

W. P. Sun
June 23, 1955

Chief Erwin Aids In Writing Fire Text

Fire Chief Erwin has returned from Ocala where he attended a four-state conference on training for fire chiefs.

Sponsored by the State Fire College in Ocala, fire chiefs from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Oklahoma collaborated on the outline of a textbook on training fire department officials.

Chief Erwin pointed out that although there is a set of 10 textbooks on the training of rookies, and another containing five volumes on training company officers, there is nothing written to direct the training of men who expect to become chiefs and assistant chiefs.

The new set of six books will be written by Professor W. Fred Heisler of the A and M College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

W. P. Sun
July 21, 1955

Fire Dept. Hassel Continues—Edwin Suspends Q. Smith

Fire Chief Allen Erwin suspended Assistant Chief Quincy Smith this week to bring to a new boil the trouble in the Winter Park Fire Department.

City Manager Clark Maxwell has ordered the Civil Service Board to meet immediately and get to the bottom of the fire department trouble. He was expected to give city commissioners a full report on the matter at their scheduled meeting last night.

Dissension in the department had been thought cleared up by disciplinary action last month, but flared anew with Smith's suspension by the chief. Smith was originally responsible for getting Chief Erwin his job, and even stepped down in rank to assistant chief in order to make way for Erwin.

No date had been set for a Civil Service Board meeting at press time, although Maxwell has requested hearings to clear up the mess "at the earliest possible moment".

W. P. Sun
July 7, 1955

Three Firemen Resign From Fire Department

Grievances between members of the fire department and Chief Allen Erwin resulted in resignation of three men last week, and demoting of Capt. Edwin R. Ballard and Capt. William C. Rice to engineers, the next lower classification, as well as a reduction in pay for all members including the chief, for a 90-day period.

The Civil Service Board took the action after closed hearings on a petition presented and signed by each member of the fire department, according to the report.

After investigation, the Civil Service Board passed a resolution stating that all members of the department showed a lack of cooperation and insubordination to the department head. The resolution also said the chief was derelict in not bringing such grievances to the attention of the board.

The three firemen who submitted resignations are James W. Osteen, Carl Ballard and A. H. Hopcraft. The two latter have been placed on the eligibility list of the Orlando Fire Department, and Osteen will rejoin the Air Force.

No announcement has been made as to replacements at press time, although City Manager Maxwell has indicated the positions would be filled by July 15.

W. P. Sun
July 14, 1955

Fire Department Adds Three Men

The Winter Park Fire Department's force is back to normal this week with three replacements following recent resignations of three firemen, James O'Steen, C. T. Ballard and A. H. Hopcraft.

Added to the staff were Charles Reich, James Whitaker and Richard Williams, subject to the regular civil service examinations.

Reich has been a member of the Winter Park volunteer corps for the past several months, and was formerly a member of the volunteer hose and rescue squad at Annapolis, Maryland.

Whitaker comes to the department from Maitland where he was a member of the volunteer department for three years.

Richard Williams is a native of Winter Park, and was graduated from Winter Park High School in 1948. He attended Rollins College and then joined the Air Force, serving four years, including photo intelligence work in Korea. He was released in March and returned to complete the spring term at Rollins. His home is at 131 West Canton Avenue.

A Civil Service Board examination to set up an eligibility list for the fire department is scheduled for July 23.

W. P. Sun
July 28, 1955

Smith Reinstated Cleared Of Charges

Fire Chief Allen Erwin yesterday reinstated Quincy Smith, assistant fire chief, and cleared him of all charges which had been placed against him before the civil service board, according to an announcement by City Manager Clark Maxwell.

Mr. Smith was suspended by Erwin about 10 days ago.

Mr. Maxwell said all the trouble in the fire department had been cleared up by Erwin's action.

The Civil Service Board gave examinations last Saturday for positions open on the police and fire department, and results will be announced in next week's paper.