

Balaklava Fire Brigade

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 25 December 1909, page 15

THE BALAKLAVA FIRE.

BALAKLAVA, December 20.— The sufferers by yesterday's fire are:— Mr. L. H. August, two shops; Mr. L. Simons, contents of one shop; Mr. D. Virgo, office; Mr. J. W. Kennedy, large storeroom (occupied by the International Harvester Co.); Mr. S. A. Geeding, shed and contents. The fire, which, started, at the back of Mr. August's premises, soon spread, and it was with great difficulty that it was prevented from going farther. A break was made by pulling down Mr. Kennedy's storeroom, and even then if the wind had not shifted the whole block would probably have been consumed. A great deal of Mr. August's and Mr. Simons' stock was saved by willing workers, and at present there are heaps of boots, saddlery, &c, in the street. All are covered by insurance except Mr. Geeding and Mr. Kennedy. Amongst those who did good work fighting the fire may be mentioned Misses Mayfield and Mayo and Messrs. Harding, Brown, Kennedy. Ahern, Lipson, Newland, Bright, and Bosisto, who without consideration to their Sunday clothing worked well. Their labors undoubtedly saved the adjoining premises.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 25 December 1909, page 48

LARGE FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

Balaklava. December 19.

A fire broke out about 12.30 p.m. to-day at the rear of Mr. L. H. August's boot shop, and spread rapidly, as there was a high wind blowing. Mr. August's boot shop and Mr. L. Simon's saddler's shop, a galvanised building owned by Mr. David Virgo, and sheds belonging to Mr. J. W. Kennedy and the International Harvester Company were completely destroyed. Mr. A. Geering also had stock to the value of about £200 destroyed. The estimated damage is £2,000.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 21 December 1911, page 4

Public Meeting at Balaklava.

RE FIRE BRIGADE.

The public meeting called for Wednesday evening, December 13, on the suggestion of the local Trader's Association to the Balaklava District Council, to consider the formation of a volunteer fire brigade, was poorly attended. In the absence of the District Council (Cr. F. McArdle), Cr. W. Blake, J.P., as one of the town Councillors, was voted to the chair.

The Chairman read the notice convening the meeting, which had been called as the result of a communication from the Balaklava Retail Trader's Association. It was thought that, now the town water supply was accomplished a volunteer fire brigade might be formed in the town. ("There's a fire burning to-night.') If a fire started in the town, the whole block might go, whereas if there were a hose in readiness and a brigade to superintend matters, valuable property might be saved from destruction. The secretary of the Trader's Association was present, and perhaps he could bring something forward.

Mr. B. Dunstone, J. P., (Secretary of the Trader's Association) said he been instructed to obtain information from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Hydraulic Engineer would put in the necessary fire plugs if a brigade were formed. He had not been able to ascertain what the financial responsibility of a volunteer fire brigade would be, but a system suggested by the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade would cost about £50 without a shed for housing the hose cart. There were in the town gentlemen who had had experience in fire brigade work in the Metropolis, who were prepared to assist in a practical way. The correspondence that he had received in reply to his requests for information was in possession of the chairman of the meeting.

Mr. M. McPherson, J.P., thought the matter was one that concerned the ratepayers, and seeing that so few were present, he thought it would be only fair to adjourn to a future date. He did not think there was sufficient interest in the matter for the meeting to go on. It was not a representative gathering. He moved that the meeting be adjourned until some future date to be arranged.

The Chairman thought the rate payers were concerned, because the financial aspect might affect them, and perhaps ratepayers outside the town might object. Even if they did not go in into the matter in a large way, it would be necessary to have money, and if they had a hand reel and fittings it might run into somewhere about £200.

Mr. P. M. Newland seconded Mr. McPherson's proposition. It was a matter that largely touched the ratepayers, and there should be a more representative meeting.

Mr. C. E. Woods thought the reason that there was not a larger attendance was that many did not know of the meeting, but he could hardly understand why there were not more tradesmen present.

At this stage Cr. McArdle entered the room, and Mr. Blake vacated the chair in his favor. Cr. McArdle apologised for being late.

Cr. Heard said their was nothing to prevent anyone taking the matter in hand. It was not necessary that the council should do so.

The Chairman said that the clerk had been instructed to write to Blyth to obtain particulars as to the formation of a volunteer brigade there. The reply was that the brigade was formed by the Vigilance Committee, and the initial cost was raised by subscription. The district council had nothing to do with the matter whatever. The brigade was in a small way. There was an alarm bell near the Institute, and members of the vigilance committee were the brigade.

A small hand-reel was being constructed by a local blacksmith, which would carry the 100 feet of hose, which, with fittings, cost about £10. He presumed that the cost of the cart would be in addition to that.

Mr. McPherson asked if the meeting were a public or a rate-payer's meeting. The Chairman said it was called as a public meeting. Mr. McPherson would not have been present had he known that. He was present as a ratepayer, and did not think the meeting was a representative of ratepayers, and they should not go in for considerable expenditure without a more representative gathering.

The Chairman said that the meeting was called at the request of the Traders' Association, who asked for a meeting of townspeople to be called. He expected there would be representatives of the association present to put something tangible before the meeting. He was sorry that the council had gone to the expense of calling the meeting, and then have it practically ignored by those who asked for it. (Mr. Dunstone—"I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman. The meeting has not been ignored by the association as there are members present.") The Chairman—I did not know that.

Mr. McPherson said if the council were prepared to take the matter up, they could have another meeting.

Cr. Heard said the meeting had been called through the Council by the Trader's Association. It had nothing to do with the Council.

Dr Fellow thought they were pretty unanimous that the town needed a fire brigade, but as a public ratepayer's meeting it was not a representative gathering. He thought half-a-dozen gentlemen might be appointed to collect subscriptions towards a fund for forming a brigade and a meeting could be held in a month's time, to see the result. There would then be something to go on. They could hardly expect the district as a whole to pay for the protection of town property. He would be prepared to give his little towards the fund. (Hear, hear)

Mr. M. R. Higgins was in favor of a fire brigade, but not at the present time, until they got all the mains fixed. They would be going ahead of themselves, so far as the Trader's Association was concerned, there were some who did not seem to know what the Council had done in the past. He thought the association should have had more present to back up the case if it was such a strong one. He thought it was premature to form a brigade at present. Some persons did not seem to be satisfied with what the council had done in the past.

Mr. Dunstone was sorry that the Chairman (Mr. McArdle) and Mr. Higgins were not present earlier in the meeting, and he was also sorry the meeting had got a little at cross purposes. The Trader's Association had taken the matter up in the interests of the town, and Mr. Higgins was hardly justified in saying that the association was not satisfied with the Council. The association had not asked the council to call that meeting because it was dissatisfied with what the Council had done in the past. Before the Chairman and Mr. Higgins came into the room it was explained why the attendance was so small. He resented Mr. Higgins' statement that the Association had been dissatisfied with the Council.

Mr. McPherson, as the mover of the proposition for adjournment, said he had no objection to the formation of a fire brigade, but he did not regard the meeting as sufficiently representative to deal with the matter. He claimed to have proposition put to the meeting. The proposition was put to the meeting and carried.

1913

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 20 January 1913, page 13

THE COUNTRY.

A TOWN WITHOUT A FIRE BRIGADE.

Balaklava, January 18.

A fire occurred in the early hours this morning by which a shop and dwelling in Howe-street was completely gutted. At about 12.30 smoke and flame was seen by a passer-by issuing from a back room. He investigated, visiting every room to see that no one was in the building. Miss Vaughan, the lessee of the premises, is away on a holiday, and during her absence the lady assistant, who is usually the only other person on the premises, slept elsewhere. The building, which was partly of stone and partly of weatherboard, was soon in a mass of flame, and in less than an hour nothing remained but smouldering ruins, only the stone walls and chimneys standing. Great difficulty was experienced in saving the adjoining buildings on each side. One building did take fire, but the blaze was subdued. The building destroyed was the property of Mr. S. H. Fisher, and was insured. The contents were the property of Miss Vaughan, and it is uncertain whether they were insured or not. Too much praise cannot be given to the brave young fellows who fought the flames to protect adjoining properties. It is a deplorable fact that although a main passed the property and a fire plug is directly opposite, not a hydrant or hose is in the town. A fire brigade has often been discussed, but that is as far as it has gone.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 11 October 1913, page 29

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.



On Sunday, September 28, the store occupied by Mr. S. A. Geering was burnt out, and the damage was estimated at about £8,000 Photo, Wooler

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 22 August 1914, page 18

The Country.

BALAKLAVA, August 12.—To resuscitate the movement for the establishment of a fire brigade in Balaklava has been the first matter which the recently formed Progress Association has taken up. Already more than £50 has been promised towards the fund, and at the meeting on Tuesday evening it was resolved to collect the remainder of the sum necessary for the brigade appliances, so that the movement may be consummated at an early date.

There is a splendid water supply from the Bundaleer Reservoir, and the town has been completely reticulated, but there is no provision for controlling a fire.

1915

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 22 May 1915, page 30

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

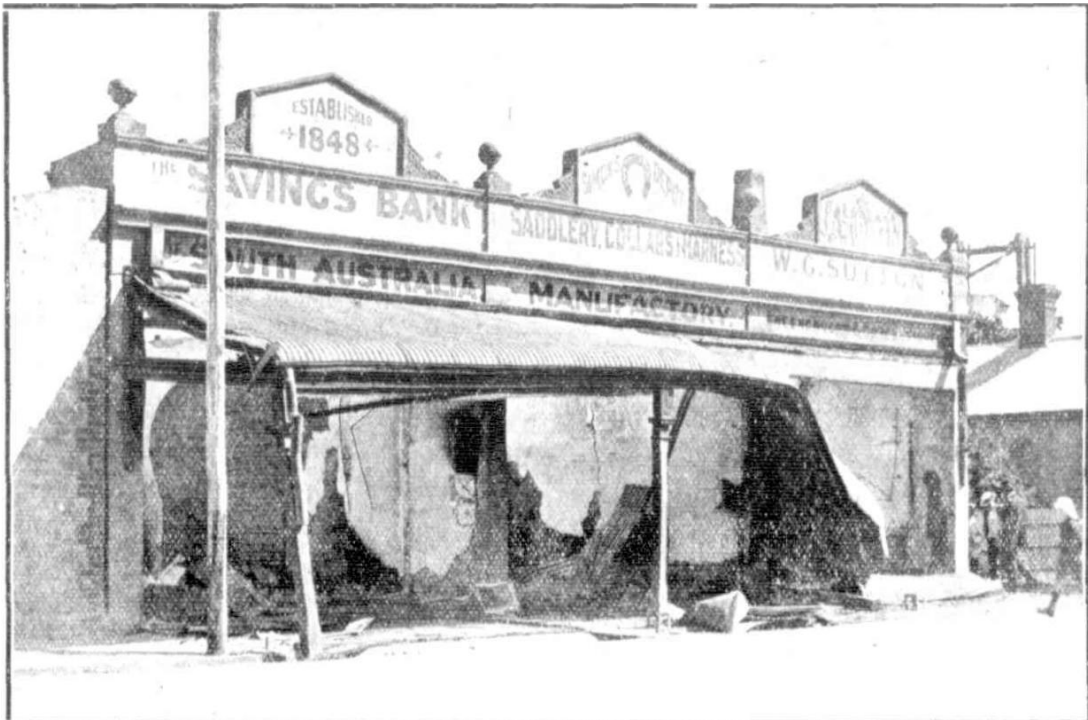


PREMISES OF MESSRS. W. P. MARSHALL & WILLIS BROS. DESTROYED BY FIRE ON MAY 12.
Wooler, photo.

1918

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 20 April 1918, page 25

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.



Three shops destroyed by fire at Balaklava on Sunday, April 14.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 16 April 1918, page 3

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA

TWO SHOPS AND BANK GUTTED.

BALAKLAVA. April 14.

A fire broke out in a fruit shop here in the early hours of this morning. The flames went through the saddler's shop next door, and the Savings Bank, and left the three places completely burnt out.

The bank manager saved the books, and Mr. Simons (the saddler) saved some harness. The three shops were owned by Mr. Simons, and there is a strong public feeling that if there had been a fire brigade here at least two of the places would probably have been saved. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Jacklin. who had only been in the fruit shop for a short time. The three shops were insured.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 20 April 1918, page 13

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

About 4 o'clock on April 14 a fire destroyed three shops belonging to Mr. Luther Simons in Howe-street. One. was occupied by Mr. N. Jacklin, fruiterer, one by the Savings Bank, and the other by Mr, Simons, saddler. The fire started in Mr. Jacklin's shop and spread through the block of buildings. Mr. Simons is a big loser, as his stock, worth about £700, was destroyed, and it was insured for only £250. The building was insured for about £400, and it is estimated that it will cost about £600 to reinstate it. Mr. Jacklin's stock was totally destroyed. The Savings Bank books were saved. Mr. Simons has been unlucky. In 1909 a fire which originated in premises next to him spread into his shop and caused him a considerable loss. The building destroyed this morning was erected in 1911. There is no fire brigade in Balaklava, and any fire which occurs has to burn itself out. The Commercial Bank and another block of buildings, the property of Mr. Simons, in Edith-terrace, were in great danger.



State Library of South Australia - Fire damage at Simon's Depot, Balaklava, Damage caused by fire at Simon's Depot, Balaklava to the premises of a Savings Bank of South Australia, Simon's saddlery, and W.G. Sutton's greengrocer. Approximately 1918. Part of Searcy Collection.

1920

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 22 January 1920, page 2

Fire Brigade for Balaklava.

To the Editor.

It is pleasing to see the District Council is moving in the matter of securing a fire brigade for Balaklava, and I trust their efforts will be successful. It is a question of whether for a town of this size a voluntary brigade would not answer the purpose equally as well, if not better, than one controlled by the Central Fire Brigades Board. The Progress Association had several promises of financial support for this object five years ago, but were prevented from carrying out the proposal by the outbreak of war, but, now that there are more men available to become members and money is not needed for so many other voluntary contributions the scheme should be workable. I have had no personal experience of either system but I trust that full enquiry will be made into the cost, scope, and efficiency of the two systems as exemplified in such towns as Jamestown (voluntary) and Kapunda (Central Board), and that the public will be informed of its obligations before anything definite is decided upon.

I am, etc., HAROLD V. FRAYNE

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 22 January 1920, page 3

Wanted—A. Fire Brigade for Balaklava.

THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE BEING ESTABLISHED SHORTLY.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
16 March 2026

Fires are apparently becoming quite a habit in South Australia of late, and in view of that fact it is good to know that there is a possibility of Balaklava having the protection of a Fire Brigade service in the near future.

We understand that the establishment of a Brigade would cost, roughly, about £400, of which amount the district would be liable for some £90, the Government and Insurance Companies making up the balance. The upkeep entailed would be about £170 per annum, of which the district's share towards the expense would be about £87. This would allow for four "retained" men, one of whom would be required to always sleep on the premises where the engine is located and no more than two of the number to be absent from the town at one time.

It is estimated that if the brigade is established the premiums on fire insurance will be reduced to an extent of about 15 per cent. Thus the saving on premium cost would more than pay the expenditure to be made up by the district.

The details will come up for consideration by the Council at their next meeting on February 2nd, prior to which date probably further information will be made available for the district representatives.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 5 February 1920, page 4

Proposed Fire Brigade for Balaklava.

THE COUNCIL VISIT TANUNDA.

AND SEE A TURN OUT OF THE AUXILIARY BRIGADE THERE.

A HIGHLY SATISFACTORY DEMONSTRATION.

For some time past negotiations have been in progress between the Balaklava District Council and the Fire Brigades Board with regard to the inauguration of a local auxiliary fire brigade. The first of such services—which promise to be much more successful and efficient than the old style volunteer brigades—has been installed by the District Council of Tanunda, and recently the members of the local Council were invited by the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr Frinsdorf) and the Chief Superintendent (Mr Dickie) to pay a visit to Tanunda to see a turn-out of the Brigade there and inspect the plant. Thursday, January 29th, was the day fixed for the visit, and at 8 a.m. a start was made from the Council Chamber in two motor cars provided by Mr W. H. Underwood. Those who made the trip were— Messrs H Masters (chairman), J. R. F. Heard, H. Virgo. T. Sires, W. H. Manley, W. H. Hurst, and Mr F. W. Loader (District Clerk). Through the courtesy of the Councillors a representative of the "Wooroora Producer" was given an opportunity of accompanying the party, a kindly invitation which was much appreciated. The morning was a beautiful one, and the run through the Nine Mile, Grace Plains and Mallala was much enjoyed. On the way to Gawler a glimpse was caught of Roseworthy College, lying to the left of the track, the tower, a well-known landmark of the countryside, standing up prominently amongst the trees. Just here there was an enforced stop, one of the tires having gone down. It was found that a nail had been picked up, and as one of the party remarked it seems strange, in view of the increased cost of ironmongery, that people leave these things loose about the highways and byways. Shortly afterwards an exceedingly fine view was obtained of Gawler—christened the "Modern Athens" in the days when the late Mr J. P. Stow was a member of the well known Humbug Club, and a town famous for being the home of the composer of the "Song

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16 March 2026

of Australia." After a brief stay at Gawler the route was taken for Lyndoch, where the party pulled up under the shade provided by some fine old gum trees, just opposite the substantial hotel property built a long time ago there by Mr G. S. Robinson, now of Werocata. It had been arranged that on the occasion of this surprise visit to the Brigade at Tanunda the representatives of the Fire Brigades Board should meet those of the Balaklava District Council at Lyndoch, and as the latter were a few minutes early for the appointed hour, 11 o'clock, the time was put in chatting with Mr Reuter, a former resident of the Balaklava district, who seemed surprised to see such an official gathering so far from home, and, incidentally, a little bit curious as to the cause. Under the circumstances, however, this very natural curiosity could not be satisfied as an essential factor of the visit to Tanunda was the surprising of the firemen to find out what could be done in the case of a call out. The Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr Frinsdorf) and the Superintendent (Mr Dickie) arrived well on time, and with them in their motor they brought Mr Whiting (Mayor of Victor Harbour) and Mrs Whiting. The former visitor, it may be mentioned, is interesting himself in the matter of Auxiliary Fire Brigades, and is bringing the matter before his Council. After introductions had taken place the journey was resumed through rich and picturesque country, the Lyndoch Valley which stretched away to the left being referred to by one of the party as being a spot far famed for its fertility.

The pretty and well laid out town of Tanunda was soon reached, and the three motors were pulled up by the mill. On arrival no time was lost in giving the alarm, Mr Masters, as Chairman of the Council, being requested to call up the Brigade. This was done through ringing up the telephone exchange at the post office through the medium of a telephone in a business place adjacent to the mill, and directly the message was received the continuous clanging of a huge gong at the fire station was heard sounding over the town. Two minutes later the firemen, in uniform and wearing fire helmets, appeared round the corner pulling the hose carriage containing the hose. They were confronted by the Chairman of the Board (Mr Frinsdorf) and Superintendent Dickie, as well as a party of strangers, and then realised that it was merely a case of an official test. They were instructed that the assumption was a fire at the mill, and, under the local Foreman, got smartly to work at the fire plugs, and had the water passing through a long line of hose in 2 minutes 35 seconds from the time the telephone call was given, another line being run out and supplying a supplementary stream within an additional 1½ minutes.

The whole demonstration was managed in a most workmanlike manner, and at its conclusion the Foreman (Mr J. H. A. Schultz) was deservedly complimented by the Chairman of the Board, the Superintendent and the visitors generally, the latter quite agreeing with Mr Frinsdorf when he said "A turn-out like this will prove much more convincing than a lot of talking."

This is the second practical test to which the members of the Tanunda Brigade have been put, and the times taken just about corresponded with these of the previous occasion.

The foreman (Mr Schultz) was formerly the Chairman of the District Council, and he proved most obliging in the way of giving information regarding the local conditions. There are four members of the Brigade, two of whom sleep on the fire station premises. Mr Schultz, it may be mentioned, has a place of business just opposite the station.

Mr Frinsdorf and Superintendent Dickie then invited the visitors to an inspection of the fire station premises. One of the first items noted in connection with the appliances was the big

gong above the door. This, by means of a phone, is connected directly with the Post Office, from which it can be rung, and when once set ringing it continues clanging till the firemen arrive and turn it off at the instrument within the station. On a call coming for the Brigade through any phone in the town the connection with the gong is immediately made, and thus the firemen are summoned.

The station itself, Mr Frinsdorf considered was too small (11 ft by 16 ft.) and one about 18 ft. by 30 ft was suggested for Balaklava, where allowance had been made in the estimate for a rental amount of, say, £12 per annum. It was pointed out that the main street there was well plugged, two plugs being put down opposite the mill. The Tanunda plant includes 400 feet of hose, which, it may be mentioned was made locally. The station and appliances generally were most favorably commented on, and, the condition in which the place generally was kept reflected great credit on all concerned.

Mr H. Masters on behalf of the Balaklava District Council, congratulated the foreman and his staff on the smart demonstration given by them that day, and also thanked the officials of the Board for providing the visitors with the opportunity of witnessing that excellent exhibition.

Mr. Whiting (Mayor of Victor Harbor) supported Mr Masters' remarks. He considered that in the case of towns of any size the Government should insist on a fire brigade being provided. Not only had they public buildings to consider as well as private and business places, but there was also the question of two-storey residences and hotels to be remembered and the possible loss of valuable lives. When he got back to Victor Harbour he would bring before his Council the advisability of installing an auxiliary fire brigade there and would do all in his power to get the project through. He also wished to thank the heads of the Fire Brigade Department for bringing him along to see this turn-out.

Mr. H. Virgo remarked that the turn-out that morning had reflected much credit on the brigade and had provided a practical demonstration of their alertness. Only about two minutes had elapsed between the alarm being given and the appearance on the scene of the firemen, which was very good indeed. Personally he had been very pleased with the exhibition, and, with the others, thanked the officers of the Fire Brigades Board for arranging it.

Mr. J. R. F Heard said that for some time past the Balaklava Council had been in touch with the Fire Brigades Board concerning the installation of fire-fighting appliances at Balaklava. He added his congratulations to those already expressed regarding the work of Mr Schultz and his men. The turn-out had been absolutely satisfactory, and he thanked the Chairman of the Board (Mr. Frinsdorf) and the Superintendent (Mr. Dickie) for arranging the practical demonstration.

Mr Frinsdorf, in response, expressed pleasure at the attendance of the visitors. The Tanunda one was the first of the auxiliary fire brigades to be started in South Australia. For a long time Mr Dickie and he had been trying to evolve a scheme under which efficient means of protection against fire might be brought within the reach of towns of this size. Of the total cost of these brigades the Government's share was three-ninths, that of the insurance companies four-ninths, while two-ninths had to be made up by the local body. He had been permanent Chairman of the Board for eleven years, and while the need of practicing economy had been impressed on him by the ministerial heads it was realised that they must

have efficiency. After going into a good deal of detail work they had produced this scheme of auxiliary fire brigades, a practical demonstration in connection with the first of which they had witnessed that morning. That, they considered, was just the type of a brigade which would suit Balaklava. The special rate for the upkeep would be more than made up by the reduction in the insurance premiums, estimated at about 15 per cent. So really it was a case of getting a fire brigade for nothing. The man who did not insure would also be protected. He believed in practical demonstrations of this kind. Now that the visitors had witnessed the turn-out and inspected the plant they could come to a decision re protecting their own town in the same direction. He must say that he was very pleased with the result of that day's demonstration by the brigade. It was the second he had witnessed, and the previous one had been just as good. Mr. Whiting had referred to the necessity of having such appliances to protect life, and certainly life should be considered before property and profit. If only one life was saved by the installation of a brigade it was well worth while (here. hear). Again with business places which were destroyed by fire no insurance claims paid would compensate for the dislocation of trade caused by losses in this way.

Mr. Schultz, foreman of the brigade, also thanked the visitors for their congratulatory remarks. As the late chairman of the District Council he knew that for a four or five roomed house with a small block the cost of the installation of the fire brigade would be about 5/ or 6/ for the first year and only about 2/6 per annum for the second and succeeding years. One man he knew was making a saving of between £2 and £8 a year on ----- effected on his insurance ----- station of the brigade would also pay a small house-holder. He could assure them that the people there were well satisfied.

In answer to a question by one of the visitors. Mr Schultz said that there had been no fire in their area since the brigade had been installed.

In reply to Mr. Heard, who asked how the members of the brigade were chosen, Mr. Frinsdorf stated that the Board had advertised in the local paper and had received ten or twelve applications. Mr Heard—The appointments will be made by the Board, I presume? Mr Frinsdorf—Yes, the final selection will be left to the chief officer (Mr Dickie) and myself. But we should be pleased to meet the chairman and other representatives of the council chosen for that purpose and receive their recommendations and obtain their advice.

Mr Frinsdorf went onto say that some councils wanted control over the brigades. That idea could not be entertained, however, for a divided control meant lack of discipline. At the same time the Board wished to work together with the councils, and as far as possible respect their recommendations. They also desired to buy any supplies they required locally—unless the prices proved prohibitive. The hose they had in that station had been made in Tanunda, and if they could obtain a similar one in Balaklava at right terms they would secure it. In fact their policy was to purchase all they could locally if the prices were satisfactory.

It was mentioned that the hose carriage also had been made locally—by Mr J. H. A. Schultz, the foreman, who kindly offered to give the Balaklava Council any information in the way of specifications.

Asked regarding the assessment for Fire Brigade purposes, Mr Frinsdorf said that matter was always left to the councils, excepting in the case of two councils being involved in the payment, in which event, if a decision were not arrived at by the bodies concerned, the

matter was referred to the Board. In the case of only one council being concerned it would be necessary for them to make their own assessment and then levy a special rate on that portion of the district brought under the Act.

Mr Heard—A penny rate at Balaklava will give me £38 10/. Mr Schultz said the starting of the Brigade would cost the district available for rating between £80 and £90 the first year, but afterwards the amount would be much less.

Mr Heard said that when chairman of the Balaklava District Council he had long battled for the provision of a fire brigade, but in the past the price (£880) of the installation had been too prohibitive altogether. A visitor—This is very cheap.

The Clerk of the District Council of Tanunda (Mr Aurich) attended at the station in response to a request by Mr H. Masters (Chairman of the Balaklava Council), and, in reply to questions, stated that the special fire brigade rate for the first year had been fixed at 3½d but he expected that this rate for the second and succeeding years would be 1½. The people were well satisfied. Before the war they used to have at Tanunda a voluntary fire brigade. This was to have been revived last year, but the auxiliary brigade had been installed instead, and all were agreed that this scheme was a much better one. The control was in the hands of the Fire Brigades Board, which was a good idea. It was quite certain that the whole of people in the district were now in favor of the scheme. Those who were largely rated were indirectly better off through the reduction in insurances.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 5 February 1920, page 3

The Proposed Fire Brigade for Balaklava.

THE FIRE BRIGADES BOARD'S OFFER.

THE COST OF AN AUXILIARY BRIGADE.

Members of the District Council in the past made many enquiries relative to the possibility of establishing a fire brigade in the town, but formerly the cost proved quite prohibitive, while it was recognised that complete satisfaction could not be secured by the forming of a volunteer brigade—a fact that has been found out in many places. Some time ago the District Clerk (Mr L. W. Loader), while travelling in the train, met the Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr Frinsdorf) and in the course of conversation elicited from him information regarding the Board's new scheme of the formation of auxiliary brigades. This caused negotiations to be again opened up. As the result of an invitation by the District Council, a visit was paid to the town by Messrs Frinsdorf and Dickie (chief officer). Details regarding the cost of installation of an auxiliary brigade were then gone into, and the scheme was favorably viewed by our local representatives.

The following extract is taken from the report on "Balaklava Fire Protection" presented to the Fire Brigades Board by Messrs Frinsdorf (chairman) and Dickie (chief officer) after their visit to Balaklava, where they were met by the members of the District Council and made an inspection of the town:—

"The water service, which is supplied from the Bundaleer Reservoir, is good, and is distributed by 10 in, 5 in, 4 in, and 3 in mains, which give a good pressure and flow, with a fair number of fireplugs at suitable distances apart. It would, however, be necessary to install a few more plugs. Balaklava has a population of about 1600. has many valuable

buildings, and certainly warrants being protected against fire. We therefore, recommend the District Council of Balaklava to make application to the Fire Brigades Board for the area known as the Township of Balaklava or Balaklava Ward to be brought under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act of 1918. If such application is made and granted we propose to recommend that the town be protected exactly on the same lines as Tanunda, which we consider will give an efficient and economical service. With the establishment of the proposed fire brigade at Balaklava on the basis herewith submitted we are informed by our insurance representative on the Board that the fire insurance premiums will probably be reduced from 10 to 16 per cent. A reduction to the extent mentioned should more than counter balance the cost of the Council's proportion of the expenditure required for the upkeep of the Brigade".

An estimate of the cost of the proposed Brigade was included in the report, and was as follows:—

"Hand Hose Cart and necessary accessories, £200. Uniforms for fourmen, £44. Rent, £12. Wages—1 auxiliary, foreman, £50; 3 auxiliary firemen, £30 each, £90; total wages, £40 Grand total, £396. First year—Councils share of the expense (two-ninths of £368), £88."

"Succeeding years—Wages, £140 rent, £12; contingencies, £12; total, £164. Council's two-ninths, £36 9/.

Reference is made elsewhere to the trip taken to Tanunda last Thursday by the members of the District Council to witness a turnout of the State's first auxiliary fire brigade established under the Board's new scheme and inspect the plant and appliances. With all they saw the visitors were apparently much impressed.

It may be mentioned that the total approximate assessment at Tanunda on the fire brigade area on which rates are imposed for this service in £6,857. It is understood that the Tanunda District is the smallest in the State with a total assessment of about £14 000.

At the meeting of the Balaklava District Council on Monday the Chairman (Mr H. Masters) formally reported on the demonstration the members had witnessed at Tanunda, which be characterised as being eminently successful. He suggested that an area should be defined to come under the Fire Brigades Board's provisions, and that the two "Town" councillors be appointed as a sub-committee to report on the matter and ascertain the exact amount of the assessment in the area referred to.

In answer to questions, the District Clerk said he estimated that the detail work in connection with the scheme— the necessary formalities, notices, etc. would take some time. Possibly it would be August or September before the scheme, if adopted, would be initiated.

On the motion of Cr Hurst, seconded by Cr Manley, Crs Virgo and Heard were appointed to go into details as regards the assessment, etc. and report at next meeting. The motion, was carried.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 4 March 1920, page 4

DISTRICT COUNCILS

Balaklava.

Meeting held on Monday, March 1st

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Proposed Area of Fire Brigade.

The Clerk laid on the table the proposed area for the Fire Brigade district of Balaklava. The area defined starts from J. Bridgman's extends to the police station, thence to Roberts' dairy, thence to the Lutheran Church, Royaltown, to the rear of Royaltown, and from there along Railway Terrace to the railway cottages and joining up again at the starting point Altona, 4 houses, and a few on the other side of the Adelaide railway crossing. Cr Heard said it was absurd to take in as far as Dunn's bridge, that would mean taking in all these sections.

The rate for brigade purposes was next discussed.

Cr Hurst said he was not opposed to the scheme but thought the rate-payers should be consulted before anything definite was done. Cr Heard—But the matter is such a small one, a sum of £88 was needed for the first year, and for succeeding years £36. He believed they were doing the right thing in having a brigade.

Cr Virgo—About 75 per cent of occupiers were not landholders, they merely paid rent and they probably would vote against the brigade, believing their rent might be raised, while the people whose property they were in, should a fire occur, would lose the house, the occupier his furniture only.

Cr Manley moved that the plan of area as submitted by town councillors and Clerk be laid on the table. Seconded and carried.

Cr Hurst moved that a meeting of ratepayers, of defined area, be called to consider fire brigade matters, the area as defined may be inspected at the Council's office. Seconded by Cr Manley. Carried. Crs Heard and Virgo voted against.

It was resolved that the rate-payers meeting be held on Monday, March 15th.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 15 July 1920, page 1

Balaklava District Council.

Meeting held at the Council Office, Balaklava, on July 12, 1920.

—Fire Brigade Accommodation.—

The late Chairman, Cr. Masters, pointed out the necessity of looking ahead to the housing of the brigade, etc. He believed if the council erected a building for that purpose the Board would allow them £12 per annum. Cr. Virgo suggested that the Council erect a wood and iron structure. He could not advise stone; the former building could be taken down and sold; the stone one would not be of use after the brigade had a permanent place of their own. The only suitable locality he could suggest was in the council yard, for such a building. This matter was left over for consideration.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 4 November 1920, page 1

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

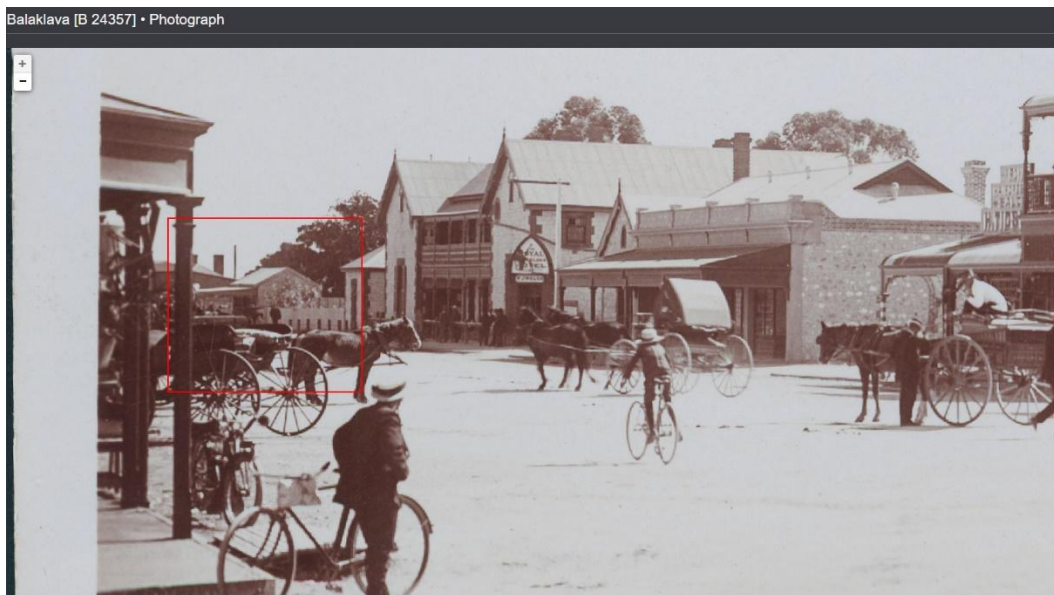
BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held Monday, Nov. 1st.

—Premises secured for Fire Brigade.—

Cr Virgo reported that the sub-committee appointed had looked all round the town to find premises for the Fire Brigade. The only place they found to be suitable was the building owned by Mr E. A Hoepner, on Edith Terrace (formerly used as a saddler's shop, now occupied by Mr M. R Higgins).

The window could be taken out and a sliding door put in its place, and the building partitioned off to provide the sleeping portion for the men. These necessary alterations would only cost about £10. The only other suggestion was to build a place of wood and iron on Council's property, where there was not too much room. He recommended the purchase of Mr Hoepner's property. The clerk said the estimate for building a place was £275. Cr Virgo moved and Cr Masters seconded that Mr Hoepner's property be secured. Carried.



*State Library of South Australia - Balaklava [B 24357], Edith Terrace, Balaklava.
Approximately 1910. Part of Balaklava Collection.*

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 12 November 1920, page 6

BALAKLAVA FIRE DISTRICT.

The township of Balaklava has been brought under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act upon the recommendation of the Fire Brigades Board.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 18 November 1920, page 2

BALAKLAVA FIRE BRIGADE —The application of the Fire Brigades Act of 1913 became applicable to Balaklava as from November 8, 1920. The following is the scheduled area described in the Government Gazette:—Comprising that portion of the hundred of Balaklava bounded as follows:—Commencing at the intersection of the south-eastern side of railway land south-east of section 215 with the eastern boundary of said hundred ; thence southerly along said boundary to its intersection with a line being the production easterly of the northern boundary of section 109 ; thence westerly along said line and its production to the north-east corner of section 107 ; thence southerly along the eastern boundaries of the latter section and section 110 and their production across road to the north-eastern boundary of section 4 ; thence north-westerly along the said boundary and along the north-eastern boundary of section 3 to the north corner of the latter section ; thence northerly by

a line being the production southerly of the east boundary of section 217, and along said boundary to the northern corner of allotment 47, private town of Balaklava North; thence generally in an easterly direction following the northern boundary of the said town to the north-eastern corner of allotment 43, said town ; thence southerly along the eastern boundary of the said town and across road to the north-east corner of the Balaklava Railway Station yard ; thence southerly, north-easterly, south-easterly, and southerly, following respectively the eastern, north-western, north-eastern and eastern boundaries of said station yard to the north-western side of road north west of section 1; and thence north easterly along said side of road to the point of commencement.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 25 November 1920, page 1

Balaklava Fire Brigade.

VISIT OF FIRE BRIGADE BOARD.

On Friday, November 19th, the chairman of the Fire Brigade Board (Mr E. Frinsdorf) and the Chief Officer (Mr Dickie), accompanied by a first-class fireman from the Metropolitan Board, visited Balaklava in connection with the establishment of a brigade at Balaklava. They brought with them 300 feet of hose, hydrant and appurtenances for fire-fighting, and instructed the council officers in the use of same. It will be about the first of January before the permanent reel and appliances can be installed, in the meantime the paraphernalia now here is at the disposal of any person should a fire occur ; they are in the charge of Engineer W. T. Robertson at the power house.

A demonstration was given in Scotland Street by the visiting officers, and afterwards was followed by the District Clerk and the engineer going through all the work of attending an imaginary fire.

The chief officer of the board, as well as the chairman, expressed themselves well satisfied that, for the time being, the clerk and engineer would do good work should a fire occur. The building purchased by the Council for a Fire Station was inspected and pronounced as satisfactory.

Applications are being called in this week's "Producer" for an auxiliary foreman and three auxiliary firemen and appointments will be as from January 1st, 1921.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 25 November 1920, page 2

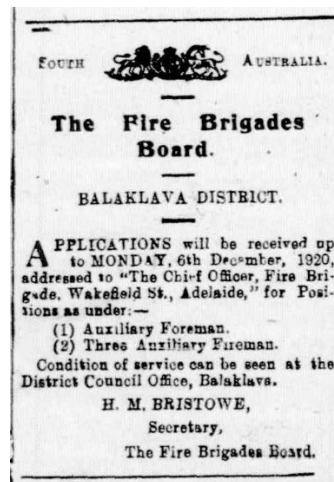
BALAKLAVA DISTRICT.

Applications will be received up to MONDAY, 6th December, 1920, addressed to "The Chief Officer, Fire Brigade, Wakefield St., Adelaide," for Positions as under:—

- (1) Auxiliary Foreman.
- (2) Three Auxiliary Fireman.

Condition of service can be seen at the District Council Office, Balaklava.

H. M. BRISTOWE, Secretary, The Fire Brigades Board.



Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 4 December 1920, page 6

The Country.

BALAKLAVA, November 22.—Last Friday the Chairman of the Fire Brigade Board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) and Chief Officer (Mr. Dickie), accompanied by a first-class fireman from the Metropolitan Board, visited this town in connection with the establishment of a local brigade. They brought with them 300 ft. of hose, hydrant and appurtenances for fire-fighting, and instructed the council officer in the use of the same. It will be about the beginning of the year before the permanent reel and appliances can be installed. A demonstration was given in Scotland street by the visiting officers, followed by the district clerk and the engineer going through all the work of attending an imaginary fire. The building purchased here by the board council for a fire station was inspected and pronounced satisfactory.

Woorora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 9 December 1920, page 3

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held on Monday, December 6th, 1920.

—Motor Reel for Balaklava.—

Mr Frinsdorf, chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board, then waited on the Council to report re his recent visit to the town, etc. The chairman of the Council received Mr Frinsdorf who said he had to report to the Council that he had attended at their town recently, bringing with him 300 feet of hose, hydrant, etc., and had coached the clerk and the engineer in their uses. He was in company with the chief officer who was very pleased at the way in which the two local men had handled the appliances and their efficiency, after having been shown, was excellent. He was well pleased himself and should a fire break out in the meanwhile, these officers of the Council would acquit themselves well. He hoped both of them would apply for positions advertised. They should do so, and the chief engineer also expressed this desire. He wanted to place before the Council another matter. The application of the District Council for a fire brigade was based on what they had seen at Tanunda. Since then motor lorries, used as reels, were being forwarded to the stations at Moonta, Kadina and Kapunda. It was probable that the brigade have calls outside what was

classed "the Fire Brigades area." There was a likelihood of grass and bush fires. The council were aware that if men had to exert themselves and run, as they would do with the hand cart, the energy of the fire-fighters would be minimised, and therefore less capable of doing efficient work. The great secret of successful fire work was getting to the fire quickly. With the installation of a motor lorry, a one-ton truck, this object could be achieved and men would be fresh—much better than if they had to run. The motor reel would only cost the Council £85. £20 of which would be transferred to the sum, the price of the cart, the type of which they had seen at Tanunda. He had come to place this matter before them. The total cost of the lorry would be £400, 2-9ths of which would be borne by the Council, 4-9ths by the insurance companies, and 3-9ths by the Government. The truck would be a much better idea than the cart. The officers of the Council had acquitted themselves well when he was here, but he supposed the clerk and engineer were like himself—not professional pedestrians in full train. (Cr. Hurst—"Oh ! the clerk can run alright !") Mr Frindorf — "Yes, I suppose he's like me ; he would get there if given plenty of time" (laughter). He thought very highly of the installation of a motor reel.

The actual cost of the lorry was about £300 but fitted up with spare wheel and appliances would be in the vicinity of £400. It would cost the Council about £85 for their outlay. He would endeavor to get a lorry so fitted when passing through to stop for inspection. The Council would have to pay their dues to the Board as soon as the town was gazetted, but the Board had consented to collect this as from January 1st, and really this was not due till March, so they would have an ample start. He placed the matter before the Council ; it was for them to decide. He would stay for a few minutes and answer any questions the Council might like to ask.

Cr J. R. F. Heard asked the name of the type of lorry, "A one-ton Ford truck" was the reply. Cr. Heard asked if the lorry would be fitted with a high-tension magneto or dual ignition. He had always observed that the Fords were difficult to start in cold weather, Mr. Frindsdorf said the regulations provided that the machines were started three times in every 24 hours.

Crs Manley, Hurst and Masters commented on the project. Cr. Virgo said if we adopted the cart (knowing we could have secured a lorry) which in a few years would be obsolete we would kick ourselves. It appeared only to be a matter of initial cost. He was satisfied the motor was the right thing. He had, with Cr. Heard given the matter very serious consideration, and he moved that the Fire Brigade Board be asked to substitute a one ton Ford lorry similar to those supplied to Moonta Kadina, and Kapunda in lieu of hand cart for Balaklava. Cr Heard seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr Frindsdorf thanked the council for their patient and attentive hearing. He took it he could convey to the Board the council's determination and after the meeting which would be held to-morrow (Tuesday) he would make arrangements for the purchase of a lorry. He would come down to Balaklava on Thursday and the Board would stay here on their way to the Peninsula and select the men for the Balaklava Station. In wishing them "Good Afternoon" Mr Frindsdorf said he was sorry he could not bring better farmers' weather, he had been a farmer himself for 20 years so knew the disadvantage under which they were working (laughter).

1921

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 10 February 1921, page 3

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held February 7th.

THE FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

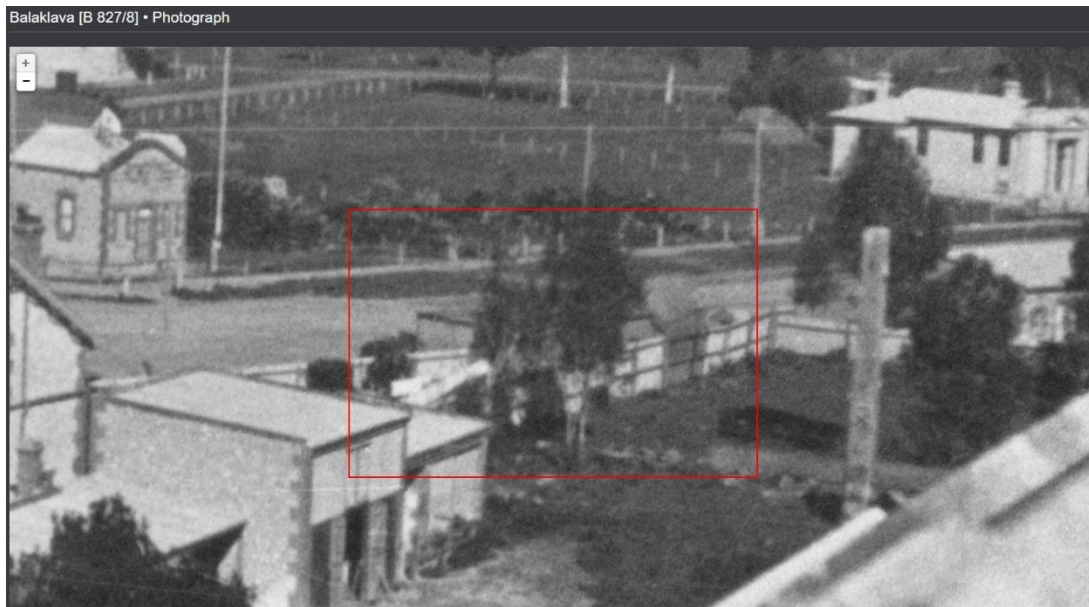
Re Fire Brigade Station—The Clerk reported that he has prepared an estimate for lining and completing the building for brigade use. He found the work could be done at a cost lower than the quote received. The matter was left in the hands of the clerk.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 17 February 1921, page 3

BALAKLAVA FIRE BRIGADE— Mr H. G. Besisto, who has been in the employ of Messrs Brebner and Keefe for the past fourteen years, has been appointed by the Fire Brigades Board a fireman in connection with the Balaklava auxiliary Fire Brigade. Including the Foreman (Mr F. W. Loader) the local brigade staff numbers four. Their connection with the brigade will not interfere with their ordinary avocations, but each of the four in turn will be required to be on watch at the station from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.—a duty which is already being undertaken. The work of preparation of the station premises is proceeding and it is expected that the motor engine will arrive here in about a month or six weeks time.

Topical Notes.

The Balaklava Fire Brigade Station is being made ready and the motor is expected in a month or so. It is to be hoped that the brigade's installation will not be marked by so many "false alarms" as characterised the opening of the continuous telephone service, When the ceaseless ringing of bells made a night of revelry which will long be remembered. False "alarming" in the case of a Fire Brigade will be found a rather more expensive amusement



State Library of South Australia - Balaklava [B 827/8], Looking across part of the town (railway station?). Approximately 1921. Part of Balaklava Collection.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 3 March 1921, page 2

BALAKLAVA FIRE BRIGADE. —All necessaries for the equipment of the Fire Brigade—including the member's uniforms—have now arrived except the motor, which is expected here in about ten days, In the interim the latter's place is being taken by the motor car belonging to the Foreman (Mr. F. W. Loader.) Some eleven hundred feet of hose has been provided, this length providing for a big scope of play. Two of the firemen are now sleeping at the Station each night.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 21 April 1921, page 2

BALAKLAVA AUXILIARY FIRE BRIGADE.— The equipment of the Balaklava Fire Brigade is now complete in every respect, the motor hose carriage— one of the very latest design— having arrived last week. This is a one-ton Ford truck chassis, with body built to the order of the Fire Brigades Board, Adelaide, and will carry six men. It is equipped with 800 feet of hose (sufficient for putting two lines on any fire. Two hydrants, two turncock keys and two large chemical extinguishers. These latter will throw a jet thirty feet, and will last from 45 to 50 seconds. On the motor is also carried an extension ladder. All the fire-fighting appliances are now complete with the sole exception of farther plugs in some sections of the town. These, it is hoped, will be promptly provided by the Hydraulic Engineer's Department. There is a gong on the fire station, which can be rung from any telephone in the town by requesting the attendant to connect a subscriber with the Fire Station. A heavy penalty, however, awaits anyone who gives such a ring in a spirit of mischief. The staff consists of four men, one of whom sleeps on the premises every night. These are— Messrs F W Loader, foreman), W T Robertson, T. Bridgman and H G Bosisto.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 23 June 1921, page 2

FIRE.—Smoke issuing from the neighbourhood of the Royal Hotel on Tuesday brought Mr. Robertson, of the Fire Brigade to the spot. It was found that a chimney was on fire, and an extinguisher from the fire station soon put the flames out. Thus the first place to receive attention from the Fire Station was the building next door to it.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 30 June 1921, page 2

Balaklava Fire Brigade.

AN OFFICIAL CALL-OUT.

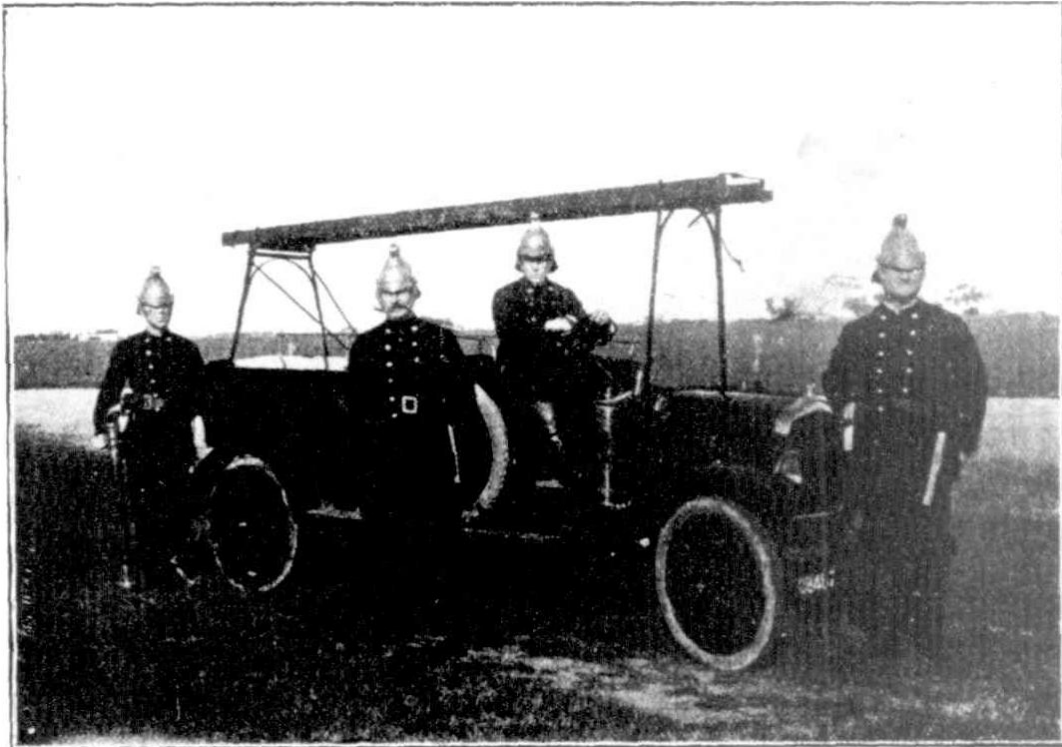
Mr. Frinsdorf (Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board), Mr. Lewis (country representative of the Board), and Superintendent Dickie reached Balaklava by the morning train from the city on Thursday, June 23rd, and immediately on arrival rang up the local Brigade from the mill. The members— Messrs. F. W. Loader (chairman), W. T. Robertson, H. G. Bosisto, and F. Bridgman—responded to the call with commendable promptitude, and speedily had a stream of water pouring from the hose they had run out.

When seen by a representative of the "Producer" afterwards, Mr. Frinsdorf, asked to give his opinion of turn-out, replied "It was a satisfactory one in every respect— in fact I may say it was very satisfactory indeed."

This statement was heartily supported by Superintendent Dickie, who pointed out that the members of the Brigade, with the motor and equipment, had reached the spot two minutes after the call, and had the water on in three minutes—a good performance.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 27 August 1921, page 25

BALAKLAVA FIRE BRIGADE.



This is one of the most up-to-date fire brigades out of Adelaide. From Left to Right—
Foreman F. W. Loader, Firemen F. M. Bridgeman, W. F. Robertson, and H. G. Bosisto. Photo
Wooler.



PRG 280/1/23/256

State Library of South Australia - Image PRG280_1_23_256.jpg, The first fire brigade at Balaklava, South Australia. The first fire brigade at Balaklava consisting of four firemen photographed with their new motorised fire engine. L-R F.M. Bridgeman (Fireman), Fredrick William Loader (Foreman), W.F. Robertson (Fireman), H.G. Bosisto (Fireman). 1921.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 8 September 1921, page 1

Balaklava District Council.

Meeting held September 5th.

—More Fire Plugs Wanted.—

From the Fire Brigades Board and Commissioner of Public Works stating that on the cost of providing 31 additional fire plugs—£215—the Council would be required to pay 6 per cent per annum. It was resolved that the Fire Brigades Board be asked to report as to the number of extra fire plugs actually necessary.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 24 November 1921, page 2

Balaklava Fire Brigade.

A SMART TURN OUT.

On Thursday morning last Messrs Frinsdorff (chairman) and Pullin, members of the Fire Brigades Board, and Mr Dickie (State Superintendent of Fire Brigades) visited Balaklava, and gave the local brigade a surprise call from the alarm near Mr. H. Virgo's office. The motor was run out, manned, and the scene of the supposed fire reached and the water was in play within two minutes and 49 seconds from the receipt of the call. Those who turned out were Messrs F. W. Loader (Foreman), W. Robertson and F. Bridgman.

Later the Chairman of the Board and Mr. Dickie, in the course of a chat with a representative of the "Producer," described the turn out as a smart and excellent one, reflecting credit on the Foreman and members generally. The plant and station appointments were also found to be in good order.

Mr Frinsdorff mentioned that at the outset there had been displayed no little opposition to the idea of the inauguration of auxiliary fire brigades, but the good work recently done at the Tanunda Mill—when the flour store was saved by the firemen there had proved in a practical way the usefulness of this branch of the State's firefighting service.

The members of the Board visited the Peninsula on Friday, and went on to Port Pirie on the following day.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 8 December 1921, page 2

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held Monday, December 5

—Fire Brigade Matters.—

The clerk reported that the Fire Brigades Board had revised their decision about fire plugs, and had now agreed that seven would serve the purpose. These (which would cost £3 each)

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they would put down at council's expense. The plugs were an absolute necessity to make the Fire Brigade service effective, and an eighth was really required. The Board had also called attention to the delapidated nature of the station, and had given an order for the paint providing council would get the work done. The station needed painting both inside and out. The colour outside would be red.

Cr Masters—What share of the cost shall we have to bear as regards material ? The Clerk—Two-ninths.

1922

Areas' Express (Booyoolie, SA : 1877 - 1948), Friday 6 January 1922, page 4

Balaklava Fire Brigade

THE FIRST CALL OUT.

During the Christmas holidays the Balaklava Auxiliary Fire Brigade had the first call-out. Just after mid-day on Wednesday, December 28th, a call was received by telephone to a fire at Balaklava South. Fireman Bridgman attended with the motor appliances, but on arrival at the scene refused to connect with the mains as there was no danger whatever to property. A few buckets of water soon made all safe. The fire occurred at the corner vacant allotment opposite the Lutheran Church, next to the Rev. H. Kemps's house, and just about in a line with his back door. The allotment has a boxthorn hedge, and the clippings from this have been allowed to remain on the land for years, and this, together with the rubbish that has collected there, made a big blaze for a few minutes. How the fire originated is unknown.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 12 January 1922, page 3

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held January 9th.

—Fire Plugs.—

The clerk reported that the Fire Brigades Board were installing an additional eight fire plugs in Balaklava, and suggested that a plug should be put right opposite the Memorial Hospital while the staff were here. It was appointed out that as the Hospital was not within the fire area the Council or Board could not authorise this work. The Clerk was instructed to write the Hospital Committee pointing out the position and suggesting that they should get a plug put in.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 13 July 1922, page 3

Balaklava District Council.

MEETING HELD JULY 10.

Cr. Manley said that Cr. Virgo had brought up the matter of fire plugs at the Hospital, and had stated that if they applied to the Fire Brigades Board they would get it done. Cr. Finlayson: The Fire Brigade would be no good to the Hospital as conditions were. If they could get a fire plug put there without delay he would favor writing to the Board. They could still put one in, and if the Hospital Board wrote to the Fire Brigades Board he felt sure there

would be a refund. The clerk, in answer to an enquiry, said the cost would be from 50/ to 70/. Cr. Finlayson moved that the plug be put in. The people at the Hospital, he said, must be protected. Cr Sires seconded. Carried.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 31 October 1922, page 6

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

Extensive damage was done to the premises of Mr. Arthur R. Woods who carries on a motor garage and general agency business in Balaklava by a fire which broke out in the small hours of Sunday morning. A report received from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade authorities on Monday evening intimated that the local brigade was telephoned at 3.40 a.m. on Sunday to the premises, which are situated at the corner of Railway terrace and Howe street, and the flames then had a good hold. Five motor cars, a quantity of stock, and the building itself were considerably damaged. It is believed that the blaze originated through an explosion caused when Mr. Woods struck a match. The building and contents were covered by insurance. The Balaklava Brigade dealt effectively with the outbreak, and acquitted themselves with distinction on the occasion of their first big undertaking. They are a permanent auxiliary corps attached to the Adelaide headquarters.

1923

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 29 November 1923, page 2

Thursday, November 29, 1923

FIRE BRIGADE INSPECTION. —Messrs. Frinsdorf (chairman) and Cox, members of the Fire Brigades Board, with Chief Superintendent Dickie, paid a visit to Balaklava on Saturday last. They called out the local Auxiliary Brigade, and afterwards inspected the station and equipment. Mr. Dickie subsequently stated that the visitors had been well satisfied with their visit of inspection.

1924

Areas' Express (Booyoolie, SA : 1877 - 1948), Friday 11 January 1924, page 3

BALAKLAVA

STRAW STACK BURNT.— Some mild excitement was caused between 9 and 10 on Sunday morning last when the Fire Brigade turned out. It was found that a small stack of straw on Mr. Baum's paddock near the town was ablaze. This stack was destroyed, but, thanks, to the efforts of the Fire Brigade and the wind blowing away from the fire, a haystack nearby was saved.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 9 January 1924, page 6

A HAYSTACK DESTROYED

BALAKLAVA, January 6.—A fire occurred at Balaklava this morning about 9.45 when a large stack of straw owned by Mr. J. E. A. Baum was demolished. The local brigade was summoned and were soon on the scene, but the fire had consumed a good portion of the stack before they arrived. There was a good pressure of water and the flames were soon subdued, but the remains of the stack are useless. Luckily the wind was blowing from the west, as a large stack of new season's hay was situated only a few feet away. Both stacks were fenced and

several cows were locked in the former. Had it not been for the prompt action of those who rushed to the scene in securing their release serious consequences might have resulted. The only damage done was to the stack, and the loss is not a very heavy one. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 8 May 1924, page 2

TOPICAL NOTES.

FIRE ON A FARM.—A disastrous fire occurred on the property of Mr. H. Cornish, about four miles from Balaklava, on Saturday afternoon last. Two stacks of hay, one old and one new, about 65 tons in all, caught fire about 2.30, and in spite of the work of firefighters from around the neighbourhood, as well as Balaklava, were destroyed. It was soon seen that the hay could not be saved, and efforts were concentrated on keeping the flames from reaching a machinery shed close by. That the shed was eventually saved was mainly due, it was considered, to the good work of Mrs. Cornish in the early stages of the fire. Neither of the stacks were insured. One belonged to Mr. F. C. Saint. Mr. Cornish only recently purchased the property from Mr. R. Longmire. The loss in both cases will be considerable.

Since the foregoing was written we have heard that while Mr. Saint's stack was not insured the other was. The insured one belonged to Mr. Longmire.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 7 August 1924, page 2

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS.

FIRE.—On Sunday evening the Fire Brigade received a call to the Coffee Palace. On arrival they found their services were not required as the fire, which originated in a bedroom, had been put out. The damage was confined to the burning of some bedding and clothing in the room. A large crowd congregated in the roadway, but those who came to the fire were not even treated to the spectacle of seeing the water playing on the building.

1925

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 9 April 1925, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

FIRE BRIGADE TURN OUT.—On the 3rd inst. about midday the alarm bell at the fire station was heard ringing by a few people in the immediate vicinity. In ordinary weather conditions the bell is far too feeble in tone for the purpose, and that was a day of extraordinary conditions, there being a blustering wind blowing. Mr. Matthews, who happens to be engaged at Messrs. Stephenson & Co's., happened to hear it and was promptly on the spot, while he was speedily followed by Mr. J. Blake, who was having lunch at Mr. Evans'. These two got the engine out in good time and went off for the scene of the fire. This was found to be in a shed at Mr. A. R. Wood's. The fire was put out by buckets, the firemen not needing to use the plant..

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 21 May 1925, page 3

FIRE BRIGADE STATION.—The new Fire Brigade signal, which has been making the welkin ring the last few days, sounds like a combination of a monster dog howling while a steamer's siren is sounding. It should, however, prove an effective call, especially when its weird wailing sounds on the dead of night.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 6 August 1925, page 2

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS.

THE WAIL OF THE FIRE BRIGADE ALARM.—The wailing of Fire Brigade hooter (a cross between the sound of a midnight cat's chorus and a steamer's siren) was heard just about midday on one occasion last week. Four members of our auxiliary brigade were on the spot promptly, and the streets were soon lined with people who wanted to know where the fire was. The warning turned out to be quite an unusual type of false alarm, a block of wood falling on the floor having made the station premises—not very substantial—vibrate to such an extent that the shutter was released and the "hooter" continuously wailed till the mechanism was adjusted.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 10 September 1925, page 2

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS.

PRESENTATION TO MR. H. G. BOSISTO. — At the Balaklava Fire Station on the eve of his departure for Adelaide the Foreman, Mr. H. G. Bosisto, who has been a member of the Brigade for five years, was presented with a travelling rug. The presentation was made by Mr. J. Blake, who has succeeded Mr. Bosisto as Foreman, and his tribute regarding the respect and esteem in which their departing comrade was held was endorsed by Messrs. F. Matthews and P. Cavanagh.

[Fire at North Balaklava - Foreman J. Blake in charge.](#)

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 14 November 1925, page 13

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

BALAKLAVA, November 12.— Towns-people were somewhat startled to hear the persistent call of the siren at the fire station at about 7.45 on Wednesday night. The auxiliary brigade, under Foreman J. Blake, turned out promptly to a summons from the residence of Mr. Arthur Wood, in North Balaklava, where it was found that a cinema machine, with which his son was experimenting, had caught fire. The machine and film were destroyed, and the woodwork in the room badly charred before the flames were extinguished.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 7 December 1925, page 9

GRASS FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

BALAKLAVA. December 5.— A grass fire occurred in a paddock on Edith terrace this morning at 11.15. Fanned by a strong hot wind, the flames quickly swept across to the adjoining property, owned by Mrs. A. Knight. Had it not been for the timely arrival of the local Auxiliary Fire Brigade, under Foreman Blake, the threatened residence would have been destroyed. The brigade had the flames speedily under control, and beyond some of the woodwork on the house being charred, and some of the fencing posts destroyed, no serious damage was done.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 17 December 1925, page 2

local and general

NEWS.

ENQUIRY RE RECENT GRASS FIRE.—An enquiry was held on Monday last by Mr. D. McArthur, as Coroner, into the circumstances surrounding the grass fire at Mrs. A. Knight's on December 5th. Sergeant Rowe watched the proceedings on behalf of the police. Evidence was given by Messrs. J. Blake (foreman Fire Brigade), S. Herd, J. Milton, J. R. Moyes, M.C. Norgren, and Mrs. F. A. Hill. The fire started in the barley grass in an allotment adjacent to Mrs. Knight's, burned the fence on the west side, the wood heap, the gate at the side of the house, and some boards near the back door. Some fruit trees were also spoilt. There was no evidence of anyone smoking about the place. Mrs. Hill was the first to notice the fire, some bagging on a drill being seen to be alight. The Coroner returned an open verdict.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 December 1925, page 9

LIGHTNING CAUSES A FIRE.

Balaklava, December 26.

A fire, caused by lightning, occurred on Monday afternoon on the farm of Mr. E. Redpath, Hoyleton. While reaping, Mr. Redpath noticed that the stubble in an adjoining paddock was burning. He promptly harnessed his team to a plough to cut round the fire zone, and neighbors lent valuable help. In the stubble paddock there were 1,000 bags of wheat, and in the one where he was reaping there were 500. Only about 30 bags of wheat and 15 acres of stubble were burned.

1926

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 11 February 1926, page 3

BALAKLAVA

MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 8th.

The Fire Brigades Board wrote asking that fire plugs in the street should be kept free of metal and dirt; also giving estimate of expenses for current year.

The Foreman of the Fire Brigade reported that they had attended a fire at the rear of Mr. P. G. Wauchope's shop, which had been started in a heap of rubbish. He asked that an order should be made for the removal of this rubbish.

The Clerk reported having interviewed Mr. Wauchope, who had promised to remove the rubbish.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 20 May 1926, page 2

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS.

BALAKLAVA FIRE BRIGADE.—Mr. Frinsdorf (Chairman Fire Brigades Board), accompanied by members of the Board, arrived here on the morning of the 14th inst. and gave the Brigade a call from the alarm in Wallace St. Three members of the Brigade — Messrs. Blake (Foreman), Cavanagh and Matthews — answered the call and were on the spot with the motor in two and a half minutes, having the water playing on the road in three and a half minutes. Mr. Frinsdorf, in the course of a chat with a representative of the "Wooroora Producer," described the turn-out as a most creditable one, and his opinion was endorsed by Mr. Cain, a well known member of the Board. Mr. Dickie (Superintendent of S.A. Fire Brigades) as usual, left the city with the members of the Board with the intention of doing the trip round

the various stations, but he was taken ill with bronchitis at the Burra and had to return to Adelaide.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 12 August 1926, page 4

PERSONAL.

The Fire Brigade received a call last night.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 12 August 1926, page 4

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held Monday, August 9th

Councillor Leitch moved "That the architect be asked to prepare a plan and estimates of costs of alteration to power house for an office; also plans as submitted by the sub-committee; also for plans and cost for housing the Fire Brigade staff and plant." Seconded by Cr. Masters and carried.

Cr. Leitch submitted deeds relating to the Fire Station and Verco Bros', property, requesting same be altered. He moved same be altered, the parties concerned to pay half each of costs. Seconded by Cr. Masters and carried.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 16 September 1926, page 4

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held September 13.

Correspondence.

Mr. T. Jenkins submitted plans and appropriate estimates for the new District Council and Fire Station. Councillors inspected same. Cr. Leitch said as definite costs were not submitted, that part could not be gone into.

Cr. Masters: It is not possible to get true estimates until we get specifications. It is also necessary to get the Fire Brigade Board's consent to the new station.

Cr. Masters moved "that Fire Brigade Board be consulted and after their approval, specifications be obtained." Seconded by Cr. Leitch and carried.

Power House and Fire Station.

Cr. Hoepner moved: "That Clerk receive Plan No. 2, converting Power House into Fire Station." Cr. Leitch seconded. Carried.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 21 October 1926, page 3

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BALAKLAVA.

Meeting held October 11th, 1926.

— Correspondence. —

From Fire Brigade Board approving plans of new station. Plans and specifications from Mr. H. Firmin Jenkins. Crs. Leitch and Harris moved that tenders be called for next meeting as per plans. Carried.

The Register, Tuesday 28th December 1926 page 5

BALAKLAVA: ITS PRODUCTIVITY

The council has done much during the last few years to forward the interests of Balaklava in general. In November, 1920, it instituted the Fire Brigade system, which is now controlled by the Fire Brigade Board of South Australia. Three years later it appointed a committee which drew up a definite programme of tree planting, and provided in this for the beautification of the park lands. Ultimately, in 1924, the children's playground was opened by Mr. A. W. Robinson, who alone had contributed £100 to the movement. The playground occupies two acres of land, and is equipped with all modern playground appliances — swings, see-saws, a large shelter shed, and lawns. Over 300 trees and shrubs have been planted in the parklands in all, inclusive of those in the plot of land in the centre of the town, known as "The Triangle." Last year the council disposed of the electric light plant, and on August 1 last the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, Limited, began the supply of current to the town and established a transformer substation, and a control system for the northern extensions. The local power house is now being remodelled into an up-to-date council chamber and offices, and the present district council office is being enlarged and fitted out for a new fire station, same to be completed early in the new year.

1927

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 27 January 1927, page 4

Fire Alarm.

A small fire occurred on Monday evening about half past six. In a very short time, Mr. Cavanagh who was on duty alone, had the four reels adjusted and the engine ready to quench the outbreak of what could with 150 lb. pressure to the inch soon subduing what could easily have been a disastrous fire.

Mrs Diesks stated that one of the maids had just returned from wood pile, when the danger was noticed. She quickly warned Mr Saunders into whose property the fire spread destroying the fowlhouse, and small quantity of wood. The direction of the wind prevented.

Mr. Saunders is emphatically in favour of the existence of the Fire Brigade and was heartily appreciative of the prompt action of Mr. Cavanagh who had everything ready before the other fire men arrived. He is confident a good save was effected.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 10 March 1927, page 2

THURSDAY, 10th MARCH 1927.

NEW FIRE STATION—The chairman of the District has invited those interested in the progress of their town, to the formal opening of the New Fire Station. This is a very attractive and handsome structure under its new guise, and of worthy it purpose for so important a town as Balaklava. Doubtless a large number will accept the invitation as few towns are so consciously proud of their importance as this favoured centre. The new Council

Chamber and Fire Station make a pair of buildings which greatly add to the air of prosperity already predominant in Balaklava. The Brigade will give a demonstration.

The Register, Thursday 17th March 1927 page 3

NEW FIRE STATION AT BALAKLAVA.

BALAKLAVA. . March 15. — The new fire station was officially opened at noon to-day. For a number of years the auxiliary fire brigade has been housed in a wood-and-iron structure that had proved inadequate. After conference with the S.A. Fire Brigades Board, the district council decided to provide new quarters. The building, known as the old council chamber was extended, and remodelled on modern lines, and besides meeting the requirements of the brigade, is a decided addition to the town architecture. The building consists of bedroom and recreation room, 16 ft. long and 35 ft. wide, an engine room of the same size, with bathroom and conveniences, and is said to be one of the most up to-date fire premises out of the metropolitan area. The Chairman. of the District Council (Cr. W. H. Manley) presided at the function, and Crs. Leitch, Harris, and Hoepner and members of the Fire Brigade Board, consisting of Messrs. Frinsdorf (Chairman), Hawke, Murray, Jacob, and Beeton (secretary) and Chief-Officer Dickie, were also present. Mr. Frinsdorf in a congratulatory speech requested Mr. Manley to sound the alarm and declare the premises open. This was done amid accompanying applause from the spectators. A demonstration was given by the local brigade under Foreman Blake, the firemen on duty being Messrs. Cavanagh and Matthews. Chief Officer Dickie gave orders. At the official luncheon the attendance included ex-Cr. Virgo, who was interested in the inauguration of the brigade six years ago, Mr. G. Schultz (contractor for the new building), and the District Clerk (Mr. P. Warhurst). The Chairman of the District Council presided. The toast, of 'The Fire Brigade Board and staff', was honoured at the Instance of Mr. Warhurst, and responded to by Messrs. Frinsdorf. Hurray, Jacobs, and Dickie. Mr. Hawke proposed 'The town and district of Balaklava,' to which Cr. Leitch and Mr. Schnltz responded.

The Advertiser Friday 18th March 1927 page 15

NEW FIRE STATION OPENED.

A new fire-station was officially opened at Balaklava on March 15. by the chair man, of the District Council (Mr. W. H. Mariley). For some years the fire brigade had been housed in a wood and iron structure, which had proved inadequate.

The district council, after conferring with the Fire Brigades Board, decided to extend the building known as the old council chambers, for the purpose of providing new quarters. The building was re modelled, and is now considered to be one of the most modern fire stations out of the metropolitan area. Mr. Manley presided at the opening, and Councillors Leitch, Harris, Hoepner, the members of the Fire Brigade Board, Messrs. Frinsdorf (chairman), Hawke, Murray, Jacobs, and Beeton (secretary), and Chief Officer Dickie were present. A demonstration was given by the brigade under Foreman Blake, assisted by Messrs. Cavenagh and Matthews, At the official luncheon ex-Councillor Virgo, who was interested in the inauguration of the brigade six years ago, and Mr. Schultz were present. The toast of "The Fire Brigade and Board," was honored at the instance of Mr. Warhurst, and was responded to by Messrs. Frinsdorf, Murray, Jacobs, and Dickie.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 26 March 1927, page 16

NEW FIRE STATION OPENED.

A new fire-station was officially opened at Balaklava on March 15. by the chairman of the District Council (Mr. W. H. Manley). For some years the fire brigade had been housed in a wood and iron structure, which had proved inadequate. The district council, after conferring with the Fire Brigades Board, decided to extend the building known as the old council chambers, for the purpose of providing new quarters. The building was re-modelled, and is now considered to be one of the most modern fire stations out of the metropolitan area. Mr. Manley presided at the opening, and Councillors Leitch, Harris, Hoepner, the members of the Fire Brigade Board, Messrs. Frinsdorf (chairman), Hawke, Murray, Jacobs, and Beeton (secretary), and Chief Officer Dickie were present. A demonstration was given by the brigade under Foreman Blake, assisted by Messrs. Cavenagh and Matthews. At the official luncheon ex-Councillor Virgo, who was interested in the inauguration of the brigade six years ago, and Mr. Schultz were present. The toast of "The Fire Brigade and Board," was honored at the instance of Mr. Warhurst, and was responded to by Messrs, Frinsdorf, Murray, Jacobs, and Dickie.



State Library of South Australia - Image B4066.jpg, Fire Brigade Station, Balaklava. The new Fire Brigade Station remodelled from the old Council Chambers. Opened by the Chairman of the District Council Mr. W. Manley, 15 March 1927 - the Fire Brigade Officials in the foreground. 1927

1928

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 3 February 1928, page 8

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT BALAKLAVA.

BALAKLAVA, February 2.— The fire brigade at 11.20 last night responded promptly to a call to a fire among packing cases at rear of Mr. A. Diercks's dining rooms. The kitchen wall and ceiling were well alight when checked by the brigade. The fire was first seen by Mr. Champion, who was passing.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 11 February 1928, page 53

DINING-ROOMS ON FIRE.

Balaklava, February 2.

A call was received by the fire brigade at 11.20 p.m. yesterday, to a fire which broke out in the dining-rooms at the rear of Mr. A. Dierck's greengrocer's shop. It was found that the matchwood of the kitchen wall and the ceiling were alight. The fire began among bags and cases at the rear of the dining-rooms. Little damage was done.

1929

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 17 January 1929, page 3

District Council of Balaklava.

Meeting held January 14th.

Business out of Minutes.

Cr Leitch—Has anything been done about the non-erection of the Fire Brigade fence?

Clerk—It's up.

1931

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 4 December 1931, page 17

OUR COUNTRY SECTION

REPORTS FROM RURAL CENTRES

BALAKLAVA

A fire occurred on the property of Mr. J. Dick, Adelaide road. The fire brigade was handicapped by the distance of the nearest main to the fire. The flames swept through a stubble paddock into the adjoining property of Mr. S. Jones. Some of Mr. Dick's grape vines were badly scorched, and several young pine trees were burnt practically bare.

1932

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 14 January 1932, page 5

Tar Boiler Ignites.

The local Fire Brigade received a call on Tuesday morning last, January 12th, at about 9 a.m..

Mr W Marshall was engaged in tarring the Methodist Tennis Courts, and had secured the use of the District Council tar boiler to boil the tar. The machine was full of boiling tar, which either boiled over the top or permeated through the joint where the tap leaves the boiler and entered the fire box. Instantly the whole outfit was a mass of flame and thick black

smoke, and those using it had difficulty in preventing the flames from reaching the partly tarred court.

The Fire Brigade was on the scene in a few minutes, and the chemical extinguishers were first used. These were ineffective, and eventually prolonged spraying with water put out the blaze. Although those in charge of the machine at the time did not think of it, some few of the later arrivals at the scene of the fire were of the opinion that the quickest way to extinguish the blaze would be to smother it by rolling off the barrel of tar which was on the top and placing a large sheet of iron over the opening. There is little doubt that, had this course been adopted, as was suggested at the time by about six different people, the fire would have been out in less time than it took the Brigade to reach it. It is a strange thing that the manufacturers of the boiler omitted to incorporate a hinged lid on the top. Such an arrangement would be an effective protection from both the weather and, in similar cases, fire.

Although the tar boiler was very hot, to all intents and purposes it was undamaged. About £2 worth of tar was wasted.

1934

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 17 February 1921, page 3

Topical Notes.

The Balaklava Fire Brigade Station is being made ready and the motor is expected in a month or so. It is to be hoped that the brigade's installation will not be marked by so many "false alarms" as characterised the opening of the continuous telephone service, when the ceaseless ringing of bells made a night of revelry which will long be remembered. False "alarming" in the case of a Fire Brigade will be found a rather more expensive amusement.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 March 1934, page 15

Y.O.C PROGRESS PLEASES CHAIRMAN

Committees In Most Suburbs And Towns

AIMS OF DRIVE STRESSED

The chairman of the central executive of the Y.O.C. (Mr. Lavington Bonython) said yesterday that some speakers at suburban meetings had complained that the Y.O.C. did not deal directly with employment. That was not its object. It was concerned primarily with finding useful occupation for young men and women until they could find work.

"All those interested in the Y.O.C. know that the ultimate solution of the unemployment problem is employment," Mr. Bonython said, "but we realise, too, that all those now unemployed cannot be put into work at a stroke. As His Excellency the Governor pointed out at the inaugural meeting at Government House, the finding of employment for youth is a world-wide problem. People in South Australia are doing their best to improve the situation, but until world conditions improve the position here, as in other countries, must be acute. Therefore, since the unemployment problem is likely to be with us for some time, efforts must be directed toward minimising its evil effects as much as possible, particularly as they affect the rising generation, for should our young men and women suffer demoralisation through enforced idleness, it will take many years to eliminate its effects, and the

repercussions throughout the nation will be serious. We cannot afford to wait until the tide of employment flows freely again, we must do something now, and it is of that necessity that the Y.O.C. was born.

National Service

"At the meeting at Government House, the Governor, after analysing the problem, said— 'So, although we cannot hope to find regular employment for all our youth in the immediate future, we can make an effort to encourage and assist them to organise healthy occupation for mind and body during their time of unemployment. The problem must be approached from a wide angle. It is not a case of charity, but of national service in which we can all take a hand, in which every citizen has a duty towards those who are out of work through no fault of their own.' That is the spirit which should animate all of us."

"The Y.O.C. has not neglected the subject of direct employment, because it realises that occupation and employment are interlocked, but already there are organisations in existence to place young men and women in positions. In caring for them, and keeping them healthfully and usefully employed until they can find work, the Y.O.C. is breaking new ground. It will willingly co-operate with other bodies concerned with finding employment. Already many local committees have done so, and some, such as that at Colonel Light Gardens, have an employment sub-committee, which has found work for a number of boys and girls. There is nothing to prevent others working for the Y.O.C. from finding jobs for boys and girls. "It is only six weeks since the meeting at which the Y.O.C. was launched was called by the Governor, but there is scarcely a suburb or a large country town which has not formed a local committee, and in many centres active classes for instruction in practical crafts, general or specialised education, games and sports have been started. Such a result proves conclusively that the people of the State realise the urgency of the problem and have determined to set about overcoming it. And although the Y.O.C. is not concerned directly with finding employment as has been pointed out many times, it will be found, when our young people again find work in large numbers that those who have availed themselves of our occupational classes, who have kept themselves physically fit, and who have kept their minds busy will be far better fitted to step into jobs than those who have been content to drift aimlessly.

"In many directions, it is apparent that the Y.O.C. campaign has aroused general interest in the youth problem. If it had done no more than that, it would have justified itself, but it has more ambitious aims, and sees them in a fair measure of realisation."

Progress In Country

There were encouraging developments in the campaign in the country last week. Five classes have been formed at Murray Bridge, mechanical drawing, first aid, woodwork, wireless and motor engineering, beginning with the elements. The first class, that in motor engineering, opened last Wednesday with an attendance of 11, and the next day there were 28 at the evening classes. The local secretary (Mr. A. R. Noltenius) has told the central organiser (Mr. Victor H. Ryan) that all classes open with a short talk on first aid.

Following an enthusiastic first meeting at Balaklava last Monday night, the committee will meet again on Thursday night. Probably a proposal will be put forward for utilising the old fire brigade station which is in a central position in the main street for a clubroom and classroom for unemployed youths. It needs a little renovation, but it is believed that a local

resident who has a first-class knowledge of carpentry would be willing to supervise the work if the boys undertook it themselves.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 12 March 1934, page 8

Y.O.C. PROGRESS AT BALAKLAVA

The secretary and organiser of the committee of the Y.O.C. (Mr. V. H. Ryan) said today that the Balaklava committee had reported good progress. A donation of £20 had been received by that committee, which had in its charge one girls' and 14 boys' classes in carpentry, bookkeeping, first aid, dressmaking, and cookery, had been arranged. The former fire brigade building in Balaklava had been offered to the committee for use as a club. The building was now being renovated. The Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) inspected the Y.O.C. classes at Whitefield's Institute, Hindmarsh, this afternoon.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 25 March 1936, page 1

PHARMACY BURNT AT BALAKLAVA.

Injury to Fireman

BALAKLAVA, Wednesday.—Mr. C. F. Martindale's pharmacy was gutted by fire early today. The fire brigade attended, but the fire had too strong a hold on the premises. Good work was done in saving adjoining premises. Fireman R. Huxtable sustained a deep gash in a leg when the floor over the cellar collapsed. He was taken to hospital, and three stitches were inserted. Fireman W. F. Bowers had a narrow escape when a bottle of acid exploded. Many prescriptions were destroyed, but the duplicates are intact. Mr. Martindale was ignorant of the fire until it had been extinguished. The adjoining premises of Mr. A. Langdons shoe store, Diereks' greengrocer, and Paterson's drapery were badly scorched. The property was insured, but no estimate of loss has been made. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The premises were burnt out in August.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 1 November 1934, page 1

Over £200 Damage in Weekend Fire

Damage estimated at over £200 was caused when a fire broke out in the rear of Mr A J McNeill's newsagency and fancy goods premises at about 6:30 p m. on Saturday night last. The stock was insured.

Prompt action by the Fire Brigade again proved the worth of this valuable service, a good save being effected.

A crowd of some hundreds witnessed the firefighting. The alarm was first given by Mrs E Bromley. The cause of the blaze is unknown.

Considerable sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs McNeill, who have not of late been enjoying the best of health. Business is proceeding as usual, however, while repairs are being effected.

1935

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 3 January 1935, page 4

Last D. Council Meeting for 1934 (Held Over)

CORRESPONDENCE; Fire Brigades Board wrote in appreciation of the Council's commendation of the local brigade's work at McNeill's fire.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 24 January 1935, page 3

January Meeting of Balaklava District Council

Crs. W. A. Tiller (chairman), H. Curtis, E. Clarke, J. Spillane and E. W. Wilson, and the Clerk (Mr. P. Warhurst) were present at the January 14 meeting of the Balaklava District Council.

Cr. Curtis said that he had learned from Mr. J. F. McMahon, of the Water Works Department, that the ordinary fire plug, which was quite as efficient as the hydrant, could be put down at a cost of about £6, and he thought that the £22/10/0 asked for a hydrant was, therefore, unnecessary. It was decided to get a quote for a fire plug.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 August 1935, page 10

Fire In Chemist's Shop

Prompt work by the Balaklava Fire Brigade saved Mr. C. F. Martindale's pharmacy from being a total loss when on Friday afternoon a fire destroyed the rear portion of the premises. Mr. Martindale had been operating a duplicator when he stepped backwards, knocking over a kerosene heater. The liquid spilt over the floor, and in a few minutes chemically printed labels, and photographic material were ablaze. Miss J. Schulz was able to save a number of files of prescriptions. Damage by fire, smoke and water is estimated at £300. The building and stock were insured.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 8 August 1935, page 1

Two Good Saves By Local Firemen

No two better reasons for being proud of the Balaklava Fire Brigade could be found than the two occasions last week on which their efficient and prompt work was responsible for the saving of much property.

Chimney Alight

On Thursday, August 1, at about 4:50 p.m., Miss Ruth Wright, invalid daughter of Sgt and Mrs Wright, was at home alone. She lit a fire in the living room, and shortly afterwards the soot in the chimney ignited, and rugs and carpets began to burn. The local brigade was on the spot in less than three minutes, and soon had the fire in hand. The damage, estimated at £10/10/0, was covered by insurance.

A strong wind was blowing at the time and Sgt Wright is convinced that but for the Brigade's speedy work, the house would have been gutted. He was so impressed with the performance that he sent a letter of commendation to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

Pharmacy Blaze

Last Friday was the coldest, and perhaps the wettest day of the year, so that Mr C F Martindale was most unlucky to have a fire occur at his pharmacy on that afternoon. While operating a duplicating machine at the rear of his shop, Mr Martindale stepped backwards, knocking over a nearby (and badly needed!) kerosene heater, the contents of which were soon burning furiously on the floor. It was soon apparent that the Brigade's services would

be required, and again they were on the job in a few minutes. This was the first occasion on which the fire plug, recently installed opposite the Eudunda Farmers' store by the District Council and storekeepers concerned, was used. Had this not been available, valuable minutes would have been lost in linking the hoses to the nearest plug, near the Royal Hotel.

Damage by fire, smoke and water, estimated at between £200 and £300, was covered by insurance. Miss Jean Schulz was able to save valuable files of patients' prescriptions, but printed labels, chemicals, photographic material and cutlery were destroyed.

Mention must be made of Fireman W F Bowers, who, although a sick man at the time, did not let this interfere with the execution of his duties.

Both fires were reported to Mr A J McNeill, J.P., Coroner, who deemed inquests unnecessary.

1936

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 25 March 1936, page 1

PHARMACY BURNT AT BALAKLAVA.

Injury to Fireman

BALAKLAVA, Wednesday.—Mr. C. F. Martindale's pharmacy was gutted by fire early today. The fire brigade attended, but the fire had too strong a hold on the premises. Good work was done in saving adjoining premises. Fireman R. Huxtable sustained a deep gash in a leg when the floor over the cellar collapsed. He was taken to hospital, and three stitches were inserted. Fireman W. F. Bowers had a narrow escape when a bottle of acid exploded. Many prescriptions were destroyed, but the duplicates are intact. Mr. Martindale was ignorant of the fire until it had been extinguished. The adjoining premises of Mr. A. Langdons shoe store, Diercks' greengrocer, and Paterson's drapery were badly scorched. The property was insured, but no estimate of loss has been made. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The premises were burnt out in August.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 26 March 1936, page 1

Early Morning Pharmacy Blaze

Going to work about 4:50 a.m. yesterday morning, Mr E Bull, a baker in the employ of Mr J R Cunningham, noticed smoke issuing from Mr C F Martindale's pharmacy, and he immediately went to the Fire Station and gave the alarm. In a few minutes the Brigade was in action, and a large crowd had assembled, but the flames had got a good hold, and were not extinguished until hundreds of pounds worth of damage had been caused, the shop being practically gutted, the stock rendered worthless, and many glass windows being broken by heat, smoke, and steam. Nearby premises were badly scorched.

Fireman R Huxtable severely gashed a leg when his weight broke through the floor into the cellar, and three stitches had to be inserted in the wound. Mrs A Diercks rendered first aid, and also supplied cups of tea to the fire fighters. Fireman W B Bowers escaped serious injury when a bottle containing chemicals exploded in his face.

Recently a new hydrant was installed near these premises, and the value of this was again shown. In August, last year, a fire was caused in Mr Matindale's premises when a kerosene

heater capsized, but there is no apparent cause for this outbreak. The damage is largely covered by insurance.

Mr Martindale is carrying on in premises adjoining Goldsbrough, Mort's office until such time as his own shop is again fit for use.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 1 October 1936, page 6

Fire Brigade Called Out

The fire brigade was called to extinguish a minor blaze at the rear of Mr H Tidswell's premises yesterday morning, when some packing cases caught alight. Their prompt arrival resulted in little damage being done.

1937

The Advertiser, Friday 25th June 1937 page 25

Reports From Rural Centres

BALAKLAVA The old fire station, the property of the district council, has been moved from its old site to the council crusher yard, where it will be used in storing the concrete paving slabs as they are made and until used for the footpaths of the town.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 11 November 1937, page 3

FIRE BRIGADE CALLED OUT ON 5TH

A call for the Balaklava Volunteer Fire Brigade shortly before midday on Friday last, in very hot weather, attracted more than the ordinary public interest, possibly because the day was the anniversary of the Gun-Powder Plot of 1605. However, there was no connection, and when the brigade reached the source of the call—a paddock at the rear of Nurse Cowan's—in Short Terrace, they found that neighbours had quelled the outbreak in the grass and that there was no danger.

1938

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 13 January 1938, page 1

Present at the meeting were Councillor H. Roberts (chairman). E. W. Wilson, Jas. Spillane, W. A. Tiller, M. J. Smith, J. F. Neumann, and C. H. Clarke and the Clerk (Mr. P. F. A. Warhurst). Cr. East being the only absentee, and after the minutes had been read and confirmed the chairman advised that E. Urlwin had quoted £11/10/- for removing the old ceiling in the Fire Station and replacing it with a new plaster board one. The price was accepted, as the work badly needed doing. The area of the ceiling is about 11 feet by 25 feet. A letter was received from Mr. J. Blake, who pointed out that white ants were well established in the floor of the Fire Station, and it was decided to make an inspection after the meeting.



*State Library of South Australia - Balaklava [B 9069], Aerial view of Balaklava. 1938.
Photographer, Skyways. Part of Balaklava Collection.*

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 17 February 1938, page 2

NEW FIRE ENGINE MEANS 1D. INCREASE IN RATING

DISTRICT COUNCIL TO PROTEST TO FIRE BRIGADES BOARD

At Monday's meeting of the Balaklava District Council, when Crs. H. Roberts (chairman), C. H. Clark, R. C. East, J. F. Neumann, J. M. Smith, W. A. Tiller, Jas. Spillane, and E. W. Wilson and the Clerk (Mr. P. F. A. Warhurst) were present, notice was received from the Fire Brigades Board that they had found it necessary to replace the Ford appliance at the Balaklava Fire Station with a more up-to-date machine, and the sum of £400 had been included in this year's estimates to provide for same. The Board proposes to replace all Ford appliances in country towns this year. The estimate of the probable necessary expenditure within the district for the year ending 31/12/38 is as follows (two ninths of this amount is payable by the local District Council): Maintenance £204; accident insurance £5; general management £14; uniforms £15; rent, rates and taxes £56; telephone and alarms £2; contingencies £25; plant £435; total £756.

It was decided to protest to the Board against the increase, as the present appliance was considered quite satisfactory. However, it is deemed unlikely that the protest will meet with approval, and it will be necessary to increase the rating in order to provide for the extra expenditure, which will entail a quarterly payment of £46 instead of £17 as heretofore. This is for one year only.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Repairs to the Fire Station are held up to allow the treatment for white ants which were infesting the floor to take full effect.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 19 May 1938, page 2

LITTLE ACTIVIY IN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

SHORT MAY MEETING

Crs. H. Roberts (chairman), C. H. Clarke, R. C. East, J. F. Neumann, J. M. Smith. Jas. Spillane, W. A. Tiller and E. W. Wilson and the clerk (Mr. P. F. A. Warhurst) were present at the May 9th meeting of the Balaklava District Council. The business was largely of a routine nature, and occupied only about two hours.

Matters arising from the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting included that of the street light in North Balaklava near Busbridge's. The clerk stated that a quote of 25/-for its removal to the Railway Station turnstile had been received, and the work was authorised. This will be a big convenience to residents in this part of the town, and was not carried out before owing to the high quotations (£18 odd) previously received. In reply to Cr. Roberts, the clerk stated that Mrs. C. B. Webb had been notified of the Council's decision regarding her application to lease a road. The clerk informed Cr. Spillane that L. A. Smith had been advised to delay the installation of a petrol pump until after May 15, otherwise a full year's charges would be payable for a few weeks use.

A suggestion at the last meeting that the old fire engine should be used for a Council utility was again discussed, the clerk stating that the Fire Brigades Board would sell the appliance to the highest bidder: it was decided to make an inspection before submitting a tender. (After the meeting, members adjourned to the Fire Station, and after a thorough inspection decided to do nothing further in the matter. The appliance is mounted on a 1914 T-model imported Ford chassis, and has covered about 3,000 miles since commissioned at Balaklava in 1922. The cost of conversion was deemed too great to be considered by the Council.)

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 16 June 1938, page 2

The Balaklava Volunteer Fire Brigade received a test call yesterday afternoon, and was congratulated on its effort.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 23 June 1938, page 2

£75 DAMAGE IN HOSPITAL BLAZE

Prompt action by the local Fire Brigade prevented the spread of the fire which broke out in the drying room at the Balaklava Soldiers Memorial District Hospital at about 6.30 p.m. on Monday evening last, when townspeople were drawn from their evening meals and warm firesides by the strident note of the siren.

The alarm was given by Miss D. Bowers, and when the Brigade arrived the room was a mass of flame, which consumed or charred all the woodwork and a large quantity of blankets and linen, and caused most of the plastering to disintegrate. A large crowd assembled, and witnessed the speedy quelling of the blaze when the water was played upon it.

It is believed that a burning log fell from the open fireplace on to the floor, and so started the outbreak. No doubt a wire mesh screen will be placed in front of the fireplace when repairs are effected, and so prevent a repetition of the occurrence. The damage is estimated at £75.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 25 August 1938, page 6

NEW FIRE-FIGHTING UNIT READY FOR USE

Last Thursday morning, Balaklava's new fire-fighting unit arrived in the town in charge of an officer of the Fire Brigades Board, who had driven the unit from Adelaide.

During the week Mr. J. Blake, Foreman of the Balaklava Volunteer Brigade, pointed out to us the advantages the new machine has over the obsolete Ford machine which has now been replaced. The latest appliance, in common with all the new units in the city and country, is mounted on a Diamond T chassis with 25 h.p. motor. There is locker space for 2,500 feet of hose in 100ft. lengths, and all but 500 feet of this length of hose is stored in the unit. Stand-pipes and keys are duplicated, one on each side of the unit, so that connection may be made to the mains without having to manoeuvre into position, and three different nozzles are carried, together with gas masks, an axe and three chemical extinguishers. Mounted on brackets above the lockers is a 36ft. extension ladder.

As everyone knows, the fire siren is tested at 7 p.m. every night, and for five minutes or so each night the motor is run to keep the battery charged in readiness for a quick start.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 29 September 1938, page 2

PARS. ABOUT PEOPLE

The Balaklava Volunteer Fire Brigade received a test call from Finlayson's butter factory yesterday morning, their first since the installation of the new equipment. Their speedy exit from the station and celerity in reaching the factory spoke volumes for the efficacy of the men and machine.

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 27 October 1938, page 5

COUNCIL MEETS AT NIGHT: PROBABLE HARVEST PRACTICE

Owing to farming operations at this time of the year, the Balaklava District Council met in the evening for the session on October 6th last,

DEPUTATIONS

Mr. J. Blake, of the Balaklava Fire Brigade, waited on the Council to acquaint them with a serious shortage of fire plugs in the town, and suggested that additional plug's be placed as follows in order that the modern fire engine could operate at its maximum efficiency: 1, near McCallum's residence: 2, near Mrs. Sires senr's. residence; 3, near A. L. Shuttleworth's residence; 4, near the Shell Co's. depot; 5, near E. R. Metcalf's residence; 6, near C. W. March's residence. Mr. Blake said that at present many houses were unprotected, and the installation of the suggested plugs had been recommended by members of the Fire Brigades Board during their recent visit to Balaklava.

Mr. Blake was thanked for his attendance, and it was decided to approach the Commissioner of Public Works on the matter.

1939

Wooroora Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1909 - 1940), Thursday 26 October 1939, page 2

CHILD'S PLAY WITH MATCHES CAUSE OF GRASS FIRE

The dangers of children playing with matches and ignorance of the powers of fire were illustrated yesterday afternoon in the grass fire which burnt some two acres at the rear of the homes of Messrs. E. O. Hansen and A. P. Urlwin. The Fire Brigade answered a call at

about 4.25 p.m. and found that the fire had started behind Mr. Hansen's home before the wind had driven it north-ward, taking a straw stack in its path. The Brigade had to contend with the handicap of very low water pressure, but removed any further danger.

1944

From the History of the Balaklava CFS - Jenny Stewart, Balaklava Brigade Administration Officer

On 12 October 1944, the council bought a Beresford Stork pumping unit, which was housed in the council car shed when it wasn't mounted on a council truck. One of the conditions of the purchase was that a crew had to be trained. The crew consisted of nine Emergency Fire Service fire control officers and three volunteers.

1946

Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1940 - 1950), Thursday 21 November 1946, page 1

NOVEMBER 11 MEETING OF BALAKLAVA DIST. COUNCIL

The Chairman (Cr. E. W. Wilson) presided over the meeting of the Balaklava District Council held on Monday, November 11 last, when Crs. J. Spillane, P. J. Clonan C. Crawford, C. A. F. Thompson, H. Bowden and J. J. Flounders were present.

Danger of bush fires this year was great, said Cr. Spillane, who thought more Fire Controllers were needed. The Clerk stated that the number was limited. Lack of public interest was generally deplored, and reference made to the fact that when a demonstration was given recently of the Council's trailer pump, there were hardly any spectators. The Clerk stated that all Council appliances were standing ready at all times. Chairman Wilson said that at Mallala, Council employes formed one gang, and all East Bros, employes another, in case of emergency, and suggested a similar voluntary band be formed in Balaklava to act in the absence of the Council gang. Cr. Crawford referred to the shortage of fire hydrants, and reported that Mr. S. Lally had asked Riverton District Council to install a hydrant on the boundary road. Many farmers, like the Lally Brothers, had supplied their own fire-fighting equipment to meet the threat. The next three months were a dangerous period. Discussing insurance, Crs. were informed that where a private individual's truck was used under orders from a Fire Controller, and damaged, it was covered by insurance, and that farmers were only eligible for compensation for damage to crops when breaks three chains wide had been ploughed around them. Weaknesses of the present setup were discussed, one of these being that often telephones were left unmanned at times when it was essential to have someone in attendance. The law required all tractors to be equipped with spark arresters during certain months of the year, and a tractor driver was foolish not to carry a spray on his machine. Absence of spark arresters should be reported at once, if detected. It was decided to call a meeting of Fire Controllers and others interested on November 20 (last night) to review the whole position.

1948

From the History of the Balaklava CFS - Jenny Stewart, Balaklava Brigade Administration Officer

By 1948 it was obvious that this set-up was impractical, so the council bought a 1942 Ford known as the Blitz for 325 pounds. Members fitted it out and the Blitz was commissioned on 31 January 1948 by the late Fred Kerr. A Country Climax trailer pump was also obtained around this time.

Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1940 - 1950), Thursday 14 October 1948, page 5

COUNCILLORS AND FIRE TEAMS ADDRESSED BY MR. F. J. MEANEY

TRAILER PUMP TO BE REPACED

Fire fighting is the responsibility of everyone and it must not be left entirely to members of fire teams, said the Director of Emergency Fire Services in S.A. (Mr. F. T. Meaney) in a short address to councillors and members of the fire team at the Council Chamber yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Meaney complimented the Council on its purchase of the special fire truck. When a fire was first reported time was the deciding factor and a vehicle previously loaded with a tank of water and equipment could quickly reach the scene of the outbreak while the fire was still in its infancy.

Now that a truck had been obtained continued Mr. Meaney the trailer pump would be withdrawn and an English-type pump of similar capacity provided. This was desirable because the trailer and pump could then be supplied to other centres which did not have a special fire truck. The new pump would be carried on the fire truck.

Members who gave their services voluntarily were entitled to the support of District Councils in the issue of uniforms and in other matters.

Each year in Adelaide annual competitions are held for fire teams and a 50 guinea cup provided for the winners. Each member of the team also received 5 guineas. This was to give some encouragement for teams to become keen and efficient.

Mr. Meaney was impressed with the map prepared by the District Clerk which he said was a good idea provided fire control officers were aware of the details thereon. Each district was entitled to 15 fire control officers and approval could be granted for another 15 officers from the Minister of Agriculture.

After the address Mr. Meaney instructed members of the fire teams in the use of the fire fighting equipment.

Councillors E. W. Wilson (chairman) and G. E. Reid; J. Smith; C. Crawford; C. A. F. Thompson; J. Spillane; P. Clonan and H. E. Bowden with the overseer, Mr. Max Wright and the assistant Clerk Miss J. Hutson were present.

Reporting on the purchase of the fire truck Cr. Wilson said that the District Clerk and Overseer made enquiries and a 4 x 4 ex-Army truck had been purchased for £325. It was fitted with a Ford Mercury engine which had only done 8,000 miles. A tank and engine-driven pump had been fitted and the new plant was a valuable addition to the fire fighting equipment.

Subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture the name of Mr. J. G. OHara, Bowillia was added to the list of fire controllers.

Producer (Balaklava, SA : 1940 - 1950), Thursday 20 January 1949, page 6

COVENTRY-CLIMAX FIRE PUMP NOW TO HAND

A new pump to replace the Berestord-Stork trailer pump previously used by the Balaklava fire team was delivered by the Director of Emergency Fire Services (Mr. F. J. Meaney) on Monday.

The new equipment—a Coventry Climax—will be carried on the back of the District Council's fire truck. The change over was authorised when the 4x4 truck was purchased last year. It was considered that the trailer pump could then be used to better advantage by District Councils not in possession of a truck especially for fire fighting purposes.

Regular fire fighting practice will be re-instituted in the near future when all members of the team will be expected to become sufficiently proficient to deal with any outbreak of fire which may occur during the approaching danger period.

1953

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 January 1953, page 1

RECORD DEMAND ON FIREFIGHTERS

Outbreaks Fanned by Searing Winds

The greatest demand in its history was made on SA fire fighting services yesterday when, with the temperature near the century, many grass fires were fanned by searing northerly winds.

At one stage, fire brigade headquarters was unable to answer further calls for assistance because of the need to retain sufficient appliances in case of a major city outbreak.

A total of 26 out-breaks — 16 in the metropolitan area — were reported and appliances at fire headquarters and suburban fire stations were busy answering calls throughout the day. At 2.15 p.m. the demand for appliances reached its peak, when 10 machines were called from headquarters to aid suburban firemen. The Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said that the three-way radios fitted to every appliance had proved themselves yesterday. "On several occasions appliances were diverted from less serious outbreaks to more important ones through the radio hook-up." he added. Between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. yesterday, men at brigade headquarters had repaired more than a mile of fire hose, used against outbreaks during the day.

BALAKLAVA, Jan. 13.— A fire which broke out on the property of Mr. E. Redpath, west of Hoyleton, this morning, and was fanned by a 40-mile-an-hour wind, burned 40 acres of stubble and several chains of fencing.

2008

Volunteer Magazine July 2008

By: Jenny Stewart, Balaklava

Brigade Administration Officer

The rich history of the Balaklava CFS was celebrated on 25 May at the Balaklava CFS Station. The event began with a toast to the CFS and continued through lunch, followed by another toast and finished up with afternoon tea. Life members of the Brigade were on hand to share memories of the 'old days' and stories of how things have changed over the years.

HISTORY:

In January 1944, the then Premier Tom Playford announced that rural councils would be responsible for fire protection. On 12 October 1944, the council bought a Beresford Stork pumping unit, which was housed in the council car shed when it wasn't mounted on a council truck. One of the conditions of the purchase was that a crew had to be trained. The crew consisted of nine Emergency Fire Service fire control officers and three volunteers. By 1948 it was obvious that this set-up was impractical, so the council bought a 1942 Ford known as the Blitz for 325 pounds. Members fitted it out and the Blitz was commissioned on 31 January 1948 by the late Fred Kerr. A Country Climax trailer pump was also obtained around this time. In 1950 the Brigade formed a women's auxiliary and in July 1958 the Brigade was registered. By 5 August 1964, the Ford Blitz was no longer adequate and the council was again approached for a more appropriate vehicle. Members continued to petition the council and became so disgruntled they threatened to resign, which they did on 15 September 1965. With public support, a Ford F700 was purchased and fitted out by Brigade members. A new International unit was bought in 1977 and this time the fit out was carried out by Carey Gully. A fire station was built and it opened on 28 February 1978, at which time the International vehicle was commissioned by Fred Kerr. In 1978 on 9 May, the Brigade was re-registered as the Balaklava Country Fire Service and again in 1983 on 11 October when the council became the District Council of Wakefield Plains. In November 1984, a Ford F100 four wheel drive was obtained to enable better off-road capability. In 1993 the station was upgraded, with a communications room, meeting room, shower and toilet amenities added. Over the years equipment has changed but the Brigade continues to respond to fires and other emergencies in a Hino, the Balaklava 24, and an Isuzu, the Balaklava 24P, appliances which are purpose built, safe and reliable. The Brigade currently boasts 33 members, including nine life members and five cadets who are anticipating a new station in the near future. Sixty years of hard work, support and the dedication of many volunteers have ensured Balaklava and the surrounding district has a viable and efficient Brigade proudly serving the community.

More information can be found on this brigade at the CFS Promotions Unit History section of our website, for appliance and station details.

<https://www.fire-brigade.asn.au/about-sacfs-history/default.asp>