

North Adelaide Fire Brigade



North Adelaide Fire Station 2024 Google Maps

https://adelaidepedia.com.au/wiki/North_Adelaide_Fire_Station

North Adelaide Fire Station

This was built as a shop for John Lammey in 1866 just as Tynte Street was developing its high street appearance with the construction of public and commercial buildings, Lammey's financial commitment to it is reflected by the number of mortgages he took out during the 1860s and 1870s. Eventually the 1880s depression resulted in a foreclosure by Garlick and Acraman in 1887.

Designed by Daniel Garlick in 1866, the building is of considerable architectural note. Measuring 30 feet by 40 feet in depth, it consisted of a shop front with a living room at the rear and living quarters on the upper floor.

After 1887 the building was occupied by several people until 1904, when plans were approved for alterations for a fire station and the ground floor was greatly altered. This was a notable event in its own right, reflecting the expansion of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Service that had been founded in 1882.

The upper floor is largely original and displays restrained classical detail. The french doors, pediment and cantilevered balcony are crisply detailed. It is useful to compare this with Garlick & McMinn's design for Queen's Chambers in 1869 and Garlick's design for 150-154 Rundle Mall in 1887, which show a progressive elaboration of facades and decoration. This building illustrates the more restrained and academic architecture that prevailed before the peak of the boom period in the 1870s and early 1880s.

The North Adelaide Heritage Group have recently converted the Fire Station into a boutique inn, offering three suites within the building.

1858

Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Tuesday 26 January 1858, page 3

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.—On Monday, at noon, a fire broke out in the stable of Mr. Pretty, water-carrier, of Cambridge-street, near Wellington-square. North Adelaide, which in

an incredibly short time was burnt to the ground. The thermometer was standing at 102 in the shade at the time, but fortunately there was very little wind blowing. The stable, though isolated from any other building, stood in a position surrounded by dwelling-houses, from whence, on the first alarm of fire being given, numbers of women and children rushed forth uttering the most distressing cries. Nothing but the most energetic exertions on the part of the men whom the alarm had called to the spot prevented the conflagration spreading far and wide. The adjoining fences were speedily broken down and removed, and the contents of every Water-but in the neighbourhood used unsparingly in quenching the flames or preventing their spread. Just as the last available pail of water had been used for this purpose a water-cart arrived on the spot belonging to Mr. Finden, which was soon afterwards followed by several others. At this critical juncture the roof of Mr. Pretty's dwelling-house had caught fire, but the timely application of a wet blanket was the means of saving it from destruction. The stable was composed entirely of wood, and contained about half a ton of hay. The cause of the fire is at present unknown, but it is supposed to have originated in the spontaneous combustion of some damp hay. Besides the destruction of the stable and its contents, considerable damage was done to the fencing, &c., belonging to the gardens of the adjoining houses inhabited by Mr. Henry Hawkes and Mr. James Pearce. The premises destroyed are not insured. The loss is estimated at £100. North Adelaide being one of the City wards is entitled, we think, to have a fire-engine stationed there. The coroner instituted an enquiry into the origin of the fire the same day. It appears that it originated in one of the many old inflammable wooden sheds that still exist in Adelaide. In this instance the shed was closely surrounded by low chimneys, and only two or three yards removed from the back door of the dwelling-house. The only wonder is that it has not been destroyed before. There were no suspicious circumstances attending the fire.

1863

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 25 November 1863, page 2

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

On Tuesday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in a stable at the rear of some premises in Archer-street, occupied by Mr. Lockwood, upholsterer. The alarm was given immediately after the fire broke out, and the North Adelaide Fire Brigade arrived on the spot within a few minutes with the hose reel, which was at once got into operation, and the men of the Brigade, with the assistance of the neighbors and a most abundant supply of water, soon extinguished the flames, the damage being confined to the hay which was stored in the stable. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigades, who was on the spot, made every enquiry to ascertain the origin of the fire, but could find no trace of it.

Adelaide Express (SA : 1863 - 1866), Wednesday 27 January 1864, page 3

LOCAL COURT—ADELAIDE.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27.

[Before Mr. Commissioner Macdonald.]

Baker v. Brice.—Mr. Stow for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ingleby for the defendant. This was an action under the Act of the 6th, of 1862, known as "The Fire Brigade Act," for £10 10s. expenses incurred in respect of a fire which broke out on the defendant's premises in Archer-street, North Adelaide. A. J. Baker, Superintendent to the Fire Brigade, stated that his duty was to attend fires and superintend the men, so that the expenses were not made excessive, and to protect property on fire. The brigade was called out by the alarm-bell, and he attended and paid four men 2s. 6d. each to assist, and saved the whole of the property which belonged to Mr. Brice. He charged £10 10s. in all; 10s. to the informer, which was the fee for giving the alarm to the man in charge of the brigade, ringing the Wesleyan bell at North Adelaide 10s. There was only one brigade out; because he did not think the others necessary. The reward

for the first "reel" was £3. There were three reels, drawn by two brigade men. The reel men were paid 8s. per hour, the regular charge allowed. He considered £2. 2s. for himself a reasonable charge, because he thought he had saved a valuable property from destruction, and if there had not been his superintendence, the charge of labor might have been run up to a very large extent. The expense of keeping up the brigades was about £100 per annum, therefore he considered the charge of £2 2s. for the wear and tear of the hose was reasonable. By Mr. Ingleby—It was the roof of a shed which caught fire, partly of shingle, Some of the roof was of iron. There was some hay in the shed. There was no fire when he, witness, arrived, only outside. The fore-man of the brigade had a bill for refreshment to the men. The brigade men were paid 10s. for cleaning the hose and drying it. There was a house to the south-west in East-street, belonging to Mr. Hall, covered with iron, and about 15 feet from the shed, if it had been a large fire, water would have been required to be thrown over Hall's house, which would have been in danger. Templer's house would also have been endangered. Templer's lay to the north of Hall's, which was at the north-west, and Brice's cottages were to the east. If the wind had been blowing towards Hall's house Mr. Brice's cottages would have been endangered, and if Brice's property had been on fire, the whole of that part of North Adelaide would have been endangered. There was an iron-roofed stable 10 feet from the shed, and belonging to Mr. Hall; but it had no hay in it that he saw. By Mr. Stow—Mr. Brice had ten cottages together there. The immediate protection which was rendered at the fire had reference to Mr. Brice's property, and no other. He went to the fire as soon as he was called, but it was out when he arrived there. By His Honor—He was paid by the Insurance Companies for surveying the risks of insurance according to the amount of the policies, but received no salary from the Government. Brice's stable was only partly covered with iron. G. Harris stated that he was in charge of the brigade at the fire. The hay and part of the stable was on fire when he arrived. The charges made by Mr. Baker were reasonable. There was a great deal of wear and tear to the hose in moving it about. He considered £2 2s. was a very reasonable charge. The fire-plug was right opposite the property on fire, and there was no occasion to throw water upon any other property but Mr. Brice's. Samuel Carvosso stated that he had looked at the charges and considered them moderate compared with what he used to pay. He was in charge of a brigade for eight years. He knew the expenses then at one fire had amounted to from £300 to £400. A witness named Henrich Tieste, called by Mr. Ingleby, stated that the shed was covered with iron, and he was there when the fire was first discovered, and went to it with a bucket a second or two after another man. They threw the bucket of water over the hay, which prevented it spreading, and as soon as he put the fire out he heard the fire bell, and soon after the reel came up, and those with it fixed it on, and threw water into the shed with it, although the fire was out before they came up. They wanted him to assist to get the roof off, which could not be done. They were not satisfied, and then broke down a part of the side of the shed, and after throwing some water in by the hose, seeing they could not make themselves anything more to do, they said they would send for Mr. Baker. By Mr. Stow—The fire was quite out when the brigade came up, because he stood in the middle of the hay where the fire had been, and it was all out around him. A witness named Bourke said he went to assist and put the fire out, which was completely extinguished in about five minutes, and no fire at all to be seen when the brigade came up. By Mr. Stow—What water the brigade did throw was only to "drown the people." Plenty of people got wet. There was no use for the brigade at all. Herman Brice stated that there was not more than £200 worth of property in danger In fact he would sell the whole property for £600 or £700 to-morrow if he could get it. Mr. Hall's house was worth £600. He knew nothing of the fire, as he was not at home at the time, but there was not much damage done. Harris was recalled by Mr. Stow, who repeated that the fire was not out when he arrived. There was fire seen when the two last witnesses were inside, and he directed the hose through a hole and they got some of the water, and that was meant when one of them said the hose did no good but wetting the people. This was the whole of the evidence. The question as raised by the argument of the counsel on both sides was principally whether Mr. Brice alone was liable, or whether the surrounding neighbours whose property was endangered should not contribute their proportion of the expenses, Mr. Ingleby contending that they were liable, and Mr. Stow, on the contrary, that Mr. Brice alone was liable, as all the operations were confined to his premises

alone. His Honor considered under the Act that the defendant was liable, but agreed to reserve the point to Mr. Ingleby if he wished it. His Honor gave judgment for the plaintiff for £6 6s.

1864

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 23 February 1864, page 2

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

On Monday about noon an unoccupied wooden building situated in Finniss-street, North Adelaide, and belonging to Mr. Robert Hawkes, was burned down. Police Constables Wright and Driscoll, together with the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, were in attendance and used every exertion in connection with others to arrest the extension of the flames. No clue has been discovered as to the origin of the fire. The circumstances have been reported to the Coroner.

Adelaide Express (SA : 1863 - 1866), Tuesday 23 February 1864, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

Dr. Woodforde, after making due enquiries as to the origin of the fire at North Adelaide yesterday afternoon, did not deem it necessary to hold an inquest.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 27 February 1864, page 5

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Coroner did not hold an inquest on Tuesday on the fire which took place at North Adelaide, because he thought some additional evidence might perhaps be elicited by delaying the enquiry a day or so. No information, however, reaching him, he summoned a Jury on Wednesday to investigate, if possible, the circumstances connected with the origin of the occurrence. Mr. F. Vesey was chosen foreman. Two witnesses were examined — Mr. Stace and Mr. Meyers (surgeon dentist) — but they could give no clue as to the cause of the conflagration. It appeared that the tenement destroyed was a wooden shed, sometimes used as a stable by the neighbors, situated behind Mr. J. Richardson's property, and at the rear of Mr. Hawkes's row of two-storey houses in Melbourne-street. It had been built about 20 years, and the wood had consequently become very inflammable. Besides this, a quantity of easily ignitable rubbish had been deposited there, and children being accustomed to play about, it was surmised that they had left some matches there, thus causing the fire. This, however, is only a surmise, for no evidence could be obtained to prove how the place became ignited. The building was in the vicinity of very valuable property, and if the wind had been stronger, or the exertions of the neighbors less prompt, the consequences might have been most disastrous. The Coroner pointed this out in his remarks to the Jury, and said it was high time the Corporation compelled the destruction of such buildings, many of which might be seen about the city, for they were not only liable to fire, but were dangerous for children to play in. If the present case led the Corporation to adopt his suggestion the fire would not be without its good results. The Jury returned a verdict that there was nothing to show how the fire originated, and, acting upon the Coroner's observations, they agreed to add the following rider: —"The Jury think the time has arrived when the Corporation should see to the removal of such buildings as the one destroyed, they being very dangerous in the vicinity of valuable property."

1869

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 27 March 1869, page 4

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

Fire at North Adelaide.—Early on Friday morning, March 19, between 12 and 1 o'clock, a fire broke out in the bakery of Mr. W. Hillier, Lower North Adelaide. The inmates and neighbours

were quickly aroused, and there being plenty of water at hand the raging element was subdued in a comparatively short space of time. The fire was not discovered at all too soon, as it spread from the bakery to the main building, which, although in the course of being covered in with galvanized iron, contained a quantity of shingle that proved very combustible. No. 4 Reel from North Adelaide was brought down without delay, but was on the spot too late to be of any service. It is not known how the fire originated. About £50 worth of stock, &c., was consumed, which will be the loss of the proprietor, who was uninsured, Mr. A. J. Baker was on the spot on Saturday morning, and enquired into the circumstances of the mishap.

1876

Wednesday 23rd February 1876 – Fire at Mr Bunday's Carpenters Shop, North Adelaide.
Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 26 February 1876, page 6

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

About half-past 6 on Wednesday evening, February 23, a fire broke out near the Lion Brewery, Lower North Adelaide, in a carpenter's shop belonging to Mr. W. Bunday, builder, and situate at the rear of his house on Mackinnon-parade. At first dense smoke was seen rising from the building, and immediately after-wards large volumes of flame burst forth. The shop, which was about 30 yards from Mr. Bunday's house, and was divided from it by a wooden shed, was two-storied, and built of brick and limestone with a galvanized iron roof and wooden front. It was 40 feet long by 20 high, and contained, beside workmen's tools, prepared window frames, sashes, &c., besides a large quantity of timber. Nothing was saved, although as soon as the fire was discovered a number of neighbours assisted willingly—some throwing water and others pulling down the wooden shed and the fence around the building. The fire reels were immediately sent for, and the police soon attended, Inspectors Searcy and Peterswald, with a dozen police and troopers, keeping good order and rendering valuable assistance. At the back of the workshop were some cottages not more than 40 feet from the fire, and as they were in danger the furniture was hastily re-moved. The cottages, however, escaped injury, doubtless through the prompt action of the neighbours, which prevented the fire from spreading. Mr. Bunday had just before the discovery of the fire gone to town, but his wife and Mr. George Bunday were in the house. Mrs. Bunday having shortly before the alarm was given been in the shop, Mr. G. Bunday thought that his mother was in the midst of the flames and unable to escape. This brought on a fit, which necessitated his removal to a neighbour's house, where Dr. Mackintosh attended him. At 9 o'clock he had not recovered consciousness, and his father deemed it prudent to send for another doctor. The first reel on the spot was No. 4, in care of Mr. Smith, of North Adelaide, which commenced playing at ten minutes past 7; but by that time the roof had fallen in. Reels Nos. 1 and 2, in charge of Messrs. Spence and Benbow, soon after came, and their efforts were successful in saving the adjacent property. During their operations the blaze was reduced to smoke, which at a distance resembled that of a grass fire. No hope of saving the premises was entertained from the first. The whole of the building was gutted, its contents being consumed. At 9 o'clock there was no fear of further damage. The workshop was used during the day by three employes of Mr. Bunday. One of these men, who is a new arrival, had a quantity of valuable tools, which have been destroyed. The owner of the property was in and out during the day, and the men left at half-past 4. when the premises were locked up. There is no reason assigned for the origin of the fire, nor is any possible cause suggested. The glue used was always heated outside the shop, and nothing combustible was known to be inside. The estimated damage is between £400 and £500. Part of this will be covered by an insurance in the Cornwall Office. The stock was not included in the policy, and it is believed that only one-third of the loss will be met. Great praise is due to the residents and to the Fire Brigade under Superintendent Baker, whose energy and promptness arrested the progress of a fire which, situated as it was among a number of buildings, might have destroyed much valuable property. An inquest will of course be held, when additional light may be thrown upon the case.

The Inquest.

An enquiry into the cause of the fire that broke out on the business premises of Mr. W. Bunday, at North Adelaide, was held at the Lord Melbourne Hotel on Thursday afternoon by Colonel Barber, J.P. Mr. Wm. Burgess was the Foreman. Wm. Bunday said he could give no information as to the cause of the fire. He had only three men working in the shop on Wednesday afternoon, February 23, and they left at the usual hour (4.30), everything being then all right. Witness was there when the men left, and closed the shop door, which he bolted inside. He went through the shop again about 20 minutes to 6 p.m. He left for town and everything was safe then. Could not in any way account for the fire. Did not allow smoking on the premises. No fire was ever allowed in the shop. None of the hands ever attempted to smoke on the premises, and witness had no suspicion against anyone. By a Juror—Was at the Directors' Board of the Building Society in South Adelaide when the news of the fire was first received. By the Superintendent of Fire Brigades—The value of the stock was about £200. There must have been also about £60 worth of tools on the premises. Did not think the men's tools were insured. Could not say whether the stock was insured. The mortgagees insured the place, and he had no personal interest in it. Had no partner. James Hearse, carpenter, said he worked in the shop till 4.30, and first heard of the fire in the evening when he was at home. There had been no fire in the place that after-noon. Never saw a man smoke inside the shop. None of the men could smoke unnoticed by him in the shop. When the men wanted to smoke they had to go out away from the shop. Saw none of the men with lucifers. Could not account for the fire. Generally heated the gluepot in the house away from the shop. It was after 6 p.m. when he first heard of the fire. Could not say when the fire began. Henry Winch, carter to Mr. Bunday, said he had occasion to visit the workshop for a bag of shavings. Mrs. Bunday entered. He told her he would close the gate for her, and she left for the house. When Mrs. Bunday went out the front door witness fastened the door. About 15 minutes or more must have elapsed since witness left the shop before the fire broke out. He took out a bundle of shavings bedded down his horses, and afterwards as he went up the yard he heard Miss Bunday call out "Fire." Had a pipe but no matches in his pocket. Never noticed any one about the place. Never saw any children smoking down the lane. Mrs. Bunday deposed that she passed through the shop about 20 minutes to 7 p.m., and the carter was in there picking shavings. He followed her out and unlocked the gate for her. She had no sooner got indoors than she heard the cry of "Fire." Ran back, and saw the shop in flames. The door was closed, and the flames were coming through. The pole was still up at the door. Told the other carter, Samuel Fowler, who came up, not to remove the pole and open the door, as the flames would rush out. Ran round to the other gate. Her daughter was standing at the back, and cried "Fire."

When witness left the shop there was no sign of fire. Tried to get some tools out, but failed on account of the flames. Saw no one smoking. Jane Brown, married woman, living opposite the premises of Mr. Bunday, said she saw the fire about 20 minutes or a quarter to 7 p.m., and gave the alarm to Mrs. Bunday, who had passed through the shop five minutes before. Could not account for the fire. Lance-corporal T. T. Burchell deposed that about 6.35 he noticed smoke coming from Mackinnon-parade, and discovered that Mr. Bunday's premises were on fire. Sent to the North Adelaide Police Station for the reel, and also to Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of Fire Brigades. The verdict was — "The Jury are unanimously of opinion that there is not sufficient evidence to show how the fire on Mr. Bunday's premises occurred." The following rider was appended:—"The Jury consider it advisable that a fire reel should be kept at Lower North Adelaide."

1881

Friday 25th March 1881. Fire at Mr McKensie's Organ builders workshop, North Adelaide
Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 28 March 1881, page 2

CORONER'S INQUEST.

THE LATE FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.—The City coroner (Mr. T. Ward, J.P.) held an inquest at the Wellington Inn, North Adelaide, on Saturday afternoon, on the fire which occurred early on Friday morning in the workshop of Mr R. McKenzie, organ-builder, Jeffcott-

street. Mr. T. Thurston was chosen foreman of the Jury, and Mr. Yuill attended on behalf of the Fire Insurance Companies. Thomas Hill, labourer, said he had rented the two back rooms in McKenzie's house for fifteen months ; they were divided from the workshop by a door, which had never been opened during that time. McKenzie himself occupied and worked in the front room. Heard nobody in McKenzie's room on Thursday night. When witness went to bed about 10 p.m. there was no smell of fire. Awoke about 2.45 a.m. on the 25th inst., when everything seemed quiet. Awoke again at 5.30, at which time he thought he heard a footstep in McKenzie's room. Mentioned the circumstance to his wife, and said he supposed McKenzie had come to work early. Heard no doors opening or shutting. Ten minutes elapsed between hearing the footsteps and the crackling of wood as it burning. The dividing-wall between the front rooms and McKenzie's room is of limestone. Got up and listened at McKenzie's door and heard wood burning. The passage in witness's part of the house was full of smoke. Called his wife, and told her McKenzie's room was on fire. They carried out their two children, his wife being greatly alarmed. He then called Mr. Jones and told him McKenzie's shop was on fire. Mr. Jones got up and ran for the fire-reel, which came directly. McKenzie lives about three doors away. The neighbours say the fire must have been started by somebody. Have never heard that McKenzie is in difficulties. He told witness after the fire that he went to Glenelg at 3 p.m. on the 24th inst., and returned at 11 pm. the same night. McKenzie said he never awoke until Mrs. Jones told him his shop was on fire. McKenzie had often been at work at 5.30 a.m., but had not been working at his shop lately as often as formerly. Elizabeth Hill corroborated the evidence of the previous witness. Henry Jones, plasterer, said he lived next door to McKenzie's shop; first heard of the fire about 5 30 a.m. on the 25th inst., when Mr. Hill called him. He went to bed about 7.30 p.m. on the 24th inst., as he had to get up at 4 in the morning. Did not get up until he heard Mr. Hill shouting, "The front room is on fire." Saw the fire was in McKenzie's shop, and that the blaze was near the corner door at the back of the shop. Saw no one about. Knew nothing about the origin of the fire ; neither did he know if McKenzie was in difficulties. McKenzie had one organ completed which was standing between the two doors in the front room, and an unfinished organ was standing in the middle of the room. Did not know if McKenzie had been working at these organs lately. By Mr. Yuill—Have often heard McKenzie say he wanted to sell the completed organ for £150. He said he was building the other one for a church at Hindmarsh. By Coroner—The fire was confined to the organ that was completed. Robert McKenzie, organ-builder, said he had an organ about three-parts finished for All Saints Church, Hindmarsh, which was worth £350. He had been out tuning organs a good deal during the last four or five weeks. First heard of the fire from Mrs. Jones on the 25th, and was greatly excited thereby. He was at the shop between 1 and 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, but did not work. He had only called in to see if there were any letters. The finished organ was all right. Smelt no fire, and everything was in order. Only remained about two or three minutes. He would swear that that was his last visit to the shop until he was called to the fire on Friday morning. Witness went to bed on Friday about 10 55 p.m. Witness generally rose early, but was certain he did not get up early on Friday morning and go to his shop. When he was called on Friday morning he could not find the key of the shop, and had not seen it after 1.30 p.m. on Thursday. He could give no account as to origin of fire, but he had not been into the workshop to ascertain the origin of it. Estimated his loss at £250. By Mr. Yuill—The two organs are insured, the completed one for £100, the part of the other for £40, and the tools for £10. First insured them nine or ten months ago in the New Zealand Office. He was not in financial difficulties, and had received £50 in advance for the Hindmarsh organ. He had no borrowed money on a bill of sale on the organs. George Edward Halbert, tailor, said he lived just at the back of McKenzie's shop When he heard about the fire he went to it. Saw McKenzie there, and said to him, "Why don't you try and save some of the things ?" He replied, "Oh, it is all right; I am insured." Witness then helped Jones and Hill to remove their goods. At this stage the enquiry was adjourned until Wednesday next for the production of further evidence.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 31 March 1881, page 1

INCENDIARY FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE

The adjourned inquest on the late fire which occurred in the workshop of Mr. Robert McKenzie, an organ-builder in Jeffcott-street, North Adelaide, was continued by the City Coroner (Mr. T. Ward, J.P.) on Wednesday afternoon, March 30, at the Wellington Inn, North Adelaide. Mr. T. Thurston was foreman of the Jury, and Mr. Yuill attended on behalf of the Fire Insurance Companies. Robert McKenzie, recalled, said— He did not smoke in his shop on the 24th inst. Always kept a box of tandsticker matches on the mantelpiece in the shop, which was infested with rats and mice. By Mr. Yuill—The first insurance was in his name, though Mr. Fabian effected the insurance for him. Mr. Fabian gave him no advance on the finished organ, but he agreed to find a purchaser for it. The pre-sent policy would expire on April 6 next. By the Coroner— Estimated his loss on the uncompleted organ at £75. Had part of the Hind-marsh organ at his private residence, which he valued at £50. By Detective Hammill— Did not tell Constable Malcolmson that he went to his shop at 11.10 p.m. the night previous to the fire and opened the window for the purpose of ventilation. Nobody told him to close either the door or windows previous to the arrival of the reel the morning of the fire. Frederick Wright, agent, said he held a bill of sale over two organs of Mr. Kenzie's, one finished and one in course of construction ; he understood that the unfinished one was for a Hindmarsh Church. The bill was for £50, and the date is January 15 last ; the due date is April 18. Made McKenzie a further advance of £12 about a fortnight since, and had he required witness would have made him a further one, but he declined it. Henry D. Malcolmson, police constable, stationed at North Adelaide, said he arrived at the fire about 1.30 a.m. on the 25th inst. It was, however, extinguished before he got there. He examined the shop. The fire appeared to have been confined to that part of the room where the completed organ was standing. Found a lot of chips and shavings near by, and a hole about 2 feet by 15 inches under the organ. Saw McKenzie, who said he knew nothing about the origin of the fire. McKenzie said he was last at his workshop when he returned from Glenelg at 11.10 p.m. on the 24th. inst. ; that he called in to let the window down for the purpose of ventilation, and then went home and to bed. When witness got to the fire on Friday morning he found both the windows and the door open, with the key in the door. By Mr. Yuill— The gate of the verandah was not easy to open, and any person wanting to go in without making a noise would have to leave it open. Joseph Ashton, solicitor, said he let two cottages to Mr. McKenzie at a weekly rental of £1. He had not been very regular in his payments, and at the time of the fire was owing £33 14s. Witness's clerk called at McKenzie's every fortnight for the rent, and he had sent McKenzie letters demanding it. McKenzie called and told witness he had a large organ for sale, and that was the reason he was not pressed for the rent. William Henderson, articled clerk, said— Promissory-note produced came into the office of Messrs. Ingleby & Grundy. It was drawn by George Howell and accepted by R. McKenzie, payable on the 7th of March, 1881. It was for £14 10s. The firm wrote asking for payment, and threatening to take proceedings if the bill was not paid in four days. A summons was taken out and served on March 20. By McKenzie— The letter was posted to your address, and the summons was served on you personally between 9 and 10 a.m. on the 26th inst. The bill was due on February 7, but extended to March 7 at Mr. Howell's wish. Erasmus Wildman, civil engineer, said about 6 a.m. on the 25th he went to the fire at McKenzie's, and saw McKenzie there. The top sash of the window was down about six inches, and witness spoke to him and asked, "Why don't somebody shut the window ; it is creating a strong draught" McKenzie did not reply, but shut the window. Afterwards he asked McKenzie if he was insured. He replied that he was for £150, but that did not nearly cover the damage done. Afterwards witness heard McKenzie say, in reply to a question, that the heat was too great to save anything, as he had tried. Witness thought McKenzie was taking things very coolly. Edward Kelsey said he had charge of No 4 fire reel about 5 45 a.m. on the 25th inst. Received information of the fire, and arrived there about 6 a.m. The fire was then burning fiercely, and he tried to open the door, which was fastened. McKenzie then told witness the door was unlocked. Found the key in the door, but could not open it. Then went to the window, and found it closed both top and bottom. One of the firemen broke open the door and window with a crowbar. While he was breaking the window open witness played on to the fire from the door. Found all the fire in the completed organ. McKenzie was present during all this time. Believed McKenzie told him he was at his workshop about 11 p.m. on the 24th inst. McKenzie did not appear at all excited.

By Detective Hammill— Did not think it possible that part of the coat which was behind the door could have been carried into the hole under the organ by the action of the water. Bridget Jones, married woman, said on the morning of the 26th inst. about 6 o'clock she knocked at McKenzie's door, and in about a second or two Miss McKenzie came to the door in her nightdress, and witness told her her father's shop was on fire. Saw nothing of McKenzie until she saw him in the street with all his clothes on excepting his coat. Martha Ann McKenzie said Mrs. Jones knocked at her father's door at twenty minutes to 6 on the morning of the 25th instant. She told witness her father's shop was on fire, and left at once. Witness then went into her father's room. He was in bed asleep. He had nothing on but his nightshirt, and was so sound asleep that witness had to push him very hard to wake him up. He got up at once and put on his trousers and went out. He never said any thing to witness about the fire. He came home at 10.50 p.m. on the 24th inst. from Glenelg, and witness waited until he went to bed. She then put the lamp in the front room out and went to bed herself about three minutes after her father. Was sure that her father got the key of the workshop himself. He told witness that he heard a knock at the door. James Hammill, detective, said in company with Police-constable Malcolmson he examined the debris in McKenzie's workshop, and found the burnt portions of an organ in the middle of the shop. They cleared away the debris from the floor near the burnt hole under the completed organ, and found that the floor had been burnt from the hole to the wainscoting, and that it had broken out in another hole nearer the fire place. On clearing away the debris near the door they found a portion of the frame which the organ had rested on quite sound. They then cleared out the hole, which was about two feet deep and filled with burnt embers. Close to the bottom of the hole, under the debris, they found the portions of a burnt coat (produced). The other piece of the coat produced was found on the bench near the window. Could not account for the portion of the coat being in the hole, as there was such a quantity of debris over it. Found some plans (produced) in the cupboard. Thought the fire started about the centre of the organ. The Coroner in summing up said the danger in which Mr. and Mrs. Hill were placed by the fire needed no comment. Had they slept a little longer the probability was that they would have been stupefied by the smoke and burnt to death. McKenzie had stated in his evidence that he was not in any pecuniary difficulties, but the evidence of several unimpeachable witnesses showed that he was very much in need of ready cash to the amount of upwards of £100. And again, he had denied being at his shop at 10 50 p.m. on the night previous to the fire, but several witnesses stated most positively that McKenzie himself told them he was there. All the evidence pointed to the supposition that the fire started under the finished organ, where part of the coat, which appeared to be a pepper-and-salt tweed, was found. It was very true that there was no direct positive evidence to show that McKenzie had set fire to his premises. Both he and his daughter swore he was not at the premises from 1.30 p m. on the day previous to that on which the fire occurred, until he was roused by Mrs. Jones at the time of the fire ; but the suspicion pointed very strongly to McKenzie as being the cause of fire, goaded on perhaps by his pecuniary difficulties and with the hope of obtaining £150 in cash from the Insurance Company. He urged upon the Jury to consider well every circumstance in McKenzie's favour, and if there was any doubt in their minds to give him the benefit of it. The Jury, after a retirement of about half an hour, returned a verdict that they were unanimously of opinion that Robert McKenzie set fire to his place. The Coroner asked Mr. McKenzie if he wished to make any statement. McKenzie said he would like to say a few words to account for the part of the coat being found in the hole. He was in the habit of using odd bits of material for stopping the noise of the bellows. Sometimes be used a bit of old carpet for that purpose, and sometimes a bit of cloth. The part of the coat which was found in the hole had been used for that purpose. McKenzie was then committed to take his trial at the next Criminal Sittings of the Supreme Court, bail being allowed in two sureties of £50, and himself in £50.

1885

Wednesday 16th September 1885 - Fire at Philip LeCornu's mattress factory, North Adelaide
South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 17 September 1885, page 4

LARGE FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

At half-past 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning a dense cloud of smoke rising from the direction of Archer-street, North Adelaide, gave warning that a fire of considerable proportions had broken out in that neighborhood. A few minutes before there was nothing to indicate the presence of a conflagration, and the cloud of smoke made its appearance with startling suddenness. It was soon ascertained that the contents of a large iron shed, the property of Mr. Philip LeCornu, situated at the rear of the Archer-street Wesleyan schoolroom, was the scene of the fire, and immediate steps were taken to make the fire brigade authorities acquainted with the event. Luckily the North Adelaide fire-reel station is situated only about 100 yards away, and as soon as the alarm was given Mr. Boyce, who is in charge, proceeded to Archer-street with his reel. A very short time elapsed before the head station reel and the superintendent (Mr. Salter), together with the Morphet-street reel, came to the rescue. The pressure of water was fearfully deficient, even though fire plugs were kept going, and apparently little effect was made upon the flames. The lightness of the pressure of the water was due to the fact that repairs were being effected to some pipes in the neighborhood. However, as speedily as possible the valve-house was communicated with, and a good supply of water was at once forthcoming. Mr. Philip LeCornu, who manages this branch of the business, is away in the north travelling. The shed was constructed of iron and wood. There was stacked in the place a large quantity of timber, and Mr. LeCornu had recently purchased, we understand, large stocks of cedar and huon pine, which had been drying preparatory to being used. The building, as before stated, was situated at the rear of the Archer street Wesleyan Church, and the front of it faced Stephens-street, whilst the rear was in Watson-street. It was composed of a wooden framework covered with iron. The Stephens street frontage was alongside of the old Wesleyan schoolroom, whilst at the rear there is a row of three cottages. The carpenters' shop was on the same side as the cottages ; the other side of the building, which was 120 feet long and 52 feet wide, being covered for two-thirds of its length with a stock of beautiful cedar and huon pine, in addition to other timber used in the furniture trade. The front of the building looking towards the city was stored with mattresses, and just at this side were all the appliances for such work. Under the same roof in the same portion of the factory was the flock-bin, close to which was a large stock of hair and material for trimming mattresses. A little in the rear were the stables, containing one horse, a hearse, and mourning coaches, together with the harness. Altogether there was inside the building goods and stock to the value of £1,100. How the fire started is a mystery to some extent. At 10.30 the cabinet-makers and other men employed in the factory were busy at work, and there was not the least signs of fire. A moment afterwards the foreman (Mr. D. Ahern) heard a crackling, and on looking round in the direction of the straw which is used in the business, and which was stored up at the front of the building, discovered that it was in flames. The blaze spread with great rapidity, and the men were unable to combat the fire, as there being a deal of inflammable matter close by it took fire, and in less time than it takes to relate the whole of the front portion of the workshop was enveloped in flames. With great promptitude the men ran to the stables, removed the horse and the vehicles. These were saved, but by this time the whole building was burning. The fire is supposed to have first broken out in the straw, and the most feasible explanation as to its origin is that it was caused by spontaneous combustion. A crowd at once gathered in the vicinity, and willing hands assisted to remove the timber from the Watson-street end of the building. Fortunately the North Adelaide fire-reel station is close at hand, and in a very few moments Mr. Boyce and his men were at the scene of the fire. Next Mr. Salter (the superintendent of fire brigades) and a reel from the head station and another from Morphet-street arrived on the scene, and at once brought a stream of water to bear on the burning mass. Their efforts were first directed to the front of the building, but as it was feared that the cottages alongside the rear of the premises would take fire some of the reels were ordered to turn their attention to this portion. After the men had been at work some little time an employe of the hydraulic engineer's department, who was flushing the street sewers close at hand, proffered the aid of his hose, which was gladly accepted. The fire raged with great fierceness, and the occupants of the cottages fearing that their houses would next take fire commenced to remove their furniture into the street. By this time all hopes of saving the factory and stock were at an end, and the only thing the reel could do was to play on to the workmen's tools and the stacks of timber. The building and

stock were insured in the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company for £250, the machinery for £50, and the vehicles, horses, and harness for £100, making a total of £400. The place was also insured in the Northern Insurance Company for £350. "I can," said Mr. LeCornu to our reporter, "offer no explanation as to how the fire originated. All I know is what the workmen told me, namely, that they were at work, and the first intimation they received was a crackling noise as if some straw were burning. The next they saw was that the whole of the front portion of the shop was on fire. I value the stock and building destroyed at from £1,100 to £1,200." Corporal McNamara said—"At 10.30 I was standing talking to some friends in Curtis-place, close to the factory, and was looking in the direction of the establishment, but there was no sign of fire then. In a few moments I walked on to the station, but before getting there my attention was called to the factory, which was enveloped in flames."

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 25 September 1885, page 7

CORONER'S INQUEST.

THE RECENT FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

At the Dover Castle Hotel, North Adelaide, on Thursday morning, September 24, the City Coroner (Mr. T. Ward) continued the enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred in the mattress factory of Mr. P. LeCornu, at North Adelaide, on Wednesday, September 16. Mr. Bee represented the Police, and Mr. H. Nacken the Phoenix Insurance Company. Mr. R. Matthews was Foreman of the Jury. Philip Joshua Le Cornu, cabinetmaker, said that he was on Lefevre-terrace when he first heard of the fire on his premises, at about 10.30. He at once went to the scene, and found one end of the building in flames. The fire had a strong hold of the premises, and was rapidly spreading. The fire was not extinguished till the contents of the building had been almost entirely destroyed. He considered that the fire was the work of an incendiary. He had reasons for suspecting two men whose names he did not know. His reason was that he had refused relief when applied for by the two men to the North Adelaide Committee of the Advertiser Relief Fund. He was a member of the committee, and previous to the two men applying on Wednesday, September 9, the committee had already refused assistance to sixty or seventy people. They were very discontented, and went away grumbling. On the following Tuesday, September 15, he again saw the two men. On this occasion they were trying the gate of the passage-way between the Archer-street Wesleyan Church and the Lecture Hall. The passage-way faced his workshops. He accosted them, and asked them what they wanted. One of them replied "Nothing." He saw one of the men again on the morning of the fire. Witness was passing in the street in a trap when he saw the man, who recognised him. It was about half an hour before the fire started. He had, with the police, looked for the two men since the fire, but had not seen them. He was insured in the Phoenix Insurance Company for £400. This covered both building and stock. He last took stock in July last, when he found it worth £1,100. He estimated his loss at £950. He expected to realize £150 from the salvage. He did not think the fire-reels had been worked efficiently. He thought that if the water had been turned on to the premises at the opposite end to which the fire originated all the timber might have been saved. When he spoke to Mr. Salter he was told to mind his own business. Henry Nacken, of the Phoenix Insurance Company, said that before allowing Mr. Le Cornu to insure in the Company he examined the premises, and found that the amount — £400 — was very moderate, and much below the value of the stock and building. Daniel Donald Joseph Ahern, foreman in Mr. Le Cornu's mattress factory, said that on the morning of the fire he was at work in the factory. He first saw the fire. It started in the strawshed, which was next the room in which he was working. He was attracted to the fire by the crackling of the wood at about 10.30. He got a bucket of water and threw it on to the flames. More men came, and they endeavoured to extinguish the flames with buckets of water. They were unsuccessful. Then went for the North Adelaide fire-reel, which arrived about five or ten minutes after the fire started. No smoking was allowed on the premises. He did not smoke in the shop on the morning of the fire. He had had no occasion to strike a match on the morning in question. Witness had not been in the straw shed before the fire that morning. About 3 or 4 tons of straw were stacked in the shed to the depth of 6 or 7 feet. The straw at

the bottom of the stack was slightly damp, and he thought the conflagration might have been the result of spontaneous combustion. He had seen no strange men loitering about the premises. Thomas Goodyer, in Mr. Le Cornu's employ as mattress-maker, said he did not smoke on the premises. About three-quarters of an hour before the fire started he went to the Commercial Hotel to have a smoke. Had no idea as to how the fire originated. William Boyce, foreman of the North Adelaide Firereel, said that his reel arrived soon after 10. 30. When he commenced to play onto the flames the pressure of water was very slight. He believed that the water was partly turned off at the main to allow of repairs being effected. William Cox, blacksmith, James Edwin Rowe, blacksmith, and Alfred Evans Martiu, bookseller, all of whom were early on the scene of the fire, thought the firemen commenced operations in the wrong place. They considered, with Mr. Le Cornu, that if the reel had commenced at the northern end much of the timber might have been saved. H. C. Salter, Superintendent of the Head Station Firereel, said that his reel and No. 2 Reel arrived from town on the scene of the fire at the same time, having been called at 10.32. They immediately got three deliveries at work. The premises were then well alight. There was very insufficient pressure of water, owing to the main being turned off. At about five minutes past 11, after tele-phonng to the Waterworks Department, he received full pressure of water. If the pressure of water had been full on when the reel started very little more property would have been saved. The Jury, after a short retirement, found— "That the fire started in the strawshed, and that there is no evidence to show how it originated."

[Saturday 21st November 1885 – Fire at Mr Asher's Drapery, North Adelaide](#)
South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 25 November 1885, page 7

CORONER'S INQUEST,

THE FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

On Tuesday, November 24, at the Oxford Hotel, North Adelaide, the City Coroner (Mr. T. Ward, J.P.) held an enquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire which occurred on the previous Saturday on the drapery premises of Mr. W. Asher, in O'Connell-street, North Adelaide. Mr. A. E. Martin was foreman of the Jury. Inspector Bee watched the case on behalf of the police, and Mr. A. Abrahams on behalf of the Equitable Insurance Company. William Asher, draper, said he purchased the business from Donaldson, Andrews, & Sharland. The transaction was a cash one, half of the amount, viz., £600, being paid down. The balance was to be paid in three, five, seven, and nine months. His payments had been satisfactorily kept up. Up to the time of the fire witness was doing a profitable little business, considering the present depression. As usual on Saturdays had a good display of gas on in his shop. Left the premises with his wife about 10.10 p.m. They were the last two on the premises. The gas was turned off by the shopboy. When witness and his wife left the shop they used a candle light to give them light outside. The candle light was extinguished and the candlestick placed on a window outside. His wife returned to the shop to procure a piece of ribbon from a show case, taking the candle, which was relighted. When his wife again came out of the shop they both immediately left the place for their home in Gover-street. Did not return to the shop after they left. Witness kept the keys of the backdoor through which they left the shop. Thought all the doors of the establishment were closed when he left. Could not give the remotest idea as to the origin of the fire. Was insured in the Equitable Insurance Company for £2,200 for the stock alone. His stock was worth several hundred pounds more than that amount. Had arranged to take stock a few days prior to the fire ; in fact he had commenced doing so. Would have finished stocktaking during the present week. Had a banking account at the Bank of South Australia, and had never been pressed by the Bank or any one else for payment. Was not smoking when he left the shop on the date mentioned. Was in business at Orroroo previously to his buy-ing the premises at North Adelaide. By Inspector Bee— Had considerably increased his stock since his first purchase. The boy had gone from the shop about a minute previous to witness and Mrs. Asher leaving. There was some broad lace hanging in the doorway and a spark might have dropped from the candle on the lace as his wife was making her exit from the shop, but he could not positively say— only imagined this.

By Mr. Abrahams — On the date in question he had five hands working in the shop. These left about 10 o'clock. No one was up-stairs when witness left the place. Had been on the premises since last May. His average week's takings were about £60. Had not £3 credit in his books. Miriam Lena Asher, wife of William Asher, corroborated the evidence given by her husband, and added that when she entered the shop for the ribbon she put the candle on the counter to cut off one yard of the ribbon. She ran out of the shop quickly with the candle in one hand and the ribbon in the other. There were two yards of ribbon on the edge of a mirror near the showcase, and the flame from the candle might have ignited the ribbon. By Mr. Abrahams— It was customary for the shop boy to light the candle before he extinguished the gaslight. At the request of Mr. Asher Mr. J. C. Haslam, of the firm of Haslam Brothers & Wilson, and Mr. T. S. Davey, a representative of Donaldson, Andrews, and Sharland, with whom Mr. Asher had trade transactions, were called, and testified to their perfect confidence in Mr. Asher, who had never been pressed by them for payment of his accounts.

Arthur White, the shopboy, stated that he left the shop at about 10.15. Heard Mrs. Asher say to Mr. Asher that she wanted to return to the shop to obtain some ribbon. Witness at once left the premises when Mrs. Asher went into the shop. He turned the gas off at the meter at about 10.10 p.m. Witness bolted the shop with the exception of the backdoorway before he left. By Mr. Abrahams— The meter was situated in the right-hand corner of the shop. By Mr. Asher— There was some lace hanging near the mirror close by the showcase. Mr. Haslam and Mr. Davey, at the instance of the Coroner, visited the premises. Mr. Haslam stated that there appeared to be some new and fashionable stock in the establishment. He would say that the stock, which was considerably burnt, was worth approximately about £2,000. He did not know the amount insured, but on being told by the Court what the sum was, thought the stock was not overinsured. Rosa L. Tonkin, assistant in Mr. Asher's shop, said when she left the premises in company with Miss Spearson the shop was closed. The boy White was turning out the gas when witness left. Saw nothing of Mr. and Mrs. Asher after leaving. There was no indication of fire at this time, By Mr. Asher— The present stock was far superior to that in the shop at the first purchase. Frank Lamping, in the employ of Mr. Asher, deposed to his leaving the shop at about 10.10 p.m., when the shop was being closed. Mr. Asher was standing at the desk, and Mrs. Asher was in the showroom. If a person went carelessly near the cotton lace which was hanging on each side of the mirror it would be possible for the candle flame to come in contact with the lace. William Ownsworth, a mechanic, stated that he discovered the fire. First noticed the flames coming out of the second window facing and adjoining the paddock. At once went for Mr. Boyce to give the alarm. This was about 10.20 p.m. By Inspector Bee— Was passing down O'Connell-street when he first saw the flames issuing from the window. William Boyce, foreman of the local fire-reel, stated that he was called at 10.25 p.m., and on going on the premises found the fire near the part of the shop where the mirror was situated. Broke the shutter of a window at the back, and played on the fire with the hose. Was positive that the fire originated near the mirror, at the back part of the shop. The wind was blowing from the west, and the flames were rapidly spreading throughout the shop. Nos. 1 and 2 Reels were soon on the spot. These reels did not play on the fire, as they were not required. The gas was turned off at the meter, and the gas pipes were melted on account of the heat. Observed Mr. and Mrs. Asher pass the corner of Tynte-street about ten minutes previous to his receiving the news of the conflagration. Was present when the debris was turned out. Found nothing to show any suspicion as to the origin of the fire. By Inspector Bee— In examining the debris found the floor covered with carpet on one part and oilcloth on the other. The Coroner, in summing up, said he was pleased with the satisfactory manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Asher had given their evidence, and the stock had been favourably reported on by Mr. Haslam and Mr. Davey. He would unhesitatingly say, from the clear evidence given, that there was no motive on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Asher for starting the fire. He thought the Jury would be quite right in giving a verdict of the fire being caused by accident. He only wished that the evidence at inquests relating to fires was as satisfactory as that given at the inquest held that day. The verdict returned was as follows : — "We are of opinion that the fire on Mr. Asher's premises was accidental and not otherwise, and that great praise is due to Fireman Boyce for the able manner in which he checked the fire."

1886



Saturday 31st July 1886 – Fire at the King's Buildings, North Adelaide.
Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 31 July 1886, page 4

Fire at North Adelaide.

Shortly after 4 o'clock this (Saturday) morning the constable on the beat at North Adelaide discovered a fire in a long range of buildings in George-place, a private street at the rear of Gover-street east. He speedily aroused Fireman Boyce, who with his reel was in a few moments at the scene of the conflagration, which had then assumed somewhat of an alarming appearance. The premises are used as storerooms, stables, &c., by the tenants of what are known as King's Buildings, in Gover-street. The fire seems to have started in the division occupied by Mr. G. Wilson, which was used as a storeroom, the entire contents being speedily consumed. The flames rapidly reached the roof timbers, and the wind, which was from the east, carried them towards a flour store belonging to Mr. D. Mahnke. Fortunately the North Adelaide firemen were in time to stay the westward progress of the flames ere they could catch hold of the roof of the store, which contained a considerable quantity of flour. The arrival of the town reels shortly after ensured the safety of the remainder of the building. The damage to the building is considerable, the whole of the roof-timbers being either completely burned or so charred as to require reinstatement. The plaster ceiling of two rooms is also gone, as also the door and window frame of the storeroom where the fire is believed to have started. Mr. Wilson's storeroom contained a toolchest and contents, several chests containing books, clothing, &c., also empty cases and lumber. He estimates his loss at between £40 and £50. The origin of the fire is at present a mystery. We understand the portion of the building where the fire occurred is insured in the Commercial Union Company for £150.

Monday 8th November 1886 – Fire at Mr Beaney's Drapers shop, North Adelaide.
Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 10 November 1886, page 4

GENERAL NEWS.

A fire broke out on Monday evening in the draper's shop of Mr. W. Beaney, of O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, flames being discovered near the window shortly after one of the shop-men had lit the gas. The North Adelaide brigade was quickly on the spot, and extinguished the fire when damage to the extent of about £100 had been done by fire and water. Mr. Beaney is insured in the New Zealand (furniture) for £350, in the Colonial Mutual

(stock) for £2,300, in the Adelaide Marine (stock) for £1,400, and in the New Zealand (stock) for £1,900.

1888

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 7 September 1888, page 2

Fire in the North Adelaide Congregational Schoolroom.

The Rev, F. C. B. Fairey delivered his entertaining and instructive lecture on his travels with his canoe on missionary work in the North Adelaide Congregational School room before on appreciative audience on Thursday evening. Some two hours after all had left the hall the constable "on the beat" noticed smoke issuing from the building, and at once gave the alarm. The reels were soon on the spot, and the flames extinguished before any serious damage had been done to the edifice. It would seem that the fire originated on the lecturing platform, which occupies the south end of the room, So far nothing further is known.

1889

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 12 February 1889, page 2

Another Fire.

SMALL FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.—At five minutes to 7 o'clock this morning notice was received at the City Fire Brigade Station of the occurrence of a fire on the premises of Messrs. Gilbert, Wilcox, & Co., chaff merchants, North Adelaide. A reel was immediately dispatched to the scene, when it was found that a wagon loaded with about 5½ tons of hay was on fire. With the assistance of the North Adelaide reel, the flames were speedily subdued.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 12 February 1889, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

An alarm of fire was received at the Brigade Office on Tuesday morning at 6.55 from Gilbert Wilcox & Co., of North Adelaide, hay and corn merchants. On the arrival of the reel from the head-station it was found that instead of the establishment being alight the flames were coming from a waggon containing five tons of hay. The North Adelaide reel was in attendance. The hay destroyed was not insured.

Wednesday 1st May 1889 – Fire at Mr Haywood's Hairdresser and Tobacconist shop, North Adelaide Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 1 May 1889, page 4

Fire at North Adelaide.

A small fire occurred in the shop of George Haywood, hairdresser and tobacconist, of O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, at about 20 minutes to 4 o'clock this morning, which completely gutted the shop, the stock-in-trade being all destroyed. The fire was first noticed by the constable on duty, who immediately reported it to the Fire Brigade station. The North Adelaide reel was promptly on the scene and overcame the fire in a few minutes. The shop is the property of Mr. A. A. Huddleston, a grocer, of North Adelaide, who has the property insured in the British Mercantile Insurance Office. Mr. Haywood has his goods insured in the Colonial Mutual Office for the sum of £100. The coroner, after making enquiries, considered that an inquest was necessary and it will be held to-morrow morning at the Huntsman Hotel, North Adelaide.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 26 December 1889, page 2

Fire at North Adelaide.

At about 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon a fire occurred in one of the bedrooms of the Huntsman Hotel, O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, resulting in the destruction of the bedding, mattresses, washstand, and a portion of the carpet, Immediately on the alarm being given the

landlord (Mr. F. Nottage) extinguished the fire with a few buckets of water before the arrival of the fire reels, The origin of the fire is unknown, and the Coroner is making enquiries but has not yet decided whether an inquest is necessary.

1890

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 3 February 1890, page 2

Fire at North Adelaide.

A fire occurred early on Sunday morning at North Adelaide by which a large building used as a workshop and a stable was completely destroyed. The shed belonged to Mr. W. J. Bailey, of Melbourne street. The alarm was sent to the fire brigade station in the city by a telephone at the nearest chemist's, but as the superintendent with the engine was proceeding to North Adelaide another fire was observed at Mrs. Phillips's registry office, in Grenfell-street. Mr. Brooker immediately gave the alarm to the head station and another reel was dispatched to North Adelaide, It arrived, however, after the fire had completely gutted the shed, and all the fireman had to do was to put out the smouldering embers. The city coroner made enquiries into the cause of the fire, but as there was no evidence to place before a jury he decided not to hold an inquest.

1891

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 March 1891, page 6

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

On Saturday morning a fire broke out on the premises Messrs. A. & W. Woodcock, butchers, of O'Connell street, North Adelaide. J. Hammond, employed by Messrs. Woodcock, was the first to notice the fire. He was going to work about ten minutes past 2 when he noticed from the office window that the place was ablaze. He at once communicated with the North Adelaide Fire Brigade station, and the reel in less than five minutes was on the spot. The Adelaide reel arrived within eight minutes of the alarm being given. The fire was confined to a room used for waste paper. Mr. W. H. Woodcock was the last to leave the premises during the evening, and everything then seemed safe. The place is insured for £2,500, but the damage done is very slight.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 7 March 1891, page 4

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

Early this morning a fire occurred on the premises of Messrs. A. & W. Woodcock, butchers, in O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, and entirely destroyed one room at the back of the shop. The fire was first discovered at about a quarter past 2 by a boy named Herbert Short, who was working in Mr. Stevens's bakehouse next door. He at once gave the alarm to a constable on duty in O'Connell-street, and the latter went for the North Adelaide reel. Information was also sent to the Adelaide head station, and shortly after the arrival of the local reel Superintendent Booker with two reels was on the spot. In a few minutes the fire was under control, and very soon the blaze was altogether subdued. The place where the fire occurred was a room separated from the shop by the clerks' office, and it was used as a general storeroom. As in most cases of fire the origin of this is enveloped in mystery, but when it was discovered it had obtained a good hold of the place, and before it was put out everything in the room had been destroyed, and the roof was so badly injured that it will have to be replaced. Part of the roof of the sausage-house was also burned. The building and contents are insured for £2,500, and the damage Mr. Woodcock estimates roughly at about £80. The City Coroner will be informed in due course this morning.

1894

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1894.

110 Tynte Street, North Adelaide, Fire Brigade Station with Thos Gabrielson, fireman in charge. North Adelaide Fire Station moved from the East side of O'Connell Street to the West side during 1894 which is reflected in the Directories about 2 years later.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 24 December 1894, page 2

NORTH ADELAIDE MARKET.

OPENED FOR BUSINESS.

The much-desired market at North Adelaide is now an accomplished fact, and it was opened for the transaction of business on Saturday evening. Occupying as it does a central position in O'Connell-street it should prove of great convenience to the residents of the northern part of the city and the adjacent suburbs who desire to trade in an open emporium. Acre 820, upon which it is erected, is on the western side of the main thoroughfare of North Adelaide and at the corner of Archer-street. The whole of the acre is not utilized, but a large sum of money has been spent on the buildings and in providing shops fronting the main street. Two two-story shops and a fire-brigade station face O'Connell-street, and ingress to the market is secured by a covered right-of-way between the shops and the fire station. The need of the latter has been apparent for some time. Up to the present time one fireman has been stationed in North Adelaide, but it has been frequently recognised that the protection provided has been insufficient. In case of an emergency before the city men could put in an appearance they would have to travel a good distance along a hilly road, and by the time they reached the scene of a fire in North Adelaide or the vicinity the conflagration would have had a good start. Moreover, there was always a danger that while the brigade was away in North Adelaide an outbreak might occur in the city. The new station has been put up to accommodate four men and an officer, and it includes stables and a room for reels. It is the intention of Superintendent Booker to fit the place up with all the latest improvements, and the hope is expressed that the brigade will be numerically strengthened sufficient to allow four men and an officer to be stationed in the northern part of the city, so that they may cope with any fires in North Adelaide or adjoining districts without calling out the city brigade. In the market twenty-two stalls have been erected, and of these eight have already been let. Provision has been made for an extension of the buildings if necessary, and the vacant land behind is used as a Corporation depot. Besides the new buildings there are three old shops on the acre, which have been secured by the Corporation. The opening function took place at half-past 6 o'clock on Saturday, and was attended with a good deal of civic ceremony. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. C. Tucker), Alderman Sketheway, Councillors Bower, Downs, Hughes, Johnson, and Wells, the Town Clerk (Mr. T. Worsnop), the City Treasurer (Mr. Fabian), the Building Surveyor (Mr. Pank), and the Commissioner of Police (Mr. W. J. Peterswald) drove over from the city, and shortly afterwards Superintendent Booker with a reel and engine and twelve firemen arrived and formed a guard of honour to receive the Mayor. After inspecting the premises a large crowd of people assembled in the market square. His Worship the Mayor, in declaring the market open for the transaction of business, said that the whole of the acre was purchased in 1888 for market purposes at a cost of £4,250. Of this £250 was paid on deposit and the balance was remaining on mortgage for ten years at 4½ per cent. In 1893 it was proclaimed by the Governor on the petition of the City Council as a public market place, but owing to a want of unanimity in the Council nothing further was done until Councillor Downs was returned to the Council. He worked most heartily to have the building erected, and in Councillor Brice he had a worthy lieutenant. Feeling then that it was the wish of the citizens of North Adelaide that a market should be established the Council decided to commence its erection. He hoped that the facilities thus given for bringing producer and consumer together would be utilized and justify the Council in the expenditure made. (Hear, hear.) Some shopkeepers had been opposed to the idea because they considered that it would compete unfairly with them, but he thought it would be the means of attracting to North Adelaide trade which would not otherwise have been secured. (Hear, hear.) The cost of the erection of the shed as now completed, including the laying on of water and gas, was about £420. After the Council had begun the work applications were received

from tradesmen for shops to be built on the O'Connell-street frontage. Rents were offered on ten years' leases equalling a return of about 11 per cent, on the estimated cost of the buildings, and it was decided to proceed with them, the cost of which was about £1,600. The whole of the expenditure on both shops and shed, amounting to over £2,000, had been taken out of the ordinary revenue; and the expenditure of this large sum in one year had necessitated the overdrawing of the banking account to this extent. Without doubt it should be recouped out of any loan that might be raised for market purposes. He thought it was a good thing for Corporations to secure properties, for the only way to reduce the rates was to have revenue-returning assets. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated Messrs. Ling and Son, who had built the shops, and Messrs. Moss & Watts, who had the contract for the erection of the market, upon their successful work. He hoped the market would be of great convenience, and he had pleasure in declaring it open. (Applause.) Cheers were given for the Mayor, the Corporation, and the market. Afterwards the civic party adjourned to the Huntsman Hotel, where Mr. Commissioner Peterswald proposed the health of His Worship the Mayor. Mr. Tucker having replied the members of the Council returned to the city.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 24 December 1894, page 2

THE NORTH ADELAIDE MARKET OPENING CEREMONY.

For many years residents of North Adelaide have been agitating for a market, and at last their labors have been rewarded. A block of land has been secured by the corporation on the western side of O'Connell-street, between Archer and Tynite streets, and a fine building erected. Two shops and accommodation for the fire brigade occupy the frontage, and the market is approached by a passage 12 ft. wide. The market is 50 ft. by 50 ft., and there are 22 stalls fitted up, about half of which have already been leased. Should the accommodation prove to be inadequate there is abundance of room for an extension of the building westward. In the past North Adelaide has been severely handicapped in the matter of protection against fire, but in the future the provision will be excellent, as Mr. Booker intends to fit up the new station in the most complete style. It will be possible to station five men at this centre and they will be very comfortably quartered on the first floor. The front room on the ground floor will be used for an engine and reels, the stables being situated a few feet behind. Under ordinary circumstances there would be a delay of several seconds before the men could all rush down stairs and prepare to answer a call out, but a novelty in the shape of a sliding pole has been introduced to save time. Directly an alarm is given the men will rush to the pole and slide down to the engine-room, where they will find the horses in their positions at the reels. Mr. Booker estimates that at least ten seconds will be saved by this innovation. A lease of the premises for ten years has been secured by the Fire Brigades Board. The plans for the whole building were prepared in the office of the City Surveyor.

On Saturday evening, at 6 o'clock, the mayor (Mr. C. Tucker), accompanied by Alderman Sketheway, Councillors Hughes, Downs, and Johnson, the Commissioner of Police, the town clerk, and officers of the council, left the Town Hall for the purpose of opening the market. They were met by Councilors Wells and Bower, and other gentlemen who have taken an active part in the movement for the establishment of the market. After the visitors had been shown over the premises the Mayor entered the market square and performed the opening ceremony in the presence of a large crowd.

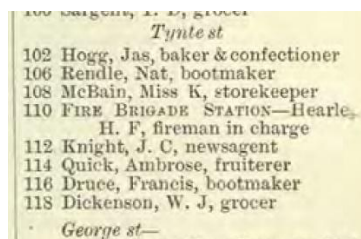
His Worship in declaring the market open for the transaction of business, said that the whole of the acre was purchased in 1888 for market purposes at a cost of £4,250. Of this £250 was paid on deposit and the balance was remaining on mortgage for ten years at 4½ per-cent. In 1893 it was proclaimed by the Governor on the petition of the City Council as a public market-place, but owing to a want of unanimity in the council nothing further was done until Councillor Downs was returned to the council. He worked most heartily to have the building erected, and in Councillor Brice he had a worthy lieutenant. Feeling then that it was the wish of the citizens of North Adelaide that a market should be established the council decided to commence its erection. He hoped that the facilities thus given for bringing producer and consumer together

would be utilised and justify the council in the expenditure made. (Hear, hear.) Some shopkeepers had been opposed to the idea because they considered that it would compete unfairly with them, but he thought it would be the means of attracting to North Adelaide trade which would not otherwise have been secured. (Hear, hear.) The cost of the erection of the shed as now completed, including the laying on of water and gas was about £420. After the council had begun the work applications were received from tradesmen for shops to be built on the O'Connell-street frontage. Rents were offered on ten years' leases equalling a return of about 11 per cent, on the estimated cost of the buildings, and it was decided to proceed with them, the cost being about £1,600. The whole of the expenditure on both shops and shed, amounting to over £2,000, had been taken out of the ordinary revenue, and the expenditure of this large sum in one year had necessitated the overdrawing of the banking account to this extent. Without doubt it should be recouped out of any loan that might be raised for market purposes. He thought it was a good thing for corporations to secure properties, for the only way to reduce the rates was to have revenue-returning assets. (Hear, hear.) One of the duties of the corporation was to protect life and property, and they had realised that the provisions for the fire brigade were inadequate for the requirements of the district. They had therefore arranged with the Fire Brigade Board to have the new station erected. It had accommodation for four men and an officer, and he hoped the force in North Adelaide would be increased. He congratulated Messrs Ling & Son, who had built the shops, and Messrs. Moss and Watts, who had the contract for the erection of the market, upon their successful work. He hoped the market would be of great convenience, and he had pleasure in declaring it open. (Applause.) Cheers having been given for the Queen and the Mayor, an adjournment was made to the Huntsman Hotel, where Mr. Tucker entertained a small company. Mr. Peterswald proposed the toast of "His Worship" in a short speech, and the compliment having been acknowledged the visitors returned to the city.

1895

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1895.

North Adelaide, 110 O'Connell Street, East side between Tynte and George Street, Fire Brigade Station with H. (Herbert) F. Hearle fireman in charge.



Sands and McDougall Directory for 1895.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 27 March 1895, page 2

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

The new fire brigade station at North Adelaide is now completed and is fully equipped with the latest and most improved appliances. The building is a handsome two-stoned structure in O'Connell-street, next to the new market, and has every convenience for the comfort of the firemen and for rapid attendance to calls of fire. The station is a very great improvement on the old one. There is also fitted up in North Adelaide an alarm circuit in the various parts of the district connected with the station, and altogether that part of the city is splendidly protected against fire. Super-intendent and Mrs. Booker will hold an "at home" to-morrow at the Metropolitan station, Wakefield-street. A large number of invitations have been issued.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 6 December 1895, page 3

FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.

TWO FIREMEN INJURED.

The members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade have had excellent practice lately, and on each occasion when their services have been demanded they have been well up to the required standard. Their latest adventure was on Thursday evening, when a call of fire was received from Rundle-street. The scene of the excitement was at Mr. B. Grummett's chemist shop. At twenty minutes past 8 Mr. H. Gallus, clerk to Mr. Grummett, was sitting in his office at the rear of the building engaged in his work when he heard a crash of bottles in the cellar below, and on running outside he was met by a thick volume of smoke. He immediately gave the alarm, and the steamer and reel from Wakefield-street came along, followed shortly afterwards by the North Adelaide reel. One line of hose was run through the passage alongside the shop, while another was got to work from Fisher-place, at the back. The cellar, being stored with all kinds of chemicals for medicinal preparations, was a dangerous place to enter, but the firemen bravely broke in. The fumes were very strong, and one or two men were overcome. Miniature explosions were going on, and Foreman Cleveland was severely burnt about the face and hands owing to a sudden outburst of flame. Fireman Correll received injuries in a lesser degree. Cleveland was attended to by Dr. Poulton, and the two men were sent back to the station. Meanwhile Superintendent Booker and his men were pouring a flood of water into the cellar, and within half an hour all danger was averted. The blaze was confined to the cellar. While it lasted the fire was very severe, and was attended with greater danger than is generally the case, owing to the spirits and chemicals which were burnt. Mr. Grummett cannot yet estimate his loss. The insurance on the contents was £1,500 in the Northern Insurance Company.

1898

Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser (SA : 1878 - 1922), Friday 30 September 1898, page 2

Fire Brigade Changes

Considerable regret is felt at the removal to the Semaphore station of Foreman Robert Sinclair of the Moonta Fire Brigade. He has made many friends during his residence of some five and a half years, and both himself and his wife will be followed by the best wishes of all who knew them—and the sincerest will be from those who knew them best. Mr Sinclair, who is a handy man with his tools, has made very considerable alterations and instituted several conveniences in the local station, and has done a large amount of work in connection with the recent transformations to accommodate the horse and horse reel. He was fond of flowers and laid out and cultivated a gay little garden at the back of the station. Foreman Sinclair joined the service some 11 years ago and after 12 months at the head station as fireman, he was promoted to foreman and sent to North Adelaide where he was for nearly 5 years, when he was transferred to Moonta. We understand that all the foremen firemen—except the man at Port Pirie, who has been there only 12 months—are shifted from one station to another. Foreman Fireman C. A. Wooley, formerly of Moonta, has been transferred from North Adelaide to the Port station.

1896

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1896

O'Connell Street, West side, METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE STATION— Chas A. Woolley, in charge. Between Archer and Chapel Streets.

<i>Archer st</i>	
61	Mortimer, Miss C, fancy shop and dressmaker
63	Toy, Thos, tinsmith
65	Green, Geo, painter
67	Neaylon, M. I, fruiterer
METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE STATION—Woolley, Chas A, in charge	
75	Thurston, Thos, upholsterer and fancy goods dealer
N.A. MARKET	
9	Wagner, F. H, watchmaker
81, 83	Hale, C. H, draper
85	Edgecumbe, Mrs M, baker and confectioner
<i>Chapel st—</i>	
	Klintberg, L, grocer
	Tiptaft, C. F, carpenter
	Davey, Hy, miner

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 13 January 1896, page 2

FIRE IN A BAKER'S SHOP. — At about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning the Fire Brigade was called to North Adelaide. On arrival they found the baker's shop occupied by Mr. Graff, situated in Melbourne-street, on fire. The Brigade succeeded in mastering the flames before much damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 30 September 1896, page 4

A FIRE BRIGADE TROUBLE.

Serious trouble has arisen among the men who constitute the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and as a result 16 of the permanent men sent in their resignations on Tuesday morning. One of their comrades —Mr Henry Hannaford—employed at the Norwood station, died on Sunday last, and it was arranged to bury him with full fire brigade honors. Three reels were prepared for the funeral, and the men were ready mounted and the horses were in when the superintendent (Mr Booker) received a tele-phone message from the chairman of the Fire Brigade Board (Mr. C. L. Meyer) to the effect that the proposed brigade funeral must be stopped it once, and that the fireman was not to be accorded public burial. Notwithstanding this notice, however, the super-intendent sent one reel and five men to take part in the funeral, as if he had not done so the friends would have had the trouble of obtaining another vehicle at the last moment on which to convey the re-mains of the deceased to their last resting place. The majority of the members of the fire brigade staff felt this treatment so much that 16 of them handed in their resignations at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The resignations have not yet been accepted, but a special meeting has been called for Monday next, when the board will deal with them. The men feel that the treatment they had received was not only a slight to them-selves, but also to their deceased comrade. Two of the resignations are from men at the Norwood station, four at the North Adelaide station, and 10 at head-quarters in Wakefield-street—in fact, every member but one at the head station has sent in his resignation, the number on Tuesday evening being 22. The men feel very keenly the action of the chairman of the fire brigade, and are fully determined to leave their work next Tuesday morning when the weeks notice of their intention to do so shall have expired.

[Tuesday 1st December 1896 – Fire at North Adelaide Tram Shed.](#)

Location of the North Adelaide Tram Shed, William Buik Court, North Adelaide.



Location of the North Adelaide Tram Shed, William Buik Court, North Adelaide. From the Smiths Survey 1880, and the South Australian Property and Planning Atlas 2022.

Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Friday 4 December 1896, page 18

NORTH ADELAIDE TRAM SHED DESTROYED.

DAMAGE ABOUT £5,000.

ADELAIDE, December 1.

Just before 2 o'clock this morning a fire broke out at the North Adelaide tram sheds and destroyed them. The stables adjoining, in which two hundred horses were stalled, were flooded with water, but were other-wise uninjured. Twenty-one tram cars which cost £250 each, were burned, and the total loss approximates £5,000, most of which is covered by insurance.

LATER.

Further enquiries into the fire which occurred at the North Adelaide tramsheds early this morning show that 15 cars were totally destroyed, while three others were very much damaged. The car shed was completely gutted. In the stables there were nearly 200 horses stabled. Immediately the fire broke out the horses were released and driven with difficulty into a large paddock close by. They were greatly frightened by the flames, and a young horse while being let loose kicked a night watchman. The stables, although flooded with water were uninjured by fire, and the fodder house containing a quantity of chaff was also untouched by the flames. The cars burned like tissue paper, and being almost demolished before the fire brigade arrived, all that the firemen could do was to prevent the fire spreading.

It is estimated that the damage amounts to about £4,000. The buildings and rolling stock were insured in the South Australian Insurance Company for £8,300.

The inquest this afternoon showed that two men who had been cleaning cars left for supper, and as the work was not completed they left lighted lamps in two or three cars. Twenty minutes later these two men discovered the cars and tramshed on fire. A verdict was returned to that effect that the fire was caused by the explosion of one of the lamps, and that no blame is attributable to anyone.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 December 1896, page 4

THE FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

The destructive fire in the tramshed at North Adelaide is another illustration of the danger attending the use of kerosine lamps. It appears that ten or twelve years ago an accident occurred through the explosion of a lamp in one of the tramcars. On that occasion no damage of any importance was done, the flames being promptly extinguished by a passenger. For seven or eight years candles were employed in place of kerosine, but the light given was so

unsatisfactory that a return was made to kerosine when a superior quality of oil was introduced. Conclusive evidence is absent that the fire early on Tuesday morning was caused by the explosion of a lamp, but this is the most feasible explanation, and there can be little doubt that it is the correct one. A strong wind was blowing at the time, and it seems probable that one of the lamps flared up and exploded. The rapidity of the destruction was remarkable. Although the fire was quickly discovered, and the reels were promptly on the spot, no less than fifteen of the eighteen cars in the shed were totally consumed, and the other three were considerably damaged. The first care of the men in charge was the rescue of the horses, which was accomplished with no little difficulty. The water at first poured on the flames seemed to have no effect except to spread them. In such weather as we have experienced lately the woodwork of the cars is as dry as tinder, and this fact helps to explain the strong hold gained by the fire in so short a time. The jury after carefully considering the facts of the case came to the conclusion that everything possible was done to save property, and that no blame was attach-able to any one. While the verdict is justified by the evidence, the disaster emphasises the need of extreme care when kerosine is employed for lighting. The oil used was of high test, but the manager of the company could not say whether it had been passed by a Government inspector. It is stated that a number of shipments of kerosine which were condemned as dangerous in New South Wales have found their way to other colonies, and although there is nothing to suggest that any of this oil has come into the possession of the tram company, the statement, if true, indicates that something is lacking in the local system of inspection.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 2 December 1896, page 4

THE FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

THE INQUEST.

The city coroner (Dr. Whittell) held an enquiry at the Royal Oak Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. J. F. Yuill appeared on behalf of the South Australian Insurance Company, Superintendent Booker represented the Fire Brigades Board, and Mr. T. Jones, manager, appeared on behalf of the tramway company. Mr. W. C. Buik, chairman of directors of the company, was also present.

J. S. Brindal, car-cleaner and watchman at the North Adelaide tramsheds, said he was on duty with Joseph Senior on Monday evening, they being left in charge of the premises. It was their duty to clean the cars and prepare them for the morning. The last car came in at about 11.45 p.m. Was at work up till 1.15 a.m. At that time Senior went into the harness-room just off the stables to get his supper. Witness remained behind cleaning the advertisements inside one of the cars, about the third or fourth car from the eastern end, and in the middle division. Heard an unusual noise, and went to see what was the matter. Discovered a flare inside about the third car from the road on the middle line. The flame was on the northern side of the car, and appeared to come from one of the lamps. The flames burst out as he approached, and he called Senior, who came at once, and witness handed him the fire bucket to extinguish the flames. Senior put on two buckets of water, and then said, "It is no good, Jack. I had better go for the boss." Thought the water thrown on to the flames made the fire spread more. Mr. Davey, the foreman, soon appeared on the scene, and witness called up Mr. Kenna and his son Willie. Also called up Mr. Doddridge. Then got out the station fire-hose, which they played on the fire. Did not know whether it had any effect on the fire, being engaged outside at the plug. The fire brigade arrived and took charge of the fire whilst they let the horses out. There was a good supply of water. The lamps used in the cars were for kerosine, and are specially constructed. Thought the lamps were quite safe, and that the jolting of the cars would not affect them. Had not seen many chimneys break. Had had eighteen months' experience with the lamps. Did not know that a lamp turned low was more dangerous than when high. The custom was that as soon as a car arrived after the last trip the driver put one light out and left the other burning so that the cleaner could better see to do his work. In addition to this he had a hand lamp. They had two of these made of metal, with the front and

two sides of glass. Believed they were all oil lamps and that colza oil was used. It generally took from 11.40 till 12.30 a.m. to finish cleaning the cars. The car in which he saw the fire had its light still burning. He had not yet come to it. The extra work in cleaning the advertisements accounted for the lateness of the hour in finishing. Had not been in the car which first caught alight, but his companion had swept it out. Thought the fire originated through the lamp exploding. Never knew one to explode before, or any other accident with the lamps occur previously. About 15 cars had been totally destroyed. Was so excited that he did not think about shifting the cars. Thought three of the cars were in flames when the brigade arrived. Kerosine was kept under lock and key in the shed. No fires were allowed on the premises with the exception of one in the blacksmith's shop, about 300 yards away. Would suggest that a standpipe be placed in the shed. Did not think anyone would set a car on fire out of spite. The wind was blowing strongly at the time. Was about three cars away from the one first alight when he heard the strange noise. By Mr. Booker—First discovered the fire at about 1.25. Did not know that any of the employees had been sent to give the alarm. Did not have to leave the building to call the men. Had never found smouldering cigar stumps on the cars. By Mr. Yuill—Did not know what time the car first alight arrived ; thought it was about 11.15 p.m. By Constable Lakeman —The tram stables were connected by telephone with Mr. Davey's house.

Joseph Senior said he was working at the tramsheds on Tuesday evening, starting at 6 p.m. and finishing at 6 a.m. Everything was all right when he went to supper at about 1.15 a.m. Heard Brindal call out "Joe, Joe, quick !" Went out immediately, and saw one of the cars alight in the corner near the road. The flames were near the lamp. Corroborated the previous witness's statements. Made an attempt to save some of the cars by pushing them out. Had been employed three years by the company, and had been eleven months on night duty in cleaning cars. Had not noticed any defects in the lamps. Swept the car out, and it was all right when he left it. Left the lamp alight for the cleaner. There were five or six cars with lamps alight. By Mr. Yuill—Took his lamp with him when he went to supper. By Constable Lakeman— It was about 11.20 when he swept the car out.

William Doddridge, cardriver, living at the tramsheds, said he was awakened by Brindal at about 1.25 on Tuesday morning. Got up at once, and saw Brindal with the hose. Witness carried it through to the scene of the fire. Saw about five of the cars burning, which he played the water on. Had a lot of experience with cars and lamps. Never knew a lamp to break or explode. Could form no idea of the cause of the fire.

John Davey, foreman of the sheds, and living on the premises, said he was called about 1.40 a.m. The man said—"One of the cars is on fire." Replied—"Will be there in a minute." Sent his son for the fire brigade, whilst witness proceeded to the scene of the fire. Saw several cars on fire, and with the policeman he started playing a hose on the fire, but discovered it was doing no good and commenced shunting the cars out. Got six of the cars out. When the brigade arrived thought a good many cars were on fire. Agreed with Brindal that the fire originated through the explosion of a lamp. Considered that there was no danger in turning the lamps down. Thought the wind must have got into the lamp to cause it to explode. Every evening at 5 o'clock the fire buckets are always attended to, and they were filled on this occasion. By Constable Lake-man—When his son reached the fire brigade station the reels had gone to the scene of the fire.

Thomas Jones, manager of the Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company, in answer to Mr. Yuill, said an accident occurred through a lamp flaring some ten or twelve years ago. By the Coroner—Did not remember why candles were substituted for kerosine, but after candles were used for seven or eight years kerosine was again adopted owing to the poor light given by the candles. The first accident spoken of was the flaring of the lamp owing to a draught. A passenger, however, put the lamp out, and with the exception of slight charring no damage was done. He expected that a fire would have occurred if it had not been put out. By Mr. Buik—The lamps then were not different to those in use now. They went back to kerosine on account of the superior quality of the oil now in use. By Mr. Booker—The kerosine used was

150° test. Did not know what test it was put to, or if a Government inspector tested it. Did not purchase kerosine by contract. Had no knowledge that a number of shipments of kerosine which had been condemned as dangerous in New South Wales had been imported into other colonies.

Frederick McNamara, police constable, said he was on duty in O'Connell-street on Tuesday morning at 1.45. Saw smoke issuing from the tramsheds, and immediately gave the alarm to the fire brigade. Then proceeded to the fire, and saw several cars and the rafters burning. The North Adelaide brigade arrived before him. Could not say how the fire occurred.

This concluded the evidence, and the coroner having summed up the jury retired. After a few minutes' consultation they re-turned a verdict expressing the opinion that the fire was caused through the explosion of one of the lamps ; that all was done that was possible to extinguish the flames, and that no blame was attachable to any one.



State Library of South Australia - Tram Car Depot, North Adelaide [B 8016]. A group men stand in front of two tramcars which are at the entrance of the tram depot. Three of the men are holding horses, two others are holding shovels. Women and children are standing on the steps of one of the tramcars. 1887. Photographer, Marchant, P. J.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 2 December 1896, page 7

THE FIRE IN NORTH ADELAIDE.

FIFTEEN CARS BURNT.

ESTIMATED DAMAGE. £3.500.

The fire which broke out in the North Adelaide tramsheds on Tuesday morning was quickly subdued, thanks to the promptitude and skill of Superintendent Booker and the members of the fire brigade, but it was indicated in yesterday's issue, a considerable amount of damage was done. The following additional particulars of the fire were obtained on Tuesday : — Mr. Brindle, one of the night watchmen, told a Pressman — I and my fellow-watchman, Jack Senior, were having some refreshments, when about half-past 1 I heard a peculiar noise amongst the trams, and, rushing out, saw one in the centre all ablaze. Told Jack to call Mr. Davey and Mr. Dodridge, who reside near by. We then got the hosing out, but seeing that our efforts were unsuccessful we sent for aid from the Fire Brigade. In answer to a question as to how the fire originated, he replied, Well, I don't exactly know, but we had not finished our work, and so two or three lamps were burning in the cars. One of these probably exploded. Speaking to Mr. Dodridge, who resides on top of the stables, he said — I was aroused by some one yelling out, "Oh, Will 1 oh, Will!" so I immediately ran downstairs, and saw a lurid

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

11 May 2026

glow. We had some difficulty with the hose as it was twisted, and it was some time before we got it to work. I believe if it had worked at first we might have saved something, but this is only a matter of conjecture, as although there was no wind the fire spread among the other cars as if they had been made of tissue-paper. When asked if any of the horses, which numbered over 200, were hurt, he replied No. barring a few kicks, some of them lashing out a great deal. The policeman who was on duty in O'Connell-street said — I noticed the fire, and immediately telephoned for the fire brigades. This was about twelve minutes to 2, and within two minutes the North Adelaide reel had arrived, and were soon followed by the Metropolitan Brigade. Every one present gave a helping hand, Messrs. J. H. Lyons and M. J. Solomon being particularly conspicuous. The former, with some others, played the water on the backs of four cars which had been run out in the open, and thus saved these from being totally destroyed. Mr. Solomon had his private hose working with telling effect. Great credit is due to the firemen for their unflinching efforts. They fought manfully, and within half an hour they had the fire under. At one time it was a touch and go with the large stable, as one of the fan-lights caught fire, but luckily a fireman was near and soon had that difficulty overcome. The building on Tuesday presented a wrecked appearance — nothing but debris. It was almost pathetic to see the expressions on the faces of some of the drivers when they came in the morning and asked if their seats and whips or some other article which they had left on the tram overnight, and which had been companions on many a drive, had been saved. Some of the cars put into use on the North Adelaide line are very quaint and odd looking, being completely out of date. Luckily the largest of the cars — known as No. 7 — was at Kensington, and thereby escaped. On enquiry we find that the building was insured for £500, and the cars— some for £200 each, and others for £250. They are all effected in the South Australian Insurance Company. In all fifteen cars were completely demolished, and three were damaged. It is expected that the latter will be refitted. Roughly speaking the damage is estimated at £3,500 — probably a little over.

SUPERINTENDENT BOOKER'S STATEMENT.

Interviewed by one of our representatives, Superintendent Booker said they received a call at 1.43 a.m. on Tuesday from the fire alarm at the corner of King William and Way-mouth streets. Information was immediately sent to the North Adelaide Station as well as Norwood. Turned out from the head station with a reel and steamer, and on arriving at King William-street could see that the conflagration was in North Adelaide. He sent the steamer back to head-quarters with instructions to be in readiness if wanted, and proceeded with all haste to the fire with the reel. On arrival, found the North Adelaide contingent already there. Five lines of hose were got to work from different points of vantage, and all danger of the fire spreading was soon over. The shed building, about 180 ft. by 50 ft., was destroyed by fire, whilst fifteen cars met a similar fate and five were damaged. Strange to say the fire was seen from King William-street before any notification of the outbreak was given from the vicinity of the fire to the Brigade at North Adelaide. The building, rolling-stock, &c., are insured in the South Australian Insurance Company for £8,309. A fireman was left in charge of the building till this morning. He could not understand how the fire originated, more particularly with two watchmen on the premises. It had been asserted a kerosine lamp had exploded. When he arrived the place was in flames, and he consequently had no opportunity of verifying the above assertion. He believed the North Adelaide Brigade were at work on the flames three minutes after receiving the call, quickly followed by reels from the head station and Norwood. We are asked to state that no inconvenience will result to the public on account of the loss of the cars, and that the tramway will adhere to the usual time-table.

THE INQUEST.

The City Coroner, Dr. Whittel, held an enquiry at the Royal Oak Hotel on Tuesday afternoon into the cause of the fire. Mr. C. Hale was appointed Foreman of the Jury. Mr. J. F. Yuill appeared on behalf of the S.A. Insurance Company ; Superintendent Booker represented the Fire Brigades Board ; Mr. Jones, Manager, appeared on behalf of the Tramway Company. Mr. W. C. Buik, Chairman, of Directors, was also present. John Samuel Brindle, car-cleaner and

watch-man at the North Adelaide Tramsheds, said he was on duty with Joseph Senior on Monday evening, they being left in charge of the premises. It was their duty to clean the cars and prepare them for the morning. The last car came in about 11.45 p.m. Was at work up till 1.15 a.m. At that time Senior went into the harness-room, just off the stables, to get his supper. Remained behind cleaning the advertisements inside one of the cars — about the third or fourth car from the eastern end and in the middle division. Heard an unusual noise, and went to see what was the matter. Discovered a flare inside about the third car from the road on the middle line, the flame being on the northern side of the car and appearing to come from one of the lamps. The flames burst out as he approached, and he called his mate. Senior came at once, and he handed him the fire-bucket to extinguish the flames. Senior put on two buckets of water and then said. "It is no good Jack ; I had better go for the boss." Thought the water thrown on to the flames made the fire spread more. Mr. Davey, the foreman, soon appeared on the scene, and witness called up Mr. Kenneth and his son Willie. Also called up Mr. Doddridge. Then got out the fire-hose, which they played on the fire. Did not know whether it had any effect on the fire, being engaged outside at the plug. The Fire Brigade arrived and took charge of the fire, whilst they let the horses out. There was a good supply of water. The lamps used in the cars were for kerosine and were specially constructed. Thought the lamps were quite safe and that the jolting of the cars would not affect them. Had not seen many chimneys break. They were rarely blackened. Had had eighteen months' experience with the lamps. Did not know that a lamp turned low was more dangerous than when high. The custom of working was that as soon as a car arrived after the last trip the driver put one light out and left the other burning, so that the cleaner could better see to do his work. In addition to this he had a hand lamp. They had two of these. They were made of metal, and had the front and two sides of glass. Believed they were oil lamps and that colza oil was used. It generally took from 11.40 till half-past 12 to finish cleaning the cars. The car in which he saw the fire had its light still burning. Had not yet come to it. The extra work in cleaning the advertisements accounted for the lateness of the hour in finishing the cars. Had not been to the car which first caught alight, but his companion had swept it out. Thought the fire originated through the lamp exploding. Never knew one to explode, or any accident with the lamps to occur previously. About fifteen cars had been totally destroyed. Was so excited that he did not think about shifting the cars. Thought three of the cars were in flames when the brigade arrived. Kerosine was kept under lock and key in the shed. No fires were allowed on the premises with the exception of the blacksmith's shop, about 300 yards away. Would suggest that a stand pipe be placed in the shed. Did not think any one would set a car on fire out of spite. By a Juror— The wind was blowing strongly at the time of the conflagration. Was about three cars away from the one first alight when he heard the strange noise. By Mr. Booker —First discovered the fire about 1.25. Did not know that any of the employes had been sent to give the alarm. Did not have to leave the building to call the men. Had never found a smouldering cigar stump in the cars. By Mr. Yuill— Did not know what time the car first alight arrived. Thought about 11.15. By Constable Lakeman— The tram stables were connected by telephone with Mr. Davey's house. Joseph Senior said he was working at the tramsheds on Tuesday evening, starting at 6 p.m. and finishing at 6 a.m. The Coroner— You are not an eight-hour man, then? You are like the doctors, work when you can get it. (Laughter.) Witness — Yes, Sir. Everything was all right when we went to supper about 1.15. Heard Brindle call out, "Joe, Joe; quick:" Went out immediately, and saw one of the cars alight in the corner near the road. The flames were near the receptacle for the lamp. Corroborated the previous witness's statements, Made an attempt to save some of the cars by pushing them out. Had been employed three years by the Company, and eleven months on night duty in cleaning cars. Had not noticed any defects in the lamps. Swept the car out, and it was all right when he left it. Left the lamp alight for the cleaner. There were five or six cars with lamps alight. By Mr. Yuill— Took his lamp with him when he went to supper. By Constable Lakeman— It was about 11.20 when he swept the car out. William Doddridge, living at the tramsheds, said he was a driver for the Company He was awakened by Brindle at about 1.25 on Tuesday morning. Got up at once, and saw Brindle with the hose. Witness carried it through to the scene of the fire. Saw about five of the cars burning, on which he played the water. Had a lot of experience with cars and lamps. Never knew a lamp to leak or

explode. Could form no idea of the cause of the fire. John Davey, foreman at the sheds and living on the premises, said he was called about 1.40. The man said, "One of the cars is on fire." Replied, "Will be there in a minute." Sent his son for the Fire Brigade, whilst he proceeded to the scene of the fire. Saw several cars on fire. With the policeman started playing a hose on the fire, but discovered it was doing no good, and began shunting the cars out. Got six of the cars out. When the Brigade arrived thought a good many cars were on fire. Agreed with Brindle that the fire originated through the explosion of a lamp. Thought there was no danger in turning the lamps low. Thought the wind must have got into the lamp to cause it to explode. Every evening at 5 o'clock the fire buckets were attended to, and they were filled on this occasion. By Constable Lakeman — When his son reached the Fire Brigade Station the reels had gone to the scene of the fire. Thomas Jones, Manager of the Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company, in answer to Mr. Yuill, said an accident occurred on one occasion some ten or twelve years ago through a lamp flaring. By the Coroner— Did not remember the reason why candles were substituted for kerosine, but after candles had been used for seven or eight years kerosine was again adopted owing to the poor light given by the candles. The first accident spoken of was the flaring of a lamp owing to a draught. A passenger put the lamp out, and with the exception of slight charring no damage was done. By Mr. Yuill— Thought a fire would have occurred had the lamp not been put out. By Mr. Buik— The lamps then were not different from those in use now. The reason why the Company went back to kerosine was owing to the superior quality of the kerosine. By Mr. Booker — The kerosine used was 150° test. Did not know what test it was put to, or that a Government Inspector tested it. Did not purchase kerosine by contract. Had not heard that a number of shipments of kerosine which had been condemned as dangerous in New South Wales had been imported into the other colonies. Frederick McNamara, police constable, said he was on duty in O'Connell-street on Tuesday morning at 1.45. Saw smoke issuing from the tramsheds, and immediately gave the alarm to the Fire Brigade. Then proceeded to the fire, and saw several cars and the rafters burning. The North Adelaide Brigade arrived before him, followed shortly afterwards by the Metropolitan Brigade. Could not say how the fire occurred. After a short retirement the Jury returned with the verdict — "We are of opinion that the fire was caused through the explosion of one of the lamps, and that all was done that was possible to extinguish same, and that no blame is attachable to any one.

1898

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1898.

North Adelaide, O'Connell Street, between Archer and Chapel Streets. Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, Chas A. Wooley in charge.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 16 December 1898, page 2

FIRE.

A call was received from the Morphett-street Fire Alarm on Friday morning, and within a few minutes the metropolitan reel steamer and ladder were in attendance at the scene of the fire, in a house in Rose-street. The North Adelaide and Unley reels arrived a few minutes later, but buckets of water were sufficient to suppress the flames. The house was not inhabited, but was stored with timber.

1899

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1899.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, Chas A. Wooley in charge, O'Connell Street.

1900

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1900.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, O'Connell Street with Henry Hedger in charge.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 23 November 1900, page 2

A SMALL FIRE.

At about half-past 8 on Wednesday morning a haystack, the property of George Rice, dairyman, of Ellen street, Nailsworth, was totally destroyed by fire. The North Adelaide fire reel was summoned, and quickly extinguished the fire. The stack, which contained about 10 tons of hay, was insured in the Royal Insurance Office.

1901

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1901.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, 73 O'Connell Street with Henry Hedger in charge.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 12 April 1901, page 4

ANOTHER FIRE.

There seems to be an epidemic of fires. A few minutes before midnight on Thurs-day Supt. Booker was aroused from his peaceful slumbers to extinguish a fire at the rear of Messrs. Holden & Frost's premises in Grenfell street. Constable J. Kelly was walking down Rundle street when his attention was called to the smoke by some-body at the King of Hanover Hotel. He ran through the Arcade, but, seeing nothing, proceeded down Chester street. On looking back he saw the flames, and at once gave the alarm from the Arcade. The Adelaide reel, steam-engine, and ladder were quickly on the spot, and the North Adelaide, Unley, -and Norwood reels followed in rapid succession. A hose was smartly got to work, and in an exceedingly short space of time the blaze was extinguished. Some barrels of oil and a quantity of bagging were alight on a platform, and the fire had just burnt through the door when the reel arrived and subdued it.

1902

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1902.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, 73 O'Connell Street, between Archer and Chapel Streets. A. B. Cleveland in charge.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 27 January 1902, page 4

KILLED BY A FIRE REEL.

A fatal accident happened near the Adelaide Bridge on Saturday evening. The North Adelaide fire reel received a call at the station at about 8.47. and the men promptly proceeded towards the city at full gallop, shouting as they went along to keep the road clear. When about 20 yards from the bridge the reel was observed to pull up, and Constable O'Donnell, who was standing on the bridge, ran across to see what had happened. A few seconds previously he heard a woman's voice exclaim "Oh! father," but did not pay particular attention to it. When he reached the reel one of the firemen had alighted, and was tending a man by the name of Michael McInerheney, of Finnis street, North Adelaide. He was lying behind the reel face downwards, and did not move when touch-ed. A cab was procured, and the unfortunate man, who seemed about 70 years of age, was removed to the hospital. Life was there pronounced to be extinct. No body seems to have actually seen the accident occur, as the electric lights in the vicinity were faint, which made it difficult to see anything distinctly a few yards away. It was thought that the deceased, accompanied by his daughter, was journeying from the city, and crossed the road near the bridge with the intention of entering the path which leads through the park-lands to Finnis street. There was a trap coming along the road, and it was evident that the old man became confused, and in endeavouring to escape collision with the trap got in the way of the reel. The pole probably struck him on the forehead, as there were two gashes above the eyes. The men on the reel did not feel the vehicle lurch, but one of the horses fell. An in-quest will be held at the Elephant and Castle Hotel at 10 o'clock this morning.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 27 January 1902, page 4

KILLED BY A FIRE REEL.

At about 8.40 p.m. on Saturday, while the North Adelaide reel was proceeding into town, whither it had been called on a false alarm of fire at the Old Colonists' Hotel, in Angas-street, an accident occurred, resulting in the death of Michael Mc-Inerney. Deceased was walking along the road just on the north side of the City bridge, when he was knocked down by the reel. A fireman was left in charge of the injured man, and he was conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital by the police. An examination was made by the resident medical officer, Dr. Frances Snow, who pronounced life to be extinct. Deceased, who was about 70 years of age, resided at Finnis-street, North Adelaide. An eye-witness states that the firemen attempted to attract the man's attention by shouting to him, and drew the horses right back on to their haunches in the endeavor to prevent the accident. An inquest will be held at the Elephant and Castle Hotel this morning at 10 o'clock.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 28 January 1902, page 3

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

RUNDOWN BY A REEL.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

At the Elephant and Castle Hotel, on Monday morning, the city coroner. Dr. W. Ramsay Smith, held an inquest on the body of Michael McInerheney of Finnis street, North Adelaide, who was run down by a fire reel on Saturday night. Representative Glynn watched the case for the family of deceased, and Superintendent Booker appeared for the Fire Brigades Board. Cornelius McInerheney, farmer, of Murat Bay, identified the body as that of his late father, aged about 62 years.— Annie McInerheney, daughter of deceased, said that her father usually lived on the Peninsula, and had come over to Adelaide for a time. Was with him on Saturday night on the North Adelaide side of the City Bridge, King William road. They went to cross the road, but when they got to the centre witness's attention was attracted by the galloping of horses. A fire reel was coming towards them, and was about four or five yards away when she first caught sight of it. She called out, "Father, the fire reel, the fire reel, the fire reel," two or three times. Deceased then attempted to run across to the footpath, but had got only a few paces when the reel knocked him down and the horses passed right over him. Witness stood where she was. The horses were going at full speed, and did not seem as though they were pulled up at all. She saw the reel in time to keep out of its way, and she spoke to her father in time to allow him to do so. Did not know whether the firemen were calling out. Her father had good eyesight and wonderful hearing. Gustave Luck foreman of the North Adelaide fire station, deposed to having received a call at 8.47 on Saturday evening to go to the Old Colonist Hotel, Angas street. As they came towards the City Bridge they met and passed a tramcar and a trap, both of which were going to North Adelaide. When the reel approached the bridge witness saw a man and a woman in the middle of the road, apparently crossing from the east to the west. The two people halted in the middle of the road, and the woman drew back while the man went on. The firemen shouted out and applied the brakes, but the pole struck the man on the side. He fell under the near side horse, bringing the animal to its knees. Immediately the reel had passed over the body they succeeded in pulling it up.— By Mr. Glynn— As soon as they saw the people on the road they slackened speed to escape them. Under the conditions they could not pull up before reaching the man and woman. The regulations under which they acted were that they should proceed as quickly as possible to the scene of the fire consistent with the safety of the public.— Ernest Alec Laing, driver of the fire reel, said the man and woman were from 15 to 20 yards away when he first saw them. The reel was going at about 12 or 14 miles an hour.— Robert Ownsworth, baker, of North Adelaide, was on the City Bridge on Saturday night, when he saw a man and woman crossing the road. Heard shouting, and noticed the fire reel coming. Deceased seemed to hesitate in

the middle of the road, and the reel went over him.— The jury, after a short retirement, found that de-ceased met his death by being accidentally run over by the North Adelaide fire reel.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 1 February 1902, page 34

FIRE REEL FATALITY.

The City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) held an inquest at the Elephant and Castle Hotel on Monday on the body of Michael McInerheney, of Finnis-street, North Adelaide, who was run over and killed by a fire reel on Saturday night. Mr. P. McM. Glynn watched the proceedings on behalf of the family of deceased, Mr. Rae for the police, and Superintendent Booker for the Fire Brigades Board. Cornelius McInerheney, farmer, of Murat Bay, identified the body as that of his late father, who was about 62 years of age. Deceased was a retired farmer, and had come to Adelaide a few days before January 25, in order to stay in the city a few weeks. Annie McInerheney, daughter of deceased, said she was with her father on Saturday night on the North Adelaide side of the City-bridge, King William-road. They were walking towards the city, and went across the road. When in about the centre of the roadway her attention was attracted by the galloping of horses, and then she noticed a fire reel 4 or 5 yards off. The reel was coming from North Adelaide towards the bridge. Witness called out to her father, who ran one or two paces to get out of the way of the horses, which ran right over him with the vehicle at full speed. There was no attempt to pull the horses up. Witness thought if the horses had swerved to the Walkerville side of the road her father's life would have been saved. Gustave Luck, foreman of the North Adelaide Fire Station, said that at the time of the accident Ernest Laing was driving the horses. On the reel nearing the bridge witness saw a man and woman in the middle of the road, apparently crossing from east to west. The two people halted. The woman drew back, while the man went on. The firemen shouted out, and applied the brake, but the pole head struck the man on the side. He fell under the near-side horse, bringing the animal on its knees. Immediately after the reel had passed over the man's body they succeeded in pulling the horses up. Ernest Alec Laing, who was driving the reel at the time of the accident, gave corroborative evidence. As soon as he saw deceased he called out, and at once applied the brakes. By Mr. Glynn— The reel was proceeding at the rate of about 12 to 14 miles an hour. Witness always checked the speed of the horses in passing over the City-bridge to a certain extent. If he had pulled to the off side he firmly believed the horses would have run over and killed the woman. Constable O'Donnell, who was on the bridge at the time of the, accident said that the horses in the reel had been almost pulled up when the man was knocked down. Witness had deceased taken to the hospital in a cab, but on arrival there he was found to be dead. The jury, after a brief retirement, returned a verdict of 'Accidental death.'

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 22 April 1902, page 7

AN ALARM OF FIRE.

The Adelaide, North Adelaide, and Unley fire reels were turned out on Monday shortly before 6 pm., in response to an alarm given from in front of the G.P.O. The fire was at the house of Mr. W. H. Carpenter, South-terrace west, and the messenger who rang for the brigade consequently passed several alarm-posts en route to the post-office. No damage was done save the burning of a curtain, and the services of the brigade were not required.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 8 October 1902, page 4

A FIRE IN THE CITY.

There was considerable commotion in the city on Tuesday evening, when an alarm of fire was raised in Rundle-street at 25 minutes past 8, and a reel, the steam fire-engine, and the escape ladder from the head station were quickly on the scene, while the reels from Norwood, Unley, and North Adelaide, which were also summoned, arrived soon afterwards. The flames were found to be issuing from a goods storage-room at the rear of the premises of Messrs. Charles Everett & Co., grocers. The brigade, under Superintendent Booker, with

commendable promptitude, soon got three lines of hose—one from Rundle-street, another from Charles-street, and the third from Grenfell-street to work on the flames which were shooting out of the roof of the store, and 20 minutes later the fire was completely under control. For a time the firemen had a sharp tussle in preventing the flames from reaching the front portion of the shop, and the occupants of the adjoining premises were very anxious until all danger had passed. A considerable amount of damage was done to the stock of groceries by fire and water, but an estimate of the loss cannot be formed until to-day, when the insurances on the property will also be ascertained. Tram and other traffic was interrupted in Rundle-street for some time, and although a large crowd gathered complete order was kept by the police, under the supervision of Inspectors Sullivan and Shaw. The premises were closed at the usual hour last evening, and the cause of the outbreak is at present a mystery. About 12 years ago a fire occurred in almost exactly the same spot.

1903

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1903.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, 73 O'Connell Street, between Archer and Chapel Streets. A. B. Cleveland in charge. From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1903.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 11 June 1903, page 6

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

The Fire Brigade received a call from Morphett-street at 6.19 p.m. on Wednesday evening. The reel, steamer, and ladder from the head station and the reels from Unley, North Adelaide, and Norwood were quickly on the scene. The fire was in a secondhand dealer's shop in Hindley-street, occupied by Mr. Ackolson. A quantity of secondhand clothing in the window was well alight, but when the brigade arrived the flames were quickly subdued before much damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 December 1903, page 6

A SMALL FIRE.

A small fire occurred shortly after noon on Sunday at a house in Mabel-street, North Adelaide. The house was owned and occupied by a blind lady, Miss Black, and the fire broke out in a small room built of wood and iron at the rear of the premises, which was used as a kitchen. It is believed that the overheating of a stove caused the outbreak. The North Adelaide fire station received a call at 20 minutes past 12, and immediately communicated with the city station which also sent out a reel. The flames were soon under control, but the kitchen and its contents were destroyed. The damage, however, was not great, and fortunately the property was insured.

1904

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1904.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, 73 O'Connell Street, between Archer and Chapel Streets. A. B. Cleveland in charge.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 18 January 1904, page 7

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

MAYFIELD & SONS' STORE.

On Saturday night, at 7.55, an alarm of fire was given from the alarm box at the corner of Charles and Rundle streets. The reel, steamer, and ladder from the Metropolitan Fire Station were quickly sent out, and within half a minute of reaching the base of the fire (a bulk store at the rear of S. Mayfield & Sons' shop in Rundle street) had a line of hose playing on to the

flames. The Unley, Norwood, and North Adelaide reels turned up in a few minutes; but the work of extinction had been so well begun that only one reel, that from Unley, was required to be brought into action. The fire was confined to the central portion of the building, a three-story structure, and, though when the fire-extinguishing apparatus reached the place flames were bursting through the windows and out at the roof, half an hour sufficed to subdue the fire, and the damage was confined to one portion of the building, the floors and staircases in the central part of which were burned away. A large crowd assembled in Rundle street, but were kept well in order by the police and mounted troopers. The fire being confined to the back portion, there was little for the people to see. By some strange fate several large fires in thickly built neighbourhoods have taken place at times when the Superintendent of Fire Brigades has been out of town. The fire on Saturday evening marked another of these coincidences, for Mr. Booker had only on the previous evening left for Wallaroo by invitation from the mine directors to advise regarding the trouble at Taylor's shaft. He had, however, left the charge of the station in good hands. Foreman Luck, of the head station, was in command, and disposed his forces well. He laid out three lines of attack, and brought two branches of hose to play on the flames, from Rundle and Grenfell streets, and had a third line from Rundle street in readiness in case of emergency. The lastnamed hose was not used, as the extinction of the fire was seen to be possible without the damage by water that would have been entailed had it been brought into recognition. All the Foremen of the suburban fire stations were present, including the Unley foreman, who was on leave, and, being in the neighbourhood at the time, put in an appearance without uniform.

—The Alarm.—

The alarm was given at 7.55 by Charles H. Robertson, employed at the Public Benefit Boot Company, Rundle street. Robertson said he was sitting in the office at the back of the shop, which is close to Mayfield's store, when suddenly he saw flames coming through one of the lower windows of the adjacent premises. He at once rushed across Rundle street and broke the glass of the alarm box, and in two or three minutes the reels began to arrive.

—Marine Volunteers. —

A number of marines from H.M.S. Royal Arthur and H.M.S. Tauranga were in Rundle street on temporary leave. It is a rule of the service that wherever naval men may be they are liable to be called on to assist in case of fire. These jolly Jack Tars did not wait for a formal call, but willingly abandoned their pleasure and worked like Trojans in the dark alleyways and among the dirt and wet. A. Hiscox, A.B., A. Coe, stoker, and O. Todhunter, A.B. of the Tauranga, particularly distinguished themselves.

—Mr. Mayfield's Statement —

Mr. E. A. Mayfield, one of the partners in the firm, told a reporter that he was un-able to account for the origin of the fire. The place in which it occurred was a three story building, used as a polishing shop and bulk store, and had been, so far as he knew, finally closed up at about 1 o'clock that afternoon. The insurance on the building would amount to roughly £500, and on the stock to about £900. That the horse is to be banished from cities is certain, and we welcome the change which has already begun. It may mean, as Mr. Briton Riviere says, the banishment of the most beautiful form of traction in the world, but it will also mean cleaner streets, a far longer life to roadways, a vast difference in the length of traffic, and considerably less expenditure by the municipal authorities on the upkeep of their streets.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 1 February 1904, page 7

FIRE IN KING WILLIAM STREET.

SERIOUS DAMAGE.

About 5.53 a.m. on Saturday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Stephens-place alarm. The steamer, reels and ladder were quickly on the spot, and shortly afterwards

the metropolitan force was supplemented by the Unley, North Adelaide, and Norwood reels. The fire was quickly seen to be in the basement premises occupied by Messrs. Anderson and Hall, jewellers, King William-street, close to Rundle-street, but, owing to the denseness of the smoke pouring from the places extreme difficulty was experienced in locating it with exactitude. All the shops were, of course, locked up. Some of the firemen, with a hose, went up Faulding's-lane, and reached the back premises of the buildings, and a door was quickly forced. It was found to be the cigarette room, belonging to Messrs. Duhst and Biven, and was full of smoke. A second doorway was then broken away, and the burning premises were reached. Almost simultaneously the firemen in front had effected an entrance through the staircase leading from King William-street to Waterhouse Chambers, and the lowest four steps being cut away a double stream of water was soon pouring on the flames. The work and store room in the basement, belonging to Messrs. Anderson & Hall, extend from a blank wall on the north side of Messrs. Leaver & Co.'s to Rundle-street, and it was in this apartment that the fire apparently broke out. The efforts of the firemen were directed to confining the flames as far as possible, and fortunately they were attended with complete success. The fire extended to the ground floor shop of Messrs. Anderson & Hall, which is seriously damaged by fire, water, and smoke.

Messrs. Duhst & Biven have suffered a loss in the damage by smoke and water to their premises, principally the cigarette-room, and slightly in the shaving room. The latter was only saved from further damage by an iron partition which separates the two premises. Messrs. Duhst & Biven are insured in the Northern Insurance Company for £850 on stock and £100 on fixtures. In several places the firemen had to cut away portions of the flooring, in order to make an escape for the smoke. The damage here as estimated at about £25. The Shop of Mr. G. W. Cox, jeweller, adjoining Messrs. Duhst & Biven's in Rundle-street, escaped with some slight damage. His premises were insured in the Sun Fire Association Company for £350, and by 10.30 a.m. the company's valuator had inspected his premises, and satisfied Mr. Cox's claim. The fancy goods establishment carried on by Messrs. J. W. Hill & Co., in Rundle-street, adjoins Mr. Cox's shop and his extensive basement premises. These are largely stored with woollen and fancy goods. The smoke was very dense in that part for some time, and it is feared that a good deal of damage has been effected, but, until a thorough examination is made, nothing can be said with any certainty. The stock is fully covered by a policy in the Norwich Union office.

The basement and shop of Messrs. Anderson & Hall are almost completely spoiled. The stock, fittings, and tools are insured in the London and Lancashire office for £800. The Shop is smashed about, doors being broken away and all the fixtures and much of the stock shattered. A stairway leading to the basement is almost burnt away, and that portion of the establishment is almost completely wrecked. A most valuable set of watchmaker's tools are covered with debris and water. Some gold watches, which on Friday evening had been taken to pieces for repair, are scattered about somewhere, and about £100 worth of new watches is spoiled, it is believed, beyond repair. Fortunately the bulk of repair work, and much new stock, has been preserved in a safe. A valuable clock, which had been left with the firm for repair, is broken, and altogether Mr. Anderson, when asked, said that it was almost impossible even to guess the value of the damage done. The whole premises are saturated with smoke and water, and much time will be lost in making the premises fit for use again.

The offices upstairs are undamaged. The fire would have attained most serious proportions but for the promptitude of Police Constable Noblett, who was on duty, in notifying the Fire Brigade, and the immediate response of that body. The premises are old, and had the flames once reached the ground floor it is possible that the whole block might have gone

The total amount of damage done by the fire has not been definitely ascertained, but it is understood to be well covered by the insurances. The City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) was informed of the fire, and it has been decided that an enquiry will not be necessary.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 April 1904, page 35

FIRE IN PULTENEY-STREET.

There are few things which spread so rapidly as an alarm of fire. This was evidenced on Tuesday afternoon, when crowds of people rushed from all directions to the scene of a destructive conflagration at the premises of Mr. W. J. Rawling, tinsmith and iron-worker, Pulteney-street. The call for the brigade was given at about a quarter-past 4, and within a few minutes a crowd extending into Pirie-street had gathered to see the burning building. Although the origin of the fire is not known, the locality in which it was first seen was noticed by several persons. It appears that a little girl passing the front of the shop was amongst those who called attention to the fire. About the same time Mr. R. E. Hermann, who is a partner with Mr. Rawling in the Best Light portion of the business, which was carried on on the premises, noticed the flames, and did what he could to extinguish them, and at the same time sent one of the employes to give the alarm and call out the brigade. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a notification of the fire from the Globe Timber Mills alarm at 4.10 p.m., and Superintendent Booker turned out immediately from the head station with a reel, steamer, and ladder. He also called in the Norwood, Unley, and North Adelaide reels. On arrival at the scene of the fire the building was found to be well alight, back and front, and the flames had already reached the top floor, and could be seen coming through the windows. The brigade immediately got to work, and two lines of hose were run in at the front of the building and two at the rear. Steady and well-directed streams of water were poured into the burning mass, and after a sharp tussle, lasting about 20 minutes, the flames were practically extinguished. The front portion of the shop was badly damaged, and the contents were almost completely destroyed, but the back part of the premises was saved, as were also the ad-joining buildings. The shop contained lamps and tinware, but a number of wooden partitions materially helped the flames to take a firm hold.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 23 May 1904, page 6

FIRE IN PEEL-STREET.

MOTOR CYCLES DESTROYED.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE.

A fire occurred in the two-storey building occupied by the Sphinx Motor Cycle Works. Peel-street, on Saturday evening and considerable damage was done before the flames were extinguished. It appears that Mr. C. F. B. Anderson, an employe of the company, of which Mr. A. D. Tyler is manager, was putting some petrol into a receptacle attached to a motor bicycle at 5.50 o'clock, when the fire started. He was pouring the petrol from a large tin into a smaller vessel, and a lighted, but closed, bicycle lamp was about two yards distant at the time. Suddenly Mr. Anderson noticed a small streak of blue light on the floor, and the next instant the large tin of petrol was ablaze.

Mr. J. C. Blakely, who was standing near by, rushed out of the place on seeing the flames, and ran to an alarm at the Theatre Royal to call the Fire Brigade.

An Unfortunate Mis-Step.

Mr. Anderson pluckily picked up the blazing tin, with the intention of carrying it into the street. He had almost reached the steps leading into the roadway when he tripped over the doormat with his heavy burden. In a moment there was a terrific explosion; the burning liquid was scattered in all directions, and soon the whole place was enveloped in flames. Mr. Anderson, who was hurled back about half a dozen yards into the workshop by the force of the explosion, ran through the thickest of the flames into the street. His clothes were ablaze when he reached the roadway, but Mr. Blakely soon extinguished the fire on his companion's clothing, but not before Mr. Anderson's arms had been rather severely burnt. The wounds were dressed at the Adelaide Hospital.

Two Calls Received.

The Fire Brigade received two simultaneous calls to the fire. Superintendent Booker and his men turned out in remarkably smart time, and as the flames were licking up against the walls of the large buildings opposite the narrow street the reels had to dash through the blaze to get to the large water mains. The police were also promptly on the spot, and kept large crowds out of Peel-street to enable the fire-men to attend to their work without hindrance. At first there was considerable danger of the fire spreading to the large buildings opposite the doomed works, but the brigade vigorously attacked the fire at its heart and soon had it under control.

The premises presented a sorry spectacle after the fire had been extinguished. The ground floor was almost covered with the remains of what were once costly motor bicycles and parts. The steel rims were doubled up like pieces of bent hoopiron, the tyres had completely disappeared, and altogether the bicycles looked as if they had been tossed aside for some rubbish heap. Among them was noticed a destroyed "trailer" for a motor cycle. The stout boards forming the floor of the top apartment and the stairway leading to the place were considerably burnt, and it is a wonder they did not collapse. A large quantity of bicycle accessories and workmen's tools has been completely destroyed. Some of the bicycles burnt had been left there for repairs. Mr. H. R. Gibbs, dentist, had sent his motor cycle there for slight alterations before an intended trip into the country and his machine was destroyed.

The Damage.

The exact extent of the damage cannot yet be ascertained, but it is estimated at £1,000. The property was insured for £500 in the National office, and for £600 in the New Zealand Company.

A Plucky Man.

Mr. Blakely states that Mr. Anderson displayed much pluck in his futile attempt to prevent the fire from spreading, and but for the unfortunate false step which he made when approaching the open door-way his efforts would probably have met with success. Both Mr. Blakely and Mr. Anderson had a narrow escape from being incinerated, for owing to the rapidity with which the flames spread they were trapped within the burning premises for a time, and only escaped a fearful death by rushing through the inferno, and taking a big leap into Peel-street.

A Hot Half-hour's Work.

Superintendent Booker turned out a reel, steam fire engine, and ladder from the head station, and the North Adelaide, Unley, and Norwood brigades were called in to assist. The building was well alight on the ground and first floors when the firemen arrived, and two lines of hose were got to work, one from Currie-street and one from Hindley-street. In half an hour from the time the water was turned on all danger of the fire spreading was over. Whilst it lasted the firemen had hot work. The damaged building is owned by Mr. J. W. Tyler.

No Inquest.

The City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith) has decided not to hold an inquest.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 27 May 1904, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A SMALL FIRE

A small fire occurred in one of the parlours of the Globe Hotel in Rundle-street shortly after 7 on Thursday evening. Before the brigade had arrived the fire had been extinguished, the curtains being the only material burnt. The reels from Norwood and North Adelaide also attended.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 13 December 1904, page 4

A small fire occurred in Melbourne street, North Adelaide, on the premises of Mr. J. L. Vilepastour, a house painter, The flames caught a paling fence, and burnt a quantity of grass in a paddock adjoining. The North Adelaide and Adelaide reels were quickly on the scene, and the fire was soon extinguished.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 16 December 1904, page 4

In view of recent controversy regarding the celerity of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Mr. C. Ferrors, with the approval of the superintendent, decided to test the men. On Wednesday, shortly before mid-night, he broke the alarm opposite to Messrs. Crooks & Brooker's premises, and there timed the arrival of the reels. The horse reel from the head station was on the spot in 2m. 59s. and the engine in 4m., the North Adelaide reel in 7m. 25s., Norwood in 9½m., and Unley in 12m.

New Fire Station in Tynte Street almost ready.

Chronical, Saturday 24th December 1904 page 24

Owing to the expiration of the lease of the corporation premises in O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, now used as a fire brigade station, that branch of the metropolitan brigade will shortly change its quarters. The Fire Brigades Board has taken a lease of a large and commodious building in Tynte-street, which is now being rapidly converted into a modern fire station.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 27 December 1904, page 1

A SMALL FIRE.

Constable Renfrey, of Walkerville, notified the Watch-house authorities that a fire had occurred early on Monday morning on the premises occupied by Mr. Thomas Porter, gardener, of Buckingham-street, Gilberton. A small galvanized iron shed, some fencing, and clothing was burnt. The North Adelaide fire reel was called out, but its services were not required, as the fire was extinguished before the brigade got there.

1905

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1905.

North Adelaide Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, 73 O'Connell Street, between Archer and Chapel Streets. A. B. Cleveland in charge. From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1905.

New Fire Station in Tynte Street operational.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 17 January 1905, page 2

NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.

The members of the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Foreman Cleveland, are now comfortably settled in their new quarters in Tynte street, a couple of hundred yards from O'Connell street, next to the public school. The old premises, which are situated in the latter thoroughfare, belong to the Adelaide Corporation, which gave the Fire Brigades Board notice to quit, as it wished to complete a row of shops. The present station was originally built for a wine and spirit store, but was occupied for many years by a grocer. No pains have been spared to transform the place into a thoroughly up-to-date fire station, and the men are delighted with the improved conditions. A representative of The Register was shown over the building by the foreman on Monday, and found everything in first-class order. He was not long in coming to the conclusion that there is not a better or more convenient station outside the city proper. The engine room is 5 ft. longer and 7 ft. wider than that compartment in O'Connell street, while the living accommodation is far superior to that in the abandoned premises. The stables are well ventilated, and the horses seem to appreciate their new quarters. If a call to the city were received before 11 o'clock at night the brigade would go via O'Connell Street,

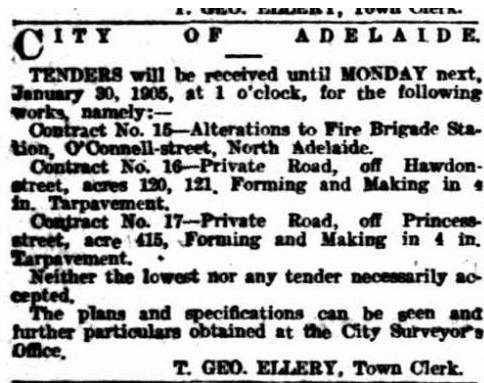
but after that hour the horses heads would to turned down Margaret street, and along Avenue road to the City Bridge.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 26 January 1905, page 2

CITY OF ADELAIDE

TENDERS will be received until MONDAY next, January 30 1905, at 1 o'clock, for the following works, namely:—

Contract No 16—Alterations to Fire Brigade Station, O'Connell street North Adelaide.



Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 31 January 1905, page 6

ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY. January 30.

The subcommittee, consisting of the Chairman, Ald. Downs and Johnson, and Cr. Cox, reported having considered the plans prepared by the City Surveyor for converting the premises lately occupied by the fire brigade in North Adelaide into a shop and dwelling. The plan provided for the alterations being confined to the ground floor, leaving the whole of the upstairs rooms intact, with a separate entrance, as at present. The committee recommended that the plan submitted be adopted, and that the rental of these premises be fixed at £2 per week. The report was approved, and the committee recommend that the work he carried out forthwith.

1906

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1906.

82 Tynte Street east, North side, Fire Station, A. B. Cleveland.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 1 January 1934, page 1

FIRE ALARM BROKEN AT MEDINDIE

New year revellers are believed to have been responsible for a false alarm which called out the North Adelaide Fire Brigade shortly after 3 a.m. today. An alarm at James street, Medindie, was broken.

Thursday 25th January 1906 – Fire at the Pioneer Chaff Mills, Tynte Street, North Adelaide.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 25 January 1906, page 6

FIRE IN NORTH ADELAIDE.

CHAFFMILL PARTIALLY DESTROYED.

About 25 minutes to 3 this morning an immense body of flame suddenly burst through the roof of portion of Mr. Kowalick's chaffmill, in Tynte street. North Adelaide. In two or three minutes the flames had obtained full hold of the building. A resident in the street (Mr. Alfred Ridgeway) gave the alarm, and in a few minutes the North Adelaide reel was on the spot and started operations. By the time the Metropolitan Brigade arrived the premises were enveloped in flames, and there appeared no chance of saving anything. A small cottage adjoining the building was in imminent danger, and the neighbours aided the occupants in removing their furniture into the street. The flames were speedily subdued by the reels, though the building had been destroyed. Another portion of the mill was not affected by the fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 26 January 1906, page 7

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

TYNTE STREET CHAFFMILLS GUTTED.

At an early hour on Thursday morning Messrs. W. A. & R. Kowalick's chaffmill at the corner of Tynte and Cambridge streets, opposite to the North Adelaide Post Office, was practically destroyed by fire, together with over 50 tons of hay. The premises belong to Messrs. C. Willcox and Co., but have been occupied since May last by the brothers William Alfred and Rudolf Kowalick, while another brother, Matthew Kowalick, is in their employ. The fire was first observed by Mr. A. F. Raymond who resides opposite. He was watching a sick child, and at half-past 2 noticed flames issuing from the second story of the mill. Only a quarter of an hour before he had been in the street, and then there was no sign of fire. Two other residents were aroused about the same time by the crackling of the flames, and one of them, Mr. Robert Russell, a bootmaker, called the fire reels by breaking the glass at Wellington square. It was not long before the North Adelaide reel, under Foreman Cleveland, the head station reel, under Foreman Hedger, and the salvage van, under Mr. Brown, arrived on the scene. By this time, however, the major portion of the mill, which is separated from another fair-sized building by a narrow lane, was enveloped in flames, and the firemen realized at once that there was no chance of saving anything in that part of the premises. Consequently their efforts were devoted to protecting the other part of the mill, which contained 15 or 16 tons of hay and several of chaff. After a few minutes fierce fighting, all danger of the flames spreading further had been over-come, but not before some woodwork on the other part of the premises had been badly charred. The main building was completely wrecked. The boarding of the second floor, all the woodwork running from top to bottom, and the galvanized iron roofing were destroyed, and the bare walls testified to the fierceness of the flames. Besides the 50 tons of hay, which the Messrs. Kowalick estimated to be worth £1 12/6 per ton to them, a gas engine was practically ruined, and several good machine belts were destroyed. The produce was not insured for a penny, so that will mean a dead loss to the firm. Mr. Matthew Kowalick, who resides in a cottage immediately adjoining the mill, had an exciting time. When he awoke the main premises were alight practically from top to bottom, and flames were shooting down an alley way past the windows of his cottage at a terrific rate. His brother William and Mr. Thomas Edwards, an employee, both of whom live in cottages within a few yards of the burning building, turned out and assisted him to remove his furniture to a place of safety. The whole task was accomplished but although the danger was imminent for some time, it turned out in the end that their efforts were really unnecessary, for the cottage suffered no damage. The origin of the fire is a mystery. It was surmised by some that it originated from a gas engine on the lower floor, but the members of the firm state emphatically that the gas is turned off at the meter outside the building the moment work is completed for the day. They incline to the belief that the flames started on the upper floor, and they affirm that the fire was visible through the roof before much damage was done below. How it occurred, however, they cannot tell. Mr. W. A. Kowalick states that work ceased on the premises at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening, and everything was left in perfect order. He is a member, of the Loco. Band, and returned from Glenelg, where he had been playing on Wednesday night, at about 11.30. On arrival he went through the premises to see that the horses had been fed and then everything seemed to be right. There was no smell of fire or

smoke anywhere. He was awakened about 2.30, and assisted his brother to get his furniture out. He then rushed into the office, which was on fire, and managed to save the books. Although the brigades did not take long to prevent all risk of the flames spreading to the other parts of the mill, their work continued long after that was over. Practically the whole of the burned and burning hay had to be pitchforked over the wall into the lane, where a hose was constantly playing on it. The office was insured for £50, but the policy on the mill, which had run for many years, lapsed only about a week ago and was not renewed. Detective Beckmann, of the North Adelaide station, prepared a report for the City Coroner.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 27 January 1906, page 1

THE IRONY OF FATE.

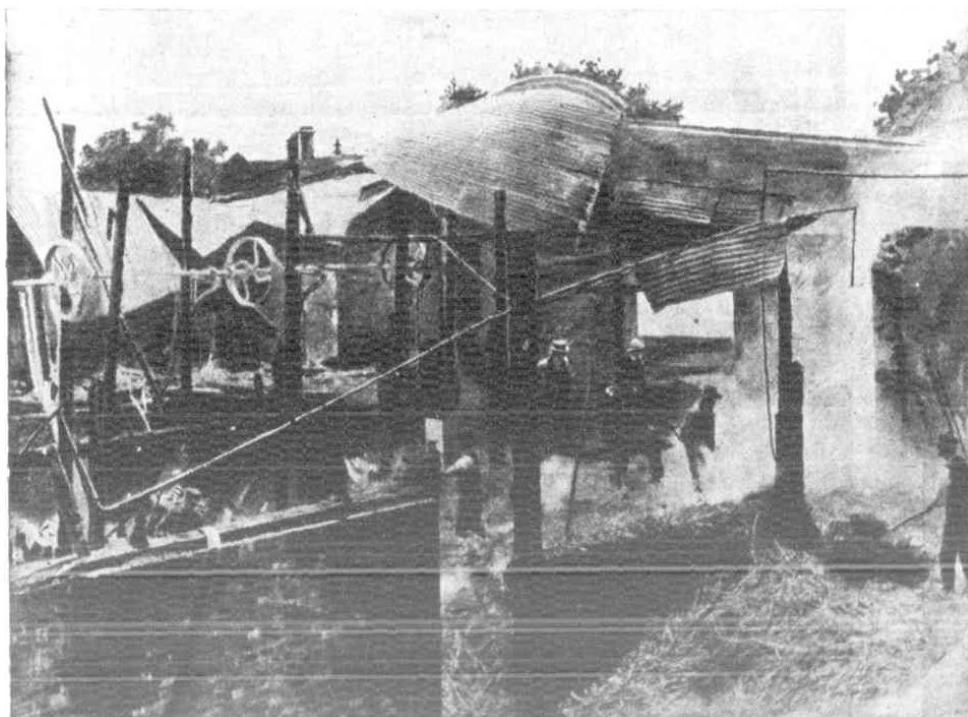
"For thirty-five years," said Mr. H. G. Willcox on Friday, in referring to the fire that destroyed the Pioneer Chaff Mills, in Tynte-street, North Adelaide, early on Thursday morning, "the building and its contents were covered by insurance, the renewals taking place with annual regularity, Sometimes the amount of the policies reached £4,000, and sometimes it was much less, but there was always some protection until January 4 last. During the whole of that long period no fire of any kind ever occurred on the premises. Through some oversight, however, the premium was not paid this month, nor was any cover arranged for pending a readjustment of the insurances, and by the irony of fate at that very time the recent destructive conflagration broke out." The mill and machinery, with most of the contents, belonged to Messrs. Charles Wilcox & Co., by whom Mr. N. A. Kowalick, who rented the place at the time of the fire, had been employed from boyhood, until he attained to the position of manager, and subsequently started in business for himself. He had a score or so tons of hay in stock, but most of the fodder was owned by Messrs. Willcox & Co., whose total loss is estimated at £1,200, not a penny of which is covered by insurance. The mill is stated to have been one of the most up-to-date, so far as its equipment was concerned, in the State. It had been idle for six months, and only a week before the fire happened it was over-hauled and all the machinery put into thoroughly good working order. Fortunately Messrs. Willcox & Co. have another mill directly opposite, and in this work has been resumed for the present.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 3 February 1906, page 27

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.



Kowalick's chaff mill, Tynte street, after the fire.



The firemen at work inside the premises.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 15 October 1906, page 4

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

The Adelaide and North Adelaide fire reels were called to Jerningham street, Lower North Adelaide, on Sunday shortly after 2 a.m., where a general store, kept by Mr. E. A. Lawson, was found to be ablaze. Considerable damage was done by fire and water to the stock, which, with the building, was insured for £400— £300 in the United and £100 in the Northern. The building itself was only slightly damaged. Mr. Lawson, who was asleep in a room adjoining the shop, states that everything was all right at 11 p.m. on Saturday, when he retired. He was aroused by William Smith and John McNamara at a quarter past 2 in a dazed condition, overcome by the smoke. The fire broke out in the back part of the shop among the matches and kindlers. The City Coroner was informed during the day.

1907

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 11 February 1907, page 4

A FIRE.

At about half-past 2 on Sunday morning the North Adelaide Station received a call from the alarm in Barton terrace to a fire in Fenchurch street. The reel promptly turned out, and Superintendent Booker, who had been communicated with, dis-patched the chemical engine from Wake-field street. The outbreak was confined to a shed belonging to Mr. H. Glasson, of Childers street, which, together with its contents, was totally destroyed. The structure consisted of two rooms. In one of them were a trap and double set of harness, valued at £40, the property of Mr. H. Badman, of Angle Vale, and in the other was stored the flooring and ceiling boards, windows and door frames, and roofing of a nine-roomed house that had been recently demolished. Mr. Badman informed a constable that he placed his trap and harness in the shed at about half-past 4 on Saturday afternoon. Between 8 and 9 o'clock he smelt something burning, but saw no flames. The fire, which is believed to have originated in an adjoining yard, also damaged a stable owned by Mr. H. Winter, in juxtaposition to the building destroyed.

1908

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 6 June 1908, page 13

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE

£200 WORTH OF DAMAGE.

A crowd numbering between 3,000 and 4,000 assembled in O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, on Friday evening at about half-past 8 o'clock, having been attracted by a glare which indicated that some business establishment in the neighborhood was on fire. The scene of the outbreak proved to be the back premises of Messrs. A. Fischer and Sons, who carry on business as plumbers, bath-heater manufacturers, and makers of various hardware articles, such as stoves and baths. Attached to the building in which the fire was burning was a bulk shed, belonging to Mr. L. Pe Cornu, in which he had stored 50 bales of kapoc, as the insurance companies would not permit the material to be kept in the shop. It was shortly before 8.30 when the fire was first seen, and in a few minutes it had a good hold of the framework of the building. Clouds of smoke rose, and the flames soon shot through the roof and sides of the building, with the result that the surrounding locality was illuminated. Considerable delay in informing the fire brigade was caused by Mr. Fischer being unable to get an answer from the telephone exchange, and, unfortunately, when he was connected with the brigade station the whole of the fire extinguishing equipment had just left to attend a fire in Bank-street, which proved to be a chimney ablaze only.

Mr. Alwin Fischer, the founder of the firm when asked for particulars of the outbreak, said:—"It was discovered at about 8.20 in the back storeroom. A small flame about 3 ft. or 4 ft. long, and not more than a few inches high was burning at the top of the stairs, and if a reel had been handy it could have been put out in a few seconds. Unfortunately, however, the North Adelaide reel had just gone to town to attend another fire. We rang constantly, but could not get the telephone exchange to answer for a long time. The result was we could not communicate with the brigade. When we did get them, they said the reels were all out, but that one would be sent as quickly as possible. It was about 20 minutes before a reel came, and by the time it arrived the fire had got a fair hold of the store and was just entering that portion of the building which is used as a dwelling. There was very little inflammable material in the store, and the firemen soon got the flames under control. The lower part of the store was used for storing the raw material, and in the upper portion we had our finished articles, but as our stock consists of metal articles there was really nothing to burn but the frame of the building. To-morrow when we polish up the iron goods I suppose they will be just as good as ever, and probably £200 will cover the damage. The place was insured but I do not know what the amount is. At first we did not think it was necessary to remove even the books, but it soon became apparent that the absence of the brigade meant the spreading of the flames, and so my son and I got the books out, and a few of us removed a quantity of goods to the side street. Our workmen were in the work-shop adjoining the store as usual this afternoon, but they were not in the store, and the fire could not have spread from the shop, because the shop is not damaged. I am absolutely at a loss to explain how it was caused."

The flames did slight damage in the dwelling-rooms on the first floor, but the principal damage was confined to the store and to Mr LeCornu's shed.

Mr. LeCornu said the kapok was valued at 8d. per lb., and the 50 bales were, roughly, worth £150. The firemen had great difficulty in extinguishing the fire in this material, as the water would not soak through it. Thousands of gallons were poured on the bales, and finally the firemen had to turn over the kapok in small quantities and drench the burning parts.

The premises which had been the scene of a fierce fire were in darkness before 10 o'clock, and the reels returned to the city. Deputy-Superintendent Dickie was in charge of operations.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 6 June 1908, page 11

DOUBLE FIRE CALL,

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

BLAZE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

KAPOK AND IRONWARE.

Shortly after 8 o'clock on Friday evening the Fire Brigade received a call from the Bank street alarm. All the appliances at the head station and the North Adelaide reel turned out, and were followed by a large crowd into Leigh street, where smoke could be seen rising above a shop on the western side of the thoroughfare. A rapid search was made through the premises, but as no fire could be found the big ladder was hoisted up, and a couple of firemen scrambled to the roof. Although they examined every nook, however, they were equally unsuccessful, and eventually the order was given for the engines and reels to return. Owing to the ladder having passed between the telephone wires considerable care had to be exercised in lowering it to its usual position. Subsequently it was ascertained that the smoke—the cause of all the trouble—had been produced by leather, which an old man at the rear of the shop had placed in a stove.—Another Call.—After the ladder had rattled away the spectators poured into King William street again, and were preparing to go their various ways, when word was flashed along that a fire had broken out at North Adelaide. Many hastened to the intersection of King William and Rundle streets, whence a ruddy glare could be observed apparently in O'Connell street. A rush was made for passing tramcars, which were soon loaded—In their anxiety to reach the scene of the blaze some persons requisitioned cabs, and in two or three instances motor cars. For about a quarter of an hour a stream of pedestrian and vehicular traffic set toward North Adelaide, and finally became congested in front of the premises of Messrs A. Fischer & Sons, plumbers, gasfitters, and bathheater manufacturers. A glance revealed that the back portion, composed of wood and iron, was a mass of flames. Fifteen firemen, under Deputy Superintendent Dickie, were hard at work with five hoses, and soon held complete mastery of the situation. Mr. Fischer informed a representative of The Register that the premises consisted of a shop in front, dwelling and workshop in the middle, and storeroom at the back.

He added:—"We discovered the fire at 8.20. When first noticed the flames which were about 3 ft. long and 6 in. high, were dancing along the top of the stairs in the store room. Then somebody turned the gas off, and left the place in darkness. Had the reel which had gone to town been handy the fire could have been extinguished without trouble before more than £5 damage had been done. Unfortunately, we experienced difficulty in getting the exchange, and after we had been placed in communication with the Central Fire Station were informed that all the appliances were out, but that a reel would be sent at the earliest moment. Of course, I do not suggest that the brigade was to blame. Fearing the flames might spread to the dwelling, we dispatched the books to a neighbour. There was little which was inflammable in the storeroom—the ground floor of which contained raw material and the upper portion finished goods—so that the firemen soon had the flames under control. The damage will probably come within £200. The place is insured, but I cannot say for how much." A quantity of ironware was removed from the building to the roadway, where it was watched by the police, who rendered valuable assistance by keeping the crowd back. All that in the storeroom, however, was converted into an unrecognisable heap of blackened and twisted metal.—Watered Kapok.—While the firemen were subduing the flames on Mr. Fischer's establishment their attention was directed to an adjacent iron shed in which was stored about 50 bales of kapok, valued at £150, belonging to Mr. P. Le Cornu, whose furniture emporium is a few doors south of Mr. Fischer's place. A heavy stream of water was forced into the white stuff, which flew here-and there, and fell so thickly upon the firefighters that they looked as though they had been in a snowstorm. Mr. Le Cornu was unable to estimate the extent of the damage or the amount of his loss. In the course of a telephonic conversation in regard to the fire, Superintendent Rickwood remarked:—"We received a call from Bank street at 8.20, and all the head station equipment and the North Adelaide reel turned out. At 8.30 we got a message from North Adelaide, but the local reel had already started back. Shortly afterward the head station chemical engine and reel were dispatched to the scene of operations, and returned at about 9.45."

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 16 November 1908, page 4

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

BLIND SCHOOL SHOWROOM GUTTED.

A fire occurred on Sunday which seriously affected the Royal Institution for the Blind, Brougham-place, North Adelaide. At 5.5 p.m. the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Kermodestreet alarm, and a chemical engine was dispatched to assist the North Adelaide reel. From the tower at the Adelaide station smoke could be seen, and the superintendent (Lieutenant Rickwood) reinforced the fire-fighters with a second reel. It was ascertained that the blaze was located in the showroom of the Blind Institution, opposite the Children's Hospital. A number of people had gathered prior to the arrival of the firemen, and had been endeavoring to cope with the outbreak, some of the wickerwork furniture having been removed. It appeared that the contents of the showroom had been smouldering for some time, but unfortunately the brigade was not promptly summoned. Had this precaution been taken, it is probable that the fire would have been extinguished before great damage had been done. When the firemen arrived the premises were well alight. Willing hands were soon at work with three lines of hose, and in about five minutes the flames were got under control but not before a good deal of furniture and flock, and a couple of sewing machines, had been destroyed. The showroom was gutted, and the fire extended to the workrooms at the rear of the premises. No explanation can be given of the cause of the outbreak, and so far as is known there were no persons on the place during the day. The premises and contents were insured in the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company for £750.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 30 November 1908, page 4

FOUR OUTBREAKS OF FIRE.

The metropolitan and suburban fire brigades have been kept on the alert during the past two days. Shortly after 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon the North Adelaide reel was dispatched to the residence of Mr. N. L. Barrett, in Melbourne street, North Adelaide, where a wood and iron shed and its contents were severely damaged. The Unley reel was called out at 1.10 on Sunday morning to an alarm at the house of Mr. E. Broad, on King William road, Hyde Park. A woodshed was alight. Garden tools and a stack of wood were destroyed, but the flames were quickly subdued. At 2.35 on Sunday morning the Norwood brigade received a call to Howard street, North Kensington, at the residence of Mrs. M. Smith. A wood and iron shed and its contents were destroyed. The flames went close to the residence of Mr. B. J. Elliott. Owing to the proximity of a window, the dining room and its contents were damaged. Both premises were insured. In all cases the causes of the outbreaks were unknown. Shortly after 7 o'clock on Sunday evening the City brigade sent out a reel to an alarm in Franklin street. It was found that some grass was burning in front of a private residence.

1910

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1910.

North Adelaide Station, 82 Tynte Street East, North side between Lohrmam and Margaret Streets, next to the Public School. C. T. Oldham in charge.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 15 February 1910, page 1

FIRE IN NORTH ADELAIDE.

At about 1.46 p.m. on Tuesday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to the residence of Dr. J. A. G. Hamilton, in Jeffcott street, North Adelaide. The North Adelaide reel and the motor from headquarters put in an appearance, but the blaze had been practically extinguished before their arrival. Bedroom furniture and a quantity of wearing apparel were damaged by the fire. It was not known how the outbreak originated.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 29 April 1910, page 2

SMALL FIRE.

Yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade were called out to a fire in Gordon road, Prospect, where it was found that at a house occupied by Mr. Shell a washhouse was burning. The washhouse and contents were destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 29 April 1910, page 5

SMALL FIRE.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call by telephone shortly after 10 o'clock on Thursday morning to a house occupied by Mr. Schell, at Gordon road, Prospect. A washhouse and contents were destroyed by fire.

1911

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 5 January 1911, page 6

MOTOR FIRE BRIGADE.

At the latest meeting of the Fire Brigades Board it was decided to adopt the suggestion of Superintendent Rickwood to purchase a light motor hose-carriage, to be placed at North Adelaide in lieu of the pair-horse reel at present there. The Superintendent had been faced with the necessity of supplying fresh horses at that suburban station, and of making alterations to the stables. The board has purchased a chassis for the purpose, and the body for the carriage will be built at the head station. The motor will have a speed of 40 miles an hour. The new appliance will be a valuable adjunct for backing up other stations in the metropolitan area. For instance, it would be the first aid to be sent to Port Adelaide in a case of emergency. It will be the first appliance of its kind in Australia to be equipped with pneumatic tires. A detachable portable wheel, which can be adjusted in a few seconds, will be carried to obviate any difficulties as regards punctures. A S.C.A.T. chassis has been chosen, and the machine will be fitted with a self-starter. The air from this starter can also be used for pumping up the tires. An air "jack" will facilitate the removal of wheels. The vehicle will be capable of carrying four or five men, 1,000 ft. of hose, and accessories.

[S.C.A.T chassis made in Italy by the Fabbrica Ceirano Automobile Torino Company]

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 17 January 1911, page 8

Fire Brigades' Board orders a "S.C.A.T." Motor.

The decision of the Fire Brigades' Board to purchase a S.C.A.T. Chassis for the New Motor Hose Carriage in preference to all other makes is additional conclusive proof of its absolute high grade, gun-like strength, reliability, thoroughness of construction, and readiness to meet any emergency. Two strong points of the S.C.A.T. are its starting device worked from the driver's seat, and the detachable portable wheel which can be adjusted in a few seconds. These features, and the general excellence of the S.C.A.T. make it a Car that you must see before deciding on your purchase.

SOLE AGENTS MURRAY AUNGER, LTD., Franklin St., Adelaide.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 5 May 1911, page 6

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.

At North Adelaide a light motor hose carriage was called out for the first time, and delegates were impressed with its utility.

1913

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 5 December 1913, page 2

A BIG FIRE.

FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £5,000.

WATER PRESSURE WEAK

Shortly before 9 o'clock on Thursday evening the sky in the direction of Maylands quickly assumed a crimson hue, and people realised that a big fire was in progress. The fact that the flames were bursting from highly inflammable material was obvious, because the volume of fire was so great. The news soon spread that the scene of the outbreak was a furniture factory on the Magill-road, owned by Melville, Limited. The factory was on the northern side of the Magill-road, about 100 yards north of Stepney-street, and was built of wood and iron. It was two-storied—really one storey with a basement, in the rear portion of which was a quantity of machinery and in the front portion a large supply of timber. On the upper floor were the office and the various departments of an up-to-date cabinetmaker's establishment. The factory was built about three years ago, and until about twelve months ago the business was conducted by Messrs. Melville and Richards. Since then the firm of Melville, Limited, has owned the premises and business.

A Tremendous Crowd.

The trams bound for St. Peters and Maylands were boarded by hundreds of people, eager to witness the blaze, and by about half-past 9 there must have been 5,000 people on Magill-road witnessing the fire-men at work, although by that time the fire had subsided considerably. The tram service along the Magill-road was suspended for over an hour owing to the lines of hose blocking the way. After all danger of the fire spreading had passed, the water service was detached each time a car passed along the street.

The Origin a Mystery.

No one appears to know how the fire originated. The machinery was driven by two electric motors, but when Mr. V. Walsh (the foreman machinist) and Mr. B. Trice, (foreman cabinetmaker) left the premises securely locked shortly after 5 o'clock everything was in order. Mr. B. Pegler, the driver, went to the factory about 7 o'clock to attend to the horses, which he left in the stable at the rear of the main building. He left there at about half-past 7, when there was not the slightest sign of fire. The fire was first noticed by Mr. E. Matthews, who resides with his father (Mr. C. C. Matthews, overseer, for the St. Peters Corporation) about 50 yards to the west of the factory. He states that he immediately ran to the corner of Magill-road and Nelson-street and gave the alarm to the Norwood fire-station which is nearly a mile away. In a few minutes the two-horse reel with four men were on the scene. Shortly afterwards the metropolitan and North Adelaide brigades arrived.

A Blaze from End to End.

Although the fire had probably not been in progress for more than 10 minutes before the firemen arrived the building was then ablaze from end to end, and there was no hope of saving either the building or its valuable contents. Three lines of hose were immediately run out, and, with a limited water pressure at their disposal the fire-fighters devoted their attention chiefly to saving the premises in the vicinity. One line of hose was run across the Magill-road, and the water was played on the blaze on the northern side, close to which Messrs. Whittaker & Carr's coachpainting shop is situated. Another was directed on to the flames from Louis-street, and the third was taken from Stepney-street along an alley-way at the rear. In this way the firemen succeeded in confining the flames to the furniture factory, which in less than an hour was completely razed to the ground.

A Narrow Escape.

Fanned by a south-westerly breeze the fire made extraordinary headway, and when the roof of the back portion (where it is supposed the fire broke out) fell in the flames shot high into the

air, so that the fire was seen for miles around. A number of tall willow trees at the rear—between the factory and Mr. J. Willcocks' residence—were scorched to the top. In fact, when the fire was at its height, the flames reached beyond the tops of these trees. Mr. Willcocks' house had a narrow escape. The garden fence, only a few feet from the residence, was burnt down, and had it not been for the line of hose brought into requisition at that point the building must have met with a fate similar to that of the factory. The residents gathered quickly and, taking in the situation, assisted the occupants to remove all their belongings. In a few minutes the whole of the furniture was carried into the back yard for safety, but fortunately there was no need for this precaution. .

The Manager's Statement.

Mr. W. C. Melville, the managing director, said—"The cause of the fire is a mystery. We have a growing business—in-deed, things never looked better than this day. There was about £3,000 worth of stock and plant on the premises, and as you see everything has gone, except perhaps, £50 worth of timber. We had installed some splendid machinery lately, and there were orders representing from £1,500 to £2,000 actually in hand, and 40 men as competent as any in Adelaide or the suburbs were employed. I left the place soon after 3 o'clock to-day, but Mr. Forman called as usual about 7.30 this evening and left his pony and phaeton. Although he did not go nearer than the stable, he says there was no sign of fire then. I understand the fire started at about ten minutes past 8 o'clock, but al-though I live in Queen-street, only ten minutes' walk from the factory, I was at home with my wife, and heard nothing of the fire until 9.20. When I arrived there was nothing left but a heap of smouldering debris. The building measured 40 ft. by 120 ft., and the machinery alone was worth £1,000. I reckon the actual loss is quite £3,000, because we shall have to build a new place and buy new machinery, but happily we are in a position to have our orders carried out fairly promptly. One of the most serious losses is the destruction of valuable patterns. The business has grown remarkably. We have been here only three years, but have worked up such a good trade that the forty men were fully employed, and we were contemplating enlarging the premises. The rebuilding of the factory will be put in hand at once, and we shall order new machinery, so that in a short time we hope to have more than 40 men engaged. The building cost about £1,000. The stock and machinery were insured in the Queensland Company, and the building in the Colonial Mutual office."

Coachpainters' Stock Damaged.

Adjoining the establishment of Melville, Limited, is that of Messrs. E. A. Whittaker & F. J. Carr, coachpainters, whose shed measures 50 ft. by 27 ft. Mr. Whit-taker and his wife were attending an open-air picture show at Norwood, and, unknown to them, Mr. Carr was at the same place of amusement. When the flames illuminated the surrounding neighborhood Mr. Whittaker at once feared that his own premises would be in danger. There was no other place in the vicinity which would be likely to produce such a volume of fire, and Mr. Whittaker said to his wife, "That's Melville's factory. I'm sure. I'm off." He made off as fast as he could, and Mr. Carr, who also had fears of the same description, hurried away, but the partners did not meet until they reached the scene. "When we got to the place." said Mr. Whittaker, "it was burning fiercely, and there was every indication that our premises would be ignited. The heat was intense, and nearly every vehicle we had on the premises was damaged. The shop was full of traps, and a Talbot motor car belonging to Mr. Bowen, of Burford and Co. The hood was burnt, but beyond blisters the body was not damaged. The car was being painted and the wheels were off it, but a number of willing workers came to our assistance, and we soon carried the car to a place of safety. There was a landau in a similar condition, and that, too, was carried out. The bodies of several other vehicles had to be lifted out, and carts, traps, and other things were speedily removed. The paints, varnishes, and other articles incidental to a painter's shop were removed, but nearly every thing was more or less damaged. I've heard of sneak thieves," Mr. Whit-taker went on to say, "but surely the man who will rob one when one's property is being consumed by fire is of the worst type, and I'm sorry to say we caught a number of them at work. They were sneaking away with tins of varnish and things of that kind,

and made the excuses thieves might be expected to make when they were discovered. Several of our jobs were on the point of completion, but now we shall have to varnish them again. We are insured, but for about £125 only, so if the fire had got hold of our place—fortunately for us the firemen kept it off— we would have been heavy losers. I can not thank the willing workers too heartily."

Horses Rescued.

As soon as it was known that the factory was on fire Mr. C. C. Matthews and his son rushed to the stables at the rear of the premises and released four horses.

Official Statement.

Superintendent Rickwood, who was in charge of the fire extinguishing operations, supplied the following information after the fire had been extinguished:—"The Norwood Brigade station received a call from the Magill-road alarm at 8.45 p.m., and notified the head station. No time was lost in reaching the scene, but the factory was well ablaze. Three lines of hose were at once got to work. Unfortunately there was a very poor pressure of water, and the buildings, which were of wood and iron, together with their contents, were destroyed. The metropolitan, North Adelaide, and Norwood brigades attended, and their appliances were all used."

Smart Photographic Work.

The enterprising photographer of "The Advertiser" was early on the scene, and through his efforts a view of the fire is re-produced on another page.

1917

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 10 March 1917, page 7

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE

CHAFF MILLS DESTROYED.

About 3.21 last night the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Kimber's chaff mills, in Centenary street, off Tynte street, North Adelaide. Upon arrival, it was found that the building, which contained inflammable stock, was well alight. The first motor engine from the city station was requisitioned. and a powerful stream of water was brought to play on the flames. It was impossible to subdue the fire before considerable damage was done to the premises, and the efforts of the firemen were directed to keeping it in check. The building was practically gutted. The cause of the outbreak has not been ascertained.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 10 March 1917, page 11

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

Shortly after 8 o'clock on Friday evening a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Kimber, a chaff and wood merchant, at the corner of Centenary and Clark streets, near Tynte-street, North Adelaide. Mr. Kimber's store was a two-storey galvanized iron structure. The contents consisted of hay, straw, chaff, peas, and seeds of various varieties. When the employees left work everything appeared to be safe, and the cause of the outbreak is a mystery. The scene of the fire is only a couple of hundred yards from the North Adelaide Fire Station, and the reel was smartly on the scene. An engine from the head station also arrived promptly, but the North Adelaide firemen proved equal to the emergency. The inflammable material gave off large volumes of white smoke. There was a splendid pressure of water, and the firemen had the fire under control in a short time. The contents of the store only were destroyed, as the fire did not spread to the wood department. Soon after the outbreak the horses in the stables were taken out, and subsequently were furnished with food and accommodation by Mr. Le

Cornu. Mr. Kimber reached the scene about 9 o'clock, and was unable to state the value of the property destroyed, but it is believed to have been considerably in excess of £100.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 16 June 1917, page 7

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

SLIGHT DAMAGE TO MILITARY HOSPITAL.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade Station received a call to-day at 12.30 to a fire which broke out at the 6th Military General Hospital, which was formerly known as Angas College. The building is on the corner of Ward and Jeffcott streets, North Adelaide. The cause of fire outbreak is unknown. The damage was confined to the casing ceiling of the clock tower. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade, with the assistance of one appliance from the Central Station, quickly subdued the flames. There were no patients in the hospital at the time of the outbreak.



B 24328

State Library of South Australia - Angas College [B 24328], Angas College. Approximately 1900. Part of Acre 771 Collection.

1919

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 November 1919, page 9

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

SMALL FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

Shortly before 8 p.m. on Saturday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to a four-roomed house, occupied by Mr. Stephen S. Ryan, at Wellington-square, and found a back bedroom ablaze. There was no one home at the time and the origin of the fire is unknown. The bedroom and its contents were severely damaged by fire, and the kitchen was slightly affected. The contents of the house were not insured.

1920

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 28 January 1920, page 7

JAM FACTORY GUTTED

Damage £35,000. Firemen Hampered by Water Shortage.

The extensive jam, preserved fruit, and sauce factory of Robert McEwin & Co., Limited, at East Adelaide, was almost wholly destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning. The outbreak was first noticed by a passerby at 4.40 a.m., and by 5 o'clock the firemen were battling with the flames with so much apparent success that it was hoped the main factory building might be saved, and the fire confined to the place of its origin, the engine room at the rear. An insufficient supply of water, however, hampered the brigade; and, once the flames secured a hold upon the main building, the conflagration developed with such rapidity as to place at least two firemen in serious peril. Hose and ladder had to be abandoned, and the firefighters had to beat a headlong retreat to save themselves from destruction. Within a few minutes the roof fell in, and the whole factory was almost instantly reduced to a mass of flaming wreckage.

— Almost totally Destroyed.—

The gutted building faces the Payneham road, where the St. Peters car turns off to the left along Harrow road, and its southerly frontage is about 120 ft.. Its depth is even greater. Part of the factory was two-storied, and beneath were roomy cellars. The contents of the building afforded ample fuel of a highly inflammable nature. there were many thousands of tins of jam, containing about 60 per cent. of sugar, great quantities of preserved fruit, about 50 tons of raw sugar, and, in the cellar, a vast store of fruit pulp. There was much valuable machinery besides, and the factory and contents were insured with the Victoria Company for about £40,000. All has been destroyed with the exception, it is estimated, of about £5,000 worth. Along the north-west wall of the main building is a large galvanized iron shed, containing about 250,000 tins of preserved fruit, and this has been saved, together with the engine, boiler, and the 13 coppers and necessary plant in the jamboiling room. Not a tin of jam has escaped, and the firm can hope to continue its supplies in this direction only through its amalgamation with the Melbourne firm of Henry Jones, Co-operative, Limited. Even the preserved fruit which has not been reached by the flames will need immediate attention to prevent rust spoiling the tins in which it is contained.

—Poor Water Supply.—

To Mr. David Greenberg, a baker, of Nelson street, Stepney, belongs the distinction of having first seen the fire. From the Magill road he noticed flames bursting from the rear of the factory. At 4.51 a.m. the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from the Maid and Magpie alarm, and the summons was quickly communicated to the head station and to the North Adelaide brigade. The Norwood brigade was first on the scene, followed soon after by a motor appliance from Wakefield street and another from North Adelaide; and a few minutes later, the horse-drawn steam pump from the head station made its appearance. The 18 inch main along Payneham road was first tapped, and from this there was a tolerable stream of water; but the four inch pipe in Harrow road yielded a poor supply. When the pump was brought in to operation there was not sufficient water to keep it going. Notwithstanding this serious disability, the firemen seemed to be making good progress against the flames, which in the first place, were restricted to the neighbourhood of the boiler and engine house.

—A Dramatic Development. —

Shortly before five o'clock, the managing director of the company, Mr. T. A. Doman, who lives in Winchester street, was advised by telephone of the outbreak, and he passed the alarming news to his son, Mr. Herbert J. Doman, who resides at Payneham road, Joslin, and is also a director of the firm. The latter told a representative of The Register that he cycled to the factory immediately and reached it at about five o'clock. It appeared to him then that the principal building would probably be saved, although the rear portion of the factory was already doomed. Entering at the back, he hurried through the long shed which has already been mentioned as standing along the north-eastern wall, with the object of opening a door at the front to facilitate the work of the brigade. He looked into the main factory as he passed and saw that the fire had not yet spread so far; but almost as soon as he reached the front of the building facing Payneham road the flames burst through at that end. His impression, he

said, was that the conflagration had broken away as he left the rear of the premises and had swept through the factory behind him with almost incredible speed. Within a few minutes the roof fell in and the whole place was an inferno, giving out such intense heat, declared Police Constable Trevelion afterwards, that those who were watching the progress of the fire from Payneham road were glad to retreat to the far side of the street.

— Fireman in Peril. —

When the fire broke through into the factory proper, several firemen were at work on its advancing side; and they were compelled to drop their hose and abandon their ladder and "run for it." Two were in a particularly dangerous corner, and had a narrow escape from serious injury if not from death. Both hose and ladder were destroyed. As the flames reached the stacks of tinned jam the heat began to burst the tins, and burning jam was flung in all directions, and helped to accelerate the progress of the conflagration. In one stack alone there were 5,000 tins of apricot jam. The collapse of the floor quickly followed the falling in of the roof, and a confused mass of machinery and burning stock was immediately piled upon the contents of the cellars. In the front of the factory on the south-western side, 50 tons of sugar made a furious blaze, and here the wall fell in at about 10 a.m. Even at this late hour the heaped-up wreckage within was still burning fiercely, and at intervals a bursting tin of jam went flying into the air by the force of its own explosion. The front walls were bulging ominously, and acrid smoke made the work of the firemen exceptionally trying. Although it had been possible to save the boiling plant, the large room in which it was housed was a wreck. Only part of the charred floor remained, and portion of the roof had fallen in. The 13 jam coppers, however, each worth £50 or £60, remained intact. The preserved fruit plant, and the can-making machinery were utterly destroyed.

—Fire of a Few Weeks Ago.—

The cause of the fire is not known, but it is evident it originated near the boiler. Work ceased at the factory at 9.30 on Saturday night, and on Sunday the boiler was emptied. On Sunday afternoon the fireman lit a fire to warm the fresh water in the boiler, but this was extinguished, and on Monday everything was prepared for an early start on Tuesday morning. A few weeks ago there was an outbreak of fire in the same factory, thought to have been caused by the ignition of the floor of the drying room above the boiler, but on this occasion the boiler was practically cold. The first outbreak was confined to the engine room, and the damage amounting to about £500, had already been repaired.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 11 February 1920, page 1

FIRE AT PROSPECT.

Prospect is out of the fire brigade area, and the brigade need not go there to a call. This circumstance, however, did not deter the North Adelaide men from turning out their reel at 4.44 p.m. on Tuesday in response to a message from Clifton-street. It is as well they did so, as the conflagration was rather serious, and would have been more so but for the work of the brigade. As it was a stable and trapshed belonging to Messrs. A. K. Hursey and J. Robinson were destroyed, besides a fence belonging to Messrs. R. J. Watson and H. Lonnen. All the conditions for a big blaze were present, but the attendance of the brigade averted the danger.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 11 February 1920, page 1

THE FIRE FIEND.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call by fire alarm at 4.3 a.m. on Wednesday to the premises occupied by Mr. R. G. Maddern, working jeweller, in Industrial Chambers, King William street. A portion of the fittings was severely damaged by fire, and Mr. R. E. Hosking, bookseller, who occupies the premises beneath, had a quantity of his stock damaged by water.

At 1.44 p.m. on Tuesday, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the premises occupied by Messrs. A. E. Hersey and J Robinson, in Clifford street, Prospect, which is outside the protected area. Wood-and-iron stables and trapsheds were destroyed, and Messrs. R. J. Watson and H. Lonnen, who occupied the adjoining premises, had a portion of their paling fence burned. As the fire broke out in an unprotected area, the attendance of the North Adelaide Brigade was purely voluntarily, and it is stated that serious damage might have been wrought but for the prompt attendance.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 25 February 1920, page 8

A GRASS FIRE.

At about 9.30 on Tuesday evening the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to a grass fire on Lefevre terrace, North Adelaide. A shed belonging to the City Council was imperilled by the blaze, but by the efforts of the firemen it was ultimately saved.

1921

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 19 March 1921, page 38

CITY FIRES.

At 10.45 a.m. the Metropolitan station received a call to a fire at Rosetta-terrace, Walkerville, where the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Gray was on fire. The North Adelaide appliances were sent to the house, and after some little trouble succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The rear premises of the house and their contents were destroyed. It is believed that the fire was caused by sparks flying from a burning rubbish heap in an adjacent yard. Mrs. Gray was badly burned in this fire.

1922

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 25 March 1922, page 28

THE TIMBER YARD FIRE.

The gutted premises of Mr. George Hudd's joinery works and timber yard, Gilles street, when viewed on Wednesday morning presented a desolated scene. Blackened pieces of timber stood forlornly every where, and twisted sheets of galvanized iron and sheets and cogs were all that remained of costly machinery. Two fire men were on the spot, and water was still being played on the heaps of debris. One of the firemen stated that the wreckage was smouldering at 5 o'clock that morning, and there were live embers low down beneath the timbers. An idea of the heat during the fire is supplied by the fact that the solder from the zinc gutters of the surrounding houses melted and ran down the verandah roofs. The molten metal has set hard. Of the outbuildings of the four small dwellings close to the works practically nothing is left. Washing stands, tubs, chairs, and personal effects are heaped in the black mud caused by the flow of water from the hoses. One woman who had spent weeks cultivating a bed of dahlias was sorrowfully surveying the remnants of her industry and patience. The tenants are likely to lose heavily from the destruction of personal effects. One woman stated that the strong westerly wind drove the flames right into the back yards, and even through the back doors. The firemen would not allow any of the tenants to enter their yards, as the backs of the houses and the fences were then burning fiercely. Mr. Hudd's joinery workshop and contents were insured in the Commercial Union for £1,784, and the four damaged houses are also protected. Two of them, owned by Mrs. S. Crocker, are on the books of the New Zealand Company, and the other two, owned by Mr. Snowsell, of Mount Lofty, are insured with the Lancashire Company. The tenants estimate their loss in personal property at from £40 to £50 each. When interviewed on Wednesday morning, Superintendent Dickie said all the appliances from the head station were sent out, and the North Adelaide and Unley were also in attendance. While the machines were absent at the fire, a call was received from Stephens place, off Rundle street, and the North Adelaide vehicle was dispatched. That fortunately proved to be only burning rubbish, and the appliance was soon at the bigger conflagration. The fire was well under control within half an hour, and the machines

began to return to the station shortly before 12 o'clock. There were 21 men from the head station, and three each from Unley and Norwood at work. At 2 a.m. the whole of the brigades had returned to their headquarters, and two men were left to watch the smoking debris. It was found necessary on Wednesday morning to detail two policemen to keep back the crowds of sightseers, and would-be salvage seekers.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 1 April 1922, page 5

KEROSINE LAMP EXPLODES

Shortly after 7 o'clock this evening the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Sussex Street, Lower North Adelaide, where it was found a kerosine lamp had exploded in a house occupied by Mr. Madden. The room and contents were slightly damaged. Good work was done by the brigade, as within two minutes the blaze was extinguished.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 8 April 1922, page 40

A SMALL FIRE.

Early on Saturday evening the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to the house of Mr. J. Madden, in Sussex-street, Lower North Adelaide, where it was found that a fire had started in one of the rooms. Prompt action on the part of the brigade resulted in the blaze being extinguished before much damage was done. The origin of the outbreak was the explosion of a kerosine lamp.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 17 April 1922, page 2

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE

OUTBREAK IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

TWO CLASSROOMS DESTROYED.

At 11.45 o'clock on Sunday evening the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call from Gover street, North Adelaide, where the rear portion of the North Adelaide Public School had caught fire. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was soon in attendance and two motor appliances were dispatched from the Wakefield street station to cope with the outbreak. The Thebarton Brigade also received a call to Ebor avenue, but this proved to be a reflection of the North Adelaide fire. Three lines of hose were laid in from Gover and Tynte street and the blaze was thus surrounded. Some very effective work was put in by the firemen, with the result that the outbreak was soon under control.

The cause of the fire is unknown. Two weatherboard classrooms at the rear of the school, together with their contents, were destroyed. Had it not been for the prompt action of the brigade in isolating the fire the whole school would have been destroyed.



B 1555

State Library of South Australia - Tynte Street, North Adelaide [B 1555], North Adelaide Public School, Tynte Street, north side, taken in 1889. Students and teachers stand in front of the building. The right side of the school is 30 yards west of Margaret Street and the left side of the school is 101 yards west of Margaret Street. 1889, Photographer, Gall, Ernest. Part of Acre 867 Collection.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Tuesday 18 April 1922, page 3

NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE.

The cause of the destructive fire in two classrooms at the rear of the North Adelaide Public School, at a late hour on Sunday night, has not yet been ascertained. A report of the occurrence has been forwarded to the City Coroner.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 19 April 1922, page 6

NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE.

A report concerning the fire which destroyed two classrooms at the rear of the North Adelaide Public School, at a late hour on Sunday night, was on Tuesday forwarded to the City Coroner, who decided that an inquest was not necessary.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 1 May 1922, page 6

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR CAR AND SHED BURNT.

On Saturday afternoon, at about half-past 3, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade Station received a call to a fire at Prospect road, Prospect, the property of Mr. F. W. Cox, builder and contractor. A quantity of petrol had exploded, and the flames had caught a shed and a motor car which was in it. Considerable damage resulted.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 1 May 1922, page 2

FIRES IN THE CITY.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade on Saturday afternoon at 3.30 received a call from 59 Prospect road, Prospect, to the residence of Mr. F. W. Cox, builder and contractor, where a motor shed had caught fire. A car which was in the shed and the shed itself were severely damaged. The outbreak was caused by petrol exploding.

The Central Station received a call at 6.28 on Sunday evening from Pulteney street, where Mr. A. McPherson's car, which was standing in the street, had caught fire. The fire was extinguished with slight damage to the car. The cause of the fire was petrol coming into contact with a naked light while the tank was being filled.

1923

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 31 March 1923, page 2

SEVERAL SMALL FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade were called to extinguish a number of small fires on Thursday night. One alarm was received at 5.30 p.m. from Mrs. McDonald's Coffee Palace, Hindley street, when a spark from the kitchen caused a blaze which damaged a portion of the roof and fascia. At 8 p.m. the alarm was sounded from Mills street, Dulwich where a small motor truck was found to be afire. A rubbish fire at Edwards' boot factory, Maud street, New Parkside, received attention at 8.3 p.m. Just after midnight (12.58) a call was received from Childers street, North Adelaide, where a Buick motor car was a slightly damaged by fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 12 May 1923, page 17

A SMALL FIRE.

A small fire, caused through resin boiling over on a gas jet, occurred at the premises of the Never-Slip Belt Compo Manufacturing Co., O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, shortly after 3 o'clock on Friday afternoon. The building, a wood and iron structure, and the contents were severely damaged before the outbreak was extinguished by the North Adelaide Fire Brigade.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 May 1923, page 7

BLAZE AT WALKERVILLE.

A fine save was made by the North Adelaide Fire Brigade this afternoon. At 2.20 it received a call to Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville, where a double-fronted brick shop, occupied by Mrs. M. S. Clark as a drapery store, was alight. Forcing an entrance a hose was brought to bear and quickly extinguished the blaze. Mrs. Clark, with her family, occupies a residence at rear of the shop, and neighbour assisted them to remove the furniture before the brigade arrived. The outbreak was confined to the right side of the shop, where fittings and stock had been burnt. The balance of stock was damaged by smoke and water. The latter also damaged carpets in the residence. The building is owned by Mr. H. Caudle, of Medindie. The drapery stock was covered with the Federal Mutual Company for £250.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 28 May 1923, page 11

NEWS OF THE DAY.

FIRE AT ENFIELD RECEIVING HOME.

On Sunday evening the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the Enfield Mental Receiving Home. It was stated that one of the patients had by some un-known means set fire to his bedding. The attendants at the institution subdued the blaze with the emergency extinguishers. No serious damage was caused.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 25 September 1923, page 1

PROSPECT FIRE

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

Motor Garage Guttled

BRIGADE DELAY

Several loud explosions, followed by a crackling noise, were the first indications to residents of Harrington street, Prospect, that a fire had broken out this morning in Mr. Milton W. Orr's garage. The Premises are in Harrington street just off Prospect road. The damage is estimated at £1,700. The fire was first noticed at about 3 o'clock. The flames then had a good hold. By the time the North Adelaide Fire Brigade arrived there was no hope of saving either the building or any of the contents. All that remain are the bare walls and the distorted frames of four motor cars. The heat was so great that most of the ironwork of the engines has completely disappeared.

MOTOR CARS BURNED.

Mr. Orr estimates the damage at £1,700. Of that amount, he said, he would have to bear about £800. He was insured with the Commonwealth General Assurance Company for £650. There was a considerable amount of stock belonging to clients that would have to be replaced. Two cars, an Oak-land and a Talbot, which were in the garage for repairs, were destroyed, but these were covered by insurance. "My two assistants and myself left the building at about 6.30 last night," said Mr. Orr. "The first intimation I had of the trouble was when a neighbor called me out of bed at a little after 3 o'clock this morning. I rushed to the scene in my pyjamas, but by then the flames had gained control. The fire brigade seem to have been very slow on the spot, as it was more than half an hour after receiving a call that they were able to get the hose to play on the fire."

DELAY EXPLAINED.

Several residents living in the vicinity complained of the slowness of the brigade in getting on the scene. The officers of the North Adelaide station explained this morning that Prospect is not within their area. They are under the jurisdiction of the Adelaide City Council, and have no power to go to an outlying district, such as Prospect, without first getting instructions from the head station. Another reason of the delay was that Prospect, being in an unprotected area, there were no fire alarms. A telephone communication often absorbed minutes that were valuable when putting out a fire. To aggravate the delay further this morning the fireplug nearest the outbreak had been covered with sand by floodwaters, and it was about five minutes before the hose could be connected.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 25 September 1923, page 1



Mr. Milton W. Orr's garage at Harrington street, Prospect, which was completely gutted in the early hours of this morning.

1924

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 4 April 1924, page 6

MOTOR CAR BURNED

Blaze at North Adelaide

Fire partially destroyed a motor car belonging to Mr. Mark Hains, of 60 Barton terrace, North Adelaide, at 3 o'clock this morning. The outbreak occurred in a yard at the rear of Mr. Hains' home. The body of the car was practically ruined, but as far as could be ascertained the mechanism had not suffered much damage. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade found the car in full blaze. The fire had apparently been in progress for some time. The car was standing out in the yard away from other buildings. The car was insured with the Sun Insurance Company for £200. It is believed that the fire was caused through a short circuit of the battery.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 18 April 1924, page 6

FIRE ON A LORRY.

Slight damage was done to a motor lorry loaded with new furniture in Gover street, North Adelaide, on Thursday afternoon by a fire, the cause of which was unknown. The North Adelaide Brigade was summoned and prevented serious damage. The owner of the vehicle was Mr. Thomas McPharlin, carrier, of Minlaton.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 29 July 1924, page 17

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 6.59 p.m. on Monday to Lefevre-Terrace, where a motor car, the property of Mr. D. A. Hewish, of Spalding, had caught alight. The car was slightly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 12 August 1924, page 12

A FIRE AT PROSPECT.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the residence of Mr. O. A. Jakkan of Lily-street, Prospect, on Monday, and upon arrival found a dividing fence and a gas main box well alight. The box was burnt right out, and a large hole was made in the fence. The prompt attendance of the brigade is commendable, as the area is what is known as an "unprotected" one.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 31 October 1924, page 8

BLAZE AT WALKERVILLE

Furniture Factory Guttled

HALL ALSO DAMAGED

When the North Adelaide Fire Brigade reached the scene of a fire at a furniture factory on North-East road, Walkerville, after midnight last night the building was enveloped in flames, which had obtained a firm grip on the place and had spread to the Druids' Hall adjoining. It was impossible to save the factory, and efforts were concentrated on the hall. The flames could be seen for miles, and a large crowd collected. The brigade subdued the fire in the hall and effected a good save on a house opposite the factory, which had also caught alight. The factory, which contained a large amount of furniture, was gutted, and the ceiling and roof of the hall were badly damaged. The eaves of the dwelling place were slightly damaged. The hall and the factory were owned by the Hampstead Heath branch of the Druids' Lodge. The factory was occupied by Messrs. R. W. and H. W. Langford, of Harvey street, Collinswood, and had been used as a furniture factory. The house was the property of Mr. R. J. Lane. Insurance amounting to £1,300 was held on the hall by the Druids' Lodge, with an additional £150 for contents and £400 for the factory. Langford Brothers had the factory and contents insured for £900. The cause of the fire is unknown. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was in charge of Station Officer C. Oldham.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 31 October 1924, page 14

FURNITURE FACTORY GUTTED.

WALKERVILLE BLAZE.

The furniture factory of Messrs. Langsford Brothers, of North-East road, Walkerville, near the Walkerville car terminus, was burnt to the ground early this morning. The factory, which is sandwiched between the Druids' Hall and a house occupied by Mr. R. Lane, was first noticed to be in flames at about midnight, but the brigade was not summoned until nearly 1 a.m. Considerable damage was done to adjacent structures, all the furniture having to be taken from Mr. Lane's house. The excessive heat ignited and completely burnt out the ceiling of the Druids' Hall. Much valuable furniture had been stored in the factory, and the extent of the loss cannot yet be gauged. The fire was got under by about 1.30 a.m.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 1 November 1924, page 12

THE WALKERVILLE FIRE.

AREAS WITHOUT PROTECTION.

The fire at Messrs. Langsford Bros.' furniture factory, North-East-road, Rosebery, which was reported in "The Advertiser" yesterday, completely destroyed the factory and damaged the Druids' Hall on one side and the property of Mr. R. J. Lane on the other. Though the scene of the fire is outside the North Adelaide Fire Brigade area, the members of the brigade were quickly on the scene, but by the time they arrived the factory was well alight, so they concentrated their attention on saving the hall and Mr. Lane's property. The factory and the hall are owned by the Hampstead Heath branch of the Druids' Lodge, and were insured for £400 and £1,300 respectively. The contents of the hall were covered by an additional policy of £150. The stock and machinery in the factory were insured for £800, and Messrs. Langsford

Bros. house, furniloss at £900. Mr. Lane's house, furniture and workshop were covered by insurances totalling £837, and he estimates his damage at £30. The cause of the fire is unknown, It has once again drawn attention to the fact that in the Prospect and Walkerville districts there are a large number of valuable properties outside the area under the jurisdiction of Fire Brigades Board, and in case of fires residents have no call upon the services of the firemen, although the nearest brigade at North Adelaide usually turns out, as was the case on Friday morning. "The question of bringing Prospect within the fire brigades area has often been discussed by the council," said Mr. C. Cain, clerk of the Prospect District Council on Friday, "but the cost has always been too great in the past. Some years ago the question was fully discussed, both with the Walkerville District Council and the Fire Brigades Board, who suggested a joint station for both districts somewhere on the North-East-road. In view of the fact that Prospect is mainly a residential area, with practically all the houses brick or stone, the danger of fire is not very great. We have very few factories in the district, and so far have been remarkably free from fires. In view of the rapid expansion of Prospect during the past few years, the council's finances have been strained to keep up with the demands for new streets, footpaths, etc., and the cost of our quota towards a new fire brigade station has been more than we could manage. If some scheme could be evolved whereby we could be served from the North Adelaide station at a lower cost than if a new station had to be established, the council would probably consider the proposal favorably. It should not be very hard to arrange nowadays for motor transport." The clerk of the Walkerville District Council (Mr. T. R. Nottage), expressed similar reasons for that council's decision not to support the suggested joint station for Walkerville and Prospect, but admitted that yesterday's fire was sure to bring the matter up again. "The question always crops up after every fire," he said, "but the cost has always been the stumbling block in the past."

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 11 December 1924, page 10

CASUALTIES

FIRES AT PROSPECT.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to two small fires at Prospect on Wednesday. The first call, which was received at 12.44 p.m., was to an outbreak at the corner of Braund and Gladstone roads. The flames were confined to grass and fencing. Just after 4 o'clock the Brigade was called to 1 Dudley avenue, to a house owned and occupied by Mrs. W. Harris. A shadehouse had caught alight, but the fire was prevented from spreading by the prompt attendance of the firemen. Two young children who were playing in the shadehouse had a narrow escape from being trapped by the flames, and they were rescued by their mother at considerable peril. Her arms were considerably burnt. The damage done by the fire was covered by insurance.

1925

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 January 1925, page 11

FIRE AT GILBERTON.

While some rubbish was being burned on Saturday afternoon the fire spread to the fence at the side of Mrs. Fletcher's house in Park-terrace, Gilberton. The North Adelaide brigade was summoned, and the fire was extinguished. Twenty feet of fencing was destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 22 February 1923, page 14

FIRE AT WALKERVILLE.

A fire last night destroyed a dressmaking establishment known as "The Band Box," conducted by Misses Joyce at Walkerville terrace, Walkerville. One of the ladies, it is understood, had been working in the shop during the evening. The outbreak was noticed by two boys, and the attention of Constable Rowett was called to it. Meanwhile Mr. W. Hobbs had notified the fire

brigade. The flames got a complete hold on the premises, which were of wood and iron, and it was impossible to save them.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 22 February 1923, page 8

A SHOP GUTTED.

Shortly after 10 o'clock on Wednesday night a small wood-and-iron building, known as "the Band Box," on Walkerville terrace, Walkerville, owned by Mr. J Lathlean. and occupied by Miss D. and M. Joyce, who have conducted a dressmaking business, was completely gutted by fire. One of the occupants had just left the premises when she noticed two small boys run up to Constable Rowett, who was on duty in that street at the time, and tell him that "the Band Box" was on fire. The alarm was given by Mr. J. Hobba, who telephoned to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Wakefield street, and the North Adelaide station having been communicated with, an appliance was dispatched from there to the scene of the outbreak. The blaze was confined to the building and contents and the surrounding fences. The amount of damage could not be ascertained. The shop was not insured, but it is understood that the contents were so covered.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 3 March 1925, page 11

TAR ON FIRE

While being heated a quantity of tar caught alight at the Adelaide Corporation depot in Archer street, North Adelaide, about 9.45 o'clock this morning. The blaze caused slight damage to a shed. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the flames.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 15 May 1925, page 9

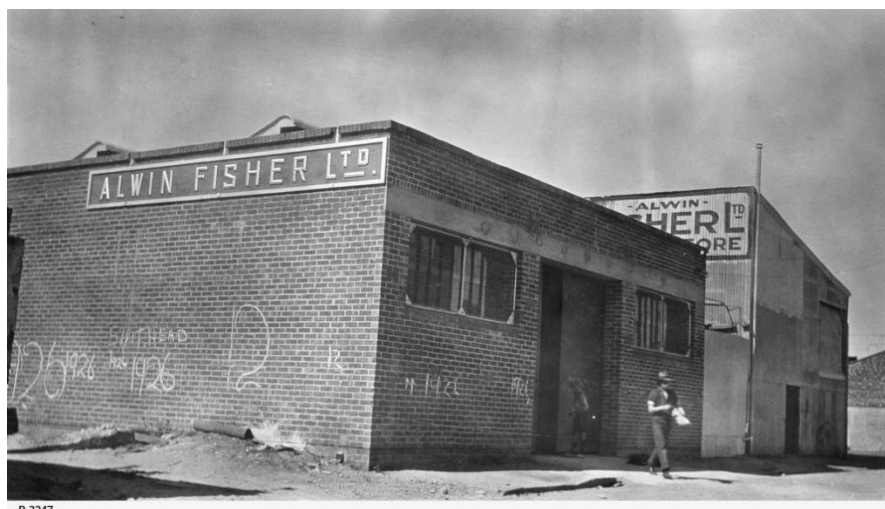
NORTH ADELAIDE BLAZE

Metalworks Damaged.

Damage estimated at £5,000 was done by fire to the works of Alwin Fisher, Limited, in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, on Thursday evening. The blaze, although only short-lived, was fierce. Flames were noticed about 6.30 p.m. issuing from the centre of the works by Constable Judd, who was on duty in O'Connell street, and at his direction another man broke the fire alarm. The North Adelaide Brigade turned out promptly with a motor hose carrier, and the head station sent out a motor pump fully manned. The quickness of the brigade and the efficiency of the motor pump were potent factors in the outbreak being quickly subdued. Although, when the firemen arrived, flames were shooting from the iron building, which forms the centre of the works, the hoses turned on the affected area soon overcame the blaze. The fire was confined to the actual sheet metal works—showroom and offices in front, and the electroplating department and a storeroom at the rear, both stone buildings, not having been touched. The motor pump was cut off about 7.15 o'clock. The first floor fell in, and a quantity of machinery and stores was severely damaged. The building was insured. Everything was in order when the employees left between 5 and 5.30 o'clock on Thursday, and passers-by stated that nothing amiss was noticed at 6.25. Alwin Fisher, Limited, is an old and well-known firm, having been established in 1874. Bath heaters have been the special manufacture of the establishment, but stoves and hospital requisites are also produced, and hot water, engineering, and general sheet metal work are undertaken.



State Library of South Australia - Clarke Street [B 3245], [General description] Buildings in Clarke Street near O'Connell Street in North Adelaide. The stuccoed shed stands next to Alwin Fisher. Horse drawn carriages wait in the street. [On back of photograph] Acre 821. Clarke Street, south side, January 21st 1926. A hand drawn sketch follows with the explanation "The part within the bracket was erected in 1925 on the site of premises damaged by fire. Point where new portion adjoins the big two storey shed with projecting window flap is 31 yards east of O'Connell Street." For photograph taken prior to fire see B 1172. 1926. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 821 Collection.



State Library of South Australia - Clarke Street [B 3247], [General description] Premises of Alwin Fisher Limited on the north side of Clarke Street near O'Connell Street. The brick building has graffiti drawn on the side. [On back of photograph] Acre 832 Clarke Street, north side 21st January 1926. Brick premises erected in 1925 on a site previously occupied by an iron shed. Frontage of brick building: 13 yards. Near side is 38 yards east of O'Connell Street. 1926. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 832 Collection.



State Library of South Australia - O'Connell Street, North Adelaide [B 1172], O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, east side, on December 15th 1922, on the south corner of Clarke Street. The left side of Fisher's is 63 yards north of Archer Street. LeCornu's Furnishing Warehouse can be seen on the right. The structure on the extreme left was damaged by fire in 1925 and was rebuilt in the same year. For a photo of the new building see B 3245. 1922. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 821 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 16 May 1925, page 8

CASUALTIES.

NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE.

As a result of the fire which occurred at the works of Alwin Fisher, Limited, in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, on Thursday night. 25 employes of the firm will be affected. It is hoped, however, that this will be for a short time only, and that something to keep these hands employed will be found. An adjustment in connection with the fire is being made, and in the meantime nothing will be finalized in other respects, although it is expected that repair work will be commenced within several days. The debris is being cleared up, and salvaging will be started to-day.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 18 June 1925, page 13

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR BUS IN FLAMES.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received communication by telephone to proceed to Robe terrace, Medindie, at 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday. They were on the scene in a few minutes, and it was found that a Reo motor bus, owned by Mr. F. Jeffries, of Braund road, Prospect, was in flames, as a result of the engine back-firing. So prompt was the response of the brigade that the flames were extinguished within a short time, and before the vehicle could be entirely destroyed. The bus, which was severely damaged, was, it is understood, insured for £400.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 1 July 1922, page 5

OIL STORE ALIGHT ON THE PORT ROAD

WONDERFUL SAVE BY BRIGADE.

At 9.48 on Friday night the Wakefield street fire brigade station received a call from the Port road. On arrival the firemen discovered that the linseed oil works were well alight.

The chief officer at once despatched the Thebarton and North Adelaide motor appliances, and also a motor and motor pump from the central station. The north-eastern portion of the building was much damaged, but the brigade made a wonderful save. At a late hour last night the fire was well under control. The cause and extent of the damage is unknown.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 1 July 1922, page 10

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT LINSEED OIL WORKS.

The efficiency of the metropolitan and suburban firefighters was demonstrated on Friday night, when a good save was effected on the Port Adelaide road. Shortly before 10 o'clock the Thebarton Station received a call to a blaze at the Linseed Oil Works, at Hindmarsh, and the motor hose carriage was dispatched. Subsequently the North Adelaide brigade and a motor hose and motor pump from the Central Station were sent to the outbreak. On arrival it was found that the north-eastern portion of the works were well alight. Cases of oil, bags of linseed, and other inflammable substances helped to feed the flames, which had gained a strong hold upon the place. Although the building and its contents were severely damaged, the prevention of still further destruction reflected credit upon the methods adopted by the firemen.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 17 September 1925, page 8

CASUALTIES.

CHAFFMILL BURNT.

The premises of the Medindie Fuel and Chaff Company, No. 3 Main North road, Enfield, were gutted on Wednesday morning. There is a small office on the street frontage, and the mill stands back in the yard. The plant was housed in an old galvanized iron building, and besides the chaff and woodcutting machinery, contained large stocks of hay, chaff, bran, and grains. The mill was operated on Wednesday morning and the manager (Mr. G. Harvey) and the other employe went away on business errands, and only a girl was left in the office. At 11.15 a.m. Mr. H. S. Turner, who works in a carpenter's shop on the same block of land, heard the crackle of flames, and rushing out, saw that the mill was on fire. He ran to the office and summoned the fire brigade. By that time, however, the flames, fanned by a strong breeze, had gained a powerful hold, and when the firefighters arrived it was apparent that here was no hope of saving the premises. When Mr. Turner first noticed the fire it appeared to be centred around the machinery in the middle of the building, and a fuse box attached to the outside far corner of the shed was ablaze, with no other flames nearby. The hay in the shed burned brightly and the heat was intense. The brigade men from headquarters and North Adelaide surrounded the mill, and soon had the flames under control, but the debris smouldered for several hours. The premises were owned by Mr A. E. Puddy, and it is understood that they, and the contents, were insured.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 November 1925, page 1

ALLEGED HOUSEBREAKING

FOUR BOYS ARRESTED

Damage at North Adelaide

Four boys, the eldest of whom is eight years of age, were arrested at North Adelaide yesterday. It is alleged that they entered a house at Archer street and damaged it. Damage to the extent of £40 was done. Entrance was effected by breaking a window on the back verandah during the morning. Having got inside the house-breakers, it is alleged, raided the kitchen and feasted on raw eggs and sugar. They then opened a wardrobe and masqueraded in the clothes they found there. Having discovered a tin of paint they splashed a fire grate and

mantelpiece in the dining room, and left a trail of damage in every room. A back room was entered and clothes were piled up and set fire to with candles taken out of the kitchen safe. A neighbor, noticing the smoke, came to the house, apprehended several boys, and handed them over to the police. He summoned the fire brigade, but managed to quell the fire before the men arrived. In the property burned were pillow slips, sheets, and a quantity of clothes, valued at £30. These were not insured. Damage to the floors by fire amounted to £10, and was covered by insurance. The boy who is said to be the ringleader, is eight years old, and was arrested on October 9 on a charge of having stolen a cheque for £150 which he was alleged to have stolen from a letter box. The charge was not proceeded with on account of his youth. The other boys arrested in the present case are seven, five, and four years old respectively.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 18 November 1925, page 19

A SMALL FIRE.

About 2.40 p.m. on Tuesday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Messrs. James Marshall's furniture factory in Smith-street. Walkerville where a small outbreak had occurred through an engine back-firing. The fire was extinguished before the brigade arrived. Little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 19 December 1925, page 12

FIRE AT PROSPECT.

Brigade's Extraordinary Position.

A correspondent, "Scamazed," writes:— As a newcomer to South Australia and Prospect, this (Thursday) afternoon's experience amazes me. A fire occurred at a house in Methuen street, and there was a fresh breeze blowing. Possible occurrences, these, anywhere in the world, but in most places it is sufficient to ring the telephone and say the word "fire," either for the telephonist to make the needful call immediately on receipt of this magic word, or to be instantly connected with the nearest station and get prompt response by and service of the brigade. Not so in Prospect! One found that there is no brigade in this populous and extensive district, so one selected North Adelaide as the nearest help, and called accordingly—to-day one was given the wrong number. The North Adelaide Brigade regretted that it could not deal with the fire "as it was not their district," but after the need was urged, the official relented, and said that he would consult some other official for the "necessary permission." Much valuable time was lost in untangling red tape. Presumably permission was granted, for the brigade arrived and did the job. It is scaring to think that on the next occasion that Prospect suffers such an unprovided-for event, the unfortunate householder may find it coincides with the carelessness of somebody in North Adelaide who has made prior claim to that brigade's services. The residents and ratepayers of Prospect, in allowing the present inadequate protection for their homes to continue, are asking for a disaster.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 21 December 1925, page 12

GRASS FIRES.

Grass fires occupied the attention of the metropolitan fire brigades on Sunday. The North Adelaide Brigade subdued a small outbreak at Mackinnon parade at 1.45 p.m. A much larger affair kept headquarters busy for about three hours in the afternoon. They were called to near the Forest Inn, on the corner of the Bay road and South road, at 2.4 p.m. Several acres of grass and some fences were burned.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 23 December 1925, page 1

Stove Explodes

A fire which occurred at the tailoring establishment of Mr. Thomas Giles at 36 O'Connell street, North Adelaide, at 11 o'clock this morning did damage to the extent of £7. Fittings in the shop were burned. They were covered by insurance. The outbreak occurred as a result of a stove exploding. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called, but the fire was put out by Mr. Giles with the assistance of Mr. W. T. Halse (bootmaker) next door.

1926

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 2 January 1926, page 11

GRASS FIRE AT MONTEFIORE HILL.

A call to Montefiore Hill was received by the North Adelaide Fire Brigade at 2.40 p.m. yesterday. The brigade discovered that a considerable area of grass was under fire near the Municipal Golf Links. With a strong wind behind it the fire was burning fiercely, but the firemen were able to extinguish it after about three acres had been burnt out.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 2 January 1926, page 9

Fire on Parklands

The North Adelaide Brigade received a call about 2.30 p.m. on Friday to extinguish a grass fire on the park lands at Strangways terrace, North Adelaide. The spread of the flames was arrested, and no damage was done to property or fences.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 30 January 1926, page 4

HERO OF HUNDRED FIRES

"Barney," the Fire Brigade Pet

43-YEAR-OLD HORSE

"Barney," the last of the Fire Brigade horses, has retired from active service, and is spending his declining years at the North Adelaide Fire Station. His 42 years sit lightly on the veteran of a hundred fires, and although his gait is a little uncertain, his eyes are as bright as ever, and his teeth perfectly sound. He spends the days in his stable, and occasionally goes for a shambling trot round the yard, carefully picking his way among the chickens which play round him. A warm bed, unlimited hay and lucerne with cake and bread as a special treat, make the station an equine paradise for Barney. He asks for nothing more, save an occasional caress. He is an affectionate horse, and stretches out his velvety nose for a pat from every passer-by. Old habit dies hard. The fire alarm transforms him in an instant. Head erect, ear's pricked up, and long tail swishing impatiently, he stands at attention, waiting for the orders that never come. He sees the familiar red and gold of the fire reel, then he hears the throb of the engine, and the great machine disappears in a cloud of dust, leaving behind a faint odor of petrol. And Barney's head falls, his twitching ears droop, and he continues his cogitations dreaming of the days when he and his gallant comrades galloped to the scene of action, with the crowd scattering in panic before their thundering hoofs. There they would stand, unafraid of the smoke and fumes, their trappings glittering in the glare of the fire, their nostrils distended after the mad race. Work over, they would return to the station in a triumphal procession through the street.

Last of His Race

But times have changed. Barney's stable at headquarters has become a motor garage and electricians' shop, his comrades have all died or been dispersed, and he alone of all the gallant company remains. Barney had an adventurous career before he "joined up" with the brigade, more than a score of years ago. His pedigree cannot be traced, but it is known that he was foaled at Auburn. He first entered the service of man as a coach horse, one of the struggling band that did the Clare to Auburn trip in the old coaching days, later being transferred to the Willunga route. Then he retired to private life, and a doctor's trap, and

afterward fell to the lowly estate of a market gardener's horse. When he was bought by the Fire Brigade he immediately made friends with Senior Fireman R. Morris, at headquarters. That friendship has continued ever since, although they have now been separated for nearly 18 months. Like Barney, Mr. Morris has grown grey in the service of the brigade. *Horses Before Motors* "People can say what they like about progress, but with me the horses will always come before motors," he said. "And I know this much. Not half so many people have come to see the Fire Station since the horses were supplanted by motors. Perhaps I am prejudiced, but the horses did fine work. Barney was the cleverest of them all. As soon as the alarm went he was up and away, and backed himself into the shafts in no time. He never made a slip, no matter how spanking the pace was, and at training young horses he was invaluable. "It hurts to talk about Barney," he continued. "He was such a wonderful pal. Whenever I was away on leave, Barney would hunt for me all over the station, and when I came back he went nearly crazy with joy. We missed one another terribly when he went out to North Adelaide. I often go out to see him now, and he knows me at once. He is undoubtedly a remarkable horse. Although I have heard of horses in Britain reaching a great age, I have not been able to trace any in Australia that have lived to 42. Barney will be 43 in August." Mr. Morris resented the suggestion that Barney was not so steady on his legs as he might be. "Why, he is in perfect condition," he exclaimed indignantly. "He might be a bit uncertain since his iron shoes have been taken, but it is simply because the ground feels unfamiliar. Duncan's fire was the last he ever went to, and I remember he drew a 60-foot ladder to it. He stood like a rock waiting for his orders. Barney was never nervous. In fact, he was the grand old man of his race, and for me there will never be another like him."

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 15 February 1926, page 13

SUBURBAN STATIONS BUSY.

NO SERIOUS OUTBREAK.

The Unley and North Adelaide Fire Brigades had a busy time on Sunday. Fortunately, the outbreaks which they were called upon to extinguish were not of serious character. The Adelaide station also received a call— from Gaza. It proved to be only a woodheap burning at the rear of the O.G. Hotel, and was easily subdued.

At 10.30 a.m. the Unley Brigade was summoned to a grass fire in the backyard of premises in Dartmouth street, Goodwood, which were occupied by Mr. Robert Clarke. He had been burning rubbish, and the strong wind carried sparks into adjacent grass. The firemen extinguished the blaze before any damage had been done. Hardly had the brigade returned to the station, when it was again called out, this time to Robsart street, Parkside, where dry grass and road sweepings were alight in a vacant allotment. The fire was quickly subdued. It is stated that the rubbish had been smouldering for a week, and that the wind on Sunday fanned it into flames.

At 6.23 p.m. the North Adelaide Brigade received a call to 20 Marion place, where a wood-and-iron outhouse, apparently used as a bathroom, was on fire. The occupant of the premises, Mr. H. Bonner, was absent from home, but children were present. Little damage was done before the firemen subdued the outbreak.

In the afternoon the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade was summoned to a fire at Monmouth street, Ridleyton. On arrival, they found that reeds in a pughole were burning.

A small grass fire, which occurred in the park lands near the South Terrace Railway Station on Sunday afternoon, caused excitement in that locality. A tramcar was pulled up in King William road, and the motorman and conductor hastened to the fire, and succeeded in extinguishing it. The outbreak was stated to have resulted from "pranks of children."

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 February 1926, page 10

Shed Contents Destroyed

Shortly before 5 o'clock this morning the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to the house of Mr. F. T. Kennedy, Mann terrace, Lower North Adelaide. Furniture and household goods stored in a detached wood and iron shed were destroyed and the shed damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 12 May 1926, page 10

FIRE AT PROSPECT

Boy Gives Alarm

A fire which broke out at the tobacconist shop of Mr. A. E. Steggall, at the corner of Albert street and Prospect road, Prospect, last night, did damage to the stock and fittings to the extent of £80. The contents of the shop were insured. Harold Blucher, aged 10, was passing the shop about 8.45 o'clock last night, when he noticed a light inside. He went to one of the adjoining business places, and on returning saw that the shop of Mr. Steggall was on fire. He immediately advised Messrs. C. Bates and J. Rogers, whose shops adjoin. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was communicated with and extinguished the flames. Constables Kschammer and Siebert also rendered assistance. The origin of the outbreak is not known.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 12 May 1926, page 8

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT PROSPECT.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade responded to a call at 8.54 last evening to the barber's shop of A. E. Steggall, Albert street, Prospect. The flames, which slightly damaged the stock, were extinguished with a few buckets of water.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 20 May 1926, page 16

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

GARAGE AND TWO MOTORS DESTROYED.

A fire occurred early on Wednesday morning in the garage of Mr. W. L. Bradshaw motor car proprietor at Gordon-road, Prospect, totally destroying the garage, two motor cars, tools, and machinery, and a quantity of joinery. The damage, which was partly covered by insurance, amounted to about £1,130. The fire was first noticed by Mr. W. H. Ingram, who lives next door, and he aroused the owner. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called, but was unable to save the building and contents. Mr. Bradshaw conducted a daily motor service between Adelaide and Jamestown. He stated yesterday that he had made arrangements to have the service carried on until he was able to make other plans.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 19 May 1926, page 1

GARAGE GUTTED

Two Motor Cars Destroyed

FIRE AT PROSPECT

A fire which broke out at the motor garage of Mr. W. L. Bradshaw, motor car proprietor, at 50 Gordon road, Prospect, early this morning completely gutted the garage and destroyed two motor cars, a quantity of tools and machinery, and some joinery. The damage is estimated at £1,130. It was partly covered by insurance. Mr. Bradshaw, who ran a daily motor service between Adelaide and Jamestown, stated this would [*] practically all his capital was represented in the garage and contents. He has made arrangements for Mr. G. Turner to carry on his motor service until he can make other plans for the future. The origin of the fire is unknown. It was first observed by Mr. W. H. Ingram, who lives next door. About 1.40 this morning he saw the reflection of the flames on his bedroom window. He roused Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned, but arrived too late to save the

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

11 May 2026

property, which at the time of the call was threatened with total destruction. The garage was valued at £200. Contents included a Buick motor car valued at £300, an seven-seater Austin valued at £375, tools, machinery, and a quantity of joinery valued at £250. Constables Kschammer and Saxon, of Prospect, rendered assistance.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 19 October 1926, page 1

Fire at Collinswood

A butcher's delivery motor van and a wood-and-iron shed owned by Mr. G. C. Rimes, of Howard street, Collinswood, were destroyed by fire this morning at 1.40 o'clock. The shed was also used as a stable, and housed two horses, which were removed as soon as the fire was noticed. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called. The shed and the motor van were recovered by insurance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 9 December 1926, page 14

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

At 2.30 p.m. yesterday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to a fire in a motor car owned by B. Cohen and Sons, Auto Electric Service, Ltd. It was put out with a chemical extinguisher. The car was not badly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 23 December 1926, page 14

GRASS FIRES.

Several small grass fires occurred yesterday. The fire brigade was called at 2.52 p.m. to the corner of West and North terraces, where a small outbreak was extinguished. A grass fire occurred in a paddock in Park-terrace, Gilberton, shortly after 3 p.m., and was attended by the North Adelaide Brigade. At 3.45 p.m. the Thebarton Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Mr. R. Tasker, tobacconist, of Hunter-street, Torrensville, where a fire had broken out in the grass in the backyard. The flames were extinguished before any damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 25 December 1926, page 8

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

Some excitement was caused among the Christmas Eve merry-makers in the vicinity of Grenfell street about 10.45 p.m., when a blaze was noticed in premises in Chesser street. The Gawler place and Arcade Grenfell street alarms were broken, and a couple of fire reels were soon on the scene. At first it looked as if the fire had taken a strong hold; but, on investigating, the firemen found that some old boxes had caught alight and were burning vigorously. A line of hose was played on the flames, which were rapidly extinguished. Only a small hand cart was burned.

The North Adelaide Brigade was called about 10.30 p.m. to Mill terrace, where a grass fire was extinguished without any danger to property being occasioned.

1927

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 10 January 1927, page 13

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

Week-End Outbreaks.

At 4.49 p.m. the North Adelaide Brigade were summoned to a grass fire on Park terrace, Gilberton. The flames were extinguished before any damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 14 January 1927, page 9

Fire at Ovingham

A fire at Ovingham yesterday morning destroyed a shed, workshop, and wash-house at the residence of Mr. A. Clayton, corner of Lower North-East and Avenue roads. The blaze started in an adjoining paddock. The house was in danger, but was saved by North Adelaide Fire Brigade. Slight damage was done to the dwelling, and some fencing was also burned.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 14 January 1927, page 15

GRASS FIRES.

Five grass fires were extinguished by the brigades on Thursday. The North Adelaide Brigade was called to Medindie at 10.19, and to Ovingham at 11.45 a.m. the Norwood Brigade answered a call to a grass fire at the rear of Cowell Brothers' timber yards at 2.18 p.m., and while they were attending to this fire another call was received to a blaze which had broken out at Alexander-avenue, and was extinguished by the Metropolitan Brigade. At 5.3 p.m. Norwood was again called to a grass fire at Portrush-road, Linden Park.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 14 January 1927, page 9

110 DEG. IN ADELAIDE.

PEAK IN HEAT WAVE REACHED.

COOL CHANGE LIKELY TO-DAY.

FIRES IN GRASS.

Fire brigades were kept busy in the metropolitan area on Thursday. At 10.19 a.m. the brigade at North Adelaide had to give its attention to a grass fire near the corner of Hawker road and Nottage terrace, Medindie. An hour later a call was received from the Lower North road, Ovingham, where a washhouse and fence were alight. When returning from that engagement a grass fire on the Lower North road was extinguished. At 2.18 p.m. the Norwood firemen got their first call, which was to subdue a grass fire near Cowell Brothers' timber yard, on the Parade. At 4.4 pm. the Adelaide station received a call from the South Terrace Railway Station. On arrival it was discovered that grass had been ignited in the western park lands. An hour and a quarter later a reel had to be sent to extinguish a fire in grass and fencing at Portrush road. Monreith. The Norwood Brigade, which would have had the duty ordinarily, was busy with a grass fire at Alexandar avenue, Toorak. A blaze occurred at Mr. Burford's place, Chief street. Brompton, during the afternoon, when a fowl shed and a quantity of fencing were destroyed. The prompt arrival of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade saved the surrounding buildings. The damage is estimated at £50.

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLIES.

On Thursday the Hydraulic Engineer (Mr. H. E. Bellamy) said the position was slightly improved. Practically all the fire brigades in the metropolitan area had the requisite pressure. No complaints had been received regarding the water pressure in different suburbs. The Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. J. McInnes) stated that Mr. Bellamy was doing everything possible to overcome the difficulties. The Adelaide City Corporation, which receives its water free from the Government, had promised to accede to a request that its employes should be more sparing with water on parks and reserves during factory hours of the day.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 January 1927, page 15

FIRE AT PROSPECT.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade, a few minutes after 1 p.m. on Sunday, received a call to the premises of Mr. David Evans, a carpenter, of Gloucester-street, Prospect. When the brigade arrived three small iron sheds which were used as a carpenter's shop were burning. The

sheds, together with timber and tools, were destroyed, but the fire was prevented from spreading to adjoining properties.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 26 January 1927, page 10

ANOTHER CHAFFMILL FIRE.

Another fire occurred in a chaff mill on Tuesday. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call from the Melbourne street alarm to a blaze on the premises of Bungey & Co., chaff merchants, at the corner of Stanley and Jerningham streets, North Adelaide. The damage done was mainly confined to the wood and iron work, but some of the contents were badly burned. The cause of the outbreak is not known. The North Adelaide fire reel attended, and a pump from the Adelaide station was sent out.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 29 January 1927, page 14

SLEEPERS BURNED.

At 3.50 p.m. on Friday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to a fire in a stack of railway sleepers at the North Adelaide railway-station. A quantity of rubbish was also burned. Before the arrival of the brigade a large machine shop, where the sleeper are treated, was in danger, but it was saved by the firemen. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 8 March 1927, page 1

CHURCH DESTROYED

Fire at Prospect

POLICE INVESTIGATING

St. Ninian's Church of England, at the corner of Lower North road and Victoria street, Prospect, was destroyed by fire this morning. Rumors are current in the district that a boy was responsible. Prospect police are investigating. What was once a fine wood-and-iron structure went up in smoke, leaving only the charred woodwork and a few feet of blackened timber. A few altar vessels were saved, but a number of hymn books, Bibles, and Prayer Books were burned. The fire was noticed by Mr. McLaren, a butcher, who was driving past. Mr. A. H. Morgan, of Victoria street, also saw smoke curling up from the interior, and gave the alarm to North Adelaide Fire Brigade. A motor reel under the command of Senior Fireman C. Wells was sent to the fire immediately. The flames had too great a hold, however, and the building slowly burned away. Boys of the neighborhood stated that a lad had been seen with a handful of lighted grass in the grounds of the church. It is also stated a man went inside the building about 11 o'clock to return some forms. Another theory, seeing that the flames came from the inside, is that the electric light wires fused and so set the edifice on fire. St. Ninian's was a church under the Bishop's Home Mission, and was served by laymen. Rev. R. T. M. Radcliff, of Prospect, administered holy communion when required. With a seating capacity of 200 the church had a pretty appearance and beautiful altar and interior furnishings. It had stood for 38 years.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 9 March 1927, page 12

CASUALTIES.

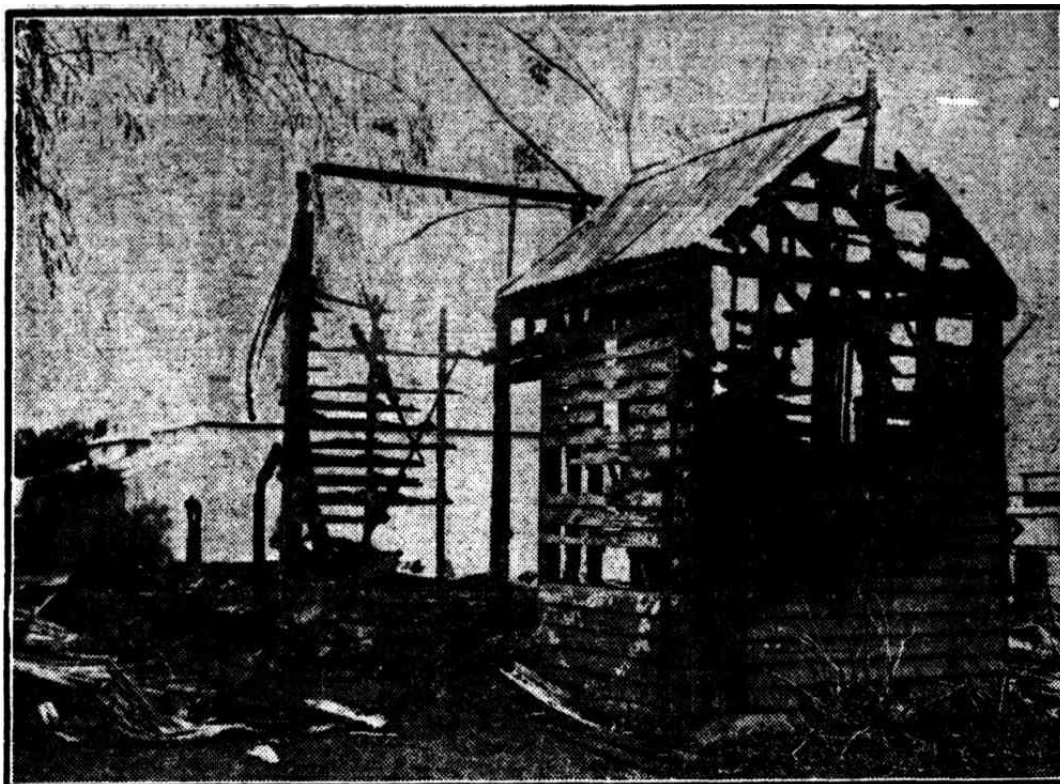
A GRASS FIRE.

Shortly before 10 a.m. on Tuesday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to a vacant allotment in Robe terrace, where dry grass had caught alight. The outbreak was put out before any damage was done to adjoining property.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1927, page 51

CHURCH DESTROYED BY FIRE.

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



Remains of St. Ninian's Church, at the corner of Victoria-street and Lower North-road, Prospect, which was destroyed by fire on Tuesday. The vestry was the only part left standing.

ST. NINIAN'S CHURCH DESTROYED.

St. Ninian's Church of England, at the corner of Victoria-street and Lower North road, Prospect, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday. The flames had secured a good hold on the building, which was a wood and iron structure, before the North Adelaide Fire Brigade could be informed. When they arrived shortly before 1 o'clock the church had collapsed, although it was still burning fiercely. The firemen, who were under the charge of Senior Fireman C. Wells, of the North Adelaide station, had difficulty in getting to the burning wood, as galvanized iron from the roof covered the wreckage. A good supply of water was available, however, and the flames were got under control after two hours. The church, which is controlled by the Enfield district of the Bishop's Home Mission Society, was erected about 40 years ago. The body of the church, which could seat about 100 persons, was approximately 32 feet by 20 feet, and in addition there was a chancel and a vestry. The latter is the only part left standing. The church was built mostly of weatherboard, and the heat was intense. The flames went into the air to a height of 20 or 30 feet, and the large gum trees which sheltered the building became ignited. Sparks also set alight to grass along the footpaths and in a paddock opposite. Fear was entertained temporarily for the safety of a cottage which adjoins the block of land on which the church stood, but it escaped damage, although trees and creepers in the yard were severely scorched. The property is insured, and the damage has not yet been estimated. The church contained beautiful interior fittings, including an organ. A large number of books of a sacred nature were also destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown, but the Prospect police investigated a statement by boys in the neighborhood that they saw a lad with a handful of lighted grass in the church yard. However, it was ascertained that there was no foundation for the statement.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 22 March 1927, page 15

A BUS ON FIRE.

Shortly after 5. p.m. on Monday, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Rake's-road, Enfield. A motor bus, known as the Pearl Sedan, and owned by Mr. S. Kent, of Philip-street, Prospect, was alight, and it was completely destroyed. At the time of the outbreak the vehicle was out on a trial run after being repaired.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 March 1927, page 10

TANNERY DESTROYED

Fire at Thebarton

Damage estimated at £20,000 was caused this morning when the two-story premises at Thebarton of Peacock & Co., Limited were completely gutted by fire. The outbreak was first noticed at 4.45 o'clock, and the flames were so fierce that an hour later the factory was a mass of smoking ruins.

Buildings, machinery, finished leather goods, and hides were totally destroyed, also the major portion of 300 tons of bark valued at more than £10 a ton. The premises were partly insured with the New Zealand Insurance Company. A youth, Laurie Quinn, who lives in a cottage about 50 yards from the premises, saw the whole factory alight, and rushed to the nearest fire alarm. Thebarton Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene, and was followed shortly afterward by Adelaide and North Adelaide brigades. In spite of the efforts of the brigades the flames mounted higher and higher, and the roof and floors began to fall. At the time the brigades reached the spot the whole tannery was a mass of flames, the leather within making excellent fuel. Before an hour had elapsed from the time the outbreak was seen the place was gutted.

BOILER FIRES DRAWN

Mr. R. A. Howes, who was in charge of the boilers at the factory, said that it was the practice on Friday nights to withdraw the fire from under the boilers, as no steam was required on Saturday morning. Before he left the works yesterday afternoon he satisfied himself that that had been done. He was certain that the fire had not started in the boilerhouse.

MODERATE INSURANCE

The damage was estimated at £20,000, but the works were moderately insured, according to Mr. G. D. Basnett, managing director of the company. Only about 20 men were employed there, and although they were large premises business had not been conducted on a big scale. He could not say whether the place would be rebuilt until his board of directors had met and decided what would be done. It would take some time probably to establish a similar concern. The only portion of the building untouched by flames was the lime room, where hides are treated. This portion is right on the bank of the Torrens and has little inflammable material in it. There was an estimated number of 4,000 hides in the pits. A few of those on the top will probably be damaged, but it is thought that those underneath will not be affected. Sewing machines for bootmaking and other machinery for the tanning of leather were destroyed with the building. The electric wires connected with the works fell as a result of the fire, and these were still alive when a small crowd of spectators gathered this morning to see the ruins.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 8 April 1927, page 15

A BUS ON FIRE.

At 9.25 p.m. on Thursday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to a motor bus, which was on fire near the Prospect tram terminus. The bus, which was owned by Mr. R. G. C. Parsons, of Young-avenue, Welland, was destroyed except for the engine. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 11 April 1927, page 1

BUS ENGINE ON FIRE

Hurried Jump Through Window

PASSENGERS GASHED

City bound passengers from Prospect received a scare this morning when the engine of a bus caught fire in O'Connell street, near Barton terrace, at 8.49 o'clock. It is thought that the engine backfired. North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called and quelled the outbreak before much damage was done. In an endeavor to escape through a window, it is believed that a man cut one of his hands. Mr. H. T. Bunney, of Lurline avenue, Torrensville, is the owner of the bus. Miss Ella Hobbs, 19 years of age, of Le Hunte avenue, Prospect, jumped through a window and sustained a gash on her right foot. She was detained at Adelaide Hospital for treatment.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 12 April 1927, page 13

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

ENGINE OF MOTOR BUS DAMAGED.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call on Monday morning to a motor bus at O'Connell street, North Adelaide. Slight damage was done to the engine of the bus, which was owned by Mr. H. T. Bunney, of Lurline-avenue, West Adelaide. The fire was extinguished by the use of chemicals. Slight cuts were sustained by two passengers when a panel of glass was broken by a passenger endeavoring to get out one of the windows.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 18 April 1927, page 1

OVERHEATED PIPES

Fire at North Adelaide

North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 8 o'clock this morning from the residence of Mr. J. W. McGregor, Strangways terrace, North Adelaide, where a fire had started in the ceiling. The house has a hot-water service, and the overheating of the pipes was responsible for the outbreak. Slight damage was done to the roof and ceiling.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 19 April 1927, page 13

A SMALL FIRE.

Shortly after 8 a.m. on Monday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the house of Mr. J. W. McGregor, Strangways-terrace, North Adelaide, where the ceiling in one of the rooms was alight. It is believed the fire was caused by an overheated flue. The fire was quickly extinguished and the damage was slight.

Saturday Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1929), Saturday 24 September 1927, page 1

NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE.

Clothing Burned.

Between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the residence of Mr. C. Mildren, 53 Melbourne street, North Adelaide. A storeroom adjoining the kitchen was found to be on fire. It contained clothing and other household effects, much of which was destroyed. The brigade promptly got control of the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 24 September 1927, page 1

TWO SMALL FIRES

North Adelaide Outbreaks

North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to the residence of Mr. C. Mildrum, Melbourne street, Lower North Adelaide, at 1.47 o'clock this morning. Upon arrival the firemen found an enclosed back verandah on fire. They soon quelled the outbreak. The building was slightly damaged, but a quantity of clothing was destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown. Yesterday afternoon the brigade was called to the house of Mr. Charles Barnes, Stanley street, Lower North Adelaide. A shed at the rear had been destroyed by fire. It contained garden tools and firewood. It is believed that ashes from a copper left nearby were responsible for the outbreak.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 24 October 1927, page 11

A SMALL FIRE.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call about 4.30 a.m. on Saturday to a storeroom belonging to Mr. E. V. Cant, at the corner of Nottage-terrace and the North-East-road, Medindie. They found the contents of the room ablaze, but the fire was promptly extinguished. The damage was only slight.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 November 1927, page 15

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the corner of O'Connell and Ward streets about 4.20 p.m. on Tuesday. It was found that a shed, the property of Mr. J. N. Holt, dentist, had become ignited, owing to the presence of some phosphorus. The brigade quickly extinguished the flames, little damage being done.

A CAR ON FIRE.

At 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Islington-road, South Yatala. It was found that a single-seater motor car was on fire. The bodywork of the car was destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 2 November 1927, page 11

Motor Car Burned

Through the engine backfiring a motor car was badly damaged by fire at Islington road, Islington, yesterday. The car belonged to Mr. David Richard Nation, electrician, of Second avenue, Joslin. North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned and put out the flames with chemical extinguishers. The car was insured with the Ocean Accident Company.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 3 November 1927, page 14

FIRE IN A BAKEHOUSE.

At 1.3 p.m., on Wednesday the Port Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Mr. Frank Nordin's bakehouse, Canning-street, Rosewater. The heat from the oven had caused an outbreak of fire in the woodwork above it, extending to the roof. The blaze was extinguished with the use of one line of hose. The premises and contents are insured with the I.O.A. Insurance office for £600.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 9 November 1927, page 15

GRASS FIRES.

The Unley Fire Brigade received a call yesterday morning to a grass fire on a vacant allotment in George-street, Hyde Park. A large quantity of grass and a paling fence were destroyed. On the vacant property of Mr. A. Mackey, at Chicago, yesterday afternoon, 35 acres of grassfeed were destroyed by fire. Assisted by residents, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze. The Fire Brigade on Tuesday afternoon received a call to

Waymouth-street, where on a vacant block of land next to the Launceston Hotel grass was burning. The blaze was extinguished before any damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 9 November 1927, page 1

Heywood Park Scorched

Unley Fire Brigade received a call at 12.35 this morning from Northgate street, Unley Park, where it was found that the grass in Heywood Park was on fire. It was extinguished without any serious damage being done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 22 November 1927, page 14

GRASS FIRES.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to extinguish two grass fires yesterday. In the morning a grass patch in a backyard in Toronto-street, Ovingham, caught fire, but beyond a paling fence being destroyed, there was little damage. The second outbreak occurred in a vacant block in Wilson-street, Walkerville. The brigade confined the flames to the paddock which was owned by Mrs. G. N. Newman, of Cleveland-avenue, Dulwich.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 22 November 1927, page 9

METROPOLITAN FIRES.

Buildings, Fences, and Grass.

Within six and a half hours on Monday, the City, Norwood, and North Adelaide Fire Brigades were called out to five fires. The biggest one was at 8.32 a.m. when the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone to a burning two-story shop and dwelling in Kensington road, Norwood, occupied by Mr. W. H. Charles, bootmaker. The fittings and contents were severely damaged by fire, and other rooms in the building, which were empty, were affected by smoke and heat. The fire, which was got under control within half an hour, is believed to have been caused by a short circuit in an electric motor under the staircase. The premises were insured with the Ocean & Accident Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

SHED DESTROYED.

Just before noon the Norwood Station received another call, this time to a house occupied by Mr. D. Hirsch, in Angas street, Kent Town, and owned by Mr. T. Christie, of High street, Burnside. A work shed at the rear was found to be alight. It is considered that hot ashes thrown out started the fire, and the shed and contents were destroyed. Half of a paling fence was burnt and the kitchen adjoining the shed was slightly damaged.

A Grote Street Alarm.

At 2 p.m. the City Brigade received a call to Bowen street, off Grote street, Adelaide, where rubbish and a fence on a vacant block at rear of the Church of Christ were burning. Little damage was done.

At Ovingham and Walkerville.

The North Adelaide Station had its first call shortly after 9 a.m. to Toronto street, Ovingham, where a paling fence on the property of Mrs. E. E. Morris was alight. The same station was summoned at 3 p.m. to a grass fire at Willesden street, Walkerville, on the property of Mrs. Newman, of Dulwich. Little damage was done in either case.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 3 December 1927, page 11

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN UNOCCUPIED SHOP.

An unoccupied shop at 22 Torrens road, Ovingham, owned by Mr. F. Tunbridge, of Prospect, was partially destroyed by fire early on Friday morning. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade speedily extinguished the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 December 1927, page 1

DISASTROUS NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE

LE CORNU'S FURNITURE FACTORY GUTTED

HORSES BURNED; FAMILY HOMELESS

Damage Between £20,000 and £30,000

A large workshop, stable, and two cottages owned by the firm of P. Le Cornu undertakers and furnisners, of North Adelaide, were destroyed by fire at midday today. One family and a lone householder were rendered homeless, and two horses were burned to death. Damage was estimated by Mr. P. H. LeCornu at between £20,000 and £30,000 The property was partly covered by insurance. Soon after the outbreak began a huge column of smoke rose. Sheets of flame added a picturesque touch. In a few minutes an army of people left Adelaide to view the fire. Trams were crowded, and every road leading to O'Connell street was choked with cars, pedestrians, and vehicles of every description.

Every available man from North Adelaide Police Station was posted to keep the crowd back. Reinforcements were rushed from Adelaide under Inspectors Mattin and Howie. North Adelaide Fire Brigade was soon at work, and within 10 minutes extra pumps came from head station. An excellent flow of water was available, and the firemen heroically attacked the spreading flames. The excellent water pressure was due to Mr. J. Brokensha (turncock), who cut off nearby supplies and directed the full force of water into mains from which the hoses were operating. Water was drawn from an 11-inch main in Lefevre terrace and a 10-inch pipe in O'Connell street. The premises of P. Le Cornu were immediately behind Archer Street Methodist Church. The stable where the outbreak started adjoined Watson street, a small lane at the rear of the church. Entrance to Watson street is gained from Centenary street, which runs from Archer to Tynte streets. On the eastern side is a row of houses facing Curtis street. The northern boundary of the burned property is Stephen street, another small lane running off Centenary street. In Stephen street were the two gutted cottages which contained almost every possession of their occupiers. About 30 men are in the employ of the firm. What is believed to have been the first intimation of the outbreak was when several employes engaged in the polishing room heard the crackle of flames from the stable. Mr. P. H. Le Cornu (head of the firm) attempted to release two horses which were imprisoned in the stable. The unfortunate animals screamed with terror while the fire roared round them. Mr. Le Cornu was driven back by the flames, but not until he had been scorched on an arm. Eventually the roof of the stable collapsed and the horses perished. One of them was an old favorite having been engaged in the services of the firm for more than 20 years.

A motor hearse, mourning coach, and trap was also destroyed. Mr. J. Le Sage, a turner, who has been in the employ of the firm for 40 years, lived alone in one of the cottages in Stephen street. These premises fell early victims to the flames, and Mr. Le Sage was able to save only a small quantity of his possessions, which were insured for £100. A cockatoo survived. For many months Mr. Le Sage has been saving his earnings to invest them in Commonwealth loans. He had accumulated 60 one-pound notes, which he placed in a tin and hid in the house. Owing to the swiftness with which the flames spread he was unable to rescue his savings. At a later stage, when the fire had been subdued, one of the firemen entered the premises with Mr. Le Sage and made a search for the missing money. The tin was found, but all that was left of the notes was a charred mass of sodden pulp. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hurst occupied the second dwelling. Mr. Hurst is in the employ of Adelaide Corporation, and was on his way home to lunch when the fire began. His wife had little time to save any of their valuables. When the fire had been subdued Mrs. Hurst became hysterical and asked

querulously for information regarding the where-about of her children. She was re-assured soon after, however, when her daughter came to her. The children are Mary, aged 18, and William, aged 17 years. The most treasured possessions of Mrs. Hurst were several valuable paintings. These were consumed by the fire. Residents of Curtis street, the rear portions of whose properties adjoin the locality of the fire, feared that the flames might spread to their dwellings. Furniture, clothing and valuables were piled up in the street, but the firemen were able to prevent the spread of the fire. The firm of P. Le Cornu has been in existence for 70 years. It was established by the late Mr. Phillip Le Cornu, and is now in charge of his sons, Messrs. P. H., H. W., and J. C. Le Cornu. Plainclothes Constable R. Saxon, of North Adelaide, is preparing a report for Dr. W. Ramsay Smith (City Coroner).



DISASTROUS NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE TODAY COMPLETELY DESTROYS FURNITURE FACTORY

The outbreak, which occurred at midday at the premises of P. Le Cornu, O'Connell street, spread rapidly and caused great damage.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 8 December 1927, page 15

A GRASS FIRE.

A quantity of grass was destroyed by fire on the vacant land at the rear of the public school. Wilson-street, Prospect, on Wednesday morning. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade confined the fire to the block, and no damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 9 December 1927, page 10

MORE THAN £7,000 WORTH OF DAMAGE DONE AT NORTH ADELAIDE FIRE.



The above photographs give an excellent idea of the havoc wrought by fire at North Adelaide on Thursday morning, when LeCornu's furniture factory and two adjoining cottages in the rear of the Archer Street Methodist Church were destroyed. On the left are the cottages, which were completely gutted, and on the right is seen all that remained of the two-story factory about a quarter of an hour after the fire started. The Methodist Church is shown in the background.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 15 December 1927, page 21

FIRES IN NORTHERN SUBURBS.

Grass and boxthorn caught fire on the banks of the Torrens at Walkerville, between 7 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday. The fire was extinguished by the North Adelaide brigade before any serious damage had been done.

The North Adelaide brigade received a call shortly after 5 p.m. to Dudley Park, where grass had become ignited on a vacant allotment. An adjoining house was endangered by the flames, which, however, were soon extinguished.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 17 December 1927, page 59

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED.

HORSES TRAPPED IN STABLE.

Starting at 11.40 on Thursday morning, a fire, which rapidly gained in volume, completely destroyed the furniture factory of Mr. P. H. LeCornu, situated in Watson-street, North Adelaide. The alarm was given by polishers working in the shop near the stable, who heard a crackling noise. On going to investigate they found the stable well ablaze. Their first thought was for the horses, which they endeavored to rescue from the flames, but unfortunately the heat was too great, and they could not get close enough to release the bars across the front of the stalls. They were further delayed by the fact that the stable door was barred and had to be broken in. They were, therefore, compelled to leave the two animals to be burnt to death. While trying to save the horses and re-move some of the contents of the building the employes were forced to beat a retreat through the tyres of a motor hearse, which was garaged near the stable, exploding and the petrol tank bursting into flames. Mr. LeCornu himself sustained severe burns on the arm while assisting in the work of attempting to rescue the horses.

A Hopeless Task.

Mr. LeCornu stated that the place was partly covered by insurance, but at the time he could not say to what extent. The loss he estimated at between £20,000 and £30,000. The factory which employs about 60 men, was engaged in producing bedding and furniture, and Mr. LeCornu also conducted, an undertaking business for which coffins were manufactured. One was rescued from the flames and remained on the footpath for some time. Mr. LeCornu has been in business on the site for about 60 years, manufacturing supplies for his shop in O'Connell-street, which is near by. The business is one of the oldest in the district. Mr. LeCornu is assisted by his two brothers, Messrs. J. C. and H. W. LeCornu. A dense volume of smoke was seen from the city and a large crowd followed the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to the scene. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade, whose headquarters are close at hand, were already at work, playing a stream of water on the fire. A contingent of mounted and foot police, under Inspectors Mattin, Howie and Trotter, was also early at the place, with the object of keeping the surroundings clear for the operations of the firemen. They were assisted by Sergeants Goldsworthy, Latimer, and Whitfield. It was soon apparent, however, that the factory was doomed, and all the firemen could do was to save the adjoining residences facing Curtis-street. The occupants of those houses, assisted by neighbors, hurriedly removed their

furniture and other belongings to the roadway. Two semi-detached cottages in Stephen-place were not so fortunate practically everything therein being burnt and all that remained of the cottages was a pair of roofless shells.

Rendered Homeless.

One of the cottages was occupied by Mr. W. J. Hurst, a corporation employe, who had been living there for the past three years. Mrs. Hurst's chief regret was the loss of several pictures. She said she had refused an offer of £100 for one of them some time ago. The occupant of the other cottage, Mr. J. G. Le Sage was employed at the factory as a wood turner. All he managed to save was a cockatoo, his dog, and his wireless set. A sum of money which he had on the premises was consumed in the flames. He was assisted in the rescue work by Mr. W. B. Ferres, a Checker Cab driver, who was aroused from his sleep after a turn of night duty by Mrs. Hurst rushing in with the news that her house was on fire. He persisted until the last possible moment in trying to drag beds out of the house, but the doors and windows were too small to push large objects through bodily, and he had not time to take them to pieces. The roof was well ablaze, and the back door blew in just as he left the place under instructions from the firemen. The district turncock (Mr. J. Brokensha), who was at Bowden when he heard of the fire, took immediate steps to concentrate the whole of the water force available in the vicinity of the outbreak. The result was that the firemen were aided materially in their efforts to stop the spread of the flames by a powerful water pressure. One of the first steps taken to prevent the spread of the fire was to disconnect the electric wires connected with the factory. In this work Mr. P. G. Grigg was prominent. A hose from one of the appliances was attached to a hydrant in O'Connell-street on the west side. This had therefore to be taken across the busy street, which was busier than ever with the crowd of sight-seers from the city, and the tram service was disorganised for some time. Prospect and Enfield cars were obliged to stop at this point and transfer their passengers to or from Adelaide to cars waiting on the other side of the hose.

Fire Apparatus In Attendance.

Deputy Chief Officer G. P. Cooper, of the head station, reported that the motor hose carriage from the North Adelaide station, and two motor pumps from the Adelaide station, were in attendance. Nine lines of hose operated, five through motor pumps and the remainder from the surrounding hydrants. At first the pressure of water was only fair, but late it improved.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 17 December 1927, page 15

MEDINDIE GRASS FIRE.

On Friday evening a fire broke out in an allotment in Avenue road, Medindie, the property of Mrs. Rasp, whose house adjoins. The allotment was thickly covered with dry grass, and the fences of surrounding properties were endangered. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called, and with the help of neighbours, the blaze was extinguished before much damage had been done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 December 1927, page 1

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE

Grass and Bamboos Alight

North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called early this afternoon to a fire at the rear of a vacant house in Barton terrace, North Adelaide. The house is owned by Mrs. A. M. L. Rasp, of The Avenue, Medindie. The yard was covered with long grass, a quantity of which with a clump of bamboos was alight. The brigade extinguished the flames before any damage was done.

A second call to North Adelaide brought a detachment from head station. When it was found that there was only one fire the appliance was returned immediately.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 26 December 1927, page 1

Two Suburban Fires

Shortly after noon today Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from the home of Dr. E. W. Morris, Grant avenue, Toorak. The back fence and some grass in the back-yard were burning. The fence and that of a neighbor suffered slight damage.

At 9.44 o'clock this morning North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the house of Mr. J. McNicol, 113 Sussex street, Lower North Adelaide, where a gas meter had caught alight. No other damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 27 December 1927, page 6

SUBURBAN FIRES.

Several fires were dealt with by various suburban brigades on Monday, most of them being not of a serious nature.

The North Adelaide brigade were called to a house in Sussex-street in the morning, where gas escaping from a meter in the front garden had ignited, causing a certain amount of alarm at the time. The flames were out before the brigade reached the spot, however, and no damage was done.

The Norwood Brigade were summoned at about noon to the residence of Dr. E. W. Morris in Grant-avenue, Toorak, where they found a paling fence and a shed alight. They dealt with the fire in a short time, the damage being slight.

The Thebarton Fire Brigade received a summons by telephone at 2.32 p.m. to Mr. A. J. Boake's flock mills on the West Thebarton-road. A shed and a dozen bales of flock were well alight when the brigade arrived, and all that could be done was to prevent the fire from spreading to the machinery, a task which was accomplished after about two hours' work. The wood and galvanized iron shed in which the bales were stored was destroyed as well as the bales. No information could be obtained as to the sum represented by the damage.

1928

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 February 1928, page 4

TOOLS DAMAGED

Fire at North Adelaide

A fire broke out in a tool shed adjoining a house in the course of construction at the corner of Margaret street and Brougham place, North Adelaide, this afternoon. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned and quickly had the outbreak under control. Tools stored in the shed were extensively damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 March 1928, page 1

PROSPECT SHOP FIRE

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED

Two Wireless Sets Missing

A fire occurred early this morning in a shop on Main North road, Prospect. Electrical and wireless appliances were destroyed. The amount involved is estimated at £1,400. Incendiarism is suspected. The shop is one of a block of six, situated on Main North road, at the corner of Newbon street. The premises belong to Mr. T. F. Warwick, of Kensington Gardens. The electrical business is conducted by W. Ingle & Son, electrical contractors. It is thought that the outbreak started under the counter. Goods valued at £200 were destroyed there. Heat and water caused most of the remaining damage. Many valuable wireless

appliances occupied the other side and rear of the shop. They were the property of the Transatlantic Wireless Company. Most of the fittings inside the shop were consumed. A hole had been burned through the floor and the ceiling was badly charred. Plateglass windows at the front had cracked owing to the heat, and a quantity of goods displayed in the window area was damaged. Mr. C. R. Brown (manager of the company) estimates the damage to property of the company at £1,200. He believes that two five-valve wireless sets, worth £45 and £40 respectively, were stolen. He last saw the missing property about 5.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The back gate, leading from the small yard at the rear, was open this morning and wire gauze, which had been nailed over a back window, had been torn away. The rear window was open. The wireless equipment was partly covered by insurance. Occupiers of several of the adjoining shops live on the premises. They knew nothing of the outbreak until they were roused by the police. Notwithstanding the great heat no damage was done to stock in either of the shops next door. North Adelaide Fire Brigade soon had the flames under control. Constable H. G. Sparshott is preparing a report for the coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 March 1928, page 15

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

GARAGE AND TRUCK DESTROYED.

Shortly after 11 p.m. on Sunday a fire broke out in a garage in George-street, off O'Connell-street, North Adelaide. It was first noticed by Constable C. Would of North Adelaide, who gave the alarm, and a reel from the North Adelaide, supplemented by another from the central station, was quickly on the scene. A ton truck, the property of Mr. Thomas Brayshaw, a secondhand dealer, of O'Connell-street, was in the garage, and appeared to be the seat of the fire, which was blazing fiercely when the brigade arrived. The fire was extinguished in less than a quarter of an hour, but it was found that the truck, which was valued at £200, had been ruined. The garage, the property of Mr. L. T. Parsons, of Cross-roads. Hawthorn, was also badly charred, the damage thereto being estimated as £50. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 2 April 1928, page 9

FIRE AT ENFIELD.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 2.15 a.m. on Saturday from Enfield, and found a shed on the property of Mr. F. Gold, of Collins-street, alight. The firemen could do nothing to save the building, and it was destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 2 April 1928, page 15

FIRE AT ENFIELD.

Shed and Stables Destroyed.

At 1.30 a.m. on Saturday a fire broke out at the house of Mr. Alfred Threadgold, of Collins street, Enfield, and totally destroyed an adjoining shed, causing £500 damage.

Mrs. Threadgold was lying in her bed, and was awakened by the reflection of flames on the wall, and on getting up found that a shed at the rear of the house was ablaze. Her husband was away at Manoora at the time, but she immediately communicated with the North Adelaide Fire Brigade. Mr. Threadgold is a horse dealer, and the shed was used as a garage and stables. Fortunately none of his horses were stabled at the time. There was a quantity of sawn timber stacked in the shed, which together with the contents was burnt. The Fire Brigade prevented the flames from spreading to the house. The shed and contents were insured with the Standard Insurance Company for £500.

MOTOR CAR BURNT.

A motor car belonging to Mr. Clarence Connane, of 37 Roebuck street, Enfield, was destroyed by fire at about midnight on Saturday. The vehicle was insured with the Western Australian Insurance Company, Limited, for £80. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was, notified, but the car could not be saved.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 4 April 1928, page 13

SUSPECTED ARSON.

Fire after Burglary.

On Tuesday, shortly before midnight, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the Lower North road, Prospect, where Mr. Howsen's chemist's shop was on fire. The blaze, however, had been almost extinguished before their arrival. When an inspection was made of the premises it was found that thieves had broken in, and that a small amount of money had been taken. Arson was suspected, and the police were communicated with. Detective Lindsay went out to the shop to make enquiries. A report will be sent to the Coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 21 April 1928, page 25

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

PRIVATE RESIDENCE DAMAGED

Considerable damage was done to three rooms on the top floor of a two-storey house in Stanley-street, North Adelaide, by a fire which occurred late on Friday afternoon. The premises are occupied by Mr. J. L. Sanford, and are owned by the Executor Trustee & Agency Company, Grenfell-street, Adelaide. It is not known how the outbreak was caused, but it started in a bedroom at the rear of the upper floor, and quickly spread to two other rooms, which are used as sleeping-out compartments. The contents of the rooms, including several beds and other furniture, were severely damaged. The rooms and their contents on the lower floor were damaged by smoke and water. The North Adelaide fire brigade, which was summoned at 4.5 p.m. found on arrival, that the fire had a good hold. Assistance was secured from the head station. The property destroyed was covered by insurance in the Sun Insurance Company. Neighbors and the police assisted in the removal of furniture from the house, and in this way much property was saved.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 May 1928, page 11

UNOCCUPIED HOUSE DESTROYED.

The North Adelaide Brigade received a summons to Kintore-avenue, Chicago, about 5.45 a.m. yesterday, where an un-occupied wood and iron house had caught fire. The building was well alight when the brigade arrived, and they were unable to prevent its being completely gutted. The owner of the house is unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 30 July 1928, page 1

GASBOX DAMAGED

Vandals Use Firestick

ATTEMPT ON FENCE

A gas meter box near Prospect Telephone Exchange in Ballville street and a pile of battens were burned and charred early this morning. An attempt was also made to set fire to a picket fence in Labrina avenue, Prospect.

Kerosene was used in both cases to start the fires. It is thought that the vandals also damaged a public telephone box on the corner of Nottage terrace, Medindie. The fire near the telephone exchange occurred shortly after 2 o'clock. The North Adelaide Brigade was summoned and soon had the blaze under control. The box protecting a gas meter at the side

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

11 May 2026

of the exchange was burned away, and a stack of wooden crosspieces used on telegraph poles was badly charred. A half-empty tin of kerosene was discovered near the battens which, together with the gas meter box, had been swamped with the oil. Nearby were found a number of hurricane lamps, a portion of an electric light bowl used in telephone booths, and a piece of telephone receiver. The police found this morning that the telephone box at the corner of Nottage terrace and the Main North-East road had been damaged. The electric light bowl had been removed and the receiver of the instrument torn off. Apparently the vandals began their work at the telephone box, went to the exchange in Ballville street, and from there proceeded to Labrina avenue, where they splashed kerosene over the picket fence at the end of the street. The stain of the spirit could be seen today for several feet along the pickets, which were slightly charred in places. A woman living nearby saw a flash when the kerosene was first ignited, but fortunately the fire did not secure a hold. A tin containing a small quantity of kerosene was found near the fence this morning. The damage to the telephone box is estimated at £1. It is estimated that £5 will cover the loss at the exchange.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 8 August 1928, page 18

YOUNG MAN AND WHISKY.

DAMAGE AT A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

John Frederick Lademan, hairdresser, and John Robert Higgins, clerk, of Croydon, were charged in the Adelaide Police Court, before Mr. E. M. Sabine, P.M., on Tuesday, with having wilfully damaged a gas meter, meter box, fence, gate, and timber to the extent of £17, the property of the Postmaster-General, at Prospect, on July 30, and with having been in unlawful possession of six hurricane lamps, two tins of kerosine, a funnel, and filter. Both the defendants pleaded guilty. Sergeant Lenthall, Police Prosecutor, and Mr. Eric Millhouse appeared for the defence.

The Police Prosecutor described the damage done. The charge of wilful damage had been substituted for one of arson, originally laid. The defendants were questioned by Detectives Correll and McGrath, and they admitted that they had caused the fire, and that they had been in possession of the lamps and other property. Mr. Millhouse called evidence of the good character of the defendants, and said both were members of highly respectable families. The defendants were friends, and on Sunday, July 29, they went for a drive in a motor car. They met two young women and drove them to Glenelg. Before leaving the city they purchased a bottle of whisky and a bottle of stout. The ladies would not take any of the liquor, and the defendants had a few drinks. Later they obtained more liquor from the same hotel. The defendants drove the young ladies home to Prospect, and next drove to the place where Higgins was employed at Croydon, and remained there drinking the remainder of the liquor. They must have consumed a bottle and a half of whisky in addition to some stout. Lademan had rarely touched spirits previously, and Higgins had been a temperate young man. When they left the office they were suffering from the effects of the liquor. They drove some distance, and saw a number of hurricane lamps and some kerosine on the roadway where tramway construction work was in progress. Lademan stopped the car and got out and look some of the property. Without any apparent reason they turned the car and drove to Prospect. When they reached the telephone exchange Lademan alighted from the car, but he was not able to say what happened after that. He was smoking at the time, and either accidentally or intentionally the fence at the exchange was ignited. When the men saw the flames they endeavored to attract the attention of a man on duty, and they also broke the fire alarm and rang up the brigade. Higgins saw a hose with which he extinguished the fire before the brigade arrived. It might be taken as an indication of the extent to which the men were affected by the liquor that after having left the vicinity of the fire, the defendants, noticing a calf, stopped the car and attempted to catch the animal, which was wondering along the road. At that juncture traffic constables appeared, and the men drove away. Although Higgins remained in the car up to the time the fire occurred, he had not attempted to evade his share of the responsibility for what had happened. In asking that the benefits of the Offenders'

Probation Act might be extended to the defendants, Mr. Millhouse said both men had already been severely punished. Higgins had lost his position. The other defendant had been injured in his business. They were making full restitution. He could say that they had placed in his hands sufficient money to pay for all the damage done. This would amount to about £20, including the amount that would have to be paid to the Tramways Trust. Evidence was given that the extent of the damage at the telephone exchange and incidental expenses was £17. The magistrate said it was a most extraordinary story. It was difficult to understand how the minds of the defendants should have been directed to the acts they had committed and which had caused the fire. The only reason he could see was that their minds were in a disordered state through the excessive amount of alcohol they had taken, and as a result they were not fully aware of what they were doing. If liquor had such an effect on them they would do well to leave it entirely alone. Referring to the charge of unlawful possession, the magistrate said he would release the defendants under the Offenders' Probation Act in a bond of £20 each, to be of good behavior for three years. Conditions of the bond would be that they abstain from the use of alcohol during that period, and that they would be under the supervision of a probationary officer. They would also be required to pay 10/ each costs. On the charge of wilful damage a fine of £5, with 10/ costs, was imposed on each defendant. Mr. Millhouse intimated that the amount of the damage would be paid forthwith.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 20 September 1928, page 19

FIRE AT PROSPECT.

The fittings of a small enclosed sand-pit used as a child's playground at the home of Mr. W. T. B. Wildash, Rose-street, Prospect, were destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. The fire started amongst some straw. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 27 September 1928, page 1

Washhouse Destroyed

Shortly after midday today North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the residence of Mr. H. A. Braham, at Milner street, Prospect. A wood-and-iron washhouse at the rear of the dwelling was completely destroyed by fire. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 October 1928, page 4

TWO SMALL FIRES

Motor Car Damaged

Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 6.55 o'clock this evening to premises occupied by George Ekins, gunsmith, of Currie street, where the fire had been caused through packing cases and rubbish becoming ignited. Little damage was done.

North Adelaide Fire Station answered a call at 6.10 o'clock from Mr. E. P. Fay, of Barnard street, whose motor car had caught alight in Kingston terrace, North Adelaide. The petrol tank and front seat of the car were burned.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 November 1928, page 1

Fire at Prospect

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 10 o'clock this evening to a fire which had broken out in a house in Halstead street, Prospect. The owner of the house was absent at the time of the outbreak, but returned after 11 o'clock. Prospect Brigade also attended the scene of the fire. It was reported that the contents of the house had been destroyed by the flames.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 12 November 1928, page 22

FIRE AT PROSPECT.

A DWELLING DESTROYED.

At 9.57 p.m. on Saturday the Prospect Fire Brigade received a call to Halstead-street, Prospect, where a dwelling was on fire. They found that the fire had a firm hold of the house, the roof of which had fallen in. They had little hope then of saving anything. The contents of the house were totally destroyed, and before the fire was extinguished only the four walls of the house remained. The dwelling was the property of Mr. E. Sweeney, who left home with his wife at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and was away when the fire occurred. The furniture and contents of the house were valued at £400 and were not insured. The value of the house was estimated at £1,200 it is believed to have been insured.

A correspondent writes:— The fire that occurred on Saturday evening in Halstead-street, Prospect, when the contents were completely destroyed, calls for enquiry. I would like to know whether it is compulsory for the officers of the fire brigade to be fully conversant with the names and locations of the streets and where the fire plugs or hydrants are. I was asked to ring the Prospect Fire Brigade on Saturday evening to attend this outbreak. It took them about 25 minutes to reach the scene, as there seemed to be some doubt where Halstead-street really was. In the meantime I rang the North Adelaide Brigade, and through the courtesy of the Metropolitan Brigade it was allowed to send out assistance; but, of course Prospect is out of the North Adelaide area. The North Adelaide turnout arrived before that from Prospect. An officer of the Prospect Brigade stated that the brigade was at the fire five minutes after receiving the call, having travelled the mile and a half between the station and Halstead-street in that time. The men saw the fire soon after leaving the station, and had no doubt where it was. The Prospect Brigade was at the fire before the North Adelaide Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 5

PROSPECT FIRE BRIGADE

ALLEGATIONS OF DELAY

Protests to Council

Allegations of delay on the part of the local fire brigade were made by the spokesmen of 19 ratepayers who waited on Prospect District Council as a deputation last night. The deputation was introduced by Cr. E. G. Whittle. who told the councillors that he had heard rumors of serious delay on the part of the brigade in arriving at the scene of an outbreak in Halstead street, Prospect, on Saturday night. They would hear witnesses say that delay had occurred. Cr. Philip Sandery (chairman) welcomed the visitors. Mr. Frank Hazell said that the deputation was composed of deeply interested people. On Saturday night Mr. E. C. Sweeney, of Halstead street, was absent from his home. He was communicated with and informed that his house was on fire. As Prospect had recently become part of an area protected by the Fire Brigades Board residents were entitled to adequate service. The outbreak on Saturday night was the first fire which the new brigade had been called upon to attend. It seemed that someone always had to pay before improvements were effected. Mr. Sweeney had been the victim in the case under discussion in that the brigade had failed to be present at the outbreak within half an hour of the time it was summoned. Some persons were prepared to say that the brigade was notified between 9.30 and 9.35 o'clock, but the firemen did not reach the burning dwelling until after 10. Mr. E. G. S. Uren asserted that the brigade did not know where Halstead street was. It appeared to him that one of the first things a fire station should require was a copy of the plan of its district. In addition the firemen should become conversant with the situation of fireplugs. At the time of the outbreak he was in Dudley avenue. About 10 o'clock he heard the fire engine pass along Braund road. By the time he reached the scene of the fire the vehicle was there, but it was some minutes after his arrival before water was played on to the burning house.

Became Tired of Waiting

Mr. C. Baghurst, who is a neighbor of Mr. Sweeney, told the councillor's that between 9.30 and 9.35 he rang North Adelaide Fire Station, and was informed that the brigade from there would be along in a few minutes. He dressed hurriedly and went to the burning building. At 9.45 there was no appearance of the firemen, so he returned home and rang the head station. He was informed that the brigade knew all about the fire, but it was not until 10 o'clock that an appliance came from the north along Braund road and turned into Halstead street. At his first call he had given distinct directions to the North Adelaide officer who answered him. It was a fact, Mr. Baghurst stated, that the men were smoking. Nothing could be done now except to take steps to prevent a recurrence. Mr. W. R. Fisher said that his wife rang Prospect Fire Station and was asked for the locality of Halstead street. After about a quarter of an hour had elapsed he grew tired of waiting for the brigade to arrive. He communicated with North Adelaide Station, and was informed that the brigade would come. It was a quarter of an hour from the second call before a fire appliance reached the scene. He thought that people with buckets of water could have performed more effective work.

Origin of Fire

Mr. Sweeney said that he was naturally indignant at what he had been told. He left home at 2.30 o'clock on Saturday afternoon to visit friends in another suburb. As nearly as he could estimate he was informed about 10.10 that night that his house was burning. Dozens of people had condemned the action of the brigade to him, and he was convinced that if a petition were circulated protesting against the action of the firemen it would be signed by hundreds of ratepayers. Messrs. A. B. Hawke and W. Moyses also spoke. Cr. Sandery expressed sympathy with Mr. Sweeney. The council would ask for a report, and any action would depend on the information received. Cr. Whittle said that the council had representation on the Fire Brigades Board and through that means the matter could be investigated. It is were a fact that the firemen did not know the locality of streets or hydrants they would endeavor to see that the service was tightened up.

The Advertiser, Friday 16th November 1928 page 15

PROSPECT FIRE BRIGADE.

At a meeting of the council of the Australian Government Workers' Association on Wednesday night, the secretary (Mr. P. K. Nieass) reported that the Prospect Fire Brigade was in no way responsible for any delay that occurred at the Halstead-street fire last Saturday night. In effect there was really no fire brigade at Prospect, although the staff was there, but really only to get the place in order for the official opening. There were no fire alarms in the district. The statement that a neighbor had rung the Prospect brigade was not correct. The only call received by the Prospect brigade was from the head station at three minutes to 10 pm, and it was in attendance at the fire within a few minutes.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 28 November 1928, page 10

THE PROSPECT FIRE.

THE FIRE BRIGADE'S REPORT.

At a meeting of the Prospect District Council on Monday night reports were tabled regarding the fire which destroyed the house of Mr. J. Sweeney, of Halstead-street Prospect, on November 10, and concerning which allegations were made that because of an undue length of time elapsing between the summoning and the arrival of the brigade at the fire, greater damage was done than should have been the case.

The reports were from the secretary of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. R. B. Beeton) and the officer in charge of the Prospect station (Station-Officer L. W. Robertson). Mr. Beeton's report stated that owing to the excited and vague nature of the information given through the

telephone to North Adelaide and the head station the North Adelaide brigade had great difficulty in locating the fire, and arrived shortly after the Prospect appliance. Mr. Robertson's report stated that the Prospect brigade received a message by direct telephone from the head station regarding the fire, and the brigade arrived at the fire five minutes afterwards. The roof of the house had then fallen in. The North Adelaide brigade arrived a few minutes later and helped to get the fire under control. Mr. B. Lanyon, on behalf of the deputation which brought the matter under the notice of the council, thanked the council for having made the enquiries. It was necessary that the people should have confidence in the fire brigade. A motion expressing confidence in the Prospect brigade was submitted but withdrawn. It will probably be moved at another meeting of the council.

REPLY BY BRIGADE

Referring to the fire, Mr. G. P. Cooper (deputy fire chief) informed a representative of "The News" that North Adelaide brigade was notified of the outbreak first. Subsequently the head station was notified. As North Adelaide firemen were already on the way he did not send the alarm to Prospect. Finally a further call was received and, thinking that something had happened to the North Adelaide equipment, he ordered Prospect to turn out. It was ascertained subsequently that owing to insufficient directions having been given to North Adelaide the men were unable to find the locality quickly. Asked whether firemen were required to know localities of streets in their districts, Mr. Cooper said that they had every opportunity to study maps. Prospect was a new fire district. Even had it not been, the men would have found it difficult to memorise every thoroughfare. It was impossible for the locations of all hydrants to be memorised. Firemen could pick them out at a glance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 28 November 1928, page 19

A GARAGE BURNT.

Considerable damage was caused by a fire which occurred shortly after 2 p.m. on Tuesday in a garage at the rear of the home of Mr. D. Bott of Newbon-street Prospect. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned and although the structure, which is of wood and iron, was well alight, the brigade was able to prevent the destruction of a motor car which the garage contained. The Shed, part of which was used as a cabinetmaker's workshop, was destroyed, and the car damaged. Both the car and the shed were insured with Lloyd's.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 December 1928, page 6

MANY SMALL FIRES

Electric Iron Causes Blaze

Shortly after 3.30 o'clock this afternoon Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Griffen, received a call to the Royal British Nursing Home, Dequetteville terrace, Kent Town. An electric iron had been left switched on, and the contents of a room and the ceiling were slightly damaged.

A grass fire in Ackland street, Adelaide, occupied the attention of the brigade for a short time about 3.20 o'clock. Little damage was done.

Unley Fire Brigade received a call about 11.30 o'clock this morning to Grange road, Mitcham, where a motor lorry owned and driven by Mr. L. Brown, of Robsart street Parkside, was on fire. The flames were quickly extinguished. The engine was slightly damaged. A paling fence, a cypress hedge, and some grass were burned at 1.45 o'clock in a paddock adjoining Methodist Ladies' College, Park terrace, Wayville. Unley Fire Brigade attended.

North Adelaide Brigade was called to a grass fire in Lefevre terrace, North Adelaide, at 11.47 o'clock. No damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 8 December 1928, page 14

GRASS FIRE.

At about 9 o'clock on Friday night, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Fitzroy terrace, North Adelaide, where the grass in the parklands had caught alight. The blaze was soon extinguished.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 10 December 1928, page 21

GRASS FIRES.

The City, Norwood, Unley, Thebarton, and North Adelaide Fire Brigades attended grass fires on Sunday afternoon. No damage was done at any of the outbreaks. A large grass fire at Glen Osmond late last night made a fine reflection over the city. Residents attempted to put the fire out, but it continued for over an hour. A large quantity of grass was destroyed, but no other damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 December 1928, page 17

A GRASS FIRE.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended a grass fire at Lefevre-terrace yesterday afternoon. A quantity of grass was destroyed. No damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 13 December 1928, page 15

GRASS FIRE AT WALKERVILLE.

While grass was being burned off at the home of Mr. G. D. Denger, Burlington-street, Walkerville, last night, the flames spread to a hedge and a galvanised iron shed. The North Adelaide Brigade extinguished the blaze before any material damage was done. The brigade also attended a grass fire at the Municipal Golf Links. Dried grass was destroyed, but no damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 14 December 1928, page 12

CLEANING WITH PETROL

House Burnt Down.

Sprayed with burning petrol, which had exploded from a flagon in a house at Walkerville, a man was badly burnt about the head and hands on Thursday afternoon, and a great portion of the house was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Samuel Davey, 25 years of age, carpenter, of Angas street, Adelaide, was in his mother's house, at St. Andrew's street, North Walkerville, and during the morning had been cleaning some clothes with petrol. In the afternoon, about 3.45 o'clock, he was in the same room, and he struck a match in order to have a smoke. Without a moment's warning a flagon containing the petrol which he had been using previously exploded, and the burning petrol was splattered all over his coat and parts of the room. He was alone in the house at the time, and after a few painful moments succeeded in removing his coat and putting out the flames under a tap. By this time, however, furniture and other articles in the room were blazing fiercely, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called out, but as the firefighters had several miles to go before reaching the house, the fire had got a strong hold before they arrived. Then the work of the men was hampered by a poor pressure of water. In spite of this, however, after getting two hoses into action, the brigade had the fire under control in less than half an hour, but were successful in saving only one out of the four rooms in the building. The other three rooms were completely gutted with most of their contents, involving a loss of several hundred pounds. P.C. Golding, of Walkerville, is preparing a report for the City Coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 14 December 1928, page 23

A MYSTERIOUS FIRE.

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

MAN SERIOUSLY BURNED.

The cause of a fire which destroyed the four-roomed house occupied by Mrs. Davey at St. Andrew-street, North Walkerville, yesterday is unknown. About 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Davey left her home to go shopping. Her son, Mr. Samuel Keith Davey (25), a carpenter, remained at home. Shortly after 4 p.m. Mrs. Gleeson, a neighbor, heard an explosion. Soon afterwards she heard the screams of a man. She ran to the home of Mrs. Davey and found Mr. Davey trying to get his coat, which was in flames. Mrs. Gleeson assisted him. Within a few minutes the room was well alight. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned, and the firemen found the house well alight. In an attempt to extinguish the flames Mr. Davey sustained severe burns on his face, hands, and arms. He also suffered considerable shock. He was motored to the Adelaide Hospital. Soon after admission he became unconscious. A statement has not been secured from him by the police yet.

It was unofficially stated that a gallon flagon which contained petrol exploded in the room where Mr. Davey was found by Mrs. Gleeson. It is not known whether he was lying on a couch in the room when the outbreak occurred. Station Officer Oldham was in charge of the fire appliance sent from North Adelaide. Several lines of hose were directed to the fire, but the pressure of water from the mains was poor. The firemen working inside the house had a narrow escape when a portion of the roof crashed to the floor. The contents of the house were destroyed, and the walls were severely charred. The premises are owned by Mr. G. Gregory, of Goodwood.

At an early hour this morning the hospital authorities reported that Mr. Davey was still in a serious condition.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 14 December 1928, page 10

HOMELESS FAMILY

FIRE AT WALKERVILLE

Man in Adelaide Hospital

Six persons are homeless and one of them lies seriously ill in Adelaide Hospital, as a result of a fire which gutted a small dwelling in St. Andrew's street, Walkerville, yesterday afternoon. Mr. Samuel Keith Davey (aged 25 years), a son of the occupier of the dwelling was the only member of the household at home when the fire began. He sustained severe burns to arms, head, and body, and is still so ill that the police are unable to obtain a statement from him. From indications it is assumed by police and officers from North Adelaide Fire Station who attended the outbreak that a glass flagon containing petrol exploded and caused the fire to sweep through the house. Broken pieces of the flagon were seen on the floor at the rear of the house. Mr. Davey was noticed by a neighbor running out of the house with his coat on fire. A tongue of flame, it is thought, must have darted through the kitchen, which is adjacent to the part of the house where the broken glass was seen. It licked a curtain hanging over the kitchen window and scorched furniture in that room. Wind must have fanned the flame into the front rooms. Everything contained in them was destroyed. Parts of the ceiling fell in. The brigade subdued the fire, but apart from the contents of the kitchen nothing escaped destruction. Mr. Davey, who was suffering intense pain, was conveyed to Adelaide Hospital. Other occupants of the house were Mrs. S. L. Davey, Mrs. Ellen Mitchell (mother of Mrs. Davey), and Misses Nellie, Phyllis, and Olive Davey (daughters). Members of the unfortunate family are being accommodated by friendly neighbors. Constable P. Golding, of Walkerville, is making enquiries for the City Coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 26 December 1928, page 11

A SHED BURNT.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call on Monday to the property of Mr. T. S. Haines, at the corner of Bosanquet-street and Lower North-road, Prospect. The brigade found that a wood-and-iron shed, about six yards from the house, had been burnt. The fire was caused by a curtain near a lighted copper catching alight. Tools and other articles were also destroyed. The structure was insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 26 December 1928, page 11

GRASS AND CREEPERS ALIGHT.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called on Monday morning to extinguish a fire at the rear of the residence of Mrs. J. J. Bryden, Finnis-street, North Adelaide. The fire began through grass catching alight and igniting a creeper over an outhouse. No great damage was done.

1929

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 2 January 1929, page 10

FACTORY DESTROYED

Fire at Dry Creek

ESTIMATED LOSS £8,000

Fire broke out in the factory of Crompton & Son, Limited, Magazine road, Dry Creek, yesterday. The building with its contents of fertiliser, tallow, oil, and similar products burned furiously. In about 20 minutes the place was a total wreck. Damage has been estimated at £8,000.

On Monday the six workmen employed at the factory were engaged in their usual duties. Before closing down for the holiday they drew the fires from the furnace and took the usual precautions. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. North Adelaide Fire Brigade arrived at the scene in answer to a call, but the firemen were unable to prevent the spread of the flames owing to there being insufficient water available. The wreckage smouldered for many hours after the flames had died out. Mr. Lance Crompton, one of the directors, heard of the fire and visited the burning factory. He gave particulars of the damage, but was unable to account for the outbreak. No one was living on the premises. A report of the occurrence will be submitted to the City Coroner by Constable A. Stark, of Gepp's Cross.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 3 January 1929, page 11

BLAZE AT DRY CREEK.

Fertilizer Factory Guttled.

Crompton & Sons, Limited's, fertilizer factory, in Magazine road, Dry Creek, was completely destroyed by fire on Tuesday. The building which was of wood and iron, contained large quantities of fertilizer, tallow, oil, and similar products, and the damage is estimated at £8,000. The origin of the blaze is a mystery. Seven men were employed at the works. Before closing down for the holidays on Monday, they drew the fires from the furnaces, and everything appeared to be in order when they left. On Tuesday, when the alarm was given, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade answered the call. With a bad water supply, however, the firemen were practically powerless. The contents which were almost all highly inflammable burned furiously, and it is estimated that the whole structure was totally destroyed in about 20 minutes. Mr. Lance Crompton, a director of the company, stated on Wednesday, that the loss of the factory had severely handicapped their fertilizer supply, but arrangements, were in hand to cope with the disability.

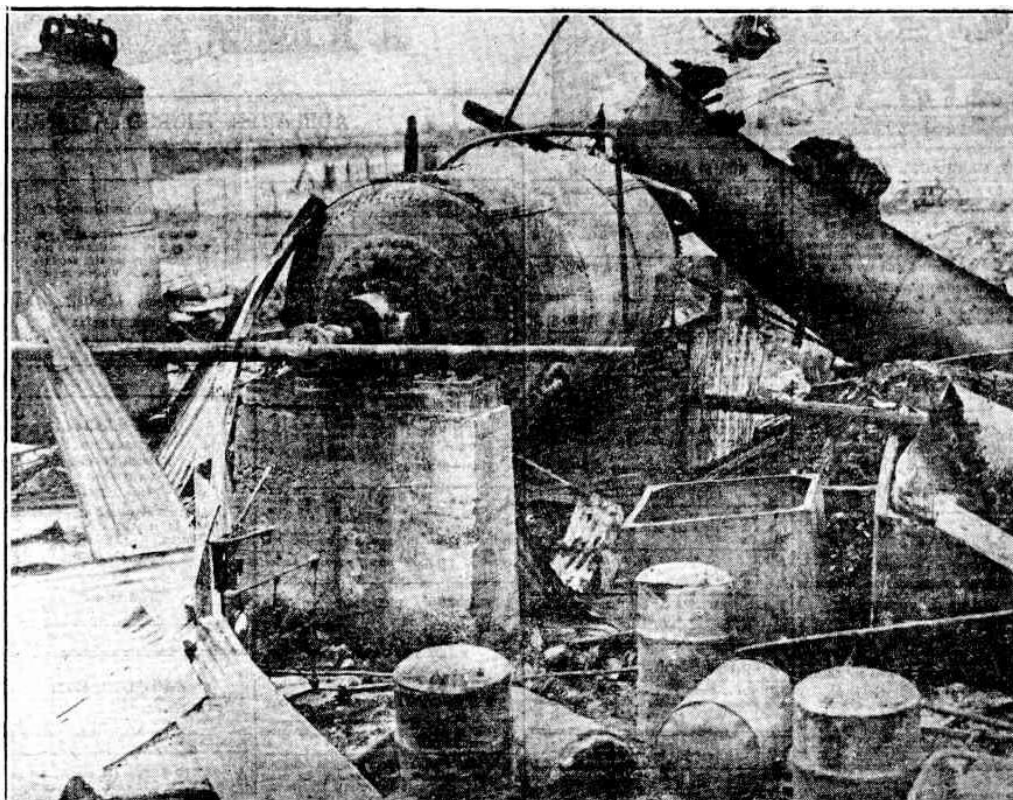
News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 3 January 1929, page 19

FIRE AT DRY CREEK

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

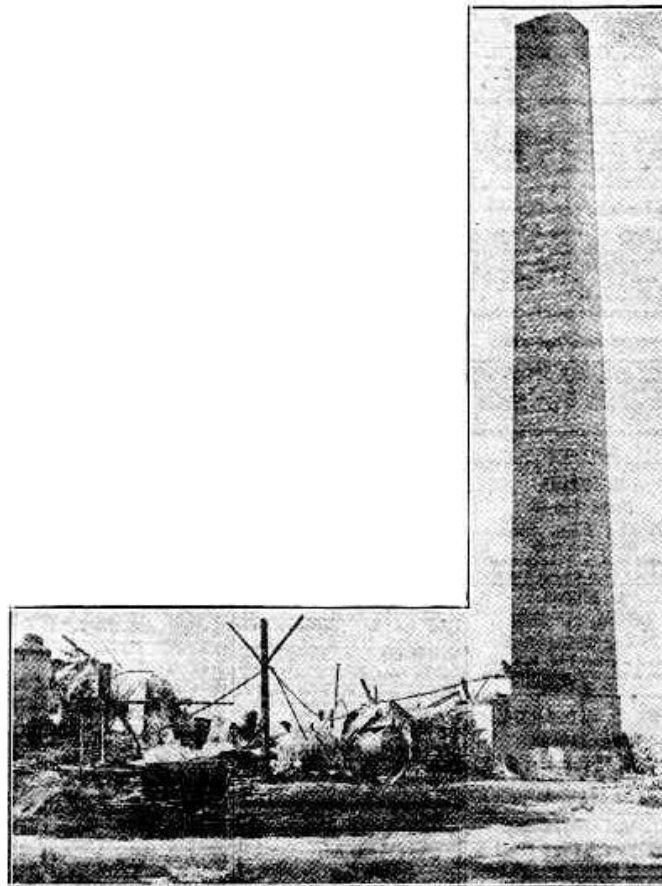
Factory to be Rebuilt

This morning smoke was still issuing from smouldering heaps of ruins which, with pieces of twisted iron, are all that remain of the factory of Crompton & Son, Limited, at Magazine road, Dry Creek. The building was destroyed by fire on Tuesday. Constable A. Stark, of Gepp's Cross, submitted a report of the fire to the City Coroner, who deemed an inquest to be unnecessary. Mr. Lance Crompton (a director of the firm) stated today that it was intended to proceed with the construction of a new factory on the site. Work would begin as soon as possible. It was the desire of the company that employes would be out of work for as brief a time as was necessary. Most of them were being retained until the wreckage was cleared.



RESULT OF FIRE AT DRY CREEK WHEN DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £8,000 WAS
CAUSED TO A FACTORY

Twisted iron, heaps of ruins, and useless machinery bear testimony to the devastation wrought at the works of Crompton & Son, Limited.



CHIMNEY STACK WHICH REMAINS INTACT AFTER FIRE AT DRY CREEK
It was about the only thing not destroyed by a fire which swept through the factory of
Crompton & Son, Limited, A new building will be erected on the site.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 February 1929, page 1

Motor Lorry on Fire North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 3.14 o'clock this afternoon to Isling-ton road, Yatala, where a motor lorry, the property of Mr. R. P. Heinrich, contractor, of Woodville, had caught alight owing to backfiring. The engine and cab of the lorry were damaged. The vehicle was not insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 9 July 1929, page 15

BEDROOM DAMAGED BY FIRE

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call last evening to the residence of Mrs. E. Forsyth, in Melbourne-street, North Adelaide, where a fire had started in a bedroom. The blaze was confined to the one room, the contents of which were severely damaged. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 24 July 1917, page 6

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

FIRE AT ENFIELD.

Much damage was done to a house in the Main North road, Enfield, early yesterday afternoon, when a fire occurred during the occupants' absence, through an incubator catching alight. The owner of the house is Mr. R. S. Ridgly, of Kingscote, and it was occupied by Mr. Thomas Ridgly. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade answered the call and succeeded in

extinguishing the fire, but not before severe damage had been done to the house and furniture. It is believed that the house was insured.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 18 September 1929, page 1

TWO WOMEN BURNED

Both in Serious Condition in Hospitals

SUBURBAN BEDROOMS CATCH ALIGHT

Two women were burned in fires in their bedrooms at Norwood and North Adelaide last night. Each is in hospital as the result. Their condition is serious.

Victims of the accidents are:—

Mrs. Maud Iles, widow, 54 Rundle street, Kent Town. Inmate of Kent Town Private Hospital, suffering from severe burns to face, arms, and body.

Miss Gwen Uffindell (aged 30 years), Hill street, North Adelaide. Inmate of Adelaide Hospital suffering from burned legs and body.

Mrs. Iles at 8 o'clock was retiring for the night. She was about to get into bed when her nightdress caught fire. In a few minutes it seemed to her that the room was ablaze. Fire came from the mattress of her bed and damaged the furniture and carpet. The damage has been estimated at £15. Mrs. Iles obtained water, and attempted to extinguish the flames. She was assisted by Mesdames Vera Allen and Mollie Wilson, who live nearby, and saw smoke issuing from the bedroom window. It is not known how the fire started. Mrs. Iles could not remember whether a lamp or a candle was burning in the room before the outbreak. Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to the house, but before it arrived the flames had been quelled.

Miss Uffindell received her injury in a bedroom of a house occupied by Mrs. L. E. Matheson. It is at the corner of Barnard and Hill streets. The bedroom and contents were damaged. The cause of the fire is unknown. North Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the flames. It was summoned at 8.42 o'clock.

1930

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 6 February 1930, page 9

FIRE AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

PACKING CASES DESTROYED TRAM SERVICE DELAYED

Flames and dense smoke issuing from the rear of St. Peter's Cathedral shortly after 6.40 p.m. yesterday caused much alarm.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade and a reel from head station were quickly on the scene, and discovered that about eight packing cases containing straw and paper were alight. The firemen had to fight the flames in dense smoke, the fire was soon quelled. The cases had previously contained parts of a new organ recently installed at the Cathedral. It was at first feared that the fire would spread to a room in the yard at the rear of the cathedral and then to the main building, which is about six yards away. The trams bound to and from Croydon, Kilkenny, Enfield, and Prospect were delayed from 6.48 until 7.6, on account of fire hoses having been run across the tracks.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 18 February 1930, page 1

£3000 BLAZE AT SOUTHWARK

Outbreak Attributed to Safeblowers

OFFICES OF J. KITCHEN & SONS DESTROYED

Damage estimated at more than £3,000 was caused early this morning by a fire which destroyed the offices and one of the storerooms of J. Kitchen & Sons, Limited, soap manufacturers, at the corner of Winwood and Holland streets, Southwark. The outbreak is believed to have been started by safeblowers, who unsuccessfully attempted to force open a safe. Effective work by firemen prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings.

The premises are of brick, with the exception of the rear part of the storeroom, which is immediately at the back of the offices and attached to them. Thebarton Fire Brigade received the call at 3.1 o'clock this morning. The firemen were under Superintendent F. F. Hopkins. Assistance was sought from Adelaide and North Adelaide brigades because of the many factories in the locality containing inflammable material. The outbreak started in a corner where a safe is built in the brickwork. Everything in the office was burned and practically every article in the storeroom destroyed or damaged. A long storeroom at the south-western end of the premises and about 20 yards from the offices was saved, in addition to hundreds of cases in the yard. Mr. H. C. Nankervis (manager of J. Kitchen & Sons, Limited) said that when Thebarton Fire Brigade arrived the offices were well alight. According to Mr. Nankervis burglars who entered the office and tried to blow open the safe caused the fire. They evidently had been disturbed by the night watchman about 2 o'clock, and left a fuse smouldering. An expert who examined the safe said there was no doubt that an attempt had been made to force it open by explosives. It was the third unsuccessful attempt. Bags had been used as packing to deaden the sound. It was those that had probably caught fire.



INSPECTING SAFE AT KITCHEN & SONS, SOUTHWARK—It is believed that a fire on the premises early this morning was caused by thieves who attempted to rifle the safe. In the photograph are (left to right) :—Messrs. G. Paterson (safe expert), H. C. Nankervis (manager of J. Kitchen & Sons, Limited), F. B. Anderson (Union Assurance Society), and Supt. F. F. Hopkins (Thebarton Fire Brigade).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 5 May 1930, page 15

HOUSE GUTTED

FIRE AT WALKERVILLE SMOKE AWAKENS GIRL

The six-roomed brick and stone dwelling of Mr. George Edward Hale, building contractor, of Walkerville-avenue. North Walkerville, was gutted by fire early on Sunday morning. None of the furniture was saved, and only the walls of the house are left standing. The damage is covered by insurance. Mr. Hale retired at 11.45 on Saturday night. With him in his bedroom was his little boy, who is a cripple. Mrs. Hale was away from home nursing a sick daughter. A younger daughter was in a "sleep-out" at the back of the house. About 1.30 a.m. the girl was awakened by smoke and fire issuing from the sitting-room. She tried to get into the house by the back door, but was prevented from doing so by smoke and flames. She ran to the front of the house and awakened her father by knocking on the door.

Roof Collapses

Mr. Hale went to the door, and then rushed back into his bedroom. Wrapping his son in blankets he carried him out into the street. He made an attempt to save some of the furniture, but was driven out of the house by the heat. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade arrived on the scene, but the fire had gained too great a hold to be checked to any degree. Finally the roof, which was of tiles, collapsed. The house was insured with the Central Insurance Company for £700 and the furniture with the Western Australian Insurance Company for £300.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Monday 5 May 1930, page 3

FATHER'S NARROW ESCAPE FROM FIRE

House Destroyed At Walkerville

FIREMEN HAD TO DIG FOR PLUG

Awakened about 2.30 a.m. yesterday by the urgent call of his daughter, Mr. George Edward Hale, building contractor, of Walkerville avenue, North Walkerville, just had time to snatch a couple of blankets, wrap them round his crippled son, and escape from his house before it was destroyed.

When firemen arrived on the scene they could not find the fire plug. Eventually it was found buried by clay from recently dug sewer trenches, and the firemen had to dig nearly a foot to get to it. Mr. Hale, his daughter, and two sons escaped in their night attire. Mrs. Hale was not at home. Yesterday the family moved into another house, recently built by Mr. Hale, some distance in the rear of the burned dwelling.

SAW FIRE THROUGH WINDOW

The daughter Lilian, who was in the sleep-out, saw the fire through one of the windows. She tried to enter the house, but smoke and flame prevented her. Running to a side window she called her father, who was sleeping with the crippled child, and then gave the alarm to her brother Leonard, aged 17. The fire soon had a complete hold. The city fire station was called by Leonard, and the North Adelaide brigade turned out. The roof fell in before the firemen reached the place. The house, a six-roomed building of brick and stone, was insured for £1,000 and the contents for £300.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 4 July 1930, page 1

FIRE AT PROSPECT HOME

Owner Awakes to Find Bedroom Alight

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT NEARLY £3,000

Damage estimated at £2,700 was caused by a fire at the home of Mr. C. G. Milne in Fitzroy terrace, Prospect, shortly before 7 o'clock this morning. The owner, who is a partner in the

firm of Milne & Co., of Adelaide, was asleep when the fire started. He stated that he did not know how it began. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

First intimation of the fire was received by North Adelaide Brigade at 6.52 o'clock. Firefighters from North Adelaide and Prospect stations were quickly on the scene, and were assisted by a motor pump from the head station. Station-Officer C. Oldham, of North Adelaide was in charge of operations. A brilliant spectacle relieved the dull grey of morning as the men fought the flames. The fire was too far advanced for the firemen to save the home, but rapid work by them resulted in its being extinguished by 7.30.

SIXTEEN ROOMS

By this time the blaze had played havoc with furniture and walls, particularly in rooms in the front and western sides of the house. "I was awakened by a crackling noise," stated Mr. Milne, who has lived in the house for 16 years. My bedroom was alight, and the place was full of smoke.

When I got outside I saw the firemen arrive. Mr. Milne estimated the value of the house at between £7,000 and £8,000. It contained, he said, 16 rooms, most of which were destroyed.

NEIGHBOR AWAKENED

"I was in bed when I heard a noise like a storm coming from miles away," said a neighbor. "I did not worry about it, and later thought that hailstones were falling on the roof. The noise kept me awake. Nearly half an hour later I went to my window and threw up the blind. "I was amazed to see the whole of the gable of Mr. Milne's home ablaze. Flames were shooting up through the roof, and beams of wood looked like coals of fire. I immediately communicated with North Adelaide Fire Brigade, and was told that the firemen were on their way." Constables Kschammer (Prospect) and Sparshott (Nailsworth) are preparing a report for Mr. H. E. Whittle (Acting City Coroner).

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 16 August 1930, page 3

TRAMCAR CATCHES FIRE

Trolley Pole Leaves Wire

When the trolley pole of a Kilkenny bound electric tramcar left the overhead wire at the corner of Ward and, Hill streets, North Adelaide, at 7.22 o'clock this morning, portion of the panels and woodwork of the car were scorched. Coming in contact with the overhead wires the pole caused electric sparks to fall on the car and to the ground. Woodwork of the car began to smoulder, and North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 December 1930, page 11

FIRE AT GILBERTON

Fire destroyed the furniture in the hall and carpets, pictures, and a linen press at the home of Mr. Stanley Griggs, Walkerville-terrace, Gilberton, on Saturday afternoon. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The occupants were absent at the time. The North Adelaide fire brigade attended and prevented the fire from spreading. The walls in the hall were damaged by fire and water.

1931

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 6 January 1931, page 9

While extinguishing a small grass fire at a house in Gover street, North Adelaide, this morning North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the parklands opposite the Caledonian Hotel. About an acre of grass was burned before this blaze was subdued.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 9 February 1931, page 8

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

MOTOR CYCLE ON FIRE

While Mr. E. W. Stokes, of Wellington-road, Payneham, was riding his motor cycle outfit along O'Connell-street, North Adelaide, on Saturday night it burst into flames. The engine had been backfiring. The local fire brigade extinguished the blaze. The cycle and sidecar were slightly damaged.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 June 1931, page 1

CAR BADLY DAMAGED

Bursts Into Flame When Woman Applies Starter

Just as she put her foot on the self-starter of a single-seater car a burst of flame swept round the feet of Mrs. M. A. Wigg at Walkerville terrace, Walkerville, this morning. Mrs. Wigg, who resides at Gawler, had driven the vehicle to Adelaide to attend a wedding. Mrs. Wigg escaped serious burns by jumping out of the vehicle promptly. A crowd gathered round the blazing car. Mrs. Wigg communicated with North Adelaide Fire Brigade, which arrived within a few minutes. Firemen quickly extinguished the flames, but the body and front portions and upholstery of the car were badly damaged. The vehicle, which was valued at £200 and insured for half that amount, was bought in England about 18 months ago. Mrs. Wigg's husband owns it.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 6 October 1931, page 1

Invalid Trapped

Fire in Adjoining Room

Mrs. J. Gehrs (aged 82 years), of Melbourne street, Lower North Adelaide, had to remain indoors when a fire broke out in an adjoining room of her home last night. Alarmed at the outbreak, she managed to get out of bed, although she had been bedridden for several months. The only other occupant of the house at the time was her daughter, Miss. B. C. Gehrs. They had a nerve-racking experience and suffered shock. Both women were in bed when the outburst occurred. Smoke and fumes woke Miss Gehrs, who summoned North Adelaide Fire Brigade. Three firemen quickly quelled the flames. The fire blistered paint, broke the front windows, and destroyed the blinds and curtains. Furniture and carpets were damaged by charred pieces of wood which fell from the burning window frames. The home, which is the property of Mr. D. R. A. Gehrs, of King's Park, was insured. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 December 1931, page 4

About 18 ft. of paling fence was burned this afternoon at the home of the Hon. R L. Butler (Leader of the State Opposition) Dutton terrace, Medindie. The fire is believed to have been caused by a spark from burning rubbish. North Adelaide Brigade attended.

1932

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 23 June 1932, page 9

House on Fire at North Adelaide

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call shortly before 3 a.m. today to a house owned and occupied by Mr. P. Hague in Frederick street, Gilberton. Before the fire could be extinguished one room and its contents were damaged. The loss was covered by insurance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 November 1932, page 9

Fire Brigades Called To Grass Fires

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received two calls on Saturday afternoon to grass fires in the parklands. The first outbreak, soon after 3 p.m., occurred at the corner of South terrace and William road. The other fire broke out about 4.30 p.m., near the Keswick railway bridge and the cemetery. Both were easily extinguished. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 6.20 p.m. to a grass fire at the North Adelaide railway station. No damage was done. More grass fires broke out yesterday. The first, at the corner of Greenhill road and Portrush road, was reported to the Norwood Fire Brigade at 1.3 a.m. The next was at 1.11 a.m. in the West Parklands, near Southwark Bridge. During the morning and afternoon, five more were reported, in the West Parklands, opposite Waymouth street, two near the corner of East terrace and Wakefield street, in the South Parklands, and in the East Parklands, near Pirie street.

Precautions Against Fire

As it is believed that many fires have been caused through the carelessness of children, the Education Department has instructed teachers to impress upon their charges the importance of a number of "Don'ts," such as—"Don't play with matches; don't light a fire in the open without instructions from someone older than yourself; don't fail to extinguish any fire before you leave the spot; don't light fires or even matches near any dry grass crop or haystacks." Similar instructions for adults have been issued by the Department of Agriculture in the form of posters in which smokers travelling along the roads are asked not to throw any lighted ends of cigarettes on to the roadway. There are regulations, also, for campers, an infringement of which may result in a prosecution and the imposition of severe penalties under the Bush Fires Act.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 December 1932, page 1

Fire Threatens Petrol Store

A big bulk storage petrol tank at Mile-End, containing thousands of gallons, was threatened by one of several serious grass fires which broke out in the suburbs late this afternoon.

The fire was in a vacant allotment next to the railway locomotive sheds, and just across the road from the Vacuum Oil Co.'s bulk storage plant. There was serious danger of fumes catching alight. "There is always a fair amount of petrol vapor which cannot be prevented," said an official of the company tonight. "The petrol is all kept in a sealed tank under the ground. There is a vast amount of oil in the drums there, too," he said, "but we have efficient fire-fighting equipment."

HOUSES THREATENED

The Thebarton Fire Brigade rushed to the scene and quickly had the flames under control.

At Blyth street, Parkside, the grass in a vacant block caught alight, and in a few minutes the flames were sweeping towards a paling fence adjoining some houses. But the Unley Brigade soon arrived and extinguished the outbreak.

Next to some children's playgrounds soon after 6 p.m. about an acre of grass was burnt in the East Parklands.

A cricket pitch was surrounded with flames and stopped a match which was in progress. This, too, was quickly put out when the North Adelaide Brigade arrived.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 December 1932, page 1

Grass Fires Round Adelaide

About an acre of grass was burnt off in a fire at Medindie this afternoon, but no fences were damaged. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended to the out-break.

Several Acres of grass were also destroyed by a fire in the North Parklands early this afternoon. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was called this afternoon to the premises of Griffiths Bros., Ltd., tea, coffee, and cocoa merchants, Gawler place, and found the premises filled with smoke. At first the firemen could not find any fire, but later it was reported they found a short circuit which had been causing the smoke. While this call was being investigated an alarm on Morphett street summoned the brigade. Two appliances raced to the scene, but found it was a false alarm.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 December 1932, page 15

FIRES in SUBURBS

£150 Damage At Beverley

Although no calls were received yesterday small fires, chiefly of grass, kept metropolitan fire brigades busy on Saturday. The largest blaze was at Beverley, where damage estimated at £150 was done when a large stable and its contents were destroyed. A man was injured in rescuing a horse and cart. The stables, which were the property of Mr. A. D. Tonkin, of William street, Beverley, contained wheat and chaff, furniture, and three trolleys. Stubble was being burnt off in a paddock at the rear of Mr. Tonkin's property, and it is thought that a spark may have set alight a small shed adjoining the stables. A neighbor, Mr. Albert Smith, rushed to rescue a horse and cart he had in the larger building, and received severe burns on his hands. He was treated at the Adelaide Hospital. Mr. Tonkin spoke appreciatively of the work of the Woodville Fire Brigade. It had the fire under control within about 15 minutes of its arrival.

Vines and almond trees in Crozier avenue, Mitcham Park, were badly scorched when about 15 acres of grass was destroyed. The North Adelaide and Thebarton brigades were called to fires on vacant allotments, and the Glenelg brigade attended a small grass fire near the Bronze Wing Poultry Farm, Camden. North Adelaide brigade was called to a small fire in the parklands.

Permit Needed To Burn Grass

Attention was drawn by the Deputy Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. G. P. Cooper) on Saturday to the danger of allowing dry grass to remain near fences and buildings. He said it would be advisable for householders to get rid of dry grass and weeds in their backyards. A permit, however was necessary before anyone could burn grass off. This could be obtained from the corporation of the district.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1932, page 20

Stones Warn Sleeping Household Of Fire

Awakened late last night by stones thrown by passers-by on their windows, members of the household of Mr. Melville Miller, who is more than 90 years old, found that a chair in which Mr. Miller had been sitting smoking in a front room of his house on Lefevre terrace, North Adelaide, in the early part of the evening, was on fire. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the fire, which did damage estimated at £15.

1933

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 February 1933, page 1

CAR CATCHES FIRE: £50 DAMAGE

In Memorial Drive, North Adelaide, to-night, a motor car, driven by Mr. Percival Pederson, of 85 Franklin street, Adelaide, caught fire. A rear wheel and practically the whole of the bodywork were burned. Mr. Pederson's hair was slightly scorched. It is estimated that about £50 worth of damage was done. North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned and extinguished the blaze. It is believed that the fire was caused by the cable to the battery short

circuited. Plainclothes Constable S. G. McKay, of North Adelaide, is preparing a report for the coroner.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 June 1933, page 1

COLLAPSES AT WHEEL

North Adelaide Fireman Killed

STREET CRASH

Apparently collapsing at the wheel of a motor hose carriage he was driving, Senior Fireman Clarence William Wells, aged 50,



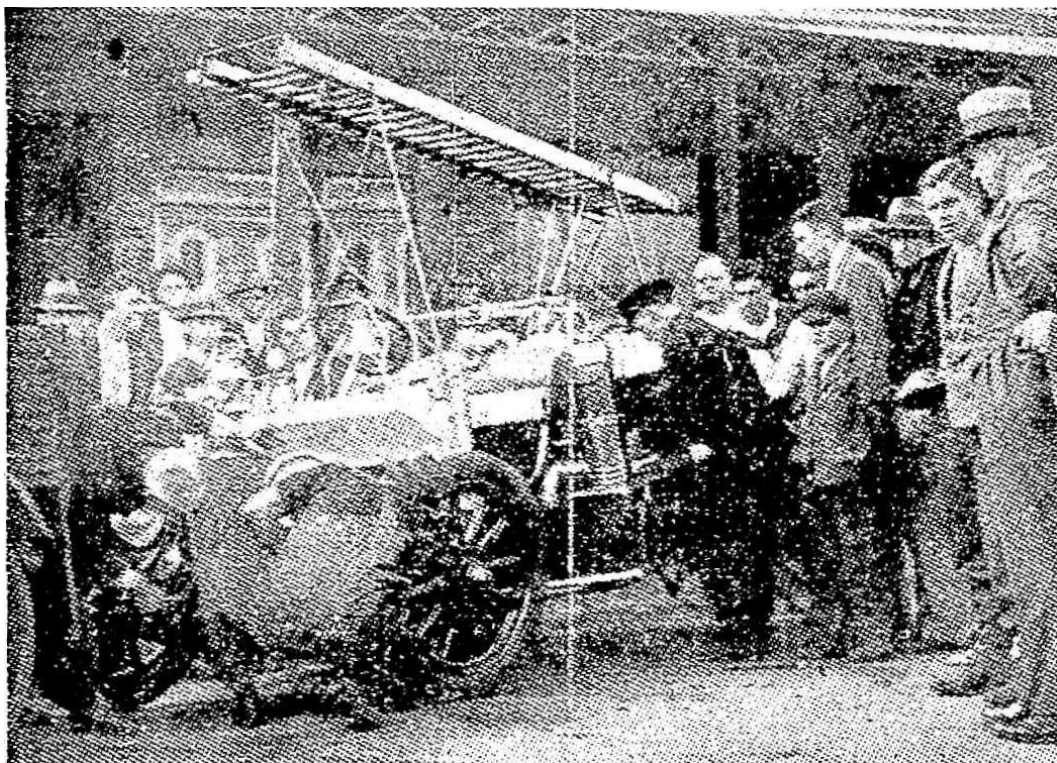
Mr. C. W. Wells

of the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, was thrown out head first when the carriage crashed on to the footpath in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, to-day. He died on the way to hospital. Mr. Wells, who did most of the driving for the North Adelaide Brigade, left the station in Tynte street about 9.20 a.m. today. He was taking the hose carriage to the motor pit in George street, behind the station. The carriage was traveling at about 10 miles an hour, when Mr. Wells' head was seen to drop, and his right arm to fall forward, as though he had fainted. It swerved across the street towards the eastern footpath, where the front wheels struck the kerb and a verandah post.

CHARGED ROADWORKERS

The engine stopped with the impact, and Mr. Wells was thrown to the left. His head struck the post, and he fell to the footpath with his legs still resting in the carriage. As the vehicle swerved it narrowly missed a group of men, who were repairing the roadway near the kerb. One of them yelled, "Look out," as he saw the motor approaching, and with the others jumped clear. Plainclothes Constable McKay, of North Adelaide, is preparing a report for the acting coroner. Mr. Wells, who lived in George street, joined the South Australian Fire Brigade in 1910, soon after he arrived from England, where he was in the navy. He had been stationed at North Adelaide for the past 16 years, with the exception of about 12 months at Port Augusta. He has left a widow and three children, the youngest of whom is 14. (Picture on Back Page)

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 June 1933, page 16



EXAMINING A FIRE MOTOR HOSE CARRIAGE after it had mounted a nine-inch kerb, and run into a verandah post in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, today. Senior Fireman Clarence William Wells, of the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, was fatally injured.

Labor Daily (Sydney, NSW : 1924 - 1938), Friday 9 June 1933, page 7

FATALLY HURT IN FIRE-ENGINE CRASH

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

Senior Fireman Clarence Wells, 60, of the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, collapsed while driving a fire cart in the city to-day, causing the vehicle to crash on to the footpath and hurl him head first on to the roadway. He was badly injured, and died while being taken to hospital.

Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. : 1872 - 1947), Friday 9 June 1933, page 5

COLLAPSE AT WHEEL

Death of Fire Engine Driver

ADELAIDE, June 9.

Clarence William Wells, 50, senior fireman, died yesterday as a result of injuries caused when the fire hose engine which he was driving, swerving into a veranda post in O'Connell Street, North Adelaide. It is thought that Wells collapsed while at the wheel, thus losing control of the vehicle.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 9 June 1933, page 21

FIREMAN'S DEATH

Seizure While Driving Brigade's Motor

Senior Fireman Clarence William Wells, 50, of George street. North Adelaide, met his death in extraordinary circumstances yesterday. He was driving the North Adelaide Fire Station's

motor hose carriage in O'Connell street, and apparently had a seizure while at the wheel. Intending to drive the vehicle to the pit at the rear of the station. Wells travelled along Tynte street into O'Connell street. He was seen driving on the correct side of O'Connell street at 10 miles an hour. Fifty yards from the intersection of Tynte and O'Connell streets, Wells dropped his head and right arm, and the vehicle swerved across O'Connell street at an angle of 45 degrees. It narrowly missed a group of council employes repairing the road, and the front wheels and the near side rear wheel mounted a 9-in. kerb on the east side of the road. Wells was thrown to the left of the vehicle, and his head struck a heavy verandah post. He was taken to the Adelaide Hospital, but was dead on arrival. Wells joined the fire brigade in August, 1910. He leaves a widow and three children. Plainclothes Constable McKay is preparing a report for the coroner.



Fireman C. W. Wells

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 10 June 1933, page 18

Inquests Arranged.—The Acting Coroner (Mr. H. M. Muirhead, S.M.) will hold an inquest into the death of Clement William Wells, senior fire-man, of the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, which occurred on Thursday, at the deputation room, Education Building, at 10.30 a.m. on June 21.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 22 June 1933, page 12

FIREMAN WHO DIED AT THE WHEEL

"Natural Causes," Coroner Finds

Medical evidence was given yesterday at the inquest into the death of Clarence William Wells, senior fireman, of George street, North Adelaide, who collapsed and died while driving a North Adelaide Fire Brigade appliance along O'Connell street, North Adelaide on June 8. This showed that cerebral haemorrhage, which it was believed had caused Well's death, was spontaneous and not due to any injury. Wells was driving along O'Connell street when the motor was seen suddenly to swerve across the road and strike the kerb. Thomas Brayshaw, dealer, O'Connell street, told the acting Coroner (Mr. H. M. Muirhead, S.M) that, as the machine came across the road. Wells seemed to be reaching with his hand to switch off the engine. After that the machine struck the kirk. Wells hit his head against verandah post, and was thrown out of the machine. Dr. Charles Trevor Turner, of Unley road, Unley Park, said that a post mortem examination on Wells's body revealed superficial abrasions over the left cheek, left eyebrow and left temple. The skull was not fractured. Death in his opinion, was

due to cerebral ventricular haemorrhage. He had seen similar haemorrhages in people who had suffered no injury whatsoever. Excitement, Dr. Turner told the court, was one of the causes of this type of haemorrhage. Mr. Muirhead said that the result of the postmortem examination had removed all doubt as to the cause of Wells's death. He found that he had died from natural causes—that was cerebral haemorrhage.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 21 June 1933, page 5

COLLAPSE OF FIREMAN

"Death Due to Natural Causes"

STORY OF SMASH

A corporation employe told the Acting Coroner (Mr. H. M. Muirhead, S.M.) to-day that on the morning of June 8, in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, he had seen a fireman apparently faint at the wheel of a motor car, which then turned sharply, and ran over the gutter on the other side of the street. The fireman was thrown from the motor car, and died shortly afterward. Mr. Muirhead was conducting an inquest into the death of Clarence William Wells, 50, senior fireman, formerly of George street, North Adelaide. He found that Wells had died from natural causes. The inquest, he said, had been held because of the unusual circumstances of the death of Wells, but the postmortem examination had removed any doubt of the cause of death.

HEAD STRUCK POST

Witnesses told the Coroner that Wells had been stationed at the North Adelaide fire station in Tynte street. About 9.20 a.m. on June 8 he left the Tynte street entrance of the station, driving a motor hose carrier. He intended to take the motor to a pit at the rear of the station in George street. Rudolph Christian Kowalick, corporation employe, of Barton terrace, North Adelaide, said that he was working in O'Connell street. He saw Wells turn from Tynte street into O'Connell street and drive north. After the motor had gone a few yards he saw Wells' head drop, and thought that he might have got giddy or fainted. The motor car Wells was driving turned sharply to the right and continued across the road until it hit the kerb and a verandah post. Wells' head struck a post, and he was thrown on to the footpath. He died a few minutes later. Dr. Charles Trevor Turner, of Unley Park, said that a postmortem examination revealed trivial abrasions to the left cheek, eye, and temple. He had found a cerebral haemorrhage, and thought that death had been caused by it.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 9 November 1933, page 11

MOTOR CAR DAMAGED BY FIRE

Damage estimated at about £45 was caused to a small motor car owned by Miss M. Verco, of Mills terrace, North Adelaide, when it caught alight shortly after 1 a.m. today in the yard of her home. The car had been left in the yard overnight. The fire was first noticed by a passer-by, and the North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called. The motor was well alight when the firemen arrived and the body and other parts of the vehicle were severely damaged by the time the flames were extinguished. Miss Verco, who is a sister at the Adelaide Hospital was not at home when the fire occurred. The car was insured. A report is being prepared by Constable McKay, of North Adelaide.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 18 November 1933, page 4

COUNCIL SHOPS IN DISREPAIR

Story of Market That Failed 40 Years Ago

O'CONNELL ST. VENTURE

Behind the announcement that the Adelaide City Council is considering the advisableness or otherwise of rebuilding corporation premises Nos. 61 to 69 (inclusive) in O'Connell street, North Adelaide, lies the story of the building of a public market place there 40 years ago, and the failure of the venture.



THE CORPORATION'S SHOPS in O'Connell street.

At present shops 61 to 69 on acre No. 820, which has frontages to Archer and O'Connell streets, are sadly in need of repair. But they are so worn and out-of-date that councillors are wondering whether it is worth spending more money on them. Some members believe that it would be better to pull them down and rebuild. On the site facing Archer street is the corporation depot; facing O'Connell street are two-story and one-story shops. The latter are the ones in need of attention.

PETITION TO GOVERNOR

It appears that in 1892 the council presented a petition to the Governor (the Earl of Kintore) asking him to proclaim town acre No. 820 as a public market place. This was done, and the matter was allowed to rest there until a memorial was received from ratepayers in North Adelaide asking the council to establish a market on the acre for the convenience of the public. Subsequently counter-memorials were received, and the two sections being evenly divided the council decided not to take any further action until after the ensuing municipal elections. In the report of the mayor (Mr. Charles Willcox) for 1893-4 it is mentioned that "at the elections Crs. Downs and Brice, who advocated the erection of a market, were elected; therefore it was safe to conclude that the majority of the ratepayers in North Adelaide agreed with their views, and it was decided to build 20 stalls for market purposes."

Following representations made, it was also agreed to erect two shops and a fire station, which the Fire Brigades' Board agreed to lease. "It will thus be seen that the large sum of nearly £2,000 has been expended on the North Adelaide property during the year, all of which has been taken from the general revenue," says the report of the mayor. "The council will remember my words of warning as to whether the market would pay for many years to come. The expenditure ought not to be charged to the general revenue." Mr. Charles Tucker as mayor opened the market on December 22, 1894. "The market proper," he records in his report, "has not yet realised the warm anticipations expected of it, but I hope it will soon progress to the fulfilment of the hopes of its warmest supporters." The following year Mr. Tucker "regrets very much that so far this market has been, comparatively speaking, a complete failure, the residents of North Adelaide evidently not appreciating the efforts of the council in this direction, the total amount of fees received weekly, in many cases, not exceeding one shilling, which, of course, did not pay for the cost of lighting.

10/ A WEEK RENT

"At last the council decided to invite tenders for a three years' lease of the premises. No tenders were sent in, but subsequently Mr. T. Thurston offered to rent the building for three years at a rental of 10/ a week, which offer was accepted with a proviso that a portion of the building was to be kept open for a market. "It was also decided that, should the council obtain a loan, the mortgage on the property be paid off, and a further sum of £2,000 be expended in erecting shops on the frontages, which would give a very handsome return on the outlay." Apparently this course was adopted, for shops were eventually built, and have since contributed a fair sum to the revenue of the corporation.

Workshops adjacent to the West of the fire station in Tynte Street were demolished during the 1990s.

1934

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 28 February 1934, page 5

FIRE ON DENTIST'S PROPERTY

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended a fire at 10.22 a.m. this morning on the property of Mr. J. S. Holt, dentist, of 1 O'Connell street, North Adelaide. A shed at the rear of Mr. Holt's surgery was severely damaged and its contents, plaster of paris and books, were destroyed. The damage is estimated at £200.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 27 August 1934, page 7

PROMPT ACTION BY CONSTABLE

Last night Constable Stead, of the North Adelaide police, checked what might have been a serious fire. He was on patrol duty in O'Connell street when he noticed a gas jet burning in a room in F. Beer's boot store. The flame was almost touching the ceiling. The constable summoned the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, which turned the jet off. It had been used for heating a kettle.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 8 September 1934, page 7

ON MILITARY STAFF FOR 35 YEARS

Death of Mr. W. Boyce

Mr. William Boyce, who died yesterday at his home in Prospect road, Prospect, at the age of 84 years, served for 35 years on the South Australian military headquarters staff. He was an inspector of contracts for 17 years, and held a long-service medal presented by the King. Born in England, he arrived in Australia 80 years ago. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Boyce. Mr. Boyce, who had lived at Prospect for 42 years, had been an Oddfellow for 70 years.

He was in charge of the first fire brigade at North Adelaide. Mr. W. Boyce, of Prospect, is a son, and Mesdames W. L. Boyle (Prospect), E. H. Stevens (Springbank), H. G. Pike (Maylands), and Miss N. Boyce (Prospect), are daughters. The Rev. H. C. Thrush will conduct the burial service in the Main North Road Cemetery this afternoon.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 27 September 1934, page 15

NARROW ESCAPES FROM BLAZING CAR

Five Men Slightly Injured When Vehicle Overturns

Driver Pulled Clear Just In Time

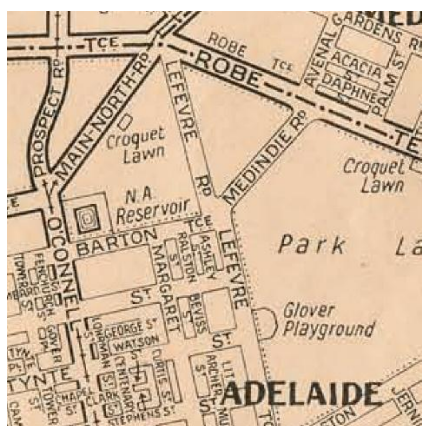
Immediately after five employes of Goldsbrough, Mort & Co. had escaped from a motor car which had overturned against a stone wall in North Adelaide at 7.45 p.m. yesterday, the car burst into flames from end to end. Just in time, the driver, Mr. Colin James, of St. Andrews street, North Walkerville, who had been knocked unconscious, was extricated by tearing away the side curtains. Later, Mr. James recovered consciousness and was taken to his home,

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

11 May 2026

where it was reported that he had received only a severe bump on the head. The other occupants of the car, who also received minor injuries, were:— Cecil H. Barrett, of Hilton, head, shoulder and leg abrasions. Maurice Heffernan, of Moseley street, Glenelg, head abrasions; Colin William Jenkinson, of Marine avenue, Seacliff, broken collarbone; J. B. Porter, of Walkerville, broken collarbone. All were able to go home after having received treatment from Drs. Erichsen and Burston. Before the North Adelaide Fire Brigade had extinguished the fire with chemical extinguishers, the car was reduced to a charred ruin. Mr. James was driving south along Lefevre terrace towards the city. Approaching the point where Barton terrace and Medindie road join Lefevre terrace, Mr. James saw another car, which is said to have been turning from Medindie road across the intersection to travel west along Barton terrace. When Mr. James applied the brakes and swerved sharply to his right to avoid a collision, his car got out of control. It carried away the street name post at the corner of Lefevre and Barton terraces, turned over twice across the footpath and, sliding upside-down on the hood, crashed with force against the high, massive garden wall of Mr. F. Wood's home on the corner. With assistance, four of the car passengers were able to scramble from the wreck; but the side curtains had to be ripped away before Mr. James, who had been thrown from his seat, could be lifted out. The North Adelaide police investigated the accident.



News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 5 October 1934, page 7

SMALL FIRE SUBDUED IN BREWERY STABLE

A few bales of straw and a bicycle in a stable belonging to Lion Brewing and Malting Co., Ltd., Lower North Adelaide, were destroyed by fire this morning. The stable is across the road from the main building. Fire brigade appliances from head station and North Adelaide station attended, and the fire was quickly extinguished. The value of the damaged property was only small. The cause of the fire is unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 November 1934, page 5

Shed at North Adelaide Damaged by Fire

A wood-and-iron shed at the rear of Mrs. M. Nelson's fruit and vegetable shop at the corner of O'Connell and Archer streets, North Adelaide, was damaged by fire today. Some packing cases were also damaged. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended, and soon had the blaze under control. The damage caused is estimated at £1.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 21 December 1934, page 4

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended a grass fire in a vacant paddock in Tynte street, North Adelaide, today. The fire is believed to have been caused by some children playing with matches.

1935

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 28 January 1935, page 10

Fire In Petrol Station

A fire occurred at the motor service station of Silver and Killicoat Ltd., at the corner of Ward and O'Connell streets. North Adelaide, on Saturday.

Shortly before 3 p.m. a motor lorry, the property of the Polson Delivery Service, was being refuelled. The petrol overflowed and spread, and suddenly ignited. The truck was soon a mass of flames, but the two men who were in the cabin (Mr. A. J. Polson and Mr. P. G. Williams) got out in time, and escaped serious consequences. Four dual pumps and a single pump, housed in the showroom, which contained four large plate-glass windows, were soon in flames, which reached to the ceiling. Soon after the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Oldham, and some appliances from headquarters arrived, the fire was subdued. All the plate glass windows were split, the bowls of the pumps broken, and the motor truck badly damaged. The premises were not badly damaged, and will be open for business today.



State Library of South Australia - Ward Street, North Adelaide [B 3730], [General description] The premises of Dodge Brothers Service Station, which also incorporates Silver and Killicoat. The roadway and tramlines of O'Connell Street are prominent in the foreground and the sky is crisscrossed by a web of tram wires. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 738 / South east corner of Ward and O'Connell Streets / Aug. 21, 1926 / Petrol station erected in 1926. For view of premises formerly on this site see B 3249. Measurements of service station: Ward St. frontage: 31 yards. O'Connell Street frontage: 33.5 yards'. Approximately 1926. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 738 Collection

1936

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 8 April 1936, page 11

CHEMIST'S SHOP DESTROYED

Midnight Blaze On Port Road

TWO OTHER FIRES

A CHEMIST'S shop at Port road, Allenby Gardens, was destroyed and two houses at Goodwood Park and Gilberton were damaged by fires today. The brilliance of the Allenby Gardens blaze was heightened as chemicals in the shop burned fiercely, causing total damage estimated at £650. Firemen prevented the outbreak from spreading to baker's and dentist's premises on each side of the gutted shop. Mr. Michael Brady was the occupier of the

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

11 May 2026

shop, which was owned by Mr. C. Richardson, of Croydon. The loss was covered by insurance. The outbreak was first noticed by a passing cyclist shortly after midnight. He dashed to the Kilkenny Police Station about half a mile away, and the Woodville District Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to the scene at 12.25

CONTENTS BURN FIERCELY

The blaze had obtained a good hold by this time, the contents of the chemist's shop burning rapidly. Although it was impossible to save these premises, the firemen, working desperately under the supervision of Chief-Officer Philips, had extinguished the fire and prevented it from spreading next door on both sides within an hour.

All furniture, floor coverings, pictures, and other household effects in the home of Mr. George James Buchanan, at Hardy street, Goodwood Park, were quickly moved into the street by an army of willing helpers when a fire broke out there about 11.30 a.m. A wood and iron enclosed back, which was used as a laundry and kitchen, was destroyed.

TEACHERS HELP

When the fire was first noticed teachers from the Goodwood Super Primary School, which is almost opposite, rushed to the house, and began removing the contents. Others came to their aid, and in a few minutes about 30 people had the house cleared. The Unley Fire Brigade soon controlled the flames. It is believed that the fire was caused by some clothes, which were being aired in front of a stove, catching alight.

A fire which broke out at the home of Mr. B. W. Bagenal, in Northcote terrace, Gilberton, was extinguished by the North Adelaide Fire Brigade before much damage could be caused. Called at 7.26 a.m., the firemen found that the blaze had occurred in portion of the ceiling and rafters. Damage by the flames was confined to that portion of the house, although some carpets were affected by water. The damage was covered by insurance.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 5 May 1936, page 3

News Items in Brief

Rubbish Fire.—The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was called last night to a small fire in Wellington square, North Adelaide. Rubbish had been burning near two trees which had been grubbed, but the fire was quickly extinguished.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 May 1936, page 18

TODAY'S NEWS IN BRIEF

Walkerville Fire.— It was resolved at the Walkerville Council meeting last night to ask the North Adelaide Fire Brigade to extinguish a fire which the council had lit in rubbish in a pughole near Walkerville terrace, Walkerville. This action followed complaints from residents about the smoke. It was explained that the fire had served its purpose in doing away with a harbor for rats, and in burning the rubbish.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 18 August 1936, page 10

Fire Out After Four Months

Four months ago the Walkerville Council set light to a pughole off Fuller street, Walkerville, following complaints that it was infested with rats. The fire continued to burn and become a nuisance to neighboring ratepayers. The overseer of works (Mr. T. Nottage) reported last night that the fire had been put out, although it had taken one man 17½ hours, spread over four days, to do it. A 400-ft. hose was borrowed from fire brigade headquarters, and besides extinguishing the smouldering rubbish—mostly grape skin refuse—it killed hundreds of rats by burying them in the silt or drowning them as they were driven from the rubbish.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 22 August 1936, page 1

Shed Burnt at Prospect

A wood and iron shed at the rear of a house in Albert street, Prospect, occupied by Mr. A. S. Moroney, was destroyed by fire tonight. The contents of the shed—a bicycle, bedding, boxes, and bagging, and several other articles—were destroyed. Prospect and North Adelaide Brigades attended the blaze.

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

Ceiling Alight in Home At Gilberton

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

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 8 December 1936, page 19

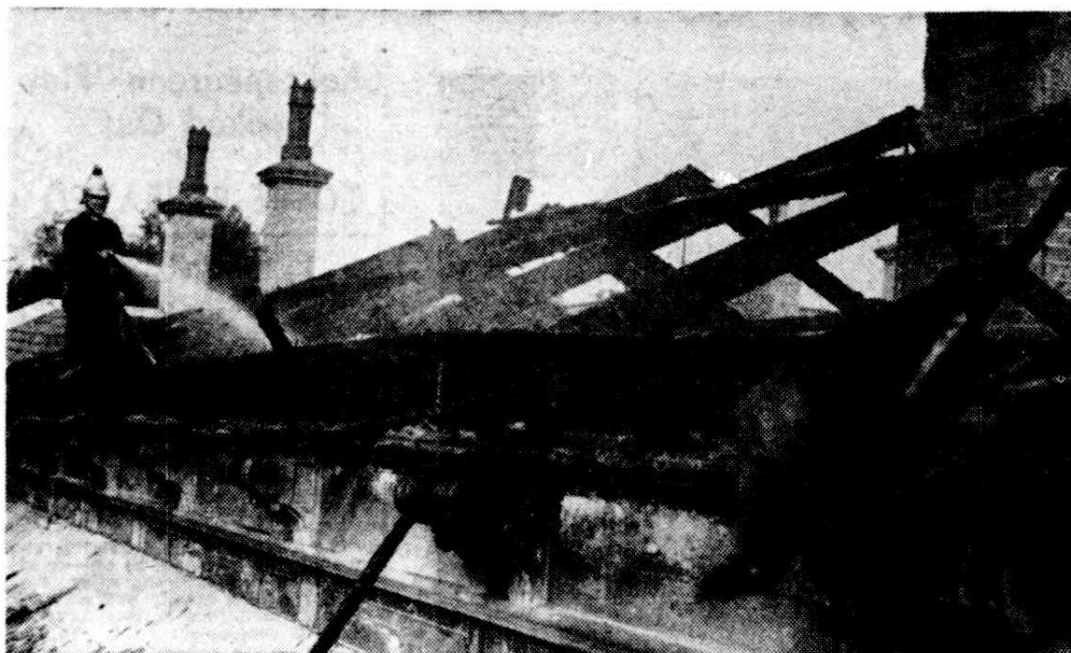
Three Grass Fires

Three small grass fires occurred in the suburbs yesterday afternoon. One was in a vacant allotment in Melbourne street, North Adelaide, but it was extinguished by the North Adelaide brigade before any damage was caused. A second in Te Anau avenue, Prospect, caused damage to a fence. It was extinguished by the Prospect brigade. Norwood brigade attended another grass fire which occurred in Portrush road, Knoxville. No damage was done.

1937

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

FIGHTING FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE



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

FIRE OUTSIDE ITS DISTRICT

Hindmarsh Brigade Could Not Attend

DOCTOR CRITICAL

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

FIRE CHIEF'S EXPLANATION

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



State Library of South Australia - Mills Terrace [B 6917], Mills Terrace, east side, February 23rd 1937, right side of building is 45 yards north of Barnard Street and frontage is 15 yards. This shows the fire damage to Dr. J. A. Bonnin's house at 48 Mills Terrace North Adelaide shortly after the fire of 19 February, 1936. A new roof was built in 1937. 1937, Photographer, State Library of South Australia.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 May 1937, page 3

Pigeon Found In Fire Station Chimney

A homing pigeon, the identification number 1085 YBC 35, was found in a chimney at the North Adelaide Fire Brigade today. The owner may claim it there. Several days ago, a noise was heard in the chimney, and the station staff thought it was a rat. Today, the noise was heard again. Investigations were made, and the pigeon appeared. It had apparently been caught there since the middle of last week.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 1 November 1937, page 12

Child May Have Caused Kilburn Fire

Believed to have been caused by a child playing with matches, a fire in a six-roomed weatherboard house at Hopetoun avenue, Kilburn, shortly after 9 a.m. today, severely damaged a kitchen dresser. A wooden partition and the ceiling of a room were also slightly burned. The home is occupied by Mr. T. O'Reilly and family. Brigades from Prospect and North Adelaide responded to the alarm. Firemen extinguished the flames in the ceiling by climbing to the roof with a hose.

1938

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 21 January 1938, page 6

Women Fight Fire At Prospect

WHEN a fire broke out yesterday afternoon in the kitchen of Mr. H. J. Turner, Gordon road, Prospect, during the absence of the occupiers, women neighbors played a garden hose through a window on to the flames while another woman telephoned for the fire brigade. The blaze was under control by the time firemen from Prospect and North Adelaide stations arrived.

Paying tributes today to the women, firemen and police said that the blaze would probably have spread rapidly to other parts of the house if it had not been attacked so quickly. A short circuit is believed to have caused it. Mr. Turner estimates the damage to the kitchen and its contents at nearly £200.

"Mrs. A. Mann, Mrs. W. E. Ball, and other neighbors quickly saw the danger and played the hose on the flames." said Mr. Turner. "Only for their services the fire would have reached the roof and other rooms." Furniture, crockery, bottles, and household utensils in the kitchen were destroyed, and a connecting door was burnt. Damage was also done to the walls and ceiling, and smoke swept into other rooms of the house. Mr. Turner's wife has been in hospital for several months. Constable Hennig, of Prospect, is preparing a report.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 24 January 1938, page 21

FIRE DAMAGES HOME AT NORTH ADELAIDE

Several Small Outbreaks

Originating in a large clothes closet on the ground floor, a fire caused several hundred pounds worth of damage in the two-storey home, occupied by Mr. Claude Martin, in Brougham place, North Adelaide, about 11 a.m. on Saturday. Walking downstairs, Mrs. Martin and her son, Roderick, noticed smoke and flames issuing into the hall. They threw water on the fire, a gardener broke a window and tried to use a hose, but this was too short to be effective. Flames spread across the hall, igniting the carpet there and on the staircase. As the telephone wire had been burned through, there was delay in informing the North Adelaide Fire Brigade. Furniture was moved from the hall and an adjoining room.

When the Fire Brigade arrived, the flames were showing through a large casement window near the staircase and smoke was pouring from under the roof. Using a ladder, the fireman operated hoses from the top of the stairs, as well as from the hall, and soon subdued the fire. However, the clothes closet and an adjoining press and their contents, mostly Mrs. Martin's apparel, were destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it appeared to have started on

the floor of the clothes closet. A hot water pipe and electrical wiring pass through the closet. The house is owned by the C. H Angas estate. Firemen were under the direction of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, Station Officer T. M. Davis, and Senior Fireman J. V. O'Leary (North Adelaide). Plainclothes Constable Mensforth (North Adelaide) investigated.

Several trees and portion of a hedge were burned when a grass fire occurred on the property of Mr. Anderson Potter, nurseryman, at Brooklyn Park yesterday afternoon.

Electric mains near a meter at the home of Mrs. T. Palmer, Carrington street, city, were damaged by fire on Saturday morning.

Five and a half acres of grass in Highfield avenue, Highfield, was swept by fire on Saturday. The brigade attended.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 3 February 1938, page 1

DIES FROM BURNS

Plight of N.A. Woman, 82

FOUND in a blazing bed when the room in which she was sleeping caught alight about 3 a.m. today, Mrs. Elizabeth Daniels, 82, of Barton terrace, North Adelaide, was so severely burnt that she died in the Adelaide Hospital a few hours later. When Mr. Samuel Williams, 70, a guest, rushed into the room, which was filled with acrid smoke, Mrs. Daniels was sitting helplessly on the edge of the bed trying to beat off the flames. All her clothing had been burnt off her. Mr. Williams was overcome by smoke after he had lifted Mrs. Daniels off the bed, and was on the point of collapse when he staggered to the doorway.

A lighted candle is believed to have ignited the curtains of Mrs. Daniels' bedroom. She always had a candle on a table beside her bed, which is near the window. It is thought that she got up about 2 a.m. and forgot to put the candle out. After she had fallen asleep the wind blew the curtains on the candle. Eventually the fire spread to the bed and an easy chair nearby.

Choking From Smoke

Probably the smoke from the smouldering bedclothing and chair dazed Mrs. Daniels before she could escape. The door of the room, which was closed, is only a few yards from the bed. Mr. Sydney Kruger, a railway employe, who occupies a room adjoining that of Mrs. Daniels, raised the alarm. Choking from the smoke which was pouring into his room from a large ventilator, he aroused Mrs. Lillian McMahan, daughter of Mrs. Daniels, and the rest of the household. Mr. Kruger was so badly affected by the smoke that he could take little active part in the attempts to rescue Mrs. Daniels. Mr. Williams told today how he rushed into the room, and saw Mrs. Daniels trying to push away the blazing bedclothes, which were wrapped about her thighs and legs.

Seen by Light of Flames

"The smoke was so thick that I could scarcely breathe," Mr. Williams said. "I was able to see Mrs. Daniels only by the light of the flames. She seemed as though she had tried to get out of the bed, but could not do so." Mrs. McMahan said that usually her mother kept the lower window of her bedroom shut. Last night, however, she slightly opened it, and this allowed the wind to blow the curtains on to the candle.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned, but the fire was under control when it arrived. Sgt. McPherson, of North Adelaide, is preparing a report for the coroner.

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

Slight damage to curtains and a window frame was caused by a fire which occurred during a chemistry class at the St. Peter's Girls' School, Kermode street, North Adelaide, today. The North Adelaide Fire Brigade attended the outbreak.

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

Small Fire In School Physics Laboratory

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

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 9 September 1938, page 32

Fire Destroys Car Loaded With Drapery Goods

Owned by Sydney Button, travelling draper, of the Royal Oak Hotel, North Adelaide, a motor car and a large quantity of drapery were destroyed by fire about 5.45 p.m. yesterday. The car, loaded with drapery, had been left about 4.30 p.m. in a lock-up garage at the rear of the Royal Oak Hotel. When smoke was noticed issuing from the garage, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade, under the direction of senior Fireman Corker, was called. However, by this time the car and contents had been practically destroyed. The loss is not covered by insurance.

1939

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

£1,000 DAMAGE IN FACTORY FIRE

Densely Populated Block Menaced

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

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

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

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 13 January 1939, page 1

HOT SPOTS

North Adelaide and Prospect Fire Brigades had their busiest night for years. A house in Childers street, North Adelaide, was gutted but firemen prevented extensive damage being done to a confectioner's shop in Main North road, Prospect, to premises in Prospect road, where a refrigerator was on the verge of bursting into flames, and to a house in Nottage terrace, Medindie, where a kitchen was alight.

1948

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 26 May 1948, page 4

GUEST HOME ROOM FIRE

Firemen worked in the rain to put out a fire in an upstairs bedroom of a North Adelaide guest home this afternoon. The fire is believed to have been caused by a radiator which had been left switched on. The outbreak was at Merton House, corner of Barnard and Hill streets, where a guest returning to lunch saw smoke coming from windows in the northern wing. The fire burnt the interior of the room. Flames spread through the ceiling to an adjoining bathroom, and scorched the wall of a third room. Plainclothes Constable F. Cocks is preparing a report for the coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 27 May 1948, page 3

North Adelaide Guest Home Damaged By Fire



Station Officer W. Farthing and Fireman J. Fitzgerald checking over the interior of a North Adelaide guest home bedroom after having extinguished the fire which burnt out the room yesterday.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 19 June 1948, page 1

NO HEAP, SO NO FIRE

North Adelaide and Hindmarsh fire appliances rushed to the S.A. Gas Co.'s Brompton works this morning. Officers were making inquiries about the fire when brigade headquarters rang and said: "We believe you have a fire in your coal heap." Reply: "If you can tell us where the coal heap is we will tell you where the fire is." City headquarters also turned out a fire hose. The telephone call to city headquarters turned out to be a false alarm. There was no coal heap: the only coal at Brompton today was in trucks.

1949

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 18 November 1949, page 1

35 BATTLE DAWN BLAZE

Thirty-five firemen battled for more than an hour to control a fire which broke out in a barley drying kiln in Lower North Adelaide at dawn today. The kiln, on the premises of the Lion Brewing and Malting Co. Ltd., Melbourne street, is leased by Barrett Bros. and Burston & Co. Pty. Ltd. Nearby residents awakened by the wail of sirens as seven fire appliances arrived about 4.55 am., saw flames shooting 30 ft. high from the roof of the two-story building. The fire broke out in one of three drying kilns in the centre of the building. It is thought a furnace in the basement overheated, and the heat, passing through perforated steel plates on the first and second floors, ignited barley spread over them to dry.

Narrow escape

About 150 bags of barley were spread over the two floors. The Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) directed seven lines of hose to be run into the building. With 1,400 gallons of water a minute being pumped into the fire the firemen were able to stop the spread. Mr. Whyte and two firemen had a narrow escape when, after crawling through a small tunnel on the first floor with a hose, they slipped on the steel plates. The hose, which was squirting water at 150 lb. pressure to the square inch, tossed them round the floor. A stream of water struck Sir Arthur Barrett, who had been called to the fire.

"Very good job"

Sir Arthur Barrett said later that the brigade had done a very good job, and confined the fire to one section. He did not anticipate any serious hold-up in production of dried barley. Damage has not yet been assessed, but had the fire not been controlled, thousands of pounds' worth of damage would have been done to machinery, stored barley and the building. (Picture on Back Page.)

Barley catches fire at N. Adelaide brewery



FIREMEN R. Oates and L. Cahalan shovelling burnt barley in one of the roasting ovens at the Lion Brewing and Malting Co., Ltd., Melbourne street, North Adelaide, after a fire early today. Firemen battled for an hour to control 30-ft. flames. (Story-Page 1.)

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 19 November 1949, page 3

Dawn Fire At North Adelaide



Working in smoke and fumes at dawn yesterday these firemen on the roof of the Lion Brewing and Malting Co. Lower North Adelaide, subdue the fire which broke out in the premises.