

Meet Your Firefighter

Veteran firefighter appreciates attitude

By Alicia Monroe
Staff Writer

What Jim Nelms likes best about his job is the attitude of the public.

"They appreciate you more than any other job I know of," Nelms said. "You're just doing your job and they think you're doing a lot more than you really have to. This gives you a good feeling and makes you want to do it even better."

Nelms is an 18-year veteran of the fire department in Yukon where he lives with his wife Sandy. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.

The firefighter/fire truck driver said he'd always had an interest in fighting fires because it seemed so rewarding.

He said he was working at a department store in Oklahoma City when he and his wife bought a house in the 800 block of Poplar next-door to the fire chief at that time, Frank Woods. His former neighbor evoked more interest and led him to his lifelong career.

Nelms said the call that stands out in his mind the most summoned him to the police station where a woman was in labor in a pick-up truck in the parking lot.

"She and her husband didn't make it to the hospital, so they pulled over at the police station and they called us," he said as he looked up over the rim of his bifocals. "We wound up delivering the baby in the back of the pick-up."

Nelms said the most important job a firefighter does is to be there when he's called.

"We like to say we're the only 24-hour, three-minute service around," he said as he laughed and the wrinkles on either side of his mouth danced in sync with one another. "We still make house calls."



Jim Nelms