

City's Fire Force Curbs Loss to Low Capita Cost

Regular and Volunteer Men Plus Modern Equipment Serve Torrance

CHIEF WANTS MEN TO TAKE CIVIL TESTS

A crescendo of sound, rising from a guttural mumble to a scream of a banshee... a brazen clamor of alarm bells... and the fire department trucks roll with increasing speed out of the station toward a spot inflamed with light.

Behind all the sound and fury of the ensuing minutes lies a carefully planned and maintained mechanism, 24 parts human, five parts vehicle and hundreds more of equipment that make up your \$40,000 Torrance fire department.

It has men of training and ability, headed by Chief A. D. Stevenson, senior member of the department with nearly 14 years of service; it has splendid mechanical aides, modern trucks and equipment; it has a background of service to the city extending

from December, 1912; and it has the record of keeping fire loss here to \$817,50 (exclusive of automobiles and oil rigs) for the year ending July 1, or an estimated loss to property of only .094 cents per capita for the 12-month period.

Announces Exams
Fire Chief Stevenson says that the department needs more regular men to get an even better rating from the Board of Fire Underwriters than the city now enjoys. For that reason he announced this week that there would be civil service examinations held for prospective firemen sometime the first part of the coming new year.

"I would like to see many of our young men take the tests," the chief declared. "We have many men here who would make excellent firemen and at the present time we have none on the eligible list. I will be glad to give further information about the service and the examinations to all who call at the central station."

The city budget provides

\$13,800 this year for fire department salaries, approximately \$1150 per month, for the paid and "call" or volunteer men. Other expenses are estimated at \$2,000 this year. Thus protection to property from fire is a big item in city administration. That this investment pays dividends in the form of reduced fire losses is seen from Chief Stevenson's statement to the city council about the .094 per capita loss last fiscal year.

Assisting the chief in manning the central station, which may be housed in new quarters before 1937 is many months old—are Captain Ed McMasters and three engineers. McMasters has been a member of the department since May 4, 1926, topped only by the chief, and was made a captain on Dec. 1, 1934.

The engineers and their service dates are: J. R. Winters, July 13, 1926, and April 16, 1934; Robert McMasters, Feb. 5, 1934; and July 16, 1935; Walter Silence, Nov. 30, 1925, and July 1, 1938. The call men operating out of central station and their

service dates are: Captain G. D. Mosher, Oct. 13, 1930; Lieut. H. F. Hannebrink, Jr., Oct. 6, 1931; James L. Boucher, Nov. 4, 1932; F. A. Harder, Feb. 5, 1934; Charles McConville, Nov. 19, 1934; Martin McAnally, June 1, 1934; Gordon Northington, July 8, 1936; L. Sommers, Nov. 19, 1934; and H. A. Stevenson, May 7, 1935.

This list reveals the sons of two fire chiefs serving the city—Hannebrink, Jr., whose father was the second of Torrance's three chiefs, and young Stevenson. The first fire chief here was Harry McManus, well-known Union Tool worker. When he headed the department it was housed in a shed on Carson street opposite Andreo avenue and the lusty members pulled the ropes on a 500-foot hose reel cart that is now stationed in the Hollywood Riviera. The first firemen were summoned by a few powerful blows with a sledge hammer on a steel locomotive tire, the resultant clamor attracting all residents in the budding city, their dogs and children as well as the volunteer firemen.

The Waleria sub-station has Engineers J. J. Benner, who came on the department Sept. 9, 1927, and was raised to his present position Jan. 23, 1935, and Walter West, July 7, 1934, and Sept. 1, 1935. The call men there

MAINTAIN CONSTANT VIGIL



Central's Men and Equipment



Waleria's Force and Truck

are T. S. Buckingham, July 17, 1934; Capt. Chester Kohler, and W. E. Little, July 1, 1934; Jack D. Leggate, James Lowther and Roy E. Wilson, who joined July 1, 1935.

Splendid Equipment
In North Torrance, J. A. Collins has been operating the 40-gallon soda and acid chemical truck there from the rear of the Perry Grocery on Perry avenue since Oct. 15, 1936. This truck has 300 feet of chemical hose. At the Hollywood Riviera where the first vehicle used by the city is still in service, Manager Roy Stewart of the clubhouse is in charge.

Equipment at the central station consists of the 750-gallon triple combination (pump, hose, ladder and chemical) pumper, 4,000 feet of two and one-half inch hose, 1,000 feet of one and one-half hose, a modern fire alarm and locator system for the P. E. shops, resuscitator and inhalator (which have proved their weight in gold many times in emergencies here), a tannic acid spray kit for treatment of burns, a portable generator and flood lights, life net, 30-foot overhead pipe for fighting gasoline, oil, attic or partition fires, and scores of other pieces of essential equipment.

The Waleria sub-station has a 350-gallon triple combination American LaFrance pumper, 2,000 feet of two and one-half inch and 600 feet of inch and one-half hose.

Save Two Lives
There are three men on duty day and night at the central and one at the Waleria and North Torrance sub-stations. Three walls from the siren atop the central headquarters summons the call men who receive \$7.50 per month each and \$1 an hour extra for all calls lasting over an hour's duration of actual duty. The department responds to about 11 calls a month. The regular men work 24-hour shifts—24 on and 24 off.

Between July 1, 1935, and July 1, 1936, the department attended 73 fires, traveling an average of 2.4 miles to each run for a total mileage of 177.1 miles for the year. It answered five oil rig blazes, four dwelling, three business house, 33 grass, 10 garage and auto and six other kinds of fires and six in the Los Angeles Shoestring strip adjoining the city.

Twice during the year the resuscitator was used with good results—meaning lives were saved—and the tannic acid spray kit was in service two times for treatment of burns. A total of 678 fire permits were issued and—

There was only one false alarm turned in during the year.

Shark Killed With Spade
ALAMEDA, Cal. (U.P.)—Augustine Cawley doesn't think man-killing sharks are so much. When a seven-foot shark of this type got stranded in shallow water here, Cawley took off his shoes and with an ordinary spade killed the shark.

Australia Buys Redwood
CONTRA COSTA, Cal. (U.P.)—Australia, which gave California its first eucalyptus trees, has now become one of the world's largest buyers of California redwood lumber and redwood products.

Lomita Denied Death Damages

Claim of Peter Thomson, 25107 Eschelman avenue, Lomita, for \$70,000 damages from the county following the death of his son, Roy Thomson, 34, at the county General hospital, was denied this week by the board of supervisors.

The claim filed with the supervisors alleged that employees of the hospital were negligent in caring for the boy. It was further alleged that hospital employees were not sufficiently skilled in their work. The father also asked \$380 for hospital and doctor bills prior to the boy's death.

Garage Is Stolen
GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (U.P.)—The Grand Rapids sheriff's department has an unusual crime on record—that of a stolen garage. Nick Koolker went to his garage the other day and found that somebody had stolen it.

Doe Trees Bobcat
BEND, Ore. (U.P.)—Earl Huff, Ochoo national forest ranger, watched an angry doe deer tree a bobcat. He theorized the bobcat had menaced the doe's fawn.

Hospital Has Seven Surgical Patients

Seven surgical patients are making good recoveries at Jesse Hickey Torrance Memorial hospital, it was learned yesterday. They are: Mrs. Eva Aase, 1024 Island avenue, Wilmington, received Nov. 19; Mrs. Harriet Coffin, 1912 Gramercy avenue, who entered on Nov. 18; Mrs. Sara Likens, 2167 260th street, Lomita, on Nov. 25.

Mrs. Stella Mariucci, 219 Avenue E. Redondo Beach, Nov. 21; Albert D. Mitchell, 1637 West 130th street, Los Angeles, Nov. 23; Sam F. Webb, 1003 Cota street, city park worker, Nov. 23, and Harry M. Davis, 2021 South Carolina avenue, Redondo Beach, Nov. 24.

Prisoners Get Comfort
REGINA, Sask. (U.P.)—Guards at the city jail here were ordered to wear rubber-heeled shoes because prisoners complained they made too much noise, disturbing their sleep.

Quebec Bans Soviet Films
QUEBEC (U.P.)—The Quebec government has banned the exhibition of Soviet motion picture films in the province.

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