

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1931

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 2 January 1931, page 19

FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Fire Chief Explains Danger

"Larrikins who deliberately give false fire alarms don't realise the possible consequences of their actions," the Chief Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. Dickie) said last night, speaking of the six malicious false alarms that were sounded in the city and suburbs on New Year's Eve. "Two persons were killed and four firemen were injured in one accident in Adelaide following a deliberate false alarm which the brigade answered." False alarmists did not realise the danger of persons being run over by the fire appliances or the risk of damage to unprotected property. "They are all cowards, and mostly larrikins," he said. The penalty of £5 for the first offence and six months' imprisonment for the second was inadequate.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Monday 5 January 1931, page 3

Workshop Burned. — Fire on Saturday night destroyed the contents of the bedroom, kitchen, and workshop at premises occupied by Mr. H. W. J. Breynard, cycle repairer, of Wakefield street. The Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze, which also damaged a quantity of stock.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 13 January 1931, page 23

YESTERDAY IN THE COURTS

FIRE IN BEDROOM

Man For Trial On Unusual Charge

Robert Smith was charged before Mr. Sabine, P.M., in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, with having on December 30 set fire to a wardrobe in a house in Gilles street, "in circumstances that, if the house had thereby been set on fire, the offence would have amounted to a felony." Mr. J. P. Walsh prosecuted, and Mr. A. S. Blackburn appeared for Smith.

Henry Thomas Sayers, fire brigade officer, said a reel under his charge went to a house in Gilles street in the early morning of December 31. He found a bedroom alight, and the wardrobe and contents were burning fiercely. The source of the fire appeared to have been the wardrobe. Everything in the wardrobe was burned.

Reginald John Pelham said the house belonged to his father. He was claiming £4 damages as the result of the fire. Smith had borne a good character, and as far as he knew, had friendly feelings towards him and his father. Detective Correll said he questioned Smith, who said he had a quarrel with his wife. He had had a few drinks, and he set fire to clothes in the wardrobe.

Mr. Blackburn submitted there was no case to go to a jury, but the magistrate disagreed. Smith, who reserved his defence, pleaded not guilty, and was committed for trial.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 13 January 1931, page 7

CHILDREN TRAPPED BY FIRE

SHOP BURNT IN KING WILLIAM STREET

CONSTABLE CLIMBS VERANDAH TO RESCUE

Climbing the verandah post on to the balcony of a burning building in King William-street south last night, Constable H. S. Carter was able to bring two children to safety. The fire brigade checked the outbreak.

The fire started about 9 o'clock in Miss Davis's millinery shop, and before it was detected smoke and flames prevented the family, who live on the second story, from descending by the stairway. The two children, Joan and Patricia Davis, aged eight and five years respectively, and their grandmother, Mrs. Davis, rushed on to the balcony, and called for help. They attracted the attention of Constable Carter, who was on patrol duty nearby. He ran over to the building, and climbing up a verandah post, took the children and lowered them one by one into the arms of people below. By this time the fire brigade had arrived, and Mrs. Davis, who had pluckily remained with the constable while the children were being lowered was able to descend by a ladder which was erected quickly by the brigade. The front portion of the shop was well alight, but the brigade had the fire under control in quick time. The stock and fittings were considerably damaged by fire and water, and the adjoining shop of Turner's, Ltd., was also scorched by the flames.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 14 January 1931, page 8

KITCHEN ON FIRE

Owner Asleep on Premises

Shortly before 1 o'clock this morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the refreshment shop owned by Mr. T. Gallagher, at Rundle-street, east, city. On arrival they found that the kitchen at the rear of the premises was burning. The brigade quickly had the blaze under control before much damage was caused. The owner was asleep throughout the fire in a room above the shop.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 21 January 1931, page 10

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

FIRE IN WOODWORK PREMISES

The woodwork premises of Messrs. Marriot and Bailey, East-terrace, Thebarton, were damaged to the extent of £60 by fire early yesterday morning. The blaze, which destroyed a quantity of material and tools, was extinguished by the City Fire Brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 13 February 1931, page 16

SMALL FIRE IN CITY

A fire broke out among several casks of rubbish in the yard of the Postmaster-General's stores, on West-terrace shortly after 11.30 last night. A motor cyclist who was passing at the time noticed the flames, and notified the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The fire was soon extinguished.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Saturday 21 February 1931, page 10

HEDGE BURNT

About fifty yards of hedge behind Government House was destroyed by fire shortly before 1 p.m. yesterday. Dry grass was being burnt off inside the Government House yards, when the strong wind swept the fire towards the hedge. The fire brigade extinguished the blaze.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 24 February 1931, page 8

TAR CATCHES FIRE

Mr. Michael Watson was tarring the backyard of the premises of Mr. Ernest Smith of 28 Claxton street, Adelaide, shortly before 9 o'clock this morning when the tar ignited. A hessian

blind on the verandah caught fire. Mr Smith who was in bed, jumped out and pulled down the burning blind. His feet came in contact with the blazing tar and he was later admitted to Adelaide Hospital suffering from burns to hands and feet. The fire brigade extinguished the outbreak with a garden hose.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 25 February 1931, page 8

FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY

Funds for Free Kindergartens

ROTARY CLUB EFFORT

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Adelaide, a display of firefighting will be given at the head fire station in Wakefield street on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday next. Proceeds of the charges for admission will be devoted to the funds of the free kindergartens of South Australia. Mr F. W. Reid, B.Sc. (chairman of the Community Service Committee of clubs) stated today that Rotarians were supporting the display because it was in aid of a deserving charity and it afforded an opportunity for a thrilling and enjoyable entertainment at a price (1/ for adults: half-price for children) within the reach of all. The programme would represent all aspects of life at the fire brigade station. On the recreational side there would be step dancing, boxing, and wrestling. The serious side of a fireman's duties would be demonstrated by some exhilarating items, such as a leap from the top of a two-story building into a sheet held by men below, and a slide for life down a rescue line.

Uplifting Influence

"It is only by visiting the kindergarten centres that the true significance of what the movement is doing for poor children in the city and suburbs can be appreciated," said Mr. Reid. "Rotarians who have seen the schools in operation believe that the real value of the work lies, not so much in its relation to our educational system (although it plays a useful part in that regard) but rather in the brightening and uplifting influence it exerts upon the lives of children from poor homes "These mites (their ages range from two to five) are given a different outlook upon life. In an atmosphere of happiness, brightness, freedom, and orderliness they are taught habits of cleanliness, observation, and self-reliance which they would not otherwise acquire." One of the best testimonials to the work of free kindergartens was the support received from the parents of the children, stated Mr. Reid. Although in poor circumstances they contributed voluntarily according to their means. He had been told at one centre of a mother who was unable to give because her husband had been out of work for months.

Like Widow's Mite

When he obtained a few days' employment at the Royal Show last year she immediately brought along a contribution of 1/6. Although, like the widow's mite, this amount in itself was small, it spoke volumes for her self-sacrifice and independence of spirit, as well as for her appreciation of what the kindergarten was doing for her children. Much charitable work was done by the kindergarten workers in helping to clothe and feed the children. The influence of the school was carried into the homes, not only by the children themselves, but by the teachers who visited them and thus ascertained at first hand the pressing needs of those they were seeking to assist. The Rotary Club watchword was "Service," and by the courtesy of the Fire Brigades Board and Mr. J. E. Dickie (chief officer), who is a member of the club, it was hoped to make a substantial contribution to the kindergarten funds.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 March 1931, page 2

MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS

Brigades Receive 105 in Year

EFFICIENT STATIONS

"Malicious false alarms" for the year which ended on December 31, numbered 105, according to the annual report of Adelaide Fire Brigades Board. Altogether 578 calls were received—an increase of 10 on the number for the previous year. They were classified as follow:— Serious damage, 13; considerable damage, 49; slight damage, 188; grass and rubbish fires, 108; chimney fires, 29; justified alarms, 21; line faults, 65; malicious false alarms, 105.

A modern station to serve the District of Neales (Eudunda) was in course of erection, the report stated. It would be manned by an auxiliary foreman, three auxiliary firemen, and the equipment would include a motor hose carriage. During the year Port Lincoln station was officially opened. An amendment of the Fire Brigades Act passed by last session limited the Government contribution to £10,000 a year for three years from July 1, 1930. Where the Government proportion of two-ninths of the annual expenditure exceeded the above limited amount five-sevenths of the excess was to be contributed by insurance companies, and two-sevenths by municipal and district councils under the Act, in addition to their respective proportions fixed by the principal Act.

Wages Reduced

An agreement was entered into with the Australian Government Workers' Association on behalf of employees, under which the wages of the permanent staff and weekly theatre auxiliaries were decreased by the amount of the reduction in the basic wage (10/6 a week). The allowance for married men was reduced from 12/6 to 11/3 a week. Regret was expressed in the report at the deaths of Messrs. C. H. Butler (district officer at Port Adelaide) and H. W. Brown (brigade clerk). Mr. Butler entered the service 31 years ago, and Mr. Brown in 1903. Station Officer Cook, of Port Pirie, succeeded Mr. Butler. Station Officer Bland, of Port Adelaide, was placed in charge of Port Pirie station. Half-yearly inspections of city, suburban, and country stations were made by the board. Brigades throughout were found to be working "satisfactorily and efficiently."

Officers Appointed

Mr. G. P. Marrie was appointed representative of the contributory companies following the retirement of Mr. R. P. Hogg, and Mr. A. J. W. Lewis (Mayor of Port Adelaide) was re-elected to represent suburban and country municipalities and districts under the Act. Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, in his report, states that in addition to stations, theatres, halls, hospitals, and fireplugs were inspected. Members of theatre auxiliary staffs had been drilled and instructed in the use of fire appliances installed. The staff of the brigade comprised 104 permanent officers and employes, 57 auxiliary firemen, and 48 theatre auxiliary firemen—a total of 209. Port Adelaide motor ambulance at the local fire station attended 380 calls, and that of Port Pirie 289. Few accidents incidental to a fireman's calling were experienced. Only one man suffered burns. Other ailments were bruises and sprains (3), and ordinary sick ness (24).

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Saturday 7 March 1931, page 15

FIRE DESTROYS BOAT SHED

Adelaide Club's Loss

BOATS AND RECORDS GONE

Damage About £3,000

The Adelaide Rowing Club's boatshed on the Torrens, containing all its boats and equipment, worth upwards of £3,000, was destroyed by fire at 11.30 last night. The loss is covered by insurance. Many valuable records, photographs, and trophies, which cannot be replaced, were lost. The pictures lost include photographs of world-famed oarsmen. Besides the 12 boats of the Adelaide club the new eight Loch Doon, of Scotch College, which was housed in the shed, was destroyed. The Adelaide Rowing Club was one of the first formed in South Australia, and its club house was the biggest on the river. The greatest loss to oarsmen is the sentimental one.

FLAMES 50 FT. HIGH

The fire started about 11.15 p.m. Half an hour later nothing was left but the framework of the two storey building. When the brigade arrived, flames were shooting 50 feet into the air. Firemen ran a hose from near the railway bridge, and two motor pumps drew water from the river. Trees and shrubs alongside the shed caught fire, and these added to the difficulties of the firemen. The fire was as far advanced when the brigade was called that it was impossible to save anything. The structure was made entirely of wood, with an iron roof, which soon fell into the blaze.

NOTHING SAVED

When the firemen got inside nothing remained of the boats except the iron fittings. Part of the contents of the shed was the personal property of members which was in the lockers. Nothing was saved. Following is the list of boats in the shed:— The Loch Doon, an eight belonging to Scotch College. Two racing eights, I. Zingari. Practice eight, the Adelaide. Three light racing clinkers—Onkaparinga, Thames, and Parramatta. Two practice fours, Tamar and Derwent. Two tub fours, Brisbane and Swan. Two pair oar skiffs.

OARS WORTH £50

The club had a good collection of tools and sundry boat fittings, rowlocks, and rollers, and recently it bought new hoses, it owned oars worth about £50. Mr. Ern Jolley, who has been caretaker for this summer, said that every thing was in perfect order at 7 p.m., when his employe inspected the place, inside and out. An inspection was made every night. Water-Constable Baddams inspected the shed at 10.30, and everything was in order. Mr. Jolley said he first saw the fire from his home about 11.30. Mr. Jolley explained that the fire could scarcely have begun inside the shed, because the ground floor was covered with tan, which was kept damp.

CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT

Before the fire burnt out many members of the club were on the river bank, looking at the remains of their club. The Loch Doon was in its second season, and in perfect order. She was worth about £100. The college's other boats are housed in their own shed on the west side of where the Adelaide Club Shed stood. The Loch Doon was not kept there, because better accommodation was available in the Adelaide Club shed. Hundreds of motor cars hurried to the fire, and in a few minutes the Morphett-street railway-bridge was hopelessly congested, and traffic was held up for about half an hour. A squad of foot police kept big crowds on either side of the blazing shed out of harm's way.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 13 March 1931, page 1

THIEVES CAUSE FIRE

ATTEMPTS TO OPEN SAFES

Locks Jammed by Explosion

Early this morning thieves attempted to blow open two safes at the premises of South Australian Brush Company Limited, Flinders street, Adelaide. In doing so they set fire to a quantity of cotton which had been packed round the safes to deaden the sound of the explosions. The fire spread quickly, but automatic sprinklers controlled it until the arrival of the fire brigade. Little damage was done by the fire, but water soaked through the floor to a basement, where a large quantity of cotton is stored. The safes, which contained only books, were not opened by the thieves as the explosions jammed the locks. Gelnite was placed in the keyholes and tamped in. Entry to the premises was gained by climbing on to the roof of an unoccupied building next door and forcing away wire protecting a skylight.

An attempt was also made last night to open the safe at the premises of Josiah Thomas, fuel merchant, Mile End. A side window was forced and gelignite inserted in the keyhole of the safe. The explosion jammed the lock and the door could not be opened. In this case, too, the safe contained only books. The police found small quantities of fuse and gelignite on the premises. Bags were used to deaden the sound of the explosion.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 19 March 1931, page 1

FIRE DESTROYS SHOP
GILBERT STREET OUTBREAK
Narrow Escape of Occupants

Awakened by the crackling of glass about 3 o'clock this morning Mrs. J. J. Hamlyn, of Gilbert street, Adelaide, found her bedroom filled with smoke and heard a fire raging in the adjoining shop. She just had time to arouse her husband and other occupants of the house and rush into the street in night attire. The fire destroyed the shop and goods to the value of about £400. Property and fittings worth £200 were damaged. Mr. and Mrs. Hamlyn and their two children, aged three years and one and a half years, and Mrs. M. E. King were sleeping on the premises when the fire broke out. Mrs. Hamlyn took one child to safety, and Mrs. King saw the other child out of danger. Mr. Hamlyn summoned Adelaide Fire Brigade. Two appliances were sent from headquarters. The firemen had little difficulty in quelling the outbreak. They had the blaze under control within half an hour. The business was conducted under the name of J. & E. Hamlyn. Groceries, confectionery, cool drinks, ham and beef, fruit, and vegetables were sold. The loss was covered by insurance.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Monday 23 March 1931, page 9

CITY FIRE ATTRACTS BIG CROWD
Women's Club Rooms Burnt

Furniture and fittings in five rooms of the Adelaide Women's Club, in Peel-street, off Hindley-street, city, were destroyed by a fire which started mysteriously in the upper floor of the building just before 6 p.m. yesterday. The fire was confined to the upper floor, but dense clouds of smoke, issuing from the windows and ventilators, attracted a crowd of hundreds to Hindley-street. But the crowd was disappointed. The Fire Brigade had the outbreak under control within a few minutes, and prevented it from spreading. Two women, members of the club, who were sitting on the front verandah, overlooking Hindley-street, knew nothing of the fire until they saw the crowd in the street. They were able to reach the street in safety before the brigade arrived. The building and contents were insured.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 28 March 1931, page 1

ADELAIDE FIRE
Outbreak at Ingerson's

Shortly before 4.30 o'clock this afternoon fire broke out in the work-rooms of Ingerson, Limited, tailors, King William street, Adelaide. The blaze was confined to the third floor. Three reels attended from Metropolitan Fire Station. Dense volumes of smoke poured from the windows.

When the brigade arrived the fire had a good hold in the workroom at the top of the building. The ceiling of the room, which was packed with seaweed, was burning in two corners. The blaze was subdued about half an hour later. The outbreak is thought to have been caused by an electric iron, which was left on about 1 o'clock this afternoon. Only the upper room was damaged. Lights were fused, but the machinery was unharmed. About 70 hands are employed in the room. Mr. S. Ingerson inspected the premises tonight. He estimates that 50

suits have been destroyed, and that damage to the premises will amount to about £300. Business will continue as usual on Monday.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Monday 13 April 1931, page 7

Fire on Bookbinding Premises

A fire in Manders's printery and bookbinding premises in Bray-street, off Flinders-street, yesterday morning damaged the building and machinery. The fire appears to have started near the electric light switch and reached a printing press, type cases, and other parts of the plant. The firm's books were badly charred, and all the windows were broken.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 15 April 1931, page 3

Inquest Concerning Fire

At 10.30 o'clock tomorrow morning, in the deputation room, Education Block, Flinders street, Adelaide, Mr. F. C. Siekmann will hold an inquest in regard to the fire which occurred early Sunday morning at the premises of Manders Press and Bookbinding Agency, Bray street, Adelaide. The report for the coroner was prepared by Detective Nicholls and Plain-clothes Constables Davis and McConnell.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Friday 17 April 1931, page 17

COMMITTED ON ARSON CHARGE

Sequel to Sunday Morning Fire

Reuben Frank Mander, of Evandale, was committed for trial by the Assistant City Coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekman) yesterday on a charge of arson as a result of a fire at his printery and bookbinding premises in Bray-street, off Flinders-street, early on Sunday morning.

"There is no doubt that the place was wilfully set alight by someone," said Mr. Siekman. "Mr. Mander gave the detectives an account which was straightforward to a certain point. However, he had the keys of the premises, and as locks were intact when the fire brigade arrived, he must accept responsibility so far as this court is concerned." Station Officer T. H. Sayers, who was in charge of the appliances sent to the premises from the Central Fire Station about 2.30 a.m., said after the fire had been put out he examined a room on the ground floor. It was there the fire broke out. Paper shavings were heaped around the bottom of wooden type racks, and standing on the floor near the back of the room, and surrounded by shavings and pieces of bagging saturated with kerosene, was a piece of candle about 2 in. long.

Place Locked

Beneath a bench on the western side of the room were a bottle half full of methylated spirits, a bottle of kerosene, and a tin of oil. Alongside them was more bagging or hessian soaked with kerosene. In reply to Mr. J. P. Cartledge, who assisted the police at the inquest, the stayed there all night, returning home the place had been set on fire wilfully. Cross-examined by Mr. V. R. Millhouse, who appeared for Mander, Sayers said when the brigade arrived all the doors and windows of the room were locked. Detective G. H. Nicholls gave similar evidence about the paper shavings, candle, and the bags and hessian soaked with kerosene. He said he found ledgers on a cupboard with paper shavings scattered over them. Mander was asked about what he did on Saturday. He said he left the office about 11.45 a.m. His son, the only other employe, went before that. He (Mander) went to the Avenues Hotel on Saturday afternoon, and that evening he and his wife went to the pictures at St. Peters. They returned about 11 p.m., and after having supper, he met two other men near the Maid and Magpie corner and went to the Outer Harbor fishing. They stayed there all night, returning home about 4.45 p.m. Insured for £520 Mander said he bought the business about five months before for £200, paying £95 down. It was returning him about £4 10/ a week. The

contents of the room on the ground floor were insured for £520. Mander said he kept kerosene, oil, and methylated spirits there for use in the business. When witness told Mander the floor was littered with paper shavings he denied it. Later in the evening, said Nicholls, he went with Mander to the office. When Mander was shown the candle he said he could not explain how it got there. He never used a candle in the business, and it was not there when he left on Saturday. Nor were the paper shavings, bagging, and hessian in the places where he left them on Saturday. Detective Nicholls said he told Mander he suspected he had set the premises alight. Mander replied, "Why would I do a thing like that?" When he suggested that it might be to get the £520 insurance, Mander said, "I would not do a thing like that for money, I must admit it looks as if someone has set the place on fire, but I don't know who did it. I did not."

Son's Evidence

Alan Richard Mander, who said he was employed at the works by his father, told the Coroner he had seen pieces of candle on the premises, and one night when the light failed a stump of candle was lit. Hessian soaked in kerosene was used to clean machines, but the pieces were not nearly as big as those produced. He went to a dance in the city the night of the fire, and left for home about 11.20. His father kept the keys of the premises. Mander said he wished not to give evidence. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davies said the machinery and stock in the room were insured for £520 with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation. Mander, who reserved his defence, was allowed bail in a bond of £50 and a surety of £25.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Wednesday 22 April 1931, page 10

Midnight Fire in Fruit Shop

The stock, fittings and furniture of the South Adelaide Fruit Shop, conducted by Mr. G. Lewis, in King William-street, City, close to the corner of Halifax-street, were destroyed by a fire which started in the shop shortly before midnight last night. A man at a piecart, about 300 yards away, saw smoke coming from the shop and called the brigade. One reel arrived in time to stop the fire from spreading to the small premises on either side of the fruit shop.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 22 April 1931, page 3

FIRE IN SHOP

Contents Destroyed; Money Stolen

Detective Strangway and Plainclothes Constables Davis and Trezona are enquiring into the circumstances of a fire which occurred at midnight last night at the premises of Mr. Gaywood Lewis, fruiterer, King William street south, Adelaide. Constable E. Ryan, who was on patrol duty, noticed the outbreak and summoned the brigade. The fire had a good hold and the contents of the shop were destroyed. Household effects in the dwelling at the rear were damaged by water. This morning Mr. Lewis reported that thieves had broken into the premises before the fire and stolen £4 from a wardrobe and £5 from the cash register, which had been forced open. The contents of the shop were covered by insurance. A report will be forwarded to the coroner.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 25 April 1931, page 2

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to J. M. Cocking's fish shop in Grote street, Adelaide, at 1.38 o'clock this morning. It was found that the electric motor operating the refrigerator had fused and that insulating material was smouldering. A chemical fire extinguisher sufficed to quell the outbreak.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 12 May 1931, page 3

EFFICIENT FIREMEN

Half-yearly Inspection

Messrs. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the Fire Brigades' Board) and J. E. Dickie (chief officer of Metropolitan Fire Brigade) have completed their half-yearly inspection of fire stations under the jurisdiction of the Fire Brigades' Board. All stations were found to be in good order and the men showed efficiency and interest in their duties. Water pressure in all towns visited was also satisfactory. The following stations manned by permanent staffs were visited:—Adelaide, North Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Semaphore, Birkenhead, Firefloat, Port Pirie, Gawler, Glenelg, Norwood, Unley, Thebarton, and Prospect. Those manned by auxiliary staffs were:— Port Augusta, Kapunda, Moonta, Kadina, Wallaroo, Tanunda, Balaklava, Burra, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Renmark, Berri, and Port Lincoln. It is proposed to hold shortly the official opening of the station recently erected at Eudunda.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Saturday 16 May 1931, page 7

ADELAIDE'S FIRE FIGHTERS AT HOME

With Early Notice, The Brigade Can Control Any Fire

No fire in Adelaide has any chance of getting out of hand when the Fire Brigade is promptly notified. The brigade is so well equipped now that its Chief Officer is confident that it can cope with any fire that is likely to occur.

How many people realise what happens at the Central Fire Station when an alarm is given? A shutter, indicating where the alarm is, drops; automatically, a hooter blares and bells all over the station sound furiously—no mean sound in the dead of night. Sleepers of a few seconds before rush in for their tunics, helmets, and orders. An electric indicator flashes on with directions (there is no shouting, no flurry), and the huge red engines are out in the street in much less than a minute. Two engines are usually sent out to a small fire; the others are ready if needed. The report from the firemen when they reach the blaze decides that. The reserve men stand by until a signalled "stop" sends them back to bed—the fire is under control. If a fire is reported by telephone the pressing of a bell raises the alarm throughout the station.

Up-to-Date Appliances

Four of the engines at the head station are equipped with the most modern petrol-driven pumps. All the waggons carry foam extinguishers for petrol or oil fires. The brigade is proud of its 93 ft. ladder; it is the longest in the Commonwealth. This and the carriage on which it is mounted weigh seven tons. The huge ladder is worked by its own motor. It takes only a few seconds to raise or lower it its full length. The brigade boasts the best fire float in Australia—the Fire Queen on the Port River. This is the same as the floats which fight the waterfront fires on the Thames in London. Neither Sydney nor Melbourne has anything like it.

The Chief Officer, Mr. Dickie, has 27 suburban stations under his control. While the men of a suburban station are out at a fire the alarms that would sound there and the telephone are connected with the city brigade. If there is a second fire—there have been three at one time—the headquarters men turn out. This means delay in getting to the blaze, but it saves keeping a reserve at the suburban stations.

Blame Carelessness

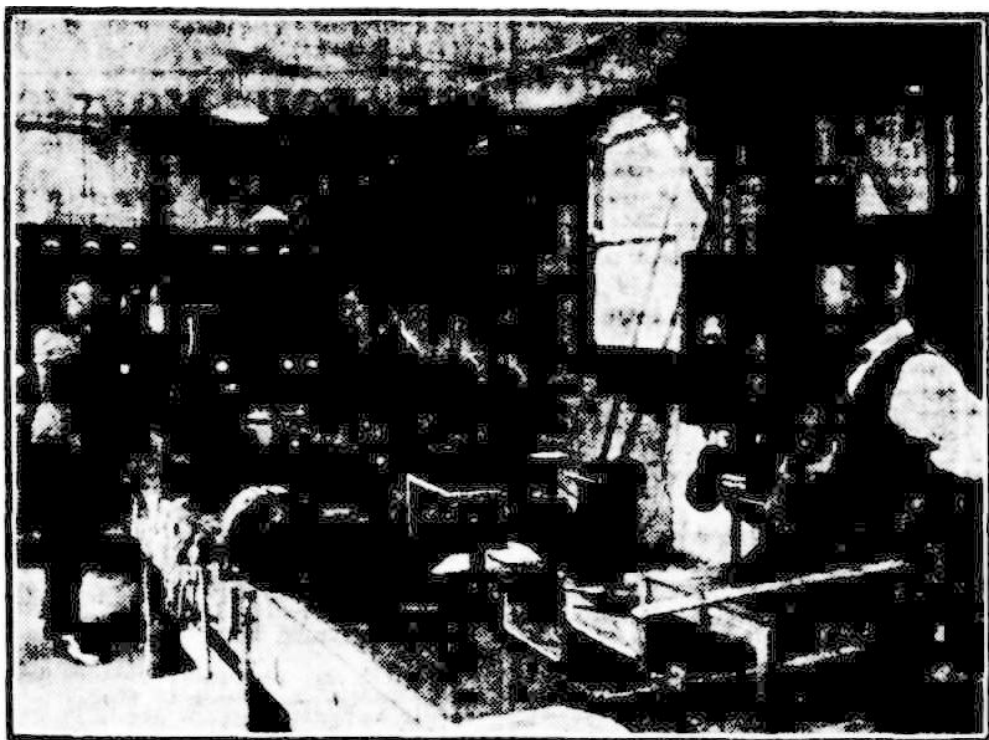
Although "cause unknown" is the decision after most fires, tenants of buildings and homes are usually to blame through their thoughtlessness, Mr. Dickie says. Burning cigarettes are thrown away carelessly, rags soaked in petrol or kerosene are put away some where and forgotten, rubbish is not cleared away, hot ashes are put in bins with paper in them. All these things contribute to fire danger. Mr. Dickie is hoping for a time when the law will order all factories and offices to be cleared of rubbish before they are locked up for the night. The fireman is always on his job. Even though he works officially only in the mornings he has always to be on the premises, ready for emergency.

Shine Everywhere

The brass on the engines at a fire station has a mirror-like shine; paint gleams everywhere; nothing is out of place. The firemen themselves have seen to that. It is part of their job, and they do it thoroughly. One o'clock in the afternoon is knocking-off time for the men. After that they are free to amuse themselves—if they do not want to sleep. There is a billiard room for the headquarters men—the staff number 47—a garden to look after, a tennis court, and a gymnasium. The men have to have exercise. Theirs is dangerous work, in which superfluous flesh is a handicap. So they take their tennis and wrestling and vaulting exercises seriously. There is fire drill, of course. They have to do that—scale ladders, carry down comrades, and jump from dizzy heights into a canvas sheet. "It's a good life." say the men, though. They like their Job.



Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, who has been 46 years with the Adelaide Fire Brigade.



Fireman is a Handy Man

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 October 1931, page 20

SERIOUS FIRE PREVENTED

Passers-By Climb Through Window

Seeing smoke issuing from the upper floor of Elliott's cycle shop, at the corner of Pirie-street and Gawler-place, city, last night, two men climbed up the verandah posts, got inside through a window, and threw some burning rubbish into the street. Their prompt action probably prevented a serious fire in a block of old buildings. The fire started in some tins of rubbish. While the men were climbing into the shop some newsboys summoned the Fire Brigade, but the worst was over before a reel arrived a minute or two later.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 7 October 1931, page 1

DEADLY GAS IN CITY SHOP

Men Don Helmets to Stop Leak

VALVE BURSTS

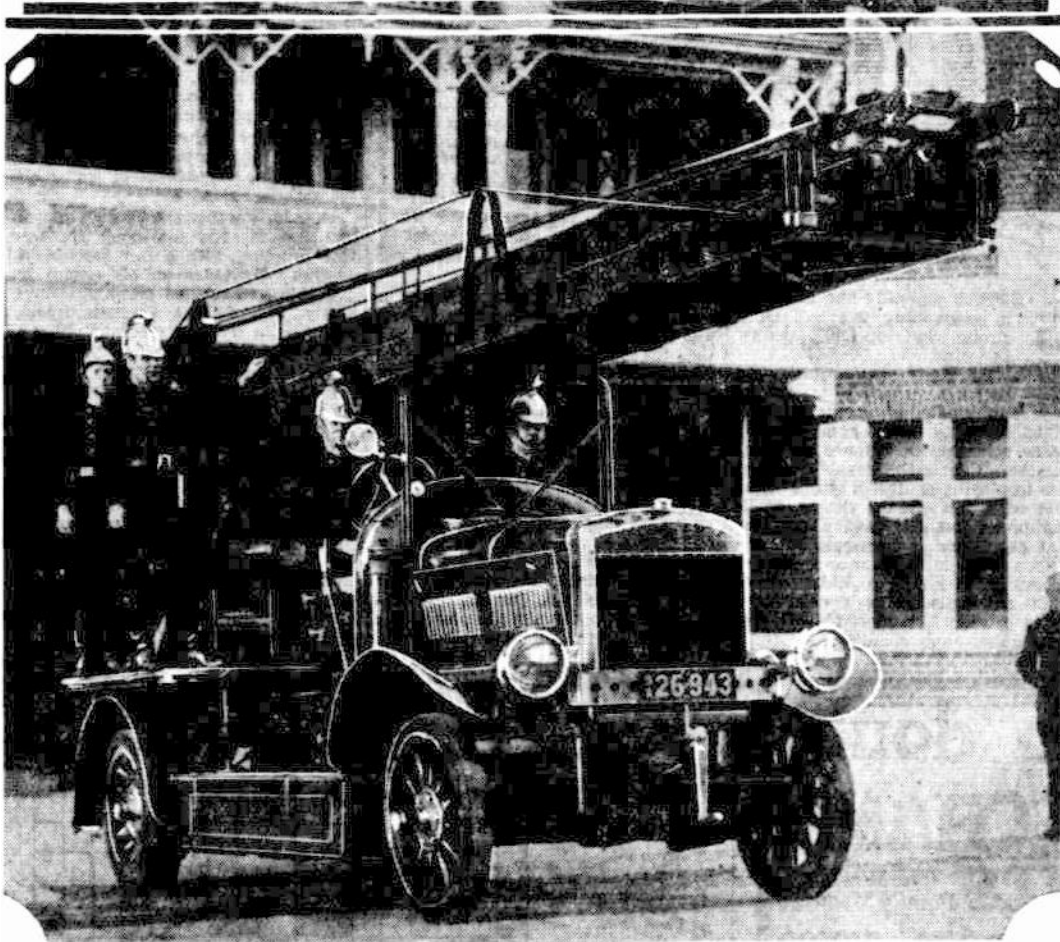
TWO firemen donned smoke helmets to stop the escape of sulphur dioxide, a deadly gas, from the refrigerator plant in the shop of Cahills (Adelaide) Limited, next to Regent Theatre in Rundle street, at 10 a.m. today. The leakage was caused by a valve bursting. As firemen were not familiar with the plant they had difficulty in locating the leak, and Mr. A. C. Perrins, works manager of Alaska Icecream Company, Limited, who knew the plant, put on a helmet, entered the building, and blocked the leak. There were no customers in the shop at the time. Miss B. McBride, an assistant, remained only a few seconds after the accident. She felt the effects of the gas, but suffered nothing more than a slight headache.

ALL LEAVE SHOP

Mr. Perrins and Mr. C. H. Cook, also of the Alaska Company, had been making adjustments to the refrigerator when the valve blew out. They hurriedly left the shop by one door and Miss McBride departed by another. It was decided to seek the aid of the fire brigade to enter the shop and turn off the escaping gas. Sulphur dioxide is particularly dangerous, and if there were little air it would asphyxiate any people in a room in a few minutes. It is a colorless gas with a very pungent odor. It permeated the shop, and more than an hour elapsed before all traces of it left. Unaware of the danger, a small crowd congregated outside the shop, but was kept back by the police.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 October 1931, page 6

When the Fire Gong Goes



OFF TO FIGHT THE ENEMY— Half a minute after the alarm is given at headquarters of the Fire Brigade in Wakefield street men are on their way to the fire. This appliance with ladder attached can reach any fire, within the city proper three minutes from the time the alarm is raised.

IF a fire occurs in Adelaide and an alarm is given at the Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street, it is more than likely that firemen will be on the scene within three minutes. Adelaide is well protected from fire by modern appliances, manned by men who for efficiency are said to be equal to any in the world.

THE first permanent fire brigades were established in 1885. Headquarters were in Flinders street, and there was a station in Light square. Each station had a one-horse reel and a fire fighting staff of six. Today there are 27 stations in city and country and 104 permanent officers and men. In addition there are an auxilliary staff of 57 and 48 theatre attendants. The head station has four motor fire engines and a number of fast motor vehicles for carrying hose. Mounted on one of the latter is a ladder 93 ft. long. The equipment includes all kinds of other ladders. "Fighting fires is mainly a question of 'cooling down,' " declared Mr. J. E. Dickie (Chief Officer). "The greatest change has been in speed. The motor engine travels faster than the old horse brigades, and today, especially when long distances have to be travelled, time is saved. "The horse brigades could turn out as quickly as the motor vehicle. This week four vehicles were clear of the head station 35 seconds after an alarm had been given. When King George visited the Adelaide station the old horse-drawn engines turned out in 12 seconds." Methods of putting out fires have not changed greatly, according to Mr. Dickie. The same sort of fires trouble the fire men today, as were extinguished 50 years ago. One noteworthy advance in recent years has been the installation of automatic sprinklers. Many large Adelaide warehouses and business premises are fitted with sprinklers. If a fire occurs the heat turns the water on, and at the same time notifies Mr. Dickie and his men that there is

work to be done. Fire alarms at points through out the metropolitan area are useful for the speedy notification of outbreaks. Reinforced concrete has made the work of firemen easier. Although there is no fireproof building — even granite will burn if there is enough heat, says Mr. Dickie — the concrete floors of the modern building are a protection against fire. Some old buildings with wooden floors, stairways, and walls are the firemen's nightmare. Although Dobbin, Bluey, Barney, and company were equine heroes with every small boy, the firemen of today do not sigh for the good old "horsey" days. Horses gave wonderful service, but stations are much cleaner and hygienic without them. In past years one man was always detailed off to look after the horses. Motor appliances stand unattended while every man of the firefighting crew lends a hand. One man more on the job may be the difference between a "save" and a loss. South Australian fire brigades have been developed to meet the times. In 1885 the brigades attended to 89 fires and 21 chimney outbreaks. There were 13 false alarms. In 1930 Mr. Dickie and his men at-tended 170 fires in the metropolitan division. Last year the brigades dealt with 21 chimneys — exactly the same number as in 1885. Sixty-eight grass and rubbish fires were attended, and the brigades turned out to 123 false alarms.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 October 1931, page 7

Fire in Coal.—A fire broke out in a heap of coal and coke near the furnace of A. A. Simpson & Sons' tinware factory in Wakefield-street about 3 a.m. on Sunday. It was put out by the Fire Brigade before much damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 4 November 1931, page 15

FIRE DESTROYS UNLEY FACTORY

Family's Close Shave

Fire completely destroyed the furniture factory of Messrs. Kennedy and Langley in Arthur-street, Unley, early this morning. A paint shop in the same building was also destroyed. Strenuous work by firemen from the city brigade alone saved the house on the west side of the factory from being destroyed. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berriman and family, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Davis, the occupants, were awakened soon after 12.30 a.m. by the roar of the flames outside. They found the window frame of the dining-room blazing fiercely, and the room filled with smoke. Sheds behind the house and the fence between the factory and the house were burnt down, and with them went several pet rabbits and some fowls. The furniture factory, built of wood and galvanized iron, has a frontage of about 50 feet and a depth of 100 feet. The fire brigade was not called until the flames had a good hold on the building, and nothing was saved. Furniture, machinery, and timber all went up in smoke. Mr. Davis said he got home from Two Wells about midnight and went straight to bed. About half an hour later the noise of the burning factory woke him up.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 4 November 1931, page 6

THANK YOU, FATHER ADELAIDE CHRISTMAS

Committee Meets on Friday

DEEP appreciation of the work of the Father Adelaide Christmas Committee was expressed today by Mr. B. P. Neville (organiser of Morialta Protestant Children's Homes). In a letter to the committee he says:—"I wish to record once again the deepest thanks of all concerned for the kind thought shown toward inmates of the home last Christmas. The children greatly appreciated the fine gifts of cricket and basketball sets and many other presents so freely given, from which a tremendous amount of pleasure has since been derived. Words fail adequately to express the sunshine brought into the lives of the young ones under our care through your fine effort." The gifts of cricket and basketball sets were made possible last year by the demonstrations by members of Adelaide Fire Brigade. The board has again granted permission for the men to give displays at Wakefield street headquarters in aid of the fund. These will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday, December 9 and 10. Further plans for

the work of the Father Adelaide Christmas Committee will be made at a meeting in "The News" Office on Friday afternoon.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 5 November 1931, page 7

FIREMEN AT PICTURE SHOWS

Not Necessary, Say Councillors

The Exhibitors' Association, which is comprised mainly of picture theatre proprietors, met yesterday and decided to ask the Government to withdraw firemen from picture theatres. The matter was reported to the Thebarton Council last night by the town clerk (Mr. C. E. Wyett). He said the Fire Brigades Board had been asked for a reduction of charges for firemen's services, and the board had replied that no reduction could be made owing to an agreement with the Australian Government Workers' Association, of which the men were members. Several councillors said that the duties of firemen could be carried out just as well by the theatre employes. Firemen had been withdrawn from picture theatres in Melbourne and Sydney. It was resolved to support the picture proprietors. It was also decided to support the Hindmarsh Council in a protest to the film distributors against compelling suburban picture proprietors to charge a minimum admission fee of 1/2.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 6 November 1931, page 19

Heat and Fireworks Keep Brigade Busy

A hot Guy Fawkes Day is an unpopular event with members of the fire brigade, who were kept unusually busy yesterday. The city and suburban brigades were called to a number of grass fires and fires in hedges, particularly in the evening, when the celebration reached its peak and smouldering fireworks found ready fuel.

Little damage was done.

A number of packing cases at the Royal Mail Stables, off Hindley-street, caught fire last night, but the flames were extinguished in time to prevent damage to surrounding buildings.

Fire at Church Hall

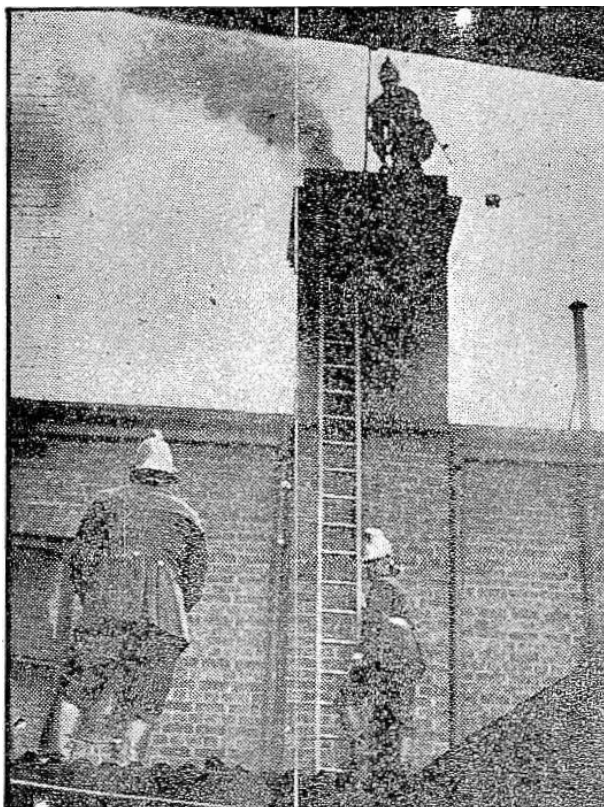
Prompt action by the Unley fire brigade and neighbors saved the Congregational Kindergarten Hall at Cross-roads, Highgate, from destruction yesterday afternoon. Shortly before three o'clock a storage shed at the rear of the hall caught fire, and before the flames could be checked it had been practically destroyed, together with the contents, which included tennis nets and other sports accessories. The rear wall of the hall was also severely damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 9 November 1931, page 10

Fire in City Shop

A large quantity of stock at the front of the shop of Messrs. N. Habib and Son, general clothiers, in Rundle-street east, City, was destroyed or damaged by a fire which broke out inside the shop last night. Seeing smoke issuing from the front door a policeman called the fire brigade, which soon put the fire out. The cause of the fire is unknown. The total stock in the shop is insured for £1,500.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 20 November 1931, page 12



ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE WAS CALLED OUT at midday to-day to extinguish this blazing chimney at E. Kuhn's Wine Saloon, Hindley street. Damage was slight.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 21 November 1931, page 6

Under a picture in "The News" yesterday it was said that the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to extinguish a blazing chimney at Mr. E. Kuhri's wine saloon, Hindley street. Mr. Kuhri said today that the fire was not on his premises, but at a fruit shop next door.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 21 November 1931, page 2

ONE FIRE EVERY TWO MONTHS

Should Firemen be Kept at Theatres

THERE had been an average of one outbreak of fire every two months for the past three years in places of public entertainment in the metropolitan area alone. Mr. F. K. Nieass (secretary of the Government Workers' Association) told the Hon. S. R. Whitford (Chief Secretary) at a deputation this morning. Only the prompt action of auxiliary firemen had prevented serious conflagrations, he said. Members of the deputation, which was introduced by Mr. W. J. W. Warne, M.P., were Mr. Nieass and Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the Fire Brigades Board). In the interest of public safety they asked that the services of auxiliary firemen at places of public entertainment be retained. The Minister said that the question was receiving his earnest consideration. "I do not think it would be wise to take away the auxiliary firemen," said Mr. Warne. "They have justified themselves in the past." Mr. Frinsdorf said that he wanted to emphasise the necessity of retaining the firemen for the safety of the public. Mr. Whitford— If anyone should know, you should. The Fire Brigades Board charged 8/ for the services of the auxiliary firemen, who received 6/6, he said. "I maintain that 6/6 is certainly not too much," said Mr Frinsdorf. "As a board we are losing money on the transaction." Mr Whitford said it was not the interests of showmen and district councils that should be paramount, or the interests of the firemen, but the safety of the public. He would not like to be the Minister controlling places of amusement if a conflagration occurred in which people were disfigured or trampled on.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 10 December 1931, page 6

FATHER ADELAIDE CHRISTMAS LEAPS FROM ROOFTOP

Thrilling Firefighting Display By Brigade Men Thrills Adelaide Spectators

FATHER Adelaide Christmas adopts many different guises in his work of cheer at the festive season. Last night he donned the uniform and helmet of the fireman, to the delight of those who attended the firefighting display at Wakefield street headquarters and the benefit of Father Adelaide Christmas funds.

PATRONS of all ages were thrilled at the feats performed by the firemen, impressed with the efficiency of the brigade, and amused by the humorous touches introduced. The demonstration will be repeated at Wakefield street tonight. Admission is 1/ (children half-price). For the opening item the firemen moved in perfect rhythm through the various stages of spectacular pyramids on the ground and parallel bars. Exercises over the vaulting horse demonstrated the methods adopted by the men to keep fit. Firemen Gray and Patton, wrestled two spirited rounds and Firemen Lear and Savage won applause for a three round boxing exhibition bout. A special feature was clog dancing to mouth-organ music performed by Fireman W. Goreham, whose item was encored. Station Master A. Griffen, who was master of ceremonies, explained the various types of apparatus used by members of the smoke squad, and the men then demonstrated the "fireman's lift," showing the ease with which an insensible burden can be carried. A 65-ft. ladder was run up in the yard and illuminated by a spotlight, and fire men raced to the top and carried down "unconscious" comrades. From the watchtower firemen slid down ropes, holding on with one hand, with a hook suspended from their belts fastened round the rope. There were gasps from the onlookers as the men casually stepped off from the roof to fall into sheets held by their comrades below. Cries of joy from the children greeted the appearance of Father Christmas, who leaped off after several false starts. With clanging bell a glittering engine drew into the yard. Huge pipes were lowered into a well and firemen raced up the tower with hoses. At a sharp whistle of command the Dennis pump was started, the hoses twitched and swelled, and water gushed from the nozzles with all the glamor of a real fire attack. Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir (chairman of the Father Adelaide Christmas Committee) thanked the brigade for having provided the demonstration and outlined the work of the movement. Station Master Griffen, in responding, mentioned that another demonstration, in aid of the widow of a former fireman, would be given next Wednesday. The concluding item was a general turnout into the street. Four engines raced to Victoria square and back, and the working of the ladder was demonstrated.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 16 December 1931, page 11

TO HELP FIREMAN'S WIDOW

Big Display Tonight

To assist a fireman's widow the men at the Wakefield street headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade will give a public demonstration tonight at 8 o'clock. Thrilling exhibitions of mock fire fighting will be staged. There will be daring leaps from an adjoining building into sheets below and all the excitement that goes with a real fire. Gymnastic, drill, and dancing displays will also be on the programme.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 December 1931, page 1

Garage and Three Cars Burned

A fire which broke out in the garage of Mr L. Lester, of 8 Davenport terrace, Wayville, about 11a.m. today destroyed three motor cars and motor cycle. The flames were extinguished by the Adelaide and Unley Fire Brigades. Mr. Lester is absent in the country.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 22 December 1931, page 1

Firemen to Remain in Theatres

Chief Secretary Makes His Decision

THE Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford) has decided that firemen shall be retained in places of public entertainment. Recently a deputation representing the Government Workers' Association and the Fire Brigades Board asked him not to allow them to be withdrawn, despite that proprietors of some picture theatres contended that they were not necessary. Since then Mr. Whitford has made enquiries into the position in Victoria. In some of the suburbs of Melbourne, he said on his return recently there were theatres without firemen. He is convinced, however, that the safety of the public should be paramount, not the interests of showmen or district councils, and firemen will be retained in theatres in this State.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 December 1931, page 7

Fire Brigade Motor Hits Post In City

Returning from a fire at Unley yesterday afternoon, a motor reel from the Central Fire Station in avoiding a collision with a motor car in Hanson street, city, crashed into a telegraph pole, nearly overturned, and threw one of the firemen off. As the reel was passing a motor car on the left-hand side, the motorist, hearing the fire bells, swung sharply towards the gutter and the fire appliance. The fireman driver chose to run into the gutter rather than the car. The back of his machine hit a post and Fireman W. Gorham was thrown off on to the footpath. He was slightly injured.