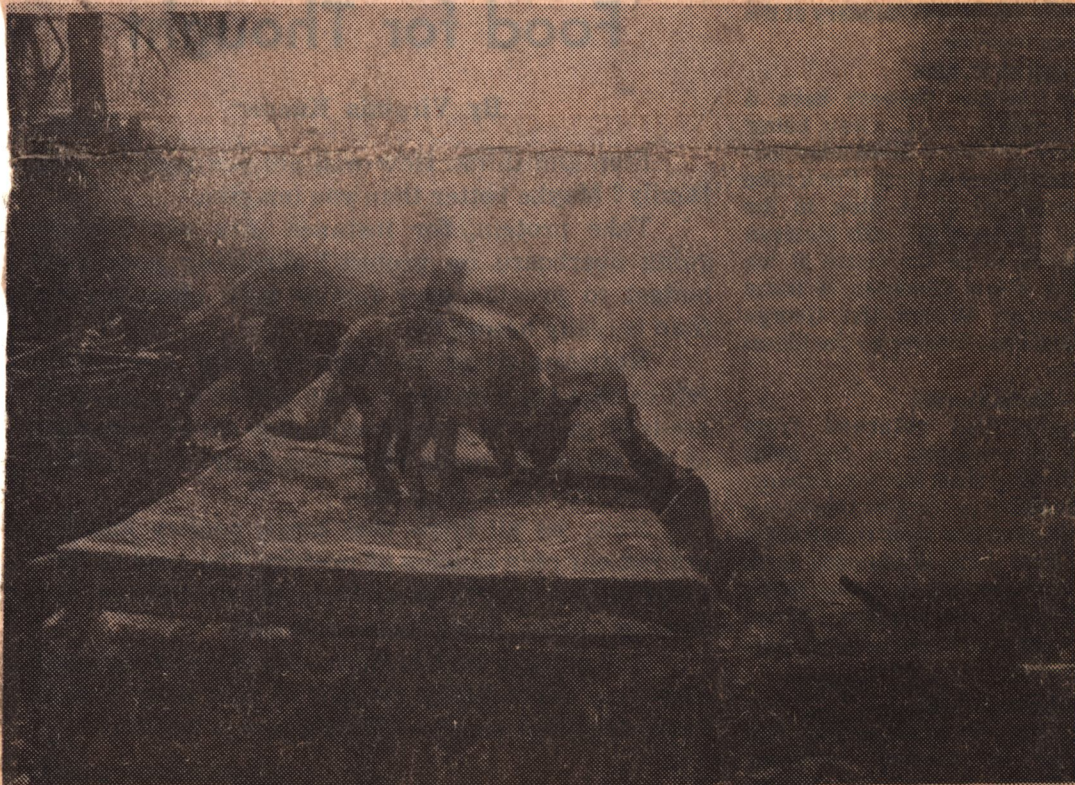
Two Carstens boys woke up around 3:00 a.m. to a smoke-filled house, and the noise of fire in the attic. The Salida Fire

Department responded to 11180 Highway 291, by 3:15 a.m., according to the fire report.

The fire was burning throughout the house, and had broken through the roof, by the time the trucks had arrived. The firemen pumped 3400 gallons on the blaze, although it was already a total loss. The

firemen came back twice, Saturday, to douse the embers.

According to the report, the fire apparently started in the roof or attic of the home. Firemen believe that sparks from the fireplace may have started the blaze. The Carstens were out of town at the time.



SNIFF! One of the family cats investigates the smell of cooked food emanating from the family freezer. The

cat was slightly singed in the conflagration. Photos by Carl Hasselbrink.

Arson is suspected in explosion, fire



SEARING HEAT charred wood; paint; wallpaper and plaster in a flash explosion in the Ideal Rooms. This room was the only room still on fire when firemen arrived. The explosion had blown out the rest of the blaze.

An exceptionally hot fire flashed through the Ideal Rooms above the Collegiate Photography store at 212 F St. Tuesday night.

Arson is suspected, and the matter is under investigation by Salida Police and the Chaffee County Sheriff's office.

At 9:36 p.m. Tuesday the fire was first reported. By the time firemen were at the scene, most of the fire had died out. One room was still in flames, but that was extinguished in ten minutes with hand sprayers, said fire chief Charles Culp.

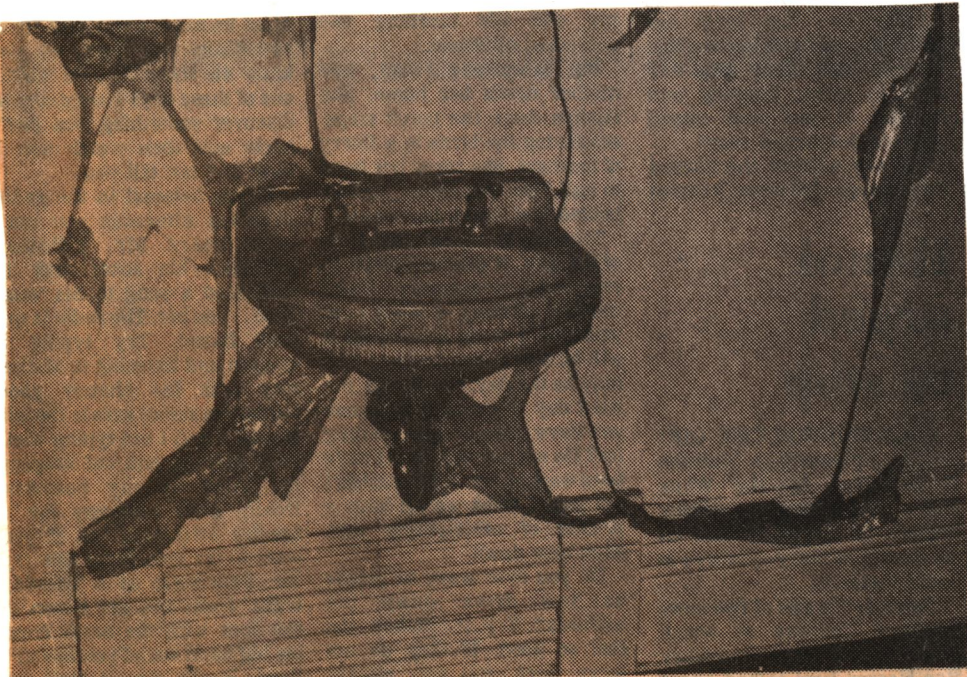
The strange thing about the fire was its brief and fiercely hot explosion. Culp estimated that the flash explosion could have reached 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The flash crisped and charred wall paper, plaster, paint and wood, virtually within a second.

According to Culp, the explosion itself blew out most of the flames.

"I can't find a hot spot, a place where the fire could have originated. Therefore, I think we're talking about a spontaneous combustion of some highly flammable vapor or gas," said Culp.

Owned by Joseph Stewart, the Ideal Rooms have been unoccupied for several months. No one was injured in the blaze. Sheriff Harold Thonhoff said he would ask the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to send an arson investigator.

The Ideal Rooms are located above and next to the First National Bank of Salida. No connection between the bank and the possible arson has been established by the authorities.



DALI MASTERPIECE, or a firey prank? The heat of the blaze melted plastic over the sink in a surrealistic nightmare; the

remnants of an explosive second of heat and flame.

CBI taking of explosion

PUC sets price hike hearing

The Public Utilities Commission will hold a hearing May 7 on a proposed gas price adjustment by Salida Gas Service Co.

According to president Frank Chelf, Salida Gas has to absorb 13 increments in the price of natural gas in the past 18 months.

"When our suppliers hit us with a cost increase, we would like to pass that on, automatically, to our customers," he said. "We simply cannot afford to absorb cost increases. Our proposal is not to make a profit, but simply to stay even in our income-expenses picture."

According to the PUV, any interested person, firm or corporation is invited to participate in the hearings at 10 a.m. at the Columbin Building, 1845 Sherman Street, Denver.

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April 3, 1965

assisted by Anthony Perea, College, practice student teaching Longfellow students for meet. Gail Ann Morrison of and Gary Shepard of Salida are and Mrs. Albert Clanton are laughter born yesterday. Mrs. substituting at the high school occia, who injured his ankle.

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Q. What is the minimum rebate?

A. The law established \$100 as the minimum rebate unless the taxpayer's 1974 tax was less

Stewart Mortuary that, in his opinion, the fire was due to spontaneous combustion. When they asked him what caused the fire, he expressed no opinion, according to one of the employees.

"The rooms are owned by Joe Stewart, operator of the mortuary.

Except for the burned room, which had had its window blown out, most of the damage was confined to walls and ceiling above three feet in height.

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1975

Police need public's help

Sheriff Harold Thonhoff has asked for the community's help in apprehending the arsonist responsible for last week's fire at the Ideal Rooms.

Salidans are urged to contact the authorities if they have any information which might be pertinent.

The police want to know if any one was seen in the vicinity of the fire at 212 F Street last Tuesday night shortly after 9. The arsonist was probably carrying a container of some sort.

The police also hope that merchants who may have sold a small amount of gasoline or Coleman stove fuel shortly before the time of the fire will contact them.

The police are anxiously awaiting any clue. Sheriff Thonhoff has said that even a small piece of information may help unravel the mystery and bring the arsonist to justice.

Arson is seldom taken as seriously as the nature of the crime deserves.

Salida was fortunate this time. Had the fire not been quickly reported, it could easily have spread throughout several downtown stores. Property damage could have been far greater.

There is the danger of personal injury, too. Firemen risk their lives when battling a blaze of major proportions, and innocent bystanders and residents are also victimized when an arsonist's work rages through a building.

Let's help the police solve this crime before the arsonist strikes again.

Next time we may not be so fortunate.

CHARRED ROOMS
Department offi
continuing on in

WEDNESDAY

City fire hampered

A week-long investigation into the fire which started through the Ideal Rooms at 212 F St. has not produced any substantial leads. Chaffee County Sheriff Harold Thonhoff said this morning. A Preliminary report by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation revealed last night that the April 1st fire was the work of an arsonist. The blaze caused severe damage to the second story of the building housing the Collegiate Photography store. The sheriff said today that

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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1975

CBI taking over probe of explosion, fire here

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The investigation of Tuesday night's flash-fire at the Ideal Rooms is now in the hands of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation says Police Chief Harry Cable.

"They came by yesterday and picked up all the lab samples they'll need," said Cable. "They should be able to tell us what caused the fire in two weeks or so."

Insurance evaluator John Stokes told employees of Stewart Mortuary that, in his opinion, the fire was due to spontaneous combustion. When they asked him what caused the fire, he expressed no opinion, according to one of the employees.

"The rooms are owned by Joe Stewart, operator of the mortuary.

Except for the burned room, which had had its window blown out, most of the damage was confined to walls and ceiling above three feet in height.

Fire chief Charles Culp has hazarded the opinion that a flammable gas or vapor had filled the rooms within three feet of the floor. When it exploded, it blew the fire out, except in the room with the broken window.

Apparently, those windows allowed the entrance of oxygen, which kept the room ablaze.

No damage estimate has been released.

CHARRED ROOMS—Police and Fire Department officials today are continuing an investigation into the

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A Preliminary report by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation revealed last week that the April 1st fire was the work of an arsonist.

The blaze caused extensive damages to the unoccupied rooms, which are located on the second story of the building housing the Collegiate Photography store.

The sheriff said today that

there has been some public response to his request for information, but that no solid clues have been uncovered.

The arsonist apparently entered the rooms through a window from the roof of the First National Bank building next door. He doused the rugs with gasoline or perhaps Coleman stove fluid before lighting the blaze, the CBI reported.

Thonhoff said that the container in which the flammable liquid was carried has not yet been found.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1975

Firemen called for gas spill

The Salida Fire Department was called at 3:15 Tuesday afternoon to a potentially dangerous leak of propane liquid in the 100 block of West First Street.

Workmen had been digging out a 1000-gallon propane tank, when they broke the gauge and tipped the tank over. When liquid propane began to spill upon the ground, the workmen called the fire department.

The firemen called Salida Gas Co. and proceeded to upright the tank, which stopped the leak. The firemen then advised the workmen to pump out the propane.

Dump site hours are cut

The operating hours of the Chaffee County waste disposal plant will be curtailed in June.

The county board of commissioners decided Tuesday that the plant's hours would be from 7:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily beginning June 1st.

A large trash fire at the site this past Sunday was of the factors in the commissioner's decision. It was the second large blaze since the plant went into operation less than a year ago.

The commissioners said that the cause of the two fires has not been determined, but the board indicated that the plant needs more supervision.

The site is currently open on a 24-hour basis. The board indicated that other matters, notably the clean-up of the area, influenced its decision.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1975

CHARRED ROOMS—Police and Fire Department officials today are continuing an investigation into the

cause of Tuesday night's explosion and fire at the Ideal Rooms on the second floor at 212 F. St.

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Thonhoff said that the container in which the flammable liquid was carried has not yet been found.

A more detailed report will

probably be turned in soon by the CBI, and the possibility of a "flash fire and explosion," as previously reported, may be ruled out.

The type of damage to the rooms which were most severely burned may prove that the fire was not a "flash fire" but had burned for up to a half an hour.

Sources say that melted plastic curtains in rooms undamaged by the actual blaze indicated that intense heat was generated and that a rapid explosion would not have caused such heat.

Police seek clues in city arson case

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has reported that the flash fire which damaged the Ideal Rooms in downtown Salida Tuesday night was an arsonist's work.

Chaffee County Sheriff Harold Thonhoff said this morning that the problem now lies in discovering who set the blaze.

"We're looking for some community cooperation on this," said the Sheriff. "If anyone has seen anything which might provide us with a clue, we want to hear about it."

The CBI contacted Sheriff Thonhoff late Wednesday with its preliminary report. After analyzing carpet samples collected from the burned rooms the CBI reported that gasoline was probably the combustion agent.

The report said that the fuel might have been ethyl regular white gas or perhaps Coleman stove fluid.

"We're hoping now that

perhaps some one saw some body carrying a container that might have held that kind of fuel in the vicinity on the night of the fire," Thonhoff said.

The Sheriff also is seeking information about any sales of such fuel shortly before the time of the explosion and fire.

At this point Thonhoff said, law enforcement authorities have no solid clues to pursue. No likely motive for the blaze has been advanced, he added.

Thonhoff said that entrance to the unoccupied rooms was probably gained through a window after the arsonist got onto the roof of the First National Bank next door.

The Sheriff said that the CBI report indicates that the arsonist saturated the rugs with the fuel.

The explosion and fire was reported at 9:36 p.m. Tuesday, but the force of the blast had extinguished most of the blaze by the time that Fire Department personnel arrived.

Friday April 4th 1975

Fire guts coop at Roley ranch

The Salida Fire Department was summoned late Thursday night to battle a smokey blaze at the Roley Egg Ranch.

The firemen arrived at the scene at 11:30 p.m. after a Chaffee County sheriff's deputy called in the alarm. They fought the fire for two hours.

E.W. Roley was unsure of the amount of dollars-and cents damages this morning. "It's just one big mess, though," he added.

Roley and fire department personnel suspect that the fire ignited during fumigation of the chicken coop.

Roley said that, fortunately, the coop was empty. He was piping tractor exhaust fumes

into the building to exterminate rats and other pests, preparing the coop for a new shipment of pullets.

It is thought that the exhaust pipe generated enough heat to start the fire.

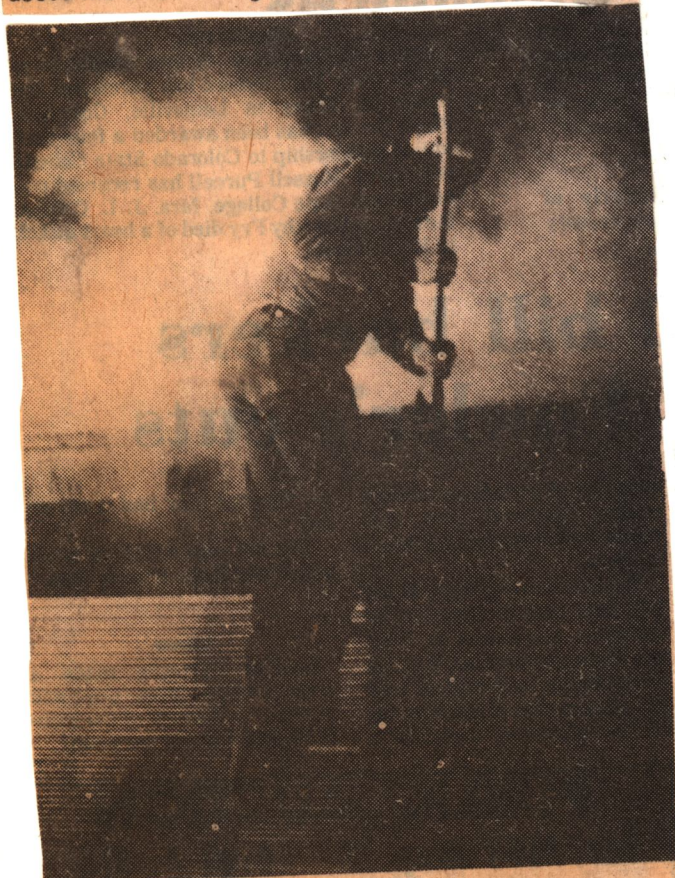
"I've been doing that for years without any trouble," said Roley. "Nothing like this ever happened before. You can bet, though, that I'll never try it again."

The new shipment of chickens was due to arrive Saturday morning, but Roley has postponed the order. "If I can get some help and get this building back in shape," he said, "I'll re-order."

The fire was confined to just the one coop.



WRAP-UP—Joe Chacon moves in with a fire hose to douse the smoldering embers inside the burned coop.



AXE WORK—Jim Gray is enveloped in smoke as he pries with an axe atop the burning chicken coop.

City firemen finish first at field day

GUNNISON—Salida Fire Department members and volunteers placed first in the overall competition at the annual San Luis Valley Firemen's Field Day here.

Salida's competition squad included captain Jim Gray, Fred Smith, Bill Smith, Wes Wagner, Tim Nelson and Ken McCormick.

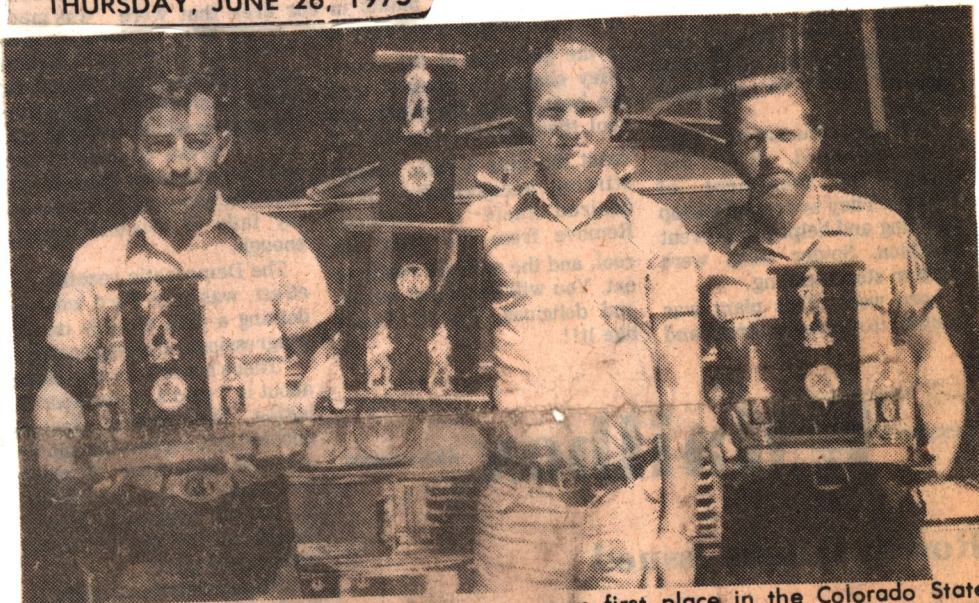
The Salida team was first in the "wet test," the motor replacement drill, and the change-over exercise. The team also placed third in line-laying drills and in stationary apparatus maneuvers.

Among the other departments competing were those from Alamosa, Center, Monte Vista, Gunnison, Del Norte and La Jara.

June 13, 1975

Representatives of the State Board of Health inspected deficiencies at Salida Hospital. A marriage license was issued this week to Elizabeth Ann Woolmington of Nathrop and James L. Thompson of Phoenix, Arizona. An auto accident 7½ miles west of Salida on County road 120, caused a power outage this morning. Ron Hassell, Dennis Henderson and Norman Williams, volunteer firemen, will represent the Salida Fire Department at the State meeting in Cortez.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1975



STATE CHAMPS—Southern Arkansas Fire Department members Wes Wagner, Fred Smith and Jim Gray (left to right)

won first place in the Colorado State Firemen's Tournament for the second year in a row.

Local firemen best in state

The South Arkansas Fire Department, headquartered in Salida, came back this year with another championship from the Colorado State Firemen's Convention, Fire School and Tournament.

Entering a three-man team, the South Arkansas

Department placed in two events, gaining enough points to win the over-all championship for 1975.

The team of Fred Smith, Jim Gray and Wes Wagner won the over-all championship by placing first in the three-man option and third in the end line

lay, fire fighting maneuvers that involve many steps of action.

Seventeen teams from Colorado's small departments entered the three-man division of competition.

South Arkansas won first place in 1971 and also in 1974.

July 8, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Mooney are home from Europe where they enjoyed a 21-day tour. In Graz, Austria; they spent a week with their son, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mooney. Bill is engaged in theatrical work and his wife is an opera singer. The city firemen were called to the home of Mrs. Harriet Alexander at 1043 F Street to destroy a nest of hornets that had gathered in the foundation.

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1975

Fire Chief replies

To the Editor:

In answer to the recent article in the Mountain Mail on the person who stopped at the local Fire Department and asked for directions to McCoy street, I would like to make a comment on the situation.

The people who own some of the land around the City of Salida, decide to subdivide their land into housing tracts, or trailer courts. They lay out their land, make improvements, and create streets and proceed to name these streets for their use.

After the streets are named, they fail to notify the local Fire Department of the names. How then, may I ask are we, your local firemen supposed to know

where these streets are located?

These street names and locations should be given to the personell at the Court House to be put on an official map, which in turn should be provided to the Fire Department and law enforcement personell. If this is done, I am sure that if someone comes in or phones in an emergency, we of the Fire Department will know just where that street is located.

The above named street is not on any of the maps that are now in possession by the Salida Fire Department.

-s- Charles R. Culp, Chief Salida Fire Department

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rebuilt three times and was rapidly deteriorating.

Also purchased was a new chlorinator for the water department at a cost of \$845.

The council directed the city fire department to flush out water mains.

Fire chief Charles Culp said plastic pipe liner from the main clogged the hose on a tanker truck during a recent grass fire. Culp said he took out nearly a half-gallon of plastic pieces when the truck was drained.

At the request of Lynn Alexander of United

Construction, the council agreed to look into changing the terminology of water development fees—or water tap fees.

Alexander said that present terminology created problems when dealing with federal lending agencies.

The council agreed to establish a sewer district along 16th Street. Jim McCormick, also of United, said his firm is planning to develop property on 16th Street.

A written request has to be made before action can be taken.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1975

Local drive planned

The Salida Fire Department will assist in the local campaign for Muscular Dystrophy here starting Saturday, Aug. 30th.

With their lights flashing and sirens sounding, the fire trucks will transport youthful volunteers through the streets of the city as they collect donations.

The local campaign will continue from 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, until 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1, with the telephone pledge drive.

The telephone campaign will

correspond with the nationally televised Jerry Lewis Telethon. The annual telethon will be carried over KOAA, Channel 5, Pueblo, and KMGH, Channel 7, Denver. Salida's exchange numbers are 539-4401 and 539-4800.

Drive-up donations will also be accepted at three locations: the junctions of Ninth and F Streets, Oak Street and Highway 291, and Highways 291 and 50.

The co-chairmen of the Salida drive are Lu Saucke and Vera Kroeger.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975

Firemen put out vehicular blaze

The Salida and South Arkansas fire departments were called to the scene of a vehicular blaze for the second time in three days Thursday.

At 3:15 a.m. Thursday, Gene Baran and his family noticed gasoline fumes in their 1968 VW bus while driving on Highway 285, two miles north of Poncha Springs.

The engine compartment caught on fire as Baran pulled to the side of the road. Baran and his family were able to escape without injury.

The vehicle and its contents were a total loss, however, with damages estimated at over \$1,500.

Early Tuesday morning, a

vehicle owned by Aggie Aluise and driven by Pat McBride burst into flames one mile east of Salida on U.S. 50.

McBride told firemen and police that the accelerator became stuck. When he finally stopped the vehicle, smoke was pouring from the engine, which quickly burst into flames.

Damage was estimated at \$1,000. The cause was thought to be a short in the wiring.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Salida department had a short run over to Salida cable TV, 238 F St. The owner, Ben Gray, had smelled smoke. It turned out that a coffee pot had overheated and melted the plastic casing.

November 4, 1965

D. L. Figurski, former Chaffee county extension agent, received distinguished service citation at Pittsburgh, Pa. A house owned by Willard Wieck at 702 E Street was heavily damaged by fire at 1 p.m. today. Connie Jean Bertschy weds Frank C. McMurry. Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bruderlin of Denver, formerly of Salida, were here for the funeral of Mrs. G. W. Larimer. Poncha Springs town council grants liquor licenses to Robert Mickel, Poncha Springs Lodge and Merle Churich of the Holman Grocery.



1975
INTER SQUAD CHAMPS



1975

IN

Salida

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1975

County may give \$440 to firemen

The Chaffee County board of commissioners agreed Tuesday to consider budgeting \$440 for the South Arkansas fire protection district.

Fire Chief Charles Culp told the board that \$200 was needed to purchase protective clothing and safety equipment for the firemen, and that \$240 more was needed to cover the volunteers' gas expenses.

The funds, if approved, would be included in the budget for fiscal 1976.

November 14, 1965

A \$60,000 fire struck Angelo's Shavano Restaurant and Lounge on U.S. Highway 50 at Poncha Springs around midnight Sunday. The blaze virtually leveled the restaurant which was operated by Joe Coffee.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1975

Benefit film will be shown

A movie, "African Expedition," has been slated for viewing Wednesday night as a fund raising benefit for the Salida Volunteer Fire Department.

The movie will be shown at the high school auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Wildlife scenes are portrayed throughout the movie, filmed during a safari in Africa.

Proceeds will go toward purchase of safety equipment, helmets, coats and boots for the firemen.

Cost of tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1975

Fire destroys city man's car

The Salida Fire Department responded to an alarm at 8:30 p.m. Monday at 15th and H Streets.

Firemen arriving at the scene found a 1965 Ford owned by Wilbur "Red" Friend of 1511 I St. ablaze.

The fire apparently started after wires beneath the dash shorted out. Fire Department spokesmen said that the interior of the car was completely "gutted" and that the car was a total loss.

Firemen were at the scene for about 15 minutes.

Wednesday, October 29, 1975

Fire destroys Salidan's car

SALIDA (C-SJ) — A fire gutted a car owned by Wilbur Friend of Salida Monday night at 15th and H Street.

Salida Fire Department reported the fire apparently started under the dashboard when wires short-circuited. The 1965 auto was listed as a total loss and no injuries were reported.

The Pueblo Chieftain, Pueblo, Colo.



Salida High School and received her bachelor of arts degree from Salina, Kan., where he is completing electronics school. A winter wedding is planned.

With Our Sincere Thanks!
**The Salida Volunteer
Fire Department
would like to
thank the
citizens and
merchants of
Salida for their
support of our
Dance.**

*"Serving you for a cleaner
and safer environment."*



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Not sure what all the fuss is about, Jeff Post, son of Salida Police Chief Leonard Post, displays the first-place ribbon he won in the Salida trike race.

Fun-filled days mark centennial celebration for Salida community

Salidans simmered and burned in 96 degree heat and men lost their beards while people took to the streets in their beds.

Dancehall girls cavorted openly in Riverside Park, and firemen gave up their hoses to children (and a few adults) who had a wild time shooting water over much of a city block. A gang of more than 60 cyclists took over the city's main street for most of one afternoon, and the Evans gang rode out of the hills to litter streets and a peaceful park with bodies shot full of bullet holes.

Indians abducted innocent bystanders twice in two days, and a state level politician arrived.

Railroaders laid only one section of track, almost 100 dogs and other animals ran loose and Salida Police kept a low profile and grinned. More than 1,000 balloons soared high above the heads of watching children.

The sharp putt-putt of a little gasoline engine rose above other noises as children in a tiny car drove wobbly circles in the street.

And Mayor Edward Touber and Centennial Chairman Carol Kellerman drove a golden spike commemorating the whole thing!

Everybody grinned, joked and gawked at the people in funny costumes which looked at least 100 years old. It was Salida's once-in-a-hundred-years blowout held July 5 and 6.

Mood for the weekend was historic, hectic, and at times hysteric as entries in the "Great Centennial Bed Race" ran amok on the five-block course. Entertainment was light, fun and geared to children who seldom had trouble convincing members of the "older generation" to join in.

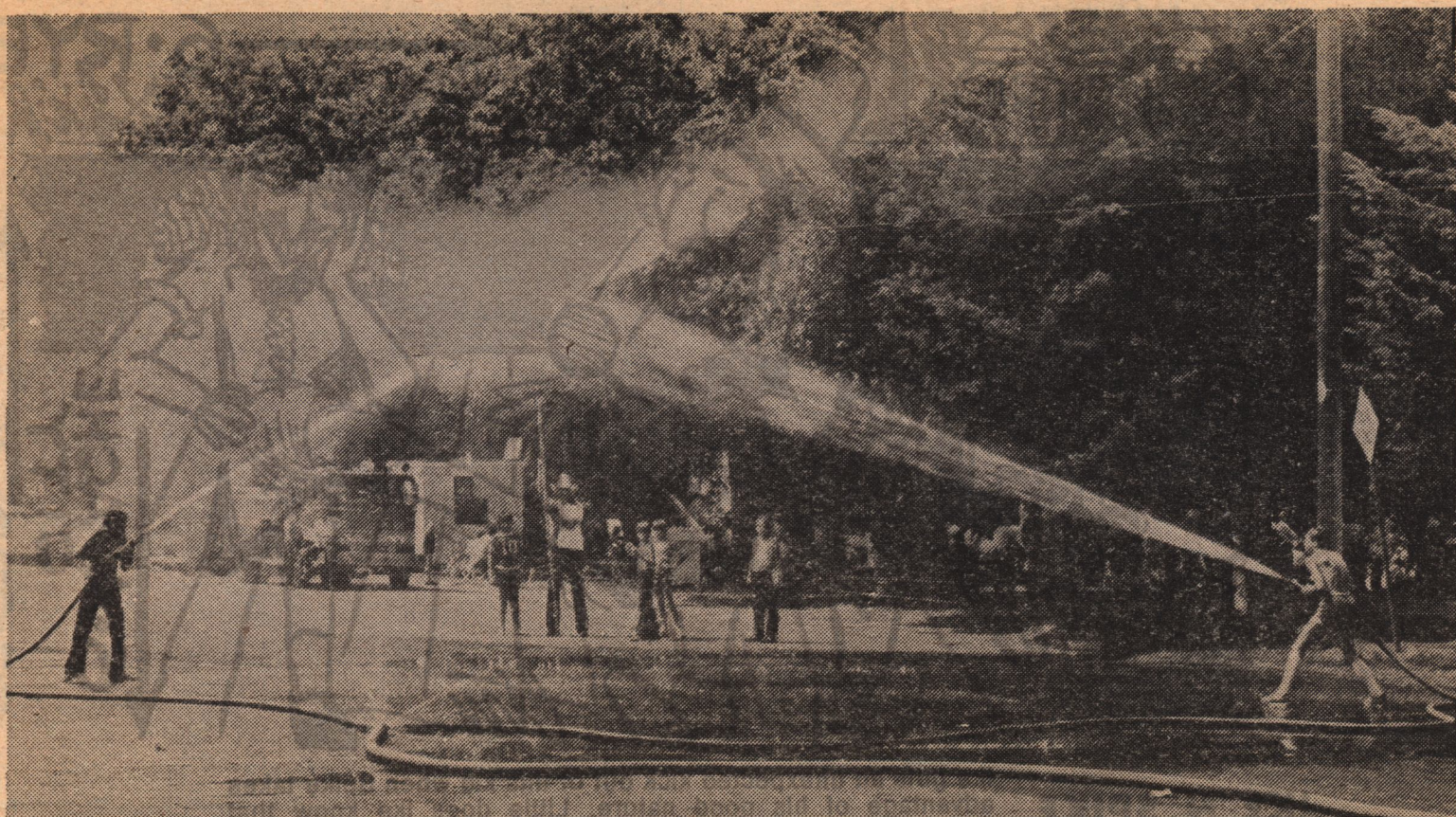
Kids even got in on the adult acts such as the spike driving contest Sunday afternoon, and they twisted their faces in exhaustion and pain as they attempted to drive heavy spikes with heavier mauls reminiscent of the narrow gauge railroads which were responsible for the founding of Salida on Oct. 4, 1880.

Thick shade shrouded Riverside Park and kept the heat from burning participants to a crisp, but those who wanted, lolled in open spots, touching up already dark suntans. A highlight of the weekend was a drunken Judge Beam, played by Roger Cox, who jailed more than 160 citizens between nips on his bottle of amber fluid. More than one man in the crowd glanced quickly right and left and took a short snort from the bottle when the judge's back was turned.

Wry faces showed they were shocked by the iced tea contents. Salida Jaycee posse members marched a parade of beardless men past the judge. Not all offenders, however, fought kangaroo court action and more than a few stood nearby wearing self-conscious looks on their bare faces — waiting to be caught.

Later, some of the men lost their beards when the highest bidders

Article and photos by Dick Dixon



Somewhere in the fog of high-pressure water is a five-gallon bucket which opponents in the keg fight are trying to force to the other end of the wire. The

activity was sponsored by Salida firemen during the centennial celebration held July 5-6.



Lowell Brook, an ex-member of the Koshare Indians of La Junta, performs a hoop dance as part of the centennial activities (top photo) while throngs of people crowd sales booths in Riverside Park.

in an auction gleefully chopped the whiskers into a pile on the stage. The Evans Gang shot it out with Sheriff Baxter Stingley and his Jaycee Deputies more than once during the weekend. Stingley, portrayed by Mike Henderson, was Salida's first sheriff in 1880 and he pushed aside his gravestone for the occasion.

Assisted by his deputy James Parker, played by Kim Orr, and several civic-minded dancehall girls, action slowed and gunfire died away after the arrest and hanging of Clem Evans, played by Jim DeLuca.

As temperatures rose, firemen sponsored a glorified water fight which they called a keg-race. Police Chief Leonard Post boldly challenged officers Cynthia Duncan and Rose Pulos to a firehose duel saying he'd take them both on because their combined weights were about equal to his.

The chief made good his boast and drove the bucket across the opposite goal line with a triumphant burst of water. However, Duncan protested, "he only won because he cheated. He shot me in the face with the hose."

Mary Estill Buchanan, Colorado Secretary of State, was on hand Sunday afternoon seeking signatures on the petition which she hoped would place her name in contention as a Colorado Republican United States Senate nominee.

Golden Spikes and 4-H Lady Bugs offered versions of the dancehall can-can to hoots and whistles from a crowd of more than 1,000 spectators. In the railroad vein, only a few members of the Salida based D&RG section had ever driven rail spikes, but a number of grinning young men — and women — stepped forward to see how it was done in the old days.

Sweat poured, breath whistled, and the next day muscles complained more than a little.

Touber and Kellerman grinned as they took their whacks at a golden spike. They drove the commemorative nail about half way, laughed with the crowd, and said they were glad they didn't work on the railroad before mechanization.

A similar spike was presented to the city as a memento of the event.

Bicycle and tricycle drag races and a pet parade involved more than 160 youngsters in athletic and creative competition and none went away empty handed for their efforts. The balloons which got loose were planned for the event by Chaffee County 4-H Council members who spent almost three hours Saturday morning filling a large truck with colorful spheres.

Mrs. Kellerman, clad in a baggy, show-nothing 1880 bathing suit, brushed limp hair from her eyes and summed up the weekend, "It was worth more than a year of work for the committee. I think everybody had fun."

Sam Randolph, "retired" several years ago, helped his committee member wife Hoppy throughout the weekend and said he was tired. He grinned quickly, however and said, "Wake me for the bi-centennial — I'll be glad to help with that one too."



IKE 'N' SPIKE

By Tim Acosta

Ike gets an unexpected kick out of this kid when Spike takes advantage of his good nature. Little does Ike know that beneath that charming exterior is his long-sought quarry. Do you know where the candy store is located in this week's cartoon? If not, look on Page 5 for the answer.



LOOKING FOR FIRE—Volunteer firemen circle the back of the mobile home, looking underneath for signs of the

blaze. The underside of the home sustained the most extensive damages.

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Wednesday Nov. 19th 1975

Mobile home burns at River's Edge

A fire of undetermined origin caused serious damage to the underside of a mobile home Tuesday night at the River's Edge Trailer Park.

The home, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Don Moler, was rented to the Chuck Pruitt family.

A Salida Fire Dept. spokesman said this morning that firefighters responded to the alarm, called in by a neighbor, at 9:35 p.m. Firemen extinguished the blaze in 55 minutes.

No one was injured. The

occupants of the trailer were able to get out quickly.

Most of the fire damage was confined to the underside of the mobile home, especially in the back portion near the water tank. The floors were also scorched, and smoke damage was reported throughout the interior.

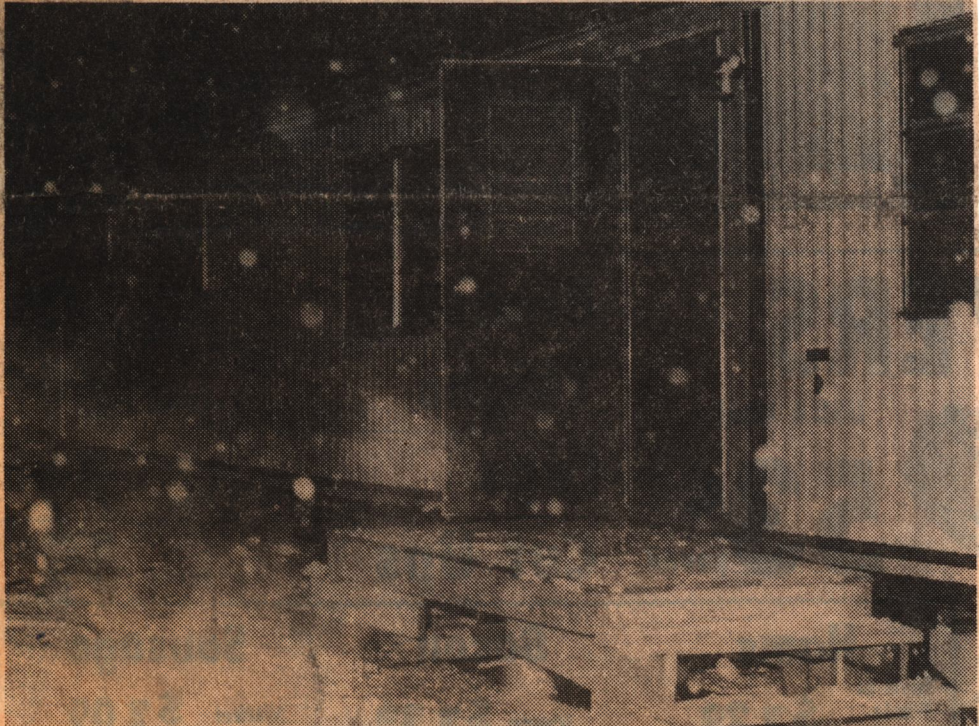
The fire department listed no cause for the blaze, but said that a furnace malfunction may have been the problem.

Mrs. Moler, however, said that the Detroit model home

had been inspected by a state official within the past month and that no problem with the wiring or furnace had been noted.

Although she said the damage was "fairly extensive," she said it was "repairable."

Mrs. Moler credits the prompt action of neighbors, including Tom Bell, and her son with helping to contain the blaze until the fire department equipment arrived.



SMOKE AND SNOW—Smoke rolls from the door of the burning mobile home,

mingling with the falling snow. Smoke damage inside the trailer was extensive.

Fire AT MT. VIEW MOTEL



The Pueblo Chieftain AND PUEBLO STAR-JOURNAL

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS

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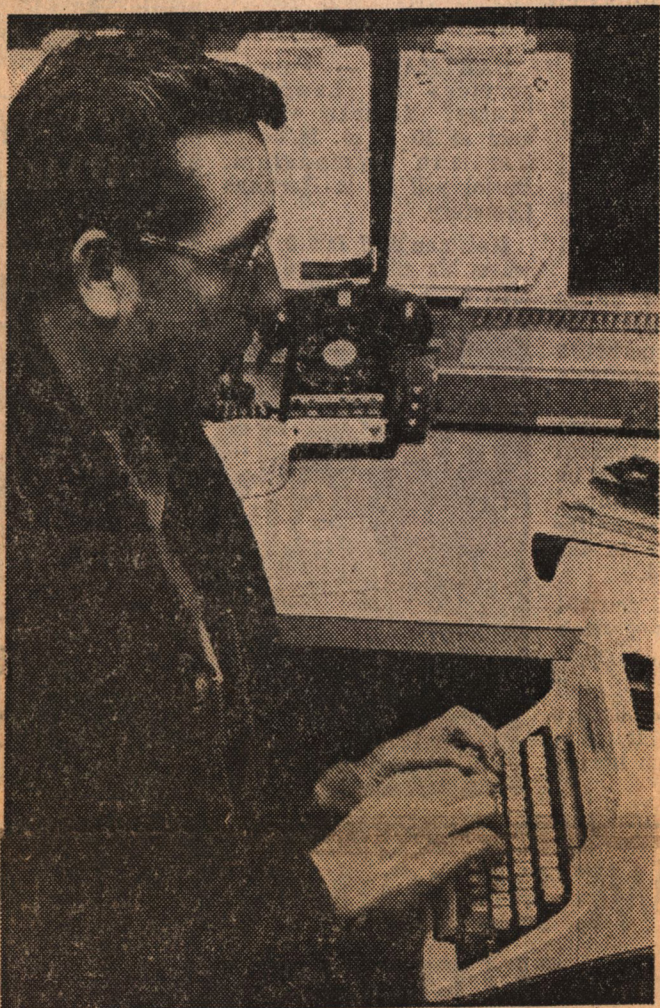
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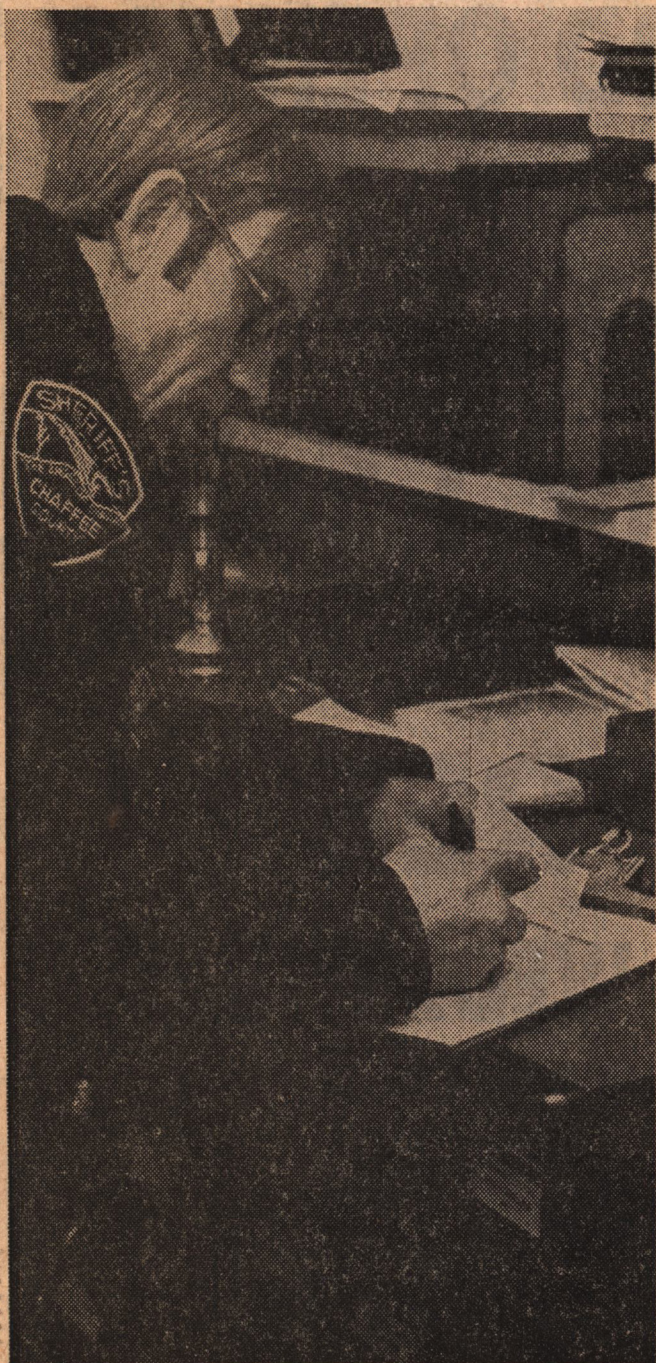
Southern Colorado

PANORAMA



PAPERWORK

Deputy Richard Lucero ended his Dec. 26 graveyard shift about 3 a.m. by typing reports of activities during his tour of duty, including a hay truck and a medical emergency.



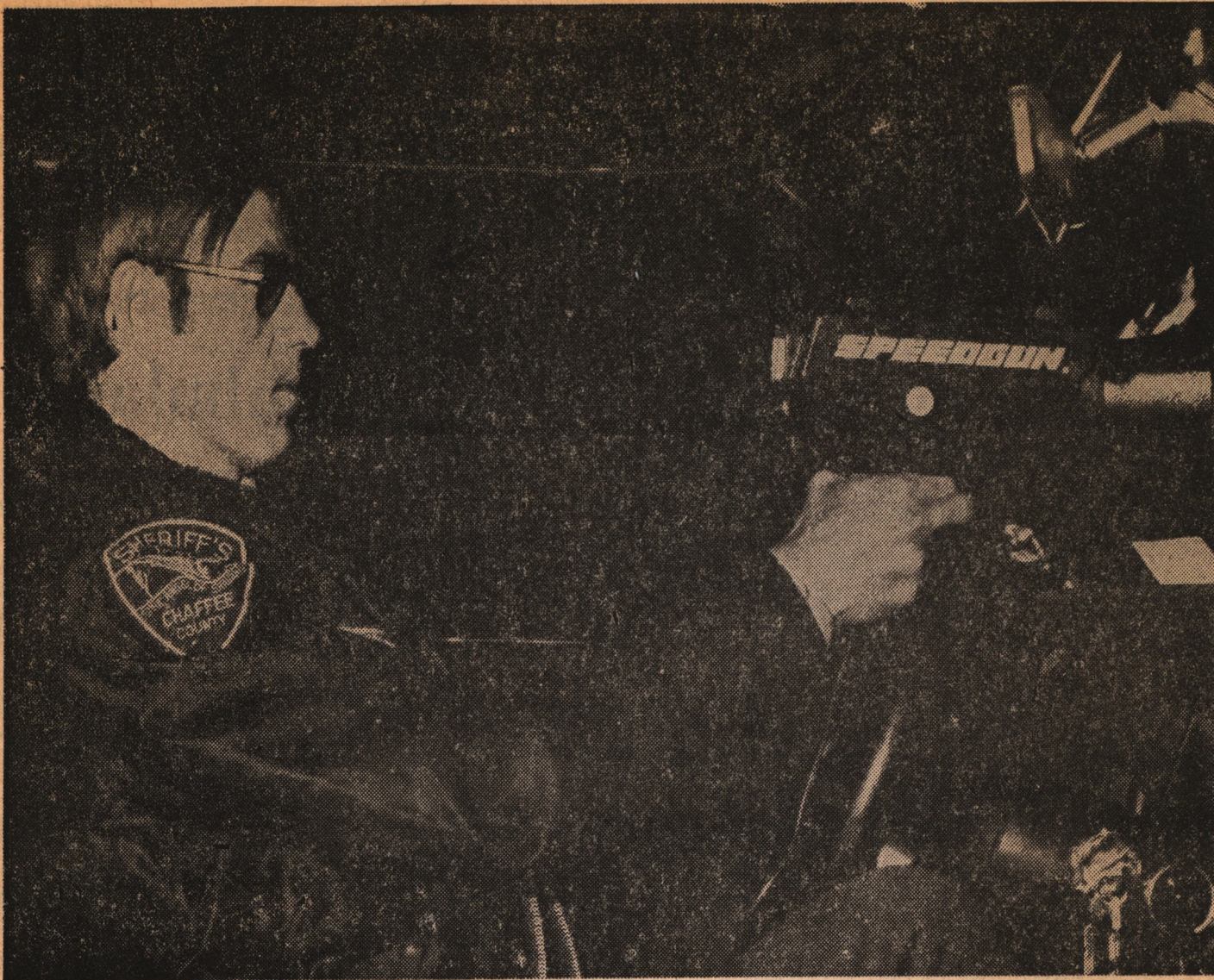
STANDING UP

Deputy Bill Davis uses a filing cabinet for a desk in completing paperwork on a speeding ticket, Davis believes, where a driver is only a few miles over the limit, a warning is often as effective as a ticket in slowing the driver down.



GIVING A HAND

Dallas Lane, a college student home for the holidays and former relief dispatcher for the sheriff's office, gave a hand with a stretcher when Deputy Bill Davis answered an emergency medical aid call from Shavano Manor.



GOTCHA

While Chieftain correspondent Dick Dixon was riding with him

as an observer recently, Chaffee County Deputy Bill Davis set a personal record with the highly accurate radar-type Speedgun. He clocked a pickup truck going 81

m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. When he ticketed the driver, Davis was thanked for slowing the driver down and even had his hand shaken — another first, Davis said.

Deputies' typical shift includes variety of jobs

Article and Photos
By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Working for the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office isn't all coffee cups, restaurants and harassment of young people.

In fact, none of these elements get much time for thought as deputies here answer routine, sometimes mundane, calls and fill in with speed checks, business door checks and genuine concern for the safety and lives of persons young and old.

It was business as usual the night after Christmas. Officers explained that "Things usually pick up on Friday." The shift began at 7 p.m.

Deputies on duty in the southern portion of Chaffee County were Richard Lucero, Bill Davis and dispatcher Bob Beauregard.

They read Telex messages which had come in during the day, and rolled in units 3076, a marked black and white, and 3073, an unmarked car.

Traffic in town and on U.S. 50, Colorado 291 and Chaffee County roads was light.

As businesses closed, Davis began routine door checks to make sure they were locked. Using a special "trick of the trade" he marked each door so that he could tell at a glance later if the door had been tampered with.

Davis reached into the back seat and brought out the speed gun.

"Let's go out on the Mesa and see if people are behaving themselves," he said.

The deputy explained the gun is accurate to within one mile per hour when it is trained on any type of moving object. He demonstrated that it is easy to tell if a vehicle is speeding, but that accurate clocking is extremely difficult without the gun.

Most drivers this Friday night were

well within the speed limit. Then, a small compact appeared around a corner on one of four roads Davis was watching.

"This one is going too fast, but I don't think it's fast enough to ticket," he said as he locked the gun, showing in flashing numbers the speed of the vehicle.

Redlights, move out behind and the car pulled to the side quickly.

"Good evening, do you know the speed limit right here?" The young lady behind the wheel explained in embarrassed tones that she had been called to work at the hospital unexpectedly and was in a hurry.

Davis checked her license, returned it, and said, "I'm not going to issue a ticket this time, but please be more careful of the speed limit." She agreed.

Somewhere less than half-way through the shift, there was a 20-minute coffee break at the Pizza Hut. Davis drank coffee and Lucero had coffee and a salad. There were no other breaks and there was no lunch stop.

"That one is coming mighty fast. Look at that! Eighty-one in a 30 m.p.h. zone. If I didn't have this gun, I wouldn't believe it," Davis exclaimed. The pickup shot past and brakelights glowed bright as the black and white moved in behind.

"Good evening. Do you know the speed limit right here? I just clocked you at 81 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. Would you care to come have a look at the gun?"

The driver looked and signed, "I don't believe it, but go ahead and write it up. When you play kids games, you get caught. This is the first ticket I've had since I was 17."

Davis explained, "At that speed, I have to issue a court summons. If you had been 20 m.p.h. or less over the

limit, it could have been a mail-in fine." He added that if the court agrees, the driver of the vehicle will be fined and will lose 6 points from his license.

The driver was polite, cooperative, and Davis said he would note that attitude in his report. The driver apologized for speeding, shook the deputy's hand, and drove slowly away.

It was time to patrol some back roads again. All was quiet. Check some doors and look at the time, midnight. Some veiled words, loaded with a message which could not be deciphered when heard over scores of scanners, cracked over the air.

Lucero and Davis quietly checked out the only 3.2 beer night club in the area. They noted teen-agers were leaving and that the place was closing on time.

The black and white was positioned across from the parking lot. The young people left quietly with no squealing tires or splattering gravel.

"Just parking the car here really helps settle them down," Davis said. He added, "They're driving pretty well right now, I think they'll all make it home without any problems."

More back roads. A return to the office to pick up Dallas Lane, a college student home for the holidays. Lane, a former relief dispatcher for the department, was going to ride the remainder of the shift as a passenger with Davis. The press went to Lucero's car.

Lucero, assigned to the downtown section, cruised in the unmarked car, carefully watching activity here and there.

"Only about two hours to quitting time, but if we're going to get activity it will come now," he predicted.

The radio crackled and Beauregard said over the speaker, "We have a

diesel truck on fire at 16th and I streets. Can you control traffic from U.S. 50?"

"Ten-four," said Lucero as he hung the red light in the windshield and sped for the other side of town. Almost there, the first of two Salida Fire Department trucks flashed past on a cross street with lights sparkling.

The stink of burning hay filled the air. Dense white smoke billowed from a semi-trailer loaded with 22 tons of Chaffee County hay bound for Colorado Springs. The county car and Lucero blocked traffic from U.S. 50. Salida police went in search of driver and keys for the parked truck and firemen dropped hoses.

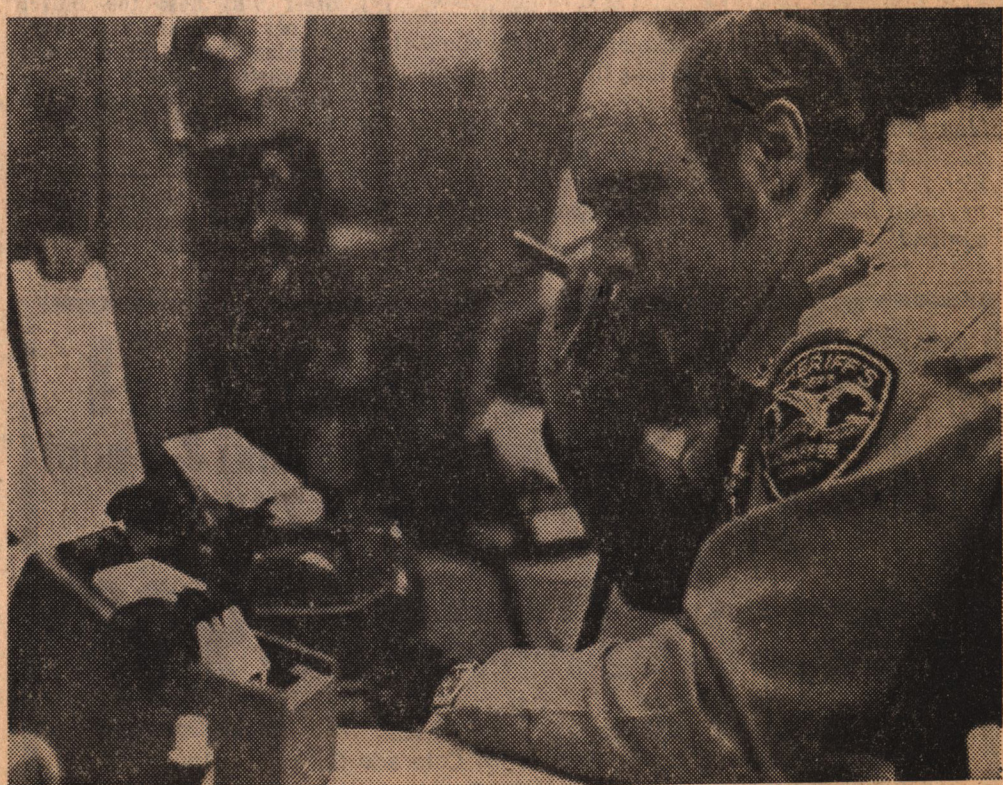
Licking flames began to subside, and clouds of steam mingled wetly with the smoke. The truck was moved to an empty lot, where firemen unloaded the hay and soaked bales one by one.

There was still plenty of fire when the radio crackled again. Davis explained in clipped tones that a man about a half-block away was suffering from a possible heart attack. Can Lucero give assistance? The ambulance was on its way.

Around the block, into the apartment, and the deputies put Emergency Technician and First Aid Training to use. The ambulance arrived six minutes later, and the man was taken to Salida Hospital.

Lucero and Davis headed back to the fire, where mopping up was still in progress. Traffic was clearing, firemen were rolling up no longer necessary hoses, and the officers began thinking about the reports they would have to write.

"An unusual Friday night? I don't think it's much different from most others. It might have been a little quieter than some," Davis explained.



DISPATCHER

Bob Beauregard, dispatcher for the Chaffee County Sheriff's Department, is convinced there is some sort of signal

that causes three telephone lines to light up, two officers to request license plate information and at least one reporter to walk in, all at once, while he is typing up reports, logging radio calls and giving out weather information.

9m... Nov. 24, 1975

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1975

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1975

Firemen battle motel fire

PONCHA SPRINGS—The Southern Arkansas Fire Department responded to a motel fire here Saturday morning, battling the blaze in freezing temperatures.

The blaze was at the Mountain View Motel.

Two units from Salida and one from Poncha Springs arrived at the scene at 4 a.m. The fire had spread from one motel unit into another through the attic.

The blaze apparently started from a couch in the first unit, and caused \$5,000 damage to the \$40,000 structure. The motel is owned by Marilyn Swift.

The second alarm came at 6:55 a.m., from the location of 16th and L Streets, Salida. Mrs. John Hostelt was the only resident in the building, owned by Mrs. Arthur Gray. The cause for the alarm was an old oil stove, which was smoking. There was no damage to the building.

Father rescues young daughter from house fire

The family of John Valdez, Jr. escaped serious injury Saturday morning when a fire swept through their three-bedroom home at 301 Blake Street.

Valdez said that he and his wife and five children were awakened at about 7:30 a.m. by thick smoke.

"I called the fire department right away," he said, "and then started getting the children out safely."

Valdez said that one of his children was trapped in the kitchen by smoke and flames after the rest of the family had fled to safety.

"I wrapped myself in a blanket and went back in to search for her," he recounted. "I found her huddled in the corner by the sink. I carried her into one of the bedrooms and then broke out a window so we could get out."

A fire department spokesman said this morning that the blaze apparently started when a live ember rolled out of a wood stove in the back part of the home.

The fire department estimated the damage at approximately \$7,000. Valdez said, however, that an insurance adjuster was to set a more firm damage figure today.

The rear portion of the house was most severely damaged. "The kitchen, dining room and living room are all pretty badly burned," Valdez said. "The rest of the house was damaged pretty badly by the smoke."

Valdez and his wife were in the house today, straightening up and cleaning up the mess. He said that they hope to repair the damages.

The fire department battled the blaze until approximately 8:30 a.m.

Fire damages trash truck

A truck-load of burning trash was extinguished by the local fire department at 3 p.m. Tuesday, but not before an estimated \$500 damage was sustained by the truck.

Steve Oaks of Steve's Trash Service called the fire department when thick smoke began to boil out of the loaded truck, valued at \$24,000.

Firemen believe that a load of hot ashes had been picked up by the trash collectors and had mingled with the rest of the load, setting the blaze.

A container which apparently

contained transmission fluid exploded inside the truck while firemen were fighting the fire. The hot oil splattered fireman Wes Wagner, but he was not seriously injured.

Firemen were also called to the Cranberry Kitchen on West First Street early Tuesday afternoon when a resident of the building reported smoke coming from the restaurant.

The smoke, however, was produced by an over-heating roast in the kitchen oven. Firemen turned off the oven and no damage was reported.

Fireworks display planned here

The centennial year in Colorado will be ushered in with a 15-minute fireworks display in Salida from Tenderfoot Mountain on New Year's Eve.

The display will be set off at midnight on Dec. 31.

The display is sponsored by the First National Bank of Salida, the Salida Rotary Club, Salida Building and Loan and U.S. Soil, Inc.

Salida's volunteer firemen, under the direction of Bob Freeman, will set the fireworks off.

Star-Journal and Sunday Chieftain, Sunday, December 28, 1975

Fire damages load of hay parked near Salida motel

Article and Photo
By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Firemen here battled a smoky blaze centered deep in 22 tons of hay loaded on a tractor trailer rig parked at 16th and I streets for more than two hours early Saturday.

The blaze, which fire and police officials believe may have been set by vandals, was blown deep into the center of the load by a brisk west wind. The truck, owned by Glen Adams of Colorado Springs, had been loaded with hay earlier and parked for the night at a Salida motel.

Passersby reported the fire about 1:15 a.m. and two fire units and 12 firemen responded. They fought the blaze within a few feet of the motel and under powerlines while the owner and keys to the truck were located by Salida police.

Randy Sack of Salida volunteered to drive the truck into a nearby vacant lot in the absence of the regular driver. Firemen systematically unloaded bales from the center of the load as heavy clouds of stinking smoke drifted across town.

The load of hay was valued at about \$2,430, the truck at

HOT BLAZE

Salida firemen Jim Gray, on ladder, and Bob Freeman, on top, attempt to drown a hot blaze deep in the center of a truckload of hay parked a few feet from a Salida motel.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1975

Damage minor in explosion

Salida firemen were called as a precaution Monday afternoon when a can of undercoating exploded at the Downtown Auto Body shop owned by Ralph Maestas.

Fire department officials reported that the can had been set atop an overhead heater, causing it to heat up and explode. Only minor damages resulted.

Tenderfoot fireworks

If someone's been imbibing on New Year's Eve and happens to step outside at midnight, he's liable to think Tenderfoot Mountain in Salida has revived as a volcano. Rest assured, it's fireworks going up. Volunteer firemen will set the display off. The fireworks are courtesy of the Rotary Club, The First National Bank, The Salida Building and Loan Association and U.S. Soil, Inc.



Monday Dec. 29th 1975

Load of hay burns on tractor-trailer

Salida firemen extinguished a burning truckload of baled hay after a two-hour battle early Saturday.

The tractor-trailer rig was parked at 16th and I Streets Friday night.

Passers-by reported thick smoke pouring from the truck at about 1:15 a.m., and two fire-fighting units responded. Early efforts to bring the fire

under control were hampered by overhead power lines and the rig's position beside a motel building.

Salida police, however, quickly located the driver of the truck and the keys. A volunteer, Randy Sack, then drove the burning truck to a nearby vacant lot.

Firemen unloaded the bales of hay systematically, finally

reaching the smouldering portion at the center of the load.

Firemen believe that the fire was started by a carelessly thrown cigarette. The blaze first started at the outside edge of the load, but was fanned by strong winds deep into the middle of the pile.

One fireman, Bob Freeman, suffered minor burns on three fingers of his right hand as he tossed the burning bales from the truck onto the ground. No other injuries were reported.

The load of hay was valued at about \$2,430, and the truck and trailer at about \$10,000.

The hay was damaged to the extent of some \$800, but fire officials reported no damage to the truck itself.

The rig is owned by Glen Adams of Colorado Springs.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1976

Shed damaged in fire here

A small shed apparently being used as a boys' clubhouse sustained minor damage in a Saturday morning fire here.

Fire department officials said today that the owner of the small structure on Sackett and I Streets has not yet been determined.

Firemen said that the fire was reported at about 11:30 a.m. and took only 15 minutes to extinguish. One wall and a portion of the roof were damaged.

Careless use of candles was listed as the probable cause of the fire.

Jan 20th 1976

January 20, 1966

Russell Cosseboom, 49, suffered a fatal heart attack Tuesday in Salida Hospital. Over 400 students from 12 schools will participate in a weekend vocal clinic at Larimer gym. A number of children, possibly under 10 years of age, plagued the Salida Fire Department Wednesday afternoon with false alarm calls. Fire Chief Milton Myers reported. The calls tied up the fire department telephone and could have prevented service on actual fires or other emergencies.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1976

City buys pickup for Fire Chief

Without benefit of official action from the Salida city council, the city has purchased a new pickup truck for use by the fire chief.

According to Councilman Lloyd Nacarrato, authorization for the purchase was given by himself, Tony Barbiero and Bill Cook.

While the item was brought up for discussion at the last city council meeting, the mayor, Ed Touber, asked Nacarrato and Barbiero, to look into the

matter and come back to the council with a recommendation after checking vehicles that are available.

Nacarrato said that he and Barbiero located a 1975 Datsun pickup at Stallworth Motor Company, for \$3,100.

"We got a good buy on the truck," Nacarrato said. He said they decided that since the dealer wouldn't wait until the next city council meeting, it would be wise to buy it right away.

Touber explained that it is not unusual for a committee to make decisions such as this by taking an informal poll of the council. If they get a majority to agree with them, Touber said, they will go ahead and make the purchase or the decision.

The mayor said that the vehicle had been budgeted in this year's city budget. He also said that for years the fire chief, Charles Culp, had used

his own vehicle on city business using city bought gas for compensation.

Touber said that Culp bought a new pickup and did not want to use it on city business. He asked the council to purchase a vehicle for his use.

Because of the absence of Doug Hume due to illness, there are five city councilmen, and for this reason, a majority would be three votes.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1976

Firemen fight fire in trees

A fire Wednesday afternoon apparently started when Bernard Friend of 6085 CR 210 dumped hot ashes into his trash pit in a nearby ravine.

According to the Chaffee County Sheriff, the trash smouldered and then caught fire.

Wind carried the fire into a nearby stand of pinon trees, which burned a quarter of an acre.

The Southern Arkansas Fire District sent two units to fight the blaze when the alarm was sent in at 5:05 p.m. It took three hours and 45 minutes to put the fire out, said a fire department spokesman.

January 31, 1966

An early morning fire Sunday completely destroyed the interior of the L. L. Branom home at 13th and K Streets. The structure was the home of Luke Gilligan, an area show place at the turn of the century. Charles Nehls and Dick Gilmore, both of Cotopaxi, were injured Saturday when their auto went off the highway a mile east of Salida. The enrollment at Longfellow school is steadily increasing according to Principal Roy McGrath.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1976

Firemen called to burning bus

The Salida Fire Department was called to 810 W. Second St. in the early morning hours Thursday to extinguish a blaze in a Volkswagen bus.

The vehicle, a 1970 model valued at about \$1,900, was owned by Jim Roll and was parked in his driveway.

Fire Department officials say that about \$500 in damages resulted from the fire, which destroyed one interior seat and damaged the headliner and one side of the bus.

The blaze was started, firemen believe, by a gas heater which had been left burning inside the parked vehicle.

Firemen were at the scene for less than a half hour.



own by the city council... including about \$2 million worth from the United States, an Agricultural Department specialist which has been under discussion for months. However, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger placed that prospect in doubt last week when he said Service said Russia has sold the... ment's Economic Research Judith Goldich of the depart- said today. The... from the United States, an Ag- riculture Department specialist which has been under discussion for months. However, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger placed that prospect in doubt last week when he said

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1976

Cook opposed buying truck

Salida City Councilman Bill Cook today denied he had approved of the city purchasing a pickup truck for the fire department.

Cook said that no one had checked with him prior to the purchase of the truck. Furthermore, Cook said that he was opposed to the haste with which the truck deal was made.

In a story in yesterday's Mountain Mail, Councilman Lloyd Nacarrato said he, Tony Barbiero and Cook had authorized purchase of the vehicle.

With the illness of Doug Hume, the approval of three members of the city council would have constituted a majority.

Also in yesterday's Mail, Salida Mayor Ed Touber said on matters such as these, it was not unusual for

councilmen to poll each other on urgent questions, and if they can gather a majority, go ahead with a purchase.

The truck had been brought up for discussion briefly at the last council meeting Jan. 19. The mayor, at that time, directed Nacarrato and Barbiero to check on vehicles available and come back to the council on Feb. 2 with recommendations.

Cook said that he had reservations about the city purchasing a vehicle with such haste. He said that he knew of several small, used pickups that he thought would have been suitable for the fire department.

He said that he would like the city to check into obtaining a surplus government vehicle, possibly at no cost to the city.

Nacarrato said yesterday

afternoon that he felt the city had given him the go-ahead to buy a truck at the last council meeting, leaving the decision up to himself and Barbiero.

Nacarrato defended the purchase of the truck saying that the city got a good buy. He said that "you can't ask a dealer to hold a vehicle for two weeks" to await a decision of the council.

The truck had been budgeted in the city's 1976 budget. No formal action had been taken by the council at their last meeting.

The truck would be used by Charles Culp, chief, on city business. Culp had been using his own personal vehicle but told the council that because he had purchased a new vehicle of his own, he wanted the city to furnish a truck for departmental use.

Firechief's PickUp



Taken 2-19-76

Nacarrato was wrong

The controversy over the city's purchase of a truck for use in the Salida fire department was totally unnecessary.

The actions of Councilman Lloyd Nacarrato in this matter are, at the least, not going to build confidence in the leadership of the city of Salida. Mr. Nacarrato on his own initiative, authorized purchase of the vehicle, then covered himself by stating he had received approval of a majority of the council when in fact he had not.

The purchase of a \$3,100 unit for the fire department is not the issue. Arguments could be made for buying the light truck. The manner in which the vehicle was purchased, however, is an issue. There don't appear to be any extenuating circumstances to explain why such haste was necessary.

The purchase may have been authorized in the city's budget this year but the full council should have been given an opportunity to express itself on the issue. One of the councilmen might have suggested purchasing a used vehicle, something that apparently was not considered, or looked into for that matter.

Editorially in the past year we have urged citizens to demand and encourage responsibility in both elected and appointed government officials. Our government must be held responsible and accountable, and that means at the local level, right here in Salida.

The manner in which the purchase of the fire department truck was handled was not a responsible act in keeping with good government in Salida.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

Three fires cause minor damage here

The Salida Fire Department and Southern Arkansas Fire District firemen based here responded to four minor alarms this weekend.

The first blaze caused the most damage. It occurred Saturday at 3:50 p.m. near the city water plant. A grass fire was apparently started by a cast-off cigarette, and the blaze covered 3,000 square feet before it was put out with 30 gallons of water.

On Sunday there were three alarms, the first at 2:20 p.m. Three miles up Dead Horse Gulch, above County Road 178, a "woodsie" had apparently been held Saturday night. Some large logs were still burning, and were extinguished with 100 gallons of water.

A second alarm was from the Salida Hospital at 4:30 p.m. The fire doors had closed, which rang an alarm down at the fire station. Firemen searched for half an hour without discovering the cause of the alarm.

According to hospital administrator Brian Gilbert, the fire doors malfunction about twice a month, which sets off a false alarm. "I'll check into this more closely," he said.

The last alarm was at 11:40 p.m. Firemen responded to 8845 County Road 126, to put out a grass and weed fire on land owned by Holmer Warren. The fire was out when they arrived, burning 50 square feet.

Pueblo Chief Tain Thursday, March 18, 1976

Blaze guts mobile home; fire truck out of service

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire gutted a mobile home north of Buena Vista Tuesday night and a Chaffee County fire truck was damaged while responding to a smoke investigation call.

heater when the pilot light in the heater ignited fumes. Firemen said the whole dwelling was involved within minutes.

Two pumper trucks and a

nesday afternoon as it responded from Salida to a smoke call in the Brown's Canyon area.

The Colorado State Patrol reported the vehicle was

Truck damaged after fire call

A Chaffee County fire truck was damaged Wednesday while returning from a call.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, James M. Gray, 32, of Salida, was eastbound up a steep embankment in a 1973 four-wheel-drive Dodge. At the crest of the grade, he ran over a large boulder, damaging both drive lines and the muffler.

Damage was estimated at \$300.

A small brush fire in the Brown's Canyon area had been extinguished.

Wednesday April 7th 1976

Wood pile burns as fire spreads

PONCHA SPRINGS—A weed fire here in the vicinity of the Chaffee County equipment barn occupied firemen for about an hour and a half Tuesday morning.

Two fire-fighting units from Salida and one from Poncha Springs responded at 9:35 a.m. when workers lost control of a weed fire.

The fire spread to a pile of wood near the county barn and destroyed it. The wood was valued at \$400.

No one was injured.

Grass fire spreads, shed burns

A small grass fire, fanned by strong winds, flared out of control Friday and caused an estimated \$2,000 in damages.

The Salida Fire Department said that Ron Brewer of 908 W. Second St. was burning grass and weeds in his back yard with a propane torch.

The fire spread rapidly, damaging the side of Brewer's garage, and spreading to a neighbor's property.

A wood pile, garage and shed owned by John Hersberger of 904 W. Second St. were also damaged in the blaze.

City and district firemen responded to the alarm at 3:26 p.m., using 650 gallons of water to extinguish the blaze. Firemen left the scene at 4:40 p.m.



EXTINGUISHING BLAZE—Firemen hose down a smoldering pile of wood pulled from a shed damaged Friday when a grass and weed fire got out of control.

Flames spread rapidly, fanned by strong winds, and damaged the shed, a wood pile, a garage and a fence on West Second Street. (Mail photo)

Pueblo Chieftain
SAT. APRIL 24, 1976

Fire damages Travnicek roof

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire caused about \$1,000 damage to the wood shingle roof on the home of Willie Travnicek southeast of Salida Thursday.

One unit from the South Arkansas Fire Protection District responded and extinguished the fire in about 10 minutes with about 25 gallons of water.

Firemen reported the blaze apparently was caused by a faulty chimney on the home. □

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1976

Faulty chimney blamed in fire

A faulty chimney started a roof fire at the home of Willie Travnicek of 7391 County Road 105 Thursday afternoon.

According to fire department personnel, the wood shingle roof caught fire shortly before 2 p.m. One unit from the South Arkansas Fire Protection District responded to the alarm and put out the fire in 10 minutes, using 25 gallons of water.

Firemen recommended that Travnicek inspect and repair any defects in his chimney. Damage to the \$45,000 home was confined to \$1,000 on the roof.

mt. mail



Stand

Fast action by bystanders averts would-be disaster

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ)

the part

Hospital in Denver for further But even before the police and driving, in the meantime arrived on had connected the truck to a small fire from the rear of the tanker, but

Chief Tain Saturday May 29th 1976

Fast action by bystanders averts would-be disaster

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fast action on the part of citizens, police and firemen averted what could have been a major disaster at mid-afternoon Friday when gasoline escaped from a storage tank near a school and ignited, severely burning one man.

Hank Williams of Salida, who was unloading gasoline from his tanker truck when the accident happened at the old Mobil bulk plant across the street from Longfellow Elementary School, was treated at Salida Hospital before being flown at to St. Anthony

Hospital in Denver for further treatment.

Police Chief Leonard Post said Williams was reported in satisfactory condition and that eyewitnesses said Williams had been seriously burned on his face, chest and hands.

More than 500 pupils were evacuated from the nearby grade school within minutes of the accident.

Chaffee Sheriff Harold Thonhoff said the report of a fire at the old bulk plant came at 3:17 p.m. from teachers at the school. His dispatchers reported police units were at the scene one minute after the report and fire units arrived two minutes later.

But even before the police and firemen arrived, two teachers, who were in the school yard and saw flames erupt from behind the tank truck, took the first in a series of actions which prevented tragedy.

Post said Steve Kane, sixth grade teacher, and Greg Phillips, fifth grade teacher, apparently tackled Williams, who started to run with his clothing on fire, and extinguished the flames.

Phillips also was credited with running to the tanker and shutting off the open valve on the truck.

Gene Coleman, owner of Salida Transfer, for whom Williams was

driving, in the meantime arrived on the scene and climbed to the top of the aboveground storage tank from which the gasoline was leaking and shut off the valve there.

Sheriff Thonhoff credited Longfellow principal Leonard Brass with quick action in evacuating the school children.

"I only talked with Brass about 30 seconds and the whole thing went off extremely smoothly," he said.

"Teachers led students from the off-side of the building (away from the bulk plant) to the high school several blocks away."

Thonhoff said Williams apparently

had connected the truck to a small electric pump and was preparing to unload his truck into a storage tank.

Evidently the pressure from gasoline already in the storage tank was too much for the pump and Williams, thinking an airlock in the line was interfering with the unloading, removed a plug in the top of the pump.

Pressure from the storage tank spewed gasoline out of the half-inch hole. Firemen said a spark from the pump motor apparently ignited the gasoline, which already had soaked Williams and the surrounding area.

Post said the fire originated about

12 feet from the rear of the tanker, but the heat was so intense officials at the scene feared the truck would ignite, causing a chain reaction which might set off the storage tank and, possibly, to other gasoline and propane tanks in the area.

Irvin Sanders, owner of the bulk plant, estimated the 15,000-gallon storage tank had about 3,000 gallons of gasoline in it. Salida Transfer officials said the 9,000-gallon tank truck was about half full.

But when it was all over, the actual damage was extremely small. Damage to the truck was limited to two hoses and the pump. There was no damage to the bulk plant. □

Chief Tain

Burn victim remains on serious list

Sunday May 30th

SALIDA (C-SJ) — George Ike Williams, 42, of Salida was listed in serious condition Saturday night suffering from second and third degree burns over 60 per cent of his body.

Williams was conscious but remained in intensive care in the burn center at St. Anthony Hospital in Denver with injuries to his face, abdomen and arms. He was flown to Denver from Salida about 6 p.m. Friday after treatment at Salida Hospital.

The injuries resulted Friday afternoon when gasoline from a tank truck Williams was unloading at Seventh and J Streets in Salida spewed from an electric pump motor and ignited. Witnesses said the escaping fuel made a fountain of fire 15 to 25 feet high.

Fast action by citizens, police and firemen averted what could have been a major disaster in an area with an elementary school and several other propane and gasoline tanks within a block.

Two teachers from Longfellow Elementary School extinguished flames on Williams' clothing. Firemen, led by Capt. Robert Freeman, cooled the blaze with more than 900 gallons of water, and more than 700 elementary students were evacuated from the school within minutes.

At least two citizens, including Paul Sanchez, a parent waiting for school to let out, stepped in and shut off gasoline valves on the truck and the storage tank. Property damage was limited to the pump and hoses on the truck owned by Salida Transfer Co. □

Friday June 18, 1976

Firemen save boy from slide

The duties of Salida firemen involve more things than fighting fires. On occasion they aid little boys who get into some tight jams.

One evening earlier this week, Billy Jensen, 10, of 316 E. Fourth St., was playing on the slide at Alpine Park. Somehow, he got his arm caught, and firemen pulled him intact from his predicament.

Billy sustained a bruised elbow.

Monday May 31st 1976



GASOLINE FIRE—Students at Longfellow Elementary School were evacuated as a precaution Friday afternoon when this fire broke out at the old Mobil bulk plant across the street from the school. Hank

Williams of on the fire ignited as he was unloading by C. L. Hasselbrink)

is expected

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Monday May 31st 1976



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Williams of Salida suffered serious burns when the fire ignited as he was unloading fuel from his tanker truck. (Photo by C. L. Hasselbrink)



COMPETITION SQUAD—Members of the Salida Volunteer Fire Department's "competition squad" are, from left, captain Jim Gray, Wes Wagner, Bill Smith, Fred Smith, Kevin Nelson and Tim

Nelson. They'll be competing in district and state events this month, including Sunday's district competition in Del Norte.

IN ACTION—Fireman Kevin Nelson is a blur as he and Wes Wagner (far right) move rapidly to hook up and aim a hose during a practice session held at

Riverside Park. The six team members practice for up to two hours every night. (Photos by Robert Durkin)

Salida firemen compete in district, state tests

A showcase at the Salida Volunteer Fire Department is packed with more than 200 trophies won in recent years by the six-man "competition squad."

And team captain Jim Gray believes the squad will add another armful of trophies to that batch during district and state competition this month.

The firemen compete in five events, each involving some aspect of fire-fighting: hooking hoses to hydrants, directing streams of water at specific targets, scrambling up ladders and other maneuvers.

Salida has two teams which compete in the two three-man events: one is comprised of Gray, Wes Wagner and Fred Smith, the other of Bill Smith and Tim and Kevin Nelson.

The two groups join forces to compete in three six-man

events.

The three-man unit headed by Gray has taken first place in the "option" event in state competition for the past five years and owns the state record of 11.88 seconds in that contest.

Gray, Wagner and Smith have ranked as the top three-man unit in the state, in fact, for the past two years.

"Our winning qualities are hard practice and good teamwork," says Fred Smith, noting that squad members have been working and competing together for some seven years.

The trophies and victories have not come easily. The volunteers have been practicing for up to two hours a night, every night of the week.

A fire truck built on the chassis of a 1949 Ford is used by

the crew during its practices. Several of the team members, aided by Charles Culp and Phil and Don Sterling, pitched in to build it.

In many years, team members have paid their own way to competition events, but a hamburger stand at the annual FibArk carnival last year has helped to meet recent expenses.

The team uses 50 percent of the proceeds to buy equipment for fire fighting and the other half to cover travel expenses.

The Salida unit will be competing against 10 other squads starting at 12 noon Sunday at the district competition at the Del Norte High School track.

The four-day state competition, which starts June 22 in Manitou Springs, will attract about 30 three-man teams and 30 to 40 six-man teams.

IN ACTION—Fireman Kevin Nelson is a blur as he and Wes Wagner (far right) move rapidly to hook up and aim a hose during a practice session held at

Riverside Park. The six team members practice for up to two hours every night. (Photos by Robert Durkin)

June 8, 1966

Merritt Lee Denison of Salida and Helen Louise Jackson of Skokie, Ill., were married Saturday in Fort Collins. Linda Coleman of Buena Vista was crowned rodeo queen Saturday night. Salida Firemen Cyril Granzella, Bob Kidwell, Darrell Donahoo, Jim Nelson, Bob Freeman, and Team Captain Jack Henderson, won trophies in overall rankings at Monte Vista in the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association tournament.

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Center's firemen win Del Norte field day

Friday June 11 1976
DEL NORTE (C-SJ) — Center firemen took the overall first place trophy at the Firemen's Field Day held in Del Norte Sunday.

There were six races held to test the firemen's ability to work together and handle their equipment.

Mosca-Hooper firemen won first in motor replacement. Center won first in the three-man in-line race. Powder wye hose race was won by the Monte Vista women. The men's wye hose race was won by Salida firemen. Winner in the stationary apparatus was Alamosa, after they won a runoff with Gunnison, who tied them in the regular

event. In the three-man option race, Center firemen took first.

Tuesday July 20th 1976

Area men awarded for bravery in fire

Three men instrumental in preventing a potentially disastrous fire and explosion at a bulk gasoline storage facility in Salida were honored at last night's Salida city council meeting.

Paul Sanchez, Steve Kane and Greg Phillips received Citizenship Commendation Medals and certificates from VFW Post 3820 for their actions on May 28.

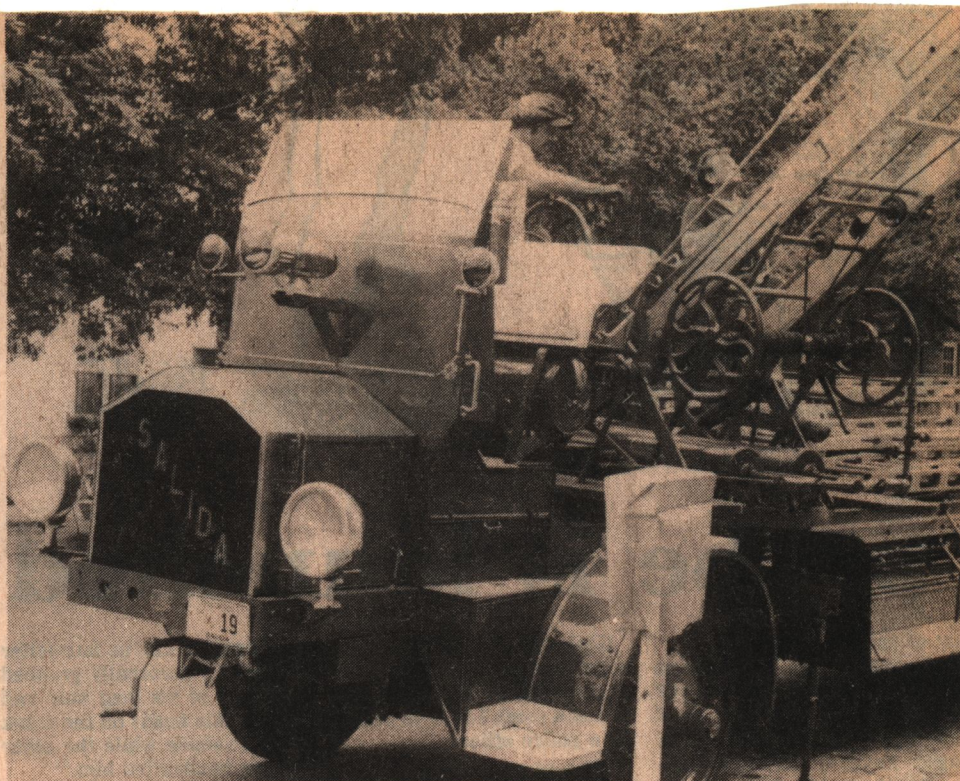
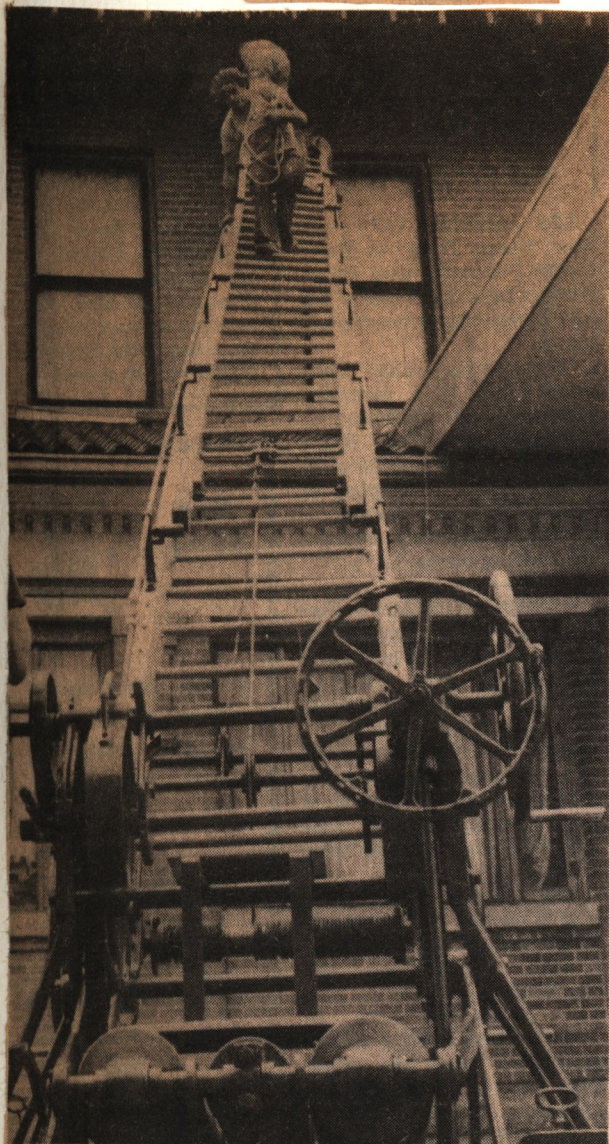
The three were credited with saving the life of George "Ike" Williams who was engulfed in flames while unloading a tank

truck at the Sanders Oil bulk plant near Longfellow Elementary.

Kane and Phillips, teachers at the school, and Sanchez, a passer-by, saw the incident and took steps to smother Williams' burning clothing.

Officials of the local post and other VFW officials, including District Commander Bill Davis of Lakewood were present for the ceremony.

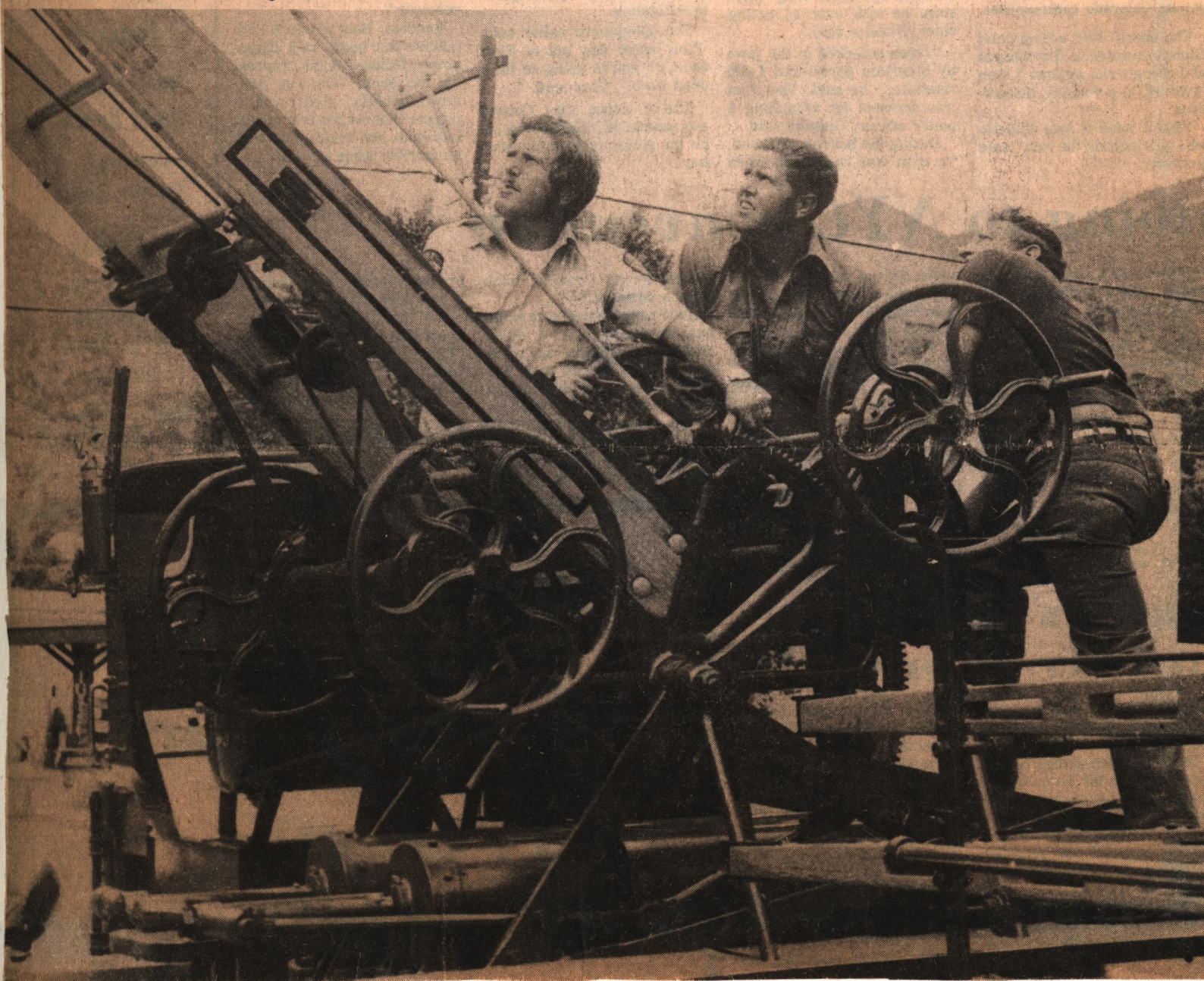
Also honored were the Salida Fire Department, Salida Police and the Chaffee County Sheriff's Department.



LENDING A HAND—Members of the Salida Fire Department volunteered to lend a hand Thursday to a fellow fireman who is helping repaint the Salida Elks Lodge at the corner of Second and E Streets. Firemen hauled out the 1928 vintage American LaFrance ladder truck to stretch to the eaves of the building. Above, left: Tim Nelson carries

a load of rope and tools down the ladder. Above, right: Nelson and Jerry Henderson watch the work above from the truck. Below, from left: Fred Smith, Bill Smith and Henderson carefully position the ladder.

(Photos by C.L. Hasselbrink)



THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

Blaze hits F St. shops

An evening blaze caused extensive smoke, water and burn damage to the Swift Building, 222 "F" St. Although arson was suspected last night, the prevailing theory is that an exposed electric cord was the cause of the fire.

According to the fire report, the alarm was turned in at 6:06 p.m. When firemen arrived, they discovered the fiber glass canopy and the north end of the building in flames. Intense heat was detected from the canopy. The blaze was quickly extinguished, within 10 minutes and using 50 gallons of water from the fire truck.

Suspicious of arson were aroused by the discovery of a soft drink can that looked as if it had been soldered shut. The can was on the burning canopy.

"We also found an exposed electric cord, in the middle of the worst burned section of the building. It was plugged into a live socket. As for the can, it

doesn't fit the pattern of fire bombing. Bombers usually use bottles, that break and spatter gasoline over the area. This can was aluminum, and the "solder" looks like it may be melted aluminum. Besides, solder won't stick to aluminum. The best guess is that the exposed wire in the electric cord caused the fire," said Post.

Both the can and the cord have been sent to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation labs in Denver.

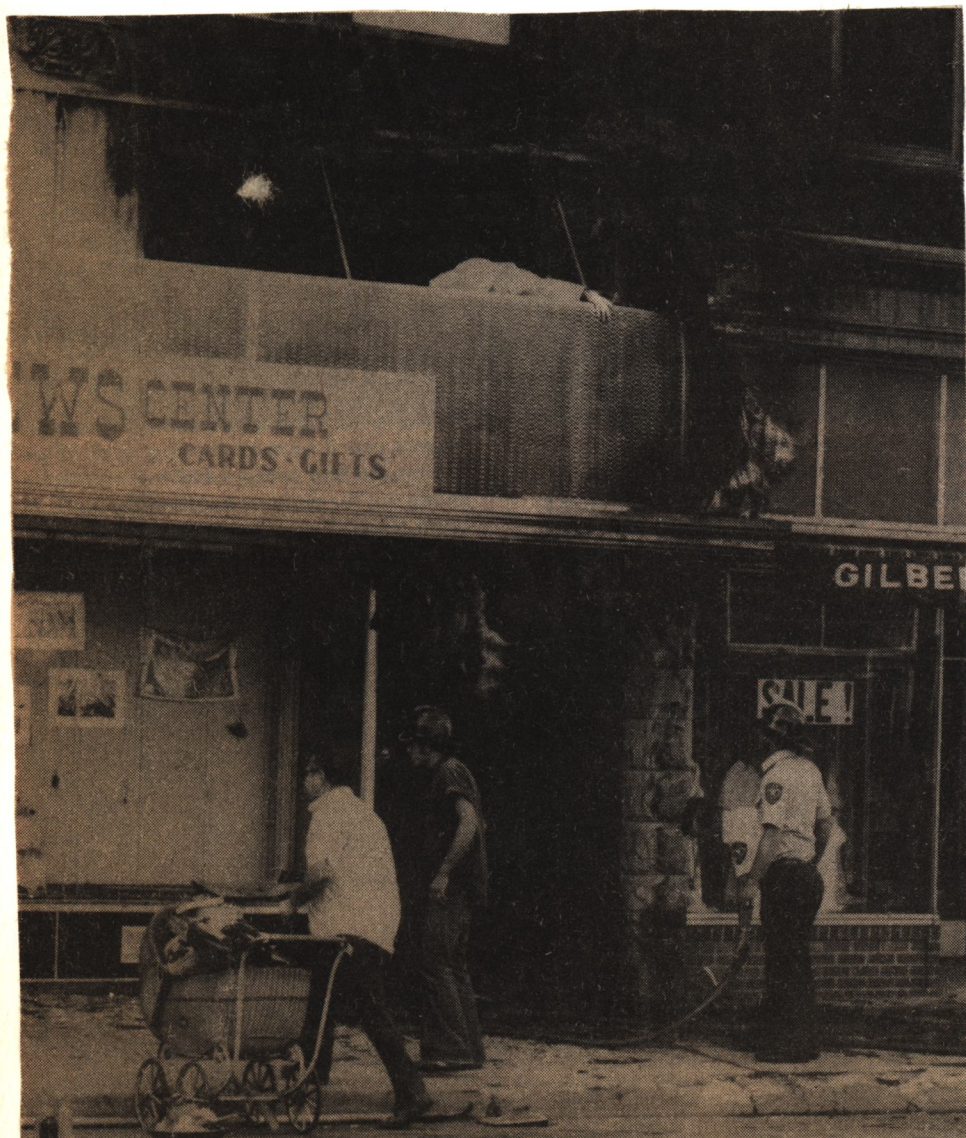
The building is owned by Marlon Swift, and houses the business establishments of Swift News Agency, Little People's Shop and Gilbert's Dress Shop. Most fire damage was confined to the canopy and the northern end of upstairs area.

The three businesses contained property worth \$75,000. Damage estimates range from \$10,000 to \$15,000.



WATCHFUL firemen Tim Nelson and Fred Smith peer into the upstairs room where the fire burned worst. The pair helped

find the electric cord which might have started the blaze.



FIRE DAMAGE is clearly seen in the canopy area and upstairs. Here, shop owners cart out their window displays

and store contents, to prevent further smoke damage.



CHIEFS PONDER—Fire Chief Charles Culp and Police Chief Leonard Post discuss the possibilities of arson. The mysterious soldered can and a frayed

electric cord have been sent to CBI laboratories in Denver. (Photos by C.L. Hasselbrink)

Friday Fire da Salida

SALIDA (C-SJ) caused an estimate to \$15,000 damage downtown Salida by at 6:06 p.m. Wednesday.

Fire Chief Charles Culp reported the fire canopy above the Bookstore, Little People's Shop and adjacent Gilbert's Dress Shop, 200 block of F St., burning intensely when equipment arrived.

He said it took 10 minutes and 50 gallons of water to extinguish the fire, although firemen were on scene almost two hours.

Marlon Swift, owner of the building and Old West Bookstore, and Judy Swift, owner of the Little People's Shop, said most of the damage came from the fire.

Cause of the fire has been attributed to either a bomb or an electric circuit. Culp reported an aluminum can which appeared to have been soldered shut, was found on the scene.

He added that the electric wire was found frayed insulation which crossed a metal support.

OLD WEST



TAKEN



Fire damages three Salida businesses

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire caused an estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000 damage to three downtown Salida businesses at 6:06 p.m. Wednesday.

Fire Chief Charles Culp reported the fiberglass canopy above the Old West Bookstore, Little People's Shop and adjacent to Gilbert's Dress Shop in the 200 block of F Street was burning intensely when fire equipment arrived.

He said it took about 10 minutes and 50 gallons of water to extinguish the blaze, although firemen were on the scene almost two hours.

Marlon Swift, owner of the building and Old West Bookstore, and Judy Fear, owner of the Little People's Shop, said most inventory damage came from smoke.

Cause of the fire has been attributed to either a fire bomb or an electrical short circuit. Culp reported an aluminum can which appeared to have been sealed with solder, was found at the scene.

He added that a live electric wire was found with frayed insulation where it crossed a metal support for

the canopy.

Police Chief Leonard Post said the Colorado Bureau of Investigation will be contacted for an on-site inspection and for laboratory analysis of the can and other material from the canopy.

The bookstore re-opened for business Thursday and Mrs. Fear said she hoped to have her shop open in a day or two. She said a number of volunteers helped carry most of her inventory from the building and damage would be light. □

Pueblo
Chieftain

OLD WEST BOOKSTORE AND (222 F ST)



Little People Shop

TAKEN 7/23/76



to CBI
by C.L.

Monday Aug 9th 1976

Firemen compete in city

Firemen compete in drills

The Salida and South Arkansas District exhibition teams gallantly refused trophies in the firemen's competition here Sunday at Riverside Park.

The local firemen, who hosted the drill, dominated the day's events.

The city crew earned 11 overall points for first place and the South Arkansas team, also based in Salida, gained 10 points to earn a tie for second place with Fairmont County.

The local firemen, however, discounted their scores and the Fairmont unit then won the first place trophy. The Alamosa and Alamosa rural crews shared second, and the Southwest Adams County team finished third.

The city squad posted the best time in two of the day's four events, winning the three-man inline in 14.1 seconds and the 1½" to 2½" change-over in 20.6 seconds.

The South Arkansas firemen recorded the best time in the three-man option event, winning that in 11.5 seconds.



ON TARGET—Salida fireman Fred Smith gets soaked down by a loose hydrant connection during one of the events in the firemen's competition hosted by Salida this weekend.



TEAMWORK—Members of the Alamosa squad join competition hosted this weekend by Salida firemen. forces in the "rural booster" event during the The team finished fourth overall.

He also said that high school students who have summer jobs may obtain special permission from principal John Ophus to begin school the day following Labor Day rather than on Sept. 1.

Schedules for the first half-day session will be released individually by the high school, Keesner Junior High School and Longfellow Elementary School, Melien said.



RIDING HIGH—Young volunteers ride one of two Salida Fire Department trucks through the city's residential sections Saturday to collect funds for the local Muscular Dystrophy campaign. That part of the campaign realized \$295. The amount raised during Sunday's Skate-A-Thon by local Camp Fire Girls is not yet tabulated. (Mail photo)

Nov. 1st Oct. 30, 1966
Dr. Wendell Hutchinson received the award for the outstanding rancher in the area from Governor John A. Love at the award dinner last night. The Marine Band, the "President's Own Band", 1798-1966 will perform Monday in Salida High School's Larimer auditorium. A fire in the kitchen of the Salida Inn temporarily suspended operation, Fire Chief Milton Myers reported.

Friday Nov 5th 1976

Who's running the city?

There are a few Salida residents who are somewhat "concerned" over who's running city hall. The concern grew out of the decision of a city department head to make a major capital purchase without the prior approval of the city council.

The matter came up over the purchase of an area-wide paging system for use by local emergency service departments. Salida fire chief Charlie Culp ordered 20 units for department use at a cost of \$2,300. He said he made the order when he did because of a possible hike in the price of the pagers. The pagers had been budgeted but Councilman Bill Cook was upset since the council did not give specific approval.

Culp did make the purchase following two meetings. The first was at a county-wide meeting with the sheriffs department ambulance service, and the Northern Chaffee County Fire Protection District (NCCFPD) where it was agreed to institute the apparatus throughout the county with the NCCFPD agreeing to bear the cost of purchasing the control panel. At a later meeting with Sheriff Thonoff, Mayor Ed Touber and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, the South Arkansas district also decided to purchase the pagers. It was after these two meetings that Culp went ahead with the purchase.

Fire Department budget— Thursday Sept. 30th 1976

\$51,000 in wages requested by Culp

Salaries totaling \$51,000 constitute the largest part of Chief Charles Culp's proposed 1977 budget for the Salida Fire Department.

The \$51,000 would pay the annual wages of Culp and the four full-time firemen on his force. The department is augmented by several unpaid volunteers.

The \$51,000 represents an increase of \$9,442 over the total salaries paid in 1975, although no new fire department employees have been hired since then. Salaries this year will total \$47,000.

The proposed budget amounts to \$62,500, just \$11,500 over the total salaries. The departmental budget reached \$51,034 in 1975 and \$57,800 this year.

The next two largest items in the budget are the pension fund and the vacation and sick leave fund, each totaling \$3,000.

Although the pension fund cost in 1976 is estimated at \$2,500, the 1977 total is less than the 1975 expense of \$4,080. The vacation and sick leave fund has risen from \$2,261 in 1975 and \$2,500 this year.

Capital outlay

Culp is requesting the city council to approve \$2,300 next year in capital outlay, and hopes to use the money towards the purchase of a modern paging system.

He will also be asking the Chaffee County board of commissioners and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District to contribute towards the cost of the system, which he expects will reach about \$8,000.

A department which relies heavily on volunteers, Culp said, needs a modern paging system in the event of a fire. The telephone

calling system currently being used, he said, is not satisfactory.

Capital outlay in 1975 amounted to just \$425, and this year's total is expected to reach \$3,100.

Culp said that the department is fortunate in that no major equipment purchases—other than the paging system—need to be made during 1977. "We're well fixed now as far as major equipment goes," he said.

Culp has also asked for \$1,000 for utility and telephone bills in the firemen's quarters above the fire department garage. That's \$100 more than this year's total in that category. In 1975 the total was \$793.

He has requested another \$700 for maintenance of fire-fighting apparatus, again \$100 more than this year's total. In 1975 that expense totaled \$395.

Culp has budgeted \$800 for meeting the uniform and convention costs of the regular firemen. That is slightly higher than the \$673 spent in 1975 or the \$700 spent this year.

Culp would like to maintain \$250 in a contingency fund to pay for repairs and incidental expenses around the station. That fund totaled \$200 this year but had reached \$496 in 1975.

He is also asking the council to approve \$200 to provide training for firemen and volunteers, \$50 more than in 1975.

Finally, Culp is seeking \$250 next year to help offset the expenses of the volunteers, \$50 more than in 1975 or this year.

Culp says he feels his departmental budget is "reasonable" and should survive intact after the city council's review.

Tuesday Nov 9th 1976

Nov. 9, 1966
Engagement of Jo Ann Salazar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Salazar, and Private First Class Milton Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Myers, Sr., has been announced. Mrs. Signe French died yesterday in Salida Hospital. Two local men, Harry M. Locke was elected state senator, and Harold R. Koster, is state representative as a result of yesterday's election. Salida firemen battle a \$2,500 fire yesterday at 829 1/2 West First street.

Monday Nov 15th 1976

Two house fires extinguished

Salida and South Arkansas Fire District firemen responded to two alarms this weekend, battling fires that caused a total of \$450 in damages to two buildings.

On Saturday, Salida firemen were dispatched to 522 W. Second St. at 9:30 p.m. A fire had started behind an end table, and burned some toys on the rug and some curtains. The report indicated that a cigarette may have fallen off the end table.

The resident, Fae Wallace, was not home at the time. The owner of the building is David Becker. Damage to the \$15,000 structure was estimated at \$200.

On Sunday, district firemen responded to 7626 County Road 250 at 4:40 p.m. at the home of Jerry Potts.

The insulation behind the fireplace had caught on fire, and firemen had to tear off boards and bricks to get to the interior fire. After two hours and 100 gallons of water, the fire was extinguished.

The \$75,000 structure sustained an estimated \$250 in damages.

Phone mix-noted during home fire

A Salida area fire detailed to the El Paso Fire Department Farmington (N.M.) before local authorities became aware of the fire.

The mix-up took place someone called for assistance to report County Road 121 Salida. Operator now located in Springs, and the operator took the call assuming local report.

The El Paso Fire Department found Road 120, but could not find other reference to the report—Roll Ranch. Their call operator assisted handled by an operator used to work in recognized that the from the Salida area.

According to Chief Charles Culp minutes before Arkansas Fire contacted—after call.

Firemen responded to blaze at 12:35 p.m. the living room engulfed. They contain the blaze.

The \$40,000 home Matt Savoren of sustained \$2,500. The occupants, and Dave Boggs injured.

The Salida Fire responded to Friday morning W. 6th St. Leon 1964 GMC pickup engine fire, which damages.

Chief

Tuesday Dec 7th 1976Monday Dec. 13th

Phone mix-up noted during home fire here

A Salida area fire was detailed to the El Paso County Fire Department and to Farmington (N.M.) Saturday, before local authorities became aware of the problem.

The mix-up took place when someone called for operator assistance to report a fire at 88 County Road 120, east of Salida. Operator assistance is now located in Colorado Springs, and the operator who took the call assumed it was a local report.

The El Paso County Fire Department found a County Road 120, but couldn't find the other reference point given in the report—Roley's Egg Ranch. Their call back to operator assistance was handled by an operator who used to work in Salida, and recognized that the call came from the Salida area.

According to Salida Fire Chief Charles Culp, it took ten minutes before the South Arkansas Fire District was contacted—after the initial call.

Firemen responded to the blaze at 12:35 p.m. and found the living room totally engulfed. They were able to contain the blaze in that room.

The \$40,000 home, owned by Matt Savoren of Buena Vista, sustained \$2,500 in damages. The occupants, Tom Maestas and Dave Bogart, were not injured.

The Salida Fire Department responded to an alarm last Friday morning at 9:20 at 334 W. 6th St. Leonard Verhoeff's 1964 GMC pickup had an engine fire, which caused \$50 in damages.

Four November blazes cause damages of \$550

Four fires in Salida during November resulted in estimated damages of \$550, Fire Chief Charles Culp said in a report Monday night to the city council.

Culp estimated that property valued at \$95,450 was exposed to the blazes, which included two electrical fires, a trash fire, a vehicular fire, and a building fire.

The city department, he said, was also called out once for a false alarm, once to stand by during a MAST helicopter mission, and once to rescue a cat stuck on a high pole.

South Arkansas Fire Protection District units, he reported, were called out to one building fire, at which damage was estimated at \$2,500. Property valued at \$40,000 was exposed to the flames. The district fire-fighters also had one false alarm.

Culp reported that local

firemen also answered one Chaffee County call, in which a building valued at \$70,000 sustained damages estimated at \$250.

Culp said that local volunteer firemen held two meetings during November, one a training session, and received an attendance plaque from the San Luis Valley Fire Association for 1976.

The Safeway Store, the Patio Pancake Place, and Acme Electric were inspected during the month, Culp reported. Five fire extinguishers were installed at Acme to comply with the code.

Culp and Ernie Criswell, director of the Department of Public Works, also inspected the Highland West development for a possible gas leak and found the fire hydrants there to be improperly installed. The latter situation will be corrected.

Firemen douse blaze in yard

The Salida Fire Department was called out Saturday night at 7:25 to douse a grass fire at the home of Dr. William Mehos at 805 Poncha Blvd..

No damage was caused by the small blaze, which was quickly extinguished.

Fire department officials said that hot ashes from the fireplace in the Mehos home had been dumped on a pile of grass clippings in the back yard. That started the fire.

Thursday, Dec 30

Fire at motel caused damages of up to \$5,000

Damages in Wednesday's fire at Motel Martha at 129 W. Rainbow Blvd. were estimated today at \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Flames gutted only one of the motel's 17 units, but smoke and water damage throughout the building was described as extensive by fire department officials.

Fire Chief Charles Culp said that preliminary investigation indicates that the fire started because of faulty wiring in a television set inside the room. The melted down set was discovered in a corner of the unit.

About 5,000 gallons of water was used to extinguish the blaze in the building, owned by Joe Lionelle of Salida.

Firemen were returning to the station from a grass fire alarm when Jane Simmons, an employee of the nearby U. S. Soil offices, called in the alarm at 11:30 a.m.

Culp said the grass and brush fire had burned about 50 square feet of ground along the railroad tracks near Fifth Street, behind the old Salida Granite shed.

Damage was minor, he said, because firemen kept the blaze from spreading to the nearby wooden building.

Thursday Dec. 30, 1976

Fire damages motel at Salida

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire caused about \$5,000 damage at Martha's Motel on U.S. 50 here Wednesday when it gutted the interior of one housekeeping unit.

Fire Chief Charles Culp reported that the unit was well involved with smoke and flames when trucks from Salida and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District arrived.

He said two Salida firemen and nine volunteers used about 500 gallons of water to extinguish the blaze.

The motel is owned by Joe Lionelle of Salida and the occupant of the unit was listed as Larry Wallace. Officials said later Wednesday they were unable to locate either the motel manager or the occupant of the room.

Culp said that investigation is not complete but that he believes the blaze started in a television set found melted

down in one corner. Firemen said that, even with air masks, entry into the building was difficult because of extremely dense smoke.

Jane Simmons, an employee in the U.S. Soil office nearby, reported the blaze and when firemen arrived minutes later they discovered other motel residents attempting to douse the blaze with an extinguisher.

Firemen said the motel call came at about 11:30 a.m., only 10 minutes after they had returned from a small grass and brush fire. Culp said the first fire burned about 50 square feet along the railroad tracks near Fifth Street behind the old Salida Granite shed.

He said four firemen answered the call and that the direction of the wind kept the grass fire from spreading to the old wooden building before fire equipment arrived.

Pueblo Chieftain



BILLowing SMOKE

Salida firemen battled thick smoke billowing from a housekeeping unit at gutted.

Martha's Motel on U.S. 50 Wednesday morning; the blaze apparently started in a television set in the room which was gutted. —Photo by Dick Dixon

Tuesday Jan. 4th 1977**Fire Report**

The Salida Fire Department responded to a small fire along the Arkansas River near the Park Motel at 105 Oak St. at 7 a.m. Monday.

According to the report, hot ashes started the fire in leaves and dry grass clippings that had been dumped behind the motel, along the river bank.

The firemen extinguished the fire in 20 minutes, using 400 gallons of water.



CLOUDS OF SMOKE—Firefighters Joe Chacon and Bob Kidwell work amid a cloud of smoke to extinguish this morning's blaze at the Motel Martha, which sustained

serious smoke and fire damage. The cause of the blaze is not yet known. (Photo by Carl Hasselbrink)

Motel Martha damaged by blaze

A fire of undetermined origin caused extensive damage to a kitchenette unit of the Motel Martha this morning.

The fire alarm was reported at 11:30 a.m. Fireman from Salida and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District had the blaze under control within minutes.

There were no injuries reported.

The blaze at the motel on

Highway 50 at G street was confined to a single unit of the 17-room facility.

No damage estimate was given, although the damages from fire, smoke and water to the building was believed to be extensive.

At Mountain Mail presstime, it was not known whether or not the unit where the fire began was occupied the night before.

Sheriff Deputy Fred Paquette said it was believed that the unit had had a permanent occupant as recently as two weeks ago.

Paquette said the alarm was turned in by Jane Simons of Bio Systems Laboratories, just east of the motel.

Salida Fire Chief Charles Culp said he had not determined what might have caused the fire.

The building is owned by Joe Lionelle of Salida.

Simons said she saw smoke pouring from under the eaves of the building at about 11:30. She said the fire department was on the scene within minutes of her call of alarm.

Mrs. Odell Hubbard is the manager of the motel. She was not present at the time of the fire and at press time had not yet been located.

BATTLING FIRE
watches from
water at the site
Tuesday's fire

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1976



BATTLING FIRE—Axe in hand, Don Sterle (above) watches from the roof as Joe Chacon directs a spray of water at the smoldering base of the Martha Motel during Tuesday's fire, which occurred just before 12 noon

Wednesday. Below, Tim Nelson (right) and fireman Jim Gray inspect the inside wall of the one motel unit most severely damaged by the blaze. (Photographs by Carl Hasselbrink)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1977

Fire Department elects five officers for 1977

The Salida Fire Department, Chief Charles Culp reports, has elected five officers for one-year terms during 1977.

William Smith has elected president of the volunteer organization, with Tim Nelson being chosen vice president. The other officers are Phil Sterle, treasurer, Brad Craig, secretary, and Clay Ogden, Jim Gray and Kevin Nelson, trustees.

Local firemen responded to 10 alarms during December, 1976, Culp reported. They included a building fire, three grass fires, two ash pit fires, two calls for electrical in-

spections, one call to investigate a gas leak, and one false alarm.

Property valued at \$50,000 was exposed to fire during the month, he said, but damages were limited to an estimated \$5,000.

Two alarms were handled by the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, Culp said. One was a building fire in which a unit valued at \$50,000 sustained \$5,000 in damages, and the other was a false alarm.

Local firemen responded to no county fires, he noted.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1977

Fire in trash is extinguished

The Salida Fire Department responded to a trash fire Thursday at about 4 p.m.

The fire was in an ash pit at the residence of Rev. and Mrs. Mark Matney at 1018 I St. The Matneys were advised of the no-burning law. No damage was done, according to the report.



Thursday, January 13, 1977

Pueblo Chief of Police

Chaffee installs portable communications equipment

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — New portable communication equipment for sheriff's officers, ambulance personnel and firemen throughout Chaffee County will go into service here today.

Sheriff Harold Thonhoff said five new portable pack sets with battery chargers will be distributed. He said three sets will go to the northern end of the county.

Thonhoff explained that the three channel, five watt, radios will provide better law enforcement, rescue and emergency communication than has been possible with two units in the past.

The pack sets are part of about \$6,000 in communications equipment which was authorized for purchase by county commissioners last year. Other equipment will include a power booster for use with the pack sets when long-range communication is necessary, a portable generator and fluorescent vests for members of search or rescue parties.

In addition to the pack sets, Thonhoff said there are attachments which will allow them to be used from aircraft or from other vehicles which are not equipped with antennas. The new belt-carried radios cost about \$880 each.

About 48 pocket pagers for volunteer emergency per-

sonnel will go into use tentatively at the same time. Thonhoff said he expects the Encoder console, which is the heart of the system, to be installed in the courthouse radio room today.

He said the Encoder was purchased by the Northern Chaffee County Fire Protection District.

When an emergency call is received in the central radio office, Thonhoff explained, the dispatcher will press a series of buttons on the Encoder. This will cause a selected series of pocket pagers carried by volunteers to emit a 15-second tone.

Thonhoff said that,

following the tone, a voice message will be transmitted explaining the nature of the emergency and its location. He said pagers will be carried by volunteer firemen in both ends of the county and by ambulance personnel in the Salida area.

Pagers for volunteers have been purchased by each of the separate agencies. Thonhoff said the small units cost about \$300 each.

The sheriff said that when the paging system is in operation and when any unforeseen "bugs" have been worked out, emergency response time will be considerably improved. □

Radio packs are boon for police

Five new portable radio pack sets have extended the long arm of law enforcement communications here in Chaffee County.

Purchased by Sheriff Harold Thonhoff, the pack sets are designed to provide better law enforcement and more efficient rescue and emergency communication services.

Previously, the department had only two porta-packs, each limited in power and range. The new pack sets, explained Thonhoff, can be used with a power booster for long-range communications, or adapted for use in airplanes or vehicles that are not equipped with antennas.

According to deputy Fred Paquette, the pack sets can be carried on an officer's belt. A microphone-speaker on an extension cord can be hooked onto a shirt pocket. Paquette noted that this allows an officer to communicate back to the

Encoder . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
system, we could leave room for many other groups," said Abel.

According to Sheriff Harold Thonhoff, the paging system will vastly improve emergency response time by volunteer groups.

Cheddar cheese that has mild flavor usually is cured for 2 or 3 months. Cheddar cheese with very sharp flavor needs much longer curing — 8 to 12 months.

Friday Jan. 14th 1977



HOOKED UP—Karen Davis displays the new encoder console now hooked up in the Chaffee County Sheriff's Department dispatch office. The 40-channel unit, which cost \$400, will contact volunteer firemen and ambulance personnel in

emergency situations. The volunteers will carry pagers which will emit a 15-second tone when signaled by the encoder, and a voice message to explain the nature and location of the emergency can then be transmitted.

Wednesday Jan 26th

Home damaged by fire

Area firemen were called late Monday night to battle a blaze that caused an estimated \$1,500 in damages to the home of Donna Sherbert at 9625 Highway 291.

The alarm was telephoned in at 11:20 p.m. and was the first time the local fire department's new paging system was put into use. Ten firefighters responded to the scene.

Firemen said the fire apparently started because of a faulty fireplace flue, and that the flames scorched the mantel and burned through the wall behind the fireplace and into a rear bedroom.

The separating wall was burned from floor to ceiling, and the rug on the floor was also damaged.

No injuries were reported.

Mrs.

ida's Volunteer Fire Department and Area "Happy" Randolph were red as men and women year at the Heart of the Chamber of Commerce dinner-dance at the Inn Saturday evening near capacity crowd of business men and women. The annual banquet saw Charlie Brown and the "Wanted: He's Alive" award from

Chief

Tuesday Morning

Police report two accidents in Salida

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Lynn Saucke suffered minor injuries in an accident here this afternoon at the intersection of Fifth and E Street.

Salida police said Miss Saucke, on E Street, left onto Fifth and failed to yield to a car driven by the right of way. The car was driven by the right of way. The car was driven by the right of way. The car was driven by the right of way.

Miss Saucke was on her nose, and Hamps was injured. Official damage to the car was \$700 each.

At the 5 p.m., Joseph of Salida parking lot on Market on Salida and gasoline were called to the store and extinguished. Time trucks were damaged. Sheriff's pickup at estimate damage to

WEDNESDAY

Fire 4 accidents

PONCA — grass and about four Little Co. west of town. It took a pump and scene, but unable to bridge the smaller battling.

It took extinguishers was spread towards arrived at. The pickup was Frank R.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1977

Home damaged in blaze here

The Salida Fire Department responded to an electrical fire Tuesday afternoon at the residence of Kenneth Baker at 602 F Street.

Mrs. Baker said that she heard a small explosion in a

wall in the bathroom and that smoke and flames began coming out of the wall.

The fire was put out with approximately \$200 in damage to the house.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1977

Post, Culp report

Salida Police Chief Leonard Post reported to the city council Monday that fines totaling \$840 were imposed in March as the result of criminal, traffic and leash law arrests.

Six persons arrested on criminal charges served a total of nine days in jail, he said, and paid fines of \$130 and court costs of \$10.

Forty-three traffic arrests resulted in fines of \$660 and costs of \$25, with two cases being dismissed and sentencing being deferred in one.

Five leash law arrests resulted in fines of \$50 and costs of \$25 being imposed.

Fire Report

Fire Chief Charles Culp told the council that the city department responded to one building fire with an estimated

damage total of \$200. Property valued at \$45,000 was exposed to the fire, he noted.

The city crew was also on stand-by at one Mast helicopter landing here, he said, while the South Arkansas district firemen extinguished two grass fires and one vehicle fire. The latter department also investigated one report of smoke.

The estimated fire loss in the district amounted to only \$50, he reported.

Culp said that inspections were made at four locations in the city and that volunteer firemen held two meetings during March, one an arson training session.

Salida firemen are working on fire prevention programs for the city's elementary school children, he added.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1977

City firemen called to help

Salida firemen responded to a call for assistance Saturday in battling a brush fire in Fremont County at the Sugarbush Campground near Howard.

Nine Salida firemen and two trucks were dispatched to the scene of the fire at 11:50 a.m. and returned at 2 p.m. after having helped bring the fire under control. Fremont County crews extinguished the blaze later in the day.

May 10, 1967

Mark Rutlum, a Salida High School Junior, and teen-ager of the week, is finalist in the region for a trip to the National Youth Conference on the atom in Chicago. Bureau asks bids on clearing Turquoise Lake area. Firemen from the Chaffee County Sheriff's office, the Buena Vista fire department and the Reformatory fought a five-hour blaze on Tuesday in the east edge of Nathrop where several homes were threatened.

Pueblo Chieftain
Sunday March 20th 1977

Pagers working well for Salida firemen

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Charles Culp, fire chief here, is enthusiastic about the success of the paging system which went into use shortly after the first of the year by both fire and ambulance personnel in southern Chaffee County.

Culp explained that his department has 20 of the pocket-sized pagers and that on calls since they have been in use, they appear to be cutting response time, especially for volunteers. Culp said the shortened time is "significant enough to be noticed immediately."

He said the system is triggered through a console located in the dispatch room at Chaffee County Courthouse. Culp explained that the system can be selective enough to call one man or to call several men, as the need and occasion require. The pocket-or belt-carrier pagers emit a tone for about 15 seconds, and then a voice message can be transmitted telling location and other pertinent details of an emergency.

He said the system in use by firemen cost \$5,126. The City of Salida paid \$2,300 of the cost, the South Arkansas Fire Protection District picked up \$2,700 of the tab and the men purchased their own belt carriers for a total of \$126.

During the past year, Culp said that 90 fire department assistance calls in Salida accounted for 71.1 per cent of a total of 127 calls. South Arkansas District calls amounted to 23 or 18.8 per cent of the total while 14 calls for Chaffee County fires made up the remaining 10.1 per cent.

Business inspections within Salida, Culp said found all the buildings in good condition from fire safety standpoint. He said that the department installed several fire extinguishers in homes and businesses at the request of owners.

All fire hydrants in the city were inspected, and the chief said about a half-dozen were installed on land recently annexed by the city.

In other fire department activity, Culp said the volunteers held 24 meetings throughout the year, and that 12 were training sessions for 15 volunteers and five regular city firemen. Training instructors were from Pueblo Fire Department.

Five firemen and 8 volunteers attended the annual firemen's convention in Manitou Springs the third week in June. Culp said that training sessions there included work on extinguishing fires and prevention of fires.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1977

Store workers put out blaze

Employees at the Gambles Store on F Street in downtown Salida extinguished a small fire Wednesday afternoon.

An employee called the Salida Fire Department at 1:50 to report the incident, but advised firemen seconds later that the fire had been extinguished.

A brief investigation by firemen revealed that a tester on an electric stove had ignited when a burner was turned on.

Pueblo Chieftain
Tuesday June 7 1977

Salida firemen win trophy

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire department members here won the over-all trophy in the 1977 San Luis District fire meet held Sunday in Alamosa with points accumulated from places in four events.

The Salida team placed first in the three-man in-line lay, first in stationary apparatus, second in three-man option and third in the motor replacement.

Firemen who made up the Salida team were Tim and Kevin Nelson, Jim Gray, Bill and Fred Smith and Wes Wagner.

Monday June 13

Fire reported

A small fire was reported Friday at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lambert at Lamada Village, but damage was slight.

According to Salida Fire Department officials, some clothing caught on fire and burned a portion of a rug at the residence.

Early day res
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Mrs. Randolph, firemen are honored

Salida's Volunteer Fire Department and Ara M. "Hoppy" Randolph were honored as man and woman of the year at the Heart of the Rockies Chamber of Commerce dinner-dance at the Samara Inn Saturday evening.

A near capacity crowd of area business men and women attended the annual banquet that saw Charlie Brown receive the "Wanted: He's Not Dead; He's Alive" award from

Vaqueros.

In presenting the award to the firemen, Joe Hergert, Salida High football coach and last year's man of the year, said the volunteers were on duty around the clock, "giving unselfishly of their time and willing to risk their lives" each time they were called out.

Hergert noted that each of the 23 volunteers carries a paging device at all times, all are trained in first aid and

carry first aid cards, and all work constantly to improve their firefighting skills.

The firemen have responded to an average of 12 calls per month in their back-up role to Salida's five full-time firemen. Their duties include manning the fire station in the event of a fire call as well as responding with a force of men to the scene of the fire.

The volunteers have been honored with more than 250 awards in state and district competition including three state championships for speed and efficiency in extinguishing fires.

Bill Smith, president of the volunteers, received the award on behalf of the department.

Jerry Cady, last year's Chamber woman of the year,

noted Mrs. Randolph's many civic contributions, most notably her work toward establishing the new Salida museum.

Recognizing that a museum was badly needed, Mrs. Randolph first went to the city council to approve a location. Then she began working on funding the project going to the Centennial-BiCentennial Commission for a grant and coordinating other sources, including the estate of the late Harriet Alexander, the city of Salida and other private donors.

Mrs. Randolph helped supervise construction of the facility and then the gathering of the historical data and artifacts as well as donating several items from her own

collection, and finally placing the pieces in the museum.

She serves on the Chaffee County Planning Commission, the administrative board for the Council of Governments, is a member of the Community Action Administration, helped develop the 4-H skiing program, and is active in the American Legion Post of Salida.

Mrs. Randolph and her husband Sam moved to Salida in 1972 from Golden. She was raised in Kouts, Indiana, became a registered nurse, received her degree in nurses education from Denver University, and served in the Army nurse corp in the North African campaign and in the Italian campaign.

Bryce Johnson, the "ranch

boss" of the Vaqueros, presented the "Wanted" award to Brown. He is the out-going Chamber president having served on the board of directors for the past two years.

Brown, the manager of the Salida Building and Loan, is active in the Salida Rotary Club, where he is the vice-president, and he and his wife Mettie are members of the First Methodist Church and the Shavano Four-Wheelers.

Also at the Banquet, those present heard a report from Ken Baker, the 1977 Chamber president, on goals for the coming year, as well as a report from Brown, the 1976 president.

Master of ceremonies for the event was Will Thomas.

Chieftain

Tuesday Morning, February 1, 1977

Police report two accidents in Salida area

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Theresa Lynn Saucke, 18, of Salida suffered minor injuries in an accident here Sunday afternoon at the intersection of Fifth and E Streets.

Salida police reported that Miss Saucke was southbound on E Street and was turning left onto Fifth when Alan Audley Hampshire, of Salida failed to yield the right of way and his vehicle was hit by the right front of the Saucke pickup.

Miss Saucke suffered cuts on her nose, elbow and knee and Hampshire was not injured. Officers estimated damage to the Saucke pickup and the Hampshire sedan at \$700 each.

At the same time, 4:45 p.m., Joseph J. Griegos, 26, of Salida backed from a parking place at Minit Market on U.S. 50 east of Salida and knocked over a gasoline pump. Firemen were called, but found that store employees had extinguished flames by the time trucks arrived.

Sheriff's officers estimated damage to the Griegos pickup at \$300 and no estimate was made on damage to the pump.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1977

Fire damages 4 acres here

PONCHA SPRINGS—A grass and brush fire burned about four acres of property on Little Cochetopa Road southwest of here on Monday afternoon.

Area firefighters dispatched a pumper and tanker to the scene, but the tank truck was unable to cross a narrow bridge near the blaze. Only the smaller truck was used in battling the fire.

It took firemen two hours to extinguish the blaze, which was spreading from the grass towards the forest when they arrived at the scene.

The property is owned by Frank Robertson.

Damages run high in accident here

Three accidents took place in the Salida region over the weekend, and although none of them involved serious injuries, one of them resulted in a total of \$1,400 in damages.

The worst accident took place in Salida at the intersection of Fifth and E Streets on Sunday. According to the police report, Theresa Lynn Saucke, 18, of Salida, was southbound on E Street, turning left onto Fifth Street.

Alan Audley Hampshire, 76, of Salida, who was westbound on Fifth Street, failed to yield the right of way to Saucke and his vehicle was hit by the right front of the Saucke vehicle.

Saucke sustained cuts on her nose, elbow and knee, while Hampshire escaped unharmed. Each vehicle, a 1963 Chevrolet pickup and a 1973 Plymouth, sustained \$700 in

damages.

At that same moment, 4:25 p.m., Joseph J. Gallegos, 26, of 527 H St., backed up and knocked over a gas pump in the Minit Market parking lot. His 1973 GMC pickup sustained \$300 in damages. He was not injured.

Salida firemen were called to the scene.

Last Friday there was a minor accident just west of Salida, on County Road 120. Both Russell D. Hinton, 43, and Kathleen M. Kregel, 28, were westbound.

Hinton, of Salida, started to turn left into a driveway, just as Kregel, of Garfield, was passing him.

The vehicles' mirrors hit, causing \$20 in damages to Kregel's 1965 International station wagon.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1977

Fire Report

A chimney fire was reported to the Salida Fire Department Saturday afternoon.

About \$80 to \$100 in damages was done to the chimney at the residence of Jim McCormick at 827 D St. Twelve firemen responded to the call.

Police, fire reports presented to council

Departmental reports for January were presented Monday night to the Salida city council by Police Chief Leonard Post and Fire Chief Charles Culp.

Post reported a total of 67 arrests, with fines and costs imposed reaching \$1030 and jail sentences amounting to 15 days.

Eight criminal arrests, he said, resulted in court fines and costs of \$185 and sentences totaling 15 days. Forty-five traffic arrests led to \$625 in fines and costs, with three cases dismissed and deferred prosecution granted in another. Fourteen leash law arrests produced \$220 in fines and costs.

Culp said local firemen answered 10 calls, with two minor fires resulting in an estimated \$50 in damages within the city limits.

Four other blazes within the South Arkansas Fire Protection District caused damages estimated at \$1,750, with property valued at \$35,400 exposed to the fires.

Culp noted that the new paging system was put into use during the middle of the month

"and is operating very satisfactorily." One faulty pager, however, was returned to the factory for repairs or replacement.

Fire safety inspections were conducted at McCormick Auto, Morrison Auto, the Salida Livestock Commission, the Main Bar and Steak House, and the municipal sewer plant and garage. Some faulty electrical wiring was found at one of the businesses.

Volunteer firemen held two meetings during the month, one a training session concerning methods of fighting building fires.

Fire calls reported by Culp

Salida Fire Chief Charles R. Culp has reported seven

alarms answered by local firefighters during the month of February, including three involving grass and brush fires.

Another call was made to investigate smoke in a building, another to investigate a fallen telephone line, one to extinguish a fire in a chimney, and the other to extinguish a building fire.

He said that property valued at \$50,000 was exposed to fire here during February, but that damages were limited to an estimated \$100.

There were no calls in the South Arkansas Fire Protection District during the month, Culp reported, and only one for a grass fire in the county.

He said the Salida volunteers held two meetings during the month, one being a training session dealing with "how, when and why" to ventilate a burning structure. The other was a meeting of the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association here.

Inspections were made during the month, he said, at Salida Wholesale and in alleys between F and G and G and H Streets.

Thursday, March 10, 1977

April 25, 1977

Early day fires were disastrous



Early day residents are shown looking among the ruins of the big conflagration January 2, 1888. The fire started at the new three-story hotel building Peter Mulvany was erecting at the southeast corner of Second and F Streets where the Harold R. Koster building now stands. The wall of the Mulvany structure fell, crushing the Sullivan hardware

building to powder. Two men inside were rescued. The flames jumped across Second Street to the Craig Opera House destroying it and all other business firms in the block including Whitehurst's Grocery, the Bateman Hardware store and Sante Fe Moll's place. C. H. Clark, pioneer photographer in the area, took the picture.

In those days before the telephone and police radio system, three pistol shots ringing out in the middle of the night meant two things—a fire, or a jailbreak. If the pistol shots didn't waken the sleeping populace, then those sounding the alarm would ring bells and shout.

Soon the volunteers would be rushing down the street in various stages of undress to fight the fire or look for the men who had broken out of the pokey. Incidentally, breaking jail evidently wasn't much of an accomplishment in the early days.

One of the worst fires in the city's history occurred the latter part of March 1886. The fire started in the old Windsor hotel, where the Salida Theatre now stands. The entire block was of frame construction and a bursted hose prevented firemen from getting the blaze under control.

Two blocks were swept away, fire destroying everything from G to F on each side of First to the alley. Only two buildings escaped destruction. The insurance companies threatened to withdraw from the town unless proper fire ordinances were enforced, and from that time on, Salida became known for its substantial buildings.

N. C. Twitchell's companies paid out \$20,000. Others collecting insurance were C. C. Laub, the Masonic Lodge, Webb and Corbin, R. Deveraux, William Stevens and Charles Hayden, the Oyster Bay and Witmer furniture company.

The greatest conflagration was on Jan. 2, 1888. The fire started at the new three-story hotel building Peter Mulvany was erecting at the southeast corner of Second and F streets. The wall of the Mulvany block fell and crushed the Sullivan hardware building to powder. Two men inside were rescued.

The flames jumped across Second street and Craig's Opera House was destroyed, as was Dell Crane's liquor store on the first floor of the opera house, Hodgman row, Santa Fe Moll's, the old gymnasium, Gillett and Whitehursts Grocery House, C. H. Clark's Photography shop, G. Bateman and sons Hardware store and others were destroyed by the blaze.

Some of the losses included \$5,000 to Dell Crane, \$11,000 for the Craig Opera House, \$9,000 to the Bateman's, \$13,000 to Gillett and Whitehurst Grocery at Second and F streets, \$18,000 to the Hodgman buildings, and between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to Craig-Sandusky and Company,

even though they had moved out their whole stock.

Peter Mulvany ran a two column advertisement pointing out that he had four fires in 20 months and was ready to sell out. (He didn't sell.)

The issue of Jan. 13, 1888 reports the air still was laden with the odor of baked beans and other canned goods that were buried in the ruins.

Mulvany's fire troubles were far from over. The Salida Mail of Nov. 22, 1889, reports that fire destroyed his extensive grocery establishment just across from the &RC track. His account books burned and estimated loss was \$25,000. Mulvany moved his business across the way to his carriage warehouse and continued.

At this particular fire the firemen were short of water and hose. And the firemen? They were paid \$2.50 a day for fighting blazes.

A fire which was acknowledged as a blessing to the community occurred at the corner of First and F streets in early May, 1890. Old landmarks were wiped out.

The fire started at two o'clock on a Sunday morning in the kitchen of the Saddle Rock restaurant. There was so much grease on the floor and furniture that the blaze spread rapidly.

The fire went on to the building occupied by J. W. Warman who had a stock of cigars and confections, Schullke shoe shop, W. G. Westfall real estate office and W. K. Eggleston's dental rooms.

These were among the first buildings erected when the town was founded in 1880. The Mountain Mail first was published in the Twitchell building where Schuelke, Westfall and Eggleston were located at the time of the fire.

The latter part of August, 1892, another fire broke out, after which the Mail editor offered sympathy to the property owners involved, but at the same time extended congratulations to the city. After several "attempts," the old Germania House, a cheap hotel on Front street, was destroyed by fire.

In addition, the flames took Lee Chung's laundry, Comstock's restaurant, M. J. Kinneys saloon, and the four-unit tenement building owned by J. B. Randol. All were of frame construction.

"It was a pretty sight, all of the buildings burning at once," the Mail reporter noted. Firemen hustled to save old fences to the west, and also Governor Hunt's frame building on E. between First and Front streets.

Many of J. A. Eddy's shade trees surrounding the park opposite the fire were also destroyed. The loss totaled \$8,000—with little insurance.

"The fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin and there is no clue whatever to the perpetrator of the act. The losses will not be very heavy to the property owners when it is taken into consideration that the land itself has enhanced in value since the fire. The citizens sympathize with the losers in their loss."

Wednesday June 8th 1977

Salida police arrests add \$965 to city coffers

Pueblo Chieftain
SALIDA (C-SJ) — City Police Chief Leonard Post on Monday reported to the city council that his department made arrests in the last month which resulted in \$965 in fines and court costs.

Post detailed action, including 6 criminal, 33 traffic and 11 leash law arrests.

Fire Chief Charles Culp reported two calls within the city, one to extinguish a building fire and one miscellaneous call, and estimated property damage from the fire at \$50.

In addition, there was one call in the South Arkansas Fire Protection District and one in Chaffee County. Both

were to extinguish vehicle fires.

Culp reported one mutual aid run to Fremont County to help with a brush fire and said inspections were made at Columbine Manor Nursing Home, Ed's Upholstery, Salida Swimming Pool and the Pepsi-Cola plant.

Volunteer firemen held two meetings during the past month with one on training in hose-laying and other on application of a hose stream on different types of fires. Culp added that extensive repairs were completed on the 1953 pumper owned by the South Arkansas Fire Protection District.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1977

Field Day Trophies 1977



L To R: 1st place
1st Place, 2nd place
3rd Place



Pueblo Chieftain
Wednesday June 29

Salida firemen set state record

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Firemen here set a state record of 11.55 seconds in the three-man option event at the Colorado Firemen's Convention in Loveland last weekend and Buena Vista firefighters took the trophy for having the oldest fire apparatus.

The three-man Salida team consisted of Tim and Kevin Nelson and Bill Smith.

A second Salida team came in third in the event this year with a time of 11.63 seconds, which also beat the 1974 record which they had set. Team members are Jim Gray, Fred Smith and Wes Wagner.

The Buena Vista hose cart which won first place in its division was pulled by Gary Suposs, Dave Smith, Butch Propernick, Dan Griggs and Mike Pauley, all of Buena Vista.

Take stock in America.
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.



at the Salida Police
ment range, with Salida
Chaffee County officers
against others from
ille, Denver, Colorado
s, Canon City, Buena
and other communities.
pons used in the match
'32 to .35 caliber and
quality as "duty"
ns." Barrel lengths will
Shooters can fire from either
the standing or crouch position
using one or two hands in the
first two stages of the com-
petition. Six rounds will be
fired kneeling, six sitting, six
with the shooter's left hand on
a barricade, and six with the
temperature of 190 degrees
heated water at a maximum
A 700 gallon tank stores the
thermostat and heat sensors.
operates in response to a
system is automatic and
heat increase is needed. The
heat can be collected or when a
top solar collector only when
freeze. Water enters the roof
it uses water but needs no anti-
new type. Call a "dry system,"
rounds from the 50-yard line in
yard line in 165 seconds; and 12

SPRAY
couplin

QUICK
Nelson,

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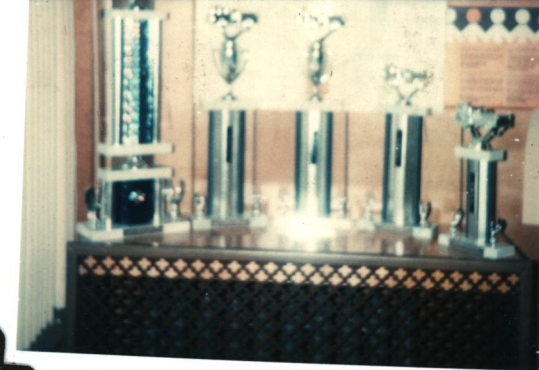
Volunteer firemen held two meetings during the past month with one on training in hose-laying and other on application of a hose stream on different types of fires. Culp added that extensive repairs were completed on the 1953 pumper owned by the South Arkansas Fire Protection District.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1977



TROPHY WINNERS—Members of the Salida Fire Dept. hold the trophies that they won in San Luis Valley Volunteer Firemen Invitational which was held in Alamosa Sunday. The event tested the men's fire fighting skills. The Salida Fire Dept. took second place in the three-man option, first place in the stationary apparatus category, third in motor replacement and they were first

in the three-man in line contest, with a time of 14.3 seconds, which tied the San Luis Valley record. The Firemen above are, from left to right, starting in the top row: Bill Smith, Jim Gray, Wes Wagner, Kevin and Tim Nelson. Fireman Fred Smith was not present for the photo. (Photo by Carl Hasselbrink)



*Pueblo Chief Tain
Wednesday June 29*

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The three-man Salida team consisted of Tim and Kevin Nelson and Bill Smith.

A second Salida team came in third in the event this year with a time of 11.63 seconds, which also beat the 1974 record which they had set. Team members are Jim Gray, Fred Smith and Wes Wagner.

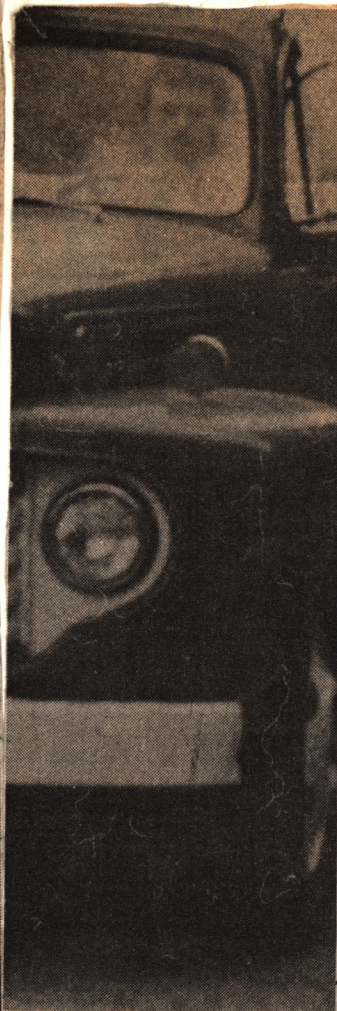
The Buena Vista hose cart which won first place in its division was pulled by Gary Suposs, Dave Smith, Butch Propernick, Dan Griggs and Mike Pauley, all of Buena Vista.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1977



SPRAY—The spray from a not-quite-tight coupling does not hamper firefighter

Fred Smith as he hurries to make a connection during a practice session.



HOOKING UP—Salida fireman Smith runs beside the fire engine hooks up a hose during a practice staged

Down Men

June 14

Miss Anna Gilpatrick where she attended Colorado. William Rec Rio Grande in Salida, dispatchers on the Santa C. Davenport family summer above Poncha Leonard, formerly on the Presbyterian Academy tend the graduation before attend the University of

June 14

Eight-year-old Mike R and one-half pound R Arkansas river near the Patterson, daughter of Patterson, is graduating of Wisconsin at Mac McEwing is leaving Colorado University summer sessions. Mrs. daughter, Mary Marg visiting the former's father

June 14

Dr. Elwood Lynch, for Rio Grande Hospital in over the weekend by the School of Medicine. He 1917 class and has practiced many years. County C issued a marriage license Mazzuca and Donald P.

Around

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1977

County's firemen earn trophies at convention

Chaffee County's volunteer firemen brought home trophies for their performances during the annual Colorado State Firemen's Convention in Loveland this past weekend.

Salida's competition team of Bill Smith, Tim Nelson and Kevin Nelson placed first in the three-man option event, setting a new state record of 11.55 seconds in the process. They were also the runners-up in the three-man overall standings.

The record the Salida team broke was set in 1974 by the South Arkansas unit, which placed third in the event this year. Jim Gray, Wes Wagner and Fred Smith also managed to beat the old record, finishing in 11.63 seconds.

Buena Vista's old hose cart was pulled by Gary Suposs, Dave Smith, Mark Allen, Jim Manley, Butch Propernick, Mike Pauley and Dan Griggs. Tinkerbelle, the departmental mascot, rode along.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

City firemen put out blaze

The Salida Fire Department extinguished a small grass and brush fire behind the Christian Science Church at 100 E. Third St. Tuesday.

Four firemen responded to the alarm at 12:35 p.m.

The cause of the fire is not known.



QUICK WORK—Salida fireman Tim Nelson, a member of the local depart-

ment's competition team, turns on a hydrant after hooking up a hose rapidly.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1977



RAY—The spray from a not-quite-tight coupling does not hamper firefighter

Fred Smith as he hurries to make a connection during a practice session.



HOOKING UP—Salida fireman Fred Smith runs beside the fire engine as he hooks up a hose during a practice staged

by the local department's competition unit.



ICK WORK—Salida fireman Tim Nelson, a member of the local depart-

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Four firemen responded to the alarm at 12:35 p.m.

The cause of the fire is not known.

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1977

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1977

Gasoline spill reported here

The Salida Fire Department was alerted at 7:05 p.m. Saturday when an estimated 100 gallons of gasoline spilled into the lot and street at the Minit Market at Highway 50 and Teller.

The spill occurred during a routine transfer of gasoline from one tank to another.

Firemen washed down the site without incident.

Short causes car fire

The Salida Fire Department was alerted late Wednesday morning when an automobile caught fire at a local service station.

Employees of Bradbury Conoco on Highway 50, however, extinguished the fire before firemen arrived at the scene.

The 1974 Mustang, driven by Rosa Marie Walser of Wilmington, Del., sustained an estimated \$150 in damages.

Electrical components beneath the hood apparently shorted out, damaging the engine wiring and scorching the paint on the hood.

Police, f given to

Salida Police Leonard Post reported city council Monday that 59 arrests were during July, with costs of \$860 and costs resulting.

Jail terms totaling also resulted, Post said.

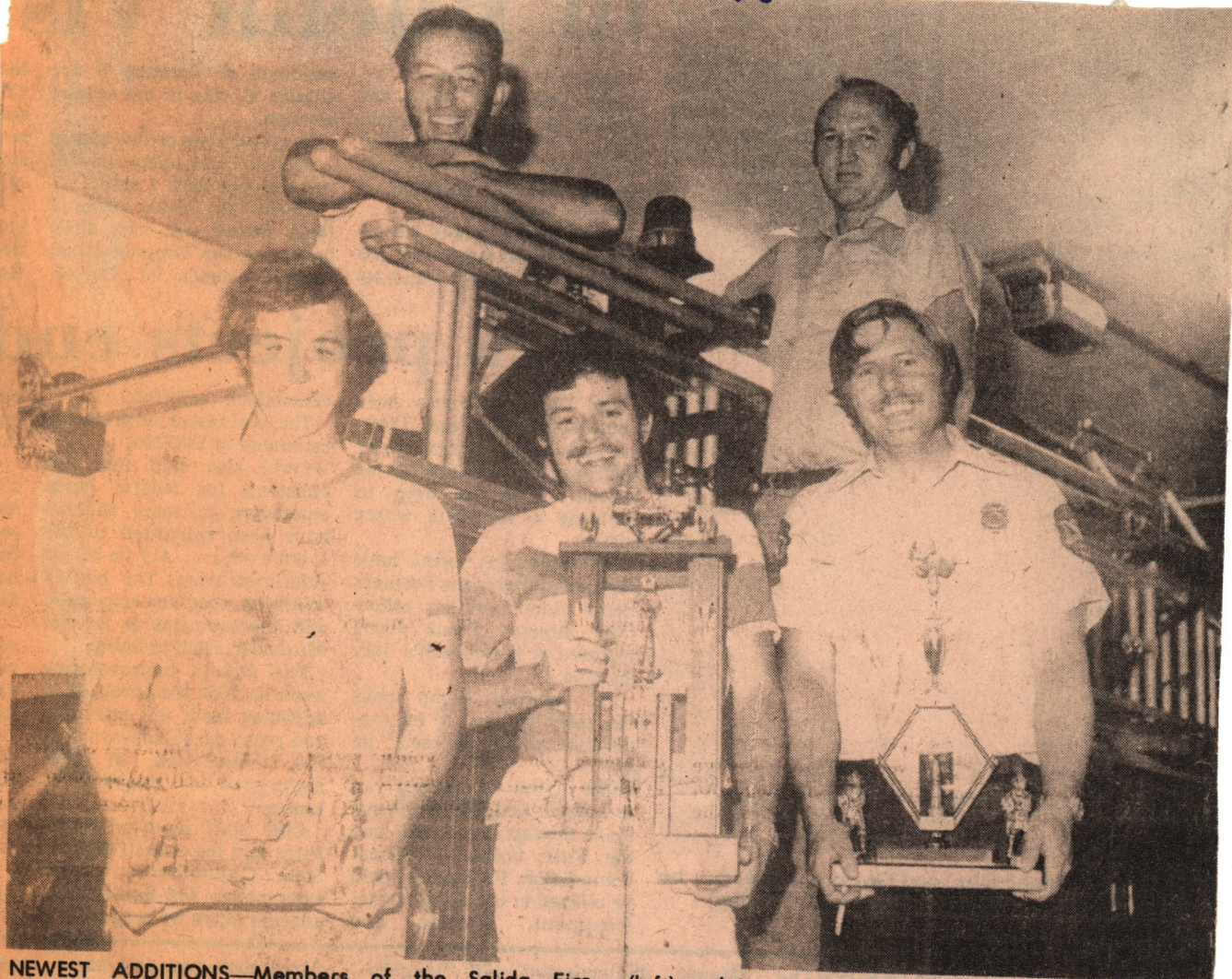
Ten criminal arrests reported, produced fines of \$90 and the jail sentenced. Thirty-nine traffic arrests produced fines of \$600, leash law arrests brought fines of \$170.

Fire Chief Charles reported that local fire answered 12 calls July.

Half of the incidents said, occurred within the limits. They included building fire, a vehicle and brush and grass. Damages were limited estimated \$150.

Five calls were answered within the South Ark Fire Protection District of the incidents being fires. There was also building fire, one call to down a gasoline spill, an

Tuesday July 19th 1977



NEWEST ADDITIONS—Members of the Salida Fire Department display the three newest additions to the department's trophy case, won in Loveland during the state convention. In front (from left) are Kevin Nelson, Tim Nelson and Fred Smith. In the rear are Wes Wagner

(left) and Jim Gray. The local firemen took first in the three-man option, setting a new state record, and also received the overall state runner-up trophy and the third place award in the three-man option event.



MAIL EARLY
ALWAYS
ZIP



Volunteer firemen
Salida Fire Dept.

124 E.
Salida, Co. 81201

Your kindness and sympathy
will always be held
in grateful remembrance

Jim Dooly and family

George and I want to thank
you for your thoughtfulness at
the passing of his mother. It was
so nice of each of you.

George and "Lee" Lota
Dorsey

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1977

Police, fire reports given to city council

Salida Police Chief Leonard Post reported to the city council Monday night that 59 arrests were made during July, with court fines of \$860 and costs of \$655 resulting.

Jail terms totaling 19 days also resulted, Post said.

Ten criminal arrests, he reported, produced fines of \$90 and the jail sentences. Thirty-nine traffic arrests produced fines of \$600, and 10 leash law arrests brought in fines of \$170.

Fire Chief Charles Culp reported that local firemen answered 12 calls during July.

Half of the incidents, he said, occurred within the city limits. They included a building fire, a vehicular fire and brush and grass fires. Damages were limited to an estimated \$150.

Five calls were answered within the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, two of the incidents being grass fires. There was also a building fire, one call to wash down a gasoline spill, and one

call to investigate a gas leak. Damages were estimated at \$100.

City firemen also answered one Chaffee County alarm, extinguishing the burning wreckage of a light plane on Monarch Pass.

Culp reported that inspections were made during July at The Men's Shop, Western Auto, Sonic Drive-In, Kesner Junior High School, and the Strawberry Door pre-school. All were found to be in "good shape," he said.

Webbs told —

No danger from gas leak

Jerry Henderson of the Salida Fire Department reported today that he had received results of tests run on gas samples taken at the Way Station bookstore and trailer court yesterday.

Tests on the samples were conducted by Colorado state inspector John Foster. Foster told the fire department that there was "no danger at the Way Station, at least at the present time." Samples that had been taken from the city sewer system were found to be totally free of propane, butane and natural gas. Samples taken Tuesday were sent to the State labs after the gas leak at the Way Station was reported by Jeff Webb, owner of the property, to the Salida City Council.

Samples were also taken from an abandoned well in the basement of the bookstore structure, where the leak was first suspected. These samples only showed a minute trace of propane gas.

It was reported by Henderson that two obsolete, underground propane-fuel tanks have been dug up from the area around the Way Station, the first one having been removed two weeks ago from the Webb property by a private contractor. The second tank, which was located across Oak Street from the Way Station, was unearthed by city crews, under the supervision of Ernie Criswell, last Tuesday.

Since the removal of the tanks, the fire department is continuing to take daily samples of gas from the abandoned well at the site. These will be taken and tested until the well is proven to be entirely free of gas. The well will also continue to be vented through the roof of the building, to make sure there is no danger to residents or

customers.

Henderson has notified the City Council and Jeff Webb at the Way Station, of the results of the tests.

When asked whether or not the leaks could have been caused by the buried propane tanks, Henderson replied, "We think so. At least, we hope so." He added that the amount of gas coming from the leaks has dropped to "almost nothing," since the tanks were removed.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1977

Firemen to kick off county campaign

The Salida Fire Department will again conduct the "kick-off" for the week-end activities in Chaffee County in conjunction with the 12th annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon against Muscular Dystrophy.

Two fire trucks will leave the station on Saturday, Sept. 3, at 6 p.m. with young people riding them through the streets of Salida. They will have containers for residents to put their donations in.

The Campfire Girls will also have their third annual "skate-a-thon" in

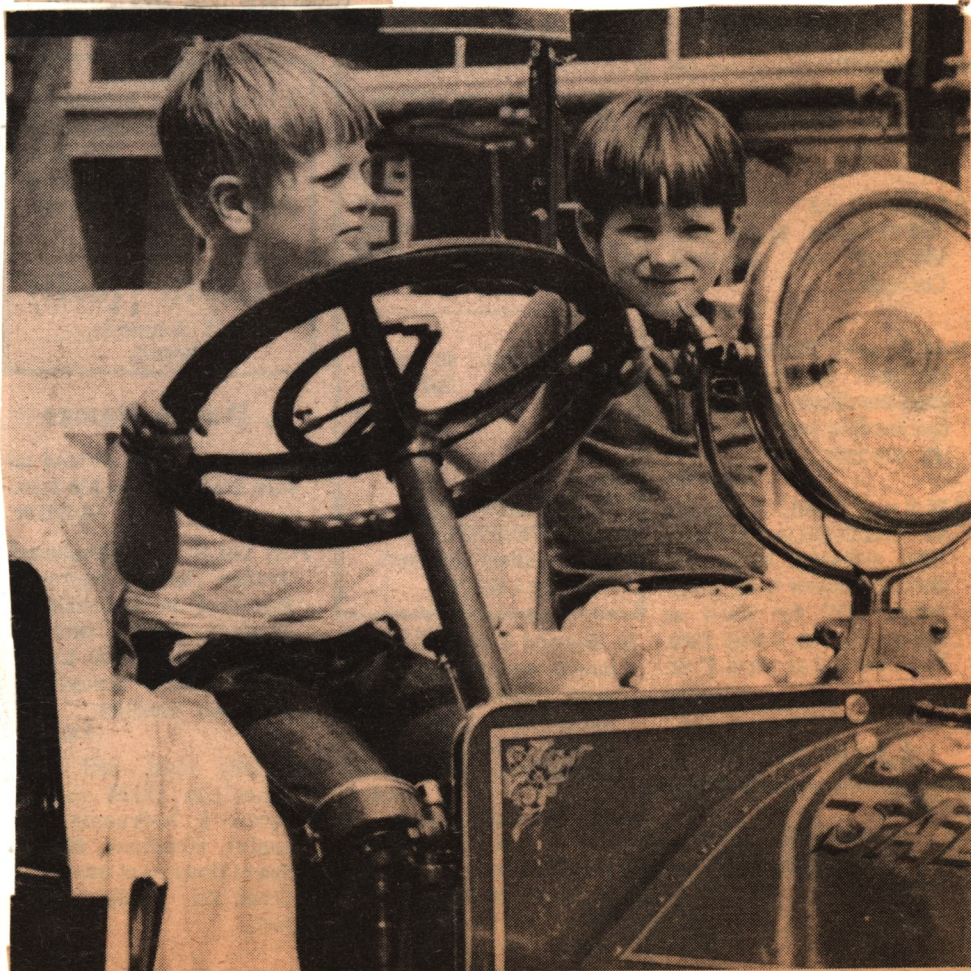
Alpine Park on Saturday. The girls will put their "hearts on wheels" as they work to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy cause.

On Labor Day, Sept. 5, a "fish bowl" will be located at 117 Oak St., in front of the pledge center, so residents can drive up and place donations in the bowl.

The pledge center will be open the full 24 hours of the telethon to accept telephone pledges. The number to call in the Chaffee County area to make pledges is 539-4401.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1977

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1977



APPRECIATION DAYS A HIT—In spite of showers Friday and Saturday, Appreciation Days sponsored by the Heart of the Rockies Chamber of Commerce proved to be a big hit with area shoppers. Many people took advantage of the special sales, which

added up to overall good business for area retailers. Above, Hans and Franz Wuerfmsdobler, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Xaver Wuerfmsdobler, "take a ride" on the oldest motorized fire truck in the state, a display of the Salida Fire Department.

Opinion

Firemen's program deserves support

The Salida Volunteer Fire Department needs and deserves the community's help in providing a fire prevention series for elementary school children here.

With the aid of films produced by Walt Disney and a tele-trainer from Mountain Bell, the firemen hope to teach the youngsters how to prevent fires and how to react when a fire does occur.

The films and equipment are not inexpensive, however, the \$629 will be well

spent if just one tragedy is prevented. And the training the firemen would provide may well make a life-or-death difference for some child.

Many local businesses have already contributed towards the cost of the series. Frankly, however, more donations are needed.

Civic groups, businesses and individuals willing to share in the cost of this worthwhile program should contact fireman Timothy Nelson.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1977

Area donations are 'fantastic'

The response of Chaffee County residents to this year's Labor Day drive to raise funds to combat Muscular Dystrophy was "just fantastic," according to campaign chairman Lou Saucke of Salida.

Mrs. Saucke predicts that the total in donations this year will exceed \$5,000.

"We are really elated," she said. "The community really responded."

She said that over \$4,600 in pledges and donations has already been counted, and that last year's drive here realized a total of \$3,615.

"We are already \$1,000 over last year's amount," she noted, "and pledges are still coming in. And the total doesn't include the coin canisters, which haven't been counted yet."

The Campfire Girls' annual

skate-a-thon, in which 17 girls participated Saturday, brought in an estimated \$1,293 in pledges. The girls skated a total of 183.3 miles, with sponsors paying a pre-set amount for every lap completed.

The total from skate-a-thon pledges and telephone pledges called in to the campaign center at the Saucke home at 117 Oak St., she said, is nearly \$2,200.

The fish bowl located on Highway 291 in front of the Saucke home raised another \$800, almost \$600 more than in 1976.

The Salida Fire Department's annual effort raised another \$551.26, she said. Firemen drove trucks staffed by volunteers through the city's streets, calling out donors with the truck's lights and sirens.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1977

Sixty-one arrests made here in August

Salida Police Chief Leonard Post reported Tuesday night to the city council that 61 arrests made during August resulted in fines of \$865, court costs of \$65 and sentences totaling three days.

Ten criminal arrests, he reported, accounted for \$245 in fines and \$25 in costs. They also accounted for the three-day jail term.

Thirty-six traffic arrests

resulted in \$570 in fines and \$15 in court costs, and 15 leash law arrests resulted in fines of \$50 and costs of \$25. Ten dogs were sent to the pound.

Fire report

Salida Fire Chief Charles Culp reported 10 calls answered within the city limits. One was a false alarm, six were of a miscellaneous nature, and the other three involved a gasoline spill, a natural gas leak and a

helicopter mission stand-by.

There were two calls during August resulting from grass and brush fires in the South Arkansas District, another for a vehicular fire, and a fourth to investigate a natural gas leak.

Local firemen also answered three Chaffee County calls, one a building fire and two grass fires.

Damage in the district was estimated at only \$100. Damage in the county was

estimated at \$500. There was no loss due to fire within the city in August.

The Salida Volunteer Fire Department, he reported, met twice during the month, once for a training session on the use of ladders in fire-fighting and rescue work. Inspections were made at Salida High School, Kesner Junior High School, Longfellow Elementary School and St. Joseph School.

Firemen and law enforcement officers examined the

in the mountains west of Salida, killing all six men aboard. —AP Laserphoto

who would be missed by the state as well as their county. The plane left Salida on a south-westerly course that took it over Poncha Springs toward the Ute Mountain Range.

editor and publisher of The Mountain Mail, nearby Salida's daily newspaper. "It is just quiet all over town. It is going to take the county a long time to get over it." □

Related articles/Page 1B

Pueblo Capitain Sgt. Sept. 24th 1977

Plane crash kills 6 west of Salida



Crash scene

Firemen and law enforcement officers examined the

wreckage of a single-engine plane that crashed Friday in the mountains west of Salida, killing all six men aboard.—AP Laserphoto

A single-engine plane buffeted by 60 mile-per-hour winds and trying to clear Poncha Pass southwest of Salida Friday morning crashed and burned, killing five prominent Upper Arkansas Valley men and their pilot.

Killed in the crash were Chaffee County Commissioners Edward Kroesky, 55, and Ed Holman, 55; Dan Everett, county land use administrator; Thomas W. McCurdy, 61, of Olney Springs, president of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District; and Everett's brother, George Everett, 64, a local rancher and secretary of the water district board.

Veteran pilot Anastasio Delecaris of Salida also died in the crash. He had been flying out of Salida for six years and authorities said he had a reputation for carefulness and safety.

The six men were killed when the plane nosed over and slammed into the 10,000-foot level of the mountains four miles west of the Harriet Alexander Field in Salida, where it had taken off minutes before. The Associated Press reported.

The Cessna 206 belonged to the Salida Flying Service. It had been chartered for a flight to Cortez where the passengers were to attend a meeting of the state Water Conservation Board.

The crash occurred a few minutes before 7:30 a.m. Gov. Richard Lamm expressed his deep regret at the death of the six men, saying they were friends who would be missed by the state as well as their county.

The plane left Salida on a southwesterly course that took it over Poncha Springs toward the Ute Mountain Range.

According to witness Ed Molasky, ranchhand at the Roberts Ranch west of Poncha Springs, the plane was flying into the teeth of the gusting winds and would have needed another 1,000 feet of altitude to clear the crest of the mountain ridges.

He told *The Pueblo Chieftain* and *Pueblo Star-Journal* the plane was heading up Little Cochetopa Creek only 300-500 feet above the ground.

"I knew it wasn't going to make it," Molasky said. "I saw the plane get caught in the wind and loop over in the air before it hit a big piñon tree."

"It exploded on contact. Only a little brush burned at the site, but the wreckage was a molten mass of fiberglass and aluminum when I got there," Molasky added. "All I could make out was one tire still inflated, the motor and a propeller."

The plane made nearly a complete loop from its southwesterly course, authorities said, and was traveling to the northeast when it crashed into the mountain.

Molasky said he ran a mile and a half to the crash site. Other rescuers were already there. The plane had burst into flames on impact.

Another witness, Terry Wright, 17, saw the plane go down while he was working at the Barn Door Cate in Poncha Springs. He took five extinguishers with him to the site of the wreckage.

"I think everybody is really stunned," said Merle Baranczyk, editor and publisher of *The Mountain Mail*, nearby Salida's daily newspaper. "It is just quiet all over town. It is going to take the county a long time to get over it." □

The Mountain Mail

'First with Chaffee County news.'

SALIDA, COLORADO 81201

TEN CENTS

VOL. 98, NO. 82

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1977

Fiery airplane crash here takes the lives of six men

Six men, two of them members of the Chaffee County board of commissioners, died instantly this morning when their single-engine aircraft crashed and exploded into flames in the Cochetopa Pass region.

The victims were identified by the Chaffee County Sheriff's Department as commissioners Edward Holman of Poncha Springs and Edward Krocesky of Buena Vista.

Also killed in the fiery crash were county land use administrator Dan Everett of Salida and his brother, George Everett, a Salida

area rancher and a member of the directors of the Southeastern Water Conservancy District (SCWCD).

The other victims were Thomas W. McCurdy of Pueblo, president of the SCWCD, and the pilot of the Cessna 206, Anastasias Delecaris of Salida.

All six men were killed on impact. There were no survivors.

The aircraft, owned by Salida Flying Service, took off from Harriet Alexander Field here at about 7:15 a.m. The crash occurred approximately three minutes later, some four air miles from the field.

According to Sheriff's Department reports, the plane lost power while climbing to gain altitude. It crashed into the mountainside at an elevation of approximately 10,000 feet.

Bernard Friend, the owner of a nearby ranch, was one of the first at the scene. He said he found the wreckage and nearby trees burning intensely.

"There was smoke everywhere," Friend said.

He and others searched the area for survivors who might have been thrown from the aircraft, but without success.

Friend said the aircraft was almost totally destroyed by the force of the crash.

Another person who arrived quickly at the crash site was 17-year-old Terry Wright, who saw the plane go down while working at the Barn Door Cafe in Poncha Springs.

Wright took a fire ex-

tinguisher from the restaurant with him as he hurried to the scene, having seen the burst of smoke and flame when the aircraft crashed into the side of the mountain.

The six bodies were recovered later from the wreckage by firemen, law enforcement officers and rescue parties called to the scene. The bodies were transported this morning to the Stewart Mortuary in

Salida.

The plane was en route to Cortez, where the five passengers were to attend a State Water Conservation Board meeting today.

Investigators of the Federal Aviation Administration were expected to arrive at the crash scene today. Deputies of the Sheriff's Department had blocked off the area pending the FAA investigation of the crash.

More stories, photographs on Pages 6 and 7



CRASH SCENE—Firemen, law enforcement officers and others called to the scene of this morning's airplane

crash on Cochetopa Pass probe the smouldering wreckage. Six men, including Edward Krocesky, Edward

Holman, Dan and George Everett, and Anastasias Delecaris, died in the fiery crash, which occurred shortly before

7:30 a.m. The plane was en route to Cortez.

Governor to visit in Salida

Colorado Governor Richard Lamm was selected state officials will confer here next week with local government representatives from Chaffee and Park Counties.

The governor and several cabinet members will meet with the regional officials from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the City Hall auditorium on E Street on Thursday, Sept. 29.

Lamm's entourage will then travel to Buena Vista, where they will tour the Colorado State Reformatory. They will have lunch with CSR personnel and confer with reformatory administrators before leaving for Leadville.

Among those scheduled to travel with Lamm are George Lamb, the state-wide drought coordinator, Dr. Anthony Robbins of the Colorado Department of Health, and Dr. Raymond Leidig, director of the Colorado Department of Institutions.

Others tentatively scheduled to make the trip include Malcolm Murray of the

Department of Natural Resources, Pauls Herzmark of the Department of Local Affairs, Margie Mahor of the Citizens' Advocate Office, and Robert Ore of the Department of Labor and Employment.

The governor's office confirmed Thursday that Murray and Robbins will arrive in Salida on Wednesday, Sept. 28, to participate in a public meeting to discuss various governmental problems.

That public meeting is also to be held at the City Hall auditorium, scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m.

The governor's visit to the Chaffee County region is part of a three-day tour of Salida, Buena Vista, Fairplay, Leadville and Breckenridge.

The tour is part of Lamm's "Capital for a Day" program, initiated a year ago in an effort to encourage public participation in the state government through periodic visits by the governor and other state officials.



THE 1978 CHEVY CHEVETTE
New Four-Door Hatchback Sedan

New Chevette goes on display today

Today is the new car showing for the 1978 Chevrolet Chevette and its new four-door hatchback sedan.

The newest Chevette has a "stretched" wheelbase and is three inches longer overall, with a resulting improvement in rear seat leg room as well as added cargo space with a rear seat back that also folds down.

GM has added as standard a whole list of equipment that some would expect to pay extra for including a four-foot wide, easy-open rear hatch, the folding rear seat back, a center console with handy coin pocket, a 1.6 litre (98 cu. in.) L4 overhead-cam engine, sport steering wheel, front disc brakes and an AM radio.

But that's not all. There's also a high energy ignition, swing-out rear windows on coupe models, a diagnostic connector to help simplify servicing and a deluxe instrument panel.

This is the small car for those interested in the comfort and ease of a four-door. Even a six-footer would find the leg-room ample in the new Chevette.

Interiors are available in a variety of colors with custom interiors available which includes deluxe seats and sidewall trim.

For the driver there's a column-mounted "smart

switch" which puts turn signals, windshield wiper and washer, headlight dimmer and flasher controls at one's fingertips.

The Chevette is now available for a test drive at Hascall-Haines Chevrolet-Oldsmobile on East Highway 50 in Salida.

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Free Ground School **\$75**
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Also, if one member of the
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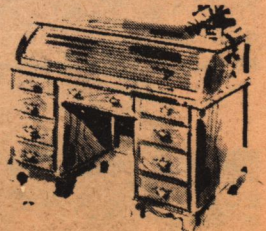
Phone
539-4683

Around Salida

Mr. and Mrs. David Caldwell of Memphis, Tenn., left the first of the week after a visit of a week with Mr. and Mrs. Ned Lanari. They accompanied the Lanaris on a number of side trips, including Vail, Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Crested Butte, Gunnison, Cripple Creek and Colorado Springs.



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SUNDAY, SEPT. 25, 1977

1:00 P.M.

WE WILL OFFER THE FOLLOWING ANTIQUES AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER:

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Pair of Octagon Tables
(Marble top)
Orange Upholstered Chair
30-Bell String of Sleigh Bells (new)
Pfalzgraph Dishes
Old Ornate Gilt Picture Frames
1 Rush Bottom Chair
Copper Bound Trunk (old)
Tiger Oak Dresser
w/Beveled Mirror
Oak Dresser w/Mirror
Oak Washstand
Porcelain Tables
Wicker End Table
Wall Clock (works)
Hull Pottery
Brass Lamps
Crystal Sugar Bowl and Creamer
Heavy Lead Crystal Biscuit Jar
Oak Child's Dresser
Oak Secretary
Oak Secretary Bookcase
Cast Iron Toy Truck
Delft Plates

Ladies' 5-Speed Tricycle
Oak Kindergarten Table
Oak School Bench
Green Naugahyde Recliner
Revere Pans
Linens
2 Small Book Cases
1 Maple Chair
Oak Dresser
Primitive Crate (rawhide bound)
1 Dining Room Table
w/Porcelain Castors
High Chair
Remington Adding Machine
Wicker Dog Bed
Brass Hanging Lamp
Statue of Indian advertising
cigars (1910)
Crystal Water Pitcher
Gone With Wind Lamp (elect.)
Ladies' Roll Top Desk (rare)
Oak Washstand w/Harp
Buffet with Mirror
40' Ornamental Fence w/Gate
Walnut Dining room Table

Pair of Square Coffee Tables
(Marble top)
Danish Modern type Love Seat
Oak Desk Chair
Casseroles
Waffle Irons
3 Dark Chairs
1 Brass Iron Bed
Victrola
2 Print Rocking Chairs
Victorian Chair
Oak Arm Chair
Wall Cabinet w/Beveled Glass
Brass Hall Tree
Child's Rocker
Roseville Pottery
Coca-Cola Sign (Old in mint cond.)
Cut Glass
Three Face Satin Glass Oil Lamp
Wedgewood Lamps (rare, elect.)
Eastlake Table
Set of Brass Ladles
Coffee Grinder
Bronzed Buffalo 8" tall x 10" long
(signed & numbered)(JMC)

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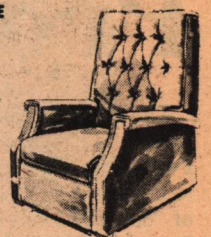
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WITNESSES STORY—Pete Barnes, left, and Ed Molasky describe what they saw of the crash this morning. Molasky said he thought the plane was operating at

full power but when the pilot decided to turn back into the valley, a gust of wind caught the craft "and shoved it into the ground."



EDWARD KROCESKY



EDWARD HOLMAN



GEORGE EVERETT



DAN EVERETT

Prominent area residents left many survivors

Edward Krocesky of Buena Vista and Edward Holman of Poncha Springs were elected to the Chaffee County board of commissioners in the November 1976 elections. Krocesky, a Democrat, won in a three-way race against Republican Charlotte Smith and Phil Smith, an independent, in District 1. Holman, also a Democrat, defeated Republican John Lane in District 2.

Holman is survived by his wife, Jean, and by six children and nine grandchildren most residents of Chaffee County. Born in Poncha Springs 55 years ago, he was a third generation resident of the area. Holman had been a rancher, well driller, miner, road contractor, welder and machinist. He had also been active in civic affairs, serving on the water board, the tax board, and most recently as the county's Civil Defense director.

Krocesky, a former member of the Buena Vista town council and an active member of the county Democratic organization, was appointed to the county board earlier in 1976 by Gov. Richard Lamm to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Bruce Davidson.

Born on Jan. 21, 1912, in West Frankfort, Ill., Krocesky moved to Leadville in 1932 and later to Buena Vista. A World War II veteran, he served with the U. S. Navy for three years in the South Pacific. He is survived by his wife, Dora. They were married in 1949 in Raton, N. M. Also surviving are three children, Margaret, John and Tim.

George Everett's survivors are his wife, Wilmoth three children, Glen, Terry and Jimmy; a sister, Mrs. Vera Swanson of Alamosa; a brother, Harvey Everett of Salida; several nieces and nephews and two aunts, Mrs. Cecil Wickers of Wellsville and Mrs. Harve Swain of Denver. He was a long time rancher in the Upper Arkansas Valley. He served for many years on the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and was recognized as one of the foremost experts on water usage and law in the region.

Surviving Dan Everett are his wife, Lagare; three children, Laurie, Nancy and Danny; his sister, Mrs. Vera Swanson of Alamosa; a brother, Harvey Everett of Salida; several nieces and nephews and his aunts, Mrs. Wickers and Mrs. Swain.

He was a Lt. Colonel in the U. S. Air Force, having retired after 20 years of service. He also served as the Chaffee County assessor in 1974. A private pilot himself, he was in the process of constructing his own aircraft. Anastasio "Del" Delecaris was born in Haverall, Mass., in 1924. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served as a flight engineer during WW II, retiring after 20 years of military duty.

Moving with his family to the area, he was a correctional officer at the State Reformatory in Buena Vista and later as an electronic technician and television repairman. He is survived by his wife, Bernice Jane, and a daughter, Lynn.



ALL THAT'S LEFT—The plane disintegrated on impact and was nearly totally consumed by fire. All that's left of the Cessna 206 were small pieces of fuselage, a propeller and a tire.

Firemen were on the scene withing 15 minutes of the crash and put out the fire. Occupants of the plane died on impact.

Eyewitness account: 'He's not going to make it'

board, Thomas McCurdy, Pueblo; and Anastasio "Del" Delecaris, the plane's pilot. Molasky said when the plane was turning, it was caught in the wind, looped back nearly into the direction it was heading and slammed into the side of the hill, plowing into a big pinon tree. The plane was apparently heading to Cortez, choosing a route over Little Cochetopa creek, Molasky said, but the wind "pushed him, pushed him, pushed him..."

Molasky said the blustering southwesterly wind seemed to "hold" the plane then when it let up slightly, the aircraft seemed to "jump" to his right into the wind. The wind finally pushed the craft over the adjacent ridge. When it reached near the top of the east-west running mountain, the pilot, Molasky said, apparently decided to turn back, banking the plane to his left. Imitating the planes wings with his arms, Molasky showed how the plane appeared to be making a smooth turn to the pilot's left when it was apparently caught by a gust.

The plane's wing's dipped one way, then back the other way, and finally back to the pilot's left. Originally heading in a southwesterly direction, Molasky said the plane, by this time, was heading almost due north. After the wings wavered one last time, "like the pilot was trying to correct himself, the wind caught him again and shoved him into the ground."

Molasky said he saw "a big flame, like gas burning" shoot high into the morning sky. Molasky said he ran over the South Arkansas about a mile-and-a-half to where the plane went down. "I thought maybe someone might have been alive," he said. Dean Roberts, who also saw the plane fly over the ranch but did not see the crash, said the plane was nearly completely consumed by the fire.

All that was recognizable was a tire, still inflated, a compass that was apparently glued to a glass window and small pieces of fiberglass. The rest of the wreckage was completely burned leaving only a molten mass. Molasky said that the pilot had the engine "wound out tighter than hell" as if the pilot was trying to gain altitude. He added that it did not appear that the engine failed but that the pilot had the craft "really rapping off."

Molasky said he would never go to another crash site. "I wish I hadn't gone up there," he said. Salida Flying Service owner, Merle Entz, the manager of Alexander Field, said Delecaris was one of the most experienced pilots in the region. He said that when the plane banked and wavered, it may have stalled, then been caught in a downdraft. The southwesterly wind, Roberts said, blew down two living cottonwood trees, at ranch just moments before they saw the plane.



AFTERMATH—Members of the Chaffee County Sheriff's Jeep Patrol, Laurence Campton and Loyd Hall stand over the twisted wreckage until Federal Aviation Administration officials arrive on the scene.

In the photo below, little hint of an airplane but a wheel and parts of the engine remains after the fatal crash and fire. (Mail photos by Mark Dowling)



Undersheriff applauds 'all-out' efforts to help at scene of plane crash

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — "The all-out state effort to help with the tragic plane crash Friday gave me a good, warm feeling," said Chaffee County Undersheriff Robert Willcox Saturday as he reflected on events of the previous day.

Willcox explained, "I've never been in that position before but with Sheriff Harold Thonhoff on vacation and me being the head honcho, so to speak, it could have been really lonely, but it wasn't."

It began about 7:30 a.m. when a single engine plane crashed into the side of a mountain near Poncha Springs, killing six persons. The victims were prominent Chaffee County residents.

When word of the crash went out, help began to arrive. Willcox said it started when Poncha Springs residents saw the plane go down and explode southwest of their town.

Willcox said, "They all headed up the hill to see what they could do but there was little confusion. One boy ran all the way on foot and several persons left their businesses to get onto the mountain."

Off-duty county officers arrived and asked what they could do to make things go more smoothly. Willcox said members of the Jeep Patrol, Salida Fire Department and ambulance crews swung into action smoothly and "they all did more than would normally have been asked of them."

Once during the morning and again during the afternoon Gov. Richard Lamm's office called,

wanting to know if there was anything that could be done from that level.

Willcox said Wayne Keith, Colorado State Patrol chief, called twice from Denver and gave him blanket authority to use state patrol personnel as photographers, for traffic control or anything else for which they might be needed.

Dist. Atty. John Anderson called several times from Canon City and Deputy Dist. Atty. Doug Anderson of Salida stayed near the dispatch room at the courthouse to give any help he could.

Willcox said that as people pitched in there were no requests for pay or for overtime. He said even after it was all over and things had slowed down, no one came in to ask how he should put in for overtime or request pay.

"These are the people who went out on the hill and did all the work and got dirty. They are the ones who really deserve the credit," Willcox said.

"Thanks to them, I could do my job, make decisions, answer the telephone, handle the scores of calls from the news media and coordinate things," he added.

"Everyone was really concerned, all the way from the governor's office down," Willcox said. "It makes a guy feel good when he knows there is that kind of support. Nobody was selfish."

Willcox said he isn't sure when they came, but that county commission chairman Richard Tuttle and county administrator Robert Stotler stopped in during the activity to offer help and support. □



HOT STOVE—Salida firemen get ready to move a smoky stove out of the back kitchen of the Salida Building and Loan building on Second St. Thursday.

HOME BURNS—Salida firemen get ready to move a smoky stove out of the back kitchen of the Salida Building and Loan building on Second St. Thursday.

Friday Dec. 30th 1977

No help here

A benefit football game has been planned here Jan. 8, with members of the Salida Jaycees risking life and limb in a confrontation with the Salida Police and Fire Departments. Organizers hoped to stage a rough-and-tumble game of tackle, but the refusal of School District R-32-J to loan out any of the scores of old pads, helmets and jerseys gathering dust in a storeroom may put the kibosh on the deal. It may have to be flag football...or nothing. Perhaps school officials should remember who paid for that equipment....

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1977

Fire put out

The Salida Fire Department responded Wednesday afternoon to an alarm at the Jack Coan residence at 604 D St., putting out a small kitchen fire.

The fire started in the oven and was confined to that area, with no serious damage resulting.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1977

Sixty-nine arrested here

Sixty-nine arrests, most of them on traffic charges, were reported for September by Salida Police Chief Leonard Post.

The arrests resulted in fines of \$1,040 and court costs totaling \$40, he noted.

Five criminal arrests were noted, with fines totaling \$80, court costs of \$10, and three days in jail sentences imposed. Fifty-three traffic arrests led to fines of \$950 and costs of \$20. Eleven leash law arrests resulted in fines of \$10 and costs of \$5, with 10 dogs being killed.

Chief Charles Culp of the Salida Fire Department reported that five calls were answered in the city during September. One was to ex-

tinguish a fire in a vehicle. another was to stand by for a MAST helicopter mission, and three others were of miscellaneous nature. Fire damage in the one incident was estimated at \$30.

Within the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, he reported, two brush fires were fought and another call concerned an electrical short in a mobile home. Salida firemen also responded to the scene of the fiery airplane crash near Poncha Springs, an accident in which six men died on Sept. 23.

Culp reported that local volunteers held two meetings during the month, one a training session on the use of a resuscitator.

Inspections were made at the county courthouse, Park Motel, Continental Oil Company and Ponderosa Guest House. The two lodging facilities purchased new extinguishers to provide better fire protection.

The fire department also acted on a complaint regarding a weed-filled lot.

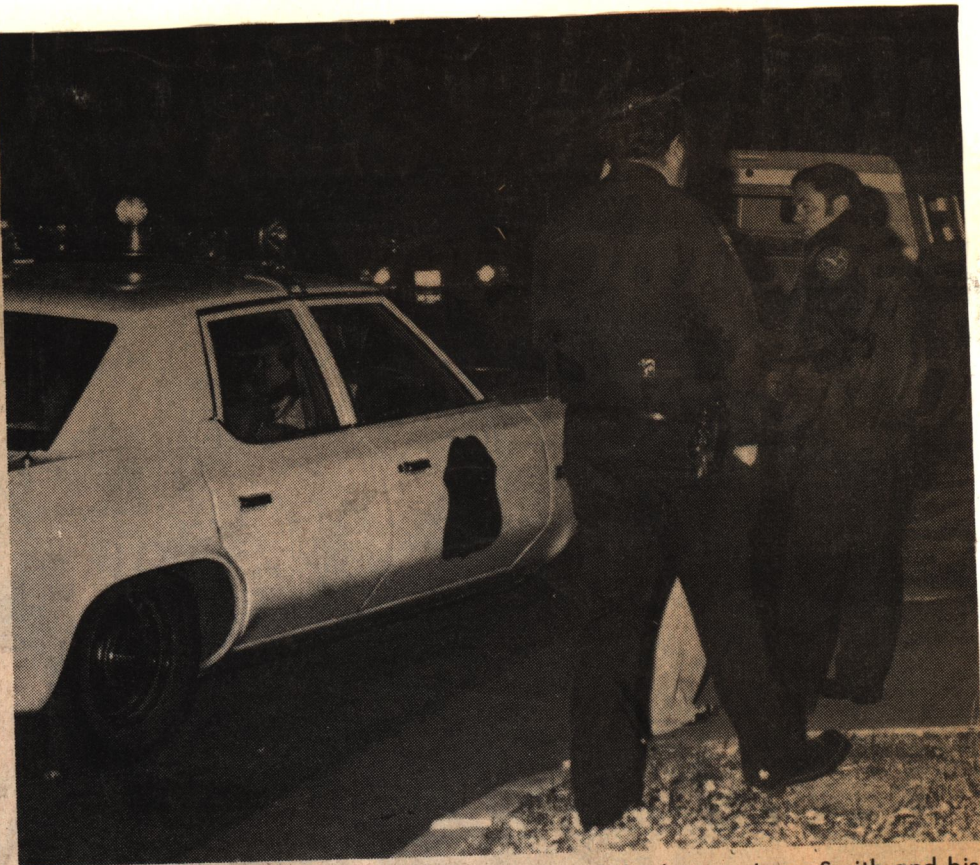
Wednesday NOV. 2nd 1977

HOT STOVE—Salida firemen get ready to move a smoky stove out of the back kitchen of the Salida Building and Loan building on Second Street Thursday.

Firemen responded to the call at 2:45 p.m. when a plastic coffee cup was left on a hot burner. About \$300 smoke damage was reported. (Mail photo)



HOME BURNS—Salida firefighters (above) climb onto the roof of a house at 318 E. Second St. to extinguish a fire which apparently started because of a faulty flue



Tuesday night. Below, firemen check the damages to one wall of the house. At the right, above, Salida Police Officers Jim James and Michael Amicone talk

with the occupants of the house, Jerry Smith and his wife (in the car). Photographs by Carl Hasselbrink.



TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1978

Post, Culp issue reports on activities in February

Salida Police Chief Leonard Post reported to the city council Monday night that 59 arrests were made here during February, with fines of \$980, court costs of \$55, and jail sentences totaling seven days resulting.

Eight criminal arrests, Post said, led to fines of \$450 and costs of \$25 in court. Thirty-eight traffic arrests produced fines of \$470 and costs of \$10.

Thirteen leash law violations, he reported, produced fines of \$60 and costs of \$20, with nine dogs being destroyed.

Salida Fire Chief Charles Culp reported that six calls were answered by city crews

during February, two involving fires. Property valued at \$17,500 was exposed to the fires, he said, but damages were estimated at just \$220.

Culp said that South Arkansas Fire Protection District crews responded to one alarm, extinguishing a grass and brush fire. Local firemen also responded to one Chaffee County alarm.

The Salida Volunteer Fire Department, he reported, held two meetings during the month. One was a training session on the handling of rescue ropes, the other on the operation of the trucks' pumps.

(Continued To Page 7)

Family escapes blaze

Two Salida police officers awoke a family Tuesday night as a fire crept steadily through their home.

The officers, Jim James and Michael Amicone, were on a routine patrol when they passed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Smith and their two children at 318 E. Second St.

The officers saw smoke billowing from the roof of the home, which is owned by

Larry Norris, and alerted the occupants. The family escaped without injury while the officers contacted the Salida Fire Department.

Eleven firefighters were dispatched to the scene at 11:40 p.m. and battled the

blaze for an hour and 15 minutes.

Fire officials believe that a faulty flue apparently caused the blaze caused damages estimated at \$3,000 to the attic, roof and one wall of the home.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1978

Fire in mobile home blamed on children

Fire Department officials said that children playing with matches in a closet apparently started a fire which caused "extensive" damages to a mobile home at McCoy Trailer Park north of Salida Friday.

Neighbors called in the alarm at about 4 p.m., reporting that smoke was pouring from one end of the residence of the William Chappel family at 7095 Brant Street.

Ten volunteers and three department firefighters responded to the alarm, finding that the children and other occupants of the home had escaped the smokey building prior to their arrival. No one was injured.

A bedroom, bathroom and closet at one end of the mobile home sustained the most severe damages, while smoke and water damages throughout the residence were reported. The total was estimated at \$2,000.

Many items of clothing and furniture and personal property were damaged in the blaze.

Firemen were also called Friday to the railroad yards here, finding a box car ablaze. The fire was quickly extinguished and was apparently started "by two hoboes who built a fire on the boxcar floor to keep warm," a spokesman said.

In other calls this weekend:

—firemen responded to the home of Rosemary Tischer at 206 Ouray in Poncha Springs, where a chimney fire caused no damage. It was out when firemen arrived.

(Continued From Page 3)

Inspections were made, he said, at the Salida Regional Library, the Salida Senior Citizens' Center and the Sherman Hotel.

When completed the la... are followed... in strictest safety precaution... doing the work unless th... is danger involved to those... al



ON THE SCENE—Salida firemen make sure every smolder is doused at the fire at the residence of William Lambert, 929 E St., Saturday afternoon. An estimated \$7,000 damage was done to the frame house. The fire

apparently started with an electrical short in the attic. Ten Salida firemen and one truck extinguished the blaze in 52 minutes. More photographs on Page 5.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1978

Fire causes damage

Early Tuesday morning, a fire caused approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 damage to a building housing the Mt. Shavano Beauty Salon, according to a Salida Fire Department report. The beauty salon is owned by Mrs. Margaret Klein, of Salida.

"Evidently, they left a curling iron or some other piece of heat-generating equipment on," said Jerry Henderson, of the S.F.D. "It

eventually started the fire, either by making contact with flammable materials, or by causing a short in a wire." An adjoining business, Century 21 Real Estate, suffered smoke damage as a result of the fire.

Firemen were called out at 12:30 a.m. Tuesday morning to fight the blaze, with fifteen men responding, aboard a Salida city pumper unit. It took until 1 a.m. to put the fire out.

Wednesday Jan. 4 1978 City's parking fine income increases

Judge Robert Bradford reported to the Salida city council Tuesday night that fines totaling \$12,640 were imposed during 1977 in Municipal Court.

The total was an increase of \$1,525 over fines collected during 1976.

A large increase in the amount of fines has been evident since 1972, when only \$4,613 was collected. In 1973, the total rose to \$6,422. It was

\$7,453 in 1974 and \$12,602 in 1975.

A month-by-month listing of fines follows for 1977: January, \$955; February, \$1,300; March, \$833; April, \$1,705; May, \$1,000; June, \$565; July, \$1,187; August, \$720; September, \$1,330; October, \$925; November, \$633; and December, \$1,487.

Police Chief Leonard Post reported to the council that 84 arrests were made here during December of 1977, resulting in fines of \$1,220, court costs of \$65, and jail sentences totaling nine days. Two cases were dismissed.

Seven criminal arrests, he reported, produced fines of \$305 and costs of \$25 in addition to the jail sentences. Fifty-eight traffic arrests led to fines of \$825 and costs of \$5, with two dismissals. Leash law violations resulted in fines of \$90 and costs of \$35, with 11 dogs being sent to the pound.

Fire Chief Charles Culp reported that city firemen responded to four building fires and one general call during the past month, with an estimated property loss due to fire in the city of \$9,100. Property valued at \$102,000 was exposed to fire. South Arkansas Fire Protection District crews responded to two building fires and one grass and brush fire, he reported. Property valued at \$45,000 was exposed to fire, with estimated damages totaling \$5,000.

Local firemen also assisted in handling a building fire and one grass and brush fire in the county, with no serious losses reported. Property

valued at \$30,000 was exposed to fire.

Culp reported a citation was issued to Unique Theatre on Street for having emergency exits during business hours that several new extinguishers were installed as a result of inspection at First National Bank Shack, the Bureau Reclamation office Super Foods.

Salida's volunteer firemen he reported, had meetings during the

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1978

Fire damages 1974 Cadillac

A fire broke out in the back of a 1974 Cadillac on Monarch Pass Wednesday, causing \$400 damage to the vehicle and \$400 damage to the contents of the trunk.

Kirk Dale Lorimer of Gunnison was driving the vehicle west on U.S. 50 when he saw the gas gauge begin to fluctuate erratically.

When he stopped to check the vehicle, he saw that the trunk was on fire.

When Sheriff's officers arrived on the scene, the fire

had been mostly extinguished by passers-by. The trunk was forced open by Salida Fire Department personnel and all the items, most of them burnt, were removed.

Some of the items in the trunk included down sleeping bags and jackets.

The fire appeared to have originated in the wiring in the back of the trunk and was accelerated by fuel dripping from the full gas tank.

There were no injuries reported.

FIGHTING HOUSE
Chaffee County
the roof of the
St. Saturday af

Pueblo Chief Tain
Thursday March 9

Blaze damages auto, contents on Monarch Pass

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire caused an estimated \$800 damage to the rear and contents of a late-model luxury automobile Wednesday as it was westbound on U.S. 50 about a mile east of Monarch Ski Area.

Kirk Dale Lorimer, an instructor at Western State College in Gunnison, said he noticed the gas gauge of his vehicle behaving erratically. He stopped to investigate and found the rear end of his car afire.

Firemen from Salida reported that they finished putting out the blaze which had been almost extinguished by passers-by.

Firemen said the blaze apparently started in wiring in the trunk, which had been mashed, and the blaze was accelerated by fuel dripping from the full gas tank.

Damage to sleeping bags, down jackets and other items in the trunk was estimated at \$400 and to the car at an equal amount. □

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1978

Two alarms answered by Salida's firemen

The Salida Fire Department responded to back-to-back alarms here Tuesday, answering one call at Boesch Motors at 720 E. Rainbow Blvd. at 11:25 a.m. and another at the property of Fred Lowry at 625 Illinois at 12:15 p.m.

According to fire department officials, employees at Boesch Motors were working on a gasoline tank when the fumes were ignited by a nearby gas appliance.

The employees fought the fire with hand extinguishers

until the firemen arrived, and damage was estimated at \$100.

Firemen returned from the call at 11:50 a.m.

A fire department spokesman said that Lowry was burning grass in a ditch on his property when the fire got out of control. It burned a motor and some other machinery and some railroad ties before it was put out.

No damage estimate was available in the second incident.

FIGHTING HOUSE FIRE—Marty Johnson (above) of the Chaffee County Sheriff's Department plays a hose on the roof of the residence of William Lambert at 929 E St. Saturday afternoon. An electrical short apparently

started the fire, which damaged the roof and other portions of the home. Below, other firefighters climb up the charred roof to douse the last sparks of the blaze.



City woman, three children escape as flames damage home on M Street

A Salida woman and three young children escaped without injury when a home at 133 M Street caught fire at about 4:10 p.m. Wednesday.

According to Salida Fire Chief Charles Culp, the blaze apparently started in the attic near one of two chimneys in the house, which is owned by Joe Espinoza of Pueblo. The home is occupied by Jim and Kay Freebury and their young son.

Mrs. Freebury said she had started a fire in a free-standing fireplace shortly before she noticed that the ceiling was afire.

She told firemen she was sitting on the couch in the living room when the fire broke out. She and her year-old son, Jesse, her two-year-old nephew, Joshua Cunico, and her nine-month-old niece, Lacy Cunico, evacuated the house quickly.

The fire caused extensive damage to the roof and attic of the home, and smoke and water damages were apparent throughout the house.

The Freeburys have no insurance to cover the loss of their personal possessions.

Firemen noted that the house had been remodeled and added onto several times, and that double roofs and double ceilings made it difficult to reach the fire from either above or below.

Fire-fighters were on the

(Continued to Page 7)



UP ON THE HOUSETOP—Firemen climb up the roof of the Jim and Kay Freebury home at 133 M Street Wednesday to fight a blaze which apparently started near one of the two chimneys and

eventually caused heavy damages to the attic and roof. No one was injured, however. (Mail photo)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1978

Electrical fire conceivable

The Sunday evening fire at the Double J Leathergoods store in Poncha Springs that took the life of Loretta Robertson is believed to have

Robertson, 81, was transferred to Denver Lutheran Hospital by ambulance yesterday afternoon. His condition is reported as

Bender said a potbelly stove in the room was not where the fire appeared to be centered, standing at the

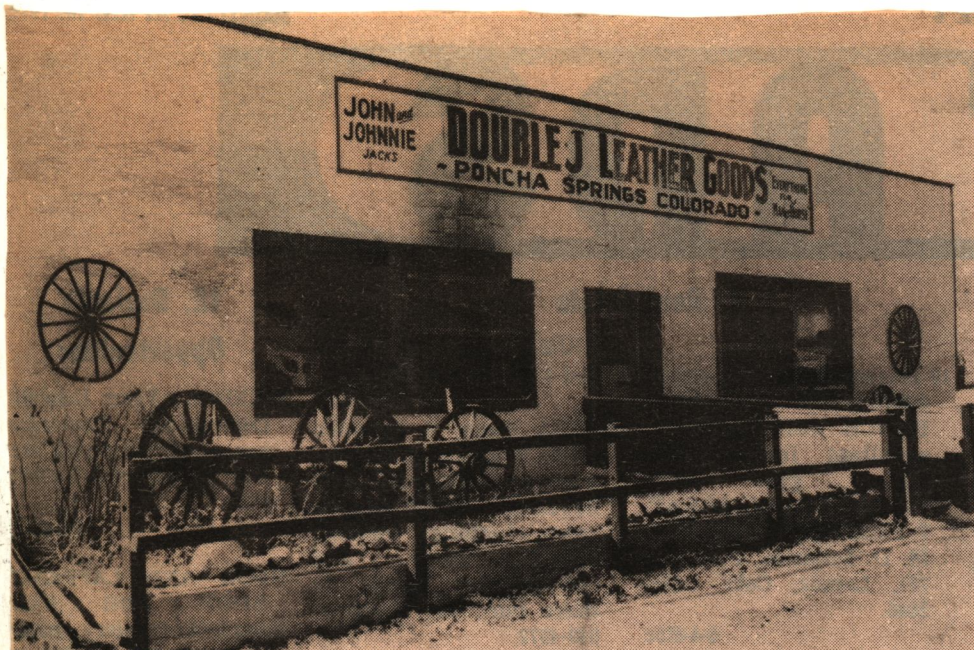
Firemen Joe Chacon and Tim Nelson were also treated for smoke inhalation. Also treated at the hospital

FIRE SCENE
Goods b
shown ab



Wor

Woman, 76, dies in fire



FIRE SCENE—The Double J Leather Goods building in Poncha Springs, shown above, received an estimated

total damage of \$75,000, including its contents. Loretta Robertson, 76, was killed in the fire. (Mail photo)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1978

Electrical fire conceivable

The Sunday evening fire at the Double J Leathergoods store in Poncha Springs that took the life of Loretta Robertson is believed to have been caused by faulty wiring. Mrs. Robertson, 76, died of smoke inhalation when she sought to investigate the source of smoke coming from the business portion of the building where she and her husband, Bert, lived.

Robertson, 81, was transferred to Denver Lutheran Hospital by ambulance yesterday afternoon. His condition is reported as critical but stable. He is said to have had a "fair" night.

Poncha Springs Fire Chief Lawrence Bender said the fire was concentrated on one side of the front door. There were electrical lines in the

area of the fire. Bender said a potbelly stove in the room was not where the fire appeared to be centered, standing at the outer edge of where damage was heaviest.

Salida fireman Bill Smith, 35, was also hospitalized Sunday evening for treatment of smoke inhalation. He was released yesterday.

Firemen Joe Chacon and Tim Nelson were also treated for smoke inhalation.

Also treated at the hospital were Henry Rush, 59, of Denver, his wife, Frances, 55, and their daughter, Louise, 19. The Rushes were visiting the Robertsons over the weekend and were watching television together when the fire started.

PONCHA SPRINGS—A Poncha Springs woman, Loretta Robertson, 76, died of the effects of smoke inhalation Sunday evening attempting to find the source of smoke in the business portion of the building she lived in, Double J Leather Goods.

Her husband, Bert Robertson, 81, was also overcome by smoke but was hauled out the back of the building by firemen and volunteers.

He was rushed by ambulance to Salida Hospital where, this morning, he was listed in critical condition from smoke inhalation.

Three firemen, Bill Smith, Joe Chacon and Tim Nelson were taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. Smith, complaining of chest pains, was held overnight. This morning his condition was described as good. Chacon and Nelson were treated and released.

Henry Rush, of Denver, said he and his wife Frances, a niece of the Robertsons, along with the Robertsons were watching television in the living quarters in back of the Double J Leathergoods Store on Highway 50 in Poncha Springs when the fire started.

"We smelled smoke and heard a crackling noise," Rush said. Mrs. Robertson, her husband and the Rushes went toward the front of the building to investigate.

Mrs. Rush told Sheriff Harold Thonhoff that as they went toward the front of the store, smoke and heat became more intense. Mrs. Rush said they saw smoke coming from a potbelly stove in the display area of the store and heard the fire alarm ringing.

"They told us to go call the fire department," Mrs. Rush said. When she tried to go after the Robertsons, smoke and heat then drove her away.

She said she grabbed a towel, wet it, put it in front of her mouth and nose and tried again to go after the Robertsons but could not.

"They're still inside, they're still inside," Mrs. Rush sobbed as firemen and volunteers began arriving at the scene.

Chacon and Nelson discovered Mrs. Robertson

and her husband.

Apparently Mrs. Robertson was in front of her husband as the two went toward the display area of the store. She was found on the floor of a small workroom adjoining the front of the shop.

She is believed to have fallen after opening a door that led to the workroom just a few feet from where the fire was concentrated.

Robertson was found in a room leading to the store by Nelson. Nelson said, "I couldn't see a thing" because of the smoke but, Robertson, laying on the floor, grabbed his leg as he went by.

Nelson and a volunteer, Steve Hall, pulled Robertson out of the building's back door.

Chacon then went in looking for Mrs. Robertson.

"I saw something gleam on the floor," Chacon said. It was Mrs. Robertson's body, laying about 15 feet from where her husband was discovered.

Firemen and volunteers dragged her out of the building's still smoldering entryway and attempted to revive her through mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage. She did not respond.

The fire call was turned in at about 8:15 p.m. The Poncha Springs Fire Department and units of the Salida Fire Department responded to the call.

The building and store was purchased from the Robertsons by John and Johnnie Jacks in January of this year. The front, display area of the store, where the fire was concentrated, housed saddles, blankets, belts, purses, accessories and gifts.

Mrs. Jacks estimated the newly purchased inventory in the store at \$25,000. She said the building and contents were partially covered by insurance. The total loss was estimated at \$75,000.

The interior in the front part of the building was badly burned, although the fire did not flame through the roof or windows. Merchandise throughout the display area was badly damaged by fire, smoke and water.

Firemen were hampered in putting the fire out by cardboard material in the walls and ceiling of the structure that was apparently used as insulation.

The living quarters of the building was not touched by the fire. The back portion received only minor smoke damage.

The cause of the fire is not known.

The entire Poncha Springs Fire Department responded to the call. Two trucks and sixteen men of the Salida Fire Department were also at the scene.

Poncha Springs fire claims woman's life

By DICK DIXON

PONCHA SPRINGS (C-SJ) — Loretta Robertson, 76, of Poncha Springs died of smoke inhalation about 8 p.m. Sunday when fire caused an estimated \$75,000 damage to Double J Leather Goods on U.S. 50 here.

Her husband, Bert Robertson, 81, and Salida Fireman Bill Smith, 35, were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation. Smith was released from Salida Hospital Monday.

John Jacks of Maysville, the building owner, reported Monday morning that Robertson was "not doing well." Salida Hospital representatives told Sheriff Harold

Thonhoff that Robertson was transferred to Lutheran Hospital in Denver by ambulance Monday afternoon.

Five other persons were treated and later released. They included Salida Firemen Jim Nelson and Joe Chacon and Henry Rush, 59; Frances Rush, 55, and Mary Louise Rush, 19, all of Arvada.

The Rush family was visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robertson in living quarters at the rear of the building when the fire broke out. The friends said they heard loud popping sounds from the store. They told officers Robertson and his wife went to investigate and

found the room filled with smoke. Mrs. Rush called the fire department and attempted to enter the front of the store, but found the smoke too dense.

The Rush family left the building by a rear door.

Fire units from Salida arrived on the scene first, followed shortly by the Poncha Springs fire truck.

Salida Fireman Tim Nelson found Robertson on the floor where he had been overcome. Robertson was removed to an awaiting Chaffee County ambulance.

Mrs. Robertson was found a short time later by Salida Fireman Joe Chacon. The Robertsons were taken to Salida Hospital, where

Mrs. Robertson was pronounced dead on arrival. Investigation Monday showed that the fire started above and about 10 feet from a coal stove in the saddlery room. Firemen said indications are that the blaze was electrical in origin because there had been no fire in the stove for almost three days.

A smoke alarm Mrs. Rush thought she heard as the fire was discovered was learned to be the front door buzzer, which went off when wires burned.

The damage estimate included loss of \$25,000 in new inventory for the store, which Jacks bought from the Robertsons in January. □

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1978

Weekend fire destroys Salida mobile home

A \$4,500 mobile home was totally destroyed by fire early Saturday morning at the Lamada Inn mobile home

park and its two occupants escaped uninjured. Two fire trucks and 11 members of the Salida Fire Department spent one hour

and 20 minutes battling the blaze at the trailer in space 71 of the park, which was occupied by Rick Dessemeyer

and Bob Carney. The unin-

sured trailer was owned by Don Coleman.

When the Salida Fire Dept. arrived on the scene shortly

after receiving the call at 3:40 a.m., the trailer was completely engulfed in flames.

One of the occupants tried to extinguish the blaze, but had to escape through a small window on the northside of the trailer.

The possible cause of the fire was an electrical malfunction. The occupants stated that they had had trouble with an electrical circuit in the southeast part of the trailer, where the heaviest damage was.

In another incident Saturday morning at 9:15 the fire dept. was called to 203 E St., the Rangeview Group Home.

Steve Albers, assistant director of Rangeview, reported that there was a fire in one of the bedrooms of the home. The fire was put out with an extinguisher before the fire dept arrived.

The fire was started in a sack of personal belongings; about \$100 damage was done to the room.

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 1978

Firemen win state contest

The Salida Fire Department broke an old state record and won the Colorado State Overall trophy in the Three-Man event state competition held over the weekend in Sterling.

Team members Tim Nelson, Les Walker, and Bill Smith set a new record and placed first in the Rural Booster event with a time of 8.35. The team also placed

second in the Three-Man Team event and 4th in the Three-Man In Line Lay event to give them a total of eight points and the State Championship.

The other Salida team, the South Arkansas, composed of Fire Department members Wes Waggoner, Jim Gray, and Fred Smith, placed first in the Three-Man Option.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1978

Fire

Fire Chief Charles Culp told the board he had inspected the old house at 329 F St., which neighbors had petitioned the board to do something about, but was waiting to take action until Ken Nordstrom, county health officer, had made a report.

Culp got the okay to spend about \$100 on five gallons of paint for fire plugs.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1978

Firemen get 8 June calls

Salida's fire department responded to eight fires in June, according to the report made to the city council last night.

There was only one fire call within the city during the month, and that was a fire in a building in which about \$3,000 worth of property was exposed to fire and the estimated loss was \$500.

Seven fires were reported

within the Salida Fire Protection District. One was in a building, one in a vehicle and one in an electric sign. There were also four grass and brush fires reported. The department reported \$200 in district fire losses.

The department also responded to two calls of a miscellaneous nature within the city and one false alarm in the fire protection district. During the month, the

department conducted fire inspections at the Salida Museum, Strawberry Door, the Chaffee County Courthouse, the Salida Hospital, Hascall-Haines Chevrolet-Oldsmobile and 329 F Street. All but the latter were found to be in good shape.

The Salida Volunteer Fire Dept. held two meetings during the month, with one a training session on the use of air masks.

SETTING READY—Salida practicing last night for

Firemen

Volunteer firemen from east nine fire departments will be competing in a laying contest Sunday at Riverside Park in Salida. Starting at noon, contests will feature the six-man competition races to hook hoses, hydrants and get the water flowing.

The field day is sponsored by the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association, which Salida is a member. Portable bleachers will be provided for spectators.

Other facets of the field day include registration, starting



GETTING READY—Salida volunteer firemen were practicing last night for this Sunday's contests with the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association which starts at noon at Riverside Park. The idea is to get the hose hooked up and spouting water before another crew does.

Firemen compete Sunday

Volunteer firemen from at least nine fire departments will be competing in hose-laying contest Sunday at Riverside Park in Salida.

Starting at noon, the contests will feature three and six-man competition in races to hook hoses to hydrants and get the water going.

The field day is sponsored by the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association, of which Salida is a member. Portable bleachers will be set up for spectators.

Other facets of the field day include registration, starting

at 8:30 a.m., a business meeting at 10 a.m., and a banquet, where trophies will be presented, at the Elks Lodge at 7 p.m.

The trophies are on display at Salida Drug.

Seventeen towns plan to have firemen attending, although not all will be sending teams.

Buena Vista und Poncha

Springs, although not association members, have been invited.

Towns sending firemen include Alamosa, Antonito, Blanca, Center, San Luis, Creede, Del Norte, Gunnison, Mosca-Hooper, La Jara, Monte Vista, Romeo, Saguache, Salida, South Fork and Sanford.

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1978



RUSHING WATER—Salida Fireman Fred Smith races against the clock yesterday to help the Salida firemen take first place in the San Luis Valley Firemen's

Association contests in Riverside Park yesterday. For more, please turn to page 3. (Photo by Carl Hasselbrink)

Salida firemen sweep SLV competition Sunday

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1978

Salida firemen placed first in overall competition in the San Luis Valley District meet held yesterday in Salida. After six weeks of practice, Salida's crew placed first in all six events except one. Salida placed first in the Rural Booster run, followed by Mosca-Hooper and Alamosa. In the 3-man Operation, Salida finished first, Monte Vista second, and Mosca-Hooper was third. Monte Vista won honors in the 3-man In Line competition. Salida was second,

followed by Center in third. Salida was first, Gunnison second, and Monte Vista third in the Stationary Apparatus division, and in the Wye Hose competition, Salida took first, La Hara was second, and Center was third. The last event, Motor Replacement, was also won by Salida, followed by Del Norte and Gunnison.

Powderpuff, or women's competition, was also held yesterday. Alamosa finished first, Mosca-Hooper was second, and Del Norte was third. A Fire Department spokesman said that rain delayed competition, but "didn't dampen spirits." A reception for the ten teams attending was held following the meet. Awards were presented last night at the local Elks Lodge. Team members are: Fred Smith, Bill Smith, Jim Gray, Tim Nelson, Wes Wagner, and Corkey Walker. The squad's next competition will be June 21-24, at the state meet.



OFF AND RUNNING—It was a wet day yesterday for both participants and spectators, but it didn't seem to slow

these Salida firemen down as they run off to another first place in hose-laying competition. (Photo by Tom Byars)

Pueblo

Salida win

SALIDA (C) and-off rain ternoon, Sal second conse Firemen's championships almost clean

Salida co place in five Vista fireme only event ne firemen.

The win is s championship and, althou defending st year, Salida have held tha

District co held in Sal member de association t annual event.

Men on the Gray, Fred S Wagner, Tim Walker.

Monte Vist place honors line event bu and Center, th

In the pow part of reg Alamosa we followed by M Norte.

Other result Motor repla 2, Del Norte. 3, Wye hose —

3, Center. Stationary — nison. 3, Monte

Three-man c Monte Vista. 3, Rural boost Mosca-Hooper

Competitors firemen and showed up association bu events number other team en that from Sanf Race action

Pueblo Chieftan Monday June 5th

Salida firemen win SLV tourney

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Working in on-and-off rain here Sunday afternoon, Salida firemen won their second consecutive San Luis Valley Firemen's Association district championship as they made an almost clean sweep of six events.

Salida competitors won first place in five events, with Monte Vista firemen taking first in the only event not dominated by local firemen.

The win is Salida's fourth district championship in about 11 years and, although they are not defending state champions this year, Salida firemen noted they have held that crown three times.

District competition last was held in Salida in 1971 because member departments of the association take turns hosting the annual event.

Men on the Salida team are Jim Gray, Fred Smith, Bill Smith, Wes Wagner, Tim Nelson and Leslie Walker.

Monte Vista firemen stole first place honors in the three-man inline event but Salida was second and Center, third.

In the powder puff race, not a part of regular competition, Alamosa women were first, followed by Mosca-Hooper and Del Norte.

Other results follow:

Motor replacement — 1, Salida. 2, Del Norte. 3, Gunnison.

Wye hose — 1, Salida. 2, La Jara. 3, Center.

Stationary — 1, Salida. 2, Gunnison. 3, Monte Vista.

Three-man option — 1, Salida. 2, Monte Vista. 3, Mosca-Hooper.

Rural booster — 1, Salida. 2, Mosca-Hooper. 3, Alamosa.

Competitors estimated that firemen and their families who showed up for the annual association business meeting and events numbered about 375. One other team entered in races was that from Sanford.

Race action began at noon and

ended about 5:30 p.m. and the day was capped with an awards banquet held at Salida Elks Lodge 808. □

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1978



WHAT'S INSIDE?—Just a smoking mattress, as it turned out. Salida firemen Donny Counter, Corky Walker and Wes Waggoner answered the call

at 9 a.m. today to 226 Scott St. Trailer owner Frank Manchego is on the left. (Photo by Carl Hasselbrink)

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1978

Fire destroys garage, contents

A spectacular fire destroyed a Salida garage and its contents early this morning at 334 W. Grand Ave.

The garage, behind a house rented by Betty Craft, started on fire sometime before 12:41 a.m., when the fire department received a call from the dispatcher saying flames

were seen in a building by the Lamplighter.

According to firemen, two boys, one Mrs. Craft's son and the other a friend, had been sleeping out in the garage and were using a candle for illumination.

They told firemen that around midnight they had

decided to go to the EZ Way store for some pop, and had blown out the candle before they left.

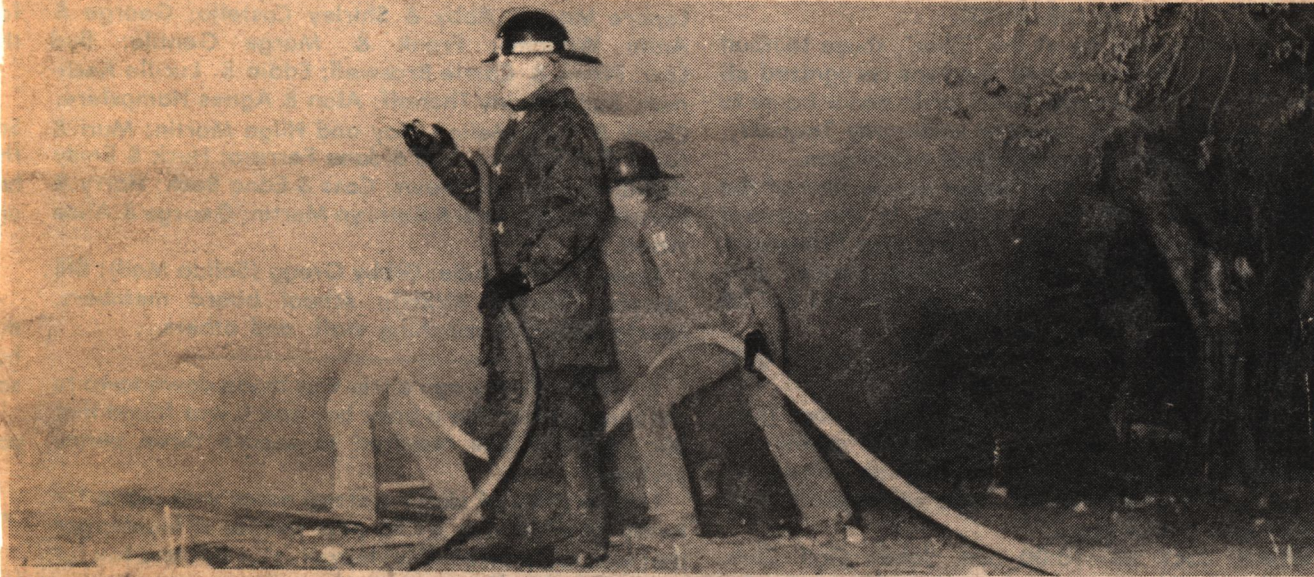
"Apparently the candle wasn't extinguished," a fireman said. "At least we think that's what started the fire."

The garage was built of old railroad ties covered with

stucco, firemen said, making a bright fire as the ties, and their creosote, went up.

Firemen said 13 men and two trucks responded to the blaze, and they returned to the station at 2:15 a.m.

Not only was the garage a total loss, but an auto parked inside was also destroyed.



PLENTY OF SMOKE—Burning railroad ties gave off bright flames and lots of smoke last night as Salida firemen tackled a burning garage, above. Below,

firemen spray water into the building, which was a total loss, along with its contents. (Photos by Carl Hasselbrink)



SMALL BLAZE—Fire storage area at 12:45 p.m. yesterday.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1978

Fires damage \$3,000

Of \$60,000 worth of property estimated to have been exposed to fire in Salida during September, less than \$3,000 of that was destroyed, Fire Chief Charles Culp told the city council Monday night in his monthly report.

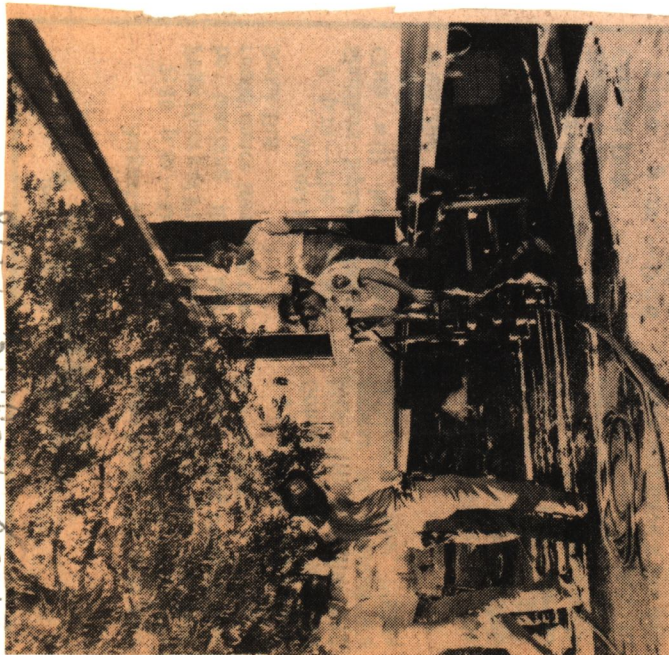
The department answered four calls of a miscellaneous nature, and the other calls covered a variety of cases—buildings, vehicles, fences, smoke, gasoline spill, brush

and a leaking hydrant.

The South Arkansas Fire District answered one call—to stand by at a helicopter crash at the fish hatchery.

Inspections were made at the Burger Baron, Hascall-Haines Chevrolet and the Sub Stop last month, Culp wrote, and all were found in good shape.

The volunteers had two meetings, one a training session on ladder work, Culp wrote.



MOBILE HOME FIRE—11 Salida firemen and two trucks went out at about 6:30 p.m. yesterday to a fire in a mobile home belonging to Pat Clutter at the Fish Acres Park on U.S. 50. No one was injured, but the trailer was damaged \$6,500 and content damage was estimated at \$4,000. The fire was contained in the front end, but smoke damage was extensive. Cause of the fire is still under investigation.

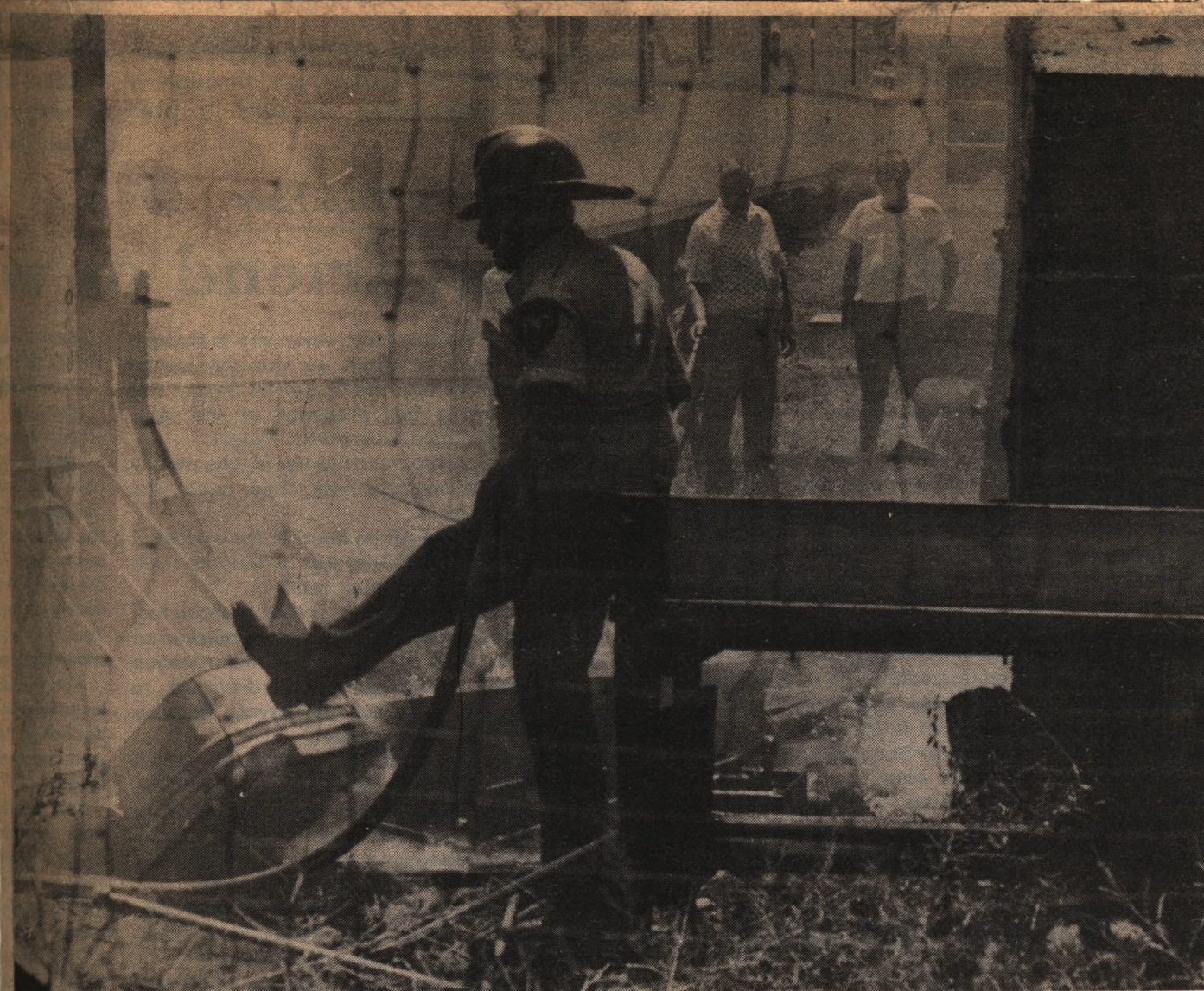
Friday Aug. 18 1978

County

It's obvious County residents are victims of Dystrophy, numerous activities in for the M Association more to come.

The Sal ment will County dystrophy Sept. 2. Fire the streets sirens and while your contribution.

A fish boy 117 Oak contribution County tele be donated calling 539 annual Lab



SMALL BLAZE—Fireman Jerry Henderson applies water to a storage area at Highway Mobile Homes on fire at about 12:45 p.m. yesterday. It caused approximately \$200

damage. Looking on in the background are Lloyd Naccorato and Leland Leak. (Photo by Carl Hasselbrink)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1978

County residents raise money to fight MD

It's obvious that Chaffee County residents care about victims of Muscular Dystrophy. There have been numerous fund-raising activities in the recent weeks for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and there are more to come.

The Salida Fire Department will give Chaffee County its muscular dystrophy kick-off at 6 p.m. Sept. 2. Fire trucks will drive the streets of Salida with sirens and lights turned on while young people accept contributions along the way.

A fish bowl will be set up at 117 Oak St. for drive-in contributions and Chaffee County telephone pledges can be donated for 21½ hours by calling 539-4401 during the annual Labor Day telethon

against Muscular Dystrophy.

Jerry Lewis' 13th annual Labor Day telethon will be seen in this area on KOAA-TV, Channel 5, Pueblo and KMGH-TV, Channel 7, Denver, beginning 7 p.m. Sunday and will continue uninterrupted until 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 4.

A dance-a-thon to help Muscular Dystrophy victims was held last Thursday at the Chateau Chapparral in Nathrop. The band, Spring Fever, played for five hours and approximately \$250 was raised. Sponsors of the dance were Betty's Store, Big Horn Liquor and Chateau Chaparral.

Champfere Girls held their annual skate-a-thon last Sunday at Alpine Park. They skated 292 miles and raised

\$1,400 to aid Muscular Dystrophy.

Its Causes

Muscular Dystrophy is the name for a general category of chronic diseases whose most prominent characteristic is the progressive degeneration of the skeletal or voluntary musculature. The age of onset and initial muscle groups affected, as well as the rate of progression, vary according to the type of dystrophy.

The initial error occurs in the hereditary material. This error, in an undetermined manner, gives rise to a metabolic defect. It is not known whether the primary lesion is in the muscles themselves or in some other part of the body. The liver or the hormonal system, each of

which supplies substances for various steps in the metabolic process, could be the site of origin.

Treatment?

There is no effective treatment for any of the muscular dystrophies. Medical management is limited to relieving symptoms of the diseases.

Muscular Dystrophy Association is a voluntary national health agency aimed at conquering neuromuscular diseases.

The 1977 expenditures for MDA were \$47,137,706. The complete breakdown included: research, \$14,738,255 or 31.4 percent; medical services, \$20,765,401 or 44.1 percent; professional education and training, \$1,295,842 or 2.7 percent; and

public health education, \$2,287,681 or 4.8 percent.

Seventeen percent of the monies were used in supportive services with \$6,477,370 or 13.7 percent going towards fund raising and \$2,573,157 or 3.3 percent spent on management and general expenses.

More information may be obtained by contacting the Salida Muscular Dystrophy Association at 117 Oak Street.

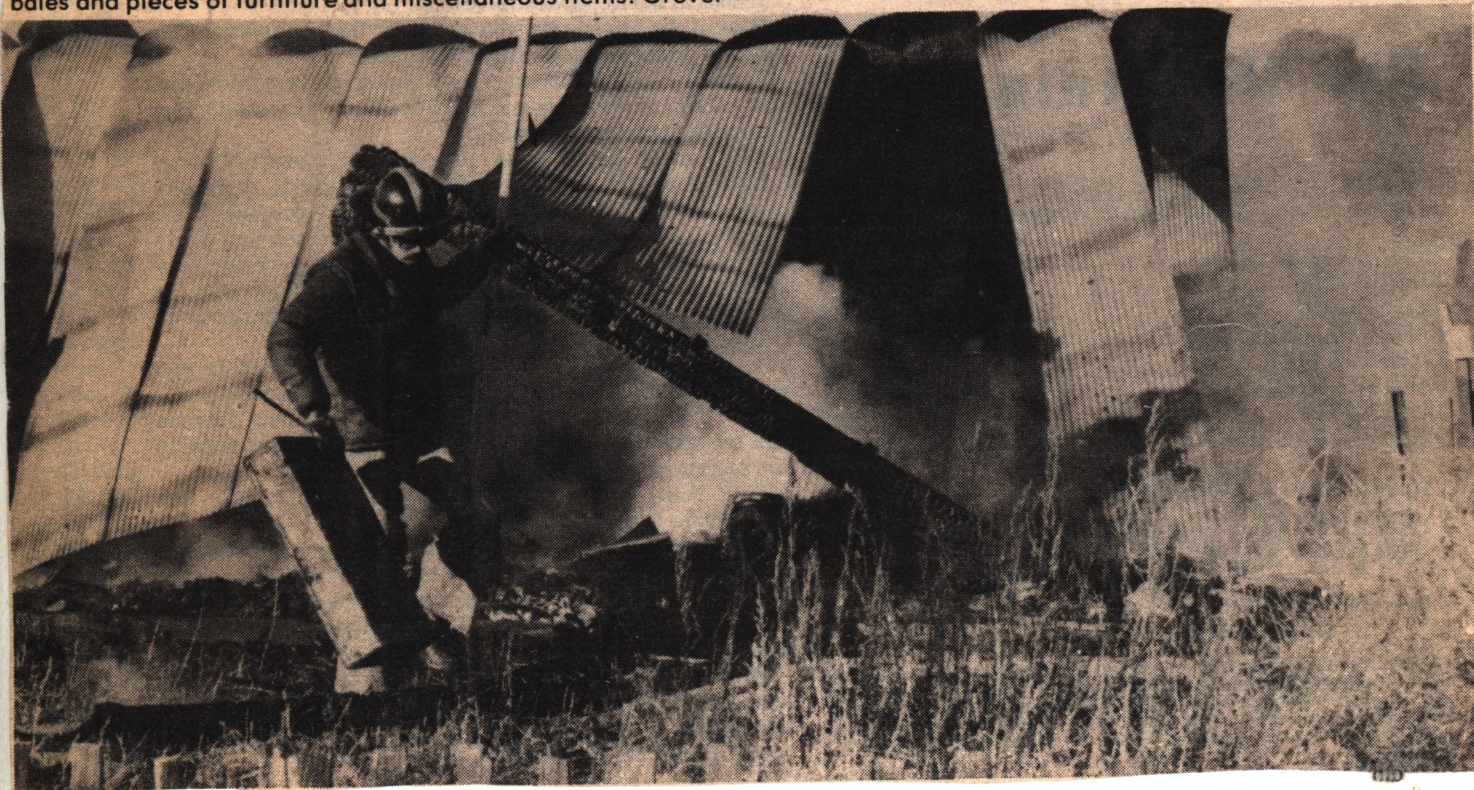
**Drive Carefully—
School Starts
Tomorrow!**

Thursday Nov 16 1978



LOSS TO FLAMES—Ted Grover of CR 144 just off U.S. 285 north of Poncha Springs said he lost things he has been saving for about ten years in the fire which destroyed his large storage barn early this morning. A 1978 Chevette and a pickup truck were in the shed along with a number of books, tools, hay bales and pieces of furniture and miscellaneous items. Grover

said he could not yet begin to estimate the loss. He was awakened about 6 a.m. by people who said his barn was on fire. Firemen from the Salida and Poncha Springs Fire Departments answered the call, but were unable to save much in the barn.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1978

Fire damages mobile home

A mobile home behind the Highlander Motel suffered \$2,000 damage, primarily to the living room, in a fire which apparently resulted from faulty wiring.

The trailer, at 323 W. Grand Ave., was valued at \$5,500, and was a 1971 12x60 unit.

Salida firemen received the call at 9:06 p.m., and 20 firemen responded, working until 9:50 to contain the blaze.

The trailer was owned by Melvin Turner,

and was occupied by Curtis Garrison, who was not injured in the fire.

The living room was destroyed by flames, with extensive smoke damage throughout the mobile home, firemen said.

Two fire calls were received within an hour of each other last night in Poncha Springs, the first coming at about 6 p.m.

Both turned out to be false alarms.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1978

Firemen have big one

Salida firemen didn't have to respond to very many calls in November, according to Fire Chief Charles Culp's monthly report, but one call, to an unincorporated area neither in the city or the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, resulted in an estimated \$40,000 in damage.

That fire destroyed a barn and storage building owned by Ted Grover Nov. 16.

In the city, firemen responded to a call to stand by the Trailways bus depot while it was searched for a bomb, and a call to wash down a gasoline spill.

Two calls were received concerning overheated heating equipment, and two to investigate smoke.

Firemen received one call, for a mobile home fire, in the South Arkansas Fire Protection District.



A BURNT ROAST—Mrs. Robert Meyers at 324 Ouray attracted a crowd of Salida firemen yesterday and curious neighbors when a pot roast overheated, filling the house with smoke. Firemen estimated smoke damage at \$1,000 after they set up fans to move the smoke outdoors. (Photo by Carl Hasselbrink)

Wed. Sept. 6, 1978

August fire damages estimated at \$8175

The Salida Volunteer Fire Department answered 17 calls during August, with fire damages coming to \$8175, according to a report presented to the city council last night by Fire Chief Charles Culp.

Although the fire protection district outside the city limits accounted for only five calls, that was where \$6,650 of the estimated damages occurred.

Two calls were for brush fires, one for a wood pile, one for a gasoline spill, and one for a mobile home.

Inside the city, firemen answered four miscellaneous calls, three grass or brush fires, two gasoline spills, an electrical fire and one first-aid call.

Culp estimated \$104,000 was exposed to fire damage in the city, with fire losses of \$1,525.

Firemen answered one

miscellaneous call in the county, with no damage.

During August, Salida firemen held two training sessions, and inspected several buildings.

Buildings inspected included Kesner Junior High, Salida High, St. Joseph's School, Chaffee County Bank, Rangeview Center and Rangeview Housing. All were in good shape.

Tuesday Sept. 12, 1978

September 12, 1968

Fire in the MonArk Shrine Building at 129 W. Sackett at 4:50 a.m. Sunday did an estimated \$5,000 to \$7,000 damage. Members of the Salida Fire Department were on the scene to extinguish the blaze.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1978

Firemen find 2 gasoline leaks

Gasoline leaks were found at two bulk plants, Salida Fire Chief Charles Culp reported to the Salida City Council this week in his monthly account of fire department activities.

The leaks were at the Skelly and Husky bulk plants, he said, and were corrected after the owners became aware of them.

Although there were 10 calls within the city, no fire losses occurred, Culp said.

The South Arkansas Fire District had four calls during October, two for smoke and

one apiece for a wood pile and a grass fire. With \$18,775 exposed to fire, only \$150 in fire damage occurred, Culp said.

In county areas where Salida firemen answer calls, they received two during October, with damage of \$50 from an estimated 21200 exposed to fire.

Volunteer firemen held two meetings, Culp reported, one of them a training session on ventilation and hose-laying procedures.

Brush, building blazes keep firemen busy in '7

Almost any fireman will complain loudly about cold weather—not only is it more difficult than usual to fight a fire when the mercury is hovering at or below zero, but there are more fires then, because people heat their houses more intensively.

So December's statistics for the Salida Fire Department came as something of a surprise when released at the city council meeting Monday night.

No fire damage was reported during December, and there were only five calls.

Two were in the city, and one to the county, to investigate smoke where there was no fire.

There was one call in the city to investigate a possible gas leak, and a false alarm in the South Arkansas Fire District.

Inspections during December were confined to checking the fire plugs around town, according to the

monthly report submitted by Fire Chief Charles Culp.

In Culp's yearly report, the chief noted the city accounted for 58 percent of the department's calls, areas within the South Arkansas Fire District accounted for 29 percent, and other areas of the county were responsible for 13 percent of the calls.

Most business houses, homes and alleys were found to be in good shape by inspecting firemen, Culp wrote, adding that all hydrants were inspected and flushed last year.

Volunteer firemen held 24 meetings, half of them training sessions on fire fighting and prevention.

Culp's report broke fire calls down as follows:

City of Salida

Estimated value exposed to fire loss, \$576,800; estimated value lost to fire, \$10,215.

17 miscellaneous calls for such things as wasps and bats. 12 calls to extinguish building fires.

11 grass and brush fires. 11 calls to investigate smoke.

9 calls to check fire hydrants.

8 calls for vehicle fires.

7 calls to wash down gasoline spills.

4 false alarms.

3 calls to investigate natural gas odors.

3 calls to investigate fire alarm systems.

2 first-aid calls.

One call apiece—stand-by for bomb alert; extinguish mobile-home fire; rescue; and electric motor fire.

South Arkansas District

Estimated value exposed to fire loss, \$1.26 million; estimated fire loss, \$28,500.

23 calls for grass and brush fires.

12 calls for building fires.

3 false alarms.

2 miscellaneous calls.

2 vehicle fires.

One call apiece—electric motor fire; investigate smoke; controlled burn, and stand-by at helicopter crash.

County Areas

Estimated value exposed to fire loss, \$197,000; estimated fire loss, \$95,850.

11 brush and grass fires.

3 vehicle fires.

2 building fires.

2 miscellaneous calls.

One call apiece—washing down gasoline spill; false alarm; and stand-by at helicopter mission.

Firemen called downtown

The 200 block of F Street has had some bad luck in the past few days. First a large store window was broken there, and last night, smoke coming from some of the buildings had police officers and firemen searching for its source for about half an hour.

A Salida Fire Department truck was called to the southwest corner of the block about 8:30 p.m. when someone reported seeing heavy smoke coming out of second-story windows. A search of upstairs apartments and ground floor businesses including The Little People's Place, Gene's Barber Shop and Salida Cable TV failed to reveal the source of the smoke

until one fireman found a burned-out furnace motor in the basement under the Cable TV office.

The fireman had checked the basement furnaces earlier, but had not gone far enough back through the maze of walls to find the motor which had burnt out.

On Monday, Jane Ferraro, a Crews-Beggs employee, reported a window in the front of that store was broken sometime between last Wednesday and Monday. A small pit was found in the crack in the window, which was valued at \$300.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1979

Truck catches on fire here

While driving by the Salida railroad yards Saturday evening, Ronda Leigh Krieg, 25, Lisa Ogden and Marsha Markey, all of Buena Vista, were surprised when the engine of their 1972 Ford pick-up burst into flames. Jerry Henderson and Kevin Nelson responded with the Salida City Fire Truck. Damage was estimated at \$2,000. The women were not injured.

Firemen answer mostly calls within city limits

Salida was the hot spot for in damage from 10 calls, the fire department in where an estimated \$172,400 January, with the city accounting for all but one fire. The city calls broke down to:

The exception was a mobile-home fire in the South Arkansas Fire District, causing \$2000 in damage. No calls were reported to county areas not in the city or the fire district.

Within the city, Fire Chief Charles Culp reported \$2,500

Three calls for building fires.

Two calls to check into faulty furnaces.

One call apiece for a mobile-home fire, vehicle fire, smoke in a building, standing by for a helicopter mission, and washing down a gasoline spill.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1979

Salida fireman sues to get chief's job

Salida Fireman Robert Freeman has filed two actions in Chaffee County District court, one asking for a restraining order against the appointment of James Gray as fire chief, and the other seeking damages from city officials.

Gray was appointed last

month to replace Charles Culp, who retired effective April 1 as fire chief.

Following written and oral tests given to five applicants, Council's police and fire committee, headed by Bill Cook, recommended Gray. His appointment took effect April 1.

Freeman, an unsuccessful applicant for the chief's job, is asking the court to prevent Gray's appointment, and made numerous charges against Culp and the selection procedure in the request for the restraining order, filed by his attorney Carl Feldhamer of Buena Vista.

Among those allegations are:

—Culp advised Gray of the written examination, and then recommended that written examination to the City Council.

—The other applicants did not know of the examination until Jan. 22, although Gray

—Culp and Gray "entered into a conspiracy to deprive the plaintiff of the opportunity to compete fairly and equitably for the position of fire chief."

Freeman's complaint also says the entire city council knew of the altered records, and the council did not "establish any criteria for evaluating the exams in a fair and equitable manner," so the actions were "arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion, designed to give preference to Gray."

Named in the request for the restraining order were all city councilmen. Culp, Gray

Cook and Touber both said they had not been served and declined further comment.

Salida
Secretary
Barbara Holmes
opened recently after
because of nuclear
work

"With regulations as they
are nowadays, I probably
wouldn't. I'd want better
controls first."

Fire

The baby str face, not really mother and g doesn't realize destroyed in th

Wade Wallac and his moth Beatrice and V Sunday to visit Duckworth. Th all their posse Village in Sali

"We came b out. A neighbor air conditioner ment. They we but the smoke firemen though wiring above Wallace.

Since Sunday the cramped qu is parked besid for the insur damages.

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"The trailer canisters in t completely rui

The Walla coverage on th company still "They say we adjustor to co "When they w have it right a where are the

THE FIRE
hard luck whi
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1979

Fire destroys family's belongings

by SUSAN NELSON

The baby struts around with a smile on his face, not really aware of the problems his mother and grandparents are facing. He doesn't realize that his clothes and toys were destroyed in the fire.

Wade Wallace is almost 16 months old. He and his mother Gail and grandparents, Beatrice and Wade Wallace, went to Howard Sunday to visit the Wallace's daughter, Lois Duckworth. They came back at 6 p.m. to find all their possessions and trailer at Lamada Village in Salida destroyed by a fire.

"We came back and the fire was already out. A neighbor saw smoke coming out of the air conditioner and called the fire department. They were there in a matter of seconds, but the smoke got to everything first. The firemen thought the fire originated within the wiring above the furnace," said Wade Wallace.

Since Sunday, the family has been living in the cramped quarters of their camper, which is parked beside their trailer, while they wait for the insurance people to inspect the damages.

"I'm a sentimental old guy and the thing that bothers me the most is the pictures of the family which were destroyed. We have five daughters and we all got together and had our picture taken. I hung the 18 x 20 picture over the couch so you'd see it right when you walk in the door," said the 58 year-old Wallace.

Some of the things that the Wallaces valued, which were ruined beyond repair, include Wallace's easy chair, which got so hot that the stuffing popped out, a new microwave oven and a C. B. base set which Beatrice Wallace had given her husband for their 25th anniversary.

But some things just can't be replaced—like the oil painting of the ranch house where Wallace was born, which was painted by a polio-stricken artist who painted it with a brush between her teeth.

The Wallaces have only a couple of sweatshirts to change into and the oldest Wallace has no change of clothing. "The lines are broken and we don't have enough money to fix them. I don't know what we're going to do to take a bath. The only reason we have sheets on the bed in the camper is because we had some wet sheets in the washer which weren't touched by the fire.

"The trailer was so hot that the clock and canisters in the kitchen melted. The tv is completely ruined, just like everything else."

The Wallaces have \$3,000 insurance coverage on the inside of the trailer, but the company still hasn't come out to look at it. "They say we have to wait for the insurance adjuster to come from Colorado Springs.

"When they want their money, they've got to have it right away, but when you need them, where are they?"

THE FIRE WAS the latest episode of the hard luck which has plagued the family this winter. Beatrice Wallace had back surgery

(Continued To Page 5)



UP IN SMOKE--All the possessions of Gail Wallace, 19, were destroyed in a fire which occurred in her parents' trailer Sunday. Owners of the trailer, Wade and Beatrice Wallace, were visiting another daughter in Howard and returned to find the entire contents of their home destroyed. According to firemen who quickly put out the blaze, the fire was probably started by wiring above the furnace.

Saturday Morning, April 7, 1979

Chieftain

Salida fireman put on leave until lawsuit is settled

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire Chief James Gray announced Friday that fireman Robert Freeman has been placed on temporary leave of absence with pay until after settlement of his \$50,000 civil suit against the city.

Gray said the leave of absence became effective at 10 a.m. Friday.

Freeman, an unsuccessful candidate for fire chief in hiring last month, filed the suit in district court March 30 and papers were served Wednesday on six Salida city councilmen, the mayor, the former fire chief and Gray.

The suit alleges irregularities in the selection and testing process which gave Gray unfair advantage over Freeman and other applicants. In addition, Freeman is seeking an order restraining council appointment of Gray and

one which would prevent him from filling the job or performing its functions.

Other defendants in the suit are councilmen William Cook, Alfred Garcia, John Ordaz, Lloyd Naccarato, Richard Bondurant and Ralph Coscarella; Mayor Edward Touber, and former fire chief Charles Culp.

Freeman is seeking damages and exemplary damages of \$25,000 and demands a court order appointing him fire chief or conducting new examinations supervised by an independent agency. □

'When you're down, they just keep stomping you'

(Continued From Page 5)

and was in bed for several months. They have many doctor bills from the time she was in the hospital in Pueblo and Wallace has been unemployed for three months.

"I'm a heavy equipment operator and welder but I can't find a job here. I've received my last unemployment check for the fiscal year and after the red tape goes through, it will be April before I receive another," said Wallace.

Sal-Gas has helped the family by giving them a few clothes and a bottle of butane to heat their camper. "I don't know what we would have done if it wasn't for them."

Wallace said it was ironic that the only thing undamaged by the trailer fire was the stack of bills. "Once you're down, they just keep stomping on you," said Wallace.

Sitting in their camper Wednesday, Beatrice Wallace was wearing a Coors beer sweatshirt that was given to her. "It's kind of big and I don't even drink beer, but it sure was nice of them."

"We have a lot of things to be thankful for. We could have been in bed when the fire started and there would have been no way out since the door is right next to the furnace."

The Wallaces feel fortunate to live in a town where the fire department is so quick to react. "They did a bang-up job. I know it's a thankless job being in the fire department and we really appreciate those guys."

The family's little poodle, whose name is Smokey, fought the firemen when they tried to get inside the smoke-filled trailer. A neighbor held the frightened, shaking dog as firemen did what they could.

GAIL WALLACE, 19, had all her clothes and possessions in a closet next to the furnace. Everything she owned was destroyed, including important papers, her child's pictures and several rodeo trophies.

The trailer, built in 1967, was in good shape, Wallace said. "There's no way we could rebuild this—there's just too much damage."

For a family in need of just about everything, a fund and clothing drive has been set up at Sal-Gas for the family. An

employee there said a few items of clothing have been received, but not much.

Sizes small and medium are needed in

women's shirts and 16½-34 in men's shirts.

Jeans in sizes 26-34, 34-33 and 28-32 are

needed. Baby Wade needs everything from

diapers on up and wears a size 2. Food items as well would be greatly appreciated by the family. To contribute, drop items or donations by Sal-Gas on U.S. 50.



IN BURNT TRAILER-Wade Wallace stands in the section of his trailer which received the most damage from Saturday night's fire. The walls and ceiling are

charred and shredded, and Wallace figures the trailer is a total loss, but he was surprised at how well it withstood the flames anyway.

Community Spotlight . . .

Honoring Charles Culp

"We got a call to catch a parakeet once. It was headed for the river and we almost got it, but at the last minute it flew away," said Fire Chief Charles Culp, "and another time we got a call to get a cat off a utility pole. We climbed all the way to the top and he immediately jumped off and landed on his feet."

Charles Culp has been associated with the Salida Fire Department for the past 25 years and now he's retiring.

Culp has enjoyed working with the department. "It's been quite an experience, but I'm glad to be getting out while I still have my health and I'm not too old to go and do what I want. Some of the times here have been rough, but you have to take the good with the bad."

The department has been very fortunate over the past few years. "We've had some men hospitalized briefly for chlorine or smoke inhalation and some scrapes and bruises, but no one has received a major injury in years."

Culp is also proud of the fact that the department has won many trophies at field events, including the state championship the first year the men entered the contests.

Since Culp became chief Nov. 30, 1973, the fire department has participated in the kick-off for



GOOD OLE DAYS--Standing in front of the 1953 Ford, "500 gallon pumper," is Charles Culp, far right, many years ago, when he first became associated with the Salida Fire Department.

muscular dystrophy, and every year at FibArk, the crew sponsors a hamburger stand to raise funds for equipment.

Born Oct. 30, 1921, he was raised in Salida with his three brothers and two sisters. A 1941 graduate of Salida High School, he was drafted into the Army before he got out of school and he spent two and one-half years overseas. He came back to Salida and married Verna King, who is also a native Salidan. The couple has two sons, a daughter, and three grandsons.

"The worst fire I can remember was undoubtedly in April, 1962 when the whole main building of the high school burned down. We got there at 2:30 a.m. and we were still there at 7 p.m. that night. Milton Myers was chief then. We saw it go through the roof and then we knew it was gone. We think it started in the principal's office—an electrical circuit maybe—but it was never determined."

Culp said another bad fire occurred in 1974 when fire caused \$200,000 in damage to the 11-unit Hi-Way House Motel east of Salida and more recently the fire at J and J Leather Goods, which proved fatal for two persons.

"We make about 120 to 130 runs a year, mostly to check on smoke," Culp said most of the fires are caused by overheated stoves and faulty electrical systems.

After a trip to Las Vegas, Culp will work at a local garage doing automobile body and fender work. He enjoys bowling on the Salida Drug, Collegiate Peaks team, and likes fishing and camping.

U.S. Soil, in cooperation with the Heart of the Rockies Chamber of Commerce recognizes Charles Culp for his contributions to the Salida community over the years.

A Community Service Of



Where Technology Gets
Down To Earth

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1979

Freeman off duty until suit resolved

Salida Fire Capt. Robert Freeman has been suspended on a temporary leave of absence until his lawsuit against city officials is resolved, Fire Chief James Gray said this morning.

Freeman's suspension began at 10 a.m. Friday, and he will continue to draw pay during the leave, Gray said, noting the suspension will not be charged against vacation time or sick leave.

Gray said the action came from him and the city council — "We just figured it would be the best thing to do until this is settled."

Freeman filed suit March 30 in district

court seeking a restraining order blocking Gray's appointment as fire chief, which became effective April 1.

Freeman also charged there were irregularities in the selection method which resulted in the city's naming Gray as chief, and asked that either Freeman be named chief, or that the appointment be set aside for selection by another agency.

Freeman also sought \$25,000 in damages from City Councilman Bill Cook and \$25,000 from former Fire Chief Charles Culp.

No hearing date has been set on Freeman's case, and the city has not filed an answer.

Plaque Given To



Charles Culp ON
Retirement. Taken

5/25/79

Springtime in the Rockies



FIRST DAY OF SPRING — Spring starts officially at 11:22 p.m. tonight, and to celebrate, Mother Nature unloaded about a foot of snow here. Fighting the elements were numerous Salidans this morning, as firemen

stand by while tow trucks unsuccessfully attempt to right a tanker near the Port of Entry. The truck was full of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer which can also be used as an explosive.

Brakeless tank truck tips

A New Mexico trucker, relieved that he had come down off of an icy and treacherous Poncha Pass without brakes, relaxed a moment too soon and dumped his tractor and tanker rig into a shallow ditch at the Port of Entry in Poncha Springs.

Dean L. Whetham, Carlsbad, N. M., radioed for help, stating his brakes were on fire at about 2:50 a.m. today.

His c.b. call was heard by Dale Hadley, an officer at the Poncha Port of Entry.

Hadley called the sheriff's dispatch office

who in turn alerted the Poncha Springs Volunteer Fire Department and the South Arkansas volunteers.

In the meantime, Whetham had maneuvered his rig down the pass safely and had driven through Poncha on U.S. 285 west onto U.S. 50 to the Port of Entry.

Hadley said that as Whetham was pulling into the port, he called over his c.b., "I sure hope you have some black coffee in there."

But before Hadley could answer, Whetham's tractor had slid off of the slush-

and snow-covered entry drive and into a shallow ditch with the tractor and trailer turning over onto its left side.

According to State Patrol Sergeant Virgil Puls, the driver said he began "over-tacking" and used his brakes too much coming off of Poncha Pass.

Whetham was taken to Salida Hospital by ambulance. His injuries are not believed to be serious.

He was hauling a load of ammonia nitrate which the State Patrol said was nontoxic and nonflammable.

Two units of the Poncha Springs fire department and one unit from Chaffee County responded to the scene.

Damage to the International tractor, trailer and contents was estimated at \$40,000. Also damaged in the accident was a lightpost at the port.

Three wreckers from the Four Seasons were unable to right the vehicle. Owners of the truck, Steere Tank Lines, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, were sending another tanker to siphon the liquid out of the tanker.

Jim Grey appointed fire chief

In a long meeting last night, the Salida City Council hired a new fire chief, heard about home rule, set guidelines for the building inspector, and took preliminary steps on an annexation.

The new fire chief, who will replace Charles Culp when Culp officially retires March 31, is James Grey, whose appointment was approved by Council pending a favorable background report.

Mervin Aude, chairman of a chamber of commerce committee studying home rule, gave Council some printed information about it,

noting that a study was just beginning.

"We'll need a lot of help and cooperation from the council to do this study," Aude said, giving council a brief explanation of the process.

Guidelines, essentially the same as those presented two weeks ago, were adopted for the building inspector, which forbid him from doing any construction work in the city limits.

The question of a pay raise for Inspector Joe Padilla was put off, since only four councilmen were present. Dick Bondurant and Lloyd

Naccarato were both absent.

Council agreed to look into an annexation proposed by Frank Chelf, pending a report from the city's engineers on drainage problems.

Chelf also presented the city with a check for \$10,245.04 for franchise tax for Salida Gas Co.

Tad Haskell, of Haskell-Haines Chevrolet, questioned the city's bidding practices on a police car that was purchased two weeks ago.

The specifications were not clear enough, he said, "so one dealer was bidding on apples and the other on oranges."

He asked the city to draw up better specifications, and, if it gets bids, to go to the lowest bidder.

Councilmen agreed, although Mayor Ed Touber said the problem seemed to recur every five or six years.

In other business, Council:

—Renewed the 3.2 beer license for the Pizza Dispatch.

—Allowed the school district to cut a curb at Longfellow Elementary to improve drainage there.

—Agreed to consult with County Extension Agent Leon Stanton before pruning any trees in the parks.

Motion filed to dismiss Freeman suit

Salida city officials have filed a motion to dismiss a complaint filed in district court March 30 by Salida Fire Capt. Robert Freeman.

Freeman's complaint followed the city's appointment of James Gray as fire chief.

Freeman, who also applied for the job, asked the court to block Gray's appointment, and made numerous allegations about how the city handled the appointment.

Named in the complaint were all city councilmen, Mayor Ed Touber, Gray, and Charles Culp, the fire chief Gray replaced. Freeman also asked for damages of \$50,000 from Culp and Councilman Bill Cook.

The answer to Freeman's suit was filed by Al Sulzenfuss, Salida City Attorney, although the city was not named as a party to the suit.

In fact, that's one of the reasons Sulzenfuss moved that the suit be dismissed.

Sulzenfuss's motion for dismissal says Freeman "has failed to join an indispensable party, to wit: the City of Salida."

The city should be a party to any such suit, Sulzenfuss said, because the persons named as individuals in the suit were acting for the city.

The other reasons Sulzenfuss asks for dismissal is that Freeman's complaint, filed by Buena Vista attorney Carl Feldhammer, "fails to state a claim upon which relief can

be granted."

Freeman has charged there were irregularities in the method used to pick a fire chief, but Sulzenfuss said there are no laws or regulations concerning how the city should pick a fire chief.

"If there aren't any laws concerning the selection, how can the city violate them and provide anyone with the basis for a suit?" Sulzenfuss said.

The motion for dismissal, filed yesterday, is the latest go-round in a controversy over Gray's selection.

Freeman was suspended from duty Friday by Gray until the suit is resolved, but continues to draw full pay.

Freeman's suit has charged that: —Culp recommended the written test for the chief's job, and also told Gray what the test would be;

—Gray had advance knowledge of the examination.

—Gray did not have the required experience and education that the job advertisement listed.

—Departmental performance records were altered to upgrade Gray's evaluations and lower Freeman's.

—Culp and Gray conspired to prevent Freeman from competing fairly and

equitably for the chief's job.

—The city council knew of the altered records and did nothing about it.

—The city council failed to establish fair criteria for selecting a fire chief.

Aside from going through the courts, Freeman has also charged the volunteer fire department with suffering from cronyism and being something of a drinking club, a charge volunteer firemen hotly deny.

Freeman has also claimed that fire trucks are poorly maintained, and that one failed an underwriter's test due to below-par pumping capacity.

City officials admit confusion with Freeman's charges on truck maintenance.

"If he knew about it before last month, why didn't he do something about it?" one official asked. "As a captain, he was certainly in a position to get the trucks fixed."

"And if he didn't know, why didn't he? We pay fire captains to be on top of those situations," the official continued.

Volunteer firemen pointed out that the truck which failed an underwriter's test of 750 gallons per minute (gpm) still pumped over 700 gpm, and that the problem could not have been too severe, because the city's fire rating stayed what it had been before the inspection, a seven.

Fireman Freeman fired

Robert Freeman was fired this morning from his job as fire captain with the city of Salida.

A letter signed by Fire Chief James Gray was presented to Freeman by Police Chief Leonard Post notifying the fireman of his dismissal.

According to the letter Freeman was fired because of unauthorized searches of the desk and files of the city clerk and fire chief, for unsatisfactory working relationships with the public and other city employees and for conduct unbecoming a city employee.

Freeman had been on a suspended temporary leave of absence with pay from his job since April 9 pending further action by the city.

On March 30 Freeman had filed suit in district court seeking a restraining order blocking Gray's appointment as fire chief which had become effective April 1.

Freeman has also sought \$25,000 in damages from City Councilman Bill Cook and \$25,000 from former Fire Chief Charles Culp.

Freeman charged there were irregularities in the selection method which resulted in the city's naming Gray as chief.

He asked either he, Freeman, be named chief or that a separate agency make the selection.

Gray said the action came with the approval of the city council which met last night in executive session to consider the matter.

Freeman could not be reached for comment although repeated phone calls were made by The Mail to his home.

The letter delivered to Freeman this morning was on letterhead of the city of Salida with the names of the mayor, city councilmen and city clerk.

According to the letter, Freeman was terminated because he was observed rifling through the files and desk of the city clerk without authorization "at a time you were not authorized to be in said office." The search was said to have taken place on March 25.

The letter also notes that on March 19 Freeman was observed with a non-city employee rifling through the desk of the fire chief.

The letter charged that Freeman is believed to have removed personnel records from the chief's office and then delivered them to "unauthorized persons."

Gray's letter said Freeman had failed to maintain satisfactory and harmonious working relationships with the public and other employees, that he engaged in conduct unbecoming a city employee and that his dismissal is required for the good of the city.

The letter said Freeman could appeal the decision by Gray to the city council by filing a written request for a hearing with the city clerk before the close of business on April 18.

If requested, the hearing will be held on April 23 at 8 p.m. in the council chambers.



1st Place Trophy

Motor replacement

Monte Vista

6/3/79

Freeman gets hearing tonight

A public hearing will be held at 8 p.m. tonight in the City Hall Auditorium concerning the dismissal of Salida Fire Captain Robert Freeman.

Freeman requested the hearing following the city's firing of him, and it was postponed from April 23 so that his attorney, Carl Feldhammer of Buena Vista, could be present.

Various charges and countercharges are expected to be aired at tonight's hearing, which follows a more than a month of allegations about the city's fire department and its hiring practices.

Freeman was one of five who applied for the job following Charles Culp's retirement announcement, and when another Salida fireman, James Gray, got the chief's job, Freeman filed suit against the city.

The suit asked for a restraining order against Gray's appointment, but the judge was out of town and Gray's appointment took effect April 1 as scheduled.

Freeman charged that he had scored higher on some tests than Gray, and that the city should have hired him instead of Gray.

He asked that either Gray's appointment be set aside and Freeman be named chief, or that the process start over with an outside agency selecting the chief.

Freeman also asked for \$50,000 in damages from Culp and Councilman Bill Cook,

chairman of the council's police and fire committee.

The city's answer to the suit said that since there were no regulations on selecting a chief, the city could not be violating them, and thus there would be no relief in a court, and that since only individuals, not the city, were named as parties, the suit should be thrown out because the city should have been a party.

Freeman was suspended from duty with pay after the suit was filed, and was fired April 17.

Among the reasons the city gave for his dismissal was that he was seen rifling through the department's files, that he had failed to maintain good relationships with the public and other employees, and that his dismissal was for the good of the city.

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1979

Freeman's firing upheld

by ED QUILLEN

The Salida City Council last night affirmed Robert Freeman's dismissal as a fire captain, at an appeal hearing requested by Freeman.

Councilmen did not explain their decision, which was reached following three and a half hours of hearing and a 15-minute executive session. The decision was unanimous, although Councilman Bill Cook abstained, explaining later that it was because he was being sued for \$25,000 in damages by Freeman and did not want to take any action affecting the case.

Freeman had been fired by Fire Chief James Gray April 17, and under city personnel policies, had the right the request a hearing for reinstatement.

The firing followed his suspension after he filed suit against Gray, former Fire Chief Charles Culp, and the mayor and six city councilmen, when Gray was appointed fire chief following Culp's retirement.

Freeman maintained there were irregularities in the selection procedure.

Gray, who testified he was assisted by Police Chief Leonard Post and City Attorney Al Sulzenfuss in preparing the notice of Freeman's dismissal, said Freeman had been fired for several reasons:

- His unauthorized rifling of desks and files belonging to the city clerk and fire chief.
- Conduct unbecoming a city employee.
- Unsatisfactory working relationships with the public and other city employees.

His attorney, Carl Feldhammer of Buena Vista, reached in several directions.

At one point, he called the hearing "a joke," saying Council and the mayor, by discussing Freeman's suspension and firing in closed sessions before Gray took those actions, had prejudged Freeman.

"You're sitting as your own judge and jury," he said, adding that the council should be disqualified. "You've opened a can of worms here. Whatever you do is invalid."

However, he did not withdraw his request for a hearing.

Feldhammer attacked the reasons cited for Freeman's dismissal, calling the former fireman to the stand several times.

Freeman testified his visit to the city clerk's office was only to make a copy of the city personnel code, a public document, but when Sulzenfuss asked him why he didn't get a copy through normal channels during business hours, he said "I don't know."

AS FOR HIS LOOKING through papers in the chief's desk, Feldhammer attempted to establish that, with then-Chief Culp on vacation, Freeman was the senior captain and thus was chief.

Other firemen, though, testified that Jerry Henderson was acting chief in Culp's absence.

Freeman said the charge about conduct unbecoming a city employee was so vague there was no way to refute it.

Most testimony revolved around the charges of his dealings with the public and with fellow firemen.

"My relationships with the public were satisfactory," Freeman said, "I never had anyone complain to me," and a witness, Marion Skinner, said Freeman had been quite polite and helpful when she had called after smelling smoke.

Sulzenfuss questioned Freeman sharply about his fire inspections, establishing that Freeman had told the Salida Library its fire extinguishers were of a poor type, and offering to sell the library some privately.

His fellow firemen, though, had the harshest words for Freeman.

Called to the stand were Gray, Henderson, Wes Wagner and Fred Smith, with them all saying they would not trust Freeman in a dangerous situation, such as entering a burning building.

They told accounts of Freeman's inability to get the pumper going at fires because he

kept running nervously around the truck, and all said it had been at least two years since Freeman was seen actually holding a hose at a fire.

"I'd be concerned for my safety if I were with Freeman," Henderson said, "I wouldn't want to go into a building with him backing me up."

"He gets too shook up, too flustered. He took a call once and didn't even get the address before he hung up the phone. I'm scared to ride with him because of the way he drives," said Wagner.

"He's fine in certain respects," Smith said, "but I wouldn't trust him to go into a burning building with him. I think he'd get nervous and back out."

Attempting to rebut their testimony, Freeman said he had made mistakes, and that stress was a common problem with firemen.

"But I've never been so hyped up that I didn't know what I was doing," he said.

Conceding he did not get along with all the other firemen, he said Henderson and Culp seemed to have grudges against him.

AS FOR THE OTHERS who said he was untrustworthy, Freeman said said they probably preferred Gray as chief because he was part of their group, and Freeman was not.

"If I'd been named chief, I'd have set up tests and advertised for openings, instead of setting things up so the volunteers would move into the full-time jobs, and this probably upset some of the volunteers in that group," Freeman said.

Under questioning by Sulzenfuss, Freeman said this might have given some of the

(Continued To Page 8)

firemen an incentive to lie about him under oath.

"If they're all lying about you, how can you say you've kept good relations with the other firemen," Sulzenfuss asked, and Freeman didn't have an answer.

Feldhammer's other arguments were aimed at Freeman's experience and training,

pointing out he had served time as a fireman, and had classes in fire fighting techniques.

Early in the meeting, rules were brought requested, and got, missible evidence, w

so that he could and training. Culp and Gray were had troubles with believed Culp had so that Freeman pay increase.

Pueblo Chieftain May 24th

Fired fireman to amend complaint

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Amended civil actions charging civil rights violation against the City of Salida are expected to be filed in Chaffee County District Court early next week in connection with the \$50,000 damage suit filed March 30 by former city fireman Robert Freeman.

Carl Feldhamer of Buena Vista, Freeman's attorney, was in Denver Wednesday but told *The Pueblo Chieftain* and *Pueblo Star-Journal* that in addition to the civil rights violation portion of the amendment, Freeman will seek a review of the findings of his dismissal.

Feldhamer said the amended filings will include requests for additional damages but did not indicate how much this amount might be. He said, "It will be a realistic figure, certainly not the \$1.5 million figure which was repeated to me earlier today."

Preliminary hearing on motions, first court action on the case filed previously, will be heard in district court June 14. Fremont County Judge Wallace Lundquist was appointed to hear the case after District Judge Howard Purdy in Salida disqualified himself.

Freeman, an unsuccessful candidate for the position of Salida fire chief, filed his initial suit seeking \$25,000 damages and an additional \$25,000 exemplary damages, and named former fire chief Charles Culp and Salida councilman William Cook. Also named as defendants in the suit are councilmen Alfred Garcia, John Ordaz, Lloyd Naccarato, Richard Bondurant and Ralph Coscarella; Mayor Edward Toubert and new fire chief James Gray.

After filing of the initial suit, Freeman was placed on leave of absence with pay on April 6, and was fired from his job in a letter from Gray on April 17.

Freeman charges irregularities in the selection and testing process in the search for a new chief, and sought a restraining order which would have stopped Gray's appointment.

Gray's appointment became effective April 1 and he took over the job because Judge Purdy was out of town when the complaint was filed March 30.

The City of Salida subsequently has filed motions seeking dismissal of the suit. □

—Dick Dixon



THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1979

Freeman suit set June 14

Charges of violations of Robert Freeman's civil rights may be added to the former fireman's suit for damages from Salida city officials, his attorney said yesterday.

The amended filing will also probably seek more damages in addition to the \$50,000 Freeman already seeks from City Councilman Bill Cook and former Fire Chief Charles Culp. Freeman sued after he was passed over in favor of James Gray for fire chief, and was later suspended and fired by the city.

The preliminary hearing in Freeman's suit, filed March 30 in Chaffee County District Court, is set for June 14.

It will be heard by Fremont County Judge Wallace Lundquist, who will be serving the district-court bench by special appointment. District Judge Howard Purdy disqualified himself from hearing the case.

City officials have filed to have the suit dismissed on grounds that there was no specified selection procedure for selecting a fire chief, and thus, no legal relief is available for any results of the selection process.



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Wednesday June 6 1979

Freeman files amended complaint

by ED QUILLEN

Fired fireman Robert Freeman has filed an amended complaint in connection with his suit against Salida officials.

The amended complaint names the city, as well as various officials, as a defendant, and seeks several forms of relief for Freeman.

The case is scheduled for a preliminary hearing at 10 a.m. June 14 in district court, with a Fremont County judge scheduled to hear the case here.

Freeman, represented by Buena Vista attorney Carl Feldhammer, started legal action against the city following the appointment of James Gray as fire chief when Charles Culp retired from that post April 1.

Freeman, a 12-year veteran of the Salida Fire Department, also applied for the job, and part of his suit maintains that he was better qualified than Gray, and that there were irregularities in Gray's selection.

Freeman's new complaint asks the court to do one of the following for Freeman:

-Disqualify Gray from the chief's job, and name Freeman fire chief.

-Find Gray's dismissal of Freeman to be

illegal, and reinstate Freeman as a fire captain, along with granting Freeman damages of \$50,000.

-Declare that Freeman's constitutional and legal rights have been abridged by the city's actions, and grant him \$50,000 in general damages, \$50,000 in punitive damages, and various legal costs.

-Or, since testimony at the May 2 hearing on Freeman's dismissal indicated Freeman had a nervous problem preventing him from being an effective fireman, he should be able to retire with a disability pension.

NO ANSWER HAS been filed to the amended complaint by City Attorney Alan Sulzenfuss, although he has moved for dismissal of Freeman's original complaint on two grounds — there are no laws concerning how the city should select a fire chief, and thus Freeman has no legal basis for relief, and that the city, which should have been named, was not named in the original suit.

The amended complaint solves the second problem, since it names the city as a defendant.

Also named are former Fire Chief Charles Culp, Gray, and Councilmen William Cook, Alfred Garcia, John Ordaz, Lloyd Naccarato, Richard Bondurant and Ralph Coscarella, as well as Mayor Edward Toubert, although the complaint lists him as a councilman, not as the mayor.

CONTAINED IN THE eight-page complaint are five claims for relief by Freeman.

The first alleges that Culp publicly announced his retirement plans Jan. 22, but had told Gray privately earlier of his plans.

It also charges that Culp, who advised the city on which written test to give applicants for fire chief, told Gray earlier which examination to study for.

According to the complaint, Culp altered both Gray's and Freeman's personnel performance records, with the intent of making

Gray's better and Freeman's worse.

The complaint also charges that city councilmen were aware of these alterations, especially Cook, who signed them as chairman of the police and fire committee.

Because of these "improprieties," the first claim for relief asks that the court declare that Gray "unlawfully usurps, intrudes into, holds, and exercises the office of fire chief for the City of Salida."

It also asks that Culp and Cook, because of the alleged alteration of performance records, pay Freeman damages of \$25,000, and that an additional \$25,000 in exemplary damages be granted, along with attorneys' fees, costs and the like.

Freeman's second claim for relief states that the city's personnel policies require the chief to have "five years experience in fire prevention and suppression, including two years of supervisory experience."

Gray, according to the complaint, did not have that experience, since he served only as a fireman, with no administrative responsibilities, while with the Salida department.

However, Gray did head the volunteer department for a number of years, a fact not mentioned in the complaint.

Because of Gray's claimed lack of experience, then, Freeman asks the court to set aside his appointment and name Freeman fire chief.

THE THIRD CLAIM for relief challenges Gray's April 6 suspension of Freeman with pay, followed by Freeman's dismissal April 16.

Freeman exercised his right to a hearing before City Council May 2, and at the hearing, Feldhammer objected to the hearing on grounds that Council had consulted with Gray before Freeman's dismissal.

Under this claim, Freeman wants \$50,000 in damages, and reinstatement to his job as fire captain.

Freeman's fourth claim for relief claims the city's actions deprived him of "his rights

and privileges as secured by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Colorado and the United States of America."

He seeks \$50,000 in compensation for these alleged violations of his rights, and another \$50,000 in punitive damages from the city.

The final claim for relief is based on testimony at the May 2 hearing, where other firemen, along with some city officials, testified as to Freeman's behavior when answering fire calls.

The complaint charges that Freeman's dismissal was, according to Mayor Toubert, based on Freeman's nervous condition, which had gotten worse during his tenure as a fireman.

If that's the case, the complaint says, then Freeman's nervous disability is job-related, and he should be entitled to a disability status, and all "rights, privileges and financial reimbursement of a disabled employee of the Salida Fire Department."

The only city benefit Freeman received following his dismissal was his accumulated sick pay, amounting to about \$2300.

The fifth claim for relief asks the court to order the city to provide Freeman with psychological and physical examinations "to determine the extent of any alleged nervousness which may be the cause of Plaintiff's (Freeman) alleged inability to properly perform those duties of a fire captain of the Fire Department of the City of Salida, and to further order that if the Plaintiff cannot carry out said duties, that Plaintiff be adjudged to be disabled," and thus entitled to the same benefits as any disabled fireman.

The city will probably move for dismissal of all Freeman's claims, Sulzenfuss said.

At Monday night's Council meeting, Sulzenfuss presented councilmen with copies of the amended complaint, and asked the city to prepare an ordinance specifying the city would pay for the legal defense of any official or employee facing litigation as a result of his work for the city.

2 counts dismissed in ex-fireman's suit

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Acting District Judge Wallace Lundquist of Canon City on Tuesday dismissed two of five charges by former fireman Robert Freeman against the City of Salida.

Freeman, a former city fireman suing the city in connection with hiring procedures for a new fire chief, was asking up to \$200,000 damages in the amended complaint. Lundquist, Fremont County judge, was appointed to the district court case in Salida after Judge Howard Purdy disqualified himself.

Claims by Freeman which were dismissed included one seeking \$50,000 general damages and \$50,000 punitive damages because he was denied his constitutional rights; the other charge dismissed was one which would direct city council to extend psychological and physical exams to Freeman and possible judgment declaring him disabled.

Motions by defendants for dismissal were denied on three other charges in Freeman's complaint. Those remain include a request for \$25,000 damages and \$25,000 exemplary damages against City Councilman William Cook and former fire chief Charles Culp.

Lundquist denied dismissal of a charge that James Gray, who was selected for the fire chief's job, was unqualified for the position. In addition, the judge denied dismissal of a portion of the complaint which asks \$50,000 damages and reinstatement of Freeman as captain.

A request by Freeman for a restraining order preventing Gray from taking office was dropped by he and the judge because action would not be taken in time to prevent Gray's May 1 appointment from becoming effective.

Freeman's charges stem from examinations for fire chief which were held March 15-16 during which Gray was selected for the job over Freeman.

Proceedings were held in District Court here Thursday but Lundquist's findings did not arrive in court offices until Tuesday. Attorneys have discussed a trial date in October but said other actions in the case might alter that date. □

#1 Taken Boat Race Parade Day 1979



#2 Taken same day



#3



#4



3rd Place Trophy From



STATE CONVENTION
in
MONTROSE.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1979

Bat, snake, bird and bees keep firemen busy in June

Animals kept the Salida Fire Department busy in June, according to the monthly report submitted by Fire Chief James Gray.

Among the nine calls answered last month were removing a bat from a building, getting a bull snake, removing a bird from a chimney, and persuading some bees there were better places to live.

Other calls included a building fire, flushing a sewer, putting out a fire in a pickup, a grass fire, and washing down a gas spill.

For the South Arkansas Fire

Protection District, there was one call to extinguish a building fire. In the county, there was one rescue call and one to extinguish a tree fire.

Firemen attending meetings on plane crashes and on propane fires, and eight firemen attended the state convention in Montrose.

Building inspections were made at Burger Baron, Larry's Standard, Minit

Market, Pizzue Hut, Sandy's Beef, Lee's Show Shop, Magnum Sports, Great Western Flowers, B. B. Bootery, Lloyd's Smoke Shop, Chaffee County Credit Union, Federal Land Bank, Salida TV Sales, Lind Repair Service, Knit Knacks, Lindbloom and Compnay, Studio 13 and Salida Hospital. Most businesses were in good shape, the fire department reported.

SALIDA G
appearing
Cloud City

SALIDA FUN DAY

Texan breaks own record in buffalo chip throwing

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Gilbert Zamora of Panhandle, Texas, on Wednesday not only held onto his world championship buffalo chip throwing title earned her last year, but also increased his distance to 218 feet, 3 inches.

Zamora, who flung dung 192 feet last year to earn his title, is an electrician and said he doesn't practice the sport regularly.

The contest was held in conjunction with July 4 Fun Day activities sponsored by the Heart of the Rockies Recreation

Association.

Sandi Bell of Salida won the women's division in the chip toss with a throw of 100 feet, 10 inches.

Mike Gagliardi of Salida won the boy's division with a 189 feet, 7 inches toss and Danna Keller of Salida won the girl's category with a throw of 32 feet, 4 inches.

Kenny Englert of Salida originated the contest about nine years ago and said then it was simply another idea to get rid of the buffalo chips which dotted his pasture. Since then, he disposed of the buffalo herd, but said the animals left a nearly lifetime supply of chips in their wake.

An estimated 2,500 persons

turned out to jam the stands at the HRRRA annual fireworks display at the rodeo grounds. A large portion of the crowd was forced to stand around the arena to watch aerial and ground displays touched off by members of the Salida and Poncha Springs volunteer fire departments and narrated by Charles Darwin of Salida.

Hundreds more watched the display from the comfort of vehicles parked along County Road 120 and U.S. 50. One spectator commented, "This was the best year yet. The fireworks were super and even the weather cooperated — no wind, no rain and it wasn't too hot." □

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1979



SALIDA GOT into the act as firemen drive Colorado's oldest fire truck. Also appearing were Salida Jaycees, who took their haunted house act to the Cloud City.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1979

Police increase F St. arrests

The police department's crackdown on F Street resulted in 30 arrests during July, according to the monthly report submitted last night to City Council by Police Chief Leonard Post.

Post reported 27 traffic arrests on F Street, slightly more than half of the 53 traffic citations issued last month.

The 53 resulted in \$720 worth of fines for the city treasury, with one being dismissed.

Post reported 10 criminal arrests, three of them on F Street, and a dozen leash law arrests.

In the monthly fire report, Chief Jim Gray reported an estimated \$30,000 in the city was exposed to fire damage last month, with a loss of about \$1,000.

Inside the city, firemen answered two calls about hornets, and had a call apiece to aid the police, remove a bird from a chimney, put out a tree fire, a house fire, and a broken gas hose.

In the South Arkansas Fire District, firemen had a false alarm and a grass fire.

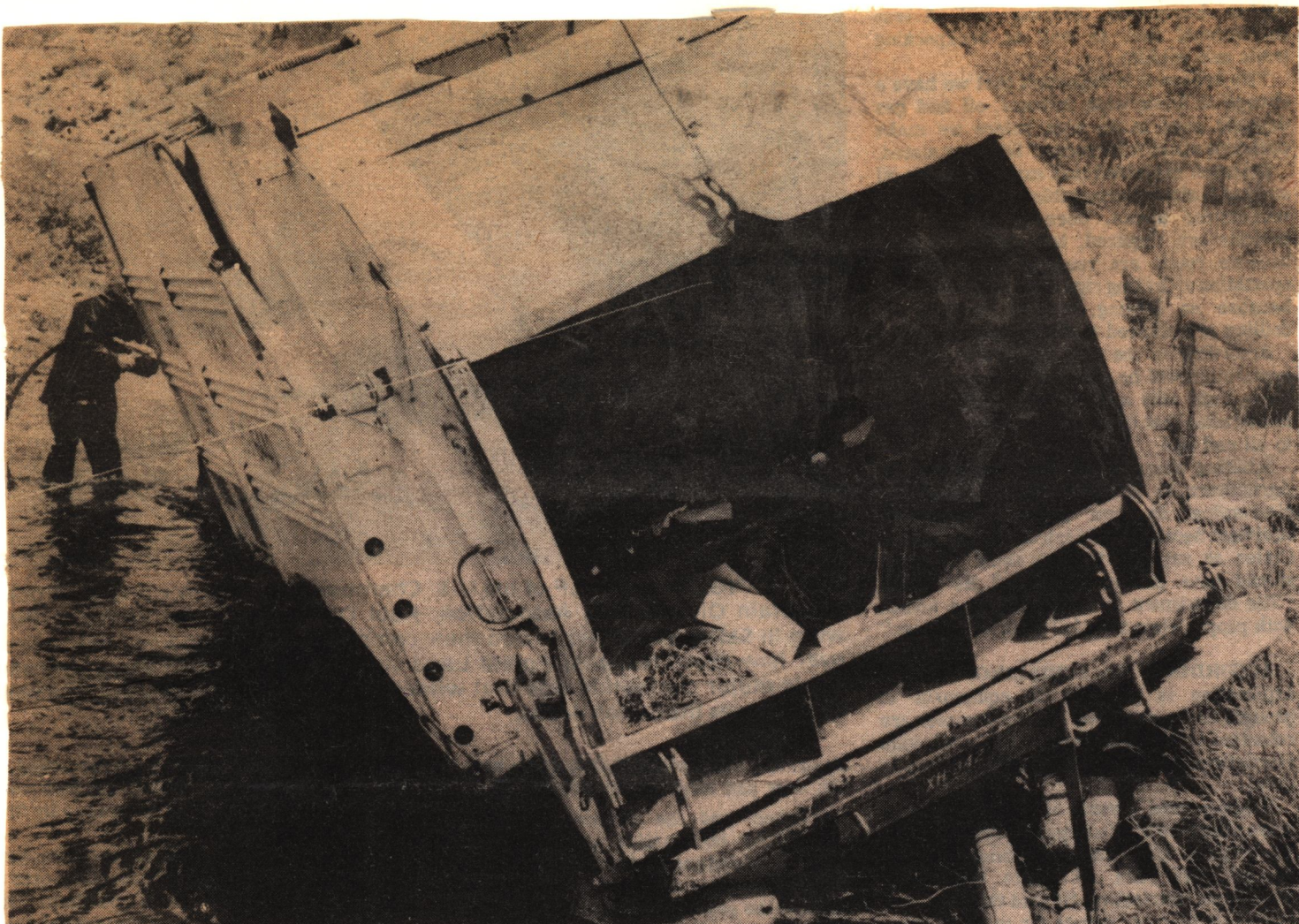
In the county areas, firemen answered one call for a car fire, one from lightning hitting a ventilation fan, a house fire, and a false alarm.

An estimated \$52,000 was exposed to fire in the county, with a loss of \$3,000.

Fire inspections were made at Super Bowl, Starbuck Storage, United Farm, Scott's Ace Home Center, Salida Inn, Mountain Motel, Engine Dynamics, Salida Glass, Hughes Oil, Jim Paris Tire City, Valley Country Kitchen,

U.S. Soil, Linda's Gifts, Burger Basket, Blossom Shop and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Volunteer firemen had two meetings last month, one for pumper tests, which the trucks passed, except for a vacuum test, and the other was at Salida Transfer for a class on hauling gasoline and corrosives.



TRASH TRUCK ON FIRE—Salida Fire Department responded quickly yesterday when a truck owned by George H. Belden of Salida caught on fire, one mile east of Salida. The driver, William David Belden, 18, and two passengers jumped out of the truck when flames

escaped from under the dash board. The truck went through two fences, down a bank, and into the Arkansas River. Damage to the truck was extensive.

Tuesday Aug. 2, 1979

Photo by Susan Nelson

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1979

Fire damages unused restaurant

A fire yesterday morning did about \$3,000 in damages to Chris's Taco Cafe, a Salida restaurant on U.S. 50 which has not been open for several years.

Salida firemen received the call at 7:15 a.m. yesterday, sending out a truck, five paid men and five volunteers, Fire Chief Jim Gray said.

"We had it taken care of in about an hour and 15 minutes," Gray said, "including the clean-up."

Gray said the fire apparently started as the result of a leaking gas line near the furnace, which started a fire going up a wall near the furnace, eventually reaching the ceiling.

"The fire burned up some walls and burned the ceiling beams in two," Gray said, "the insulation was the only thing that kept it from going through the roof."

Adding to the clean-up problem, Gray said, was that a pop-off valve had apparently blown

on a hot-water heater, leaving about two inches of water on the floor when firemen arrived.

The building is owned by Chris Trujillo of Salida. No injuries were reported in the fire.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1979

Salida firemen answer 4 hornet calls

Bats and hornets continued to trouble Salida firemen during September, according to the monthly report issued this week by Fire Chief James Gray.

He noted four calls to remove hornets and one to take care of a bat.

Gray estimated \$50,000 worth of property was exposed to fire last month, with

losses resulting of \$3,000.

Other city fire calls included checking a house for an electrical short, changing an oxygen bottle, removing a tree which had fallen on a house, a building fire, checking a smoke alarm and investigating smoke in a building.

No calls were answered in the South Arkansas Fire

Protection District in September, and the only county call was to contain a fire on Forest Service land until the Forest Service responded.

Salida volunteer firemen had a training session on the operation and use of air masks. Two men attended a demonstration on using light water on flammable liquid fires at the San Luis Valley

firemen's meeting.

Gray reported the following firms were inspected:

Hylton Lumber, Hair Fashion Beauty Salon, Greenberg Furniture, Your Furniture Store, Perri's Tailor Shop, Tony's Barber Shop, Salida Auto Parts, E-Z Way, Seven-11, Luigi's Cafe, Acme Brake, Charles Upp TV, Larry's Barber Shop,

Downtown Auto Body, Henry Florey, medical offices of Weber and Smith, Salida Flying Service, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Office and the medical offices of Leonardi, Mehos and Sandell.

In the police report, Chief Leonard Post reported 11 criminal arrests, 54 traffic arrests and 22 leash law arrests.

jurisdiction, District volunteers with one Chaffee County truck, rolled from Salida about 5:10 p.m.

Firemen said they reached the blaze on the Lost Creek road about 5:30 p.m. and had to walk 500 yards to reach the fire which was burning in brush and heavy pine needle duff.

Firemen said one unidentified man was already on the scene fighting the blaze and that a man and woman from Ponderosa Ranch, one ridge east of the fire, followed them to the scene.

necessary to ensure the fire not rekindle. South Arkansas volunteers said they could see no apparent cause for the fire. They said it was in the bottom of a steep draw where a lightning strike is unlikely. In addition, they said, the site was too far from the road for a tossed cigarette and that there would be no reason for wood cutters to be working at the bottom of the steep slope. South Arkansas firemen said they were on the scene about 1½ hours. □

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1979

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN, PUEBLO



Firemen check roof

Salida firemen check the roof of the John Valdez home after extinguishing a \$12,000 blaze there Sunday morning. The fire was blamed onto an over-heated stovepipe. — Photo by Dick Dixon

Over-heated stovepipe damages Salida home

SALIDA (C-SJ) — An over-heated stovepipe from a coal- and wood-heating stove started a fire Sunday which caused an estimated \$12,000 damage to the two-story home of John Valdez on Wood Avenue in Salida.

Salida fireman Jerry Henderson reported the fire was noticed at 7:39 a.m. and said when trucks arrived a couple of minutes later, flames had broken through the roof. He said five regular firemen and 14 South Arkansas Fire Protection District firemen controlled the blaze in about 10 minutes using two pieces of equipment and about 150 gallons of water.

Henderson said heaviest damage to the home was in a utility room

downstairs, where the stove was located, and a nearby bathroom. He said there was extensive damage to an upstairs bedroom and smoke damage throughout the building.

Firemen were hampered by multiple ceilings in some parts of the burning house. Henderson said the single-wall stovepipe ran within a few inches of flammable construction materials.

Mop-up and clean-up operations kept firemen on the scene for another hour and 10 minutes.

Valdez said he checked the fire in the stove about 6 a.m. and saw nothing wrong. Two neighbors and Joe Ralph Valdez, a son, reported the fire to dispatchers within minutes of one another.

ected in weekend fires

941 E. St. was contained before it caused damage to either Amicone's property or his house, Gray said, with one Steve McKinley had facial burns treated and released at Salida. A suspected arson as the cause, and has been checked by the Colorado investigation. "I know for sure until we get the report later today," Gray said this

Two fires, believed to be caused by a juvenile, were reported at the same address Sunday morning while its occupants, the Dave Reeker family of 941 W. Third, were not home. The first call came at 9:37 a.m., and involved a smoking couch outside the house. At 10:45 a.m., firemen returned after a report that a window was open and some drapes were smoking. The fire was put out and fans moved the smoke out of the house. Gray said eight-year-old Jason Bauman was questioned by police about both fires and turned over to his parents.

While firemen were answering the first call to Reekers' house, they noticed smoke coming from a house on the 400 block of East Third Street. That turned out to be only a smoking chimney, and no action was needed. Early this morning, at 3:30 a.m., firemen put out a brush fire at 7300 W. U.S. 50, where men had been trimming trees yesterday. The fire was placed under control within five minutes, Gray said, and its apparent cause was a spark from a chainsaw which had caused the brush to smolder before starting on fire early in the morning.

Salida firemen ready to rest as result of 'wild weekend'

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire Chief James Gray said he and his men would be ready for early bedtimes after the training session Monday night, which capped a "wild weekend" of fighting fires and drying hose that began about 2 a.m. Saturday.

Five regular firemen and 11 volunteers responded to a shed fire at the William H. Lambert home at 929 E about 2 a.m. Saturday and were on the scene more than two hours. Gray said firemen found the shed totally involved and that the fire had spread to a neighboring fence and shed owned by John Amicone.

In addition, firemen found the blaze was just beginning to burn the back of the Lambert house.

A volunteer fireman, Steve McKinnley, was burned on his face as he and Tim Nelson, another volunteer, were moving a pickup away from the blazing shed. McKinnley was treated at Salida Hospital and Gray said he apparently was feeling fine Monday.

Because of the speed with which the fire spread and other evidence, Gray said arson is suspected. He said he is awaiting reports from Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

The fire chief estimated damage to the Lambert shed and contents at \$3,000 to \$4,000, and said damage to the house was about \$300.

He said damage to the Amicone property would total \$500.

The alarm rang again at 9:37 a.m. Sunday and firemen were dispatched to 941 W. Third for a couch reported on fire outside the David H. Reekers home. As the men turned west on Third, they saw heavy clouds of smoke behind them on East Third, thought they might be headed to the wrong address and called for a second truck to investigate.

The smoke at the East Third Street address was coming from a chimney and no assistance was needed.

Damage to the couch at the Reekers residence was estimated at \$50.

Police officers said the fire there was extinguished with a garden hose by Edward Uhl. Firemen reported they were on the scene about 30 minutes.

Another call returned firefighters to the Reekers residence at 10:45 a.m. They used fans to clear smoke from the building; the smoke was from curtains which had burned inside a bedroom window.

Salida police officer John Mansheim reported an eight-year-old Salida third grader was arrested for investigation of arson in connection with both calls to the Reekers residence.

Officers said the screen on the front bedroom had been pried loose allowing the youth to reach inside and use wooden matches to set fire to the plastic curtains.

They said half the draperies were burned and the wall was blackened. Although the fire extinguished itself, Gray said it would have been extremely serious if the curtains had been cloth, which would have burned more quickly.

The youth was referred to juvenile officers.

At 4:50 p.m. Sunday, firemen spent 15 minutes removing bees from a tree at 317 Teller.

But the weekend was not over.

At 3:30 a.m. Monday, five regular firemen and seven volunteers spent about two hours extinguishing a brush and tree fire behind 7300 W. U.S. 50. Gray said that apparently someone had been trimming or clearing trees and the fire might have been caused by sparks from a chain saw earlier in the day.

Monday night, firemen were scheduled for their regular training session and Gray said he didn't think they would stay long after the meeting. □

Monday Oct. 9, 1979

Fire destroys Lamplighter kitchen

A fire starting from burning grease badly damaged a Salida restaurant this morning.

The Lamplighter Restaurant and Lounge on Colo. 291, received an undetermined amount of damage when fire broke out in a deep fat fryer and spread into an exhaust system in the kitchen.

According to Jim Gray, Salida fire chief, kitchen employees at the restaurant grabbed a fire extinguisher and attempted to put the fire out.

"They thought they had it (extinguished) but by that time the fire had spread into the kitchen exhaust system," Gray said.

When firemen arrived, the kitchen area was in flames, fire shooting from the vent on top of the roof, with smoke pouring out of the restaurant entrance as well as the door to the lounge area.

Patrons in the building were still drinking their coffee and eating their breakfasts, unaware of the fire in the kitchen, when Salida Police Chief Leonard Post ran into the building to warn those inside.

Post said when he drove by at 9:43 a.m. he noticed smoke and flames coming out of the roof and vent area.

"I saw there were people inside and I went in to get them out.

"I guess they didn't realize there was a fire," Post said.

When he went inside he said only a small amount of smoke was coming out of the kitchen.

"I think they were just beginning to realize that something might be wrong."

Post said there were about 10 people inside the restaurant when he entered.

All those inside the building escaped without injury, including the kitchen staff.

Shortly after the building was evacuated, heavy smoke poured out of the kitchen into the rest of the building.

Three units of the Salida Fire Department and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District along with 15 men responded to the blaze.

Gray said he had not had a chance to set damages from the fire but noted that they would be heavy.

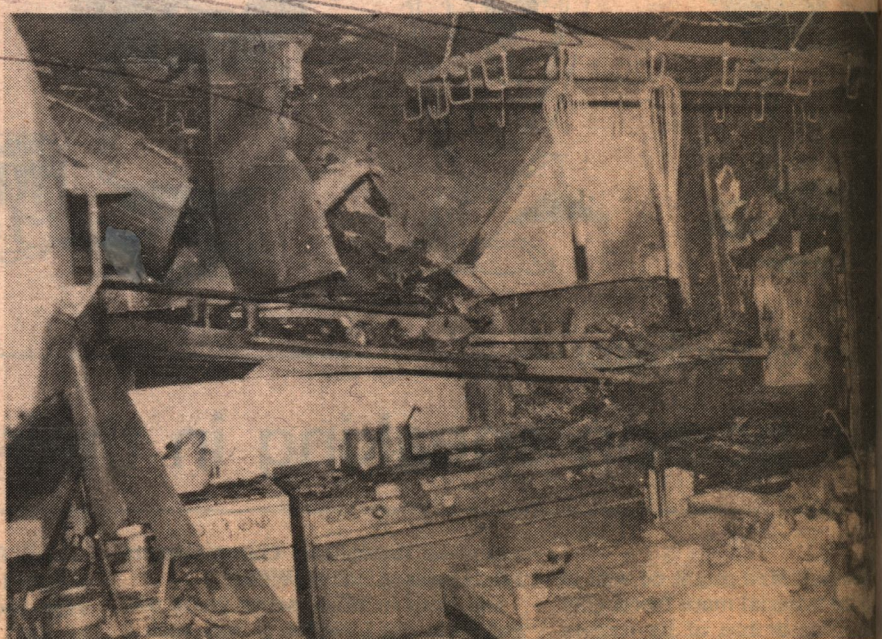
"The entire kitchen area will have to be rebuilt," he said.

The fire scorched the entire room, blistering paint on the walls and ceiling, warping refrigerators and freezers from the intense heat.

Gray said smoke damage to the rest of the building was extensive.

The restaurant and lounge is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Murphy of Salida.

This was the fifth fire in Salida since early Saturday morning — two house fires, a fire at a garage and a brush fire.



FIRE HEAVILY DAMAGED the kitchen area of the Lamplighter Restaurant and Lounge this morning. The rest of the building received heavy damage from smoke. Patrons were still in the restaurant when Police Chief Leonard Post noticed the fire and ran inside to evacuate the building. Three units and 15 firemen responded to the fire which broke out 9:43 a.m. It was the fifth fire in Salida in the past four days.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1979

Bad chimney may have caused deaths

Carbon monoxide, resulting from a faulty flue, is the apparent cause of two deaths in Salida over the weekend, although the reports aren't in yet.

Salida Police Chief Leonard Post said at 11 a.m. today that the results of the autopsies performed in Pueblo have not been released, "although we strongly suspect it was monoxide."

Nine Heberer, 811 G. St., died at 5 p.m. Friday in her home, and authorities believed it was due to natural causes then.

Her son, Robert C. Heberer, and his wife Barbara, of Coeur D'alene, Idaho,

came to Salida to make funeral arrangements and stayed in the house at 811 G St.

Sunday afternoon, they were both found unconscious in the house. He died at 2:40 p.m. and she remains in a coma, and was listed in critical condition at 11 a.m. today.

Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray said that carbon monoxide — an odorless, colorless gas produced by incomplete combustion — could have resulted from a defective flue.

The house had a brick chimney to vent a natural gas hot-water furnace,

he said, and "it looked like some of the bricks had gotten loose and blocked the chimney."

"If there's no way for those gases to go out, then they build up in the house," he said.

Gray urged Salida residents to check their flues, especially old brick chimneys. "Look to see if they're clear."

For older residents, who may be reluctant to climb on roofs, Gray said the fire department would inspect chimneys. "Just give us a call at 539-2212," he said.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1979

Monoxide confirmed

Carbon monoxide was confirmed as the cause of death of Robert C. Heberer by a Pueblo pathologist this morning to County Coronor Dr. Willaim Mehos.

Heberer died Sunday afternoon after he and his wife Barbara were found unconscious in the home of his mother, who died Friday.

Mrs. Heberer was reported unchanged by Salida Hospital this morning — still in a coma and still in critical condition.

Nina Heberer's death may have been due to carbon monoxide poisoning, the pathologist reported, although there was not enough evidence to be certain.

Firemen found a blocked chimney in the house at 811 G St., which would have interfered with normal burning in the natural-gas furnace, filling the house with the odorless, invisible gas.

Friday Nov. 23rd 1979 Firemen get 2 calls

Beuna Vista firemen were called out at 8:05 a.m. today to put out burning insulation in a pumphouse behind the Harvard Lane home of Larry Schneider.

Eight men and two trucks responded. The fire apparently started when a light bulb, placed near the pump to thaw it out, started some insulation smoldering. Damage was

estimated at \$500.

Salida firemen answered a call for a burning pickup at 7:45 p.m. yesterday at 7450 County Road 120.

According to firemen, H.C. Witter was driving a vehicle with the emergency brake on, and smoke resulted. Damage was estimated at \$150.

Wednesday Morning, January 2, 1980

Lamp Lighter



#6





DOWNED UTILITY POLE—Power and cable TV lines and a street light were torn down along with this utility pole this morning when the wires were hit by a crane truck at Third and M streets. Phone service, according to Mountain Bell, was not affected by the mishap.

Thursday Feb. 14, 1980 Suppression in suit irritates Salidans

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — A civil suit against the city of Salida was settled out of district court here Wednesday.

But many citizens expressed shock and anger by a suppression order issued by Judge Wallace Lundquist, stifling publication of details.

In the suit, former Salida fire captain Robert Freeman asked damages in a number of areas which might have amounted to \$200,000. The case stemmed from examinations for fire chief last March in which James Gray was selected for the position over Freeman.

In addition, Freeman charged his civil rights were violated.

Fremont County Judge Lundquist, heard the case for Judge Howard Purdy, who disqualified himself. Lundquist cleared the courtroom about 10:45 a.m. and moments later announced a settlement had been reached. No testimony was heard and the announcement came about 45 minutes after the trial was to have started.

City Attorney Alan Sulzenfuss read a prepared statement which explained Salida will pay damages of an undisclosed amount to Freeman because "the city cannot establish any dishonest conduct on the part of the plaintiff by the preponderance of evidence."

Sulzenfuss indicated all parties in the case were bound by the suppression order and no further information would be forthcoming.

About 25 city residents contacted by *The Pueblo Chieftain* said they feel strongly they should be allowed information concerning the amount of the settlement. They indicated they feel entitled to that information as taxpayers.

Carl Feldhamer, Freeman's attorney, said that suppression orders such as the one issued by Lundquist are not unusual in cases involving government agencies.

After the case, Lundquist told a local radio reporter he hopes Salida will become a vanguard among rural communities in establishing standards in personnel policies under a federal code dealing with the rights of all governmental employees.

Lundquist added that such policies must assure employees they have reasonable expectation of holding a job and of not being maligned as one of the guarantees of the 14th Amendment.

The judge said the Civil Rights Code is not familiar to a number of rural communities and this case has brought it to the attention of Salida.

Others named in the suit were Mayor Edward Touber, Fire Chief Gray, former fire chief Charles Culp, and City Councilmen William Cook, Alfred Garcia, John Ordaz, Lloyd Naccarato, Richard Bondurant and Ralph Coscarella.

Wednesday Feb. 13, 1980 City will pay Freeman

by ARLENE SHOVALD

Former Fire Capt. Robert Freeman's \$50,000 suit against Salida city officials was settled out of court this morning, with the city agreeing to pay an undisclosed amount to Freeman.

Courtroom activity, scheduled to start at 10 a.m., got underway 45 minutes late, when Judge Wallace Lindquist announced a settlement had been reached, and ordered spectators out of the courtroom. When they returned 15 minutes later, attorney Al Sulzenfuss, who represented the city officials, read a prepared statement, saying the city was paying the former fireman because "the city cannot establish any dishonest conduct

on the part of the plaintiff by the preponderance of evidence."

All parties in the case are under a suspension order and cannot release any further information. Sulzenfuss said the settlement was beneficial to both parties and to the taxpayers as well.

Freeman's suit, filed April 1, 1979 and later amended, charged that James Gray was unfairly selected over Freeman as fire chief to replace Charles Culp, who was retiring.

Freeman also asked that he be reinstated as a fireman after the city fired him on charges of rifling city files and inability to get

along with the public and fellow firemen.

No one would say this morning whether Freeman's settlement would include reinstatement as a fireman or if it would affect Gray's job.

Freeman, represented by attorneys Carl Feldhammer of Buena Vista and Isaac Kaiser of Denver, had also sought, if he were denied reinstatement, a disability pension from the city.

Named in his suit were Culp, Gray, the entire city council and Mayor Ed Touber. He asked for \$25,000 in actual damages and another \$25,000 in punitive damages.

Friday May 30th 1980 Firemen vie Sunday

Ten teams from the San Luis Valley Firemen's Association will compete in the annual Field Day activities in Salida on Sunday.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the city hall auditorium where coffee and donuts will be served.

Events begin in Riverside Park at 12:30 p.m. Firemen will be competing in eight events. The water replacement race, the hose race and stationary apparatus race are all six-man team events. The powder puff stationary apparatus race is for a six-woman team. The in-line, rural booster and 2½ to 1½ changeover are for three-man teams.

A banquet will be held at 7 p.m. at St. Josephs School where Mayor Ed Touber will welcome the visiting firemen and trophies for the first four places will be presented. An overall trophy, donated by the Salida merchants, will also be awarded.

Teams competing in the events are from Alamosa, Antonito, Center, Costilla County, Creede, Del Norte, Gunnison, Mosca-Hooper, LaJara, Monte Vista, Poncha Springs, Romeo, Saguache, Salida, South Fork and Sanford.

Members of the Salida team include Chief Jim Gray, Tim Nelson, Fred Smith, Gary Prosser, Joe Chacon and Les Wagner.



ADO, MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1980



Hose who

Bill Lewis, a member of the Center Fire Department, mans a

nozzle during a competitive test of firefighting skills. The contest on Sunday was sponsored by San Luis Valley Firemen's

Association. The Center squad finished second in the contest. Other results appear on Page 6B.
— Photo by Dick Dixon

Ex-Salida fireman's suit going to jury trial today

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Court proceedings begin here today in the \$200,000 civil suit filed by former Salida fire captain Robert Freeman against the city and a number of city officials.

Judge Wallace Lundquist of Fremont County will hear the case in District Court here because District Judge Howard Purdy of Salida disqualified himself from the matter last May 14.

Testimony will be heard by a six-member jury.

Persons named as defendants, in addition to the city, are council members William Cook, Alfred Garcia, John Ordaz, Lloyd Naccarato, Richard Bondurant, Ralph Coscarella, mayor Edward Touber, fire chief James Gray and former fire chief Charles Culp.

The case stems from examinations for fire chief held March 15 and 16 last year, in which Gray was selected for the position over Freeman.

The plaintiff charges that Gray had prior knowledge of material which would be on the test and that Culp secretly altered performance evaluation records of Gray to give him unfair advantage in that portion of the selection process.

In addition to monetary damages, Freeman wants the court to order Salida City Council to appoint him fire chief and seeks judgment that Gray is unlawfully holding the position.

Gray's appointment was effective April 1 and, although Freeman asked for a restraining order two days earlier, the intervening weekend delayed action and Gray's appointment went into effect.

The amended filing charges that Gray didn't have two years administrative experience necessary to qualify for the position, as was advertised.

Freeman alleges there was no council criteria for fair evaluation of the examinations and that appointment of Gray was capricious and preferential.

The complaint asks damages of \$50,000 and reinstatement of Freeman as captain. The claim notes the plaintiff was placed under temporary suspension with pay on April 6 and that he was fired April 16.

At a May 2 hearing, Carl Feldhamer, Freeman's attorney, objected to the hearing because city council had discussed and sanctioned Gray's actions before Freeman was dismissed.

Freeman seeks \$60,000 general damages and \$50,000 punitive damages and alleges he was deprived of his constitutional rights.

An order is sought directing

council to extend psychological and physical examinations to Freeman and possible judgment declaring him disabled.

The amended complaint explains, "that . . . dismissal, according to the city council, as stated by Mayor Touber, was based primarily on the fact that there is testimony concerning increased nervousness of the plaintiff, which has allegedly developed more severely in the last four or five years."

Since filing of the first complaint, city attorney Alan Sulzenfuss filed a motion for dismissal on April 9. On May 18, Lundquist was appointed to hear the case.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1980

Freeman terms may be revealed

by ED QUJLEN

Terms of the cash settlement reached between Salida city officials and former fire Capt. Bob Freeman are expected to be released in the near future, according to attorney Al Sulzenfuss, who represented the city.

Freeman was given a cash settlement from the city in his \$50,000 suit claiming he had been wronged in the city's selection of James Gray as fire chief last year, but the amount was not disclosed yesterday when a negotiated settlement was announced as the trial was scheduled to start.

However, it has been learned that the settlement was limited to a cash payment to Freeman, and that other things he sought in the suit — to be named fire chief, to be reinstated to his old job, to be granted a disability pension — were dropped as part of the settlement.

Wallace Lundquist, the Fremont County judge who acted as a district judge to hear the

case, said this morning that the amount of the settlement should be released soon. "The figure was not disclosed in order to give the attorneys a chance to work out the details of the payment."

The agreement not to disclose the amount is common in civil cases, and was the result of an agreement between Sulzenfuss and Freeman's attorneys. Lundquist said he was aware that public funds were involved in settling with Freeman, and "that's quite a distinction. I think the public has a right to know, and as soon as I can clear it with both attorneys, I will lift the suppression. The figure reached was not a shocking price either way."

"The city administration is not unmindful of the public concern that has been expressed," Sulzenfuss said this morning, "and I hope that by Monday (the next scheduled City Council meeting), it will be resolved."

The suppression, Sulzenfuss said, "was probably an oversight by all parties."



#8

City will pay Freeman \$8,800

Bob Freeman will receive \$8,800 from the City of Salida in settlement of his claim against the city that originated when he was not chosen fire chief last year.

Terms of the settlement were released this morning in a press conference at the office of City Attorney Al Sulzenfuss. The settlement had been reached Wednesday, scheduled to be the first day of Freeman's trial seeking \$50,000 in damages, as well as reinstatement on the fire department.

However, at the request of the attorneys involved, Sulzenfuss for the city, and Carl Feldhammer of Buena Vista and Isaac Kaiser of Denver, the terms of the negotiated settlement were suppressed by court order.

The suppression was lifted by Judge Wallace Lundquist following negotiations with the attorneys last night and this morning. Sulzenfuss said city officials, especially Mayor Ed Touber, had pushed to make the

terms public, "once that we realized that the suppression was a mistake."

TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT, as announced this morning in a prepared statement, are as follows:

—The city will pay Freeman \$8,800, delivered to the district court registry before March 15.

—The city will give Freeman a letter stating that Freeman is a well-trained fireman; has maintained his job qualifications; does not have any adverse information in city possession concerning him as a family man and citizen; and has functioned as an employee of the fire department for 12 years and was a captain for nine years.

—The settlement completes all claims between the city and Freeman.

—No party will take further action based on material in the lawsuit.

—The city will not oppose Freeman's application for a disability pension.

—The city will not release Freeman's "personal evaluation forms" to anyone.

The prepared statement, Sulzenfuss said, "represents essentially the text of the negotiated settlement."

Freeman said this morning he was satisfied with the settlement, with both he and Sulzenfuss pointing out that it saved both parties money because of the costs of a three-day trial.

Although Freeman sought several things besides \$50,000 in damages in his suits filed last year, such as reinstatement as a fireman and being named chief instead of Jim Gray, he said the settlement was equitable.

He made allegations in his suits that city employment records had been falsified to make Gray look better and him worse, but the city is not going to pursue that matter,

Sulzenfuss said.

Freeman, in a prepared statement of his own, said he wanted the suppression order lifted because "I feel the public has a right to know the settlement in this case because public officials and funds are involved."

"The amount is less than I asked for, but it was never my intention to go after a large money settlement. I wanted to prove my point — that allegations were made against me personally, and against my professional abilities, and these were not true. I think that has been done."

"Rather than fighting for the reinstatement of my job as fire captain on the Salida Fire Department, I have chosen to apply for a disability pension from that department."

"I am glad the dispute is ended, but I still feel strongly that I had to fight that fight to prove my case, both for myself and for others who someday might find themselves in a similar position."

FREEMAN'S PAYMENT WILL be coming from the city's general fund, Sulzenfuss said, and will probably be appropriated at Monday night's regular City Council meeting.

Sulzenfuss conceded that the amount of the settlement could not have been kept secret for long, since the spending would have shown up on the city's monthly expenditures, published as a legal notice in *The Mountain Mail*.

"We agreed in the negotiated settlement that the amount would be published there," he said. "State law requires all city expenditures to be published."

Sulzenfuss declined to go into the mechanics of the suppression order and which attorney had requested it, nor would he give the reason it was requested.

Both Freeman and Salida City Councilman Bill Cook, present at the news conference, said they were not present at the negotiations between the attorneys, and had no idea why it was part of the settlement.

"Sometimes, when you're focusing on details, like you do in negotiations," Sulzenfuss said, "you tend to forget a bigger issue, such as the public need for information concerning public funds."

Freeman said his future plans were indefinite, although his long-range plan is to finish his education and perhaps go into social services.

For the present, he plans to continue working at the Cranberry Kitchen.

ALL PARTIES INVOLVED say the settlement could result in benefits to the city and its employees.

Lundquist said yesterday that the suit should result in Council action to bring the city's personnel policies in conformance with federal guidelines under 42 U.S. Code 1983, a civil rights law that protects an employee from being maligned or fired without cause by an employer.

"You will be seeing an ordinance that makes the city personnel code clearer," Sulzenfuss said, and Freeman said he hoped the "ordeal we have all suffered the past 10 months will result in some basic changes needed in Salida. I plan to work for those changes, and I hope that the city is also willing to make that effort."

Freeman also said he wanted to "wish Jim Gray and the rest of the firemen the best of luck. I hope the city provides the funds and tools they need to protect the city the way it should be done."

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1980



LONGFELLOW FIRE—All students at Longfellow Elementary School got an extended outdoor period today as a result of fire in the school. A sponge mop and a broom were leaning against a hot water heater when they caught on fire. School officials saw smoke coming out of a ceiling vent and sounded the fire alarm. The

school was evacuated in 35 seconds, and the fire department arrived on the scene to put out the fire, which did not spread beyond the ends of the the mop and broom. Smoke spread throughout the school, forcing classes to stay outside for about a half hour.

LIMITED
spectr
station o

Patrolling police put out blaze

A quick, alert response by three Salida policemen probably prevented serious fire damage at the Phillips 66 gas station at 310 W. Rainbow Blvd. last night.

Officers Jim James, Paul Ottmer and Don Counter were patrolling past the station about 9:30 p.m., when they saw fire and smoke in the station office, according to Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray.

The police radioed for the fire department as they grabbed the 2½-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher they carry in their car. They used a flashlight to break the glass door to the station and began fighting the fire, Gray reported.

The police found another dry chemical fire extinguisher at the scene and put the fire out before the fire department arrived with one truck and a full crew of regular and volunteer firemen.

All that was left for the firemen to do was fan out the building and make an inspection and a report.

Gray said the fire was apparently started in an electric display clock with a fluorescent light backing. Station Manager Bob Rohrich said the light burned out earlier in the day, and a station employee had replaced the starter. Rohrich said the light still wasn't working, but the clock was, when he closed the station last night.

Gray said the fire was the third started by a fluorescent light clock in the past few months. The others were at Chris's Taco Cafe and Salida Wholesale.


Rohrich said he could not estimate the cost of the damage last night. The fire was contained in an area of one wall, a display case and the ceiling.

Damaged items included the electric clock, a cash register, miscellaneous auto service products and accessories and the wall and ceiling. In addition, there was smoke damage and soot throughout the building.

Rohrich said the building is owned by the S and M Oil Co. of Evergreen and is insured against fire damage. The station was formerly owned by Harold Blackwell of Salida.

It has not been a good week for the Phillips 66 station. Rohrich was driving by the station Sunday afternoon, when he saw a man lying in front of the station. The man, Harold M. Ramey, 71, had suffered a heart attack while walking and was not breathing.

Attempts were made to revive Ramey with cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, and he was taken by ambulance to Salida Hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival.



LIMITED DAMAGE-Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray inspects the damage caused by a fire at the Phillips 66 gas station on U.S. 50 last night. The damage was limited by the response of Salida policemen Jim James, Paul Ottmer and Don Counter, who put out the fire before the fire department arrived.

Fire hits old ice house

An old ice house at 1147 E. Rainbow Blvd., used for storage, caught fire from a burning irrigation ditch yesterday. Salida firemen put the fire out before the building or its contents suffered extensive damage.

The fire was reported at 2 p.m., Fire Capt. Fred Smith said, and 13 firemen, including eight volunteers, spent about 1½ hours and 3,000 gallons of water

getting it out.

Smith said the fire apparently started from a nearby irrigation ditch being burned out by Roy Jones. The ditch fire spread to some timber between the ditch and the building, and then caught the building on fire.

"Those old ice houses used about 1½ feet of sawdust insulation all around," Smith said, "and once that sawdust catches, you've really got a fire."

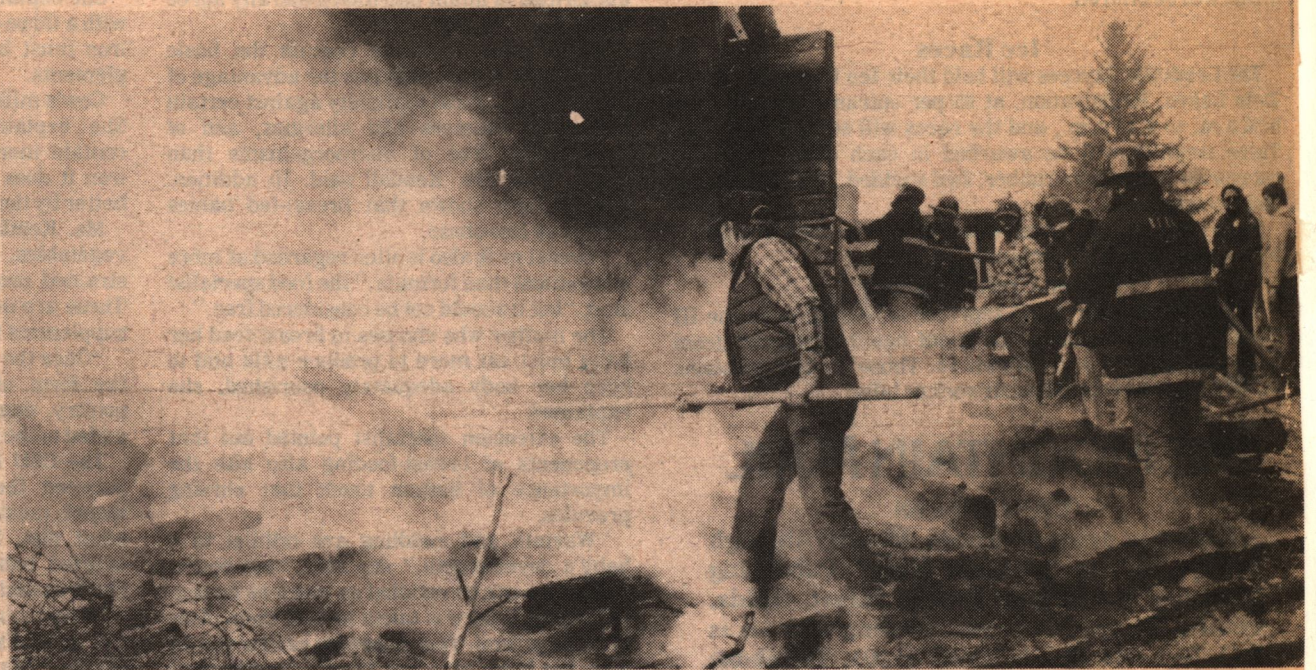
Firemen were able to contain the blaze by pouring water on the wooden structure and taking sawdust out after opening the walls.

Smith estimated damage at \$1500, saying the building was still in "fairly good shape." The damage was mostly to its side and roof.

Its contents suffered little damage, and most of that came from water, he added. No firemen were injured.



GOING UP THE LADDER to clear sawdust out of the attic of the old ice house are Firemen Tim Nelson, bottom, and Fred Smith, top. By cutting a hole in the building, they were able to get the sawdust out before it caught fire.



THE FIRE WAS GOING in a ditch behind the foreground, and caught the side of the building. photography, spread to the timber in the

Photo by Ted Nelson

Fire damages Salida ice house

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Fire caused an estimated \$1,500 damage to an old ice house on East U.S. 50 here Wednesday.

Firemen worked on the blaze about 90 minutes and said they were hampered somewhat by 18 inches of sawdust insulation in the walls of the building.

Although the building was being used for storage, damage was limited mostly to one side and the roof.

Authorities said the fire apparently started from burning debris along an irrigation ditch, which spread to the building along some timber between the ditch and the structure.

Friday, March 7
Pueblo
Chieftain

MONDAY, JULY 14, 1980

Fire hits local lumberyard

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed a pile of wooden pallets at Hylton Lumber Co. early Sunday morning.

No damage estimate was available at press time today, but firemen said the damage was

confined to the pallets and some 2"x12" lumber stacked behind the main build.

The fire was reported to Salida police at 2:43 a.m. Sunday, who notified firemen and went to the blaze themselves.

Before firemen got there, two policemen tried to put out the fire themselves, and succeeded in moving some lumber out of the way before the area got too hot to work in.

Firemen arrived within five minutes, Capt. Jerry Henderson said, "and we had a hell of a time getting in there. He puts big logs across the driveways at night to keep people out, and it took us five or 10 minutes to get a log moved."

Once the 14 responding firemen in two trucks could get in there, the fire was out in "a matter of minutes," Henderson said, and firemen returned to the station at 3:25 a.m.

Wednesday May 21, 1980

Fire chief promises weed crackdown

Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray isn't going to sit around and wait for weed complaints this spring. "We're going to go out looking for problem areas," he said yesterday, "as part of a stricter enforcement program for the city's weed-control ordinance."

Although in past years the fire department has waited until complaints were filed concerning weed-filled property, Gray said that won't be the case in 1980.

"We're going to look for violators, and when we find them, we'll give a warning first, giving the property owner a week to clean up the problem."

If that doesn't work, the property owner's name will be turned over to the city clerk's office, and the clerk will formally notify the property owner, as provided for in Salida Ordinance 1969-4.

If the property owner doesn't clean up the weeds within five days, the city will do it, and send the property owner a bill for the cost of removing the weeds, plus a five percent charge for inspection.

That charge is due within 30 days, and if it isn't paid, the city can file a lien against the property, much as is done in the case of unpaid taxes.

Uncut weeds are a fire hazard, Gray said, even in a wet year like 1980. "A lot of last year's weeds are still standing, and when they get dry, you have all kinds of fire risks that

you don't need." Another problem, other than the appearance, is that weed seeds and pollen aggravate many people's allergies.

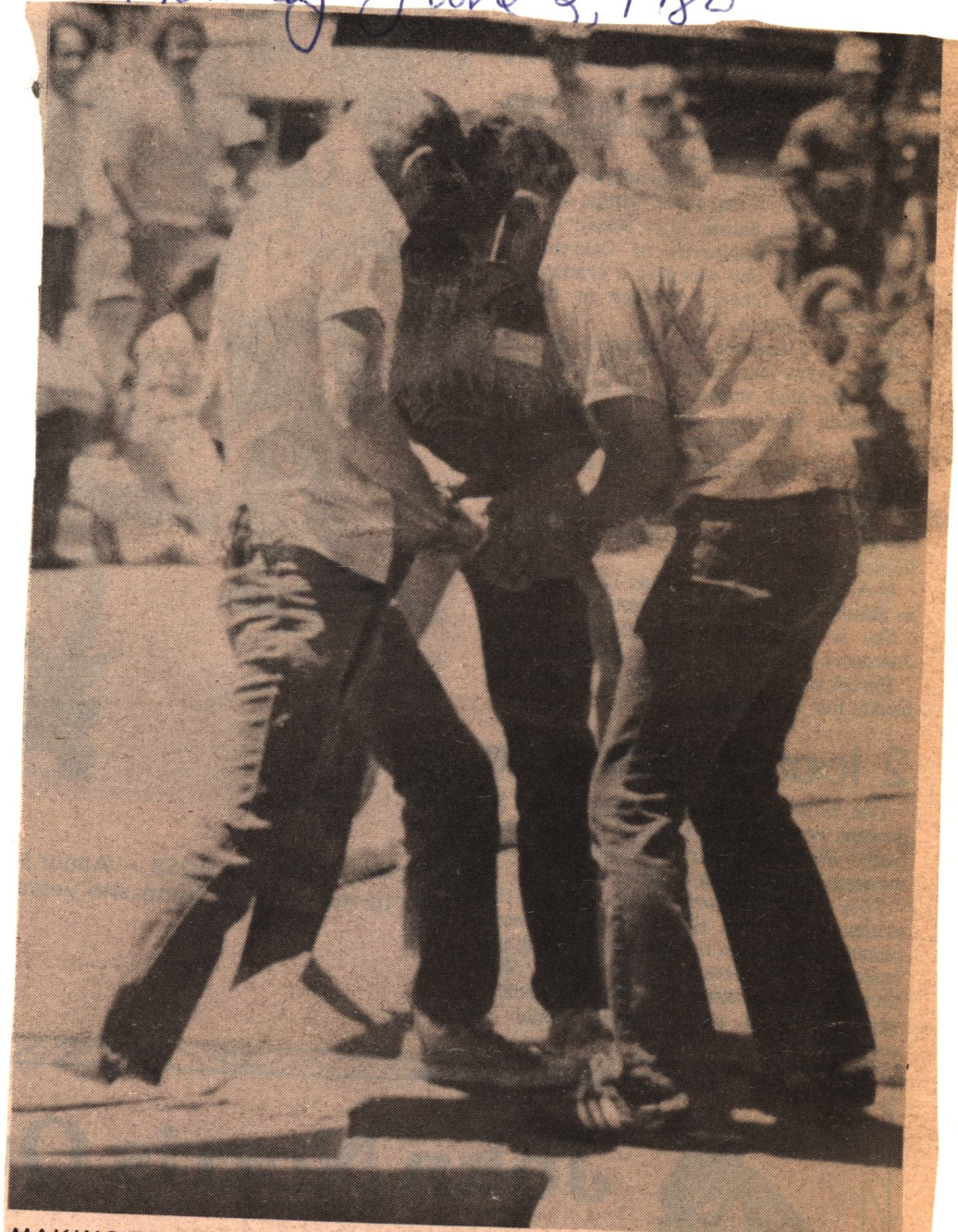
Most of the problem is in vacant lots or around unoccupied homes, Gray said, "although there are some people where you can barely see their houses because of the weeds around them. And a lot of back yards are covered by weeds, especially around

sheds and outbuildings."

The city ordinances provide that it is illegal for the owner of "any lot, block or parcel" or any "tenant or agent thereof" to "allow or permit weeds to grow or remain when grown."

To conform to the law, the property owner must cut "such weeds close to the ground" and keep the weeds "so cut."

Monday June 3, 1980



MAKING THE WYE — Firemen from the San Luis Valley competed with Salida firemen yesterday in skill contests, as shown above where part of the crew hooks the hoses together in a wye. Meanwhile, others race down the street with nozzles and one man handles the hydrant. Salida did it all in less

time to win.
Salida won the six-man motor replacement event with a time of 22.28 seconds. Gunnison was second with 26.40, Alamosa placed third with 29.19 and Mosca-Hooper took fourth with 33.70.
The Salidans took first in the six-man wye hose event in 11.41 seconds. They were followed by Monte Vista with 12.84, Del Norte in 13.6 and Mosca-Hooper in 14.07.
Salida earned its third consecutive first

Center won the three-man optional event in 14.24 seconds, followed by Gunnison with 15.10, Alamosa with 15.42 and Monte Vista with 18.0.
Center also won the three-man rural booster event in 8.2 seconds. Other placers were La Jara with 9.41, Alamosa with 9.51 and Gunnison with 10.10.
Teams that competed, but did not place, were Saguache and Sanford.

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Monday June 2, 1980



MAKING THE WYE — Firemen from the San Luis Valley competed with Salida firemen yesterday in skill contests, as shown above where part of the crew hooks the hoses together in a wye. Meanwhile, others race down the street with nozzles and one man handles the hydrant. Salida did it all in less than 12 seconds to win.

Firemen take first

For the sixth time in ten years, Salida's fire department proved to be the best at the district firemen's competition.

The Salida firemen took first place among 10 teams in the eight-event competition with 19 points. This year's events were held on East Sackett Street in Salida. Since the contest was in Salida two years ago, normally it would have been held elsewhere in the area, but Salida firemen wanted it here for the centennial year.

Salida had the only paid firemen in the competition, as all the rest of the competitors were volunteers.

Center took second place with 12 points, while La Jara was third with nine. Salida had four first-place finishes, and two seconds, while Center had three firsts and one fourth.

Salida also won the annual competition in 1971, 73, 75, 77 and 78. The department will send a four- or five-man team to Lamar for a four-day state-wide competition on June 15.

Salida won the six-man motor replacement event with a time of 22.28 seconds. Gunnison was second with 26.40, Alamosa placed third with 29.19 and Mosca-Hooper took fourth with 33.70.

The Salidans took first in the six-man wye hose event in 11.41 seconds. They were followed by Monte Vista with 12.84, Del Norte in 13.6 and Mosca-Hooper in 14.07.

Salida earned its third consecutive first

place in the six-man stationary apparatus competition with a 12.06 clocking. Other placers were Monte Vista with 12.68, La Jara with 13.64 and Alamosa with 13.81.

Salida's firemen took their final first in the last event of the day, the 2½ to 1½-inch hose changeover. Their time of 17.26 seconds beat La Jara with 19.97, Monte Vista with 20.20 and Gunnison with 24.16.

In the three-man in-line event, Center edged Salida's time of 16.16 seconds with 16.08. The other placers were La Jara with 17.90 and Monte Vista with 17.95.

Salida's other second place came in the powder puff stationary apparatus event. Salida women finished in 20.64 seconds, behind Del Norte with 18.87. The local women's squad had only been together for three days before the competition. Mosca-Hooper finished third in 27.9, and Center placed fourth with a 31.94.

Center won the three-man optional event in 14.24 seconds, followed by Gunnison with 15.10, Alamosa with 15.42 and Monte Vista with 18.0.

Center also won the three-man rural booster event in 8.2 seconds. Other placers were La Jara with 9.41, Alamosa with 9.51 and Gunnison with 10.10.

Teams that competed, but did not place, were Saguache and Sanford.

Wednesday Aug. 27th 1980



TWO TRUCKS COLLIDE — Three Salida residents were taken to Salida Hospital by ambulance last night after two Dodge pickups collided on U.S. 50 near the Little River Restaurant west of Salida just before 8 p.m. Colorado State Patrolman Keith Franklin reported that Cliff Ogden, 26, was making a left turn from the west-bound lane when his truck was hit by one driven by Brad Spino, 16, at a high rate of speed. Ogden's truck (below) traveled 137 feet after impact, and its engine was torn out and knocked 182 feet. Spino's truck (above) skidded

on for 283 feet, and both vehicles were totaled. Spino was knocked unconscious, received a broken jaw and broken teeth and had to be extricated from behind the steering wheel. Spino's passenger, David Long, 17, and Ogden received bruises and scrapes. Firemen and wrecker crews spent about an hour cleaning up debris and gasoline at the scene. Ogden was released from the hospital last night, but the hospital refused to release information on the condition of the other injured parties today.



Firemen take 2nd in state meet

Salida firemen took second place overall in statewide firemen's competition in Lamar last weekend.

With about 40 teams from throughout the state competing, Salida finished behind Monte Vista — a fire department that Salida defeated earlier this month during the San

Luis Valley firemen's competition in Salida.

Local firemen took first in the option and third in the changeover to get their second-place finish.

On the team which went to Lamar were Fire Chief Jim Gray and firemen Tim Nelson, Gary Prosser and Fred Smith.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1980

MD poster child visits Salida



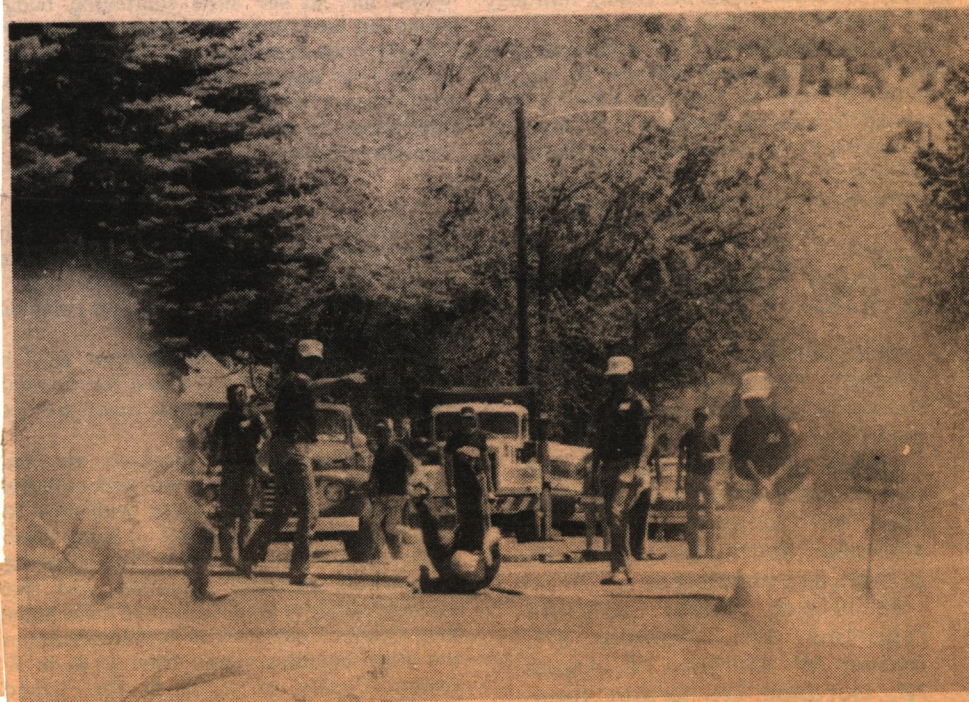
SALIDA FIREMAN Fred Smith accepts a plaque from seven-year-old Darin Dozier, the Colorado Muscular Dystrophy Association poster child. The plaque honors the fire department for past fund-raising efforts.



SALIDA FIREMEN TOOK second in overall state competition last weekend in Lamar. In this sequence of one of the contests, shot during the San Luis Valley firemen's competition here earlier this month, the firemen are making the wye...



AND, IF YOU look at the fireman in the middle, he's going down in the heat of competition...



AND NOW HE'S ROLLING on the ground. But they were able to do the whole thing in less than 12 seconds here, but were bested by Monte Vista in the state competition.

Salida woman dies in fire

Dorothy Carter, 70, died in her bed of apparent smoke inhalation while a fire burned in her house at 540 Poncha Blvd. early this morning.

Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray said Carter had no pulse when he found her at about 2:30 a.m.

The fire, which burned in the den at the opposite end of the six-room, one-story house, was brought under control by firemen about 10 minutes after they arrived at the scene, he said.

Gray said Carter lived alone and was apparently the only one in the house when the fire started.

After an investigation this morning, the fire chief said the fire was probably started by a cigarette left burning on a couch in the den. It is believed the couch smoldered for quite a

while before starting the blaze, which caused severe damage in the room.

Gray estimated the total damage to the brick house at about \$15,000, including smoke damage in all rooms. This morning, firemen used a fan to clear the remaining smoke.

Gray said the fire department was called by Carter's next-door neighbor, Lois Shearer. She had heard windows breaking at the Carter house and then saw smoke billowing out. The smoke was so thick when the firemen arrived that Gray said he could not see his hand in front of his face.

According to Stewart Mortuary, Carter lived in Salida since 1973, but her closest relative is her son, Charles, who lives in Pennsylvania.



FATAL FIRE SCENE — Salida Fireman Jerry Henderson inspects the spot where it is believed a fire started last night in the home of Dorothy Carter at 540 Poncha Blvd. Carter died in her bedroom at the other end of the house before firemen arrived, apparently of smoke inhalation.

Salida woman dies of smoke inhalation

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Preliminary autopsy results show that Dorothy Carter, 70, of Salida, died of smoke inhalation early Wednesday when fire destroyed one room of her home at 540 Poncha.

Mrs. Carter was found in her bedroom at the opposite end of the house from the fire. Chief James Gray said smoke was so thick outside the home it was difficult to determine which house was burning. He said smoke "just hung" in the air.

Inside, he said smoke was so thick, "I couldn't see my hand in front of my face." Firemen found the south end of the house totally involved, and Gray said bystanders yelled that Mrs. Carter was still inside.

He said, "We put on the air masks and went straight in. We found her right away."

Two fire trucks, 14 volunteers

and four regular firemen answered the call at 2:31 a.m. and were on the scene almost two hours. Gray said personnel stayed at the scene until arrival of a Colorado Bureau of Investigation team.

The fire chief said the blaze apparently started in a couch in the livingroom. He speculated that a cigarette smoldered in the couch for several hours producing heavy smoke before windows broke and alerted neighbors who called firemen.

Gray said smoke damage to the entire house was "extremely heavy" and said the converted garage/livingroom was a total loss.

Eadres Glenn at Stewart Mortuary in Salida said Mrs. Carter has a son, Charles, who is on his way from Pennsylvania. He said she was a Salida resident since 1973.

Firemen said Mrs. Carter apparently lived alone.

\$1750 lost to fires in September

Not everyone who calls the Salida Fire Department calls about a fire.

The department answered two calls in September to remove hornets and one call to remove a boy's leg which was stuck in a bicycle.

The department's other calls were to extinguish a fire at a trailer home, a business, in a playhouse, and to put out a car engine fire.

An estimated value of \$56,700 was exposed to fire in the city last month, with an estimated loss of \$1,750 caused by fire.

The South Arkansas Fire Protection District answered a call to extinguish a fire in a dumpster and in a shed.

There was an estimated value of \$5000 exposed to fire in the district with no property

loss caused from fire.

Firemen also answered a call to wash down gas from an overturned gas truck. There was no property loss caused from fire during the month of September in county areas not covered by the South Arkansas district.

Salida volunteer firemen attended a San Luis Valley Association meeting in Alamosa where a pit was filled with diesel fuel and set on fire. It was extinguished with light water to demonstrate its effectiveness on diesel fuel fires, according to James M. Gray, fire chief.

The fire department recently completed flushing, cleaning threads, and replacing gaskets on all fire plugs and a list of all the plugs which need work has been turned over for repair to Ernie Criswell, public works director for the city.

Salida Fire Department inspected 29 businesses during September for fire hazards.



FIRE SEASON — Fall is the season for chimney fires, like this one which started about 6 p.m. Sunday afternoon at the Art Ferraro residence at 315 E. Rainbow. Salida Firemen Wes Wagner, Fred Smith and Tim Nelson (behind the smoke) put out the fire in minutes, but it caused about \$500 in smoke damage to the house. Firemen warn homeowners that chimneys should be cleaned regularly to prevent creosote buildups that result in fires.

Brush fires reported

Salida firemen suspect arson as the cause of two minor brush fires that broke out in the Salida area Sunday night.

Firemen were called to county property on CR 144 about 8:10 p.m. to put out a fire in a ditch. About an hour later, they answered a call about a brush fire on the Salida school district's vacant lot at Seventh and B Streets.

A witness reported seeing a car parked near the scene of the first fire just before it

started. The second fire was apparently caused by setting some sage brush on fire. It occurred at the site of the annual Homecoming bonfire.

State Trophies

1980
Field Day 1980



Wed. Oct. 15, 1980

Arson suspected in grass fires

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Authorities here suspect arson in a pair of grass fires about an hour apart Sunday night.

First call came about 8:10 p.m., when firemen extinguished a fire in a ditch on County Road 144. An hour later, a similar call took equipment to an empty lot owned by Salida School District at the corner of Ninth and B streets, where brush was burning.

Christen

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1980



MAJOR DOWNTOWN FIRE — A fire started in Salida Drug's storeroom about 10 a.m. Saturday, and caused well over \$100,000 in flame, smoke and water damage to the drug store, eight apartments and four neighboring businesses before it was put out by Salida and Poncha

Springs firemen. The north section of the store (above) received most of the damage from flames. The fire may have started in packing straw and boxes in the southeast storeroom (below).



Fire guts store

A major fire in downtown Salida caused well over \$100,000 damage to Salida Drugs, the apartments above it and neighboring stores Saturday morning.

Four businesses remain closed and seven apartments were evacuated as a result of the fire.

No one was injured in the blaze although six people had to be evacuated from the apartments, many of them still in their bed clothes.

Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray said he believes the fire was started by either a misplaced cigarette or spontaneous combustion in straw packing material.

Gray said he could give only a rough damage estimate until insurance investigators and local storeowners have time to assess the effects of flames, smoke and water on the south 100 block of F Street.

However, the storeowners agreed the damage to the block of connected commercial buildings could have been much worse, if it had not been for a quick response by Salida Drug customers and area firemen.

Fred Paquette, a retired Chaffee County sheriff's deputy, was having coffee in the drug store just after 10 a.m. when he thought he smelled something burning.

When store employees Gloria Castellucci and Angela DeLeo and other customers smelled the smoke, Salida Drug co-owner Mary Lou Miller began to look around. She opened the door to a storage room in the southeast corner of the store and found the room in flames.

Paquette found that the store's telephone was on a hot wall next to the burning room, and tried to call the sheriff's dispatcher. The line was busy, and before he could get through, flames had destroyed the telephone wires.

Another customer, Dudley Crawford, ran out the back of the building toward the fire station on the same block. Salida Fireman Tim Nelson was coming out the back door of Gambles, and Crawford told him about the fire.

NELSON RAN to the firehouse on the same block, and a fire truck was moving before the official alarm ever sounded. It did sound after Paquette crossed the street and called the dispatcher from Donnohue Jewelers.

It was Paquette who ran upstairs and roused the six people from the apartments, as no tenant was aware of the fire.

"The smoke was so thick I could hardly find the stairwell when I came out," he said.

(Continued To Page 8)

THE MOUNTAIN

Fire

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"We had water building within Salida's second about 15 minutes of the store.

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Fire destroys downtown drugstore

(Continued from Page 1)

"We had water on the back and side of the building within two minutes," Nelson said. Salida's second fire truck was dispatched about 15 minutes later, and it went to the front of the store.

"People in front of the store gave the firemen a bad time," Nelson said, "because they thought we had taken 15 minutes to respond to the call. They didn't know that we had already been fighting the fire in the back of the building for 15 minutes."

It took firemen about 20 minutes to control the blaze in the storeroom and north end of the store. Gray and Capt. Jerry Henderson began trying to clear smoke out of the upstairs apartments with fans, but it would not

clear.

Henderson discovered that the walls were hot. He opened a closet door and black smoke billowed out. The fire had spread up a cast-iron sewer vent into the walls and false ceiling in the five upstairs apartments. Gray then called the Poncha Springs Fire Department for reinforcement.

Firemen reported the fire was a hard one to fight, because it continued burning in inaccessible areas inside walls and between the false ceilings and the tin roof.

They had to chop a hole in the roof to get to the fire, and part of the roof caved in. Smoke was heavy in the maze of upstairs apartments, and some firemen suffered from minor smoke inhalation, despite the use of air

masks and tanks, 12 of which were refilled at the firehouse during the fire.

Five paid firemen and seven volunteers from Salida and seven volunteers from Poncha Springs battled the blaze for about two hours before it was finally under control.

Three pumper vehicles were used in fighting the fire, two from Salida and one from Poncha Springs. Nearly half a mile of 2½-inch, 1½-inch inch and booster lines was laid from plugs as far away as Second and E streets to get water to the stubborn fire.

Other equipment used included axes, four ladders, 800 feet of rope, three pike poles, five handlights and 7,000 gallons of water, pumped by the three trucks.

Firemen thanked Salida police officers for

controlling the crowd, Public Service Company employees for shutting off electricity on the block and the city crew for providing a loader and dump truck and setting up barricades on surrounding streets.

The alarm had sounded at 10:12 a.m., but it was 2:35 p.m. before the Salida firemen could return to the station for the long job of cleaning equipment and draining hoses.

Then the assessment of damages began. Pharmacist John Mehos said his store was "almost totally damaged." Structural damage was confined to storage room and north side of the store for the most part, but the rest of store received extensive fire and water damage.

Merchants start post-fire cleaning

The job of cleaning up after Saturday's Salida Drugs fire began before firemen had left the scene. Store owners began the process of salvaging merchandise and cleaning up.

John Mehos of Salida Drug said the State Board of Pharmacy prohibits stores from selling any drugs that have been in a fire, even if they are in protective containers.

Mehos and Mary Lou Miller, Salida Drug co-owner, agreed most of the other merchandise in the store will not be marketable.

Salida Drug has been in the process of stocking for Christmas. A shipment of pottery and glassware had just been unpacked from boxes in the storeroom and placed on display shelves. Mehos estimated the value of the store's inventory at \$70,000, and he said he expects the store's fire insurance may not cover the cost of replacement and repair.

The building also received structural damage from the fire as well as heavy damage from smoke and water.

Miller said the store's prescription files were saved, and Mehos plans to begin filling prescriptions from another downtown location on Wednesday or Thursday.

In the meantime, Waggener's Pharmacy and Lallier's Pharmacy will refill prescriptions from Salida Drug.

Of the eight upstairs apartments that Mehos owns, the five directly connected to the drug store also received extensive structural and water damage. All eight received smoke damage, and the seven that were occupied were immediately evacuated. Mehos said it may be necessary to replace his building's roof.

Dentist Ron Jones, Salida Drug's neighbor to the north, expects to be closed for a day to clean up the moderate smoke damage in his office and that of his partner, Bruce Long. He expects to have no trouble with equipment and supplies, but he said the carpet and drapes may present a problem.

"We just ordered new drapes," he said, "and luckily, they had not been put in yet. We were real lucky, because it could have been a lot worse."

RICHARD HARRIS of Waggener's Pharmacy, the next door down, said some smoke seeped into his store, but not enough to do much damage. He used a fan to clear the smoke from his store, but the odor remains a problem.

"I was in my store when the fire broke out," Harris said. "I saw a pickup truck turn from



AFTER THE FIRE, the sidewalk was roped off and the windows were secured on the building. The extent of structural damage probably won't be known until

Wednesday as merchants clean up and calculate their inventory losses.

First Street onto F Street. It swerved and came right up on the curb. A little while later, I saw smoke coming from that direction, and I thought the truck had crashed, but then, a woman from Salida Drug came running in and said their store was on fire."

Opal Heister rents the building for The Clothes Horse south of the drug store from Mehos. She reported severe smoke damage to the store and her goods, which she valued at \$18,000.

Heister said she may hold a fire sale after

insurance adjustors inspect her store. She will not be able to decide about reopening the store until Mehos can assess the damage.

Heister said her fire insurance will probably not cover the total value of her inventory, because she has been stocking for Christmas.

Edith Sharpe owns Sharpe's Style Shop, next to The Clothes Horse. When she was allowed back into her store, she placed plastic bags over her merchandise, so she hopes the damage to garments was slight. She too has

been stocking for Christmas.

Sharpe said her store will probably be closed today and tomorrow, as she cleans carpets and walls and continues to clear lingering smoke.

Sharpe said she has some experience at cleaning up after fires, because this was the third on her block in the 32 years she has been in business there. There have been fires on both sides of her store, one in a dentist office on the north side and one in the old Salida Drugs store on the south side.

Salida Drugs was owned by Riley Bartley and sat where the Monarch Gift Shop is now when it was gutted by a fire in 1968. The building was rebuilt by owner Bob Ferraro and restocked by Bartley.

Mehos and Miller bought Salida Drug from Bartley four years ago, and they moved to their present location in January, 1977.

Regulations by the State Board of Pharmacy require that all prescription drugs be secured after a drug store fire, so special precautions were taken to board up the building after the fire.

Miller was optimistic about the chances of reopening Salida Drug in the future. She said, "We're going to regroup."

Damage may exceed \$100,000 from fire in downtown Salida

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — It took firemen less than two minutes to get water on a major blaze which caused more than \$100,000 damage to three businesses on F Street here Saturday.

Firemen said the damage figure is preliminary and is for Salida Drug Store where the fire originated. They said they feel damage will top that "by quite a bit. The inventory was worth more than that, and it doesn't include damage to offices and stores on either side of the drug store."

Fireman Tim Nelson was returning to the fire station down an alley about 10:12 a.m. when he

saw smoke and talked to a witness. He said the first truck was on the scene and water was beginning to play over the fire at the rear of the building when the electronic page call went out from the dispatch office at the courthouse.

The fire station is on the opposite side of the same block.

No one was injured although at least six persons were in apartments above the drug store and there were an undetermined number of employees and customers in the store when the blaze broke out quickly in a back room. Firemen said smoke damage was heavy to the offices of Dentists Jones and Long on the

east side of the store and to the Clothes Horse on the other side.

Fireman Jerry Henderson said investigation Sunday showed the fire started from apparent spontaneous combustion in a pile of packing straw. He said another possible cause was a cigarette spark.

He said there were no electrical or gas lines near where the blaze started.

Henderson said heaviest fire damage to the building was in the back room and to the roof, two floors above. He said that although the blaze didn't originate in the sales area, the open room acted as an exhaust and drew flames out the front, blowing out a plate glass window and melting what it didn't burn in the sales area.

Three Salida fire trucks, five regular firemen and seven volunteers responded to the call in addition to seven volunteers and the new Poncha Springs fire truck.

Henderson said the initial blaze was controlled in about 20 minutes, but was shortly discovered burning briskly in a wall and between false ceilings and the roof. He said it apparently traveled up a metal sewer pipe which glowed red hot when firemen opened the wall.

Fred Paquette, a retired Chaffee County Sheriff's deputy, was in the store drinking coffee when he smelled something hot. Almost immediately, he said, smoke came from the back room.

Paquette tried to call the fire department from a phone near the back room, but before he could complete the call, wires were burned through and his hair was singed.

Paquette went upstairs and said it took him about 10 minutes to clear apartment residents. By then, "The smoke was so thick I had a hard time finding the stairs to get out," he said.

Although wooden roof and supports were burned out, a layer of tin kept flames from breaking through the roof where they could have been whipped by moderate winds, spreading to the rest of the block of attached, two and three story buildings. Nelson said thick smoke billowing from the front of the building swept down on the fire truck through the intersection at First and F Streets.

Henderson said firemen used 12 bottles of air fighting the blaze and noted that all of the men sustained mild smoke inhalation. He said, "It was a good thing we had air masks. The whole block would have gone up because without them, we couldn't have fought the fire in all that black smoke."

Firemen agreed it was the smokiest fire they had ever seen.

Bystanders criticized the department for taking "25 minutes to respond". Firemen said, however, that heavy smoke obscured the truck at the rear of the building which arrived almost immediately.

Henderson said, "What bystanders thought was our first response to the fire was the second truck arriving at the front of the building. When we saw what we had at the back, we called for additional equipment."

Although the windows of the drug store were boarded up Sunday and the sidewalk in front of the three businesses was roped off, there was little exterior evidence that a major fire nearly gutted the in-

ey about 10:12 a.m. when he Dentists Jones and Long on

front, blowing out a plate glass window and melting what it didn't burn in the sales area.

Three Salida fire trucks, five regular firemen and seven volunteers responded to the call in addition to seven volunteers and the new Poncha Springs fire truck.

Henderson said the initial blaze was controlled in about 20 minutes, but was shortly discovered burning briskly in a wall and between false ceilings and the roof. He said it apparently traveled up a metal sewer pipe which glowed red hot when firemen opened the wall.

Fred Paquette, a retired Chaffee County Sheriff's deputy, was in the store drinking coffee when he smelled something hot. Almost immediately, he said, smoke came from the back room.

Paquette tried to call the fire department from a phone near the back room, but before he could complete the call, wires were burned through and his hair was singed.

Paquette went upstairs and said it took him about 10 minutes to clear apartment residents. By then, "The smoke was so thick I had a hard time finding the stairs to get out," he said.

Although wooden roof and supports were burned out, a layer of tin kept flames from breaking through the roof where they could have been whipped by moderate winds, spreading to the rest of the block of attached, two and three story buildings. Nelson said thick smoke billowing from the front of the building swept down on the fire truck through the intersection at First and F Streets.

Henderson said firemen used 12 bottles of air fighting the blaze and noted that all of the men sustained mild smoke inhalation. He said, "It was a good thing we had air masks. The whole block would have gone up because without them, we couldn't have fought the fire in all that black smoke."

Firemen agreed it was the smokiest fire they had ever seen.

Bystanders criticized the department for taking "25 minutes to respond". Firemen said, however, that heavy smoke obscured the truck at the rear of the building which arrived almost immediately.

Henderson said, "What bystanders thought was our first response to the fire was the second truck arriving at the front of the building. When we saw what we had at the back, we called for additional equipment."

Although the windows of the drug store were boarded up Sunday and the sidewalk in front of the three businesses was roped off, there was little exterior evidence that a major fire nearly gutted the interior of the store and caused extensive damage to neighboring stores.

Dr. Ron Jones moved records out of his next-door offices, but wasn't able to remove his new \$38,000 chair. He was heard to say, "There's no way I can get it out. If the building goes, I guess I'll just have to leave it for the insurance company."

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The public
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Gray said the famous Salida roun-
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Centennial Feature 1880 in 1980

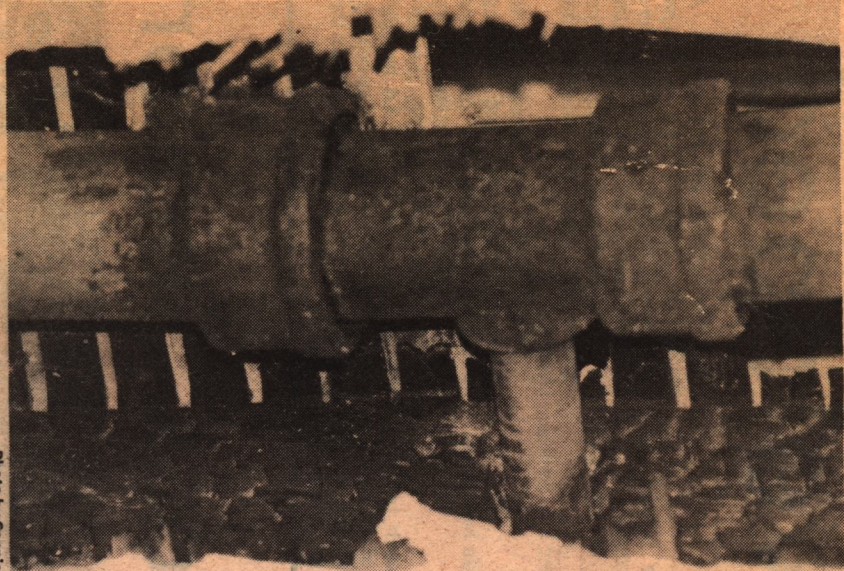


Photo by Connie Osg

Fire conduit

FLAMES BURST OUT in the back room of Salida Drug Store Nov. 8 and worked their way into this wall. When firemen broke through plaster and lath, they found this pipe glowing red-hot and said it apparently conducted the blaze past seven upstairs apartments and into the attic.

By TRACY HARMON

Fire Department History Begins With 1880 Bucket Brigade

What could have been another in a series of serious fires in Salida history occurred Nov. 8 when Salida Drug Store burned causing more than \$100,000 damage to it and accompanying businesses and apartments.

Improved fire equipment, quick response, and lots of training paid off last week and what was a serious fire was contained before it became one of the conflagrations which leveled major portions of town or important buildings in the past.

The three Salida trucks and one from Poncha Springs which responded to the call two weeks ago were a far cry from

Salida's bucket brigade, started almost 100 years ago—Nov. 27, 1880. That first fire company was the primitive form runner of today's modern department.

The Feb. 4, 1882 Mountain Mail recorded that within two years from that first departmental meeting, Salida Fire Company Number One held regular meetings in Thomas' Lumber office. Things discussed at the meetings included constitution and bylaws and election of officers.

The First Annual Firemen's Ball was discussed during special meetings, and Dickmann's Opera House was the site of the first ball, Feb. 22, 1882. The public

was invited at \$1.50 per person.

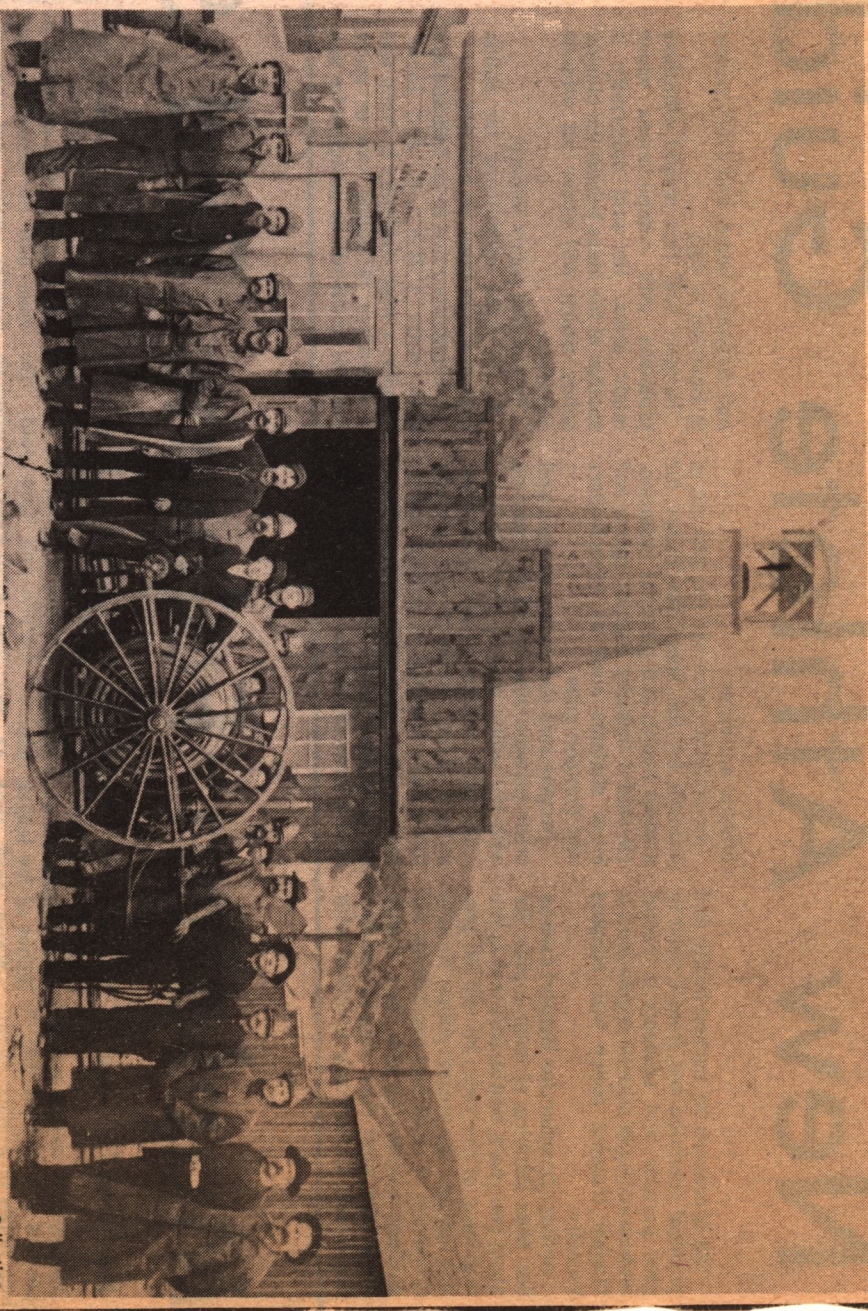
Salida Fire Chief Jim Gray said recently, "One problem firemen had in 1882 was a lack of water during fires. Water was drawn from a hold believed to have been dug by firemen near First and F. Sts."

People of the city were apparently dependent on the water in the hole, and after a fire were sometimes dismayed to find the hole empty the next morning.

"100 Years In The Heart Of The Rockies" by Cynthia Pasquale, said city council members saw the need for a municipal water works so they had one installed in 1882 for \$17,500.

Still here

HOSE CART AND nozzle are still part of the Salida Fire Department collection of antique fire equipment. Neither the cart nor the nozzle, however, was an antique on Feb. 27, 1884 when 18 members of the Salida Line Company posed for this picture. Firemen



Salida Centennial Committee photo, courtesy Frank Thomson Collection.

are Sam McCloud, Thomas Dasby, Samuel King Charley Shirk, William Haight, Harley North, Frank Churcher, Foreman; Call Smith, Fred Bateman, Samuel Morgan, Harry Whitehead, Charles Hawkins, Richard Griffith, Thomas Doubbie, Morgan Smith, M.L. Hicks, J.P. Smith and George Mclean.

That was the year Joe Watt was the Fire Captain and members of the department wore new caps and shirts described in the Jan. 7 Mountain Mail as "stylish."

Research done recently by Gray reveals that one of Salida's first major fires was Mar. 17, 1883 about 11 p.m. when a blaze broke out on the second floor of the Railroad Hotel. Firemen arrived and had the blaze under control within 15 minutes and the \$30,000 building sustained only about \$3,000 damage.

Gray said the famous Salida roun-dhouse fire, discovered on Sunday, Dec.

11, 1892, started when a newly painted locomotive caught ablaze. When the fire was finally controlled, damage was estimated at \$400,000.

In her book, Miss Pasquale reported firemen were called to the hospital April 14, 1899 when a fire started in the attic. Patients were evacuated to near by homes and some equipment was saved.

When firemen got the hose hooked up, they discovered it was too short and by the time a second was hooked up, the roof and third floor were destroyed, and the fire burned itself out.

Somewhat more recently, the Aug.

12, 1910 Mountain Mail recorded that at 3:30 a.m. the High School burned "beyond resurrection" when a blaze of unknown origin consumed the building. Before dawn, Buena Vista and Poncha Springs fire departments aided in final control of the place, and damage was estimated at \$250,000.

Today thanks to brick buildings, mandated years ago by city council to replace burned wooden structures in the downtown area, and in part because of fire resistant materials and the better equipped, better trained fire department, costly fires such as those of years ago will hopefully be a thing of the past.

Field Day at Salida



1980
TIM, wes Gary, Fred, Jim, Joe,

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1980



BLAZE HITS HI-LANDER — Fire chief Jim Gray and fireman Fred Smith extinguish a mattress from Room 38 of the Hi-Lander Motel in Salida Friday night. Local authorities are not sure what started the fire which caused about \$1500 in damages, but the Salida Fire

Department has sent ashes from the bedding and headboard to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to determine if the fire was set. The room was rented to Scott MacKinnon, 24, who was fired Friday as cook of the Lamplighter, the adjoining restaurant.

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amount of \$25,000.

Paraplegic escapes fire

By DICK DIXON

SALIDA (C-SJ) — Although he had to wheel himself past the source of the blaze, paraplegic Peter Young of Salida, managed to escape the fire which destroyed the mobile home on County Road 108 on Wednesday.

Young was in a bedroom at the rear of the home on County Road 108 when he noticed smoke. He climbed into his wheel chair, rolled passed the bathroom, where firemen said the fire apparently started in the hot water heater, and called his sister, Sue Kaess.

Young said only that the trailer was on fire and he was leaving. He didn't take time to hang up.

Mrs. Kaess called firemen, who responded with three trucks and 10 men. Fire Chief Jim Gray said the mobile home was fully afire when equipment arrived.

"Flames were coming out of most of the windows, and one side of the trailer had broken open by the time we got there. It was hot and really spread fast," he said.

Young said all he saved from the home, owned by George Pallaoro, was "My wheelchair, my dog and my car." Gray said the mobile home is a total loss and estimated value at \$7,500.

The victim, who has been confined to a wheelchair for almost half his life, lived alone in the mobile home. He was about 17 when he broke his neck in a dive into a swimming pool in Texas.

Firemen said heat from the fire was so intense that they couldn't enter the building, although they tried twice. They said items such as the television in the living room simply melted, although there was little fire at that end of the mobile home.



CHIMNEY FIRE — Salida firemen were called to fight a chimney fire at the home of Gregg Thomas at 716 G St. about 1 p.m. yesterday. The fire resulted from a creosote build-up in a wood stove, but there was no property damage.

Freeman sues to get pension

by SUSAN NELSON

Former Fire Chief Robert Freeman, who was fired by the city of Salida last year, is suing the city pension board and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District for \$25,000, charging he was unfairly denied a pension when his nervous disabilities resulted from his employment as a city fireman.

Freeman, who was fired last year on charges of rifling city files and for "an inability to get along with the public and fellow firemen," received an out-of-court settlement from the city in February. Freeman had charged that James Gray was unfairly selected over him as fire chief, and that the city had wrongfully fired him.

Now, Freeman and his attorney, Carl Feldhamer of Buena Vista, have filed suit against Mayor Ed Toubert, Fire Chief James E. Gray, Councilman William Cook and Firemen Jerry Henderson and Fred Smith, who comprise the pension board.

Freeman applied to the board for a disability pension on grounds of "mental disability incurred while employed as a fireman for Salida." Court records show the board met Nov. 11 and decided to deny pension to Freeman.

Freeman, now unemployed, said he was discharged from his duties as a fireman for Salida because he had a nervous condition which made him unfit to continue em-

ployment as a fireman for Salida. Apparently the board ordered a medical examination before making a decision. Freeman went to Dr. C. Stephen Bonney, M.D., of Pueblo, whose diagnostic impression was that he had "anxiety neurosis." Freeman told the doctor he had been terminated from his employment as a fireman because he had a nervous condition and that he was "taken advantage of, picked on, and teased for five years."

He told the doctor he became anxious while employed by the city because he had to cope with "substandard equipment and poorly trained personnel."

The doctor reported Freeman "would be a danger to himself as well as to others in an emergency situation."

Also, Psychiatrist Lawrence E. Austin saw Freeman on two occasions, and in his written report said Freeman suffered from anxiety neurosis associated with fighting fires in the Salida area, adding "Freeman is a potential danger to himself and others as a fireman... and therefore permanently disabled secondary to his neurosis from continuing as a fireman."

Court records show the pension board offered no opposition to the medical findings, but still denied pension to Freeman.

Freeman and his attorney say the board was "arbitrary and capricious" in denying the pension and Freeman asks for the issuance of a citation to the board to show cause why a disability pension shouldn't be granted.

The suit reads "the actions of the individual defendants were outrageous, thereby causing emotional and mental damage to the plaintiff in the amount of \$25,000."

It also charges "that the defendants individually conspired to deprive the plaintiff of his civil rights in that they made a determination in closed 'executive session' to conspire to deprive the plaintiff of his pension... causing damage to the plaintiff in the amount of \$25,000."

Fire destroys quadriplegic's trailer

Salida Firemen raced to a fire on Christmas Eve when they were told that a quadriplegic in a wheelchair was inside the burning trailer.

Peter Young III, 34, got out of the trailer just in time, but the trailer, valued at \$7500 was destroyed.

The trailer was owned by George Paliaoro, located at the Salida Sand and Gravel property on CR 107 south of Salida. Young was allowed to live in the trailer for serving as watchman at the property.

"I had just gotten out of the shower," Young said, "and I was getting into bed to get dressed, when I thought I smelled something burning. Then, I saw smoke coming into my room."

Young tried to call his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Young of Salida, but there was no answer. He called his niece, Sandy Kaess, who relayed the alarm to the fire department at 1:25 p.m.

"By this time," Young said, "the smoke was really coming into the room. I got in my wheelchair and went down the hall, but I could hardly see through the smoke there."

"I opened the back door, and then put a jacket on, because I was still stark naked at the time, and went out and got in my car, started it and moved it. As I left the trailer,

the windows were breaking out."

Young and Gray agree the fire probably started in the hot water heater next to the bedroom and bathroom at the west end of the trailer.

Though the fire was concentrated in this part of the trailer, the entire structure received heavy smoke and heat damage. A TV set at the east end was warped.

Firemen put on air masks and tried twice to enter the trailer, but the heat was too severe. It took four regular firemen, six volunteers and three trucks to put out the fire in about 20 minutes.

Young has been paralyzed since he broke his neck, diving into a lake in Weatherford, Texas when he was 17. All he was able to save from the burning trailer was his wheelchair, his car, one jacket and his dog, Fred.

Though the trailer was insured, Young's personal possessions were not. Young receives monthly Social Security payments, but is paying off a student loan. He is now living with his parents.

"I have to look at this as just a part of life," Young said today. "The positive thing about it is that I wasn't hurt. If I had been asleep or something, I could have been killed, because the whole trailer was gutted in about 30

minutes."

A fund in Young's name has been established at the First National Bank of

Salida. Initial donations to the fund, totaling \$175, were collected at a tri-church Christmas Eve service.



BLACK CHRISTMAS--The trailer house in which Peter Young III lived on CR 107 south of Salida was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve. Young is a quadriplegic, and his burned Christmas tree remains outside the trailer as a tragic symbol.



