

(1974)

Alert Firemen Helps Citizens Rest Better

By JETT KNIGHT
Sentinel Star Staff

WINTER PARK — A phone rings and a dozen men scramble to hear someone who might be calling for help.

A dispatcher gives the signal and on go heavy waterproof coats, rubber boots and helmets with face shields.

A SIREN is sounded and ladder and pumper trucks and a rescue vehicle are on the way in a matter of minutes.

This scene is repeated several times a day at the Winter Park Fire Department. Thirty-nine paid firemen staff the two stations. They are complemented by 15 volunteers.

The main station is located on Lyman Avenue behind the city hall. Station Two is located in east Winter Park on Lakemont Avenue near Winter Park Memorial Hospital.

BOTH FACILITIES have sleeping quarters for the men because one shift lasts 24 hours. Between shifts the men are off 48 hours, although they are on standby call in case a major emergency arises.

The main station is manned by a crew of eight. This does not include the administrative staff. Station Two has three men on duty. When there is a call for the main station to respond, Station Two will effect a backup at Station One.

The members of the fire department have been extensively trained in every aspect of fire fighting and first aid.

The training includes familiarization with all equipment in the department; fire behavior which encompasses principles and chemistry of a fire; proper ventilation for all situations they may encounter; forcible entry in the event of a locked door or window or in some cases opening roofs or floors.

EMERGENCY driving is also an important part of their training. "A

AT THE completion of the course the men are registered with the state as certified EMT personnel. They receive a certificate and identification card which must be carried with them at all times. Examinations are given every three years for renewal of certification.

"We want to remain a fire department but we believe a man should be able to do every job," Etherson said of E.M.T.

The rescue unit which is manned by EMT trained firemen carries a large variety of equipment which includes ropes, saws and jacks in addition to first aid equipment. There is even a high-powered saw that will cut through cement and steel.

Although the rescue unit does not transport an injured or sick person they are trained and equipped to handle almost all situations until an ambulance arrives. Rescue has handled emergencies from broken arms to heart attacks to childbirth.

ASKED WHAT one thinks about being a fire fighter. Sid Ballou said "You are under stress all the time. At any minute there might be an emergency. The whole time you're rolling you are thinking about the different equipment you might need. The heavy traffic, the nearest fire hydrant and most of all what you will find at the scene."

Richard Criswell said, "I really enjoy being a fireman. There is a feeling of helping other people and that's what I like to do."

"I feel that being a fireman is an interesting job," Mike Molthrop said. "It's never the same thing twice. I've been a fireman for four years and I consider it a challenging job."

The firemen also spoke highly of Fire Chief Robert Finlayson who has been under fire recently by the city administration.

cases opening doors or floors.

EMERGENCY driving is also an important part of their training. "A red light and siren doesn't guarantee that we're not going to get knocked off," Training Officer Robert Etherson said.

Constant training plays an important part in the lives of the firemen. Several times each month the men practice simulated fire emergencies under the direction of Etherson. It is his job to see that the men are always informed of the latest fire fighting techniques.

THIRTY-FOUR of the men staffing the two stations have received Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and have completed the 82 hour course. "The EMT course is over and above the standard first aid that is required for firemen by the state," Etherson said.

Twenty-four of the 34 EMT trained firemen completed the course which was taught at Station One. Steve Harmon, attached to Orange County's Rescue One helicopter, was the instructor.

Most of the time the men attended on their days off. According to the men the time spent in classes was for the benefit of the community to provide better and more efficient service.

Fire Chief Robert Finlayson who has been under fire recently by the city administration.

MEMBERS OF the fire department agree a need for an additional station on the west side of the city is critical. There are many business and residential areas which stand the chance of being cut off from fire fighting facilities by a train passing through Winter Park at the time of an alarm on the west side. The railroad tracks run along the west side of Station One.

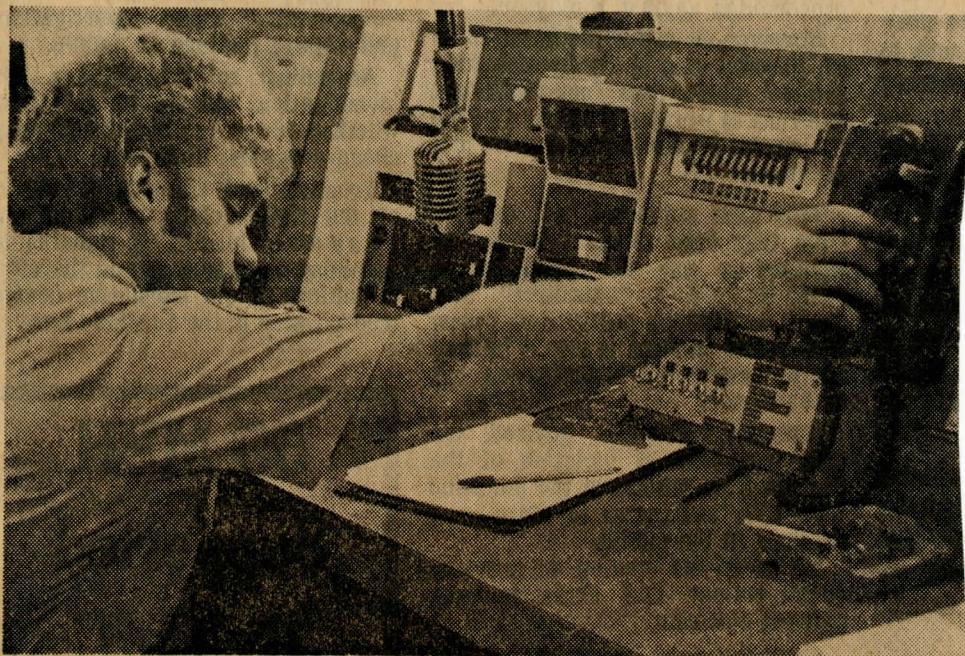
"If people want to put a value on lives and equipment then they should consider the need for an additional station on the west side," Richard Terebo said. "We need facilities for training grounds, smoke tower and driving course. There is room for all this across from the Winter Park Mall," he added.

"The city doesn't understand the need for another station," Tim Guy said. "I think we need more firemen and room for training another larger station could provide."

In a recent "Man On The Street" type survey residents were asked if they felt there is adequate fire protection in Winter Park. All of those interviewed agreed they "were in safe hands with the Winter Park Fire Department."

W.P. Sentinel

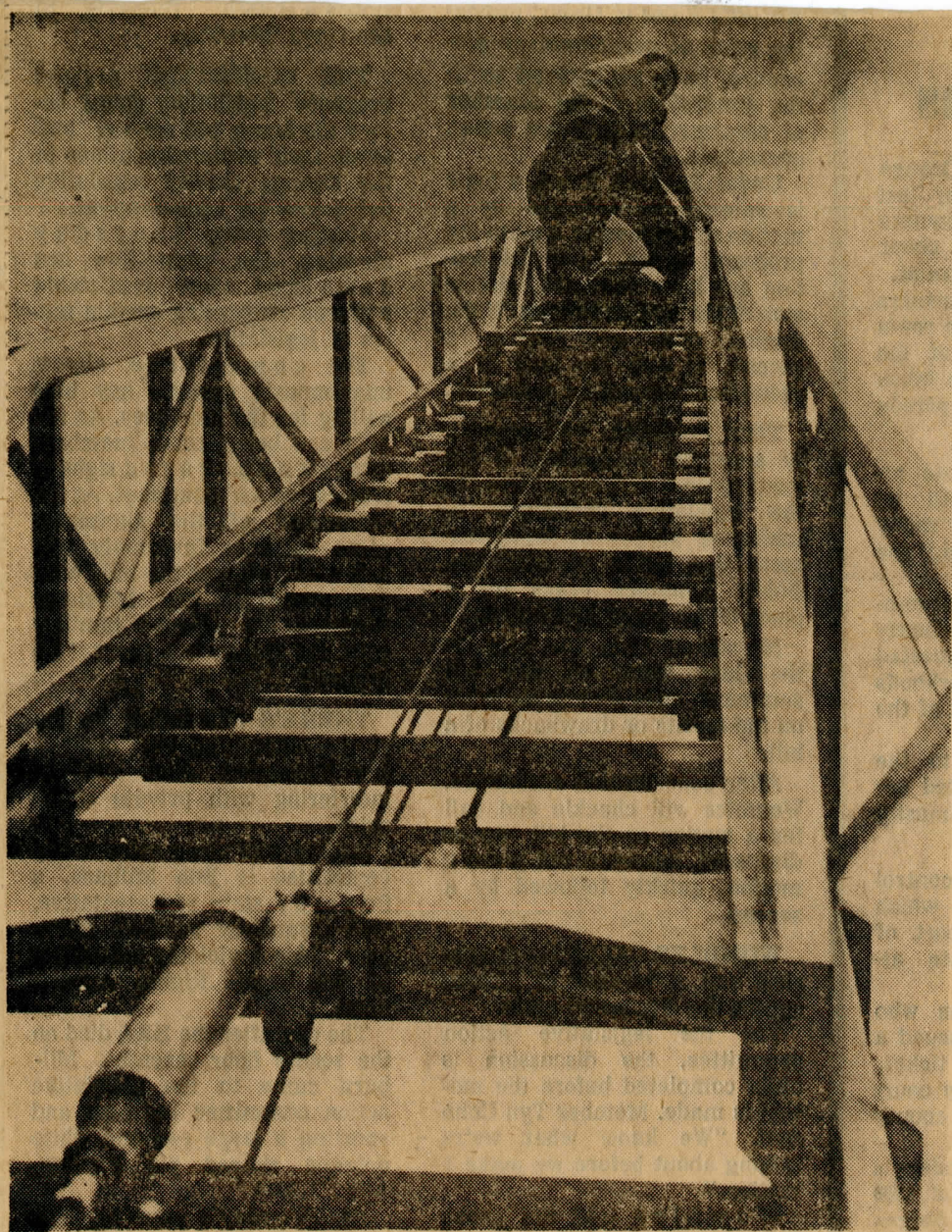
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HEART OF FIRE DEPARTMENT
... Richard Criswell reaches for receiver as red phone rings, indicating possible emergency



CHOW TIME
... Pancakes, eggs and ham keep these firemen in shape for anything;
John Kelleher serves Tim Guy, left, and Dick Criswell



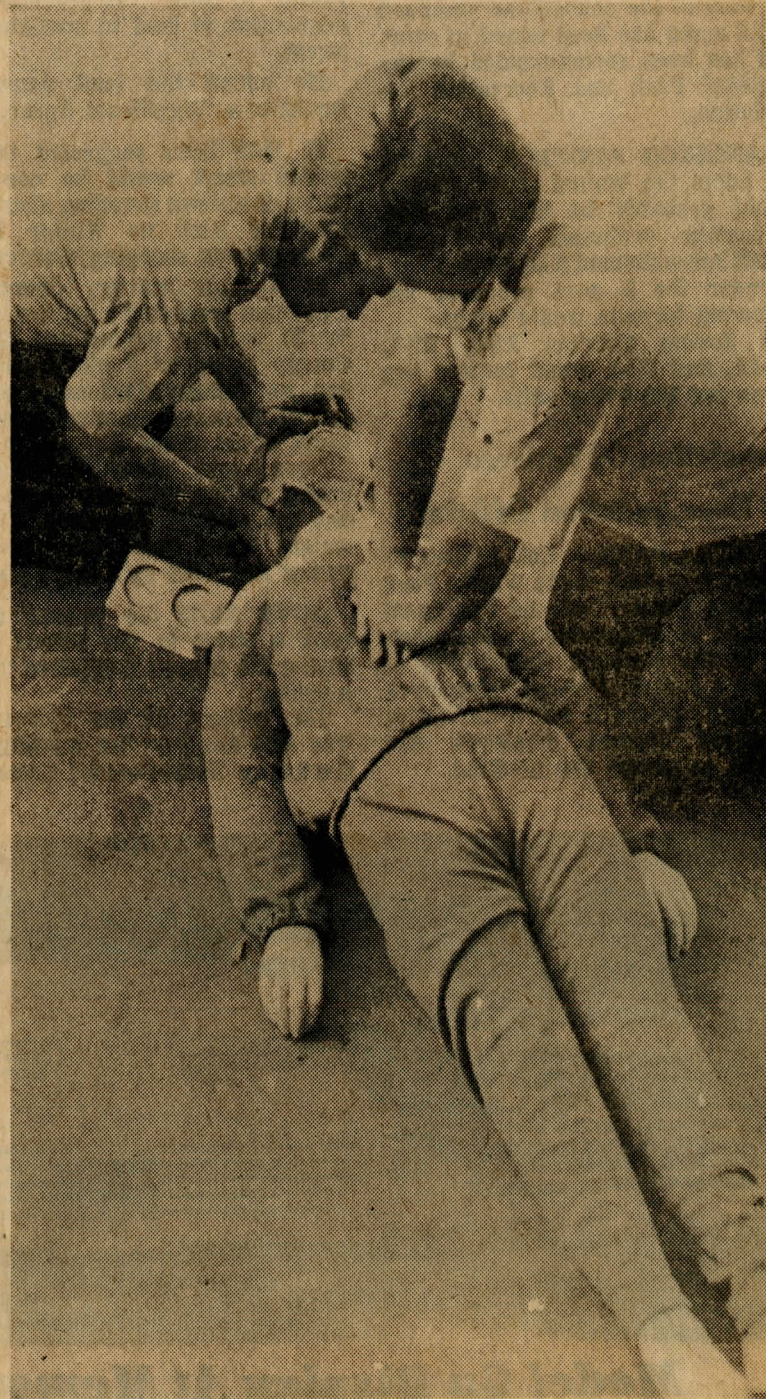
TOP OF THE LADDER

... This picture of fireman Sid Ballou, was taken half way up 65 foot ladder extension



IN ACTION

... This was a typical scene for fire fighters



RESUSCITATION

... Inflated life-like figure is used by E. M. T. personnel in training program

Friday, May 10, 1974

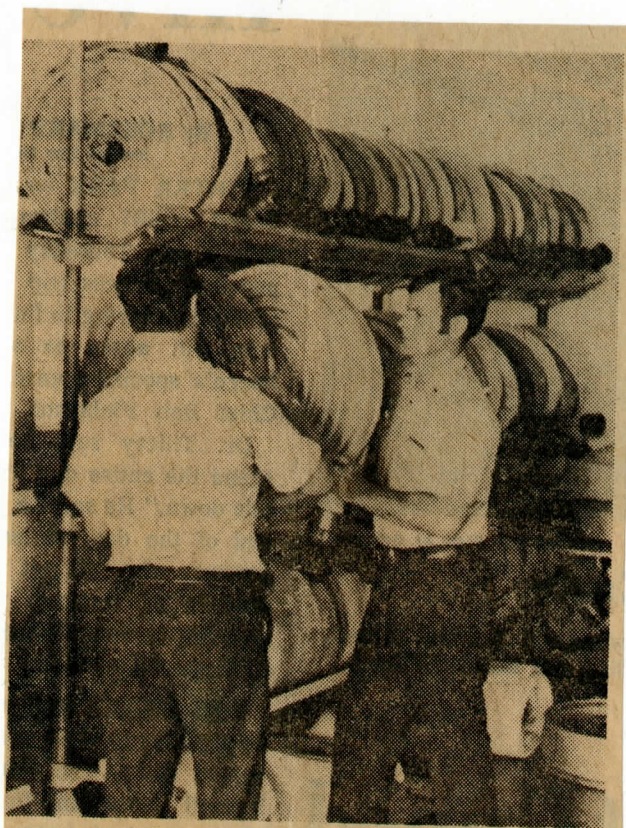
Sentinel Star
Orlando, Florida

Winter Park Edition



STATION ONE

... Main station located on Lyman Avenue is symbol of help to community



HOSES ROLLED AND READY

.. Firemen Tim Guy, left, and John Kelleher roll hoses after weekly inspection



A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING

... Tim Guy hangs up heavy fire coat after cleaning