

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1939

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 3 January 1939, page 16

Fatalities And Accidents

Man Found Dead In City Street

The night watchman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade reported to the police late last night that a man was lying on the road in Wakefield street. A police ambulance took the man to the Adelaide Hospital, but he was dead on arrival. A letter found in the possession of the dead man suggests that he is P. Sullivan, an old-age pensioner, of Wright street, city.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 5 January 1939, page 19

Millswood Estate Fire.—At 12.13 a.m. yesterday, the Unley Fire Brigade received a call to a fire at the house occupied by Mr. J. M. Ingleton of Millswood Crescent, Millswood Estate. Two appliances were sent from Adelaide, but the Unley Brigade had the fire under control in 10 minutes. A room and a passage and their contents were damaged, but the rest of the house was saved.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 January 1939, page 7

Walkerville Fire Damage



WHEN A FIRE BROKE OUT EARLY TODAY it completely destroyed the carpentry works of Claude H. Smith, of Walkerville terrace, Gilberton, and damaged the adjoining works of Robert Clisby, of Garnet street, Walkerville. Damage to the two properties is estimated at £1,500. Remarkable work by the fire brigade saved adjoining properties from damage. This picture shows the damage at the carpentry works.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 January 1939, page 1

Stop Press

MACCLESFIELD BUSHFIRE

The City Fire Brigade has sent on outfit and 12 men to the Macclesfield fire. The outfit comprises a pump capable of throwing 400 gallons of water a minute, and 3,000 ft. of hose. One hundred men held in check a fire which burned 100 acres of scrub land between Long Gully and National Park Railway Station. The park escaped. Fire has broken out on the Oakbank Racecourse and the stands are threatened.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 11 January 1939, page 23

£1,000 DAMAGE IN FACTORY FIRE

Densely Populated Block Menaced

Damage estimated at more than £1,000 was caused by a fire which completely destroyed the carpentry works of Mr. C. H. Smith, at Walkerville terrace, Gilberton, early yesterday morning.

The fire is believed to have broken out in the joinery factory of Mr. Robert Clisby, which adjoins Mr. Smith's premises. Soon after the fire was first seen, flames were shooting 100 feet into the air from an elevated sawdust hopper at Mr. Clisby's premises. Three fire machines from headquarters and one from North Adelaide were soon on the scene, and although they were able to control the fire at Clisby's factory, the fire in Smith's premises completely destroyed the building. Four jets of water from high-pressure steam pumps were used in fighting the blaze. At one stage it appeared that a number of houses built very close to the two factories might catch alight, but efforts by the firemen prevented this. Most of the occupants removed part of their furniture.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that only the complete absence of wind enabled the firemen to stop the blaze from extending through the whole of the densely-built block. If the outbreak had occurred some two hours later, when the strong north wind arose, it would have been impossible to have stopped it from spreading. As it was, he regarded the efforts of the firemen in controlling the fire as the most remarkable he had seen.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 14 January 1939, page 2

Police Investigate 30 Heat Deaths

More than 30 deaths directly attributable to the heat wave have been investigated by police for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn). Seventeen of them occurred in mental institutions. It is estimated that at least 60 people died suddenly because of the heat. The fire brigade has been exceptionally busy.

Since January 1 the city station alone has answered 103 calls. Yesterday things were so busy that the pumps were working all the time. At one stage three city engines and four outstations were working on different fires. Police ambulances had six heat collapses, and one death to deal with today, in addition to private work, including a 100-mile trip to Cadell. Police cars were kept running all day on bushfire duty and routine criminal investigation work. Yesterday and today 25 firefighters were treated at Adelaide Hospital for burns and eye complaints.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 January 1939, page 3

FOUR SINGED IN RUBBER FIRE

Edwardstown Blaze

Four men were slightly singed about the face and arms when part of the plant of Kenworth rubber mills at South road, Edwardstown, caught fire this afternoon. The men were working in

a wood and iron shed separated from the main building. It contained a quantity of rubber solution in drums and tins. The Adelaide Fire Brigade, under the fire chief (Mr. Whyte) raced to the scene and, as the solution is highly explosive and gaseous when heated, the firemen ripped out two sides of the shed as a safety measure before turning on their hoses. The outbreak was soon under control.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 16 January 1939, page 20

£8,000 FIRE AT WOOLLEN MILLS

Heat Causes Spontaneous Combustion

CONTENTS ENTIRELY DESTROYED

Spontaneous combustion caused by the high temperatures during the past week and the humidity on Saturday night is thought to have started a fire in the Torrenside Woollen Mills at Taylors road, West Thebarton, early on Sunday morning. Damage amounting to about £8,000 was done to fine wools in the store, and to portions of the building.

Three appliances from the Adelaide Fire Brigade and one from Thebarton had the fire under control in 20 min-utes. The owners are Goode, Durrant and Murray. The manager of the mills (Mr. Taylor) said yesterday that Anson Bloor, painter, of Torrens avenue, New Hindmarsh, was returning home after having been fighting fires in the hills when he saw the store alight. He promptly called the Thebarton Fire Brigade. A hose was attached to a six-inch water main, which had recently been installed at the mill. Two large fire-proof doors leading into the store prevented the fire from spreading to an adjoining room, where overflow wool was stacked, and from the rest of the premises, and assisted the work of the brigade. The contents of the store were destroyed, and a wood and iron wall on the river side, and the roof, which was about 20 feet high, were destroyed. Two machines which were in the store, but which were not in use, were damaged. The bulk store, at the other end of the premises, and other parts of the mill were not damaged, and operations will not be stopped. Enquiries were made by Constable Geary, of Thebarton.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 17 January 1939, page 10

EXPLOSION IN MIXING PLANT

Four Men Injured At Edwardstown

Four men received minor burns when a mixing plant in the rear portion of the Kenworth Rubber Mills, South road, Edwardstown, burst into flames yesterday afternoon. The four employes were working close to the plant when the mishap occurred. Eighty gallons of rubber metal solution, which was highly inflammable, exploded without warning, and destroyed large quantities of refined petrol which was contained in about 14 40-gallon drums.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Unley Brigade attended, and soon had the outbreak under control. The injured men were:— Harry Charles Talmer, of South road, Edwardstown, burns to arms and face; Frederick Allen, of Goodwood road, Colonel Light Gardens, minor burns; Colin Thomas, of Leonard street, Edwardstown, burns to face and neck; George Foreman, of Millswood, burns and shock. Foreman was taken to the Adelaide Hospital for treatment. The shed in which the explosion occurred was destroyed. Damage is estimated at about £300.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 21 January 1939, page 2

Man Burned In Grass Fire

NETHERBY BLAZE

Extending from the Mount Barker road near the Unley quarry to Netherby near the Waite Agricultural Institute, a grass fire for a time this afternoon alarmed local residents and brought

at least 25 telephone calls to the police, the National Safety Council, and Fire Brigade headquarters.

Fifty police were immediately ordered out by the Commissioner (Brig.-Gen. Leane) to quell the blaze and police motor cycles patrols were sent to report on the situation. The blaze beginning at Brownhill Creek moved with lightning speed towards Netherby and Springfield. It spread a pall of smoke over the south eastern suburbs. The voluntary fire fighters had the break under control within an hour. For a time there were fears that the fire might reach the fringe of the residential area, but the unflagging efforts of about 100 civilian firefighters, reinforced by a band of junior constables, confined the flames to scrub and grass country. Two appliances at fire brigade headquarters were standing by ready to dash to the vicinity should property be threatened. Frank Bruce, 17, of Ronald avenue, Glenunga, was burned while fighting the fire. Cut off by the flames, he climbed a tree, in the hope that the fire would pass quickly underneath, but the tree caught alight, and the injuries he received necessitated his removal to Adelaide Hospital.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 10 February 1939, page 1

**** HOT SPOTS ****

Usually on a hot day the Fire Brigade has a busy time answering calls to grass fires. Up to 1.30 p.m. today, however, the brigades in the city and suburbs had not received one call.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 15 February 1939, page 3

A bed was damaged by fire today in a six-roomed house in Hewitt avenue, Rose Park. The Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades attended.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 23 February 1939, page 9

POLICE WAKEN GUESTS

Early Morning Fire

Guests asleep in the Earl of Zetland Hotel in Flinders street, City, awakened with a start about 5.45 a.m. today to find a policeman shaking them and instructing them to evacuate the premises. The reason was a fire which was raging a few feet away in the banqueting room leased by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. This room, which is the size of a small hall, adjoins the upstairs bedrooms of the hotel, and is immediately above the bars and lounge.

Damage estimated at between £800 and £ 1,000 was caused by the fire, which apparently started in a piano. The instrument was destroyed, also staging in the lodge premises. So terrific was the heat that the metal blades of electric fans 20 ft. away were melted. Damage would have been much heavier had not a passing milkman seen smoke pouring from the roof of the building and raced to the headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade in Wakefield street. As the firefighters went into action policemen went the rounds of the hotel bedrooms and awakened the guests and staff.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 24 February 1939, page 21

TWO CITY PREMISES ON FIRE

Lodge Room Fittings Badly Damaged

A fire broke out yesterday in premises in Flinders street, city, occupied by the Buffalo Lodges, and adjoining the Earl of Zetland Hotel. The fire was first observed by a milkman delivering milk at the hotel, and he informed a police constable, who communicated with the fire brigade at 5.32 a.m. Two pumps, two ladders, a salvage van, and a hose cart were soon on the scene. The fire began in the lodge-room on the first floor, and portion of the contents, including a piano, and stage and lodge fittings, were seriously damaged. The fire spread to

the ceiling and through to the hotel premises, where the flames pierced the ceiling above the lounge, and sparks and burning debris set the carpets in the lounge alight. The hotel premises were recently improved at a cost of £3,000. All the carpets and lounge furnishings were new, and had only been in use for about two weeks. All inmates of the hotel left the premises without their belonging, as there was danger of both premises being gutted. Chief Officer J. J. Whyte had two ladders installed reaching the roof, and two lines of hose operating. In 25 minutes the fire was under control. Both premises are fully insured. It is not known how the fire originated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 27 February 1939, page 18

FACTORY BURNT AT MILE END

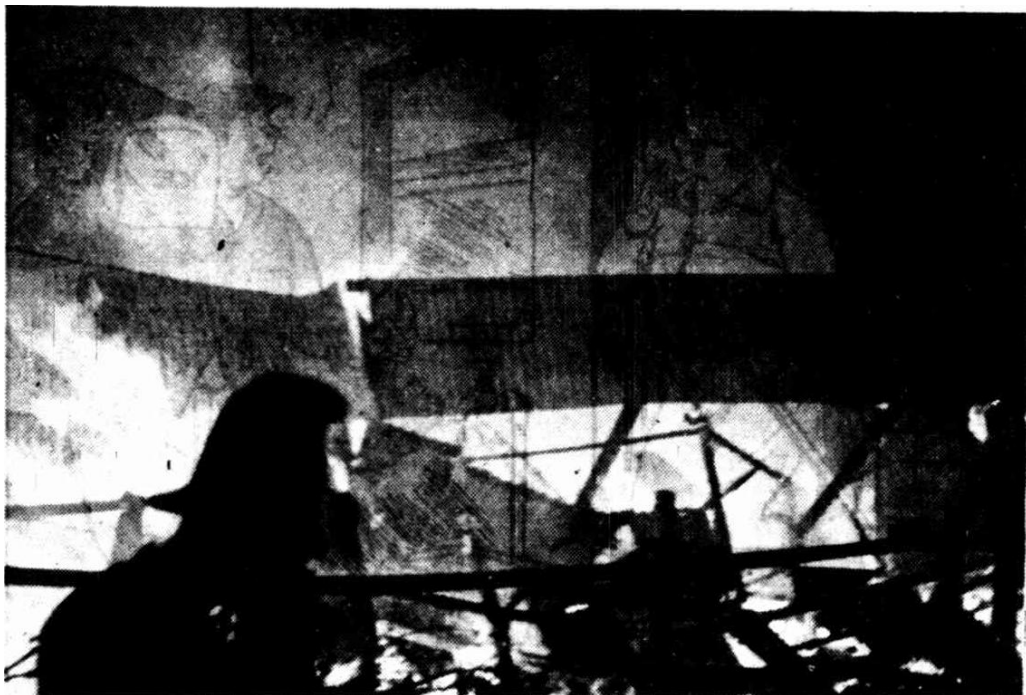
Railwayman Fights Flames With Garden Hose

A railwayman with a garden hose attempted to quell a fire which destroyed the furniture factory of Mr. Reginald Burnett at Rose street, Mile End, last night. Mr. Burnett, who was at his home at Lockleys when the fire occurred, said the damage would probably amount to £750, and 12 men would be thrown out of work. A second building, which is divided from the other by a lane, was saved, after work by the Metropolitan and Thebarton Fire Brigades.

Mr. L. Claxton, the railwayman who fought the fire until they arrived, lives in a property in front of the factory. "Much of the place could have been saved had the water pressure been better," he said. "It only trickled through for about ten minutes or so after the firemen arrived." The fire began, it is thought, in a corner of the building and spread rapidly after the roof fell in and the flames were fanned by a wind. The building was of wood and iron and had been occupied by Mr. Burnett for about 15 months. Stacks of timber and plywood and some partly completed furniture were inside. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 27 February 1939, page 3

BATTLE WITH FLAMES



FIREMAN PLAYING A HOSE on the furniture factory of Mr. Reginald Burnett, of Rose street, Mile-End, last night. The fire broke out in a corner of the building and spread rapidly, destroying the factory. An adjoining shed was saved by the Metropolitan and Thebarton Fire Brigades.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 4 March 1939, page 2

FIREMEN'S NEW HELMETS



A NEW TYPE of fire helmet is about to be adopted by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It is made of a composition substance, is stronger than brass, and fire-proof. Two firemen wearing (left) the new helmet and (right) the old brass type.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 4 March 1939, page 1

BURNING PETROL ON CLOTHES

Youths in Hospital

Two youths were severely burned in a petrol explosion at the Wymouth Service Co., Gilbert street, city, today. They were Harry Sloan, about 18, of Payneham road, St. Peters, and Errol Gill, about 16, of Goldfinch avenue, Cowandilla. They were admitted to the Adelaide Hospital. A gas jet burning near small tins of petrol is believed to have caused the fire. Burning petrol was sprayed on the youths' clothes, but the prompt action of their workmates, who sprayed them with fire extinguishers, saved them from serious injury. Slight damage was caused to paint and woodwork. The city fire brigade quelled the flames in a few minutes.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 4 March 1939, page 1

Firemen In Action



FIREMEN PLAYING WATER on the drums of Colas which exploded in the blaze at Richmond today.

EXPLOSIONS LIKE CANNON IN BIG BLAZE

Bombardment Of Red-Hot Iron

Exploding with a noise like cannon fire, and with red-hot pieces of iron bombarding the roofs of houses nearby, about 60 drums of Colas, a bitumen mixture, were destroyed in a spectacular blaze at the depot of Asphalt Cold Mix Australia Pty. Ltd., South road, Richmond, this morning. Nearly 200 drums on a platform at the depot went up, but only about 60 44-gallon drums were full. The contents were valued at about £120, and a big shed, housing the drums, which was destroyed in the blaze was valued at about £700.

Starting at about 8.45, the fire burned fiercely for about half an hour. It was fortunate that the blaze did not attain more serious proportions. Two big 12,000-gallon tanks and two smaller 5,000-gallon tanks, standing in the depot and partly full of Colas, escaped the flames. These were right alongside the burning shed. The most remarkable feature was the escape of hundreds of drums of bitumen, piled high alongside the valuable bitumen heating plant, only 20 ft. from the exploding drums.

Flames were licking the platform and the walls of the plant when firemen, realising the danger, concentrated on saving the plant and the bitumen drums. Other serious damage was averted when valves on oxy-acetylene cylinders blew off and prevented them from exploding. "If these had gone up and the bitumen drums caught alight, the fire would have still been burning, and dreadful damage might have resulted," said an official. The fire is believed to have started under the shed platform.

Employes rushed for safety as flames and smoke suddenly belched from the shed. Later they helped to keep the flames from the bitumen plant. Apart from scorched arms and shoulders, no one was seriously hurt.

Valuable Trotters Freed

RESIDENTS in homes round the depot had a terrifying time. Women screamed as red-hot pieces of iron from the exploding drums fell on roofs, in back gardens, and in nearby streets. Some tops of the drums weighing up to 6 lb. were hurled nearly 500 ft. Mrs. W. McMillan, of Manchester street, rushed to the stables in her yard to free five valuable trotters when she heard the explosions. Assisted by others she released the animals, which belonged to Mr. S.

Cooney, a friend. These well-known trotters, some of which are engaged at Wayville tonight, are Frank, Steppall, Rockford, Wonga Lea, and a youngster. Terrified by the noise of the explosions and the flames, the trotters were plunging in their stalls when Mrs. McMillan and Mr. C. Burchell released them and led them to safety to paddocks at the top of Manchester street. "How we got them out I do not know," Mrs. McMillan said afterwards. "The heat was terrific, and if he had not had a concrete wall at the back I think we would have been burnt out."

Mr. W. Gardner was standing in Manchester street more than 100 yards from the scene of the outbreak, when a red hot bitumen drum crashed on to the roadway within two yards of him. When the fence of Mr. C. J. Kerr's back yard, which adjoins the depot, and a small tool shed, caught alight, Mr. Kerr rushed for the garden hose. As he turned on the water his wife, standing in the back verandah, screamed out when she saw the top of one drum come hurling down, missing Mr. Kerr by a foot. Mr. Kerr's fence was burned down and part of the shed and a few tools destroyed.

Close Call for Infant

Next door to the depot, Mrs. R. C. Forrester was having her breakfast when the explosions began. It was just as if a lot of cannon were firing, she said. A red-hot piece of iron, the top of one of the drums, landed on the top of the house, broke several tiles, and rolled off the roof into the front garden. This just missed a swinging bassinette, from which a 10-week-old baby had just been taken inside by her mother, Mrs. G. White, daughter of Mrs. Forrester. The women rushed into the back yard, but were turned back by the terrific heat of the blaze, which was only about 30 ft. on the other side of their fence. Wrapping the baby in blankets, they were ready to leave the house if danger threatened, but, with the arrival of the brigades from Adelaide and Thebarton, hoses were played on the fences, and the danger passed. Scorched peaches and grapes in the garden testified to the narrow escape they had. Parts of the woodwork of the house were also scorched by the terrific heat. During the blaze, and while the explosions were occurring, traffic passing along South road was warned to keep out of the danger area. Other residents had portions of these drums scattered in their yards and one on a roof. "We wondered what was going to happen next," said one man. "The explosions were terrible, and we thought the bigger drums would also go up and start fires everywhere."

People living nearby paid a tribute to the smart work of the Adelaide and Thebarton Fire Brigades in preventing the blaze from spreading to nearby properties. Chief Fire Officer Whyte, who directed operations, said that some hoses were ruined during the blaze by thoughtless motorists and drivers of other vehicles running over the equipment in the street.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 6 March 1939, page 18

ALARMING FIRE AT RICHMOND

Burst Bitumen Drums Terrify Residents

PIECES FALL ON HOUSES

Flames and smoke leapt nearly 200 feet when more than sixty 44-gallon drums of emulsified bitumen caught fire at the Asphalt Cold Mix Proprietary Limited's factory at South road, Richmond, early on Saturday morning. Drums of bitumen exploding like cannon shots drove women in nearby houses screaming into the streets, and there were many escapes from being hit by portions of the drums which flew for more than 200 feet on to roofs of houses and into back yards. The flames were confined to one section of the works. The damage was estimated at slightly under £1,000.

Alongside the shed in which the fire occurred are two 12,000-gallon and two 5,000-gallon steel tanks in which emulsified bitumen is stored in bulk. Nearby is a large bitumen heating plant, where thousands of gallons of bitumen is stored. Chief Officer Whyte of the Fire

Brigade, considers that the bitumen in this portion of the plant would have burnt for three weeks.

Start Of The Fire

The fire was reported to have started at the bitumen filling pipe. The flames quickly spread from a piece of burning waste to a 44-gallon bitumen drum. Employees rushed to the spot with chemical fire extinguishers, but in a few seconds the platform was an inferno. Three other employees rushed from the platform. One was scorched about the arms, chest and face. Firemen were anxious concerning several cylinders of oxyacetylene gas stored on the platform, but the flames melted the valves and allowed the gas to escape without exploding the high pressure steel cylinders. Several firemen were sprayed with hot bitumen as the drums exploded, but were not seriously burnt. The headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a telephone call from the works at about 8.25 a.m., and within five minutes Chief Officer Whyte, accompanied by three appliances from Adelaide and one from the Thebarton station, was on the scene. Due to an excellent water pressure drawn from two high pressure mains on the South road, a few yards away, the firemen had the blaze under control in a few minutes, and the fire was completely out in a little more than half an hour. Ten lines of hose were run out and 2,000 gallons of water a minute were pumped on to the fire. Firemen concentrated on isolating the blaze to the shed and the platform on which the bitumen was stored.

Householders Menaced

Householders in the vicinity had terrifying experiences. Mrs. R. C. Forrester, whose house is within 60 ft. of the shed, rushed on to the footpath in time to see the lid of a steel bitumen drum hurtling into the air. This missile, which weighed about 12 lb, fell on the front verandah roof, smashed several tiles, and rolled on to the lawn. The object fell immediately above a swinging bassinet from which her daughter, Mrs. G. White, had taken her 10 weeks' old baby only a few minutes before. Mrs. White, who was bathing her baby, snatched it from the tub, and rushed across the street, with the child wrapped in a towel, to the house of a neighbor. Mr. Forrester, who has been under a doctor's care for some time with a serious nervous complaint, was seriously affected with shock. Seven trotting horses belonging to Mr. A. McMillan, of Manchester street, were in a stable adjoining the company's works. Mrs. McMillan rushed out and released six of the horses, and a neighbor, Mr. Burchell, ran in to release the last horse. Just as he reached the stable a large piece of steel crashed on to the roof, and he had great difficulty in releasing the terrified animal. The back fence of the property of Mr. C. Kerr, Manchester street, caught fire, and about 30 feet of it was destroyed. A shed in which tools were kept was also badly burnt. While Mr. Kerr was playing a hose on a large aviary of valuable birds, portion of one of the steel drums dropped on the ground within a few inches of him. Fruit trees and vines and creepers in all the adjoining houses were scorched by the flames.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 March 1939, page 4

Modernised City Fire Station

WHEN extensive alterations and renovations to the headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade in Wakefield street, City, are completed in a few months, Adelaide will be able to boast one of the most modern fire stations in the Southern Hemisphere. The reconstructed building will be a worthy home for the up-to-the-minute appliances with which the Brigade has been equipped recently.

The rebuilding campaign was inaugurated after the Fire Brigade Board had decided that the 40-year-old building was out of date for modern requirements. The building was originally erected for equipment and staff only half the size of that now at the station. A feature will be the provision of four exits to Wakefield street compared with two in the old section. This obviates the time-wasting system of having four vehicles in single file.

The new building will also provide station officers with more accommodation, and firemen will shortly have a commodious tiled bathroom with four shower cubicles and two baths with overhead showers, and five washbasins. Five self-contained flats for station officers and their families are being renovated and extended.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 11 March 1939, page 27

BRIGADE'S DASH THROUGH CITY

Firemen Find Small Fuse Box Alight

Answering a call from a street alarm on North terrace at 7.42 p.m. yesterday, several units from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, with red traffic lights flashing, dashed down King William street. Something of an anti-climax awaited the firemen when they arrived opposite Parliament House and found a fuse box on one of the tramway poles alight.

The current was switched off by officials of the Municipal Tramways Trust, and the fire was put out with a chemical fire extinguisher. Chief-Officer Whyte said that with the system of street alarms in operation in the city, it was not possible to ascertain the dimensions of a fire—and therefore the amount of equipment required—until the officers of the brigade reached the scene. This handicap did not apply to an alarm system such as that in operation in the Woodville district.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 16 March 1939, page 9

Motorists Damage Fire Brigade Hose

The Fire Brigades Board reports that on one or two occasions recently hose has been damaged at fires through motor vehicles being driven over it. Such action on the part of drivers is not only costly to the board, but also means that the work of the brigade is seriously affected owing to it being necessary to turn off the water until the damaged hose is replaced. The board draws the attention of drivers of vehicles to the penalties prescribed in the Fire Brigades Act for the offence indicated, offenders being liable to fine or imprisonment as well as for the amount of any damage caused.

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FIRE BRIGADE INSPECTION: SCHOOL OF MINES EXTENSION



MEMBERS of the Western Australian Fire Brigade Board inspected Adelaide fire station yesterday. From left—Two Adelaide firemen, the Chairman of the S.A. Board (Mr. Jackson), Mr. E. Seahill (W.A.), Chief Officer Whyte (S.A.) and Mr. K. Duncan (W.A.).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 17 March 1939, page 28

NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Big Metropolitan Radio Test On Sunday

Under the auspices of the Wireless Institute, Adelaide radio amateurs on Sunday will engage in a national emergency test which will cover almost the whole metropolitan area. An aeroplane fitted with radio will co-operate. Since the recent disastrous bushfires, when radio amateurs rendered valuable service, plans have been prepared for a permanent organisation for radio communication in the event of normal methods being put out of action by fire, floods, or other cause. The first practical test of these plans will take place on Sunday, in conjunction with the civil emergency section of the National Safety Council. From a central station, established near Yatala, radio communication will be maintained with a number of outside portable stations of a type which could be used to send messages from fire fronts where responsible officers would be located. Another wireless set will keep in constant touch with the headquarters control station at the home of the president of the Wireless Institute (Mr. J. Kilgariff) at Burnside. From this point messages may be sent by land line to the National Safety Council headquarters, or to the police, fire brigade, post office, or other places as may be required. A further emergency station will stand by at Prospect to assist. The plane will fly over the scene of operations and "spot" the activities. It will be able to send and receive messages from the Yatala control station. The outside stations will each be located about 10 miles from Yatala. In time of actual fire these portable stations would be scattered at points where fires were raging. These stations will communicate with the central station and between themselves. Their messages will be passed on, either to headquarters at Burnside, to or from the plane, or dispatched direct. About 25 radio amateurs will take part in the test, a special permit for which has been obtained from the Postmaster General's Department. It will be the biggest radio emergency demonstration yet attempted in South Australia.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 21 March 1939, page 16

Dismissals From Fire Brigade

The action of the authorities in applying a health test to fire brigade employes was discussed at a meeting of the fire brigade section of the Government workers' Association on Sunday morning. It was stated that men had been dismissed who were quite capable of performing their duties. It was decided to ask the Fire Brigades Board to hold a special meeting before Friday to give representatives of the men an opportunity to submit a case against the dismissals. The General secretary of the Association (Mr. Nieass, M.P.) said yesterday that the men were greatly disturbed by the dismissals which had occurred as a result of the application of the health tests. They considered that there was some purpose, which had not been disclosed, behind the move. They wanted to have some guarantee given by the board regarding their future employment.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 29 March 1939, page 16

Fire At Old Police Barracks.—The roof of the old police barracks at Kin-tore avenue, city, caught alight yesterday morning. The fire was extinguished by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 1 April 1939, page 26

FIRE BRIGADES DISPUTE

Men To Meet Tomorrow

A reply from the Fire Brigades Board refusing a request by a deputation of representatives of fire brigade employes for the withdrawal of a retrenchment notice to a fireman, was received yesterday by the general secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. Nieass, M.P.). The decision to retrench the fireman, representatives of the men stated yesterday, followed the application of health and educational tests by the fire brigade authorities, and, as a result, the introduction of the tests had caused deep concern among the men. The board's refusal to agree to the deputation's request was discussed at a meeting of the men yesterday morning, when it was unanimously decided to call a special meeting of the fire brigades section of the association, covering employes at all metropolitan fire stations, at 10 a.m. tomorrow. Mr. Nieass said that the men were greatly incensed. They felt that their rights were being sacrificed for false theories and mythical standards, and that officialdom was being given preference to justice. "I consider the position to be so serious that I have summoned the whole of the State council of the association to attend the meeting," he added. "If what we have been told is true, then the association and the fire brigade employes will certainly take definite action in order that common justice shall prevail."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 3 April 1939, page 9

LABOR NEWS

Move For Fireman's Reinstatement

Allegations that one of their members had been victimised were made by members of the Fire Brigade section of the Australian Government Workers' Association at a meeting held yesterday morning. The meeting, the chairman of which was the State president of the A.G.W.A. (Mr. M. Benjamin) decided that everything possible would be done to have the man reinstated.

The following resolution was adopted: — That we are not at all satisfied with the Fire Brigade Board's action in respect of the retrenchment of B. O'Leary, and that we demand his reinstatement. Further, the board shall be requested to meet immediately the men's representatives to discuss the matter, and, failing satisfaction, that the State council shall place the whole matter in the hands of the Trades and Labor Council's disputes committee.

The general secretary (Mr. Nieass, M.P.), said that the men were determined in their action, as they felt that if the present policy were allowed to continue no employe would be safe for five minutes. "A man can slightly impair his health at a fire and then be thrown on the industrial scrapheap without a pension, and with scant consideration for having sacrificed himself for the peoples property." he said. "The men are satisfied that O'Leary was victimised, as there are many other jobs he could have been given. The condition of his eyesight did not warrant his dismissal."

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 3 April 1939, page 12



RIGHT—With scaffolding removed, the lines of the remodelled fire brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, can now be seen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 5 April 1939, page 19

LABOR NEWS

MEDICAL TEST DISPUTE

Firemen To Confer With Board Again

Grievances of fire brigade employees will be discussed at a further conference between the Fire Brigades Board and representatives of the men today. The general secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. Nieass, M.P.) said yesterday that, if the board's reply were unsatisfactory, the men would regard the matter as an industrial dispute and place it in the hands of the United Trades and Labor Council to decide what action should be taken. Since the last conference, about 10 days ago, meetings of the men have been held and a secret ballot taken. The ballot resulted in 90 per cent, of the firemen deciding not to submit themselves to the medical examinations, which the board has made compulsory. Fire brigade employes claim that men have been retrenched who were fit to carry out their duties.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 April 1939, page 6

WILL HAVE ANOTHER MEDICAL TEST

Fire Brigade Dispute

An independent doctor will act as arbitrator in one of the firemen's medical tests which recently caused unrest in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, it was announced today. The secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr Nieass, M.P.) said today that the Fire Brigades Board had agreed to the men's proposal that a fireman retrenched because he failed to pass a test given by the brigade doctor, should be examined by another doctor. The fireman had already been examined by one independent doctor, and had been passed as medically fit. However, he would submit to an examination by a third doctor.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 April 1939, page 3

TROUBLE ABOUT DOCTOR

Fire Brigade Tests

A dispute over the settling of another dispute has arisen between the Fire Brigades Board and firemen. The first dispute was caused by the retrenchment of several firemen who failed to pass what members of the brigade regarded as an impossible medical test. The men sought another doctor in the case of one fireman. The second doctor pronounced him physically fit. So the board and firemen met and decided that the case should rest in the hands of a third doctor. Now another dispute has arisen as to how the third doctor should be chosen. The board wants the two doctors already chosen to appoint a third, but the firemen contend that they should again meet the board and mutually decide on a doctor. At a meeting of the Government Workers' Association last night a resolution was adopted protesting to the board against the delay in appointing the third doctor. The secretary of the association (Mr. Nieass, M.P.) said today that if both parties agreed on a third doctor there could be no dispute regarding his finding.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 May 1939, page 5

FIRE STATION NOW MODERN

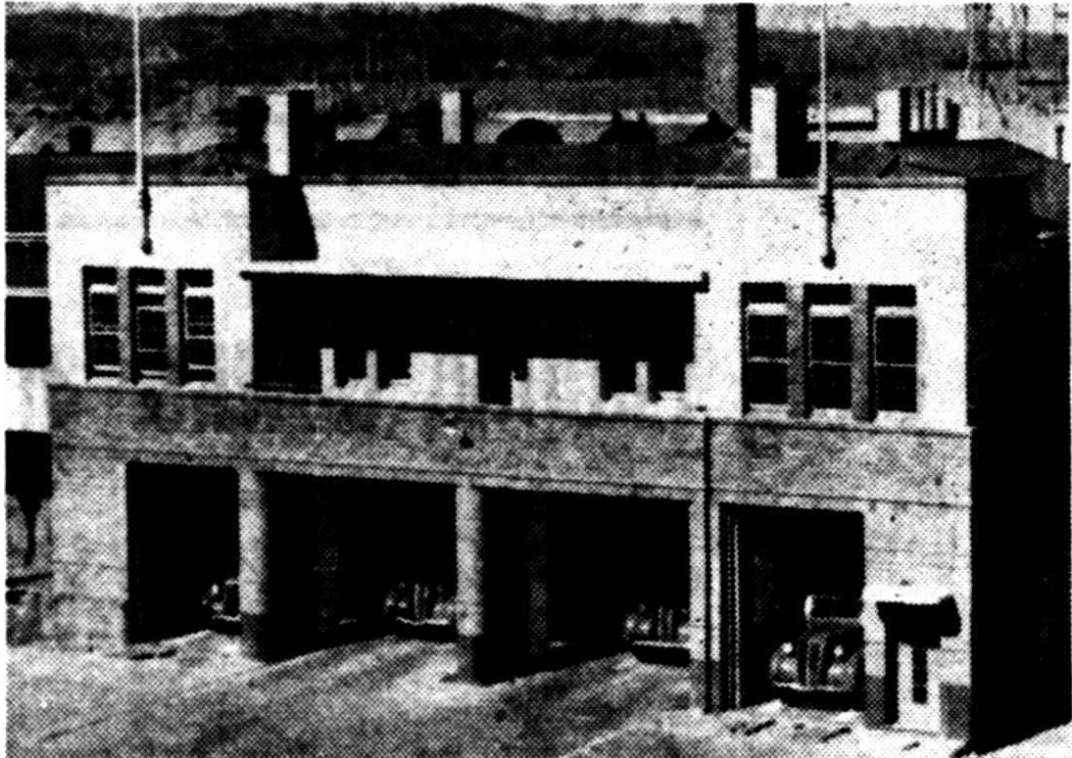
Redesigned Building

WHEN extensive alterations and renovations are completed at the Wakefield street headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade in a few weeks, the anomaly of having an up-to-the-minute plant and equipment housed in an out-of-date building will be removed.

As a result of the reconstruction Adelaide will be able to boast one of the most modern fire stations south of the line. There is now nothing to identify the new appearance of the fire station with the red brick structure that was one of Adelaide's most familiar landmarks for 40 years. The whole building has been redesigned not only to increase the efficiency but to make life as pleasant as possible for officers and men. Originally the building was erected to accommodate equipment and staff only half the size of that now at the station. Four exits compared with two in the old building have been provided. This arrangement obviates loss of time in answering calls. Formerly vehicles in the centre aisle had to wait until the vehicles on either side had left and then they had to be manoeuvred to dodge a huge pillar. Now every appliance can be driven straight into Wakefield street. A feature of the renovations is the provision of five self-contained flats for officers and their families and a big tiled bathroom with five shower cubicles and two baths with overhead showers for firemen.

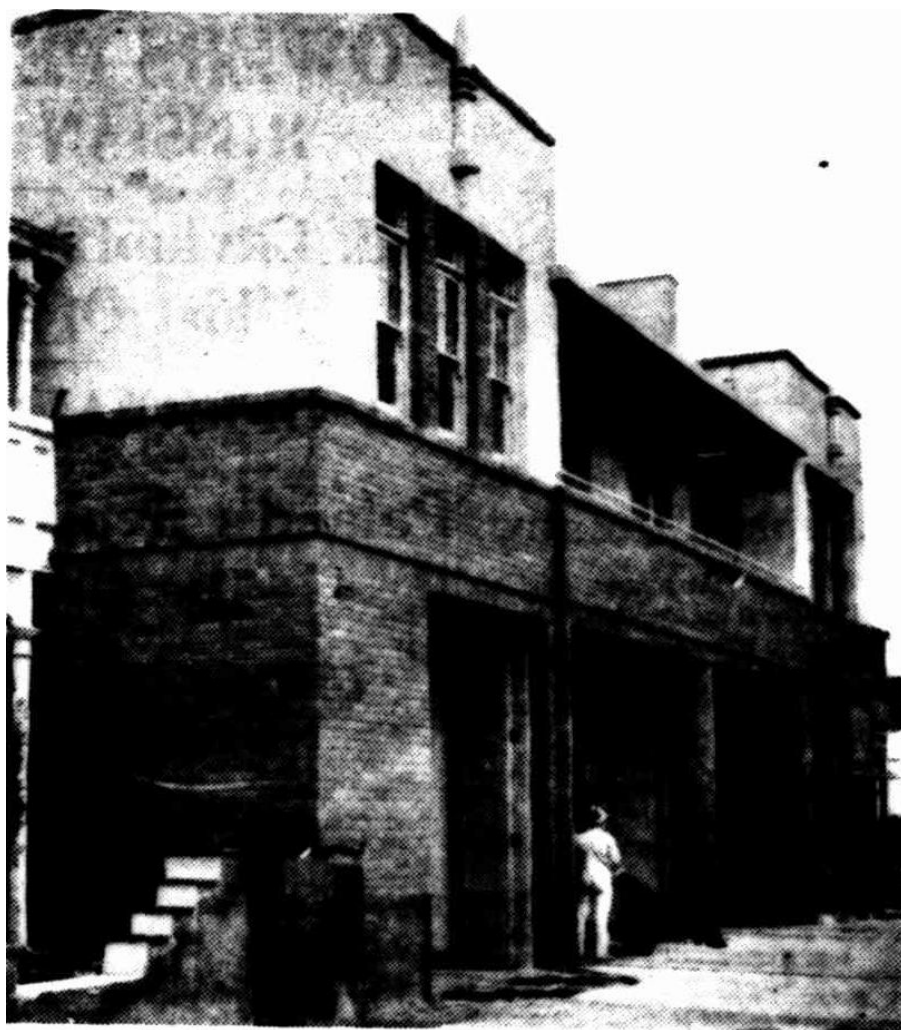
News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 May 1939, page 14

Fire Headquarters Modernised



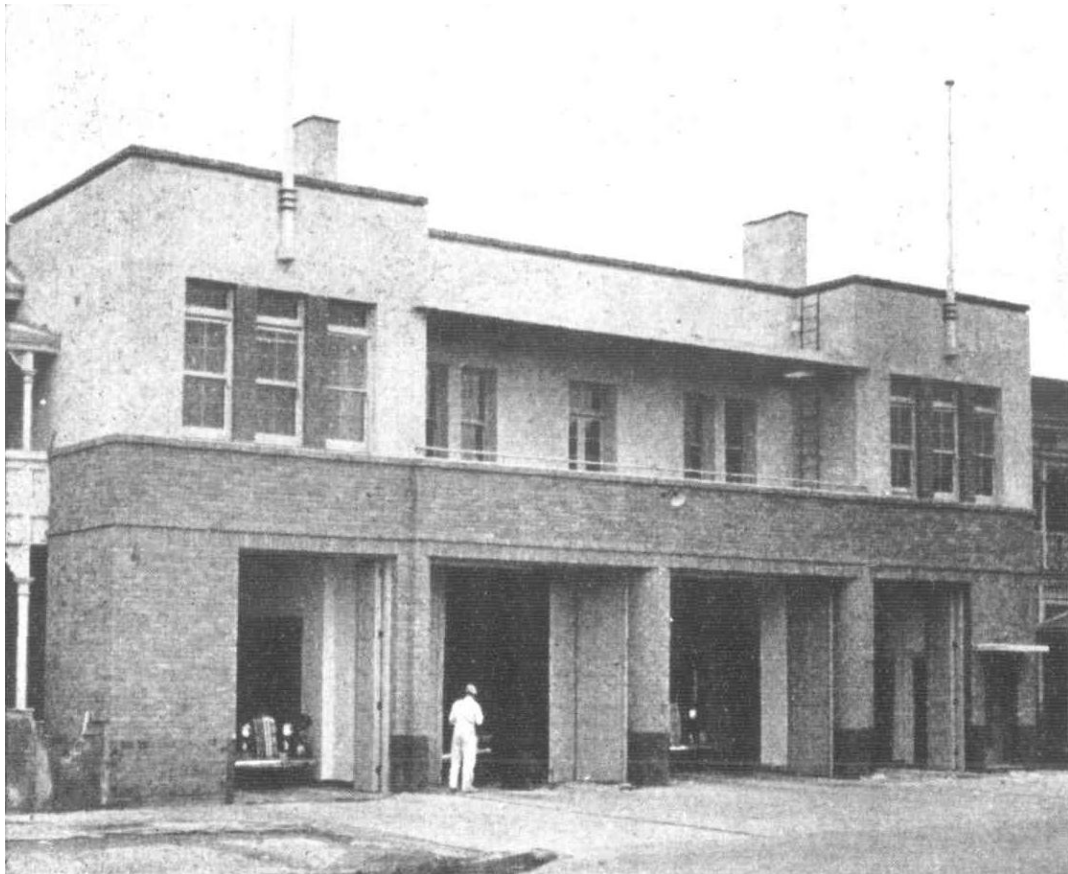
TODAY'S PICTURE at the Wakefield street headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade, which has been re-designed. When the extensive alterations and renovations are completed, Adelaide will have one of the most modern fire stations in Australia.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 May 1939, page 28



ALTERATIONS to the Fire Brigade building in Wakefield street are practically complete, giving the headquarters station a modern appearance.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 11 May 1939, page 33



M.F.B. HEADQUARTERS MODERNISED. The extensive alterations to the headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, in Adelaide, bringing it into line with modern requirements, are now nearing completion.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 11 May 1939, page 8

The Fire Brigade extinguished a small fire in G. Knowle's confectionery shop, Pulteney street, City, about 4.30 a.m. today. A wireless set and settee were burnt.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 May 1939, page 11

Fire in Rundle Street Building

A small fire, which broke out in the incinerator room at Woolworths, Rundle street, today, was extinguished automatically by sprinklers in the building. The fire brigade immediately received an automatic call; but the only thing they had to do was to recharge the sprinkler. Although a crowd gathered in the street when the salvage car arrived, none of the customers in the store was aware of the incident. The fire was caused when a spark from the incinerator ignited rubbish that was stacked up for burning.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 18 May 1939, page 6

READY FOR ANY ALARM

Firemen Attend Exam

In case of an emergency, an appliance, carrying a 600-gallon pump, waited outside the Technical School, Kintore avenue, today while 11 members of four South Australian fire brigades sat for an examination. The examinees were "on duty," and should a fire have occurred they would have had to leave their examination room and rush to the scene of the outbreak. The examination is under the auspices of the Institute of British Fire Engineers, London. Eight men sat for the graduate diploma and three for the associate. Seven of the

candidates were from headquarters, two from the Norwood Brigade, and one each from the Woodville and Unley Brigades. Some of the men have been studying for three years for the examination, which incorporates such topics as fire resisting materials, expansion and contraction of metals under high temperatures, chemistry of fire, and hydraulics. After the examinations the papers will be sealed and forwarded to London. The results will be known in three months.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 29 May 1939, page 3

BLAZE AT CITY HOSPITAL

Machinery Damaged

MACHINERY in a lift house at the top of the outpatients' department at the Adelaide Hospital was severely damaged by a fire which broke out early this afternoon. Firemen wearing gasmasks put out the blaze with chemical extinguishers before the building itself was seriously damaged. Passers-by, who saw dense clouds of smoke pouring from the top-story window, summoned the South Australian Fire Brigade before occupants of the building were aware of the flames overhead.

About 12 firemen had to squeeze through a trapdoor to reach the outbreak which filled the lift house with suffocating fumes. It is thought that the fire originated in the lift-driving motor, which had become overheated. The big resistance coils were burnt out, and the motor badly damaged. The full extent of the damage has not yet been estimated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 30 May 1939, page 19

Fire At Adelaide Hospital

Caused by the lift motor overheating, a fire occurred in the lift house of the outpatients' department at the Adelaide Hospital at 12.50 p.m. yesterday. The fire was noticed by a passer-by, who saw smoke issuing from a window. He summoned the brigade, and the fire was put out with chemical extinguishers.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 June 1939, page 10

LABOR NEWS

Fire Brigades Dispute Settled

The general secretary of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. Nieass, MP.) reported yesterday that the dispute between the union and the Fire Brigades Board regarding the retrenchment of a fireman following an eye specialist's report had been satisfactorily settled. The man had resumed duty in the theatre section under a special agreement.

Mr. Nieass said that negotiations in the dispute had extended over two months, and four leading eye specialists examined the man concerned. The union appreciated the efforts of Cr. E. W. Peet in assisting to bring about a settlement. Mr. Nieass will leave on Thursday for Alice Springs, and will be away for about three weeks. He said that his decision to make the trip followed medical advice that he needed a complete change.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 June 1939, page 10

FIRE BRIGADES' INSPECTION

Marked Improvement In Equipment

During the past two years considerable advance has been made in the efficiency of fire fighting equipment in South Australia. This fact was made evident during the recent biennial inspection of fire stations by the Fire Brigades Board. The Chief Fire Brigades' Officer (Mr. Whyte), who accompanied members of the board on their tour of inspection, said yesterday that the position in regard to fire stations in country towns was now satisfactory. Recently

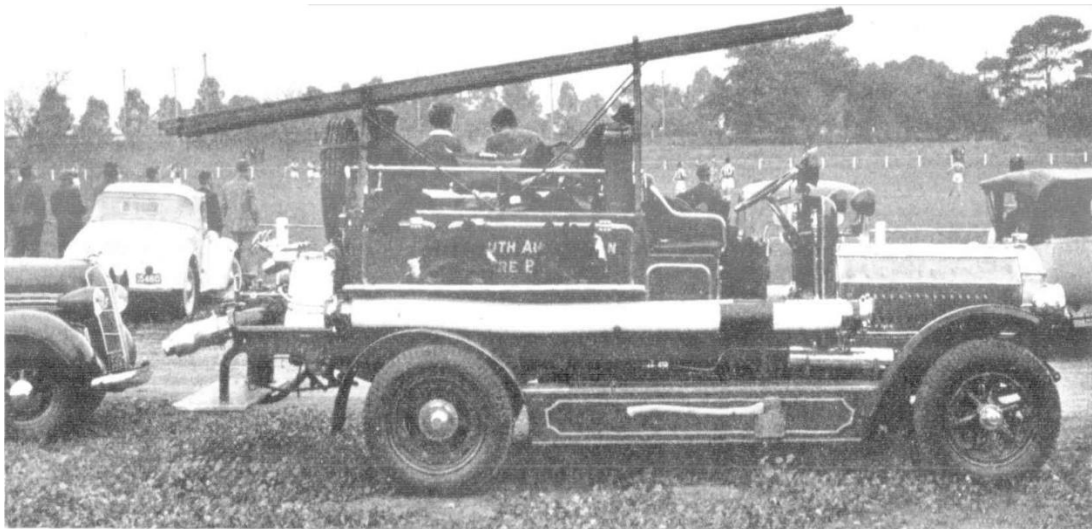
eleven of the old model fire engines, which had constituted the chief fire fighting equipment in towns of major importance, had been replaced by appliances withdrawn from suburban fire stations. This new equipment in country towns now offered a security previously entirely absent.

Fire fighting equipment in the metropolitan area, added Mr. Whyte, had now reached a high peak of efficiency. However, other schemes for perfecting the service were in view, and would be put into operation as soon as finances permitted. The chief of these was the installation, in the metropolitan area, of the new type fire alarms now in use throughout the Woodville district. These alarms provided two-way communications, and contact could be established with the person sounding the alarm. They were also less expensive than the antiquated system now in use.

Last week, he said, the central fire station was equipped with a device that was new to Australia. Whenever a fire alarm was sounded persons approaching the fire station would now be warned of the exit of the fire engines by the flashing of a light and the ringing of a bell in front of the station. This warning system would abolish risk of accident.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 8 June 1939, page 35

Fire aid Footballs



FIRE ENGINE AT FOOTBALL.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade takes no risks. Even when the firemen were playing football on the Railway Oval last week, there was a fully-equipped fire engine on the ground, connected by telephone with headquarters, so that in the event of a fire, the men could leave immediately for the outbreak.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 June 1939, page 2

WEATHER STARTS FIRE SIREN

City False Alarm

When the fire warning siren at the corner of King William and Waymouth streets went into action at 8 a.m. to-day, everyone stood still and waited for the brigade to turn out in full force. The siren continued for a few moments, but the brigade did not put in an appearance. Investigations by the brigade's electrician (Mr. Angus) revealed that atmospheric conditions had energised the electric apparatus which operates the siren. The fire siren is sounded when the brigade receives an alarm, which necessitates a dash down King William street. As soon as constables hear it, they switch traffic lights over to red, and all traffic is stopped. This

morning, however, traffic was not interfered with to any great extent, because the traffic lights do not operate until 8.30.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 June 1939, page 18

EXPLOSION WRECKS SHOP

Baker Blown Up At North Adelaide

LIT MATCH FOR CIGARETTE

Blown up when a gas explosion occurred after he had lit a match in his shop at O'Connell street, North Adelaide, about 7.15 a.m. on Saturday, Alec T. McKenzie, 35, baker, of Archer street, North Adelaide, had a narrow escape from serious injury, suffering only shock, cuts on the hands, and burns which were not serious. The explosion wrecked his shop, smashed the windows and showcases of two adjoining shops on each side, scattered broken glass and debris across the full width of O'Connell street, and broke most of the windows in an hotel, a bank and other buildings on the opposite side of the street..

When fire brigade appliances, under Chief Officer F. F. Whyte arrived, Mc-Kenzie was found sitting on the roadway. He was dazed and was bleeding from his nose and hands. He was taken to the Adelaide Hospital in Mr. Whyte's car. McKenzie said that he had been baking at the shop all night. Men from the South Australian Gas Company had blown out the gas pipes on Friday. When passing through the shop on Saturday before going home, he noticed a smell of gas, and turned on a fan to clear it out. He then struck a match to light a cigarette, and remembered no more until he recovered consciousness on the roadway.

Brigade Puts Fire Out

Flames from the burst pipes flared up after the explosion, but the fire was quickly quelled by the appliances from the city and North Adelaide fire brigades, which then cleared about half a ton of broken glass and debris from the road. The ceiling, walls, floor and show window of McKenzie's shop were badly damaged, and showed the force of the explosion, which left the lath and plaster of the ceiling partly hanging into the shop. The other shops were damaged internally in lesser degree, but the fronts of all of them were wrecked. They were occupied by J. Gilligan, bookmaker; A. H. Geisler, furrier; A. Jones, hairdresser, and C. T. Cole, milk dealer. No one else was on the premises besides Mr. McKenzie at the moment of the explosion, and owing to the early hour, there was no one in the street. The sound of the explosion was stated to have been heard as far away as Le-Fevre terrace, and in Medindie. Enquiries were made by Sergeant McPherson, of North Adelaide.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 22 June 1939, page 20

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire in City.—A fire at about 11 30 p.m. yesterday in Wiles Chromium and Electroplating Co., Limited, destroyed about 200 buffing wheels and damaged rafters and wooden doors in the building before it was extinguished by the Fire Brigade. The fire started round the boiler and soon spread to the buffing wheels, which had been placed above the boiler to dry.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 23 June 1939, page 10

Lord Mayor To Present Diplomas To Firemen

Diplomas won by firemen in the 1938 Fire Engineers, London, examination will be presented by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) at Fire Brigade Headquarters at 11 a.m. today. Members of the Adelaide City Council, mayors and town clerks and their wives of suburban councils, the Commissioner of Police (Brig.-Gen. Leane), the president (Mr. W. D. Sharland) and secretary (Mr. J. F. Dowling) of the R.S.L., and a representative of Fire Underwriters Association are among those invited. The Lord Mayor will be met by members of the Fire Brigades Board, of which Mr. H. Jackson is chairman. He will then inspect a guard of honor of 30 firemen, who

will assemble in front of the station. After the presentation of the diplomas, there will be a display of fire drill.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 June 1939, page 7

Firemen Show How: On Way In 10 Sec.

Ten seconds after the alarm siren had screeched a strident summons to action, all appliances at the headquarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade in Wakefield street were on their way to an imaginary fire today.

The full turn-out of the brigade was a fitting climax to a demonstration, given before the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) and other prominent citizens, of the brigade's up-to-dateness and efficiency. Putting plenty of snap into their work, firemen showed 200 visitors just how modernly equipped firefighters go into action, and how various types of fires are fought. Practical demonstrations were given with fires ignited in a big tank in the courtyard.

RESCUE WORK ASPECTS

Various aspects of rescue work were demonstrated. The most spectacular was the jumping sheet, used only as a last resort. The efficacy of up-to-date gas masks was illustrated when firemen remained in a portable smoke chamber, reeking with poisonous fumes, without suffering any injurious effect.

Welcoming the visitors, the acting chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Cr. Peet) said that the brigade had made remarkable progress under the leadership of Chief-Officer Whyte. It had now attained a state of efficiency unequalled in its history.

Before the demonstration began, Mr. Barrett presented diplomas to firemen who have been admitted as members of the Institute of Fire Engineers. Recipients were:—Deputy Chief Officer E. W. Cook, Station-Officer J. G. Stephens, Station-Officer D. Corker, Station-Officer R. Gericke, Senior Firemen A. Fraser, L. Edmonds, Firemen C. Meadows, F. Owen. R. Paul, and J. Goodfellow. (Pictures on Page 1)

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 June 1939, page 1

FIREMEN RECEIVE DIPLOMAS



DIPLOMAS WON BY FIREMEN in the 1938 Fire Engineers, London, examination, were presented by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) at fire brigade headquarters today. Here is Deputy Chief Officer E. W. Cook receiving his membership diploma. Deputy Chief Cook is wearing the last of the old type of helmet.

Firemen On Parade



WHEN THE LORD MAYOR (Mr. Barrett) visited the Wakefield street headquarters of the fire brigade today, he inspected a guard of honor of 30 firemen. Some of the men standing smartly to attention as the Lord Mayor made the inspection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 24 June 1939, page 24

NOVEL FIRE BRIGADE SHOW

Five Appliances Turn Out In 10 Seconds

CLEVER GYMNASTIC FEATS

Five fire appliances turned out in less than 10 seconds from Fire Brigade Headquarters yesterday as the climax of a large-scale demonstration staged before more than 200 people, including members of the Adelaide City Council and local governing bodies in the metropolitan area, and representatives of a number of interested organisations and associations.

The demonstration was given to celebrate the opening of the renovated brigade headquarters. Earlier, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) presented diplomas of the Institute of Fire Engineers, London, to officers and men who were successful in recent examinations. Thirty firemen, in full dress, formed a guard of honor for the Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress. The acting chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Councillor E. W. Peet), who introduced the Lord Mayor, said that during the past three years, under Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, wonderful strides had been made in the equipment of the brigade, which was now better than at any time in the history of South Australia.

Apparatus at the station was explained to visitors. Chief Officer Whyte demonstrated the easy accessibility of apparatus on one of the latest appliances, which, he said, was a slight departure from any type at present in use in the world.

Drill To Music

A demonstration by firemen included physical drill to music, carried out with perfect timing. The physical fitness of the men was shown in the formation of about 10 pyramids, in one of which four men supported 10 others. How the firemen's lift is used was shown in an exhibition on a 35-foot ladder. Clever feats were performed by members of the gymnastic team, notably Fireman Magor. In a tumbling display which followed Fireman Magor lay flat on his back and then with another fireman balancing horizontally on one of his hands, gradually rose until he stood upright, with his partner raised high above his head, still balancing.

Three types of mask—two of them fitted with oxygen apparatus—were explained. Firemen equipped with the masks entered a steel chamber densely filled with smoke to demonstrate their effectiveness. Sheet jumping drill, and hook ladder and line rescue drill were followed by demonstrations of portable extinguishers, and a foam generator, used to put out petrol fires. Fire-hose drill from the top of a 95-foot ladder followed.

Diplomas were presented to:— Deputy Chief Officer E. W. Cook, Station Officers J. Stephens, D. Corker and R. Gericke, Senior Firemen A. Frazer, L. Edmonds and J. Goodfellow, and Firemen C. W. Meadows, R. A. Paul and F. T. Owen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 24 June 1939, page 28

The Advertiser SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1939.

NEW PICTURE THEATRES: STUDY CIRCLE: FIREMEN PARADE

BELOW—A guard of honor of 30 firemen made an impressive sight for the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) yesterday, at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street. The presentation of diplomas was followed by a demonstration of fire fighting and various aspects of firemen's accomplishments.





CHIEF OFFICER J. J. WHYTE (left), the Lord Mayor, and the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Barrett) at the Fire Brigade headquarters yesterday.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 29 June 1939, page 33

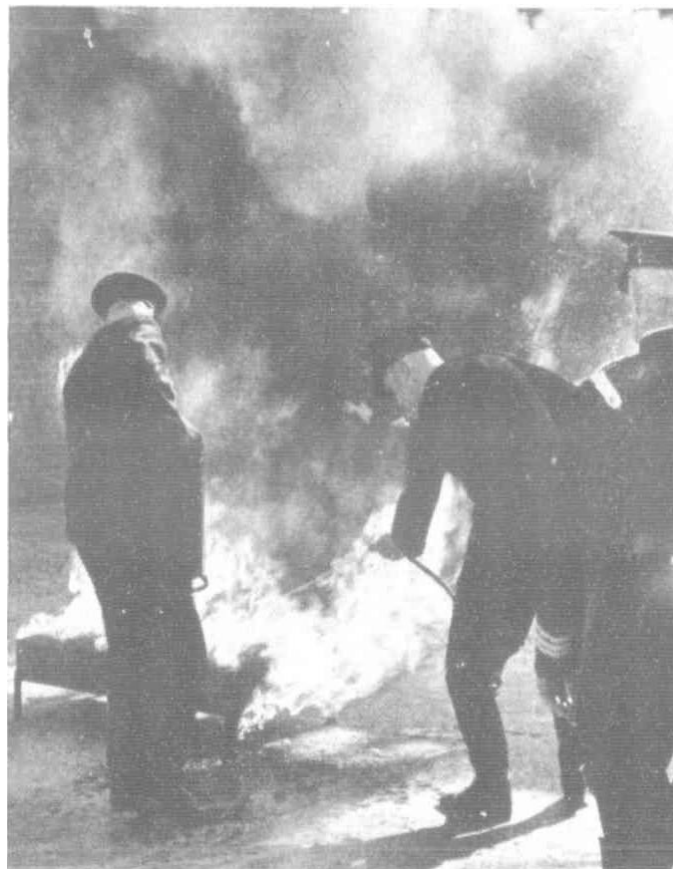
Ideal Kitchens : Dancing In the Country : Firemen's Displays



FIREMEN RECEIVE CERTIFICATES. On Friday, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Barrett) presented diplomas to firemen successful in recent examinations, and with the Lady Mayoress subsequently witnessed a demonstration at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. A fireman receives his certificate.



THREE KINDS OF GAS MASKS were worn by these firemen who took part in the demonstration of fire fighting at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade last week.



PUTTING OUT AN OIL BLAZE. Oil is one of the worst combustibles firemen have to face. Here an oil blaze is being smothered by means of a hand extinguisher.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 30 June 1939, page 6

They "Reeled" Off the Goals

AN appliance from Fire Brigade headquarters, manned by a crew in full firefighting rig, caused some excitement as it tore along the Norwood Parade yesterday afternoon. People stopped and looked as it turned into the entrance gates at the Norwood Oval. They hastened in pursuit with thoughts of the grandstand on fire. But their curiosity was soon dispelled. Displayed on a gate at the oval was a notice announcing that the Fire Brigade football team was playing there. It was only the firemen using a modern method of travel to the game. Those spectators who saw the name of the firemen's opponents on the poster waited with great expectations, but they were disappointed. The Railways team travelled to the oval in conventional fashion. The firemen ran out comfortable winners by 12-15 to 8-15.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 10 July 1939, page 14

Emergency Volunteer Firemen Wanted

It is estimated that 288 auxiliary emergency firemen would be required to provide adequate protection for Adelaide and suburbs in the event of aerial warfare. Applications are now being invited for 100 volunteers between the ages of 40 and 50 who are willing to be trained in fire extinction and gas decontamination.

Applicants may be enrolled at the fire stations nearest to their homes. Final selections will be made by the Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte). Training will begin as soon as possible. Mr. Whyte said on Saturday that training would consist of a series of lectures, practical instruction in the use of fire pumps, and hose drill. For the first three months, lectures would occupy at least one hour a week. The instruction in gas decontamination would be given by the A.R.P. authorities.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 3 August 1939, page 2

STILL NEED 100 MEN

Fire Services Training

ABOUT 20 additional volunteers had been enrolled this week for training under the National Emergency Fire Services branch of Air Raid Precautions, said the chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. Whyte) today. He appealed to men aged from 38 to 50 willing to help in the protection of the civil population in the event of war to enrol as trainees at their nearest fire station. About 100 men are still needed to bring the total number of volunteers to 300. Mr. Whyte stressed the urgent necessity for having a body of men trained to extinguish small fires which would be caused by incendiary bombs during air raids. Volunteers would be asked to give only an hour a week of their time for three months to the attendance of drills and lectures. After three months they would be expected to attend a monthly lecture or drill.

WORK TO B DONE

"Trainees will find much to interest them in the drills and lectures." Mr. Whyte declared. "The lectures will be concerned with the various types of fires to be expected during an air raid and the various ways of extinguishing them. In the drills volunteers will be trained in the correct use of hose, pumps, and other firefighting equipment. "As trainees pass their efficiency tests they will be drafted into units officered by their own men." Last night Mr. Whyte addressed 140 members of the Defence League on incendiary bombs and fires. Emphasising the necessity for a civilian firefighting organisation, he said that in the event of an air raid, permanent firefighting organisations would not be able to cope with the innumerable small fires which would be caused by incendiary bombs.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 12 August 1939, page 5

GOOD PHONE WORK

Aid Called For Uraidla Fire

PROMPT action by the Summertown Telephone Exchange and local residents saved a loss of valuable property when fire broke out at the Uraidla Hotel last night. The cause of the outbreak is a mystery. Damage is estimated at several thousands of pounds. The fire was noticed at 7 p.m. by Mr. Ross Jarrett, of Cudlee Creek, who was passing in the street. He raised the alarm. After summoning the fire brigade, the exchange worked for nearly an hour calling men from surrounding districts.

Residents Help

Hundreds of residents turned up and proceeded to tackle the blaze, while others removed furniture into the street. They smashed windows and broke down doors to get the house empty. One of the articles salvaged was a player piano. Station Officer T. M. Davis, who was in charge of the city firemen, paid a tribute to the work of residents in getting furniture clear of the building. "Needless to say, they had no hope of dealing with the flames," he added, "Our men did a good job. "We received the report soon after 7.30 p.m., and when we got to the scene the front portion of the hotel and upstairs rooms had been gutted. "Once we arrived, the flames did not get any further. We had two pumps working at the rate of 350 to 400 gallons a minute from 8.20 until after 11 p.m. The motor appliances pumped from a large tank. "It was a difficult task, as the fire had a good hold before we got to the scene." Summertown police are preparing a report for the coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 August 1939, page 23

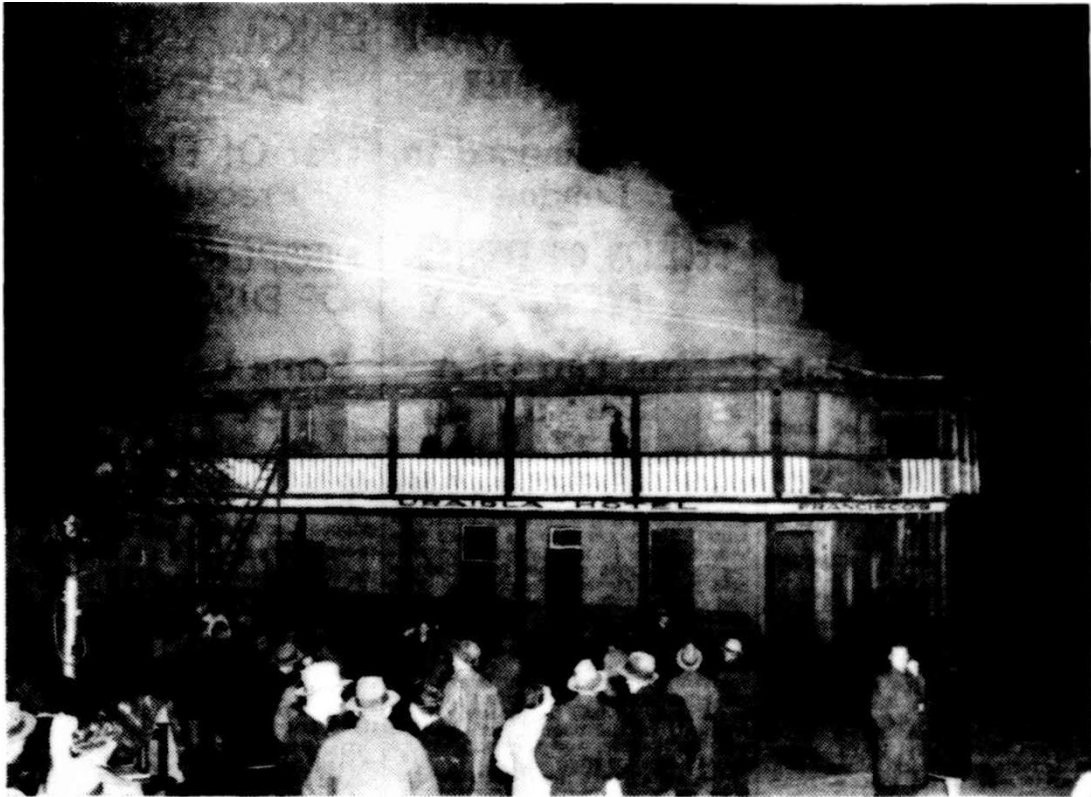
FIRE SERIOUSLY DAMAGES HOTEL

Good Work By Firemen At Uraidla

Damage estimated at many hundreds of pounds was caused by a fire which destroyed portion of the Uraidla Hotel last night. Good work by firemen from the South Australian Brigade headquarters prevented more serious damage being done. Although about 16 rooms were burned, considerably more were saved by their endeavors. It is understood that portion of the building was covered by insurance. The whole of the front part of the hotel, a two-storey block, which had been renovated recently, was burnt out. That portion included the front bar, saloon, lounge and billiards saloon downstairs, and the office and bedrooms upstairs. The back section of the building which was of only one storey and which included the kitchen and dining rooms, was practically untouched, except where the windows had been smashed to remove furniture and to allow the firemen to use their hoses. Mr Frederick Goulden Francisco, who holds the joint licence with Mrs. Edna Dubois, was unable last night to estimate the damage, nor was he able to say how the fire was caused. The fire was first noticed by Mr. Ross Jarrett, of Cudlee Creek, who was passing the hotel at about 1 p.m. and saw flames leaping above the window sill of the front upstairs bedroom. He ran into the kitchen, where the household was having dinner, and raised the alarm. Fire brigade headquarters was notified at about 7.30 p.m., and a pumping appliance was immediately dispatched in charge of Station Officer T. M. Davis, who was assisted by four firemen. While awaiting the arrival of the brigade, local residents, who had been attracted by the blaze, carried most of the furniture out of the downstairs rooms and piled it on the road. It was later removed to the Uraidla Institute. Another gang of volunteer workmen attempted to form a chain of water-carriers from an underground tank at the back of the building to the seat of the fire, but the flames spread so rapidly that they were forced to abandon their task as hopeless. Forty minutes after the arrival of the brigade the fire was out, but not before it had caused practically the whole of the upstairs section of the two-storey building to collapse. The firemen were able to use two hoses, with the pump taking about 400 gallons a minute out of the 30,000 gallon tank. About 20,000 gallons of water was used. Constable Manhood, of Summertown, who attended the

fire with Constable Copeland, of Stirling, was hit on the head by a falling piece of burning wood when he was assisting the firemen. Although a quantity of gunpowder and bullets exploded, no damage was caused by them.

Picture on Next Page



The scene at the Uraidla Hotel last night when about 16 rooms were burnt out.

***Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser (SA : 1880 - 1954),
Thursday 17 August 1939, page 1***

Big Fire at Uraidla

THE HOTEL HALF DESTROYED

ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE DOES GOOD WORK

The Uraidla hotel was partially destroyed by fire on Friday night, and no attributable cause for the conflagration can be ascribed. The building, which is of stone and brick, is in two portions, the newer being of two stories and the older one. It is the former, consisting of 16 rooms, that was gutted.

Shortly after 7 p.m., while the occupants were at dinner at the rear of the main part of the building, Mr. R. Jarrett, of Carey's Gully, who was passing in a car, noticed flames issuing from a front upstairs bedroom window, apparently rapidly gaining in extent. He immediately raised the alarm, and as there appeared no hope of local residents and appliances coping with the outbreak, a telephone message was sent to Adelaide fire brigade headquarters, from there a pumping appliance and five men was immediately dispatched, Station Officer T. M. Davis being in charge.

The alarm was given to local residents, by the ringing of the school bell, and by the local telephone exchange calling up all subscribers. The police were informed and within a few minutes men from every direction were rushing to assist. There was such a wonderful response that all the furniture and many of the fittings from the downstairs rooms removed to

the roadway, and later fittings from the downstairs rooms to the institute. Handicapped by the lack of water, nothing could be done to save the upstairs rooms, which, with their contents were totally destroyed. These included the office, lounge, two private and two public bedrooms, stair landing, bathroom and lavatories. Of the downstairs rooms the bar-room, temperance bar, and lounge were destroyed, and the billiard rooms and sitting room damaged by smoke and water.

At the rear of the hotel is a 30,000 gallon underground tank, and from this an effort was made to run a bucket chain, but proved of no effect, so fierce had the flames become. The brigade men arrived shortly afterwards and pumping 600 gallons per minute into two hoses, were soon able to quell the outbreak and prevent its spread to the right hand and rear of the premises. About 20,000 gallons of water were used.

The two-storied portion of the hotel is completely gutted, while the roof of the two billiard rooms is partly burnt, though the tables escaped damage. The rooms to the right are unharmed. The licence is held in a dual capacity by Mr. F. G. Francisco and Mrs. Edna Dubois, and the bar trade is at present being conducted in some of the back rooms.

The damage will run into several thousands of pounds, including practically all the personal effects of the licencees, Mrs. DuBois losing much valuable crystal and other ware, and Mr. Francisco several valuable guns. Damage was suffered by much of the furniture in its hasty removal. It is understood that the building was only partially covered by insurance.

A quantity of ammunition on the premises exploded, but no one was harmed. The only injury was suffered by Constable Manhood, of Summertown station, who was hit on the head by a piece of falling burning timber. Constable Copeland, of Stirling, was also in attendance and residents from the district around for several miles were present in large numbers.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 17 August 1939, page 22

GOOD RESPONSE BY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

100 Men Already Enrolled

The first quota of 100 men to train as auxiliary volunteer firemen under the national emergency fire services section of Air Raid Precautions has been reached.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that the response was satisfactory, and the men would attend lectures on firefighting as soon as arrangements were completed. Three hundred men whose ages range from 38 to 50 are required for this scheme, which has been placed in charge of Mr. Whyte. All volunteer firemen will be expected to attend at least one drill or lecture for an hour each week for three months. They will be examined at the end of this period, after which they will be required to attend one drill or lecture a month. The 100 men who have already enrolled will be drafted shortly into sections representative of the districts in which they live. The men will receive their instructions at the local fire stations in their respective districts. Persons intending to enrol may obtain enrolment forms from any of the suburban fire stations or from the Fire Brigade Headquarters in Wakefield street.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 19 August 1939, page 7

£350 DAMAGE IN SERVICE STATION FIRE

Damage by a fire which destroyed the service station of Mr. E. J. Liddle, at the corner of Greenhill and Burnside roads, Burnside, early today, is estimated at between £350 and £400. Only the brick walls of the garage were left standing. The blaze had a strong grip when the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived. The roof had collapsed, and stocks of lubricating oil were sending up dense clouds of flame and smoke. Two appliances were sent from Adelaide in case of emergency, but they were not required.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 19 August 1939, page 22

Service Station Destroyed By Fire

Extensive damage was caused by a fire which broke out at the service-station operated by Mr. E. J. Liddle at the corner of Burnside and Greenhill roads, Burnside, soon after midnight. Firemen, directed by Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, quickly checked the flames. Two appliances from headquarters and one from the Norwood station were used. The service-station, comprising a wood and iron building, fronting a brick garage, and five petrol pumps were destroyed. A house which is being built within a few feet of the back boundary of the service-station was not touched. Danger threatened when overhead electric wires connecting the garage with the main line burnt through and fell a few feet in front of the crowd watching the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 24 August 1939, page 4

TANK IN VAN EXPLODES

Prevents Fire Spreading

When the petrol tank of a blazing delivery van exploded last night and caused the vehicle to move forward, clear of a loading dock, it probably saved the warehouse and stock of E. O. Thomas Ltd., confectioners, of Angas street, City, from severe damage.

The dock was well alight when appliances from the South Australian Fire Brigade under Chief-Officer Whyte arrived in the nick of time. A few minutes later the fire would have reached the warehouse. the contents of which are highly combustible, consisting of sweets and thousands of cardboard and deal boxes. The concussion of the explosion caused the van to mount a slight depression, and roll 30 yards before it crashed into the rear gate.

Stock Worth £8,000

The entire stock in the building is valued at £8,000. Most, if not all, of this would have become worthless had the prompt action of the brigade not confined the blaze to the loading dock. Total damage is estimated at between £115 and £200. A small truck alongside the van was partly burnt. The van itself is probably beyond repair.

Mr. Steve McKee, a director of E. O. Thomas Ltd., said today that usually five delivery vans were parked at the dock. Last night, however, three drivers took their vehicles home. The cause of the fire is unknown. The alarm was raised at just after 10 o'clock by a boy, who raced to the Wakefield Street Fire Station on his bicycle.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 29 August 1939, page 10

LECTURES TO A.R.P. FIREMEN

More Men, Between 40 And 50, Wanted For Force

Two lectures will be given this week to volunteer emergency firemen in the A.R.P. scheme by Chief Officer J. J. Whyte of the S.A. Fire Brigade, who is the controller of the emergency fire fighting squads. The Norwood branch of the movement will be addressed on Thursday night at the Norwood fire station, and at fire brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, city, on Friday night the second lecture will be given.

Chief Officer Whyte said last night that the present volunteer force totalled 120 men, but at least another 180. between the ages of 40 and 50 years, were required to bring it to full strength. In a national emergency the force would operate in the metropolitan area.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 8 September 1939, page 16

Early Morning Fire In City

Fire broke out in a two-storey ware-house in Waymouth street, near Light square, early this morning. Among the occupants of the building were Salmon & Spraggon (Australia) Pty., Ltd., manufacturers' agents, William Fisher Pty., Ltd., and W. C. Moyle, bagmaker. Constable Beattie gave the alarm at 1.30 a.m., and men from fire brigade headquarters effected a good save.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 8 September 1939, page 11

£2,000 DAMAGE IN BLAZE

City Factory Guttled

Flames that leapt 50 ft. above the roof and shot through the front and rear windows caused £2,000 damage in a two-story building in Waymouth street, City, early today. The main sufferer was W. C. Moyle, bag, case, and trunk manufacturer, who occupied the whole of the first floor. His factory was gutted, and 20 employes have been thrown out of work. The ground floor premises of Salmond and Spraggon (Australia) Pty. Ltd., manufacturers' agents, and William Fisher Pty. Ltd., were damaged by heat and water.

The whole of the first floor was ablaze when appliances from the South Australian Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer Whyte, arrived at 1.35 a.m. Mr. Whyte immediately ordered a full turn-out of the brigade—the first full turn-out of the year.

Soon Under Control

While firemen dashed up the stairway, others climbed ladders to the roofs of adjoining buildings, and in a few minutes six hoses were deluging the fire from various vantage points. One stream was played on the blaze from the brigade's big extension ladder. Although the fire had been burning at least an hour before the alarm was raised, the brigade had it under control within 15 minutes. Altogether, it took the firefighters nearly two hours to extinguish the blaze completely. Mr. Moyle did not know of the fire until he arrived at 8 o'clock to find his employes standing in the street waiting for him. The cause of the outbreak is not known. In all, five officers, 27 men, three pumps, a hose carriage, a 90-ft. ladder, and a salvage van from brigade headquarters attended the fire. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade stood by in case of emergency. The building, stock, and machinery were insured.



State Library of South Australia - Waymouth Street, Adelaide [B 7063], [General description] Business premises on Waymouth Street include Perry Engineering, Edmunds Brothers Wizard Lighting Systems and part of McPhersons. [On back of photograph] Acre 177 / Waymouth Street, north side / June 28th 1937 / Centre building erected prior to April 26 (See B 3425) / Site of building: Left side is 16.5 yards east of Light Square and frontage is 14.5 yards'. 1937. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 177 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 9 September 1939, page 12

Police Enquiry Into City Fire

Police made enquiries yesterday into the circumstances of a fire which occurred in a two-storey warehouse in Waymouth street, near Light square, in the early hours of the morning.

The Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) made a search of the debris to try to ascertain the cause. The damage was said to be about £2,000. The warehouse is a two-storey building, the top floor of which is occupied by W. C. Moyle, bagmaker. All of Mr Moyle's machinery and most of his stock was destroyed, as a result of which about 20 employees, mostly girls, have been thrown out of employment. The whole of the top floor was practically destroyed. Mr Moyle said yesterday that he knew nothing of the fire until he arrived at his premises at 8 a.m. to begin work.

The ground floor was occupied by Salmon and Spraggon (Australia) Pty., Ltd., manufacturers' agents, and William Fisher Pty., Ltd. The property of these two firms was damaged by water. Plainclothes Constable M. A Daly is preparing a report for the City Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 15 September 1939, page 22

TRAMCAR CATCHES ALIGHT

Motorman's Remarkable Escape

Tramways Motorman E. G. Kelly had a remarkable escape from death on North terrace, near The Grosvenor, shortly before midnight yesterday when an overhead wire snapped and fused, the live ends dancing around him shooting sparks as he stood at the rear of a tram trying to replace a slipped pole. Running this way and that for safety, he escaped after an unnerving experience. Flames shot up the sides of the tram and the glare could be seen from some distance. Motor cars drew up on and under Morphett street bridge, and spectators, some of whom were frequently warned away from the live wires on the ground, gathered. The fire brigade arrived and the blaze was soon extinguished. Conductor Beer, who was inside the tram, escaped from the other end. There were no passengers on the tram, which was bound for Hackney from a western suburb. It was not much damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 23 September 1939, page 16

Fire Brigade Answered 395 Calls

The report of the Fire Brigades Board for the half-year ended June 30, which was released yesterday, shows that the brigade attended 395 calls, an increase of 25 compared with the corresponding period last year. Among the calls were two to fires which caused considerable damage. 205 to fires which did only slight damage, and 41 malicious false alarms.

The Chief Officer (Mr J. J. Whyte) reported that all ranks had been trained in anti-gas measures, and the organisation of a volunteer emergency staff was in progress.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 30 September 1939, page 22

FIRE AT FURNITURE FACTORY

A good save was made by firemen from the Adelaide Head Station and Norwood Fire Brigades at Battery's Limited furniture factory, Edward street, Norwood, early yesterday morning. A large sawdust incinerator and a timber bending machine were destroyed, and the flames scorched the roof of the main workshop where valuable machinery was installed, but it was not damaged. The flames were noticed by Constable Williams, of the Norwood Police Station, who gave the alarm to the Norwood Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 October 1939, page 3

BIG BLAZE IN CITY

Tyre Plant Damage: £500 Loss

Shooting flames 50 ft. into the air and shrouding a large portion of the city in dense smoke, a spectacular fire caused £500 damage at the tyre retreading works of S. C. Davison, in Carrington street, City, today.

WHEN the South Australian Fire Brigade, under Deputy Chief Officer E. W. Cook, M.I.F.E., arrived, the fire was feeding fiercely on 1,000 tyres and a ton and a half of raw and sheet rubber, and was threatening a whole row of cottages in St. Helena place. Fanned by a fiery north wind, flames shot into several back yards and scorched the verandahs. Clothing on a line two houses away was burnt,

News of the fire spread as rapidly as the blaze itself, and Carrington, Halifax, and nearby streets were soon choked with excited spectators. So thick was the smoke in Halifax street that a motorist had to turn on his car headlights. Shortly afterwards the street was almost impassable. Panic temporarily reigned in St. Helena place, as women with babies in their arms rushed into the streets and implored spectators to help them shift their furniture. Dozens of men dashed into the houses, and the street was soon littered with household goods. Police estimate of the crowds in the streets was 3,000. In addition, hundreds of others thronged nearby back yards.

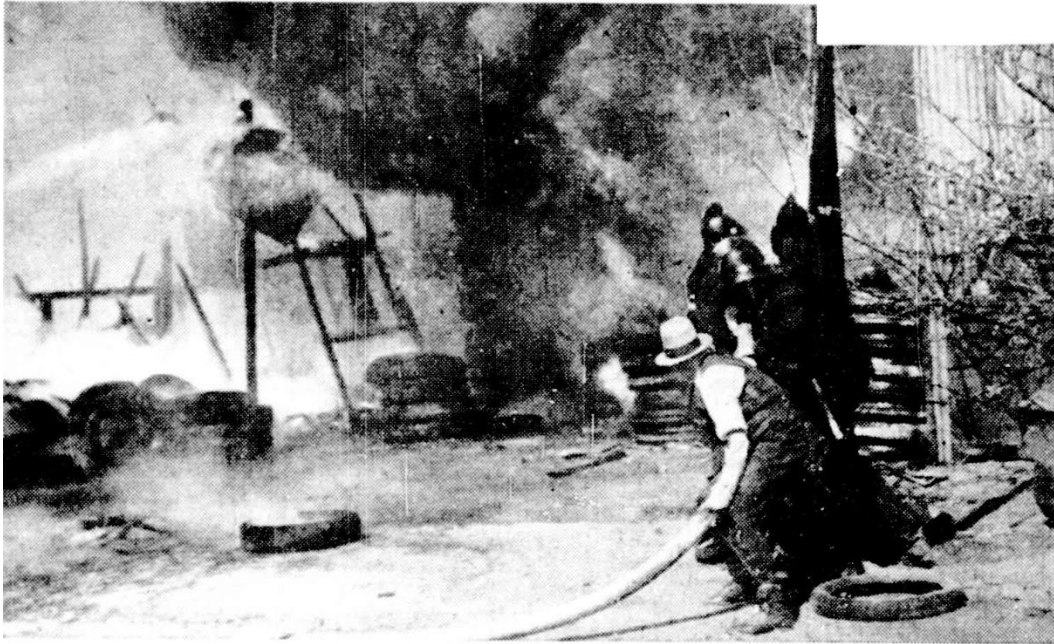
The heat was so terrific that men combating the blaze at close quarters had to protect their faces with a wet tarpaulin, and had to be kept drenched by a runner equipped with a bucket. Deputy Chief Officer Cook quickly surrounded the fire with 24 men and four officers working from the back yard of the house immediately behind the works and other strategic points. It was 20 minutes before danger to adjoining houses was averted, and nearly an hour before the fire was out. Det. Gill and Det. G. M. Leane, who were on the scene a few minutes after the alarm, assisted to man one hose while others were being run out. A big garage and loft next door to the tyre shed was severely damaged by the fire. Mr. C. Byrley is the proprietor.

Rubber Burnt In City Fire



NEARLY 1,000 TYRES and one and a half tons of raw and sheet rubber were burnt in a fire at S. C. Davison's retreading works in Carrington street, City, today. The damage was estimated at £500. Volumes of smoke and flames during the height of the blaze. (See other pictures on Back Page.)

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 October 1939, page 12



LEFT AND ABOVE—Fighting the big blaze at the retreading works of S. C. Davison, in Carrington street, City, today. Damage was estimated at £500. (See other picture on Page 1.)

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 3 October 1939, page 16

HOMES MENACED BY FIRE

Fierce City Blaze

SPECTACULAR SAVE WATCHED BY 3,000

When flames which leapt 40 feet into the air on the premises of S. C. Davison, tyre retreader, of Carrington street, city, were swept by a strong north wind at about 10 a.m. yesterday, only prompt action and the co-ordinated effort of 19 firemen and three officers saved a row of eight attached three-roomed cottages from destruction Mr. Davison estimated his damage at £500. With the threat of a wide extension of the blaze to the south and to the west, where many other homes and out-buildings were in danger, firemen saved precious seconds on their way to the scene, and within two minutes of the receipt of the alarm water was being hurled into the flames at high pressure from six points around them.

Stacked in two wood and iron sheds, 50 feet by 20 feet and 30 feet by 20 feet, at the rear of Mr. Davison's house, more than 1,000 motor tyres and one and a half tons of raw rubber were spreading fumes and casting a black smoke blanket over the southern part of the city when the brigade arrived. Soon afterwards the roof of one of the sheds collapsed, and the blaze spread to another shed at the rear of the betting shop of G. H. Wiper, on the western side of Mr. Davison's premises. Two motor cars and a motor cycle were removed from the shed just in time. About £40 worth of damage was done to the shed, which was owned by C. F. Byerley, marine store dealer, of Wright street, city.

Women Rush For Help

With everything they had menaced by the flames, women, one with a baby in her arms, rushed into St. Helena place for help, and soon dozens of neighbors and spectators were stripping the cottages of every article they contained. Beds and bedding, pictures and furniture, and even food and flowers were taken from three of the cottages in record time, but before the work was complete, firemen four or five of whom were needed to hold each hose, had saved the row of cottages. Using pumps to treble the water pressure, the firemen, who were under Deputy Chief Officer E. W. Cook, used more than 2,500 feet of hose to fight the blaze.

Less than eight minutes after it broke out the fire destroyed clothing on the lines in the back yards of the two northern cottages in the row of eight in St. Helena place, all of which are owned by Dr. J. M. Cotton, of Parade, Norwood. The heat smashed the window at the rear of the cottage occupied by Mrs. Lila Allen, a widow, of St. Helena place, and charred the uprights and cross beams of the back verandah. Some small parrots a few feet away in a cage in the next door yard were suffocated by the fumes from the burning rubber. A small army of rats, mice, and cockroaches fled before the flames. Crowding into nearby back yards from Carrington street and Halifax street, about 3,000 people watched the fire. They were dispersed by police, about 12 of whom, supervised by Inspectors C. Sain and P. Homes, were soon controlling traffic in Carrington and Halifax streets. Detectives W. Gill and G. M. Leane helped to hold a fire hose at one stage. Two elderly women in St. Helena place were overcome by the heat, and fainted.

The blaze is believed to have been started by the wind carrying a spark from a tyre press 30 or 40 feet away from the scene of the fire. Heat from the blazing rubber was so intense that the firemen had to have their clothing saturated with water every few minutes. The blaze was out in less than an hour.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 October 1939, page 3

S.A. Firemen Do Well in Exam.

Members of the South Australian Fire Brigade did well in the overseas examinations conducted by the Institute of Fire Engineers, results of which were received from London today by Chief Officer J. J. Whyte.

In the examination for associate, Fireman T. J. Meaney (79 per cent.) and Station-Officer H. Patton and Senior Fireman A. J. L. Sandison (each 78) passed. The following passed in the examination for graduate:—Fireman E. A. Magor (89), Fireman F. L. Kerr (88), Fireman W. J. Farthing (82), Senior Fireman G. Gray (78), Senior Fireman W. H. Wade (76), and Fireman T. F. Schwerdt (76). The South Australian entry for the examinations was the biggest of the four Australian branches of the institute. Of 11 candidates only two failed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 6 November 1939, page 18

Attempted City Safeblowing

A fruitless attempt to blow a strong-room at the premises of Gordon and Gotch (Australasia), Limited, Currie street, city, was made on Saturday. Notice of the attempt was given by the

sounding of a fire alarm. The Fire Brigade answered it and found a sprinkler working, but no fire.

Investigations by police officers revealed that a side window had been broken and wire netting inside it cut away. An attempt had been made to blow open the door of the strong room, and the shock of the explosion had evidently set the sprinkler going and automatically given the alarm. The explosion did no more than to spring the door of the room. There was nothing of value in the room.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 7 November 1939, page 11

Firemen Appreciate Quiet Guy Fawkes Day

The cold, wet weather of the week-end caused many fireworks parties to be cancelled, and Guy Fawkes Day was the quietest for many years. There was some celebration last night, but more crackers were fired between showers on Saturday night. Fire Brigade headquarters appreciated the wet weather. Last Guy Fawkes night 13 fires were caused by fireworks, said the Chief Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) yesterday, and the station had scarcely an appliance in the station before the night was finished. This year, however, not one fire traceable to fireworks was reported.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 25 November 1939, page 5

£120 Fire In City Showroom

DAMAGE estimated at £120 was caused by a fire today in the showroom of the Fox Motor Co., used car dealers, of Waymouth street, City. Had not Mr. G. C. Wrightson, head salesman, arrived earlier than usual, about 30 cars might have been destroyed. Two of the vehicles were badly damaged.

When Mr. Wrightson opened the doors he encountered a dense volume of smoke. Two motor cars were ablaze, also part of the rear of the premises. He telephoned the South Australian Fire Brigade, and four appliances from Wakefield street quickly had the fire out. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 1 December 1939, page 28

Firemen's Examinations. — Examinations are being conducted at the Fire Brigade Headquarters, Wakefield street, for firemen who wish to obtain higher ranks. Thirty-seven firemen are sitting for the test, which includes three theoretical examinations and one practical. The men who pass will not be promoted unless there are vacancies to be filled.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 7 December 1939, page 12

DEMONSTRATIONS BY FIRE BRIGADE

Comforts Fund Event On December 22

Three demonstrations by members of the South Australian Fire Brigade have been arranged by the chief officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte). to be held at the Wakefield street headquarters during the next four weeks. The programmes will probably include demonstrations of fire-fighting, physical culture and tumbling, and life-saving methods. There will also be several special items.

On December 19 the demonstration will be for members of local governing bodies, fire underwriters' associations, and the A.R.P. movement. A charge will be made for admission on December 22, when the funds will be devoted to the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Malcolm Barclay-Harvey) will attend the demonstration on January 4, when he will present diplomas to members of the city and suburban brigades. The diplomas have been awarded by the Institute of Fire Engineers, London.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 12 December 1939, page 15

TRAPPED IN BLAZING ROOM

Aged Woman Seriously Burned

Mrs. Mary Jerkens, 75, old age pensioner, who was trapped in a blazing room in a small house in Shannon place, city, shortly after 8 p.m. yesterday, received terrible burns on the face, arms and body. A rescue attempt by Lorna Russell, 16, of Waymouth street, failed. The woman was taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital and early this morning her condition was reported to be critical.

The girl disappeared in the large crowd when the firemen arrived, and it was not until after they had extinguished the flames and had entered the house that the firemen discovered the woman. She was huddled in the far corner of the room with practically all her clothing burnt off her. She was clutching a box of matches in her hand.

Lorna Russell was the first to notice the fire. Seeing smoke issuing from under the low verandah of the house, which is situated in about the centre of a block of two-roomed dwellings, she ran inside and found the woman lying unconscious on a blazing sofa. Her efforts to drag her outside failed, and she was forced to seek assistance. The smoke and flames, however, prevented any further rescue attempts. When the fire brigade arrived, two men were fighting the fire with buckets of water, but the firemen soon had the blaze under control. Immediately the woman was found, a portable oxygen resuscitation appliance was brought to her aid, and she was taken to the hospital in a civil ambulance. Four appliances from fire brigade headquarters attended.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 14 December 1939, page 7

FIRE DESTROYS TIMBER MILL AT PORT; £15,000 DAMAGE

Building in Ashes Within Half An Hour

PAINT WORKS SAVED

Fire today destroyed the Port Adelaide mill of Lion Timber Mills and gutted the office in a £15,000 outbreak—one of the fiercest ever fought here by firemen. Within half an hour, the wood-and-iron building was razed, and only the small timber stacks, sheds, and office safe in the strongroom, with the company's records, were saved on the two-acre block.

THE building blazed like tinder, and flames heated the southern windows of the large paint manufacturing premises of Australasian United Paint Co., Ltd., but the wind saved the property from further menace. Sawdust, seaweed, and timber are still smouldering, but there is no danger of the fire spreading. The mill will probably be re-built, but in the meantime the company is rushing preparations to transfer the milling work to its Adelaide premises. Several of the men, who found the mill destroyed when they arrived for work this morning, were sent to Adelaide. In the mill and office 30 men and women were employed, and some will be out of work. The property was insured, but as £15,000 is only a rough estimate of the damage, it is not known whether all the company's losses were covered.

Firemen from three brigades had no chance of saving any of the contents of the mill, which was aflame from end to end when they arrived, and within half-an-hour was a heap of smouldering smoking debris. The main engine, supplying power to the plant, had been through a similar outbreak in 1898, when, as Richard Honey's timber mill, the property and stocks were burnt out.

Eleven-year-old Jack Frank, a newsboy, of Lipson street, Port Adelaide, gave the alarm that brought the Port Adelaide fire appliances to the outbreak within a few minutes of the detection of smoke curling from the roof. When the lad saw the smoke about 6.40 a.m. he said to a bystander that there appeared to be a big fire, and dashed off to the nearest alarm. One

minute after his call was received another alarm from the opposite side of the property was rung by a milk-man.

Wind Saved Stacks

THE mill was bounded by Lipson, Godfrey, and Charlotte streets and Commercial road, but the fire did not touch sheds and small timber stacks which were to windward of the blazing mill. Apparently the fire had been burning internally for some time before smoke percolated through the roof, for the whole area of the mill, about 250 ft. by 50 ft., was aflame five minutes after smoke was first seen. As firemen from the Port Adelaide station swung into Dale street after the alarm had been raised, they could see flames belching from the south-east corner of the mill. The entire building was engulfed in flame and there was no hope of saving it when the firefighters went into action. Under the direction of District-Officer T. W. Bland, who took charge until the arrival of Chief-Officer Whyte from Adelaide, the fire was surrounded and deluged with water. Reinforcements were rushed from Adelaide, Semaphore and Woodville, and soon 14 men under five officers had seven hoses trained on the blaze.

Until the power was cut off firemen stationed in Lipson street were in constant danger of electrocution. Fanned by a westerly wind flames flickered among high tension wires and caused them to spark angrily. A few small wires broke, and four arms on posts caught alight, but the cables held firm. When the roof caved in 10 minutes after the arrival of the Port brigade, flames shot 50 ft. into the air, and, caught by the wind, leapt across Lipson street and licked the fence of the railway yard opposite. A mammoth sheet of flame shot from the inferno as the roof caved in, and while the fire roared through the mill showers of sparks sailed skyward from heaps of sawdust. An indication of the rapidity with which the fire completed its devastation was given by Constable A. Dack. He was at the ferry steps about 400 yards away at 6.40 when he noticed smoke blowing across the dock railway station in a strong southerly wind. He was at the mill five minutes later to find flames leaping 30 ft. above the roof and the whole of the interior burning fiercely.

Crowd Kept Back

THE heat kept the crowd back, but the wind prevented the flames from reaching the timber stacked in the yard west of the mill. Had it veered a little to the south, the fire would have seriously menaced the paint works, which are separated from it by a narrow street. The manager of the works (Mr. F. D. Kendall) was informed of the outbreak at 6.50. and made arrangements with workmen then on the premises to stand on guard with chemical extinguishers. At one stage the southerly windows of the big building became warm, but no emergency firefighting was necessary. Machinery comprised the biggest loss of the Lion Timber Mills. There were about 20 machines. including steam and gas engines, four circular saws, three moulding machines, buzzer planing machine and mortice and tenoning machines. Several thousand super feet of sawn timber and stocks of nails were also destroyed.

An undamaged chimney about 50 ft. high, and blackened uprights with a few pieces of galvanised iron swaying in the breeze were all that was left of the mill this afternoon. Investigations of the cause of the fire are being conducted. A small fire was left in the furnace overnight. Sawdust and chippings were used as fuel.

The fire was attended by one pump and two hose carriages from Port Adelaide and pumps from Semaphore, Woodville, and Adelaide. About 2,000 ft. of hose was used. Three pumps sent 600 gallons of water a minute cascading into the burning mill, and a fourth delivered 400 gallons. Plainclothes Constable W. Sutherland is preparing a report for the coroner. This was the fourth timber mill fire in Port Adelaide in the last two years. In the other three instances the Port Adelaide brigade was able to effect good saves through prompt response to alarms.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 14 December 1939, page 36



SMOKE DRILL. The Adelaide Fire Brigade recently conducted smoke drill at its headquarters. This picture shows a fireman emerging through the smoke with a "victim." The Adelaide Brigade possesses the most modern smoke masks in Australia.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 18 December 1939, page 9

S.A. Firemen To Demonstrate A.R.P. Methods

HOW a decontamination squad performs its duties and how an incendiary bomb is combated will be demonstrated by firemen at the Head Fire Station, Wakefield street, tomorrow night. A real incendiary bomb will be set off, and, amid a cascade of sparks and in a blinding glare, the bomb will be extinguished with special equipment. During a gas attack a victim will be overcome, and, after he has been attended to, the decontamination squad, clad in oilskins, hoods, and masks, will set to work and clear up all traces of the "raid." Various types of breathing gear will be shown, and explained during practical demonstrations.

Rescue Work

Firemen will rush up ladders, perform rescue work, jump into a sheet from a height of 30 ft., and slide down a lifeline from the top of the 60-ft. tower. A number of types of firefighting gear will also be used. After a big 400-gallon tank of inflammable liquid has been ignited foam extinguishers will quell the blaze. How an electric fire is put out by carbon-dioxide apparatus, which lowers the temperature to minus 60 deg.—will be another phase of firefighting to be shown. Members of the brigade will give a demonstration of tumbling and acrobatics, and, as a climax to the display, all appliances will take part in a full turnout. On Friday night the performance will be repeated.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 23 December 1939, page 7

Santa Claus Visits Fire Station

AMUSEMENT was not confined solely to the younger generation at a Christmas tree party at Fire Brigade headquarters last Saturday. Gifts for the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. Whyte) and the Deputy Chief (Mr. Cook) were taken from the tree by Fireman Hague, disguised as Father

Christmas, and handed over to the accompaniment of roars of laughter from firemen and their wives.

Mr. Whyte, who is a keen fisherman, was given a small rubber shark hooked on a small fishing rod. A note accompanying this gift said that the shark and rod were a legacy from Zane Grey, who had heard of Mr. Whyte's prowess as a big-game fisherman. To Mr. Cook, Santa Claus solemnly presented a small rubber dog. He remarked at the same time that the dog had been given to the deputy chief because Mr. Cook's bark, like that of the dog, was worse than his bite.