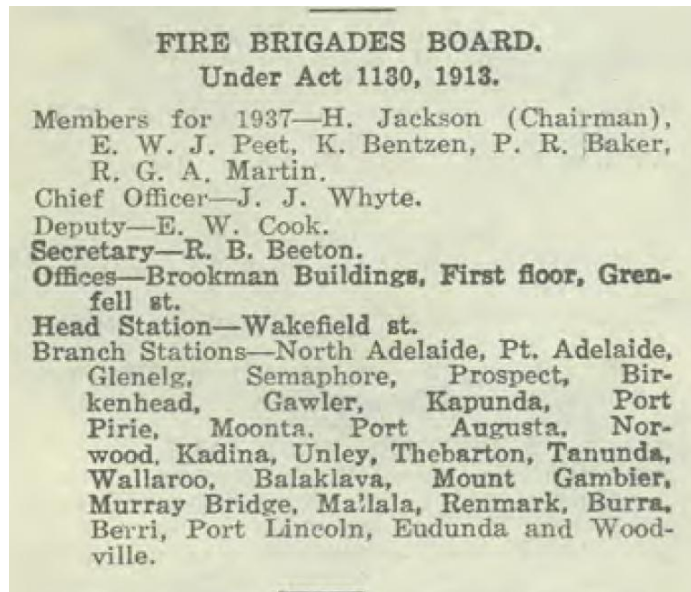


Adelaide Fire Brigade 1938

Sands and McDougall Directory of South Australia for 1938



Sands and McDougall Directory 1938

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 January 1938, page 1

MERRY, BUT ORDERLY

State's New Year Revels

ALTHOUGH on the stroke of midnight the new year received a whole-hearted welcome in the city last night, the general behaviour of the crowd made it one of the most orderly celebrations on record.

...

Only one case of housebreaking was reported up to 10 a.m. today, traffic arrangements went smoothly, no revellers spent the night in the cells at the City Watchhouse, no false alarms were received at Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters, and ambulance officers had an easy time.



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade [B 37805], Firemen at Wakefield Street headquarters. Approximately 1938. Part of Acre 342 Collection.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 5 January 1938, page 5

URGES HEAVIER PENALTIES

Fire Chief on False Alarm Increase

90 DURING 1937

UNTIL a more severe penalty is imposed on people who maliciously send false calls to the fire brigade, the evil will continue to increase, said the Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) today. In voicing this opinion Mr. Whyte was commenting on the fact that 90 false calls were received by the fire brigade in 1937. Mr. Whyte pointed out that in responding to fire calls it was incumbent that the engine should proceed as fast as possible to the scene of the fire. Legislation had been specially passed for this to be done.

BIGGER PENALTIES URGED

This entailed considerable risk to the brigade and any accidents that had occurred were due to the drivers attempting to avoid injury to the public. During the time that the engine and men were absent attending to malicious calls a fire might gain considerable headway and lives might be lost. "The majority of these malicious calls are sent in from street alarms by youths who, if apprehended are taken before the Children's Court. Full publicity cannot be given to the proceedings in this court. The small penalty inflicted apparently has no deterrent effect. "A lenient view is taken by the magistrate of many offences of this type by adults, and I am quite convinced that until some greater penalty is imposed this evil will continue to increase." said Mr. Whyte.

631 CALLS

He added that public fire alarms were placed in position for the protection of lives and property, and citizens should help to guard apparatus which might be very useful to them. Six hundred and thirty one calls were received at brigade headquarters during 1937. These figures show an increase of 46 on the previous year. The following is a summary of the calls:— Considerable damage, 5; slight damage, 273; grass and rubbish, 110; chimney fires, 52; justified calls, 7; line faults, 53; sprinkler and automatic fire alarm calls, 33; malicious false alarms, 90; salvage calls, 8.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 7 January 1938, page 25

NINETY FALSE ALARMS IN YEAR

Fire Authorities Urge Maximum Penalties

CHILDREN SHOULD BE WARNED

Ninety malicious false alarms were included among the 631 fire calls received by the S.A. Brigade last year. Maximum penalties—a £5 fine or seven days' imprisonment for a first offence and six months' imprisonment for a second—should be imposed when such offenders are caught, fire brigade authorities asserted yesterday. In the case of children—some caught interfering with alarms have been too young even to be taken before the Children's Court—Chief Officer J. J. Whyte considers that there is little realisation of the seriousness of such offences. This position could be remedied only by parents and teachers impressing on the children the fact that false alarms might interfere with the protection of their own homes.

There were no fires involving damage classed as serious (more than £10,000) last year, and only five involving considerable damage (from about £2,000). Other categories included:—Slight damage (273), rubbish or grass (110), line faults (53), and sprinkler calls (33). It has been found throughout the world that between 8 and 9 p.m. is the hour which produces most calls, and South Australia last year was no exception. There were 52 such calls. There was much hot weather last November, the total of 134 calls for that month including 57 grass fires and 51 fires involving slight damage. May was the quietest month, only 26 calls being received.

Examinations Pending

South Australian firemen are studying for examinations in March. Vacancies exist for a station officer for the new Woodville station and four senior firemen are also wanted in the city. These positions will be filled after the examinations, which are rigorous. A standard of 65 per cent, is required in each of the successive subjects—education, electrical, mechanical, and practical—before a candidate is allowed to sit for the next. Individual tests in practical work will take two days for each three men. In April, 16 members of the brigade will sit for the examinations of the Institution of Fire Engineers (London). Five will seek to qualify as associates, and 11 as graduates. There are already nine graduates in the brigade.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 8 January 1938, page 1

While a motor lorry was being filled with petrol in a yard in Franklin street, city, tonight, the vapor from a small quantity of spilt petrol ignited. Some of the burning petrol fell on a hand of Mr. P. J. Scroop, 43, of Waymouth street, city. Three units from Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters quickly put out the fire in the lorry and gave first aid to Scroop.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 8 January 1938, page 9

City Firemen Reach North Adelaide In 2 Minutes

With King William street quickly cleared of traffic by the warning hooter on the T. & G. Building, the firemen from headquarters, Wakefield street, City, reached North Adelaide in two minutes, shortly before 10 a.m. yesterday. Damage estimated at about £10 had been caused when coir yarn (for mats) caught fire in a shed at the rear of the Royal Institution for the Blind, North Adelaide. A spark from a copper nearby is believed to have caused the blaze, which was promptly extinguished by the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 10 January 1938, page 6

Driver Burnt When Petrol Explodes

Sprayed with petrol when vapor exploded while the tank of a motor truck was being filled on Saturday night, the driver, P. J. Scroop, of Waymouth street, City, received minor burns on the hands, arms and neck. He was given first aid by firemen. The fire had considerably damaged the cabin of the truck when the brigade arrived and extinguished the blaze. It spread when a man pulled the petrol hose out of the tank after the explosion. Either a static spark, caused when the metal petrol hose nozzle came into contact with the truck's steel dashboard tank, or a spark from a short circuit of the battery leads, is blamed for the explosion. This occurred about 8.15 p.m. in a yard in Franklin street, City. It was stated that the truck's engine had been switched off before the petrol filling began.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 12 January 1938, page 13

FIRE IN SPRAYING PLANT

Foam Generator Used For First Time

Using for the first time a new carbon dioxide foam generator, firemen extinguished an outbreak in the lacquer spraying plant of J. V. Stewart & Co., Ltd., Flinders street, city, yesterday afternoon. Vapor from a 45 gallon drum of thinners (a highly volatile liquid) had been ignited, it is believed, from an oxywelding plant.

Under the direction of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, several appliances from headquarters were sent. Foam smothers a fire by cutting off the supply of oxygen. The generator, installed by the brigade some months ago, delivers several hundred gallons of foam a minute. This is used for various types of liquid fires—petrol, varnishes, paints—where water would only spread the flames.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 13 January 1938, page 19

Two New Fire Pumps For Suburban Stations

Delivering 420 gallons of water a minute at a pressure of 175 lb. a square inch, one of the new motor pumps for the S.A. Fire Brigade was tested yesterday at Port Adelaide. A feature of these pumps is that the water can be delivered on any side of the appliance. With a speed of 60 miles an hour and carrying seven firemen, the appliance will be equipped with a 40 ft. extension ladder, four types of chemical extinguishers, and 2,000 ft. of hose. They will probably soon replace obsolete machines at suburban stations.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 19 January 1938, page 1

£5,000 FIRE DAMAGE

Army Hostel In City

Damage estimated at £5,000 was caused by a fire which broke out about 3.30 a.m. today in the People's Palace, conducted by the Salvation Army, in Pirie street, City. The upper story of the building was gutted, and only splendid work by the Adelaide Fire Brigade saved the structure from complete demolition. Forty-five guests who were sleeping on the first floor escaped in their night attire down the main stairway and the fire escape at the rear. Many of the guests lost their personal effects. The entire ceiling of the upper story collapsed after the people had escaped into the street. Fifty of the 61 bed-rooms in the palace were badly damaged by fire and water. Firemen arrived just in time to prevent the whole roof from caving in. The cause of the outbreak has not been established. It is thought to have been due to the fusing of an electric light wire or to escaping gas.

Awakened by Crackle Mrs. G. Searle. of Minlaton, raised the alarm after she had been awakened by the crackle of flames which burst through the ceiling and licked the walls of the bedrooms occupied by her and her young daughter. It is probable that the fire broke out in an empty room adjoining that occupied by Mrs. Searle. Intense heat from the next room assisted to awaken Mrs. Searle. She rushed to the room in which her husband and son were sleeping, and roused them. Mr. Searle then awakened everyone else by running through the corridors and shouting "Fire." After her husband had been roused, Mrs. Searle dashed back to her room to try to obtain her clothing and other effects, but the room was then ablaze. Feeding on the dry wooden timbers supporting the roof, the fire spread quickly, and when firemen from brigade headquarters under Chief-Officer Whyte arrived the upper story was an inferno.

Torrents of Water

Running hoses up the broad stone stairway, the firemen deluged the ceiling with water, while other firemen climbed a motor turntable ladder in Pirie street and poured torrents of water in through the roof. When the firemen arrived, flames were leaping through the roof and scorching the walls of the rooms and corridors 6 ft. below the ceiling. Risking the collapse of the roof, which would have sent tons of white-hot iron and burning beams crashing down on them, firemen stuck to their posts for nearly two hours until they gained the upper hand. In addition to extinguishing the blaze, the firemen had to concentrate on preventing the blaze from reaching the Congress Hall adjoining. It is expected that the whole upper floor will have to be rebuilt and refurnished. The loss is covered by insurance.

The manager of the People's Palace (Brig. C. H. Wiffen) spoke highly of the work of the brigade. He said that only their efficiency and daring had saved the whole building. Brig. Wiffen also praised the conduct of the boarders. He said there was no suggestion of panic at any time. The People's Palace has been conducted by the Salvation Army for about 45 years. It was formerly the German Club.



State Library of South Australia - Pirie Street, People's Palace for the Salvation Army [B 5158], Pirie Street, south side, March 13th 1929. For alterations and additions made to the People's Palace in 1938 see B 8189. Site of the People's Palace: near side is 12 yards west of Chesser Street. Frontage 33 1/2 yards. The roofed balcony was added in 1911 according to HT Griggs, Architect. Salvation Army Congress Hall. 1929. Photographer, State Library of South Australia.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 19 January 1938, page 26

Series Of Minor Fires

Damage was caused to a lacquer spraying booth at the plant of T. J. Richards & Sons in Railway terrace, Mile-End, yesterday, when a bursting electric light globe ignited paint deposits on the ceiling of the structure. Using three hose lines, workmen at the plant had the blaze under control when the brigade arrived.

At 2.30 p.m. yesterday, a wood and iron shed and the rear of a stone and brick dwelling, occupied by Mrs. Bean, in Park avenue, Unley, was damaged by fire. Slight damage was also caused to the house. The Unley brigade attended.

Fanned by a wind that caused the fire to advance almost at running speed, a blaze swept four acres of grass in the South Parklands between Peacock road and Sir Lewis Cohen avenue yesterday morning. The brigade and council employees subdued the outbreak.

A grass fire which extended through several properties at Coombe road, Allenby Gardens, yesterday, charred several glasshouses and scorched a number of fruit trees. The fire was got under control by the Woodville Fire Brigade before extensive damage was done. The properties affected were those of Messrs. M. De Giglio, H. Penfold, F. L. Jordan, W. Bayes and R. S. Simpson. Antoinette De Giglio was treated by the firemen for minor burns to the feet.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 20 January 1938, page 17

£4,000 FIRE AT PEOPLE'S PALACE

Boarders Endangered By Crashing Debris

NARROW ESCAPES IN EARLY MORNING

Electric Shocks Cause Firemen To Fall

While 50 ft. flames roared through the roof of the two-storey Salvation Army People's Palace, Pirie street, city, shortly after 3.40 a.m. yesterday, about 45 boarders, including many women and 5 children, were hurriedly evacuated in their night attire. It was Adelaide's worst fire for many months, and occurred on the hottest night for four years. There were many narrow escapes as burning debris fell through the ceilings into about 30 of the 36 bedrooms. Many persons were unable to save all of their belongings. The damage, which is estimated at between £3,000 and £4,000 is covered by insurance. Thirty-three city firemen were engaged.

An unusual smell, which is now believed to have been caused by a smouldering electrical wire in the ceiling, was detected at about 9 a.m. on Tuesday in bedroom 53, and probably saved the lives of a woman and three boys. These four, Mrs. G. Kimmins, of Broken Hill, her two sons, Arthur, 14, and Kenneth, 13, and her nephew, Ron Heath, 13, moved into the next room because of the odor, but were awakened early in the morning by a terrific crash, as the ceiling of room 53 crashed on to and ignited the empty beds there. As the damage was most severe in this vicinity, firemen now believe that the continued smouldering of a wire in this ceiling caused the blaze. "When we heard the crash, I said to the boys, 'Somebody must be throwing pots and pans'." said Mrs. Kimmins yesterday. When my son Arthur opened the bedroom door, he saw smoke and flames in the ceiling. While I got together a few belongings, I sent Arthur to call Captain Jordan.

Evidently the wire started to smoulder about 9 a.m. on Tuesday in the ceiling of room 53. On returning from breakfast that day we noticed a peculiar smell in the room." Having moved Mrs. Kimmins and the three boys to another room, Salvation Army officials reported the odor to the health authorities. When a health inspector arrived, he attributed the smell to the presence of a dead rat. One of the floor boards was lifted in an unsuccessful search for a rat.

Mistaken For Daylight

Mrs Searle, of Minlaton, and her daughter, who were sleeping in a room near 53. were also awakened by a bright glow from their skylight. "Surely it is not daylight yet," said Mrs. Searle's daughter, before the pair suddenly realised that the ceiling was on fire. They hurried out to call Mr. Searle, who was in the next room. When they returned, portion of a blazing skylight had fallen on to one of the beds, and had ignited the bedding and clothing nearby. The Searles also gave the alarm. Much of their property was destroyed. When he heard a knock at the door and cries of "Fire."

Mr. R. E. Garlick, a schoolteacher, of Morwell, Victoria, thought at first that somebody was playing a joke. He took his time about investigating and, when he eventually looked into the hall, half a dozen firemen were busily engaged with hoses. "I did not waste any time after that." said Mr. Garlick. "With a friend, Mr. G. P. Stewart, a butcher, of Buninyong, Victoria. I arrived the previous day on the East-West express. When we retired late last night, tired out, I remarked 'Nothing but a fire will awaken me.'"

Three members of the Fire Brigade, Senior Fireman D. Munro, and Firemen C. Meadows and J. McGrath, had narrow escapes when blazing debris fell from a large dome into a passage at the top of a staircase. Several other firemen fell from ladders when they received electric shocks from loose wires. One fireman fell on to Chief Officer J. J. Whyte in a passage.

Fight From Roof

Working perilously on top of the blazing roof, about 10 firemen, under Station Officer T. M. Davis, operated hoses run from a 90 ft. extension ladder. Cooling sections with water, they ripped off sheets of iron in order to direct the jets into the heart of the blaze. High tribute was paid yesterday to the coolness and courage shown by Captain Pearl Jordan, who was officer-in-charge of the building at the time, in minimising panic. The building was evacuated in a most orderly manner, the boarders, with such belongings as they had been able to save, being assembled in the street outside. After having knocked at the doors to awaken the occupants. Captain Jordan, in an effort to save the belongings of boarders, returned to the building three times before such efforts became too dangerous. Sergeants W. Markham and D. Bottroff assisted Captain Jordan to evacuate and calm the boarders.

Good Save Praised

Firemen managed to control the blaze after three-quarters of an hour of strenuous fighting with about eight lines of hose. The damage was confined to the roof and ceilings and bedding and furniture in about 30 bedrooms. Chief Officer Whyte was pleased that the fire was prevented from spreading to the large Congress Hall at the rear of the building. High praise of the brigade's work was expressed yesterday by the manager of the People's Palace (Brigadier Wiffen) and other Salvation Army officers. Nearly three hours elapsed before the fire was completely extinguished. At one time it was thought that reinforcements from suburban stations might be required. The firemen were directed by chief Officer Whyte, Deputy Chief Officer Cook, and Station Officers T. M. Davis and A. L. McCallum.

Draught Fanned Flames

Owing to the large dome in the middle of the roof, the skylights in every bedroom, the wide passages and the height of the ceilings, great draughts of air stimulated the flames. Fortunately, there was only a light northerly breeze. Mr. Whyte said that if the wind had been stronger it would have been practically impossible to save the building. Although portion of the kitchen ceiling collapsed, the boarders were provided with breakfast in the pantry on the ground floor by Adjutant Forbes. However, they had to hurry out when firemen warned them that there was danger of the ceiling collapsing. Formerly an old German club, the People's Palace building was taken over, remodelled, and extended by the Salvation Army about 35 years

ago. It is of great solidity, the stonework in the main walls being about three feet thick. Pending repairs, the People's Palace will be closed for the present.

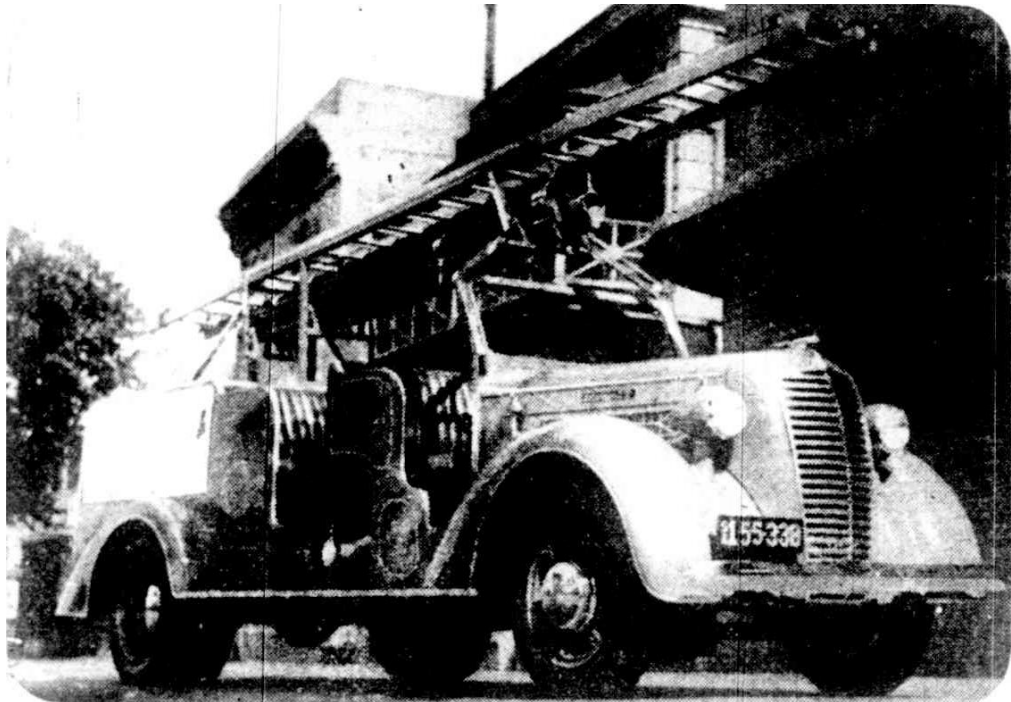
News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 January 1938, page 19

New Engine for Fire Brigade

Claimed to be of the most modern design in Australia, a new fire engine for the Adelaide Fire Brigade was delivered yesterday afternoon. More engines of the same type will be constructed later for use at suburban stations. The body for the new reel was constructed in Adelaide. It has a 30 horsepower engine, and has a pumping capacity of 400 gallons a minute. The reel can travel at 60 m.p.h., and can carry a crew of six. It can pump from either side, and deliver from either side. The chief officer of the Adelaide Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) said that official tests of speed and pumping had been made, and had proved highly satisfactory. A pump had made a vacuum lift of 20 ft. in six seconds.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 January 1938, page 20

New Fire Engine



THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE BRIGADE yesterday afternoon took delivery of a new fire engine, which is the most up-to-date of its type in Australia. It is equipped with a 40-ft. extension ladder and 2,000 ft. of hose. The engine will seat 6, and has a pumping capacity of 400 gallons a minute. The design belongs to the Fire Brigades Board of South Australia.



State Library of South Australia - Fire Engine [B 10164], The new Fire Engine for the South Australian Fire Brigade Board equipped with a 40 ft. extension ladder and a 2,000 ft. hose. Seating capacity: 6. Pump capacity: 400 gallons a minute. This model is a Diamond and the South Australian registration number is 155-338. 1938. Photographer, News and Mail, Part of General Collection.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 26 January 1938, page 7

Fire in Garage At Cowandilla

Damage estimated at £80 was caused by a fire in a garage at the rear of premises in Cowandilla road, Cowandilla, occupied by Mr. C. F. Schrader, storekeeper. The cause of the outbreak, which occurred about 4.30 a.m. today, is not known. A motor buckboard housed in the garage was badly damaged. Reels from Fire Brigade Headquarters and Thebarton attended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 27 January 1938, page 7

Buckboard And Shed Burnt

A motor buckboard and the shed in which it was housed at the rear of Mr. C. F. Schrader's store, corner of Cowandilla road and Brooker terrace, Cowandilla, were almost completely destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. The wood and iron shed and the vehicle were both insured. The Thebarton Fire Brigade received a call at 4.30 a.m., and a motor fire pump from Adelaide, under Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, and another from Thebarton under Station-Officer Goddard quickly had the fire under control.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 27 January 1938, page 20

Small Fire In City Building

Prompt action probably prevented a serious fire last night at the premises of L. G. Abbott & Co, Limited, Wake-field street, city. Combustible material had ignited spontaneously on the top floor, and flames were coming through the windows when

the brigade arrived. Messrs. Harold Bowden, 23, driver, of Charles street, Norwood, and Frederick Applekamp, 45, of Gawler place, city, who were passing the building about 10.45 p.m., saw a glow through the second floor windows and smoke was coming from a couple of open windows. Appliances, in charge of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, were called out, but the firemen had some difficulty getting in. Chief Officer Whyte and three firemen threw their weight against the front door several times before it gave way. They found a large barrel of waste materials and several packing cases and paint material alight. The blaze was subdued in a few minutes with chemical extinguishers. A few weeks ago the wood and iron factory at the rear was destroyed by a fire. It is being rebuilt with brick and concrete.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 29 January 1938, page 9

Fire at Premises Of Pastrycook

A quantity of firewood which had been stacked between the ceiling and the roof of the premises of Glover Gibbs, pastrycook, of Cannon street, off Waymouth street, City, caught fire this afternoon. The fire, which spread to the timbering of the roof, was quickly put out by two units of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer Whyte. Only small damage was done. The fire is believed to have been started by heat from the oven in a bakehouse, situated below the stacked wood.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 8 February 1938, page 12

Straw And Wood Structure In Fire Brigade Test

As a comparative test of the fire-resistant qualities of a new building material consisting of pressed straw, treated with chemicals, two three-room structures will be set on fire soon. The buildings will be erected on a block near Fire Brigade headquarters and fire officers will supervise the test. Straw fabric will be used in one structure and the other will be of weather-board. Each will be fitted with wooden doors and windows. The centre room of each will be filled with timber, soaked with kerosene. Pirometers will be placed in each structure to indicate the relative rise of temperature as the fires proceed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 10 February 1938, page 7

TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Fire." 1. Applicants for the South Australian Fire Brigade must pass a strict medical examination. Height, 5 ft. 8 in.; chest, normal, 37 in.; age, between 20 and 25 years; and an educational test. 2. No vacancies. A waiting list of 250 applicants. 3. £219 14/ per annum, probationary.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Monday 14 February 1938, page 1

Mr. Bern. Threadgold (son of the Mayor of Pirie) has joined the permanent service of the Fire Brigade. He is at headquarters, Wakefield street, Adelaide.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 18 February 1938, page 24

Washhouse Damaged By Fire In City

A wood and iron washhouse at the rear of a house occupied by W. M. Florence in Whitmore square, city, was damaged by fire at about 6 p.m. yesterday. Beds, bedding, and wearing apparel were also damaged before the fire was extinguished

by the S.A. Fire Brigade, under the direction of Chief-Officer J. J. Whyte. The owner of the house is Mr. J. A. Berghouse.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 21 February 1938, page 21

Motor Vehicles And Garage Burned

About £600 worth of damage was caused about 3.40 a.m. yesterday when a fire destroyed a garage and two new motor vehicles, owned by Mr. W. Bishop, carter and wood merchant, of Walsh street, Southwark.

Awakened by the glare, Mr. Bishop's son, Lionel, who was sleeping out, played a garden hose on the fire while his father telephoned the brigade. Shortly after Thebarton firemen arrived, the roof of the wood and iron garage collapsed. The fire was spreading along a paling fence towards an adjoining property, but it was soon extinguished under the direction of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte and Station Officer Goddard. The cause of the fire is unknown. The garage was locked by Mr. Bishop's son when he placed the motor cycle outfit inside about midnight on Saturday. As well as the two motor vehicles, a bicycle, a scales, and tools were destroyed. The property was insured.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 25 February 1938, page 3

Short Circuit Causes Fire On Electric Light Pole

Electric light services in adjacent buildings were interrupted for four minutes today when a fire broke out in a wooden fuse box at the top of a pole in Franklin street, City, about 10 a.m. today. Damage estimated at £10 was caused. The fire, which was the result of a short-circuit caused by water, was quickly extinguished by the South Australian Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer J. J. Whyte.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 26 February 1938, page 5

Fire Brigade Display Planned

A display is to be given at the Head Fire Station, Wakefield street, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, by members of the fire brigade staff, assisted by Hindmarsh Municipal Band. The display is in aid of the Bowden Scout Hall.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 1 March 1938, page 19

SPECTACULAR FIRE AT UNLEY

Furniture Factory Destroyed

£4,000 DAMAGE

Thousands Watch Blaze

Damage estimated at approximately £4,000 was done by a fire which destroyed the furniture and refrigerator factory of Mr. V. Pate, facing Tyne place, off Mary street, Unley, last night. Fanned by a strong north-easterly wind, flames were leaping more than 150 feet high when the Metropolitan Fire Brigade arrived within a few minutes of the alarm, and at one stage two houses immediately at the rear of the building were in danger. Efficient work by the firemen averted the spread of the fire beyond the factory premises, and, within half an hour of their arrival, the blaze was under control. Mr. R. Kempster, of Cleland avenue, which is at the rear of the building, was the first

who noticed the fire, having seen the reflection from his back verandah. He immediately informed the wife of the owner, Mrs. Pate, whose home is directly behind the factory. She telephoned the brigade. Mr. Pate was at the Outer Harbor when the fire occurred. Windows at his home were cracked by the heat of the blaze, and a canvas blind was completely destroyed. The building was a large brick, wood, and iron structure containing furniture and refrigerators, and was one of two factories controlled by Mr. Pate, the other being situated in Mary street.

Three pumps from the Metropolitan Brigade and one from Unley attended. Thousands of people crowded into Mary street and Cleland avenue to watch the blaze, and the locality was enveloped in a dense volume of smoke for more than an hour. Inspectors J. R. Johns and Miller, were in charge of police supervision, and Constable Slater, of Goodwood, and Plainclothes Constable McIntyre, of Unley, are in charge of enquiries. Adjoining the factory are the premises of Refrigerators Pty. Ltd., con-trolled by Mr. D. Garvie, but the building escaped damage. Six men were employed at Mr. Pate's factory. The building was closed at 5 p.m. yesterday.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 2 March 1938, page 26

FIREMEN CALLED OUT 631 TIMES

No "Serious" Fires Last Year. Says Report

The annual report of the Fire Brigades Board, for the year ended December 31, 1937, shows that 631 calls were made during the year, an increase of 46 over the previous year. According to the report, there had been no "serious fire," but there had been five causing considerable damage, 273 causing slight damages, 110 grass and rubbish and 52 chimney fires. In addition there had been seven justified calls, 53 line faults, 33 sprinkler and thermostat faults, eight salvage calls, and 90 malicious false alarms. The authorised strength of the fire fighting staff was 118 permanent officers and men, seven permanent theatre firemen, 59 country auxiliary firemen, 44 auxiliary theatre firemen. Including the brigade surgeon, the clerk, three mechanics, and the cook, the total strength was 234.

Replacements and additions to the equipment during the year included one 25-h.p. Diamond T lorry and two Hale pumps, mounted on 27.34-h.p. Diamond T chassis. The two pumping appliances had been tested, and a record lift of 26 feet in six seconds with a delivery of 420 gallons a minute at the pump delivery had been established. The report stated that the Woodville fire district, with an area of 16½ square miles, a population of 27,500, and a capital value of £6,000,000, had been taken over by the board from a volunteer company on June 25, and a hose carriage and two permanent men stationed there. A new fire station to house two married and three single men was in course of construction, and one of the new pumping appliances would be stationed there. At places of public entertainment nine outbreaks of fire had occurred. Two had necessitated the attendance of the brigade, and the remainder were dealt with by the firemen on duty. The fire drills given to staffs at large factories had been of inestimable value. In one recent case, three lines of hose were brought into operation by employees at a fire, and when the brigade arrived the fire was under control.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 8 March 1938, page 18

Small Fire In School Physics Laboratory

When the science mistress removed the stopper from a bottle of sodium in the physics laboratory at the St. Peter's Girls' School, Kermode street, North Adelaide, about noon yesterday, the escaping fumes caught fire. A curtain and window were slightly scorched, but no other damage was done. The North Adelaide and Metropolitan Fire Brigades attended. There were no students at the school.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 10 March 1938, page 12

Display By Firemen On Tuesday

The latest chemical fire extinguishers will be demonstrated by the SA Fire Brigade at a special display at the Wakefield street headquarters on Tuesday night. The display has been arranged in an endeavor to raise funds for the Bowden Scout Hall. In addition to the demonstrations by the firemen, there will be band selections by the Hindmarsh Municipal Band. Tickets are obtainable from Scout headquarters in Pirie street, or from the A.G.W.A. office, No. 1, Trades Hall, Grote street. Reserved seats can be booked at Allan's, Rundle street, or at the Wakefield street fire station.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 10 March 1938, page 10

Firefighters Study Hard for Examinations

With several senior positions to be filled, South Australian firefighters are studying hard for examinations to be held early next month. Special training and educational classes are in progress, and, to all intents and purposes, the firemen are back in school again.

TWENTY-EIGHT men will sit at the Head Fire Station, Wakefield street City, for the examinations, which are exceptionally difficult to pass. A candidate must obtain 65 marks out of 100 in successive subjects before he is allowed to sit for the next. Firefighting these days has become so scientific that a high standard of education and efficiency is essential in the ranks of the brigade. The twentieth century fireman needs to be on more than nodding terms with English, mathematics, hydraulics, mechanics, and other technical subjects. Candidates at next month's examinations will first face a paper to test their general knowledge and intelligence. They are preparing for this part of the examinations by attending night classes at brigade headquarters. These classes, which are held twice weekly, are under the supervision of Government teachers, and are attended by firemen from all parts of the metropolitan area. Port Pirie firemen are undergoing a correspondence course.

In preparation for a paper on electricity, firemen are attending a weekly lecture by the chief brigade electrician (Mr. M. E. Angus). A sound working knowledge of the maze of electrical instruments at headquarters is considered to be a necessary part of the equipment of an aspirant for promotion. On the practical side of the examinations, firemen will be required to show that they can command men. They will be placed in charge of squads of men and directed to handle various appliances as if they were actually at a fire. They will also be expected to deliver a lecture. Candidates are now undergoing drill of this type under the supervision of the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte). Mr. Whyte is also conducting classes in which firefighters are being taught how to detect various types of gas. At present there are vacancies for two officers and six sub-officers. One of the senior posts vacant is for a station officer at a new station to be opened at Woodville shortly.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1938, page 27

Fire Caused By Cigarette Butt

The Fire Brigade was called to a fire in Paringa Buildings, Hindley street, city, shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday. Three appliances turned out, and on arrival it was found that a sun blind, window blind, and window frame in an upper floor were alight. The fire was quickly put out. It was explained that some men were having tea in the room, and one had evidently placed a cigarette butt on the window sill. The window was slightly open, and the draught had fanned the cigarette and fired the window blind, and the flames had spread to the sun blind and the window frame. Only slight damage was done. Mr. W. A. Lund, one of the men in the room, in endeavoring to put out the fire, was burned on both hands and had to be treated at the Adelaide Hospital. The premises were occupied by Mr. Hedley Smith, teacher of music.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1938, page 5

FIREMEN EXAMINED



FIREMEN, wearing gas masks, emerging from a tunnel representing the hold of a ship, during examinations held at the fire brigade headquarters in Wakefield street. The tunnel was loaded with a non-poisonous asphyxiating gas. After being in the tunnel for two hours the men were examined to see if they were in a fit condition to carry out rescue operations.

Firemen In Smoky Room Pass Tests

IN a sealed chamber, dense with poisonous smoke and fumes, firemen at Brigade Headquarters, Wakefield street, City, are being taught to fight ship, warehouse, and basement blazes in the modern way. The old method of fighting ship and warehouse

fires was to let the smoke out and the draught in. The latest way is to fight, wherever possible, the fire from the inside and attack it at its source. To the raw recruit the smoke room at headquarters is a veritable chamber of horror. Laden with a 42-lb. self-contained breathing apparatus, he is required to spend two hours groping his way through inky, acrid darkness. He has to climb ladders, crawl through small apertures in an improvised tunnel strewn with obstacles, and worm his way along a narrow platform close to the roof.

Test of Nerves

A hard school of training this, but necessary for the development of a squad of picked men to enter smoke-filled warehouses and holds of ships afire, whenever the occasion arises. Two hours in the smoke and gas chamber is enough to test the nerves and endurance of any man. It is a trial by ordeal through which all firemen, whether they are aspirants for the special squad or not, must go. Before the doors of the smoke chamber are closed behind any fireman, he has several full dress rehearsals in the open air. He is instructed how to meet any emergency and is given every opportunity to become thoroughly conversant with his kit. When he is considered ready for the practical test, he is drafted to a squad of three men under Station Officer H. A. Patton. Damp straw and sulphur are ignited and the doors are closed. Soon the chamber is reeking with smoke and sulphur fumes.

Cannot See Ahead

First the trainee, who cannot see an inch ahead, has to find the tunnel entrance. This tunnel, which is 40 ft. long and 4 ft. square, is divided by partitions with apertures seemingly too small to allow a man in ordinary clothes, apart from one burdened with a bulky breathing outfit, to pass through. But the firemen, dragging hoses with them, get through somehow, even though their way is made more difficult by the presence of obstacles, such as boxes, sandbags, and baskets. This nightmarish obstacle race over, the firemen feel their way to a ladder and mount it to a platform only a few feet wide. Along this they maneuver a bag containing sawdust, knowing that a slip may mean serious injury. The nerve-wracking part of the drill is that the breathing apparatus often gets tangled and the supply of oxygen is cut off. A distress signal is by no means uncommon. Every mask has a small hooter. One hoot from this, or a choking gasp, is the signal to rush a man out into the fresh air.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 14 March 1938, page 9

False Fire Alarms.— The Fire Brigade was called out once on Saturday night, and twice yesterday by malicious false alarms. The public has been asked to co-operate with the brigade in putting a stop to these false alarms.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 15 March 1938, page 7

Missing Koala Returned Home After Escapade



THE FEMALE KOALA BEAR which disappeared from the home of Dr. L. J. Pellew, in Davenport terrace, Wayville, on Sunday night, was found late yesterday afternoon high up in a tree one street away. The Fire Brigade's big extension ladder was taken to the spot, but a fireman was able to rescue the koala without the use of the ladder. When photographed at home today, the koala (above) was in a tree on its own, leaving father and baby (left) to play together.



It Took a Fire Appliance To Get Mrs. Teddy Back Home!

ABOARD a glittering fire appliance from brigade headquarters, Dr. L. J. Pellew's runaway koala bear, Mrs. Teddy, was returned in spectacular fashion to the bosom of her family about 5 p.m. yesterday. Mrs. Teddy disappeared during the night from the cage, which in apparent connubial bliss she occupied with Mr. Teddy and baby bear in Davenport terrace, Wayville. Traces of fur on the wires of the cage suggested that she had forced her way through or had been removed. During the afternoon a tramwayman saw the deserter, hopping along Joslin street, Wayville, and telephoned Mr. Keith Minchin at the koala farm. Mr. Minchin, who had read about the bear's disappearance in "The News," communicated with Mrs. Pellew. Meanwhile Mrs. Teddy had clambered to the top branches of a tree. From this lofty eminence she defied all efforts to capture her or to induce her to come to earth. Eventually it was

decided to see whether the fire brigade could do anything about it. Dr. Pellew telephoned the fire brigade's chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who obligingly despatched Fireman J. Whitefield in an old appliance with a 36-ft. ladder. By the time the fire appliance arrived quite a crowd of spectators had assembled. Disdaining the ladder, Fireman Whitefield, who is an expert gymnast, shinned up the tree and persuaded Mrs. Teddy to transfer her grasp to his uniform. With the bear clinging to him he climbed down, and drove in state to Dr. Pellew's home. Mrs. Teddy's dishevelled appearance suggested that she had not enjoyed her liberty. Precautions are now being taken to ensure that she does not escape again.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 16 March 1938, page 20

Firemen Demonstrate To Assist Bowden Scouts

Demonstrations of fire fighting and rescue work, and exhibitions of gymnasium and tumbling, were included in a programme presented by firemen at the head station of the Fire Brigade, Wakefield street, city, last night. More than 500 people attended, and about 200 more could not gain admittance. The programme had been arranged by the committee of the Bowden scout troop in conjunction with the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte), and had been organised to raise funds for the Bowden scout troop's hall. Band selections by the Hindmarsh Municipal Band were interspersed among the items presented by the firemen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 March 1938, page 21

Fire Destroys Torrens Bank Shacks

The Fire Brigade was called at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday to a fire in two shacks on the northern bank of the Torrens River. The outbreak is thought to have begun in a wood, hessian and iron shack owned and occupied by John Dulley. This shack was destroyed, with the contents, as also was an adjacent two roomed shack owned and occupied by W. Hardinge. The shacks were on the property of the Adelaide City Council.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 March 1938, page 7

Fire Brigade Display To Aid Soldiers' Fund

To assist the Distressed Sailors and Soldiers' Fund, a demonstration of fire drill, and a physical culture display will be given by members of the Fire Brigade at the Wakefield street station on Monday night and Thursday, April 7. Some of the fire drill demonstrations have not been given in Adelaide before and will include a number of humorous items. The Hindmarsh Municipal Band will assist on Monday night and leading boxers and wrestlers at the second display. Drill items which will be new to Adelaide include picking up drill, which will show how unconscious persons are carried with ease, a display of a foam making branch-pipe (a new accessory for extinguishing liquid fires, and the quenching of an actual fire by means of an inert gas. Rescue drill with the aid of a jump sheet will give thrills and laughs, and under actual conditions a demonstration will be given of the apparatus used when entering a gas filled and smoke logged building. The display will end with a full turn out of the brigade. The Chief Officer of the Brigade (Mr. Whyte) said yesterday that the team of firemen athletes who would assist was the most versatile team he had seen in his long experience. New stands have been built, but Mr. Whyte said that as the seating capacity will still be limited, those intending to attend should obtain their tickets either

from Allan's or Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street. The prices are 2/6 (reserved) and 2/, and the entire proceeds will be given to the soldiers' fund.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 1 April 1938, page 3

Valuable Goods Threatened by Fire

Goods valued at several thousands of pounds were threatened by a fire which occurred about 10 a.m. today at the store of Rofe & Co., carriers, in Liverpool street, City. When a motor lorry, which was being refueled at a bowser in the store, burst into flames, the store roof caught alight, but the fire was kept under control with a hose until an appliance from the Adelaide Fire Brigade arrived. The cabin of the lorry was destroyed and wooden beams supporting the iron roof of the store were charred by the flames, which shot up several feet when the motor spirit ignited.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 2 April 1938, page 11

Silver Bugle That Summoned Firemen

Mounted in a glass case at fire brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, a small silver bugle whose brazen note called firemen to the muster in the sixties and seventies of last century is a mute reminder of how the old order has yielded place to the new. Years ago when some one rushed breathlessly into the fire station to report a fire or the alarm was sounded by the clanging of bells, the man on duty called his fellow firefighters together by blowing the bugle. Horses were then harnessed and driven at break-neck speed to the scene of the fire. Nowadays the mere turning of the handle in any of the alarm boxes in the city sets bells ringing at the central station, operates a siren, and automatically switches on all lights in the building. An alarm in any building not only does all this, but switches on a light in a cabinet above a set of keys which will fit the doors of the building. Time certainly marches on.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 2 April 1938, page 7

FIREMEN GO BACK TO SCHOOL



FIREMEN FROM metropolitan brigades sitting for examinations in the Thebarton Technical School today. There are several senior positions offering to them.

Fire Appliances Waiting Outside School While Firemen Examined

With the prospect of being called upon at any minute to drop their pens for hoses and axes, 20 firemen attended the Thebarton Technical School today for an examination to test their knowledge of English, mathematics, and hydraulics.

Outside the school, two fire appliances were standing by to rush the firemen students to a fire should the alarm be raised while they were wrestling with Euclid, verbs and pronouns, and tricky problems in algebra.

The examination is the first of a series to be held this month to fill several senior positions. The test is exceptionally difficult to pass, and failure in one subject means elimination. Thus, should a candidate for promotion pass all but the last subject, he would have to sit again. Today's papers will be marked before the next subject is taken. Those not eliminated by failure today will then be eligible for examinations on the practical side of firefighting.

In preparation for the examinations, firemen have been studying hard for several weeks, and have been attending special educational and practical training classes. The Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) said today that modern firefighting had become so scientific that a high standard of education and efficiency was essential. At present there are vacancies for two officers and six sub-officers. One of the senior positions to be filled is that of a station officer at Woodville.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 2 April 1938, page 26

April Fool's Day Thing Of Past

April Fool's Day was celebrated quietly yesterday—so quietly that it would appear that the practice of arranging practical jokes at the expense of other people on that particular day seems to be definitely dying out. Police were not worried by April Fool's Day jokes. The Zoological Gardens had only one "April Fool" caller, who used the telephone as a medium. Only one malicious false alarm was received at Fire Brigade Headquarters.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 April 1938, page 10

Fireman's Busy 100 Seconds In Hose Competition

In winning a hose competition, conducted by the S.A. Fire Brigade last week, Fireman T. F. Schwerdt ran altogether about 400 feet, carrying out the following operations in 1 min. 40 2-5 seconds:—Unscrewed the plug and prepared a hydrant; transported and connected three 100 ft. lengths of hose, each weighing 33 lb. a breeching piece (10 lb.), and two branches (5 lb. each). Fireman Schwerdt won a clock presented by Mr. F. Miers, a former member of the Fire Brigades Board. Fireman Sinclair, for second place, received a cup presented by Newton, McLaren Ltd. Fireman E. Magor was third.

On Saturday about 20 firemen, candidates for promotion, underwent a three-hour educational test at the Thebarton Technical School. Dictation, an essay, mathematics and hydraulics were the subjects. The candidates will also sit for an examination in electricity and mechanics. Finally, they will undergo individual practical tests. It is expected that the examinations will be completed about the end of May. There are vacancies for one station officer (at headquarters) and seven senior firemen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 April 1938, page 20

CARS DAMAGED IN GARAGE FIRE

Heap Of Refuse Catches Alight

Five motor cars were slightly damaged in a fire on the premises of S. G. Gregersons showrooms, garage and used car depot, late on Saturday night. Severe damage was done to the ground and first floors of the building, which is on the corner of Currie street and Light square, city.

The fire brigade received a call from a street alarm at 11.14 p.m. The Chief Officer (Mr. Whyte) said that the fire began in a heap of rubbish comprising rubber, oil waste and floor sweepings, in a corner of the garage. It must have been burning about an hour before the flames became sufficiently bright to attract the attention of a passerby, who rang the alarm. From the fact that the building was properly locked when the brigade reached it, Mr. Whyte considered that the fire began by spontaneous combustion. Detective Harris inspected the premises yesterday morning.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 5 April 1938, page 24

DEMONSTRATION BY FIREMEN

Gymnastics And Fire Fighting Methods

A capacity audience saw a brilliant display of gymnastics, and an interesting demonstration of modern fire fighting methods at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade

headquarters, Wakefield street, last night. The proceeds will be given to the Distressed Soldiers' Fund. Another performance will be given on Thursday night.

In an address, the State president of the Returned Soldiers' League (Mr. W. S. Hosking) said that it was the aim of the league to raise a fund of £20,000 before April 25. "There are many people still under the impression that every soldier who has become unfit for work, or his dependants when he has died, are provided for by the Repatriation Department." Mr. Hosking said. "But that applies only when the disability can be determined as being due to war service. There are many men who suffer very grave disabilities with the passing years, and who, in our opinion, are suffering from the effects of their war services. However, as this cannot in many cases be proved satisfactorily to the Repatriation Department, no Government support can be obtained. It is those men we want to help."

The chairman of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. Jackson) presented trophies to the three finalists of a recent competition. The men were:— Firemen F. F. Schwerdt, W. Sinclair, and E. Magor.



THE VERSATILE SIX of the Fire Brigade athletic team which will take part in the Brigade demonstration at Wakefield street on Thursday night in aid of the Distressed Soldiers' Fund.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 6 April 1938, page 26

Masked Firemen Work Among Fireworks

Among dense fumes from smouldering fireworks, three masked firemen extinguished with hoses a fire in a cellar of Doy Lees store, Hindley street west, about 11.30 p.m. yesterday. Before donning masks, the firemen had been driven back by clouds of

white, acrid smoke when they opened the door of the premises. For the first time one of two "Salvus" type self-breathing apparatus, recently acquired by the brigade, was used. Fitted with an oxygen reservoir as well as a filter, the "Salvus" provides completely safe breathing for half an hour. One of its advantages is its compactness and the rapidity with which it can be donned. Altogether, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade is now equipped with 14 mask respirators. Six of these are "Protos" (providing safe respiration for two hours) and six are "Burrells".



Burrells

Proto

Salvus

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 6 April 1938, page 1

Firemen's Sit-Down Strike Tomorrow

Arson on the grand scale will be perpetrated in Adelaide tomorrow. Three brand new buildings which have never been occupied will go up in smoke and flames. The scene of the big flare-up will be, of all places, the headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade in Wakefield street, and firemen, who will attend, will make no effort to save the structures. The reason for the firefighters' indifference will be that the buildings will be fired deliberately to test their fire-resisting properties. The buildings, which are about the size of an average room, are of straw, brick, and wood, and the purpose of tomorrow's experiment is to decide whether straw houses are as fire-resisting as wood or brick.

Dry timber sodden with kerosene and petrol will be stacked inside the buildings and set alight. An apparatus known as a pyrometer will be used to ascertain progressive temperatures in each structure as the fire spreads. The readings on thermometers inside will be recorded on a meter outside. Note will also be taken of the time it takes for cracks to appear in the brick and straw structures. A select audience of insurance experts, builders, contractors, and timber merchants will attend the experiment, which will begin at 3 p.m. It is believed that this will be the first test of its kind ever conducted in Australia. It has been sponsored by the manufacturers of straw houses.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 April 1938, page 11

DEMONSTRATION OF FIRE-RESISTING QUALITIES OF HOUSE

A crowd of 300 people, including many builders and contractors and insurance experts, attended a demonstration at Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, this afternoon of the fire-resisting qualities of a model house built of compressed straw. A heap of dry timber, soaked with kerosene and petrol, was set alight inside the house. The fire burnt itself out in half an hour without seriously cracking the structure. The temperature inside the building rose to 610 deg. centigrade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 April 1938, page 4

FIRE DISPLAY TONIGHT

Distressed Soldiers To Benefit

At brigade headquarters tonight firemen will repeat a display given on Monday in aid of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Distress Fund. Features of tonight's entertainment will be exhibition boxing bouts in which Dasher Deane, prominent professional boxer, and Arthur Jones, amateur welterweight, will appear. Fireman E. G. Kidby, wrestling champion at brigade headquarters, and Fireman B. Temple, Port Adelaide champion, will meet in a three-round contest.

The scientific side of fire fighting will be demonstrated in drills to be given by firemen. They will extinguish an actual fire with an inert gas and show how liquid fires are fought with foam. The display will end with a spectacular turnout of the brigade. It is expected that the two displays will raise £50 for the soldiers' fund. The net proceeds of Monday's function were £23.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 8 April 1938, page 8

STRAW HOUSE RESISTS FIRE IN CITY TEST.

300 People Watch Demonstration At Brigade Headquarters

ALTHOUGH a fire which was started inside a room of a small straw house at Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, City, yesterday afternoon, attained a temperature of 1,200 deg. Fahrenheit, the temperature in an adjoining room rose only 1 deg. The fire caused only a few small cracks in the walls of the room which was set alight. This remarkable demonstration of the fire-resisting and insulating properties of compressed straw was given before a crowd of 300 people, including interstate visitors, members of Parliament, bankers, insurance experts, and builders and contractors, engineers and architects. The demonstration was given to satisfy the building board of reference of the quality of straw houses, and was staged under the auspices of the Chamber of Manufactures and with the sanction of the Fire Brigades Board.

VALUE OF INDUSTRY

Introducing Mr. J. F. Bradley, secretary of Solomit (S.A.) Ltd., sponsors of the test, Mr. Perry, M.P., vice-president of the Chamber of Manufactures, said that the chamber recognised the value of the new industry and the great advantage it would be to the farming community. Mr. Bradley said that straw houses were new to Australia, but they had been in vogue in 17 overseas countries for 15 years. Australia was the last important country to adopt them, and was proving harder than any other country to convince of their worth. Unfortunately, like most innovations, Solomit had already experienced the power and prejudice of vested interests. This, however, was now being overcome.

In addition to being fire resistant and fire retarding, Solomit was sound proof, damp proof, and everlasting. It was not claimed that Solomit was fire proof, but it was definitely non-inflammable, and resistant to fire to an extraordinary degree. Houses built of compressed straw were cool in summer and warm in winter. The value of Solomit was recognised by many eminent overseas architects, and building and

construction engineers. Many of the biggest hotels on the Continent were built of Solomit.

In the past two and a half years 100,000 straw houses had been built on the Continent. They were more bomb resistant than other types of houses, because they were non-inflammable, and would not fracture or collapse from concussion. Continuing, Mr. Bradley said that the largest and most fashionable hotel in Germany was built of solomit. This was the Eden, at Berlin. Other important buildings constructed from the same material were the Century Hotel, of 13 stories, at Antwerp, and the Illbaritz, at Biarritz.

PETROL-SOAKED TIMBER

Mr. Bradley explained that it was originally intended to set fire to a wood and brick house built alongside the straw house at Fire Brigade headquarters, but permission to fire those had been withdrawn at the eleventh hour. He was unable to state the reason for this. To show visitors how well Solomit houses stood up to fire, a stack of timber soaked with petrol and kerosene was then set alight and allowed to burn for half an hour. Although the interior of the room quickly became an inferno, the Solomit ceiling prevented the fire from reaching the supporting timbers, and the outer walls gave little indication of the terrific heat within. Throughout the fire visitors placed their hands on the outer walls without experiencing discomfort. Those who stepped into a small room adjoining that in which the fire was burning were astonished by its coolness.

EVIDENCE OF DURABILITY

Commenting today on the success of the experiment, Mr. Bradley said that the test supplied convincing proof of the fire resisting and insulating properties of Solomit. The interstate visitors included Mr. F. Langlands, a leading Victorian merchant, who had built a six-roomed straw house at Horsham. As evidence of the durability of straw. Mr. Bradley mentioned that straw found in Egyptian tombs had been in excellent condition after 7,000 years. In England there were houses with thatched roofs which had been standing for 200 years and more.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 8 April 1938, page 29

DANGEROUS HOAX ON FIRE BRIGADE

Two Men Smash Alarm In Rush Period

Two men in evening dress who are said to have smashed an alarm in front of the shop of Charles Birks & Co., Rundle street, city, shortly after 11 p.m. yesterday, were responsible for turning out practically the full force of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Having just completed a spectacular demonstration at headquarters, the firemen answered the alarm in record time. Led by Chief Officer Whyte, appliance after appliance dashed through King William street at the height of the after-theatre rush. Illustrating the dangers of such hoaxes, one big motor, carrying a ladder, had to brake hard in front of "The Advertiser" office to avoid a collision. Meanwhile, all traffic was halted by the emergency siren on the T. & G. Building and blinking red lights at the intersections. On arrival at the alarm box. firemen were informed by a bystander that after breaking the glass, two men in evening dress had turned away towards North terrace. A search was made.

Genuine Call Earlier

Earlier, while sirens whined and fire-men raced up a 90-ft. extension ladder during the demonstration at the Fire Brigade headquarters last night, a genuine call set the station alarms in motion. By an automatic sprinkler alarm, firemen were called to a small fire in the upstairs portion of Thompson & Harvey's premises. Flinders street, city. Damage was confined to a workbench and some tools. Ending with a spectacular turn-out of the brigade with its full equipment, the display was the second arranged by the men at the station in aid of the Soldiers' Distress Fund. The Hindmarsh Municipal Band assisted. The firemen gave excellent displays of physical culture and acrobatics. Tumbling acts by a station team were very popular with the audience of more than 300. Boxing displays and boxing exhibitions were also included in the programme. One of the most spectacular events was a gas mask demonstration, during which three firemen were locked in a room filled with dense smoke. After several minutes they emerged, looking hot, but completely unaffected by the choking fumes. Hook ladders were used in rescue drill, and station appliances were demonstrated.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 9 April 1938, page 5

FIRE DAMAGE TO EXCAVATOR

Boom Drops into River

Believed to have been caused by the engine backfiring and setting alight to petrol dripping from a tank on to the exhaust, an excavator belonging to the Engineering and Water Supply Department was damaged by fire at Flinders Park early today. The intense heat cracked the glass in the windows of the cabin, and caused some steel wires to give way, allowing the boom with scoop attached, to drop into the River Torrens. The excavator was being used for dredging and reclamation work. Appliances from Thebarton and the City Fire Brigades attended. An estimate of the damage has not yet been made.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 9 April 1938, page 9

The TALK OF THE TOWN

Men, Women, and Gossip.

Light Drama

THE time—11.25 p.m. last Saturday. The place—corner of King William street and North terrace. The last trams for the night were converging on the city to line up in King William street for the getaway at 11.30. People were hurrying in all directions to catch their trams and trains.

Suddenly the red traffic lights began to flash on and off. All movement in King William street stopped, and trams, cars, and pedestrians waited expectantly for the fire brigade to come clanging along. At the corner of North terrace two girls who had been to a dance at Hackney jumped off a tram and prepared to run to the railway station for their last train. But the red lights were still winking ominously, and no one could cross King William street. One minute . . . two minutes . . . still they kept on winking. The girls were almost in tears. If they crossed the street they might get knocked down by the brigade or incur all sorts of dire penalties. But if the brigade didn't come they would miss their train. After three long minutes they decided to make a dash for it. Across the street they ran, their long evening frocks flowing out behind them, and all in the waiting crowd admired their daring. But they were really

quite safe. The drama ended in a very flat anti-climax. No brigade appeared, the lights resumed their normal cycle, a philosophic tram driver said it must have been for an air raid, and the banked-up crowds began an even wilder rush for their last trams and trains.

The fire was in Currie street.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 11 April 1938, page 20

Fire At Myer Emporium

The Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the Myer Emporium, Rundle street, on Saturday night, but on arrival found that the flames had been extinguished by the automatic sprinkler alarm. The fire was caused by a spark flying from an oxy-acetylene plant which is being used in connection with renovations. This set fire to dress material, and the heat caused the sprinklers to act. The fire was extinguished within 30 seconds.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 11 April 1938, page 4

S.A. Firemen Not Discontented

Adelaide is not likely to experience the same trouble as Sydney because of the working hours of firemen, the secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. Nieass, M.P.) said today. Sydney firemen are now talking strike because their demands for reduced hours are not being met. Mr. Nieass said that under a recent agreement between the association and the Fire Brigades Board, Adelaide firemen spent two days on duty and one off, compared with the old practice of three on and one off. The actual working hours of labor were from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and for the remainder of the day the men stood by. Under the recent agreement, Mr. Nieass said, the men's working hours had been reduced by 8½ per cent. and wages increased by 7½ per cent. Although firemen were always looking for improvements in their working hours there was no serious discontent among them at present, he said. It was stated that working hours of South Australian firemen compared more than favorably with those of firemen in Victoria.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 12 April 1938, page 1



MR. F. STENIFORD, top picture, using a fire brigade ladder to take measurements at Parliament House today. Some of the stonework is to be removed from the old building to conform with the design of the additions being built. Left below, Mr. C. W. Kerr is assisting with the aid of powerful binoculars. Most accurate measurements were given by Mr. Kerr, up to one-sixteenth of an inch.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 14 April 1938, page 19

DANGEROUS HOAX ON FIRE BRIGADE

Two Men Smash Alarm In Rush Period

Two men in evening dress who are said to have smashed an alarm in front of the shop of Charles Birks and Co., Rundle street, city, shortly after 11 p.m. on Thursday, were responsible for turning out practically the full force of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Having just completed a spectacular demonstration at headquarters, the firemen answered the alarm in record time. Led by Chief Officer Whyte, appliance after appliance dashed through King William street at the height of the after-theatre rush. Illustrating the dangers of such hoaxes, one big motor, carrying a ladder, had to brake hard in front of "The Advertiser" office to avoid a collision. Meanwhile, all traffic was halted by the emergency siren on the T. & G. Building and the blinking red lights at the intersections. On arrival at the alarm box, firemen were informed by a bystander that, after breaking the glass, two men in evening dress had turned away towards North terrace. A search was made without success.

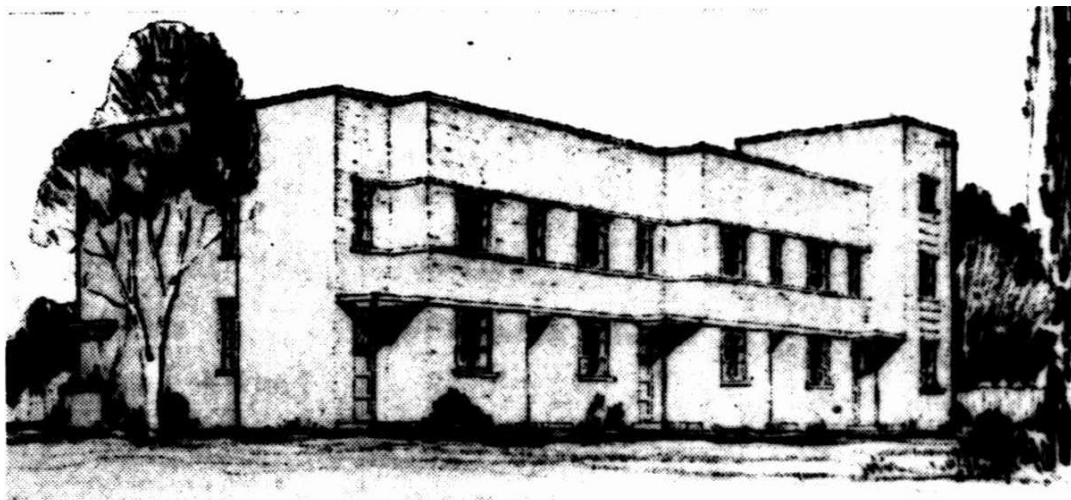
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 14 April 1938, page 24

MODERN FLATS FOR FIREMEN

Part Of Reorganisation Scheme

A comprehensive scheme for additions and alterations at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street will include the erection of three two-storey blocks each containing five flats for married firemen and their families, the remodelling of the present station building to provide comfortable and modern quarters for married officers and their families, the improvement of the single mens accommodation, and the modernisation of the general facilities at the station.

It was announced yesterday that the tender for the first block of flats had been let to Wilckens & Burnside, of Norwood. Work will begin immediately after Easter, and the building will be completed within six months. This building and the two blocks which will be erected later will face Wakefield street on the land on the western side of the station. The buildings will be placed in such a position that the maximum amount of light, air and garden space will be available for the occupants of each block. Each family will be provided with a front door opening on to its own garden, and will have separate access to the flat roof, where the laundry will be placed. Woods, Bagot, Laybourne-Smith and Irwin are the architects.



PERSPECTIVE SKETCH of proposed block of flats at Metropolitan Fire Brigade
Station.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 14 April 1938, page 16

The Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the Myer Emporium, Rundle street, on Saturday night, but on arrival found that the flames had been extinguished by the automatic sprinkler alarm. The fire was caused by a spark flying from an oxy-actylene plant which is being used in connection with renovations. This set fire to dress material, and the heat caused the sprinklers to act. The fire was extinguished within 30 seconds.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 16 April 1938, page 20

FIRE THREATENS BRIGHTON HOME

Car And Two Buildings Destroyed

Damage estimated at £500 was caused by a fire in a garage at the rear of the 25-roomed house occupied by Mrs. E. M. Nairn, in Dunluce avenue, Brighton, about 3.35 a.m. yesterday. A 1937 model closed motor car, insured for £350, a garage and its contents, including work benches and tools, were destroyed, as well as the dividing fence, and a wood and iron shed in the adjoining property. Although the fire had a firm hold before the Glenelg and headquarters brigades arrived, damage to the house occupied by Mrs. Nairn, and the adjoining house, occupied by Mrs. J. H. Mules, was prevented. The blaze was under control 15 minutes after the appliances, which were accompanied by Chief Officer Whyte, arrived.

The blaze was noticed by Mrs. Mules, who saw a light dancing on the blind of her window. When she raised the blind she saw that the garage in Mrs. Nairn's property was alight. She roused Mrs. Nairn, who called the brigade. The firemen concentrated on saving the 25-roomed house, and removed another car from the side of the garage before it was caught by the fire. Flames licked the verandah at the rear of the house, and slight damage was caused to the windows and the verandah. The motor car which was destroyed was owned by Dr. L. A. Wilson, of Unley road, Malvern.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 16 April 1938, page 19

FREAK STORM CUTS THROUGH SUBURBS

Huge Hailstones Smash Windows And Cause Blockages

GARDENS BADLY DAMAGED

Shops Flooded At Unley; Stock Soaked

CLIMAX TO ABNORMAL HOT AUTUMN SPELL

A short but severe and freakish hailstorm which passed over Adelaide a little before 6 p.m. yesterday caused damage estimated at several thousands of pounds to buildings, gardens, and stock in shops. It was the climax of the abnormal hot autumn spell.

Fire Brigade Called Out

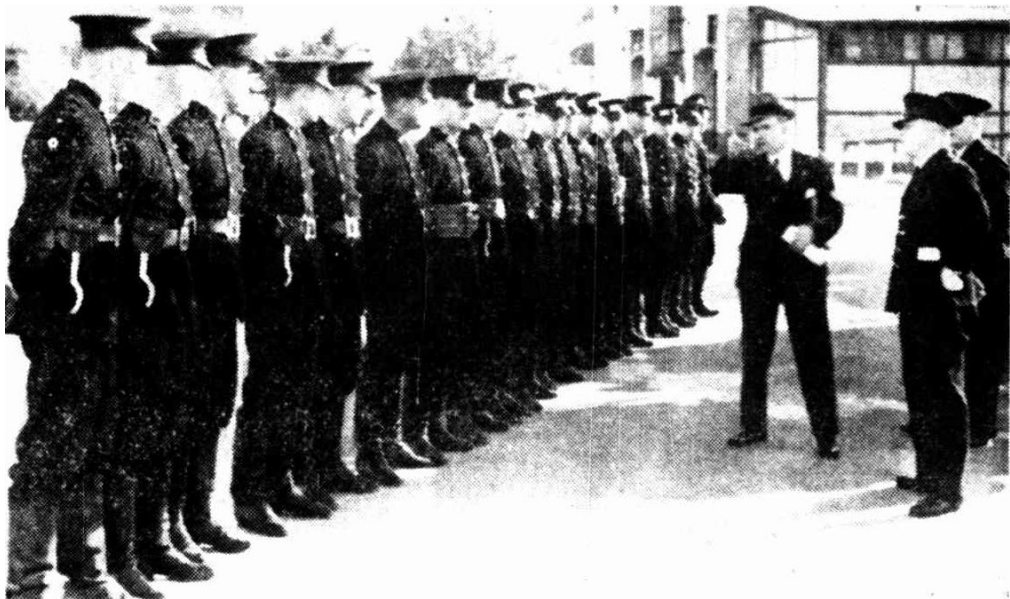
At the height of the storm, the Fire Brigade received three calls within a few minutes. At 6.7 p.m. it was reported that a switchboard had caught alight in a motor garage in

Duthy street, New Parkside. The Unley brigade extinguished the blaze before any damage was done. A minute later the Fire Brigade headquarters were notified that flames had been seen through the window of the ground floor of the three-storey building occupied by Purina Grain Foods (S.A.), Limited, in Ann street, Stepney. Motor traffic police who were passing the building noticed the fire and called the brigade. In both instances the fires had been caused by the telephone wires being struck by lightning, which ran into the buildings and contacted the switchboards. When the brigade arrived at the building occupied by Purina Grain Foods, the fire was well alight and licking the rafters of the ceiling of the ground floor. Bags of grain food stored near the switchboard had been demolished.

Another fire was reported in a building allotment in Forest avenue, Black Forest, where rainwater coming into contact with bags of quicklime had set the lime alight. Interruptions to electric supply in the eastern and southern suburbs and the hills were reported by the managing director of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company (Mr. F. W. H. Wheadon). He said that the trouble was caused by lightning striking the lines and blowing the transformer fuses at local centres. Twenty transformer areas were interrupted in that way. There was no failure of supply in the city, but the places affected were Burnside, Birkenhead, Port Adelaide, parts of Glenelg, several country districts, and Mount Lofty, Mylor, Clarendon and Morphett Vale. Interruptions of about 50 minutes to an hour occurred in some places.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 23 April 1938, page 5

REHEARSAL FOR PAGEANT



MEMBERS OF THE FIRE BRIGADE taking part in the Grand Pageant at Wayville tonight, were at the show grounds early today rehearsing their turns for the last time. The above picture shows the Fire Chief (Mr. Whyte) —in mufti—giving instructions to his men.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 23 April 1938, page 7

Firemen's Display for Grand Pageant



FIREMEN JUMPING 40 FT. into a safety sheet will be one of the features of the Fire Brigade's display at the Grand Pageant tonight in aid of the Sailors and Soldiers' Distress Fund. These two pictures show a fireman jumping from the ladder (top) and landing safely in the sheet (below).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 25 April 1938, page 17

SUCCESS OF WAYVILLE TATTOO

12,000 See Brilliant Manoeuvres

FUND TO BENEFIT

The pageant given by the naval, military, police, and firefighting services in aid of the Sailors and Soldiers' Distress Fund on the Wayville Showground arena on Saturday night was a brilliant spectacle and an excellent illustration of the thoroughness and precision with which the services in this State are trained. Despite the threat of a wet night, 12,000 people attended, and were enthusiastic in their applause.

The displays of skilful riding, athletics, marching, band music, and military and naval manoeuvres were all organised without a hitch. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan), who saw the whole programme, described the pageant as a first-rate performance, and congratulated its organisers. The president of the Returned Soldiers' League (Mr. W. S. Hosking) said afterwards that he was exceedingly

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

pleased with the display. The extent to which the fund has benefited will not be known until later in the week.

Heavy rains at about 6 p.m. made the organisers wonder whether the programme would have to be postponed, but the sky cleared early. The night remained fine and mild until the end of the last event, when a light rain made the people run for their trams and motors. When the Governor arrived at the Kidman Gates with his escort of mounted police, the arena was in darkness. Then the police bugle band sounded a fanfare, the big pylon lights blazed on, and the various services were revealed in array on the oval. The Governor inspected the police guard of honor, which was drawn up on the track in front of the official stand. On the oval, the naval unit was marshalled on the right, with the military and brigade bands in the rear. The evening began with a march past of all performers to gay military airs.

Pipe Band's Display

The Caledonian Pipe Band gave an excellent display of counter-marching as the first event. This band won high honors in the recent Sydney contests. It contains pipers and drummers who were members of famous Scottish regiments. Members of the fire brigade then did physical exercises in time to rhythmic music from the amplifiers. They were directed by Drum-Major J. C. Stevens, of the pipe band. "You may wonder what a Scottish piper has to do with the fire brigade." said the announcer. He explained that Drum-Major Stevens was also the fire brigade's chief drill instructor. "But he doesn't usually do his instructing in petticoats." the announcer added, referring to the Scotsman's kilt and plaid. The fire brigade men also gave a daring display of pyramid forming, including one turn in which an athlete did horizontal bar exercises on a bar supported on the shoulders of his friends, who in turn stood on the shoulders of sturdy firemen. Police lancers gave a musical ride to the accompaniment of "All the King's Horses," played by the Cavalry Band. At the same time, police trick riders gave an amazing display of skill. The flashing sword-drill of the mounted police was succeeded by a grimmer exhibition of modern mechanised warfare, as members of the 18th Machine Gun Regiment showed how machine guns come into action and withdraw. Transported by two lorries, the men dismounted, ran to cover, assembled their vickers guns, fired one belt to each gun, dismantled the weapons, and doubled back to their transport.

A realistic display of a land action was presented by members of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Two parties with 12-pounder naval field guns were shown attacking an imaginary hostile tribe, armed with modern weapons. Hardly had the echoes of their first shots died, when the heavy guns were dismantled and transported through a breach in a wall by their crews, set up again, and fired. The announcer recalled the Australian Navy's land actions at the relief of Ladysmith and in the Boxer rising. Sharpshooters of the Australian Army Service Corps, in wild west garb, gave an astonishing exhibition of accurate shooting by bursting balloons and knocking over objects as they rode past at the gallop. Junior constables next gave a demonstration of their parade work. They did platoon drill with perfect precision under the direction of Sergeant-Instructor Grimshaw, who was a member of the Coronation Contingent from this State. To the music of the pipe band, athletes of the fire brigade did some excellent horizontal bar work and breath-taking tumbling. The mounted maypole ride by members of the A.A.S.C.(P.) and women riders from various clubs was a feature of the evening. The girls looked smart in red, with red pillbox caps. After the maypole ride, two lines of riders, with pennants, drew up in a guard of honor. One of the girls

discarded her red coat, revealing a white costume. She put on a bridal headdress, and, accompanied by a mounted soldier, rode down the line at the head of her company to the strains of the "Wedding March."

The only accident of the evening happened in this event, when one of the riders was unseated. Hanging gamely on to the reins, he was dragged for several yards over the turf until he pulled up his horse and mounted again. A daring exhibition was given by the men riders, who made their horses lie down, took cover on either side of them, and even stood on their prostrate mounts. Some of them had to dodge quickly to avoid a kick when their horses became alarmed. Major F. Cawley was in charge of the event. He had two sons and a daughter taking part.

Tanks' First Appearance

Two tanks and an armored car, appearing for the first time in South Australia, gave a demonstration of their manoeuvres. The armored car and its crew travelled overland from Melbourne, but the tanks were brought to this State by sea. With the machine gun units, they were a good example of modern army equipment. The tanks and car will also be on view today. Field guns crashed out in the artillery display by the 13th Field Brigade. Four guns, with their teams and crews, demonstrated how they could be manoeuvred in close formation. The horses not did flinch at the loud percussions, although many of the spectators cried out in surprise, and a few humorists imitated the whine of shells.

The next to last event was a ladder display by the Fire Brigade. Men ran up the big extension ladder, hosed water on to a supposed fire, and then showed the public how to jump from a height of 40 ft. into a blanket. Fire appliances, racing with whining sirens around the track, were a realistic accompaniment to the demonstration.

For the grand finale, at about 11.15 p.m., all services marched round the oval and took up a position facing the Governor's box. The Cavalry Band played "Lest We Forget," and, as the Governor was ready to enter his car, "God Save the King" was played. The chiefs of the services taking part sat with the Governor in the official stand. They were the District Naval Officer (Commander Rosenthal), the Base Commandant (Brigadier Martyn), the Commissioner of Police (Brigadier-General Leane), and the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte). The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr. Playford) represented the Premier (Mr. Butler). The Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett), the chairman of trustees of the fund (Mr. Lance Lewis), the chairman of the fund's appeal council (Mr. Murray Fowler), Mr. Hosking, and women guests were also with the Governor. The organisation of the pageant was directed by Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Watson. Captain H. M. Maughan was chief marshal, and marshals for the various sections were: — Navy, lieutenant-Commander A. Greening; military, Major F. Cawley; police, Superintendent W. F. Johns; and Fire Brigade, Chief Officer J. J. Whyte. Special trams and trains took the people to and from Wayville.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 30 April 1938, page 23

TWO MEN BURNED IN GARAGE FIRE

Petrol Takes Fire During Filling Operations

Two men were burned, one of them seriously, when a fire broke out in a garage at Danby street, Torrensvile, about 8 p.m. yesterday. Those injured were:— Harold Richard Ackland, of Danby street, Torrensvile, severe burns to both hands and the

back of both legs. Keith Megson, of Norma street, Mile End, burned hand. The garage is owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Jean Ackland, of Northcote street, Torrensville, who operates a cartage business. Megson was engaged in filling the petrol tanks of the trucks at the time. While Megson was trying to open a drum of petrol, the spirit caught fire and burned his hand. He tried to extinguish the flames, and, finding this impossible, went for help. While he was away Ackland reached the garage, and it is believed that he attempted to roll the drum out of the garage. In doing so the petrol splashed on his hands, which, according to an eyewitness, "blazed like torches."

Constables Claxton and Williams, of Thebarton, who were on patrol duty in the vicinity, went to the fire. They found Ackland still standing in the garage with his clothes alight. They pulled some of the garments off and extinguished other portions of his clothing that were smouldering. Machines from fire brigade headquarters and from Thebarton, under Chief Officer Whyte, arrived shortly afterwards and put out the fire, which had extended to both trucks and their contents. Little damage was caused. Ackland was treated by the firemen for his burns, and was then taken to Warraweena private hospital in a civil ambulance. His condition late last night was satisfactory. Megson was also taken to the hospital. It is not known how the fire started, but it is believed by the police that it was caused by a spark from the metal cap of the drum when Megson was trying to remove it.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 7 May 1938, page 23

TRAFFIC HELD UP AT PEAK PERIOD

False Fire Alarm From Children's Hospital

Many people returned late to their offices after the lunch-hour interval yesterday as a result of a dash down King William street by a fire appliance. Just before 2 p.m. pedestrians and vehicular traffic were warned by the flashing red signal, and scores of people waited on each side of the street while the appliance passed. After an interval Chief Officer Whyte of the Fire Station, followed in his car, and at a signal from him the normal time cycle for lights was resumed. Subsequently, several city business-men criticised the holding up of traffic, saying that it was apparently unnecessary. The brigade was responding to a call from the Children's hospital—a false alarm caused through a line fault. "Since the call came from the Children's Hospital, we could not take any chances with it," Mr. Whyte said later. "With any other call we would not have gone through King William street. The Pulteney street and Frome road route to North Adelaide would have been used. Since the Children's Hospital was concerned, however, it was decided to take no risks." Mr. Whyte added that he was at lunch when the call was received. Hearing the siren at the station, he ran towards it, but by the time he reached it, the appliance had left. Much to his disgust he had to go through King William street in civilian clothes, along a clear road. He had expected to find traffic normal again, since every police officer in the street had been given a signal which meant "one car only." Before the electrical fault was repaired, two other false alarms from the Children's Hospital were received at fire brigade headquarters yesterday.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 7 May 1938, page 26

Dressing Shed In Parklands Burnt

Portion of a tin shed on the West parklands used by the Underdale Football Club was damaged by a fire which broke out shortly after 7 p.m. tonight. It is thought that

burning chips from a bath-heater which had been left alight set fire to some papers on the floor. An electric meter alongside the bath-heater was burnt. A repair gang from the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. was summoned to repair two live wires which had been connected with the building. A motor outfit and three men in charge of Station-Officer Davis from Fire Brigade headquarters attended, and the fire was put out with the aid of two chemical extinguishers. A motor outfit from the Thebarton Brigade also turned out. The fact that the building was constructed of tin prevented it from being totally destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 10 May 1938, page 5

SPECIAL EXAMINATION FOR FIREMEN

Papers Received From London

Fifteen South Australian firemen will sit at the Technical School, Kintore avenue, on Thursday, for an examination which, should they pass, will entitle them to diplomas as either associates or graduates of the Institute of Fire Engineers. Six of the men will sit for the associate's diploma and nine for the graduate's test. The papers for the examination were received from London a few days ago by the Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) who handed them to the Education Department, which will conduct the examination.

The syllabus will include mathematics, algebra, hydraulics, essay writing, fire protection, motor mechanics, telephony, electrical energy, architecture and building construction as it applies to fireproof buildings. There are eight graduates of the institute in the South Australian Brigade and last year Drill Instructor R. C. Stevens and Station Officer A. L. McCallum finished second and third in the British Empire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 17 May 1938, page 21

Film Fire Extinguisher Demonstrated

An exhibition of an invention by a young South Australian cinematograph operator which, it is claimed, would eliminate any prospect of a fire occurring in a projector during a performance, aroused considerable interest and enthusiasm among a representative audience at the Fire Brigade headquarters last week.

The inventor first showed the effect of a spark on a 2,000 foot strip of film and the alarming consequences of the failure of the electric impulse of a projector and the firing of the film. He then ignited the film with the invention attached and in working order. Before the flame had consumed a square inch of the film a fuse had broken which released a spray of gas from three directions on the burning film, and punched a hole about 1½ inches by 1½ inches to eliminate the entire part affected. The extinguisher did not interfere with the film in the slightest, nor injure the sound track. In each case the experiment was entirely successful and greatly impressed the audience, which included members of the Fire Brigade Board, housing and health authorities, members of film companies and others. The inventor is Mr. K. G. Macklin, of Glenford avenue, Myrtle Bank, who is a cinematograph operator at the Regent Theatre. Mr. K. R. Goode, who assisted him, lives in the same street.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 20 May 1938, page 4

Personal

HIS Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) and Lady Dugan paid a visit to the Adelaide Fire Brigade this morning, when His Excellency presented diplomas and witnessed a display by the brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 20 May 1938, page 7



TOP—THE GOVERNOR (Sir Winston Dugan) congratulates Station Officer McCallum, and (beneath), Lady Dugan being presented with a bouquet from Valerie Stephens.

Governor Presents Diplomas

FIREMEN at South Australian Fire Brigade headquarters went through their spectacular training drill for the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) when he visited headquarters today to present fire engineers' diplomas to eight firemen. A guard of honor was drawn up outside the brigade headquarters before the Governor's arrival, and, accompanied by the chairman of the Fire Brigades' Board (Mr H. P. Jackson) and the Chief Officer of South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. Whyte), Sir Winston inspected the men. He presented diplomas to Station Officers Giles, McCallum, and Patton, First-Grade Senior Fireman Stephens, Second-Grade Senior Firemen Frazer, Sandison, and Corker, and Fireman Meaney. After the presentation firemen demonstrated rescue work, respirator drill, physical training, and pump and turntable drill.

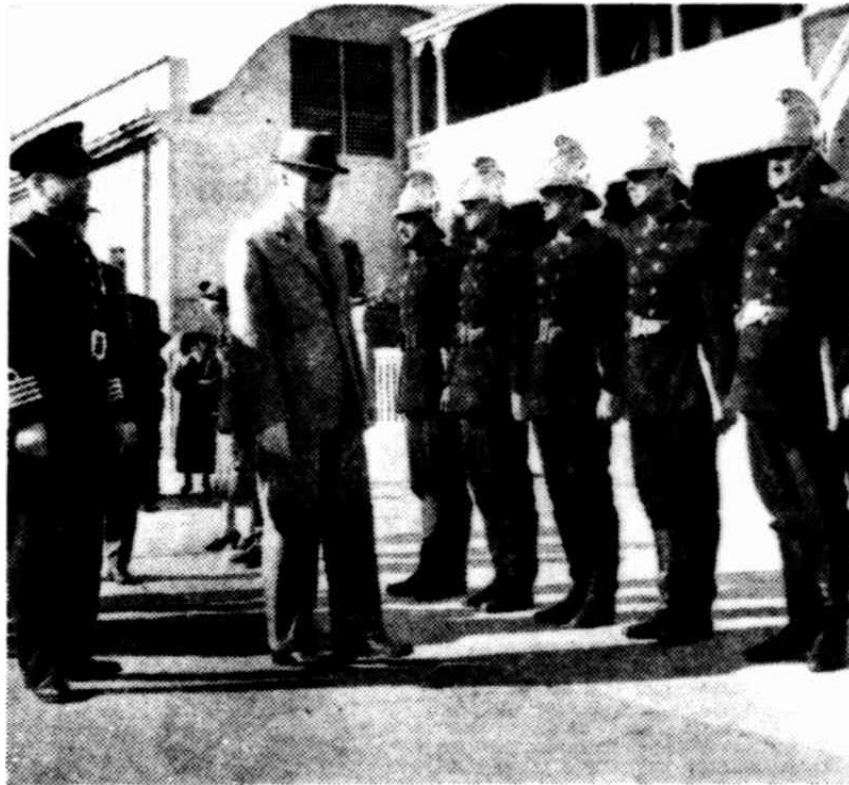
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 21 May 1938, page 25

DIPLOMAS FOR FIRE BRIGADE

Governor At Demonstration

The metropolitan fire brigade gave a demonstration of firefighting and athletic skill yesterday morning, when His Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) presented fire engineers' diplomas to eight members of the South Australian Fire Brigade. With their helmets sparkling in the sunshine, a guard of honor waited to receive the Governor outside the main entrance to the headquarters station. The Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Dugan and attended by Captain Mortimer, A.D.C., was received by the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) and the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. Harry Jackson). After inspecting the parade, Sir Winston Dugan presented diplomas to the following successful candidates at the 1937 entrance (graduate) examination of the Institute of Fire Engineers:— Station-Officers F. J. Giles, A. L. McCallum, and H. A. Patton, First Grade Senior Fireman J. E. Stephens, Second Grade Senior Fireman A. Sandison, D. Corker, and A. F. Frazer, and Fireman T. J. Meaney.

Sixteen firemen gave a display of physical drill to music and pyramid formation. A description of various types of fire extinguisher and a demonstration of the jump sheet and rescue drill down the 35 ft. extension ladder followed. Men wearing respirators entered a smoke-filled box to demonstrate breathing apparatus. A sensational tumbling item was given. Climbing up the four-storied demonstration tower with hook ladders and rescue by line formed one of the most thrilling parts of the display. Combination drill with the pump and turntable ladder and a parade of appliances completed the programme. A description of the various items was given through an amplifier.

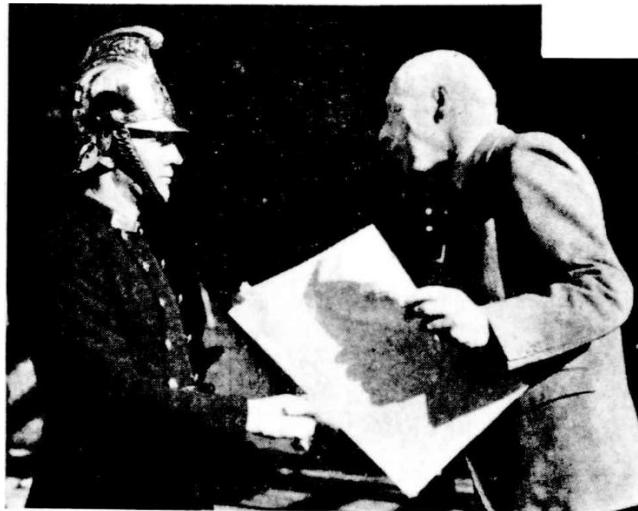
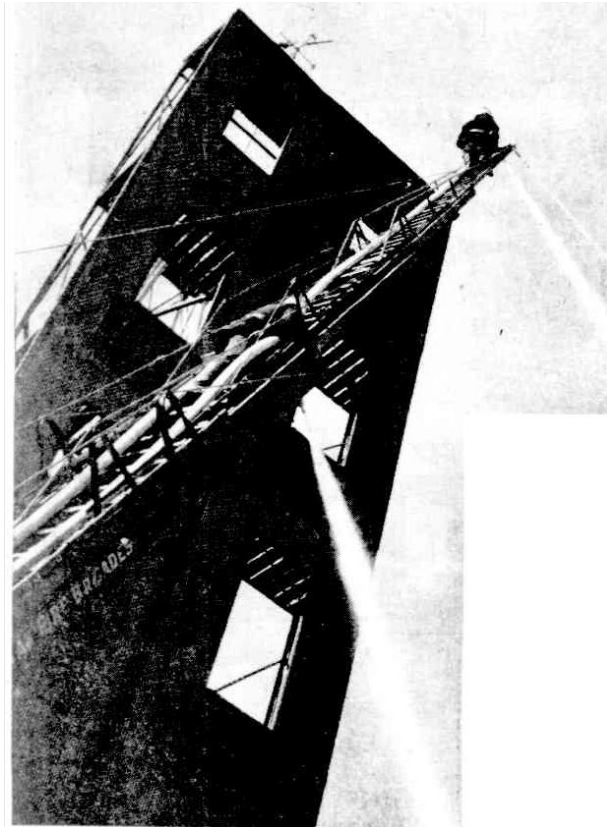


HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) visited the head Fire Brigade Station, in Wakefield street, yesterday, to present diplomas to successful candidates in the Institute of Fire Engineers examination. From left Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, the Governor, and the guard of honor composed of firemen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 21 May 1938, page 28

The Advertiser SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1938

FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY: SEAMEN'S MISSION: AUTUMN SUNSHINE



FIREMEN demonstrating how the water hose is controlled on the extension ladder alongside the practice tower at Wakefield street station yesterday. Right—The Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) presenting a diploma to one of the eight successful candidates in the Institute of Fire Engineers examination.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 24 May 1938, page 4

Personal

Mr. J. J. Whyte, chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade, left today on an inspection tour of fire stations in the South-East. He will return towards the end of the week.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 27 May 1938, page 5

Personal

The chairman of the South Australian Fire Brigade Board (Mr. Jackson), the chief officer (Mr. Whyte), and the insurance representative (Mr. A. G. Ross) returned yesterday afternoon from a trip to Mount Gambier, where the local fire station was inspected.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 31 May 1938, page 15

50 Ft. Escape Ladder For Fire Brigade

For use on one of the Fire Brigade headquarters motor appliances, a 50 feet escape extension ladder is being constructed by Mr. W. Cox, of North Adelaide. The base support is being made in the brigade workshop. The new appliance carrying the ladder will also be equipped with a 400-gallon-a-minute pump. Owing to wear, the brigades 90-feet extension ladder, which has been in service for a considerable period, is not operated at a height of more than about 65 feet.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 6 June 1938, page 5

New "Talkie" Alarm Will Be Boon to Firemen "Wait! Fireman Will Speak." These words will be painted on the dial of the new fire alarm boxes to be installed shortly in the Woodville district. With the modern "talkie" alarm, it will not be necessary to turn a handle to call the brigade, but simply to press a button and then talk with the officer on duty at the fire station watch room.

The fire brigade's electrician (Mr. Angas) is making steady progress with the new appliances, but the chief officer (Mr. Whyte) does not expect the installations to be made for about a month. Woodville will then make fire brigade history with an alarm system new in Australia. The sensitive alarm button will only need to be pressed one sixty fourth of an inch to register, while the speaker and receiver in the box are ultra-sensitive. "Yes, what is it you want?" will probably come back from the fireman, and then from a distance of 20 ft. the person giving the alarm will be able to supply details to the fireman, who by that time would have the firefighting units summoned and preparing to leave. It is always advisable to speak into the receiver, but if you are excitable person, who just gives the alarm and then begins to run away, do not be surprised if you hear the fireman bel-lowing for you to come back when you are 100 yards up the street. Brigade officials anticipate that the new equipment will be particularly useful and it is suggested that eventually it will be installed throughout Adelaide. People may laugh when, in response to an alarm in King William street, the brigade turns out with full equipment and extension ladders and finds only a motor cycle or some small object on fire. But the brigade cannot tell from an ordinary alarm box call the extent of the fire. The new method will solve this difficulty, as the caller will be able to explain the type of fire, and even if he runs away after giving the alarm, there will probably be others within 100 yards who will answer the fireman's plea for more details. There will be another consoling feature. The brigade officials will always be able to check whether a call is false or genuine; turning out at all hours of the night to malicious alarms is no fun during the cold winter months.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 6 June 1938, page 12

SECRET EYE ALWAYS ON THE WATCH

Guards Keys to City's Wealth

By M. W. J.

Would you like access to the keys of the Commonwealth Bank or one of Adelaide's large stores? If so, I can tell you where to get them.

In a room in Wakefield street, which is never closed, keys to practically every large city establishment are hanging in an unlocked glass case. A man is generally in the room, but at night he sleeps and you could easily steal in without his knowledge. Now, in case my scheme is appealing to you, I think it time to pass on my advice not to try to borrow them. They are guarded by a secret eye. The keys are duplicates to permit Adelaide firemen easy entry into buildings in the event of fire, but they are so intricately arranged that even the firemen do not know off hand what keys are necessary to open a bank, a milk bar, or a jewellery shop. And they are equally as much handicapped by the secret eye as you or I would be in attempting to take the keys from the unlocked case. A tell-tale electrical device is the protector of the keys which could open the way to hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of money and goods.

Touch the handle to open the case, and every alarm bell in the Central Fire Brigade headquarters rings. There is no switch controlling the appliance, so a neglectful fireman can not inadvertently leave the keys unprotected. The secret eye is always on duty. The interior of the glass case is an elaborate switchboard. A numbered disc is attached to each set of keys, and the index is kept by the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) in his safe. Tiny red and green globes are behind the keybook. When a call is received through any of the automatic alarm signals attached to business premises, it lights a green globe, indicating the keys necessary for the call. When the keys are taken off the hook the red light flashes on and remains alight until the keys are replaced. Do you still think it would be a good idea to attempt to borrow these easily accessible keys? Or do you agree with me that there is justification for the little printed warning, "Danger, Don't Touch Door Handle," which is attached to the front of the case?

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 7 June 1938, page 12



TRAM SERVICES, particularly those on the Enfield and Prospect lines, were interrupted today through loss of power. This happened while Waterworks

Department employes were opening up a trench in Frome road, where a gas leak had already been reported to the Fire Brigade. It is thought that a pick struck a tramway cable and caused a short circuit, igniting the gas. Flames shot along the trench for 12 yards. They were extinguished by the brigade. Some of the workmen watching the trench after firemen had thrown earth on the blaze.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 9 June 1938, page 1

Stock Exchange Blaze: Clouds of Smoke Pour From Building

When a defect occurred in the central heating system in the ceiling of the Stock Exchange of Adelaide at about 3.45 this afternoon, sparks ignited the wooden structure of the plant and set the ceiling alight.

Shortly after 3 o'clock Stock Exchange members in the call room noticed a smell of burning, but went on with their work undisturbed, and the first intimation that there was a fire in the building was when sparks fell through the ventilation system in the vestibule. This was at 3.55 p.m. The electric power in the building was immediately disconnected, and the alarm given.

By the time the brigade had arrived the ceiling, which is made of wood, was burning and smoke was issuing from the top story windows. Four appliances from brigade headquarters were in action, and one of the 60-ft. ladders was run from the Stock Exchange lane up on to the roof. Trading in the vestibule continued until about 4 o'clock, when the building was cleared by the police. A huge crowd quickly gathered outside the Stock Exchange building.

With dense clouds of smoke pouring from the tower and top windows of the Stock Exchange building, four fire brigade appliances were quickly dashed to the scene shortly after 4 o'clock, and before long appeared to have the outbreak under control. Firemen fought the outbreak from the roof and the ground. It is not yet known how much damage has been done, but it is not thought that it will be extensive.

Attracted by the huge clouds of smoke, people from many parts of the city gathered in Pirie street and the side lanes leading to the Stock Exchange building until they were forced to retire by the police, so that the firemen could work unhampered. With handkerchiefs over their faces, girls on the roof of an adjacent business college defied the stifling smoke. They watched the blaze from the windows.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 10 June 1938, page 7

FIREMEN CUT OFF BY WALL OF FLAME

Story of Close Call In Stock Exchange Blaze

Cut off by a wall of flame after they had ascended the nearest stairway to fight yesterday's £10,000 fire at its source near the roof, the Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) and four firemen had a narrow escape from incineration.

Mr. Whyte today gave a graphic account of what he described as the closest call he had had in a long career of fire-fighting. Had the men been unable to quell the fire which had blocked their return to the lower floors, they would not have had a chance. Immediately the fire brigade arrived at the blazing building, Mr. Whyte was told that the fire had begun in an attic where air-conditioning machinery was housed. Firemen dashed up the stairs, cut their way through partitions, and began to flood the machine

room. While they were doing this they saw a sheet of flame burst out of a timber chute immediately below them.

With the flames licking the foot of the stairs which were their only means of escape, and the matchboard ceiling and wooden rafters blazing, the firemen were surrounded by the fire. The only thing to do was to abandon the attic and attempt to fight their way through the inferno. Two of the firemen, collapsed as a blast of hot air shot up the narrow stairway, but they recovered when Mr Whyte broke two windows to let in fresh air.

Sagging Floor

Lying flat—they could not stand up against the terrific heat and fumes—the firemen poured water on the small area separating them from the main stairway, and after a three-minute battle cleared a space big enough to let them run through in safety. The narrowness of their escape was emphasised by an examination of the call room on the first floor of the Stock Exchange today. Just at the foot of the small stairway leading to the attic the floor was sagging badly. It would certainly have collapsed had the fire lasted much longer. Mr. Whyte today expressed astonishment that chutes for distributing warm air throughout the Stock Exchange building were made of matchwood. Had they been made of steel the fire would have been confined to the top floor instead of spreading. "The Stock Exchange is so heavily timbered inside that the brigade was lucky to subdue the fire as quickly as it did." said Mr. Whyte. "I have not seen a big building with so much wood work in it. As the fire spread down the air-conditioning chutes the matchwood ceilings were ignited with amazing rapidity." The fire provided a striking instance of how the business of the Stock Exchange must go on; even when the ceiling of the call room was afire brokers were so engrossed with their buying and selling that they were still shouting their offers when the firemen arrived. Many noticed the firemen rushing up stairs with hoses, and introduced a humorous note by offering to trade on the fire.

Damage From Water

The chairman of the Stock Exchange (Mr. Young) said today that no decision had yet been made whether the building would be reconstructed or renovated. The brickwork appears to be in good condition, but it would be necessary to rebuild at least the roof and ceiling and renew the furnishings. Considerable damage had been done by water. The committee would meet today, Mr. Young added, to discuss the position. This morning's meeting of the Stock Exchange was held in the Chamber of Manufactures boardroom, the Stock Exchange staff occupying two adjoining rooms. Relics of the fire were the bell and chairman's mallet, which were salvaged from the vestibule. When the chairman grasped the mallet to call the meeting to order, there was general laughter when he found that his hand was covered with soot.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 10 June 1938, page 29

£10,000 FIRE AT STOCK EXCHANGE

Heating Plant Defect

TWO FIREMEN COLLAPSE

Interior Hacked To Pieces

BUSINESS TODAY IN PIRIE ST.

Damage estimated at £10,000 was caused to the interior of the Adelaide Stock Exchange, Exchange place, city, by a fire which broke out in a heating system at 4 p.m. yesterday. Six firemen were cut off by flames in one corner of the building, and two of them collapsed. They were rescued by two men wearing gas masks.

Driven by draughts which raced through the ventilation ducts, the flames made rapid headway. Dense clouds of smoke drifted over the city when the flames reached masses of sawdust and seaweed packed into the wooden casing of the heating unit. A squad of police had great difficulty in controlling the crowds which assembled in the narrow approaches to the building, and vehicular traffic in Pirie street was suspended. Because of the inaccessibility of the building the fire provided many difficulties for the 25 members of the Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer Whyte. Practically the whole of the interior was hacked to pieces by the firemen. Water caused further damage.

It was announced last night that there would be no interruption to the business of the Exchange, which will be carried on today and tomorrow in the Chamber of Manufactures Building, Pirie street. It is hoped that a transfer will be made to the Wool Exchange in Brookman's Building, Grenfell street, on Monday. The whole of the damage is covered by insurance. Until an inspection can be made, it is impossible for officials to estimate the loss accurately. It is feared that a number of valuable photographs including a collection of past presidents, has been ruined. No records or valuable documents were lost.

Members of the Exchange noticed the fire after the 3 p.m. meeting. Sparks were seen to fall from the wooden casing of a heating fixture which extends across the ceilings of both the ground and first floor rooms. The secretary (Mr. Norman Todd) telephoned the Fire Brigade a few minutes before 4 p.m. When the first appliances arrived some operators were trading in the vestibule.

Crowds Attracted

Crowds were attracted by volumes of black smoke which poured from the conical tower at the front of the building. A 60-ft. extension ladder was run up from McHenry street, as it was feared that the tower might collapse. Firemen then attacked the flames from the roof. Two hoses were used to carry water from plugs in King William and Pirie streets. Inside the building the flames quickly spread through the cedar ceilings. Every appliance from the head fire station was in operation, including three pumps, a hose carriage, a salvage van, and a ladder carriage. The North Adelaide Brigade stood by at the city headquarters.

Spectators crowded the windows and roofs of the buildings near the blaze, some defying the thick smoke by wearing handkerchiefs over their faces. A number of girls were showered with water when the fire hoses spurted through the windows.

Police Commissioner's Work

The Commissioner of Police (Brig.-Gen. Leane) personally supervised the 20 police who acted under the direction of Metropolitan Superintendent Mattin, assisted by Inspectors Church, Cain, Merrett and Wegener. The Stock Exchange Club in the basement was not reached by flames. Water poured down the stairs, however, and flooded the premises. The secretary (Mr. Burchell) said last night that he could not estimate the damage. Some of the furnishings in the club were very valuable. Some of the waitresses in the Stock Exchange Club lost portion of their belongings when

they ran outside to see the fire. One girl remembered to time that she had left some jewellery in the basement of the building. She went back and recovered it. Another left her street frock in the basement, and had to go home without it.

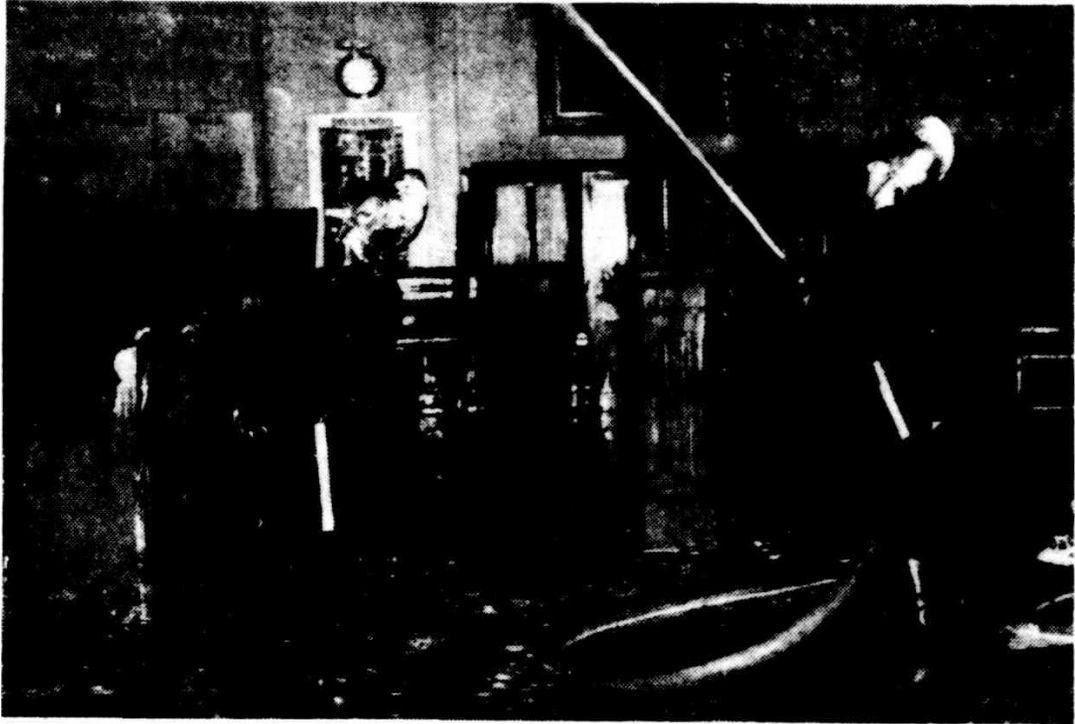
Before the building was cleared by the firemen, officials of the Postmaster-General's Department working in a small telegraph office on the ground floor of the building locked money and other valuable property in a strongroom. At the same time members of the staff of S. C. Ward & Co. were removing documents and valuable papers from an office in the building, and other papers were saved from the secretary's office.

Sparks Shower

The former secretary of the Exchange, Mr. F. H. Wray, who is now a member of the committee, said that he was in the vestibule when the fire was noticed. He saw what appeared to be a "red hot wire" in the heating system. Sparks then began to shower from the ceiling. "The alarm was not taken very seriously in the call room," he said. "They did not believe that anything serious was going to happen. The commissionaire set to work when he knew the brigade was coming down, and told the members to move the cars from the lanes. Some of them merely laughed." Mr. Wray said that the heating apparatus in which the fire broke out was installed about two years ago after a poll had been taken among members. The company responsible for its installation inspected the plant early yesterday.

Fire Chiefs Story

Chief Officer Whyte said that practically the whole of the interior had been destroyed either by the fire or by the axes of the firemen. The men fought the flames from all directions, but because of the air ducts, and the sawdust and seaweed packed into the wooden casing of the heating system, it was difficult to quell any one section before the flames got a good hold to some other position. "I have never seen anything like it." said Mr Whyte. "It was the worst fire in my 26 years of experience. On one occasion six of us were cut off at the north-western corner of the building on the first floor. An air duct suddenly flared up and trapped us. Two men collapsed, but the situation was saved by two other men who donned gas masks and crawled through one of the narrow wooden casings. "It was dangerous work. The whole of the roof was removed and the ceiling on the first floor was lifted. The flames went through the ceiling of the ground floor and burned right into the call room." Firemen remained on duty through-out the night and will watch the smouldering timber today.



DAMAGED INTERIOR of Stock Exchange Building. This picture, taken after 8 p.m. yesterday, shows the firemen still at work endeavoring to stop smouldering between floor and ceiling in the main vestibule which, although not so severely damaged as the call room on the first floor, is almost ruined.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 16 June 1938, page 34

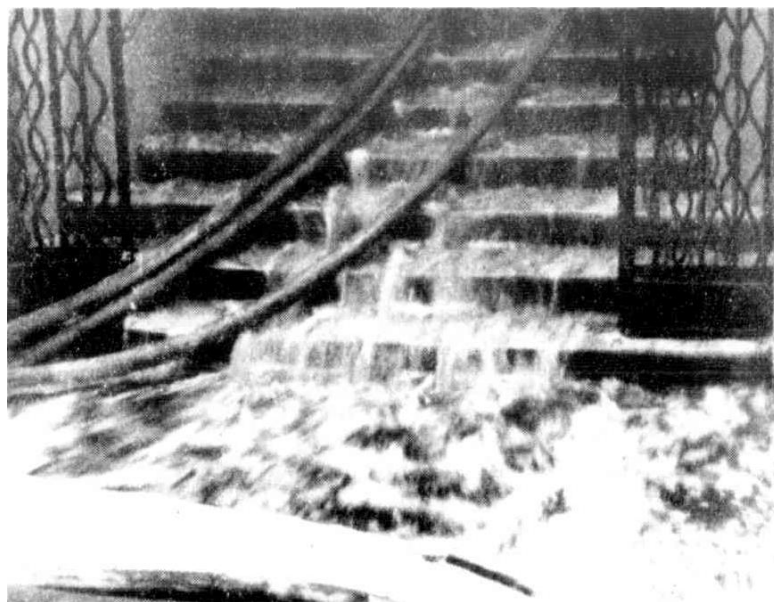
Birthday Levee: City Fire: Women's Golf:



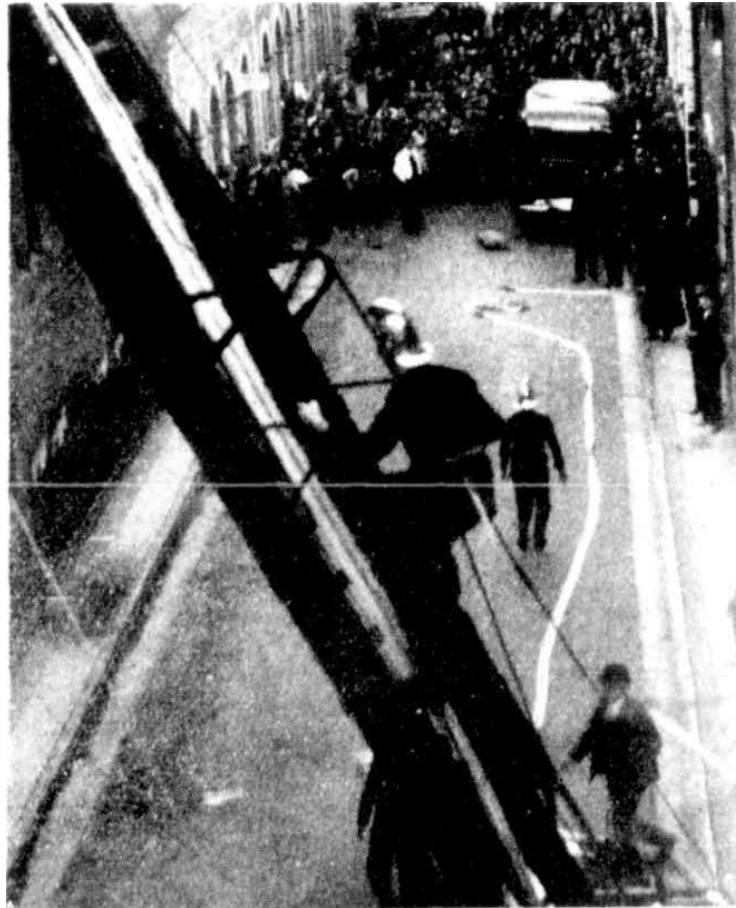
FIRE AT STOCK EXCHANGE. Damage exceeding £10,000 was done by a fire which broke out in the Adelaide Stock Exchange last Thursday, and burnt furiously for some hours. Picture shows firemen attacking the blaze from the roof of the building.
— Krischock.



CALL ROOM of the Stock Exchange after the fire last week had been extinguished. A fireman taking stock of the damage. — Krischock.



DAMAGE BY WATER. Water pouring down the steps of the Stock Exchange building, following the £10,000 fire last week.— Krischock.



WORKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES. The efforts of the brigade in fighting the Stock Exchange fire were considerably hampered by the narrowness of McHenry Street, from which point it was essential to operate. Fire ladder being run to the top of the building to attack blaze from that point.— Rainsford.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 22 June 1938, page 7

NEW FIRE DEVICE GIVEN TEST

Traffic Delay Obviated

A small fire in the kitchen of a house in Kermode street, North Adelaide, about noon today, provided the South Australian Fire Brigade with a satisfactory test of a new scheme to facilitate traffic control in King William street. In future, the policeman on duty at the corner of King William and Waymouth streets, where the fire siren is situated, will be able to ascertain immediately from brigade headquarters how many appliances will be going through and the scene of the fire. This arrangement will obviate delays which have occurred in the past. Before today, the policeman who operated the emergency signal with the traffic lights held up traffic in case another appliance came through. Immediately the siren sounds now the officer has only to use a direct telephone line to headquarters to ascertain the requirements of the brigade. The chief officer of the brigade (Mr. Whyte) said that the new arrangement appeared to be satisfactory in every way. The run through King William street today had been exceptionally fast and traffic had been held up no longer than necessary. Today's fire was caused by fat over-flowing from a pan on a gas stove. Only slight damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 28 June 1938, page 9

Life Through Eyes Of Fireman's Wife

THE wives of sailors and airmen always win a great deal of sympathy, but have you ever stopped to think what it would be like to be married to a fireman? For a fireman's wife sees her husband only every third day.

IT is to counteract this state of affairs that blocks of flats will be built next to the Fire Brigade's headquarters in Wakefield street. At present the officers' wives live in flats above the Fire Station, but most of them have graduated to that position after years of working for promotion. There are five flats above the station, each consisting of a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen, and a balcony, and it is easy to imagine the congestion when there are children in the family. The women have a community laundry, which they use in turn, but each attends to the meals of her own family. They are looking forward to the time when their flats will have been renovated, and the Fire Chief (Mr. Whyte) said yesterday that he expected the new flats to be ready in four or five months. When they have been completed the officers and their families will move into the new block while their own rooms are being altered, and when they are back again in their own renovated homes the firemen will be able to settle in the new flats. In the meantime, the wives of firemen are forced to live with their families, or in boarding houses, or in homes of their own. "Most of us start off with grand ideas and make a home of our own," said a fireman's wife yesterday, "but very often it is not long before we realise our mistake and feel the loneliness very much. There have been several breakdowns of women who thought they were brave enough to live alone, but found that they began to hear the sound of footsteps and to imagine all kinds of things." A fireman is on duty for 48 hours, and then he is allowed off for 24, when he can leave the station and go home to his wife.

The men themselves during their duty hours at the station live in rooms attached to the station. They pool their food expenses and have a man to cook their meals, which is no mean job, since firemen usually have large appetites. In the suburban stations the firemen usually live with their wives in houses within 70 or 80 yards of the station, and the two are connected by bells which ring during the night if there is an alarm. One wife who has lived in such a house explained that at first she always woke with a start when the bells rung shrilly through the house, but it was not long before she became accustomed to them, and hardly noticed them. There is an element of excitement in being an officer's wife or living in a suburban house attached to a station, because there is always a likelihood that there will be a night alarm. Firemen find that there are usually more calls at night than in the daytime, and they have to be ready to rush out at any time of the night or day. Nor is this the worst, for when the men come back after a fire they are usually so wet and dirty as to be unrecognisable. One wife said that after the Stock Exchange fire her husband returned to her as black as a nigger, with just his eyes shining out of a mass of black grime and mud, and that she emptied about half a gallon of water out of each of his boots. "But I am so used to it that I take it as a matter of course," she added. The new flats are being built in a modern style, and there will be five flats in each of three blocks. Each will consist of a kitchen, two bedrooms, and a dining room, and they will probably be furnished for the men, instead of them having to provide their own furniture, as the officers do at present.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 29 June 1938, page 13

Fire In Jeweller's Shop

Watches, clocks, jewellery and plant were damaged when a fire broke out at about 2.15 p.m. yesterday in the shop of Mr. W. A. Burgess, of City arcade, just east of the Central Market. Although the building was insured, the stock was not covered. A small pot of petrol on a work bench was knocked over, and the vapor caught fire from a naked gas flame. Three appliances and 10 men from Fire Brigade headquarters, under the supervision of the Chief Officer (Mr. Whyte) had the outbreak under control in about five minutes.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 29 June 1938, page 5

FIRE BRIGADE NOT TO BLAME

Condition of Hose At Arcade

The City Council alone was responsible for the maintenance of fire protection equipment at the City Arcade, said the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) today. When complaints of tenants of the arcade that a hose had burst and an extinguisher had failed to function when they were requisitioned yesterday were referred to him, Mr. Whyte said that the arcade was one of the few places in the city where the brigade was not responsible for the good condition of fire protection equipment. The brigade looked after hundreds of thousands of hoses in Adelaide, and also maintained 11,000 fire extinguishers. The hose at the City Arcade had apparently been there for years without attention. The chemical extinguisher was corroded inside, and this, too, had apparently not been touched for some time. After a fire had caused considerable damage in the jeweller's shop of Mr. W. A. Burgess yesterday, tenants strongly criticised the City Council for having allegedly failed to see that fire protection equipment was in good order. It was considered that if the hose and extinguisher had not failed the damage would have been only slight.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 9 July 1938, page 4

Brigade Has Its Own Tradesmen; Only Plumber Needed

When something goes wrong with the lights, motors, or equipment at the headquarters in Angas street of the South Australian Fire Brigade, there is no need to summon outside aid. So many trades are represented in the personnel of the brigade that practically any job that comes to hand can be done skilfully and expeditiously on the premises.

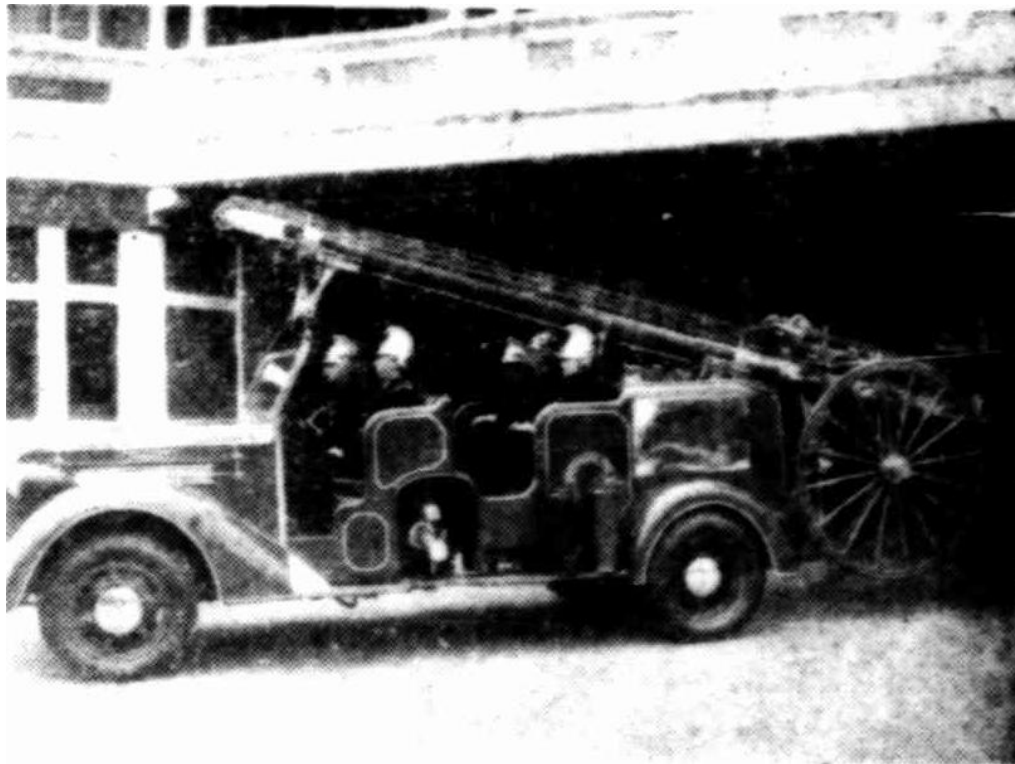
The brigade prides itself on being probably the most self-contained public utility in the State. It needs only a fully qualified plumber to make it quite independent of outside help. There are 300 tradesmen on the waiting list, but not a plumber among them. The brigade's happy position of being able to cope with practically any domestic emergency or defect is by no means accidental. It is the result of careful selection with a view to manning the brigade with men who can handle more than hose and axe.

Built Trailer

Four members of the staff at headquarters are skilled mechanics who, under the direction of a civilian mechanic, effect all repairs to, and overhauls of, the brigade's fleet of motor vehicles. An expert motor body painter is available for maintaining the motor units in all their red and shining splendor, and a panel beater is always on

hand to straighten out damaged mud-guards and dented ironwork. The brigade has two cabinet makers and carpenters who attend to all woodwork repairs and additions. A fine desk in the office of the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) bears witness to their skill. Recently a motor trailer was built at Angas street by members of the brigade. This is now at Loxton station. Because of the important part the brigade plays in modern life, all members have a good working knowledge of electricity. Two members are fully qualified electricians. There are 50 batteries in constant use at headquarters, but none is ever sent outside to be re-charged. All re-charging is done on the premises, thank you. The brigade can even boast a sail-maker. He attends to repairs to the canvas hoses. No mean job this. Hundreds of thousands of feet of hose are owned by the brigade, and it is necessary for these to be maintained in perfect order.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 July 1938, page 15



FIRE BRIGADE'S NEW LADDER— The new 55 ft. escape ladder which has been constructed for the South Australian Fire Brigade by a firm at North Adelaide. It is attached to one of the new motor appliances at headquarters and is movable.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 July 1938, page 18

PERSONAL

The Chief Officer of the S.A. Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) left last night in the express for Melbourne. He is on leave for a fortnight.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 25 July 1938, page 23

Burning Bus Driven To Fire Station

By driving a burning bus full speed to the city fire station on Friday night, in spite of the danger of the petrol tank igniting, Bert O'Hara, mechanic, of Parkside, enabled

firemen easily to extinguish the flames before any damage was done. The bus is owned by Mr. W. H. A Clues, carrier, of Unley, and had just been turned out of the workshops to replace a bus burned near Aldgate a fortnight ago. As O'Hara was driving it across the intersection of Pulteney and Wakefield streets, a policeman called out to him that the bottom of the bus was burning, and he promptly drove to the fire station. The alarm was sounded as the bus arrived, and the whole brigade turned out, but two chemical extinguishers were sufficient to put out the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 23 July 1938, page 1

Blazing Bus In Dash To Fire Station

QUICK-THINKING MECHANIC

DRIVING a blazing motor-bus flat out to the city fire station last night, a quick-thinking mechanic saved the vehicle from destruction. Firemen easily extinguished the flames, and no damage was done. The bus, which belongs to Mr. W. H. A. Clues, an Unley carrier, had just been turned out of the workshop to replaced one that was burnt near Aldgate two weeks ago. In his anxiety to save the vehicle the driver, Mr. Bert O'Hara, of Parkside, disregarded the danger of flames catching the 35-gallon petrol tank. As he was travelling from the workshop across the intersection of Pulteney and Wakefield streets, a policeman shouted a warning that the bottom of the bus was ablaze. Mr. O'Hara did not wait to inspect it. He stepped on the gas and raced for the station.

Describing the incident today, the Chief Station Officer (Mr. Cook) said that the alarm was sounded as the bus pulled up. The whole brigade turned out. However two chemical extinguishers made short work of the flames, which had spread all over the bottom of the bus. It is believed that the fire was caused when a backfire ignited petrol that had overflowed from the tank. This is alongside the exhaust pipe. Mr. Cook said it was not the first time that a fire had been brought to the brigade. He remembered a motorist doing the same thing some time ago. But this bus was a 16-passenger jib and, had the petrol tank caught fire, there would have been a serious blaze.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 25 July 1938, page 1

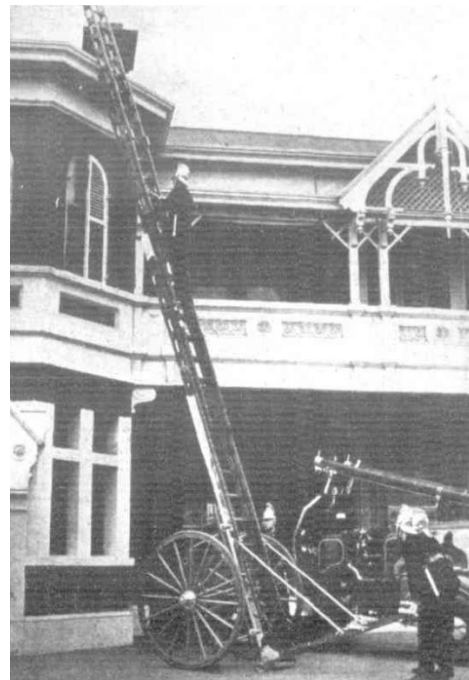
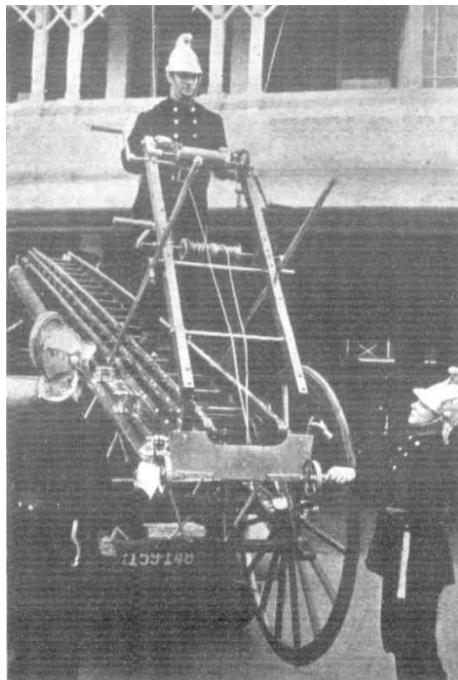
Cooks for Firemen



FIREMAN W. F. F. KAEHNE, chief cook at the Wakefield Street Fire Brigade headquarters, on the job today. Fireman Koehne, who rises at 5 a.m. every day, prepares meals for 40 members of the staff. He has been chief cook at headquarters for 27 years.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 28 July 1938, page 36

Fire Brigade Equipment:



NEW FIRE BRIGADE LADDER. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade has just installed another modern ladder. Here are two views of the appliance, one showing the ladder folded on its carrier, and the other (right) showing the ladder half extended.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 30 July 1938, page 1

Extensive Fire Damage to Car

Extensive damage was done to a motor car which caught fire in Flinders street, City, tonight. The driver, Miss Mabel Baker, of Lambeth Walk, King's Park, stopped the vehicle when people on the footpath drew her attention to the blaze which began underneath. A pump from the S.A. Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze, which was apparently due to a short circuit.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 1 August 1938, page 23

Motor Vehicles Damaged By Fire

A motor car and a motor bicycle were damaged during the weekend by fires which broke out while the vehicles were being driven. The Fire Brigade was called in each case.

The car, which belonged to William Thomas Baker, of Lambeth walk, King's Park, burst into flames on Saturday as it was being driven along Flinders street, city, by the owner's daughter, Mabel Baker. Her attention was drawn by persons on the footpath to the fact that the car was alight underneath. The fire was apparently caused by a short circuit. Damage estimated at between £40 and £50 was caused.

Yesterday a motor cycle driven by Samuel Horace Sweeney, of Rose street, Prospect, caught alight from a backfire while crossing the City Bridge. Damage amounting to about £5 was done. Constable Rose is preparing reports of both outbreaks for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 2 August 1938, page 18

PERSONAL

The Chief Officer of the S.A. Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) returned yesterday after a holiday in Melbourne.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 August 1938, page 2

Brigade Called To Stop Flood

The Adelaide Fire Brigade was called out this afternoon to stop a flood in a city building. When a tap was left running in a lavatory attached to Ewer, Auld and Co.'s premises on the top floor of a building in Pirie street the floor became flooded. The water leaked through the ceiling into the premises occupied by George Bolton's motor cycle warehouse.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 15 August 1938, page 11

Another Fire Brought To City Brigade

Adelaide firemen are becoming accustomed to having motorists call to have fires on their vehicles extinguished. Last night when Mr. C. R. Linke, a commercial traveller, called, the firemen obliged by extinguishing a fire in the luggage carrier of his closed car. Some samples were destroyed and the woodwork of the carrier was damaged.

Only about an hour before, a part of a rear mudguard near the carrier had been welded. Noticing smoke while driving in the city, Mr. Linke hurried to the fire station. A few weeks ago, a blaze on a new passenger bus, driven to the station, was extinguished.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 18 August 1938, page 21

Fire In Shop At St. Peters

Paint, oils, and a spraying plant were badly damaged by a fire which broke out at the rear of the plumbing and ironmongery shop of Mr. W. B. Stewart, of Payneham road, St. Peters, soon after 3 a.m. yesterday. Damage estimated at £100 was done. When the Adelaide Fire Brigade arrived the fire was just entering the main portion of the shop, but the firemen soon had it under control. The shop and stock were insured.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 18 August 1938, page 1

Rescues Girl's Pet In

City Blaze

WHILE a large crowd of spectators cheered him on, a husky fireman raced up a ladder in Halifax street, City, last night, smashed a window and rescued a small Australian terrier, which he found unconscious in a smoke filled room. The fire, of which the rescue was the highlight, occurred about 8 o'clock in a factory occupied by Frank R. Chapman, smallgoods manufacturer. It was extinguished by a unit from Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, before any serious damage was done. The dog, Whiskers by name, was trapped in a locked room on the first floor of the building.

When the brigade arrived, seven year-old Joyce Brown, owner of Whiskers, rushed up to the firemen and breathlessly implored them to save her pet. A ladder was quickly placed in position against a side wall, and Fireman Goodfellow soon had Whiskers in the fresh air. Artificial respiration had to be applied before the dog regained consciousness. He is very sick and bedraggled today, but he will be all right in a day or two.

Forced Back by Smoke

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Brown, Joyce's parents, were the first to discover the fire. They live in an upstairs flat adjoining the first floor of the factory. Attracted by a loud crackling, they found the timber floor of the building ablaze. The smoke was so dense that they were forced back after trying to rescue Whiskers, who was howling pitifully and hurling himself against the door. When his yelps ceased, they knew that he had been overcome by the fumes. Mr. Brown is a former jockey, He rode successfully in Western Australia before the war.



WHISKERS at home today.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 24 August 1938, page 25

Fire At Norwood

Two elderly women escaped in night attire from a smoke filled room above a burning boot shop on the Payneham road, St. Peters, about 12.20 a.m. today.

Starting in a workroom at the rear of A. A. Burford's boot shop, the fire destroyed fittings and leather, footwear and materials to the value of about £100. Fumes from the burning leather made the firemen use respirators. The fire was quickly extinguished by squads from Norwood and the city station, under Station Officers Patten and Tyson. Some damage was caused by water and smoke in the adjoining beauty salon of Mr. R. C. Leunig. Sergeant P. J. Bourke, Norwood, and Constable Rigert, St. Peters, investigated.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 24 August 1938, page 11

Fire Brigades Display

Members of the Kensington and Norwood and the Enfield Councils have decided to attend a demonstration of firefighting at the headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade in Wakefield street, Adelaide, on September 14 at 11 a.m. The display is being arranged by the Fire Brigades Board, which has also invited other metropolitan councils, in addition to country local governing bodies. The date was fixed to coincide with the visit of country municipalists down for the show.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 30 August 1938, page 21

Facilitating Fire-Fighting At City Market

The markets and parks committee of the City Council at a meeting yesterday referred several questions to a special sub-committee consisting of the chairman (Councillor A. W. B. Sims), Councillors Makin and Myers. One concerned steps necessary to facilitate the approach of fire brigade appliances to the Central market in the event of

a fire. The sub-committee was also instructed to consider the provision of improved backs to the stalls in the market.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 8 September 1938, page 13

Broke Fire Alarm Glass; Youth Fined

Charged with having unlawfully interfered with a fire alarm at the corner of Dudley street and Military road, Semaphore, on August 9, by breaking the glass a 15-year-old Semaphore boy appeared before Mr. Coombe, S.M., in the Port Adelaide Juvenile Court yesterday. The boy pleaded guilty and was fined 10/, with 10/ costs. Plainclothes Constable A. L. Mitchell who prosecuted, said that the police in the Port Adelaide district had received many complaints about fire alarms being tampered with, particularly at night. The Semaphore police investigated the breaking of the glass in the alarm in Military road and Sergeant Kschammer subsequently questioned the defendant, who admitted the offence. He said that he was hitting at the alarm, seeing how close he could go to the glass, when it was smashed. He also admitted having broken another fire alarm glass. He had been leaning against the alarm while sitting on a bicycle. When he went to push himself off to ride away his hand went through the glass. The magistrate said that it was fortunate for the defendant that the fire brigade was not called out as the result of the two incidents. To cause a false alarm was a very serious offence.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 8 September 1938, page 34



FIREMEN TAKE PRECAUTIONS. Members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade testing the fire hydrants in the showgrounds last week to make sure they were in order for this week's great festival.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 9 September 1938, page 7

FIRE THREATENS CITY BLOCK

Starts in Packing Material

Several buildings in the heart of the city were endangered when a fire broke out in packing material at the rear of the jeweller's shop of Claude P. Sarre, of Gawler place, City, about 10 a.m. today. When four appliances from Fire Brigade headquarters arrived, a passage way was well alight, and dense smoke was emerging from the building. The firemen had the blaze under control in four minutes. Mrs. de Laine, an occupant of the building, received slight burns. The chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) said afterwards that the entire block of buildings would probably have been damaged if the alarm had been sounded a few minutes later. He strongly advised business people not to keep highly inflammable packing material on their premises in crowded parts of the city.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 10 September 1938, page 32

£75 Damage In City Fire

Starting in a heap of woodwool at the rear of the premises of Claude Phillips Sarre. Gawler place, city, about 10 a.m. yesterday, a fire, which might have threatened several buildings if it had not been extinguished promptly, caused damage estimated at £75.

The outbreak was discovered by Miss J. P. Owen, of Burwash road, Marryatville, who works nearby. She informed Mr. Sarre, whose hair was singed and whose face was burned, when he attempted to extinguish the fire before the arrival of the brigade. The fire was in a passageway, and two doors, the walls, and the floor were damaged by it. Four minutes after the brigade arrived the fire had been extinguished. Constable A. J. Rose is preparing a report for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 14 September 1938, page 3

Councillors at Fire Brigade Display

City, suburban, and country councillors attended a display at Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street today arranged primarily to give country people an insight into the working of a modern brigade, and to illustrate the progress made in modernising the South Australian Brigade. Three fires were extinguished during the display and members of the brigade staged exciting rescues and escapes from "burning" buildings.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 22 September 1938, page 38

Soldiers Confer : Fire Fighters Demonstrate : Country Sports

.....



USING CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHERS. For some classes of fires chemicals which smother the flames are used. Members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade demonstrating the use of chemical extinguishers to a party of country councillors at the head station last week.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 September 1938, page 9

Two Fires At Hotel Simultaneously

The Adelaide Fire Brigade had the unusual experience yesterday morning of being called upon, while extinguishing a chimney fire at the South Australian Hotel, to deal with another outbreak which occurred independently in another part of the building simultaneously. A call was received from the hotel at 9.17 a.m. and as firemen were working on the chimney fire from a back lane, a maid rushed out to inform them of an outbreak on the top floor of the building. They found that the curtains and window blind of a room had been destroyed and that the window sash was alight. That blaze was promptly put out, slight damage being done to the carpet and furniture. Chief Officer Whyte then carefully inspected the roof and found that the wind was blowing any sparks almost in the opposite direction from where the second fire had occurred, making it practically impossible for the first blaze to have caused the second. It is thought that the latter was the result of a cigarette or match left alight by the occupant of the room while he was absent in a bathroom.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 September 1938, page 15

S.A. Firemen Do Well In British Exams

In the overseas section of the recent examinations of the British Institution of Fire Engineers, Adelaide firemen gained second places in both the associate and graduate divisions. With a total of nine passes, the Adelaide firemen were more successful than those of any other brigade in the Dominions. Station Officer J. E. Stephens (88.5 per cent) was second in the associate division to R. Dunbar of Melbourne, who scored 90 per cent. Senior Fireman D. Corker (Adelaide) was fifth with 84.5 per cent. Scoring 97.5 per cent. in the technical paper, Fireman R. C. Gericke (Port Adelaide) won the highest marks awarded for any one paper in the

examination. However, on aggregate, he was placed fourth in the graduateship division where Fireman C. W. Meadow (Adelaide) with 87.5 per cent., and Fireman C. Paul (Adelaide), with 87 per cent., were second and third respectively.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 29 September 1938, page 12

CAR CRASHES INTO DRAIN

Close Call For Two Men

TWO men had a lucky escape from injury when the motor car in which they were travelling nose-dived into a deep drain in Anzac Highway, Glandore, early today and burst into flames. The car had been practically destroyed when a unit from the South Australian Fire Brigade arrived.

The driver of the vehicle was James Henry Rudd, steward, of Henry street, Stepney. He was driving a friend, Colin Coleman, to his home in Maddern street, Glandore, when the accident happened about 12.50 a.m. He mistook the turning into Maddern street from Anzac Highway, and instead of crossing a bridge the car plunged into the drain, which is about 4 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep.

SCRAMBLED OUT UNHURT

The car stood practically on its nose. This evidently caused petrol to overflow from the vacuum tank on to the hot exhaust pipe. The two men scrambled out unhurt as flames shot up from the engine. The car was travelling slowly when it went over the edge of the drain, which is part of the Anzac Highway reconstruction work. The vehicle was covered only by third party insurance. Constable Slater, officer in charge of the Goodwood Police Station, investigated the accident.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 3 October 1938, page 22

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire In Cafe.—A fire broke out in the electric motor of a refrigerator at the Blue Grotto Cafe in the basement of Widows' Fund Building, Grenfell street, city, on Saturday morning. It was quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 11 October 1938, page 2

Importance Of Our Fire Alarms

EMPHASISING the importance of efficient fire alarms, the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said in an address to the Rotary Club today that it would be of only secondary use to have the most up-to-date equipment and a highly trained staff if means of communicating with the fire station were unreliable.

Street alarms, Mr. Whyte said, were really the first line of defence in fire protection. The damage in any fire depended on the lapse of time between ignition and the arrival of the brigade. Ninety per cent. of fires in the incipient stages could be stamped out or extinguished in a few seconds. The greatest of all alarms and fire extinguishers was the automatic sprinkler, which came into operation when the temperature of a room reached 160 deg. The sprinkler head then fused and water descended on the fire. In addition, the sprinkler alarm summoned the brigade.

FOAM GENERATORS

Discussing fire extinguishers, Mr. Whyte said that the development of foam generators represented a major development in the fighting of liquid fires. Foam expelled on burning petrol or other highly inflammable liquid floated on the surface, thus excluding oxygen and causing the fire to die for want of combustion. It was unwise, he said, to use water for chemical fires. Pouring water on these caused explosions and merely resulted in spreading the fire.

Fire loss, Mr. Whyte added, was so common that few people paused to consider the tremendous loss of life and property involved. The average annual loss to the British Isles, for instance, was £10,000,000 to £11,000,000, and the United States of America £100,000,000, with a loss of life of 11,000.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 12 October 1938, page 10

Smoking Blamed For Most Fires

Loss through fires was becoming greater as the result of the increase of population, dangerous trades and the advance of volatile spirits in many modern processes, said the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) in a luncheon address to members of the Rotary Club at the Embassy yesterday. "Fire loss is so common that very few people pause to consider the tremendous loss of life and property involved throughout the world," Mr Whyte added. "The average annual loss in the British Isles is between ten and eleven million pounds; while in U.S.A. the annual loss is about 495 million dollars, with a loss of life running into eleven thousand." The three greatest causes of fire, in their order of importance, were (1) smoking, (2) the careless use of volatile spirits, and (3) the indiscriminate storage of combustible litter, Mr. Whyte said.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 19 October 1938, page 1

£500 DAMAGE IN CITY BLAZE

Brigade's Fine Save

Damage estimated at £500 was caused by a fire which broke out about 1 a.m. today in the workroom of the Ashford Clothing Co. on the first floor of Metters Building, North terrace, City.

A splendid save was effected by the South Australian Fire Brigade, which had the blaze under control in 20 minutes and prevented it from spreading to other parts of Metters Building. The fire was noticed by Mr. E. G. Ash, night porter at West's Coffee Palace, who summoned the brigade. Damage to stock amounted to £400. An overheated electric iron, which was left turned on, is believed to have caused the outbreak. Slight water damage was done to the premises of Continental Motors on the ground floor. Plainclothes Constable A. J. Rose is preparing a report for the Deputy Coroner (Mr McCann).

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Wednesday 2 November 1938, page 1

FIRE IN CITY

DAMAGE, £2,500

TWO BOYS INJURED

ADELAIDE, Tuesday.

DAMAGE estimated at £2,500 was caused by a fire which gutted the premises of John Galligan & Co., bedding manufacturers, of Grenfell street, City, this afternoon. In escaping from the fire two employes received burns on the face and head, and were admitted to Adelaide Hospital. They also suffered from shock. The injured were:—Herbert Lemon (16), of George street, Adelaide. Leonard Oboro (16), of the same address.

Dense clouds of smoke that poured out of the building—which is in a block at the corner of Twin street— and the presence of several fire engines in Grenfell street, quickly attracted a crowd of about 2,000 people, who watched firemen swarm up ladders at the front and rear of the building.

The fire, feeding on the highly inflammable kapoc and wool stored on the ground floor, spread to the upper floor through the lift well. Several girls working there made a frantic dash down the stairway to avoid being trapped.

CONTROLLED IN 10 MINUTES

The South Australian Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer Whyte, made a splendid save. Although both floors were an inferno when all available units arrived, the outbreak was under control in 10 minutes. The firemen kept the blaze from spreading to adjoining buildings. The entire contents of the building were destroyed, and all the plant was damaged.

It is not known how the fire originated. It is possible that it was caused by an electrical defect. Apart from the employes admitted to hospital, three other men suffered slight burns, and their hair was badly singed as they dashed through the burning building.

Immediately the alarm was given a tailor occupying the shop next door on the ground floor began removing his furniture and suiting in frantic haste. Dozens of rolls of material and half-completed suits were hurled out on to the roadway and dragged down the street to safety. Heavy articles of furniture were bundled through the door and dragged out of harm's way about 50 yds. Down Grenfell street. Owners of cars parked at the rear of the building rushed to get them from the danger zone, but one whose car blocked the way could not find the key to unlock the steering. In the delay of several minutes owners rushed frantically about, vainly attempting to remove the locked car. Eventually the owner found the key, and the vehicles were removed without any damage being done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 2 November 1938, page 25

TWO HURT IN CITY FIRE

Trapped In Basement Among Burning Kapok

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY

Employes Lose Personal Belongings

Trapped in a basement among blazing kapok, two youths suffered burns on their faces and arms when a fire swept rapidly through the premises of John Galligan & Co., bedding manufacturers, of Grenfell street, city, about 3.15 p.m. yesterday. Damage was estimated at about £2,500. Firemen using six motor appliances had the blaze under control in 13 minutes. Twenty persons employed in the two storey brick building had no time even to gather personal effects, such as coats and bicycles,

which were destroyed. Nine women employes had to make their way down a staircase through thick smoke. As they left the building flames were already spreading quickly upward from the basement.

Those burned were: — Herbert Lemon, 16, of George St., city, burns on the face and arms, and Leonard Oborn, 16, also of George street, city, who received similar but lesser burns. Both were admitted to the Adelaide Hospital. It is expected that Oborn will be discharged today, but Lemon will probably be kept there several days for observation.

Spark Ignites Kapok Fibres

A spark from an electric motor igniting kapok fibres, suspended in the air, caused the fire. This occurred when Lemon and Oborn started the motor, which was used to drive a kapok teasing machine in the basement. With empty bales, the youths tried to beat out the flames among stacks of kapok, but these efforts served only to accentuate the danger. Realising that the effort was hopeless. Lemon following Oborn up the blazing staircase from the basement, was overcome and fell, cutting his face. Hastening to Lemon's rescue. Arthur McCarthy, the son of Mr. A. McCarthy, proprietor of Galligan & Co., and another employe dragged Lemon to safety.

Brigade's Good Work

Within a minute of receiving a telephone alarm, Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, Deputy-Chief E. W. Cook and Station Officer McCallum were directing 20 firemen at the scene. For a time, it was feared that the blaze might spread through the premises of the Remould Tyre Co. and Scott's Signs, on the western side of the Adelaide Arcade, but the firemen soon had the fire under control. Mr. A. McCarthy, proprietor of Galligan & Co., who was absent listening to a description of the Melbourne Cup when the fire occurred, estimated the damage to his stock and plant at about £1,500. About £900 of this was covered by insurance. Damage, amounting probably to about £1,000, was caused to the interior of the brick building, which is owned by Phillipson's Estate.

Clothing and other articles were burnt or damaged by water in a room used as a receiving depot by Mr. J. Winkley's Star dry-cleaning depot on the ground floor. Mr. Winkley saved some of the goods. Occupants of some of the adjoining buildings in Twin street began to remove property from their premises, but were soon informed that this was unnecessary. Returning after the fire, Miss Eva Moore recovered intact in a cash box the savings of the Galligan & Co. employes' thrift club. Mr. McCarthy said that none of Galligan & Co.'s employes would be thrown out of work as the firm would carry on from today in other premises until the building had been restored. Constable Rose is preparing a report for the Coroner.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 2 November 1938, page 3

CITY FIRE CAUSED £2,000 DAMAGE

No Inquest to be Held

The City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn) decided today not to hold an inquest into the fire which gutted the premises of John Galligan & Co., bedding manufacturers, of Grenfell street, City, yesterday afternoon. Total damage by the fire was officially given today as £2,000—£1,400 to stock and plant and £600 to the building. The loss was partly covered by insurance. Herbert Lemon, 16, and Leonard Oborn, 16, both of

George street, Adelaide, who were burned about the face and head when escaping from the blazing building, are still in the Adelaide Hospital. Their condition is satisfactory. Plainclothes Constable Rose prepared a report on the fire.

Newcastle Sun (NSW : 1918 - 1954), Wednesday 2 November 1938, page 2

Fire In Adelaide

ADELAIDE. Wednesday.

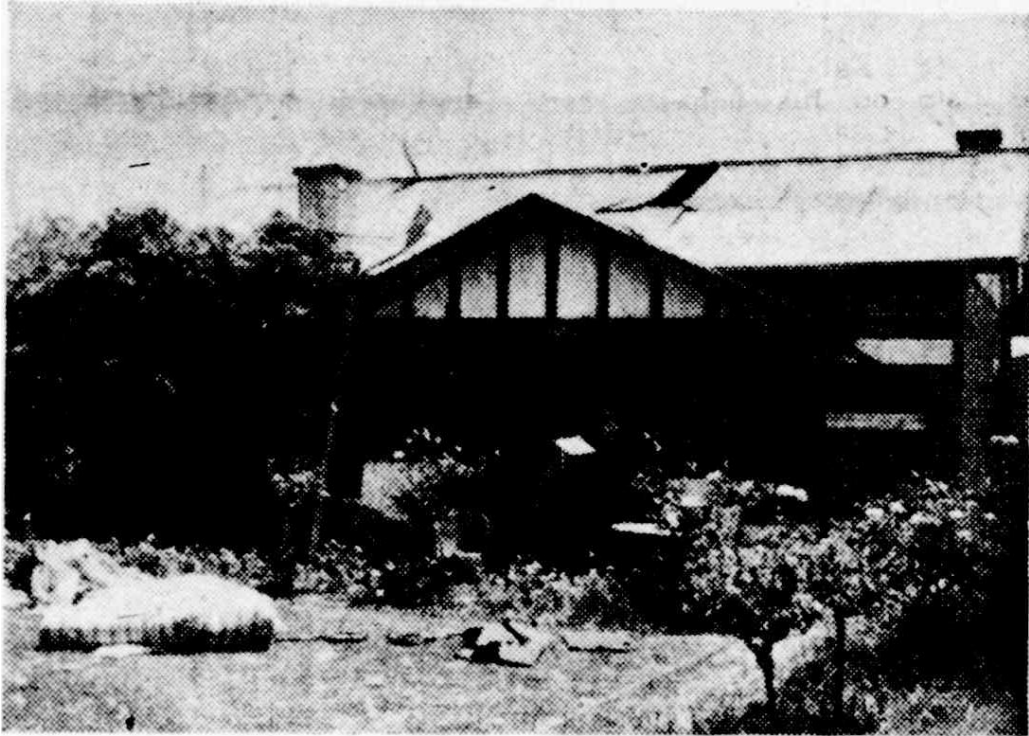
Damage estimated at £1000 was caused by a fire, which gutted the premises in Grenfell-street of John Galligan and Co., bedding manufacturers. Two employees received burns to the face and head and were admitted to hospital suffering from shock.



Grenfell Street [B 7796]. Grenfell Street, north side. The right side of the two storey building abuts Twin Street. The Grenfell Street frontage of the building is 17 yards. The photograph shows firemen cleaning up after a fire in the John Galligan Bedding Store. Windows are blackened and broken and a hose and water is coming out of the doorway. 1938. Henry Krischock, Part of Acre 102 Collection

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 4 November 1938, page 5

Glenunga House Damaged By Fire



THE HOME OF MR. A. E. SCOTT, in Raymond street, Glenunga, was extensively damaged by fire shortly before noon today. One room was completely destroyed. Total damage was estimated at between £500 and £600. The picture shows furniture being removed.

FIREMEN RISK INJURY

Iron Starts Blaze

INTO Mr. A. E. Scott's home in Raymond street, Glenunga, firemen poured 700 gallons of water a minute for 15 minutes today, and saved the house from destruction by fire. But not before between £500 and £600 worth of damage was done to the building and furniture. One room was completely wrecked, and the rest of the house was so badly damaged that firemen risked injury when they entered the house to fight the flames. While the house was unoccupied the fire began in a spare room at the rear. The fire chief (Mr. J. J. Whyte) believes that it was started by an electric iron, inadvertently left on, which had burnt through the table on which it was standing, and then the flooring of the room. Ceilings were destroyed, rafters burnt almost through, and corrugated iron on the roof twisted and blackened. The alarm was given by a nearby resident to the Unley Brigade. It called headquarters' assistance, and three machines were rushed to the scene.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 5 November 1938, page 28

House Badly Damaged In Suburban Fire

Damage estimated at between £500 and £600 was caused by a fire which broke out in a spare room at the home of Mr. A. E. Scott in Raymond street, Glenunga, shortly before midday yesterday. The fire was first noticed by a nearby resident who communicated with the Unley Fire Brigade. A machine under Station Officer Giles was sent from Unley and was followed by a machine from Wakefield street under Station Officer McCallum. The firemen were able to save portion of the house, but

one room was completely wrecked, while other rooms were in a dangerous condition before the blaze was got under control. The firemen had to remove several sheets of iron to get at the blaze in the ceiling, but after the fire had been burning for some time part of the roof collapsed, some of the rafters being burnt almost completely through. No one was in the house at the time. The Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said that the fire was apparently caused by an electric iron which had been left on and had burnt through the table on which it had been standing. The house was owned by Mrs. Jessie Maud Cuss, who is at present in London. The property was insured by Mrs Cuss with the Norwich Union for £1,000 and also with the Alliance Assurance Co. for £100. The contents were insured by Mrs. Cuss with Lloyds for £300 and also by the occupier, Mr. Scott, for a similar amount.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 15 November 1938, page 13

Grass Fire In South Parklands

Rapid action by the Fire Brigade saved the clubhouse of the South Park Bowling Club from being destroyed yesterday morning when a grass fire which started in the parklands spread to the bowling green, destroying the surrounding hedge for a distance of 15 yards. The hedge was insured for £50, which would more than cover the damage. One appliance from the city and one from Unley went to the blaze.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 November 1938, page 21

Car On Fire In City

Slight damage was caused to a motor car which caught alight today at the corner of Pulteney and Wakefield streets, City, within a hundred yards or so of the Adelaide Fire Brigade. An appliance from the brigade quickly extinguished the outbreak, which was apparently caused by an ignition defect. The driver of the car was Mr. Frank McConnachie, of Wilcox avenue, Prospect.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 18 November 1938, page 32

Grass Fire Sweeps Parklands

Scores of boys, enthusiastically combating a spectacular grass fire in the south-west parklands yesterday, denuded a tree of branches to use as beaters. Altogether, the blaze swept about seven acres between Sir Lewis Cohen avenue and Goodwood road before it was controlled by Station Officer McCallum, seven firemen and the boys. Firemen were again called to this section about 9.30 p.m. yesterday, but the fire was small.

Early yesterday evening the rear of the Methodist Mission in Park street, Hackney, was threatened by a blaze, which damaged a window of the building and about 20 feet of fencing. Firemen from Norwood and Adelaide soon extinguished the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 18 November 1938, page 1

ADELAIDE HAS ITS HOTTEST DAY FOR SEASON

99.5 at 3: Century At Week-End Likely

With the temperature rising to 99.5 deg. at 3 o'clock, this was the hottest day of the season. The Divisional Meteorologist (Mr. Bromley) expects the hot weather to

continue and thinks Adelaide should have its first century at the week-end. "This," he says, "should be good news for girls who want to show off their new beach clothes."

With grass everywhere ready to blaze up after a dry season, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Blesing) has begun his bushfire warnings to week-end picnickers. Camp fires within 12 ft. of any inflammable substance, are illegal now; smoking in the open unless with a properly covered pipe is forbidden within 20 yards of grass, hay, stubble, a hay-stack, or stable; motorists who throw cigarettes, matches, or cigars on to the roadway are liable to a fine. Mr. Blesing emphasised the need for care in every way. A similar appeal was issued by country fire brigades.

More than 72 calls have been answered by the Fire Brigade in the last fortnight. Most of them have been grass fires in vacant allotments. The Chief Officer (Mr Whyte) issued an appeal today to suburban paddock owners to cut back grass so that adjoining properties are not endangered by fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 19 November 1938, page 30

Grass Fires In Suburbs

In the largest grass fire of the year, between 30 and 40 acres were burned on vacant land at Devon Park yesterday. At one stage the fire threatened a house, but it was stopped by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Starting near Harrison road, the fire swept through several paddocks for a distance of half a mile before the firemen and 20 or 30 voluntary helpers had it under control. Several chains of fencing was damaged.

The Woodville Fire Brigade put out two grass fires yesterday. The first call was to a fire on an allotment at the corner of Woodville road and Torrens road in the early hours of the morning. The second fire was in a 70-acre paddock at the corner of Grange and Tapley's Hill roads, Findon, about 9 a.m. When the brigade arrived under Station Officer W. Koske, women as well as men were attempting to subdue the flames which were running towards a house occupied by Mr. W. Armitage, but the firemen were able to stop the fire within 150 ft. of Mr. Armitage's house. About five acres of grass were burnt. It was the fourteenth grass fire which the Woodville Brigade has attended this month.

About 3 p.m. a grass fire broke out in the south parklands near Hutt road, but it was extinguished before any damage could be done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 21 November 1938, page 19

SPECTACULAR KILKENNY FIRE

£1,000 Damage At Glassworks

A spectacular blaze at the factory of the Australian Glass Manufacturers Co., Ltd., Kilkenny, late on Saturday night caused damage estimated at £1,000 to the bottle manufacturing section of the plant.

Five fire brigade motor appliances were used. They came from the Adelaide head station, Port Adelaide, Woodville, and Thebarton stations. A poor water pressure hampered their efforts, and more than two-thirds of a mile of hoses were used. The firemen also risked serious injury by entering the building amid showers of sparks and the falling of large pieces of timber from the roof. Flames leaping many feet above the high building attracted thousands of spectators, and at one stage nearly a mile of motor and other traffic was held

up on the Port road because of the hoses taken across it. Six trolley buses were held up for half an hour, and arrangements were made to send petrol buses to tow them round a detour and back to the overhead wires on the Port road so that the traffic could be maintained. Motor traffic police took charge of the situation, and gradually relieved the congestion by sending motor and other vehicles round a detour road. It is doubtful how the fire started. The firemen had to work with speed, because alongside the main manufacturing building which was ablaze were thousands or pounds worth of bottles packed with straw in wooden crates in a wood and iron building. The streams of water from the hoses failed to reach the blazing timber until the pressure was boosted by a special pump, which sent half a dozen streams to the roof. The fusing of the electric wires by the blaze added to the difficulties of the firemen and other firefighters. The whole building was in darkness, and men had to grope through the building, where electric torch lamps used by some of the firemen were not available.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 November 1938, page 2

3-in. Main Not Big Enough

FIRE CHIEF'S CRITICISM

THE chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) said today that the damage at the premises of the Australian Glass Manufacturers' Co., Ltd., on Saturday night would have been considerably less had an adequate pressure of water been available when the firemen arrived. "This fire illustrated the necessity of having bigger water mains in industrial areas," he declared. "The 3-in. main leading to the glass works was far too small for fighting a big fire. "It gave a good pressure to one line of hose, but when others were brought into operation the pressure died away to nothing. As a result, we had to take off the additional hoses from the glass works main and run them from 10-in. mains on the Port road. "Some of our lines were 1,400 ft. long. Naturally, valuable time was lost in running these to the fire. Altogether, the brigade had to use 5,000 ft. of hose. The brigade is grateful to 30 or 40 volunteers who helped the firemen with the long lines from the Port road."

DAMAGE £2,000.

Mr. Whyte said that mains in industrial areas should not be smaller than 6 in., and those in residential areas should not be less than 4 in. Three-inch mains were inadequate during hot spells, when water consumption was heavy. To boost water pressure when necessary, Mr. Whyte added, the brigade had three pumps at headquarters, and one each at stations in the suburbs. These were always dispatched to the scenes of big fires. They were of great value in increasing the pressure at Kilkenny on Saturday. Damage caused by the fire was officially assessed today at £2,000. It was estimated that the cost of repairing the building would be £1,000, and that a similar amount would be needed to renew damaged plant. The general manager (Mr. P. McG. Long) said that all orders would be fulfilled according to contract. The manufacture of white bottles would be resumed this afternoon, and the plant would be in full production tomorrow. "No unemployment will result from the fire. In fact, extra men may have to be taken on." he said.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 November 1938, page 7

FALSE FIRE ALARM

Laborer Gaoled

A SPECTACULAR dash up King William street by five units of the South Australian Fire Brigade had a much less spectacular sequel in the Adelaide Police Court today. Allan Thomas Edward Hewitt, 27, laborer, of Sturt street, City, admitted a charge of having unlawfully given a false alarm of fire, and was sent to gaol for seven days. The Police Prosecutor (Inspector Crafter) told Mr. Muirhead, P.M., that about 5.15 p.m. on Saturday men named Oliver and Munro had seen Hewitt break the glass of the alarm near the Imperial Hotel corner and turn the handle. Five machines turned out, in charge of Superintendent Whyte. Hewitt told Constable Smyth that he had not rung the alarm. Inspector Crafter added that Hewitt had 32 previous convictions. Invited to explain the incident, Hewitt said that a man had told him that Melbourne newspapers offered 10/ if a fire or an accident were reported. The man said that there was a fire, and he (Hewitt) believed him.

REGRETTED INCIDENT

He got no satisfaction out of breaking the glass and did not need the money. He regretted that he had listened to the drunken man. When Mr. Muirhead remarked that if Hewitt's story were true there would be a defence to the case. Inspector Crafter called Constable Smyth to give evidence. Asked if he had had his side-kicker with him in Grenfell street, Smyth said he had not. Hewitt explained that side-kicker was an American term for mate. Hewitt said that he could call "the fellow who did it" as a witness, but he would be a fool to come along and admit it.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 21 November 1938, page 19

House Destroyed At Camden

A fire starting yesterday morning in the back premises of a house owned and occupied by Mr. Egbert Lawrence Osborn, of George street, Camden, destroyed the building before an appliance could reach it from the Adelaide fire station. The house comprised two brick rooms in front, and four wood and iron rooms at the rear. Constable Schroeder, of Plympton, is preparing a report for the Coroner.

Believed to have been started by a fire in a backyard which got out of control, the fences of two properties were damaged, and about an acre of grass was burnt, at Welland South yesterday morning. A paling fence on the property of Mr. W. Whaite, of Frederick street, Welland, was damaged, and a shorter length on the property of Mr. F. V. James, in Frederick street, Welland South, was also burnt.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 21 November 1938, page 19

FIRST CENTURY OF SUMMER

Cool Change Likely Today

With a maximum shade temperature of 101.7 at 11.38 a.m., the first heat century for the season was recorded in Adelaide yesterday. This was the culmination of a warm spell lasting over eight days, on seven of which the shade readings have exceeded 90. The forecast issued last night indicated a cool change advancing from the west. A sequel to week-end bathing was the treatment at the Adelaide Hospital last night of several cases of severe sunburn, but none was serious enough for the patient to be admitted.

Numerous grass fires occurred during the week-end. Metropolitan brigades had 32 calls, about two-thirds of them being for grass fires.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 22 November 1938, page 16

GAVE FALSE ALARM

Young Man Sent To Gaol

Allan Thomas Edward ("Dasher") Hewitt, 27, laborer, of Sturt street, City, caused considerable amusement in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, when he was cross-examining a constable who had arrested him on Saturday.

Hewitt pleaded guilty, before Mr. Muirhead, P.M., to a charge of having unlawfully given a false alarm of fire. Police Prosecutor Crafter said that, about 5.15 p.m. on Saturday, two men named Oliver and Munro were talking near the Imperial Hotel in Grenfell street when they saw the defendant go to a fire alarm, break the glass and turn the handle. Five fire machines turned out from headquarters, Chief Officer Whyte being in charge. Constable Smyth told the defendant that he had been seen to break the alarm, and he denied that he had done so. "Your Worship can realise the seriousness of this type of offence," said the prosecutor. "In the course of a year numerous false alarms are given and the fire brigade has to travel at an excessive speed through the streets, rendering members of the public and the firemen themselves liable to serious accident. Thirty-two convictions have been recorded against the defendant since 1926." Hewitt — There is a man who gets round Tattersalls basement who is partial to a glass of beer. Mr. Muirhead— Especially on a hot day (Laughter). Hewitt — He turned round and said to me that the newspapers, the "Herald" and the "Sun," said that if you report an accident or a fire you get 10/. This fellow, who was rather intoxicated, rushed out and said there was a fire. Naturally I thought there was. It was no satisfaction to me to break the glass, not that I needed the money or not. I honestly believed there was a fire, and I broke the glass and turned the handle. I am speaking the truth, but I listened to a drunken man. Mr Muirhead remarked that, if what the defendant had said was true, that would be a defence to the case. Called to give evidence, Constable Smyth said he told the defendant that a man named Pollock had declared that he (Hewitt) had broken the alarm. The defendant said that he had done nothing of the kind and pointed out another man who, he said, had done so. Asked why he had accused that man, Hewitt replied. "He is a friend of mine, I was only joking." Hewitt—Is it not a fact that you came to my cell and asked me how I was going to plead?" The Witness — No. You ought to be struck dead. Well, your Worship, he did say it. This is about the only time in my life that I have told the truth. (Laughter.) The Witness— You said, "I don't want to talk to you. I am happy." I went over to ask you if you wanted to get bail. Hewitt— He is lying, and he is on oath, too. I think the papers should be sent to the Crown Law authorities for perjury. He says he came to the cage and asked me if I wanted bail. Isn't he good-hearted? (Laughter.) To the witness— When you were questioning me in Grenfell street, wasn't your mate, or to use an American gangster term, your side-kicker, with you? —No. Mr. Muirhead — Do you want to call any witnesses, Hewitt?— I could call the fellow who did it, but he would be a fool to come along and admit it, wouldn't he? I'll leave myself entirely in your hands. The magistrate said that he was unable to accent the defendant's story and sent him to gaol for seven days. you are very generous, your Worship, said Hewitt, as, with his hands upraised, he faded away through the court cell door.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 November 1938, page 27

Fire At Knoxville

Damage estimated at about £1,500 was caused by a fire at about 11.15 p.m. yesterday in H. A. Shueard's boat factory, Conyngham street, Knoxville. Three motor appliances were sent from the Unley, Norwood, and city fire stations, and a dozen firemen controlled the blaze in about 20 minutes. However, the machine shop containing plant worth about £1,000 was destroyed. Damage was also caused to the Bland's radio factory, which adjoins the box factory. A motor lorry in Shueard's machine shop was destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown. The factory buildings are owned by the estate of the late Mr. W. P. Hill, formerly of Knoxville, and rented by Mr. Shueard. It is understood that the loss is covered by insurance. Soon after the fire was noticed electric light supply in the neighborhood failed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 1 December 1938, page 27

CITY FIRE STATION MODERNISATION

Sound-Proof Watch Room

Modernisation and extension at a cost of about £9,000 of the 46-year-old Fire Brigade headquarters building, Wakefield street, city, is proceeding.

Cramped conditions, both as regards accommodation for the seven motor appliances and station officers' quarters, have necessitated the work. A new feature will be the sound-proofing of the watch-room, where alarms are received. This will obviate any difficulty in reception of phone messages through tram or other noises.

Setting back of walls will relieve the present cramped accommodation for the seven motor appliances. Instead of standing closely together in three rows—from the central one it is necessary to turn to avoid a massive front pillar—the vehicles will be lined in four aisles, each enabling a straight drive out the main doors. New glass-partitioned offices will also be provided.

Modern flats for the station officers will be erected over part of the yard, on the first floor level, but the yard underneath will still be available for drill and other purposes. The facade of the building will be given modern treatment. Including officers, 25 men, 14 of whom are in married men's quarters, are now accommodated at Fire Brigade headquarters.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 December 1938, page 7

Record Fire Calls.—A record total of 171 calls was received by city and suburban fire brigade stations during November. About three-quarters of the calls were to grass fires during the recent spell of heat.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 December 1938, page 1

£500 FIRE AT FACTORY

Storm Blamed For Outbreak

Damage estimated at £500 was caused by a fire which gutted the Kingston Sauce Factory in Clifford street, Kurralta Park, early today. Last night's storm is thought to have been the cause. It is believed that a short circuit occurred when telephone wires leading to the front of the wood-and-iron building were blown down. People living nearby reported to the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) that the telephone wires were lying on the ground at 4 a.m., and sparks were seen shooting from overhead wires nearby. The blaze originated in the front portion of the

structure, and this was practically demolished when appliances from Thebarton and Adelaide Fire Station arrived. The roof collapsed soon after. The blaze had such a strong grip when the firemen came on the scene that they could save only a small compartment at the rear. The building was already well alight when the fire was first noticed about 7.15 a.m. A neighbor had to run nearly half a mile to the nearest phone on the South road. Two girls will be temporarily unemployed as a result of the fire. The factory was insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 December 1938, page 19

£1,000 FIRE AT KESWICK BARRACKS

Staff Corps Mess Building Destroyed

BIRDS IN AVIARY PERISH

Fanned by a strong southerly wind, fire destroyed the Staff Corps Mess building at Keswick Barracks shortly before 7 a.m., yesterday. Between 80 and 100 canaries, finches and other birds, which were kept in a large aviary close to the clubroom, died in the blaze. Total damage was estimated at about £1,000. The building had been recently renovated and fitted with new appointments, and, with the exception of a tennis net and a few other articles, all the contents were destroyed.

Mrs. Turner, wife of Sergeant O. R. Turner, of the permanent remount section, who lives a short distance from the Mess, was the first to notice the fire. She informed her husband, who gave the alarm, and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, with Chief Officer Whyte in charge, arrived within a few minutes of the call. The wood and iron building was in flames when the firemen arrived, and within half an hour the structure was destroyed. The building, which is close to the hospital recreation hut, was fitted with the usual appointments provided for the officers, and the contents included a refrigerator, which had been recently installed, five blackwood settees, several tables and armchairs.

A curious feature of the blaze was that several blocks of ice which were in an icechest were practically intact, and the other contents of the chest were not damaged. The Base Commandant (Brig. Martyn), Major A. V. Burgess, and other officers were promptly on the scene, and Constable Slater, officer-in-charge of the Goodwood Police Station, made enquiries. The building consisted of an ante-room, a dining room, kitchen, and two or three other smaller rooms. Arrangements had been made for the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) to visit the Mess on Thursday, as the guest of the Commandant and staff. The building was erected during the war as a recreation hut, and was later acquired as the Staff Corps Mess.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1938, page 26

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire In City.—Three rooms and contents were severely damaged by a fire at the rear of a boarding-house, occupied by Mrs. Christina McCaskill, in Carrington street, city, early last night. The blaze was soon extinguished by the City Fire Brigade. The fire is believed to have originated in a linen cupboard. The structure damaged was an outbuilding, comprising one brick and two wood and iron rooms.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 15 December 1938, page 23

Modern Plant In Modern Quarters

MANY thousands of pounds have been spent by the South Australian Fire Brigade in improving equipment throughout the State, and its headquarters in Wakefield street are now being modernised and extended at a cost of £9,000.

When the work is completed, the central fire station will be one of the most modern in the Commonwealth, and the anomaly of having an up-to-date fire-fighting unit in an out-of-date building will be rectified. A feature of the modernisation will be the provision of a sound-proof watchroom. At present the din of passing traffic, particularly trams, sometimes makes it difficult for switch-board operators to receive messages clearly. The redesigning of the main building will relieve the cramped conditions that have obtained since the appliances were increased in size and number. Ample room for the seven appliances now in the garage will be provided by setting back the walls.

MODERN FLATS

When the work is finished, the vehicles will be lined in four aisles, providing a straight drive out the main doors. At present it is possible to have only three appliances facing the front door. The vehicles in the centre have to turn to avoid a big pillar in the middle of the entrance. This obstruction will be removed as part of the reconstruction plan. Modern flats for station officers will be built over portion of the yard on the first-floor level. The yard below will still be used for drill and other purposes. A block of flats for married men was recently completed on land adjoining headquarters. At present, 25 men, 14 of whom are in married men's quarters, are accommodated at the Wakefield street station.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 17 December 1938, page 5

Furniture Factory Destroyed

The cause of the fire which destroyed the furniture factory of the South-Western Manufacturing Co. at Forestville early today is not known. Timber stored in the factory caused the fire to spread rapidly, but prompt action by the fire brigade prevented the flames from spreading to adjoining properties. The Chief Fire Officer (Mr. Whyte) said today that one hose was disconnected to allow a train to pass along the Brighton line. The fire was well under control at the time, and there was no reason to delay the train un-necessarily. The factory was owned by Mr. T. F. Ballantyne and was insured for about £2,300. About 20 minutes after they received the alarm by telephone the firemen had the blaze under control.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1938, page 1

Big Haystack In Flames



FIGHTING THE FLAMES at Freeling today when a 400-ton haystack caught alight in the township. Here volunteers are helping a fireman to hose the stack. As the hay is in an old stack, it will smoulder for days, requiring constant attention. The stack which was one of three, holding an aggregate of 1,200 tons, belonged to Mr. J. E. Neldner. Left—Stocks in the danger zone. A small portion of the burning stack is on the left. The stack in the centre, of 350 tons, will be shifted this afternoon.

HAY WORTH £1,000 GOES UP IN FLAMES

Exciting Time in Freeling

Watched by a large crowd, 400 tons of hay, worth £1,000, were destroyed at Freeling today by a fire which threatened two other stacks containing 800 tons.

HURRIED calls brought units from the Gawler and Adelaide Brigades. When the Freeling fire reel hose proved too short to cope with the flames, one was sent from Kapunda. Mr. J. E. Neldner, chaff mill proprietor, who owned the hay, estimated the loss at £1,000, but said it was covered by insurance.

Alarms were sounded at 8 a.m. by a butcher on his round. A bucket gang of 50 men quickly assembled and prevented the other stack igniting. The hay which burned was several years old, and the addition of new hay may have accelerated spontaneous combustion and caused

the fire. The stack was in the middle of the town, and the back yards of several homes adjoined. Occupiers of these had an anxious time, while frantic efforts were made to clear grass and shrubs which might have spread the fire if it had got out of control. Lack of water handicapped the firefighters. It may be some time before the fire burns out, but water is still being poured on to the debris and on to the larger stack of the two near by. Wagons were obtained this afternoon to move 350 tons to safety.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 20 December 1938, page 24

BIG HAYSTACK ON FIRE

£1,000 Damage At Freeling

EXPECTED TO SMOULDER FOR WEEK

FREELING, December 19.

A 400-ton haystack, valued at about £1,000, was destroyed by a fire which broke out shortly after 8 a.m. today. Two other stacks, containing 800 tons of hay were threatened. The stacks, which are owned by Mr. J. E. Neldner, chaff merchant, stand almost in the middle of the town, and it was feared at one stage that the fire might spread to adjoining properties. It is understood that the loss is covered by insurance

The local fire reel was brought to the scene, while volunteers used buckets and the fire was fought until the Gawler brigade arrived. Shortly afterwards an appliance, under Officer A. L. McCallum, arrived from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, taking over from the Gawler brigade. It is thought that the fire was caused by spontaneous combustion. The stack was composed mainly of old hay, with new hay at one end. A party of men will maintain a watch throughout tonight. Although the present south-westerly wind is helpful to the fire-fighters, a dangerous position might arise should it change to the north-east or north-west. The stack is expected to smoulder for about a week. The adjoining stack is being moved to a place about one mile from the town. More than 50 men worked on it this afternoon, and between 2 pm. and dark they shifted 180 tons. The guards tonight will dampen the stack at frequent intervals. The third stack, which is further away from the burning one, will not be moved. The work of moving the middle stack will be resumed early tomorrow morning.



FIREMEN from Adelaide and Gawler playing hoses on the burning haystack at Freeling yesterday.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 28 December 1938, page 6

£100 Damage In Fire At Case-Making Works

Called early today to an outbreak in Stephen street, Norwood, reels from the Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades found a wood-and-iron shed well alight, and damage estimated at more than £100 was caused before the blaze could be extinguished. The building was used by Mr. G. Hersey, of Annesley avenue, North Norwood, as a case-making factory and joinery. A quantity of timber in the shed, together with some sawbenches and other plant, was destroyed. The Norwood police are inquiring.