



FULL STABLE—Jack Macklin of the Phil Macklin company presents the keys for two new taxi cabs to Ewel McCreary of the Minch cab company. The two new cars were put into immediate service with the 1962 model on the left.—(Photo by MacLean)

A Statement From Don Gage

To The Voters Of Decatur:



Donald F. Gage

I would like to serve a second term as your Mayor. This is partly selfish -- since I have enjoyed being your Mayor. However, I do believe that my experience as the Mayor of our City for the past four years has given me the benefit of experience to better serve you.

I believe that many needed improvements have been made during the past four years -- new streets, new sewers, new water lines, new fire trucks, new police station, street lights, and new equipment.

This has been accomplished through the co-operation of all the employees, department heads, and elected officials, and I wish to publicly thank all of them for their help and co-operation.

I am very proud that the money from the sale of the light plant has not been spent on a "Spending - Spree" -- there remains almost \$1,200,000.00 of YOUR money on hand invested in U. S. Government Bonds, which is bringing you interest of around 3 per cent each year.

As I said, I would like a second term to complete the projects for Decatur, and I request your vote.

I wish to thank you for letting me be your Mayor for the past four years.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Gage

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Junior Fire Marshal Program Next Week

Pupils in 4th grade elementary schools here will join with 4,500,000 boys and girls across the country to help combat the increasing toll of deaths and property damage in fires.

The campaign begins next week with the start of the year-long school junior fire marshal program and the annual observance of national fire prevention week (Oct. 6-12).

The objective of the junior fire marshal program is to help eliminate common causes of fires in homes. Boys and girls will inspect their homes for fire hazards with the help of parents. Special check lists are provided for them. When the pupils complete their home reports, they qualify as junior fire marshals.

Schools in this area are among more than 15,000 elementary schools across the country who are participating in the fire prevention and safety program, a national public service of the Hartford Insurance Group.

The junior fire marshal program is sponsored in local schools by Leland Smith Insurance Agency, Inc., with the co-operation of school officials and the fire department. The check list for the pupils' home report is carried in the current issue of the Junior Fire Marshal Magazine, distributed to the schools by L. E. "Joe" Rash of the Leland Smith Insurance Agency Inc. and Decatur fire chief, Cedric Fisher. The list covers the most frequent causes of home fires, including worn electrical connections, overloaded circuits, improperly stored flammable materials, unscreened fireplaces, defective heating systems, rubbish, and improper adult smoking habits.

"Last year there were more than 359,000 fires in dwellings in the nation," says Rash, "a total exceeding the number of fires in all other types of buildings put together. More than 11,800 people lost their lives and many more thousands were injured. Fire is the number one cause of accidental injury and death of children in homes."

"Most of these fires were caused by carelessness, neglect, or oversight. They could have been prevented by removing common hazards like the one the junior fire marshals are inspecting their homes for. That's why we feel that the school program is such an important part of fire prevention work."

Every family should make a home inspection regularly, according to Fisher. He emphasized one item on the junior fire marshal report that will help to save lives: planning in advance escape routes from every room in the house for every member of the family if a fire should break out.

The school children completing the home report and qualifying as junior fire marshals will receive an official badge and a plastic fire helmet from the Leland Smith Insurance Agency, Inc. The school which does the best job of completing junior fire marshal achievement reports will receive a merit award flag.

The junior fire marshal program is now in its 2nd year in the local schools. Through the program, the schools are provided with fire prevention and safety material, copies of the Junior Fire Marshal Magazine for each pupil, and teachers' guides, resources and study materials.

The school program is launched each year during national fire prevention week proclaimed by the president annually for the week that includes October 9 anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871.

Although the junior fire marshal program is dedicated to teaching youngsters fire prevention and safety, it has been expanded to include safety in all of its phases -- at home, at play, at school. In the current issue of the Junior Fire Marshal Magazine, for example, youngsters are shown how to choose the safest way to go from their homes to school. At Christmas, the emphasis is on fire hazards associated with the holiday season.

Since the program was initiated by the Hartford Insurance group in 1947, it has enlisted more than 35 million school children in the cause of fire prevention and safety.

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