

## Orville Anderson Reinstated

# Charges Dismissed Against Fireman

By JANE HEALY

Sentinel Star Staff

WINTER PARK — Orville Anderson has been reinstated in the Winter Park Fire Department after extortion charges were dismissed against him for the second time in six weeks by Circuit Court.

Anderson, 29, had been suspended Dec. 5 by Fire Chief Robert Finlayson after the fireman was rearrested with former Winter Springs policeman Scott Kenneth, 27.

ANDERSON will receive full pay for the post he was suspended from, according to Finlayson.

Finlayson, who has reiterated his faith in Anderson throughout the ordeal, said Anderson is an "impeccable employee."

"He is an excellent worker and seems to be well thought of even in the ambulance service," Finlayson said.

ANDERSON and Kenneth had been charged with trying to force a rival ambulance firm in Seminole County out of business.

Judge Tom Waddell ruled last week, however, at a pre-trial hearing in Sanford that State Atty. Abbott Herring's office failed to present sufficient evidence to bring the pair to trial.

The trial was to have begun Monday.

**SIMILAR CHARGES** against the two were dismissed by judge Volie Williams Nov. 2, also for lack of evidence.

Following those charges Anderson was also suspended and then reinstated after they were dropped. He also received his back pay then.

Kenneth and Anderson are principals of Seminole Ambulance Co., granted a Seminole County occupational license Oct. 15 but not yet franchised by the county.

**CHARGES WERE** filed against them on direct information provided to the state attorney's office by Physicians and Surgeons Ambulance Service.

Meanwhile, Anderson filed suit last Thursday against Physicians and surgeons, seeking 18 weeks back pay or 18 shares of stock dating from July 7, when he worked for the company.

Anderson, who has been with the Winter Park department, more than a year, was recently made a permanent fireman by the local civil service board, taking him off his probationary status.

ANDERSON'S and Kenneth's first arrest came Sept. 28 when they were accused of verbally threatening the life and property of Robert Turney, owner of Physicians and Surgeons. They pleaded innocent.

The second set of charges accused the two of threatening Turney and Charles Cave, manager, in an attempt to force the service out of

business.

Although Finlayson had said he was against the suspension, he temporarily suspended Anderson "to keep peace in the city."

"**THERE IS** no doubt in my mind he will be cleared," Finlayson had said. "But I believe it is in the best interest of the city to suspend him if he is charged."

Before his first suspension, Anderson had remained in the department almost a month because of a dispute between Finlayson, City Manager Frank Wooten and the Civil Service Board.

The controversy centered around

a "directive" by Wooten for Finlayson to suspend Anderson and the Civil Service Board to confirm it.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE** Board balked at the confirmation, however, stating it wanted legal clarification on Wooten's power to "direct" the board.

Wooten said later he had not meant the word "direct" as an order, but as a request.

City Atty. Dick Trismen told the board it either could handle the matter back to Finlayson for possible suspension or investigate the matter themselves either confirming the suspension or laying it aside.