

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1937

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 1 January 1937, page 4

FIRE BRIGADE HAS BUSY YEAR

Chief Officer Reviews Work

The Centenary year had proved a very busy one for the Adelaide Fire Brigade, the chief officer of the brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said, yesterday.

The Fire Brigades Board had realised that it would be necessary for special precautions to be taken in view of the great crowds congregating for Centenary functions, and because of the inflammable nature of the various exhibits and floats, and the buildings in which they were stored. Brigade officers were sent out to give instructions to the various committees regarding precaution against fire. Their advice was carefully followed out, and the result was that the celebrations were carried through without any fire loss or casualties. "This is not only due to the advice given by the officers, but is also a great tribute towards the fire-mindedness of the public of Adelaide," Mr. Whyte added.

During the year ending 1936, the brigade received 577 calls, of which 109 were malicious false alarms, and did not include calls due to line faults, said Mr. Whyte. In the previous year there were 602 calls, of which 128 were false alarms. There were therefore 375 actual fire calls during the past year, compared with 373 in 1935. Most of the false alarms were given by children and youths, said Mr. Whyte, and although there were many convictions, the penalty, in his opinion, was not heavy enough. Two great dangers accompanied false alarms. In the first place, people might be injured by fire appliances dashing through the streets, and the hose reels might be rendered unavailable when they were wanted elsewhere for a real fire. People who gave malicious calls might easily become responsible for loss of life and property.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 1 January 1937, page 11

Small Fire In Grenfell Street

An overheated refrigerator plant was the cause of a small fire in the Cavendish Lounge, Grenfell street, City, early yesterday morning. Constable Edwards, who was on duty in Grenfell street, noticed smoke coming from the rear of the building about 4.30 a.m. He notified the Fire Brigade, which quickly put out the fire. The refrigerator engine was damaged, but the fire caused no other loss. The Cavendish Lounge is conducted by Mr. J. L. Norry, of Kensington road, Kensington. A report was submitted to the Assistant Coroner (Mr. F. C. Sickmann), who decided that an enquiry was unnecessary.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 2 January 1937, page 1

FIRE! An ever-expected alarm is received at headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and in 15 seconds the first firefighting appliance is speeding—its siren screaming—to the scene of the blaze that, unchecked, may mean the loss not only of valuable property, but of human lives. The firemen in the appliance are tense; theirs is a high responsibility.

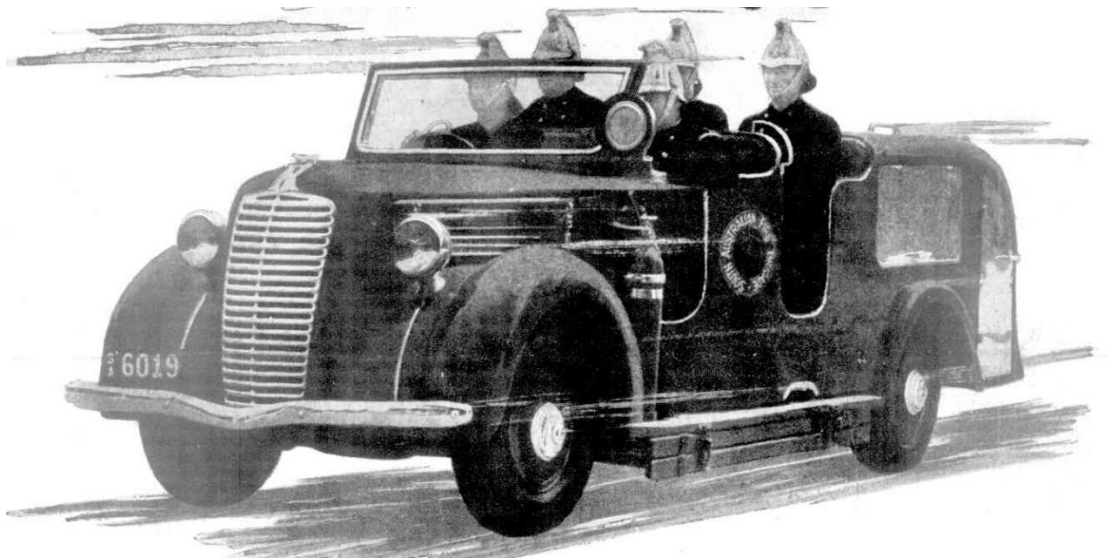
Behind that 15 seconds of frenzied but ordered activity is a story of the guile of man in outwitting the fire fiend as quickly as possible. Spread over Adelaide and the suburbs are 312 street fire alarms. In a suburb where there is a fire station the alarms in that district record in that station, which immediately transfers them to headquarters and sets out for the fire. So does an appliance from headquarters. On the alarm, a man at headquarters climbs a 65 ft. tower. If he can see signs of the fire, another appliance is sent when necessary. Or headquarters may be warned by any of the sprinklers or thermostats which have been installed in 71 city buildings. The sprinklers and thermostats combine to make an efficient private alarm system operated in a closed circuit. With the sprinklers, when the temperature in a building rises because of a fire, the sprinkler head fuses, water falls on the fire, and

simultaneously a code on the circuit is received at headquarters. A red light appears in an electrically sealed key cabinet, showing which set of keys will give admittance to that particular building. The same system operates with thermos-tats. Warnings are also received at headquarters by telephone, and even from people who believe in doing a job personally. Often warnings are duplicated. SUPPOSE that late at night—when fire-fighting gives most thrills—an alarm is received. Immediately the man on duty in the watchroom pulls a lever which operates a siren in the yard and bells in the men's quarters. Through a microphone this man gives amplified information to the staff as to where the call is, and summons the officer in charge.

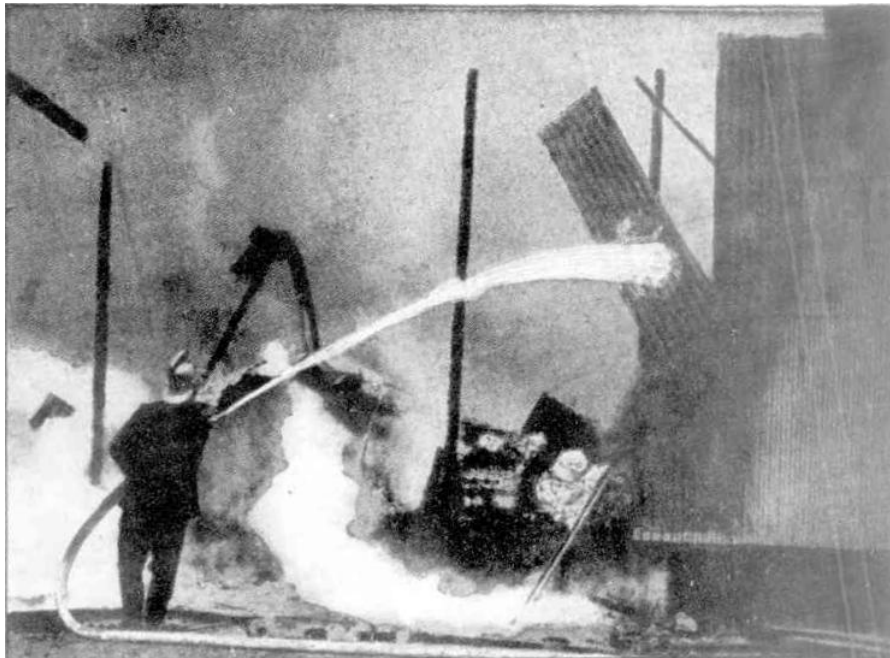
As soon as the officer in charge (Mr. J. J. Whyte) is so called he operates automatic electric signals which give orders for the appliances required. Every officer and fireman knows his appliance, his position on it, and his duties, for at 8 p.m. his instructions for the night were given him. Incidentally, at 8 a.m. instructions for the day are issued. So soon as he has operated the electric signals, the officer in charge sets out for the scene of the fire in a car capable of travelling at 95 miles an hour. When the first appliance sent reaches the fire, information is immediately given to headquarters by alarm telephones as to the nature of the fire, and whether more assistance is required. If the fire happens to be in King William or Rundle street, the brigade's full quota of five appliances turn out, leaving two heavy pumps behind for further assistance or alarms. No. 1 appliance has a crew of six men, No. 2, five; and Nos. 3, 4, and 5, each four. The salvage van has a crew of four. This van and No. 1 appliance are among the most modern in the world. So soon as a fire is under control, as many appliances as possible leave the scene. The salvage van is the last to go, and may have to stay for an indefinite period. The duties of its crew include dealing with water that may damage stock or floors un-touched by fire, and cleaning up debris. When an appliance that has been fighting a fire returns with its crew wet and dirty, the first duty of the men is to transfer into it full trays of hose to replace the empty ones. The appliance must be ready in every way for the next job. When all is in readiness again the men have a welcome shower and go back to bed. They may sleep undisturbed until morning, or they may have to go through all the elaborate procedure that follows an alarm, within the next 10 minutes. For man must always watch the element which is both his greatest friend and one of his most dreaded enemies.



IN THE DEAD of night comes a fire alarm. These firemen at brigade headquarters are pulling on their boots before rushing to their stations on a firefighting appliance



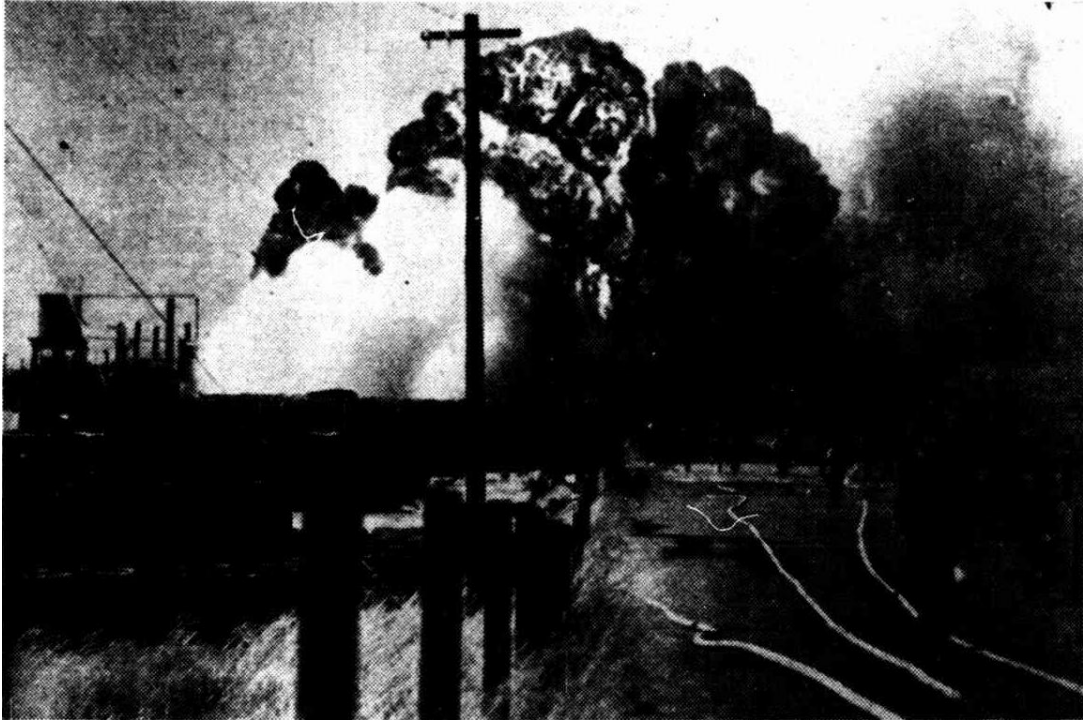
THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE has two of the most modern firefighting appliances in the Commonwealth. Here is one of them speeding to a fire.



INTO THE DEBRIS caused by devouring flames, a fireman incessantly directs a stream of water, making sure that the fire will go no farther.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 5 January 1937, page 5

BIG BLAZE AT KESWICK



SHEETS OF FLAME and volumes of smoke rising into the air after a large pile of drums filled with bitumen exploded in the depot of the Highways and Local Government Department at Keswick this afternoon. At times the flames were leaping nearly 100 ft. high. This picture was taken just as a drum of crude oil exploded.

ONE INJURED IN FIRE

BIG OUTBREAK AT KESWICK

Drums of Bitumen Ablaze

CLOUDS OF SMOKE

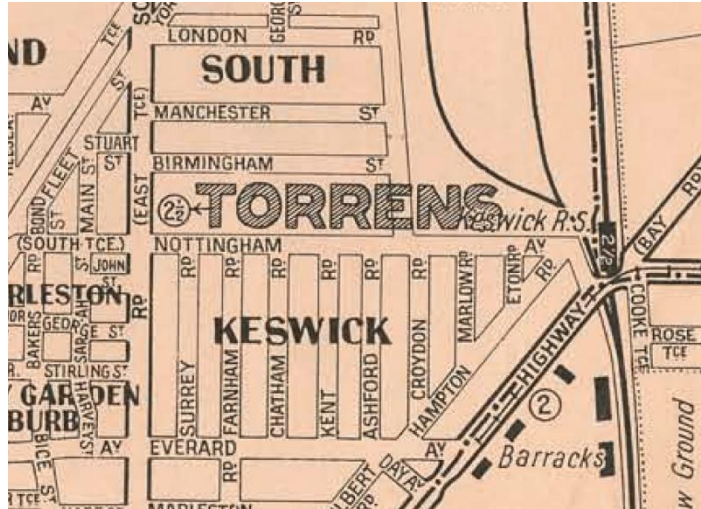
ONE man was injured and thousands of gallons of bitumen, crude oil, and petrol were destroyed in a spectacular fire which broke out at the bitumen plant of the Highways and Local Government Department, Nottingham avenue, Keswick, this afternoon. A semi-official estimate of the damage is £200.

The fire began about 2 o'clock, and in a few seconds there was a spectacular blaze and huge clouds of black smoke were blown over the city. The smoke was so dense that it soon attracted attention and large crowds gathered on Anzac Highway, on the Keswick Bridge and at the western end of West terrace Cemetery. Peter Thompson, of Fifth street, Bowden, and Donald Gaghan, of Davenport terrace, Hilton, were enveloped in flames when the fire broke out round a platform on which they were filling drums. Thompson seized a chemical extinguisher in a vain effort to check the blaze, and received burns to the face and an arm. He was treated by a fireman and taken to his home. Appliances from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade rushed to the scene, and soon had hoses playing on the flames, which were leaping about 100 ft. in the air. Explosions took place every now and again, and these at first drove back the 30 firemen engaged, but in three quarters of an hour the outbreak was under control.

TRUCK ON FIRE

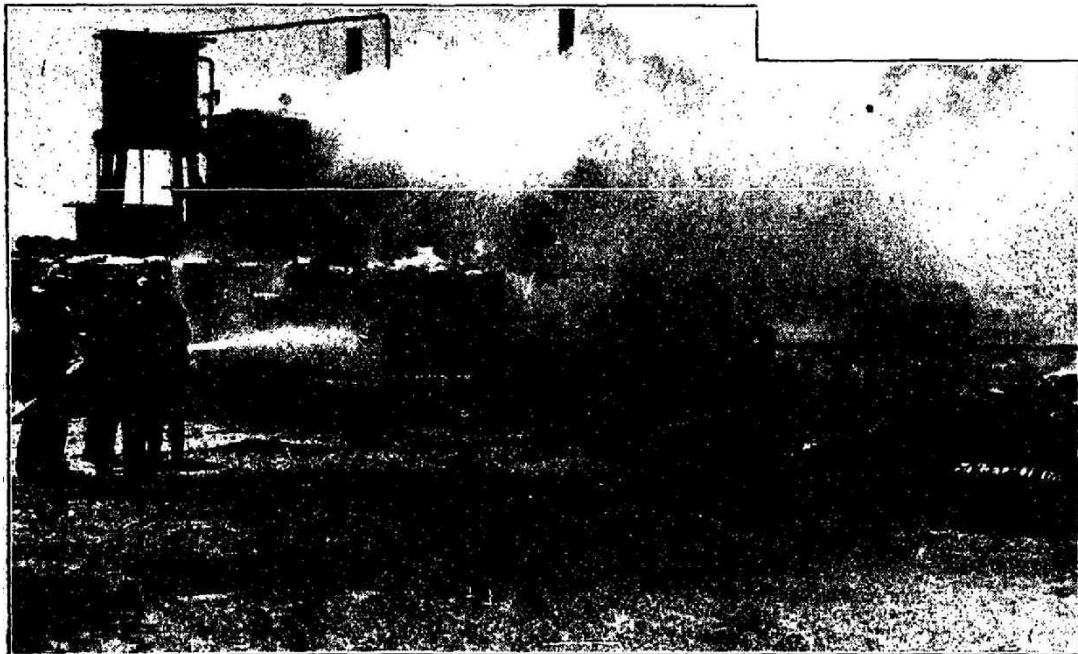
There were two stacks of drums filled with bitumen. One was situated about 50 yards from the stack which caught fire, and the firemen made every effort to prevent the flames spreading to the second heap. At the height of the fire an empty railway truck, which was standing at the platform round which the fire was raging, was shunted out of the danger zone with its

greaseboxes burning fiercely and its sides white hot. Chief Fire Officer Whyte said that but for the westerly breeze which was blowing, the fire might easily have spread through the whole of the depot. Mr. E. L. Smith, an attendant on the Keswick and Wayville tennis courts, saw the start of the fire. He was working on the courts when he heard a loud explosion, and saw a huge sheet of flame shoot into the air. It is believed that the blaze was started by a spark from a fire under a vat used for heating materials for mixing bitumen.



1936 Gregory's street directory

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 14 January 1937, page 38



FIRE AT BITUMEN PLANT. Judging by the clouds of smoke which poured into the sky last week, when a bitumen plant belonging to the Highways Department caught fire at Keswick, half the city might have been burning. The explosion of bitumen drums added to the excitement.— Krischock.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 15 January 1937, page 23

ROOF ON FIRE NEAR MARKET

Prompt Call Enables Good Save

Clouds of smoke drifted over the north-eastern portion of the city about 8 p.m. yesterday, when a fire occurred on the roof of the premises of A. A. Brice & Co., produce merchants adjoining the East End Market, off Rundle street. Apparently the fire was caused by overheating of a large metal exhaust box leading from a Diesel engine in the basement to the roof. About 10 square feet of the roof and a verandah were on fire, but this was soon extinguished by firemen, who carried a hose up narrow wooden staircases. They were directed by Chief-Officer J. J. Whyte and Deputy-Chief Cook.

H. Storey, who was attending the Diesel engine and refrigerating machinery in the basement, noticed smoke coming from the expansion box under the floor near the Diesel engine. Meanwhile, police and civilians, who had seen the columns of smoke, had called the Brigade and were hammering on the doors as a warning. With hundreds of wooden cases for eggs and butter stacked on wooden floors, and with narrow wooden staircases, the old two-storey structure is of an inflammable nature. "Prompt notification of this fire was undoubtedly one of the best let-offs we have had for some time," said Chief-Officer Whyte. "If it had got a hold, the fire would probably have soon spread to adjoining market buildings. I have observed that the Adelaide police are particularly efficient in noticing and promptly notifying the Brigade of any indications of fire."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 15 January 1937, page 7

Arrangements were made for a meet-ins of officers and men of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Sunday morning to hear an explanation of the Government superannuation fund by Mr. L. Aitchison, the employees' representative on the Superannuation Board.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 18 January 1937, page 19

£400 TROTTER DIES IN FIRE

Two Others Saved; £1,000 Blaze

OWNER AT PICNIC

Gallant Effort At Rescue

Suffocated in a blazing stable at Mitcham Park about 12.25 p.m. yesterday, Towrang Boy, a trotting gelding, valued at £400, was destroyed by fire.

Rushing into the burning building, two men, Richard Modystach and George McGill, made a gallant effort to save the horse, but the animal had evidently been overcome by smoke. However, two other trotters in the stable, Princess Myrtle and Minton Pride, were released unhurt. Minton Pride was so excited that he had to be driven to safety. Mr. Modystach received minor burns about the neck, and Mr. McGill was also slightly scorched.

Having left home shortly before the fire on a picnic, Mr. H. Cameron, fuel merchant and trotting owner, and his wife, who trains trotters, were overcome when they saw the ruins on their return about 6 p.m. Including the horse that was burned, and harness and other gear, it was estimated that the total loss would approach £1,000. There was no insurance cover. The destroyed wood and iron structure measured about 60 ft. by 12 ft.

The fire was first noticed by Miss Gertrude Modystach, who called her father and telephoned the Fire Brigade. There was no chance of saving the stable when two brigade appliances arrived, but they cut the flames off where they were spreading to a large L-shaped stack of about £150 worth of firewood. Directed by Deputy Chief Cook and Senior Fireman L. A. Fry (Unley), the brigade also saved a nearby shed containing cut firewood. Other horses, which were in an adjoining yard, and were unharmed, were Golden Gift, Diana's Choice and Main Basil. Three vehicles that were in the yard near the flames, two trucks and a car, had been driven to safety.

Until the brigade arrived. D. Edwards played a garden hose on the fire. The house, about 30 yards from the fire was un-damaged. Perplexity as to the cause of the fire was expressed by Mr. Cameron, who said that the horses were watered before he left home about noon. Mr. Cameron added that a petrol engine and circular saw nearby had not worked for two days, there had been no fires in the yard, and no smoking in the stable, which had been cleaned that morning.

Brought by Mr. Cameron to Adelaide only a few weeks ago from New South Wales, Towrang Boy was a particularly smart pacer and was to have participated in the Inter-Dominion Championships at Wayville at the end of this month. The horse was a bay gelding by Lulu Boy from Girl Burlington. From 130 yards behind, the horse finished unplaced in the Hampden Stakes (two miles) at Wayville last Saturday week. Constable J. Hilary, of Colonel Light Gardens, is preparing a report for the Coroner.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 18 January 1937, page 2

Much Ado About Almost Nothing

Four fire appliances, including an extension ladder, from brigade headquarters, turned out last night in response to an alarm from Gouger street, City. The alarm was given for a motor cycle which backfired and caught alight when its owner, Alfred Charles Beck, of Coglein street, City, attempted to start it.

...An effort was made before the brigade arrived to extinguish the flames by wrapping the machine in a piece of tarpaulin, but this failed. Two fire extinguishers put out the blaze and little damage was done to the machine.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 19 January 1937, page 7

BOYS TAKEN TO POLICE STATION

Firemen's Prompt Act

Most young boys would shriek with delight if given the opportunity of riding on a fire-engine, but two young Adelaide boys howled with fear today when they were seized by six firemen on South terrace, placed on a fire appliance, and driven to the City Watchhouse. The boys, aged 10 and nine, were seen playing near a broken fire alarm, which had been maliciously rung, with the result that three fire appliances and Chief-Officer Whyte dashed to the scene from brigade headquarters. The boys were terrified when the firemen seized them, but after questioning at the watchhouse they were allowed to go. Subsequently police inquiries were made, and the name of the 10-year-old boy was taken. It is not known yet whether any action will be taken.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 23 January 1937, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

Motor Cycle On Fire.—In thick traffic in Gouger street, city, last evening, a motor cycle belonging to Reginald Naughton Sorrell, of Maxwell avenue, Edwardstown, caught fire. Only slight damage was caused before it was extinguished by the Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 25 January 1937, page 7

NEIGHBORS PUT OUT KITCHEN BLAZE

Outbreak at Glandore

In response to cries for help, neighbors entered the home of Mrs. Emma Roberts, an elderly cripple, at Wellington street, Glandore, today, and extinguished a fire which had broken out in the kitchen. A hole was burned in the ceiling and other slight damage was done. Mrs. Roberts, who uses an invalid chair to move about the house, left a kerosene stove alight in

the kitchen while she was in a front room making a bed. She had been in the room about five minutes when she smelt smoke. When she reached the kitchen she found portion of the room on fire. Mrs. Roberts attempted to couple a hose with a tap, but finding she was unable to do this, screamed for help. Mrs. M. M. Smoker, a neighbor, got in by a front window and opened the door for other neighbors, who took Mrs. Roberts out of the house. The hose was soon connected with the tap, and when the fire brigade arrived the fire was practically out. Constable Schroeder, of Plympton, is preparing a report for the city coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 26 January 1937, page 19

CRIPPLE BRAVELY FIGHTS FIRE

Woman In Wheel Chair Holds Hose In Arms

"One of the most courageous acts I have encountered," was the comment of Chief Fire Officer J. J. Whyte on the action of an elderly woman in holding a garden hose between her arms—her hands are crippled—and fighting from a wheel chair a blaze in her kitchen at Glandore yesterday morning.

Although able to move about only in the wheel chair and, although her hands are stiffened by rheumatism, Mrs. Emma Roberts, of Wellington street, Glandore, was not daunted when, after having lit a kerosene stove, she found her kitchen on fire. Wheeling herself outside and calling for help, Mrs. Roberts promptly connected up the garden hose, trundled back into the smoke-filled kitchen, and continued to play the hose on the fire until neighbours arrived. Damage in the ceiling and portion of the contents of the kitchen was caused before the brigade arrived. Constable Schroeder, of Plympton, submitted a report to the Assistant City Coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekmann), who deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 26 January 1937, page 22

Charged With Causing False Fire Alarm

Speedily answering a call from the Sturt street fire alarm about 6.45 p.m. yesterday. Chief Officer J. J. Whyte and firemen made enquiries in the vicinity, which led to the arrest of an elderly man. Later, at the City Watchhouse, Ernest Bevan, 59, of Angas street, city, was charged with having caused a false fire alarm. He will probably appear in court today.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 2 February 1937, page 16

Fire At Motor Garage

A fire occurred shortly after 9.15 a.m. yesterday at the rear of Hicks Motor House, North terrace, Kent Town. While rubbish was being burnt, the fire spread to some old tyres, which blazed up. Confectionery and other goods were also damaged in a storeroom of W. Bertram, caterer, next door. The fire was practically under control before the arrival of appliances from Norwood and the city. A report for the City coroner (Mr. Blackburn) is being prepared by Constable Rigert, of St. Peters.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 4 February 1937, page 21

Car Partly Burnt At Garage

Fire severely damaged the hood, upholstery and paintwork of a tourer car, owned by Mr. A. A. Toll, of Fisher street, Norwood, parked yesterday morning at the premises of Alwyn Schulz, motor car dealer, of Currie street, Adelaide. A garage assistant, Sidney Corston, of Semaphore Park, who pushed nearby cars out of reach of the flames, was treated later at a chemist's shop for burns on the arms. The fire was quickly extinguished by the Adelaide Fire Brigade before the bonnet and engine of the car were damaged.

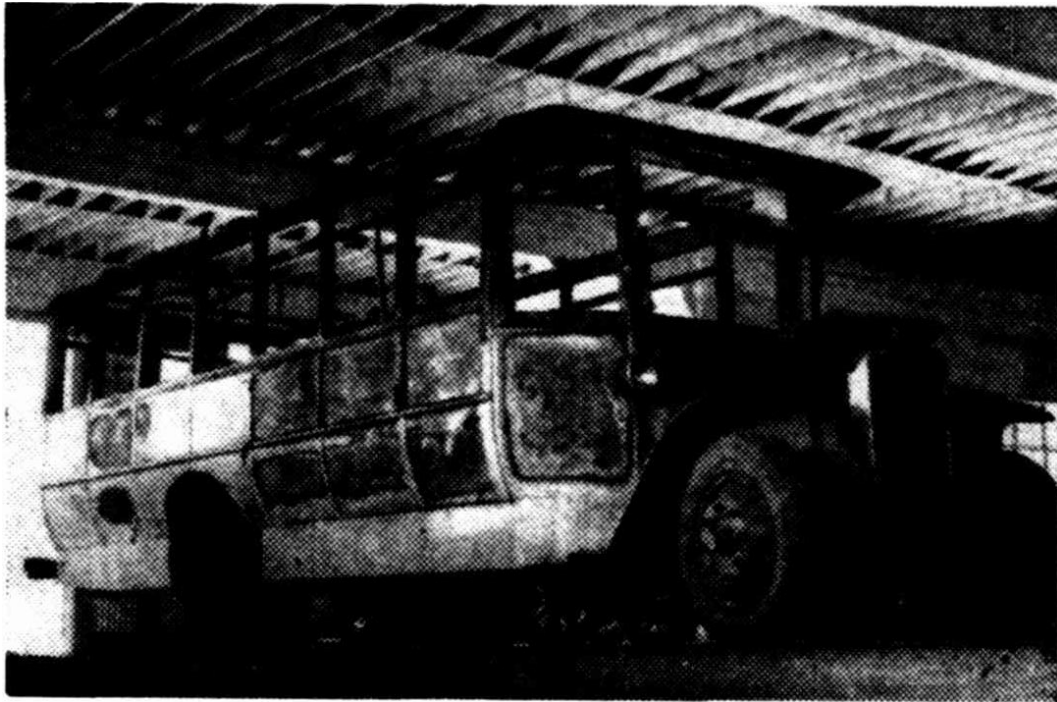
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 February 1937, page 20

Molasses Blaze In Chemical Factory

Prompt notification by persons living near the wood and iron premises of Harmony Products Ltd., chemists, North street, city, last night, enabled the brigade to extinguish blazing molasses before much damage had been caused. The molasses were being heated by an electrical unit. Only a few weeks ago, the brigade was called to a fire among some rubbish at this factory.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 6 February 1937, page 1

BUS DESTROYED BY FIRE



THE WRECKAGE of the 35-seater motor bus which caught alight in Light square today.

Motor Bus Destroyed By Flames in City

FLAMES leapt high after a 35 seater motor bus had caught alight in Light square, city, about 10.30 a.m. today. The blaze quickly destroyed the body, woodwork, and seating of the bus, which was valued at £600. The chassis and engine were also damaged. There were no passengers in the bus, which ran between Adelaide and Ascot Park, but the driver, William Thomas Phillips, of Gilles street, had a narrow escape from being burnt. "I had just filled up at a bowser," said Phillips. "I had switched the engine on and put my foot on the starter when flames shot out from the petrol tank. I jumped out and used my fire extinguisher, but the flames had too strong a hold." A firefighting appliance and the salvage van from fire brigade headquarters were on the scene within a few minutes of the outbreak. To check the burning petrol the fire men used a "foam" extinguisher. This is a special appliance for use on inflammable oils. Its contents exclude oxygen from the flames. The blaze was put out within a quarter of an hour, but the flames had been so fierce that the bus looked little better than debris. Only the tyres seemed to have escaped completely. The cause of the fire is not known. The bus is owned by Mr. A. W. Sinfield, of Wheaton street, Vermont.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 8 February 1937, page 23

Petrol Causes Fire

A minor explosion of petrol at 9.46 a.m. yesterday in the laundry of a house at the Grove, Dulwich, occupied by Mrs. A. Drew, caused a fire which damaged clothing, destroyed the

contents of the room, and slightly damaged the washhouse itself. The explosion occurred while Mrs. Harford, a boarder, was cleaning clothing with petrol, some vapor from which was ignited by a fire in the copper. Appliances from the city and Norwood brigades answered the call.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 17 February 1937, page 23

GAS MASKS TO BE SENT BY PLANE TODAY

Adelaide Equipment For Wonthaggi

FIRE BRIGADE ACTION

Modern Apparatus

About 350 lb. of gas mask equipment will be dispatched by the S.A. Fire Brigade to Melbourne by plane this morning for use in the work of recovering men still entombed in the Wonthaggi coal mine. This was authorised last night by the chairman of the S.A. Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson).

Sensitive valves and tubes, on which the rescuers' lives will depend, were packed by Adelaide Fire headquarters officers last night with the greatest care. Realising that the Wonthaggi authorities were running short of a particularly effective modern type of self-breathing equipment. Mr. Jackson made an offer, which was gratefully accepted.

The Chief Officer of the S.A. Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) has a personal interest in the Wonthaggi tragedy. Three years ago he trained nine of the 13 missing men in mine rescue work. Others of the 25 men Mr. Whyte then trained are engaged in the rescue work. Entirely self-contained breathing is ensured to wearers for two hours by the four British "Proto" respirators included in the shipment which will leave Parafield at 7.30 a.m. today in the Australian National Airways plane. The "Protos" include high pressure oxygen cylinders and chemicals which purify and cool the air. The two "Burrell" gas masks also included are of another pattern, only effective when there is a certain proportion of oxygen in the air. Recharges for the masks and various accessories will also be dispatched.

"Little Hope Of Rescue"

There is not a million to one chance of any of the men being found alive, said Mr. Whyte, who knows the Wonthaggi mine well. Any man who might not have been killed by the explosion of the damp (methane) would have been poisoned by the deadly "after-damp" (carbon monoxide). "Fire-damp is explosive, but not poisonous or asphyxiating, except in large quantities. Imprisoned in the coal, the methane is released as the coal is broken down.

"Three weeks elapsed in 1922 before I and six mine officials were able to recover the bodies of two deputies, Johnson and Harry, who had been overcome by carbon monoxide in the bottom of a shaft in the McBride tunnel." added Mr. Whyte. "All of the 13 believed to have been killed this week were mine officials, comprising deputies or underground managers. It is the duty of deputies continually to test the gas content of air in the mine. When necessary, more air is put into circulation by speeding up the circulating fans. No man is allowed to go below when the gas in the air is known to be approaching an explosive mixture. "The Proto masks being used at Wonthaggi are of a similar type to half a dozen which were obtained by the South Australian Fire Brigade shortly before my appointment as chief. Containing 6 lb. of chemicals, each Proto weighs 45 lb. After two hours' use, they require to be recharged with oxygen and chemicals to continue to be effective." Mr. Allison, of the Western Oxygen Company, worked late last night checking certain Adelaide Fire Brigade respiratory equipment which may be used at Wonthaggi.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 18 February 1937, page 18

Twelve To Sit At Exams For Fire Engineers

Twelve candidates will sit at examinations to be held in Adelaide late next month for qualification in the British Institution of Fire Engineers. A branch of the institution is to be formed soon in the State. At present, two members of the Adelaide brigade are enrolled in the Victorian branch. These are Chief Officer J. J. Whyte (associate) and Fireman A. F. Fraser, of Adelaide headquarters, who topped the Empire list of graduates at the last examinations. Fireman Fraser will be a candidate for associate membership at the coming examination.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 18 February 1937, page 20

Thanks For Adelaide Gas Masks

Thanks to the South Australian Fire Brigade for the dispatch by plane yesterday of gas masks for use in the recovery of men entombed in the Wonthaggi coal mine, was contained in a telegram received by Chief Officer J. J. Whyte from the manager of the Wonthaggi Mine (Mr. McLeish). Mr. McLeish added:—"Thanks in no small measure to your training, the leader and members of the brigade are fully trained and competent to carry out rescue work with all that you know it entails." Mr. Whyte was instructor in rescue work at Wonthaggi from 1922 to 1934 and State Coal Mine Rescue examiner from 1934 to 1936.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 19 February 1937, page 7

FIRE AT HOME OF DOCTOR

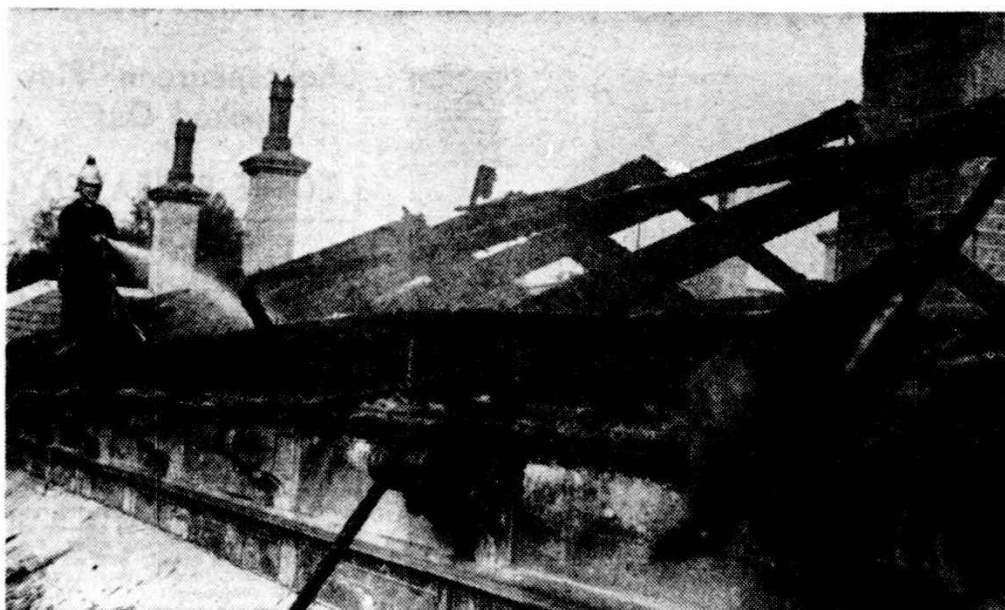
North Adelaide Blaze

A FIRE which started on the roof of Dr. J. A. Bonnin's residence at 48 Mills terrace, Lower North Adelaide, destroyed three rooms before it was under control. Painters were working on the roof at the time. Much of the furniture in the rooms was removed, and there was also a fairly heavy loss of books and pictures. It is believed that insurance will fully cover the damage.

Three reels from Fire Brigade headquarters, in charge of Chief Fire Officer Whyte, were early on the scene, and quickly prevented the flames from spreading to other rooms. When the brigade started to fight the fire an inadequate water supply seriously interfered with their operations.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 20 February 1937, page 5

FIGHTING FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE



A FIREMAN PLAYING WATER on the burnt roof of Dr. J. A. Bonnin's home at Mills terrace, North Adelaide, yesterday afternoon, when fire destroyed four rooms. A painter's blow torch set wooden roof beams alight and this caused the blaze.

FIRE OUTSIDE ITS DISTRICT

Hindmarsh Brigade Could Not Attend

DOCTOR CRITICAL

DR. J. A. Bonnin, whose home at North Adelaide suffered heavy damage in a fire yesterday afternoon, considers that the circumstances were more than usually unfortunate. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called, but could not attend as the fire was out of its district, and the appliances which attended from metropolitan headquarters were severely handicapped by a poor water pressure. Dr. Bonnin said a request to the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, which he and his neighbors had supported for nearly 20 years, had been met with a polite refusal. "We dare not come into the metropolitan area," the Hindmarsh officials said, according to the next door neighbor, who rang them. It so happened that no delay in calling a brigade occurred, as Mrs. Bonnin had put a call through to city headquarters, simultaneously with the call to Hindmarsh, from her own home before the telephone wires burnt through. But the doctor, who lost valuable books and paintings in the fire, was critical today regarding the red tape which prevented a fire brigade situated less than five minutes away from his home accepting a call "because it was not in its district."

FIRE CHIEF'S EXPLANATION

The Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said today that the Hindmarsh Brigade acted quite rightly. If that brigade had attended the fire he would have sent it back. Although he appreciated the work the brigade had done from time to time. it could not have helped yesterday. The practice of a brigade not going outside its district was a good one. Mr. Whyte said that most suburbs had a poor water supply on very hot days. This was due to the extra water used for watering gardens and for domestic purposes. The suburban mains were usually of from three to six inches, and a three inch main was useless for firefighting. At North Adelaide yesterday his appliances were working on three, four, and five inch mains, and still were not getting the necessary water.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 February 1937, page 1

Fire at Destructor

The Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the City Council rubbish destructor in Halifax street at 10.30 tonight to extinguish a fire that had broken out in the refuse piled at the rear of the incinerator. Smoke was pouring through the roof of the building when the brigade arrived. The outbreak was quickly brought under control.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 February 1937, page 1

CRAZY JOY RIDE BY CAR THIEVES

Speeding At 100 M.P.H.

POLICE CHASE

DASHING through the city in the early hours of this morning at from 80 to 100 m.p.h., in a stolen Rolls-Royce car, valued at £2,500, car thieves led police a merry chase before the vehicle caught fire in Colonel Light Gardens and was abandoned. Police officials today told a dramatic story of the wild chase through the city streets and suburbs.

The stolen car out-distanced its pursuers, who were guided by the screaming of tyres and a shower of sparks caused by a trailing bumper bar. Residents along the route of the chase left their beds and stood in night attire to watch the cars. Crowds gathered in King William street

as the Rolls Royce, estimated to be travelling at more than 80 miles an hour, speeded across intersections regardless of late traffic. During the pursuit, the engine of a motor cycle outfit seized when the machine was travelling at 65 miles an hour. Skilful driving prevented a serious accident.

Five high-powered cars were stolen last night and were used by the thieves in their mad escapade, which extended for nearly eight hours. The value of the cars aggregated £5,300. The first intimation that car thieves were at work was when a call was received at the Detective Office at 9.40 o'clock that a Vauxhall motor car valued at £300, belonging to Sisters Adelaide Solly and Gertrude Giddings, had been taken from Moseley street, Glenelg, an hour earlier. Police officials allege that the thieves, later found to be two young men accompanied by two young women, drove in the car to North Adelaide, and then returned to Glenelg.

Broke Into Garage

The girls then left the men, who broke into a garage and stole two Wolseley cars owned by Miss Evelyn Scarfe and Mr. A. A. Scarfe. Each was valued at £500. Taking a car each, the thieves raced towards the city. At Everard Park one of the Wolseley cars was abandoned, and a powerful car was taken from the home of Dr. Clifford Robert Eugene Downing. This vehicle was valued at £1,500. Still continuing their race in the stolen cars, the men drove through the city streets to North Adelaide, where Dr. Downing's car was abandoned and the Rolls Royce sedan car, belonging to Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, was taken from Brougham place. One man remained in the Wolseley car and the other drove the Rolls Royce until the vehicles collided outside the Detective Office at the corner of King William and Angus streets. The Wolseley car was damaged and was abandoned.

Last Stage of Ride

The men then set off on the last stage of their crazy joy ride, which did not end until after the fugitives had been pursued through North Adelaide, Norwood, the city, Unley Park, and Mitcham. After leaving Mitcham the car twisted and doubled through the semi-circular streets of Colonel Light Gardens. It is believed that as it crossed the railway line a rear tyre blew out. The tyre was torn to shreds, and the rim of the wheel damaged. So over-heated was the wheel that it set fire to the car. The car came to rest on the footpath between a tree and a telephone post, and the thieves made off on foot.

An appliance from the City Fire Brigade rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze. About £50 damage was done to the vehicle.

Two Before Court

In the Adelaide Police Court today Eric Seeley, motor driver, of Alison street, St. Leonards, and Sydney Arthur Nixon, laborer, of Camden, were charged before Mr. H. M. Muirhead, P.M., with having illegally used a car belonging to Sisters Solly and Giddings. They pleaded guilty, and were remanded until Tuesday, March 2, for sentence. Nixon, who the Assistant Police Prosecutor (Mr. Bond) said was on bail in connection with another matter which concerned another court, did not ask for bail. Seeley was granted bail of £160, with two sureties of £80 each. Mr. Bond said that the two men and two young women had been drunk when they left Glenelg. The men had been arrested at their homes early this morning. Both were single, and living with their parents. The arresting officers were Detectives Curtis and Packman. Plainclothes Constable Schlein, and Motor Traffic Constable McCullum.



TORN TO RIBBONS In an 80 mile-an-hour chase through the city and suburbs last night—all that remains of a tyre (beneath) of a rear wheel of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith's £2,500 Rolls Royce car, which was stolen from outside a residence in Brougham place, North Adelaide, last night.

The car was later abandoned in Colonel Light Gardens when the damaged rear wheel (top) became over-heated and set fire to the car.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 27 February 1937, page 24

Detection Of False Fire Alarms

For the second time in a few weeks enquiries made by officers of the Fire Brigade have led to persons alleged to have made malicious call being questioned. Following a false call to West terrace this week, the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) visited a house in the west-end and questioned a boy. Another boy was questioned later, and prosecutions will be launched by the police. The brigade has been called out on false alarms on a number of occasions this year. Recently a man was imprisoned for seven days for having set off an alarm in Sturt street.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 1 March 1937, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unusual Job For Fire Brigade—After three appliances in the charge of Deputy Fire Chief E. W. Cook had gone to the premises of Kearns Brothers, Bank street, city, on Saturday night, it was found that a fault had occurred in an automatic spray. This had set an alarm ringing. To avoid damage by water from the spray, furnishings were covered with cloths and the floor covered with sawdust.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 March 1937, page 18

FALSE ALARM DANGERS

Points Stressed By Fire Chief

LOSS OF LIFE

DANGERS which might result from malicious false alarms were stressed today by the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte), commenting on the 110 calls of this type received last year. This number was nearly one-fifth of the total calls responded to by the brigades throughout the State.

The fire appliances had to travel at high speed, and the first danger was of being involved in an accident which might cause loss of life, said Mr. Whyte. The second danger was that when genuine alarms were given the appliances might be away from the stations attending false calls. Naturally, the brigades would be late on the scene, and again there was the danger of loss of life and property. Expense was involved in turning out the appliances, added Mr. Whyte. The cost of running four appliances a mile was about £1, but the cost was inestimable if the brigade were away from the station when a genuine alarm was given. The first few minutes were the critical period with a fire.

MAN SENT TO GAOL

Four young boys of school-going age were coming up for trial shortly on charges of having maliciously operated street alarms, Mr. Whyte said, and last month a man had been sent to gaol for this offence. People who gave false calls were not actually aware of the enormity of their offence, but were inclined to treat it as a joke. Fire alarms were placed in the streets for the specific purpose of protecting life and property. There was a big discrepancy in the time required to operate a street alarm and raise the brigade switchboard attendant by telephone. Adelaide citizens did not use the street alarms as much as they should for giving genuine calls. Giving an instance of this, Mr. Whyte said that a man recently spent some time calling the brigade by telephone when immediately outside his doorway was a street alarm. The operating of the alarm automatically gave the locality, sounded the sirens and bells at the station, and switched on the lights in the building.

Amplifying remarks on fire prevention, made recently at a Prospect Council meeting, Mr. Whyte said that one of the principal means of prevention today was the erection of fire-resisting buildings. These embodied stone-enclosed staircases, concrete ceilings and floors, rising mains with hose connections on each floor, and with fire doors situated in the various fire breaks throughout the buildings. If managers or owners of buildings had developed a fire sense, they saw that all debris was placed in steel containers, so that, if it should spontaneously ignite, it would not make contact with inflammable material.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 9 March 1937, page 5

HORSE COLLAPSES AT CITY INTERSECTION

Fire Call Adds to Mix-Up

A tight collar caused a horse, which with another was pulling a heavy load, to collapse while crossing the tramline at the intersection of King William and Angas streets this afternoon. The animal struggled to its feet again, but was too weak to continue.

While an Adelaide Electric Supply Co. lorry was towing the trolley out of the way of traffic, two appliances of the City Fire Brigade and the car of the chief officer (Mr. Whyte) responded to the call from a street alarm in Sturt street. This proved to be a malicious false alarm. The roadway near Angas street was almost blocked with the lorry and trolley when the fire appliances dashed by. This showed the danger that can result from malicious false alarms to the Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 10 March 1937, page 1

House Destroyed by Fire



AN OUTBREAK OF FIRE gutted a six-roomed house in Glen Stuart road, Rostrevor, early today, the furniture and other contents being completely destroyed. The above picture shows the remains of the bedroom of Miss Kathleen Kennedy Munro, the sole occupant of the residence. In attempting to save some of her property, Miss Munro singed her hair and burnt her face and hands slightly.

STORY OF MAN SEEN IN HALL CARRYING A TORCH

Woman Slightly Burnt in Rescuing Articles From Flames

TOLD POLICE SHE SPOKE TO INTRUDER

A story of a man with a torch having been seen in a house shortly before it was destroyed by fire early today at Rostrevor was told to the police by the sole occupant, a middle-aged woman, who was slightly burned on the face and hands.

Firemen searched portion of the house on arrival when told by the woman that a man was inside, and later examined the debris, but could find no body in the smouldering ruins. The house was almost gutted when the brigades arrived. Circumstances of the fire led to investigations by police officers, and shortly before noon the Acting City Coroner (Mr. McCann) and Plain-clothes Constable E. J. Davis visited the scene. The home, a well-built six-roomed villa standing in spacious grounds at Glen Stuart road, Rostrevor, was insured for £900, and furniture and effects were insured for £500.

OWNER IN NEW YORK

The owner, Mr. John Ernest Page, who is stated to be manager of the Gibson Box Co., George street, Sydney, is at present in New York on a business visit. The Norwood Fire Brigade, under Station-Officer Tyson, was summoned at 5 a.m. by the night attendant at the Old Folk's Home, and had just reached the scene with a pumping appliance when another pump from headquarters and Chief-Officer Whyte also arrived. The occupant of the house, Miss Kathleen Kennedy Munro, who nursed Mr. Page's wife before her death, had been living for some time alone in the house. When the brigades arrived the firemen found Miss Munro dragging articles from the blazing house. Her hair had been singed, and her hands and face slightly burned, and she was suffering from shock. Firemen rendered first aid, and later Miss Munro was taken to the home of a friend and put to bed. Miss Munro had managed to drag from the house a heavy chest, which, it was stated, a man would have found difficult to handle.

SAW MAN IN HALL

Miss Munro said that about 4.30 she heard a noise, and when it was repeated a little later she left her bed and went into the passage. She stated that she saw in the hall an exceptionally tall man, well over 6 ft. in height, clean shaven, and carrying a torch. When asked what he was doing there, he made no reply. Miss Munro said that she ran back into the bedroom and about 20 minutes later discovered that the house was on fire. Detective Hanrahan and Constable H. Clift, of the fingerprint branch, visited the scene and later a statement was secured from her.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 March 1937, page 16

Malicious Fire Call

A wild goose chase of four miles to Torrens Park for the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. Whyte) and two fire brigade reels — one from headquarters and one from Unley — shortly after 7 tonight, the outcome of a malicious call to the Unley Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 15 March 1937, page 1

WILD GOOSE CHASE FOR FIREMEN

Another False Alarm

Twelve weary firemen had some unkind things to say about the perverted sense of humor of a person who called them from their beds at 1 a.m. yesterday on a wild goose chase. Someone operated a street alarm at Keswick, and immediately the sirens were set in operation at the brigade headquarters in Wakefield street, and the lights in the building were

automatically switched on. The firemen tumbled from their beds and were quickly on the scene of the supposed fire. But it was just another malicious false alarm. It was the second call like this within six hours. Early on Saturday evening the firemen dashed to Torrens Park, more than four miles from the city, only to find that there was no fire to fight. Of 585 calls answered by the brigades in this State last year, 110 were malicious.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 19 March 1937, page 3

STORY OF MAN IN HOUSE

Seen in Passage Before Fire

OPEN FINDING

A MIDDLE-AGED spinster told the Acting City Coroner (Mr. McCann) at a fire inquest today the story of how she had found a strange man in her house at 4.30 a.m. on March 10, and how, 20 minutes later, she had found the passage full of smoke. Mr. McCann's finding was that a fire had occurred at the home of John Ernest Page at Glen Stuart road, Woodford, on March 10, but on the evidence he could not say how it originated. Constable F. C. R. Nottage, of Magill, said that when he went to the scene of the fire early on March 10 he found Miss Katherine Kennedy Munro, the occupant of the house, sitting on a chair on a lawn at the side of the house. Her face was blackened with smoke, her hair was singed, and her hands were bandaged. Miss Munro told him that about 4.30 a.m. she was awakened by an unusual noise. She went into the passage and saw a man about 6 ft. 6 in. tall, of slight build, clean shaven, and dressed in dark clothes. He had a lighted torch in his hand. She asked him what he wanted, and he grunted.

HOUSE INSURED

"She said that she rushed back to her bedroom," continued Constable Nottage, "and stayed there for about 20 minutes. When she came into the passage again she saw the house full of smoke. She then dragged three trunks from her bedroom on to the lawn. "She could give no information about the cause of the fire, but told me that the house was insured for £900 and the furniture and effects for £500." Constable Nottage added that when he inspected the house he found the taps over the wash basin and bath and the shower running. He had not been able to get any information about the man seen in the passage.

Katherine Kennedy Munro, spinster, said that the house belonged to her brother-in-law, John Ernest Page. She had been living there for six and a half years, and had been there alone since Mr. Page went away 18 months ago. He was now in New York, and she was acting as his attorney. The house had been for sale. The State Bank held a mortgage over the property for about £300. Miss Munro told the coroner that all the windows and doors were locked when she went to bed on the night of the fire. A noise in the house awakened her about 4.30 a.m. She switched on the bedroom light, went into the passage, and saw a very tall man there with a torch. She said, "What do you want here?" and he only grunted.

"FULL OF SMOKE"

She said that she rushed back to her room and dressed, and when she went into the passage again it was full of smoke. She rushed to the washhouse and pulled out a trunk before beginning to save things from her bedroom. She was doing this when the fire brigade arrived. She used a kerosene stove to do her cooking, and there was half a tin of kerosene in the washhouse. As far as she could tell this was still intact after the fire had broken out. She had not turned on the bathroom taps. Chief-Officer J. J. Whyte, of the South Australian Fire Brigade, said that when he arrived at the fire the roof was beginning to fall in. Miss Munro said to him, "There's a man inside." Later she described how she had seen a man in the passage. He searched the building, and was certain that no one had been destroyed by the fire. He said he thought the fire had started in or near the kitchen cellar. The kerosene stove had been damaged, but not entirely destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 22 March 1937, page 19

SERIOUSLY BURNED AFTER COLLISION

Two Cyclists Admitted To Hospital

Two men received serious burns when the motor cycle on which they were riding collided with a motor car and trailer and caught fire at the corner of Goodwood road and Park terrace yesterday morning.

They were:—

JOSEPH KLEMENT, 35, engineer, of William street, Goodwood Park; burns on arm and body, lacerations and shock; condition serious; in Adelaide Hospital.

SAMUEL RAVEN, 53, clerk, married, of Mill street, Clarence Park; burns on arm and body and shock; in Adelaide Hospital.

The two men were in a shocking plight when they received assistance, their clothes having been alight and practically burnt off when they had been dragged along the roadway. They were tangled underneath their motor cycle, which, when it struck the car, had punctured the petrol tank. The cycle, it is understood, almost immediately burst into flames, and a stream of petrol from the hole in the car's petrol tank fed the flames as the terrified men struggled to get free. They were caught between the car and the trailer, and when they managed to crawl out, they ran about the road in agony.

Klement and Raven were riding north along Goodwood road towards Adelaide when the crash occurred, and the motor car and trailer, driven by Eric Stasey Hockney, was travelling west along Park terrace. Both men on the motor cycle received shocking burns, the skin of each being rolled off in large quantities from hips to ankles. Their arms and hands, also, were badly injured. After help arrived they were taken to a nearby motor garage, and first-aid was rendered, and the fire extinguished by members of the Adelaide Fire Brigade under Station-Officer T. M. Davis. Fireman Gray was sent to the Adelaide Hospital with the men in a police ambulance. Both the cycle and car were damaged. The driver of the car was uninjured.

Accompanied by his wife, who is in delicate health, he was on his way to Victor Harbour for a health trip. Constable Lindsay, of the Goodwood police, and Constable Goldfinch, of Adelaide, enquired into the collision.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 23 March 1937, page 21

Small Fire In Hairdresser's Shop

Thought to have been caused by a child playing with a box of matches, a fire in a room at the rear of a shop in Morphett street destroyed a quantity of wearing apparel at 7 p.m. yesterday. The occupier of the premises is Ernest Charles Wordley, hairdresser. When the Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer Whyte, arrived, it was found that the occupants had almost extinguished the flames, only slight damage being caused to the building.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 24 March 1937, page 11

Furniture Factory Fire

The roof and the electrical installation of the timber drying room at the factory of Furness Ltd., piano manufacturers, at South road, Edwardstown, was damaged by fire this afternoon. The timber in the room was removed with practically no damage. An estimate of the loss has not yet been made. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade responded to the call.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 31 March 1937, page 1

VICTIM OF FUMES RECOVERS

Collapse in Boiler

Alan Parsons, 19, of Torrensville, who was overcome by fumes while painting the interior of a boiler at the Torrenside Woollen Mills, Taylor's road, West Thebarton, late yesterday afternoon, had almost completely recovered today. Parsons fell while climbing out of the boiler, and for about an hour was jammed between struts in an 18-in. aperture. He was eventually freed by Fireman F. Whitefield and Station Officer H. Patton, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, who donned masks and descended into the aperture. Three workmates had narrow escapes from being overcome by the fumes while attempting to rescue Parsons before the arrival of the firemen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 31 March 1937, page 19

MAN GASSED IN BOILER

Jammed Helplessly After Fall

FIREMEN MAKE RESCUE

Half Hour To Free Victim

Overcome by fumes while painting the interior of a boiler at the Torrenside Woollen Mills, Taylor's road, West Thebarton, late yesterday afternoon, Alan Parsons, 19, of Torrensville, lay helplessly for about an hour, jammed where he fell between struts in an 18-inch aperture. Three workmates also escaped narrowly in making rescue efforts. Later, wearing gas masks, two fire officers, one of whom was lowered on a rope, pushed and struggled for about half an hour before they were able to hoist the moaning and almost unconscious man to the surface.

Parsons responded to oxygen treatment from the fire brigade's "Novita" carbogen resuscitating apparatus. This supplies 95 per cent. oxygen and 5 per cent. carbon dioxide. Last night Parsons was making satisfactory progress at the Adelaide Hospital. Masks and resuscitating equipment used by the firemen had been returned only yesterday morning from the Wonthaggi (Vic.) coal mine, where the gear was loaned after the recent disastrous explosion.

Coming Up For "Breather"

With three other men—Harold Martin, of Ware street, Thebarton; Claude Killworth, of Adelaide; and Stanley Male, of Bowden, Parsons was working between the shell of the boiler and the firebox painting the inside with anti-corrosive paint, which gave off strong fumes. Martin, describing the collapse of his mate, said that, when the air in the boiler became too thick, they climbed up through the boiler for a "breather." The men were working in a narrow space, and they called to Parsons that they were going up for air. As he was climbing out, Martin heard a bump. He called to Parsons, but did not receive an answer. He then told the other men. They found that Parsons had slipped to the bottom of the boiler, where the gases were heaviest, and was unconscious. They tried to lift him, but he was jammed under a strut between the boiler and the firebox. When their efforts failed, one of them called for help, and the others worked frantically to free their mate. The S.A. ambulance at Hindmarsh was telephoned immediately, and Ambulance Officers P. Miller. L. Plenty, and A. G. Lamb rushed to the scene with two ambulance vehicles and gas masks.

Fast Dash By Firemen

Another call was put through to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters, and Chief Officer J. J. Whyte and other firemen in a gas equipment van hurried to West Thebarton. Chief Officer Whyte immediately took charge of operations. Wearing the "Burrell" masks, Fireman F. Whitefield and Station Officer H. Patton descended into the aperture. With a rope round his waist. Fireman Whitefield worked vigorously to free the man's feet. Station Officer H. Patton also had a difficult task in pulling the upper portion of the victim's body clear. It is thought that the impurity of the air in the boiler was probably caused by the breathing of the several workmen in a confined space, as well as by the paint fumes. Chief Officer Whyte said that, from the appearance of the man's lips, it appeared probable that there were traces of carbon

monoxide present in the boiler, but this could not have been very strong. The firemen were assisted in the rescue by employes and the mill manager, Mr. Taylor.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 1 April 1937, page 17

PERSONAL

The chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) yesterday completed his first year in that office, having begun duty on April 1, 1936. During the 12 months many improvements have been made in the equipment of the brigades and the training of the men.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 April 1937, page 2

Hot Fan Causes Alarm

When the electric fan ran hot at the rear of a window at Miller Anderson Ltd., Hindley street, City, this afternoon, the window space became filled with smoke. A police sergeant gave the alarm and appliances from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade under Deputy Officer Cook were quickly on the scene.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 3 April 1937, page 3

Verandah Fire.—Believed to have been started by a spark from a copper fire, a fire damaged an enclosed back verandah and a quantity of wearing apparel at a house in Hutt street, early today. Three appliances from the Metropolitan Brigade, under Deputy Officer Cook, attended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 5 April 1937, page 14

Small Fire In City Street

Slight damage to a closed verandah, wearing apparel and other articles, was done by a fire at premises occupied by W. Reiche in Ada street, off Sturt street, city, on Saturday. The blaze, which was begun by a spark from a copper fire about 11.10 a.m., was extinguished by the Fire Brigade. Three appliances, under Deputy-Officer E. W. Cook, answered the call. Four appliances under the same officer went to the premises of Miller Anderson Ltd., Hindley street, city, at 3.8 p.m. on Saturday. A fan which had apparently been left running in a shop window became overheated. The window was filled with smoke, but there was no fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 5 April 1937, page 2

MILE-END SHED AND CONTENTS BURNT

Car There Shortly Before

A shed and its contents and about 30 ft. of paling fence were destroyed by fire early today at Cuming street, Mile-End. The shed was used as a garage and workshop, and the contents included a carpenter's bench, tools, and a bicycle. The owner, Mr. Henry Shanks, had left in his motor car about an hour earlier. The cause of the fire is unknown. Thebarton Fire Brigade, under Station-Officer Goddard, responded to the call, and a motor pump from city headquarters, under Station-Officer McCallum, also went to the scene.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 April 1937, page 7

Carnival for Nurses At Woodville

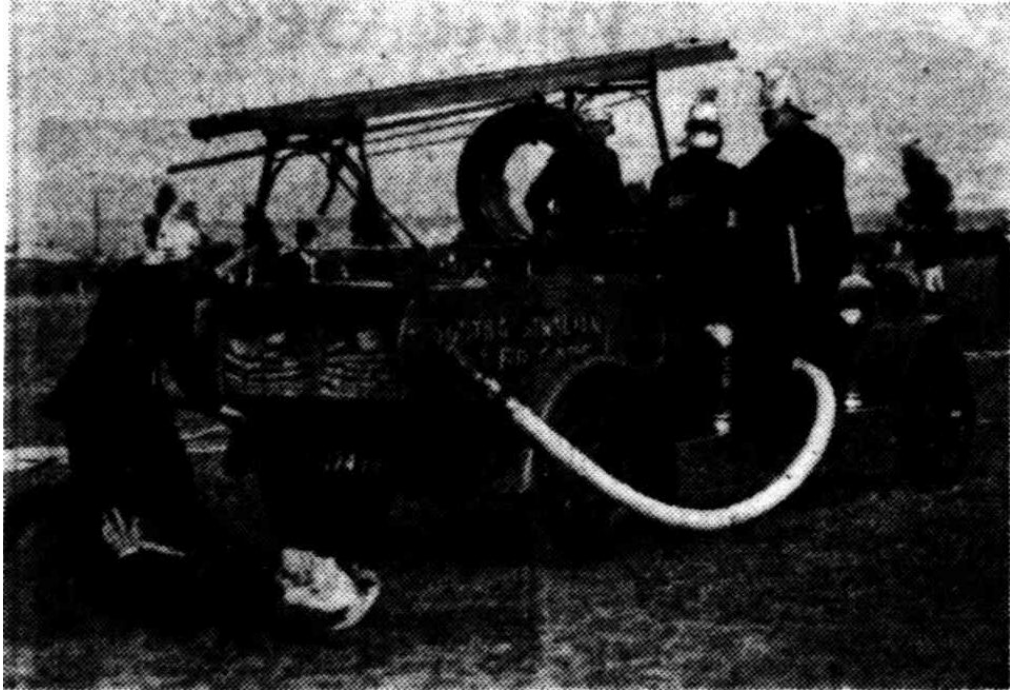
A horses-in action programme, together with several novelty events, was conducted at a carnival on the Woodville Oval this afternoon to raise funds for the local branch of the District Trained Nursing Society. The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Woodville (Mr. J. S. Butler).

Port Adelaide Boy Scouts engaged in a tent-pitching contest, and members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade took part in a horizontal bar display and a pump competition.

School bands from the district marched from the town hall to the oval before the carnival. Military and police horses competed in some of the events.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 April 1937, page 15

Fireman's Unrehearsed Turn at Carnival



A MEMBER OF THE SUBURBAN TEAM provided the spectators with a laugh when he fell harmlessly from a fire brigade motor during a competition for firemen at the carnival at Woodville Oval this afternoon. The carnival was held to raise funds for the Woodville branch of the District Trained Nursing Society.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 13 April 1937, page 17

Lights To Clear Way For Fire Brigade

Plans for the stoppage by the lights system of cross traffic in King William street on occasions when Fire Brigade motor appliances have to speed along this route to a call, are being discussed by the police. As far as possible, however, the brigade will avoid using King William street.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 13 April 1937, page 6

Ever Ready To Fight City Fires

By LANCE

Fire, which annually takes its toll of human lives and property throughout the world, has been most subdued in Adelaide in recent years. There has been scarcely a major outbreak during that period, although almost daily the metropolitan and suburban brigades are called out to extinguish minor fires. Many of these could have reached alarming proportions were it not for the promptness of Adelaide's firemen in responding to the alarm, and the up-to-date equipment with which they fight the flames.

If the chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) has his way, Adelaide will not have a repetition of some of the disastrous fires of a few years ago. Like all fire chiefs throughout the world, he believes in the adage "Prevention is better than cure." "Prevention" is the cry throughout the fire-fighting world today, and, like the Boy Scouts, the firemen are

prepared for all eventualities. Within 45 seconds of an alarm being received at headquarters in Wakefield street, Adelaide, the scarlet appliances, with sirens sounding their strident warning to traffic ahead, are speeding to the outbreak. Some Adelaide citizens are inclined to be critical of, and perhaps to describe as ridiculous. the sight of maybe four appliances dashing to the scene of what proves to be a small outbreak. It should be remembered in these instances that the call to the brigade has come through one of the 283 street alarms situated in the metropolitan and suburban areas.

ALARM BY CODE

These alarms give only a code signal, and cannot inform the switchboard attendant of the nature or extent of the fire. They convey only the locality of the outbreak. The turning of the handle after the glass is broken also causes the siren bells at headquarters to sound, and automatically switches on the electric lights of the building. When such a call is received from a city alarm, Mr. Whyte believes in taking no chances, and all the firemen and equipment necessary to deal with a conflagration are despatched without delay. The appliances not required return immediately to the station to await any further call, and as soon as the fire is extinguished the remaining appliances go back, leaving only the salvage crew on the scene. It has to be remembered that the risks of fire in Adelaide are just as big as those in Sydney and Melbourne, although there are not so many of them. A fire in a city block could cause hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of damage if not quickly checked. In most large cities of the world special staffs are employed by the fire brigade boards to inspect factories, warehouses, and business premises, and to advise the managements of various dangers, such as spontaneous combustion, friction, flues, open doorways, and large areas unprotected by fire-breaks. Several large buildings in Port Adelaide would be almost impossible to save in the event of fire. They are without fire-breaks, and the flames could sweep through unchecked. The importance of fire-breaks, or dividing walls. cannot be over-estimated. The most difficult fires to fight are those, in many instances, that have started in the centre of a building and have a good hold before the alarm is given. Often in these outbreaks the firemen have to cope with choking fumes and deadly gases, and fight in intense heat.

GOOD FIRE FLOAT

Port Adelaide is fortunate in having a most efficient fire float. This can deliver 2,500 gallons, equivalent to more than 13 tons of water a minute. In addition to being able to pump from the river to cope with fires actually on the waterfront, the float carries 2,000 ft. of hose, so that land streams can be run from its pumps. Much of the damage in the recent big fire on the Melbourne waterfront would have been prevented had there been a float to assist the land appliances. It is not always remembered that a fire appliance or float, although not used for many years, will pay for itself within, perhaps, half an hour. The appliance may entail an initial expenditure of £1,000 to £30,000, but may be responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of pounds within a very short period.

Efficient equipment is essential. A heavy force of water is absolutely necessary in dealing with a large, or "hot," fire. A thin stream of water directed into the flames will only aid the blaze, as the heat disintegrates the water into its component parts of oxygen and hydrogen, upon which the flames feed. Designed to save life, property, and time, many new fire-fighting methods have been introduced into the appliances recently placed in commission in this State. These improvements and additions have brought South Australia into line with the most modern and best equipped brigades in the world. Citizens have every reason to be proud of their brigade and its members, and to be thankful for the knowledge that they are watching every minute of the day and night to protect lives and property from the menace of fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 15 April 1937, page 14

Firemen Seek Improved Wages And Conditions

A move to obtain shorter hours, increased wages and better conditions for fire brigade employes is being made by the Government Workers' Association. The general secretary of

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

the association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) said yesterday that, following the case submitted on behalf of the men by a deputation from the union, information had been received from the Fire Brigades Board that a thorough investigation was being made into the position and a reply to the requests would be made soon. The firemen are seeking one day off duty out of three instead of one day off out of four, as at present.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 15 April 1937, page 20

Firemen's Fruitless Effort To Rescue Magpie

Three members of Fire Brigade headquarters, with an extension ladder, were called out yesterday afternoon to rescue from a roof a magpie with a broken right wing and leg. Their humane mission was unsuccessful. The bird was first seen about 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday on a ledge at the top of the National Bank building at the corner of Pirie street and Gawler place by a man working in the State Bank building in Pirie street. He saw the bird again at noon yesterday, and telephoned the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The secretary of the Society (Miss E. Robins) communicated with the Fire Brigade station, and about 3 p.m. three firemen arrived with an extension ladder. Removing his boots when at the top of the ladder, a fireman climbed over the roof, but was unable to find the bird.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 17 April 1937, page 2

BETTER CONDITIONS FOR FIREMEN

Offer Made by Board

Increases in pay and leave concessions representing approximately 13 extra days off duty each year have been conceded firemen by the Fire Brigades Board. These are contained in a reply by the board to a deputation from the Government Workers' Association and will be considered by a mass meeting of fire brigade employes tomorrow week. The board has fixed the base rate at £4 a week—an increase of 5/6 a week. All marginal differences are to be maintained. Dealing with hours and leave the board suggests two days' leave in every seven, replacing the present system of two days off in every eight. The State secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass), who has received the board reply, would not comment pending a meeting of the men.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 April 1937, page 17

Injured By Fall

Thomas Guerin, 65, retired, of Payneham road, Payneham, fell in Wakefield street, city, on Saturday night near the fire station, and was taken by a member of the fire brigade to the Adelaide Hospital, where he was treated for cuts and abrasions to the hands.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 20 April 1937, page 20

FIREMEN REFUSE BOARD'S TERMS

Re-opening Of Negotiations Sought

A special committee representing all sections of fire brigade employes decided yesterday that the proposal of the Fire Brigades Board to grant firemen an increase of 5/6 a week in wages and to allow them two days off in seven was not satisfactory. They are satisfied with the wage increase, but want two days off in six. The general secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) said that the Board's offer of two days off in seven was less than a 4 per cent. improvement in hours. Possibly, it would introduce broken shift work, and the committee was opposed to that. The committee had asked the Board to re-open negotiations this week and to give more favorable consideration to the original requests of the men.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 April 1937, page 3

EMPIRE-WIDE TEST FOR FIREMEN

11 S.A. Men to Compete

Firemen in British possessions throughout the world will probably sit for the annual examination of the British Fire Engineers, London, next week. The chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) expects papers to arrive by the next English mail. He has arranged with the Director of Education (Mr. Adey) for the services of an examiner. On the same day that the 11 South Australian firemen, who are taking the examination, are dealing with the problems devised to test their knowledge, their colleagues in Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth, and British possessions throughout the world, including India, Africa, and China, will be confronted with identical questions. Sydney has not entered into participation in the annual examinations. Mr. Whyte said today that the morning paper, which would take three hours to complete, would deal with mathematics, algebra, hydraulics, logarithms, graphs, and allied subjects. The afternoon paper, which would be of a technical nature, would deal with fire resistive buildings, tensils and stress of metals under various temperatures, diagrams of buildings showing how they should be protected as far as fire escapes, etc., were concerned, and problems in dealing with large fires of all types.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 23 April 1937, page 8

FIREMEN TO CONFER WITH BOARD

Hopes Of Compromise On Time-Off Proposal

Hopes of a compromise between the S.A. Fire Brigades Board and the men on the question of hours, wages and allowances, are entertained in connection with a conference which will be held this afternoon. Recently, in reply to a request for two days off in six, instead of the present system, of two days off in eight, the board offered two days off in seven (as in Melbourne) and a wage increase of 5/6 a week, making the minimum £4 a week. These proposals were rejected by the men's representatives, who sought the further conference with the board. It is estimated that these rejected proposals would involve an extra expenditure of about £2,000 a year; if the two days out of seven schedule were instituted, it would be necessary to employ extra firemen.

However, it is contended by the men that, as well as being about the lowest paid firemen in Australia, their conditions in other ways are inferior to those in other cities, particularly Melbourne and Sydney. Unlike Melbourne, no quarters are provided for married firemen at the Adelaide head station, and it is therefore necessary for the married men to establish homes at which they have been able to spend only two days in eight. The married firemen in South Australia receive a home allowance of 11/3 a week, compared with £1 a week in Melbourne. They expect that, if the two days off in seven were accepted, the free time would be given in three periods, of 24 hours, 6 hours and 18 hours. Among the men it is hoped that the S.A. board may eventually see its way to provide convenient quarters for the married men by remodelling a building (now rented) which the board owns next door to the head station.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 24 April 1937, page 16

New Caps For Firemen.— The new pattern of peaked cap adopted by the fire brigade came into use yesterday and replaced the old peakless type formerly used. The caps are to be worn by the men when on street or outside duty and for use when off duty at the station.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 April 1937, page 17

Small Fire At Stepney

Slight damage was caused by a fire which broke out in a wooden lean-to at the premises of Tolley, Scott and Tolley, Ltd., Nelson street, Stepney, about 9.30 p.m. on Saturday. A quantity of coal which was stored in the shed was burned, while slight damage was caused when the

fire extended to the boiler room. The fire was quickly controlled by a machine from Norwood under Station Officer Tyson and one from the head station under Chief Officer Whyte.

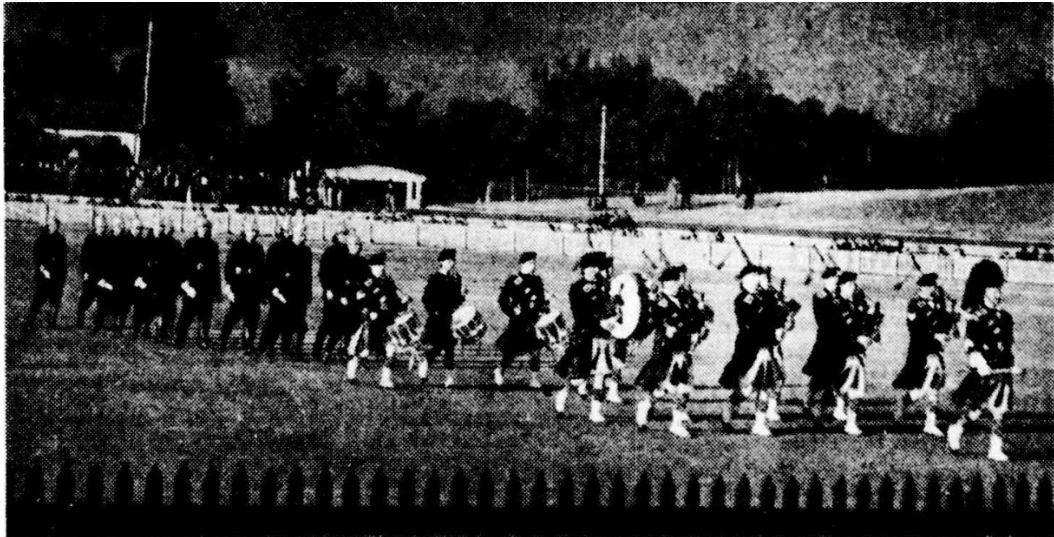
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 April 1937, page 16

7,000 Men To March

Anzac Sports Meeting The first Anzac Day racing and trotting meetings to be held in Adelaide will take place today and tonight respectively. Proceeds of these meetings and of a football match on the Adelaide Oval this afternoon will be devoted to the aid of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Distress Fund. Good acceptances have been received for the Anzac Handicap meeting at Morphettville. A football match between the SA. National Association (B grade) and the S.A. Amateur League will begin at the Adelaide Oval at 2.45 p.m. The Pipers' Band will be in attendance and there will also be a demonstration by men of the fire brigade. Prices will be: — Ground. 1 ; ground and stand, 1 6. Children, ground 3d and stand 3d. extra. Soldiers in uniform will be admitted to ground and stand for 1/. At the Wayville Showgrounds at 2 p.m. the Anzac Day sports will begin. There will be military and athletic events. A brilliant trotting field has been collected for the Anzac Stakes at Wayville tonight.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 April 1937, page 12

'They are Remembered': Caledonian Pipers at Oval



THE CALEDONIAN PIPERS' BAND leading the Fire Brigade athletic troupe off the Adelaide Oval after their entertainment during the half-time interval of the Amateur League v. Football Association match yesterday.



State Library of South Australia - Caledonian Piper's Band [B 9817], [General description] The Caledonian Piper's Band giving a group of Fire Brigade Athletes (complete with brass helmets) a rousing sendoff. The Oval at this stage is surrounded by a white picket fence. [On back of photograph] 'Caledonian Piper's Band (leading Fire Brigade athletic troupes from Adelaide Oval after an entertainment / April 26th, 1937 / Reproduced in News, April 27, 1937'. Approximately 1937. Photographer - News and Mail, Part of General Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 27 April 1937, page 23

Traffic Warning Bell For Approach Of Brigade

To facilitate a fast and free passage through King William street for Fire Brigade vehicles, Chief Traffic Inspector Mattin has suggested to Fire Brigade authorities that a bell, connected with fire headquarters, should be fixed near the traffic master switch at the Grenfell street corner. This bell could be set ringing as soon as the brigade vehicles left the station for King William street. The constable would operate the switch in the box and set the amber signals for a series of sharp flashes. If this signal is adopted, drivers of vehicles will be educated to draw rapidly into the kerb and all cross traffic will stop to give the fire vehicles a clear run.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 29 April 1937, page 20

Fire Board's Reply To Men Today

It is understood that the S.A. Fire Brigades' Board will probably make a communication to the firemen's representative (Mr. F. Nieass) today in connection with the men's request for two days off out of six, instead of two days out of eight. It is expected that the board will now agree to this request, having considered further representations made by the men at a conference last Friday. Previously, the board had offered two days off out of seven, together with an increase of 5/6 a week in wages.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 29 April 1937, page 1

BETTER CONDITIONS FOR FIREMEN

Further Offer by Board

The latest offer of the Fire Brigade Board to firemen provides that the men shall have one day off in every three instead of one in four as at present. This offer, with the previous concession of a wage increase of 5/6 a week, bringing the base rate to £4 a week, has been conveyed to the secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass). Previously the men rejected a proposal to have two days off in seven. The latest offer will be considered at a meeting of the men at the Central Fire Station on Sunday morning.

Referring to the amicable discussions regarding the men's working conditions, the secretary of the board (Mr. R. B. Beeton) said that the board considered the tone of the latest conference was illustrative of the pleasant relations existing between the board and the men.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 29 April 1937, page 3

Fire in Welding Shop At Mile-End

A shed used as a welding shop in the railway yards, Mile-End, an electric welding choke, several packets of electrodes, face shields, and other articles were damaged by fire about 1 a.m. today. The blaze was extinguished by pumps from the Metropolitan and Thebarton Brigades.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 May 1937, page 5

EMPIRE EXAM. FOR FIREMEN

10 to Sit in S.A.

Nine graduate and one associate firemen of the South Australian Fire Brigade will sit for a seven-hour examination for the British Institution of Fire Engineers at the Technical School, Kintore avenue, on Thursday. At the same time in Perth and Melbourne, firemen will be similarly occupied. The examination is held in May each year throughout the British Empire. Papers, the seals of which will not be broken until the morning of the test, have been forwarded to the Director of Education (Mr. Adey), who will be in charge. After the examination, the papers will be handed to the chief fire officer (Mr. Whyte) and sent to England. After answering questions on hydraulics, mathematics, and algebra, and writing an essay, the men will be tested on technical work—a knowledge of explosives, the treatment of chemicals, and protection against fire. Success in the examination does not necessarily mean instant promotion, but carries with it a certificate of efficiency, which counts when vacancies occur.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 3 May 1937, page 14

Firemen Accept Board's Offer

Acceptance with thanks of the S.A. Fire Brigades Board's offer of two days off in six, instead of the present two off in eight, and a wage increase of 5/6 a week, was unanimously agreed upon by a meeting of about 60 firemen at Metropolitan headquarters yesterday. It is thought that an extra expenditure of more than £2,000 a year will be involved. Some staff additions will be necessary.

Appreciation was expressed at the meeting of the consideration given to the men's case and of the friendly feeling at the conference between the board and the men's representatives. Thanks were also expressed to the secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. F. K. Nieass) and the men's representatives, Messrs. W. Goreham, J. O'Leary, Gray, Hill and Owens for the manner in which the case had been presented. It was decided that these five representatives should form a standing committee which would investigate any complaints that might arise from time to time.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 8 May 1937, page 11

The TALK OF THE TOWN

Men, Women, and Gossip.

Seductive Siren

WHEN the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J. J. Whyte) decided to fit his fire appliances with sirens, instead of bells, he asked the brigade engineer of the Hindmarsh Ambulance (Mr. Hofmeyer) to take one that was fitted to a Hindmarsh machine to the fire station for inspection. That instrument and an imported one secured by Mr. Whyte for testing purposes were connected to the electric mains; Mr. Whyte went several blocks down the road, and the sirens were blown — the fire brigade one first, then the ambulance.

Mr. Whyte returned, smiling "The second is the siren I want," he said. "I'm sorry, you can't have it," said Mr. Hofmeyer. Surprised, the fire chief asked, "Why not?" "I made it," said Mr. Hofmeyer. "It took me four years to plan, make, and perfect, in my spare time. I wouldn't let it go." So he replaced it on the ambulance. Mr. Hofmeyer is now making a transmitting set at the ambulance station, so that radio communication with touring ambulances can be maintained. Also, in his spare time.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 May 1937, page 7

GIVING REELS CLEAR ROAD

Flashing Red Signal When Brigade Near

TRAFFIC TOPICS

Arrangements for the King William street traffic lights to give a flashing red signal when the fire brigade is travelling through the street, were approved by the Adelaide City Council this afternoon. This and several other matters dealt with in connection with the use of the new traffic control system were announced in "The News" following the meeting of the traffic committee last week. The committee reported that the police had suggested that provision be made for a flashing amber signal to be operated from the master switch at Grenfell street. Direct communication should be established between the fire station and Grenfell street, so that the constable on duty at the intersection could be warned to switch on the flashing light when the engines turned out. The drivers of other vehicles would draw in to the kerb, and remain stationary until the brigade had passed. The committee recommended the council to approve the suggestion, but, substituting a flashing red signal for the suggested amber.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Tuesday 11 May 1937, page 1

£2,000 Fire

ADELAIDE LOLLIE FACTORY

Smart Work of Brigade

ADELAIDE, Monday.

DAMAGE which will probably amount to £2,000 was caused by a fire in the premises of the Adelaide Confectionery Works at King William street, Kent Town, at 6 p.m. today.

Tons of sweets, cocoa, dried milk, sugar, and dried fruit was destroyed.. Although hampered by ammonia fumes from burst containers the fire brigade confined the flames to half the storage structure. A feature of the fine work of the brigade was that 500 cases stacked outside the store and three motor trucks escaped damage.

Mr. J. A. Binder (managing director) said that no work would be lost by the employes, who numbered about 30.



Mr. J. A. Hinder, managing director of the company

The fire was noticed by Mr. Footner (storeman) when locking the premises. By the time the brigade arrived flames 20 ft. high were leaping through the roof. Their spread to other parts of the building was prevented by a stone wall. Only half the building was destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 11 May 1937, page 1

Motor Truck Afire

A motor truck owned by Mr. J. Waller, of Gouger street, City, was slightly damaged by fire today. Flames were seen under the bonnet while the vehicle was being driven along Post Office place. A Metropolitan Fire Brigade appliance under Station-Officer Davis turned out in response to a telephone call.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 24 May 1937, page 19

Fire In Car.—There will be no inquest on a small fire which occurred in a single-seater motor car owned by Leslie Roberts, commercial traveller, of Derlanger avenue, Rosebery, on Friday night, and damaged padding in the backrest. The fire was caused, it is believed, by a short circuit in the wiring connected to the overhead light. Fire Brigade officers put the fire out. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis reported to the Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 25 May 1937, page 13

New Chemicals To Be Tried By Firemen

New fire-fighting equipment will be tested at the Fire Brigade headquarters at 11 a.m. on Thursday. A model switchboard which is being constructed for the purpose, will be set on fire, so that the effects of a specially prepared gas can be tested. The Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that other tests will be conducted, and in addition to the gases to be used a foam and other types of chemicals will be played on fires. Much new equipment has been purchased by the board lately, and the provision of the new equipment and vehicles now brings the brigade in this State into line with the best equipped brigades in the Commonwealth, according to a board member who recently toured the eastern States.

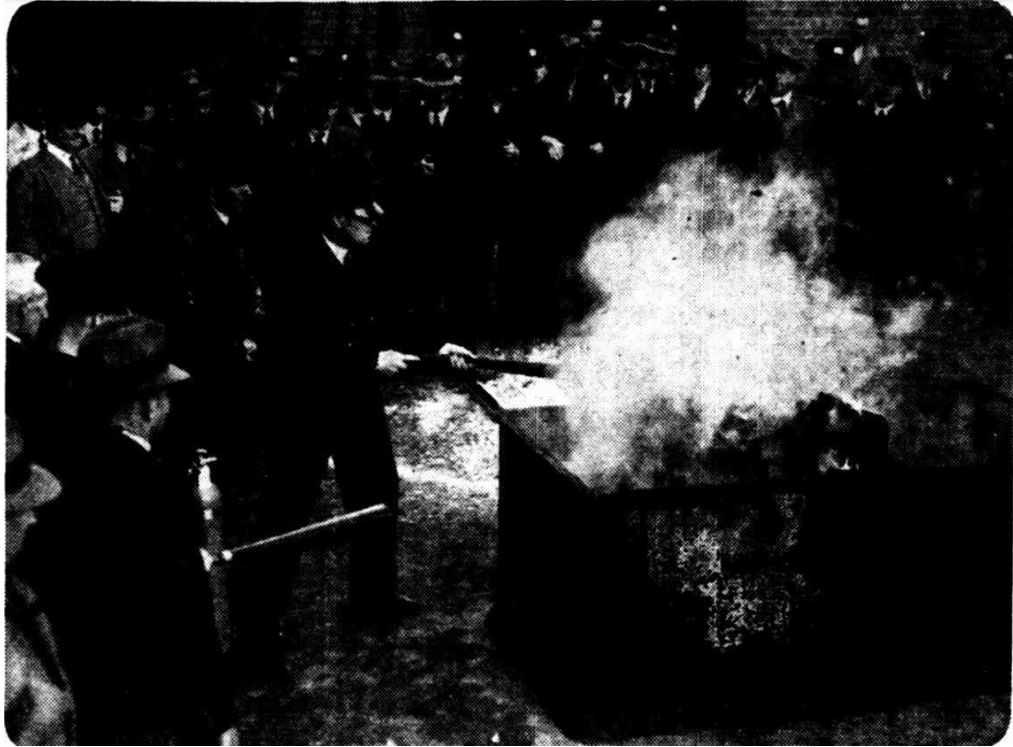
News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 27 May 1937, page 1

PLAYING WITH FIRE IN WAKEFIELD STREET

Headquarters' Men Demonstrate

Huge clouds of black smoke, followed by dense, white clouds, brought people running to a building in Wakefield street soon after 11 a.m. today. But there was no need to give the alarm. The fires were at the Fire Brigade headquarters, where new chemical fire-fighting equipment was being given spectacular tests. A crowd of fire underwriters and members of the Fire Brigades Board were there, and the chief officer (Mr. Whyte), wearing topboots and a bowler hat, explained the tests as they proceeded.

First the futility of carbon tetrachloride for putting out burning power was shown. A fireman set a sheet of petrol alight, a dense volume of black smoke rolled skyward, and the carbon tetrachloride did nothing to stop it. But when thick chemical foam was sprayed on it, the fire was out in a second. Next a model switchboard, rough and ready but intricately wired, and soaked in petrol and kerosene, was set alight. Again black clouds went up, but when heavy carbon dioxide gas was sprayed on the fire the black smoke gave way in a twinkling to dense white clouds. The gas, which left the nozzle at a temperature of minus 110 deg., covered the fire like a blanket, excluding the oxygen. Then a fireman, in a queer gas mask, showed how to use a foam generator to put out an oil tank fire. On his back was strapped a knapsack carrying four gallons of chemical compound, sufficient to make 600 gallons of foam when mixed with water. His mates turned on the water, and he shot a stream of white foam that way like snow on Kosciusko. The breeze blew the "snow" back on the watchers, and they had to scramble hurriedly out of the way. The first charge of compound did not generate enough foam to quell the flames that were leaping from a make-believe oil tank, and the fireman had to retire for more. Then he charged into the blaze again, and in a few seconds the fire was out. Hose tests and experiments with new types of chemical extinguishers ended "playing with fire" for the day.



EXTINGUISHING A SWITCHBOARD FIRE with carbon dioxide gas at tests made with new chemical equipment at the Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, today.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 28 May 1937, page 28

NEW FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT TESTED

Striking Demonstration At Headquarters

Old and new methods of fighting fires were shown to firemen, members of the Fire Brigades Board, representatives of insurance companies, and members of the public at the Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, yesterday morning. A realistic touch was given by dense black smoke from a shallow tank of blazing petrol and kerosene after it had been doused with carbon-tetra-chloride, a chemical used with some success in closed areas. "This chemical," explained the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), "is nearly useless outside when a volume of oil is burning, as it drives the rescuers and anyone else away." Sprayed with pyrofoam, a sud-like substance, the flames died away to nothing in a few seconds. The foam thus produced, it was stated, excluded the oxygen and formed a thick layer of fireproof suds on the petrol and kerosene.

A model switchboard, liberally soaked with petrol and kerosene, was next set on fire. Flames roared and crackled about 12 feet in the air almost immediately. Two seconds later the blaze was completely subdued by a fireman with the aid of a carbon-dioxide mixture liberated from a small metal extinguisher. It was forced out at a temperature of 110 degrees below zero. This gas is heavier than air and also excludes the oxygen. The use of a gas-foam mixed with water and applied with an ordinary fire hose was a revelation to many. A large tank filled with petrol and kerosene was ignited, and was allowed to get well under way before a fireman, equipped with gas mask and other protective accessories, brought the hose into play. A few seconds sufficed to extinguish the blaze. Mr. Whyte said that only a pound of the foam was required to make about 600 gallons of liquid. A "branch" hose, from the knapsack container carried by the fireman, connected with the main hose and supplied the foam to mix with the water. A burning stack of timber and shavings was reduced to a smouldering heap in a few seconds by the use of soda and acid from a small extinguisher. The chairman of the Fire

Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson) said after the demonstration that it was the most effective he had witnessed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 29 May 1937, page 8

Firemen Must be Students As Well in These Modern Days

The science of hydraulics is almost unknown to the ordinary man in the street, yet it is only one of the many subjects which modern firefighters must study. The examinations undertaken recently by 10 South Australian firemen for graduateship and associate membership of the Institution of Fire Engineers provided some problems that even the most learned would have to consider deeply before answering.

Advances and developments in science have introduced many new and effective methods for combating fires, but science itself has also increased the hazards of firefighting. The harnessing of electricity, for instance, presents a danger in many fires today. Firemen must know the reactions of chemicals, precautions to be taken in dealing with high voltage electric signs and supply wires, and the melting point of certain metals—all subjects that firemen in bygone years were able to evade.

Firefighting itself has become a science. How many could answer this question in hydraulics, which appeared on the associate membership examination paper:—"The discharge from a sprinkler jet with a head of 16 ft. is 15 gallons a minute. If the discharge varies as the square root of the head how many gallons would be displaced if 25 sprinklers were opened under 49 ft. of head?" That was possibly the easiest of three questions on hydraulics. The questions in mathematics were not so difficult. Some of them looked very much like the problems that worried us in our school days. For instance:—"A coal mine could be emptied by 20 pumps of equal capacity in 12 days of 15 hours each. After working five days four pumps became useless. The remainder then worked 18 hours a day. How long after the break down did it take to empty the mine?"

Chemists would find the following questions easy, perhaps:—"What would you anticipate would happen in each case if strong sulphuric acid came into contact with the following substances:— Sodium chloride, potassium cyanide, potassium chlorate, caustic soda, calcium carbonate, quicklime?" The answer to the first three is "violent explosion." Certainly, that is some-thing worth knowing. Other questions dealt with the re-organisation of the fire brigade of an industrial township on a river front with a population of 60,000; to what extent light metal alloys were hazardous, and why; precautionary conditions for the storage of cellulose spraying solutions; and methods of combating fires at a paper mill and cardboard factory. The associate membership examination was difficult enough to allow seven hours for the answering of the questions.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 5 June 1937, page 26

DISPLAY BY FIREMEN

Spectacular Show Tonight

LIARS' CLUB VOTING

Work For Crippled Children

Firemen from the Adelaide Fire Station will turn out in full equipment tonight to give their first display for years, and to present a programme embodying new ideas of fire fighting. This demonstration, which will be unparalleled in South Australian fire fighting history, was prompted by the desire of the men to help to provide necessaries for sick and crippled children in South Australia by raising funds to support Mr. A. E. W. Short, the Rotary Club nominee, in his candidature for the honorary presidency of the Liars' Club. Mr. Short is one of seven candidates taking part in the club voting contest for the presidency. The programme at the demonstration will include weight lifting and wrestling, as well as ladder work, pump work

and physical culture. Reservations may be made at Fire Brigade headquarters by telephoning Chief Officer Whyte. Yesterday Mr. Whyte said that the display would be most realistic. Puir.cs would operate streams from a 90-foot ladder, which would be erected in the yard of the fire station. To show the public how rescue work was done men would be carried down the ladders from windows in the fire station tower.

Jumping Into Sheets

"Men will jump from windows in the tower into sheets held by firemen," added Mr. Whyte "One portable room will be filled with gas and smoke, and two men, equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus, will enter the room. Tableaux and pyramids will be executed by the gymnastic team, and the public will have an opportunity to see the physique of the firemen. Finally, there will be a general turn-out of all appliances, showing how the general movement is carried out when a fire alarm is given." Mr. Whyte added that the fire appliances would go from the station to Victoria square, thence to Hanson street, and from there back to the station. The entire demonstration at the station would be explained by an amplifier system. Special arrangements would be made to cover the period while the appliances were on the road, in case of a genuine outbreak of fire, Mr. Whyte said. This would ensure that no time would be lost in reaching the scene of a possible fire.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 June 1937, page 15

Spectacular Fire Display

One of the most spectacular displays given by firemen in recent years was staged at the Adelaide Fire Station, Wakefield street, tonight. A big crowd saw the display, which included all sections of fire brigade work. Demonstrations of the use of the firemen's lift followed physical drill. Spectacular pyramid tableaux held the crowd spellbound, and the human structures were built at a word of command. Jumping from "burning buildings" into a sheet held by firemen was also demonstrated. A comparatively new method of scaling buildings when it is impossible to rest tall ladders against them was one of the new displays. The men used short ladders with grips to reach from story to story. The fine physique of the firemen was outstanding in the display of horizontal bar work by younger members. Other demonstrations included the use of gas masks and other apparatus for entering gas-filled rooms. A portable "smoke room" was entered by firemen. A general turn-out of appliances ended the display.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 7 June 1937, page 19

Fire In Signwriter's Shop

Fire broke out in a signwriter's shop in Market street, city, about 10 a.m. yesterday, and destroyed wallpaper and damaged a paint locker. The Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the fire. The shop is owned by Mr. H. Allchurch, of Wootoona terrace, St. George's, and is occupied by Mr. H. J. Allard.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 8 June 1937, page 23

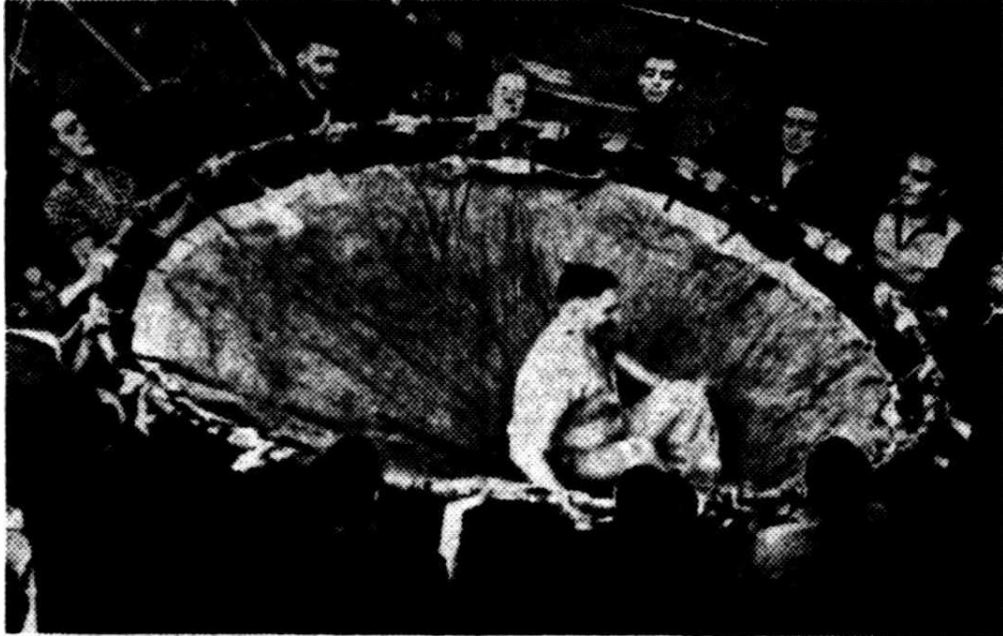
Junior Constable Among 14 New Firemen.

Included among 10 men, already selected to fill some of the 14 vacancies in the S.A. Fire Brigade, is Junior Constable Dudley George Eve, who has been a police trainee for about 20 months. In the brigade the minimum wage is now £4 a week, compared with the £3 9 a fortnight for a second-year junior constable. Several other applications from members of the police force were also received. It is stated that the new probationary firemen maintain the high standard of physique and fitness required in the brigade. One of the 10 successful candidates, Norman Hanlin, of Renmark, has served two years as a seaman on a windjammer. The tallest of the 10 is 6 ft. 1 in., and the shortest 5 ft. 7½ in. The 14 additions to the Fire Brigade strength have been made necessary by the board's granting the men one

day off in three, instead of one off in four. Another group of four candidates will undergo medical inspection today.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 8 June 1937, page 3

FIREMEN RECRUITS START TRAINING



SEVERAL NEW RECRUITS to the South Australian Fire Brigade began their training at the Wakefield street headquarters today. Top—R. Eatts landing on the big mat after jumping from the special training tower. Lower— The men lined up before beginning their work. A junior constable, a former seaman in the Herzogin Cecilie, and a well-known association footballer are included in the recruits.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 9 June 1937, page 27

TO CORRESPONDENTS

The South Australian Fire Brigade manufactures its own alarms and sirens. The Melbourne brigade manufactures its own bells and fire alarms. 2. Fire hose is made to stand a bursting pressure of 600 lb. a square inch at any level. The approximate working pressure could be 150 lb. a square inch. The discharge from a 1-inch nozzle on a 2½-inch diameter hose would be 250 gallons a minute if the pressure at the engine or hydrant were 100 lb. a square inch. This is minus friction. 3a. It would be necessary to give the size of the nozzle attached to the 3-in. diameter hose. 3b. A column of water 50 feet high would show a pressure of 50 by .434 at the base, which means that it takes approximately 20-odd pounds to show a column of water 1 in. in diameter at a height of 50 feet. An efficient fire stream from a 7/8-in. nozzle would reach a height of 50 feet. This would require 75 lb. pressure at the hydrant or engine with 100 feet of hose. 4. A demonstration was given at fire brigade headquarters, Adelaide, at 8 p.m. on June 5, in aid of the crippled children. There are no set days for demonstrations.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 9 June 1937, page 13

Fires In City.— The Fire Brigade was called yesterday to the shirt making premises of C. Joseph, at Waymouth street, city, where flooring was burning. The flames were soon extinguished. Later a call was received from C. Bridgland, hardware merchant, at Waymouth street. Material, including old receipt books, was found alight.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 June 1937, page 23

Fifteen New Firemen Start Work

Fifteen new firemen were busy at their recruit tasks at Fire Brigade headquarters yesterday. The fifteenth man was selected on Thursday afternoon. The men do not, as is usual in some bodies like the police, undergo a school training course, but are immediately placed with seasoned men for practical training. In this way, it was stated, the class talk and atmosphere of a training school is avoided, and the men learn quicker by having done the things instead of having talked about them.

No uniforms are yet available and the men are working in civilian clothes. A supply of uniforms is expected shortly. Applicants gave as former occupations farmers (2), seaman, junior constable, school teacher, and physical culture expert, one each. One of the men is a son of a mounted police sergeant. The youngest is 20, and the oldest 25, and the average age is 22. Single men only have been engaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 24 June 1937, page 9

Parliament House Chimney On Fire. —A fire in a chimney at Parliament House about 10 a.m. yesterday was extinguished by the Fire Brigade. It was burning for about 60 ft. on the inside of the chimney, which passed through three floors. A foul flue was the cause of the outbreak.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 2 July 1937, page 1

GIVING BRIGADE CLEAR ROAD

A siren which will give warning of the approach of fire brigade vehicles and enable the King William street traffic lights to be changed to a flashing red signal, is being installed near the main control box at the Grenfell street intersection. The siren will be connected direct with the fire brigade station. When the brigade is called the alarm will be given by the siren, and the constable on duty at the Grenfell street intersection will at once go to the control box and switch on the flashing red signal. When this shows motorists in King William street will be expected to draw in as close as possible to the kerb and remain stationary until the brigade vehicles have passed. The original police suggestion was that the flashing signal should be

made with the amber lights, but the City Council decided that the red light would be preferable.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 July 1937, page 2

Fire Bell to Call Faithful to Church

An old fire bell that once sent Adelaide pedestrians scurrying from the roadway will shortly summon residents of Minyip, a small Victorian town, to church. The minister of a church in Minyip has written to the South Australian Fire Brigades Board, asking if it can supply a bell. The minister said that on a recent visit to Adelaide he noticed that all the new brigade appliances had sirens, and thought there might be an old bell available. There is, and the minister has been informed that he can have it. It is just a question now of arranging for its transport to Minyip. Soon the bell will again be giving its clarion call, but for an entirely different purpose.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 5 July 1937, page 8

Sirens to Scream, Red Lights to Flash In Fire Brigade Test

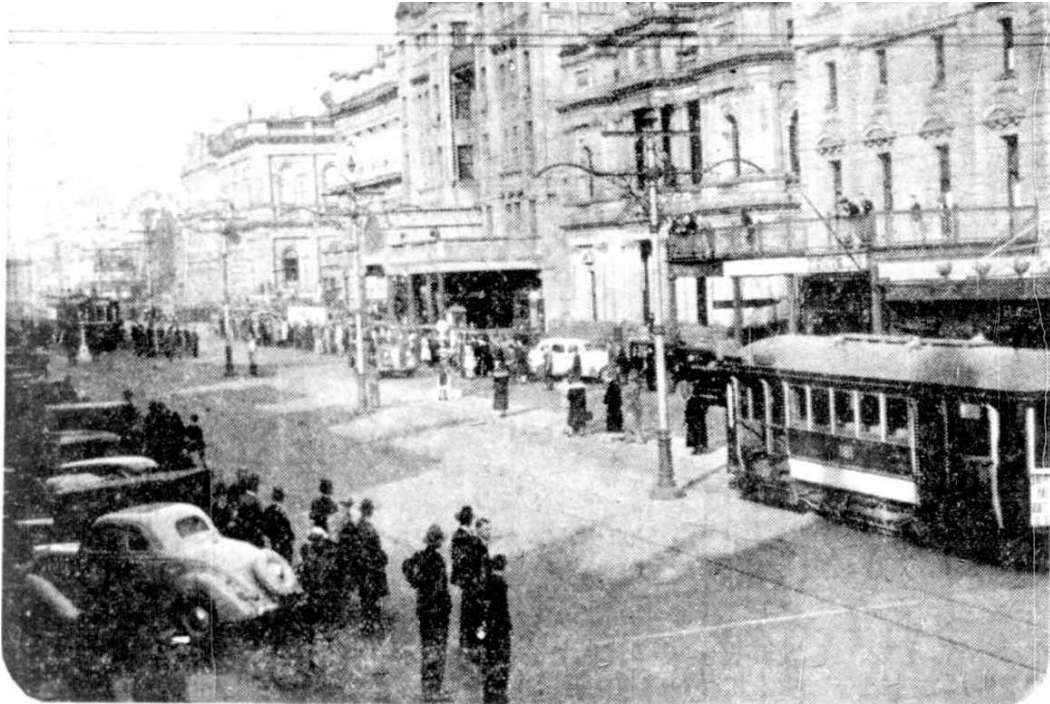
With the red traffic lights flashing and the new siren at the Grenfell street corner screaming, three fire brigade units will dash down King William street from Wakefield street to North terrace at 10 a.m. tomorrow. The Fire Brigade chief (Mr. Whyte) will lead the way in his bright red car, followed by a fire appliance and the salvage van.

"The idea of the test will be to see how the public reacts to the flashing red lights," Mr. Whyte said today. "We may find later that flashing amber or flashing green lights will suit us better." When they hear the siren and see the red lights begin to flash, motorists should pull in to the left as quickly as possible to give the brigade a clear run. The three units will turn at North terrace, and come back as ordinary traffic.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 6 July 1937, page 12

Traffic Test for Fire Brigade





THREE FIRE UNITS DASHED DOWN KING WILLIAM STREET without interruption from traffic today during a test to see how the public reacted to the flashing amber traffic lights which gave warning of the approach of the brigade. The lights were set flashing immediately the new siren at the Grenfell street corner began to scream. These two pictures show (top), King William street before the warning, and (lower), the street as the brigade was making its test run.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 July 1937, page 17

FIRE BRIGADE TEST OF LIGHTS TODAY

King William Street Traffic To Stop

A spectacular test will be made at 10 a.m. today when fire engines from headquarters will dash along King William street at a high speed while the red automatic traffic control lights are flashed on and off and all other vehicular and pedestrian traffic is stopped while the brigade passes. Drivers of vehicles on the western side of King William street are asked to draw in, in single file, as near to the kerb as possible.

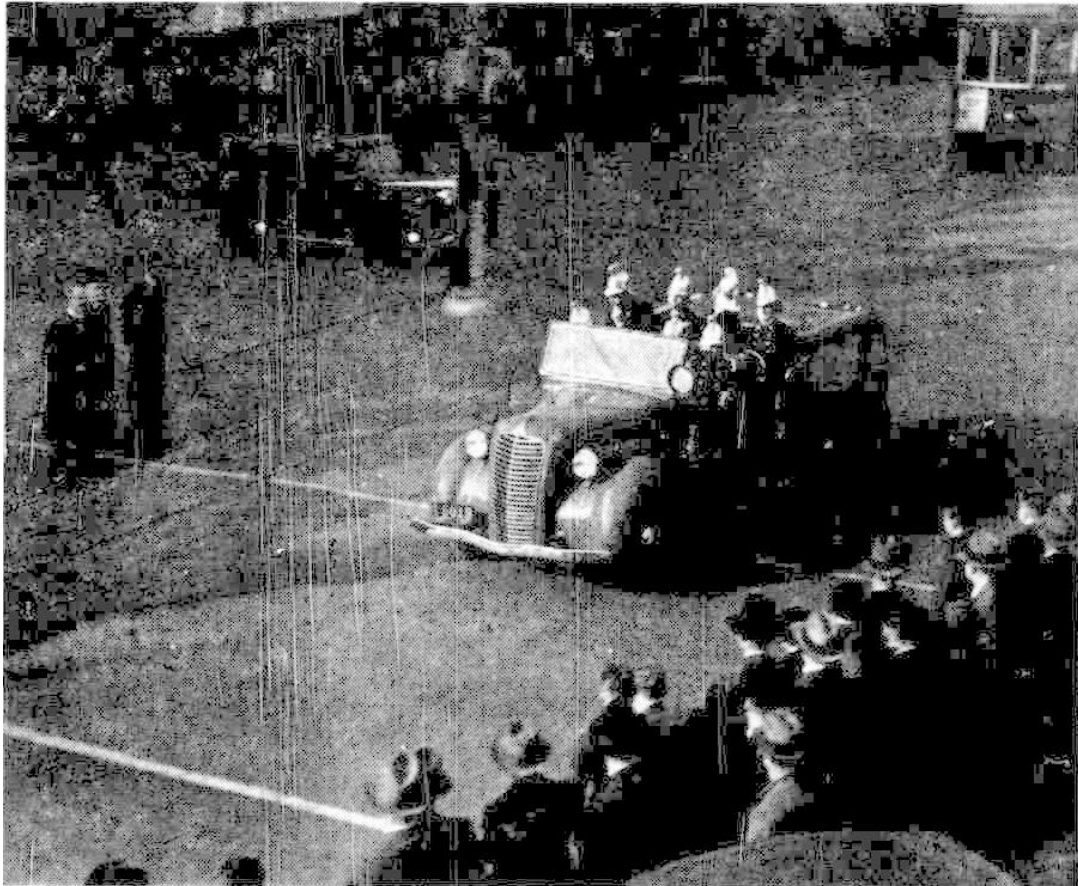
A siren has recently been installed at the T. & G. corner. This is connected direct with fire headquarters and is set going from the station as soon as the machines leave for King William street on receipt of a call. The siren attracts the attention of the constable on duty at the intersection, and he has been instructed to go to the control box on the footpath and set the red lights flashing at all intersections to stop traffic. The test this morning will be the first made. The test will be made to enable the public to become used to the procedure when the brigade is called out. Pedestrians are warned against leaving the kerb.

Police Handling Of Traffic lights

The authority of the police to operate the traffic lights manually was questioned at the meeting of the City Council yesterday. Cr. A. C. Rymill asked the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) if the Council had given any instructions permitting the police manually to operate the traffic lights. The Lord Mayor—No.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 6 July 1937, page 1

FIRE BRIGADE'S TEST RUN



ONE OF THE THREE FIRE UNITS dashing across the Rundle-Hindley streets intersection during the fire brigade's test run down King William street today. When the new siren at the Grenfell street corner began to scream a warning of the brigade's approach, amber traffic lights were set flashing to stop traffic at intersections. In this picture one car has halted nearly half-way across the street.

BRIGADE TRIAL A THRILL AND A SUCCESS

Sirens and Automatic Lights Clear Streets

By a Special Representative

With sirens screaming, and several thousand people lining the roadway to watch their progress, three appliances from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade dashed at high speed down King William street today to test the system of traffic light control devised for fire emergencies.

CLAD in a firemen's coat several sizes too large for me and wearing a brass helmet about two sizes too small, I was privileged to ride on the hose appliance in the exhilarating run through the city's main thoroughfare. Seventy-four seconds after leaving the brigade headquarters in Wakefield street we were turning round the tram standard at North terrace!

The chief officer of the fire brigade (Mr. Whyte), Metropolitan Police Superintendent Mattin, and Chief Traffic Inspector Church expressed great satisfaction at the success of the trial. It had been intended that a flashing red signal should be given at the five traffic light-controlled intersections in King William street in conformity with an Adelaide City Council resolution, but the police officer who operated the main switch at Grenfell street found that the controls had not been wired for this. As a result, a flashing amber, as recommended earlier by Supt. Mattin, and adopted in London for giving the right of way to fire appliances, was shown.

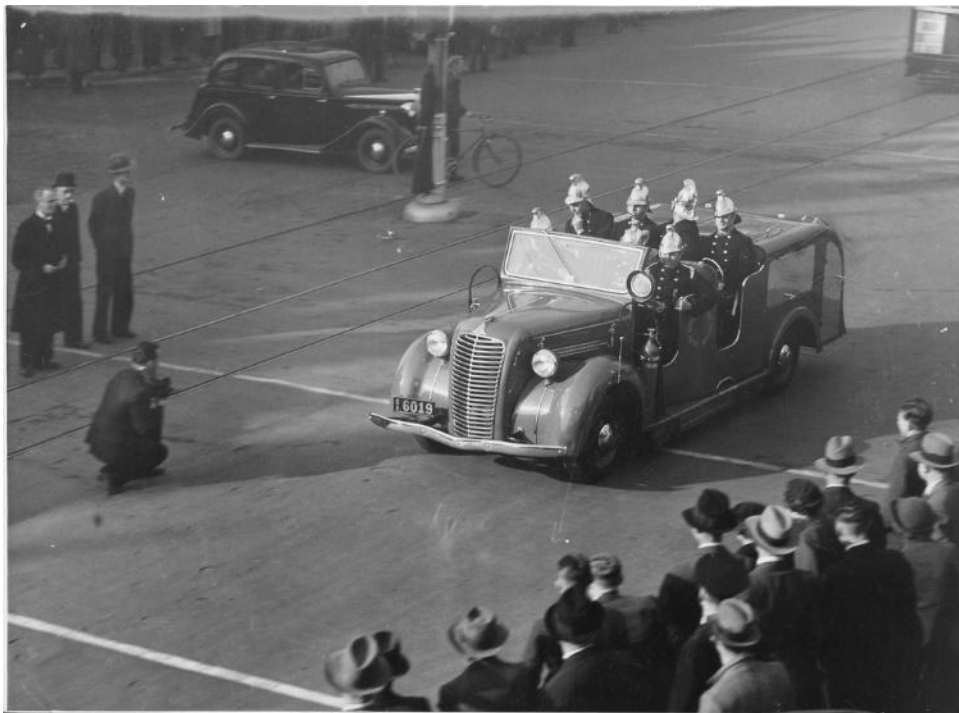
Bell—Then Activity

With the brass helmet weighing heavily on my head, although a fireman assured me it was really light, I clambered aboard the hose appliance at headquarters in company with the firemen. The sharp tingle of a bell led to instant activity. At the same moment a siren connected with brigade headquarters gave its warning at the Grenfell street intersection and the police officer moved sharply to the control box and switched on the flashing amber light. Motorists pulled to the left hand side of the road and stopped their vehicles immediately. Pedestrians sought shelter on the footpaths or encroached on the edge of the roadway among the vehicles to watch the fire appliances. In the meantime the chief officer's car had flashed away from the brigade station, heading for King William street. The hose appliance followed, and then the salvage van. We did not bother to go round the Queen Victoria statue. Sirens screamed and tyres squealed as we pulled into King William street. The amber light near the post office winked once . . . twice. The wind whistled by my ears. Our speed increased. Tall buildings appeared to come rushing toward us, towered above us for a fleeting moment, and dropped behind.

Faces-Blurred Mass

A sea of faces watching our speeding passage was a blurred mass. Heads protruded from windows above us, and balconies were crowded. A safety zone standard hurtled towards us on our right. We swung a little and tore on through the lane of vehicles and spectators. At Grenfell street a photographer crouched on the roadway almost in our path with a camera to his eye. Almost before one could realise it, we were at North terrace, had swung round the tram standard, and were making a more leisurely return to the brigade headquarters. "As far as we are concerned, the whole trial worked out wonderfully well, but as the public and the police knew that it was to take place it could not be regarded as a real test." said Mr. Whyte.

"A proper test will come, however, when no one will have any warning of our approach other than the sounding of the siren at Grenfell street and the alteration in the traffic lights." From my observation on the hose appliance, the trial was eminently successful, and the flashing amber gave the desired warning of caution to all road users. Should the City Council decide to put its resolution into effect for a flashing red light to be shown, it will be necessary to rewire the control switch. This would entail a small expense.



B 9904

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), Wednesday 7 July 1937, page 24

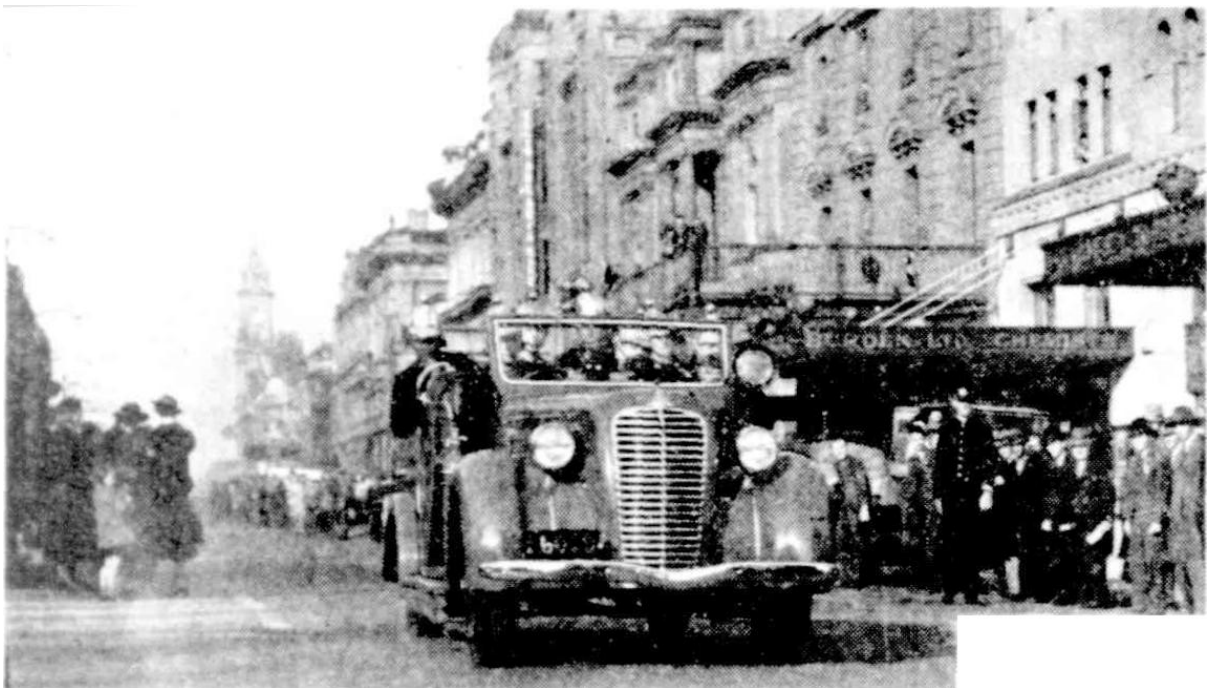
Traffic Lights Fail—But Fire Brigade Gets Through

Yesterday's test of the special traffic arrangements for the passage of fire appliances through King William street was quite successful, due, in a large measure, to the previous warning given that the test was to be made. When the warning screech blared from the newly-erected Fire Brigade siren on the T. & G. corner at 10 a.m., the policeman on duty found that he was unable to give the arranged flashing red signals as a warning to traffic, because the system was not adapted for flashing red signs, so he turned on the amber. Otherwise the plan worked according to schedule.

Thousands lined the streets to watch the Fire Brigade make its record dash from Wakefield street to North terrace in 74 seconds, the time announced at the conclusion of the run by the Chief Officer (Mr J. J. Whyte). It is understood that no further test will be made until the wiring of the automatic traffic control lights has been altered, to allow an intermittent red signal to be used. Police Superintendent Mattin who, with Inspectors Church and Kain, was in charge of a party of police along the route, said that he was surprised at the size of the crowd to witness the test. The police were under the impression that the lights had been wired for the flashing red signals and were surprised to find that they were not.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 7 July 1937, page 28

TEST DASH BY FIRE REEL



THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE yesterday watched a reel from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade dash from Wakefield street to North terrace on a trial run.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 7 July 1937, page 3

RED FLASH SIGNAL TO BE USED

Control Light Warning

Although the Adelaide City Council had decided to use the red lights for the flashing warning signal of the King William street traffic when fire brigade appliances were passing through the street, the amber light operated during yesterday's test run by the brigade. The town clerk (Mr. Beaver) said today that the amber lights were originally connected up to show the flashing signal, and arrangements for the red signal had not been completed by the time the test was made. The necessary adjustments for a red signal in future were being made. The original suggestion from the police was that the amber should be used. Mr. Beaver said today that the council considered the red more suitable, as red indicated danger.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 8 July 1937, page 23

Quick Response To City Fire Call

With the way cleared of traffic by blinking amber lights and the warning siren (at the T. & G. corner), four Fire Brigade motors dashed through King William street at between 50 and 60 m.p.h. about 6.8 p.m. yesterday. This time the brigade was answering a fire call, not testing, and it was estimated that only about 90 seconds elapsed between the giving of the alarm and the arrival of the firemen at the scene of the outbreak. Cresco Fertilizers, Limited, North terrace, city.

After the breathless dash, there was an anti-climax. The fire was a minor affair among electric lift cables, which had evidently short-circuited while under repair. Only a hand chemical extinguisher was required. Soon afterwards, the brigade was called to an overheated Neon sign at City Motors, Grenfell street, city, but the King William street route was not used on this occasion.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 July 1937, page 23

Malicious False Fire Calls

Malicious false calls from two districts caused the metropolitan and suburban fire brigades annoyance during the week-end. The Unley Brigade was called out about 8.40 p.m. on Saturday to Eastwood terrace, Eastwood, on a false alarm. Two fire appliances, one from the Norwood and the other from the city brigade, turned out at 2.40 p.m. yesterday in response to a false call from the corner of Burnside road and Halton terrace. The chief officer of the metropolitan brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that false calls were mostly the work of irresponsible youths. An example would be made of offenders who were caught.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 13 July 1937, page 1

City Traffic Hoaxed By Fire Siren

AT 10 a.m. today, Adelaide was going its normal round of business. King William street was bathed in sunshine and everyone seemed at peace with the world. At 10.5 their world was changed. The siren at the corner of King William and Grenfell streets blared a warning that fire engines would soon dash down King William street. Policemen, who had been contentedly watching traffic at the intersections, leapt to clear the road for the fire engines. People crossing the road were waved back to the footpath. Groups gathered at the intersections of North terrace, Rundle street, and Grenfell street. Office windows were thrown up and faces appeared. Trams stopped and everything was tense and silent except the siren.

WIRING FAULT

At 10.10 the siren was still shrieking. but the fire engines were not in sight. Several venturesome persons had walked forward to the centre of the road and peered anxiously towards Wakefield street. A policeman scratched his head. At 10.15 the siren became silent. A babble of voices arose. Somebody cheered. A lorry started, and Adelaide moved on once more —with a laugh. No fire engines had appeared.

The Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said that there had been a fault in the electrical wiring of the traffic system, causing too much power in one spot and setting the siren in action. "If ever there is a long continuous shriek," he said. "the public can know that there is a fault. At normal times there will be a short, sharp blast, and the fire engines will appear immediately." Adelaide will know better next time.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 July 1937, page 27

Fire Siren Gives False Alarm

When a fuse blew out at the Fire Brigade headquarters soon after 10 a.m. yesterday the siren erected on the T. and G. Building in King William street for the suspension of traffic operated and police set the lights flashing at all King William street crossings and stopped all traffic for several minutes. Yesterday the wiring to the automatic lights to change from the flashing amber light to flashing red for fire brigade purposes was altered, and it is understood that in future this red will be used. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said that the siren would give three short blasts as a signal that the brigade had left for King William street. Arrangements were being made with the police to have a daily test—probably in the mornings of the siren and the lights.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 16 July 1937, page 30

Fire Test This Morning

At 10 a.m. today another test run through King William street, city, will be made by the Fire Brigade. On this occasion, when the warning siren at the T. & G. corner operates, flashing red lights will stop traffic at the intersections.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 July 1937, page 12

TRAFFIC AND FIRE TEST

Tighter Control Sought

ALTHOUGH the second city test dash by the South Australian Fire Brigade appliances at 10 a.m. today was successful traffic control must be tightened up, said the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) today.

Since the first test last week, the brigade has made three calls which necessitated the use of the emergency traffic lights and the siren in King William street. On each occasion the response of road users was quite satisfactory. Today, the red instead of the amber lights were flashed following the original intention of the traffic committee of the council. According to Mr. Whyte motorists and pedestrians in King William street cleared the roadway briskly, giving to speeding machines a clear spin. He noticed, however, that in Grenfell, Rundle, Hindley, Currie, Pirie, and Waymouth streets traffic banked up across the road as though they were held up in a normal traffic movement. This was unsatisfactory.

Another test will be made shortly, and motorists are warned to leave a clear roadway in those main transverse streets. The fire appliances will leave headquarters and go along Wakefield street to King William street as usual. They will not go right down King William street, however, but will turn right or left into one or other of the streets mentioned. Mr. Whyte pointed out that it was essential for all transverse streets to be kept clear when the siren sounded, and the emergency lights flashed. The appliances broke all previous records today when they reached Grenfell street from headquarters in 34 seconds.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 July 1937, page 2

110 False Fire Alarms During 1936

Malicious false alarms were responsible for 18 per cent. of the calls answered by the Adelaide Fire Brigade in 1936, according to figures published in the annual report of the Board, tabled by the Premier (Mr. Butler) in the House of Assembly today.

In all 585 calls were answered by the brigade. Serious damage was done by two fires, considerable damage by eight, and slight damage by 248. Line faults accounted for 78 other calls; 34 were due to water fluctuations in sprinkler installations, and 110 were malicious false alarms.

Compared with figures for the previous year, there was a decrease of 17 in the number of calls answered. There were 18 fewer malicious false alarms.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 28 July 1937, page 5

PERSONAL

The Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J. J. Whyte) is at present on annual leave. Deputy Officer Cook is carrying out Mr. Whyte's duties in his absence.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 31 July 1937, page 8

A small fire, caused by a short circuit, damaged an electric light pole and wires in the old exhibition grounds, Frome road, early today. Appliances from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade attended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 4 August 1937, page 26

False Fire Alarm Holds Up City Traffic

Traffic was held up for five minutes at the main King William street intersections soon after 9.15 a.m. yesterday, when the fire brigade siren at the T. and G. corner sounded, and Constable H. Burnley switched on the flashing red of the automatic traffic lights. When the brigade did not appear, Constable Burnley, to a chorus of toots from impatient motorists, phoned the fire brigade, and was informed that no signal was given by the brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 9 August 1937, page 5

Tar Heating Plant Catches Alight

Huge volumes of smoke issued from the works of Ausbestos Ltd., of South road. Hilton, today, when the tar heating plant and a quantity of bitumen caught alight. Flames quickly spread to the rafters of the iron building, and many were charred before two pumping appliances from headquarters and Thebarton Fire Brigades, under Deputy Chief Officer E. W. Cook arrived and quickly quelled the outbreak. Flames had just set alight to the roofing of the Bolivar Dairying Co., Ltd., the adjoining premises, when the firemen arrived.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 14 August 1937, page 7

Traffic Checks Fire Appliances After False Alarm

A malicious false fire alarm that might have resulted in injury to motorists and pedestrians occurred at noon today, when four appliances from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade dashed down King William street, only to find their passage blocked by dense vehicular traffic. Just before reaching Waymouth street the appliances had to come to a sudden halt. Deputy Chief Officer Cook jumped from his car, and with the assistance of police officers eventually cleared a way for the fire machines. Only when they pulled up at a building in Waymouth street did the firemen realise that once again they had been the victims of a senseless false alarm. Mr. Cook said later that just before the appliances left the brigade headquarters a man had communicated with them by telephone, stating there was a fire, but hanging up the receiver without having indicated the locality. A minute or so later another telephone call was received

to say that there was a fire in a Waymouth street building. The switchboard attendant believed that the two calls had been made by the one person. The voice sounded alike.

The siren was sounded at the T. and G. corner, and the traffic control lights switched to flashing red in accordance with the arrangements to indicate the approach of the fire appliances, but before the traffic could get clear the fire engines had passed the G.P.O. The hold-up today was foreseen some time ago by the chief officer of the brigade (Mr. Whyte), who said that it was essential that vehicles should turn into the first cross street, if there were insufficient space for motorists to pull their cars well to the left and leave a clear passage. The presence of tramcars, and motor cars ranked at the kerb contributed to the congestion today.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 17 August 1937, page 20

PERSONAL

Chief Fire Officer J. J. Whyte has resumed duty at Adelaide Brigade headquarters after three weeks' vacation in the eastern States.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 21 August 1937, page 24

J. Boyle, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade headquarters, and a prominent Glenelg footballer, was admitted to the Adelaide Hospital tonight suffering from a lacerated elbow. Boyle was in the gymnasium when he fell.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 27 August 1937, page 27

No Inquest Into Small Fire

The city coroner (Mr. Blackburn) has decided not to hold an inquest into a small fire which occurred on the premises of Unbehau & Johnstone, electrical ware merchants, at Gawler place, about 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday. Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis, who investigated and submitted a report, found that two men were varnishing a motor, when the oven became over-heated and the varnish caught fire. Fire brigade officers, with chemicals, extinguished the blaze.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 9 September 1937, page 18

Gas Masks Tested By Firemen

Said to be the latest in gas masks, special apparatus to be used by employes of the S.A. Gas Company was tested by firemen at brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, yesterday. Tests were also made to compare the masks adopted by the fire brigades and the new equipment of the company. Firemen, after inspection by the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), entered a smoke-filled barn to test the gear. Mr. Whyte said the Gas Company employes would be taught the use of the masks by the brigade instructors.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 10 September 1937, page 17

Training In Use Of Gas Masks

Four more firemen from Fire Brigade headquarters were trained in the use of the Proto self-contained breathing apparatus at Wakefield street yesterday. Selected men have been listed for training, and when they have been passed as proficient officers, men from the suburban stations will be brought in for instruction.

The tests will be held each Thursday morning until further notice. Next week several men from the S.A. Gas Company will probably be trained with the firemen. The company recently obtained several of the latest type of gas masks for use in dangerous work. These provide protection for 30 minutes. Not all the men are suitable for work in gas masks. Some of them, although in excellent health and able to pass a rigid medical examination, suffer severe

palpitation and dizziness after having used the equipment for some time, and they are reserved for other duties.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 September 1937, page 32

The top of an electric light pole on the Goodwood road was damaged by fire tonight when a short circuit occurred. Appliances from the Metropolitan Brigade responded to the alarm.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 13 September 1937, page 25

Police Investigate Fire In Rundle Street

The police are investigating a fire which occurred in a lavatory in an attic at Argent Chambers, Rundle street, city, about 10.30 p.m. on Saturday. Fire Brigade officers, under the chief (Mr. J. J. Whyte), found some papers alight at the eastern side of the lavatories. Some of the floor boards were burnt and about £2 worth of damage was done. The building is owned by Cox Bros. and was inspected after the fire by the City Coroner (Mr. Black-burn).

Yesterday a police photographer and a detective visited the rooms and took a photograph of the debris. The flames had burnt part of the attic ceiling at a spot where it almost reached the floor. Smoke was noticed curling from the roof by an operator of the Rex Theatre, who summoned the brigade. As the premises were locked, the firemen clambered over a verandah on Rundle street and entered through a skylight. Constable S. R. Stewart submitted a report to the City Coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 13 September 1937, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

Electric Light Pole On Fire.—A faulty insulator and fuse caused a small fire at the top of an electric light pole in Leader street, Goodwood, on Saturday night. The fire was extinguished by employes of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co., Ltd., with the co-operation of fire brigades from headquarters and Unley.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 15 September 1937, page 10

FIRE SYSTEM NOT NEW

But Better Than Type In Adelaide

Commenting on a cable message from London, published in "The News" yesterday, that a new fire alarm system had undergone satisfactory tests in an important London area, the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said that the same system had been in operation in Melbourne for 12 years. It would have to be adopted eventually in Adelaide.

The system referred to in the cable and used in the Victorian capital was the closed circuit code signalling type. Adelaide and Sydney had an open or magnetic type. The closed circuit type would not prevent malicious fire alarms, Mr. Whyte pointed out. That was a matter of education of the public.

With the open system, a street alarm could be knocked down by a motor vehicle, wires could be severed, or the box removed without any indication given in the brigade switchboard room. With the closed circuit type, the brigade would be notified immediately of such events.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 30 September 1937, page 7

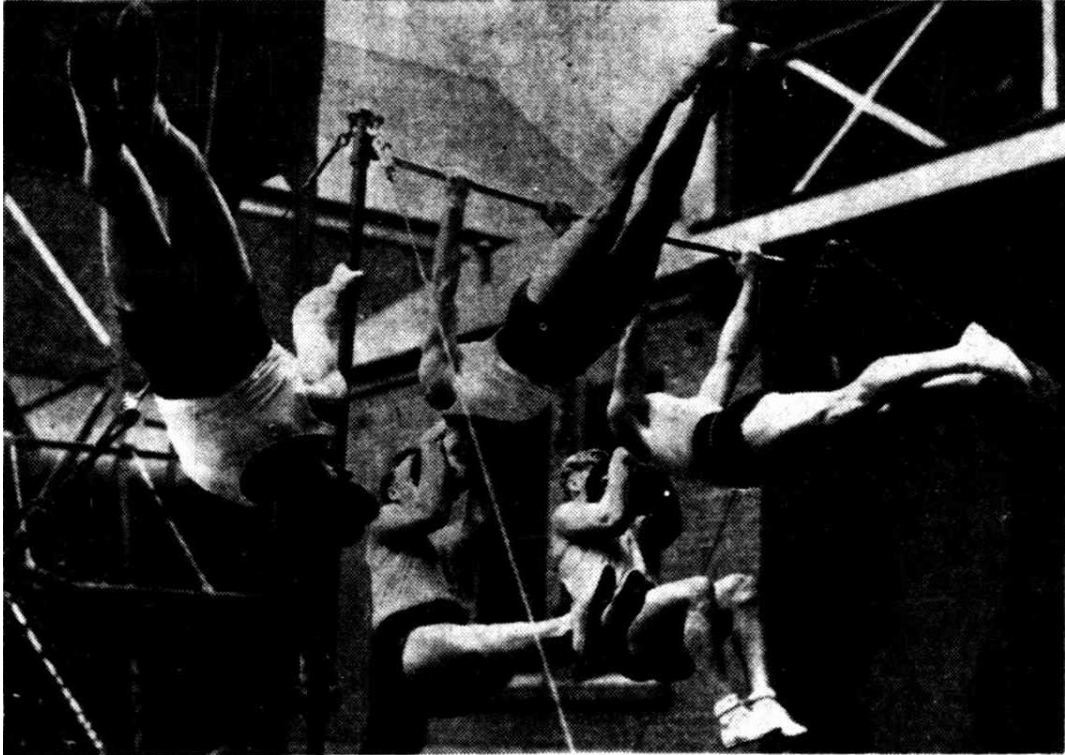
No Inquest Into Truck Fire

No inquest will be held into the fire which destroyed the contents of a truck in the railway goods yards Mile End, early yesterday morning. In the opinion of the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J. J. Whyte), the fire was caused by spontaneous combustion

action of fibre treated with linseed oil and packed tightly. The steel truck, he states, was subject to climatic heat the day before, and this heat would be sufficient to set up internal heating in the fabric. Change in temperature also had a certain influence on the fire. The report for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn) was prepared by Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 8 October 1937, page 1

FIREMEN STAGE DEMONSTRATION AT HEADQUARTERS TODAY



MEMBERS OF TATTERSALLS CLUB, their wives and daughters, were the guests of the Fire Brigade at headquarters in Wakefield street today when the firemen staged a demonstration of their work. Above—Some of the gymnasts on the horizontal bars, and (right), a masked fireman walking out of a smoke-filled room

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 9 October 1937, page 13

DEMONSTRATION BY FIRE BRIGADE

Modern Equipment In Use

About 175 members of Tattersalls Club witnessed a demonstration by the Adelaide Fire Brigade at the fire station yesterday. The extinguishing of a blaze by means of vapor and foam was demonstrated, and there was also a line-up of men with respirator equipment. Physical drill, ladder and sheet-jumping work, and a general turn-out were features of the demonstration. The chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson) said afterwards that the South Australian Fire Brigade was in line with the best brigades in the world, and although some of the equipment was still slightly behind the times, it would be only a year or two before the Adelaide brigade was as well equipped as any in the world.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 15 October 1937, page 10

False Fire Call At City Theatre

There was excitement in Rundle street, City, shortly after 9 a.m. today, when appliances from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade dashed to the York Theatre, and firemen ran into the building. But there was no fire there. The alarm at the brigade headquarters had been started by a line fault.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 23 October 1937, page 9

Fined For Theft Of Money

The disappearance of 19/9 from a bedroom at Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street, city, on Thursday, resulted in the appearance of Cyril Roebuck, 26, a member of the brigade, before Mr. Morgan. S.M., in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, on a charge of having stolen the money. He pleaded guilty, and was fined £7. with 10/ costs. Assistant Police Prosecutor, Dayman prosecuted, and Mr. D. C. Williams appeared for Roebuck.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 25 October 1937, page 7

Fire In Bedroom

At 7.21 p.m. on Friday the Fire Brigade received a call to a house at Mill street, city, occupied by Mrs. Cross and her two young daughters. On arrival it was found that burning bedding, clothing, and curtains in an upstairs bedroom had been practically extinguished by Mrs. Cross. A report was prepared by Constable Davis for the Acting City Coroner (Mr. McCann).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 26 October 1937, page 27

Fat Causes Fire.— A pound of fat left on the cooking range at the Wren Cafe, occupied by Antonios Mina, Rundle street, city, ignited yesterday, and flames from it set fire to the chimney. Some rafters also caught. The fire was put out by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 November 1937, page 1

CITY GLASS FACTORY GUTTED BY FIRE

Falling Timber and Iron Endanger Fighters

A fire gutted the glass and leadlight factory of L. G. Abbott & Co. Ltd., Wakefield street, City, at noon today. Firemen were menaced by falling iron and blazing timber for three-quarters of an hour before they got the outbreak under control. Hundreds of people watched the fire, and

police reinforcements were rushed to the scene to control the crowd and divert traffic from Wakefield street into side streets.

Damage is estimated at £8,000, but a definite figure cannot be given until a thorough examination of the rooms of the factory is made, but in addition to the destruction of the wood-and-iron building at the rear of the company's new premises, the fire destroyed stocks of glass and leadlights and severely damaged expensive machinery used for bevelling and other trade work. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Thirty-five employes in the factory rushed to safety when the fire broke out suddenly about 11.45 a.m. No one was injured, but several firemen had narrow escapes from falling debris. A long piece of guttering with blazing wood attached missed a fireman's head by less than a foot as he was directing a hose into the heart of the fire. First knowledge that employes in the front building had of the fire was when volumes of black smoke poured into the building. Staff members left their offices hurriedly. Inflammable stocks such as paints and varnishes were stored in the new building, fronting Wakefield street, and a fireproof door leading to the factory was lowered immediately the fire was noticed.

House Endangered

For a time as the firemen fought the fire it appeared that the home of Mrs. M. Daniel, in Daly street, adjoining the factory would catch alight, as less than 10 ft. separated the side wall of the house from the factory. Firemen played hoses on the roof and walls of the house, however, and lessened this risk. Mrs. Daniel had insured furniture and clothing in the house only last Thursday. Encroaching within the danger area, the crowd, including many schoolchildren and employes from nearby factories were repeatedly warned back by the police, while the firemen, with about a dozen hoses in operation, climbed to vantage points from which to fight the fire. Firemen clambered on to the roof of Mrs. Daniel's home, and from there poured hundreds of gallons of water into the burning building. Flames within the building leaped skywards, igniting the roof timbers, and curling along the outside of the factory. A huge volume of smoke was swelled as portions of the roof fell in amid the crackle of flames and cascading sparks. A surge of excitement went through the crowd as the big extension ladder was brought into operation, and a fireman nimbly ascended to the top. While he clung there, the ladder was lowered to rest against the parapet of the main building, enabling another stream of water to be flung against the fire.

Children Look On

Employes of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. reached the scene shortly after the brigade and disconnected the electric current as a safety precaution. Among the most interested of the hundreds of onlookers were pupils of the Flinders Street School, who crowded the classroom windows and watched the spectacular blaze. Stocks in the main building escaped damage, although a large quantity of water had to be swept from the ground floor by employes. The loss was covered by insurance. The building had been valued about £3,000 and stock, machinery and plant about £7,000, said the managing director of the company (Mr. Abbott). Employment would be found for the 35 factory employes and a rebuilding scheme would be put in hand at once.

BIG FIRE IN CITY



TWO PICTURES taken shortly after the outbreak of fire at L. G. Abbott and Co., Ltd., glass and paint merchants, in Wakefield street. Above —Smoke billowing from the building, and (left) firemen fighting the blaze.



State Library of South Australia - Wakefield Street [B 6625], Corner of Wakefield Street and Daly Street, 3 January 1935, Daly Street frontage is 33 yards and Wakefield Street frontage is 32.5 yards. The photograph shows the three storey Abbott's Glassware and Paints business on the north side of Wakefield Street and the east corner of Daly Street. The Abbott's building was erected in 1934. Compare this photograph with B 6466. For alterations made to the east side of Abbotts in 1938 see B 8184. 1935. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 290 Collection.



Wakefield Street [B 8184], [General description] A pair of semi-detached cottages have been demolished to make way for this addition (section of building on the right of central utility pole) to the three storey Abbott's Glassware and Paints business which was erected in 1934. The cottage on the right is for sale. Note the tram poles and wires in the foreground. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 290 / Wakefield Street, north side / 7 April 1939 / Additions made to the east side of Abbotts in 1939 / Compare with B 7219 and B 6625 / The left side of Abbott's premises abuts Daly Street, front is 49 yards'. Approximately 1939. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 290 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 November 1937, page 29

£12,500 FIRE IN CITY

Paint Factory Partly Destroyed

WORKMAN RESCUED WITH LADDER

Minor Injuries To Firemen And Employes

Spreading with remarkable rapidity, a fire destroyed the factory portion of the Wakefield street premises of L. G. Abbott and Co., Limited, paint and glass merchants, shortly after noon yesterday, causing damage estimated by members of the firm at £12,500. The outbreak was under control in three-quarters of an hour, and the new building adjoining was saved.

The managing director of the company (Mr. L. G. Abbott) said that a new concrete building would be erected on the site, which was flanked by Daly and Ifould streets. The 42 men affected would not be thrown out of employment. Thousands of rolls of wallpaper, worth £3,000, and crates of glass worth £4,000, were destroyed. The loss of the plant is estimated at £2,000. The building, a wood and iron structure, was valued at approximately £3,500. Flames were prevented from spreading to the new building in Wakefield street, which held large stocks of plate glass, paint, and office records, the firemen, under Deputy Chief Officer Cook, playing water on the fire from adjoining roofs.

Waving his arms from an upstairs doorway, Les Gillie, of Carrington street, city, a workman, who had been trapped on the first floor, attracted the attention of firemen, who ran a ladder up, enabling him to reach safety.

Minor Injuries

Several firemen suffered abrasions from flying pieces of glass, and others narrowly escaped injury from molten glass dripping through the upper floor. Robert Lamb, about 40, of Norwood, an employe, suffered burns on the back of the neck and shoulders when he was removing unfinished work to safety. He was given first aid treatment by the works foreman (Mr. Peter Burns). Leslie Nelson, about 45, floor foreman had his arms singed as he climbed down a wooden stairway.

When the fire began Mr. Burns was working in an adjoining lean-to with other men unconscious of the danger. W. Martin, a youth, of Young street, Wayville, first noticed the flames, which rapidly leapt from rafter to rafter and destroyed empty packing cases and crates. Some of the men tried to remove to safety important pieces of partly completed work and furniture but were beaten back by the flames.

Houses Threatened

Flames bursting through the walls threatened the home of Mrs. M. Daniel, in Daly street, but by climbing to the roof of the house a fireman and a constable were able to prevent the fire from spreading in that direction. Mrs. R. M. V. Hatswells home, only a few yards from the fiercest part of the fire, was also threatened, intense heat coming from the galvanized iron flanking the pile of wallpapers. Borrowing an axe from Mrs. Hatswell, a fireman made a hole in the iron, a hose was run up, and the flames were diverted in a few minutes. Other firemen climbed to the doorway on the first floor of the factory and fought the fire from there. Lines of hose were also run through the new building. Two brigade pumps connected with the mains, and in Wakefield and Hutt streets and kept up a strong force of water to reinforce the three lines run direct from the ordinary water mains. The only damage done to the new building was when a large quantity of water splashed down the steps into the offices, where it damaged stationery.

There was a diversion in Wakefield street when a large spark from the building set alight to the heavy canvas on top of the fire brigade salvage van. Motor Traffic Constable L. F. Whyatt soon stamped it out.

The main work done in the factory was bevelling, glazing, silvering, and leadlight manufacturing. Police, under Metropolitan Superintendent T. O. Mattin, Chief Traffic Inspector H. Church, and Inspectors Homes, Kain, and Merret, formed lines to enable the firemen to work unhampered. A detachment of troopers also came from the barracks.

Times and Northern Advertiser, Peterborough, South Australia (SA : 1919 - 1950), Friday 5 November 1937, page 2

FRIDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 1937.

PERSONAL

Mr. Jack Boyle reports his job at the Fire Brigade, Adelaide, as "excellent." His job at present is testing every fire alarm in the city area, for which he has to ride approximately 26 miles daily on a bike. He sends a "cheerio" to all old friends and is keenly interested in all the town's activities, which he follows closely through the columns of "The Times."

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 6 November 1937, page 1

Fat in Fire --- And No Joke

The fat was in the fire at the Imperial Hotel, corner of Grenfell and King William streets, Adelaide, this afternoon. A quantity of fat was being rendered down in a range in the kitchen when it boiled over into the fire and set light to the inside of the flue. From there the flames travelled to the ceiling. A fire brigade reel from headquarters under Deputy Chief Officer Cook quickly put out the blaze.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 6 November 1937, page 1

The Firemen Tumbled To The Trouble

Accidents happen even in the best regulated fire brigades. Firemen went to a great deal of trouble with the idea of putting on a spectacular display at the police carnival on the Wayville Showgrounds this afternoon. They carted a tank and placed it on the oval, and filled it with water. Fourteen firemen came to the oval in a bright, shining fire-fighting appliance and seemingly miles of hose. It was then announced that teams from headquarters, the suburbs, and Port Adelaide would take part in a fire drill contest. "This will show the speed with which they go into action," said the announcer. It was intended to play two jets of water on to the grass. The first team went into action, and in a twinkling the men had the fire engine up to the tank and the hoses attached. The water was turned on and the spectators waited expectantly. But all they saw was water pouring from under the seat of the appliance. Portion of the top of the pump had been blown right off. The crowd showed its sympathy and amusement, and the firemen did some tumbling instead.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 8 November 1937, page 19

Man Burned When Petrol Ignites

Ignition of a large flagon full of petrol, which his wife accidentally knocked off a kitchen shelf last night, caused Mr. Todd, of Alfred street, city, to receive minor leg burns. When the flagon fell, the petrol was evidently ignited by the stove. The occupants of the house subdued the fire by throwing sand on it. A squad from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade attended. Constable Knight investigated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 9 November 1937, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fencing On Fire—About 50 feet of fencing and a quantity of firewood were destroyed by fire at the home of Mr. H. Wearne, Gertrude street, Glandore Extension, shortly after midday yesterday. Chief Officer Whyte with several men from the fire brigade prevented the flames from spreading to the house.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 15 November 1937, page 19

FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED

£2,800 Damage Done At Mile End

A furniture factory owned by Mr. Jas. Alexander Pocock and situated at the corner of Falcon avenue and Tarragon street, Mile-End, was destroyed by fire shortly after 8 a.m. yesterday. The damage is estimated at £2,800, and only the building and a portion of the plant were covered by insurance. The cause of the fire is unknown.

The Thebarton fire station received the alarm at 7.58, but by 8.25 a.m., the factory was destroyed. Mrs. W. A. Laphthorne, attracted by the screaming of Pocock's adopted six-year-old son, looked through her window and saw a huge sheet of flame leap from the building. Soon the flames were 30 ft. high.

Miss Irene Laphthorne telephoned the Thebarton Fire Brigade, which sent two motor fire pumps under Station Officer Goddard, and another outfit was sent from the Wakefield head station. The fire had such a hold on the building that the brigades could not do more than protect surrounding property.

Mr. Pocock said that he drove his motor car into the shed at the factory about 9 p.m. on Saturday, when everything appeared to be all right. The first he knew of the fire was when his 13-year-old daughter told him that the factory was ablaze. With the help of two neighbors he pushed his car to the street. The factory was a wood and iron structure. Stock, timber and made-up furniture, stored in it was valued at £500, the machinery cost more than £2000, and the building was worth about £350. The only articles insured were the building, an hydraulic press, and the electric motors used for driving the machinery. The factory was situated on the same allotment as Mr. Peacocks house. An adjoining house and a stable on another property at the back of the factory were damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 19 November 1937, page 7

CAR IN FLAMES AT KESWICK

Men Leap to Safety.

Flames leaped 20 ft. into the air when a small car caught alight when crossing the Keswick bridge today. The car, which was driven by Sydney Smith, of Augusta street, Helmsdale, was badly damaged. John Sheridan, of Crewe street, Henley Beach, who was seated alongside the driver, had his eyebrows singed, when the breeze fanned the flames across his face.

The men were able to jump out of the car just before the petrol burst into a sheet of flame. The driver said that the car ignited without warning. There was no backfire to cause the outbreak. Dashboard instruments and other metal fittings melted in the fierce heat. A tube of sulphur dioxide was being carried in the back of the car. It is non-inflammable, but danger of explosion was feared until the heat melted the safety valve. Flames were quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 26 November 1937, page 36

Grass Fire At Goodwood.—About 100 feet of grass near a hedge at the Goodwood Orphanage were destroyed by fire yesterday. The Central and Unley Fire Brigades attended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 29 November 1937, page 20

£4,000 FIRE AT MITCHAM

Mill Destroyed

ELECTRICAL STORM POSSIBLE CAUSE

Damage estimated at between £4,000 and £4,500 was done by a fire which destroyed the building and contents of the Mitcham Mill, Victoria terrace, Lower Mitcham, early yesterday morning. It is thought that the fire was probably caused by an electrical fuse or short circuit during the severe storm earlier in the night.

Flames were leaping 200 ft. high when the Metropolitan and Unley Fire Brigades arrived, and more than 1,000 people, awakened by the glare and the crash of falling timber and iron, saw the building collapse. The large iron roof of the mill fell in soon before the arrival of the firemen, who concentrated their efforts on saving a large newly built shed adjoining the building on one side and the betting shop of Mr. E. C. Fraser, of Lower Mitcham, on the other.

Next to the betting shop is a block of about five shops, including the pharmacy of Mr. W. W. Warhurst, but the absence of wind and an excellent water supply enabled the firemen to get the blaze under control within half an hour. Windows on the southern side of the betting shop were cracked by the heat, and slight damage was done to that side of the building. The work of the brigade was also facilitated by the prompt arrival of employees of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co., who cut off the power in the immediate vicinity.

The mill, which is the property of Mr. A. S. Martin, of Unley road, Mitcham, contained a large range of machinery and mill fodder, including supplies of oats, maize, peas, peanuts, and cereals. A motor truck was also totally destroyed. The alarm was given by Mr. W. W. Warhurst, chemist, who had gone into his shop to make up a prescription about 2.30 a.m.

Remarkable Incident

The theory that the fire might have been caused by a short circuit or an arc as a result of the storm is supported by a remarkable occurrence close to the mill during the height of the storm. Miss Aileen Ring, who lives at the Torrens Arms Hotel, almost opposite the mill, was about to get into a motor car about 9 p.m. when she was startled by a loud clap of thunder followed by a flash of fire which ran along an electric light wire and exploded with a deafening crash at the top of a post in front of the mill. "Showers of sparks flew into the air," said Miss Ring, "and some of the lights went out. I noticed that there were wires leading from the post into the mill, but I did not see them alight." Firemen discovered later that the wires leading to the mill had fused, and it is thought that the earlier explosion caused possibly by the line having been struck by lightning, brought about a fuse of the wires to the mill. Constable Golding, of Mitcham, made enquiries.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 30 November 1937, page 9

Fire Destroys Garage, Car, and Toys

WHEN neighbors woke Mr. and Mrs. H. W. MacDonald, of Church terrace, Walkerville, about 4.30 a.m. today, flames were shooting high over their garage. In a little while their saloon car, various household articles, their daughter's playroom, and the garage were completely destroyed. The fire apparently started from a short circuit somewhere in the car's electrical system. The outbreak was so sudden and the fire blazed so fiercely, that the fire brigade was unable to do anything. Scorching heat blistered the paint on the house roof several yards from the garage, and irreplaceable playthings of Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald's daughter, which had been treasured and used by Mrs. MacDonald in her childhood, were charred and burnt. The motor car was damaged beyond repair. Only the steel shell of the body, the engine, chassis, and wheels remain. Soft metal melted and ran, and the springs were so heated that the steel wilted and bent. Mrs. MacDonald said: "We were asleep when neighbors woke us to say that the garage was on fire. We rang the fire brigade, and tried to subdue the flames with a garden

hose, but that made no impression. The fire burnt so quickly that it was impossible for the brigade to save anything."

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 2 December 1937, page 10

FIREMEN CALLED TO SCENE

Called yesterday to a street in Colonel Light Gardens, appliances from the Adelaide and Unley Fire Brigades dashed to the scene, only to find that their services were not needed. They discovered that there had been a road accident there, but no fire for them to extinguish. Soon afterwards an ambulance arrived.

The misunderstanding occurred through a man telephoning the Unley Fire Brigade and asking it to go to the scene. When questioned whether there was a fire, he replied that there was. It is believed that in the excitement he had failed to ascertain the facts or had made a wrong call.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 6 December 1937, page 21

Fire In Shed

The City Fire Brigade received a call to a shed at the rear of the Adelaide Motor Metal Works Ltd, Register place, off Hindley street west, at 11.2 a.m. yesterday and extinguished a fire which had broken out in a heap of wood. Prompt action prevented the flames from spreading to a number of cars.