

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1932

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 1 January 1932, page 7

Brigade Answers 722 Calls—Record

Another record has been smashed. Last year the Fire Brigade answered 722 calls, 151 of them last month. The most trips made in any previous year was 711—in 1926. There was an early 1932 call. It occurred a short time after midnight. But it was only some New Year's Eve' practical jokers. It was the only false alarm of the night. "That is quite a record," said the chief officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie). today. "We usually have more on New Year's Eve."

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 12 January 1932, page 1

MIGHT HAVE CAUSED BIG FIRE

Lighted Cigarette Butt Burns Shop Floor

A lighted cigarette butt, which had been thrown on sawdust on the floor of the smallgoods department of W. H. Bruce, Ltd., in Grote street, Adelaide, might have caused a big fire. The shop is portion of a big block of buildings. When the last employe left the premises at 7.15 last night everything was apparently in order. While on his beat at 5.57 this morning Constable Goldworthy found the shop full of smoke. In response to his call the fire brigade was soon on the scene, and had the outbreak under control. A hole about 18 in. square had been burned in the floor.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 16 January 1932, page 14

PERSONAL

Mr. J. E. Dickie, chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, who was 68 years old yesterday, has been fighting fires for nearly 50 years. Born at Wandsworth, London, in 1864, Mr. Dickie, at the age of 13, was apprenticed to the shipping firm of P. Iredale and Son, Liverpool. He visited Australia in the ship Lizzie Iredale in the seventies, and before he was 18 years old received a second mate's certificate. He gave up the sea in 1883, and for a little over a year was employed by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in London, which was then under the command of Captain Sir Eyre Massey-Shaw. In June, 1885, Mr. Dickie joined the Adelaide Fire Brigade as a fireman under Superintendent H. C. Salter, and is the last man left in Adelaide of the original 12 forming the brigade. About 38 years ago he was appointed to the charge of the Port Adelaide brigade. He returned to the city, and was afterwards in charge of the Port Pirie brigade for three years. Then he became second officer in Adelaide under Superintendent Booker. He went back to Port Adelaide as district officer, and in September, 1905, was appointed Deputy-Superintendent in Wakefield street under the late Mr. Rickwood, whom he succeeded as chief officer in March, 1914.



Mr. J. E. Dickie.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 January 1932, page 10

FIRE AT BOILING DOWN WORKS

Spectacular Blaze At Kilburn

A spectacular fire, which could be seen in the city, all but destroyed the boiling down works of B. L. Mehtens and Co. at Kilburn early this morning.

It swept through the wood and iron building in quick time, tallow and other fats on the premises providing ready fuel. Employees left the premises soon after 5 p.m., and everything was quite safe then, but a few minutes before midnight an employe who had been visiting friends was on the way home when he saw flames bursting from the works. He rushed to Enfield and called the Prospect brigade, and later a reel followed from the head station in the city. At the boiling works a fire is used under a boiler, but this was damped down according to custom about 4 p.m. An employe said there was no possibility of this fire taking new life and spreading. There are also several digesters at the works in which fresh bones are steamed for their fats before being sent to the Adelaide Chemical Works at Torrensville to be converted into fertilisers.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 22 January 1932, page 23

FIRE IN TRADES HALL

Clouds of smoke issuing from the basement of the Trades Hall caused members of unions attending meetings on the ground floor to think that the building was on fire last night. The fire brigade arrived, and the fire, which had started in some rubbish in the basement, was quickly subdued.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 27 January 1932, page 15

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT MAYLANDS

Factory Burnt Down

HOUSE AND DAIRY

Believed to have started when an electric motor fused, a fire swept through the factory of R. Gray & Co., woodturners, of Frederick street, Maylands, soon after 9 p.m. yesterday, and destroyed the building (which was of wood and iron), plant and stock.

About 9 p.m. two youths saw a brilliant spark come from the south-eastern corner of the factory. They then saw woodwork nearby on fire. Before they could do anything to prevent them, the flames had a firm grip, and the youths informed Mrs. H. S. Mann, whose house adjoins the factory. She rang for the Norwood Fire Brigade. The firemen could do little to check the blaze, which had spread rapidly through the building. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was then called, and the combined forces concentrated on preventing the fire from spreading to neighboring houses.

Houses In Danger

Fencing at the rear of Mrs. Mann's premises took fire, and volunteers helped to remove furniture from the house to the roadway. Beyond the fencing no damage was done, but Mrs. G. Robinson, whose dairy is at the rear of the factory, was not so fortunate. A small shed was burnt down, and harness and poultry kept inside it destroyed. One of the dairy hands returned just in time to save three horses, which were tethered near the shed. Business at Gray's factory has been brisk for the past few weeks, and a large number of chairs were stored inside. Mr. Gray and his family were away from their home during the evening, and did not return until late.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 28 January 1932, page 10

FLOCK STORE BURNED TO GROUND

City Fire Spreads Quickly

The bulk store and practically all the stock of J. Inverarity, flock manufacturer, of Miller's court, off Wright street, city, were destroyed within a few minutes by a fire yesterday morning. The fire spread very rapidly. Mrs. M. L. Tegerdine, whose home adjoins the bulk store, had her legs scorched by the heat as she ran from the house to safety. Prompt action by the Fire Brigade, which was called by an automatic fire alarm, prevented the fire from spreading to the house or to the stables of H. Graves & Co, carriers, which adjoins the store on the opposite side. A number of horses in the stable near the fire were removed before they could become panic-stricken. The fire started in a pile of rags and flock on a table in the factory about 10 a.m., and despite the use of a portable fire extinguisher, was quickly out of control. A dense column of smoke rose over the city. The rafters of the building soon took fire, and when the heat twisted the iron, the roof collapsed in sections. Mr. Inverarity had three motor trucks on the premises, but because of the speed with which the flames enveloped the building was able to save only one of them. He estimated the damage, most of which was covered by insurance, to be about £900.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 February 1932, page 1

£1,000 Fire in Large Toorak Home

Bedrooms Guttled; Valuable Clothing Lost

Fire and smoke in a large house owned and occupied by Mrs. J. A. Breaden, of Cudmore avenue, Toorak Gardens, last night caused damage estimated at £1,000. Several rooms and a large quantity of valuable clothing and other personal effects were destroyed. No one was at home when the fire started. It is believed to have been caused by the fusing of electric wires. Most of the loss is covered by insurance. Norwood Fire Brigade was called at 8.48. When the firemen arrived on the scene, in charge of Station Officer Tyson, flames were sweeping through the tiled roof. As the doors and windows were locked the firefighters had to force an entrance before they could attack the flames. They were reinforced by firemen from Adelaide, and in spite of the severe damage a good save was made, as the front rooms of the house and their contents were untouched. Falling tiles made the task of the firemen difficult. Two rear bedrooms were gutted, and damage was also done to the hall, laundry, and roof. Constable O'Leary, of Dulwich, has prepared a report for the coroner.

(Picture on Page 5)

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 February 1932, page 5

All That Was Left of the Laundry



Believed to have been caused by electric wires fusing fire caused £1,000 damage to the house of Mrs. J. A. Breden, Toorak, last night. This is the laundry.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 February 1932, page 1

£200 FIRE IN CITY FACTORY

Damage to the extent of about £200 was done by fire at the factory of Clarkson Ltd., Hindmarsh square, Adelaide. Although it is not definitely known how the blaze began, it is thought that it started near an incinerator in the furnace room. The fire spread from the ground floor to the carpenters' shop on the first floor. Employees attacked it with extinguishers, and thought that they had subdued the flames. However, the fire broke out again between the ceiling and the floor above. The brigade was then called, and soon had the fire under control. A small quantity of stock in the carpenters' shop was destroyed, and damage was done to the ceiling.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 23 February 1932, page 1

HOTEL FIRE MYSTERY

"Battery, Clock, and Spirit"

FIREMEN TELL

A BATTERY, an alarm clock with the bells removed, and stone jars containing inflammable spirit were found in the saloon bar of the Crown Inn Hotel, Currie street, after the fire there on

February 8, Station-Officer Griffen, of the Fire Brigade, told the coroner at an inquest into the fire today. The inquest was held in the Licensing Court, Victoria square. Only slight damage was done by the fire. Mr. J. L. Travers appeared for Mrs. A. Hillwood, licensee of the hotel, and Mr. C. Townsend Gun for Mr. Hillwood. Mr. W. C. Gillespie, of the Crown Law Department, appeared for the police, and Mr. E. Frinsdorf represented the Fire Brigades Board. Plainclothes Constable Davis appeared to assist the coroner (Mr. L. H. Haslam). Mr. Haslam ordered all except formal witnesses out of court. Alfred Michael Griffen, fire brigade station officer, said that following a telephone call at 9.27 p.m. on February 8 he went to the Crown Inn Hotel in charge of two appliances. After finding the doors and windows of the hotel securely fastened, he entered by breaking open a door leading to a passage in the hotel. There were no lights on. He forced an entrance to the saloon bar. It was full of dense smoke, and smelt very strongly of spirit fumes, resembling petrol fumes.

BATTERY ON FLOOR

He ordered the firemen to use a chemical fire extinguisher. The smoke was so dense that they had to work on their hands and knees. After the fire was under control Griffen said that he found a battery (produced in court) on the floor behind the bar counter, with a piece of fine wire attached to it, leading to a coil on the shelf behind the counter. Griffen said that he picked up from the floor a board with an alarm clock attached to it face downwards. The bells of the clock were missing, and a wire was attached to it. He found partly burnt cotton waste on the floor and on the shelf, and a piece of metal with wire attached on the floor. Turning, he saw Hillwood, who told him he was either the manager or the proprietor of the hotel. "What's the idea of this clock gadget?" said Griffen. Hillwood picked up the board and the clock on it, threw them away, and said, "Oh, that's nothing."

"CLOCK MISSING".

Griffen said that he went on with his examination, and noticed that the clock was missing from the board. Hillwood was also missing. Griffen ordered a search to be made for the clock, but it could not be found. Continuing his examination of the bar, he found a pickle jar containing inflammable spirit, lying on its side. A stone jar containing spirit was propped up by a piece of timber at an angle of 45 degrees. He then rang for a detective to come to the scene. He tested the liquid in the jars, and found that it caused cotton waste to flare up when lit. Three or four minutes after he had missed Hillwood he turned and saw him again, standing in the saloon bar. He was with another civilian, whom he did not know. When Det. Grow arrived, Griffen said to Hillwood, "Can you explain the presence of these jars containing inflammable spirit?" Hillwood replied that he had never seen them before. The liquid from the pickle jar was poured into a bottle (produced in court).

"OWNS FREEHOLD"

Mr. Travers—You looked round the house after the fire had been put out. Did it look as though it had been cleaned out in preparation for a fire? Griffen—No. Have you ever heard that Mrs. Hillwood owns the freehold of the property? —No. Did you notice that the hotel had recently been painted and renovated? No. Mr. Gun—Did you see anyone else in the hotel on the night of the fire?—I saw a man in shirt sleeves in the dense smoke in the passage before we entered the saloon bar. I heard he was a barman. Did this man assist the firemen to force an entry to the saloon bar?—Yes. Did you say to the man in shirt sleeves, "Keep your hands off those glasses, and dont' touch anything in here as there may be fingerprints about?"—I said that as a general remark to my men. The hearing is proceeding.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 10 March 1932, page 9

Fire Brigade Demonstration For Charity

Members of the Adelaide Fire Station staff gave a second display of athletics and fire fighting apparatus at Wakefield street last night. The display included boxing and wrestling bouts, pyramids, step dancing, and a comprehensive demonstration of all types and methods of fire-

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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fighting and rescue work. Proceeds of the demonstration, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club, will go to charitable institutions.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 March 1932, page 7

Fire In Motor Cycle Store

Considerable damage was caused by a fire at the rear of Gard Bros., motor cycle agents, Gouger street, on Saturday night.

The Fire Brigade received a call a few minutes after 11 o'clock, and on arrival found the repair shop and a loft containing spare parts at the rear of the shop ablaze. The flames were creeping towards the show rooms in the front, but were got under control quickly. Several motor cycles on display were scorched, and fittings, including those of the offices, damaged. The fire apparently originated in the section in which spare parts are stored.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 5 April 1932, page 1

£200 Fire on South Road

Damage estimated at £200 was caused by fire to the back kitchen of the home of Mr. A. Newton, South road, Marleston, at 7.25 a.m. today. The kitchen and contents were destroyed, and contents of the home were damaged by smoke and heat. The damage is covered by insurance. Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the flames. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 18 April 1932, page 10

THREE FIRES IN CITY BUILDING

Police Enquiring

Detectives are enquiring into the origin of fires which broke out in three places on the eighth floor of Chelford Buildings, in Russell street, on Saturday night. An alarm, connected with the automatic sprinkler system, warned the Fire Brigade, and little damage was caused. The floor almost entirely comprises a large workroom and a stockroom, occupied by Mr. E. Plaisted, and two small adjoining rooms occupied by Liberty Frocks. The firemen found that of the three outbreaks, one had started among cardboard boxes in a room occupied by Liberty Frocks, and another under the counter in an adjoining room occupied by Mr. Plaisted. A pane of glass separating this room from the Liberty Frocks rooms had been removed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 3 May 1932, page 6

Inspection Of Fire Brigades

The secretary of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. R. B. Beeton) stated yesterday that the chairman of the board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) and the chief officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie), accompanied by some of the members, had completed the half-yearly inspection of the following fire station under the board's jurisdiction:—Manned by Permanent Staff—Adelaide, North Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Semaphore, Port Pirie, Gawler, Glenelg, Norwood, Unley, Thebarton, and Prospect. Manned by Auxiliary Staff—Port Augusta, Kapunda, Moonta, Kadina, Wallaroo, Tanunda, Balaklava, Burra, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Renmark, Berri, Port Lincoln, and Eudunda. The whole of the stations were found to be in good order, and the men in every case showed efficiency and interest in their duties. The water pressure in the towns visited was satisfactory.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 May 1932, page 1

Fused Dynamo in City Building

When a constable saw smoke in the shop of A. E. Haigh Ltd., King William street, shortly before 6 a.m. today he summoned the Fire Brigade. The door was forced open, and it was found that the smoke was caused by a dynamo fusing. No other damage was caused.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 13 May 1932, page 16

Fire Causes £50 Damage In City Shop

Shortly after 1 o'clock on Thursday morning, a fire occurred in the shop of Mr. J. W. Tattersall, Wright street, Adelaide, but within two minutes of its arrival the brigade had it under control. Damage estimated at £50 was done to the stock, fittings, and building. The loss is covered by insurance. When Mr. Tattersall left at 6 o'clock on the previous evening every thing was in order.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 14 May 1932, page 8

THINGS FIREMEN HAVE TO DO

Heroism—And Humor

TURN OUT TO RESCUE A CAT

ADELAIDE has lately been singularly free from destructive fires; at all events, from such extensive conflagrations as Duncan's, and Richards', and Martin's of the memorable Easter Saturday. The flash of the flying motor turbine pump is not so spectacular as were the horses at full gallop. The firemen have not been so much in evidence, but their value has in no way decreased. Last year the number of calls was a record, and some of the outbreaks of fire had all the elements of very serious affairs; but quick and skilful work by the brigade checked the flames before they got a good hold. The work of the firemen does not pass unnoticed, however, particularly when they are put to such a test as that on Wednesday night last, when, equipped with smoke helmets, they joined in the tragic search for the missing men in the sewer.

Examples Of Heroism

The fireman is, as that incident showed, very much more than a fire fighter. He never knows what he may be called upon to do. If death-dealing fumes pervade any place, whether they be generated by fire, or some such volatile fluid as ammonia, it is the fireman who must seek the cause, or rescue people in danger of asphyxiation. If a flood occurs, if a water main bursts, the firemen are often asked to bring their powerful pumps and to unwater basements or excavations. If an explosion threatens, the fireman, at risk of life and limb, must try to prevent it. Of their work in this regard, there is no more eloquent evidence than in the example of the Port Adelaide brigade when the steamship South Africa, loaded with dynamite, caught fire in the Port River in 1910, or of Adelaide and Port Adelaide men at the fatal City of Singapore outburst in 1924. There is no limit to the range of their activities. Years ago two men were overcome by foul air in a well at Gumeracha. The local constable pluckily went down the well to bring them out, and was in turn overcome. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade of those days had a strictly limited area to cover; but a call for help sent firemen dashing from town to Gumeracha in an effort to save life. They were, alas, too late—all the men in the well were dead when the firemen, wearing smoke helmets, went down to them.

Wedding Was Not All Bliss

All the missions of the firemen are not, however, accompanied by tragedy. Now and again these men have an experience which raises a laugh everytime it is mentioned. One night a telephone call was received from a well-known photographic studio. "We are locked in," said a plaintive voice. A ladder reel was turned out, for the studio was on the top floor of a rather tall building. Entering one of the windows, a fireman was confronted by a bride and bridegroom, attired as for their wedding. In some way they had been overlooked when the

studio was locked up. The fireman carried the bride down the ladder to the street, the bridegroom scrambling after them in a manner not conducive to sartorial elegance.

The Marooned Cat

The brigade has been summoned to rescue dogs and cats from roofs, or other inaccessible places. People who have been told the stories of the cats have often smiled incredulously. But cats do become marooned in queer places; and that the Fire Brigade will not hesitate to go to the rescue of even a cat or a dog, notwithstanding that there is no fire threatening it, has been proved more than once. There is preserved, among other correspondence expressing appreciation of the work of the brigade at fires and in many curious sidelines, a letter from the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals giving thanks for the work of firemen with a ladder, in rescuing a cat "which was stranded on a window sill at Burford's factory in Sturt street." It was a difficult piece of work, it appears, and could not have been accomplished but for the help of the brigade. No incident is more indicative of the readiness of firemen to give service in any cause. At Port Pirie and Port Adelaide the firemen have control of ambulance work under the control of local committees, and do it very efficiently, too, as the appreciative letters of the committees show. Many firemen are well qualified to render first aid.

Escape Ladder Belies Its Name

On one occasion the assistance of the brigade was requisitioned for the apprehension of burglars who had eluded the police by taking to the roofs. Fire escape ladders were sent to the scene, and put to a new use, that of preventing escape. More than once have firemen turned hoses upon mobs which have got out of hand in riots, but, happily, this has not occurred in South Australia.

Where "Efficiency" Has A Meaning

Jack Tar may be a handy man, but it is doubtful if he has the versatility of the fireman. The latter fights a fire with every ounce of his energy, he is ready for any rescue work, and even his amusements are often designed to confer benefit on some one else. Dances and displays at the head fire station are frequently organised in the name of charity, and many laudable objects have been helped in this way. Of the amount firemen have raised for philanthropic purposes no record has been kept, but it must be very large. Men off duty will not hesitate to don their uniforms and treat spectators to the spectacle of a turnout. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have benefited, not only from the charitable impulses of the firemen, but from the example of discipline and efficiency which every visitor to the fire station has before him. The glitter of polished metal, the spotless paint, the speed and thoroughness which distinguish firemen everywhere, betoken the craftsman. The firemen not only keep their motors smart in appearance; they maintain them in perfect running order. Once a machine is delivered into their hands, no outside artisan is allowed to touch it. The firemen themselves execute all repairs and make all replacements. They can detect a flaw in the electric wiring of a motor reel as readily as they see a leak in a hose, and repair it as effectively. When it is remembered that the motors always run at high speed and pumps under great stress, and that hoses have to withstand a pressure of as much as 400 lb. to the square inch, it will be seen that efficiency is no idle boast in the Fire Brigade.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 13 June 1882, page 5

ADELAIDE CORPORATION.

MONDAY, JUNE 12.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF WHOLE COUNCIL.

Fire Brigades Bill.—The R.W. the Mayor reported that the object of the meeting was to take into consideration the Bill drafted by the town clerk for the establishment and regulation of fire brigades within municipalities, and to meet a deputation from the Fire Insurers' Association,

who objected to several provisions set out in the Bill, the principal objection being that if the Bill became law the insurance companies carrying on business within a municipality (should the Act have been proclaimed as applicable to that municipality) would be compelled to subscribe two-thirds of the expenses of the working of the brigade doing duty there.

The deputation were in waiting, and he suggested that if the council were prepared to meet them without again perusing the Bill they should be admitted. The deputation, consisting of Mr. Abrahams, the chairman, and seven other members of the association, were then admitted.

Without prelude Mr. Abrahams informed your committee that their association strongly objected to three clauses in the Bill, viz.:— iv., dealing with the appointment of a board; vii., vesting in the board the fire brigades' plant at present in the city; xiv., the contribution from the insurance companies of a percentage on the amount represented by their policies (reinsurances excepted); and unless they thought their objections to these provisions would be favorably considered it would greatly influence the deputation in their conference with the council. In addition to the amendments previously agreed to the following were subsequently assented to by your committee :—Clause iv. That the board should consist of six members, two of whom to be nominated respectively by the Governor, the municipality, and the insurance companies. Clause xiv. That the insurance companies should pay a percentage on the amount of premiums received, and not on the amounts insured (reinsurances excepted). The deputation before withdrawing intimated that the Fire Insurance Board ought to defray the expenses of maintaining the service of the police used at any fire as a fire escape and salvage corps, and the town clerk was instructed to insert a provision in the bill to that effect. The corporation being thus relieved from this burden, recommend—That this corporation shall pay to the board out of their revenue of extraneous resources a sum of money, being one-sixth of the total outlay of the board in the respect to the objects of the bill, the amount not to exceed the sum of £350 annually.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 27 June 1932, page 17

FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser," June 27, 1882

AT the monthly drill of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, at Darling's Mill, Carrington street, three hose reels were used. Various manoeuvres were satisfactorily performed by the firemen. The whole of the lengths of hose were tried. Though a heavy pressure of water was directed through them, not one burst, thus proving the satisfactory state they were in. In the absence of Mr. Baker. Mr. Moore superintended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 16 July 1932, page 7

Chimney On Fire At Government House

A fire started in a chimney in the servants' quarters at Government House at 8.15 o'clock last night, and because wooden rafters joined the chimney it was thought advisable to call the brigade. Sir Alexander and Lady Hore-Ruthven were at dinner. The firemen scaled the front of Government House and put the fire out from the roof.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 11 August 1932, page 10

Van Of Furniture Damaged By Fire

A van containing furniture, belonging to Mr. Coulter, of Broken Hill, which had been stored at the premises of Richard Mitchell on South terrace, city, was found to be in flames by Frank L. Crafter yesterday morning. The fire was extinguished by the fire brigade, but a quantity of furniture in the rear of the van was badly damaged. The coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekmann) has deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 September 1932, page 15

FIRE AT SERVICE STATION

Residents Rush Into Street, Fearing Explosion

At 1.15 a.m. today fire attacked the service station of Harold F. Wright in Victoria avenue, Rose Park. The flames were seen from several miles away. The building comprising the shop part of the station blazed fiercely, but a fire detachment from the head station got the fire under control within 15 minutes. The building was badly damaged. Fear of an explosion brought people from nearby houses into the streets in their night clothes but their alarm was needless. The fire was discovered by people living next door—Miss Ada Pascoe, Mrs. Carrie Oxendale, and Mr. Edward Pascoe. Mr. Pascoe, who is 83, started a garden hose on the blaze, at some risk to himself, while the others rang the fire brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 6 September 1932, page 1

MYSTERY CAR AT FIRE

Leaves After Explosion

HEAVY DAMAGE

IMMEDIATELY after an explosion, which set fire to and gutted the service station of Mr. H. F. Wright, in Victoria avenue, Rose Park, early this morning, a neighbor heard a motor car driven fast away from the front. Although firemen kept the blaze from the petrol storage tanks, thousands of pounds' worth of damage was wrought. Mr. C. B. O'Reilly was awakened by the sound of the explosion. "I distinctly heard a motor car drive away, but in which direction it went I could not tell, he said. "I was in bed at the time, and did not see the car.

Constable O'Leary, of Dulwich, who is reporting to headquarters about the mystery morning fire, says that a motor car left the scene just after the explosion. He is enquiring about it. What part the car or its occupant played in the fire is not known. There may be no connection between the two. The cause of the explosion has not yet been discovered. Probably fatal results and extensive damage to surrounding homes would have resulted if the flames which gutted the service station had reached the under-ground petrol storage tanks.

CITY REEL SENT

Blazing oil and other stock made a vivid but terrifying spectacle which brought residents out in their night attire. When the Norwood Fire Brigade left its station at 1.15 a lurid glare in the sky reflected the blaze. And when it arrived the building was burning "from end to end," according to one of the firemen. A reel from headquarters also dashed to the scene. Fighting desperately, the firemen saved surrounding properties, and also kept the outbreak from reaching the underground petrol tanks and the petrol and oil bowsers in front of the service station. In spite of the havoc wrought to the service station, petrol was sold as usual during the day.

MAN, 83, FIGHTS FLAMES

Mr. Wright said today that stock and equipment in the gutted building were destroyed. It was impossible, he said, to estimate the total extent of the damage, but it would probably run into several thousand pounds. Everything was in order when the service station was closed last night. Contents of a large shed at the rear of the shop were also destroyed. A motor car belonging to Mr. O. Plant, an employe, and two motor cycles owned by Mr. Wright were damaged beyond repair in this structure. The building and stock were insured for £3,000. Some important books were saved. Although 83 years of age, Mr. E. Pascoe, who lives next door, did his bit until the arrival of the firemen by playing his garden hose on to the flames. A cat which usually slept on the premises has not been seen since, and it is thought that it was incinerated.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 September 1932, page 1

AMMONIA FUMES STAGGER MAN

Refrigerator Blows Out At Hotel

When one of the valves of a refrigerating plant at the Oriental Hotel, Rundle street, City, blew out today, the engineer, William Packenerof, of Glenelg, was overcome by ammonia fumes. He staggered to the door of the room, and recovered in a few minutes. In the meantime the licensee of the hotel, Mr. Herbert Walsh, and an employe, had tied towels round their heads and rushed into the room. There they turned off the ammonia taps. No damage was done. The fire brigade was summoned, and four men with a reel and gas-resisting appliances attended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 8 October 1932, page 9

Safety For Theatregoers: Rigid Precautions In This State

By The Chief Secretary, MR. WHITFORD

SOMEBODY asked me the other day what steps were taken by the authorities to safeguard the public in places of entertainment, particularly picture theatres, with their large, constant patronage.

The remark was made while I was watching a show which was crowded to the doors. "Supposing a fire occurred?" was a question put to me rather nervously. "Are the escape doors ever tested? Are there sufficient exits?" There were other questions, and, looking over that crowded theatre, it occurred to me that the public should be told just what precautions are taken for their safety while they are enjoying themselves.

Well, what is done may surprise many people. Whatever may be South Australia's shortcomings, the neglect of her citizens is not one of them. The steps taken for the preservation of their safety, health, and convenience in places of entertainment, for instance, are on a scale, and planned with a completeness, not attained in any other part of the Commonwealth.

How Theatres Sprang Up

The Places of Public Entertainment Act was passed in 1913, and the public safety branch, established as a consequence, is under the supervision of the chief inspector (Mr. T. E. Smith), who is also one of the film censors. In 1911 there were only four places in the city open for public entertainment. Since then no fewer than 140 shows (including theatres and picture theatres) in the city, suburbs, and country towns have been opened, and at least 750 public halls and other buildings for amusements purposes come under the scope of the Act of 1913. Because of the growth of picture theatres it was considered necessary to have effective and drastic regulations to provide against panic in the case of fire or other emergency. And the Government has insisted on rigid obedience to the law. In the event of a fire or a panic occurring, the safety of the people, whether spectators, actors, operators, or stage hands, is considered of paramount importance. The building itself may be destroyed, but all the people involved must, in any circumstances, be afforded the utmost facilities for escape. These buildings have been made structurally safe, and efficient means for preventing and extinguishing fires have been adopted. When a fire has taken place in any building during a performance, its origin invariably has been traced either to the stage or the cinema operating room, but, in view of the drastic safeguards adopted, with rigid inspection by Government officers, and the services of the "fire watch," the smoke and flames have been prevented from extending to the main building, thus enabling the audience to get safely out.

Fire Provisions

During the past 21 years there have been only 42 fires in places of public entertainment, and the people have escaped without accident. This is a good record. It is realised that a panic arising from various causes in any theatre, picture show, or public hall, is one of the most serious dangers, and the best way to prevent it is to give theatregoers a feeling of security by providing an ample number of wide unimpeded exits. A direct fire alarm is installed, and connected with the nearest fire station. Adequate fire hydrants, hose, chemical fire extinguishers, and other appliances are placed in all parts of the building for the ready use of the firemen on duty and the staff until the arrival of the brigade. The firemen stationed in the larger places of public entertainment are a great asset. Half an hour before, and again immediately before the performance begins, the firemen inspect all the appliances, alarms, stage arrangements, escape doors, exit lamps, gangways, and other parts of the building. The stage fireproof curtain is also lowered to make sure it is working properly. In the case of fire, the fireman would drop the safety curtain, release the water sprinklers on the stage, call the brigade, and carry on until its arrival. At picture theatres the fireman inspects the buildings from end to end before the performance. During the pictures he takes up a position outside the fireproof cinema operating room, and, in the event of a film's catching fire, his duty is to enter the room and assist the operators to extinguish the fire. After the performance, the rounds of the building are made by the fireman, and every portion examined. So people may go to the picture shows and the theatres and rest assured that everything possible is being done for their protection and safety.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 26 October 1932, page 9

Fire Stations Inspected

The chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) and the chief officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie), accompanied by some of the members, have completed the half-yearly inspection of the following fire stations under the board's jurisdiction: — Manned by permanent staff: — Adelaide, North Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Semaphore, Port Pirie, Gawler, Glenelg, Norwood, Unley, Thebarton and Prospect. Manned by auxiliary staff:— Port Augusta, Kapunda, Moonta, Kadina, Wallaroo, Tanunda, Balaklava, Burra, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Renmark, Port Lincoln, Eudunda, and Berri. The whole of the stations were found to be in good order, states the secretary of the board (Mr. R. B. Beeton), and the men in every case showed efficiency and interest in their duties. The water pressure in the towns visited was satisfactory.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 8 November 1932, page 6

Fire Reel at Board Chairman's Funeral

A motor reel with firemen in uniform took part in the funeral this afternoon of the chairman of the Fire Brigade Board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf), of North Adelaide. He was buried in the North Road Cemetery. Pallbearers were Deputy Chief Officer G. P. Cooper and Station Officer T. Sayers, each of headquarters, and District Officer E. W. Cook (Port Adelaide) Station Officers W. Tyson (Norwood), W. L. Robertson (Prospect), and J. Koskee (Unley). Chief Officer J. E. Dickie when advised of the death of Mr. Frinsdorf returned from Melbourne to Adelaide today to attend the funeral. The secretary (Mr. R. Beeton) will also be present. Several wreaths were sent by firemen. The Rev. A. de Pledge Sykes officiated.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 November 1932, page 2

ALWAYS READY—THE FIREMAN'S MOTTO

"ALWAYS ready" is the fireman's motto. Summer means the reappearance of the fire demon. And stern and, above all, fast measures are needed in dealing with the fire demon.

FROM now onward for some months is the worst time of the year for the men who fight fires, and this summer, because of the prolific growth of grass following the wet winter, the danger of an outbreak will be great. The careless throwing down of a lighted match can start a fire which brings devastation in its wake, wiping out fences, burning home-steads to the ground,

and destroying valuable stock. The efforts of men whose job it is to save property from the fire fiend concentrate as much on preventing a fire from starting as they do on putting one out. It should be the duty of everybody in city and country to back them up by taking care to see that they do nothing calculated to start even a small fire, for, fanned by a wind, the smallest of fires can grow quickly, until soon it is sweeping away everything in its path. There is nothing more terrifying or more spectacular than a fire. Whole blocks of buildings full of merchandise, representing the industry and savings of many people, can be reduced to ashes in a few hours. A tall building as a raging inferno—nothing is more gripping in its intensity. The heroic fight of the firemen in the face of tremendous heat—the climb over adjacent buildings with heavy lines of hose—the crash of falling timbers—the rescue of trapped occupants—the gradual defeat of the demon—then all that is left, a mass of charred timber and twisted iron. The best from Hollywood cannot supply more thrills. People everywhere will travel miles at any hour of the day or night to see a fire.

BRIGADES must keep up to date in their methods of attack, and in the equipment they use, The faithful horses which thrilled us as boys as they careered through streets with the fire engine have had to give way to the more powerful but less interesting petrol engine. Most men in their youth wanted to be a fireman or an engine driver, but being a fireman is no job for a weakling. The men must be strong, resolute, and obedient, and prepared to face danger. They have to keep fit, and in a well-equipped gymnasium at headquarters in Wakefield street they can take all the exercise they require.

Throughout the day they are occupied testing equipment, examining plugs and alarms, and attending drills which will enable them to perform their tasks with the minimum of waste in time and labor. Most men take at least 15 minutes to dress each morning. Professional men, whose appearance is among their principal assets, may take longer. A fireman in Adelaide would be considered too slow for his job if he took more than half a minute. Awakened from a sound sleep by the ringing of the alarm bell, the fireman is trained to ramble out of bed long before his mental processes have informed him of what had awakened him. With his eyes only half open he gropes instinctively for the tall boots alongside his bed, and pulls them on and—here lies the secret of his quickness—with them his trousers and belt. What more simple than to leave his boots threaded into his trousers leg before he retires ! Many a small boy does the same thing—that is if his mother is not looking—especially in the cold days of winter. The firemen in Adelaide and suburbs move so quickly that in less than a minute from the time the alarm sounds they must be on the engine with tunic and helmet on, ready to leave. To take more time than that would be a crime. A fireman at the head station may be in the midst of a break on the billiard table, or trying to smash his way to victory on the tennis court. Wherever he is he has to stop everything. One man recently had finished shaving one half of his face when the call came. The smoke from the fire blackened the shaven half, and nobody was any the wiser.

THERE must be no confusion when an alarm of fire comes through. The men know what to do, and they do it quickly and well. Each knows every day the position he is to occupy on a fire engine and the duties of the occupant of that position. He is not No. 1 on the engine all the time. He is changed so that he may become familiar with the work of his mates. One would expect excitement at the station on the alarm of a fire being received. But there is no excitement. Silence is insisted upon. Men move quickly to their places. Two engines set out for the scene of the outbreak. A man ascends to the top of a tower in the station yard to view the fire, and by telephone communicates with the officer in charge. With this information and what he receives from the men at the scene, the officer decides the equipment which he will send. There is no shouting of orders, just the touch of a switch, and a notice appears on a dial instructing an engine to proceed to the fire. It is all quiet, quick, and efficient. Some of the equipment at the Wakefield street station is said to be among the best in Australia. There is a motor turntable ladder, which will reach to a height of 90 ft., three feet more than the next highest in Sydney. The jumping sheet is so constructed with springs that a person landing on it from the top of the Shell Building would not it is said, fracture a bone. There are other ways

of saving life from a burning building practised by Adelaide firemen. They have a rescue line of 120 ft made of manila rope. A person who cannot be carried to safety can be brought down this line in what is known as a chair knot. Then there is a slide line. This is fixed to a building, and the victim can slide down it to safety. When a fireman cannot take the end of the line to the person to be rescued it may be shot up by means of a rocket

FIREMEN at the head station are given special training in rescue work. A small man, after a brief period, can carry a much bigger one down a swaying ladder. He is taught how to take the weight on his shoulders. Firemen are on duty three days and nights, and then have 24 hours off. They do all the work about the place, such as building and carpentry, and every man becomes efficient in the mechanism of the petrol-driven engines. They have a picturesque garden in memory of colleagues who have lost their lives at fires. The helmet worn by the firemen is not as some may imagine, for show, but has been designed to afford the wearer the utmost protection. If a brick fell on top of it the wearer would not be hurt as there is a skull cap inside. The peak protects the eyes from falling glass, and the back of it allows water to flow off without touching the shoulders. The tunic, being made of very fine cloth, does not become saturated quickly. For the protection of the firemen smoke helmets, jackets, and masks are provided. Attached to some of them is a telephone, so that a fireman on entering a smoke-laden basement can keep in touch with the officer directing operations. Fortunately, there have not been many disastrous fires in Adelaide and suburbs. The one attended by most loss of life was on the City of Singapore. Three men were killed.

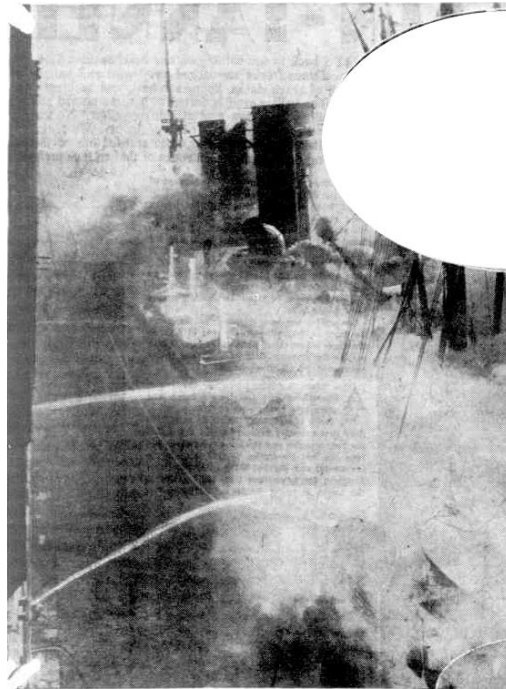
IF there is one person in this world the fireman does not like it is the one who delights in giving a false alarm just for the satisfaction it gives him of seeing the brigade dash through the crowded streets. It is not that he objects to being called out, but while he is away a serious conflagration, requiring the immediate services of every available man, may break out. Last year there were more of these "malicious" calls as the annual report of the Fire Brigades Board describes them, than in any other period of 12 months. There was on an average one nearly every second day. During last year the brigade attended 721 calls—a record number for this State and an increase of 148 over the preceding year. The increase was made up mostly of grass and rubbish fires and false alarms.

A NUMBER of warehouses and factories have sprinkler installations. The heat of a fire quickly melts part of the apparatus, thus releasing water in pipes, and allowing it to spray over the fire. As the volume of water discharged is 80 gallons a minute, the fire is very effectively attacked in the initial stages. Fire extinguishers are installed in many places. It is estimated that there are 5,000 of them in Adelaide. They are tested by the Fire Brigades Board on request.

SUPPOSING a fire broke out in your home, what should you do? Notify the brigade as quickly as possible, and then close all doors and windows to prevent any breeze from fanning the flames. It is a great mistake to enter a smoke-filled room standing upright. Get down as close to the floor as possible, as in that way you escape some of the fumes. Firemen always attack a blaze from the leeward, that is, they face into it. The duty of a fireman is to prevent and extinguish fires with the least possible damage to life, limb, and property. Outside the metropolitan area Port Pirie and Gawler are the only towns in South Australia with permanent firemen. There are auxiliary firemen at Kapunda, Moonta, Kadina, Port Augusta, Wallaroo, Tanunda, Balaklava, Burra, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Mallala, Renmark, Berri, and Port Lincoln.



A CORNER of the garden at the head station in Wakefield street in memory of firemen who have been killed while on duty.



[*] one of the worst jobs the fireman has to do. Flames are raging in the holds of the vessel, and sending out clouds of smoke. For days after the flames have been subdued the fire smoulders in the cargo.



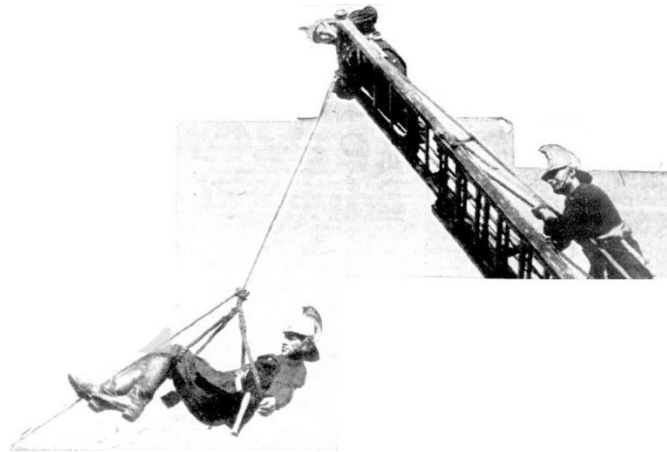
FIREMEN are taught how to carry the weight of a fire victim on their shoulders. They leave one hand free, with which to hold on to a ladder.



FIREMEN are provided with mouth pieces, masks, and helmets as a protection against dust, smoke, and gases. Some of the helmets have an attachment by which a fireman on entering a basement can telephone to the officer in charge



STRONG PRESSURE of water here. It is of great importance that the hose and couplings should be in good order. They are tested after every fire at which they are used.



CHAIR KNOT made of manila rope, by which a person can be conveyed to safety from a burning building. The rescue line can reach to a distance of 120 ft

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 22 November 1932, page 16

Fire At Atomol Plant

Friction in a grinding plant started a fire outbreak at the premises of Atomol Dusts Ltd., in Dumfries place (off Gilles street), city, yesterday. The fire was extinguished by the brigade, the damage being confined to a hopper.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 November 1932, page 9

Fire Brigades Called To Grass Fires

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received two calls on Saturday afternoon to grass fires in the parklands. The first outbreak, soon after 3 p.m., occurred at the corner of South terrace and William road. The other fire broke out about 4.30 p.m., near the Keswick railway bridge and the cemetery. Both were easily extinguished. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 6.20 p.m. to a grass fire at the North Adelaide railway station. No damage was done. More grass fires broke out yesterday. The first, at the corner of Greenhill road and Portrush road, was reported to the Norwood Fire Brigade at 1.3 a.m. The next was at 1.11 a.m. in the West Parklands, near Southwark Bridge. During the morning and afternoon, five more were reported, in the West Parklands, opposite Waymouth street, two near the corner of East terrace and Wakefield street, in the South Parklands, and in the East Parklands, near Pirie street.

Precautions Against Fire

As it is believed that many fires have been caused through the carelessness of children, the Education Department has instructed teachers to impress upon their charges the importance of a number of "Don'ts," such as—"Don't play with matches; don't light a fire in the open without instructions from someone older than yourself; don't fail to extinguish any fire before you leave the spot; don't light fires or even matches near any dry grass crop or haystacks." Similar instructions for adults have been issued by the Department of Agriculture in the form of posters in which smokers travelling along the roads are asked not to throw any lighted ends of cigarettes on to the roadway. There are regulations, also, for campers, an infringement of which may result in a prosecution and the imposition of severe penalties under the Bush Fires Act.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 November 1932, page 15

Traffic Diverted Because Of Spilt Petrol

When a large quantity of petrol had leaked on to the roadway from a service waggon in Pirie street, between Hutt and Pulteney streets, at 3.30 p.m. yesterday, the fire brigade, fearing that a spark might ignite petrol vapor, diverted traffic from the vicinity. Another waggon was called, and the petrol was pumped into it from the leaking vehicle. The spilt petrol was washed from the roadway by the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 November 1932, page 15



WHEN THIS LORRY sprang a leak in Pirie street yesterday, petrol streamed on to the road. To obviate fire danger the brigade was summoned.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 November 1932, page 9

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Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 1 December 1932, page 15

Fire In Tivoli Theatre Yard

An outbreak of fire in a rubbish heap at the rear of the Tivoli Theatre, Grote street, city, yesterday was extinguished by a Fire Brigade squad in five minutes.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 December 1932, page 26

Firemen Training For Charity Display

Firemen attached to the Metropolitan Brigade are training at 7 o'clock each morning for a display of fire drill and physical culture, which they will present at headquarters, Wakefield street, on the evenings of December 13 and 14 in aid of the Father Adelaide Christmas fund. The displays will begin at 8 p.m., and last for about two and a half hours. About 35 men under Chief Officer J. Dickie will take part.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 December 1932, page 3

REASON FOR FEWER GRASS FIRES

Because of the prolonged winter this year fewer grass fires have been reported to the Fire Brigade. Last month there were only 12 compared with 52 in November last year. But with the grass drying rapidly now it is quite likely that there will be an increase in the number of calls this month. Most grass fires this year have been in vacant allotments, and little damage has resulted. Sometimes people advise the Fire Brigade when grass or rubbish appears likely to become a menace in neighbors' properties and action is taken to have the risk minimised. The brigade urges all householders to prevent dry grass from accumulating on their properties. By doing so they will be acting in their own interests and that of the community.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 10 December 1932, page 16

GRASS FIRE HEMS WEATHER BUREAU

Mercury Climbs As Staff Assists Fire Brigade

Buildings of the Weather Bureau and Meteorological Department were endangered, and mercury in the Observatory thermometers was forced up a few extra degrees about 11.30 a.m. yesterday by the most serious parklands grass fire this summer. Fanned by a strong south-west breeze, the blaze swept an area of about four acres, extending between the Bakewell Bridge road and the rear of the Observatory. A pillar of smoke that could be seen from Victoria square arose, and sparks ignited dry barley stubble in a large paddock attached to the Observatory grounds. A Fire Brigade detachment, under Senior Fireman T. M. Davis, was assisted by members of the Observatory staff in fighting the fire for about half an hour before it was got under control. Hose was used to extinguish the stubble fire in the Observatory grounds. Breaks that had been burned alongside the Observatory fences prevented them from catching fire, and no damage was done to the buildings.



PROTECTING the Observatory from the grass fire which threatened it yesterday. Ten firemen and many police had to be called to keep the flames in check.



B 9430

State Library of South Australia - Observatory [B 9430], Observatory, and associated buildings, looking south from the south corner of West Terrace and Glover Avenue. For a view of the Adelaide Boys High School erected on this site in 1952 see B 12475. Sir Charles Todd was Adelaide's first Government Astronomer who was also interested in weather. He kept impeccable records of both at the Observatory. 1940. Government Photolithographer (S.A). Part of Adelaide Views and Observatory Collection.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 December 1932, page 1

Grass Fires Round Adelaide

About an acre of grass was burnt off in a fire at Medindie this afternoon, but no fences were damaged. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended to the out-break.

Several Acres of grass were also destroyed by a fire in the North Parklands early this afternoon. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was called this afternoon to the premises of Griffiths Bros., Ltd., tea, coffee, and cocoa merchants, Gawler place, and found the premises filled with smoke. At first the firemen could not find any fire, but later it was reported they found a short circuit which had been causing the smoke. While this call was being investigated an

alarm on Morphett street summoned the brigade. Two appliances raced to the scene, but found it was a false alarm.

"GET PERMIT AND BURN GRASS"

Today's outbreak of bushfires—some small and others more serious — directs attention to the danger of allowing dry grass to remain near buildings and fences. At this time of the year the grass is tall and dry, and the possibilities of fire are great.

If householders obtained the necessary permit and burned down the grass on their premises they would do much to help combat the grassfire menace. "Householders would be well advised to get rid of the dry grass and weeds in their backyards," said the deputy chief officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. Cooper) tonight. "All that is necessary is to obtain a permit from the corporation of the district, and the grass can be burned down under supervision.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 13 December 1932, page 1

DID AMBULANCE HIT SEDAN CAR FIRST?

Drivers Differ in Tragic North Terrace Crash

Drivers of the two motor vehicles concerned in South Australia's first fatal ambulance crash, when interviewed today, differed on one main point—the first impact. "The ambulance didn't touch my sedan car until it hit the tram standard. Then the back of the ambulance swung round and hit the front portion of my car," said Mr. C. A. Richards, driver of the sedan. "The ambulance glanced off the front portion of the sedan and then struck the tram standard." said Mr. C. Hocking, driver of the ambulance. A pathetic feature of the accident is that the husband of the woman who was killed, Mrs. Rosa Platt, died 10 days ago. She was with the patient because of her friendship with the family.

The crash which occurred on North terrace shortly after 8.30 last night caused the death of Mrs. Rosa Platt, aged 59, of Frederick street, Welland; serious injuries to Mrs. Martha Reich, 59, and her daughter Mavis, 21, of Welland; severe injuries to Edward Wauchope, 25, ambulance attendant, of Day terrace, Croydon; and minor injuries to Mr. Hocking, driver of the ambulance. Mr. Richards, driver of the sedan, escaped uninjured.

Pathetic Feature

A pathetic feature of the accident is that Mrs. Platt, whose husband died 10 days ago, insisted on accompanying the ambulance which was conveying Miss Reich to the hospital, in spite of the entreaties of a neighbor, who offered to go in Mrs. Platt's stead. "But that was typical of her," said the neighbor concerned, Mrs. F. D. Oliver, of Welland. "She was always working for others, and felt that as a neighbor she should do what she could for the Reich family. "I felt that she had not sufficiently recovered from the shock of her husband's death. She had ridden in ambulances many times with her husband, and was widely known at the Adelaide Hospital, where Mr. Platt was a patient on several occasions." "It was a very tragic ending to a woman who was loved by everyone," said Mrs. E. Lewsey, of Welland. "She never refused to help anyone, and it was while helping another that she died. Mrs. Platt's mother, who is 85, is in America. She went there 30 years ago. Mrs. Platt did not leave any children. Her sister Mrs. J. Havard lives at Kingswood. Mr. Wauchope, who received head injuries and shock, had improved today. He returned from Western Australia only a fortnight ago. Miss Reich and her mother are still in a serious condition. Mr. Hocking was examined by Dr. C. E. Dolling at his home today. He is suffering from chest bruises, a cut hand, and dislocated nose. His nose will be reset tomorrow.

"Heard Hooter, Then Roar"

Graphic descriptions of the crash were given by the two drivers concerned. They were:—

Mr. Richards—"I was travelling along leisurely toward the Adelaide Railway Station. I was on my own in the car, and was driving about 20 miles an hour. The western end of North terrace is narrower than the part on the eastern side of the Morphett street Bridge. I kept straight on. "Then I heard a



Mr. C. A. Richards

hooter and a roar. I saw an ambulance. It appeared as if it were about to pass on the wrong side of me. I started to pull to the right. Then came a crash. The rear part of the ambulance swung back and hit my front mudguard. The front portion of the ambulance next to the driver hit the tram standard. The engine and bonnet were not smashed."

Mr. Hocking—Dr. Dolling told me it was a very urgent case. I wasted no time. I was travelling along North terrace sounding the hooter, and could see a sedan in front of me. When I got close to it it appeared to shoot across in front of me. The next instant I had struck the sedan and glanced off against the tram standard. I had the brakes on. "I have been driving for years—ever since I was 14—and this was my first serious smash. What did I feel like? In a split second I swung to the right. Then I swung to the left in an effort to miss the tram standard, but nothing could save us."



Mr. Hocking

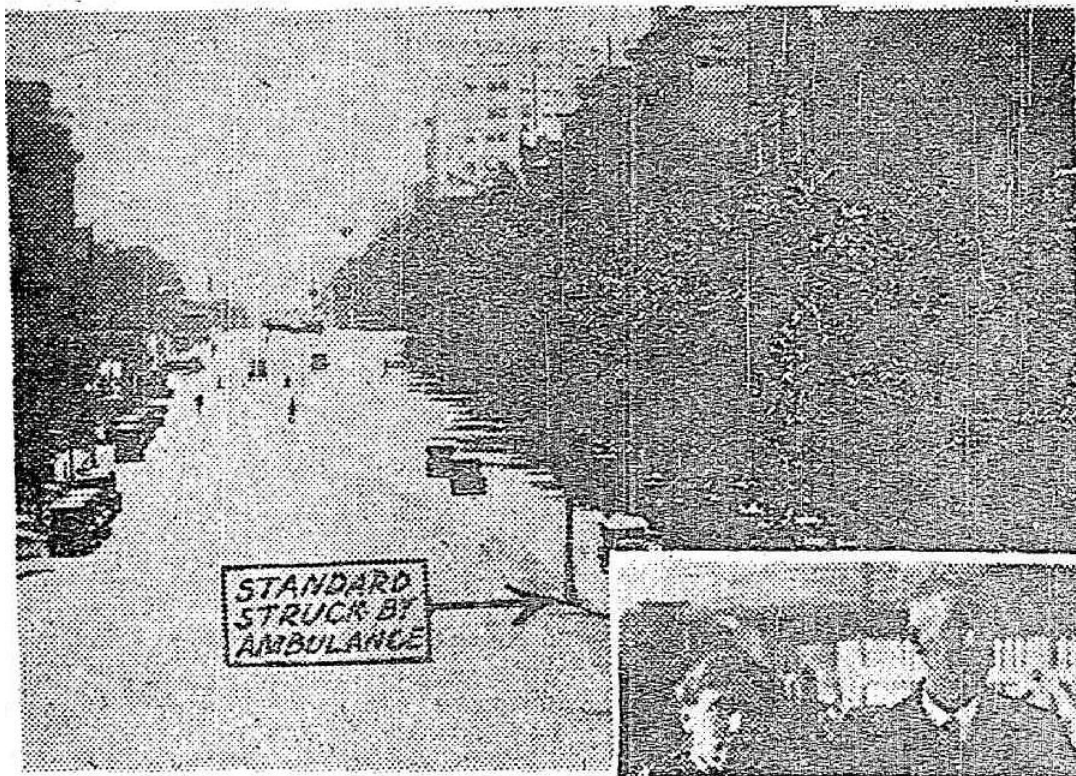
May Use Sirens

The secretary of the S.A. Ambulance Brigade (Mr. G. Plenty, jun.) said it was the first fatal ambulance crash that he could remember. The Hindmarsh headquarters of the brigade had four ambulances running, and carried an average of 1,500 cases a year. This was the twelfth year of its operations. "Thousands of miles are travelled in a year," he said. "Recently we sent an ambulance 17 miles past Peterborough for a case. We have also sent to the Coorong and other parts." Mr. Plenty said the brigade had had under consideration a special type of warning device—a siren similar to those used in America, but nothing had yet been decided upon. Mr. Plenty paid a glowing tribute to the work of Mr. Hocking, who, he said, had acted in a voluntary capacity at night and during week ends for the past 12 years. Mr. Hocking is a driver by occupation, being employed by W. Bourn, carrier, of Hindmarsh.

Father Unemployed

In the Reich family, in addition to Mavis, there are two boys, George and Clifford, and two other girls, Edna and Betty. Mr. Reich, the father, has been unemployed for some time. The police are investigating the accident. Their report will be submitted to the Coroner, who will then decide the date on which the inquest is to be held. Ambulances in South Australia when carrying patients are granted the same privileges as fire brigades and police vehicles. Even before the Motor Vehicles Act was amended recently, ambulances were not compelled to observe any speed limit. Discussing safety precautions today, traffic authorities thought that distinctive lights or a distinctive siren might help to give ambulances a clear passage.

Scene of Last Nights Fatal Smash



THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT on North terrace last night, where a woman was killed and four other people injured, three seriously, when an ambulance crashed into the tram standard indicated in the picture. inset (left) Mrs. Rosa Platt, aged 60, of Frederick street, Welland South, who was killed, and (right) the dead woman's husband, who died 10 days ago.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1932, page 12

Boy Starts Fires In Parkland

Fires in the south parklands, which were quelled by the Fire Brigade, were responsible for a boy of 13 appearing in the Children's Court yesterday on a charge of having lighted fires in the south parklands between October 15 and November 30. Mr. W. Hall, S.M., recorded a conviction without penalty. Constable Buttfeld, who prosecuted, said Detectives Grow and Evans saw the boy at school, and he admitted having lighted five fires. The reason he gave for his acts was that boys had told him to remove grass from a cricket pitch.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1932, page 20

CITY'S FIRE-FIGHTERS SHOW FITNESS

Display To Be Repeated At Headquarters Tonight

About 35 of Adelaide's fire-fighters displayed their fitness to save life and property last night when, to raise funds for charity, they entertained a gathering of 400 at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street. The display included fire drill with ladders, jumping into a sheet, physical culture, boxing, wrestling, and step dancing. They were under the direction of Station Officer Griffin. The entertainment will be repeated tonight, at 8 o'clock. Firemen P. Savage and P. Griffin gave an exhibition of fast, clean boxing; Fireman Goreham step-danced; and Firemen Patton and Gray were seen in an interesting wrestling bout. The firemen have given up much leave during the last fortnight to train for the display.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1932, page 16

FIRE ON VICTORIA PARK RACECOURSE

A fire broke out in the long grass in Victoria Park on Saturday just before 1 o'clock, and fanned by a strong breeze, soon assumed threatening dimensions. The city fire brigade sent out two motors, and the firemen were at work for an hour and a half in getting the blaze under control. About two and a half acres of grass were burnt. No other damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1932, page 14

Firemen Climb 40 Feet To Save Crying Cat

Called to rescue a cat said to have been crying piteously for some hours on the roof of the Arcade building, city, a squad from Fire Brigade Headquarters ran an extension ladder up 40 ft. to the spot, searched the roof, but found no trace of the cat, which, apparently, having tired of crying for help, had found a way out of its predicament.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1932, page 1

EXPLOSION IN THE CITY

A muffled explosion, followed by flames and black smoke from an underground junction box of the Adelaide Electric Light Supply Co., Ltd., at the corner of King William and Waymouth streets, caused a scare in the city today. The explosion occurred shortly after 10 a.m., when pedestrian traffic was fairly thick. No one was near the box at the time. If anybody had been walking over the box when the flames and smoke belched forth he may have been severely scorched. A horse in a lorry which was passing when the flames shot about 4 ft. high, became frightened, and reared, but did not get out of control. Two fire brigade engines arrived within a few minutes. The crowd which had gathered was kept back in case there was another explosion. The smoke and flames subsided quickly, and the blackened lid of the hole was prised open. After an inspection an official of the Electric Light Co. said the explosion had been caused by a fault in the junction box. No interference to lights in the city would be caused, but several lifts might have been affected.