

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1935

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 1 January 1935, page 1**

### FEW SILLY PRANKS BY NEW YEAR REVELLERS

Shortly after midnight a call was received by the North Adelaide Fire Brigade from the Wellington square alarm. The firemen discovered on their arrival, however, that the glass had been smashed by some joker. "It was just the finish of the festivities, and we did not regard it as a malicious call," said one of the officers.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 January 1935, page 1**

### Dense Smoke In City Fire

After two fire reels had arrived at the scene of a fire in Leigh Chambers, Leigh street, City, at 4 p.m. today, the firemen had difficulty in locating the seat of the outbreak. There were no flames but plenty of smoke. Firemen climbed through first-floor windows and broke open doors leading into the premises of W. C. Moyle, leather goods manufacturer, on the first floor, where the fire was eventually located between the floor and the ceiling of the rooms below. Smoke also poured from the windows of Myers & Collins, manufacturers' agents, on the same floor. Adjoining offices of the Church of England were not affected.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 7 January 1935, page 6**

### SMALL FIRE IN CITY

#### Good Save By Brigade

A good save was made by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Saturday afternoon, when a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. W. C. Moyle, bag, case, and trunk manufacturer, at the rear of the top floor of Leigh Chambers, Leigh street, city. On the arrival of two appliances from Wakefield street under Station-Officer Griffin a few minutes after 4 p.m., thick smoke was issuing from the sawdust packing between the floor of Mr. Moyle's workshop and the ceiling of the room beneath. Some difficulty was experienced in locating the seat of the fire because of the quantity of smoke, and the use of respirators by the firemen was necessary. The fire was quickly brought under control before the smouldering sawdust had burnt into flames, and damage which might have been extensive was prevented. Apart from the flooring of the workshop, much of which was destroyed, the damage was slight. The ceiling of the room beneath, which forms part of the offices of the Adelaide Diocese of the Anglican Church, was slightly affected and some damage by water was sustained. This would have been much greater but for the liberal use by the firemen of waterproof tarpaulins with which they covered most of the contents of the room. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 11 January 1935, page 19**

### FIRE DESTROYS OLD HOSPITAL BLOCK

#### Building Unused For Three Years

#### OPOSSUMS DISTURBED

Apparently set alight by sparks from a grass fire which had been left smouldering, the nurses' quarters of the disused infectious diseases hospital, North terrace, near Hackney road, city, were destroyed yesterday. Damage was also done to the adjoining consumptive men's ward. The burned structures are said to have been built more than half a century ago, and to be the oldest part of the infectious diseases hospital. All of the buildings have been abandoned for about three years. The fire was observed about 5.20 p.m. When the brigade arrived, dense columns of smoke were rising more than 50 feet, but the flames had not penetrated through the roof. Axes were used to make openings for the hoses. The blaze was checked in half an

hour, and extinguished in about an hour. Hoses across North terrace interfered for about an hour with tram and motor traffic. Trams had to be marshalled at Hackney road.

#### Blaze Seen

Four workmen from the Architect-in-Chiefs Department, who had been burning off the thick grass in the grounds all day, went home at 5 p.m. Grass had been burned off close to the buildings and apparently a spark ignited some ivy on an adjacent wall. The fire probably spread first to the wooden verandah and then to the roof, which was in an inflammable condition. Mr. R. Coker, a cleaning contractor, employed by the Adelaide Hospital, was riding along North terrace on his motor cycle when he observed smoke. He jumped over the brick wall and saw flames through windows in the centre of the building. He notified the brigade, and, obtaining keys from the hospital, unlocked the gates for the firemen. Directed by Station Officer Griffin, the firemen used three lines of hose and confined the blaze to the nurses' quarters, a brick single storey building, about 70 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, and part of the male consumptive ward. They prevented the flames on the north from reaching the maids' room and on the south from the consumptive women's block.

#### Fireman Saves Opossum

Running along the burning roof, two opossums were seen by the firemen. One ran inside the roof, and was burned. The other, which had its paws singed, was caught by a fireman and taken to headquarters. Tall old trees in the extensive grounds are a haven for many opossums, and the high stone wall facing North terrace hides the deserted building. Some time ago a proposal was made that this land should be handed over to the Botanic Garden authorities, in exchange for a strip of the gardens, adjoining the Adelaide Hospital, which could be used for hospital extensions. This suggestion was rejected. Up till 1901 buildings adjoining those burned were used as a mental asylum. Then they served as the consumptive block of the infectious diseases hospital until the new Infectious Diseases Hospital at Northfield was completed. Constable K. H. Craig is preparing a report on the fire for the Coroner.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 14 January 1935, page 10***

#### Two Small Grass Fires

Calls to two small grass fires in the West Parklands were received by the Fire Brigade yesterday. The first fire was reported at 11.30 a.m. near Waymouth street, and about three hours later another fire broke out in the vicinity of the Bakewell bridge. In each case little damage was done, and the fires were quickly extinguished.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 January 1935, page 1***

#### Outbreak In City Foundry

#### SPECTATORS SAVE BOOKS

Flames leaped 20 or 30 ft. into the air when a fire broke out in the brass foundry and electroplating premises owned by Wheatley and Williams, in Eliza street, Adelaide, late this afternoon.

Considerable damage was caused to valuable machinery. Two reels from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which were on the scene a few minutes after the outbreak was reported, quickly put out the flames, preventing them from spreading to nearby premises in the thickly populated area between Waymouth and Franklin streets. The outbreak was first noticed by Mr. G. C. Ramsay, jun., a motor engineer, who was working in his shop opposite, about 3.20 p.m. Mr. Ramsay rang the fire brigade, and then, with an employe, Mr. Albert Challise, tried to enter the building. With the aid of a sledge hammer the two men smashed open a small door at the entrance. They were almost beaten back by the heat, but covering their faces with their arms, they rushed through the flames to the office and saved papers and books of the

company. "I saw the rafters in the roof blazing fiercely," said Mr. Ramsay. "We were afraid that the roof might fall in at any moment, so we grabbed the papers and just managed to get through the flames to the street again." Mr. Ramsay said that the tremendous heat in the electroplating shop, where the fire appeared to have begun, could be felt many yards away in Eliza street.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 January 1935, page 10**

Fire In Petrol Station

A fire occurred at the motor service station of Silver and Killicoat Ltd., at the corner of Ward and O'Connell streets. North Adelaide, on Saturday.

Shortly before 3 p.m. a motor lorry, the property of the Polson Delivery Service, was being refuelled. The petrol overflowed and spread, and suddenly ignited. The truck was soon a mass of flames, but the two men who were in the cabin (Mr. A. J. Polson and Mr. P. G. Williams) got out in time, and escaped serious consequences. Four dual pumps and a single pump, housed in the showroom, which contained four large plate-glass windows, were soon in flames, which reached to the ceiling. Soon after the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Oldham, and some appliances from headquarters arrived, the fire was subdued. All the plate glass windows were split, the bowls of the pumps broken, and the motor truck badly damaged. The premises were not badly damaged, and will be open for business today.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 29 January 1935, page 15**

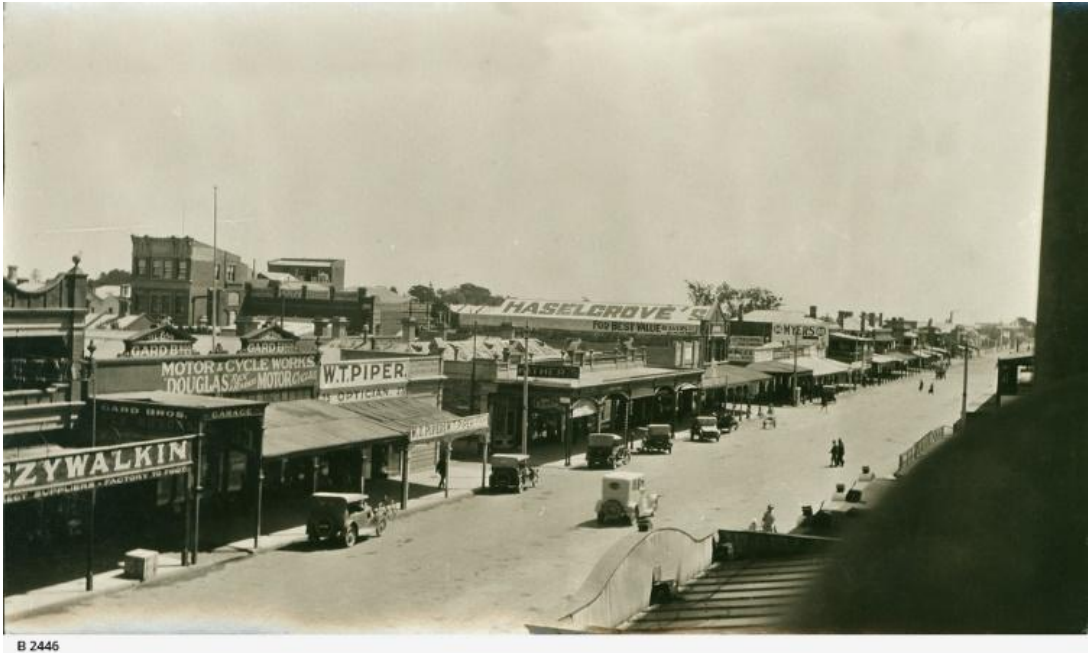
CITY PREMISES DAMAGED BY FIRE

Constable Discovers Blaze

OFFICE AND STORE GUTTED

Considerable damage was caused by a fire, which swept through the office, store, and roof in the middle portion of the premises of Gard Brothers, motor and cycle works, in Gouger street, city, late last night. Half an hour after it was called at 10.45 p.m., the Metropolitan Brigade, under the direction of Station Officers Sayers and Giles, had practically extinguished the fire. Several hundred people assembled in Gouger street, outside Moore's and watched the blaze. The fire did not reach several large drums of oil in the workshop, nor the petrol bowser in front of the building.

Constable P. V. Miller was passing the premises at 10.45 p.m. on beat duty when he smelt smoke. From the street he could see clouds of smoke pouring from the middle portion of the roof. Flames could be seen in the wooden partitioned office section in the middle of the galvanized iron structure. He broke a nearby fire alarm. He was soon joined by Constables Button and Healy. Forcing entry, the firemen attacked the blaze from the front and rear, using several lines of hose. The seat of the fire was the wood partitioned offices, surmounted by storerooms, behind the showroom, between it and the large workshop. About a dozen motor cycles and as many bicycles in the showroom were damaged, chiefly by water, as were a number of machines in the workshop. A steel safe in the office was undamaged, but papers and files in the shelves were burned.



State Library of South Australia - Gouger Street, Adelaide [B 2446], Gouger Street, Adelaide, looking west. This photo was taken at 2.35 p.m. on February 12th 1925, to show the traffic. Kither's shop is on the corner of Coglein street. Haselgrove's is on the east corner of Market Street. Businesses visible from left are Ezywalkin's 'Factory to foot' Shoe Store, Gard Brothers Garage and W.T. Piper, Optician. The extreme left is 21 yards west of Mill Street. 1925. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 406 Collection

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 1 February 1935, page 1**

**Heavy Damage in City Fire**



FIREMEN FRASER AND EDWARDS playing water on the smouldering ruins of a two-story building in Bloor Court, City, which was destroyed by fire early this morning. The damage was estimated at £11,500. Inset is Fireman T. Munro, who fell 30 ft. through a skylight while fighting the blaze. He escaped with a severe shaking and several cuts.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 1 February 1935, page 7**

## CITY FIRE LOSS £11,500

Quick Response By Brigade

### EXCELLENT SAVE

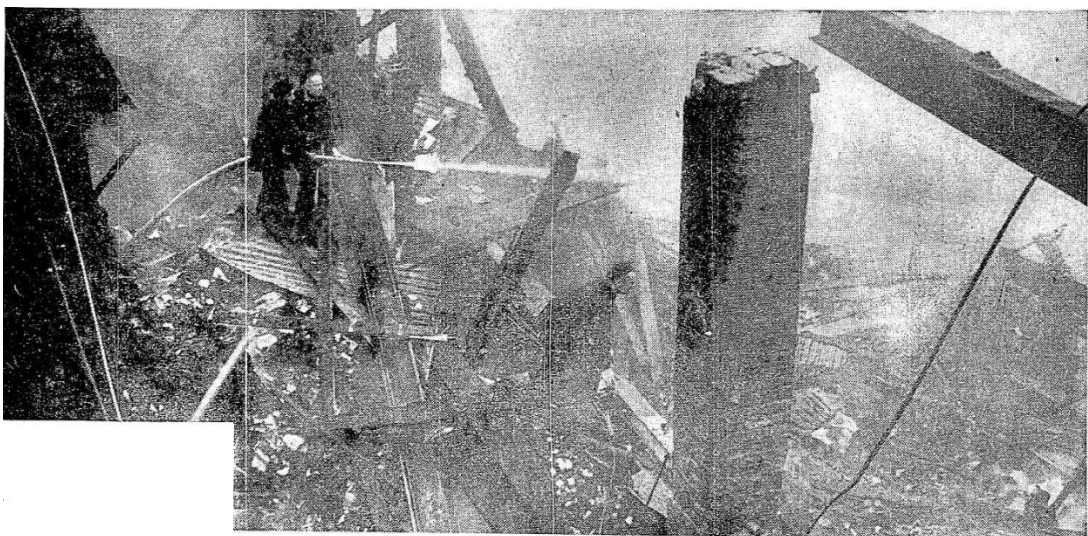
THE damage caused by the fire which swept through a two story brick building in Bloor Court, City, early today, is estimated at £11,500. The occupants of the building were Kevern-Sturt Co., Ltd., wholesale grocers, and Donald Taylor Collotype Co., printers. Had it not been for the efficiency of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, which turned out in full force, the fire would probably have spread to other buildings in the large block, which is between Currie and Waymouth streets. The managing director of Kevern Sturt Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. G. O'Daniel), said today that groceries, worth about £7,000, in the basement and on the ground floor had been destroyed. He estimated the value of the building at £2,500. The manager of the Collotype Printing Works (Mr. G. W. Teagle) said that the value of the plant and machinery of his firm was about £2,000. The building and contents were not fully covered by insurance.

### BRIGADE'S QUICK RESPONSE

Ten people were employed by Kevern-Sturt, and 12 by Collotype. Mr. O'Daniel hopes to secure temporary premises to carry on his business, and Mr. Teagle will probably try to do so. The fire broke out shortly before 2 a.m., and within a few minutes of the alarm being given by Constable W. Gordon, who was on beat duty, the Fire Brigade had three motor pumps, a motor hose reel, the big turntable ladder, and 30 officers and men, under the supervision of the deputy chief officer (Mr. Cooper), on the scene. Thirty 100-ft. lengths of hose were used, and lines were taken from five different sources. The fire was fought from three sides of the building. The fire was still smouldering this afternoon, and firemen, working in shifts of four, continued to play water on the debris, from which clouds of thick smoke rose at intervals. T. Munro, a fireman, who fell through a skylight when crossing the roof of C. Collins' horse bazaar while the fire was at its height, received a severe shaking and several cuts. He was little the worse for his experience today. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis is preparing a report for the Acting City Coroner (Mr. W. F. J. McCann). It is not expected that an inquest will be held, as no suspicious circumstances were discovered. The cause of the outbreak is not known. (Pictures on Back Page and Page 1)

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 1 February 1935, page 10**

Big City Fire



DAMAGE ESTIMATED at £11,500 was caused by a fire which broke out in a two-story building in Bloor Court, City, early this morning. Only the brick walls were left standing. A general interior view showing the ruins.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 1 February 1935, page 21**

**SPECTACULAR CITY FIRE**

Blaze In Small Hours Floodlights Streets

**TWO=STOREY BUILDING DESTROYED**

Fireman's 30=Foot Fall

A fire, which began about 1.45 a.m. today, destroyed a two-storey brick building in Bloor Court, off Currie street, city. By the time the brigade arrived, at 1.50. the flames were bursting from the basement windows and from the roof of the building. They had obtained a strong hold, as ten minutes later the whole structure was alight. The flames rose more than 50 feet above the surrounding buildings, causing a bright glare in the locality, which could be seen for many miles, and floodlighting all the tall buildings in the city. The building was occupied by Kevern, Sturt & Co., manufacturing grocers., and Donald Taylor Collotype Co., printers. Fireman T. Munro, while walking across a roof behind the premises of C. Collins's horse bazaar, fell head first through a pane of glass to the floor of the bazaar, a distance of about 30 feet. His helmet, which was dented, saved him from being cut by the glass, and he landed on his feet. His hands were slightly cut. At the time of the fall, he was carrying an empty hose, but the water being turned on caused him to overbalance. The building is in the centre of a block. On the north side is the three storey premises of Thomas Hardy and Sons, and A. Abotomey and Sons. Though clouds of sparks and smoke were carried over this building it was believed early this morning to be in no danger. On the southern side of the building where the fire occurred is the wood and iron building of City Motors, which abuts the brick building of A. M. Bickford & Sons Ltd. The cars were removed from the showrooms of City Motors near by, but these premises also were not thought to be in danger. On the eastern side is the John Bull stables and motor garage. Soon after the fire began Sergeant Kennedy and police constables removed two horses, which were in the stables. On the western side of Bloor court is a small building occupied by Robert A. Wishart, clothing-manufacturer, and Jackson & Co., Ltd., general merchants and importers. Firemen, by playing water on this building, were able to prevent the flames from spreading in that direction. Piles of paper and other printing materials and the supplies of groceries in the upper storey provided ready fuel for the flames. To cope with the fierceness of the blaze, five lines were run out, and the fire was attacked from three sides of the building. In spite of the great volume of water poured through the windows, the whole of the interior of the building was destroyed, and about an hour after the fire began the roof collapsed. Occupants of the nearby John Bull Hotel were roused by the police and warned to be ready to leave if the fire should spread. Many of them joined the crowd of spectators which had already gathered in Currie street. At 2.45 a.m. the fire was still burning fiercely.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 2 February 1935, page 16**

**£10,000 DAMAGE IN CITY FIRE**

Inquest Considered Unnecessary

Good Work By Brigade

It is estimated that damage to the extent of more than £10,000 was done to the premises of Kevern, Sturt and Co., manufacturing grocers, and Donald Taylor Collotype Co., printers, in the fire which destroyed a two-storey brick building in Bloor court, off Currie street, City, early yesterday morning. A report of the fire appeared in late editions of "The Advertiser" yesterday. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis prepared a report for the Coroner's Assistant (Mr. F. C. Siekmann), who deemed an inquest unnecessary. The stock in the building and the building itself were insured. The origin of the outbreak is not known. The fire, which broke out about 1.45 a.m. was under control by about 4 a.m., but throughout yesterday firemen were still engaged in putting out smouldering debris lying between the bare four walls of the building,

which was destroyed. Good work by the Fire Brigade enabled adjoining buildings to be saved though there is only a small space clear all round the building. The greatest danger to the firemen was the possibility of the heat forcing the outside walls out to such an extent that they would collapse, and they had to change their position when one was heard to crack. Twenty-five to 30 firemen were quickly on the scene when the alarm was given, and three motor pumps, a hose carriage, and an extension ladder were used to fight the flames. Firemen continued to watch the remains of the fire last night. Furniture in the premises of Mr. H. A. Robinson in a building on the eastern side of Bloor court was severely damaged by water. No serious injury was suffered by Fireman T. Munro, who fell 30 feet through a skylight while fighting the outbreak.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 7 February 1935, page 41***

#### SPECTACULAR CITY FIRE

##### Two-Storey Building Destroyed

A fire, which began about 1.45 a.m. on Friday destroyed a two-storey brick building in Bloor Court, off Currie street, city. By the time the brigade arrived, at 1.50, the flames were bursting from the basement windows and from the roof of the building. They had obtained a strong hold, as ten minutes later the whole structure was alight. The flames rose more than 50 feet above the surrounding buildings, causing a bright glare in the locality, which could be seen for many miles, and floodlighting all the tall buildings in the city. The building was occupied by Kevern, Sturt & Co., manufacturing grocers, and Donald Taylor Collotype Co., printers. Fireman T. Munro, while walking across a roof behind the premises of C. Collins's horse bazaar, fell head first through a pane of glass to the floor of the bazaar, a distance of about 30 feet. His helmet, which was dented, saved him from being cut by the glass, and he landed on his feet. His hands were slightly cut. At the time of the fall, he was carrying an empty hose, but the water being turned on caused him to overbalance.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 9 February 1935, page 7***

##### Two Small Fires In City

Two small fires occurred in the city yesterday, but no damage was done in either case. The first was at the premises of the S.A. Brush Company, Ltd.,

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 9 February 1935, page 5***

The chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie), who is ill at his home in Wakefield street, City, was reported to be slightly improved today.

***Narracoorte Herald (SA : 1875 - 1954), Tuesday 12 February 1935, page 4***

A Fireman's Long Drop—Fireman T. Munro, a member of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, while walking, across a roof behind the premises of C. Collins's horse bazaar, during the fire which occurred at Bloor Court, in Currie Street, Adelaide, on Friday morning last, fell head first through a pane of glass to the floor of the bazaar; a distance of about 30 feet. His helmet, which was dented, saved him from being cut by the glass, and he landed on his feet. His hands were slightly cut. At the time of the fall he was carrying an empty hose, but the water being turned on caused him to overbalance. Mr. Munro, before going to the city, was employed by a number of years on Padthaway Station, being the son of the late Mr. T. Munro, who was also an employee of Padthaway for many years, and was well known and esteemed. When in Narracoorte he proved his ability as an athlete, being proficient as a cricketer, footballer, bicycle rider, and was also a good distance runner.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 22 February 1935, page 3***

#### PERSONAL

The condition of the chief officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie), who is seriously ill, was reported today to be unchanged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 2 March 1935, page 15**

BLAZE IN TOWN HALL BELFRY

Constable's Prompt Report Averts Serious Damage

The Adelaide Town Hall belfry immediately above the new tower clock, which was presented to the City Council last week by Ald. J. Lavington Bonython, narrowly escaped serious damage by fire about 6 p.m. yesterday, when a portion of the wooden casing round the ventilators took fire. But for the prompt action of Constable F. W. Norley, who gave the alarm when he saw smoke issuing from the belfry, the new clock might have been destroyed.

Constable Norley was on duty in King William street when he noticed smoke. He immediately entered the Town Hall and gave the alarm. Only slight damage was done to a few of the casing boards in the belfry before the fire brigade arrived with two engines. A strong breeze was blowing through the ventilators in the belfry, and when the firemen reached the landing with three heavy extinguishers, the wooden casing was well alight. The blaze was quickly put out with the chemical extinguishers. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 March 1935, page 7**

Fire Brigade Calls.—Last year the Metropolitan Fire Brigade answered 599 calls, or 27 fewer than in 1933, according to the board's annual report. Only two fires caused serious damage, the first being the one which destroyed the grandstand at the Victoria Park racecourse on January 4, and the other the fire at the South Australian Fruit growers' Co-operative Society in Payneham road, St. Peters, on March 4. The brigade attended 195 grass and rubbish fires.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 March 1935, page 14**

PERSONAL

The chief of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie) has now been seriously ill for more than a month and his condition is causing some anxiety. Mr. Dickie is receiving treatment at his quarters at the metropolitan station.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 5 March 1935, page 19**

Children Blamed For Fire In City Dwelling

Damage estimated at from £15 to £20 was caused by a fire yesterday afternoon in the home of Mr. J. Phillips in Marion court, city. It is thought that the fire was caused by two children playing with matches. Neighbors were using buckets of water on the blaze when the Fire Brigade arrived. Only the contents of one room were damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 6 March 1935, page 2**

FIRE CAUSES ANALYSED

11 From Children With Matches

YEAR'S 599 CALLS

ELEVEN fires to which brigades under the jurisdiction of the Fire Brigades Board were called in 1934 were caused by children playing with matches, according to the classification of the causes of fires, contained in the annual report of the board. Calls received by the brigades numbered 599, a decrease of 27 on the 1933 figures. Malicious false alarms—that permanent and world-wide bugbear of fire brigades—numbered 92, a decrease of 24 on the previous year. The causes of 111 fires were unknown, but cases where evidence or the origin was available were classified as follows:—Spark from fire, 39; fusing of electric wires, 11; tar

boiling over, 4; short circuit, 16; burning grass, 16; overheating, 21; light thrown down, 2; naked light, 10; explosion, 12; backfire, 11; wilfully set alight and spontaneous combustion, each 1. Divisions of fires according to their seriousness is given as follows:—Serious damage, 2; considerable damage, 69; slight damage, 195; grass and rubbish fires, 91; chimney fires, 36; justified calls, 26; line faults, 88.

#### OXYGEN SETS

Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of one in the serious damage class, an increase of 52 of considerable damage, a decrease of 17 of slight damage, a decrease of 67 of grass and rubbish fires, an increase of four of chimney fires, a decrease of eight of justified alarms, and an increase of 34 of line faults. To enable firemen to work in confined spaces charged with chemical fumes or poisonous gases, the board has procured sets of self-contained oxygen breathing apparatus for the Wakefield street, Port Adelaide and Port Pirie stations. A resuscitating oxygen inhaling apparatus has also been supplied to these stations. The board received many expressions of appreciation regarding the work of officers and men at fires. Several large fires in country towns were ably handled by auxiliary brigades. The theatre auxiliary staff carried out 7,699 duties during the year, added the report. The staffs at places of public entertainment had been drilled in the use of the fire appliances installed, which had been tested and inspected before licences had been granted or renewed.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 March 1935, page 13***

#### PERSONAL

Chief Officer Dickie, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, is still seriously ill at his home. His condition has been unchanged for several weeks.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 11 March 1935, page 17***

#### Toorak Shed Destroyed By Fire

A wood and iron shed at the rear of a property in Alexandra avenue, Toorak, was destroyed on Saturday afternoon by fire. The City Fire Brigade attended the fire. Mr. R. F. Johnson, the owner of the property, was boiling tar in the shed to repair asphalt paths in his yard when it boiled over and took fire. Children's toys in the shed were damaged.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 11 March 1935, page 14***

#### PERSONAL

No improvement has taken place in the condition of the Chief of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie), who has been seriously ill for some weeks at his quarters at the metropolitan station.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 12 March 1935, page 7***

A short circuit in the feeder box on the electric switchboard at the warehouse of Matthew Goode & Co., Stephens place, City, caused slight damage to the switchboard early today. The City Fire Brigade soon had the fire under control.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 13 March 1935, page 24***



FIRE BROKE OUT in a boxthorn hedge near the cement tank on the southern side of the Adelaide Oval yesterday afternoon, and the Fire Brigade was called to extinguish the flames. Apart from the damage done to the hedge, the fence was only slightly charred.

**Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Monday 18 March 1935, page 1**

#### STATE FIRE CHIEF DEAD

#### AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Oldest Brigade Officer In Commonwealth

ADELAIDE, Sunday.

MR. J. E. Dickie (chief of South Australian Fire Brigades) died at Adelaide headquarters at 6 o'clock this morning after an illness extending over two months. His death removes the oldest and most respected fire chief in the Commonwealth. Mr. Dickie had been seriously ill for several weeks, and news of his death was not unexpected. He had suffered greatly from a chronic throat ailment, and had been conscious only at brief intervals for some days.

Born at Wandsworth, (England) 71 years ago, young Dickie went away to sea at the age of 13 years. He loved the life, and so advanced himself that he secured his second mate's ticket at 18. Following a severe bout of fever he left the sea and joined the London Fire Brigade. The experience he gained with that great organisation stood him in good stead when he came to Australia. He and 11 other men formed Adelaide Fire Brigade. Of that little body, he was the last one left.

After having served some years in the metropolitan area, Mr. Dickie was transferred to the charge of Port Pirie station, then situated in Alexander street. He later was brought back to Port Adelaide and subsequently to headquarters as second in command to the late Mr. Rickwood. On Mr. Rickwood's retirement 21 years ago, Mr. Dickie assumed State command. And he died practically "in harness."

Mr. Dickie left two daughters— Mesdames Dora Todd, of Parkside, and Emily Smith, Adelaide. The remains were interred privately this afternoon.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 18 March 1935, page 5**

A small fire in the enamelling plant of J. Todd & Son, blacksmiths, of Pirie street, City, early this afternoon, was put out by the City Fire Brigade.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 March 1935, page 18**

Small Fire In City

About 2.30 p.m. yesterday a fire broke out at the premises of J. Todd and Sons, of Pirie street, City, when some stove enamel ignited while being heated. The blaze was soon extinguished by the City Fire Brigade. Only slight damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 21 March 1935, page 6**

SELECTION OF FIRE CHIEF

May Be Mr. Cooper

At a meeting of the Fire Brigades Board on March 29 it is likely that Mr. G. P. Cooper, deputy chief fire officer, will be appointed chief in succession to Mr. J. E. Dickie, who died



MR. G. P. COOPER

on Sunday after having held the position for 21 years. Mr. Cooper has been deputy chief for the same time, and had been acting chief during the illness of Mr. Dickie. Two officers are said to be in the running for the position of deputy chief. They are Station Officer A. Griffin, of the Wakefield street headquarters, and Mr. E. W. Cook, district officer in charge at Port Adelaide.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 30 March 1935, page 1**

New Chief Of Fire Brigade

It was learned tonight that Mr. G. P. Cooper, who has been deputy chief of the Fire Brigades Board for 21 years, has been appointed chief officer in succession to Mr. J. E. Dickie, who died a fortnight ago.

Mr. Cooper, who was born in Victoria, will complete 40 years' service with the fire brigade in December. He is just over 60 years of age. At the meeting of the board at which the appointment was made it was decided to place on record the board's appreciation of the good work Mr. Dickie had done during 21 years as chief officer. The appointment of deputy chief officer — for which Station Officer A. Griffin, of Wakefield street headquarters, and Mr. E. W. Cook, district officer at Port Adelaide, are said to have chances — was not finalised.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 11 April 1935, page 8**

PERSONAL

During the absence of the new Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. G. P. Cooper) on an inspection of country stations, the Port Adelaide District Officer (Mr. E. W. Cook) is in charge at the metropolitan headquarters. At the meeting of the Fire Brigades Board tomorrow, it is expected that the appointment of a new Deputy Chief Officer will be made.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 17 April 1935, page 9**

Burns Sustained When Kerosene Ignites

While he was cleaning a paint mixing machine with kerosene and a blowlamp this afternoon, the kerosene ignited and H. W. Lemar, of Field street, City, was burnt on one arm. The accident occurred at the rear of the premises of W. P. Crowhurst, Gouger street, City. The brigade was summoned, but the fire had been put out by employes when it arrived. Little damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 23 April 1935, page 6**

Social Notes Items of Interest

The first of the weekly dances arranged by the Adelaide Fire Brigade will begin tomorrow evening at the Fire Brigade Hall, Wakefield street.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 27 April 1935, page 1**

Flinders St. Warehouse Gutted by Big Fire

Saw Huge Ball Of Fire, Says Watchman

The most spectacular fire in Adelaide for some time broke out at 12.30 a.m. in the premises of Thompson & Harvey Ltd., Flinders street, dealers in oils, paints, and builders' requisites. Starting in a store at the rear the fire spread rapidly into all floors and threatened adjoining buildings. The flames were attacked by the full strength of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, but by 1 a.m. the premises had been gutted. Adjoining buildings were saved. No official figures of the damage could be obtained, but in the light of other fires it was estimated that it would run into between £20,000 and £30,000.

The caretaker (Mr. J. Hatswell), who was asleep with his wife and four children in their quarters at the rear of the premises, was awakened by the fire. He telephoned the fire brigade headquarters, which are within a stone's throw of the site of the fire. "I seemed suddenly to see a huge ball of fire," said Mr. Hatswell, after he had opened a back gate to give entrance to the firemen. Mr. Hatswell and his family had to make a hurried exit from their home, taking only a few blankets. Twenty minutes after the outbreak the flames had worked through the Flinders street frontage of the warehouse and the showroom windows had cracked with the heat. Working on all four sides of the burning premises the firemen concentrated on keeping the flames from spreading to adjoining buildings. These included the London Hotel and Lenroc's Ltd. Hoses were played into the heart of the fire from the roof of the London Hotel and also from an extension ladder. The billowing clouds of flame and smoke attracted about a thousand spectators, who were controlled by a squad of foot police and troopers. Inspector Mattin, who was in charge of the police, had to awaken some of the dwellers who were sleeping in upstairs room separated by only one wall from the fierce flames. Miriads of sparks were blown over surrounding buildings. By 1 a.m. the main portion of the two-story warehouse of Thompson & Harvey Ltd. was gutted. Thirty firemen in charge of Chief Officer Cooper manned four reels, which attacked the fire.

It was Mr. Cooper's first big fire since his appointment as chief officer of the fire brigades recently. It was an auspicious start for the new chief, as an excellent save was made of the adjoining buildings. Although the outbreak was so close to the Wakefield street fire station the flames had burst through the roof of Thompson & Harvey's premises before the brigade

received the alarm. Notification of the fire was first given by Mr. D. Young, of Rose Park, who knocked at the door of the fire station and pointed to the flames bursting through the roof, and at the same time calling out "Fire! Fire!" The telephone call from the caretaker was received almost simultaneously. "The first thing I heard was a dog barking. Then I heard a crackling noise." said Mrs. Hatswell, wife of the caretaker. "I looked out of the window and saw flames shooting from the roof." On the other side of the burning warehouse Misses A. Campbell and J. Kelly, two elderly women, who were asleep in the London Hotel, were awakened by the fire and rushed into the street. At 1.40 a.m. they were able to return to their rooms. About 30 employes are normally engaged in the section of the premises which suffered most. The firm believes that it will be able to employ them in the back section of the works until rebuilding is completed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 29 April 1935, page 15**

**CITY PAINT SHOP DESTROYED BY FIRE**

Spectacular Flinders Street Blaze

**FIREMEN SAVE ADJOINING PREMISES**

Damage Estimated At £23,000

Thousands of pounds worth of goods were burnt by a fire which began about 12.25 a.m. yesterday, and destroyed the main shop and store of Thompson and Harvey, Flinders street, Adelaide. A spectacular save was made by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which prevented the 70-foot high flames from spreading to the surrounding premises. Although the exact amount of damage is not known, it is estimated at £23,000. The fire was under control in an hour.

Awakened by the flames, the caretaker, Mr. T. W. Hatswell, and his family, escaped in their night attire, and two elderly women hurried from an adjoining hotel. Two firemen were slightly injured, one having a hand cut by glass and another burns on a leg. As sufficient stocks are on hand, the company will continue business in the undamaged sections today.

Twenty minutes after the alarm the flames had extended to the front of the shop, and the showroom windows burst with the heat. In the meantime, there were sharp explosions of bursting glass as the flames reduced cases of plate and other glass to red hot splinters, and a dull boom, accompanied by flame, would announce the bursting of a container of inflammable liquid. Firemen worked on all four sides. Hoses were played into the flames from the roof of the London Inn, which firemen ascended by means of an extension ladder, and another extension ladder was used at the rear. Altogether nearly 4,000 ft. of hose was in use.

**Neighbors Roused**

The caretaker (Mr. T. W. Hatswell), who lives with his wife and three daughters and a son, on the first floor adjoining the shop, was awakened by a muffled explosion, and, looking from a window, saw a glare of flame in a wood-and-iron building in the centre of the premises where paint was stored. He called his wife, who telephoned the brigade, and in a minute or so, five machines arrived from headquarters only 100 yards or so away. At 2.30 a.m. Mrs. Hatswell and members of the family, who were still in the street in night attire with overcoats over them, were escorted to the house by Inspector Mattin to obtain some clothes. Inspector Mattin reached the fire before 12.30 a.m. With the assistance of one constable whom he picked up on the way, he awakened the occupants of adjoining premises. Women and men streamed out of the houses in their night attire with overcoats thrown over their shoulders. Miss A. Campbell, the licensee of the London Inn, and Miss J. Kelly another elderly woman, hurried into the street, as a brick wall overlooking a narrow pathway separating Thompson and Harvey's and the Inn began to bulge ominously. The firemen concentrated on preventing a spread towards the Dunlop Rubber Company's premises, and to the east of the building, which adjoins a motor parts store, and the motor cycle shop of Lenroc's, Ltd. "I don't know

how they saved the hotel," said Miss Kelly. "When I awoke I saw great flames shooting through Thompson & Harvey's windows, only four feet from the wooden bathroom at the rear of the hotel. However, only the paintwork was blistered, and the bathroom window cracked. I awakened Miss Campbell, and telephoned the police before we left the building."

#### Fireman Lashed To High Ladder

Most spectacular was the work performed by a fireman lashed with his hose to the top of a motor ladder, close to the Flinders street front of the blazing building. His hands became so hot that it was difficult for him at times to direct the jet and, after a time, it became necessary to move this gear back a little. Previously, from a height of about 60 feet in Roper street, a fireman hosed from the motor ladder a distance of about 90 feet over the roofs of the Dunlop Company's building and the London Hotel into the heart of the fire. At this time four firemen had stood on Thompson & Harvey's front verandah and directed two hoses into the blaze while others on the foot-path hosed through the front door. Excellent work was also done by a fireman stationed in the lane, four feet wide, between the blazing building and the London Inn, playing a hose continuously on the hot brick walls, while companions hosed from the hotel yard and from its roof. Noticing several white parrots in a large cage in the hotel backyard, only a few yards from the blazing building, one of these firemen approached the alarmed birds to examine the door so that he might let them free, if necessary. When he spoke to the birds, one swore vigorously and screamed. "Who are you, anyway?" Another kept plaintively repeating, "Is anybody home?" The front of the destroyed section was two-storey brick, the middle single storey wood and iron, and the rear two storey wood and iron. Although both were only twelve feet from the rear of the burned structures, a two-storey brick building containing the leadlight, motor screen, silvering and bevelling machinery and the adjoining sheet glass store, a wood and iron structure, were not damaged. However, the flames charred the woodwork of the gate across this lane. The most combustible materials, like motor lacquer and thinner, were not reached, being stored in a special magazine placed at the rear.

#### Intense Heat

Some lattice work and part of a bushhouse at the back of the London Inn were damaged, and part of the woodwork on the front of the hotel was charred. One spectacular touch was the manner in which a flame ran up the cord attached to a flagpole on the top of the building and set alight the round knob at the top of the pole, which burnt like a torch until one of the firemen working on top of the London Inn noticed it and sprayed it with a hose. The base of the flagpole was also charred. When it was possible to make an examination yesterday morning it was found that the entire eastern portion of the building had been destroyed, beams, ash, wallpaper, and tins of paint and oil, both open and closed, lying in a sodden mass in the centre of the shop. Some glass in cases near the heart of the fire was a fused mass

Continued on Page 16, Col 5



ALTHOUGH the section on the right of Thompson & Harvey's paint and glass shop in Flinders street, city, was completely burnt out shortly after midnight yesterday, firemen prevented the flames from spreading to the section on the left, where business will be continued as usual this morning. The damage was estimated at £23,000.

Fire In City Continued From Page 15

The caretaker made his rounds of the building about 11.15 p.m. on Saturday, and has reported to the police that everything appeared to be all right.

#### Firemen Injured

Firemen Wade and Ingram were the only persons injured. Fireman Wade received a cut hand when he stumbled among the smouldering ruins and fell on some plate glass. He was taken to the Adelaide Hospital, where six stitches were inserted in the palm. Fireman Ingram received burns on a leg and an arm when a container of inflammable substance burst over him. Between 3,000 and 4,000 people clustered on the opposite side of the street and more than 100 motor cars were parked outside the danger zone. The offices of the company, where valuable books and other records are kept, and the caretaker's quarters above were not damaged, apart from cracked windows and some scorching. The directors of the company, Messrs. A. J. Harvey (King's Park), J. M. Harvey (Unley Park), and A. E. Harvey (Tusmore) watched the fire.

Just before the first alarm was received, Chief Officer Cooper was awakened by his son, Edward, who noticed the blaze, only a hundred yards or so from the brigade headquarters. Twenty-five foot and mounted police under Sergeant Moore directed traffic in the vicinity of the fire. Great credit is due to the newly appointed Chief Fire Officer (Mr. Cooper), Station Officers Griffin, Sayers and Giles, and 26 firemen for their work in preventing the flames from spreading.

Business This Morning

Yesterday the directors were instructing a gang of workmen in pulling down partitions in the office and preparing it for a shop and showroom, which will be opened for business this morning. The office staff was arranging rooms in a cottage at the rear. One of the directors stated yesterday that the building destroyed was only one of six insurance risks on the site. The company had five other storerooms at the rear and opening on to Roper street, in which it carried sufficient stocks to meet all orders.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 2 May 1935, page 45**

#### CITY PAINT SHOP

#### Destroyed By Fire

Thousands of pounds worth of goods were burnt by a fire which began about 12.25 a.m. yesterday, and destroyed the main shop and store of Thompson and Harvey, Flinders street, Adelaide. A 12.25 a.m. on Sunday, and destroyed the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which prevented the 70-foot high flames from spreading to the surrounding premises. Although the exact amount of damage is not known, it is estimated at £23,000. The fire was under control in an hour. Awakened by the flames, the caretaker, Mr. T. W. Hatswell, and his family, escaped in their night attire, and two elderly women hurried from an adjoining hotel. Two firemen were slightly injured, one having a hand cut by glass and another burns on a leg. As sufficient stocks are on hand, the company will continue business in the undamaged sections.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 4 May 1935, page 15**

#### Promotion Of Fire Brigade Officers

Consequent on the appointment of Mr. Cooper as chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the Fire Brigades Board at its meeting yesterday decided to offer District Officer Cook (Port Adelaide), the position of deputy chief officer, Adelaide; Station Officer Bland (Port Pirie) that of district officer, Port Adelaide; and Station Officer Griffen, of the head station, the position of station officer at Port Pirie.



State Library of South Australia - Flinders Street [B 6718]. Flinders Street, south side, 8th May 1935 showing the premises of Thompson & Harvey after a fire. The fire had gutted the premises leaving only the street facade. For photograph of Thompson and Harvey's premises as rebuilt in 1935 see B 6784. Right side is 30 yards east of Roper Street and frontage is 15.5 yards. The London Hotel next door at Number 107 Flinders Street was managed by Miss Annie Maria Campbell from 1919 -1941. 8th May 1935

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 15 May 1935, page 20**

#### PERSONAL

Station-Officer A. M. Griffin will leave Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters today for Port Pirie, where he will take charge of the local fire station. Mr. Griffin has been a member of the brigade for about 30 years, having been stationed first at Adelaide and then at Port Adelaide. He has been a station officer at Adelaide for 18 years.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 20 May 1935, page 14**

Fire Brigade Funeral Today

Fire Brigade honors will be given this afternoon to the funeral of First Grade Senior Fireman Thomas Crocker Booth, who died suddenly at Port Pirie on Saturday. He was 48 years of age, and had been a member of the brigade since 1908. He leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter. Mr. Booth was mentioned as likely to be appointed to fill the vacancy of fourth station officer at headquarters caused by the recent promotions and transfers. The funeral will leave brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, between 3 and 3.30 p.m. for the Magill cemetery.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 21 May 1935, page 20**

Fireman 's Funeral :



MORE THAN 50 men marched yesterday when a Fire Brigade funeral was accorded Senior Fireman T. C. Booth, who died at Port Pirie on Saturday. This picture was taken as the men were proceeding along Pulteney street.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 21 May 1935, page 17**

Fireman Seriously Ill.—Senior Fireman Robert Morris, of the metropolitan brigade, who has been ill in the Adelaide Hospital for several weeks, was reported last night to be in a serious condition. He has been a member of the brigade for about 40 years. Formerly he drove the old horse-drawn fire brigade vehicles.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 22 May 1935, page 5**

FIRE IN KITCHEN AT RAILWAY STATION

Fat in Stove Alight

A large quantity of fat in a gas fish-cooking stove caught alight in the kitchen of the railways refreshment rooms shortly before 4 p.m. today. The lid of the stove was closed, so that the flames did not spread into the kitchen. The fire brigade was sent for when an iron flue became red hot, and a hose which was brought to a window was played on the flue for 10 minutes to cool it down. Apart from a broken pane of glass little damage was done. No one was near the stove when the fat caught alight.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 30 May 1935, page 33**



HONORS TO DEAD FIREMAN. Full fire brigade honors were given to Senior Fireman T. C. Booth, of Port Pirie, at his funeral in Adelaide last week, when more than 50 firemen with reels marched in procession to the Magill Cemetery. The coffin, with the dead fireman's helmet on it, being carried on a ladder reel. — Krischock.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 7 June 1935, page 32**

Modern Anti-Gas Equipment:



ANTI-GAS DEFENCE is attracting considerable attention at present owing to the Federal Government's proposals regarding preparedness against attacks. This composite picture shows some of the types of gas-masks used in South Australia today. The two photographs on the left give front and back views of the outfit of the Fire Brigade. It is available mainly for mine disasters, and contains two hours' supply of oxygen in the cylinder. The third figure shows the ordinary all-type of gas mask used by the Brigade. The other pictures are of military and naval gas-masks respectively.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 July 1935, page 3**

#### FIRE IN CITY HOTEL

##### Office Burned Out

Heralded by an explosion in a telephone switchboard, a fire at the Hotel Ambassadors, King William street, City, early today burned out the hotel office. When three fire reels arrived the fire was burning fiercely, but the brigade had the flames under control in two minutes. The licensee (Mr. P. Hennessy) estimated the damage at £500. "I was lighting kitchen fires in the

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit  
[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)  
2 May 2026

basement at 6.30 a.m. when I heard an explosion. Running upstairs I found the telephone switchboard in flames," said the night porter (Mr. W. Pepper). Smoke was spreading through the hotel, and after giving the alarm he roused the boarders. It was not necessary for them to prepare to leave. Among the articles burned were the hotel register, cigarettes, sweets, £2 in cash and stamps, and a wristlet watch worth £5 belonging to Mr. Pepper. Several boarders lost shoes which the porter had been cleaning in the hall. Glass panes in doors and windows near the office, were smashed. The firemen were directed by Deputy Chief Officer Cook.



DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £500 was caused by a fire at the Hotel Ambassadors in King William street early today. The fire, which was heralded by an explosion in the telephone switchboard, was burning fiercely when three fire reels arrived, but the brigade had the flames under control in two minutes. An interior view, showing some of the damage.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 9 July 1935, page 14***

#### FIRE-FIGHTING DISPLAY TODAY

Governor To Inspect Head Station

#### MODERN APPLIANCES

Adelaide's Fire Brigade and equipment will be inspected this morning by his Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan). In the memory of senior fire officers, this is the only visit by a Governor since 1911, when Sir Day Hort Bosanquet made an inspection of the central station. In 45 minutes Sir Winston Dugan will be shown most of the phases of the brigade's work. He will be received at 11.30 a.m. by the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson), Chief Officer G. P. Cooper, and other officials, and with a guard of honor composed of firemen in uniform in attendance. The Governor will be conducted on an inspection of the equipment, and then a demonstration will be given of various features of the work. Among them will be rescue of injured persons, use of smoke and gas masks, rescue work and fire-fighting from ladders, methods of descent from buildings, gymnastic training and a general turn-out of the brigade. Although the Adelaide brigade has obtained no new equipment of major importance recently, it is claimed to be as effective a fire-fighting unit as any of its size

in the British Empire. It is several years since the capacity of the brigade has been fully tested. The force available in the city includes about 45 permanent officers and men, four petrol-driven engines, hose carriage, motor turn-table ladder and other auxiliary equipment. Referring yesterday to the modern stream-lined engines which British brigades have added to their fleets, Chief Officer Cooper said he thought these would perhaps give better protection from unfavorable weather on a trip, as the firemen were totally enclosed, but from the point of view of their effectiveness in extinguishing fires, they showed little advance on the engines used in Adelaide. The climate here made enclosures less needful.

As the Governor inspects the station today, a description of the display will be given simultaneously by one of the officers on the station's amplifying equipment. This is an example of the adaptation of modern inventions to fire-brigade work. It was installed so that firemen could be summoned, individually or in numbers, from any part of the building by words spoken in the office

#### All Steel Ladders

Both amplifiers and telephones are now being utilised by brigades in actual fire-fighting. Tall extension ladders are being constructed with telephones at the tops, so that firemen may speak with officers below, or at the station, while others have amplifiers for close communication. The highest fire ladder in Adelaide—90 feet —has its speaking circuit. Striking advance has been made in the construction of these ladders. The latest type, made by a British firm for use in Edinburgh, is 105 feet high, and can be erected in 26.5 seconds, according to the makers' claims. A feature of this ladder, which is said to be the tallest in use in British communities, is that it is of all steel construction. Until recent years, these ladders were made of wood, chiefly because of its lightness. The tallest ladder in the Adelaide station is of oregon, with oak rungs. Now it is possible to make steel ladders of the required lightness, while retaining the necessary rigidity and strength. They are said to have the advantage over wood ladders of not being liable to crack or to deteriorate so quickly. At the top of the new steel ladders is a miniature fire brigade. The hose is securely strapped to the ladder, and the nozzle, or monitor, which resembles a harpoon gun, is fixed at the top of the ladder on a universal joint, enabling the stream of water to be guided in any direction. In addition to a telephone, the fireman stationed there has at his disposal a searchlight. Similar equipment is used by the Adelaide brigade, which has strong spotlights available for ground or aerial needs. The height of these extension ladders has not kept pace with that of modern buildings, nor, in the opinion of Chief Officer Cooper, can it be expected to do so. Adelaide's tallest fire ladder will reach only three-quarters of the distance to the top of one new building. Extra height on the ladder would be of little practical use, it is said, as the water pressure would be inadequate. Such buildings are well-protected, however, as they have fire-escapes from which fires may be attacked from the outside, and, on the tops of the buildings, there are large storage tanks, with special connections from which firemen may draw additional water supplies. Their concrete and steel construction, too, are believed to give ample security.

#### Use Of Foam

Other business undertakings which have made their own special provision against fires include oil and petrol companies. The large storage tanks at Birkenhead are safeguarded by the most modern fire-fighting material— foam. Each of the companies has an installation which would enable the tanks to be smothered with foam, which shuts out the air and prevents the spread of flames. Hand-extinguishers which eject foam are used by the brigade in cases of fires in motor cars and where water would only cause the flames to spread, but opportunities for the use of this method of quelling flames in South Australia have been limited. According to reports received by Chief Officer Cooper, various countries in Europe are obtaining the co-operation of fire brigades in arranging precautions against possible gas attacks from enemy aircraft. It has been suggested that similar plans could be adopted in Australia. Such a scheme, Chief Officer Cooper said, would probably require big extensions of brigade equipment and personnel, as, in the event of attack, the existing brigades would be sufficient to cope only with fire dangers. The Adelaide brigade has a small supply of smoke

and gas masks, which are needed only for fire possibilities. Of a total of 31 masks, the majority are for use in smoke only. A few others are complete helmets, with an independent supply of air for breathing, fed to the firemen under pressure. These are used in the presence of gas or poisonous fumes. Fire equipment in the suburbs, and country is said to be comparatively up-to-date and efficient. At Port Pirie, though it is not in use, may be seen the last of the obsolete type of steam-driven fire engines in the State.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 9 July 1935, page 1**



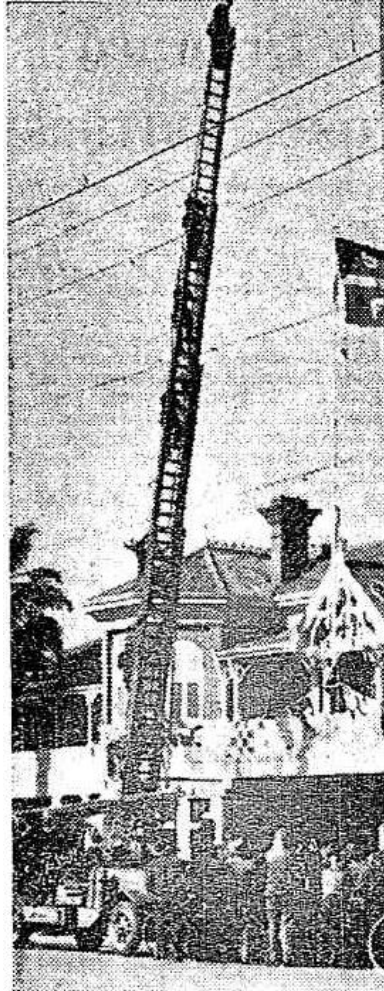
FIREMEN climbing down a ladder with "unconscious" comrades during the demonstration before the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) and Lady Dugan today.

#### Firemen's Display After Fighting Real Fires

AFTER having attended two small fires in the city earlier in the day the men at South Australian Fire Brigade's headquarters in Wakefield street still managed to present spick and span uniforms and equipment to the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) when he saw their demonstration today. The fires, at a fish shop in Grote street and a bookshop in Gawler place, did not do great damage, but meant that engines, apparatus, and men had again to be brought to inspection cleanliness. At the end of the display he congratulated the firemen on their high scale of efficiency, discipline, and agility, and each man was presented to him. A grin passed down the line of set faces under glittering brass helmets when the Governor said, "I am sorry I can't give you all a holiday." Thirteen-year-old Dorothy Sheppard presented a bouquet to Lady Dugan and shyly replied "No" when His Excellency asked. "Isn't there one for me?" but was put at her ease when he added, "Perhaps you can get me a brass helmet." In the quadrangle the fireman's lift was demonstrated, followed by a parade of breathing apparatus, in which some men looked like deepsea divers and others like soldiers in a gas attack. The apparatus varied from a wet sponge to complicated oxygen supplies. Then followed ladder drill, in which to the whistle signals of Station Officer Sayers a 65-ft. extension was swiftly run out to its full height, and a fireman was at the top quicker than the ordinary person goes up a flight of stairs. Jumping from a roof into a canvas sheet, the operation of a pumping unit, which sent powerful streams of water through two hoses, lowering with ropes, the lifeline, and a gymnastic display were included in the demonstration. Pyramids on the mat and parallel bars, weightlifting by Fireman Ingram, and acrobatics over "the only 'horse' left in

the fire brigade," as the announcer remarked, made up the display. Then the Governor saw what happens when an alarm is received. With a deafening clangor of bells, through the wail of a siren, the men rushed to the engines, and were in the street in a few minutes. The big 90-ft. ex-tension ladder was raised, and men raced up to seemingly precarious positions at its top as an exciting finish to the display.

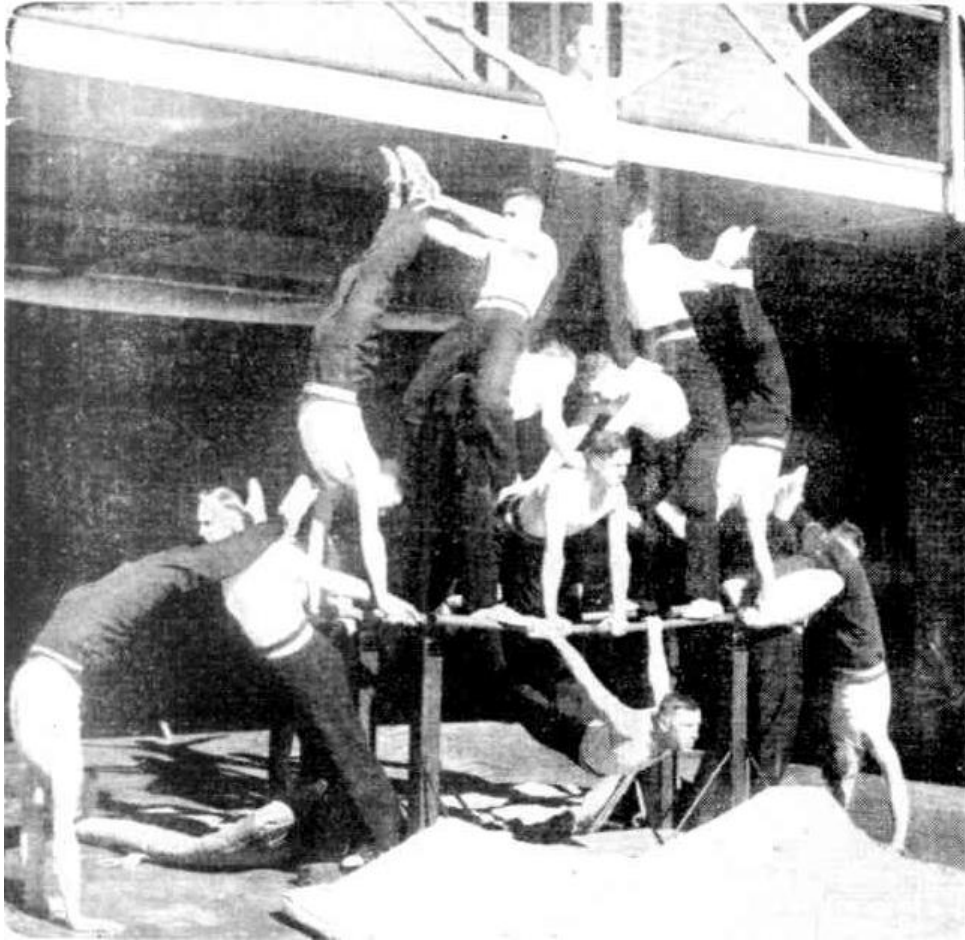
**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 9 July 1935, page 5**



END OF THE DISPLAY at fire brigade headquarters today—the 90-ft. turntable extension ladder being demonstrated outside the Wakefield street station.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 10 July 1935, page 24**

Firemen's Display For Governor:



KEEPING FIT is one of the essential duties the firemen set themselves between fighting fires. This pyramid was formed by a group on parallel bars yesterday morning when the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) visited the Fire Brigade headquarters.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 10 July 1935, page 21***

Out among the People

By Vox

Fire Brigade Appreciated

LIKE eager racehorses at the barrier, or greyhounds straining at the leash, the men at the fire station in Wakefield street are ready to dash off immediately they receive a call. At tea last night, the secretary (Mr. Reg. Beeton) told me that, after their recent fire in Flinders street, Messrs Thompson & Harvey wrote to the Fire Brigade Board congratulating the men on their fine work in restricting the blaze to a portion of the premises only. Since then the firm have sent along a cheque for five guineas for the Firemen's Recreation Fund.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 10 July 1935, page 20***

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

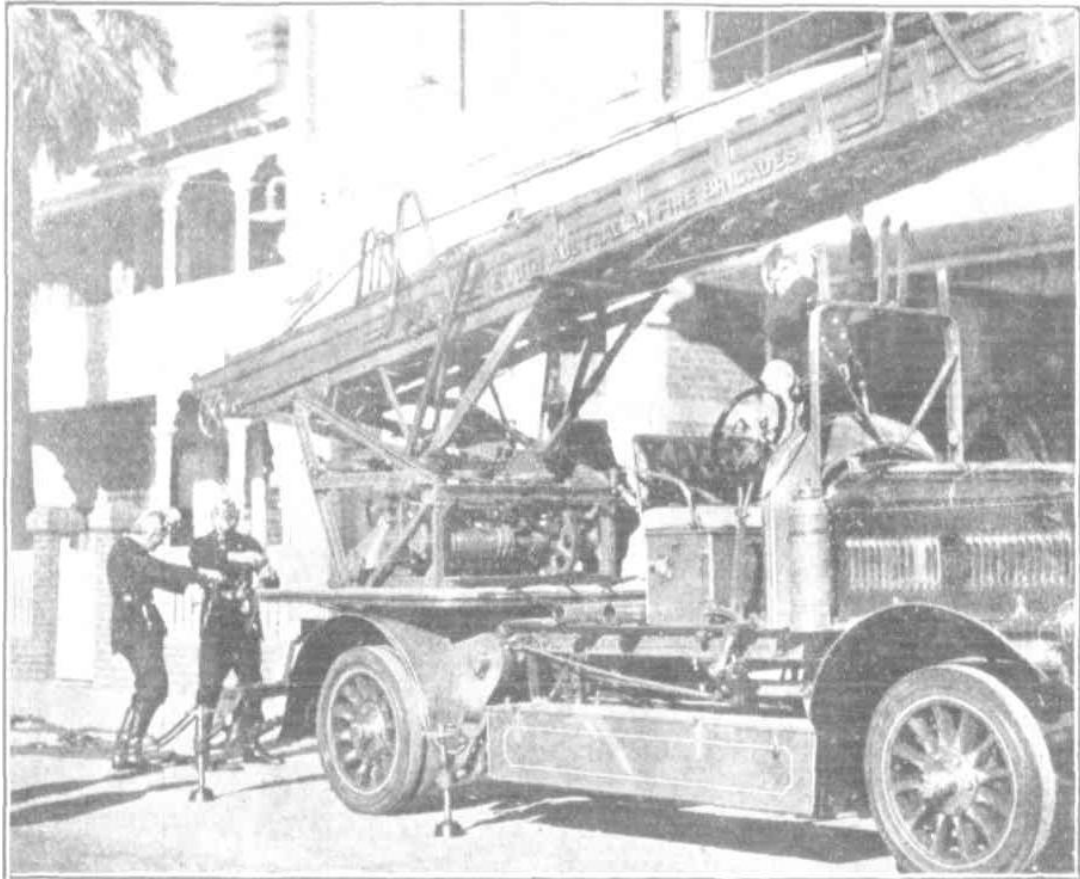
Fire Behind Book Shop.—At 1.15 a.m. yesterday the Metropolitan Brigade extinguished a fire under a staircase at the rear of L. Trend's book shop in Gawler place, near Pirie street. Apparently some rubbish had ignited.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 18 July 1935, page 33***

Firemen's Display:



**FIREMEN MOUNT THE LADDER.** Firemen of the Adelaide brigades mounting a 90-ft. extension ladder at a demonstration given before His Excellency the Governor last week. This ladder, which cost £3,000, is one of the most modern in Australia, and may be adjusted automatically to meet all kinds of conditions. — Krischock.



ANOTHER VIEW of the S.A. Fire Brigade's modern extension ladder, showing the appliance mounted on its motor in readiness to proceed to the scene of an outbreak. — Krischock.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 26 July 1935, page 21**

#### DRIVES BLAZING TRUCK FROM PAINT SHOP FIRE

£400 Blaze At Norwood

Although the curtains and hood of his motor truck had caught fire, Mr. L. G. Laphorne, on Avonmore avenue, North Norwood, drove the vehicle from a blazing paint shop at the rear of his home about 7.30 p.m. yesterday. His hands were slightly scorched. While he started the engine and backed the truck out, a neighbor, Mr. W. H. Temby, played a garden hose on the flames. Damage estimated at £400 was caused by the fire, which destroyed the wood and iron building and the stock of paints, oils, ladders, varnishes, spraying machine, and office equipment. The insurance cover was £200. Hurrying in answer to a telephone call, the Norwood Brigade were some-what delayed at first by entering the wrong street. Shortly after the firemen arrived there was a loud explosion believed to have been caused by a three-gallon drum of lacquer. Apparently this overturned a 40-gallon drum of turpentine, intensifying the blaze. With the Norwood Brigade working at the rear of the building and a squad from Adelaide under Station Officer Sayers at the front, the fire was soon controlled, but the inflammable contents had been destroyed. Mr. Laphorne's attention was called to the fire by the fusing of the electric lights in his home, where he was listening to the wireless. Running out, he found the blaze in the shop centred at an open drum of paint-remover placed just below the electric light switch. Mr. Laphorne said that he had a number of painting contracts on hand. The lacquer spraying machine, valued at £60, could be replaced only from America.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 August 1935, page 14**

#### ASSEMBLY TOPICS

Fire Brigade Equipment—New motor trucks had been provided for the Port Adelaide and Port Pirie stations, and it was proposed to equip the head station similarly, stated the report of the Fire Brigades Board for 1934, presented to Parliament yesterday. These three stations had been provided with self-contained oxygen breathing apparatus to enable firemen to work in confined spaces charged with chemical fumes or poisonous gases, and resuscitating oxygen inhaling apparatus had also been provided.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 3 August 1935, page 20**

Fire At Treasury Building

When the Fire Brigade received a call to the Treasury Building, King William street, city, about lunch-time yesterday it was found that rafters on the third floor had caught alight. The outbreak was quickly under control, and no damage was done, but firemen remained on watch in the building for about three hours. The rafters were between a floor and a ceiling in close proximity to a chimney, and it is thought that they took fire from sparks.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 August 1935, page 17**

Small Fire In City

At 9.14 a.m. yesterday, the Fire Brigade was called to extinguish a fire in a wood and iron shed used as a washhouse at the premises of Mr. A. M. Van Velsen in Hutt street, City. The woodwork of the shed, and a sidecar in it, were slightly damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 September 1935, page 8**

£2,000 DAMAGE TO CARPETS

Water Pipe Bursts

Damage estimated at £2,000 was done to carpets and linoleums at the store of John Martin & Co., Ltd., Rundle street, City, when a 4-in. water main burst in the basement shortly before 6 p.m. yesterday. The water main was above the stairway entrance from Charles street, and a piece blew out of a right-angled joint of three pipes. Although a dash was made to turn off the water service immediately the pipe burst, it was about 10 minutes before the water ceased running, and the carpet department was a foot under water.

The Fire Brigade was called, but could do no more than assist to move the stock out of reach of the water. Members of the staff worked back for an hour and a half, and by a liberal application of sawdust got most of the water away. The section of the building in which the burst occurred is being remodelled by builders.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 12 September 1935, page 11**

GOVERNMENTS PORTION OF FIRE BRIGADE COSTS

Maximum Of £10,000 A Year To Be Permanent

The Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries) announced yesterday that he would introduce into Parliament soon a Bill to amend the Fire Brigades Act to make permanent the provision that the maximum contribution of the Government to the upkeep of the fire brigade should be £10,000 a year. This stipulation was fixed six years ago by legislation which will expire soon. The other amounts necessary for the maintenance of the brigade are contributed by the Underwriters' Association and certain municipalities and district councils.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 September 1935, page 2**

TOO MANY FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Board to Take Action

Concerned at the increasing number of false fire alarms, the Fire Brigades Board has decided to ask that a more severe penalty shall be imposed on offenders who are caught. The secretary of the board (Mr. R. B. Beeton) said today that false alarms were becoming so prevalent that in any prosecutions which were made the full penalty would be sought. For a first offence the penalty was a fine of £5, or seven days' imprisonment, and for a second offence a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months, without the option of a fine.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 September 1935, page 7**

#### TRUCK ABLAZE IN CITY

##### Narrow Escape Of Tram Passengers

When a heavy motor truck driven by John Greig Winfield Haynes, of Kimba, and a city bound tram collided at the corner of Wakefield and Hutt streets, City, today, the truck burst into flames. No one was injured, but the motorman of the tram and several passengers who were in the front compartment had narrow escapes from injury when the windows caved in. Eyewitnesses said that when the two vehicles met there was a loud roar, and flames leapt fully 20 ft. in the air. The fire brigade was immediately called, and the blaze was extinguished within 10 minutes. The fire is attributed to an explosion of petrol in the tank of the truck. The truck was travelling north along Hutt street, and the tram was travelling to the city along Wakefield street.

#### TRAM DAMAGED

Heavy rain was falling at the time of the crash. The tram was badly damaged, the front portion of the motorman's cabin being caved in and the whole of the front compartment badly charred. Passengers immediately scattered after the crash occurred. Among them was a blind man, who had to be assisted by other passengers from the tram. The truck suffered comparatively little damage in the actual crash, but was badly burnt, and its contents, which included hay and a quantity of household furniture, were badly damaged. All traffic down Hutt street was held up for more than 20 minutes, and 15 trams were delayed in Wakefield street and Hutt street.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 28 September 1935, page 17**

#### FIRE AT CITY PREMISES

##### Damage Estimated At Hundreds Of Pounds

Damage estimated at several hundred pounds at least was done to the premises of Jackson's Tyre Service of which Mr. L. S. Jennings is the proprietor, at the corner of Flinders and Ackland streets, city, when a fire occurred there last night. The fire damaged tyres and plant, including furnaces, work benches, and probably a motor. The smoke from the fire was seen for a considerable distance, and the smell from the burning rubber tyres was noticeable all over the city. The alarm was given at 6.45 p.m., and the fire, which was quickly under control, was extinguished within an hour. A plateglass window on the Flinders street frontage was broken to allow hoses to be taken inside. Three Fire Brigade reels were taken to the outbreak. Firemen were left on duty at the premises throughout the night. Mr. Jennings said last night that it had been impossible so far to ascertain the whole extent of the damage, but it would be several hundred pounds. The damage was covered by insurance. The premises were owned by Gamblings, Ltd., of Adelaide.

#### False Fire Alarms

Two false alarms were also received by the Fire Brigade last night, the first from a West terrace stand, at 6.55 p.m., and the second from South terrace, at 8.12 p.m. It is stated that this practice is prevalent at present.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 30 September 1935, page 15**

### Flinders Street Fire

Following a report by Constable E. J. Davis, the Assistant City Coroner (Mr F. C. Siekman) decided that an inquest into the fire which occurred on Friday in the premises occupied by Lucas Samuel Jennings, proprietor of Jackson's Tyre Service, of Flinders street, City, was unnecessary. The Fire Brigade received a call at 6.45 p.m., and found the vulcanising shop and its contents well alight. It is thought that the fire was caused by a spark from a furnace, which had been in use, igniting some paper wrappings. Considerable damage caused to the building and stock is understood to have been covered by insurance.

#### **Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 October 1935, page 23**

Forewoman Stops Fire. — At 2 p.m. yesterday the Fire Brigade was called to the premises of Herman Holstein, hat manufacturer, Beehive Buildings, Rundle street. It was found that a bottle of hat stiffener had ignited, and the forewoman had stifled the flame with a bag. She received a slightly burned hand.

#### **News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 15 October 1935, page 1**

### GIRLS RACE FOR SAFETY IN CITY FIRE

Damage Estimated at £15,000 In North Terrace Factory

#### MORE THAN 200 WORKLESS

Damage estimated at £15,000 was done by a fire which broke out in the factory of A. J. Swain & Co., Ltd., leather goods manufacturers, in Cresco Building, North terrace, City, shortly after 8 a.m. today. With alarming suddenness the flames, which began in a pile of inflammable greaseproof wrapping paper in a store at the rear of the building, swept through the factory.

Employes raced to safety as the fire swept down upon them. Two plateglass windows on North terrace had to be smashed to allow the 200 girl and men employes to escape. Mr. Swain said that in addition to the actual loss the value of orders he had in hand for the summer season was between £15,000 and £20,000. Some of the loss was covered by insurance, but he would not know the exact amount until he had communicated with Mr. E. D. Benton, the director in charge of the insurance, who was in Perth on a business visit. In the rush one girl, Miss Norma Russell, of Dulwich, fainted, but she was carried to safety by her workmates. On floors above Swain & Co.'s factory are firms employing more than 100 girls and men. When the alarm was given they walked down the stairs through the smoke and into the street. The damage to the building, which is owned by Cresco Fertilizers Ltd., is practically negligible, and is covered by insurance. It comprises mostly broken windows and blistered paint. In the basement Gollin & Co. Pty. have a store, and some goods were damaged by water.

#### Soon Under Control

The Fire Brigade received the alarm at 8.22 a.m., and within a few minutes four appliances, comprising two pumps, a motor carrier, and a motor turntable ladder and 30 men under Chief Fire Officer Cooper and Deputy Officer Cooke had arrived. The outbreak was under control in 15 minutes. The company employs more than 200 hands, and has a weekly wages bill of between £400 and £500. The length of the unemployment of the staff will depend on the raw materials available in Australia. Most of the fittings used by the company in the manufacture of bags are imported from overseas. "If I can get the material, we will resume operations in a comparatively short time." said Mr. Swain. "The cause of the outbreak is a mystery to me," he went on. "A storeman, Mr. Colin Fitzsimmons, and a designer, Mr. Les Russell, attempted to smother the fire with bags, but the flames went through the factory like wildfire. Russell's eyebrows were singed."

£1,500 in One Case

A case of crocodile leather valued at £1.500 was burnt. An effort was made to move it by Mr. Geoff. Fitzsimmons, an employe, but it was too heavy for him to drag up a sloping ramp to safety. Mr. Fitzsimmons said that a wall of flame across the back of the building cut off all exit. They were forced to hurry the girls out through the front, and had to leave the case to its fate. "The fire appeared to begin in a storeroom in the south-eastern corner of the building," he said. "It moved with startling speed in a westerly direction and when the windows broke a draught from the lane at the rear swept the flames through towards North terrace." Girls and men were working at top speed in the factory at the front when a cloud of smoke swept into the room. The alarm was given by one of the designers, Mr. Sam Safra. He told the girls to hurry and get out. There was a scramble for coats, hats, and other belongings as the girls poured towards the front door, but there was no panic. The door open at the time did not provide a big enough exit for the crowd of girls and men, so two employes smashed the plateglass windows fronting North terrace. Through the opening and the door the girls quickly reached safety. One employe showed great presence of mind. When the stifling clouds of smoke reached the front of the building and prevented the escaping employes from seeing clearly where they were going, he held open a small door and marshalled them through. Immediately across the lane at the rear of the building is a parking station and garage, with petrol pumps within 15 ft. of the flames. Many cars were parked in the garage. As soon as news of the fire spread owners came from nearby business premises to remove their vehicles out of any possible danger.

Swain & Co. are one of the biggest manufacturers of leather goods in Australia, and Mr. Swain had just returned from a trip to Sydney and Melbourne securing Christmas orders, and employes had begun work on the Christmas rush. Mr. Swain began the business with one assistant 26 years ago. The company was formed in 1930. Mr. Swain suffered severe loss when his factory, then situated in Grenfell street, was burned out in 1929. "The rush of Christmas orders was on when that fire occurred," he said today. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis inspected the scene of the fire and submitted a report to the Assistant City Coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekmann), who deemed an inquest unnecessary.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 15 October 1935, page 12**

**£15,000 Damage in North Terrace Fire**



AN OUTBREAK OF FIRE on the premises of A. J. Swain & Co., Ltd., leather goods manufacturers, in Cresco Building, North terrace, at 8.20 a.m. today caused damage estimated at £15,000. Two of orders amounted to a factory £1,000 to £20,000. Three pictures show (top left) girl employees still coming out of the building as the fire broke out, (top right) had the fire spread around in 12 minutes. The right-hand picture shows the fire being extinguished. (bottom left) women carrying coats and hats as they fled the building. (bottom right) the fire burning at the Cresco Building. The fire started in a storeroom in the south-eastern corner of the building and spread towards North terrace. The fire caused two hundred thousand of £150.

AN OUTBREAK OF FIRE on the premises of A. J. Swain & Co., Ltd., leather goods manufacturers, in Cresco Building, North terrace, at 8.20 a.m. today caused damage

estimated at £15,000. Loss of orders amounted to a further £15,000 to £20,000. These pictures show (top left) girl employes still coming out of the building as the fire brigade arrived. The brigade had the fire under control in 15 minutes. Top right—Smoke pouring out of the burning building. The two large plateglass windows which were smashed to allow employes to escape can be seen in the picture. Beneath left—Girls employed by Swain & Co., Ltd., and others who work in the buildings. Beneath right—An interior picture as the firemen were fighting for control. The two crates seen in the picture contained new handbags valued at £250.



*State library of South Australia - North Terrace West [B 4890], [General description] North Terrace with its tramlines and parked cars is in the foreground of this view of modern buildings which have replaced smaller industrial business premises. On the left is the Mirror Shirt and Pyjama Warehouse and there is a large advertisement for Cresco Fertilizers displayed on the side of the tallest building. [On back of photograph] 'Acres 11 and 12 / North Terrace west / 21st June 1928 / The nearest portion of the 6 storey building and the whole of the two storey building were erected in 1926/7. For a view of premises formerly on this site see B 3225 / For view of tall building prior to erection of new portion see B 2746 / Frontage of the new part of the 5 storey building: 5 and a half yards / Its near side is 33 and a half yards west of Victoria Street / Frontage of 2 storey building: 30 yards'. Approximately 1928. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 11 Collection.*

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 October 1935, page 5**

DEVICE AT FIRE STATION

## Identifying Keys In Emergency

### ELECTRICIAN'S PLAN

KEYS to many warehouses and other premises in the city are held at the Wakefield street fire station, and the fire station electrician (Mr. E. Angus) is working on a device which will enable the appropriate key to be instantly identified if an alarm comes through from any of these places. In principle, the device is based on the method in some other important fire stations, but its details include features devised by Mr. Angus himself. The firms concerned are all equipped with automatic alarm systems which, should a fire break out, make direct connection with the Wakefield street station. These automatic alarms form the foundation of Mr. Angus' work.

### CARRY TWO LIGHTS

A glass-fronted cabinet will be provided, with 100 hooks for the keys. These keys are supplied to save the brigade from having to break through doors and windows in an emergency. Each key or bunch of keys serving a particular establishment will have its own hook. The hooks will project from brass plates, and each plate will carry a red and a green light. The moment an alarm is received the green light of the required key will glow, showing at a glance, on the face of the cabinet, where that key hangs. When the key is removed the red light will burn, and continue burning until the key is replaced. By means of a device incorporating an electro-magnet, which holds the contact, Mr. Angus has ensured that the lights will burn steadily even while the broken impulses of the code alarm signals are coming through, and that they will continue to burn after the alarm has ceased to operate.

### NO CHANCE OF DELAY

At present the keys are kept in pigeon holes. The new method will remove any possibility of delay. No labels will be attached to the keys in the cabinet, so that the only means of identifying any particular key will be the appearance of the green light following an alarm. The cabinet will be electrically protected so that an unauthorised attempt to open it would bring all the station alarm bells into simultaneous operation. Mr. Angus is preparing the cabinet and equipment in his workshop.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 22 October 1935, page 1***



A GENERAL VIEW of the ruins of Walker & Martin's furniture factory in Bay road, Ashford, gutted by an outbreak of fire shortly before 3 a.m. today. The fire brigade had a hard fight to save the home of Mr. C. R. Giles, which is only eight feet away from the factory.

#### FIRE DOES £3,000 DAMAGE AT ASHFORD FACTORY

##### Neighbors' Alarming Experience

Damage estimated at between £3,000 and £4,000 was done at 3 a.m. today by a fire which destroyed three quarters of the furniture factory of Walker & Martin, Bay road, Ashford.

AFTER a hard fight the brigade saved the home of Mr. C. R. Giles, which is only about eight feet away from the factory, and an unoccupied house belonging to Mr. Walker, which fronts Marleston avenue. Charred woodwork and cane blinds bear witness to the terrific heat to which the Giles' home was subjected. Damage was also done by water. The outbreak was first noticed by Mr. A. W. Trenoweth, of Laphorne street, Broadway Estate, who was on his way home from work. He telephoned the Adelaide Fire Brigade.

##### WAKENED BY CRASH

When reels arrived from headquarters and Unley, the factory was ablaze from end to end, so the officers concentrated on saving the houses. Mrs. Giles was wakened by a crash and crackling. Her room was illuminated by the flames. She roused her husband, who dressed and ran out to telephone the brigade. Mr. Trenoweth was already doing this, so Mr. Giles went to the house on the other side of the factory, where Mr. Walker lives, and wakened him. Mr. Giles returned to his home, and with his garden hose played water on the side of the factory and his own home. With the assistance of neighbors Mrs. Giles carried out bedding, papers, and clothing, and stacked it at the rear of Mr. Giles' garage, about 30 ft. from the fire. "It was an alarming night," said Mrs. Giles, and we must thank the firemen that our home was not burned to the ground." The brigade had four machines, including three pumps and 20 men, at the outbreak, which was under control in half an hour. Mr. Walker employed about 40 men, but he hopes to begin building another factory as soon as he can clear away the debris. Some of his loss is covered by insurance. A rear portion of the factory, which is L shaped, was saved. and this contained a quantity of completed furniture.

Mr. Walker left the factory with his foreman about 5.45 p.m. yesterday and everything then appeared to be in order. He went out last night and returned home at 11, when there was no sign of a fire. "It appeared as though it began in the mill." Mr. Walker said, "but I have no idea what started it. It is difficult to estimate the damage." Constables Price and Cain, of Richmond, are preparing a report for the City Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn), and will probably submit it tomorrow. While fighting the fire Fireman Brice trod on a piece of wood, and a nail pierced one of his feet. He was treated by a colleague, and later received an anti-tetanic injection. After five months freedom from big fires this is the second Adelaide has experienced in eight days. The other was the outbreak at the factory of Swain & Co., Ltd., in the city last Tuesday. The last major fire before that was at Thompson & Harvey's in April.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 23 October 1935, page 22***

#### SPECTACULAR FIRE AT ASHFORD

##### Furniture Factory Destroyed £4,000 DAMAGE

Flames which reached a height of nearly 50 feet completely demolished two large wood and iron shops and the greater portion of a third, at the furniture factory of Messrs. Walker and Martin, at Anzac Highway, Ashford, at about 3 a.m. yesterday. The proprietors estimated the damage at between £4,000 and £5,000. The origin of the fire is unknown. Some of the damage was covered by insurance.

The prompt answer to a telephone call by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which sent three motor pumps and a motor hose reel and 20 men, saved the house of Mr. C. R. Giles,

adjoining the factory, and an unoccupied house in Marlestone avenue. The alarm was first given by Mr. A W. Trenoweth, of Laphorne street, Broadway Estate, Glenelg, who was riding a motor cycle along the Anzac Highway on his way home from work. He telephoned the headquarters of the Fire Brigade from a public phone at 2.59 am.

#### Terrifying Experience of Neighbors

Mrs. C. R. Giles, whose bedroom was within eight feet of the burning building, said that she was awakened by the noise of falling timber and loud crackling from the flames; a red glare lit up the room. She awakened her husband, who dashed across the road to ring the brigade, only to find a man there already telephoning the fire station. He then called Mr. Walker, one of the proprietors, who lives on the opposite side of the factory, and then rushed back and played his garden hose on to his house and the dividing fence. "We have been in continual dread of a fire, particularly in the summer, ever since the factory was built," said Mrs. Giles, "and it has been getting on our nerves. The only things I thought of saving were a few clothes and some valuable papers from a drawer." Mr. Giles, she said, played the hose on the front until the fire brigade arrived, and then climbed on the washhouse roof and hosed that until the firemen had another line of hose out. The washhouse caught alight, but beyond slight damage there and to the dividing fence and trees, her property escaped damage.

#### No Inquest

Mr. A. F. Walker, one of the partners, said that he left the factory with his foreman at about 5.45 p.m. on the previous day, and everything appeared to be in order. He went out on Monday night, and returned home at 11 p.m., when there was no sign of fire. Although he could not advance any theory as to the cause of the fire, he thinks that it must have started in the mill, and spread to the timber shed and the cabinet shop. Luckily a light westerly wind kept the flames away from the latter, and the firemen were able to save the back portion. The factory employed between 30 or 40 men and youths. He said he hoped to begin building another factory as soon as possible, but in the meantime he might take advantage of the generous offers of other furniture manufactures to lend him machines and to do machine work for him so that he could fulfil present orders. A report was prepared for the assistant City Coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekmann) by Constable Price, of Richmond, who was on the scene shortly after 3 a.m. The Coroner decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 22 October 1935, page 10***

##### Broke Glass In Fire Alarm

A fine of £3. with £1 6/ costs, was imposed on John Davis Sharp, laborer, of Gover street, North Adelaide by Mr. H.M. Muirhead, P.M., in No. 1 Adelaide Police Court yesterday, when he pleaded guilty to a charge of having on Sunday maliciously broken the glass of a fire alarm in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, and damaged it to the extent of 1/. Police Prosecutor Miller said that at 12.50 a.m. on Sunday, Constable J. J. Judd saw the defendant and three other men walking along O'Connell street. On reaching Archer street the defendant went to a fire alarm smashed the glass with his hand and ran away. At 1.20 a.m. the constable went to Sharp's home and found him in bed pretending to be asleep. Sharp denied that he had damaged a fire alarm. On the way to the police station the defendant said, "You were pretty smart tonight getting around to my place." and the constable replied, "Yes, because I knew where to go." Sharp was given six weeks to pay.

#### ***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 24 October 1935, page 9***

##### DO FIRES GO IN CYCLES ?

What Brigade's Records Show

##### BIG OUTBREAKS

AFTER a call to one serious outbreak, firemen expect two more soon afterwards, for they believe that big fires come in groups of three, with more or less unbroken periods in between. This does not always work out, but records at the Wakefield street headquarters of the Adelaide Fire Brigade show that on occasions two or three serious fires fall close together. This week there was the Ashford furniture factory fire, and last week the brigade had to deal with the North terrace leather goods factory blaze. Some members of the brigade are wondering where the next of the sequence of three outbreaks will be! The last really big fire which the Adelaide brigade attended before the recent North terrace outbreak was on April 28, when the premises of Thompson & Harvey, paint warehousemen, of Flinders street, were destroyed, together with the contents.

#### ALWAYS WORK TO DO

The brigade, however, always finds work to do, attending minor outbreaks of all kinds, ranging from grass and hedge fires to outbreaks in wood stacks, rubbish pits, and warehouses. Last year, for instance, the city and suburban appliances between them turned out to a total of 599 calls.

Illustrating the claim that serious fires come in cycles, the brigade on January 1 last year fought two serious fires, in a tobacconist shop and a hair-dressing saloon, then carried on with smaller fires of varying degree until later in the month. Then, on January 23, a building occupied by the South Australian Salvage Co. in Kent Town was very badly damaged, on January 24 the Derby stand structure at Victoria Park Racecourse was destroyed, and on January 26 an unoccupied building in Linden Park was severely damaged.

#### HIS "LUCKY" NIGHT

Firemen have other superstitions. For instance, sometimes when a man goes on watchroom duty he tells his colleagues that he has a feeling that it is his "lucky" night, meaning that he will have the satisfaction of sending the others out to a job in the small hours. Night calls, when the men must rouse from sleep, drag on their clothes and be out on the road in well under a minute, are not the only discomfort that firemen must suffer in the course of their duty. A man may be called by an alarm while he is shaving. He leaves the face as it is and boards the motor. Or he may be in the bath, from which he leaps, lather and all, into the boots and clothing set in place nearby. To "lose his passage" on the motor and be left behind at the station is one of the most serious offences that a fireman can commit—and the motors do not wait for anyone.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 14 November 1935, page 10***

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Fireman," Port Pirie. — 1. Names of officers who have been in charge of the South Australian Fire Brigade are as follow:—

Richard Moore, date unknown to 1885;  
 Henry Charles Salter, in charge from April 13, 1885 to March 3, 1888;  
 George Alexander Booker, in charge from March 16, 1888 to August 7, 1907;  
 William G. Rickwood, in charge from August 30, 1907, to March 16, 1914;  
 John Edward Dickie, in charge from March 27, 1914, to March 17, 1935;  
 George Patrick Cooper, took charge March 29, 1935.

#### ***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 20 November 1935, page 13***

#### Most Street Fire Alarm Calls False

No attempt has been made to compute the cost incurred by the Fire Brigades Board through appliances answering false alarms, but it must run into hundreds of pounds. Fire officers agreed today that it would be reasonable for persons fined for making malicious calls to be compelled to pay an amount to the board for the expense incurred. But, unfortunately, not one

in 100 offenders is caught. These comments were made today following the board's decision not to install any more fire alarms in the metropolitan area, as 90 per cent. of calls from existing street alarms were false. Chief Fire Officer Cooper said one of the difficulties in tracing offenders was that people who might have seen false calls made frequently refused to give information. Penalties provided for persons giving malicious false alarms are £5 or seven days' imprisonment for a first offence, and six months' imprisonment for sub-sequent offences.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 21 November 1935, page 24**



PROMPT ACTION by the fire brigade minimised the damage when an outbreak of fire occurred late last night at the rear of the two-story premises of Allparts Motor Cycle Accessories in Flinders street. This picture, taken shortly after midnight shows firemen and a motor traffic constable inspecting the damage after the blaze had been quelled.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 26 November 1935, page 19**

Motor Cycle Burned.—Bursting into flames after a back-fire at the corner of Morphett and Franklin streets, city, last evening, a motor cycle, owned by W. L. McArthur, of Waymouth street, city, was badly damaged before the Metropolitan Brigade extinguished the blaze. The machine was insured for £50. It was being started by William Harold Dawson, of Coglein street, city.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 2 December 1935, page 16**

#### Grass Fires In Suburbs

Brigades were called to three grass fires yesterday, but in each case the outbreak was extinguished before any serious damage was done.

The first call received was by the Unley Brigade at 10.18 a.m. to Kyre avenue, Kingswood. About 20 minutes later the City Brigade went to an outbreak at Montpelier street, Parkside. A wood and iron building, which was surrounded by burning grass, was saved from damage. About 3 p.m. the Thebarton Brigade attended a fire at Cross street, Lockleys. Some fencing was damaged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 9 December 1935, page 18**

Tin Plant Worth £600 Destroyed By Fire

Valued at about £600, the tinsmith's plant and building of Mr. C. Juncken in Boskenna avenue, Norwood, were reduced to ruins by fire yesterday afternoon. Some of the gear and fittings may be salvaged. The wood and iron structure had been disused for three months, but Mr. Juncken said that he had been negotiating to begin the manufacture of cooling safes there this week. The cause of the fire is unknown. When firemen from the Norwood and city stations arrived, the building was well alight. Mr. Juncken, who lives in Kent terrace, Norwood, was at the beach all the afternoon and was informed of the fire on his return in the evening.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 14 December 1935, page 5**

Firemen Assist Youth Hurt In Collision

After he had been injured in a collision between his bicycle, and a motor truck outside the Fire Brigade Headquarters, in Wakefield street, today, Thomas Harold Rogers, 17, of Aveland avenue, North Norwood, was given first aid treatment by fire officers. Then he was taken to the Adelaide Hospital in a civil ambulance and admitted with a broken arm. The truck was driven by Samuel Matthew Hudson, of Moonta street, City. Constable Manfield reported the accident.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 December 1935, page 7**

£100 Damage At City Fire

When a fire broke out at the premises of L. Smith & Co.'s motor and cycle warehouse and repair shop in Flinders street shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon damage estimated at more than £100 was done to office furniture and stock. The workroom building where the fire began was also extensively damaged. It is thought that the fire resulted from flames from an oxy-welding plant igniting fumes from a petrol drum. Both building and stock were covered by insurance. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was on the scene soon after the outbreak, and made a good save.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 16 December 1935, page 20**

Fatalities And Accidents

Week-End Fires

About 5.50 p.m. on Saturday a report was received at the Fire Brigade headquarters that a fire had broken out in the premises of John Martin & Co., Ltd. The outbreak, which was caused by the fusing of a wire on a switchboard, was quickly extinguished. Little damage was caused.

At 6.15. p.m. on Saturday, the Fire Brigade put out a small outbreak in the kitchen of a house at Gilbert street, city, owned and occupied by Mrs. E. Condon. A cupboard was destroyed, and damage was caused to the woodwork of the room.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 18 December 1935, page 30**

CHECKING FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Chairman Of Board Seeks Public Co-Operation

## BIG INCREASE THIS YEAR

Checking malicious false alarms constitutes one of the most difficult problems connected with fire brigade work, according to the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson), who reviewed yesterday the year's work of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. This year there has been an increase of nearly 30 per cent. in the number of malicious calls, about 120 having been received up to the present, compared with 92 for the whole of last year. Mr. Jackson appealed for the co-operation of the public in checking the practice, which he described as a particularly stupid form of hooliganism, as it involved serious danger not only to property but to life. This danger, he said, was increased considerably under the present hot conditions. Most of the false calls this year came from fire alarm boxes, a few others coming from public telephone booths. Methods of checking such false alarms are receiving world-wide attention, according to Mr. Jackson. In England tests are being made with an alarm which holds in a steel grip the wrist of the person who rings the alarm. The caller is released on the arrival of the brigade, and then, if the call proves to be maliciously false, action may be taken against the caller. Mr. Jackson said that this device did not commend itself to fire authorities in Adelaide, because not only might it deter people from giving proper alarms, but it also might have serious financial repercussions as far as the board was concerned. A person with a weak heart, unaware of the device for gripping the wrist, might suffer a collapse through shock, and others, trying to wrench themselves free, might injure their shoulders or arms. In each case the board would possibly be held liable for heavy damages.

### Bell Device In Melbourne

Another device for checking false alarms was being tried in Melbourne, said Mr. Jackson. This consisted of a bell attached to the alarm box. When a signal was given to the fire station, the bell was set ringing, its loud clanging was intended to call the attention of persons in the vicinity to the one who had given the alarm. Thus, if the call was deliberately false, the brigade would have witnesses able to identify the caller. In the past, this had been one of the chief obstacles to prosecutions. There were drawbacks, however, to this system, added Mr. Jackson. Some people would probably object to the bell being fixed, even though it might ring only once a year. Only recently, when the brigade had been summoned to one district, a small hospital had sent a protest to the board against the bell on the fire engine having been rung in the street. In a number of cities, instead of the usual ringing signals, telephone sets have been installed at the alarm boxes, so that callers may direct the brigade to the exact locality of the fire. Although fire officers in Adelaide agree that this system has some advantages, they contend that in many cases much valuable time would be lost through persons, unfamiliar with the district, wrongly directing the brigade, or being unable coherently to explain where the fire had started. Mr. Jackson said that the biggest factor so far in inducing false alarms had been the extension of private telephones. More than half the number of calls were now received by this means, and in the past year not one of the calls received from a private line had been maliciously false.

### Young Offenders

Those who send false alarms range from young children to those who, in the opinion of officers of the brigade, are old enough to have more sense. In most cases it is a misguided form of practical joking, they say, but some times it arises from curiosity. A case was reported recently of a boy of about five years, who, in the view of shopkeepers, tried to smash the glass in an alarm box with a stick. Failing in this, he went away, but later was seen returning with a cricket bat. This weapon proved effective, and the boy stood on his toes to push the bell handle with the end of his bat. When called to account, he said that he wanted to see how it worked. Mr. Jackson emphasised that a serious view was taken of these false alarms, and that prosecutions would be launched whenever possible. The calling out of the brigade was of little consequence in itself, said Mr. Jackson, but a serious aspect was the possibility of a fire elsewhere while the brigade was answering a false call. The loss of time involved in answering the false call and returning to the station might result in serious damage and loss of life.

This year had been fairly free from serious fires, added Mr. Jackson. In the city the most serious had been at the premises of Thompson and Harvey, Flinders street; A. J. Swain and Co., North terrace, and Kevern Sturt and Co., off Currie street. In only the first of these, however, was the brigade exerted to its full capacity. All available machines were turned out to prevent the fierce outbreak among paint and oils from spreading to adjacent buildings.

#### Adequate Protection

Asked whether he thought Adelaide was adequately protected against fires, in view of the building development of recent years, Mr. Jackson said that Adelaide was as well protected, considering its size and needs, as any other city in the Commonwealth. The brigade, under Chief Officer Cooper and Deputy Chief Officer Cook, was efficient. "I do not say that we would not like to have more machines to cope with a possible extensive outbreak," added Mr. Jackson. "There has been no big fire yet where brigades have not wished to have extra appliances and men. Our equipment is perhaps not as strong as that of Melbourne and Sydney, but considering the type of new buildings that we have and the precautions that have been taken in these places against fire, our plant is fairly equal to the occasion. The expense of additional plant does not seem justified here at present." The Fire Brigades Board has bought practically no new equipment in the past two years, and Mr. Jackson said that it did not contemplate the addition of new equipment at present. He pointed out that new tall buildings were equipped with rising mains, which the fire brigade could attach to pumps and thus increase the pressure. These mains extended to the tops of the buildings, and fire hoses could be attached at many points. There were also tanks on the tops of the buildings, and the structures were of fire-resistant materials. The greatest advance in fire-fighting methods in recent years was the use of foam, added Mr. Jackson. This was particularly suitable for oil and petrol fires, and storage tanks at Port Adelaide were equipped with appliances which could smother the tank with foam in a few minutes. Foam, however, was of little use in fighting fires in buildings, or anywhere where air had access.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 19 December 1935, page 21***

##### False Fire Alarm Given

Arthur William Harcourt, of Washington street, Hilton, and a 17-year-old boy were charged before Mr. R. J Coombe, S.M., in the Children's Court yesterday with having unlawfully given a false fire alarm at Ebor avenue, Mile End, on September 22.

Assistant Police Prosecutor Walsh prosecuted, and Mr. M. Kinnane appeared for Harcourt, and Miss R. Mitchell for the boy, both of whom pleaded not guilty. Evidence for the prosecution showed that several boys had congregated in Ebor avenue. The boy who was charged allegedly said to another: — "The alarm is going to be broken; get on your bike and go." Subsequently, it was stated, Harcourt broke the glass of the alarm, and the boy turned the handle. Shortly afterwards, the fire brigade arrived. The defence denied the police allegations. Both Harcourt and the boy were ordered to enter into a bond of £10 to be of good behaviour for 12 months, and to pay £2 5/ costs each.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 23 December 1935, page 17***

##### FIRE IN SIMPSON'S WAREHOUSE

##### Firemen Use Gas Masks

A fire occurred at 11.45 a.m. on Saturday on the fourth floor of premises in Pirie street, city, occupied by A. Simpson & Sons, Ltd. While work was proceeding in the canister department, a resin pot boiled over, and the contents were ignited by a gas jet. They rapidly spread over the floor, and machinery, belting and shelving also caught fire. Ordinarily, employees do not work in that department on Saturday, but to cope with Christmas orders they were working overtime. Two detachments of the Fire Brigade were quickly on the scene and extinguished the outbreak. The fire caused only slight damage, but considerable damage to stock was

done by water. Owing to the dense black smoke on the floor the firemen, under Senior-Officer H. T. Sayers, were forced to use their gas-masks and had to chop their way through a wire-netting partition from the stairway. A report to the City Coroner is being prepared by Constable Davis.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 23 December 1935, page 11***

Firemen Qualify In First Aid

The following firemen qualified at the St. John Ambulance first aid examinations, held at Metropolitan Fire Brigade Headquarters on November 12 and 14:—

John Whitbread, Charles O'Brien, Cyril Gale, James Byrne, Cyril Roebuck, Frederick H. Goddard, Clarence G. Knaggs, Thomas Munro, George Roebuck, Donald Corker, Leo Edmonds, William Wade, Robert Savage, William McDowall, Alfred Fraser, Freeman Owen, John McGrath, Gilbert Gray, John Byass, Thomas Meaney, Alfred Sandison, John Stephens, Leslie Evans, Edward Godfrey, John Lee, Patrick Ryan, William Goreham, Edwin Cameron, Edward Penna, Reginald Paul, Charles Lear, Albert Ingram, Charles Meadows, Eugene Lathlean, Frederick Hughes, Richard Bottomley and Eric Footer.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 27 December 1935, page 9***

Motor Car Bodies Damaged In Fire

About a dozen unfinished motor car bodies were severely damaged by a fire which broke out in a large stack of bodies in a paddock at the rear of the No. 2 plant of T. J. Richards & Sons' plant at Mile-End yesterday afternoon. The City Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Giles, confined the fire to one corner of the stack.