

... result in unhappy situations

(Continued from page 10)

assigns top priority to the former. "We cannot stop the railroads from carrying such cargo. The alternative of transporting it by trucks would be even more dangerous in view of a large number of vehicles being on the road," Landua said. Both fire chiefs recommend that trains be moved through residential areas at a drastically reduced speed to prevent the "telescoping" and rupturing of freight cars containing dangerous cargo. Such telescoping takes place when a sudden failure of the track or a rapid braking action occurs at a high speed. Additionally, they feel that train crews should be required to promptly identify derailed cars with toxic or flammable cargo so that protective measures could begin without any delay. The recent discussions between the representatives of the railroads and community officials (The Eagle, Feb. 28, and March 1-3) indicate that the problem can be resolved successfully.

Comments of the precinct commissioners reflect the prevailing attitude of their constituents:

Bill Cooley, Precinct 1, would like to continue to rely on the service and fire protection provided by the CSFD instead of creating a local fire department because of high cost of the equipment and the inability to insure its maintenance.

Walter Wilcox said that the communities of Edge, Tabor and Kurten have recently adopted a charter calling for a fire unit consisting of two pumps to control small fires because "they are tired of paying for the assists by BFD, which occasionally are too late to do any good."

The inhabitants of Precinct 4 are not interested in an independent fire department," said W. A. Stasny, precinct's commissioner. Stasny attributes approximately 30 percent of all fires in his precinct to the railroads.

Commissioner H.L. "Bud" Carrell, Precinct 3, in cooperation with the residents of Steep Hollow, Harvey and Reliance, organized the Brazos Valley Voluntary Fire Department consisting of "two old Forestry Service trucks and a lot of enthusiasm." The BVVFD expects to control small fires, reducing the number of assists by the Bryan Fire Department.

"Whether the present system of fire and emergency protection for the rural areas can successfully be expanded depends upon the availability of funds," said Tom Brymer, an assistant to the city manager of Bryan.

The equipment of BFD consists of one heavy pumper, one booster truck and one aerial ladder assigned to the Central Station on North Bryan Street. An additional heavy truck, equipped with a telescope-type ladder-nozzle platform, and a medium truck are located at Station 2, on Cavitt Street. Mid-Tex Ambulance Service is also available at that location on a standby basis. Three additional fire trucks and three sites for the future fire stations, were authorized by the Bryan voters during the last referendum.

The new stations will be located as follows: Site 3, on Briarcrest Drive, across from the Brazos County Park; Site 4, near Bonham School on Wilkes Drive; and Site 5, at the intersection of Shiloh Avenue and West Bypass (FM 2818).

The current manning of BFD includes 53 positions with an annual salary budget of \$705,723.

The equipment of CSFD consists of four pumps and one booster. Two fully equipped ambulances, manned by certified medical technicians are available on a standby basis. At present, 21 persons are assigned to CSFD.

Both departments appear well equipped to provide adequate protection for their cities. Although some of the equipment is of older vintage, the obvious dedication of the crews more than compensates for the shortcomings resulting from monetary limitations.

Lt. Bernie Phipps summed up the attitude of local firemen well.

Assists by Bryan and College Station Fire Departments to Brazos County

DATE	TYPE OF EMERGENCY								TOTAL ASSIST	TOTAL BY PRECINCT				TOTAL CHARGE TO BRAZOS COUNTY
	GRASS BRUSH FIRES	STRUCTURE FIRES	MOTOR VEHICLE FIRES	MOBILE HOME FIRES	CAR WRECK (10-50)	TRASH FIRES	FALSE ALARM	MISCELLANEOUS		1	2	3	4	
1 JAN 77 to 31 DEC 77														
BRYAN F.D.	67	18	13	2	8	4	18	4*	134	—	45	30	59	25,650.00
COLLEGE STATION F.D.	84	11	14	2	22	1	1	4**	139	123	4	4	8	28,592.45

*Included 2 electric fires, 1 gasoline fire and 1 acid spill.
**Included 2 stand-by for auto races, 1 hydrant leak and 1 grain elevator fire.

Phipps said that the public occasionally tends to forget the fact that in spite of relatively low salaries, all firemen "put their lives on the line when they respond to emergency situations."

Fire Chief VanHuss said the public should reciprocate firemen's dedication by becoming more responsive to public announcements and

literature promoting fire safety. In doing this, the public would make a fireman's job that much easier to perform.

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'Shark' discovered at power plant

DETROIT — Officials at Detroit Edison Co. believe the 47-inch, 20-pound fish with sharp teeth found on a filter screen at one of their power plants is a shark.

What they can't figure out is how it turned up in the Detroit River, at least 1,000 miles from the nearest ocean.

"Our only guess is that somebody must have tossed it in the river upstream," company spokesman John Harkness said Tuesday. "We really have no idea."

A Detroit Edison chemical engineer discovered the dead fish Monday on a screen used to

separate debris from water that flows through the company's power plant in suburban Trenton.

"People who have seen sharks seem to think this is one," said Harkness. "I never heard of sharks in fresh water, so somebody must have imported the thing."

Of the 250 species of sharks, most are found in warm sea waters. However, some fresh water species may enter large rivers; one particularly ferocious species is known to inhabit fresh water Lake Nicaragua in South America.

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