

# New Firemen To Join Department

Winter Park officials next month will swear in nine new firemen to assist in manning a new fire department substation presently under construction on Lakemont Avenue.

The new men will report for duty about March 5 and will begin a period of training before the city moves part of its operations to the new facility which is expected to be complet-

ed by late March or early April.

**THE NINE** new firemen were picked from a field of about 30 applicants for the \$6,900-a-year jobs.

City officials, in preparing their annual budget last November, planned for an expenditure of approximately \$45,000 to put the new men on the job for the next eight months of

the current fiscal year.

In addition, the new fire station is expected to cost the city slightly more than \$62,000.

**EMPLOYMENT OF** the three Negro firemen on the staff represents the first successful attempt to integrate the fire department. City officials during the past several years have carried on a recruiting cam-

paign to find qualified Negroes to fill jobs in the department.

Previously, a number of Negro applicants were disqualified due to poor application scores and other factors.

However, a recent advertising campaign sponsored by the city to interest qualified Negroes produced a number of applicants including the three new men.

W. P. Herald, August, 1972

## August

Fire Chief Robert S. Bair died the last day of this month. He had headed the Fire Department for over 15 years. He was a charter member and past president of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, the Orange County Fire Chiefs Association and a member of the International Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Bair welded the Winter Park Fire Department into one of the finest in the nation. He was loved and respected by everyone who knew him.