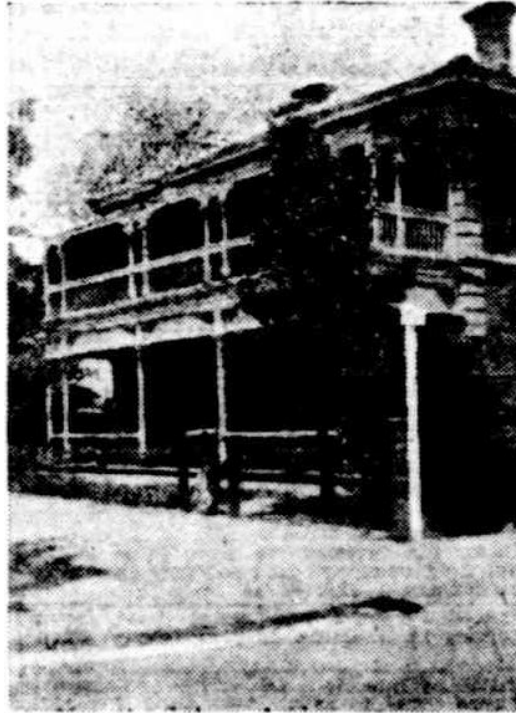


## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1936

*Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 11 January 1936, page 8*

### LITTLE-KNOWN ADELAIDE

#### Early Fire Headquarters



FIRE-FIGHTING in Adelaide has had a varied history, first under the control of insurance companies and later under the Fire Brigades Board.

One of the early fire headquarters is the two-storey building at the corner of Hume street and Hutt street, not far from Angus street. Mr. A. J. Baker, who was in charge of the fire brigade from 1876 to 1883, lived here, and kept the fire-fighting appliances at the back of the house. In those days firefighting was in the hands of the insurance companies, and the frequency with which fires occurred caused them much concern. Men were paid a retainer to be members of the brigade, but they continued with their ordinary work. Frequent requests were made to the Adelaide City Council to provide a fire brigade, but without success. At the Hutt street station there were housed three horse reels, and at the watchhouse and in Rundle street were two hand reels. The delay in the volunteers turning out caused considerable damage. Headquarters were removed to Flinders street, with B. Moore as superintendent, but H. E. Slater, of Sydney, superseded him and organised the brigade in 1887, and made it the first permanent fire fighting force. One innovation he made was to change the dress of the brigade from scarlet to dark blue.



*State Library of South Australia - Hutt Street [B 6786], Hutt Street and the south corner of Hume Street. Frontage of the house: 14 1/2 yards. This photograph shows a two storey bluestone house with a balcony and verandah standing on the corner of Hume Street and Hutt Street. A lady is leaning on the front gate. 1935. Part of Acre 437 Collection.*

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 15 January 1936, page 7**

Northfield Fire

Close To Hospital Block

A FIRE which broke out today near an incinerator at the cancer block Northfield, spread rapidly over grasslands towards the Northfield Mental Hospital in one direction and the Consumptive Hospital in another direction. At times the blaze swept uncomfortably close to the hospital buildings, but they were not damaged. Nearly 40 acres of grass were burnt. A reel and three firemen from the Prospect brigade attended, and men fought the flames with canvas fire beaters. They were assisted by warders and a few inmates of the hospitals. Fanned by a high wind, the blaze at one stage was running on a half-mile front through grass three feet high. The flames threatened a large haystack near the Government farm at Northfield, but a change of wind saved the stack. At 2 p.m. the Prospect firemen were relieved by the arrival of four firemen from the head fire station, who remained to keep a watch for fresh outbreaks.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 22 January 1936, page 3**

£25,000 Fire Razes Cooperage

WAREHOUSE ESCAPES

Flames Leap 100 Ft. in Air

CAN CARRY ON

DAMAGE estimated at £25,000 was caused by a spectacular fire which destroyed the barrel-making plant and offices of R. Babidge & Sons, coopers, at Railway terrace, Mile-End, about 3 a.m. today. The buildings were gutted, columns of flames leaping from stacks of staves piled in the firm's yard. Mr. L. Babidge, a partner in the firm, said today that the fire would not interfere greatly with the firm's activities. They hoped to re-employ the full staff within a day or two, and stocks in hand, which had been stored in a warehouse next door to the gutted

factory, had escaped unscathed. This stock would be sufficient for an immediate demand. Mr. Babidge said that none of the firm's employes would be put out of work through the fire. Mr. Babidge said the property and plant were fully covered by insurance. The fire had probably started from some connections of the electric motors in the main building. At the height of the blaze flames leapt 100 ft from the stacks of staves. These stacks, which had been piled for the convenience of the workers, encouraged the flames because of the draught which they created.

#### GIANT GAS FLARE

The task of the firemen was lessened by a chance giant gas flare. When a main gas pipe burst the pipe twisted into the air about 15 ft., and burnt like a giant torch, lighting the whole scene like day. Employes of the firm, many of whom lived near by, stood round in groups watching the destruction of the factory with dismay. Between 40 and 50 are employed. The electric cables passing near the front of the buildings had to be cut. An employe of the firm pointed ruefully to a pile of twisted machinery. "That's where I work," he said. "I never dreamt when I went home at 5 o'clock that I wouldn't be there as usual today."

#### SOON UNDER CONTROL

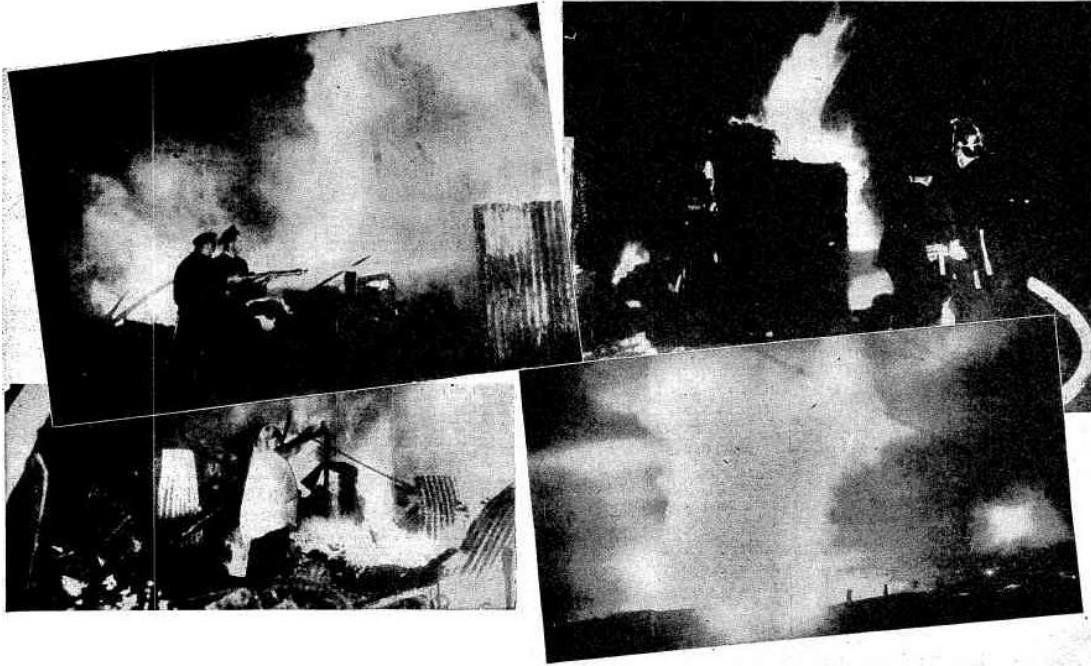
A street alarm gave the fire brigade the first notification of the outbreak. Within half an hour the flames were under control, although sheets of red hot iron lay in twisted heaps, and sparks leapt skywards. The blaze was fought by 15 men from the fire headquarters and the Thebarton Brigade. They were under Chief Officer Cooper and Deputy Chief Officer Cook, with Station Officer Goddard, of Thebarton. Five lines of hose were used. When the firemen arrived, the fire was blazing over a wide area, and spreading rapidly through the wood and iron building, and stacks of timber. Good work was done in protecting homes and motor garages separated from the burning premises only by a narrow lane. A strong water pressure was available, but the firemen used their pumps to increase the pressure. After a fight of 2½ hours the appliances and most of the men returned to their stations, but one crew remained on guard. Piles of timber were still blazing at noon, and six firemen were playing hoses on the flames and endeavoring to clear up the mass of tangled iron, steel, and other debris which the blaze left behind.

At 2.25 a.m. Constables J. Reynolds and E. Macintosh, who were patrolling on bicycles near the Port road, heard a noise which may have been the explosion of the petrol pump near the offices and then they saw flames shooting upward. When they arrived at the scene they heard a squealing in the stables. They dashed in and released two horses who were terrified by the smoke and flames. Insurance was carried with the National Insurance Co. of New Zealand Ltd.

(Pictures on Back Page)

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 22 January 1936, page 12***

Spectacular £25,000 Fire at Mile-End



THESE STRIKING PICTURES were taken by a staff photographer of "The News" shortly after 3 a.m. today at the height of the fire which totally destroyed the cooperage of R. Babidge & Son, Railway terrace, Mile-End. Flames leapt as high as 100 ft. from the stack of staves near the cooperage. The damage was estimated at £25,000. (Story on Page 3.)

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 23 January 1936, page 8**

#### CONSTABLE NOTICES FIRE AT MARKET

##### Praise for Vigilance

At 3.20 a.m. today Constable Chamberlain noticed a fire in the refrigerator plant of Silbert, Sharp & Bishop Ltd., fruit merchants. Smoke and flames were seen in the electric motor of the plant, insulation, and rubber belts, which had been burnt. When firemen arrived the flames were threatening to spread to woodwork round the motor. The blaze was extinguished with chemicals. Several instances have occurred recently of extensive fires having been obviated by the vigilance of constables on night patrol. A fire brigade official today praised the alertness of policemen on the beat.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 24 January 1936, page 29**

#### ROOF OF COLD STORAGE PLANT BURNED

##### Brigade Prevents Spread

Several hundred pounds worth of damage to the roof of the Government Cold Storage and Ice Works in Light square was caused by a fire about 9 p.m. yesterday. Good work by about 20 firemen, under the direction of Chief Officer Cooper and Station Officers Giles and Davis, prevented the spread of the fire, which started above the refrigerating chambers. Water from the hoses probably caused some damage to the contents of the refrigerators. While hoses were directed in the heart of the fire from below, a group of firemen reached the roof on an extension ladder and tore away sheets of iron to allow the fumes to escape. Clouds of smoke, issuing from the roof, were watched by a large crowd. Inspector J. R. Johns was in charge of about a dozen police. The alarm was given by two constables.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 24 January 1936, page 5**

#### FIRE DAMAGE AT PRODUCE DEPOT

### Ice Supply Unaffected

Water played on the fire at the Government Produce Department's premises at Light square last night had soaked through the whole of the freezing block, and the damage to the insulation system would take months to repair, said the general manager (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) today. The engineroom, however, was not affected, and there would be no interference with ice supplies. The depot's capacity for the storage of fruit might be reduced for a time. The supply of ammonia to the section of the premises where the fire was burning was cut off in time to prevent the escape of choking ammonia fumes. When a fireman wearing a gas mask tried to locate the seat of the fire in the confined area between the ceiling and the roof he was forced back by the heat. The firemen, who had mounted to the roof by the brigade's 90-ft. turntable ladder, had to remove several sheets of roofing iron before they could attack the blaze. This was the third fire at business premises that has been attended by the city brigade in two days. Two of the fires have been at refrigerator stores.

### **News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 25 January 1936, page 5**

#### Dramatic Rescue in Mile-End £12,000 Fire

#### STOREMAN COLLAPSES DRAGGED TO SAFETY

#### Government Supply Store Burned to Ground

#### WATER PRESSURE WEAK

Damage estimated at nearly £12,000 was caused by a fire which destroyed the Mile-End store of the Government Supply and Tender Board about 7.30 a.m. today.

Just before the fire reached its peak Mr. Albert Ehrenberg, an employe, dramatically rescued his chief, Mr. C. E. Riley, officer in charge of the stores. Mr. Riley had been almost overcome by smoke and fumes, when Mr. Ehrenberg, dashed into the building and dragged him to safety. Mr. Riley was taken to his home suffering from burns to the hands and face.

IN two hours charred uprights and twisted girders and sheets of galvanised iron were all that remained of the building, and the contents, which included many inflammable articles, were burning fiercely. Shortly before 7.30 a.m. employes were sitting on a trucking platform at the side of the building, waiting until it was time to begin work. Hearing a noise inside the building, one man remarked that evidently someone was early at work. About this time the flames were noticed by Mr. J. A. Wilson, a railway ganger, whose cottage is within 50 yards of the store. He gave the alarm, and the employes raced round the building, attempting to find an entrance. All the doors, however, were securely locked, and it could be seen then that the inside of the building was ablaze.

#### Heard Man Fall

"Mr. Riley was standing on the eastern platform of the store," said Mr. Ehrenberg, of Blight street, Croydon, describing how he had gone to his rescue. "He called out to me that he was going inside to try and get the keys of two lorries. "I rushed over and he told me to come in and get him if he called out. Then he went inside and I waited at the door. "I heard him call out 'Help!' and I immediately called to the other men, and then rushed inside, I heard him fall against a door; that was how I knew where he was. I grabbed him and pulled him outside. "I was gasping for air, and I had been in the store only half as long as he had. If I had not heard him collapse against the door, it would have been hard to locate him." Mr. Riley was then taken to his home in Monmouth street, Westbourne Park. Mr. Ehrenberg said that this happened shortly before 8 o'clock. Earlier he had given the alarm to the Fire Brigade after being told of the fire-by another man. He had also run to the railway signal box nearby, and asked them to have the crossing gates open ready for the brigade.

#### Collapse of Roof

Mr. L. D. Spence, of Rose street, Mile-End, who was among the early arrivals at the fire, said that within half an hour of his arrival the roof had fallen in, and the northern wall of the store was collapsing. "There were great clouds of black smoke, but the flames were not spectacular until the fire reached what appeared to be a quantity of sulphur. Then yellow-tinged flames and smoke leaped up, and the heat became intense." Mr. Spence said that the firemen appeared to be working under difficulties at the start, through lack of water pressure. Even after the pumps were started the men on the hose at the south end of the store called for more water. Two leads of hose were brought across the railway tracks, holding up light engine operations in the yard. There are dwellings fairly near the big store, and, although the wind was blowing the flames away from them several of the householders sprayed their fences with garden hoses.

#### Poor Water Pressure

The fire is believed to have started in the south-western corner of the building which is within 300 yards of the cooperage of R. Babidge and Son, which was the scene of a £25,000 fire early on Wednesday morning. Flames shooting through a window on the western angle were the first seen. The Thebarton Fire Brigade attended and found the water pressure on the east side of the building so poor that the firemen had to connect their hoses to the mains in Railway terrace, on the westside, and take them across railway lines led from the locomotive sheds. Several locomotives coming from the sheds to the city were delayed, and it was found necessary to drive them round through Keswick so that the firemen would not be hampered in their work. Appliances from the city headquarters were also rushed to the fire, and four mounted policemen, six motor traffic constables, and two uniformed constables under Sgt. F. Homes were quickly on the scene and kept the crowd back.

A street firm alarm and numerous telephone calls gave the alarm to Thebarton and Adelaide Fire Brigades, the first call being received at 7.32 a.m. The fire was confined to the store although one side wall of a small dining room used by employes was badly damaged. A bowser, containing about 150 gallons of petrol, which was in the yard about 50 ft. from a corner of the burning building was not affected. The damage is covered by insurance under the Government's own insurance scheme.

#### Supplies for Hospital

The contents of the store included crockery, sheeting, flannelettes, cotton wool, cotton waste, piping, and general hardware, buckets, steel bins, clothing material, chemicals, soaps, and, it was said, a quantity of yacca gum. Dense black smoke was still rising from portions of the burning building two hours after the fire was first discovered. It was stated authoritatively after the fire that the hospitals and other institutions which were supplied from the store, will not be affected by the loss of the supplies, as practically all of them can be easily replaced by purchases from city merchants. The building was of iron, and when the sheets of iron fell from the walls, stacks of crockery, rising in some cases to six and eight feet, crashed to the ground. A gas meter on the north-western corner of the buildings was fortunately attached to the three-feet high reinforced concrete foundation, and was not affected by the flames. At some risk of being struck by falling beams, a man turned the supply off. Massive steel girders, which had supported the roof, were bent almost double by the terrific heat, and all that was left in position of the roof and walls were a few sheets of iron.

#### No Inquest Into Produce Store Fire

An inquest will not be held into the fire at the Government Produce Depot, Light square, on Thursday night. It was learned today that the fire destroyed the results of the six months' task—completed only a few hours before the blaze—of renewing ammonia pipes and other fittings in the freezing block. Produce, mostly meat and fruit, in 21 chambers, was damaged by smoke and water. The goods belonged to 50 owners, including the Government Produce Department, firms, and individuals. Only eight of these owners, including the department, had

their produce insured. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis prepared a report for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).





THESE REMARKABLE PICTURES were taken shortly after the outbreak of fire at 7.30 a.m. today, which destroyed the Mile-End store of the Government Supply and Tender Board. Damage has been estimated at Between £11,000 and £12,000. It was the second big fire in Mile-End this week.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 February 1936, page 7**

#### Motor Car on Fire At Victoria Park

Noticing the smell of burning rubber when driving his motor car in Wakefield road, Victoria Park, at 12.20 a.m. today, Mr. W. A. Perkins, of Grange road, New Hindmarsh, stopped the car and then saw flames under the dashboard. He asked a passing motor cyclist to call the city fire brigade, which extinguished the blaze. Wiring and fittings of the car were damaged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 20 February 1936, page 19**

#### "SUDS" TO FIGHT PETROL FIRES

##### Adelaide Brigade Equipped

Referring to the fact that at Quilpie (Queensland), the fire brigade had had to use hot water from a bore, with the result that several people were scalded, enquiries in Adelaide yesterday showed that unusual methods had had to be resorted to on several occasions in this State. A fire brigade official recalled that during a fire at Hardy's wine cellars at Torrensville some years ago, waste wine was used by the firemen to help quench the fire.

One of the most recent developments in oil and petrol in fire-fighting is the use of a "suds" solution not unlike the familiar soap suds. When this solution is mixed with water and directed towards the seat of the fire it multiplies its volume by about twenty times and creates a blanket which expels the air and so extinguishes the outbreak. In modern equipment of this nature one gallon of solution makes 1,000 gallons of foam. The mixing unit is fitted to the

ordinary fire-fighting appliances. At the Adelaide Fire Station the "suds" solution is contained in a hand extinguisher.

**Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Friday 21 February 1936, page 4**

FIRE CHIEF RESIGNS

Effect of Old Injury

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

Because he thinks a leg injury received at a fire sixteen years ago, prevents him doing his job properly, Chief-Officer G. P. Cooper, of the Fire Brigade, has tendered his resignation.

Mr. E. W. Peet, of the Fire Brigades Board, said today that Mr. Cooper's resignation had been accepted with regret, and applications had been called here and in Victoria and New South Wales for the position, which carries a salary of £600 a year with quarters, light, and fuel. Applications close on Thursday, March 5.

Mr. Peet said that at a fire in the city in 1920 Mr. Cooper, who has just completed 40 years' service with the brigade, stepped on a wooden floor which collapsed, and his right leg went through, wrenching the ankle. Mr. Cooper carried on with his work for some time, but finally had to consult a doctor, who ordered complete rest, and he was off duty for seven months.

His ankle has been troubling him again lately, and when told by a specialist that there was no hope of it getting better, mainly because of his age, Mr. Cooper felt it his duty to resign.

He joined the brigade in January 6, 1896, after having been at sea for a few years. He was made deputy chief officer in 1914, and chief officer in 1935, when Chief-Officer Dickie died.

Mr. Cooper has consented to carry on until a successor is appointed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 29 February 1936, page 8**

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD

Increase In Number Of Malicious Calls

The report of the Fire Brigade's Board for 1935 reveals that during the year the brigades attended 602 fire calls, an increase of three calls on the previous year's figures. Compared with 1934 records, fires classified as serious were the same in number. There was a decrease of 19 in the number of serious damage, a decrease of 42 of line faults, and an increase of 36 malicious false alarms. The authorised strength of the Brigade is 104 officers and men of all ranks, 61 auxiliary firemen, and 41 theatre auxiliary firemen, making a total of 206.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 7 March 1936, page 1**

Thirty-Four Applicants For Fire Chief Post

Thirty-four applications have been received for the position of chief officer of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, which has become vacant because of the retirement of Mr. G. P. Cooper. Seventeen of the applicants are men in other States. It is not likely that an appointment will be announced for two or three weeks. The Fire Brigades Board made a preliminary examination of the applications yesterday, but several further meetings will be necessary.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 10 March 1936, page 20**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Fire In Hindley Street.—A fire broke out between the ceiling and the roof over portion of the main showroom at Hains, Hunkin and Co., Hindley street, yesterday afternoon. The blaze

was quickly subdued by the brigade. Damage to the rafters and ceiling is assessed at about £40. It is not known how the fire originated.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 23 March 1936, page 16**

New Fire Chief To Be Chosen Today

A new Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade will be appointed at today's meeting of the S.A. Fire Brigades Board. He will succeed Mr. G. J. Cooper, who felt compelled to retire on account of the recurrence of a leg injury. The candidates have been reduced to three men, one each from South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. More than 30 other applicants have been eliminated. The post carries a salary of £600 a year, with quarters, fuel and light. The chairman of the board (Mr. H. Jackson) returned on Saturday from Melbourne after an absence of about two weeks, during which he attended a firefighting display at Geelong by 800 men from the Victorian country fire brigades. Mr. Jackson, who was accompanied by two other members of the board, Mr. F. Miers and Councillor Peet, of the Adelaide City Council, interviewed many candidates.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 23 March 1936, page 1**

NEW FIRE BRIGADE CHIEF OFFICER

Melbourne Man Chosen

Mr. J. J. Whyte, station officer and general instructor at Eastern Hill Station, the headquarters of the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, was today appointed chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board in succession to Mr. G. P. Cooper, who is retiring owing to recurrence of an old leg injury. Mr. Whyte will begin his duties soon. Mr. Cooper said today that it was unlucky for him that he should have to give up the position only 12 months after his appointment in place of the late Mr. J. E. Dickie. But he felt that the leg trouble would cause too much injury to his health if he continued the work. In Melbourne in December Mr. Cooper met Mr Whyte, who accompanied him on a visit of inspection to Melbourne fire stations.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 24 March 1936, page 6**

New Fire Chief



MR. J. J. WHITE, general instructor at the headquarters of the Melbourne Fire Brigade, who has been appointed chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades. Although only 50, he has been engaged in about 11 different types of jobs.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 27 March 1936, page 22**

PERSONAL



Mr. J. J. Whyte, who will succeed Mr. G. P. Cooper as chief officer of the Fire Brigade, will arrive in Adelaide by the express from Melbourne on Tuesday. Mr. Whyte will be accompanied by his wife, who was formerly Mrs. Beatrice Beath, and by their daughter. He will be met at the Adelaide Railway Station by Mr. Cooper, representing the Fire Brigades Board, and will begin his duties the same day.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 31 March 1936, page 3***

New Fire Chief Arrives in Adelaide



MR. J. J. WHYTE, who will succeed Mr. G. P. Cooper as chief officer of the fire brigade, arrived in Adelaide today from Melbourne. On arrival at the station, from left to right, the secretary of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board (Mr. R. Beeton), Mr. Cooper, Mr. Whyte, and the chairman of the board (Mr. H. Jackson).

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 31 March 1936, page 2***

GREAT CITY FOR FIREMAN

New Chief Likes Wide Streets

SAFE BUILDINGS

ADELAIDE'S clean, wide streets and modern, fire-resistant buildings impressed the new chief officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) when he arrived from Melbourne today to take over his appointment. "There is never likely to be any traffic congestion, such as is met in the narrower streets of Sydney and Melbourne, causing delays in getting to fires. Adelaide seems to be a fine city from the fireman's point of view." The new fire chief is a Scot. He was so severely wounded at the Battle of Loos, while serving with the Black Watch, that he lay in a hospital bed for 15 months afterwards. It was while he lay there that he met his wife. She nursed him through his long convalescence, and in 1919, before he left for Australia again, they were married in London. He rejoined the Melbourne fire service, which he had just joined in 1912, and in four years had risen to be station officer at Prahran. In 1924 he led the rescue party which spent three weeks recovering bodies and clearing gases from the State mine after the terrible disaster.

#### PREVENTION FIRST

In 1928 he became general instructor at headquarters, and last year was appointed examiner of the Victorian State mines rescue crews, and instructor on underground gases, teaching the under-ground managers of the mines. Mr. Whyte is an expert in self-contained oxygen breathing apparatus of all types, and has himself constructed a helmet for use in cellar work or where gases are present. He is a firm advocate of the use of sprinklers and automatic thermostatic alarms in all buildings, he said. Fire fighters throughout the world were striving more and more to prevent fires, and to educate the public to fire risks. Mr. Whyte has studied the science of fire-fighting very deeply, and is an associate and graduate of the British Fire Engineers. He also holds the diploma of the American Fire Engineers. To obtain these diplomas, he had to pass difficult examinations covering the chemistry of fire, telephony, building construction, hydraulics, noxious gases, dangerous trades, and several other subjects.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 1 April 1936, page 22***

#### NEW SAFETY FIRE HELMETS DISCUSSED

##### S.A. Chief Arrives From Melbourne

New non-conducting, composition helmets, providing greater safety for firemen against falling electrical wires, was one of the subjects discussed by members of the S.A. Fire Brigades Board with the new chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who arrived from Melbourne yesterday. Accompanied by the chairman of the board (Mr. H. Jackson) the retiring chief (Mr. G. P. Cooper), the secretary (Mr. Beeton) and board members, the new chief inspected various metropolitan stations yesterday. Today the official party will inspect stations in the lower northern districts. Other country stations will be visited during the next few days by the new chief in connection with the usual half-yearly inspection.

Made of a composition of rubber and other materials the new helmets are now widely used in England, said Mr. Whyte. "Although not so spectacular as the old shiny brass helmets the new head-gear gives much greater protection," he added. "Samples sent from England were approved by the Melbourne Brigade a couple of years ago, but, so far, the cost of the replacement has been a bar to their adoption. However, this is now being seriously considered by the Melbourne, Sydney and other brigades." Mr. Whyte strongly advocates educational talks on fire prevention and fire-fighting being given by brigade officers in South Australian schools and colleges. This, he said, was now being done extensively in Melbourne.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 3 April 1936, page 27***

#### Fatalities And Accidents

##### Roof Of Kent Town Home Burned

Believed to have been started through birds' nests catching fire as the result of a blow-lamp being used to remove paint, a fire damaged the ceiling and roof of the residence of Mr. and

Mrs. W. E. Flint, Dequetteville terrace, Kent Town, about 5 p.m. yesterday. The damage was confined by the Norwood and City Brigades to one end of the roof.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 6 April 1936, page 20**

U.S.A. Fire Helmets May Be Used Here

The adoption in South Australia of the American type of safety fire-helmet, with its long rear shield sloping downward over the neck and shoulders, may result from a decision of the South Australian fire authorities to obtain full particulars from the manufacturers of it. The new South Australian Chief Officer (Mr. Whyte) considers that the American design is preferable to the latest type used by the London Fire Brigade. He thinks that falling debris, on hitting the short rear shield of the London type might cause it to tilt, throwing the pressure on the back of the neck, and also exposing the face. Both types of helmet are made of an insulating material, which protects the wearer against the danger of falling wires. The stout leather skull cap of the American design is insulated with rubber.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 8 April 1936, page 18**

FIREMEN TO BE TESTED FOR PROMOTIONS

Also Night Classes For Institution Examinations

Practical and oral examinations for pending promotions in the S.A. Fire Brigade to station officers and senior firemen will be held in the near future. The examining board will include the new chief officer (Mr Whyte) and the Deputy Chief (Mr. Cook). As the testing of each candidate will probably occupy a morning or afternoon, the examinations will take some time to complete.

To enable qualification for the British Institution of Fire Engineers, a branch of which the new chief officer intends to establish in this State, educational classes for firemen will soon be held on two evenings a week. A teacher will be obtained from the Education Department for the non-technical subjects. There are two examinations provided by the institution. The syllabus of the first—for graduateship—includes English, mathematics, hydraulics and other technical subjects, including elementary chemistry. The more advanced syllabus—for associate membership— includes geometry and algebra, chemistry relating to fires, electricity, dangerous trades, petrol engines, certain Parliamentary Acts and regulations, and elementary building construction. There are branches of the British Institution in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. The Institution examination papers will be sent to England to be marked.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 17 April 1936, page 5**

START WORK IMMEDIATELY

Traffic Lights In City

FIRE EMERGENCY

PRELIMINARY work on the synchronised traffic lights, which are to be erected at the five main intersections in King William street, will be started immediately, the managing director of Parsons and Robertson, Ltd. (Mr. F. Lancelot Parsons) said today. The tender by his firm of £1,735 was accepted by the Adelaide City Council this week. Mr. Parsons has signed the contract. He anticipates that the work will take from four to five months to complete, and that about a month to six weeks will be required to erect the lights in the street and make the necessary adjustments. This means that the lights will operate for the first time about September, when big crowds are expected in Adelaide for the Royal Show and other important centenary attractions. Mr. Parsons said that the equipment would allow all lights to be brought to "red" in the event of the fire brigade, or even the police, wanting a clear run through King William street. The signals would be controlled by a master timer, and also by secondary timers at the intersection. The tenders had called for a system which would provide

for an even flow of traffic along King William street. It would be possible to vary the timing of the system if the Adelaide City Council so desired to cope with peak traffic periods or lulls in the stream of vehicles.

#### Wiring Underground

Concrete bases would be let into the ground to which the column supporting the lights would be bolted, Mr. Parsons added. If suitable fixtures were already at the four corners of the intersections they would be used. All wiring would be underground. The fixing of the speed of vehicles in King William street to allow an un-interrupted run across the intersections will be a matter for the Adelaide City Council to decide. The system will be set according to a speed of say 25 miles an hour, or whatever speed the council considers best in the interests of the public. The traffic lights will also exercise control over the movements of pedestrians at the intersections. This is the position in Melbourne, where pedestrians as well as motorists observe the directions given by the lights. Because of the automatic lights amendments of the City Council traffic bylaws will be necessary, as there is at present no provision compelling pedestrians to observe the traffic regulation signals at intersections. Another bylaw which may have to be amended is that introduced recently permitting vehicles to turn left at an intersection whether the signal was with them or not.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 24 April 1936, page 24***

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Fire.—A small fire occurred at the factory of Clarkson, Ltd., Grenfell street, City, yesterday. A spark from a boiler ignited a timber beam in the ceiling and caused a blaze, which was soon extinguished by the brigade.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 1 May 1936, page 27***

#### Escaping Water In Business Premises; Brigade Called

Three Fire Brigade reels were called to Waymouth Motors, Waymouth street, City, yesterday morning. There was no blaze, but water was found pushing through the office on the first floor and into the showroom beneath. It is thought that men working near the roof knocked part of the sprinkler system and caused it to operate.

The Brigade also received a call to G. & R. Will's warehouse in Gawler place, where a fluctuation in the water system in the sprinklers caused them to operate and set off the alarm at headstations. Little damage was done.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 2 May 1936, page 20***

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Fire.—A fire occurred last night at the office of Trade Typesetters Ltd., in Coromandel place, City. It was extinguished by the brigade before much damage was done.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 4 May 1936, page 4***

#### Fire Brigade Truck Smashes Window

Mounting the footpath, a truck used by the Fire Brigade department, crashed through a plateglass window of Motors Ltd., Flinders street, this afternoon. No one was injured. The window was that of an office.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 9 May 1936, page 21***

#### COUNTRY FIRE STATIONS EXCELLENT

#### New Brigade Chief Pleased

Country firemen in South Australia know their Jobs well and are highly efficient, according to the new Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who returned to Adelaide yesterday after a six-day tour of inspection. "Stations in the districts I have visited are being maintained in first class order" he said, "and the personnel of the brigades includes men of good physique, who are keen, enthusiastic and efficient. The people in the provincial and country towns seem well satisfied with the fire protection they are given.

Accompanied by members of the Fire Brigades Board, Mr. Whyte visited Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Wallaroo, Kadina, Moonta, and Port Lincoln. Since Mr Whyte's arrival from Melbourne recently to take charge of the Adelaide Brigade, the unit of South Australia's fire-fighting system which has impressed him most is the Merryweather twin screw fire float at the Port Adelaide marine station. The float is capable of discharging 2,500 gallons of water a minute. "I regard the float as one of the best fire engines in the southern hemisphere," he said yesterday. "It is an extraordinarily efficient fire appliance and its pumping and propelling sections have been kept in perfect order."

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 13 May 1936, page 21**

Bus Catches Fire In Garage

A motor bus, which was in a motor garage in Hanson street for repairs narrowly escaped destruction yesterday. When a mechanic was working near the bus an oxy-welding outfit he was handling backfired, and an explosion occurred in the reserve petrol tank of the motor bus, which burst into flames. The Brigade from Wakefield Station, by prompt action, saved the vehicle by squirting chemicals on to the blaze. The front part of the bus was badly damaged. It is believed to be owned by Mr. Arthur William Sinfield, of Wheaton road, Vermont.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 20 May 1936, page 7**

WORK OF FIRE BRIGADE MEN

Review at Adelaide Headquarters

EXAM. QUESTION

THE work that firemen do while they are waiting for fires, and their hours and payment for such work, are under review at the Adelaide Fire Brigade headquarters. Examinations for promotion introduced by the new chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) have also caused comment. Some of the firemen thought that they would have to study algebra, but this arose from a misunderstanding. Mr. Whyte has spoken of his desire to establish in this State soon a branch of the Institute of Fire Engineers, associates of which must possess a knowledge of such subjects as chemistry, mathematics, and algebra. These tests will be voluntary and distinct from the promotion exams.

A mass meeting of members of the fire brigade section of the Australian Government Workers' Association will be held at the Wakefield street headquarters on Sunday morning to discuss a proposed change in the hours of work of the 40 men employed at the head station. The men have to be in readiness to answer fire calls at all hours of the day and night, but hitherto the hours from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. have been termed their "working hours," when routine station duties are performed.

REPAIRS AT STATION

After 1 p.m. officers may call on men to do what is known as "necessary work," meaning jobs of an unforeseen nature which need to be cleared up promptly. At present a large amount of constructional and repair work requires to be done at the headquarters station, which is an old building. The firemen, who include competent tradesmen, do all renovating work. So much work is waiting to be done that Mr. Whyte wishes to extend the "working hours" from 1 p.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. It is expected that extra pay will be offered for the extension of hours. Brigade officials consider that this method would be fairer than making the men continue working after

1 p.m. under the "necessary work" clause of the agreement between the union and the Fire Brigades Board. Consequently the mass meeting is likely to view the proposal favorably. Hitherto promotion has been by seniority, although regulations give power for examinations to be held if desired. Mr. Whyte has decided to hold examinations in July, when the men will be tested in their practical and theoretical knowledge of brigade work.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 21 May 1936, page 14**

Meeting of Firemen On Sunday

A minor domestic matter, a suggestion that some of the tradesmen's work at the Fire Brigades headquarters should be continued beyond the agreed time of 1 p.m. on condition that extra payment was made, would be the only matter to be discussed at the meeting of the fire brigade section on Sunday, the secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) said today. The proposal Mr. Nieass said, was not for all firemen to work beyond 1 p.m. but for one or two tradesmen to clear up accumulated work.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 21 May 1936, page 19**

FIREMEN SEEK CHANGES

Conditions And Wages To Be Discussed

Firemen at the brigade headquarters said yesterday that, having been dissatisfied with their hours of duty and conditions, they would hold a meeting at the head station on Sunday to formulate a draft of claims to be presented to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board at its next meeting. The present system provides for 24 hours off duty after a period of 72 hours at the station. Part of the time, the firemen said, was spent in specific duties and part in "passive duty," which, although not requiring them to work, required their continuous presence at the station. It had been proposed by the new chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) to encroach on this time for extra duty. That was not seriously objected to, provided extra pay was offered.

The chief matter under discussion is a change from the 72 hours station duty. It is proposed to ask for a change from this, probably to the "platoon" system, which operates in New South Wales and in parts of Western Australia. Under this scheme two platoons do the duty— one from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the other from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. At the end of the week one shift works 24 hours to enable a change over to be made. As an alternative to this the men intend to seek 48 hours on and 24 off. The men said that at present many of the married men saw very little of their families.

It is understood that the proposed examinations for firemen will embrace tests of their knowledge of equipment, pumps, appliances, ladders and the location of various points in buildings. There is a shortage of station officers, and the examinations are expected to supply a number of men who will probably be classified as provisional station officers. These will be drawn from first grade firemen. The wages question will also be considered at the meeting.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 22 May 1936, page 9**

Many Innovations Made By New Fire Brigade Chief

MANY innovations designed to increase fire brigade efficiency have been made by the new chief officer of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. J. J. Whyte) since his arrival from Melbourne. A member of the board said today that the steps taken by Mr. Whyte were commendable and vindicated his appointment in spite of criticism that it should not be necessary to go outside the State for an officer to fill the position. He added that consideration was being given to the purchase of new machines to replace appliances notably at North Adelaide and Gawler stations—the chassis of which were of the same type as some of the entrants in the annual veteran car parade!

Since the arrival of Mr. Whyte a truck had been sent to North Adelaide from headquarters to replace the antiquated machine, pending the purchase of a new appliance. The number of applications received from firemen to sit for the promotion examinations to be held in July showed that the men appreciated the opportunity of gaining promotion by efficiency tests instead of having to await seniority moves.

Daily at 7 a.m. at Wakefield street headquarters every fireman on duty turns out just as if a fire call had been received, and every appliance is started up and taken for a run. Street fire alarms are also tested daily.

Members of the board—Messrs. H. Jackson (chairman), F. V. Myers, E. W. Peet, and H. B. Beeton (secretary) who were accompanied by Mr. Whyte, returned last night from a visit to Renmark and Berri to inspect fire stations.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 23 May 1936, page 25**

**New Fire Chief Pleased With Country Stations**

South Australian country fire brigade stations and staffs compared favorably with any similar organisations anywhere in Australia, said the new chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) last night, after his return from a fortnight's visit of inspection. "Considering that the men are not fully paid firemen, and do not have daily training or the services of a permanent instructional officer, the efficiency and enthusiasm shown in their work and in the surprise calls made by the board in its half-yearly inspections, compares more than favorably with any other Australian fire fighting organisation in the country districts. The stations generally are in good repair and the fire appliances and hose are in wonderful condition," he added. "

The board has approved of the Dennis pump at Port Pirie being replaced by a more modern pump from Adelaide. The Pirie pump will be reconditioned and put into use in the city." he said.

Mr. Whyte stated that he had received from England yesterday one of the most modern fire brigade appliances in Australia. It is a self-contained testing breathing apparatus which tests the flow of oxygen or the regeneration of the air supply as it reaches the wearer. The appliance which it tests, is worn knapsack fashion by firemen when they are performing rescue work among cases in enclosed areas. The testing apparatus is the first of its kind installed at the Adelaide station, and was suggested to the board by Mr. Whyte a few days after he arrived in Adelaide.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 26 May 1936, page 20**

**Hours And Conditions Of Firemen**

Firemen at the head station in Adelaide met on Sunday morning to discuss the question of hours and conditions. The secretary of the Government Workers' Union (Mr. F. K. Nieass) said afterwards that no finality had been reached. Commenting on recent statements concerning Fire Brigade workers, Mr. Nieass said, "The association and the men are in full accord with the movement by the board and the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) to improve the status of firemen, and we are satisfied that there will be a perfectly amicable understanding."

Appreciation was expressed by a number of the men at the technical and general educational facilities that are being introduced. Mr. H. W. Moore, of the Thebarton Technical School, has been appointed educational instructor. Starting this week, classes will be conducted by Mr. Moore at headquarters on two nights a week. All new firemen will be required to attend these classes, but attendance will be optional for the older men. In addition to general education, classes will deal with the chemistry of fire, and mechanical and electrical problems, with technical fire instruction, also under the direction of the chief officer, the men will eventually be enabled to sit for the examinations of the British Institution of Fire Engineers, of which it is hoped to form a branch in South Australia.

As it has been decided to recondition a quantity of equipment, the Fire Brigades Board will employ temporarily an additional electrical fitter and engineering fitter. Fireman N. G. Edwards, who has acted as an assistant engineer at headquarters, has resigned to take a position in the South Australian Railways.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 27 May 1936, page 19**

## MIDNIGHT FIRE AT TIMBER MILL

Spectacular Blaze At Kent Town

HOMES THREATENED

Racing Stables Destroyed

Sweeping through the S.A. Salvage Co.'s timber yard in Rundle street, Kent Town, shortly before midnight, Adelaide's most spectacular blaze for months also destroyed an adjoining racing stable and garage owned by Mr. T. Cass. Mr. Cass's home on the eastern side of the timber yard was threatened, as were half a dozen houses in Little Rundle street on the north side of the blazing yard. These houses in Rundle street were separated by only about 20 ft. from flames which leapt 50 ft. high. White-faced women and men in their night clothes hastened from the threatened homes, the paintwork of which was soon scorched by the great heat. Mr. V. W. McKell, of Norwood, who operated a street alarm, said that he was passing the yard when he saw a few flames flickering underneath the framework surrounding some machinery in the middle of the yard. "In less than two minutes," said Mr. McKell, "the fire had swept through the stacked timber, and most of the yard was well alight when fire appliances from Adelaide and Norwood arrived, though they were on the scene very quickly."

Using hoses and pumps from both sides, the firemen poured thousands of gallons of water on to the blazing timber stack with little effect. Fortunately, there was no wind, and the firemen were able to prevent the flames from spreading, except to the sheds on Mr. Cass's property. A large stack of timber, placed to one side of the yard, was saved. There were no horses in Mr. Cass's stable, which was destroyed and Mr. Cass's car was pushed from the garage by some scouts and other persons before the flames reached the garage.

### Awakened By Flames

Sleeping in a small sleepout alongside the boundary fence, Mr. Cass was awakened by the crackling of flames only a few feet away. He awakened his family and got them out of the house. Mr. Cass's pigeons and poultry were released from pens near the blaze by the party of Scouts, consisting of District Commissioner L. H. Whittington and Scouts C. G. Tucker and H. A. Parrott. The Scouts were on their way home from a party when they saw the blaze. Although unable to extinguish the blaze, the firemen, under the direction of Deputy Chief Officer Cook, had the fire under control within half an hour. Police, under the direction of Inspector Miller, supervised the heavy traffic in the vicinity.

In January, 1934, a £10,000 fire occurred at the Salvage Company's office and store premises, on the opposite side of the street. A large building has since been erected on this site. The fire was practically extinguished at 1 a.m. Officials of the Salvage Company were unable early this morning to estimate the amount of the damage, which was covered by insurance. The structures destroyed in the timber yard were a sawmill and two iron sheds filled with timber. A third timber shed on the western side of the yard, and timber stacked in an adjoining yard on that side was saved. In Little Rundle street, furniture was moved by Mrs. C. S. Pearce and her family from their home, the front door of which was scorched. A bed on the verandah caught alight. Many adjoining houses including those of Messrs. C. Withy and Spencer were vacated owing to the intense heat but suffered no damage. Before the arrival of the brigade, residents threw buckets of water on the sheds which were destroyed on Mr. Cass's property.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 28 May 1936, page 15**

### Busy Night For Firemen

After having experienced a strenuous time fighting the blaze at the SA. Salvage Company's premises at Kent Town early yesterday morning, firemen at Fire Brigade headquarters, who were busy cleaning their appliances and uniforms were called out at 3.14 a.m. to quell a Hindley street outbreak, which was reported by a policeman. Dashing out of hot baths and from dressing rooms, the firemen, in various stages of undress, left under Deputy Chief Officer Cook and Station Officer Giles, only to find that a few old sleepers had caught alight in the moulding shop at Forwood, Down & Co.'s foundry.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 29 May 1936, page 18**

#### Electric Signs Cause Brigade To Be Called

Turning out for the fourth call in 24 hours, the Fire Brigade, under Deputy Chief Officer Cook and Station Officer Giles, found on arrival at Vawser's meat store, in Hanson street, city, that red smoke hanging over the building at 10.20 p.m. on Wednesday had caused a passerby to give the alarm. An inspection by the officers revealed that sawdust was being burnt in the "smoke house," where smallgoods are treated. The smoke from the chimney stack, which hung low over the premises, was given a reddish tinge by a large electric sign outside of the premises.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 1 June 1936, page 18**

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

False Fire Alarms.—Two false fire alarms were received during the weekend, one in the city and one at Unley. That in the city, entailing a chilly rush after midnight to Hindley street, was particularly unwelcome to the Fire Brigade.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 3 June 1936, page 21**

#### FIRE DESTROYS BLOCK OF SHOPS

##### Blaze At Henley Beach

##### ADJOINING PREMISES SAVED

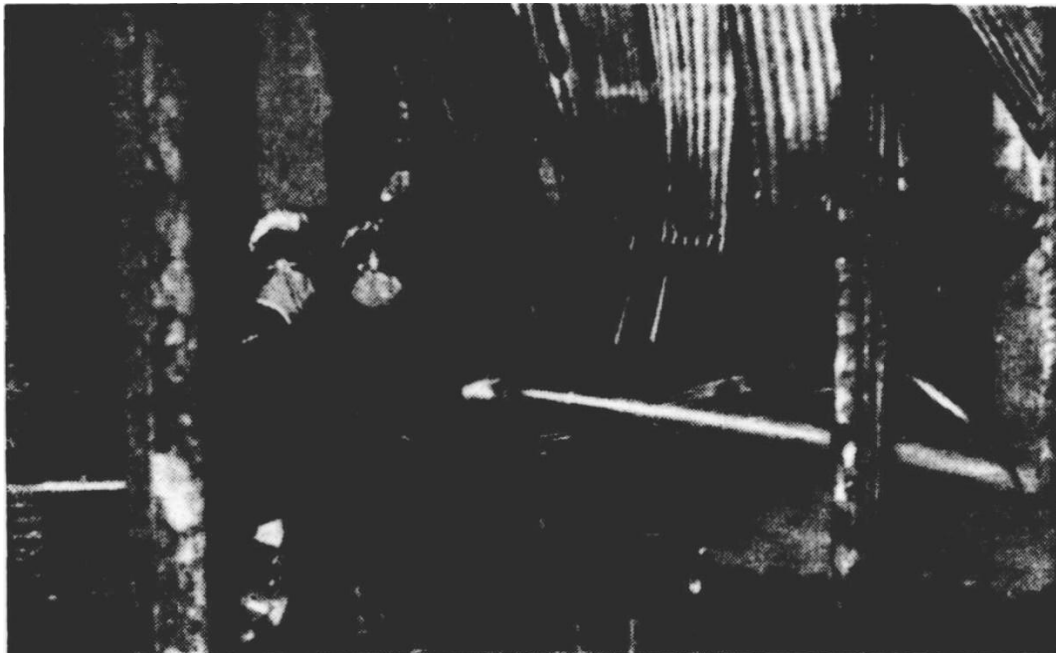
##### District Unprotected

Three shops were destroyed and a large adjoining block of business premises and dwellings was seriously endangered in a spectacular fire in Sea View road, Henley Beach, about 8.30 p.m. yesterday. The Henley Beach district is at present without any official fire protection organisation, but phone calls to the South Australian Fire Brigade for help were promptly answered by the dispatch of two appliances, one from Thebarton and the other from the metropolitan station. Directed by Deputy Chief Officer Cook (city) and Station Officer Goddard (Thebarton), firemen saved adjoining buildings. "According to the report of my officers, the large adjoining block would undoubtedly have been destroyed had it not been for the brigade's prompt action," the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said later. The three shops destroyed were occupied by:— Miss M. H. Gray, book exchange. Mr. Purcell, poultry business, and Mr. J. Latz, milk bar. Each of these shops was closed at the time. The destroyed single-storey block was controlled by the Executor Trustee Co. on behalf of the estate of a Mr. Sansom (deceased).

##### 30-Foot Flames

Terrified by 30 foot flames which soon made the old block containing the three shops, separated by light partitions, a huge bonfire, families hurriedly moved their belongings from adjoining two-storey premises. Hurrying from an upstairs flat situated next to the fire, Mrs. M. Oldfield, who had been ill in bed, had her foot cut by broken glass at the front door "Thick smoke was pouring into our place as we hurried out with what clothing and other things we

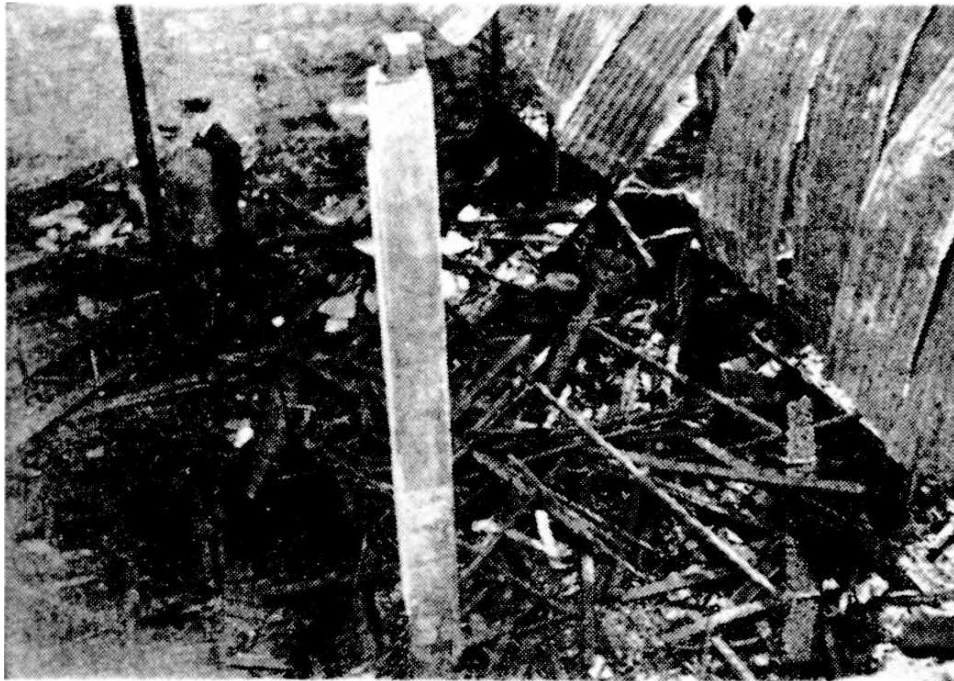
could seize quickly," said Mrs. Oldfield. "My daughter Joan noticed the blaze next door as she was going out with a young man. They rushed back to tell us, and phoned the brigade." The fire did not damage Mrs. Oldfield's flat or any of the other shops and dwellings extending from the north side of the blaze to the corner of Main street, opposite the Ramsgate Hotel. Known as the "Tramway Block," this area included four brick shops and dwellings. Among the occupants of these premises are:—W. G. Watkins, fruiterer; S. L. Thredgold, hairdresser and tobacconist; the Home Service Grocery Store, and R. E. Jolly, chemist. Penetrating through an upstairs window on the south side, flames caused slight damage to furniture in a dining room above a cake shop occupied by Mr. H. N. Drewer. Using chemical extinguishers, firemen soon put out the fire in Mr. Drewer's dining room. Only about 15 ft. separated the rear of Miss Farquhar's home from the fire. Evidently the whole of the old single storey block of three shops that was destroyed was ablaze within a few minutes, and none of the early eye-witnesses could tell in which shop the fire originated. Working on four sides of the blazing block, the firemen had the fire under control in about 20 minutes. Mr. J. Latz, whose milk bar was destroyed, usually keeps his shop open until late at night. Last night, however, having decided to go to the circus, he locked up the shop and went out at 6.30 p.m. Mayor's Explanation Commenting on the fact that the Henley Beach district is at present without any official fire protection, the mayor (Mr. E. W. Mitton) said:—"For some time the council had paid £20 a year for the services of the Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade. This was discontinued about a year ago. Opinion has been divided in the council during recent discussions on the question of forming a local fire brigade. At present about £400 (raised by carnivals) is available for this purpose. It has been suggested that if a Henley Beach fire brigade were established, it might combine in an association with the Woodville and Hindmarsh volunteer brigades. Conferences have been held in this connection, and the matter is still under consideration. This is the first serious fire for years in the district, which, having no factories, is not considered to be greatly liable to fire risks." When the alarm was received by phone, an appliance was sent from the Thebarton station and an appliance from headquarters was sent to stand by at Thebarton. In response to a further call, this was also dispatched to the fire, and another machine from headquarters stood by at Thebarton.



THE RUINS of three shops which were destroyed by fire in Seaview road, Henley Beach, about 8.30 p.m. yesterday. Adjoining buildings were endangered for some time, but were saved by the quick work of the Fire Brigade in getting the fire under control in 20 minutes. This picture was taken shortly after the fire was extinguished.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 June 1936, page 14**

### Henley Beach Fire



A SECTION OF THE RUINS of three shops destroyed by an outbreak of fire in Sea View road, Henley Beach, last night. Business premises and dwellings adjoining were endangered by the outbreak, but were saved by the quick work of the fire brigade.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 4 June 1936, page 18***

### FIRE IN CITY TOILET SALON

#### Inquest To Be Held

Following an outbreak of fire in the Bon Toilet Salon, owned by Mrs. Alice Caldicott, on the first floor of a three-storey building in Rundle street, City, about 8 pm. yesterday, an inquest will be held by the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn), who inspected the premises last night. While Constable A. Stark was on beat duty in Rundle street, he noticed smoke issuing through a locked steel grille at the foot of a staircase. Firemen were called, and, forcing an entrance, they found a small fire in the hairdressing room upstairs. This was extinguished with two buckets of water. An inspection of the room was made by the Chief Fire Officer (J. J. Whyte), Deputy Chief Officer Cook, Police Inspector P. G. Crafter, and Detectives T. Packman and C. Hanrahan. The ground floor of the building is occupied by Tucks frock specialists. The structure is between the premises of Glasson's. Ltd, and that of Kathlyn Hecker, frock specialist.



State Library of South Australia - Rundle Street, Adelaide [B 7679], [General description] This building is to be taken over by Myer's. Advertising signs advise that 'Entire stock bought by Myer's, watch daily papers!' This building has been occupied by several different stores over the years, enlarged with the addition of two more stories around 1905. After 1905 it became Donaldson's, then became Glassons in 1933, then Myer's in 1938. Next door, in the attractive small three storey building was a smart ladies fashion boutique, Pataux [On back of photograph] 'Acre 46 / Rundle Street, north side / 1937 / The right side of Glassons is 63.5 yards east of King William Street and frontage is 15.5 yards / Frontage of Pataux is 7 yards / Presented by the Myer Emporium (South Australia Ltd.)' (Another hand) 'Cantilever verandah erected in front of Glasson's in 1938'. Approximately 1937. Part of Acre 46 Collection.

[Bon Toilet Salon located left of Glasson's and above Pataux.]

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 June 1936, page 14**

Police Photographers At Fire Scene

Police photographers Hudd and Durham today examined the scene of a fire which caused slight damage last night in the Bon Toilet Salon, Rundle street. Detectives also made further investigations and will prepare reports for an inquest. Damage was caused on the same premises recently by a deluge of water from a hydrant which was smashed by a motor car.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 June 1936, page 23**

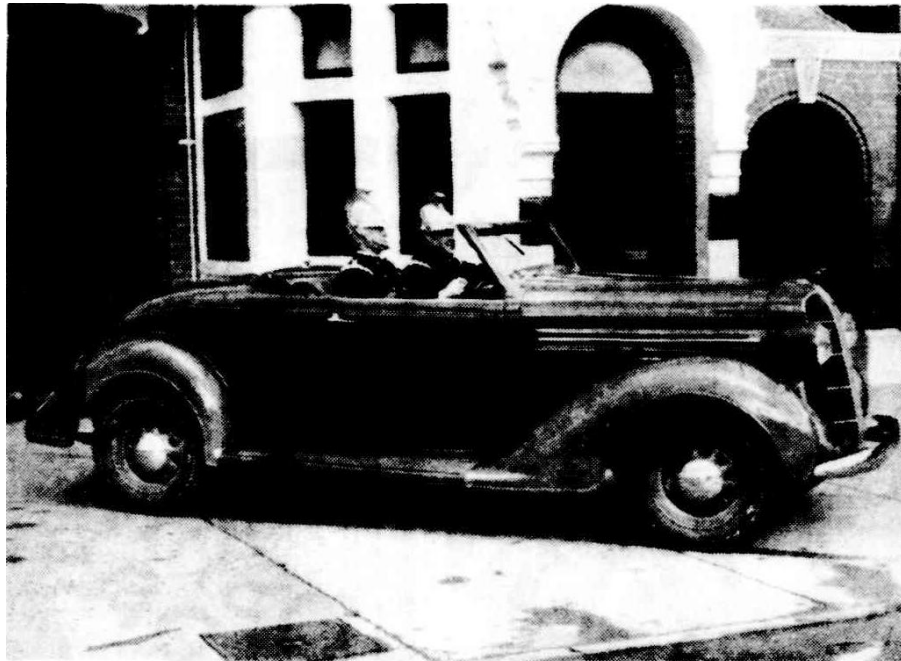
NEW HIGH-POWERED CAR FOR FIRE CHIEF

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit  
www.fire-brigade.asn.au  
2 May 2026

### Will Precede Appliances When Calls Received

A new high-powered roadster motor car for the use of the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) and his deputy (Mr. E. W. Cook) was taken delivery of by the brigade yesterday. It will be put into use immediately. It is the policy of the new chief to attend and supervise all calls personally. A shrill sounding siren will probably be attached to the car, which is painted a bright red. It will precede fire appliances sent to the scene of a call and will undoubtedly become a familiar sight in the city. An ordinary type tourer has sometimes been used in the past for this purpose, and cases have been reported where traffic officers not knowing the machine contained fire brigade officials on duty have held it up with other traffic. Picture on Back Page

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 June 1936, page 32**



HIGH POWERED ROADSTER for the use of the Fire Brigade Chief (Mr. J. J. Whyte) and the Deputy Chief Officer (Mr. E. W. Cook). It is the policy of the new chief to attend all calls personally, and this car, painted the same color as the fire engines, will precede the reel. Mr. Cook is seen at the wheel with Station Officer Davis.

[This vehicle is a 1936 Chevrolet Roadster convertible - they were assembled and bodied by Holden – Steven Schueler]

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 9 June 1936, page 3**

#### IMPROVING FIRE BRIGADE

Representatives At City Conference

#### NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Proposals for raising the general standard of the South Australian Fire Brigade were fully discussed in a conference lasting two and a half hours yesterday afternoon between the chief officer of the Fire Brigades (Mr. A. A. Whyte) and representatives of all fire stations with the secretary of the A.G.W.A. (Mr. F. K. Nieass). After the conference Mr. Nieass said that the union appreciated the fact that the new chief officer had the welfare of the men at heart, and he felt that there would be an entirely satisfactory system of co-operation throughout the fire brigade service. In the discussions Mr. Whyte went fully into his proposals to raise the general standard of the brigade in South Australia. He explained the school he had inaugurated and

dealt with the examination course for promotions. In this he mentioned the needs for firemen to become fully qualified fire-fighting engineers. Mr. Nieass said the men were encouraged to tell the chief of their difficulties, and in every instance satisfactory explanations were given. "I agree with Mr. Whyte that South Australia has a fine body of fire-fighting men," Mr. Nieass said. "With the new opportunities I feel that these men will surpass the high standard of the eastern States." Mr. Nieass added that industrial conditions were outside the scope of the chief officer and would be dealt with at a future occasion.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 10 June 1936, page 24***

Fire Brigade Conference

Representatives of all fire stations conferred on Monday afternoon with the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) and the secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass). Mr. Whyte discussed the proposals to raise the general standard of the brigades, and outlined the school and examination course for promotions which he had inaugurated. Mr. Nieass said yesterday that industrial conditions were outside Mr. Whyte's scope as Chief Officer, but these would be dealt with at the proper time. He pointed out, however, that such a conference, showing that Mr. Whyte was interested in the welfare of his men. was unusual and possibly unique for any industry in South Australia.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 16 June 1936, page 19***

Fireman Still In Serious Condition

William Long McDowell, of Wakefield street fire brigade station, who was injured in a street accident last week, was still in a serious condition in the Adelaide Hospital yesterday.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 17 June 1936, page 22***

Firemen Attend Instruction Classes

Fitting themselves for advancement, about 30 city and suburban firemen now attend a two-hour educational class given every Monday night at metropolitan headquarters by Mr. H. W. Moore, of the Thebarton Technical School. Another similar group, making a total of about 60 or 70, is instructed on Wednesday nights by Mr. Bennett, also of the Thebarton Technical School. At present the classes are dealing chiefly with arithmetic and English. However, hydraulics and chemistry, especially as applied to fire brigade work, will be studied later. The classes are held in the gymnasium, where electrical radiators will be installed this week. Combined with technical instruction by officers, these classes should eventually enable the firemen to qualify at examinations of the British Institution of Fire Engineers. The chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) proposes to form a branch of this body in South Australia, as has been done in Victoria and some other States. Picture on back page.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 17 June 1936, page 26***

Firemen's Night School



FIREMEN GO TO NIGHT school for two hours every week to assist them in their studies for examinations of the British Institution of Fire Engineers. About 30 of them are seen at work in the gymnasium.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 June 1936, page 11**

#### The TALK OF THE TOWN

Men, Women & Gossip

THERE is a story going the rounds of fire brigade stations of the valiant but futile efforts of a fireman to comply with the new education requirements for promotion. A good, practical man, he has been attending classes at headquarters, attempting to study, among other things, arithmetic. The class was put the schoolboy question as to the weight of water in a tank of given size when filled. It was a problem which the not so young schoolboy solved by suggesting to the lecturer that if the water was weighed before it was put in he would know what the tank held. A roar of laughter greeted the new method of arithmetic.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 June 1936, page 6**

#### News Items in Brief

Kerosene Heater Causes Small City Fire.—A small fire occurred in the Central Market branch of Central Provision Stores today, when a kerosene heater which was being fuelled blazed up. Two fire engines quickly brought the fire under control. An employe in the store, N. Coventry, received burns on the arms and face. He was treated by fire brigade officers. A number of invoices were burnt.

**Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Friday 3 July 1936, page 1**

#### CAUSE OF FIRE

#### CORONER ENQUIRING

#### SENSATIONAL EVIDENCE OF OFFICIALS

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

EVIDENCE that fire brigade officials and police officers had discovered inflammable liquid spread over objects in the Bon Toilet Salon, Rundle street, where a fire broke out on the night of June 3, was given at an inquest conducted today by Mr. Blackburn (coroner).

Chief Officer Whyte, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, told the Crown Prosecutor that the commonsense view of the evidence indicated that the fire had been deliberately lit.

Constable Stark gave evidence that while on duty in Rundle street at 8 p.m. he had seen a crowd gather near Tuck's premises at No. 14. On approaching he saw smoke coming through an iron grille at the foot of a staircase which led to the first floor of Tuck's building.

There was a gate on the grille, and it was firmly locked. Witness telephoned for the fire brigade.

Mr. Blackburn

Inspr. Crafter said that he had examined the premises of the Bon Toilet Salon, with Whyte. In the north western corner of the room there was a dark liquid on the floor. A rag was on top of the liquid. On a small shelf or table there was a bowl which contained more liquid, and there was a fairly large quantity of liquid in a corner of the shelf. There was a dark-colored liquid on the floor. Above it a curtain was suspended.

Inspr. Crafter said that there were two matches near the liquid. Three women's shoes were on the floor, and these had more liquid on them. Also in the room was a kerosene tin with burnt material on top of it. In a cardboard box were four more old shoes. There was liquid on these, and burned paper in the box. The head of a floor mop in the room had been burned off.

"There were two coverings on the floor." said Inspr. Crafter. "One was on top of the other. In the south western corner of the room the top covering had been lifted and a shoe placed under it."

Continuing, Inspr. Crafter said that 3 ft. from the western wall of the salon a curtain had been suspended. It had been burned. The curtain was above the head of this mop. On the right-hand side of a table and on the floor there was more dark liquid. "The liquid," Inspr. Crafter stated, "was highly inflammable. Mr. Whyte gave an illustration in my presence, and it burned readily."

The enquiry is unfinished.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 6 July 1936, page 14***

#### NEW FIRE ENGINES FOR ADELAIDE

##### Decision To Order Two Motors

A decision to obtain two new fire engines, embracing the latest advances to fire-fighting equipment, was made at a meeting of the Fire Brigades Board on Friday. It is likely that the two new motors will be used at the Adelaide headquarters and that two other machines at present in commission there will replace obsolete engines at North Adelaide and Gawler. It was stated at the weekend that it was thought that the purchase of the two new machines would greatly improve the fire-fighting equipment of the brigade. It is likely that the chassis of the new reels will be delivered in about a month, but it will be several weeks before the bodies are built and the equipment supplied. The cost of the machines was not available, but they will incorporate the most up-to-date ideas in fire-fighting, and it is probable the cost will at least exceed £1,000.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 9 July 1936, page 19***

#### TRAINING TOWER FOR FIREMEN

##### Improving Facilities At Headquarters

Erection in the near future of a training tower, 55 ft. high, at Metropolitan Fire Brigade Headquarters, is regarded as an important improvement of facilities. The tower will consist of five stories. On one side, the four upper storeys will be fitted with two window apertures each. In training, firemen will use ladders, about 13 ft. long, to ascend from the successive storeys.

On reaching one window, the fireman will lift the ladder and hook its top into the window on the next level until he reaches the top. The training tower, which will be of a type used in Melbourne and other cities, will be erected in front of the present observation and hose-drying tower, which is 65 ft. high.

#### Successful Manual Sirens

Members of the Fire Brigades Board attended a test at headquarters on Monday of a new type of hand-operated siren, which was designed and built by the engineer at headquarters. One of these has been fitted on test to No. 1 machine and it is expected that the board will approve the construction of more of these sirens, which cost about £4 each, as compared with more than £10 for an electrical imported siren. The use of sirens for ambulance and fire brigade purposes has extended recently in Adelaide. South Australian Ambulance Brigade vehicles have been fitted with electrical sirens for some time and recently the new civil ambulance was equipped with an exhaust operated siren.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 9 July 1936, page 18***

False Alarms.—Within half an hour, two false alarms were received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade yesterday evening. The first was to West terrace, and the second to the Keswick Barracks. Three machines immediately answered the Keswick call. A serious view is taken by the authorities of the nuisance.

#### ***Bunyip (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954), Friday 10 July 1936, page 4***

##### NEW FIRE ENGINE

The State Fire Brigades board decided on two new fire engines, embracing the latest advances in fire fighting appliances, for Adelaide headquarters. This will mean that they will replace two other machines at present in commission. As Gawler has been handicapped by an obsolete engine, the motor power being so defective of late that it is doubted if the engine could be hauled up hill, the new Fire Chief has decided that one of the displaced City engines will be transferred to Gawler. The other machine will be housed at North Adelaide. The change over will not be immediate, as it will be about a month before the new chassis is delivered, and several weeks will then elapse before the bodies are built and the equipment supplied. These latest in fire-fighting ideas will cost at least £1,000 apiece.

#### ***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 14 July 1936, page 1***

##### £200 DAMAGE IN FOUNDRY FIRE

##### Blaze in Duco Room

Suddenly blazing in a duco-ing room, fire extensively damaged the foundry and engineering shop of H. Davis and Co., Anzac Highway, Keswick, about 11.15 a.m. today. The damage is estimated at £200, comprising losses in duco, lacquer, and equipment for duco-ing, and damage to the premises.

After burning fiercely for about a quarter of an hour, the flames were subdued by the fire brigade, but smouldered for a considerable time. The heat of the flames blistered paintwork many feet away from their centre. About 20 men were working in the shop when the blaze started. None was able to say what caused the outbreak, but it is assumed that a spark from a furnace several feet away from the duco-ing room set alight to duco vapor, which is highly inflammable. The flames licked round a large oil tank standing about 12 ft. from the floor level, but the firemen succeeded in isolating the heart of the blaze, and a serious explosion was averted. There was also grave danger of sections of the roof falling. Many of the beams supporting it were badly burnt. Most of the skylight windows were broken. Aluminium designs used in duco-lacquering were melted in the searing heat. There was no danger of the fire spreading to adjoining buildings. Work at the foundry will not be seriously delayed, as emergency equipment can be used. Three fire engines, under the supervision of the chief

officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), were sent to the fire. Inquiries are being made by Constables Lindsay and Phillips.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 15 July 1936, page 23**

£150 Fire At Keswick Factory

Believed to have been caused by a spark from a furnace in the lacquer room at the engineering factory and foundry of H. Davis & Co., Anzac Highway, Keswick, shortly after 11 a.m. yesterday, a fire caused damage estimated at more than £150. The lacquer room fittings and part of the roof of the adjoining building were destroyed. The City Fire Brigade under the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) soon had the fire under control.

The officer in charge of the Goodwood Police Station (Constable P. Lindsay), who helped to combat the fire, prepared a report for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn), who deemed an inquest unnecessary. A number of men was working in the room when the fire broke out, but none was injured.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 16 July 1936, page 10**

PASSING BY

MR. PIM

At Fire Brigade Headquarters, Wakefield street, the hour is announced by the striking of a bell as on board ship.

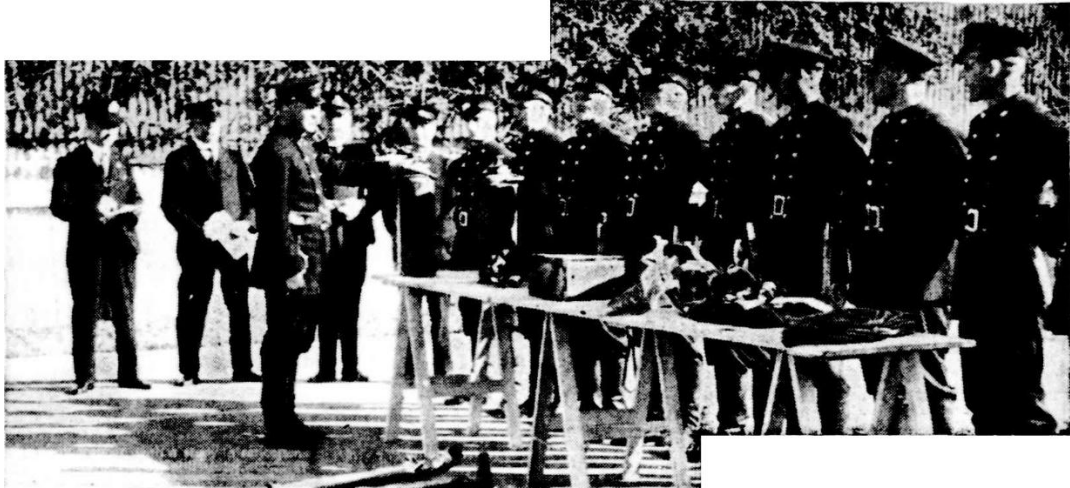
**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 21 July 1936, page 17**

Fire Brigade Promotions Sought By 57

Oral and practical examinations for the purpose of filling vacancies, caused by retirements and promotions, will begin at Metropolitan Fire Brigade Headquarters on Monday. As there are altogether 57 candidates, it is expected that several weeks will be required to complete the individual examinations. The examining board consists of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, Deputy-Chief Officer E. W. Cook, and the Port Adelaide District Officer (Mr T. W. Bland). In addition the men have been given the opportunity of nominating a representative on the board if they wish. However, it was stated yesterday that it appeared unlikely that they would do so.

The posts that will be available for promotion are:— Station officers (first class), 2; station officers (second class), 4; senior firemen, 5. The 57 candidates will include three station officers, 17 senior firemen, and 37 firemen. Recognition will be given to those getting the highest marks. Future examinations for promotion will include written educational tests, as well as the oral and practical examinations.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 1 August 1936, page 28**



FIREMEN being examined at the Fire Brigade headquarters, Adelaide, yesterday, to fill eight vacancies. They were tested on a knowledge of commanding men, of appliances and equipment used in fire-fighting.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 6 August 1936, page 35***



FIREMEN EXAMINED. An examination of firemen for promotion to positions becoming vacant in various parts of the State was conducted at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Friday. The candidates were tested in the handling of men, their knowledge of fire-fighting equipment, and use of various gear. The examination in progress. — Krischock.



B 9475

*State Library of South Australia - Metropolitan Fire Brigade [B 9475], Metropolitan Fire Brigade inspection. The photograph shows an examination of firemen for promotion to positions becoming vacant in various parts of the state. Conducted at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on July 31, 1936. 1936, Photographer Harry Krischock, Part of General Collection.*

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 7 August 1936, page 2**

#### MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE BRIGADE

##### New Chassis Delivered

One of the two 1936 chassis ordered for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was delivered at the brigade headquarters last night. It will be sent to the coach-builders today for the construction of its bodywork and equipment as a salvage wagon. An American machine, of exceptional length and power, it will have a maximum speed, when fully equipped, of well over 60 miles an hour. A similar machine will shortly be put into commission as a hose carriage. The purchase of these two powerful machines is a further step in the modernisation of the South Australian firefighting services. Almost alongside the new machine in the Fire Brigade garage stands a veteran engine with 26 years' service behind it. This was first motor fire engine commissioned by the brigade. The motor is still in excellent condition, but it develops a maximum horsepower of about 15, in comparison with the 65 h.p. of the newest addition to the fleet.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 12 August 1936, page 19**

#### BIG FIRE AT WOOLLEN MILL

Heavy Damage At Thebarton

#### FLAMES LEAP TO FIFTY FEET

Narrow Escape Of Employees

Ignition of raw artificial silk fibre by an electric light globe is believed to have been responsible for a spectacular fire, which caused several thousand pounds worth of damage at the Torrenside Woollen Mills between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. yesterday. The mill is situated in Taylor's road, Thebarton.

Flames leapt about 50 feet, and a column of thick grey smoke drifted over Henley Beach road. Three workmen, one of whom had been burned about the arms, had to run through a gap of about two yards between a blazing bin of raw silk and a rear door. Owners of the plant and insurance officials highly praised the work of the brigade in confining the damage to the section where the fire originated.

C. Grunert (section foreman), Frederick Male and Lindsay Ogden were processing raw artificial silk through a teasing machine when they smelt fire. Walking about 20 ft. to the other end of the machine, Male entered a large enclosed bin, about 10 ft. square, to investigate. His shirt caught alight when he picked up some of the blazing silk in an effort to put out the fire. Within a few seconds, this teasing and blending section of the big plant was ablaze.

#### Dash To Escape

Grunert and Ogden were assisting Male to beat out the flames around his arms, when all three had to run for their lives through the rear door. They had not time even to pick up their coats, so swiftly did the flames flash through the inflammable raw silk and stacks of oiled wool in the room. Only a few minutes before, a fourth man, Harold Martin, had left the section to enquire the time. Male was able to go home after treatment at the Adelaide Hospital.

Within a few minutes, four pumps and 22 firemen were on the scene and Chief Officer J. J. Whyte was directing his first big fire fight in Adelaide since his appointment five months ago. He was assisted by Deputy Chief Cook and Station Officer Giles.

#### Poor Water Pressure At First

At first, poor water pressure handicapped the firemen, but the brigade was greatly aided by the heavy fire-proof metal doors, separating the blazing section from the remainder of the building. Only a few yards separated the adjoining big wool-scouring works of J. W. McGregor & Sons from the other side of the blaze. Realising that this was the danger point, the firemen here operated two hoses, boosted by pumps. Another hose, also boosted, was directed through the fireproof doors in the Torrenside mill. Within a few minutes the firemen also ran a fourth hose line 1,300 ft. from a six-inch main. With a pump in the middle, this line gave good pressure. Waterworks Department turncocks also soon furnished better pressure on the other lines.

#### Wool Impregnated With Oil

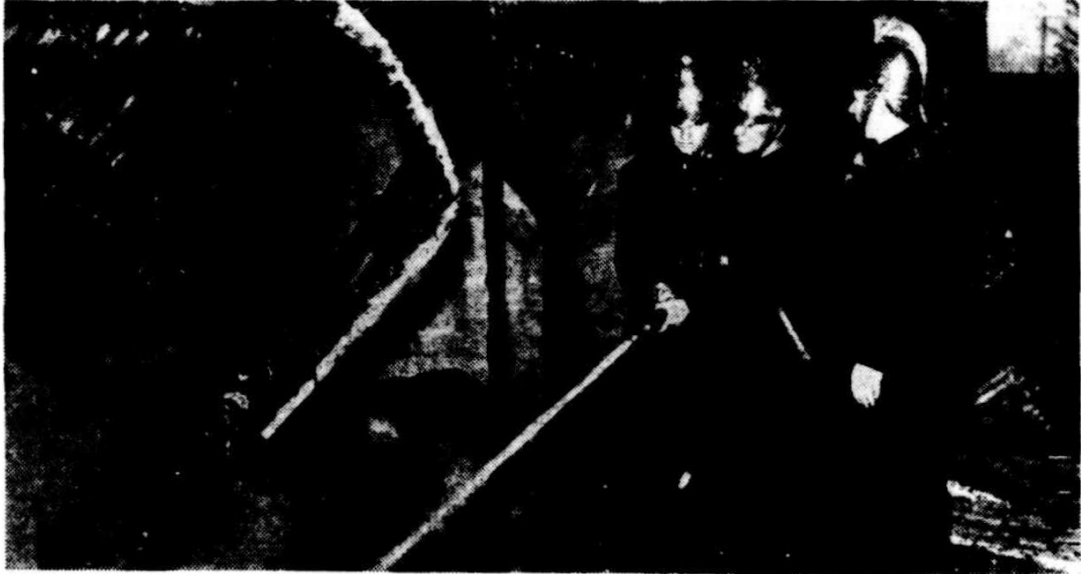
The burned section measured about 80 ft. by 50 ft. Only two brick walls and a mass of burned and sodden wool were left. Known as the "batching" plant, this section of the mill contained machinery for teasing and shaking fibre. It was chiefly used for processing wool, but raw silk was being dealt with yesterday. In this room also wools are blended and impregnated with neatsfoot oil in preparation for carding. It was estimated that about 100 bales of wool, which had been treated in this manner, were stacked here or in an adjoining store, which was also burned. Some of the bales of wool were moved to safety. The mill is insured with the London and Lancashire Company.

#### Save Appreciated

"We consider that the Fire Brigade made an excellent save," said Mr. C. S. Bertram, secretary of Goode, Durrant and Murray Ltd., who own the Torrenside Mills. The possibility of its spreading were very great. The way the firemen confined the blaze completely to the section where it originated was very satisfactory, both from our point of view and that of McGregor's.

"The damage will run into some thousands," added Mr. Bertram, "but I cannot give a more exact estimate yet. The mill manager (Mr. W. H. Taylor), who has been visiting Melbourne will return to Adelaide today. It is hoped that some of the stacked wool, damaged by heat and water, will be salvaged." Night shift was worked in other sections of the mills last night. Mr Bertram added that it was hoped that few, if any, of the hundred or more employes would be thrown out of work, even temporarily. It is many years since a fire occurred in the Torrenside

Mills, but about a couple of years ago, an early morning fire caused several thousand pounds' damage at McGregor's adjoining plant.



PLAYING ON RUINS of the teasing and blending section of the Torrenside woollen mills at Thebarton destroyed by fire yesterday. The chief officer of the fire brigade headquarters (Mr. Whyte) is on the extreme right of the picture.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 12 August 1936, page 4**

£5,000 DAMAGE ESTIMATED

Blaze at Torrenside Woollen Mills

WORK AS USUAL

PULLING apart smouldering heaps and bales of wool, two firemen were still on duty today at the Torrenside Woollen Mills, Taylor's road, Thebarton, where a spectacular blaze occurred late yesterday afternoon. The damage caused by the fire which started in the "batching" section while artificial silk was being processed, is said to be in the vicinity of £5,000. Although this is one of the key sections of the factory it is anticipated that little if any unemployment will result from the fire. All other sections of the factory were working at top pressure today and already arrangements are in hand to obtain machinery to carry on in the damaged portion. The feature of the outbreak was the splendid save in the efficiency of the fire brigade. The brigade was helped by the fact that the factory was equipped with automatically closing fire-proof doors. Officials of the company today re-iterated their praise of the fire brigade, and Chief Officer Whyte, who was in charge of operations, said that he was greatly pleased with the efficiency of the men.

NEW BRIGADE SYSTEM

Under the new system operating at brigade headquarters immediately an outstation notifies headquarters of an outbreak in its district, a pump and Chief Officer Whyte leave immediately for the scene. This happened yesterday, and when he was half-way there Mr. Whyte saw the extent of the blaze by the smoke and immediately communicated with headquarters for two more pumps. As a result within 10 minutes of the first alarm there were four pumps at the mills. Mr. Whyte said today that although in one place they had to run out 1,300 ft. of hose, they were able by putting a pump in the middle, to push up the pressure. "Not one of my men was injured," he added. "I was very gratified with their splendid work and efficiency, which, especially on the pumps, was equal to that of the Melbourne brigade."

Frederick Male, who was burned when the outbreak occurred and was treated at the Adelaide Hospital, returned there today for further treatment. He is making satisfactory progress. Constable Geary, of Thebarton, is preparing a report for the coroner, and will submit it, probably tomorrow.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 14 August 1936, page 24**

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire Training Tower.—Work is proceeding at Metropolitan Fire Headquarters on the erection of a 54 ft. steel training tower. This contains window-like apertures and will be used for ladder training. It is of a type used by the Melbourne and other brigades.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 15 August 1936, page 11**

#### People In The News



Mr. J. J. Whyte chief of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, whose direction of the brigade under new methods, resulted in the saving of much valuable property at a fire at Torrenside Woollen Mills, Thebarton, this week. As it was damage to the extent of several thousands of pounds resulted.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 August 1936, page 5**

#### Blaze in Secondhand Furniture Shop

The city fire brigade answered a call to a brick and iron building in Wright street at 4.57 a.m. today and quelled a blaze which damaged the stock of Robert Loewe, a secondhand furniture dealer. The building, owned by A. Simpson and Son. was insured with the Queensland Insurance Co., and the contents with the Western Assurance Co. The cause of the fire is not known.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 19 August 1936, page 25**

#### FIRE IN SHOP WINDOW CASE

##### Warning To Business Houses

A warning to business people was issued by the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) following a fire in a showcase at Charles Moore and Company's emporium in Victoria square early yesterday afternoon. It is believed that the prolonged burning of an electric light globe caused some celluloid fittings to burst into flames. In a few seconds the contents of the showcase were alight. The heat of the flames operated the automatic sprinkler system and simultaneously set off the alarm at the brigade headquarters. The combined efforts of the sprinklers and the firemen, who were on the scene in a couple of minutes, quickly extinguished the fire. A few pounds worth of damage was done to the stock in the case. Business proceeded as usual shortly afterwards. Mr. Whyte said he thought it was the first

occurrence of its kind in Adelaide. He had known of similar cases elsewhere. Great care should be taken in arranging celluloid exhibits in windows.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 August 1936, page 6**

New Training Tower



A 55-FT. INSTRUCTION and training tower is being erected at the fire brigade headquarters in Adelaide. The tower will be used for training firemen to jump and climb at heights.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 31 August 1936, page 4

Firemen Seen in a New Role



THE FIREMAN'S JOB is not only to fight fires, as this picture shows. An old palm tree in front of the fire brigade headquarters in Wakefield street was ready for removal, so the firemen set about the job themselves today and took it down. They are shown lopping off the leaves.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 1 September 1936, page 20**

#### FIRE DANGERS IN CITY

Analysis By Fire Chief

The Chief of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) pointed out yesterday that in some respects the buildings in the business area of Adelaide were not as well protected from fire as they were in Melbourne. There were several danger points in the Adelaide city area where it would be nearly impossible to control a fire if it got fairly under way. The best form of fire protection in the world was the automatic sprinkler device, which was fitted in a number—an insufficient number—of city business premises. The thermostatic system which operated an alarm at headquarters on a sudden rise in temperature, said Mr. Whyte, was simple and cheap, but ineffective for a big establishment.

Mr. Whyte said that the police gave much valuable assistance at fires, where, almost without instructions, they immediately formed effective cordons; but the present traffic position in Gawler place was causing him concern, and, unless one way—north bound—traffic was instituted, he feared a serious blockage if a large fire occurred there. Many buildings could be attacked only from Gawler place. The use of an appliance from headquarters to co-operate immediately with a suburban brigade at fires out of the city had been amply justified in the two large fires experienced recently, he said. The high powered roadster supplied by the board for his use to go ahead and make a quick analysis of the situation had proved of immeasurable value. On several occasions the key point of the fire had been discovered before the arrival of the following appliances.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 10 September 1936, page 10**

SUCCESS OF S.A. FIREMAN

Top Of Empire-Wide Examination

Information has just been received at Fire Brigade headquarters at Wakefield street that Fireman Alexander Frazer, of Adelaide, has been awarded the Diploma of Graduate of the Institute of Fire Engineers, London, and that he gained top place among the 17 successful candidates from all parts of the Empire. The Chief Officer of the Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that Frazer was the first South Australian fireman to win the diploma, which was a most sought-after award. Frazer had studied alone, but a study class of other firemen had now been formed at the Brigade.

Fireman Frazer, who is relieving at Semaphore, was born at Broken Hill 32 years ago, and came to Adelaide to join the brigade five and a half years ago. He said yesterday that he began studying three years ago when he joined a W.E.A. class at the University of Adelaide. He taught himself mathematics and was occasionally assisted on difficult points by a friend who was a schoolmaster.



Fireman Frazer

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 September 1936, page 1**

POLICE PREFER RANKING

Double Advantage

Ranking of motor vehicles, in preference to angle parking, in the principal city thoroughfares, is strongly favored by the police traffic authorities. Ranking has undeniable advantages, they contend. More road space is available for heavy traffic at peak periods of the day. Another advantage is that motor vehicles leaving the kerb would not back out blindly into the traffic stream, but would leave the kerb in the direction of the traffic. It was pointed out that the serious congestion in King William street on Saturday afternoon could have been relieved had drivers been made to park their cars parallel with the kerb. The Adelaide motoring public was not able to utilise the great width of this thoroughfare to its full.

The chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J. J. Whyte) is also strongly in favor of a bylaw to make ranking compulsory throughout the metropolis. "The work of the Fire Brigade is seriously hampered by angle parking, near tram stops and fire hydrants in particular." said Mr. White today.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 14 September 1936, page 21**

## FUMES AFFECT FIREMEN

### Outbreak In Rundle Street

Damage amounting to about £50 was caused by a fire which destroyed bicycles and fittings in the window of Jack Oram's cycle store in Rundle street east shortly after noon yesterday.

Chief Officer J. J. Whyte attended with a full brigade and quickly extinguished the flames. When the firemen were mopping up in the window afterwards, they were startled by an explosion and an outbreak of fire underneath them. A window was blown out. Hacking their way into a locked cellar, they found that burning rubber solution had dropped through and set up a gas which had ignited. Chemical extinguishers were again brought into use and the fire was subdued.

When the officers returned to the station later several of them were partly overcome by nausea apparently caused by the gas. They soon recovered. Chief Officer Whyte said that a couple of years ago two men were killed and three injured as a result of rubber solution gas poisoning in a Melbourne fire. The cause of yesterday's fire is at present unknown. Constable S. B. Stewart, of the City Watchhouse, is making investigations for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn) and will furnish a report.

### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 15 September 1936, page 27***

#### Six Firemen Promoted

Following the examinations conducted at the Fire Station, Wakefield street, city, for men to fill vacancies in the city and suburbs, a number of promotions have been announced by the Fire Brigades Board. The appointments were made on the recommendation of the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte).

Station Officers Giles and Davis, head station, are to be promoted from B grade to A grade. Firemen Brice, McCallum, Pizzo and Patton are to be promoted to B grade station officers. The appointments will take effect from tomorrow. The examinations lasted six weeks, and 57 men were tested in various subjects. Existing vacancies caused by retirements at Semaphore, Port Adelaide, and North Adelaide will be filled from the above men.

### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 16 September 1936, page 30***

Ten Firemen Promoted Following the recent examinations, the following further Fire Brigade promotions have been made:— From second grade senior fireman to first grade—L. A. Fry, T. Munro and R. A. Gericke. From fireman to first grade senior—J. C. Stephens. From fireman to second grade senior—A. J. L. Sandison, W. F. Goreham, L. Corker, G. Gray, L. S. Edmonds and A. F. Frazer.

### ***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 September 1936, page 4***

#### Fire Brigade Helps



THE FIRE BRIGADE'S big extension ladder was used to help to decorate the pillars of Parliament House today.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 17 September 1936, page 27**

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Country Reader."—(1) There are no vacancies at present in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. (2) The educational standard for entrance is a reading and writing test. (3) There are no particular subjects for entrance, but night school at headquarters must be attended. (4) The entrance age is from 21 to 26 years, and the applicant must be at least 5 ft. 3 in. in height, and have a normal chest measurement of 37 inches.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 24 September 1936, page 20**

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire Brigade Transfers.—Fire Brigade transfers, following recent promotions are:—A Grade Station Officer Sayers, from headquarters to Port Adelaide; B Station Officer Brice, headquarters to North Adelaide; B Station Officer Pitzo, from headquarters to Semaphore; Senior Fireman Ryan, from headquarters to Port Adelaide; and Firemen Paul and Avery to North Adelaide and Glenelg respectively.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 30 September 1936, page 7**

#### KEROSENE BOTTLE EXPLODES

##### Woman's Narrow Escape

A woman escaped serious injury this afternoon when a bottle of kerosene exploded while she was attending a fire in the kitchen of her home. The woman, Mrs. D. V. Webb, of Elston street, Lockleys, who has been in ill-health for some time, collapsed with shock, and had to receive medical attention. Her brother, Mr. O. V. Kelf, who was next door, heard her scream, and rushed into the house. He found the mantelpiece and adjoining shelves alight, and beat

them out with a bag just before the arrival of a fire machine from the Thebarton Brigade and a pump from city headquarters.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 30 September 1936, page 3**

#### INFANT BADLY BURNED

##### Sets Pyjamas Alight

A three-year-old child was seriously burned about the body, neck, and arms early today when he set fire to his pyjamas with a lighted match in the bedroom of his parents' home. He also suffered shock. The child, Kenneth Tyler, only son of Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Tyler, of Dorest avenue, Colonel Light Gardens, was taken in a South Australian Brigade ambulance to the Children's Hospital, North Adelaide, where he was admitted.

The child was asleep in his cot in a front bedroom when his mother went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast for her husband and two young daughters. The child was heard screaming, and Mr. Tyler rushed to the bedroom, where he found his son, his pyjamas enveloped in flames, standing on a double bed. Mr. Tyler immediately clasped the boy and wrapped a counterpane round him, and beat out the flames with his hands. In doing so, his hands were burned, but not severely.

Mr. Tyler said afterwards that the child was very fond of playing with matches. Only last week he was found throwing lighted matches from a box on to the floor of the bedroom. Great care had been taken to keep matches out of his reach. Only one match was in the box that the child had today. Mrs. Tyler had placed it on a table beside his bed, believing the box to be empty.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 October 1936, page 2**

#### To Fight Adelaide Fires

##### New Appliances Will Put City on Par With Best in World

#### FIREMEN'S PERILOUS RIDE TO BE AVOIDED

Adelaide residents who have become accustomed to the sight of brass-helmeted firemen perilously clinging to a red fire engine as the machine races through the city streets will soon see a change.

For one of the two new machines at present nearing completion by an Adelaide firm to the specifications of the Fire Brigades Board is a hose carrier embodying the principle of seating the crew of six firemen safely inside the vehicle. But this is merely one of the many new fire-fighting methods which are being introduced into the vehicles, and which will bring South Australia into line with the most modern and best-equipped brigades in the world.

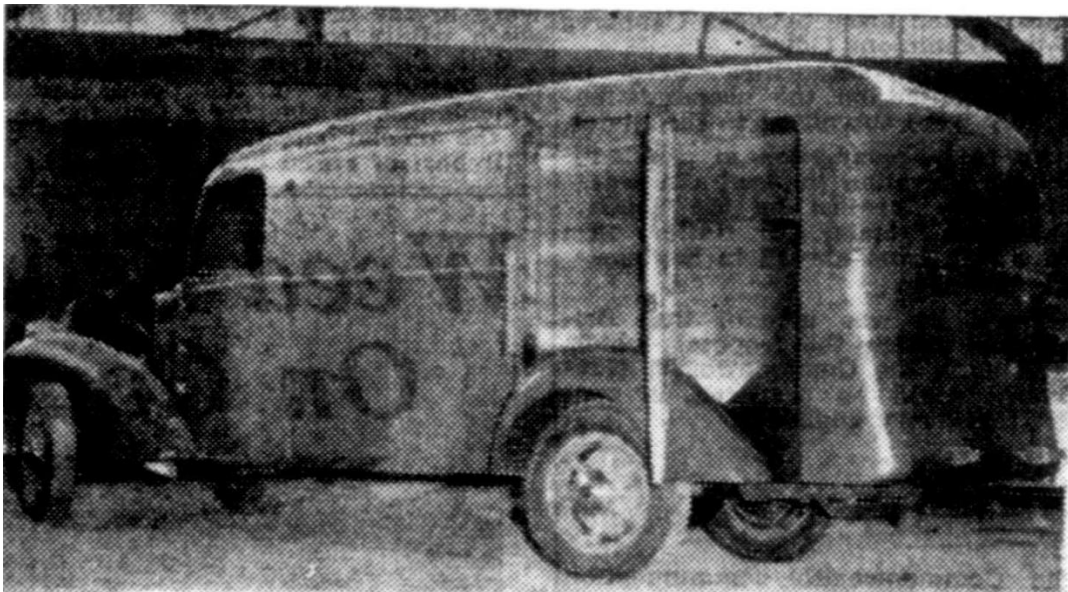
The hose carrier will be in operation at headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade during the month, and the other vehicle—a salvage van—will be delivered next week. Today the chief officer of the brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who has been responsible for the introduction of the vehicles, released details of their many interesting features — all designed to save life, property, and time. These features include, besides the new seating arrangement, the latest fire extinguishers in the carrier, and in the van a carbogen resuscitating apparatus and an oxygen self-contained breathing apparatus. "Many firemen have lost their lives through the old method of sitting or standing on the side of a fire machine," said Mr. Whyte in a review of the new vehicles. "In Melbourne in 18 months four firemen were fatally injured in this way." Mr. Whyte said that the salvage van consisted of a 30-cwt. chassis, with the actual van composed of a series of lockers opening from one side, and with a passage in the centre between the lockers.

#### FOR SALVAGE WORK

These compartments would contain, when the van was put into commission, the most up-to-date equipment for salvage work. The oxygen self-contained breathing apparatus would be for working in gases dangerous to life, and the carbogen resuscitating apparatus was like that used in all the big hospitals of the world for reviving apparently dead persons. The contents of the apparatus consisted of pure oxygen mixed with 7½ per cent, of carbon dioxide. Helmets which filtered low concentrations of gases would also be in the compartments. On top of the van would be carried a spring jumping sheet. This type of sheet had a circular steel section and springs to take the impact of a person who, trapped in a burning building, was forced to jump. An oxy-acetylene cutting set for cutting through window bars, steel doorways, and sides of ships would also be carried, as well as 40 tarpaulins for protecting goods from water damage, and electric flares for illuminating buildings during large night fires. The unit would have a dual application, said Mr. Whyte, as it would also be a firefighting appliance in that it would also carry the necessary gear for extinguishing fires, such as hose, tank, pipes, etc. The unit would carry a crew of four and have a maximum speed of 60 m.p.h. Mr. Whyte said that the breathing and resuscitatory apparatuses and the cutting set were entirely new, while the other features he had outlined existed in the van now in use, only in a very modified form. In the hose carrier, added Mr. Whyte, 1,000 ft. of hose and other fire fighting gear would be carried behind the seated firemen. The maximum speed of this vehicle would be 75 m.p.h. The fire extinguishers would consist of two steel cylinders containing carbon dioxide at the high pressure of about 1,000 lb. to the square inch, and at a temperature of minus 60 deg. Gas would issue from the cylinders in the form of a fine "snow." This would melt on the fire and give off a heavy gas that would exclude the oxygen from the fire. This would extinguish the fire.

#### MINIMISING DAMAGE

The only damage caused would be by the fire — there would be no trace of the gas or any damage from it when the fire was out. So the extinguishers could be used on the most delicate machinery, such as intricate automatic telephone exchanges, generators in motor cars, and dynamos, without any of the damage which was caused by the acid action of some fire extinguishers. These new extinguishers had their limitations, however, for they were useful only for fires in a small space. South Australia was the second State to adopt them, as they had been introduced in Sydney recently. "Everything will be so conveniently placed and so safe on the carrier that much valuable time will be saved in getting to work on fires," concluded Mr. Whyte.



THE NEW SALVAGE VAN for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. In the compartments, two of which are shown, up-to-date equipment for salvage work will be carried.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 9 October 1936, page 5**

Fire Chief Inspects Country Stations

After having inspected six country fire brigade stations, the chief officer of the Adelaide Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) returned to the city today. Mr. Whyte said that he had found that the stations were well kept and the staffs well drilled. Generally speaking, the work was exceedingly good throughout. Each brigade had been turned out as though in response to a fire alarm. The stations visited by Mr. Whyte were Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, and Port Pirie.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 17 October 1936, page 1**

Crop-Saving Rain

Flood Damage in City Store

Damage amounting to several thousands of pounds was done by water which flooded four floors of the Myer Emporium in Rundle street. Linoleum, furniture, carpets, and clothing stocks were ruined by the water, which washed down through the uncompleted roof of the new Myer building at the rear of the main store. About 10 tons of sawdust, and many bags of sand were laid round the foot of staircases, and in strategic lines along the floors to prevent the water from doing further damage.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade, aided by the efforts of more than 100 employes of the emporium, worked until late tonight to clear the water, and to salvage stock not soaked. Many valuable suites of furniture and carpets were irreparably damaged, and will have to be jettisoned. Mr. J. Stone, a departmental manager of the company, had charge of salvage operations tonight. He said that until an inventory had been prepared it would be impossible to gauge the amount of the damage.

Taxicabs were commissioned after dinner tonight to scout the suburbs in search of employes of the emporium to aid in the work of clearing the store. When most of the stock was moved out of the danger zone, the workers began to tear up many thousands of feet of linoleum from the floors. It will be necessary to replace practically all of this before business begins on Monday.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 October 1936, page 23**

Men Work For Hours Salvaging Stock

An officer and two men from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, with the assistance of about 40 employes of the Myer Emporium, worked for hours on Saturday to clear water from the premises and salvage the stock which had not been damaged by the flooding caused by the rain. Many valuable suites of furniture and a number of carpets were ruined, and will probably have to be thrown away. An attempt was made to stop the flow of the water with sawdust and sandbags, and this move saved a number of departments which might otherwise have been affected.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 October 1936, page 24**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire Drill Instructor.—Senior Fireman J. C. Stephens has been appointed brigade drill instructor at fire headquarters. General drill, including handling of appliances and gas masks, is given at headquarters each Thursday morning, and is also attended by firemen from suburban stations.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 19 October 1936, page 12**

CHIEF'S TRIBUTE TO FIREMEN

## Set High Physical Fitness Standard

### SOME CHAMPIONS

A TRIBUTE to the physical fitness of firemen attached to the Fire Brigades headquarters was paid today by the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who said that he had under him some men of the finest type. Mr. Whyte, who for many years trained the Melbourne brigade, said that in a few months he hoped to have the South Australian men in a position to compare with the best of the Melbourne staff. There was excellent material to work on and champions in some classes infused enthusiasm in the other firemen. If a person passing Fire Brigade headquarters early one morning notices a man standing on his hands at the top of a 65-ft. tower, he is not to assume it is an acrobatic stunt. On the contrary it is part of the daily routine for one of the firemen in maintaining physical fitness.

### HOUR'S EXERCISE

Each morning between 9 and 10 o'clock the firemen as part of their training go through physical exercises, build pyramids and do ladder climbing. But they devote much of their spare time to physical training. Some are out walking and running before 7 a.m. and in the afternoons they spend much time in the gymnasium, boxing, wrestling, and weight lifting. Fireman Eric Magor thinks nothing of the balancing feat each morning, and is inspiring enthusiasm among his colleagues to emulate his performance. He has achieved much success as a weightlifter and wrestler, and is the holder of 30 Australian and South Australian weightlifting records. Fireman K. Davies is another weightlifter, and has entered for the Australian championships to be held this month. Another record holder among the firemen is T. Schwerdt, who has won many prizes for sheaf-tossing. At recent competitions he equalled the world record set by his brother, J. Schwerdt, at the Melbourne Show. The heavyweight boxing championship of South Australia is claimed by Fireman E. G. Cameron. He has challenged contenders for the title, but has had no acceptors. Several other firemen hold championships and records in different branches of sport. A. Newcombe is a prominent tennis player with the brigade team, and is the holder of the Edwards Cup for district tennis for 1931-2-5. It is every fireman's personal desire to keep in perfect condition, as although their services are not frequently required at fires, they are called upon to withstand great strain, and have to show much physical endurance when engaged in firefighting.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 19 October 1936, page 7***

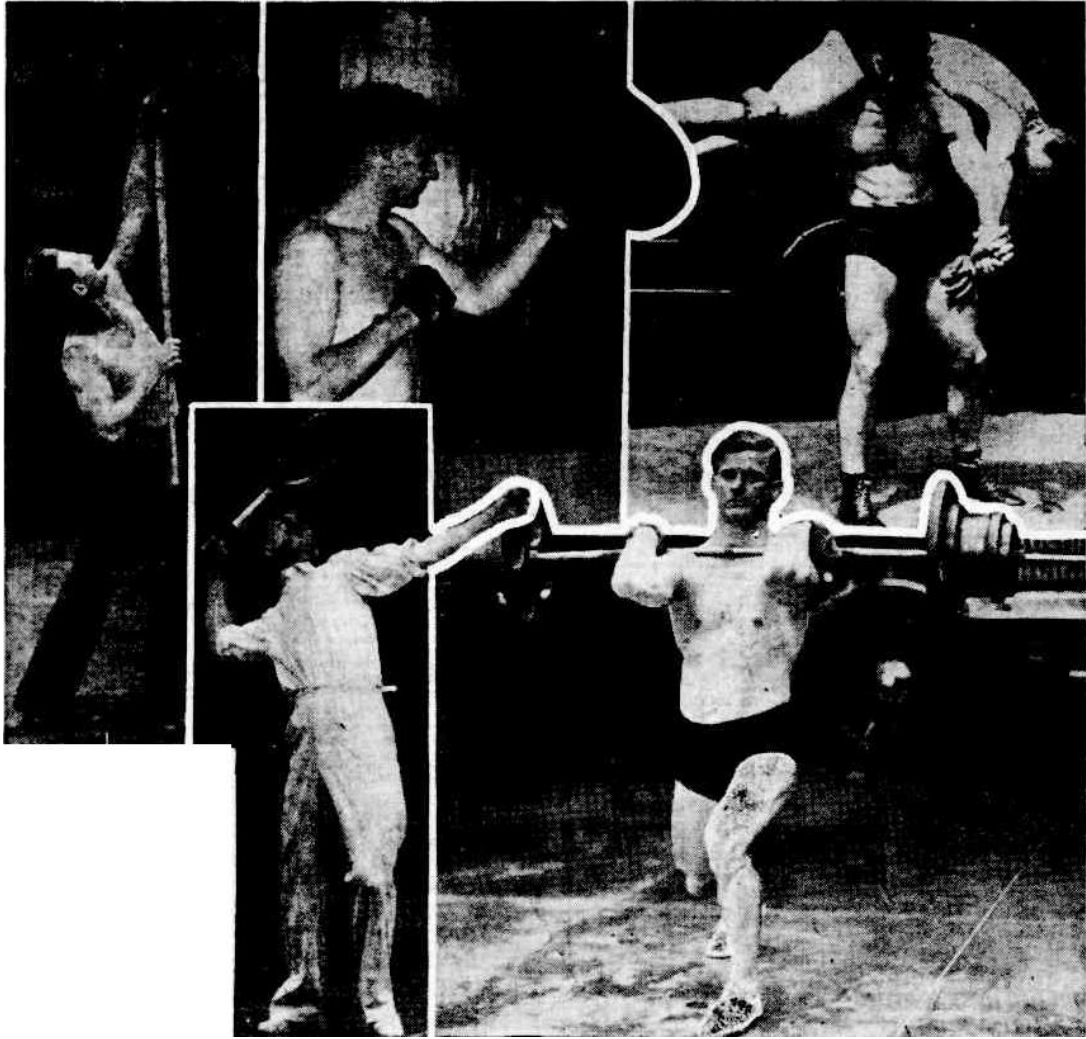
Aerobatic Fireman



FIREMAN ERIC MAGOR'S daily routine in maintaining physical fitness includes balancing on his hands on top of the 65-ft. training tower at the fire brigades headquarters, in Wakefield street. This picture shows Magor, who is a prominent weight lifter, balancing on the tower.  
(Story on Page 12).

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 19 October 1936, page 14***

Adelaide's Athletic Fire-Fighters: Dora's Diary



THE FIRE BRIGADE'S headquarters has many prominent athletes among its men. Top, from left— T. Schwerdt, who recently equalled the world sheaf-tossing record set by his brother, J. Schwerdt; E. C. Cameron, who claims the South Australian heavyweight boxing title; and Eric Magor, wrestler and weightlifter, doing an aeroplane spin with Hugh Patton. Magor holds 30 Australian and South Australian weight-lifting records. Beneath (left) A. Newcombe, holder of the Edwards Cup for district tennis for 1931-2-5, and (right), K. Davies, a competitor for the Australian weightlifting championship, holding 250 lb.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 21 October 1936, page 7***

Drill Instructor



SENIOR FIREMAN J. C. Stephens, who has been appointed brigade drill instructor at the fire brigade headquarters in Wakefield street.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 22 October 1936, page 21**

### SPECIAL TRAINING FOR FIREMEN

#### Gas-Filled Pit Used

Experiencing the same conditions that they would face in combating a basement fire, members of the headquarters fire brigade in Wakefield street today, underwent training. Wearing a special self-contained oxygen breathing suit, each man entered a closed pit filled with gas and smoke, and heated to a high temperature. In addition, there was 2 ft. of water in the pit. After a few minutes in the pit, each fireman clambered out and his place was taken by another fireman. Other phases of the work were then dealt with by the men.

A big net is now being erected in the station yard, and when this is in place the men will be trained in climbing up the outside of a building. Squad drill is also part of the men's training, as well as gymnastics to keep them in excellent physical condition. First-grade Senior Fireman J. C. Stephens is in charge of the training operations.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 22 October 1936, page 24**

#### Firemen in Training

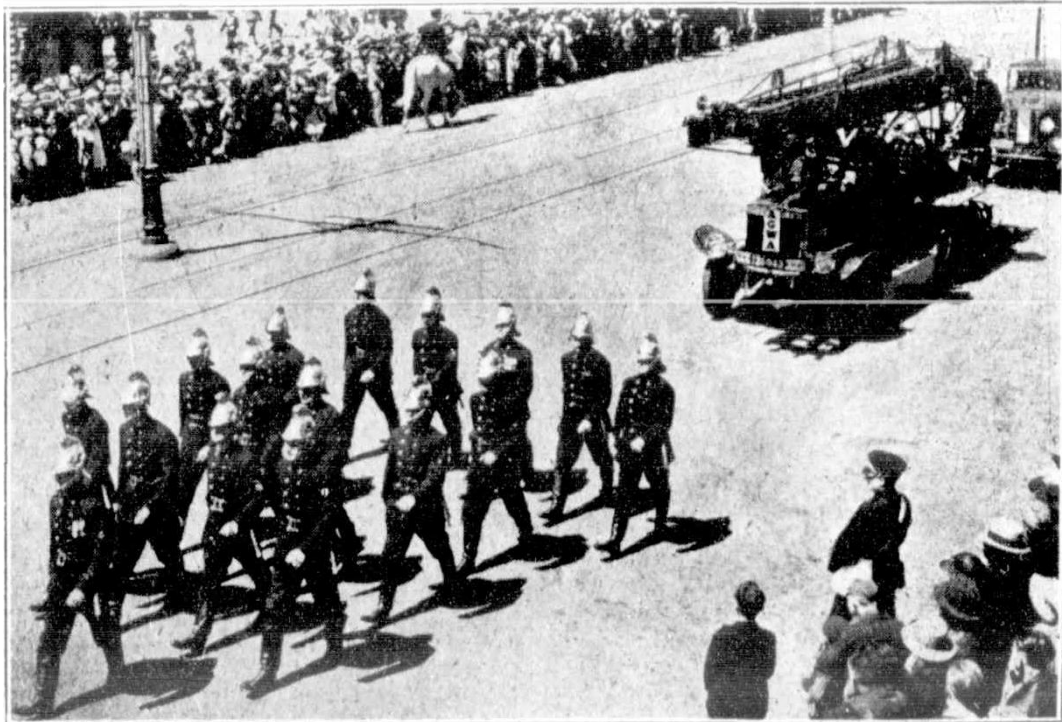


TRAINING under the new drill instructor, Senior Fireman Stephens, began at Fire Brigade headquarters today. Top— The men on parade. Left —Demonstrating an all-service gas mask, and (beneath), a fireman wearing the Proto self-contained apparatus for rescue work.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 22 October 1936, page 34**

70,000 See Labor Day Processions

The Centenary Labor Day procession last week was reminiscent of the palmiest days of the movement, and was watched by some 70,000 spectators, who cheered many of the more striking of the displays. Below are depicted some of the highlights of the pageant.



FIRE BRIGADE TAKE PART. A contingent of firemen from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade marched with the Government Workers' Association, followed by one of the brigade's latest extension ladders.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 22 October 1936, page 66**

Out Among the People

By "Vox"

"Dynamite Bill's" X-Ray

X-RAY stories would be hardly complete without reference to the pioneering work in this section of science by the late William Pilkington, a real luminary in photography, radio, electrical and brass band circles a few years ago. "Pilky," or "Dynamite Bill," as he was affectionately known, was attached to Fire Brigade headquarters in Adelaide many years ago, and is said to have invented the harness-drop apparatus in use in the horse-reel period;



WOMAN'S HAND UNDER AN X-RAY

he also played the cornet in the Brigade band. He went to Western Australia, where he gained fame as an electrical engineer. On the Sons of Gwalia mine he perfected a system whereby a warning signal was given immediately an ore car broke away on the underground rail system. This ingenious idea saved costly repairs, and probably miners' lives as well.

"Pilky's" interests, however, varied. His attention was attracted to the photo-electric cell, and he successfully transmitted photographs over a three mile system in Perth 30 years ago. Then he became interested in X-rays, and built a machine by which he was able to find a broken needle in his wife's hand. Here is the picture he took. "Dynamite Bill" made an X-ray plant for one of the goldfields hospitals, and until his death two or three years ago, was a recognised consultant on these matters. The charm of it was that William Pilkington had very little schooling, but he had an inventive brain!

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 October 1936, page 12**

#### Young Man Burnt In Spirit Blaze

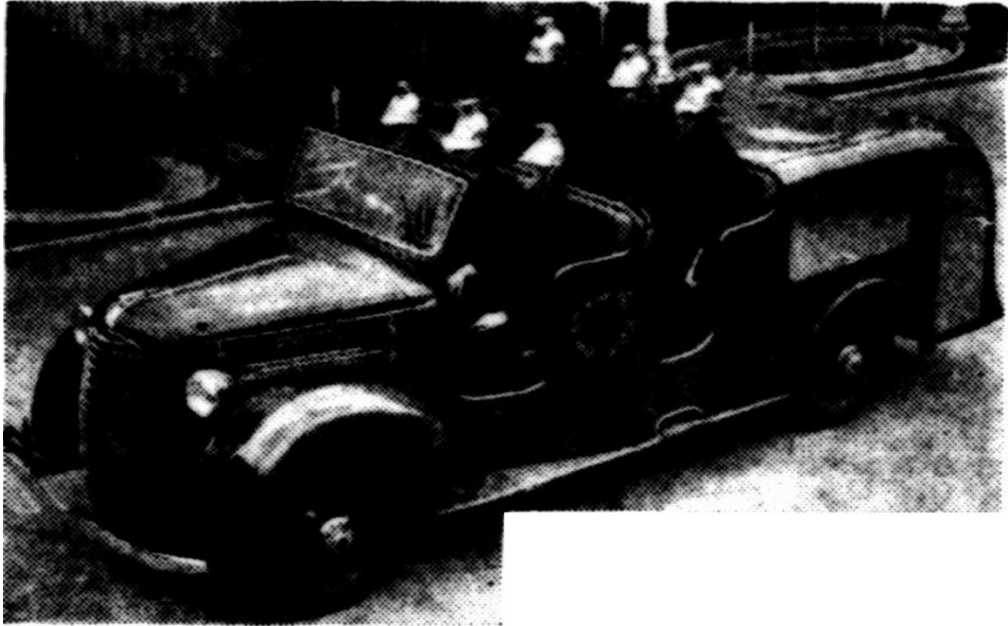
A young man sustained burns to a leg today when a quantity of methylated spirits caught alight after its container had been dropped near a lighted gas burner, at the rear of the delicatessen store of. F. R. Gilbert, Woodville road, Woodville, today. The young man, Leigh Banks, 20, baker, of Railways terrace, Kilkenny, was admitted to Sturt Ward at the Adelaide Hospital. The burning spirits set fire to a heap of tissue paper, but before the arrival of a fire brigade machine from city headquarters, the blaze had been extinguished.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 October 1936, page 17**

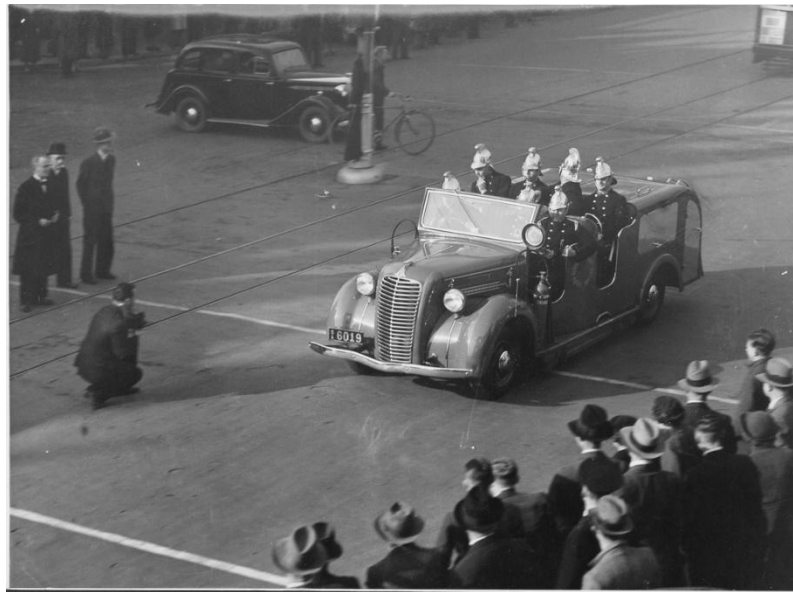
#### FIRE BRIGADE'S NEW HOSE CART

##### Gas Extinguishers For Electrical Fires

Fitted with two high-pressure carbon dioxide extinguishers for smothering dangerous electrical fires, a modern hose cart, capable of carrying a crew of seven at 75 miles an hour, was added to the equipment of the South Australian Fire Brigade yesterday. The Chief Officer (Mr. Whyte) said that the extinguishers were among the most modern fire-fighting appliances in the world. They were in use in all the big overseas brigades. Instead of risking shocks in electrical fires, the men could smother the blaze with a stream of inert gas which would do no damage.



SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE, and much safer for the crew than the older appliances, this new hose carriage just added to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's equipment carries 1,400 feet of hose, six men, six extinguishers, and insulated gear for dealing with electrical fires.



*State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade Motor Unit [B 9904], Fire Brigade Motor unit crossing the intersection of Rundle and Hindley Streets during a test run on July 6, 1937. The South Australian Fire Brigade was formed in 1860 and operated from the Wakefield Street headquarters from 1892. 1937. Photographer - News and Mail, Part of General Collection.*

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 30 October 1936, page 32**

#### ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE PRAISED

'Plant Equal To Anything In World'

Melbourne's fire chief Mr. J. T. Wilkins, who is at present on a visit to Adelaide, has nothing but praise for recent improvements to Adelaide's fire fighting forces. Recognised as an expert throughout Australia, he said last night that some of the plant of the Adelaide Fire Brigade was equal to anything in the world. "I am mighty pleased to see that the Fire Board here has

managed to provide the necessary money to enable an efficient force to be provided," he said. "Given a good plant, good men, and a sympathetic board, it naturally follows that you must have a very efficient brigade." Mr. Wilkins said that the board had made a very wise choice in selecting Mr. Whyte, of the Melbourne Fire Brigade, as the new chief of the Adelaide brigade. "The brigade's equipment had practically been rebuilt or replaced since Mr. Whyte's arrival. He had gone one better than the Melbourne brigade by improving on the designs of the various types of fire engines used in Melbourne. "The men here are a very fine body," said Mr. Wilkins. "They are right up-to-date in their drills and methods. Mr. Whyte is specialising in what we consider a strong point in our brigade in Melbourne—gymnastics and athletic exercises. Money is being spent here wisely and well." From a fire-fighting point of view, Mr. Wilkins said, the lay-out of Adelaide was excellent—wide streets and not many congested areas. He had not found anything approaching a slum area. The efficient traffic control by the police was also a great help to the brigade. Mr. Wilkins will leave Adelaide for Melbourne tomorrow.



Mr. J. J. Whyte

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 6 November 1936, page 29**

#### SUN IGNITES FIREWORKS IN SHOP WINDOW

##### Glass Broken And Contents Destroyed

The glass and contents of a shop window at the corner of Queen and Carrington streets, city, were destroyed yesterday when a quantity of fireworks in the window exploded. The shop was owned by Miss M. McInerney. The building and contents of the window were insured. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis prepared a report for the Assistant Coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekmann), who deemed an inquest unnecessary. The window was dressed with groceries, and about 3/- worth of fireworks. The window was not shaded, and it was probable that fireworks were ignited by the heat of the sun. The Fire Brigade was summoned, but on its arrival the fire had been practically extinguished by Mr. William McInerney, who poured buckets of water on it.

Picture On Page 30

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 6 November 1936, page 30



PROBABLY IGNITED by the heat yesterday, a quantity of fireworks exploded in a city shop window. Panes of glass were shattered and groceries destroyed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 6 November 1936, page 29**

#### STABLES ABLAZE AT ST. PETERS

Veterinary Hospital Destroyed

#### HORSES FREED FROM BLAZING STABLES

Plucky Act By Owner

Risking his life, Mr. A. C. Burchell, an elderly veterinary surgeon, rushed into his blazing stables in Fifth avenue, St. Peters, shortly before 10 p.m. yesterday, and freed two hunting horses, which were screaming in fear. Galloping into Fifth avenue, St. Peters, the horses disappeared. Shortly afterwards there was a loud explosion, believed to have been caused by the petrol tank of Mr. Burchell's car, which was destroyed with the wood and iron stables and veterinary hospital. Altogether the damage was estimated by Mr. Burchell at about £600. Surgical instruments, insured for £150 as well as the car insured for £80, were destroyed in the building. There was also some insurance on the building.

The ignition by fireworks of hay in a paddock adjoining the stable, is believed to have caused the fire. "I had fallen asleep by the wireless when Miss Sylvia Kropinyeri called out about the fire." said Mr. Burchell. "I ran out with only one boot on, and when I entered the stables, the flames had a good hold on the dry hay. They were only a few feet from the horses, Home Rule and Star, when I opened the doors of their stalls." Two cats in cages in front of the stables were freed by a neighbor. Several saddles, two owned respectively by Dr. H. P. Brownell, of Norwood, and Dr. A. D. Byrne, of Hindmarsh, were destroyed.

The blaze was soon controlled by two squads of firemen, under the direction of Deputy-Chief Cook (city) and Station Officer Patten (Norwood). Jack Price, of Eighth avenue, St. Peters,

assisted in fighting the fire until the brigade arrived. Several years ago, Mr. Burchell's house, next to the veterinary hospital, was badly damaged by fire while he was at a race meeting. Constable W. H. McCormack (St. Peters) is preparing a report for the Coroner.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 9 November 1936, page 20**

Fire Alarm In City.—Noticing smoke coming from the front of the Vanderbilt Milk Bar, Grenfell street, City, about 8.30 p.m. yesterday, Constable Buxton called the Fire Brigade. After forcing their way in, the firemen found that the motor of a refrigerator had overheated. No damage was caused.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 10 November 1936, page 22**

Stupid Hoax On Undertakers And Ambulance

The S.A. Ambulance Brigade and two undertakers received telephone calls yesterday to go to a house in Davenport terrace, Hilton. When the ambulance arrived no one was home, and neighbors could ascribe no reason for the call. While the ambulance men were making enquiries one of the undertakers arrived at the house and said that he had received a message that a body was there awaiting burial. The telephone calls are believed to have been somebody's idea of a joke. At intervals for some time the Fire Brigade has received a number of malicious false alarms in the Hilton district. Officers of the Richmond police station are making enquiries.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 11 November 1936, page 7**

CHILD SETS FIRE TO VERANDAH

Spirit Tin Explodes

A five-year-old boy had a lucky escape this afternoon after he had set fire, with a box of matches, to paper and sawdust soaked in kerosene in the enclosed rear verandah of a house in Bean's road, Thebarton. A tin containing four gallons of methylated spirits and a 13-gallon drum of kerosene standing on the verandah exploded shortly after the boy had dashed outside. The fire occurred at the home of Mr. Cyril John Sheppard, to which a shop is attached. Mrs. Sheppard went from the rear of the premises to the shop to serve a customer, and when she returned the verandah, which is used as a storeroom, was ablaze. The boy, John Douglas Sheppard was found outside with the box of matches. As it was feared that the fire might spread to the inside of the house. some furniture was removed.

Prompt action by the Thebarton Fire Brigade and a unit from city headquarters, however, quickly had the blaze under control. Chief Station-Officer, Mr. J. J. White, attended. The verandah and contents, which included in addition to the kerosene and methylated spirits, cases of apples, tins of paint, and household clothing, were destroyed. The kitchen was slightly damaged, a window being destroyed and a door being severely charred.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 13 November 1936, page 32**

100 YEARS OF FIREFIGHTING

Display For Pageant Of Progress

APPLIANCES OF 1836 TO BE SEEN

Many Other Notable Sections

A parade of firefighting through the century, including original appliances used in this State 100 years ago, will be one of the outstanding sections of the Pageant of Progress on December 22.

The Chief Station Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that the first unit in the section would be a hose reel of the type used in 1836. The reel had lain for many years disused at

the Islington workshops. Next would come a manual pressure pump, representing the year 1850. That type of appliance was pulled to the scene of action by the firemen, and was operated by eight men, four working on each side. The brigade officers, in their hunt for genuine early fire equipment, had unearthed the pump at the Yatala Labor Prison. A steam fire engine, with gleaming brass boiler and smoking chimney, would follow. Two horses would draw the engine, which was of the type used in 1890. The machine had been obtained from Duncan and Fraser Ltd., and had been thoroughly reconditioned. The age of motor power would be represented by the first motor-drawn engine employed by the City Brigade in 1914. The engine was a Scat, and had been out of use for some time. The year 1929 would be represented by a 90-ft. extension ladder. Finally would come the latest type of stream-lined hose reel, with its chromium plate fittings, heralding the modern era.

#### Beards And Red Jackets

Mr. Whyte added that about 26 firemen would take part in the display, which would take up about 165 ft. of the procession, without allowing for the space between the different units. The men in the earlier sections would be dressed in the red jackets then in use, and would wear suitable beards and moustaches.

Entry forms for the pageant have been supplied to intending entrants, and must be submitted, with full details of the float or other display to be entered, by Saturday, November 21. The traffic and marshalling committee will then estimate the length of the procession.

Details required are: —

The period of the exhibit; whether it is horse or motor-drawn or dismantled; its length, breadth and height; where it will be located on the morning of December 22; its destination after the procession, the number of persons to be connected with the display, either mounted or on foot; and whether dressing accommodation will be required.

It is hoped by these means to have the organisation of the procession in perfect order. The proposed order of the pageant, which will be in 18 sections, is: — Police escort, heralds, marshal, band, Navy, military, aircraft, Government and historic, costumes, municipal, transport, pastoral, agricultural and forestry, Fire Brigade, amusements, buildings, secondary industries, sport and miscellaneous.

#### Government Section

The Centenary organiser (Mr. Ryan) said yesterday that about 150 people would take part in the Government and historical section of the procession, which would contain 15 or 16 floats. Some of the personnel of the Captain Sturt float would be supplied by the Legacy Club, and Toc H would provide a number of people for the float showing Captain Flinders and the Investigator. It was possible that a number of uniforms would be obtained from the naval and military authorities. The Director of Education (Mr. Adey) had made available the services of Miss Thelma Thomas to design dresses and uniforms. As far as possible, the costumes used in the pageant, "Heritage," would be employed, and it was hoped that a number of those who took part in "Heritage" would make up the personnel of the floats.

An outstanding display would be the section representing explorers, Mr. Ryan added. The military authorities would provide horses and men. The exhibit would not take the form of a float, but would be composed of men marching and on horseback. The explorer Stuart would be shown being carried in a litter. Another float, representing the Church, would bear a model of the first Holy Trinity Church. The figures to be represented at this exhibit would be decided at a meeting of the ecclesiastical committee today.

Relay runners would accompany the Amateur Athletic Association's float in the sports section. Other entrants would be the National Football League and the Rowing Association. The O.B.I. would have a float, attended by 100 boys, and the Junior Red Cross Association would also

enter a display. The assistance of the students of the University of Adelaide would be called upon for the amusement section of the pageant.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 14 November 1936, page 12**

Firemen to Help In Police Display

For the first time in South Australia firemen will be associated with the police force in the annual police carnival at Wayville Showgrounds on December 5. This will bring the Adelaide police carnival into line with those in Melbourne and Sydney. Chief-Officer J. J. Whyte and the Fire Brigades Board have agreed to a police request for the firemen to take part. The firemen will give an exhibition of turning out to a fire, getting the water going, and will also give a display of physical exercises and gymnastics, on which they have recently been concentrating. In addition, Boy Scouts will do tent pitching.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 23 November 1936, page 11**

WARDER'S POSSESSIONS DESTROYED

Fire Near Adelaide Gaol

Mr. W. E. Renfrey, a warder at the Adelaide Gaol, lost his uniforms, clothes and many personal possessions in a fire which destroyed a sleep-out and shed in the backyard of his home yesterday afternoon. The buildings burned adjoined the back verandah of the house, which is situated in the gaol reserve, under the western wall. The Adelaide Fire Brigade, supervised by Chief Station Officer J. J. Whyte, prevented the fire from catching the house. A trellis in the house next door, occupied by Mr. J. Conole, also a gaol warder, was burned down, and the dividing iron fence was badly damaged. The back verandah of the Renfrey home was charred, and several window panes were broken. Among the articles destroyed were clothing, several beds and bedding, two sewing machines, a quantity of linoleum, a chest of drawers and other articles of furniture. The shed was of wood and iron, and measured about 12 ft. by 14 ft.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 23 November 1936, page 20**

FIRE IN CITY STORE

Goods Damaged By Water

Water soaked through four floors, causing more than £1,000 worth of damage, as the result of a fire which broke out about 4 a.m. yesterday in the Myer Emporium, Rundle street. A refrigerating plant in the cafeteria on the third floor became overheated, and set fire to an adjoining wooden partition. The heat of the flames released an automatic sprinkler device in the ceiling immediately above the machine, and a shower of water kept the fire from spreading until the Fire Brigade arrived a few minutes later. The sprinkler released enough water to soak down from the third floor to the basement, saturating on its way carpets, clothes and materials, and ruining toys and books. The goods and the building were both insured.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 24 November 1936, page 1**

Two Hurt In Fire at Thebarton

The works manager (Mr. R. Wright) and the foreman (Mr. Edgar Wright) were slightly burned by a fire at the Premier Varnish and Paint Co., Bellingham street, Thebarton, about 11.20 a.m. today. A flash from a kettle used for boiling oil and gum in the manufacture of varnish set fire to the contents of adjoining kettles, and the flames charred the woodwork of a shed 40 ft. by 9 ft.

Chemical extinguishers kept the flames in check until the arrival of the Thebarton Fire Brigade and two units from city headquarters under Deputy Chief Officer Cook. The intense heat of the flames scorched the face of Mr. R. Wright, and Mr. Edgar Wright was burned on the arms.

It was impossible to approach nearer than 20 ft. to the fire. Fortunately the scene of the fire was about 10 yards from the main store room of the company, in which were big supplies of paint and varnish.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 26 November 1936, page 4***

Malicious False Alarm To Fire Brigade

A malicious false alarm to the Norwood Fire Brigade at 12.30 p.m. today resulted in the reel from that station and a reel from city headquarters, and Chief Station-Officer Whyte, dashing to Eighth avenue, St. Peters. There was no sign of a fire in the district, and brigade officials were unable to trace the call, which was made by telephone.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 26 November 1936, page 11***

Boy's Bogus Telephone Calls To Annoy Parents

How a 17-year-old boy who was "wild because his father would not allow him to use his bicycle," made bogus telephone calls bringing an ambulance and two undertakers to his parents' home, was described in the Children's Court yesterday by Assistant Police Prosecutor Walsh.

The boy was charged before Mr. Coombe, S.M., with having, on November 25, at Hilton, been an uncontrollable child. He was ordered to be detained at the Mount Barker Home until he reached the age of 18 years. On two charges of having at Hilton, given a false alarm of fire, and of having mischievously used a telephone, the boy was convicted without a penalty. Mr. Walsh said that when the boy refused to accompany his father home from a Hilton bakehouse on November 7, the father took his son's cycle. The boy telephoned to the Adelaide Fire Brigade, and one of its detachments, together with the Thebarton Brigade, rushed to an hotel in Hilton. On November 9, the boy telephoned to the Hindmarsh Ambulance, and a car was sent to his parents' home. Two undertakers had also been called to the house as a result of telephone calls.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 27 November 1936, page 3***

Ceiling Alight in Home At Gilberton

A good save was made by the North Adelaide Fire Brigade and a reel from city headquarters when the ceiling of a room in the home of Mrs. L. Wilson, of Edwin terrace, Gilberton, caught alight at about 11.30 a.m. today. Firemen were able to prevent the spread of the flames, and the only damage done was the charring of timber in the roof.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 27 November 1936, page 2***

St. Peters Fire Call Believed Genuine

The fire alarm call yesterday which resulted in a reel from the Norwood station and a reel from city headquarters dashing to Eighth avenue, St. Peters, is believed by Chief Officer Whyte to have been genuine, although there was no sign of fire on the arrival of the brigades. Mr. Whyte said he thought that the fire had been extinguished by the time the reels arrived in the street, and the woman who made the call then decided not to reveal her identity. The brigade had had similar experiences. There had, however, been a number of false alarms lately from the street boxes. Young men were chiefly to blame.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 7 December 1936, page 14***

Small Fire At Glandore

A shed at the rear of a shop occupied by Mr. R. A. Caust, South road, Glandore, was slightly damaged by fire on Saturday morning. Several bags of shavings, a bedstead, and a mattress

were destroyed. The Unley Fire Brigade and an appliance from the metropolitan brigade were called to the fire.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 10 December 1936, page 19**

Fire Extinguished.—A stove in the kitchen of the New Market Cafe, Rundle street, City, caught alight early today, and several appliances from the fire brigade headquarters dashed to the scene in response to an alarm. The blaze was extinguished by smothering it with wet bags. No damage was done. The cafe was recently taken over by Mr. Phil Conroy.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 11 December 1936, page 18**

Fire In Roof Of Norwood Home

Firemen had a difficult task in extinguishing a fire in the shingle roof of the house occupied by Mr. R. Menz, in Queen street, Norwood, early yesterday morning. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who attended the fire, said that the brigade received a call at 4.25 a.m. When he arrived he found that the fire was in the shingle roof, which had been covered with an iron roof. Difficulty was experienced in getting to the fire, but the firemen had the blaze under control about a half-hour after their arrival. Appliances were sent from the city and Norwood stations. Although the furniture was removed from the rooms, the water damaged the ceiling. The property was insured.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 11 December 1936, page 3**

BOY TRAPPED IN OFFICE LIFT

Firemen Release Him

Adelaide firemen appeared in a new role today, when they were called upon to release a 14-year-old boy whose arm had become wedged between the side of the lift well and the lift at the Government Printing Office. It was more than half an hour before the boy was released. He showed remarkable fortitude. Firemen had to cut away part of the first floor, the ceiling, and the side of the lift. It is not known how the boy—Jack Gilding, messenger, of Battams road, Royston Park—became caught.

Throughout the time he was trapped he lay on the floor of the lift, his right arm securely wedged. Employees at the printing office tried to secure a doctor, but were unable to locate one in the city, and summoned the Fire Brigade. After his release, the boy was carried by two men from the building and taken in Chief Fire-Officer Whyte's car to the Adelaide Hospital, where he was treated for abrasions, bruises, and shock.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 December 1936, page 9**

BOY CRUSHED IN LIFT

Rescued By Brigade After Ordeal

Narrowly escaping a painful death yesterday morning when he fell over in an electric goods lift at the Government Printing Office, and became pinned by the right arm between the floor of the lift and the floor boards on the second storey of the building, Jack Gilding, 14, of Battams road, Royston Park, received abrasions, a bruised arm and shock.

Gilding, who is a messenger at the Government Printing Office, was travelling in the lift with Jeffries Long, 16, another employe, when the two collided and Gilding fell to the floor. As he fell Gilding's right arm went out of the lift between the doorway and the woodwork of the second floor. Long quickly applied the emergency button, which instantly brought the lift to a stop, but he was horrified to see that Gilding's arm was wedged immovably. Had the lift ascended another inch or two, Gilding would have been crushed probably to death.

Immediately the alarm was raised many employees of the building, armed with crowbars and saws, set to work to free the lad, who showed remarkable fortitude for more than half an hour. He had fallen in a peculiar position, and when the men endeavoring to extricate him found that their equipment was not equal to the task of moving the lift, the fire brigade was called in to help.

Chief Officer Whyte, with another officer and three men, brought the new salvage van recently added to the brigade's equipment. This contains crowbars, saws, axes and other tools, with six crowbars keeping the weight off the boy's arm, the task of sawing a 12 inch by 4 inch beam in two places was completed, and the joist removed. Although suffering from shock, Gilding seemed more concerned about the possibility of losing his job than anything else.

While the men worked hard to free him he was forced to lie on his side in the lift. Axes could not be used because it was thought that the noise would add to his shocked condition.

#### Boy's Pluck Praised

Chief Officer Whyte said afterwards that Gilding showed great pluck. He added that it was the first occasion that the fire brigade here had been called to do such a job, although when in Melbourne he had attended many. The new salvage van was used for such an emergency for the first time. Chief Officer Whyte also paid a tribute to the employees of the Government Printing Office for their work before the brigade arrived. Gilding was taken to hospital in the Fire Chiefs car, and after treatment, was able to leave for his home.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 11 December 1936, page 18***

##### Fire In Roof Of Norwood Home

Firemen had a difficult task in extinguishing a fire in the shingle roof of the house occupied by Mr. R. Menz, in Queen street, Norwood, early yesterday morning. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who attended the fire, said that the brigade received a call at 4.25 a.m. When he arrived he found that the fire was in the shingle roof, which had been covered with an iron roof. Difficulty was experienced in getting to the fire, but the firemen had the blaze under control about a half-hour after their arrival. Appliances were sent from the city and Norwood stations. Although the furniture was removed from the rooms, the water damaged the ceiling. The property was insured.

#### ***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 December 1936, page 13***

##### BIG LOSSES BY FLOODING

##### City Premises Suffer Most

##### CHERRIES SPLIT

STOCKTAKING today of the damage done by the torrential downpour yesterday indicated that the worst sufferers in the city were the Barnet Glass Rubber Co. Ltd. Hundreds of pounds' worth of stock was damaged, much of it being irremediable. In the country cherry crops suffered greatly, the fruit being split on the trees, but the rain will do more good than harm to wheatgrowing districts, as in those areas where the crops were highest the falls were not so severe. Karoonda and district will probably be most affected in this respect.

Barnet Glass employees were working until early today to clear up the mess caused by the water and take stock of the damage. It was found that the flooding was caused by blocking of the downpipes leading from the roof. The downpour will do more good than harm to wheat, said the Director of Agriculture (Mr. Spafford) today. In most places where the crops were tall there was little rain and in other places where the crops were not so high it will have a beneficial effect. At Karoonda the crops were fairly good and 237 points of rain were registered in 48 hours, so Mr. Spafford expects that some damage will be done there. However, with a spell of dry weather some of the effect will be nullified. The Horticultural

Inspector (Mr. Strickland) termed the rain a very mixed blessing. It would replenish the supply of subsoil moisture and help the various fruits later on, but it would probably lead to fungus diseases such as black spot in apples and black spot and oidium in vines. Continued drying weather, however, would help in avoiding these.

#### CHERRY CROP DAMAGED

The damage done in the Basket and Forest Range districts is causing cherry growers great concern. The better type of cherry was just coming in, and there was an excellent demand for them. The cellars of the Adelaide Wine and Spirit Co., Ltd., at Hackney, were flooded, and a pump from Fire Brigade Headquarters was at work there until 10.30 last night. From then on the work of clearing the cellars was carried on by employes with a smaller pump, and until late this afternoon the work was still in progress. At one spot in the cellars there was more than 8 ft. of water. At the factory of the S.A. Fruit-growers' Co-operative Society in St. Peters employes were still at work today pumping water out of the cellar and engine room. It is not expected that steam will be got up again until Saturday. Three of the 12 R.A.A.F. Hawker Demons which flew from Laverton yesterday to take part in the air pageant at Parafield on Saturday were bogged when they landed at Parafield yesterday. The feature of the storm was its extreme patchiness, said the Government Meteorologist (Mr. Bromley), who added that conditions were much the same and pointed to further warm to hot and sultry weather, with possibilities of more thunderstorms.

#### RESERVOIRS MISSED

Indicating the patchiness of the falls, Mr. Bromley said the gauge at Rose Park showed 183 points, while about three-quarters of a mile away at Parkside the reading was 90. Other extremes were Frances, in the South-East, 169 points, and Penola, 6; Paskeville, 183 points, Maitland nil. The falls, however, will not benefit the reservoirs in any way, as the catchment areas were practically missed, said Mr. Bromley. Millbrook had 13 points, Mount Pleasant 10, Gumeracha 7, and Birdwood 8. In other areas where water was badly needed for summer supplies, the rain also missed the catchment areas.

Residents of Norwood, Stepney, Hackney, and Prospect described the flood as the most serious in their experience, and some were unable to sleep in their homes last night because bedrooms were several feet under water. People bailing out water from a bedroom in a basement in Osmond terrace, Norwood, were clad in bathers today, and the water mark showed that the floodwaters had risen to a height of 5 ft. This occurred in rooms occupied by Mrs. A. F. Gillingwater, who had clothing and food washed away. She and her children slept with neighbors.

#### NARROW ESCAPES

There were two narrow escapes at the home of Mrs. W. Murcott, in Magill road, near the intersection of Osmond terrace. Her little boy, Colin, aged 2½ years was rescued by Mr. D. Nightingale, a neighbor, when he was caught in the rushing stream up to his neck. Mary Murcott, 14, tried to switch the electric light on near the entrance of a room, and was hurled into the water by an electric shock. She was not seriously injured. Marks of debris today revealed that the water had been above the level of the electric light switch.

Several houses in Lewis street, nearby, were inundated and articles damaged, and in Henry street, Stepney, the position was even worse. Although the bedroom of Mrs. D. Salotti was thickly coated with mud after the water had been removed late last night, she and her baby were compelled to sleep there because they had nowhere else to go. "The water rushed in from the front and back at the same time." said Mr. T. Hanrahan, of Cambridge street, Hackney. Some of the members of his family had to sleep elsewhere. Mrs. F. A. Young was among the other sufferers in this street.

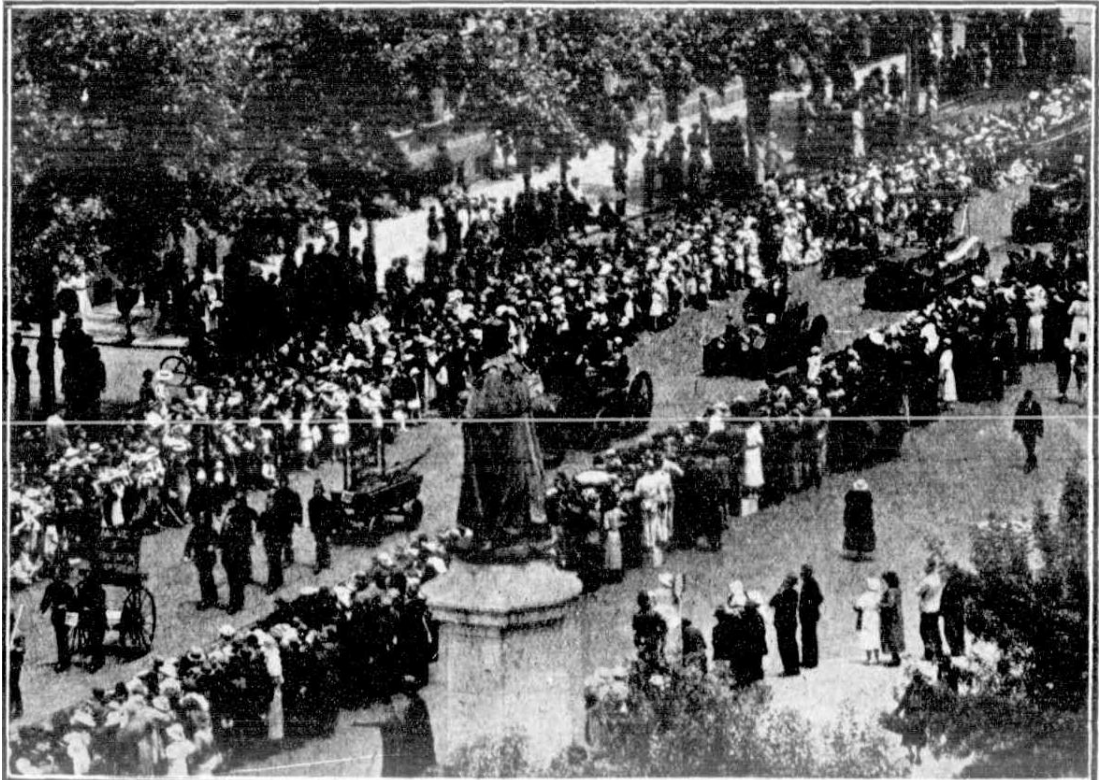
**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 December 1936, page 12**

### Firemen to Seek Higher Wages and Shorter Week

Adelaide and suburban firemen at a meeting of their section of the Government Workers' Association yesterday decided to seek increased wages and shorter working hours. A committee of five firemen was appointed to act with the State secretary of the association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) in obtaining rates from other States. The first application by the men will be to the Fire Brigades Board. The starting rate for firemen today is £3/11/ a week with annual increments, and they work three days on duty and one off. The actual working time of the days on duty is 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 24 December 1936, page 32**

State's Advance in One Hundred Years:



FIRE BRIGADE OF OTHER DAYS. One of the most interesting sections was that depicting various phases of Fire Brigade activities since the establishment of the first fire reel in 1840. Starting with the manual hose reel of that date, there followed in succession the manual fire pump of 1846; the steam fire engine of 1880; the fire pump of 1910, and others up to the latest modern appliances used by the Brigade today.— Krischock photos.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 24 December 1936, page 37**

Record Crowd Sees State's Pageant Of Progress

HISTORIC PERSONAGES AND SCENES LIVE AGAIN

IMPRESSIVE TABLEAUX TELL TALE OF ADVANCE

FITTING CLIMAX TO CENTENARY FESTIVITIES

South Australia Can Be Proud Of Its Achievements

Of the memories which the people of South Australia will preserve of the State's Centenary celebrations, none, it is certain, will remain longer than those of the Pageant of Progress which took place in Adelaide on Tuesday.

The pageant was watched by the greatest gathering Adelaide has ever known. The whole route two miles long was thronged, and the Commissioner of Police (Brigadier-General Leane) estimated the crowd at 250,000, which is only 60,000 short of the city's entire population. The hundred years of South Australian history were portrayed in a procession of strikingly effective tableaux which took an hour to pass. Scarcely an important landmark in the foundation and development of the State was not represented, and the changing scene was unfolded with an originality and artistry that were unfailingly impressive. It was a brilliant and thoughtful spectacle in which the past and the present were contrasted to show the great extent of the achievement in science, industry, transport, communication and public welfare which the State is honoring today.

Enthusiastic scenes were witnessed all along the route of the procession, the enormous crowd applauding continuously. The glorious sunshine, the beflagged streets and buildings, and the spirit of the pageant made the celebration outstandingly successful. Many distinguished visitors from other States and from overseas described it as the most picturesque and the most representative they had seen. The smooth efficiency with which the unprecedented number of people in the city was controlled by the police was also very highly commended. No attempt was made to break through the barriers at any point on the route, and the pageant, from beginning to end, was marked by not the least interruption. About 100 persons collapsed or for other reasons had to receive attention, but the number was remarkably small in relation to the size of the crowd. The procession was framed by the soft, hazy blue of a true summer's day and the crowded, colorful streets of the city.

Even before the procession began the sight to be seen from the tops of the buildings in King William street and North terrace, where the crowd was greatest, was one to be remembered. Many thousands of people lined the barricades under the lines of flags stretched across King William street from Victoria square to North terrace. At every window and on every roof there were people, and every balcony was packed. Here and there were the specially constructed stands, and long before the procession began every seat was taken. There was no jostling, no sign of disorganisation, even at those points in King William street and elsewhere where the people congregated in largest numbers. Most of them had come early into the city, the wiser ones with camp stools, and quietly and un-hurriedly had taken up their positions. It would be difficult to recall another occasion on which such an enormous crowd has assembled in the city so smoothly and easily. Everyone admired the efficiency of the police control and the admirable traffic arrangements; but some at least of the credit must be put down to the good sense of the people themselves.

#### Happy Scene

The light frocks, the gay parasols, the flags, and, in North terrace, the green-leafed, shady trees made a most happy scene in the morning's sunshine. Bands marched up and down the streets, the band majors with their sticks whirling furiously, and the sun striking silver sparks from the instruments. Opposite the official stand in front of the Town Hall, from which his Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) and Lady Dugan, the Permanent Under-Secretary for the Dominions (Sir Edward Harding), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Dominions (Lord Hartington), and other distinguished visitors, the Premier (Mr. Butler) and members of the Government, and the Lord Mayor (Mr. Cain) watched the procession, a band played continuously, breaking into the National Anthem as the vice-regal party arrived just as 11 o'clock was chiming.

By this time the procession had already begun. To those in the centre of the city the first sign of its approach was the appearance, high over head, of the visiting squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force followed by a formation of Royal Aero Club machines. The sound of their engines had scarcely passed away as they flew southwards when the forerunners of the pageant came in sight — mounted police in the uniforms their predecessors wore in the early days of the State. They rode three abreast and saluted as they passed the Governor's stand. Naval And Military Parade Behind them, headed by an R.A.N.R. officer representing Captain Cook, came a detachment of sailors and marines of 1836, then a naval gun and its crew of

the same period, and the model of a frigate of Nelson's day. A big step onwards in time, and there came into view a splendid model of the old Protector, a reminder of the days when South Australia had its own "fleet." Then another step, and this time a model, a truly beautiful piece of workmanship, of H.M.A.S. Australia. The naval parade was quite one of the most colorful and interesting Adelaide has ever seen, and the same is true of the display of the military forces, which immediately followed it. First of all, admirably depicted, were the first British troops stationed in the colony; a detachment of a slightly later period, but still distinguishable by their scarlet jackets and pipeclay facings; and then the first South Australian Volunteers, who were formed in 1866. This was the first sight of khaki and, incidentally, the beginning of the end of side-whiskers and dashing moustachios once the pride of every soldier. The changes were rung, detachment after detachment, through the first South Australian Lancers of 1890, to the first militia of 1896, then to the Bushmen's Corps for the South African war, and finally to the great civilian army of 1914-18. Then the present rolled by, headed by the Royal Australian Artillery detachment from Victoria and its band. The marching and the playing were alike warmly applauded, and indeed the sight was one of the most attractive in the whole procession. There was another detachment from Victoria, conspicuous because of the kilts uniforms in its ranks, and one from Western Australia. The guns of the 20th Heavy Battery passed, and after them — most modern touch of all — two heavy lorries with machine gun teams. It was the first occasion the public had seen the beginnings of mechanisation. And what a strange contrast they made with the old lumbering horse-drawn ambulances which are still in service!

#### Coming Of The White Man

The scene now shifted back beyond even the dawn of history— to the Stone Age. On a Government float was represented a bushland scene of a tribe of aborigines squatting beneath over-hanging gum trees, half the world and centuries in time removed from the white man. Brandishing spears, boomerangs, waddies, and shields, natives in full ceremonial paint trotted alongside. The float was decked with weird totem poles with birds' feathers, and bore the quaint, childlike drawings of the aboriginal tribes. Then Captain Flinders in the Investigator, on his voyage of exploration round the South Australian coast in 1802, appeared— the first sign of the white man's approach. This float was cleverly decked with leaping kangaroos and palms in cut-out wood round the sides, and large golden anchors by the side of the scale model of H.M.S. Investigator. The next landmark in the State's beginning was Captain Sturt's epic voyage down the Murray. In this representation, Sturt and his companions were seen in their tiny boat sailing between overhanging gum trees round which aborigines lurked. This float was also decorated with native emblems, drawings, and totem poles. Then, within a setting of glittering gold and blue, the landing of Governor Hindmarsh at Holdfast Bay was presented on a float bearing a faithful model of H.M.S. Buffalo and the old Gum Tree. Aborigines were again included as puzzled spectators of this historic event. Hindmarsh was seen standing in front of the old Gum Tree reading the Proclamation, surrounded by marines, officials and the first settlers. This was a beautiful tableau.

#### Symbol Of Empire

South Australia had become a British province. The pageant moved on to a scene symbolic of the Empire— its wealth, power, and extent. On a throne of crimson, blue and gold sat Britannia, and at her feet four white lions. In national dress and on separate thrones five fair maidens accompanied her, representative of Canada, Australia and New Zealand at one end, and Africa and India at the other. Behind the float came 50 men dressed in white and bearing banners with the names of British provinces and dependencies. Next came the float of the Empire Builders with Britannia again set in regal state amid four classic columns of white. Scarlet lion masks snarled at each corner of the float, around which the shields of the Commonwealth were ranged. Then to work and achievement. In its first struggling days South Australia was saved from a crisis that threatened to engulf it by the discovery of the copper mines, and so, appropriately, came a float in which the miners of Burra were seen round the

poppet head of a mine winning the metal which has yielded £55,789,694 for the State. This scene was complete even down to the old-time hats the miners wore.

#### Adelaide In The Forties

Adelaide in the forties then appeared on the scene with the first Government House, and the first Bank of Adelaide, with their crude brick walls and latticed windows, and these were followed by a large scale model of Holy Trinity Church in North terrace, representing a hundred years of service by the churches. A gathering of worshippers appeared outside. The float was in dazzling white relieved by gilt crosses and blue scrolls at the corners. "The Ship Knowledge," with a golden lamp of knowledge at the prow, sailed gracefully into view with towers of the Bonython Hall surrounded by students representative of sport and learning. Pink and white roses were entwined in a general color scheme of green and white. On a magnificent throne of cream and gold, Queen Victoria then made her appearance holding two white lions in rein with blue silk ribbons. The float represented the jubilee. It was surrounded by garlands of pink and white roses and attended by five girls.

#### Father Of Federation

Close behind came the graceful Federation float of shoe-like design and colored in cream and green, with a raised floral effect of leaves and pink roses. Kingston, Holder, Barton and Deakin were represented, while round the sides sat girls wearing shields bearing the coat-of-arms of the various States. Bustles and crinolines were well in evidence on the following float, on which the fashions of the past century were traced. The side decorations of black silhouettes were most effective. The Corporation of Adelaide, in three spectacular floats, then depicted the "conception, foundation, and realisation" of the city. The conception was laid in Adelphi terrace, London, in 1835, with the Colonisation Commissioners at their deliberations round a table with a large globe of the world revolving slowly above their heads. "Foundation" revealed Colonel Light at work with his theodolite surveying the site of Adelaide. His tent was pitched with a family of natives encamped nearby. "Realisation" showed Adelaide's skyline of towers and turrets against the sky. From one side it depicted the city skyline as seen from Montefiore Hill, and on the other, the view from Wakefield street. The only other entry in the municipal section was a very beautiful Grecian garden scene of flowers and pretty girls entered by the suburb of Colonel Light Gardens. Gowned in flowing Grecian costumes, eight girl residents of Colonel Light Gardens reclined amid a profusion of petunias with deep red roses entwined round the graceful columns behind them. The River Murray steamer Gem, demonstrated one era in the State's history of transport before an imposing group arranged by the Postmaster General's department made its appearance. Its central float was dominated by two giant revolving wheels of industry and four aerial masts with lines held by a symbolical figure in the centre. As the wheels of progress revolved the world-wide communication schemes of telegraph, telephone, cable, and wireless were indicated in contrast with the humble beginnings of horse and camel communication. The opening of the first overland telegraph line in 1872 was strikingly illustrated, with an operator tapping out his messages on a machine from which colored tapes stretched out to a huge globe mounted on the top of Central Mount Stuart. Paintings of ships in the Roper River appeared round the sides. This P.M.G. group was completed by another float surmounted with a giant golden colored replica of a modern telephone. With a contrast between the first locomotive in the State and the gleaming, streamlined "Sir Winston Dugan," the South Australian Railways spared no expense in its contribution to the fascinating spectacle. The "Sir Winston Dugan" was shown by a remarkably realistic scale model complete in every detail. "S.A.R. No. 1" created amusement with its puffing smoke, clanging bell and shrill whistle. Loud and spontaneous applause was given all along the route with the appearance of the ambulance purchased with funds made available by the 5 AD Liars' Club, and which has been presented to the Crippled Children's Committee. With leaping kangaroos, smiling sunflowers and Mickey and Minnie Mouse, the ambulance should help to cheer the heart of any young sufferer it may be called upon to help. "The Wheel of Progress" was a most artistic and inspiring entry by the

Municipal Tramways Trust. A silver winged wheel, which predominated, was held in rein from a stately throne of royal purple.

#### Changes In Agriculture

Then followed a broad sweeping review of the State's agricultural, forestry and pastoral activities during the past century on a series of 14 eloquent floats. The forestry section led the way with a giant log pouring forth its various by-products, followed by an early settler's bark hut and a typical modern villa in contrast. A hundred years of furniture manufacture was also shown, from the old hand craftsman to the artisans with their modern machinery of today. The old and the new of agricultural machinery, wheat pickling, strippers, and of winnowers, old seed drill, and the modern combine, old-time mower and scythe, and modern binder, hand-shearing and machine-shearing (both systems of shearing were actually performed during the pageant), were all depicted in striking display.

A striking indication of the city's growth was given indirectly by the Fire Brigade display, consisting of a primitive manual pump, a horse-drawn steam engine, a motor pump, a 90-foot extension ladder, and lastly, the most modern reel in Australia.

One of the most colorful of the floats was the motion picture industry's exhibit. From the huge gaping mouth of a two-faced silver figure representing Comedy and Tragedy, streams of giant films poured forth to large reels round the sides. Walt Disney's creations were ranged about in inanimate fantasy, together with human and very realistic impersonations of a number of screen favorites. There was Charlie Chaplin, of course, W. C. Fields and Freddie Bartholomew as Micauber, and David Copperfield, Shirley Temple, Ginger Rogers, Greta Garbo, Tom Mix, Warner Baxter and several others faithfully represented. Queen of the Films reigned from aloft attended by two pages. Alongside were Harlequin, Columbine and Pierrot. The Building Industries followed with a lavish display which ranged from a humble tent and a mud hut to a modern Tudor villa, a skyscraper of steel in course of construction and complete with dangling donkey-man and girder, and finally a super-modern, well-lighted structure of several storeys. This design was selected after a competition conducted by the Institute of Architects at the request of the Chamber of Building Industries. The secondary industries were heralded by a giant anvil, in front of which sat a cream figure of the "Spirit of Industry," with workmen underneath engaged at various labors and chemists above at work in a laboratory. A merry little group of red-capped, leather-aproned brewers formed a tableau on the Brewing Industry's float surrounded by beer barrels, and a figure of "The Little Brown Jug" surmounting it all. A large revolving loaf of bread dominated the Baking and Milling Trade's exhibit, with white-capped bakers leading the way. The conception of the lead smelting float was particularly praiseworthy. Vulcan was depicted by an overturned crucible from which streamers poured forth held by maidenly figures representing lead, silver, gold and other metals. A bullet-like float symbolical of streamline, held aloft the latest example of motor car design.

#### "Spirit Of Progress"

The progress in illumination was strikingly demonstrated by an entry of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co., Ltd. The "Spirit of Progress" was shown in an enlarged representation of half an electric light globe linked by streamers to various forms of lighting down the ages to the old kerosene lamps and candles. The South Australian Rowing Association contributed a float on which a skiff was shown passing under the Adelaide Bridge, while University students depicted the changes in the styles of bathing costumes from Adam and Eve up to today. Adam, standing by a huge shell, was asked all along the route where was Eve. He pointed inside the shell. Two floats entered by Our Boys' Institute were full of life. On one, the boys went through strenuous exercises on the horizontal bars, while on the other, shaped as a large blue papered pyramid bearing a map of Australia, the heads of small boys burst out with comical effect. The care of babies on the Baby Health Train was excellently depicted by the Mothers and Babies' Health Association. Womens' work for the church was demonstrated by a beautiful float of flowers and creepers on which a large silver cross stood out. From it

streamers led to stars inscribed with the work which women perform as church service—in guilds, leagues, missions and hospital work. Nursing displays entered by the Trained Nurses' Centenary Committee and the Junior Red Cross, brought the wonderful pageant to a conclusion. The Nurses' Centenary Committee showed the progress in nursing from the establishment of the first hospital in 1841. Florence Nightingale was represented on the Junior Red Cross float holding a light to the nations of the world depicted by children in national costumes and holding national flowers.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 December 1936, page 14***

#### GARDEN SWAMPED WITH PETROL

##### Mishap At Fullarton

Prompt precautions to prevent a possible explosion or fire were taken by the Adelaide Fire Brigade and representatives of the Shell Co. of Australia when a Shell petrol lorry came into collision with a gate post at the home of Mrs. Jane Durward, of Seaview street, Fullarton, yesterday afternoon. More than 25 gallons of petrol poured from the damaged outlet pipe and flowed down the garden path into the back yard.

The lorry was entering Mrs. Durward's property to fill a petrol pump in the front garden. The pump is used by Mrs. Durward for her service cars, which operate between Adelaide and Mylor. Danger of fire or explosion disappeared as the earth absorbed the petrol. A fireman was left on duty, with a connected hose, ready for use. At 7 p.m. Shell Co. officials were still shovelling petrol-soaked earth into other parts of the garden and burning the petrol from it.

During the past nine months, Adelaide had seen only two fires of any magnitude, and in those cases the loss was not great, Mr. Whyte concluded. There was a smaller loss due to fires in South Australia than in most other places of similar size and population in the world, he said.