

LETTER TO THE EDITORFIREMEN ON 24-HOUR SCHEDULE  
READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY

Editors, Cooperator:

May I register my disapproval of the name "Cooperator" as applied to the Greenbelt newspaper.

Although I realize that newspapers sometimes have such names, and that co-operation is the stressed ideal for Greenbelt, still I believe Cooperator is an ill-advised name for any newspaper and particularly for ours.

For there is a tendency to associate Greenbelt with regimentation and paternalism. The public thinks of its people as flooded with rules and regulations and goody-goody propaganda.

Naming our newspaper "Cooperator" augments that idea. The title sounds preachy; syrupy. It suggests the "trade journal" or "house organ", published with a definite slant, and for the primary purpose of winning converts or of laying on the propagandaish-sugarcoating.

Our newspaper should, and I believe it intends to, devote itself to relaying the news, with, perhaps, some literary contributions. Editorials even, should be concerned chiefly with calling our attention to conditions deserving attention. Moralizing should be kept to a minimum.

At any rate, I strongly feel that the present name does not express the correct tone for the newspaper, so I respectfully ask for a reconsideration.

As a suggestion I nominate an alternative: "The Greenbelt Town Crier".

December 13, 1937

(sgd) Howard C. Custer  
45R Ridge Road.

The Editors of the Cooperator do appreciate such suggestions as the above, but would prefer to hear from a large number of readers who may have their own ideas about what name this newspaper should bear. Now for "crying out loud" let's find out whether the name COOPERATOR suits you or not -- put your suggestion on a postcard.

Use all the electricity and water you require -- but waste neither the one nor the other.

Yes, folks, we have a Fire Engine and have had one since July, 1936, but until last Friday it was located in the Hughes House at Branchville and Edmonston Roads.

Now it occupies its own home in our community center where two regular Firemen, Messrs. H.J. McNamee and N.F. Rushe, each serve daily on an 8-hour watch.

A third Fireman serves the last 8-hour watch to complete the 24-hour schedule that is maintained. The third Fireman is selected daily from the Guards policing Greenbelt.

In case of fire all of these Guards are to serve with the regular firemen.

These guards are: Messrs. M. Thomson, O.L. Schooley, L.L. Jenkins, E.O. Middleton, B.W. Toombs, C.W. McNamee, C.H. Reed, H.L. Robertson, M.P. Winslow and L. Gundling.

The Engine consists of a Ford Chassis with Howe Manufacturing apparatus mounted on it. The apparatus includes a 500 gallon-per-minute pump driven by the Ford engine; 4 booster pumps that draw from a 200-gallon reserve tank mounted on the chassis and to be used when not near a source of water supply; 2 chemical extinguishers; 3 - 25 foot ladders; 950 feet of 2½ inch hose; 450 feet of 1½ inch hose; 1 grappling hook; 2 - 12 foot lengths of suction pipe to the end of which a strainer may be attached when drawing water from a lake or similar supply; and 13 fire axes. With all this there are no fire hats, so what is the fun of being a Fireman in Greenbelt.

R.P.

NEWSPAPER CLUB TO MEET

The Journalistic Club will meet in the Council Room, Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 8.00 p.m. The Club will welcome to its membership all those residents who would like to work on The Cooperator. It is not necessary to be a writer.

We need typists, proof-readers, stencil cutters, news reporters, staplers and mimeograph operator assistants.

The work your heart does in one day would lift a 150-lb. man twice as high as the Woolworth Building. (No wonder you're tired!)