

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1934

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 1 January 1934, page 14

QUIET SATURDAY NIGHT IN STREETS

Rundle Street Fire Disturbs Whist Drive

Anticipating large crowds in the city on Saturday night, the City Council suspended vehicular traffic in Rundle street. The precaution proved unnecessary, besides causing inconvenience to motorists, as comparatively few people, other than those attending the picture theatres in Rundle street were about. The only excitement which occurred in Rundle street was the arrival of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to the Cabin restaurant, in answer to a summons from the proprietor, Mr. B. Anton, shortly after 9 p.m. Two or three boxes containing clothing and other articles belonging to the waitresses employed at the restaurant had caught fire in a dressing room, but had been extinguished before the arrival of the brigade. Many people were in the cafe at the time taking part in a whist drive, and play was disorganised for a while. The cafe had been closed down for nine days while the proprietor was on holidays.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 2 January 1934, page 1

MYSTERY FIRE IN CITY

Coroner to Hold Inquest

THE City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn) decided today to hold an inquest into a fire which broke out shortly after midnight on the premises of Gard Bros., Gouger street, near the Supreme Court. This is the second mystery fire within about a week. The first was in a sleepout attached to an apartment house at Hackney. In the motor cycle showroom of Gard Bros. the police today discovered five distinct lines of petrol about 12 inches wide. The spirit had evidently been laid down with a petrol can. Iron safes in the office had not been tampered with, and this has given rise to the belief that the incendiary must have been disturbed at his work.

ALERTNESS OF CONSTABLE

It was due to the alertness of Constable N. J. McKenzie that the fire did not destroy the whole premises. When he entered the building he found two small fires burning in an office. One on the floor had burned a small hole in a partition. The other was six feet away in a wastepaper basket. The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 1.6 a.m., but when it arrived the constable had extinguished the flame. The fire brigade officers made an inspection of the scene, and saw the trails of petrol. Mr. Harold Gard, the proprietor, is absent in Sydney, having left Adelaide on Friday. Mr. Gard's mother is the owner of the property. The motor cycle showroom was closed today, and guarded by the police pending further investigations. No date has been fixed for the inquest. Tomorrow the coroner will hold an enquiry into the mystery fire at a Hackney apartment house on Christmas night. On that occasion a man was seen bending over a small fire near a sleep-out.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 3 January 1934, page 10

Inquest Into City Fire

The City Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn) will hold an inquest into the circumstances of the fire which occurred early yesterday morning at the premises of Gard Bros., in Gouger street, but no date has been fixed. The fire was extinguished before much damage was done, but when an examination was made by fire brigade officials and Detectives McGrath and Gill, several trails of petrol were found on the floor of the showroom and in the offices. A strong smell of petrol was still noticeable yesterday morning. The door had not been forced in any way, and was apparently opened during the interval between two visits of Constable McKenzie, who first noticed the fire. The proprietor of the business, Mr. Harold Gard, is at present in Sydney.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 January 1934, page 1

POLICE ENQUIRY INTO FIRE

Reports for Coroner

Detectives today continued their enquiries into the mysterious fire at the motor cycle showrooms of Gard Bros., Gouger street, which occurred early yesterday. A Fire Brigade officer also made a further inspection of the scene of the two small fires which were found by a policeman in an office. From information gathered by Detective-Sgt. McMahon, Detectives Correll, and Gill, together with the coroner's constable (Plainclothes Constable Davis), reports will be prepared for the coroner (Mr. Blackburn), who will conduct an inquest. A report by Detective Bourke, who went to the premises soon after Constable McKenzie had found the fires at 1 a.m. yesterday is also being sent to the Coroner. The date of the inquest will not be fixed until after the proprietor (Mr. Harold Gard) returns from Sydney.

No Inquest Into Parkside Outbreak

The Assistant City Coroner (Mr. Siekmann) has decided that an inquest is unnecessary into the fire at the premises of W. Phillips, carrier, of Glen Osmond road, Parkside, on Saturday night. The fire was extinguished when it was near a number of oil drums and petrol bowsers.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 4 January 1934, page 15

MYSTERIOUS FIRE AT HACKNEY

"Wilfully Lit By Person Unknown"

In finding, at an inquest yesterday, that a fire which broke out in some sleep-outs adjoining a house at North terrace, Hackney, on the evening of December 25, was lighted wilfully, maliciously, and feloniously by some person unknown, the Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn) exonerated the occupiers of the burnt premises by declaring that there was nothing in the evidence to suggest that they were anything but heavy losers by the fire. The Coroner said that he was satisfied that the fire was deliberately lighted by a man seen at the place by three witnesses that evening. Mr. K. R. Wyllie, fire adjuster, appeared for the New Zealand Insurance Co., the insurers of the building, and Plainclothes-Constable Davies to assist the Coroner.

Traugott Theodor Marks, retired, boardinghouse-keeper and owner of the property at North terrace where the fire occurred, said that the house was of two storeys, and on the east side were sleep-outs and bathrooms. These were made of wood and iron, and occupied by his

son-in-law, Frank Stompe, and his wife and children. On the evening of December 25, the Stompe family was out.

Strong Smell Of Smoke

"Soon after 9 p.m. I noticed a strong smell of smoke, and, going outside, saw a crowd of people watching the sleep-out blazing," he said. At the time I saw or heard nothing suspicious. None of the furniture in the sleep-out was owned by me." In answer to the Coroner, Marks said the value of the building was £750. Frank Stompe, agent, of North terrace, Hackney, said that he and his family occupied two rooms in the dwelling house and the sleep-outs. On December 25 they had supper at a house in Norwood. He locked the door of the room in the dwelling house, but the sleep-out door had no lock. None of the property in the sleep-out was insured. Articles of value there included two gold watches, two gold medals, a silver medal, and imported ornaments. When Stompe and his family returned from Norwood about 11.30 p.m. on December 25, he found that the sleep-out was burnt down. Stompe said that his relations with neighbors were friendly, and he had never heard anyone threaten him with injury.

Henry Thomas Sayers, station officer, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, who attended the fire, said he could find nothing to indicate the origin of the fire.

Harold Norman Sander, shop assistant, of Hampden, near Eudunda said that about 9.30 p.m. on December 25 he and three others arrived at Marks's dwelling. He saw no light in the sleep-out. "We went up to our rooms, and coming down three-quarters of an hour later, we walked down the path a little way, and then saw the reflection of a flame which was at the back of us," he said. "We saw a man who appeared to be inside the building at the side of the main building. He wore a grey suit and a hat, was of medium build, and of middle-age. I thought he was someone burning rubbish in an open shed or garage. It struck me as a queer time to burn rubbish."

Constable W. H. McCormack, of St. Peters, said that since the date of this fire he had received information about a deliberate attempt to set fire to a hedge at Fourth avenue, St. Peters in November. On December 26 he examined Marks's premises, and found no signs of any rubbish having been burnt there.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 6 January 1934, page 7

VALUE OF BRASS HELMETS

Adelaide Firemen To Retain Them

Although leather helmets are now favored by fire brigades in most parts of England outside London, the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie) said today that they were not likely to be adopted in Adelaide. "The present Roman type of brass helmet has been used here since 1885," he said, "and it would be a shame to see them go. "Much of the appearance of the brigade, on which we pride ourselves, rests on the picturesque helmets, which will stand heat as well as, or better than, leather, and which have saved hundreds of lives in this brigade in the past. A fireman would sooner go into a fire with out his boots than his helmet." Mr. Dickie pointed out that in the early days of fire-fighting, when there were only volunteer brigades, water was squirted on to fires from the outside. When the next step was taken of getting right into a fire, it became apparent that some protection for the head was necessary, and small leather caps were made. Then, when

Captain Shaw began to build up the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of London, the old Roman type of metal helmet, which was practically the same as that used here today, was adopted. Leather helmets, it was found, shrivelled in the heat. "There is a tendency throughout England today to discard the brass helmets and go back to the leather," said Mr. Dickie. "That is being done with a view of lessening the possibility of fire men receiving electric shocks through the metal headgear, but I know of only one case where that has occurred, and that was not fatal. "Men plunging into a fire with saturated clothing are even more likely to get a shock through their wet apparel than through the helmet. The brass helmets, further, will stand hard knocks. "A fireman is taught to remember two things—never to look up, and to keep his arms down near his sides. If he looks up he is apt to get something in the face; if he spreads out his arms he is likely to have them injured with falling beams or bricks. "When he is in an upright position his helmet protects his head and a fair portion of his shoulders." Although leather was being used extensively in England, he pointed out, the London brigades had stuck to the metal. Our brass helmets were imported from England.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 11 January 1934, page 9

Two reels from the Fire Brigade headquarters answered a call today to a small fire in a stack of firewood at a bakehouse in Grote street used by the Sanitarium Health Food Co. The flames were soon extinguished. No employes were at the bakehouse at the time.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 January 1934, page 1

Car in Flames

While Pastor E. O. Ellis, of the Zion Chapel, Pulteney street, was driving through Hindmarsh square to conduct a service tonight, his car burst into flames. The fire brigade used a chemical extinguisher to stop the flames. Before the fire reel arrived Mr. A. E. Jordon, a passing motorist, alighted, and attacked the flames with a piece of linoleum.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 16 January 1934, page 3

70-year-old Fire Chief Still Turns Out if Required

ONE in every five calls received by stations of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board last year was a malicious false alarm. Mr J. E. Dickie, chief officer of the Fire Brigades Board, who celebrated his seventieth birthday yesterday said that the percentage of malicious calls was lighter than in Melbourne and Sydney. "Malicious calls are the bugbear of a fireman's life throughout the world." he added. There is no fixed retiring age for employes of the Fire Brigades Board which is a semi Government organisation and Mr. Dickie, who has



Mr. J. E. Dickie

been fighting fires for 49 years will continue in the service. "If I am required I still turn out to a fire but otherwise I content myself with executive work." he said today. Fifty-four of last year's 626 calls were due to what firemen call "line false alarms" —the inadvertent operation of direct alarms from city premises or factories. Sometimes hot weather sets off sprinkler alarms. There were 34 "justified false alarms"— times when the fire brigade was called as a precautionary measure and the fire out when they arrived. The total of "actual fires" was 232—an increase of 48 on the previous year. Grass and rubbish fires numbered 158, and chimney fires 32.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 5

ANOTHER MYSTERY FIRE IN CITY

When a reel from the Adelaide Fire Brigade answered a call to a house in Queen street, off Carrington street, City, this afternoon, firemen found a quantity of clothing burning in a heap in the kitchen. The alarm had been given by a neighbor, who saw smoke issuing from the house. The occupier was away for the day. A bedroom window had been broken open. A man was stated to have been seen leaving through the window before the fire was noted. The bedroom had been entered and clothing taken into the kitchen. A kerosene lamp was also found in the smouldering heap. This is another of the series of mystery fires that have occurred in Adelaide and suburbs recently. Plainclothes Constables McConnell and Sharpe are investigating. Later a man found in another house in Queen street was taken to the City Watchhouse by the police and detained.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 1

LONG ENQUIRY INTO FIRE

15 Witnesses Will Be Called

An inquest to be held on Friday into a fire which occurred at a motor cycle showroom in Gouger street on January 2 will probably be one of the longest coronial enquiries in Adelaide for some time. Three counsel, including a K.C., will attend. As there are 15 witnesses to be

examined, the inquest may last until Monday. It will be conducted by the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn) A feature of the enquiry will be a report by the Deputy Government Analyst (Mr. C. E. Chapman). Mr. W. C. Gillespie will appear for the Crown. The K.C. will represent a member of the Police Force. Mr. C. J. Philcox will represent Mr. H. Gard. proprietor of the motor cycle business. The witnesses will include Station Officer H. T Sayers, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the South Australian manager of the London and Lancashire Insurance Co., Ltd. (Mr. V. R. Weston), and Detectives Correll and Gill.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 18 January 1934, page 11

Arrest Follows Fire In City House

When a fire broke out in a house in Queen street city, about 3 p.m. yesterday the fire brigade had little difficulty in putting it out. Plainclothes Constables McConnell and Sharpe, and Foot Constables Stewart and Goss, investigated the outbreak and arrested a man, and at the city watchhouse Albert Arthur George Finnie about 40, was charged with housebreaking, larceny, and arson.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 18 January 1934, page 2

SINGLE MAN IS REFUSED BAIL

Kerosene Found On Burning Clothes

A man alleged to have broken into a city residence and set alight to a bundle of kerosene-soaked clothing, was remanded in the Adelaide Police Court today. Albert Arthur George Finnie, laborer of Surfle street, City, was remanded until January 25 on a charge of having broken into the house of Mrs. E. Simmons, in Queen street, City, with intent to commit a felony. The Police Prosecutor Mr P. G. Crafter) said that Finnie was seen leaving Mrs. Simmons' house by a side window and immediately afterwards smoke was noticed coming from the place. The fire brigade discovered a quantity of women's clothing which had been placed in a heap on the floor. Kerosine had been poured over it and set alight. Mr Crafter said that the police objected to bail as the defendant was single and had no ties in this State. Mr Muirhead, P.M., refused bail.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 18 January 1934, page 7

Fire Under Staircase

When papers and canvas bags under a staircase in one of the offices in the Mile-End goods yard caught alight about 5 a.m. today part of the staircase was damaged. The City Fire Brigade attended the fire, the cause of which is unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 19 January 1934, page 7

Fires Follow Heat Wave

Two Wooden Sheds Demolished

Two wooden sheds in the backyard of Mr. T. W. Gilbert's home in Lindfield avenue, Edwardstown, were completely demolished by fire today. A quantity of window frames and building materials was destroyed. The sheds, which were attached to a fence, caught fire when flames from a grass fire worked their way under the fence.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 19 January 1934, page 1

What Detective Found After Fire

PETROL STREAM IN BUILDING

Tiny Pools on Floor And Strong Fumes

POLICE SUSPICIONS

How Detective Bourke, on being called to the premises of Gard Bros. in the early hours of January 2, found tiny pools of petrol on the floor, a stream of petrol from the office to the show window, and a strong smell of petrol fumes, was told by that officer at the inquest today. After his inspection of the place, said Detective Bourke, he told Mr. Alfred J. Gard that "to his mind the thing was decidedly 'crook,' and called for a public enquiry."

Mr. W. C. Gillespie, of the Crown Law Office, appeared for the Commissioner of Police: Mr. H. Mayo. K.C., with Mr. J. F. Astley for Constable N. J. McKenzie and the Police Association: and Mr. C. J. Philcox for Gard Bros., proprietors of the motor cycle business. Detective Bourke said that on the night of January 2 he spoke to Constable McKenzie on the telephone about 1.5 a.m. McKenzie said that somebody had tried to burn Gard Bros. down. "I examined the premises some time ago." McKenzie said. "and found every thing secure. When I returned a small door at the rear was open, and a fire had started." Witness said that he told Sgt. Kennedy, who telephoned the fire brigade. He then went to Gard Bros. McKenzie was inside, and said to him— "got here about 1.30. I found the door at the back open and petrol thrown all over the place, as you see. They could not have been here any longer than a few minutes ago. A fire started at the weatherboard partition in the south-easterly corner. I think I have put it out." At that moment the fire brigade arrived.

SMELT PETROL FUMES

Witness said that in the main office he saw a wire waste paper basket containing burnt paper. He saw the charred partition. There was a very strong smell of petrol fumes; the linoleum in the office was saturated, he believed with petrol and water, as water had been thrown on the partition. In a small room adjoining the office was a quantity of loose paper on the floor saturated with water. There was a stream of petrol from the office to the show window. There was also evidence of petrol running in five tracks from the bowser near the office to the western wall. It was moist, and in places there were tiny pools of petrol on the floor. The petrol ran under the bicycles and motor cycles. There was a very decided smell of petrol in a small room behind the counter on the western side of the showroom. Station-Officer Sayers, of the fire brigade, entered the building and looked round. Witness said to him. "What is your opinion of this business?" He replied. "There has been a fire just started



MR. HAROLD GARD photographed outside the Court today.

in the office, and I should say that two gallons of petrol have been thrown on the floor. Witness said, "What do you think of water extinguishing a petrol fire?" He replied—"Apparently the sudden contact of the water again the fire just started would extinguish it." Detective Bourke said that he saw a two-gallon container standing near a petrol pump and there was a bucket outside the office door. He communicated with Mr. Alfred J. Gard and Inspector Church; and both came to the shop. He left the shop with Inspector Church about 2 a.m. To Mr. Philcox witness said that he understood that Constable McKenzie had examined the doors about 12.30; went to the market, and on returning found the small back door open. That would be within a few minutes of his ringing the Detective Office. Constable McKenzie did not say that he was attracted to the premises because he saw signs of a fire, but because the door was open. To Mr. Mayo—There was a smell of burning in the office, but he could not see smoke.

'CYCLE DRIPPING PETROL'

He did not notice any charring in the room adjoining the office, nor did he notice a hole going beneath the floor in one corner. The moisture in the office did not extend all over the floor. There was a pool of fluid, which he took to be petrol, just outside the doorway. He did not remember Constable McKenzie drawing his attention to a motor cycle near the office dripping petrol. There was petrol under the motor cycle, and that was one of the five trails of petrol he had mentioned. The Mr. Gard he spoke to, although one of the original partners, was not now a proprietor. Witness said that Alfred Gard told him that Harold Gard, who owned the business, was in a sound financial position, but did not take a very active interest in the business. Witness said that he said to Mr. Gard, "I do not like it. To my mind the thing is decidedly crook, and calls for a public enquiry." He replied:—"I think it is crook, and for the honor of Gard Bros. I hope there is an enquiry?"

WHAT FIREMEN FOUND

Station Officer H. T. Sayers said that he took five firemen and a reel to Gard Bros. at 1.6 a.m., and found that there had been two separate fires. One was in the south-western corner, and one in the south-eastern corner of the office about 9 ft. apart. A small hole had been burnt in a wooden partition near the floor, in the floor, and in the linoleum on the south-eastern

corner of the room. The flames must have been about 18 inches high from the floor. Station Officer Sayers said that in the office there was petrol from the south-eastern to the south-western corner of the office, and from there to the door. He also described where petrol was found on the showroom floor. There was also water on the floor of the office and the showroom. The Coroner—If petrol had been there when the fire was alight would it have caught fire? Witness—Yes. The Coroner—Would it have been a very big fire?—Yes. And would it have been possible for a man with one bucket to have put it out? —No. Would the place have been in flames in a matter of minutes or seconds?—Only seconds. And would all the petrol trails have been connected by the flames?—Yes, the whole place would have been a mass of flames quickly. Mr. Gillespie—What would have been the consequence of anyone striking a match in the office while the petrol was there?—There would have been an explosion. The enquiry is not completed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 23 January 1934, page 9

INSURANCE POLICIES CANCELLED

Further Evidence On Gard's Fire

COMPANY AWAITS RESULT OF INQUEST

Further evidence regarding a fire which occurred, at Gard Brothers' cycle and motor shop, Gouger street, Adelaide, early on January 2, was heard by the coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn) in the licensing Court yesterday. The manager of an insurance company said that Gard's two fire insurance policies with his company had been cancelled two days after the fire, pending the result of the inquest. Harold John Gard had said at a previous sitting of the enquiry that he was in Sydney at the time of the fire. The fittings, machinery, and stock were insured for £7,000, and the premises for £2,000. Mr. W. C. Gillespie, of the Crown Law Department, appeared for the Commissioner of Police; Mr. H. Mayo, K.C., with Mr. J. F. Astley, for Constable N. J. McKenzie and the Police Association; Mr. C. J. Philcox for Gard Brothers, proprietors of the motor cycle business; and Sergeant Simmons assisted the coroner.

Gard, continuing his evidence yesterday, told Mr. Mayo that he had been proprietor of the business for five years. They had had a fire about September or October, 1930, and one in March 1932. There was no inquest on either. The 1930 fire started in the roof near the storeroom. It was put out by the brigade. There was about £1,800 worth of damage. The later fire occurred at approximately the position of the present fire, and the total damage was more than £3,000, including a lot of stock in the shop. Both fires occurred at night, when, as far as he knew, there was no one on the premises. He had since ascertained that the petrol left in a container on Saturday morning, December 30, had not been sold. It was an oversight that it had been left. Mr. Mayo—Do you take a real, personal interest in the management of the business? Witness—I am away a good deal, but I take an interest in it. During the past four months I have been very busy with opera work. During your absence, does the responsibility rest with your manager, Ewens?—Yes. In the last five years, has the business been carried on at a profit each year?—Some years there has been a profit. The accountant can tell you the years and the amounts of the losses. I do not think there was a loss last year. Was Ewens with you at the time of the 1930 fire?—Yes, he has been with us for 27 years.

Petrol Left In Open Can.

Harry Norman Frearson, shop assistant at Gard Bros., said that on December 30 he pumped a petrol bowser dry, and placed about a gallon of petrol into a two-gallon open measure, which was left in the shop. Replying to Mr. Mayo, he said there would have been about a dozen motor cycles in the showroom, each containing a small quantity of petrol. Vivian Roy Weston, manager for South Australia of the London and Lancashire Insurance Co., gave particulars of the insurances on the property. Answering Mr. Mayo, Weston said that no claim had been received in respect of the fire, but, although 14 days had elapsed, the company would recognise a claim. The policies with the company did not allow more than a gallon of petrol to be on the premises except in a proper tank, or motor vehicle. Two policies in force on January 2 had since been cancelled. Mr. Mayo—On what date?—January 4 or 5. The company is awaiting the result of the inquest before deciding upon its future business with Gard Bros. Mr. Philcox—If a claim is made by Gard Bros, you will pay it?—That also depends on the result of the inquest. Ernest Edward Mildenhall, motor mechanic, employed by Gard Bros., and Arthur Frank Ewens, manager of Gard Bros., gave evidence.

Two Keys Missing.

Ewens said that he was not on the premises between 4 p.m. on December 29 and 8 a.m. on January 2. He had a key of the wicket door at the rear of the premises, and usually opened the door in the morning. A new lock with three keys was provided about three years ago. He had one key on his chain, and placed the other two in a drawer in Mr. Gard's office. He had not seen the two keys since, although a careful search of the premises had been made since the fire. Mr. Gard was on the premises when he left on January 29, and the double doors containing the wicket gate were open. Ewens told Mr. Mayo that the wicket door had to be slammed hard to close it, and if not latched properly could be pushed open from the outside. He had been absent on a motor boat from the night of December 29 until the night of January 1. He did not know the police were making enquiries until he arrived at work on January 2. He examined the wicket gate two days later with Detectives Gill and Correll, who pointed out that the stop bead was loose. Detective Gill then opened the door from the outside with a thin steel rule. He was surprised to know that it could be opened in that way. Only he and Mr. Gard had keys to the front door. Donald Howard Grosvenor, accountant, of Gard Bros., of Dover street, Malvern, told Mr. Astley that there was a slight profit in the trading of Gard Bros. for the year ended June 30, 1933. He could not say what was the position for the half-year ended December 31. A profit was made the previous year. There was a loss in the year 1930-31. George Francis Collins, trade enquiry agent, of Adelaide, said that about 3.42 p.m. on January 1 he was passing a lane at the rear of Gard Bros.' premises, and saw a small door open, and reported it to Gard Bros. on the next day. He saw a constable in Gouger street, but he did not report it to him. Detective Gill said that he made a thorough inspection of Gard Bros.' premises on the morning of January 2. Holes were burnt in the office wall and in the linoleum. He found about two handfuls of paper ashes in the waste paper basket. There were stains on the floor near the southern and eastern walls, and from the waste paperbasket to the wall. There were also stains from the front of the office round the counter and behind the counter, where there was a jar of black liquid which smelt strongly of petrol. He also saw a measure near the office. He opened the wicket door by pushing a steel ruler against the bolt, which shot back. The door could be closed without the lock catching, and it could then be pushed open from the outside. Some liquid in the corner of another room was moist, as though it was drying up. He found ashes in a hole burnt in the floor. He thought the fire started in the accountant's office. Charles Eustace Chapman,

Deputy Government Analyst, said that on January 9, with Station Officer Sayers and Detective Gill, he examined Gard Bros.' premises. If it had been petrol that was trailed over the floor, and from a lighted waste-paper basket, it would have caught alight. It would not have been possible for one man with buckets of water to put out the fire. Petrol thrown on the floor in such a way would provide favorable conditions for an immediate fire or explosion. Petrol probably would leave a stain on linoleum, and water and acid might have the same effect. To Mr. Mayo, witness said that glowing paper three feet from petrol would not ignite as readily as with a flame. Petrol thrown on a smooth surface would evaporate in half an hour, and if the liquid were moist after several hours it probably would be water. To the Coroner—If there were sufficient petrol on the floor of the office to splash when walked on and a flame a foot high was within three feet of it, it would be impossible to avoid a fire or explosion. The hearing was adjourned until 10 a.m. today.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 24 January 1934, page 15

£10,000 FIRE AT KENT TOWN

S.A Salvage Company Building Destroyed

FLAMES 50 FT. HIGH

Firemen Escape When Wall Collapses

A fire which destroyed the two-storied building of the S.A. Salvage Company at the corner of Rundle and Young streets, Kent Town, between 5 and 6 p.m. yesterday, causing damage estimated at £10,000, endangered the lives of two firemen and six employees, who ran from the building without waiting to don their coats.

Spreading through the stock of varnish, paint, and oils, the flames covered the whole building in a few minutes, and reached a height of 50 ft. The building and stock were burnt out in half an hour. Soon after the start of the fire the burning building was obscured by dense smoke, more than 100 feet in height. It was seen as far away as Prospect and Thebarton. So fierce was the heat that it ignited the bitumen road surface in Rundle street, and a wooden electric power standard, on the opposite side of the street. 50 feet from the building. Fearing that high tension wires would collapse on the crowd which had gathered, people were driven back by the police and firemen.

Big Task

When the Norwood brigade arrived in charge of Station-Officer Tyson it was realised that there was no chance of saving the building, and the firemen concentrated on confining the flames to the one building. They managed to save a number of baths and basins stored at the extreme end of the Young street frontage. Two reels under Station Officers Sayers and Griffin were sent from the head station in the city. Mr. Jeane's motor car and a motor truck, which were in the yard were destroyed, as was a motor cycle that had been parked outside the building. Alarm was felt that the flames would spread to the Salvage Company's timber store on the opposite side of Rundle street, but this was prevented. Several windows in the shop of Mr. E. Low, newsagent, of Rundle street, were cracked by the heat. Two firemen, Messrs. F. Hughes and N. Edwards, had remarkable escapes when the Young street wall, under which they had been standing, collapsed. Fireman Hughes had handed two hoses to Fireman Edwards, who was standing in an alleyway alongside the building. When the wall fell, Hughes was walking from the alley into Young street, and Edwards was carrying the hoses into the burning building. Both men ran in opposite directions. Hughes was struck by some falling material and suffered from shock. He soon recovered and resumed duty. Station Officer Tyson received burns on the right hand. Several explosions, probably caused by drums of spirits, were heard. Six members of the staff, including the manager (Mr. E. W. Jeanes) had to run to safety, and did not have time to put on their coats. With Mr. Jeanes in the building

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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10 April 2026

when the fire started were Messrs. Claude Chandler (fore-man), F. Hillier (hardware manager). C. H. Rowbotham (cashier), and T. W. Nettelbeck (salesman). It was impossible to close the door of the strong-room, but the cashier took the till to safety. Mrs. A. B. Wheaton, who lives on the opposite side of Rundle street, was burned on the arms and shoulders, as she played a garden hose on her home, the paintwork of which, like other houses in the vicinity, was severely blistered. Mrs Wheaton was watering her front garden when she saw flames through a plate-glass window. "I had never imagined that a fire could spread so quickly," she said. "It was only a matter of seconds before the whole building was in flames. Soon I could not see the Salvage Company's building, only clouds of thick smoke, rising high above the trees, and flashes of flame. Fortunately, there was only a light breeze. If there had been a strong wind, our house and others in the vicinity would have caught fire in the first few minutes. As they worked, the firemen cooled one another with water from the hoses. Today the company will carry on business at its timber store on the opposite side of Rundle street, Kent Town. Enquiries at the fire were made by Plainclothes-Constable Adams, of Norwood.



DAMAGE ESTIMATED at about £10,000 was done by a fire which late yesterday afternoon burnt to the ground the two-storey building of the South Australian Salvage Coy., at Kent Town. Paint, varnish and wood, the chief contents of the premises, were soon a raging inferno, and this photograph gives a graphic idea of the hopelessness of the firemen's task.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 26

MYSTERIOUS CITY FIRE

Unexpected Development

Constable Committed For Trial

Trails of petrol, heaps of paper, and a charred and scorched wooden partition found in Gard Bros.' cycle and motor shop in Gouger street early on the morning of January 2, were described by a detective and a Fire Brigade station officer, when the City Coroner (Mr A. S. Blackburn) held an enquiry this week into the cause of the fire which broke out there.

Detective Percival John Bourke said that, on the night of the fire, he was on duty at the Watchhouse, and received a telephone message from Constable MacKenzie, who said somebody had tried to burn Gard Bros. down. He said he had examined the premises some time before, but on returning found that a small door was open and a fire had begun. He said

he had not telephoned for the Fire Brigade. Sergeant Kennedy summoned the brigade, and he (Detective Bourke) went to Gard Bros.' premises. There he saw MacKenzie, who admitted him. MacKenzie said he had arrived at 1.30 a.m., and found the door open and petrol "all over the place." "They could not have been here any longer than three minutes ago," he said, and indicated a charred portion of a weatherboard partition, where, he said, he had seen a fire. He said petrol was lying on the linoleum, but he had put out the fire. Inside a wire waste paper basket in the accountant's office were charred remains of paper. There was an intense smell of petrol fumes, and to a small room adjoining the accountant's office there was a quantity of loose paper on the floor and among it a folder of invoices of current dates. Everything to that room was saturated with water." There was a stream of petrol on the floor from the office to the show window, and other trails of petrol led from a bowser on the premises to the show windows. Bourke said he had questioned Mr. Alfred Gard with regard to Mr. Harold Gard's financial position, and had been told that it was sound. Bourke said to Mr. Alfred Gard, "I do not like it. It looks crook and calls for a public enquiry," Mr. Gard said, "I think it is crook, and I hope for the honor of Gard Bros, that an enquiry will be held."

The case took an unexpected turn on Tuesday, when the Coroner committed Constable Norman James MacKenzie for trial on a charge of arson. The Coroner said he found MacKenzie had caused the fire, probably in the hope of gaining promotion and honor for his "bravery" in entering the building to put it out.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 43

Fire Destroys Stand And Tote At Victoria Park

FLAMES 50 FEET HIGH

Derby Stand Totally Guttled

THOUSANDS OF POUNDS DAMAGE STATE'S MOST SERIOUS RACECOURSE FIRE

The Derby Stand on Victoria Park racecourse and a totalisator house in the same enclosure were totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday afternoon.

The fire was first noticed about ten minutes to 2. Within ten minutes it had spread with astonishing rapidity, and the Derby stand was a mass of flame. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade were on the scene with their customary promptness, but in the early stages of the fight were hampered by a poor supply of water. This, however, was quickly rectified by the closing of all mains in the vicinity except those serving the racecourse area. Less than half an hour after the alarm had been raised the totalisator house had been burnt out. The roar of the flames could be heard a long distance off, and so great was the heat that a coat hanging 150 feet away burst into flames. The blaze was aided by a strong southerly wind, which threatened to spread the fire to the grandstand enclosure. This danger was heightened by the showers of sparks and burning debris which the wind carried in that direction. The firemen put up a strenuous struggle to save the remainder of the buildings, and succeeded in doing so. The flames, leaping into the air to a height of 50 feet, above clouds of dense black smoke, made an impressive picture. At the time of going to press the ruins were still smouldering, but the fire was under control. Races were to have been held at Victoria Park on Monday. The club committee were in conference as "The Chronicle" went to press considering the situation. It was thought the meeting on Monday would be held at Morphettville, but no decision had been reached. The damage runs into thousands of pounds.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 15

DISASTROUS FIRE AT VICTORIA PARK RACECOURSE

Derby Stands And Section Of Totalisator Destroyed

MONDAY'S MEETING TO BE HELD AT MORPHETTVILLE

Three Racehorses Burned To Death At Jamestown

Working under dangerous conditions, firemen from the Central, Norwood, and Unley stations saved the greater part of the buildings at the Victoria Park Racecourse yesterday, when the Derby stand and totalisator were destroyed, as the result of a fire believed to have been caused by a stray spark lodging in the south-western end of the stand. As a result of the damage, the Adelaide Racing Club's Foundation Day meeting will be held at Morphettville on Monday.

Three racehorses were burned to death yesterday when a fire, the origin of which is unknown, destroyed stables belonging to the Jamestown Racing Club. The horses had been taken to the town for the race meeting there on Saturday. Five horses were released by Mr. K. McDougall, but, owing to exhaustion because of the heat, he was unable to release the others. The fire spread into the adjoining properties, and destroyed between two and three acres of grass before it was controlled. In addition to a £200 loss to the club, racing gear belonging to owners, and estimated to be worth £200, was burnt.

The Fire Brigade headquarters received the call to the Victoria Park Racecourse at 1.47 p.m. The care-taker of the course (Mr. J. Owens) had some trouble to get through to the head station, and when he did he was informed that a detachment was on its way. When he emerged from his house on the course, the brigade had a line of hose down in Victoria avenue.

Scorched Front Doors Opposite

The brigade found the wooden southern extension of the Derby stand a mass of flames, and the old portion, with the masonry foundation, well alight. By 2.15 the roof was falling, about six sheets of iron at a time. Fanned by a south-westerly breeze, smoke and sparks were blowing across Victoria avenue. Front doors on the far side of the two chain road were blistered, and when the fire was at its height a hose had to be detached from the main blaze to quell a fire in a hedge, caused through some dry grass under it igniting and setting fire to the fence. Within half an hour about 6,000 people, according to the police estimate, had assembled, and with hoses stretching across Victoria avenue, traffic control was a heavy task. Tramcars were stopped for more than an hour, and other traffic had to be diverted by way of side streets. The heat on the opposite side of the street was such that few people could face it. Hot fragments and drops of boiling water were also being blown across the thoroughfare. A large party of police, under Inspector T. Mattin, controlled street traffic and the huge crowd on the course and in the street.

Twenty Boys Man Hose

It was a heavy task for the available firemen, who were assisted by course attendants and civilians in handling the heavy hoses. A large number of small boys, who also found the stewards' and committee stands excellent vantage points, were equally willing, but not so helpful. At one stage at least 20 of them were holding up a long length of hose, actually throwing a good deal of extra weight on the men holding the nozzle. About two minutes after they had been ordered off by a policeman, several heavy beams fell to the ground about 10 feet from where they had been standing. The water pressure was poor at the beginning, but several officials of the Waterworks Department were on the spot soon after the arrival of the brigade, and did everything possible to improve conditions. An overhead waggon and gang from the Adelaide Electric Supply Company also arrived. At one time danger to the crowd was feared from falling live wires. Slight damage was done to insulators on a pole on the western side of Victoria avenue, not more than 50 feet from the fire, but repairs were carried out as soon as the fire was under control.

Under Control In 45 Minutes

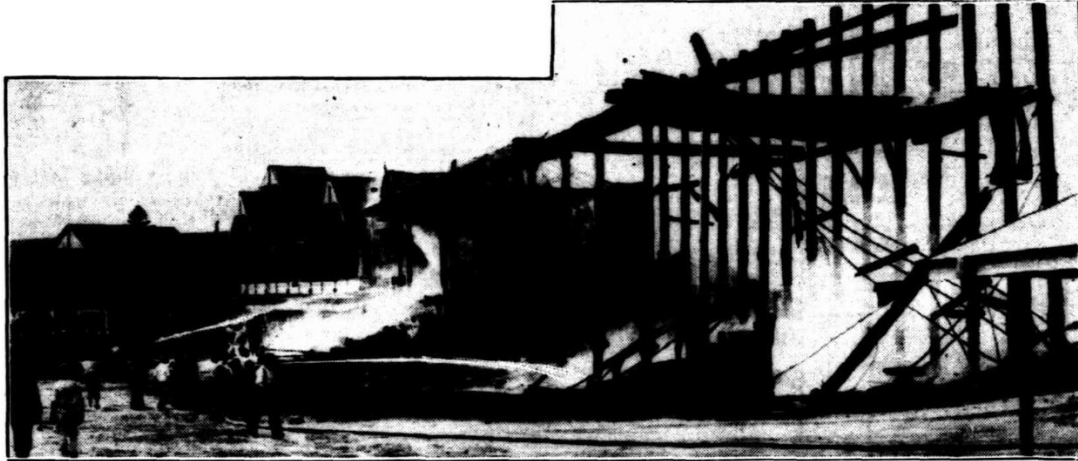
Station Officer Griffen, from the head station, had charge of a motor hose carriage from headquarters and a pump each from Unley and Norwood stations. At the height of the fire,

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five jets of water were being directed on it. When the fire was reported under control at 2.32, about 45 minutes after the alarm had reached the head station, all possible appliances were withdrawn, so as to be in readiness for outbreaks elsewhere. Heavy timbers were burning more than an hour later. At the south end of the stone portion of the stand, a steel girder buckled with the heat and cracks appeared in the masonry. The galvanized iron walls of the totalisator building were left standing, but as they were only a few feet from the back of the burning stand, all wood-work and electric wiring inside at the southern end were completely destroyed.



STANDS AT THE VICTORIA PARK racecourse, where a fire caused extensive damage yesterday. The two portions of the Derby stand on the right were destroyed. Beyond them are the grandstands, which were saved. The fire has led to the A.R.C.'s Foundation Day meeting being transferred to Morphettville.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1

LOSS MAY BE HEAVIER

More Damage Revealed

RACECOURSE FIRE

IT is unofficially estimated that the fire which swept the Derby stand and a portion of the totalisator building at Victoria Park yesterday caused more than £10,000 damage. The buildings, owned by the Adelaide Racing Club, were covered by insurance. Special arrangements have been made to meet the emergency, and the race meeting which was to have been held at Victoria Park on Monday, will be transferred to Morphettville. The damage has been found to be greater than was thought at first, for in addition to reducing the Derby stand to ashes it gutted the southern portion of the totalisator building, burned the Derby stand entrance gates and turnstiles, a number of starting barriers, and all the club's tools and hurdles. There are six turnstiles at the Derby gates, and these cost about £300 to install. It is not yet known whether they can be renovated or they will have to be scrapped. For hurdle races run at Victoria Park the A.R.C. has eight flights of hurdles, consisting of five battens at each. All of these battens were stored beneath the Derby stand, and were destroyed. It will probably cost about £100 to replace them. The fire was stopped about 25 ft. on the southern side of that part of the automatic totalisator in which the prices are indicated. In this portion of the building is an electrical machine which operates the totalisator, and which cost about £5,000. Although this machine apparently has not suffered any great damage, it may have been affected by the intense heat.

ORIGIN A MYSTERY

It is known that the fire started near the southern end of the two-deck wooden Derby stand, but the cause is a mystery. Two workmen, who were only a few feet away when they noticed

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smoke coming from the stand, said today that the fire appeared to come from beneath it. Beneath the wooden slats of the stand there was no grass growing which could have been set alight by a cigarette butt or by the rays of a piece of glass in such a way as to catch the wood above. There was ample evidence forthcoming today to show how rapidly the flames spread. The workman who first noticed the fire said that by the time he had run 50 yards to give the alarm the fire had practically spread throughout the length of the two-deck wooden stand. The secretary of the A.R.C. (Mr. Heseltine) said that one of the club's workmen was near the hoist on the flat when he saw the fire. Knowing that the club's hurdles were stored between the wooden and stone portions of the stand, he ran there to try to save them. When he noticed the fire, the flames were at the southern end of the two deck portion, but when he got to the hurdles, about a minute later, it was too late to save them. The fire had swept along the entire length of the stand in that time. Then he rushed to the northern end of the stone portion of the Derby stand, where the newly built bookmakers' stands were stored. With the assistance of others he was able to save most of these.

WATER AVAILABLE

The Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. J. H. O. Eaton) said today that a satisfactory pressure of water was available for the fire brigades. At first the hoses were affixed to the smaller of two mains, but later when they were connected to the larger main the water supply was good. The deputy superintendent of the Adelaide Fire Station (Mr. Cooper) said that when he arrived at the fire the water pressure was good. He did not think that any slight delay that there had been in getting a good flow of water had made any difference to the work of the brigades. The fire had swept the Derby stand like a flash, but the flames in the totalisator building had been checked as quickly as possible.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 13

CHARGE OF ARSON

Man Committed For Trial

STORY IN COURT

HOW he had seen a man climb from a window of a neighbor's house, and a little later saw smoke coming from the window, was related in the Adelaide Police Court today by a resident of Queen street, City. He called the fire brigade, and it was alleged that a heap of smouldering clothing on top of which was a kerosene lamp, was found in the kitchen. Albert Arthur George Finnie, laborer, of Surfle street, City, was charged with having maliciously set fire to clothing in the house of Eliza Simmons, Queen street, City, on January 17. He reserved his defence and was committed for trial. Bail was allowed in £100 with one surety of £50. Mr. I. Dayman, Assistant Police Prosecutor, conducted the police case. Mr. L. T. Gun represented Finnie. Frank Moore, of Queen street, said that in the afternoon of January 17 he saw a man climbing out of a side window of a house opposite.

POLICE LINE-UP

Moore added that he went inside and dressed, and when he came out about 15 minutes later, he saw smoke pouring through the window. He immediately called the fire brigade. Later at the request of the police, he went to the City Watchhouse and identified Finnie in a line-up. Mrs. Eliza Simmons told the court that she returned home at 11.30 p.m., and found that some clothes had been taken from racks, and a lamp, which had contained a quantity of kerosene, was missing from the mantelpiece. Had the fire not been extinguished, the premises would have been burnt down, according to Henry Thomas Sayers, fire station officer, of Adelaide, who gave evidence of having inspected the premises while firemen were attending to the smouldering clothes. Hubert Ernest Clift, fingerprint expert and police photographer, said that he found two fingerprints on a lamp shade at the house. These contained 23 ridge characteristics and a scar, which also occurred in prints taken from Finnie on the day after the alleged offence.

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News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 February 1934, page 6

FIRE IN ROOM AT QUEEN'S HOME

Two motor reels from the Adelaide Fire Brigade put out a small fire in a room at the rear of the Queen's Home, Victoria avenue, Rose Park, at 8.50 a.m. today. The inside walls of the room were blackened, and a quantity of furniture damaged, but the brigade prevented the fire spreading.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 March 1934, page 7

FIRE BRIGADE SHIFT WORK

The secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) and two fire brigade employes will interview the Fire Brigade Board today to request that a system of shift work be adopted. At present firemen are on duty for 72 hours, and then off duty for 24 hours. The union has decided to sue the Government for higher rates for workmen on the rising main at the Port Adelaide sewer treatment plant. It is alleged that they are being paid water-works rates when they are entitled to sewer rates.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 3 March 1934, page 23

SHIFT WORK FOR FIREMEN

The secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass), with Messrs. D. Corker and J. Macdonald, yesterday interviewed the Fire Brigades Board to request that a system of shift work be adopted. The board promised to go into the matter, and to reply at a later date. The present hours of work for firemen are 72 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 5 March 1934, page 16

Fire In Parklands

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call, about 3 p.m. yesterday when a fire broke out in the South Parklands between Sir Lewis Cohen avenue and West terrace. The fire spread quickly and burned about five acres of grass. A cricket pitch was in the centre of the blaze. The brigade prevented the fire from spreading to the children's playgrounds and gardens along South terrace.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 5 March 1934, page 5

A small fire broke out in a furnace feed filled with shavings at the factory of the S.A. Brush Co., Ltd., in Flinders street today. Employes kept the flames under control with fire extinguishers until the brigade arrived.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 8 March 1934, page 16

Truck Engine On Fire In City

A fire which broke out in the engine of a half-ton truck on South terrace yesterday morning was extinguished by the City Brigade before serious damage could be done. The truck was owned by Mr. G. D. Leahy, of the Hotel St. Vincent, Glenelg.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 9 March 1934, page 27

FIREMEN'S REQUEST FOR PLATOON SYSTEM

Following on the deputation representing the Fire Brigade employes, which waited upon the Fire Brigades Board on Friday last, requesting the introduction of the platoon system, similar to that in operation in New South Wales, the secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) has been advised by the secretary of the board that the chairman (Mr. H. Jackson) and the chief officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie) are visiting the eastern States, and will make a thorough investigation into the operations of the platoon system in New South Wales. On their return the board will consider the men's request.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 March 1934, page 1

CITY BRIGADE'S FIRST CARE

Chief Replies To Blackwood

HAS SMALL STAFF

RESIDENTS of Blackwood whose property was swept by the bushfire yesterday, criticised today the attitude of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which, in spite of an urgent appeal to help save homes and lives, refused to send any men or equipment to the fire because it was "out of their area." Meanwhile, a voluntary fire brigade from Woodville rushed to the fire with about 400 ft. of hose, and did invaluable work. In reply to the charge, the chief of the S.A. Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie) said that the safety of the city was the first consideration of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

ASKED FOR PUMP

"I am convinced that if the city fire brigade had sent a force pump and a reel when I urged them to, the home of Mr. Edwin Ashby would have been saved," said Mounted Constable Huxley, of Blackwood, today. More than £2,000 worth of damage was done when Mr. Ashby's home was gutted. Mounted Constable Huxley said that as soon as he realised the danger to homes in the neighborhood he rang the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and spoke to the deputy chief. He told him that there was a very serious bushfire at Blackwood, and that the only way to save homes was a plentiful supply of water. The constable asked for a force pump to obtain this and a reel of hosing to play on the seat of the fire. "Irrespective of the fact that Blackwood is well outside our district, we would willingly have helped to fight the fire at Mr. Ashby's house, if we could have done any good, and had had enough men to spare." said Mr. Dickie.

HOT SPELL DANGER

The Adelaide Fire Brigade was very much understaffed, he said, and what men he had at his disposal were absolutely necessary for city protection, particularly during such a hot spell as Adelaide was now experiencing, when the danger to city property was greatly increased. "Even if we could have spared a reel and men we could not have done any good, as this would have taken a good half-hour at least to reach Mr. Ashby's house. We did not know what water was available, either. It is all very well to say that water is laid on, but there might not be any fire plugs within a mile or more of the house." added Mr. Dickie.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 10 March 1934, page 15

£1,000 DAMAGE IN ST. PETERS FIRE

Crowd Hampers Firemen

Damage estimated at more than £1,000 was caused by a fire which broke out in the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society's jam factory on Payneham road, St. Peters, about 9.30 p.m. yesterday. The eastern end of the building suffered most from the effects of the fire, which had a good hold when two machines from the head station and one from Norwood arrived. The rafters were well alight, and flames could be seen leaping about 20 feet in the air. A woodyard at the back of the building also caught alight, and the wood, which had been dried out by the fierce heat of the past three days, burnt freely, the stacks being almost completely destroyed. A motor truck which was parked in the back yard of the factory was also damaged by fire.

Inside the factory the fire was confined mainly to the rear portion, but it extended to the basement, causing damage to a number of machines. An effort was made by the firemen to prevent the fire from spreading to a garage which adjoins the factory, and they succeeded, although it was found necessary to remove a car and a truck while the fire was at its height. A large crowd which had gathered hampered the firemen to a certain extent in their work, and further discomfort was caused by the high temperature during the two hours the fire was being fought. Although several hoses were used from different angles, the tram service was not affected.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 March 1934, page 18

Fire Damages Cottage

Fire considerably damaged a four-roomed cottage in Russell street, city, at 2.30 a.m. yesterday. It is occupied by Mr. Frederch Sweetman, who, on account of the heat, was sleeping on a lawn. The upsetting of an oil lamp is believed to have caused the outbreak. Two rooms and their contents were badly damaged, but the Fire Brigade, under the direction of Station Officer Griffin saved the other two rooms.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 March 1934, page 9

Fire In Butcher's Shop

About £20 worth of damage was done by a fire which occurred at Mr. C. D. Vawser's butcher's shop in Hanson street about 9.25 a.m. yesterday. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Sayers, rushed a reel to the scene and extinguished the flames. The fire appeared to have broken out near the smoke house at the rear of the premises. The property was insured. A report is being prepared for the Coroner by Sergeant Simmons.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 7 April 1934, page 15

FIRE AT MEN'S HOME

Serious Loss To Inmates

Serious loss to inmates of the Salvation Army Men's Home, Whitmore square, was caused by a fire which broke out at 3.30 a.m. yesterday. A shed containing stores, a number of swags, blankets, and other baggage were destroyed. The fire extended to the adjoining premises of Preserves, Limited, cordial manufacturers, in Gilbert street, and damaged a motor lorry. The Fire Brigade made a good save, as the flames were rapidly spreading when it arrived on the scene.

Appeal For Help

The manager of the Whitmore Square Men's Home (Major Wiffen) said yesterday there were more than 100 men in the institution. Of these, about 80 had suffered heavy losses of clothing and personal effects which had been stored in the cloakroom. In addition, winter blankets and spare bedding had been destroyed. These losses were not covered by insurance and would

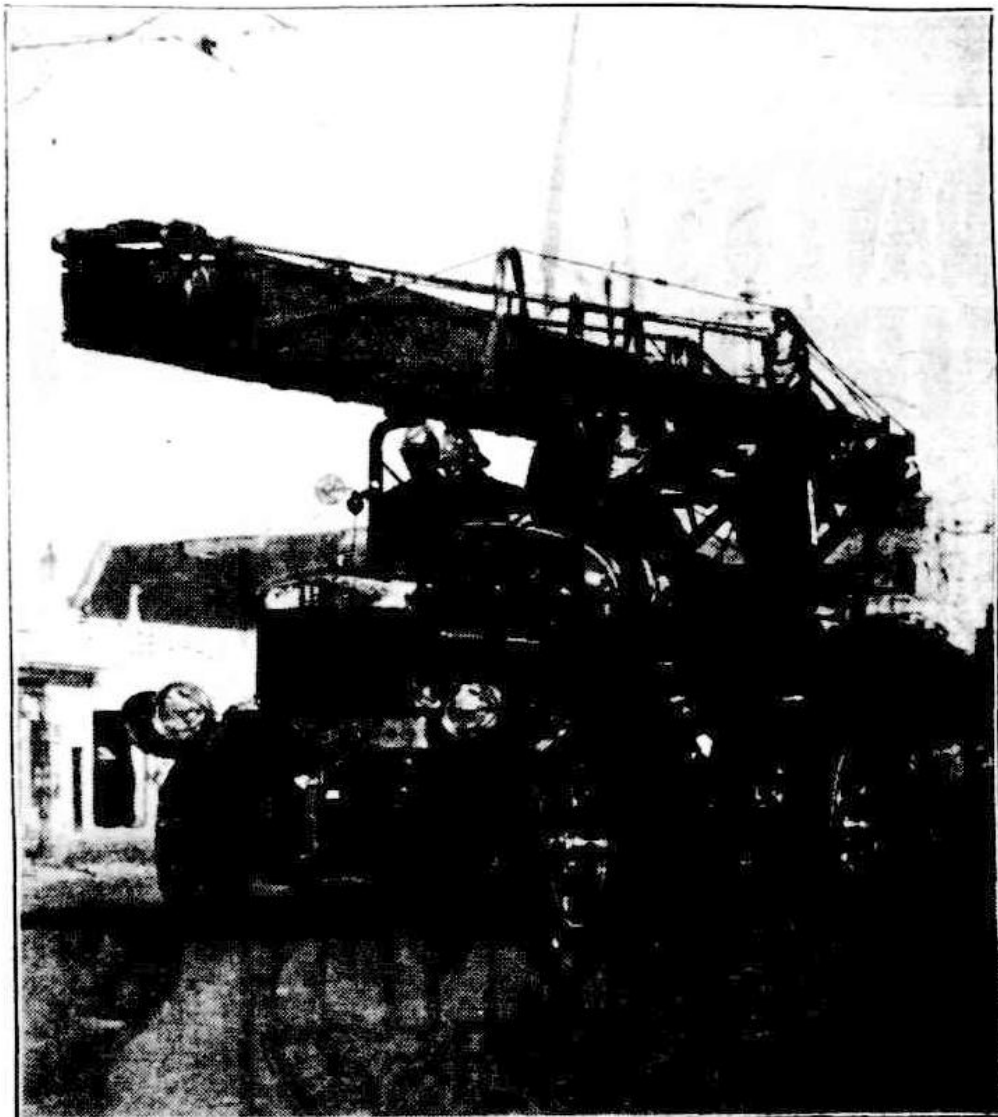
be difficult to replace. Major Wiffen appealed to the public to help with gifts of clothing and blankets. With the approach of winter the need was urgent. Any offer of assistance would be gratefully accepted at 61 Whitmore square, or the Salvation Army office, 87 Pirie street.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 10 April 1934, page 10

FIRE STATIONS INSPECTED

Metropolitan fire stations were visited by the Fire Brigades Board yesterday. The inspection was made by the chairman (Mr. H. Jackson), Councillors A. J. W. Lewis and E. W. Pett, and Messrs. R. H. Smith. W. H. S. Sheppard, Chief Officer Dickie, and the secretary of the board (Mr. R. B. Beeton).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 10 April 1934, page 16



THE LARGEST REEL in the Adelaide Fire Brigade Station photographed at the Wakefield street headquarters yesterday. There was no fire, however, but an annual inspection by the Fire Brigades Board.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 14 April 1934, page 1

SECOND IN 8 DAYS

Army Home Fire

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SHED BURNT

The second fire within eight days occurred at the Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade and Men's Home, Whitmore square, early today. Two drays and other contents of a shed were burned. Detective Harris and Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis are enquiring into certain aspects of the fire. Several horses in another shed became extremely frightened, but were quickly taken to safety as soon as the fire was discovered. Shortly after 4 a.m. the fire was noticed in a shed in the Prison Gate Brigade section of the institution. The shed is used in a salvage industry carried on at the home. Waste paper and cardboard are collected from Adelaide business houses, and brought to the shed to be placed in bales for transport to paper factories in Melbourne.

ONLY SHELL LEFT

The fire spread rapidly through a quantity of loose paper and shavings, but the Adelaide Fire Brigade prevented the flames spreading to other buildings. Only the shell of the salvage shed was left standing. Constable Heusler, who visited the home shortly before 6 a.m., found that a sheet of iron had been torn aside, apparently to give passage between sleeping quarters occupied by inmates and the scene of the fire. The officer in charge of the home (Major Wiffen) estimated the damage at about £50. He said that the salvage industry was one of the main financial supports of the home. Yesterday week a fire in another part of the home destroyed clothing and other luggage of inmates of the men's home. An appeal was made for garments to replace the clothing lost. Today's fire is an additional setback to the institution.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 2 May 1934, page 22

REDUCTION IN FIREMEN'S HOURS WANTED

The fire brigades' employes recently asked the Fire Brigades Board for a men are on duty continuously for 72 hours, and then off for 24 hours. It was desired that a break should be made in the long stretch of 72 hours on duty. Two conferences were held with representatives of the board. The general secretary of the A.G.W.A (Mr. F. K. Nieass) has received an intimation from the Fire Brigades Board to the effect that to reduce the hours would be too costly, but that it was prepared to offer an all round increase in wages to the permanent staff of 3/ a week. This has been accepted on behalf of the men, and a further request has been made for another conference with the members of the board's committee, as the men have a scheme by which the hours can be re-adjusted without cost to the board.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 May 1934, page 2

FIRES IN CITY AND SUBURBS

Three small fires in the city and suburbs were reported today. A motor car belonging to Colton, Palmer & Preston, Ltd., Currie street, caught fire in the firm's garage. Two men pushed it into a side street. The Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the flames with chemicals, but the car was destroyed.

A garage at the home of Mr. A. Pile, motor painter, of Hyman avenue, Edwardstown, was burnt this afternoon. Mr. Pile and neighbors tried to put out the fire with a garden hose.

A chaffcutter and a haystack were destroyed on the premises of Mr A. A. Rayner, dairyman, of Belair road, West Mitcham. The Unley Fire Brigade was called. The fire is believed to have been caused by a spark from a kerosene engine.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 May 1934, page 16

Small Fire In City Foundry

A fire which broke out in Fletcher's iron foundry, Gunson street, City, about 7.10 p.m. yesterday, was quickly extinguished by the Adelaide Fire Brigade. Only slight damage was done to a wood and iron workshop.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 14 May 1934, page 10

Car Destroyed In City Garage

Through some petrol falling on the exhaust pipe while the tank was being filled at Colton, Palmer & Preston's garage in Burnett street, City, about midday on Saturday, a motor car belonging to that firm, was destroyed by fire. The Fire Brigade was called, and the car pushed into the street, but the fire had too strong a hold for the car to be saved.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 28 May 1934, page 3

HIGHER WAGES FOR FIREMEN

New Agreement Gives 3/ a Week Rise

Employees of the Fire Brigades Board are to receive an extra 3/ a week, retrospective to April 27. The secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) has received a communication from the board intimating that it has agreed to the decisions arrived at by a conference between a board sub-committee and representatives of the employees. These decisions include the 3/ a week increase. The new agreement will operate for three years, subject to cost of living adjustments in the State basic wage. Employees have withdrawn their schemes for alterations to the present roster of work, and have agreed to the decision that 12 months' compensation pay shall be limited to the dependents of employees who meet their death by accident while on duty.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 May 1934, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tar Boils Over.—No damage was done when tar boiled over at the works of Higginbottom and Andrews, Currie street, yesterday morning. The fire brigade was called.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 6 June 1934, page 6

Passing BY

By Mr.Pim

Firemen Hear Loud Speakers

THE practice of installing amplifiers on race-courses and ovals is spreading. The South Australian Fire Brigades has installed a microphone on the control desk at the Adelaide Fire Brigade headquarters. The officer at the desk tells the whereabouts and nature of a fire, and his announcement is heard from several amplifiers in the garage, station yard, and men's quarters.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 9 June 1934, page 20

Fire In City Warehouse

The prompt arrival of three machines from the Adelaide fire station prevented what may have been a serious fire in the premises of Gambings, Ltd, Pirie street, about 10.30 p.m. yesterday. The call was given by an unknown person through the telephone exchange, and on arrival the brigade, under Deputy Chief Officer Cooper, found that a fire had broken out among a number of packing cases and had destroyed office fittings and a number of parcels, including clothing. The fire was quickly got under control. The damage was only of a minor nature.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 13 June 1934, page 4

The City Fire Brigade attended a small fire today at a house in West terrace, Adelaide, occupied by Mrs. S. Rodda. A chimney had caught fire, but the flames were soon subdued.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 14 June 1934, page 15

BLAZING CEILING FALLS NEAR PATIENT

Hospital Fire Ignites Cabinet Near Bed

Falling from the ceiling of a bedroom at the old Wakefield street private hospital about 7 p.m. yesterday a large piece of blazing woodwork crashed on to and ignited a chest of drawers, six feet from a bed in which an elderly patient, Mr. W. P. Wood, of Finnis Springs station, was sleeping. When nurses rushed in they found Mr. Wood, who was uninjured, calmly collecting his tobacco and cigarettes before leaving the room, which was filled with smoke. The blaze was soon extinguished by the Fire Brigade, the damage being confined in Mr. Woods room to the chest of drawers containing his clothing. A hole about six feet long and four feet wide was burned in a corner of the ceiling, and two of the walls of a vacant room above that of Mr. Wood's were charred.

Mr. Wood, who has been in hospital for only a week, undergoing an X-ray examination, said:— "About 4 p.m. I noticed pieces of soot and other debris falling down the chimney into the fire from time to time, but did not realise that anything serious was amiss. After having tea about 5 p.m., I left the electric light on and dozed off."

Nurse Discovers Blaze

Nurse Martin was passing the open door of Mr. Wood's room when she was startled to see the wallpaper blazing in one corner, near the ceiling. Screaming for help, she rushed in to help Mr. Wood. "When I was awakened by the crash," said Mr. Wood, "I saw blazing debris on top of the chest of drawers about six feet from the foot of my bed. Looking up I saw the large hole in a corner of the ceiling. Around this the flames were leaping into the room above mine. I seemed to feel most concerned at first about my tobacco and cigarettes. I had started gathering them when Nurse Martin and other nurses hurried me out." One of the firemen saved Mr. Wood's wallet, containing a few pounds, which was on the window-sill, near the burning chest of drawers.

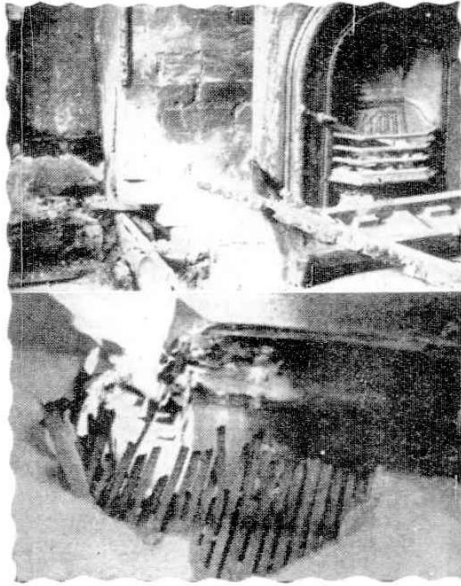
Recently the new Wakefield street private hospital, farther down the street, was completed, and before the fire in the old building most of the patients had been transferred to the new premises. Only two were left in the wing where the fire occurred—Mr. Wood and a patient in an adjoining room, where a wood fire was burning all day in the fireplace attached to the same chimney as that in Mr. Wood's room, where a similar fire was also burning.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 14 June 1934, page 4

NURSE COMMENDED IN HOSPITAL FIRE

Through the calmness and presence of mind of a nurse, serious damage by fire to a house at the Wakefield Street Private Hospital was prevented last night. Today she was commended by police and hospital authorities for her prompt action. When Nurse Audrey Martin saw the fire she walked into an adjoining room, rang the emergency bell for the sister-in-charge, and telephoned the fire brigade. When the sister arrived the brigade was already at work. A ceiling joist which passed through a chimney caught fire. An elderly man, who was a patient in the room, was taken to safety.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 14 June 1934, page 18



DAMAGE in the old Wakefield street private hospital, where a fire broke out last night. A large piece of burning woodwork fell from the ceiling in a room 6 ft. from the bed occupied by Mr. W. P. Wood, a patient.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Wednesday 20 June 1934, page 1

Fumes Escape

Excitement in Hospital

Nurses Driven From Building

ADELAIDE. Tuesday.

There was alarm at the new Wakefield street private hospital early this evening when an explosion in a refrigerating plant near the kitchen released sulphur dioxide fumes, driving the nurses at tea from the building. The fire brigade was summoned. Four firemen with gas masks found the front corridor filled with fumes and shut off further escape of gas. Last Wednesday a fire occurred in the old Wakefield street hospital.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 30 June 1934, page 25

Slight Damage By City Fire

A small wood and iron shed in premises adjoining those of S. L. Prince and Co., in Coglein street, Adelaide, was slightly damaged by a fire which broke out about 7.30 p.m. yesterday. The fire which occurred near a heating boiler, was soon extinguished by the Fire Brigade. Some rafters and deal planks on top of the boiler were scorched.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 7 July 1934, page 22

Fire At Shoe Stores

An outbreak of fire which occurred at Judd's Shoe Stores, Rundle street, about 5 p.m. yesterday, was extinguished by the Fire Brigade before any damage had been done. A woman employee suffered slight shock.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 7 July 1934, page 14

Firemen At Public Entertainments

The attendance of firemen at public entertainments in buildings of a certain seating capacity was required by Act of Parliament, said the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson) yesterday. He was referring to a request to the Port Adelaide Council made by the Showmen's Association on Thursday night for support for a move to have town hall porters and caretakers do the work of firemen at public entertainments. Mr. Jackson said the matter of supplying the firemen was in the hands of the board, which charged 8/ a night. The firemen received 6/6. and 1/6 went towards expenses.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 13 July 1934, page 13

DANGER OF FIRE AT FILM PRESENTATIONS

Support For Suggested New Regulations

Efforts being made by the S.A. Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association to amend the regulations concerning fire prevention measures at places of public entertainment are receiving the support of several local governing bodies owning halls in which cinema and other shows are held. The association has sent to these councils copies of a draft regulation, which provides that all licensed houses of entertainment shall be permitted to have members of the staffs regularly employed there trained by the Fire Brigade Board, and certified efficient to do the work at present performed by auxiliary firemen from outside. The existing regulation requires an auxiliary fireman to be in attendance only at halls with a seating capacity of 700 or more. Under the suggested regulation, firemen would be on duty at all cinema shows, irrespective of the seating capacity of the halls. The Woodville, Thebarton, Unley and Glenelg Councils already have approved the suggested regulation, and the Adelaide City Council some time ago suggested to the Chief Secretary (Mr. Ritchie) that the existing regulations should be amended on the lines indicated by the draft regulation.

Objection By Union Secretary

Opposition to the proposed new regulation was expressed yesterday by the secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass). "About two years ago the same persons made a move to abolish auxiliary firemen from all places of public entertainment," he said. "After the then Chief Secretary had made an exhaustive enquiry in other States, he refused to agree to the proposal. "I have a list of fires which have occurred in various Adelaide places of entertainment over a period of years, and it proves the necessity for every precaution being taken to safeguard the lives of the people visiting the halls and theatres. The picture exhibitors are now trying another move, which is, no doubt, the thin end of the wedge, and it is surprising that some municipal councils are accepting this insidious propaganda of economy." Mr. Nieass said he had spoken to the town clerk of one municipality, who favored the proposal and he had admitted that it was simply a question of saving the auxiliary firemen's wages, as the council had a special constable and he could do the work of both men. "Practically all auxiliary firemen are unemployed men relying upon the few shillings received from fire duties to pay their rent," added Mr. Nieass. "They are specially trained, and have had years of experience. No risk should be taken with the lives of patrons, simply to save 8/ a night."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 16 July 1934, page 10

Fire At Hotel

About noon yesterday the Fire Brigade received a call to attend the Rob Roy Hotel, Halifax street, where a spirit stove had been upset. No damage was done.

Earlier that morning, the brigade went to Tavistock street, in answer to a false call, some person having broken a street alarm. It is said that false alarms have recently been rare occurrences, though at one time they were received frequently.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 20 July 1934, page 21

Blaze In Government Offices Extinguished

Observed in its early stages through a window by Constable Backshall, a fire in a room on the second floor at the rear of the Government Offices, Victoria square, was quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade at about 12.45 a.m. today. Half a cupboard in the office of the accountant of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and its contents of papers were destroyed, and a wall was blackened by heat and smoke.

After a fire in a grate in the room had been cleaned away about 7 p.m. yesterday, wood for the next day was placed in a bucket near the cupboard. It is believed that a smouldering spark in the wood bucket caused the blaze, which then spread to the cupboard.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 14 August 1934, page 6

Passing By

By Mr. Pim

Shock at the Zoo

WHEN the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to a small fire at the Zoo a fireman sustained a shock through his helmet coming in contact with an electric wire which was hanging loose. The brass helmet, although an excellent protection against falling timber in a big fire, is a first-rate conductor of electricity. The fireman fell with the wire still stuck to his helmet. His comrades lifted it off with two dry sticks. When he came round he showed no ill-effects. I am told that in some cities firemen wear leather caps, lined with non-conducting material, because of the danger from live wires. They reserve their shining brass helmets for ceremonial occasions.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 22 August 1934, page 7

Gaol For Breaking Fire Alarm

Robert James, laborer, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to imprisonment for seven days by Mr. H. M. Muirhead, P.M., in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday on a charge of having on August 13 broken a fire alarm at the corner of Carrington and Hanson streets, city. The Police Prosecutor (Mr. P. G. Crafter) said that a man named Burdett saw James, who appeared to be drunk, go towards the fire alarm. Shortly afterwards Burdett heard the sound of falling glass, and then the hooter sounded at the Fire Brigade Station. Two reels arrived at the scene of the alarm. The defendant had 63 previous convictions, most of them being for drunkenness. James was also charged before Messrs. F. W. Harrop and W. J. Hill with having been drunk, and was sentenced to imprisonment for 14 days. The sentences were made concurrent.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 30 August 1934, page 10

Lights Cigarette At Petrol Station.

While the petrol tank of his motor cycle was being filled at the Service Tyre Co.'s station, in Hurtle square, shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday, Frank Jordan, of Hanson street, city, lit a cigarette. Immediately a flash of flame enveloped the motor cycle, hose, and pump, and caused minor burns to the hands of Jordan and Victor Edward Junge, a service attendant. Plainclothes Constable Barrington called the Fire Brigade. The pump and the motor cycle were damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 3 September 1934, page 7

THOUGHT CRACKLING OF FIRE WAS NOISE MADE BY RATS

Household Slept While Dining Room Blazed

A crackling, now believed to have been caused by flames, and a crash of glass, was mistaken for a noise made by rats by Mrs. J. Wallis, when she awoke at 3.30 a.m. yesterday—an hour and a half before a fire was discovered burning fiercely in the dining room of a house at Rose terrace, Wayville. Mrs. Wallis shut the door of her room, which is next to the dining room, and went back to bed. While she and the other occupants of the house were asleep, the fire burned in the closed dining room. It was not until 5 a.m. that Mrs. Wallis was awakened again by smoke coming through the crack in the wall. She roused her husband, who gave the alarm to Mr. S. J. Sage, owner of the house, who, with his wife, was in a sleepout in the garden. When Mr. Sage opened the door of the dining room his hair was singed by the heat. He slammed the door and called the fire brigade. Mr. Sage believes that the outbreak may have been caused by the remains of a fire in the dining room grate catching the hearthrug. An inquest has been deemed unnecessary.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 18 September 1934, page 1



FIREMAN A. FRAZER (left) and A. Abery trying to trace the source of the smoke which still filled the building after the outbreak of fire had been quelled in the cold storage of O. Heysen & Son, produce merchants, of Wyatt street, City.

FIVE FIREMEN COLLAPSE

Poison Fumes At City Blaze

GAS MASKS USED

SUFFERING from carbon monoxide poisoning, three firemen were carried unconscious from a fire at cold stores in the four-story building of O. Heysen and Son, Wyatt street, City, early today. Two others collapsed but recovered quickly. Twenty firemen fought the flames, which caused about £6,000 damage, for four hours. The poisonous fumes were caused by the smouldering of sawdust and shavings, with which the walls of the freezing chambers were packed.

The three men who suffered the most serious effects were Station Officer Griffin, Fireman J. Penna, and Fireman C. Lear. They were placed on one of the two fire reels that attended the outbreak and rushed to their beds at brigade headquarters in Wakefield street. After treatment by Dr. L. J. Pellew they recovered consciousness, but are still in bed.

Poultry Suffocated

When the night engineer, Mr. E. Hocking, switched on a light in one of the cold store rooms at 3.15 a.m. today, the light fused. Mr. Hocking turned off the switch, but evidently the fusing penetrated the insulation, and the fire spread through the double board walls and ceilings.

At 6.15 Mr. Hocking noticed smoke issuing from several cracks, and he called the Fire Brigade. Seven cold storage chambers on the ground and first floors suffered from the flames. About 3,000 cheeses were ruined, and a quantity of dried fruit destroyed. Live poultry to the value of £100, including 65 pigeons and a number of fowls, were suffocated in their pens. All the damage was covered by insurance. Mr. Eric Heysen pluckily descended into the smoke-filled engine room in the basement soon after the fire was discovered and adjusted valves controlling the ammonia pipes. The result of this action was to isolate any possible leakage from the



A FIREMAN wearing a gas mask at the premises of O. Heysen and Son today. Five firemen were rendered unconscious by fumes.

pipes to the room in which it occurred, and to prevent the ammonia from the whole plant being released in the event of a breakage. If there had been any breakage in the ammonia pipes before the adjustment was made, suffocating ammonia gas fumes might have spread throughout this block of the city.

Damage From Smoke

Mr. Heysen and Deputy Chief Fire Officer Cooper were badly affected by the smoke. Soon after the arrival of the brigade gas masks were called into use. The intense heat resulted in some of the poultry being cooked, and the firemen were able to sample fragments of roast chicken. The adjoining premises of the Metropolitan Wholesale Meat Co., Ltd., were damaged by smoke.

About 10 years ago, when a breakage occurred in the ammonia pipes at Heysen's, every person was driven out of the surrounding block of business premises by ammonia fumes. The moment ammonia is released into the air it expands into a gas occupying 800 times its own liquid capacity. That breakage was not associated with a fire, but the cold stores were

severely damaged by another fire 14 years ago. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis is preparing a report on today's outbreak for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 29 September 1934, page 5

£1,000 FIRE AT THEBARTON

Police Patrol Gives Alarm

DAMAGE estimated at more than £1,000 was caused by a fire which broke out early this morning at the wool drying and scouring factory of J. W. McGregor & Sons Ltd., Thebarton. The fire was confined to the main works room, which was destroyed. The contents, including machinery and about 60 bales of wool were burned. A policeman on bicycle patrol noticed the fire and called the Thebarton Fire Brigade, which prevented the flames from spreading to the remaining portion of the building. A pump from the Adelaide Fire Brigade headquarters was later called. The works room was situated at one end of the building. This part of the premises was of only one story, but much greater damage would have resulted if the fire had spread to the remainder of the building, which is of two stories. The adjacent premises of Torrenside Woollen Mills Ltd. were not damaged. Both factories are situated near Taylor's road, New Thebarton. Constable Stocks, of Thebarton, is preparing a report for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 4 October 1934, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oil Ignites.—Boiling oil, which ignited in the vicinity of a large quantity of inflammable paint ingredients endangered the premises of Mr. W. P. Crowhurst, paint and color merchant, of Gouger street, city, soon after 5 p.m. yesterday. Application of wet sand by workmen smothered the flames, and the Fire Brigade squad extinguished some sacks that had caught alight.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 5 October 1934, page 7

SMALL FIRE SUBDUED IN BREWERY STABLE

A few bales of straw and a bicycle in a stable belonging to Lion Brewing and Malting Co., Ltd., Lower North Adelaide, were destroyed by fire this morning. The stable is across the road from the main building. Fire brigade appliances from head station and North Adelaide station attended, and the fire was quickly extinguished. The value of the damaged property was only small. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 17 October 1934, page 7

City Tyre Service Plant On Fire

The premises of the Advance Tyre Service Company, Morphett street, city, were considerably damaged and the stock of car tyres and tubes was destroyed by a fire which broke out shortly after midday yesterday. The fire is believed to have been caused by the fusing of wires in an electrical vulcanising machine which was in operation. The business was conducted by Mr. William H. Doreian, who was in a garage next door when the outbreak occurred. The fire spread rapidly throughout the shop before the Fire Brigade arrived and extinguished it.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 17 November 1934, page 1

ADELAIDE WOMAN MISSING

Disappears from Ship

Although she was in her cabin about 4½ hours after the steamer Quorna had left Port Adelaide for Port Lincoln on Thursday night, Sarah Catherine Sayers, aged 46 years, wife of Station Officer H. T. Sayers, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, has not been seen since. The Quorna left Port Adelaide about 7 o'clock, and at 11.30 p.m. Mrs. Sayers was seen in her cabin by two women passengers. However, when the stewardess visited the cabin about 6.30 a.m. yesterday, Mrs. Sayers was missing. An immediate search of the ship failed to locate her. Her handbag and other belongings were found in her cabin. Mrs. Sayers had been in ill-health, and had been under medical treatment. Plainclothes Constable A. L Mitchell boarded the vessel when it berthed at 12.30 p.m. today to make investigations.

Port Lincoln Times (SA : 1927 - 1988; 1992 - 2002), Friday 23 November 1934, page 1

Woman Passenger Disappears

WAS TRAVELLING ON QUORNA

When the stewardess on the Quorna entered a four-berth cabin with tea at 6.30 a.m. last Friday, she found that one of the three occupied beds had been vacated. It is believed that the passenger, a woman, disappeared overboard when the vessel was between Marion Reef and Althorpe Islands, leaving her coat, hat, shoes and shopping bag in the cabin.

The passenger was Mrs. Sarah Catherine Sayers, wife of Station Officer Sayers, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The woman had booked under the name of Mrs. Green. She boarded the vessel without luggage, and after supper lay down on her bunk fully clothed, with a quilt drawn over her. She was last seen about 11 o'clock on Thursday, when she was talking to fellow-passengers.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 28 November 1934, page 1

PENSIONER INJURED IN CITY FIRE

Explosion of Kerosene Stove

When a fire broke out about 12.30 p.m. today at a lodging house at 36 Hanson street, City, James Lyall, aged 71, a pensioner, was badly burnt about the head and hands. Lyall was taken to the Adelaide Hospital, and detained for treatment. A window several yards away from the fire was broken by the explosion. Neighbors extinguished the flames before the fire brigade arrived on the scene.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 28 November 1934, page 20

NEWS IN BRIEF

Season's First Parklands Fire.—In a few minutes early last night, a metropolitan fire brigade squad beat out a small grass fire in the west parklands, opposite Grote street. It was the first grass fire that has occurred in the parklands this summer.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 30 November 1934, page 1

SMOKE BUT NOT MUCH FIRE

Alarm in City

Smoke issuing from Bowman's Arcade and blowing across several city blocks caused excitement in the city this afternoon. Lunch-hour crowds in the streets rushed to King William street, and the police had a hard task to keep the road clear. Fears of a big blaze were dispelled when it was learned that the smoke was caused by a griller in the Arcadia Cafe catching fire and sending dense clouds of smoke up the stairways into Bowman's Arcade. Waitresses and cooks with watering eyes dashed from the cafe.

While the smoke began to fill the cafe during a particularly busy lunch-hour today, between 300 and 400 customers went on eating and talking until word went round that there was a fire in the kitchen. They then left without the slightest sign of disorder. One or two men even went on eating, and were still in the cafe when the fire brigade arrived and brought a hose down into the kitchen. Fat from the grills caught fire and set alight to the refuse in a vent that carries the fumes to a lane at the rear of the premises. Wooden stairs nearby caught alight, but the flames were quickly subdued with a fire extinguisher. The total damage was small. Mrs. G. Hamdon, one of the cooks in the kitchen when the griller caught alight, received slight burns on the arms.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 1 December 1934, page 20

FIRE IN CAFE KITCHEN

Ventilation Motor Destroyed

A 12 h.p. ventilation motor was damaged beyond repair and a vent badly scarred when a fire broke out in the kitchen of the Arcadia Cafe, King William street, city, at 1.50 p.m. yesterday. The fire was caused by some fat catching alight on a griller. The flames swept up the vent above the griller before the safety shutter could be lowered, and an accumulation of grease and soot in the vent was reached by the flames. Soon the vent was ablaze. The motor, valued at £20, on top of the vent.

Three reels from the metropolitan fire brigade were used to extinguish the fire, and it was under control within a quarter of an hour. The 150 to 200 customers in the cafe hurried into the street because of the dense clouds of smoke which emanated from the kitchen. A large crowd assembled in the street, and had to be kept back by several constables. Mrs. G. Hamdon, a cook, received slight burns on the arms. The total damage has been estimated at £30.



B 72296

State Library of South Australia - Patrons at the Arcadia Cafe [B 72296], Patrons at the Arcadia Cafe, in the basement of the Bowman Building on King William Street, Adelaide. Approximately 1940. Photographer, Peter Pan Photos Ltd. Part of King William Street Collection.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 December 1934, page 2

Short Circuit Starts Fire At City Picture Theatre

Due to an electrical short circuit, a fire started in the top of the tower at West's Picture Theatre, Hindley street, shortly after noon today. Members of the fire brigade, under Station Officer Griffin, chopped away the smouldering woodwork and put out the fire with buckets of water.



State Library of South Australia - Hindley Street, Adelaide [B 4785], [General description] West's Picture Theatre photographed from the opposite side of Hindley Street with the roadway in the foreground. The theatre has an impressive tower topped with a cupola. The shop with the awning (on the right) is D. Ellis, Confectioner. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 74 / Hindley Street, south side / 13 July 1928 / For view of a building erected on West's Olympia site in 1939 see B 9622 and B 9806. Site of West's Picture Theatre: Far side of tower is 2.5 yards west of the east side of Victoria Street. / Far side of Olympia Cafe is 9 1/2 yards west of the west side of Victoria Street.' According to a researcher, the spire/tower is the entrance to West's Olympia Theatre. It was demolished in 1938 to make way for the West's Theatre, which is now the ASO Grainger Studio. Approximately 1928. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 74 Collection.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Friday 28 December 1934, page 1

FIRE IN ADELAIDE

£3,000 Damage Done At Warehouse

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

Damage estimated at £3,000 was caused tonight by a fire in a warehouse in Peel street occupied by Mr. O. V. Isaacs, importer of fancy goods.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 28 December 1934, page 7

FIRE IN CITY WAREHOUSE

Fighters Use Gas Masks

£3,000 DAMAGE

Three fire engines and about 20 firemen, many of whom were forced to wear gas masks in order to work in the dense clouds of smoke fought a fire which broke out in a three-storied warehouse in Peel street, City, about 7 p.m. yesterday. A number of policemen were

necessary to keep back the large crowd which gathered within a few minutes. Mr. O. V. Isaacs, importer of fancy goods, whose premises occupy the lower two floors of the building, estimates that about £3,000 worth of damage was done to his stock by fire and water. The building is close to a parking station, but the fire did not spread beyond one block. It was under control within about three-quarters of an hour. The outbreak was first noticed by Mr. Bob Dugan, a bookmaker, when he left his betting shop, just opposite, about 6.55 p.m. He telephoned to the Fire Brigade and Mr. Isaacs.

Smoke Pours From Windows

Clouds of smoke issued from every window of the building, and firemen used ladders to fight the flames and to drench the inside of the premises with water. Mr. Isaacs said that he had left the warehouse about 5.10 p.m., when everything was in order. He said that his premises were insured. The top floor is occupied by Mr. M. Mander, a book binder. The extent of the damage to his property could not be ascertained. The cause of the outbreak is not known.



FIREMEN were forced to don gas masks to work in the dense smoke which poured from this city warehouse when a fire broke out in the premises yesterday evening. The picture shows a fireman mounting a ladder in order to pour water into the building from his hose.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 28 December 1934, page 7

Warehouse Fire



DAMAGE ESTIMATED at £3,000 was done to stock when a fire broke out in a three-storied ware-house in Peel street last night. Firemen were forced to wear gas masks to work in the dense cloud of smoke. Hauling the hose into the burning building.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 29 December 1934, page 9

No Inquest Into City Fire

After receipt of a report from Plain-clothes Constable E. J. Davis, the City Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn) deemed it unnecessary to hold an inquest into the fire at O. V. Isaac's premises in Peel street on Thursday night.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 31 December 1934, page 9

Peel Street Fire Damage

Machinery belonging to the Adelaide Bindery, of which Mr. S. M. Mander is proprietor, escaped damage by fire in the blaze which occurred last Thursday in a three-storied warehouse in Peel street, city. The machinery was not insured against fire, but the flames failed to reach the floor occupied by Mr. Mander. The only damage sustained was by smoke and water and amounted approximately to £50. Mr. Mander will be able to resume business as usual on January 5.