

Norwood Fire Brigade  
Brigade Stations



Fire Station locations in Norwood. 1882 - 1983

**1882 - 1888**

Head Station on Edward Street, Norwood. Near the Parade. A shed positioned at the rear of 145 The Parade, shown as William Hancock, grocer and baker in 1884 and Walter Waldie, baker and confectioner in the shop in 1888.

No 2 Station, St Peters branch. Located behind the Maid and Magpie Hotel, possibly in sheds adjacent to Magill Road.

No 3 Station, Sydenham Rd. Location ?

**1888 – 1896**

Head Station at 175 The Parade, Western side of the new Town hall. An iron shed facing The Parade.

**1896 - 1928**

At 202 The Parade, Norwood, Eastern neighbour to the Emulation Lodge building which built on the site of the first Town hall. Demolished Date?



State Library of South Australia Image B26762.jpg

1928 – 1983

At 231 The Parade, Norwood, Western neighbour to the squash courts near Portrush Road.  
Demolished Date?



Steven Schueler, December 1979

#### Alarm locations

- Allen's Corner, Norwood, Somewhere near Beulah Road and Kent Terrace (Fullarton Road)
- Cowell's Corner, Norwood, Corner of Sydenham Rd and The Parade
- The corner of William and Elizabeth Streets, Norwood

- High Street, Kensington, opposite to the Rising Sun Hotel (60 Bridge St, Kensington)

#### The Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade

##### ***Taken from Geoffrey H. Manning A Colonial Experience***

Following the installation of a water supply, fire plugs were installed one being near the Marryatville Hotel, the second in front of Lavington Glyde's residence, the third near Mr Howitt's bakery and another in front of the Town Hall. They were tested for available water pressure in February 1877 when water was thrown from distances of 30 to 75 feet, while the council was informed that, in case of fire, extra pressure could be laid on by applying to Charles Seymour, the Government Superintendent of Mains, who lived at Valve House on Hackney Road.

By 1881 fire brigades had been established at Gawler, Kapunda, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier, Glenelg and Glanville and in August 1881 a meeting was held in the Norwood Town Hall to consider whether a local fire brigade should be established on either a voluntary basis or in connection with the government system.

The former system was decided upon and following several meetings officers and firemen were appointed - Trustees, Messrs E.T. Smith, S.D. Glyde and T. Caterer; Captain, J.A. Thomson; 1st Lieutenant, T.S. Warman; 2nd Lieutenant and Hon. Secretary, R.E. Kippist; Hon. Superintendent and Treasurer, A.J. Diamond; Firemen, Messrs W. Warman, T.A. Caterer, E. Caterer, J. Steed, F. Steed, J.E. Gooden, H. Newbery, R.H. Buttery and Gray. Ten of the men lived within 200 yards of the reel station which was situated in Edward Street close to The Parade, and was erected free of cost by the members of the brigade.

Mr C.A. Bleechmore was appointed canvasser and collector and through him subscriptions amounting to £150 were received. The plant of the company consisted of one hand-reel of the latest pattern - a drum on the axle, with disconnecting gear, enabled the hose to be wound or unwound at any speed. Additionally, there were a 420 feet of two-inch canvas hose, 60 feet of India-rubber hose, five lamps and lanterns, one double hydrant, five pairs of couplings, two branches with four nozzles, two keys for fire plugs and twelve red and blue uniforms for brigade members.

The opening demonstration took place on Friday, 28 April 1882 at Osmond Terrace south, where spectators included the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, Mr A.J. Baker, and Mr A. Abrahams, the Mayor of Adelaide, local councillors and leading residents of the municipality. With the exception of one hitch the company performed their duties remarkably well and displayed a large amount of judgement and discretion and the only thing that remained was whether the men, when their services were called into action, would maintain that cool judgement.

The first two years of the brigade's life were relatively uneventful and its efficiency was not put to the test until March 1884 when a serious fire broke out between Bridge and Chapel Streets at the home of an ex-Mayor, David Packham. The first alarm was given at 7 am and within 20 minutes the brigade was on the spot with their reel and promptly and vigorously set about reducing the flames. In the meantime the horses in the stable were got out with considerable difficulty, one of them being singed about the back. Some wagons were rescued but, by the time the firemen arrived, it was clear that the main sheds and contents were past saving. Had not willing hands been present to beat out every spark which descended on the ground the fire would certainly have spread with disastrous results.

A few days later Cowell Brothers' timber yard at the corner of the Parade and Sydenham Road was destroyed by fire and as this followed an incendiary attempt about a fortnight

earlier, which had been foiled by a passing market gardener, there was little doubt that it was a deliberately planned work. Further, about a month earlier Wallace's woolshed at the corner of Beulah and Sydenham Roads had been incinerated. Two more fires followed the Cowell conflagration when Alfred Clarke's haystack on Sydenham Road and a blacksmith's shop at the corner of Kent Terrace and Magill Road were destroyed.

The occurrence of five fires within sixty hours occasioned wide-spread alarm and it was reported that 'a perfect reign of terror... existed in the district' and that 'many people dreaded to go to bed at night, and sat in relays watching their premises.' A £200 reward was offered for the capture of the culprit(s), while the normally tranquil streets were patrolled by additional troopers and plain clothes constables, who had been seconded from the city forces.

It seemed as if some person or persons in Norwood and Kent Town had deliberately set themselves the diabolical task of destroying as many places of business as possible and, therefore, it was assumed that the source of the outrage was to be found in the spiteful revenge of some dismissed employee.

The courage and determination displayed by members of the brigade during this spate of fires were suitably recognised at the Town Hall in May 1884 when each of the members was given a suitably inscribed gold medal. They were presented by the Mayoress, Mrs K. St.B. Miller, and as each man mounted the platform he was greeted with a round of applause. The Mayor expressed the opinion that Englishmen carried their customs with them wherever they went and one of these was to do their duty, and that was what the brigade had done during the dreadful week of fires.

By 1893 it was known as Norwood and Saint Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade and was composed as follows: Head Station, on The Parade - Eight active members, one horse reel and appliances, one handreel and appliances and 600 feet of hose, Captain, J.W. Cossey and Lieutenant A. Hope; No. 2 Station, St Peters Branch - six active members, one handreel and appliances and 500 feet of hose, Lieutenant, W. Porter; No. 3 Station, Sydenham Road - Four active members, one handreel and appliances and 650 feet of hose, Lieutenant F.R. Steed. The secretary of the brigade was F. Colliver.

For many years the district was served by volunteers and did good work but were hampered with inefficient appliances. Finally, the time came to substitute a paid service for unpaid labour. For years the corporation had fought manfully and long to have the municipality connected with the metropolitan brigade, but in vain, and it was only when the local brigade itself became disorganised that the townspeople came round to the view of the members of the corporation who had advocated securing the services of paid men.

By early 1896 the affiliation had occurred and a new fire station was opened nearly opposite the town hall on 13 May 1896. It was connected by telephone with the Adelaide headquarters and alarms were placed at Allen's Corner, at Cowell's Corner, at the corner of William and Elizabeth Streets and in High Street, Kensington, opposite to the Rising Sun Hotel. Thus, if a fire broke out help would be sent from Adelaide.

Early in 1899 members of the Fire Brigades Board, which included the Mayor of Kensington and Norwood, Mr A. Binks, paid a visit to suburban stations. Norwood was the first place of call and as the drag jogged on past the station the occupants were somewhat startled by someone thundering forth sonorously, 'Are you there? Call of fire from The Parade'.

A couple of men were outside painting, but recognising that voice they, with one accord, dropped paint brushes, bells were set ringing, a stable door flew open, a grey horse called

'Sailor' took up place in the shafts of the reel, and ere 15 seconds had elapsed 'Sailor' was galloping in great style to the scene of an imaginary fire.

Directly he was freed the old grey trotted proudly back to his box and seemed anxious to have another turn out. One or two improvements were suggested and a note was taken. After an adjournment to the Mayor's parlour the horses' heads were turned towards Unley, where another alarm was raised.

1861

**Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 20 April 1861, page 4**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

On Friday morning the Coroner, Dr. Woodforde, instituted an enquiry, at the Alma Hotel, Norwood, into the origin of a fire which consumed two shops in the Sydenham-road early on the previous morning.

Mr. R. Wells was chosen Foreman of the Jury which was empanelled, and the following evidence was taken:— Georg Heinrich Schroder, carpenter, said the premises destroyed by fire belonged to him, and were in his possession. Slept in one of the upper apartments with three of his children. Went to bed about half-past 10 the same night. Woke up towards morning and saw the room lighted up. Got out of bed to ascertain the cause, and discovered through an opening near the ceiling that the adjoining room was on fire. Only had time to save himself and family, and call Mr. Randell, a next-door neighbour, before the fire, which began upstairs, had spread throughout the building. Had been working during his spare time in the room where the fire commenced. The house was not finished, and the floor of the room mentioned was covered with shavings, none of which he had ever taken away. Was in the room for the last time on Wednesday morning about 7 o'clock, when he warmed some glue in the fireplace with a fire made of shavings. Was in a hurry to get to his day's work, and could not say if the fire was out when he left. Did not lock the door, so that the children could have gone into the room and played there. There were some matches on the mantelpiece, with one of which he lit the fire in the morning. There was a slate slab, but no fender, before the fire, and there may have been some shavings on the slab. Some timber and tools, value about 17/., which were left in the room, were consumed by the fire. The premises were worth 900/., and were insured for 500/. The room below the one where the fire began had been occupied by Mr. Randell as a dancing-room. The last dance was held on Tuesday evening.

By the Foreman—There was no communication between the room in which he slept and that in which the fire broke out, nothing but the trap hole near the ceiling. Could not say why, if the fire was in the further room when he went to bed, he did not smell it or notice any smoke from it through the opening in question; had been suffering from a cold. Had never stated that he was in the room of the fire so late as 10 o'clock. He went to the room underneath in the evening, to help Mr. Randell take his harmonium out.

By the Coroner—There was an harmonium, but no other furniture, in the dancing-room belonging to Mr. Randell. At Mr. Randell's request assisted him to remove the harmonium in his dwelling on Wednesday evening, about half-past 6. It had been there about a month. Mr. Randell said it was too cold for him to play. When he went to re-move the harmonium he had a lighted candle, which was carried away afterwards. The doors of that part of the house were always unlocked, so that any person might have gone in during the night. The street door was locked, but the one leading to the yard was not. The key was left in the lock, so that Mr. Randell as well as himself might go in. Heated the glue upstairs because the pot was there and his wife was using the fire below. The shavings on the floor had been accumulating about five months. The only work he did upstairs was towards finishing the house.

Mr. Tapley, who attended with Mr. Linklater on behalf of the South Australian Insurance Company, put several questions to the witness but nothing material was elicited, the witness stating that he had never used the upstairs room for the general purposes of a workshop.

John Randell, superintendent at the Waterworks, said he was at home all day on Wednesday. Lived in one of Mr. Schroder's cottages at the back of the premises which were burnt. Had occupied the lower room of the house where the fire occurred. Had a dancing party there on Easter Monday. A few of his friends spent the evening there, and danced on Tuesday night. The harmonium was not kept constantly there, having been removed several times during the present month. Mr. Schroder was not working upstairs at any time during Wednesday evening. Was roused by Mr. Schroder calling out fire. Soon afterwards saw flames shoot up from the roof, and then Mr. Wells came and helped him to move his furniture.

Mr. Schroder's wife and little girl were examined, and corroborated the evidence already given as to the time and manner in which the fire was first observed.

The Coroner went over the evidence, and said this was another of those cases in which everything was mystery as far as the origin of the fire was concerned and no doubt the Jury would see the desirability of returning a verdict to that effect.

The Foreman thought they could do nothing else; but at the same time they must not lose sight of the fact that in whatever way the fire originated, the evidence of Mr. Schroder himself showed that he had acted with gross negligence in allowing five months' accumulation of shavings to remain in an upstairs room, and in leaving these with other inflammable things close to the hearth where he had used a fire, and where he had left it without seeing in what state it was.

The Coroner was fully of the same opinion. Schroder's negligence was most culpable, and he had no right to use the room referred to in anyway as a workshop (if he had done so), since it was not insured for that purpose. The Jury, after a short consultation, returned the following verdict:— "That there is nothing to show how the fire originated, though Mr. Schroder's evidence leads to the conclusion that he was guilty of great neglect in leaving fire in a room where there was a large accumulation of shavings and a considerable quantity of dry wood."

In the course of the enquiry the Jury inspected the scene of the recent fire, when it was noticed that a portion of the wall left standing was in a very dangerous state, and liable to be blown down upon the passers-by at the first strong wind. The Coroner, therefore, directed the mounted policeman present to inform the authorities of the matter, for the purpose of seeing that the Insurance Company interested either made the walls safe or pulled them down.

1867

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 11 January 1867, page 2***

Strange Accident through Kerosene.— We are informed that on New Year's morning a strange but at the same time serious accident happened to Mr. E. Robinson, bootmaker, Parade, Norwood. He and his apprentice were busy about 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning finishing a pair of boots for a customer. The shop was lighted with a kerosene lamp of very large size, such as is generally used for lighting shop windows. It contained about a quart of oil at the time, and had been removed from its ordinary position—suspended from the roof—to the counter. Mr. Robinson, in course of his work, turned round to lay his hand on something when a sharp report like that of a gun was heard. The next thing he saw was the counter in a sheet of flame, which soon spread over the room, and even along the roof. His assistant was covered in front with the burning oil, and Mr. Robinson himself, though not conscious of it for a time, was similarly covered behind. He rushed first into the bedroom for a blanket, but the

baby being on the bed he was afraid to go near it, and turned and ran into a neighbouring house. Here there was no person at home, but Mr. Robinson went into the back yard expecting to find water. Again he was disappointed, and had to rush else-where, his trousers being still in flames. In a few minutes several persons were attracted to the spot, and rendered the best assistance they could. Dr. Benson was sent for, and on his arrival used prompt measures for the relief of both sufferers. When the fire had been extinguished and an examination made of its effects a wonderful scene presented itself. Mr. Robinson's trousers were completely burned off behind, and his legs frightfully scorched, as well as the hips and abdomen. In front the trousers were also burned, but not so seriously. The apprentice was still more unfortunate, as his injuries were in front and higher up than those of Mr. Robinson. The lamp was broken into a thousand fragments, but strange to say the chimney was found in a corner of the room perfectly whole. A pair of boots which had been standing on the counter before the accident disappeared, and in their place was found a fragment of shrivelled leather. The flooring and walls of the shop were of course seriously damaged. The two sufferers have been ever since in very great agony, but under Dr. Benson's care they are recovering. Both of them assert that the lamp was not touched while on the counter, and that the oil had not been in it more than an hour and a half; consequently the oil must have been of an inferior quality. We understand that a sample of it is to be sent to the Rev. Mr. Maughan for examination. That gentleman has kindly informed us of a simple test for these oils now so extensively used. A few drops should be heated to about 145° (which is the ordinary heat obtained in burning), and then a lighted match quickly applied. If the oil takes fire, it has been distilled at too low a temperature, and is therefore unsafe. If it does not take fire, there will be no danger whatever in using it.

1871

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 6 July 1871, page 2***

Latest News.

FIRE.—On Wednesday evening, July 5, a fire occurred at Mr. George Splay's house, Gurr-street, North Kensington. The residents were not at home, but by the prompt assistance of neighbours all the furniture was saved, although the front portion of the building was completely destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown, and an inquest will be held at the Globe Hotel, Kensington, to-day, at 4 p.m.

***South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 8 July 1871, page 9***

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

Mr. T. Ward, J.P., held an enquiry at the Globe Hotel, Kensington, into the circumstances in connection with a fire which broke out on the previous evening at a house be-longing to Mr. George Spray. Mr. W. Whitehorn was chosen foreman of the Jury. Mr. R. E. Tapley, Secretary of the South Australian Insurance Company, watched the proceedings on behalf of the Company. The house — which was almost totally destroyed — having been viewed, the following evidence was adduced :— George Ransom, bootmaker, North Kensington, said between half-past 10 and 11 o'clock on the previous evening he saw from his own house fire at Mr. Spray's premises, and on going to it he noticed that the fire was burning at the back of the house in a little wash-house. The flames were communicating with the roof of the front rooms, and before he could procure assistance, a considerable portion of the roof was on fire. Procured the assistance of Charles Still, E. Brambell, Henry Pound, and J. Rowlands, neighbors, who got out of bed and came immediately. No one was in the house when he got there, and when he procured assistance he forced open a window in one of the front rooms, and, with the gentlemen mentioned, endeavored, to save the furniture. About 12 o'clock Mr.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

and Mrs. Spray arrived in a spring-cart, and when told that the house was nearly burnt down, the old gentleman said :— "For God's sake, what shall we do?" Mrs. Spray was much alarmed, and made enquiries as to how the fire originated. Mr. Spray assisted to save the furniture. Heard no remarks as to the cause of the fire. Did not think it was usual to have a fire in the wash-house, except in summer time. Knew of no one having any ill-feeling against Mr. Spray. Never went into the wash-house. The roof of it had fallen in when he returned with assistance. Heard nothing of a cash-box having been removed, and removed nothing himself from the bed-room. Everything appeared in its right place and he did not notice the remains of anything like a fire in any of the rooms. Charles Still, in the employ of Mr. Spray, but not living on the premises, deposed to having been called out of bed by the last witness. When he arrived the fire was principally in the north-eastern corner of the wash-house. The front door of the house was locked, but he found admittance to one of the rooms by another door. Found no one in or near the house when he arrived, and had heard no one express ill-feeling against Mr. Spray. Believed the fire originated in the wash-house. Thought there was no door to it. Mrs. Spray told him after the fire that her cashbox, with money, was missing, but she could not say how it had gone. Left the house between 5 and 6 o'clock, Mrs. Spray alone remaining. Mr. Spray was in great distress of mind about the fire. Henry Pound deposed to having been called to the fire, and corroborated the evidence of the previous witnesses. George Spray, carter, and owner of the premises, said he left home about 8.30 o'clock, and went to Norwood, locking up, but leaving no one in the house. Left a small fire burning in the kitchen, Returned home about 11 o'clock with his wife, and a lodger. The house and furniture were insured in the South Australian Insurance office for £400. Had no idea whatever how the fire originated. Did not know any one who had any ill-feeling against him. Had £23 11s in a tin cash-box in a bed-room next to the washhouse. Did not know who emptied the bedroom. The bedroom door was not locked. There was no fire in the wash-house when he left, and it had not been customary to have one there. There was a door to the wash-house, but it was not locked. Fire-wood and other odd things were in the wash-house, but he was not aware if there was any kerosine. Had never quarrelled with any of his neighbors. Sarah Spray, wife of the last witness, deposed to having left home in the afternoon to visit a friend, and to having been called for by her husband, who spent the evening with her from home. Had no idea as to the cause of fire, and could not suspect any one of having set fire to the house. Could not find the cash-box and the £23, which was in notes. There was firewood in the wash-house, but no kerosine. She and her husband were not frequently absent from home together ; but when they left home it was their custom to lock all the doors, which was done on this occasion. Alexander Thomas Cockburn corroborated the evidence of Ransom and Still as to the general appearance of the premises after the fire was first observed. He drew attention to the fact that he noticed a couple of kerosine tins near the firewood in the wash-house, where, in his opinion, the fire originated. The Coroner, in summing up, said he thought they could safely infer that the fire originated in the wash-house, but the circumstances were invested with great mystery, and he thought there was no evidence pointing to any individual concerned. After a brief retirement, the Jury returned a verdict that "the Jury consider that there is not sufficient evidence to show how the fire originated ; but it is their opinion that it is the act of an incendiary." The Coroner concurred with the decision of the Jury, and said of course the police, upon the strength of the verdict, would still make enquiries as to the cause of the fire.

1875

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 7 October 1875, page 3***

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At a late hour last night or early this morning a fire broke out in the wine stores of Mr. Daniel Fisher, Osmond-terrace, Norwood. At about midnight the flames were noticed by several persons in the city, and it was at first thought that the fire was in Adelaide, but as the glare



increased it was evident that the affair was in one of the eastern suburbs not far distant. Several police-troopers under the charge of Corporal Cate at once proceeded to the scene, and it was found that the buildings formerly used for storing wine in the vineyard of Mr. Fisher were totally enveloped in flames, and that it was an impossibility to rescue any portion of them from entire destruction. The premises consisted of two concrete cellars, one 66 feet x 24 feet, having a wooden structure erected over it, while the other, the dimensions of which were 40 feet x 24 feet, was surmounted by substantial masonry walls, with a wooden roof. Perhaps owing to the fact that shortly before the last general election Mr. Fisher embraced Good Templar principles there was no stock in either of the erections. Mr. Fisher is at present on Yorke's Peninsula, and we are informed that he had before leaving locked the stores and taken the keys with him. The origin of the fire is therefore purely a matter of conjecture. The flames were first discovered in the stone building. They quickly spread throughout the whole premises. Soon the roofs and floors fell in, leaving in the cellars a burning mass to exhaust itself. Fortunately the stores are a considerable distance from any other buildings, and the vegetation in the vineyard being quite green the fire was confined to the limits we have mentioned. A water-main passes along Osmond-terrace, but as the only hose available was but 25 feet in length, the water could not be brought in to play. The only portable property in the stores were a few carpenter's and vineyard tools and some minor articles. We believe that the property was partially insured, but to what extent we have been unable to learn.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 16 October 1875, page 4***

INQUEST ON A FIRE AT NORWOOD.

On Friday evening, October 8, an inquest was held by Mr. W. C. Buik, J.P., at the Gold Diggers' Arms, Norwood, in reference to the fire which occurred on Wednesday night at the vineyard of Mr. D. Fisher, and destroyed a wine store and cellars. Mr. J. Cockburn was Foreman of the Jury, and Mr. B. M. Steele attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, the office in which the premises were insured for £320. It appeared that the first person to observe the conflagration was a youth named Herman Schrader, who on passing the premises about 20 minutes to 12 o'clock on Wednesday night noticed a flame issuing from the roof in the northern portion of the store. On approaching the building he saw that the fire was securing a hold on the roof, and he at once aroused the inmates of Mr. Fisher's house. This gentleman's sons immediately got up. The fire had then such a mastery over the building that it was impossible to prevent its spreading, as the place was chiefly wooden. Mr. Walter Fisher being concerned about the stable, which contained a quantity of straw and hay, played upon it with a hose kept on the premises, which, however, was too short to be of service in suppressing the flames. A number of persons was attracted to the scene, and a Waterworks hose was obtained and attached to the fire-plug in Edwards-street, but it was also too short to bring the water into play, and the fire was allowed to exhaust itself, as all efforts to save anything were unavailing. There was no stock in the building, and only a few carpenters' tools and small articles. Mr. Fisher, who had been away from home for about ten days, had locked the store and taken the keys with him. It seemed that no one had been in the building since the owner left. None of the witnesses could give any idea as to the cause of the occurrence. Boys were sometimes playing about the vineyard ; but Mr. D. Fisher, jun., said he could not account for the fire unless it had been caused through mischief or spite, as about a month ago a galvanized store belonging to Mr. Fisher was overturned. A reward of £10 was offered for the apprehension of the offenders. The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that they believed the place was set on fire by some person or persons unknown.

1876

Sunday 3rd December. Fire at Norwood. Bath Hotel

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 4 December 1876, page 2***

## GENERAL NEWS.

A fire took place in the Lodge room of the Bath Hotel, Norwood, at about 3 a.m., on Sunday, December 3. The fire was discovered by a lodger sleeping in a detached building, who immediately aroused the inmates, and the alarm was given to the Norwood police, and afterwards to the Adelaide Mounted police. Benbow's No. 2 Reel (Hindley Street West station) was soon in attendance, and in about an hour the flames were got under. The building, however, was completely gutted, and the roof of a shed at the back was burnt. The building was insured in the Equitable Fire Insurance Company. No information as to how the fire originated has yet transpired. An inquest will be held at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.



Location of the Bath Hotel 1876. Map from the Sands and McDougall South Australian Directory for 1892.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 4 December 1876, page 2***

FIRE.—On Sunday morning, December 3, a fire broke out at the Bath Hotel, Norwood. A lodger (Mr. R. T. Knight) was awakened about half-past 2 a.m. by a crackling noise, and on looking out of his bedroom window saw flames just breaking out of the roof of an outbuilding which is used as a lodgeroom and stables. He rushed out and tried to break in the door and get inside, but was unable to do so. He then alarmed some neighbours, and with their assistance managed to keep the flames from the main premises. About an hour after the discovery of the fire, No. 2 reel under the superintendence of Mr. Benbow, and also a body of troopers, arrived on the spot and the fire was then soon extinguished. The place, which, we understand is insured, was completely gutted, and the damage done is estimated at about £500. A policeman passed the place at 2 o'clock and everything then seemed all right. An inquest will be held to-day.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 6 December 1876, page 7***

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

## FIRE AT NORWOOD.

An inquest was held at the Bath Hotel, Norwood, on Tuesday, December 5, by Mr. T. Ward, J.P. city coroner; before a jury of 13, of whom Mr. John Bricknell was chosen foreman. The enquiry was into the circumstances attending the fire which occurred in the lodgeroom of the

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Bath Hotel on the morning of Sunday December 2. Mr. A. Abrahams, secretary of the Equitable Insurance Company, watched the case on behalf of that company. The following evidence was taken.— Radford Troy Knight, grocer, of Norwood, slept at the Bath Hotel on Saturday night. He went to bed about 8 o'clock, and was awakened about half-past 2 by the noise of some one apparently rapping at his door. He asked who was there, and immediately heard the crackling of flames, and saw the light of a fire. He looked out of the door, and saw that the lodgeroom was on fire. He went back and partly dressed himself. He went out and threw some pebbles on the roof of the public-house to waken the inmates. He raised a cry of fire, and rushed to the lodgeroom door, which he found unlocked, but closed. The two folding doors inside the porch were open. The whole building inside appeared to be one mass of flames, and he could not get inside. He came out and closed the outside door of the lodge room. He tried to get some buckets, but could not succeed in doing so. Knowing that the bath was full of water he broke the door of the bathroom open, but found no buckets there. He then saw Albert Whitehorn, and told him to rouse up the inmates, while he went to awaken the neighbors. He called up Mr. Pound and others living on the Parade. He found several people at the fire on his return, and saw one of his cousins on the roof. He did all he could to stop the progress of the flames, but found no good could be done. There was a slight wind, and they tried to keep the flames away from the rest of the hotel. They had been working three quarters of an hour when the fire brigade came. He had no idea as to how the fire originated. He was not aware that the lodgeroom had been opened on Saturday evening. They had started playing skittles in the skittle alley when he went to bed, but he did not know how the alley was lighted. When he first saw the fire the skylight had just fallen in, and the flames were coming out of the lodgeroom, but the roof had not fallen. He believed that the floor, tables, and chairs were all burning at that time. The whole of the flames were confined to the lodgeroom. The stable and skittle-alley caught fire afterward. The fire did not originate in the skittle alley. The windows of the lodge-room on the side of the skittle alley were blocked up with bricks. Could not say whether the floor of the lodgeroom was sound or not. Albert Whitehorn, draper, residing at Norwood, deposed that he slept at the Bath Hotel last Saturday night, and about 3 o'clock he heard some glass smashing and the crackling of flames. He knew that there must be a fire some where and so got up. He then heard Mr. Knight calling fire, and Mr. Knight told him to rouse the inmates while he called the neighbors. He called his brother, who got up, as did all the others in the house. They tried to put out the fire. He saw the flames bursting out of the skylight of the lodgeroom. He assisted in putting out the flames by handing up buckets of water to his brother, who threw them on the flames. His brother, the landlady, the two servants, Mr. Knight, and some of the residents were assisting to put the fire out. He looked into the lodgeroom, and everything in it was in flames. Had no idea how the fire originated. It was a few minutes past 11 when he went to bed. There was no lodge meeting on Saturday night, and during the evening no light was visible in the room. There was a light, and persons were playing in the skittle alley that evening. By jurors—He could not say whether there was any straw in the skittle alley; there was a mattress there, but he could not say of what it was composed. The lamp was turned out when the skittle playing was discontinued. William Whitehorn, barman, Norwood, deposed that he was brother of the last witness. He went to bed about 12 o'clock on Saturday evening. He saw that the door of the lodge-room was closed before he went to bed, and after that he shut the gates. There was then no signs of a fire. There had been no lodge meeting in the room that evening, nor any company. No one could go in there and smoke without his knowledge, and he did not think that any one went in there on Saturday. People never went in there to drink and smoke, although they might do so if they chose. He would take in drinks if the landlady gave permission for people to go in the room on other than lodge nights. He believed that the fire started in the lodgeroom. It appeared when he got up, at about 3 o'clock, after being called by his brother, that the centre of the lodgeroom had been burnt. When he got up he went for some buckets, and assisted to put out the flames. He fancied that the fire started from the

floor in consequence of what his brother had told him. He put the lamp out in the skittle-alley, and the lamp was still there as he had left it. The fire could not have originated in the skittle alley, as it would have taken the roof of the lodgeroom first, there being no other way for the fire to get into the room. No one could have been in the room unless it was after they went to bed. There were no holes in the floor, which was good and substantial. He could not say whether the washhouse on the east side of the room had been used on Satur-day. There was no opening on the eastern side previous to the fire, the door there being blocked up. There was a slight wind from the S.S.E. There was an opening in the roof between the skittle alley and the lodgeroom. The roof of the lodgeroom was of shingles, and was ceiled with lath and plaster. He did not know that any bad feeling existed towards the landlady. He had never heard of any remarks of that character, either in the bar or elsewhere. The lodgeroom was last used on Friday night. He believed that persons were smoking in it. Albert Whitehorn, recalled, stated that he was in the lodgeroom on Friday night. The Kensington Junior Athletic club had a meet-ing there. Some of those present were smoking pipes; but on being requested to put them out they did so. There was no drinking. Mortimer Burman, storekeeper, of Norwood, deposed that he was at the Bath Hotel on Saturday evening, about 20 minutes to 11. He left about five minutes past 11, and fancied that he smelt fire. He and his companion both felt their pockets to see if they were on fire; but finding that such was not the case, they went home. Margaret yon Allworden, of the Bath Hotel, Norwood, said she did not notice any one smoking in the lodgeroom on Saturday evening. No one ever smoke or drank in the lodge-room except on lodge nights. There was a meeting in the room on Friday evening; but she did not know whether there was any one smoking in it. When closing the bar on Satur-day she looked towards the lodgeroom, and supposed it to be all right. There was a light in the skittle alley. She had not the slightest idea how the fire originated. The furniture, with the exception of some lodge property, be-longed to her. She had not heard particulars of the losses sustained by the lodgers. The room was insured for £150 by her trustees, in the Equitable Insurance Company. She did not think that any one had an ill-feeling to-wards her, as she had only been a short time in Norwood. The coroner then gave a brief review of the facts of the case, and the jury after a short consultation returned the following verdict: "That there is no evidence to show how the fire originated."

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 14 December 1876, page 3***

#### MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD, DEC. 13.

Present—The Mayor (Mr. S. D. Glyde), Coun-cillors Knowles, Heanes, Taylor, Wigg, Lugg, Dew, Packham, and Gooden.

#### MAYOR'S REPORTS.

His WORSHIP stated that since the last meeting a fire had occurred in Norwood, and great delay had taken place in extinguishing it because of the absence of any hose. The Council had about a year ago applied to the Insurance Companies, asking them to provide and locate a hose in Norwood, but their application had not been granted. There were several fireplugs in the different wards, but without a hose they were useless. He was happy to say that there was now a chance of remedying this evil, as the Insurance Companies had stated their willingness to pay one-third of the cost of a hose. The Government would pay a third, and it would remain for the Council to pay the other third, which would be about £55. It would be for the Council to decide whether they would pay this sum or not.

1877

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 13 January 1877, page 7***

## THE WEEK'S NEWS.

THE FIRE AT MAGILL.—An inquest was held at Magill on Friday, January 12, by Mr. T. Ward, the City Coroner, on a fire that broke out in a hedge, the property of Mr. E. W. Wright, of Magill. Mr. D. J. Strongman was chosen Foreman of the Jury. Thomas Honeywill, labourer, of Magill, said—About 7.30 p.m. on January 9, noticed black smoke, and on going towards Mr. Hack's place saw that Mr. Wright's fence was on fire. Thought Mr. Hack's place was in danger, as the road was narrow. Got water, and with Mr. Hack's assistance helped to put the fire out. Do not know how it originated, and was not aware of any strangers being about that evening. Charles Hack, clerk, stated that on Tuesday evening seeing heavy black smoke near his house went over to it, and on the road met his servant, Ellen Bartleet, who said a fire had broken out in Mr. Wright's furze hedge, and that she had seen two men running away. Ran into Mr. Robinson's paddock to try and see the men, but was unsuccessful. With the assistance of a number of neighbours put the fire out in about a quarter of an hour. Thought the men in lighting their pipes might have thrown a lighted lucifer into the rank grass adjoining the hedge, and seeing what they had done had run away. People were in the habit of passing alongside the hedge. His house was in danger. At the time of the fire there was a light easterly wind. If it had been blowing from the south more damage would have been done, and probably destroyed the property of several householders. Ellen Bartleet, servant, deposed that on Tuesday evening about 7.45 she heard two men talking, but did not then see them, and afterwards heard a noise as if some thing was burning. On going out saw that Mr. Wright's fence was on fire. Saw two men running towards Mrs. Penfold's. They looked young and rather short, and one had a low hat with white on it, and the other had a light coat on. Their backs were towards her. Had no idea who they were. About five minutes had elapsed after the talking before she saw the fire. Edward W. Wright, architect, said he assisted to put out the fire in his hedge. Had the wind been south he would have lost the fruit of 400 vines and a great deal more of the fence. The Coroner in summing up the evidence commented strongly upon the careless way in which some smokers threw down lighted matches after lighting their pipes, and said probably the fire originated in that manner. If the wind had been blowing from the south he had no doubt but that a great deal of damage would have been done to the small householders in the neighbourhood. He thought it was quite right an enquiry had been made, and he hoped the police would do their best to find out the two men, as no doubt the fire had originated through their carelessness. The Jury without retiring found— "That there is no evidence to show the origin of the fire, but that strong suspicion is attached to the two men who were seen running away just after the fire broke out."

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 4 January 1877, page 2***

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD, JAN. 3.

Councillor TAYLOR intimated that he would move at the next meeting of the Council that this Council consider the advisability or otherwise of procuring a fire-reel.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 18 January 1877, page 3***

## KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17.

With regard to obtaining a fire-reel, he stated that the officer who had attended the fire at the Bath Hotel had been requested to resign in consequence of his having exceeded his duties in attending a fire out of the bounds of the city. If this were the case they could not expect any

assistance, from Adelaide in future should it be required, therefore the necessity of procuring a fire-reel for the municipality was all the more apparent. He had received an offer of a fire-engine from the Cornwall Fire Insurance Company, on the condition that it should be properly kept, and he advised the Council to accept the offer.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

Councillor TAYLOR moved that a fire reel should be provided for use in the municipality. An amendment that Mr. A. J. Baker be requested to have an interview with the Council on the subject was carried.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 10 February 1877, page 20***

#### KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31.

Present—The Mayor (Mr. S. D. Glyde), and Crs. Gooden, Lugg, Taylor, Heanes, Knowles, Wigg, and Packham.

Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigades, Adelaide, attended at the invitation of the Council in reference to the cost and the arrangements necessary to be made for the purchase of a fire-reel. He stated the cost of a horse-reel would be £40 and for a hand-reel £25 ; the maintenance without fires occurring would be about £8 per annum, and in case of a fire of three hours' duration happening about £6 or £7 extra. He advised, if they resolved to purchase a reel, that a horse-reel be obtained, as it could be more conveniently transferred than a hand-reel. Mr. Baker was asked as to the pressure obtainable in the different parts of Kensington and Norwood. He replied that at any time in case of fire full pressure could be put on into Kensington and Norwood pipes, as he was in telegraphic communication with the Water-works authorities, and he intimated that any information the Council might require he would gladly supply. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Baker for his kindness in waiting upon the Council, and for his very valuable information on the subject in question.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 16 February 1877, page 1***

#### GENERAL NEWS.

Several Councillors of the Kensington and Norwood Corporation, and others resident in that municipality, having expressed an opinion that the pressure of water was not sufficient for the purpose of extinguishing a fire by means of a fireman's hose. Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of Fire Brigades, turned out No. 1 reel about half-past 6 on Friday morning, with three firemen, and visited Norwood and Kensington. The first fire-plug tried was near the Marryatville Hotel, and the water was ejected to a distance of 30 feet. The plug in front of Mr. Glyde's house was tried, with a result of 36 feet. In High-street, near Mr. Howitt's, the water was thrown 56 feet, and in front of the Town Hall, on the Parade, a distance of 75 feet was reached. These distances were attained without any alteration of the ordinary pressure. In case of fire an extra pressure can always be obtained by giving notice to the Government Superintendent of Mains, Mr. C. Seymour, at the Valve House, Hackney-road.

***Taken from Geoffrey H. Manning A Colonial Experience***

Following the installation of a water supply, fire plugs were installed one being near the Marryatville Hotel, the second in front of Lavington Glyde's residence, the third near Mr Howitt's bakery and another in front of the Town Hall. They were tested for available water pressure in February 1877 when water was thrown from distances of 30 to 75 feet, while the

council was informed that, in case of fire, extra pressure could be laid on by applying to Charles Seymour, the Government Superintendent of Mains, who lived at Valve House on Hackney Road.

1878

**Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 11 May 1878, page 20**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Mr. W. C. Buik, J.P., held an inquest at the Alma Hotel on Monday morning, May 6, on the fire which occurred on Saturday evening, May 4, and destroyed a house on Osmond-terrace, Norwood, occupied by a widow named Ann Kinnaely and her children. Mr. W. Brooker was chosen Foreman of the Jury. Mr. S. Higgs attended on behalf of the South Australian Insurance Company, in which Company the house was insured for £200. The house was mortgaged to the Manchester Union Lodge, which had insured the mortgage also in the South Australian Insurance Company's Office for £70. The furniture was insured in the Adelaide Marine Insurance Company for £100. From the evidence of Mrs. Kinnaely it appeared that she left the house at about 7 o'clock on Saturday evening; then everything was secure, and the doors were locked and the key hang up under the verandah out of reach. There was a small fire burning in the grate, and there were papers and lucifers in the kitchen cupboard. There had been two fires in the house some time before, but neither was very serious. Bartholomew Kinnaely, a nephew of Mrs. Kinnaely, nine years of age, gave his evidence in a very straightforward manner. He stated that on returning to his aunt's house on Saturday evening he went to the back door and tried to get in, but while doing so he looked through a crack in the door and saw a man inside, who threw a jug of water or milk over him. He then ran and told Mrs. Lynch, a neighbour, what had happened, and returned to the house with her. On their return they found the door still fastened, and on looking in saw that there was a dense smoke issuing from the little bedroom. Cries of "Fire" brought several men to the spot, amongst the first to arrive being Alfred Lancaster, who stated in his evidence that when he came to the house he found one of the side windows open and smoke issuing from the room. As he could not get in there he went to the back and burst open the door. He then found a jug about three feet from the door. Thinking there might be children in the house, he crawled in to look, but on being told that there were none in there he turned back and handed out a table, two mattresses, and a stool. When he got into the house there was no fire in the back of the house, but dense clouds of smoke were issuing from the right-hand front room. Witness afterwards got on the roof and assisted to put the fire out. James Foody, hearing cries of "Fire," ran to the house as fast as he could, and Mrs. Galvin burst open the front door and rushed in. There were no flames in the bedroom, but in the corner of the other front room the flames were going up from some shavings on a shelf to the ceiling, and thence to the roof, which was burning so fiercely that he expected every minute the ceiling would be down. There was no fire underneath the shelf, and he could see no means by which the shavings could have been set alight. Nicholas Koster said that at five minutes to 9 o'clock on the evening in question young Kinnaely told him their house was on fire, and on being asked who set it on fire he said he didn't know, but that a man had thrown a jug of milk or water over him. Witness also corroborated Foody's evidence as to where the fire was burning. Ann Kinnaely, on being re-examined, said the jug mentioned had been broken some days before. She said she was certain there were no shavings in the front room when she went away on Saturday evening. She did not keep them there, but kept them in a corner of the yard. About a month ago Mrs. McMahon, one of her neighbours, had said to her, "You have had burnings before, and I hope you will have them again." She said this on account of one of witness's cows getting into her garden. She, however, did not think Mrs. McMahon would harm her. Mrs. McMahon being called, denied having used the words alleged, but said she had said that she knew how to take care of her children better than Mrs. Kinnaely did, or the latter would not

have had an inquest, referring to the time when one of Mrs. Kinnaely's children had been burnt. Witness also stated that she and her husband had assisted to put out the fire. The Coroner having summed up, the Jury returned the following verdict:—"That Mrs. Kinnaely's house was wilfully set on fire by some person or persons unknown."

1879

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 9 December 1879, page 1***

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8.

Present — His Worship the Mayor (Mr. D. Packham, J.P.), Councillors Bennets, Benson, Caterer, Pappin, Dew, Born, Heanes, Threlfall, and the Town Clerk (Mr. B. Moulden).

CORRESPONDENCE.

From A. J. Baker, Superintendent of Fire Brigades, stating that he had been instructed by the Adelaide Fire Insurers' Association to call their attention to the danger arising to the town by the unprotected state of a sawmill engine and boiler on Mr. Cowell, the builder's premises. The iron chimney flue had no spark catcher to it, and he was informed that already on two occasions the grass in the neighbourhood had been set on fire by sparks. Mr. Baker also asked whether the Council intended to have a fire-reel and hose at Norwood, as protection against fires during the summer. On the motion of Councillor Dew, seconded by Councillor Heanes, it was decided that the matter should stand over till next meeting; the Overseer to report.

1881

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 25 January 1881, page 3***

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD CORPORATION.

Monday, January 24.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Thos. Caterer), and Crs. Threlfall, Bennets, Pappin, Barbe-Miller, Benson, Dew, and Born, and the town clerk (Mr. J. Letchford).

A. J. Baker wrote, forwarding particulars as to the cost of a fire-brigade for the municipality. To be acknowledged, and Mr. Baker thanked for his information.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 28 June 1881, page 4***

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD,

MONDAY, JUNE 27.

Present — The Mayor (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.), Councillors Threlfall, Dew, Heanes, Pappin, Bennets, Born, and the Town Clerk (Mr. J. Letchford).

A letter had been received from a person with reference to establishing a Fire Brigade. This last question was afterwards discussed by the Councillors, but the mode in which the gentleman wished the brigade to be formed did not meet with approval; and on the motion of Councillor Dew, seconded by Councillor Born, it was resolved that the question be not considered in its present aspect.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 9 August 1881, page 2***



KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.— An adjourned meeting to determine whether the above corps shall be organized independently of, or in connection with the Government system is convened for Thursday evening next.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 11 August 1881, page 4***

A meeting is to be held to-night in the Norwood Town Hall to consider upon what basis the proposed local Fire Brigade shall be established.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August. A meeting to form a Fire brigade in Norwood.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 12 August 1881, page 2***

GENERAL NEWS.

An adjourned public meeting of rate-payers of Norwood and Kensington was held in the town hall, Norwood, on Thursday evening, August 11, to determine whether the proposed local fire brigade should be established on a purely volunteer basis, or in connection with the Government system. There were about thirty persons present, and His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Caterer, J.P.), occupied the chair. His Worship having explained the object of the meeting, said although people might say that fires were so very uncommon in the municipality he did not consider that this fact lessened the necessity for a fire brigade in any way. If a fire brigade was formed the Fire Insurance Companies Association would find two-thirds of the cost. One strong point in its favor was the fact that the insurance premiums would be lessened something like 20 per cent., and that was a very great consideration. (Hear, hear.) He considered that Norwood and Kensington were greatly behind the times when such towns as Gawler, Glanville, Kapunda, and Glenelg possessed fire brigades. In Victoria the fire brigades were very much carried on under the volunteer system. He understood that the cost of the plant and uniform for a brigade would be something like £100. Councillor Threlfall endorsed his Worship's remarks, and said that one gentleman had told him that if a fire brigade was established on the voluntary principle he knew that he could easily raise £100. He thought that the brigade should be under the control of the corporation. After some further remarks Councillor Threlfall proposed "That it is desirable to form a fire brigade in the municipality." The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Mr. Thompson, a gentleman, lately arrived from Ballarat, and who has had great experience in the neighboring colony in fire brigades, then came forward at the call of His Worship, and explained the working of volunteer fire brigades in Ballarat. He said that he believed the plant of the fire brigades there was worth at least £2,000, and spoke at length on the advantages that accrued from the voluntary system. Mr. A. J. Diamond proposed—"That the fire brigade be formed in Norwood under the voluntary system." Mr. Buttery seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. It was then decided that a committee be formed consisting of the following gentlemen:—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.), Councillors Threlfall and Heanes, and Messrs. A. J. Diamond, T. Ainslie Caterer, B.A., Thompson, Kippist, Buttery, and Pitman, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of raising subscriptions and organising the matter. After votes of thanks had been passed to His Worship the Mayor and Mr. Thompson for the interest they had taken in the matter the meeting terminated.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 5 December 1881, page 5***

The Advertiser

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1881.

A small fire occurred on the premises of Mr. Berry, who lives in Queen-street, Nor-wood, on Sunday morning. December 4. By some means a kangaroo hedge, which surrounds his

property, caught fire, and the heat being intense and the hedge dry, the fire spread rapidly. Fortunately assistance was at hand, and the hedge being lighted at the other end the flames met, and were speedily put out. Very little damage was done, but had the wind being blowing from the east instead of from the opposite direction the consequences might have been more serious.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 6 December 1881, page 4***

Fire at Norwood.— On Sunday afternoon a fire occurred on some vacant land in Charles-street, Norwood, belonging to Mr. B. A. Moulden, caused, it is believed, by some youths who had been smoking having carelessly lighted the long dry grass. The flames quickly spread to the hedge close by, and but for assistance having been rendered by the neighbours considerable damage would have been done; as it was, some fencing was destroyed. The matter is in the hands of the local police, who have a clue to the offenders.

1882

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 16 January 1882, page 6***

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ASSOCIATION.

ADELAIDE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13.

There was also another question of great importance, and that was the appointment of a fire brigade. For years past the insurance companies had contributed towards the support of a fire brigade, but now it was their intention to abandon that position. He had, however, been assured that it was not proposed to abandon it during the present month, and he hoped that the association would be prepared with a Fire Brigade Act as soon as possible, which should apply to all towns and centres of population, providing for the establishment and control of fire brigades, and the payment pro rata by all fire insurance companies of such a portion of the cost of keeping in order the brigades under their care as shall be deemed just and fair, the balance to be provided by the Government and the police funds in equal proportions. Mr. Thompson (Mayor of Port Adelaide) agreed with some of the suggestions of their president. He believed that the imposition of any tax would be objectionable from remarks he had heard from the ratepayers on several occasions. He had much pleasure in proposing that the suggestion of the president that a Bill be prepared and laid before Parliament at an early date be adopted. The Vice-President having seconded the proposal, Mr. Caterer supported it, stating that he thought the insurance companies should pay half the cost. In Kensington the people had endeavored successfully to raise a fire brigade. Everything that was necessary to be done had been accomplished, and they were only waiting to receive permission to use the fireplugs. And he hoped they would soon be able to set a good example to the country by working on the voluntary system. He personally felt proud in having set an example in forming a volunteer brigade. Cr. Kestel also supported the proposal, which on being put was carried unanimously.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 25 January 1882, page 6***

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD,

Tuesday, January 24.

Present— The Mayor (Mr. T. Caterer), Councillors Bailey, Bennets, Heanes, Pappin, Threfall, Benson, and Dew.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

The Mayor said he and Councillor Dew had attended the Municipal Association last week. The most important point to them was with regard to Fire Brigades. It was at the meeting generally thought necessary that these institutions would have to be established and maintained at the expense of the various Councils. However, as far as they were concerned, he thought such would be unnecessary, as they had a volunteer Fire Brigade. (Hear hear.) Their by-laws had been ratified by the Governor, and were now law.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 28 January 1882, page 8***

Tuesday, January 24.

His Worship reported that he and Cr. Dew had attended a meeting of the Municipal Corporations Association, and that the most important question dealt with had reference to the formation of fire brigades in the various towns. It seemed to be the general opinion that fire brigades should be established and supported by a special rate, but he pointed out that it would not be necessary to have a special rate in Kensington and Norwood, as they had a volunteer brigade already in existence.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 1 February 1882, page 4***

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1882.

The first meeting of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, which was convened by the Mayor of Norwood, was held in the local town hall on August 6, 1881, when a provisional committee was appointed, consisting of the mayor, Councillors Threlfall and Benson, and Messrs. T. Pitman, T. A. Caterer, T. S. Warman, J. A. Thomson, R. J. Bittern, H. Hail, C. A. Bleechmore, A. J. Diamond, and R. E. Kippist (hon. secretary). Since then thirteen committee meetings have been held and a code of rules has been drawn up. The following gentlemen have been elected officers : —Trustees — Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P., S. D. Glyde, and Thos. Caterer, J.P. ; captain, J. A. Thomson; lieutenant, T. S. Warman; second lieutenant and hon. secretary, R. E. Kippist; hon. superintendent and treasurer, A. J. Diamond. Messrs. W. Warnam, T. A. Caterer, R. Caterer, J. Steed, F. Steed, J. E. Gooden, H. Newbery, R. H. Buttery, and Grey are the firemen, making with the three officers a company of twelve, ten of whom reside within two hundred yards of the reel station. Mr. C. A. Bleechmore was chosen canvasser and collector. The subscriptions since the formation of the company amounted to £150. Of this sum only £8 8s. was contributed by three insurance companies'—the South Australian Mutual Fire Company £5 5s., the Australian Alliance Company £2 2s., and the Mercantile Marine Company £1 1s. The other companies either refused a donation or ignored the circulars sent to them asking them to contribute. The amount in hand is £25. The reel station was erected voluntarily by members of the brigade, and is situated in Edward-street north, close to the Parade. The plant consists of a hand-reel of the latest pattern, and a full supply of piping and all the necessary paraphernalia for use at a fire. The uniform of the brigade is red and blue. The reel, we are informed, is far superior to those in use in the city.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 7 February 1882, page 2***

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD.

Monday, February 6.

Present— The Mayor (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.), Coun-cillors Threlfall, Bailey, Dew, Benson, Heanes, and Pappin.

FIRE BRIGADE.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit  
[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)  
 Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Councillor Benson proposed, and Councillor Threlfall seconded, that the local fire brigade be allowed permission to put in sheets of coloured glass at the lamp at the corner of Edward-street and the Parade, and paint the post red. Carried.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 11 February 1882, page 9***

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD CORPORATION.

Monday, February 6.

Present — His Worship the Mayor (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.), Crs. Thregfall, Bailey, Dew, Benson, Heanes, Pappin, and the town clerk (Mr. J. Letchford).

On the motion of Cr. Benson, the town clerk was instructed to ascertain if the Government would allow the use of hydrants on the Parade for the purpose of laying the dust, and if the water would be supplied free of charge or not. The overseer reported that the tramway company were willing to contribute one half of the expense if the council erected two standpipes, one near the Benson memorial fountain and the other at the corner of Elizabeth-street. They would prefer two inch pipes instead of one and a-quarter inches, and if this work were done they would be able to keep the whole of their portion of the road watered during the summer months.

On the motion of Cr. Benson, the local fire brigade was accorded permission to paint the lamp-post at the corner of Edward-street and the Parade red, and to put two sheets of stained glass in the lamp, as a guide to the neighborhood of the station.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 11 February 1882, page 33***

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

The people of Norwood have taken decided steps with reference to providing adequate means for the prevention of fires in that municipality by establishing a Volunteer Fire Brigade. It is only since August last that the question was first practically taken up by the holding of a meeting in the local Town Hall; but now the members are appointed, they have their outfit complete, and are quite prepared for any call that may be made for their services. The brigade has been established on similar principles to those in existence in Victoria, viz., the services of the men constituting it are given voluntarily, and the cost of the necessary requisites is raised by subscription. This plan is beginning to supersede paid brigades almost everywhere, so that—requiring no maintenance—it is quite possible that—with the exception of a paid Association in Adelaide, which is absolutely necessary—all the suburbs will have self-supporting brigades.

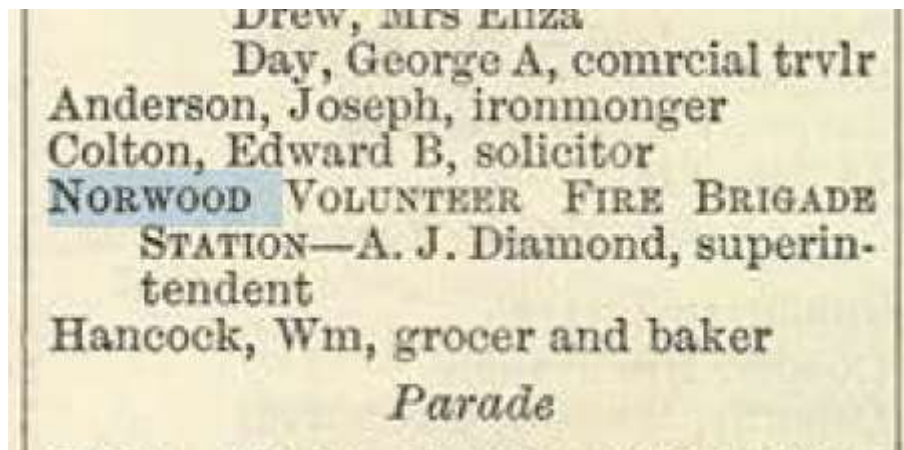
At the first meeting of the residents a provisional committee was elected consisting of the Mayor and eleven other gentlemen, and after holding several meetings for the purpose of drawing up a code of rules the following officers and firemen were appointed:— Trustees, Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P., S. D. Glyde, and T. Caterer, J.P.; captain, J. A. Thomson ; 1st Lieutenant, T. S. Warman ; 2nd Lieutenant and Hon. Secretary, R. E. Kippest; Hon. Superintendent and Treasurer, A.J. Diamond Firemen, Messrs. W. Warman, T. A. Caterer, E. Caterer, J. Steed, F. Steed, J. E. Gooden, H. Newberv, R. H. Buttery, and Gray, making with the three officers thirteen. Ten of these live within 200 yards of the reel station, which is situated in Edward-street, close to the Parade, and which was erected free of cost by the members of the brigade. Mr. G. A. Bleechmore was appointed canvasser and collector, and through him subscriptions amounting to £150 were received. A curious fact with reference to the money collected is that out of the whole sum only £8 8s. was contributed by the Insurance

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Companies, viz.—Mutual Fire Insurance of South Australia, £5 5s.; Australian Alliance, £2 2s.; and Mercantile Marine and Fire, £1 1s. All the Companies were applied to by circular; some refused subscriptions and others gave no reply. The plant of the Company consists of one hand-reel of the latest pattern—a drum on the axle, with disconnecting gear, enables the hose to be wound or unwound at any speed. The hydrants and branches have fixtures on the reel, so that they can be taken off immediately, and the improved union only takes one turn to couple it, whereas those used by the City Association require four turns. The same applies to the screw of the hydrant. There is also 420 feet of 2 inch best wove canvas hose, 60 feet of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch indiarubber hose, five lamps and lanterns, one double hydrant, five pairs couplings, two branches, with four nozzles, two keys for fireplugs, and twelve red-and-blue uniforms for the brigade. After paying for all the material there was a surplus of £25, and it is intended to gradually augment this amount and obtain the same conveniences for both Kent Town and Kensington as they now have at Norwood.



*From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1886 giving the location of the Fire Reel Station on Edward Street North, just North of the Parade.*

**South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 29 April 1882, page 6**

#### NORWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

About November, 1881, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Norwood, at which it was decided to establish a local fire brigade, to be supported by voluntary subscriptions. In February of the present year a sufficient sum had been raised to purchase the materials and a fire reel, and from that time the members of the brigade have had constant practice. Friday, April 28, was the day appointed for the opening demonstration, which took place on Osmond-terrace south. There was a good muster of spectators, including Mr. A. J. Baker (Superintendent of Fire Brigades), Mr. A. Abrahams, His Worship the Mayor of Adelaide, the Major and some of the Councillors of the Kensington and Norwood Corporation, and a number of the leading residents of the municipality. Shortly after 4 o'clock the whole of the members of the brigade, with their Superintendent (Mr. A. J. Diamond), arrived at the scene of operations, and at once commenced their programme. The first item was for four firemen, who had to run 100 yards with the reel, fix the hydrant, uncoil 150 feet of a single hose, fix branch, and throw water. This was performed without a hitch, and in the very quick time of 39 seconds, the reeling up of the hose taking 47 seconds. The same manoeuvre, with the exception that the hose was only to be uncoiled 100 yards, was repeated by three firemen, who accomplished their work in precisely the same period of time, 39 seconds. Two of the brigade occupied 47 seconds in performing the same action. The next part of the performance was that eight firemen with double hose had to run 100 yards with reel, fix hydrant, uncoil two lengths of hose each 100 feet, fix branches, and throw water. In the first

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

attempt a hitch occurred through the clutch-break being loose, causing the hose to slip on its way down to the plug. The second time, however, proved more successful, and was done in the short space of 52 seconds. The concluding item was a double-hose competition, the conditions being the same as in the last trial. The teams, which were captained by Captain Thomson and Lieutenant Warman, com-prise six men a side. The Captain's team did their work in 55½ seconds, while the Lieutenant's took 62 seconds. With the exception of the one hitch referred to the company performed their duties remarkably well, and the great efficiency which they showed on Friday could only have been attained by constant practice and by the men paying particular attention to their work. We have the word of Superintendent Baker, who watched the proceedings, that the times occupied in the different trials were exceedingly good, and that the men in doing their work displayed a large amount of judgment and discretion. Of course the new style of reel, with its light canvas hose, made it easier to propel than the ordinary fire-reels, and this accounted in some manner for the fast time made. The only thing that remains now to be seen is whether the men, if ever their services are called into action, will maintain that cool judgment which is necessary on such occasions. The members of the brigade were fitted out in elegant and neat uniforms, and, taking everything into consideration, their opening demonstration must be pronounced a success. Councillor Shaw and Mr. H. Hughes, J.P., acted as time keepers. A dinner was held in the local Town Hall in the evening. About seventy persons, including representatives from the New Zealand, North British, Liverpool and London, City Mutual, Mutual of South Australia, National of Australasia, National of New Zealand, South Australian, Victorian, Prussian, National, and Australia Felix Insurance Companies, sat down to an excellent repast. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.) occupied the chair, and was supported on his right by the Treasurer (Hon. L. Glyde, M.P.), and on his left by the Hon. W. C. Buik, M.L.C. The vice-chair was occupied by Mr. V. Lawrance, J.P. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P., T. Playford, M.P., A. Abrahams, J.P., Superintendent Baker, and Mr. Turner (Secretary of the Adelaide Fire Insurers' Association). After the usual loyal toasts had been disposed of, Mr. H. Hughes, J.P., pro-posed "The Parliament and Ministry of South Australia." He stated with regard to the Parliament that, although they might not agree with them on all points, still they had every reason to be thankful and proud for having such a Parliament. They had men who went into the House entirely with the object of doing their very best for the country, and they having succeeded to a very great extent, they were deserving of their thanks. With regard to the approaching Legislative Council elections, he stated that although new blood was very useful, he did not like the old members, who had done so much for them in the past, being left out in the cold. East Torrens was well represented in both Houses, having not only their local members, but one of their residents a member of the Ministry, and the other a member of the Legislative Council. With regard to the Ministry, they had given very general satisfaction, and they had shown their activity, especially the Minister of Education, in visiting the Northern Territory. He noticed that allotments in the Territory had been sold lately for very high prices, and he hoped to see the Treasurer, who once looked upon it as a white elephant, believing that there was a great future in store for it. The Chief Secretary was the right man in the right place, and it spoke volumes for South Australia that one born and bred in the colony was holding such a high position so well and worthily. (Cheers.) He noticed in the papers that morning with regret that the Orient steamers had decided to ignore South Australia, on the ground that their mails which they carried were not sufficiently subsidized by the Ministry. If the Ministry had made a mistake in this matter he hoped they would take the bull by the horns, and take certain steps to remedy it. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that the Treasurer would be able to tell them that the telegrams had been a little overstrained. He concluded by expressing a hope that the Borders would soon be connected by rail. (Applause.) The Hon. W. C. Buik, M.L.C., who was well received, expressed his pleasure at the way in which the toast had been proposed. With reference to the remarks from Mr. Hughes about leaving the old blood out in the cold, he said

that the members of the Legislative Council who had been rejected last election had only themselves to blame. The Bill passed last session which altered the constitution of the Upper House would give a good deal more power to the electors, who would also be able to put in local men for their own district. He was sure that every member now in the Legislative Council had the true interest of the country at heart. In the other colonies members of the Legislative Council and the Lower House had to smother their own opinions to keep their seats ; but he was glad to state that nothing of the sort took place here, the members always speaking out what they meant. The measures passed last year were a credit to the colony, and the Parliament of South Australia was conducted on better principles than the Parliament of Victoria. (Cheers.) The Treasurer, on rising to respond, was loudly applauded. He stated that he appeared in a double capacity, having to respond as a member of the House of Assembly and as one of the Ministry. He had no apologies to offer for the House of Assembly, he believing that they had done their work as well as they could. He cordially echoed the remarks of Mr. Buik about the improvement made in their Constitution by increasing the number of members in the Legislative Council. He reminded them that the ensuing elections would be the last time at which they would be able to send into the Council representatives for the whole of the colony. Referring to the telegram re the Orient steamers, he said that he was never more surprised in his life when he saw it. Since seeing it he had not interviewed any of his colleagues ; but he was inclined to think, and he hoped such was the case, that there had been some little misunderstanding. They need not, however, take it too much to heart, as there would be other large and as suitable steamers calling at Adelaide. He was not there that evening as one of the Ministry to give any political speech, as Parliament would soon be called together, and the Ministry's policy would be issued in the Governor's Speech. With reference to the Norwood Fire Brigade, he thought the object was a very good one, and as one of the old residents of the municipality he would be glad to encourage it. It was a very difficult question whether the Government ought to encourage their brigade, there being no valuable Government buildings as in town. They knew that the Adelaide Fire Brigade was in a very peculiar position. They had decided to break up a little time back, but the Government had induced them to post-pone their decision till July. He did not know how it would end, as neither the Corporation, the Insurance Companies, nor the Government seemed inclined to take the matter up. He thanked them very heartily on behalf of the House of Assembly and the Ministry for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast. (Applause.) The Hon. W. C. Buik, as a member of the City Corporation, would like to remind the Treasurer they had not lost sight of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, but that it had been decided at a meeting of the Municipal Corporations to bring in an Act, placing it under a better arrangement. Mr. Wicksteed proposed "The Corporation of Kensington and Norwood," stating that they seemed to be the most ready Corporation to forward and assist private enter-prise. The Chairman, in responding, stated that they intended to have the town better lighted this year, and that the work of asphaltting the footpaths had been commenced.

The Vice-chairman proposed "The Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade." He approved of the idea, and complimented the men on the manner in which they went through their drill that afternoon. The Superintendent (Mr. A. J. Diamond), in responding, gave an account of the formation of the brigade, and stated that the citizens had responded liberally to their call for subscriptions. The prime object of their demonstration that day was to induce the other suburbs to take the matter up, and thus have local brigades all round the city. They had offered their services if they were needed at any time to the Superintendent, but Mr. Baker had seemed fit not to accept them. He thought, however, after he had witnessed their drill, he would no longer class them as amateur firemen. The "Officers of the Brigade," "Fire Insurance Companies," and other toasts were duly proposed and honoured, and the proceedings were brought to a close at an early hour.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 1 May 1882, page 1***

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATION.

The opening demonstration in connection with the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade was held on Friday afternoon, April 28, on Osmond-terrace, Norwood. There were a large number of spectators who appeared to take great interest in the proceedings, amongst them being His Worship the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. E. T. Smith, M.P.), Councillor Shaw, Messrs. A. J. Baker (super-intendent of the Adelaide Fire Brigade), A. Abrahams, Captain Moore, who has just arrived from the other colonies to assist in taking charge of the Adelaide brigades, His Worship the Mayor of Norwood (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.), and several members of the local corporation, and gentlemen connected with the insurance offices. The brigade, which numbers twelve men, is under the superintendence of Captain Thomson, who has had great experience in Melbourne, and is the first volunteer fire brigade established in the colony. They are a fine body of men, and during the short time they have had for practice have made wonderful progress, as was evidenced by the way in which they performed their duties on Friday. Of course the principal feature of the programme was fixing the hydrant and turning on the water quickly, and although this is only one part of a fireman's work, yet it is very material to the suppression of a fire that there should be a speedy flow of water on the flames. From the manner in which the men acquitted themselves in that particular line there does not appear to be much room for improvement. However, all the roads in Norwood do not present the lawn-like appearance that the particular part of Osmond-terrace, chosen for the scene of operations, and it would be unfair to expect that the brigade could travel from the fire-reel station in Edward-street to a distant part of the municipality and show the same quickness that they did at the demonstration. As Captain Moore says, he has seen firemen who, having run perhaps a mile to a fire, on their arrival at it become quite "blown," and then have had to rest for perhaps five minutes before they could commence work. Now, as every moment is of the greatest value at a fire, it would no doubt be advisable for the fire brigade, if their funds allow, to obtain a horse and cart, by which they could travel to a conflagration in a very short time, and then all the members being fresh they would have a much better chance of subduing the fiery element. The brigade possess a very fine reel, having all the latest improvements. It was manufactured by Press, of Melbourne, and is of very light construction. A number of extra fittings in connection with it have been manufactured by Mr. C. A. Smith, and we understand it is the first time that articles of this description have been manufactured in Adelaide. The hoses are of canvas, and there was considerable discussion on the relative merits of canvas and leather, it being argued that the durability of the one was balanced by the lightness of the other. However, that is a matter that will no doubt be enquired into as the brigade gets older. The demonstration on the whole was a great success, and reflects credit on the firemen, and the establishment of the brigade undoubtedly marks the commencement or a new era in the fire brigade life of this colony. In Victoria the volunteer fire brigades have become almost a national institution, and the inhabitants of Norwood and Kensington may feel proud at possessing the first volunteer fire brigade in South Australia. The following was the programme:—

1. Single hose, 4 firemen.—Run 100 yards, with reel, fix hydrant, uncoil 130 feet of hose, fix branch, and throw water. Time, 39 seconds.
2. Reel up hose. Time, 47 seconds.
3. Single hose, 3 firemen.—As No. 1, with 100 feet hose. Time, 39 seconds.
4. Single hose, 2 firemen.—As No. 3 43 seconds.
5. Double hose, 8 firemen.—Run 100 yards with reel, fix hydrant, uncoil two lengths of hose, each 100 feet, fix branches and throw water. Time, 82 seconds.
5. Double hose competition, 6 firemen.—As No. 5; Captain v. First lieutenant—Won by Captain Thomson's team, who occupied 55½ seconds, whilst Lieut. Warmans team did their work in 62 seconds.

In the evening a dinner was held in the Norwood Town Hall, at which about one hundred gentlemen sat down, His Worship the Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.) occupying the chair. After a first-class spread, provided by Mr. Nicholls, had been done ample justice to, the tables were cleared and the usual loyal toasts having been duly honored, Mr. H. HUGHES, J.P., proposed the "Parliament and Ministry of South Australia," in a laudatory speech. He trusted that the Treasurer would

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024



give them some explanation with regard to the determination of the Orient Steamship Company to put an end to their steamers making Semaphore one of their ports of call. The Hon. W. C. Buik, M.L.C., returned thanks on behalf of the Legislative Council. He spoke of the alteration that had taken place in the constitution of that body, and referring to the coming elections hoped to see some of the old members of the Council again elected. He could safely say that every member of the Legislative Council had the true interest of the country at heart. He thought the various measures passed last year were a credit to the colony. The members always spoke their opinions, and though he was in favor of payment of members to a certain extent he thought that they did not do that in Victoria frequently for fear of losing their seats. The Hon. L. Clyde (Treasurer) responded on behalf of the Ministry, and trusted that as this was the last time the people would have a voice in the election of members for the whole country to represent them they would put in the best men. With regard to the announcement respecting the Orient steamers, he could only say that he was never more surprised in his life than when he saw the telegrams in the Advertiser. As it happened he had not seen any of his colleagues that day, but his opinion was that it was some misunderstanding. However, they should not take it much to heart, as he ventured to say that even if they chose to leave us there were plenty of good lines of steamships that would only be too happy to take their position. He thought, however, it would be out of place for him at such a convivial meeting as that was to make a political speech. Mr. Hughes in his speech had said that the district of East Torrens was rich in members, and he thought they might congratulate themselves that such was the case. Twenty years ago he ventured to use the expression that East Torrens was the most intelligent district in the colony— yet it did not elect him on that occasion— (laughter)—and now he would say that he thought the districts of East Torrens and Victoria were the most intelligent constituencies he knew of. (Laughter.) Respecting the particular object of that gathering he believed that volunteer fire brigades were excellent institutions and he would be most happy to assist them. He, however, would not say whether the Government would encourage them or not. A volunteer fire brigade was in his opinion a most useful organisation, and was better than a cricket or football club, as it was both healthy and had for its object such a high aim—the saving of life and property. He himself was a little too old to run up ladders, but he would endeavor to get his son to join the brigade, and would promise them pecuniary assistance (Applause.) Mr. Wicksteed proposed the "Corporation of Kensington and Norwood." The Chairman in responding said the corporation wished to have the town better lighted, and intended erecting more lamps this year. They had also commenced asphaltting in the town, and although the matter of the new town hall was progressing slowly, yet the expenditure of such a large amount of money required careful consideration, and he could assure them that the town hall that they intended to erect would be a credit to the municipality as well as to the colony. (Applause.) Mr. V. Lawrance, J.P., proposed the toast of the evening, " The Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade," and said in the Fire Brigade Bill that was to be introduced at the coming Parliament volunteer fire brigades would be specially provided for. He hoped that the day was not far distant when there would be at least ten fire reels and 130 firemen in the eastern suburbs. Mr. A. J. Diamond, the hon. superintendent, in responding, gave a brief history of the brigade since its formation, and thanked the public who had 1892 given donations so liberally to them. He gave great praise to their captain, Captain Thomson, who had had considerable experience in Melbourne, and to Lieutenant Warman, who was connected with fire brigades in America, and he trusted that the movement would be taken up throughout the colony. Fireman T. A. Caterer proposed the toast of "The Insurance Companies," and the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Lawrance), in responding, said that representatives of the following offices were present:—the New Zealand, North British, Liverpool and London, City Mutual, Mutual of South Australia, National of Australasia, National of New Zealand. South Australian, Victorian, Prussian National, and Australia Felix, and that thirty-two out of thirty-eight insurance offices had taken tickets for the dinner hereby evincing their interest in the organisation of this volunteer fire brigade. He

trusted that the result of this would be large subscriptions to enable the brigade to increase its numerical strength and appliances. (Applause.) The toasts of "The Officers of the Brigade," "The ladies," and "The Press," having followed, the proceedings, which were of a very pleasant character, terminated at a late hour.

1883

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 14 July 1883, page 32***

#### FIRE BRIGADE BOARD.

K. St B. Miller, Charles Lyons, and Alfred Benson to be a Local Fire Brigade Board for the Corporation of the town of Kensington and Norwood.

1884

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 14 January 1884, page 2***

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The residents of Grey-street, Norwood, and neighbourhood were disturbed early on Monday morning by an alarm that Mildren's carpenter's shop was on fire. The shop, which was situated in Grey-street, was a two-storey building, and built mostly of wood. It stood at the back of a row of cottages in Eastry-street, and was surrounded on all sides by buildings. The place being so populated it was not surprising that the residents in the neighbourhood were considerably alarmed about half-past 2 o'clock in the morning on seeing the flames and being warned of the great danger their homesteads were in. They all turned out and worked with a will in pulling down their fences, &c., to check the fire spreading, and in this they were helped by fire reels, though it was impossible to save the building and its contents. The whole shop was completely destroyed in less than ten minutes, and the fire during the time it raged was as fierce as it was possible to be. Cowell Brothers' private reel was the first to arrive, about ten minutes after the outbreak, and this was followed by the Norwood fire-reel, but as before stated they were too late to save anything, though they without doubt averted further destruction. Superintendent Moore and the reel from the head station were also on the spot, and assisted in the endeavours to quench the flames, which were entirely subdued about three-quarters of an hour after the alarm was given. The property was owned by Mr. Thomas Mildren, who estimates his loss at over a thousand pounds, though he is protected to the amount of about £500 in the New Zealand Insurance Company. The loss, of course, consisted chiefly of timber and carpenter's wood, and included a portable engine valued at £200. At present the origin of the fire is unknown, though it is supposed that it started from a spark of the engine which was lighted. It appeared Mr. Vidian Mildren, a brother of Mr. Thomas Mildren, had lit the engine at 3 o'clock that morning, with a view of starting work early. He was about the shop for three-quarters of an hour, when he left to attend to his horse. Everything to all appearance was then safe, but on Mildren's return in ten minutes he was surprised to find not only that the fire was started, but that it had got such a hold on the premises that he was quite unable to cope with it. From what he saw, the fire must have started a little to the north of the engine, and so it seems pretty safe to presume that a spark from it was the cause of the disaster. He immediately gave the alarm to the neighbours, who, on account of the heat of the weather, were easily aroused.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 16 January 1884, page 5***

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE.

An enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred on the premises of Thomas Mildren, carpenter, at Norwood, on Monday morning, January 14, was held by Mr. J. P. Stow at the

Old Colonist Hotel, Norwood, on Tuesday afternoon, January 15. It appeared from the evidence that the premises on which the fire occurred consisted of a carpenter's shop and sawmill. The machinery in the mill was worked by a steam-engine, and on the morning of the fire Frederick Videon, one of the men employed on the works, lighted the engine fires at day break according to orders, to enable Mr. Mildren to start work early. Having lit the fire, Videon left the room to feed the horses. After a short absence he returned, and on opening the enginehouse door found the place was on fire. The alarm was at once raised, and the firereels were quickly in attendance, but in consequence of the in-flammable nature of the building, which was composed principally of wood, it was found impossible to extinguish the fire, and the buildings were burnt to the ground. The flames were, however, prevented from spreading by the removal of the fencing which connected the premises with the surrounding building. The amount of the damage is estimated at £1,000, and the premises and stock were insured for £750 in the New Zealand and the National New Zealand offices. The jury returned an open verdict, adding as a rider that the Nor-wood Fire Reel Company deserved mention for their promptitude in attending the fire, as also did Mr. Cowell's men for their assistance in preventing the flames from spreading.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 16 January 1884, page 6***

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Mr. J. P. Stow, J.P., held an enquiry on Tuesday at the Old Colonist Hotel, Norwood, into the fire which occurred on the previous day at Mr. T. Mildren's sawmill premises.

Mr. C. P. James was foreman of the jury. Thomas Mildren, builder, of Grey-street, Norwood, said on Sunday evening he gave orders to get the fire up in the sawmill engine at daylight. About 4 o'clock next morning his man called him up, and on looking in the direction of the sawmill saw flames just above the roof. Witness's house was opposite. Ran out at once and shouted fire to rouse the neighbours. By the time he got to the south end of the shop the fire had extended to that building also. After the engine fire was lighted it was never left until the saw was started, or at meal-times. Was insured for £750, and calculated the loss at £1,050. The stock was worth about £500, and the buildings about £450. Frederick Videon, painter and plumber, was employed by Mr. Mildren in working his sawmill. He lit the engine fire on Monday morning at about 3 o'clock, and stayed about half an hour firing it up. When the steam began to move left to feed the horse, and went to the stables, about 100 yards away. Was not more than ten minutes away, and on returning opened the door of the shop and saw that the shop was blazing at the rear of the engine. Ran for Mildren, and roused the neighbours. Sent for a firereel, and also to the Police Station. The place was completely gutted when he got back. The engine had not been worked regularly, but as required. Never thought there was any danger, and had only seen a few sparks from the chimney when burning shavings and blowing off steam. Never saw sparks coming out of the fireplace. The only way he thought the fire started was by means of a spark. Alfred W. Jacobs saw the flames catch the fence at Mildren's at about 4.30 a.m. The building had not caught at the time, but some timber had just inside the fence. Clara Harding saw the flames at about 4.10, when they appeared to be in the roof near the engine. James Clyde, labourer, was called at twenty-five minutes past 4, and assisted to get Howell's hose played on to the fire. Before this was accomplished the roof had fallen in. Two reels came afterwards. The Jury returned the following verdict :— "We are of opinion that there is no evidence to show how the fire originated." A rider was added, commending the promptitude of the firemen of the Norwood reel, and also Messrs. Cowell's men, who assisted.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Fire at Kensington. Mr David Packhams Chaff sheds.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 3 March 1884, page 3***

## LARGE FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

One of the most serious conflagrations that have ever occurred in the eastern suburbs took place at Kensington on Sunday evening, March 2. A few minutes after seven o'clock, when the majority of the church-going public were either at church or on their way to attend evening service, Mr. Morton Burman, accompanied by his wife, was passing down Chapple-street when he noticed flames issuing from Mr. David Packham's chaff sheds, which are situated between Chapple and Bridge-streets. He and others simultaneously gave the alarm, and then rushed towards the stables which adjoin the sheds for the purpose of getting out the horses which were located there. The stables by this time were in flames, and the horses, six in number, were uttering most heartrending cries. Mr. Burman and some three or four other gentlemen, whose names we were unable to ascertain, bravely dashed into the flames, cut the halters with which the horses had been secured, and managed to lead them through the flames. The poor animals were badly scorched and great difficulty was experienced in getting one out, but the rest showed wonderful sagacity and allowed themselves to be led out without making the least opposition. Mr. Chittle, who lives in the next house to Mr. Packham, has charge of one of McCulloch & Co.'s express waggons, and he promptly harnessed his horse and drove to the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade Station in Edmund-street. The reel was fixed on to the back of the waggon, into which about seven members of the brigade jumped, and within a quarter of an hour from the discovery of the fire the hydrants were fixed, and a strong stream of water was being played on the burning mass. Adjoining the stables were two large stacks of hay, and as a breeze was blowing at the time it was feared that they might become ignited, but wet tarpaulins having been obtained they were covered over, and men stood on top of them with buckets of water in case of any sparks falling upon them. Before the reel arrived another shed, which served as a stable, and which was in close proximity to the stacks, was cut down by a number of willing helpers. This undoubtedly saved the stacks, which contain nearly 150 tons of hay. The adjoining fences were also cut down, as it was feared that the flames might spread through their instrumentality to several old buildings at the rear. Mr. Rankine, an engineer, living on the Parade, was amongst the foremost helpers and promptly disconnected the valves of the boiler of the engine which is used for driving the chaffcutting machinery. By the time the brigade arrived the stables and sheds were one mass of flames which leaped up to an extraordinary height and began to lap round the shed containing the engine. The hose was promptly played on this shed, and the brigade by their efforts managed to save a portion of the engine and the weighbridge. It might be as well to state here that Mr. Packham does an exceedingly large business as a chaff merchant, and in the sheds which were destroyed had about twenty tons of sheaved hay, thirty or forty bags of oats, seven or eight tons of bran, about £300 worth of branbags, and a quantity of chaff. At the immediate rear of the sheds and stables, which were of considerable length, were the stables of the old Rising Sun Hotel, and as soon as the fire was discovered the horses located in them were removed. It was fortunate that this course of action was adopted, for at half past 7 o'clock these stables also caught fire, and then the scene was exceedingly grand. The breeze had fortunately gone down, and the flames eventually rose to an astonishing height pieces of burning bagging and other debris remaining in the air for a considerable time. The reel belonging to the waterworks yard arrived soon after the Norwood reel, but their hose was found to be useless owing to its being very short. However, the Norwood brigade fixed one of their hoses, 250 feet in length, from the Bridge street side, and a 300 feet hose being fixed on the Chapple-street side they were thus enabled to prevent the fire from spreading and to attack it on both sides, The firemen might be said to have got the fire in hand at a few minutes before 8 o'clock, and they certainly deserve the greatest commendation for their efforts. The unburnt stacks were insured for 150 tons, and the machinery and premises for £600, but since the date of insurance Mr. Packham has erected another large shed, and he calculates his loss at fully £500. There was also a large quantity of wood adjoining the stables and shed, but the firemen saturated it well with water, otherwise there is no saying to what

extent the conflagration might have reached. A large waggon loaded with hay was also drawn up alongside the stable, but it was dragged into a place of safety soon after the fire broke out. Mr. Packham was away from home visiting his sister at Payneham when the conflagration was discovered. A messenger was dispatched for him, and he returned at about 8 o'clock. No cause for the fire can be suggested, and great sympathy is expressed for Mr. Packham, who is an ex-mayor of Norwood and Kensington, and is an exceedingly popular man in the municipality. Great praise must be accorded to the police, who were on the spot within a few minutes after the fire was discovered. Mounted-con-stable Bruce, of Waterfall Gully, was the first trooper on the scene, and Corporal Maddigan and P.C. Garland, of Norwood, were the first foot-police to arrive. The crowd, which swelled to several thousands, was a most orderly one, and no difficulty was experienced in keeping it back. About eight troopers were pre-sent from town, and the whole force were in charge of Corporal Maddigan. Too much praise cannot be given to the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade for their promptness and the manner in which they worked, and there is not the slightest doubt that but for their efforts the loss of property would have been something immense, as the new Rising Sun Hotel and a fine row of shops are in close proximity to Mr. Packham's premises. It was very fortunate too that they possess such a length of hose, as otherwise nothing could have been done to stem the progress of the flames. Captain Warman ably directed the brigade, and he was assisted by Lieutenant Warman, and Messrs. Gooden, Caterer, Gray, Steed (2), Newberry, and Buttery. Considerable surprise was expressed at the Adelaide brigade not putting in an appearance, but we understand that it is not incumbent upon them to turn out when a fire breaks out in the suburbs unless they have a written guarantee from the owner of the burning premises securing them their expenses. If such a provision is in force, it is certainly a most stupid one, as in the event of an owner being absent—which was the case in this instance—his premises must be burnt down although the brigade have everything at hand with which they could suppress the flames. A number of Mr. Packham's neighbors made great exertions to save his property. Messrs, Chittle, Camplin, G. Higgs, H. Stubbens, and others specially deserving credit for their exertions. The brigade remained at the scene of the fire all night and played upon the debris at intervals, as it was of such a character as to be liable to burst out afresh at any time.



*Location of Mr Packhams chaff sheds. 1884. Map from the Sands and McDougall South Australian Directory for 1892.*

**South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 4 March 1884, page 6**

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## GREAT FIRE IN NORWOOD.

One of the largest and most disastrous fires which has taken place for a long time in the colony occurred in Norwood early on Monday morning, March 3, the result of which was that Messrs. Cowell Brothers large timberyard, at the corner of the Parade and Sydenham-road, and the premises of Mr. S. Gardiner and Mr. H. Desbief were completely destroyed. Occurring as it did, immediately after the conflagration of the previous evening at Mr. David Packham's, and taken in connection with the various small fires which have occurred lately in the same district, the fire has caused a wide, spread feeling of uneasiness and indignation in Norwood and Kensington. Whatever may have been the cause of the outbreak at Mr. Packham's it is evident that the fire at Messrs. Cowell Bros', was, like the incendiary attempt on the same premises which occurred a fortnight ago, a deliberately planned work.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE PREMISES.

It will be remembered that less than a month ago, on the morning that Mr. Wallace's woodshed at the corner of Sydenham and Beulah roads was destroyed by fire, an attempt to burn down Cowell Brothers' premises was made, but the dastardly action was averted by a market gardener, who was passing at 2 o'clock on his road to market. He gave the alarm to some men residing on the spot, and they managed to get the flames under before any damage was done. It was then discovered that a deliberate plot had been made, a piece of rag saturated with kerosine, or some other explosive being found concealed in the north-western portion of the yard where the flames were seen. As Mr. Segar's premises in Kent Town had been tampered with the same morning, and taking into consideration the destruction of Mr. Wallace's property, Messrs. Cowells attributed the whole to a freak on the part of a lunatic, and took no further notice of it. The fire on Monday morning, however, arouses very grave suspicions as to whether the first attempt was not that of an incendiary, and the offender, finding that his previous efforts had been frustrated, renewed them with that cunning, and determination which proved so disastrous on the present occasion. Both Cowell Brothers, notwithstanding, do not for a single moment suspect anybody, and state that as far as they knew they were on the most friendly terms with all their men.

## HOW THE FIRE STARTED, AND THE POSITION OF THE NEIGHBOURING PREMISES.

At 4 o'clock a compositor who was on his road home from work, states that when he passed the premises they appeared to be quite safe, and nobody was about; but ten minutes afterwards, as near as we are able to get it, the neighbours were aroused either by hearing the crackling of flames, or seeing the glare through their windows. All agree that when their attention was first directed the whole of the premises were one mass of flames, though one or two are of opinion that it originated in the centre of the yard, while others maintain that it started in the north-western corner, where the previous attempt was made. Whoever is correct, it seems pretty certain that it was ignited in more than one place, as it would be impossible for the fire to have been developed in such a short space of time had not such been the case. A fire reel on the spot immediately, the residents state, would have been of no use whatever in putting the fire out, and the probabilities are such was correct, as when a representative from this office was present at half-past 4 the flames were utterly beyond control. The spectacle at that hour of the morning, before the sun rose, though shocking to think of, was a splendid one, and it is very doubtful whether we have had such a fire in Adelaide, which, for the time being, was a sight worth watching. Mr. Henry Cowell, who resides on the Parade to the east of the destroyed premises, was aroused by his servants, who noticed that the window of their bedroom had caught alight by the heat. He aroused his wife, and made all the haste he could, and with the assistance of a few of the inhabitants managed to remove all his furniture into a house over the road. Thanks to the head reel, however, his house, which looked as though it must have gone, stood its ground, though

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

slightly damaged on the west-end side. Mr. Bush, in the employ of the firm, who resided in the corner house on the Parade, does not know what time he first saw the fire, but it had started on his premises when he was awoke, and the heat and smoke so great that it was a matter of impossibility to save all his goods. Mr. Desbief, whose dwelling-house adjoins his shop on the other corner of the block, had his slumbers disturbed by a loud knocking at his front door, and he was not long in discovering the cause of the intrusion. He, like Mr. Cowell, was successful in shifting his furniture, which was not damaged, though his shop and contents were gutted. The greatest excitement prevailed in a row of cottages known as Elsie-terrace, in Beyer-street, the back doors of which are connected with the timber-yard. One of the families was aroused by the barking of their dog, who was making frantic efforts to release himself, while others either smelt the fire or were awakened by their neighbours. They were all terribly frightened, fearing that they could barely escape with their lives, and the shrieks of the women and children were heard for some distance. After they had had sufficient time to collect their thoughts they saw that the danger was not so near at hand as they suspected, and they began clearing their houses, each consisting of three rooms. Their goods and furniture were taken further up the lane or left in charge of neighbours, who did all in their power to assist the unfortunate people. The children, who took things very coolly after their first fright, were made as comfortable as possible on mattresses, &c, and laid outside on the footpaths. The occupants of the cottages are Messrs. John LeRaine, R. McIvey, G. Prescott, E. Anspach, W. Schrofield, and — Sharpe, some of whom are engaged by Messrs. Cowell, and in addition to losing their tools are likely to be minus some of their furniture, which will either have been damaged in removal or some of it missing. The cottages, which are owned by Mr. Henry Cowell and partly insured, were, through the agency of the Norwood Fire Brigade saved. The area of ground on which the property stood was 200 feet square. As showing the intense heat of the flames, the paint on doors on the opposite side of the road was cracked, and early in the morning it was barely possible to walk along the footpath without the face and head being covered.

#### WHAT THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE DID.

Sunday night and Monday morning made a heavy call on the energy and perseverance of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, who were granted little more than sufficient time to hurry from one scene of disaster to the other. About 4.15 a.m. Messrs. Caterer and Buttery, who were left with one reel to look after the smouldering debris at Packham's, saw a dense volume of smoke rising at the west end of the Parade, and understood at once that a much more serious fire than that with which they had just been struggling was demanding their attention. Mr. Chittle, a carrier, living next door to Mr. Packham, who distinguished him-self at the previous fire by his promptitude in bringing the Norwood Brigade on to the scene or action in his wagon, was again to the front. He harnessed up at once, while Messrs Caterer and Buttery performed in all haste the heavy task of getting 700 feet of wet hose on board the wagon, and the distance from Chapel-street to Sydenham-road was covered in about five minutes. Captain Warman, who left Packham's fire at 2 a.m., together with the rest of the Brigade, were soon on the spot, and a double hydrant was fixed on the main in the lane running beyond the timber-yard, called Beyer street. Another was fixed in Sydenham-road. Here the Norwood men undertook to battle with the flames, leaving the Parade side of the premises in charge of the City Brigade. The local brigade kept four streams of water playing, and it is to their exertions that the row of cottages in Beyer-street, belonging to Messrs. Cowell Brothers, owe their safety. The pressure in the pipes was not very good, and of course nothing could be done towards extinguishing the burning masses of red-hot timber. A couple of fire-engines would have been necessary for such a task. All that was possible under the circumstances was to keep the flames within the square of the timberyard, and this was successfully done. The width of the Parade and Sydenham-road, and the fortunate circumstance that the wind was perfectly still, minimized the danger of the fire spreading on

these two sides; but the case was different on the northern and eastern sides, as Beyer-street is very narrow, and a row of houses adjoins Mr. Cowell's dwelling-house. In spite of the streams of water kept playing on the cottages in Beyer-street, the one nearest the flames caught alight several times, and was only preserved with difficulty. Mr. Caterer had a narrow escape from a nasty blow shortly after his arrival on the scene. A heavy sign board, whose supports had been eaten away by the flames, fell grazing his helmet and then struck his shoulder and knocked him down. Fortunately he was only a little bruised.

#### THE CITY BRIGADE.

At a quarter to 5 Superintendent Moore, with two-men and one of the city reels, appeared on the scene. He states that he received several calls previous to starting. Properly the City Brigade is not allowed to operate beyond the precincts of the city, in order that there may be no danger of Adelaide being left unprotected against a conflagration, while a suburban fire is being attended to. Immediately on arrival, Superintendent Moore obtained from Mr. Cowell a guarantee for his expenses and risks attendant on his operations. The City hose was then fixed on the Parade, and the efforts of the brigade were directed to keeping down the flames on the eastern side of the blaze, and protecting Mr. Henry Cowell's dwelling-house, from which all the furniture was removed as a matter of precaution.

#### THE MESSRS. COWELL'S STATEMENT.

Messrs. J. and H. Cowell, the two partners in the firm of Cowell Brothers, state that they kept a private reel on their premises, consisting of 200 feet of canvas hose. It was in an accessible position, and close to Sydenham-road, but the spread of the flames was so sudden as to make it impossible to reach it, even at the first, and it was burnt. The two brothers entered into business as builders some eight or nine years ago on the same premises as they now occupy. For the last five years they have been engaged in the timber-trade, doing a large business in the eastern suburbs, and importing a large quantity of timber. They estimate the value of the machinery lost at £3,000. This comprises two moulding machines, a general joining machine, a vertical frame, a breaking-down frame, three saw benches, and a Cornish boiler, 25 horse-power, with a carving machine. The iron safe was saved from the flames, and in it, luckily, were all their books. At the time of the disaster they were employing between fifty and sixty men and boys, their wages amounting to over £100 per week. In addition to throwing all these men out of employment, the fire will have the effect of stopping, at least temporarily, the erection of a number of buildings in the neighbour-hood. The stock was chiefly deals and other timber, measuring on an average three and four inches in thickness, by eighteen to twenty feet in length. The amount of timber had greatly been increased of late by heavy shipments from the Baltic, which it was estimated would last them till next October. At the present time they are unable to form any accurate estimate of the total loss they have sustained. Their property is insured to the extent of £13,000 of which particulars are given below. Besides the timber and machinery five or six drays were burnt, but the horses incurred no danger, as they were not stabled near the fire. The carpenters have also suffered through losing all their tools on the premises. A large amount of ironmongery, firewood, bran, chaff, &c., were also destroyed. The premises were all safe on Sunday night, and they have no idea how the fire originated, though they firmly believe it to be the work of an incendiary. They state that their losses are not nearly covered by insurance. The house belonging to the firm occupied by Mr. Bush, one of their employes, was completely gutted, as was also their shop facing the Parade. Messrs. Cowell have two smaller timber yards, one on the opposite side of Sydenham-road and the other at the corner or Elizabeth-street, but the scene of the conflagration was the central yard, where all the machinery and the bulk of the timber was kept

#### THE OTHER SUFFERERS BY THE FIRE.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

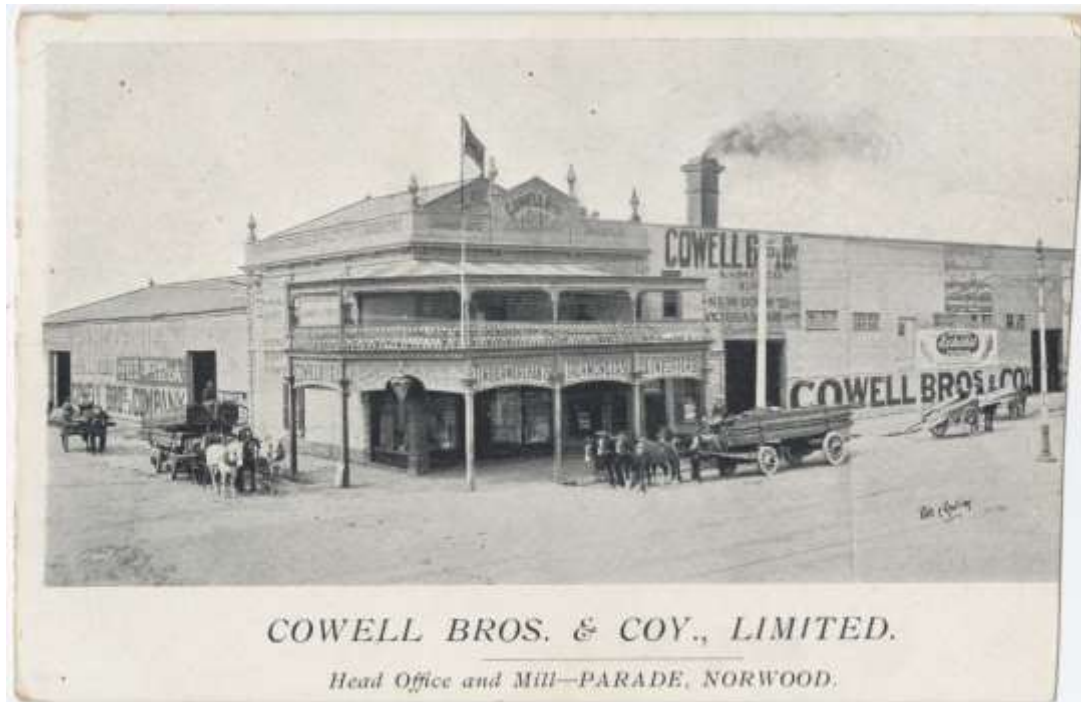
Last modified 30 Jun 2024



Mr. S. Gardiner, who carried on the business of a builder, next door to the timber yard, was also completely burnt out. He is insured for £200 in the New Zealand Company, but does not think that amount will cover his loss. He resides at Maylands, and did not arrive on the scene till half-past 6 o'clock, by which time his property had been levelled to the ground. The fire a short time back, which was so fortunately prevented from spreading, originated between his shop and Cowells' gate. Messrs. Revell, Adams, & Co. are sufferers by the loss of an octagon, to which Mr. Gardiner was making some additions, and which was to have been removed the very morning of the fire. It was valued at £80, and was intended as an exhibit of different samples of ironwork at the Agricultural Show. Mr. Gardiner's books were saved with the exception of his daybook. The next sufferer was Mr. H. Desbief, a general storekeeper, who lost his shop and contents, and only had the walls of his house left standing. The furniture was saved, and we understand that he is covered in the New Zealand Company for £1,200 on building, stock, &c. He has been in business for two years, and the house is his own. Had the Adelaide reel on its arrival played on Mr. Desbief's premises there is but little doubt but what they could have been saved. Mr. Bush, is a sufferer by the loss of furniture, which he values at £20. He informs us that when he first saw the fire it had evidently been started in four different places, one being in the front shop, close to where the oil drums were stored.

#### THE PRESENT ASPECT OF THE FIRE.

Up to 12.30 on Monday morning the timber and such like inflammable material was still burning and throwing intense heat all round, but the reels were playing successfully notwithstanding the poor pressure of water. There is not the slightest doubt that the service rendered by the Adelaide reel prevented Mr. H. Cowell's house being burnt, and the fire spreading to an alarming extent up the Parade, while the Norwood reel, as before stated, rendered as valuable service at the back. About 9 on Monday morning a report reached Norwood that the timber-yard of Mr. Farr, in Wakefield-street, was on fire, and Superintendent Moore, in company with one of the firemen, immediately started with one of the reels to the spot, but found the report to be a false alarm, and shortly returned to Messrs. Cowell's. People crowded on each tramcar leaving town to have a look at the remains, and there were some thousands who visited the vicinity during the forenoon. The following are the particulars of Messrs. Cowell's insurance policies as far as we have been able to ascertain them:—  
 South Australian Fire Insurance Company, £4,000 (reinsured £2,000 in the Phœnix) ;  
 Cornwall Fire and Marine, £2,000 ; Royal Fire and Life, £1,500 (reinsured £750 in Equitable) ;  
 National of Australasia, £2,000 (reinsured £1,000 in the Lion) ; Union Fire and Marine of New Zealand £1,250 (reinsured £500 in the Mutual and £500 in the South British) ; Commercial Union, £500; Colonial Mutual, £500 ; Australian Alliance, £500 ; making a total of £13,000.  
 Gardiner's workshop is insured for £200 ; and Desbief's store, £500 on the stock and £500 on the building, in the New Zealand Company; totally destroyed.



*State Library of South Australia - Scenes of South Australia [B 71545/47]. Cowell Bros. & Coy head office and mill, The Parade Norwood (carte-de-visite)*

**South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 5 March 1884, page 6**

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

That the Norwood Fire Brigade have done their duty no one will for a moment attempt to deny, and the citizens of Norwood and Kensington, as well as the insurance companies, owe its members a debt which words cannot repay. Captain Warman, for instance, was engaged, without rest, for a period of thirty-nine hours, and other members of the brigade also underwent most excessive fatigue. As certain of the firemen are mechanics, and have necessarily lost their time, it is to be hoped that they will be amply recompensed.

**Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 5 March 1884, page 2**

#### ANOTHER FIRE AT NORWOOD.

#### DESTRUCTION OF J. W. COSSEY'S PREMISES.

At the present rate of progress the premier suburb is earning an unenviable notoriety in the matter of fires. On Wednesday morning, March 5, another conflagration occurred, though not perhaps so extensive as some of its predecessors, yet quite sufficient to intensify the widespread feeling of insecurity that pervades the district. The destroyed premises, which comprised wheelwright's and coach shop, blacksmith's shop, and extending along its eastern boundary an iron-roofed shed containing timber, occupy a position at the corner of Kent-terrace and Magill-road, and cover about a quarter of an acre. On the south side are the buildings known as Hardwicke House, now unoccupied. As far as we can learn the fire started at about twenty minutes to 4 o'clock. At half-past 3 one of Bricknell Brothers, employés (the bakers at the opposite corner) was in their yard, and nothing then attracted his attention. Some short time after the glare of the fire was apparent to him, and the alarm was given to the neighbours and at the Police Station. Constables Garland and Adamson, who were on duty in Young-street, Kent Town, noticed the fire at about ten minutes to 4, and were promptly

on the scene. Two printers, who were on their way home from work, noticed the flames from the east end of Grenfell-street, and promptly conveyed the news to the Head Station. Immediately Superintendent Moore and firemen with a reel started, and by their prompt action, aided by the Norwood Volunteer Brigade, whose reel and a strong muster of firemen soon after put in an appearance, the further spread of the flames was checked. At the corner of Kent-terrace and Magill-road is situated the blacksmith's shop, to the east of which, and separated by a stone wall, is the coach-building establishment, adjoining which on the east side runs the timber-shed, where most of the accounts agree that the fire started. The fire spread with extreme rapidity, consuming two drays and a buggy, which were just finished, and the building was thoroughly gutted. Mr. T. A. Caterer, who was in charge of Cowell's fire, was early on the ground, and by his well-directed energy saved much of the property in the yard ; but this, unfortunately, was the least valuable, being mostly traps in a state of disrepair. The Norwood foot police assisted in the work of salvage. Owing to the time of day not many persons were present. A detachment of mounted police were also on the ground. The premises were insured in the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company for the sum of £1,000—£500 on the building, £300 on the consents, and £200 on the stock outside. STATEMENTS. T. AINSLIE CATERER states that he was in charge at Cowell's with a boy. The boy told him that there appeared to be a fire near Kent Town. Then ran down. Sent one of Bricknell's men on a horse to alarm the Norwood Fire Brigade. Called volunteers to assist him in removing some of the carts in Cossey's yard. Broke down fence connecting Cossey's with next house. THOMAS HALL, driver in Bricknell's employ, mounted horse and rode to Norwood Police Station. Gave alarm, then called three of Norwood's Fire Brigade. J. W. COSSEY inspected buildings, and found everything safe at about 11 o'clock. Heard nothing about fire till 4 o'clock. Had sustained great loss, much more than is covered by insurance. Was insured for £1,000. Knew of nobody who had a grudge against him and whom he might suspect of revenging himself thus. Could not give any estimate of loss yet. FURTHER PARTICULARS. Mr. F. W. Bricknell, of the firm of Bricknell Brothers, whose shop is on the other side of the street from Cossey's, was one of the earliest to see the fire. He at once aroused Mr. Cossey, who lives some 400 yards away, and brought him on the scene. Mr. Bricknell has had large experience in the carriage trade, and he states that the class of timber, among which the flames first started, was almost uninflamable, and must have been strongly saturated with kerosine or other similar fluid to have caught fire as it did. The fire evidently originated in the yard at the back of the wheelwright's and blacksmith's shops, and spread in two directions (towards the shops and along the timber in the yard) with extraordinary rapidity. Four of Messrs. Bricknell's men at once set to work to save all they could. The Coroner intends holding an inquest on the premises on Thursday morning. He has a large amount of work on hand in investigating these disastrous conflagrations. The inquests on Packham's and Cowell's fires cannot take place yet, as they are not yet "dead"—that is to say there are still some smouldering symptoms to be extinguished in the vast heaps of burnt wood and chaff.

#### THE NORWOOD BRIGADE

has had rough times of it since the first day of the week, and its members have merited well of their fellow-citizens in Kensington and Norwood. By 11 o'clock on Tuesday night Captain Warman and his men had been working almost uninterruptedly for thirty-nine hours. On Wednesday morning they put in two hours' hard work at Cossey's fire, while they have been indefatigable in keeping a sentry constantly at watch over the unextinguished embers of Packham's and Cowell's conflagrations. Captain Warman believes that the fire at Packham's is now definitely put out, and no further danger is to be apprehended from that quarter. An inquest will soon be held on what will probably prove to be the first of the long series of villainous attempts, which seem as though they were never to have an end.

#### COWELL'S FIRE.

The timber-yard at the corner of Sydenham-road and the Parade is still a melancholy-looking mass of debris, which has attracted crowds of visitors by tram, bus, and cab during the last few days. A little knot of curious observers is to be found inspecting the premises at every hour of the day. A man of the Norwood Fire Brigade and a constable are always on the watch there. Messrs. Cowell Brothers are anxiously waiting till the inquest is over to begin clearing up the blackened mass of beams, galvanized iron, lime, and every sort of debris which covers the spot.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 5 March 1884, page 2***

LOSS OF WORKMEN'S TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS BY FIRE IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC WORKSHOPS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The loss of tools by so many unfortunate mechanics at the late Norwood fire has again reminded me of the time when acting as Inspector of Risks for the Fire Insurance Companies how often since the large fire in Mr. Debney's cabinet workshops, Rundle-street, I brought under the attention of tradesmen who employ large numbers of men the necessity of insuring their workmen's tools by placing a sum on the proposal for that purpose. Every employer where mechanics have to find their own tools should notify to each man when engaging him that he must place a value on the tools he brings with him. The employer should also place printed notices in the workshops stating that every workman would be charged 1d. per week for insurance on every £10 worth of tools he brings with him into this workshop. If this plan were adopted every working man in large factories where he has to find his own tools would be protected from loss should the shop be destroyed by fire, and the public at large would be secured against begging petitions to indemnify persons they never heard of, and for all they know may be impostors trading on their charitable inclinations.

I am, Sir, &c., ARTHUR JNO. BAKER. Hutt-street, March 4.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 7 March 1884, page 3***

THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

The general efficiency and smartness of the brigade have been severely tested of late, and it must be satisfactory to the residents of Kent Town, Norwood, and Kensington to know that they can depend on their volunteer firemen being in readiness when any emergency arises to render their services necessary. A message was conveyed to the headquarters of the reel on Thursday respecting the fire in Rundle-street, and all the firemen collected at the local town-hall in the expectation of receiving a telephonic summons to attend, but fortunately the city brigades were found sufficient for the occasion. The Norwood reel was summoned to attend the fire at Mr. Stout's at Kent Town, but all danger was over before they arrived on the spot. Firemen are stationed at the scenes of the various recent fires, and watchmen are in attendance at the reel depot. All the men are in urgent need of rest, and it would no doubt be advisable, if such a plan be feasible, to send a detachment of the city firemen to relieve their suburban allies from duty for a time.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 8 March 1884, page 36***

FIRES AT KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD.

A serious fire broke out on Sunday evening on premises between Chapel and Bridge streets, Kensington, occupied by Mr. David Packham, ex-Mayor of Kensington, as steam chaffworks, stables, &c. The first alarm was given just at 7 p.m., and within about twenty minutes the

Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade were on the spot with their reel, and promptly and vigorously set to work to reduce the flames. In the mean-time the homes in the stable, of which fortunately there were only three, were got out with considerable difficulty, one of them being a good deal singed about the back, and, as was natural, in a high state of nervous excitement. Some wagons also were got out, but by the time the firemen arrived it was quite clear that the main sheds and their contents were past saving. Owing to the very inflammable nature of the premises and their contents the smoke and flames rose to a great height. The cause of the fire is at present unknown. Just beyond the stables, which were next to the fire, stood two large stacks of hay, containing above 150 tons. These were saved. Immediately after the arrival of the brigade the roof of the chaffsheds fell in, sending up volumes of sparks and pieces of bagging, to a great height. Had not so many willing hands been present to beat out every spark which descended on the ground around the fire would certainly have spread with most disastrous results to that part of Kensington. The stables belonging to what was formerly the Rising Sun Hotel caught fire, and were completely destroyed. The weighbridge on Mr. Packhams premises was saved through the exertions of the brigade. Mr. Packham is a heavy sufferer by the fire. His house, in Chapel-street, escaped, and the engine for working the chaffcutter was saved, but he has lost several thousands of branbags, which were stored in the sheds, all the harness, thirty or forty bags of oats, 8 tons of bran, and 420 tons of sheaved hay. The premises burnt were insured for £600, but several additions had been recently made, and he states that the loss is not nearly covered. He estimates the branbags at nearly £300, and the whole loss at about £5,000. He does a large trade as a chaffcutter, &c., in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

A large and most disastrous fire occurred in Norwood on Monday morning, March 3, the result of which was that Messrs. Cowell Brothers' large timber yard, at the corner of the Parade and Sydenham-road, and the premises of Mr. S. Gardiner and Mr. H. Desbief were completely destroyed. Occurring as it did, immediately after the conflagration of the previous evening at Mr. David Packham's, and taken in connection with the various small fires which have occurred lately in the same district, the fire has caused a wide, spread feeling of uneasiness and indignation in Norwood and Kensington. Whatever may have been the cause of the outbreak at Mr. Packham's it is evident that the fire at Messrs. Cowell Bros', was, like the incendiary attempt on the same premises which occurred a fortnight ago, a deliberately planned work.

It will be remembered that less than a month ago, on the morning that Mr. Wallace's woodshed at the corner of Sydenham and Beulah roads was destroyed by fire, an attempt to burn down Cowell Brothers' premises was made, but the dastardly action was averted by a market gardener, who was passing at 2 o'clock on his road to market. He gave the alarm to some men residing on the spot, and they managed to get the flames under before any damage was done. It was then discovered that a deliberate plot had been made, a piece of rag saturated with kerosine, or some other explosive, being found concealed in the north - western portion of the yard, where the flames were seen. As Mr. Segar's premises in Kent Town had been tampered with the same morning, and taking into consideration the destruction of Mr. Wallace's property, Messrs. Cowells attributed the whole to a freak on the part of a lunatic, and took no further notice of it.

In reference to the fire at Cowell's on March 3, a compositor who was on his road home from work stated that when he passed the premises they appeared to be quite safe, and nobody was about; but ten minutes afterwards the neighbours were aroused either by hearing the crackling of flames, or seeing the glare through their windows. All agree that when their attention was first directed the whole of the premises were one mass of flames, though one or two are of opinion that it originated in the centre of the yard, while others maintain that it started in the north western corner, where the previous attempt was made. Whoever is

correct, it seems pretty certain that it was ignited in more than one place, as it would be impossible for the fire to have been developed in such a short space of time had not such been the case. A fire reel on the spot immediately, the residents state, would have been of no use whatever in putting the fire out, and the probabilities are such was correct. Mr. Henry Cowell was aroused by his servants, who noticed that the window of their bedroom had caught alight by the heat. He aroused his wife, and made all the haste he could, and with the assistance of a few of the inhabitants managed to remove all his furniture into a house over the road. Thanks to the head reel, however, his house stood its ground, though slightly damaged. The greatest excitement prevailed in a row of cottages known as Elsie-terrace, in Beyer-street, the back doors of which are connected with the timber-yard. The area of ground on which the property stood was 200 feet square. As showing the intense heat of the flames, the paint on doors on the opposite side of the road was cracked, and early in the morning it was barely possible to walk along the footpath without the face and head being covered.

Messrs. J. and H. Cowell, the two partners in the firm of Cowell Brothers, estimate the value of the machinery lost at £3,000. This comprises two moulding machines, a general joining machine, a vertical frame, a breaking-down frame, three saw benches, and a Cornish boiler, 25 horse power, with a carving machine. The iron safe was saved from the flames, and in it, luckily, were all their books. At the time of the disaster they were employing between fifty and sixty men and boys, their wages amounting to over £100 per week. In addition to throwing all these men out of employment, the fire will have the effect of stopping, at least temporarily, the erection of a number of buildings in the neighbourhood. The stock was chiefly deals and other timber, and the amount had been increased of late by heavy shipments from the Baltic, which it was estimated would last till next October. Their property is insured to the ex-ent of £13,000. Besides the timber and machinery five or six drays were burnt, but the horses incurred no danger, as they were not stabled near the fire. The carpenters have also suffered through losing all their tools on the premises. A large amount of ironmongery, firewood, bran, chaff, &c., were also destroyed. They state that their losses are not nearly covered by insurance. The house belonging to the firm occupied by Mr. Bush, one of their employes, was completely gutted, as was also their shop facing the Parade.

There were other sufferers. Mr. S. Gardiner, who carried on the business of a builder, next door to the timber-yard, was also completely burnt out. He is insured for £200 in the New Zealand Company, but does not think that amount will cover his loss. Messrs. Revell, Adams, & Co. are sufferers by the loss of an octagon, to which Mr. Gardiner was making some additions, and which was to have been removed the very morning of the fire. It was valued at £80, and was intended as an exhibit of different samples of ironwork at the Agricultural Show. Mr. Gardiner's books were saved with the exception of his daybook. The next sufferer was Mr. H. Desbief, a general storekeeper, who lost his shop and contents, and only had the walls of his house left standing. The furniture was saved, and we understand that he is covered in the New Zealand Company for £1,200 on building, stock, &c. He has been in business for two years, and the house is his own. Mr. Bush, is a sufferer by the loss of furniture, which he values at £20. He says that when he first saw the fire it had evidently been started in four different places, one being in the front shop, close to where the oil drums were stored.

Early on Tuesday morning two more fires started in Norwood and Kent Town. The first one happened on the property of Mr. Alfred Clarke, of Sydenham-road, not far from Messrs. Cowell's, and a large haystack of about fifty tons was consumed by the flames. It was first observed at about 4 o'clock, but fortunately through the presence of the police at Messrs. Cowell's premises, assistance was soon at hand. A great deal of damage, however, was done to the hay. The stack was valued at £240, and is insured in the Equitable Company for £100. The second fire took place at Mr. G. Matte's cabinetmaking establishment, Rundle-

street, Kent Town. It occurred in the workshop, but luckily was seen by some one in time to prevent a conflagration.

On Wednesday morning, March 5, another conflagration occurred, which, though not perhaps so extensive as some of its predecessors, was quite sufficient to intensify the widespread feeling of insecurity that pervades the district. The destroyed premises, which comprised wheelwright's and coach shop, blacksmith's shop, and an iron-roofed shed containing timber, stood at the corner of Kent-terrace and the Magill-road, and covered about the quarter of an acre. On the south side are the buildings known as Hardwicke House, now unoccupied. At half-past 3 one of Bricknell Brothers' employés (the bakers at the opposite corner) was in their yard, and nothing then attracted his attention. Some short time after the glare of the fire was apparent to him, and the alarm was given to the neighbours and at the Police Station. Constables Garland and Adamson, who were on duty in Young-street, Kent Town, noticed the fire at about ten minutes to 4, and were promptly on the scene. Two printers, who were on their way home from work, noticed the flames from the east end of Grenfell street, and promptly conveyed the news to the Head Station. Immediately Superintendent Moore and firemen with a reel started, and by their prompt action, aided by the Norwood Volunteer Brigade, whose reel and a strong muster of firemen soon after put in an appearance, the further spread of the flames was checked. The fire spread with extreme rapidity, consuming two drays and a buggy, which were just finished, and the building was thoroughly gutted. The premises were insured in the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company for the sum of £1,000—£500 on the building, £300 on the contents, and £200 on the stock outside.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 11 March 1884, page 7***

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Captain Moore states that the permanent brigade received a call at about 1.15. and in a few minutes were on the spot. They fixed the hose on to the plug on the north side, and having a good pressure of water managed to save Mr. Brookman's house, which is situated on the western side of the burnt factory. The Norwood reel, in charge of Captain Warman and firemen Gooden, Little, and Newbery, arrived a little time afterwards, and the united efforts of the two brigades soon had the effect of getting the fire under. The Norwood brigade received notice of it under the following circumstances; — Mr. James Clark, a coach proprietor, who lives near the reel station, was coming from Magill, and noticed about ten minutes past 1 a strong glare in the direction of the Britannia Hotel. He drove quickly to the reel station and aroused Captain Warman and the other firemen, and the reel having been fastened on to his coach they were soon en route for the scene of the conflagration. It may be mentioned that Mr. Clark has been most zealous in assisting the brigade, and has taken the reel to the following fires :—One at the corner of Wall and George streets, Mildren's, Engel's Corner, and Cossey's. He also drove the members of the brigade to Cowell's. The Norwood reel played on the fire till a quarter to 5, and as all danger was then over, they returned to the station. Great praise is due to them for their promptitude.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 26 March 1884, page 5***

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual dinner in connection with the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the Norwood Town Hall on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. K. St. Barbe-Miller, who was supported on the right by the Chief Secretary (the Hon. J. C. Bray), the Hon. T. Playford, and Mr. R. Moore (Superintendent of Fire Brigades), and on the left by the Hon. E. T. Smith (Minister of Education), and Mr. D. Packham; while the vice-chair was filled by Mr. T. Caterer. There was a large attendance, fully 120 gentlemen being present. After an excellent

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

repast, provided by Mr. J. Smith, had been partaken of, and the loyal toasts honored, the Vice-Chairman proposed "The Ministry." He said he had thought he would have been asked to propose the toast of the brigade, who regarded him almost as a father, but he felt honored to have "The Ministry" entrusted to his care. They had no Parliament, but they should be thankful that the Ministry, which was the cream of the Parliament, was left to them. The Ministry had had a good deal to contend against during their term of office, and one of their most noticeable wants had been that of a strong Opposition. When the Ministry looked back over the three years they had held office, they could say their term had been a fairly successful one. But in one thing they had failed, and that was the adjustment of the incidence of taxation. For three years they had tried to impose fresh taxation, but up to that time, when the whole colony was crying out for taxation, they had been unable to do so. It was a recognised saying that only good should be spoken of the dead, and it was also generally understood that no ill should be spoken of those about to die, and therefore he would say no more of the Ministry beyond mentioning that in choosing one of their members for the responsible post of Minister of Education they had done themselves honor. The Chief Secretary, in responding, said the Ministry had no thoughts of dying, but they had called in a physician, one greater even than the press, viz., public opinion. Under the treatment of this physician he thought they would return to their old places in the House with a larger majority than before. (Mr. Playford—"Your physician has not yet felt your pulse.") Public opinion had already felt their pulse, together with that of Mr. Playford's colleague, Hon. E. T. Smith, and had pronounced the result most satisfactory. He had not before known that the whole colony was calling aloud for taxation, but he thought every man present felt with him that in the interests of the colony it was necessary to increase the taxation, which was lighter per head in South Australia than in any other colony in the group. Even if it was not necessary to increase the taxation it was necessary to relieve the poorer classes of the burden under which they groaned by compelling the richer classes to contribute more proportionately to the general revenue. The Minister of Education proposed "The Corporations of Kensington and Norwood and St. Peter's," He said he did so with very great pleasure, as for some years he was Mayor of Kensington and Norwood, and had watched its gradual development with particular interest. The Corporation of Adelaide was the oldest in the colonies, while that of Kensington and Norwood was the second oldest, and they possessed the oldest town hall in the colony, as well as the only volunteer fire brigade. St. Peter's was the youngest corporation within the colony, but in its bounds were St. Peter's College and many other important educational establishments. He looked forward to the time when it would take its place as one of the richest municipal bodies in the province. The Chairman suitably responded, making special reference to the progress the town had made since the introduction of tramways. Mr. Bertram (Mayor of St. Peter's) and Councillor Lyons also responded. Councillor Lyons proposed the toast of the evening, "The Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade." He said the brigade, which consisted of only twelve members, was held in the highest respect not only by the inhabitants of Norwood, but by South Australian colonists in general. During one memorable week they had attended no less than fourteen fires. One man on one occasion held the hose for nine hours continuously, and many of the firemen slept only four hours per day for a whole week. There was at one time a prejudice against the brigade because they were volunteers, but that had gradually died out, until at that time the brigade was perhaps the most popular institution in the municipality. The toast was drunk with cheers. Mr. A. J. Diamond (hon. superintendent of the brigade), in responding, mentioned that when it was proposed to start the brigade three years ago a deal of cold water was thrown on the affair, but still in the course of a few weeks £150 was raised by public subscription, and never since had the brigade lacked support. For a long period their services were not needed, but during the past few weeks they had been very active, and had so convinced the public of their usefulness that it was proposed to establish branch stations at Kent Town and Kensington, and to procure a horsereel for the head-station. If that were done he thought the brigade would meet all the requirements of the



town and meet other brigades on an equal footing elsewhere. Mr. Packham proposed "The Officers of the Brigade" in eulogistic terms thanking them at the same time for the services rendered to extinguishing the recent fire on his premises. Captain Warman responded. Several other toasts were honored, and the proceedings, which were enlivened with musical selections, were brought to a close at a late hour.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 27 March 1884, page 2***

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE ANNUAL DINNER.

On Tuesday night in the annual dinner in connection with this Brigade was held in Norwood Town Hall, in the presence of about 150 gentlemen. The catering, which was exceptionally good, was carried out by the Messrs. Bricknell Brothers, of Kent Town. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. K. St. Barbe-Miller, J.P.) presided, being supported on the right by the Chief Secretary, Hon. T. Playford, and Superintendent Moore, of the Metropolitan Brigade ; on the left by the Hon. E. T. Smith, M.P., and Mr. D. Packham, J.P. After the toasts of the Queen and Governor having been duly honoured, the Vice-Chairman (Mr. T. Caterer, J.P.) proposed "The Ministry," remarking that he would rather have had the toast of the Norwood Fire Brigade to deal with, as he was a strong supporter of it. They all thought very highly of the Parliament and the members of the Ministry, who were supposed to be the very cream of it. He was reminded of a story of the late Dr. Benson, who used to say to his boys, "whatever you do stick to the horse, don't go to the ground," and that appeared something like the motto of the Ministry, which had had many difficulties to contend with, though the Opposition was not so strong as might have been wished. The Chief Secretary (Hon. J. C. Bray), in responding to the toast, said he acknowledged that the Ministry had been considerably shaken in the saddle, but had not been unseated. Public opinion had lately conceded with the policy of the Government, and public opinion was far in advance of the Press. When the present Ministry first took office the Press said they would not last a few days, then they awarded them a month or two's life as Ministers ; and this sort of thing was repeated summer after summer, but they had never been turned out. Public opinion now said they were as strong and lively as the day they accepted the responsibilities of office. With regard to the Ministerial appointment of Mr. Smith, he believed that that gentleman had best served himself and the public by accepting the position. Mr. Caterer had made mention of the weak Opposition that they had to fight against ; but he assured them they had by far the best part of the business. According to all the recognised rules no Ministry should vacate its position while it had the approval of the House, and it would be cowardly for them to give way until the House told them to do so. It would also be improper for a man who was serving the country to abandon the responsibilities unless he knew of others who could be got better than himself to discharge them, and the Ministry would keep office until such circumstances absolutely necessitated their resignation, and after that they would be prepared to serve the country as simple members with as much heart as at present. With regard to taxation it was apparent that something must be done to raise money, and the colonists would very properly object to a discontinuance of public works which would involve damage to the State, and the desire of the Ministry was to make the wealthy classes contribute in a greater degree than was at present the case. The Minister of Education (Hon. E. T. Smith, M.P.) proposed "The Corporations of Norwood and St. Peters." He had been connected with the former body for a number of years, having occupied the mayoral chair, and consequently knew something about it. Those days, when forty or fifty miles of roads had to be maintained by the rate which amounted to only £1,000, were not to be compared with the present when the figures were four times as large. It was a pleasing circumstance to know that this Corporation was the second in importance in all South Australia. They possessed on the opposite side of the road the oldest Town Hall in the colony, and some reverence must be attached to the building. During his second year as Mayor both gas and water had been introduced into the town, and

many of the ratepayers had looked upon his action with regard to tram-way traffic rather coolly, saying he had displayed unusual interest to benefit himself ; but what had been the result of the system ? It was the best ever introduced into the colony, and undoubtedly was the step which made Norwood and Kensington what they were to day. St. Peters was the youngest Corporation, and he welcomed its representatives. Though young, it was destined to be one of great value to the district, being possessed of splendid property, such as scholastic institutions, public buildings, and other things that were greatly in its favour, and he confidently believed it would in a few years rank amongst the most important of municipal bodies. With regard to the Fire Brigade Act, he had done a good deal towards getting it passed, but still there were defects which must be remedied. Provision should be made for the recognition of Volunteer Brigades, the desirableness of this having been made apparent by the recent action of the Norwood representatives. He asked them to drink the toast heartily, and with him wish for continual prosperity to all. Mr. K. St. Barbe-Miller, J.P. (Mayor of Norwood and Kensington), responded, and mentioned having been a supporter of Mr. Smith in his endeavours to procure tramway communication with the city, and he felt proud of his action, because it had made Norwood and Kensington the largest suburb to the city. Their present position showed they had lost no strength, but were as time went on growing stronger and stronger. On behalf of his colleagues he thanked them for the way the toast had been received. Mr. J. Bertram (Mayor of St. Peters) also acknowledged the toast, and intimated that prior to and since his Corporation had been proclaimed they had always worked hand in hand with the Norwood body when a boundary was met. He was pleased to see such a number present to do honour to the local brigade, who had of late acted in such a manner as had commended themselves to the notice of the public. Dr. Sprod, of the Norwood Council, also responded to the toast. Councillor Lyons proposed the toast of "The Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade," which, he said, recommended itself to them. If anything were wanting to manifest the popularity of the brigade this gathering would be quite sufficient. The members were honoured and greatly respected by the whole of the municipality because of their recent action in endeavouring to save property. Fourteen fires had occurred during the month, and often they had only twelve men in the brigade, some of them having held the hoses for nine hours at a stretch, and others had received no more than four hours' sleep in the same number of days, and he considered that the Insurance Societies should recognise their services more substantially. The Norwood Corporation was the first to move in the direction of improved sanitary conditions, and the town was the only body that possessed a Volunteer Fire Brigade, which watched 2,500 houses and a population of 12,000 people. Mr. A. J. Diamond, Superintendent of the Brigade, thanked the company for the enthusiasm displayed in receiving the toast. He occupied the position of Superintendent, but would not claim to have done much work. Three years ago the then Mayor, Mr. T. Caterer, was enthusiastic in its formation, although a considerable amount of cold water was thrown on the movement by the public. They were told that the thing would be an ornamental arrangement only, and would be seldom required. However, £150 was sub-scribed and the Brigade formed, but happily its services were not required during the first two years, although lately they had had an unusual amount of labour, and those who had imagined that it would be a useless body had had their ideas considerably altered. It was the intention of the Brigade as far as possible to adopt a purely voluntary basis. They did not wish to be paid for their services, but he considered that mechanics who lost a portion of their wages by being called to a fire should have the amount refunded. He would mention that since the late fires the National Company of New Zealand had sent them a cheque for ten guineas, and inasmuch as the residents had contributed £150 he thought others of the Insurance Companies might help a little, As in the past, it would be their desire to work amicably with the City Brigade. Mr. Packham gave "The Officers of the Brigade," which was responded to by Captain Warman and Fireman T. F. Caterer. "The Fire Insurance Companies," "Superintendent Diamond," "City Brigades," and other toasts followed. Songs and duets were contributed by Messrs. M. S. Rowe, G. E. Caterer, H. P.

Macklin, C. P. James, W. S. Welbourne, R. H. Buttery, and A. J. Diamond, and altogether a most pleasant evening was spent. The Brigade members were all present in uniform, as was also Superintendent Moore.

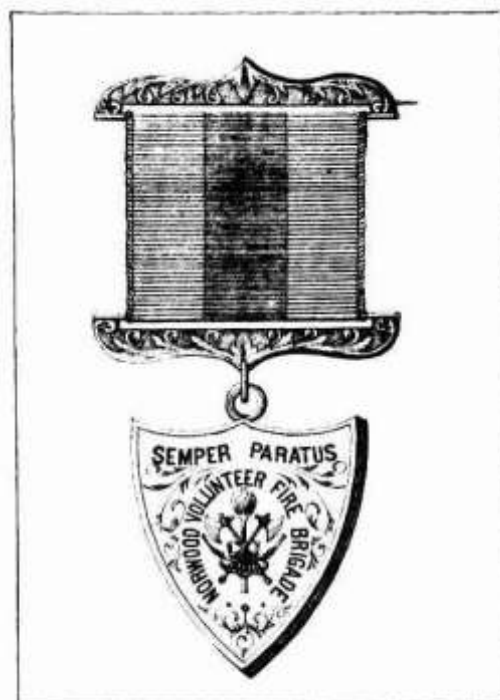
***Frearson's Monthly Illustrated Adelaide News (SA : 1880 - 1884), Thursday 1 May 1884, page 4***

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE MEDALS.

We have had the opportunity of inspecting a number of gold medals, obtained chiefly through the exertions of Councillor Threlfall, for presentation to the members of the Nor-wood Volunteer Fire Brigade, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by them during the fire epidemic in March last. Altogether there are eight medals, in shield pattern, each weighing about an ounce, and attached to the Norwood colours by a heavy gold engraved clasp, that for the captain being a little heavier than those of the two lieutenants and the firemen. On the face of shields are the words "Semper paratus," [Semper Paratus is a Latin phrase, meaning "Always Ready". (Wikipedia)] and underneath a flaming torch, two axes, and two hose muzzles crossed, while the reverse bears the inscription — "Presented to Fire-man—, for valuable services during the week of fires, March 1884." The total cost of the medals, which are exceedingly neat in design, was about £50, the greater part of which was readily subscribed by local residents, the Insurance Companies, with only three exceptions, declining to recognise the admittedly valuable services rendered by the Brigade on the occasion referred to. The presentation of the medals took place at the Norwood Town Hall on Friday evening, May 9. The meeting was a large one. The Mayoress (Mrs. K. St. Barbe Miller) attached the medals to the breasts of the firemen after His Worship had complimented the men upon their exertions in connection with the late fires. At the close of the proceedings the Fire Brigade and others were invited by the Mayor to adjourn to the Council Chamber, when various toasts were proposed and responded to.

***Frearson's Monthly Illustrated Adelaide News (SA : 1880 - 1884), Thursday 1 May 1884, page 11***

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE MEDAL



NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE MEDAL.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Saturday 10 May 1884, page 7***

## THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

The courage and determination displayed by the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade in extinguishing the numerous conflagrations which occurred during what is known as "the fire week" in March last, were suitably recognised at the local town hall on Friday evening, May 9, when, in the presence of about 800 persons, each of the members was presented with a suitably inscribed gold medal by the Mayoress of the town (Mrs. K. St. B. Miller). The men were drilled in front of the building for a few minutes by Captain Warman, and then an adjournment was made to the hall. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. K. St. B. Miller) presided, and there was a crowded attendance. Councillor THRELFALL in asking Mrs. Miller to present the medals said he with others had carefully considered what would be the most suitable way in which to commemorate and recognise the action of the fire brigade in extinguishing the large number of fires which occurred during the month of March, and they had decided to collect sufficient money to present a medal to each of the members of the brigade. He had under-taken the task of collecting the money, and he was pleased to say that with the exception of one or two secretaries of fire insurance companies he had met with a ready response from every one he had asked to subscribe. The medals, which each weighed one ounce, were of first-class workmanship and material, and were therefore fit to hang on the breasts they were intended to adorn. (Cheers.) The Chairman said he was sorry that it had been found necessary to hold such a gathering as the present, because the original cause of it had destroyed a vast amount of property. But at the same time he was pleased to pre-side and to see so many there who had assembled to recognise the bravery of the members of the brigade. Englishmen carried their customs with them wherever they went, and one of them was to do their duty, and that was what the brigade had done during the dreadful week of fires through which they had passed. Another custom was to recognise bravery and the conscientious discharge of duty whenever it was found, and for that purpose they had gathered that evening. The brigade work had been an honor to them and a credit to the town. The medals were then pinned to the mens tunics by Mrs. Miller, and as each man mounted the platform he was greeted with a round of applause. The following are the members of the brigade:—Hon. Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Diamond; captain, Mr. T. B. Warman; lieutenants, Messrs. R. K. Kippist and W. Warnman; firemen, Messrs. T. Gray, F. Steed, H. Newberry, R. Buttery, T. A. Caterer, T. Little, and J. K. Gooden. On the motion of Councillor LYONS, seconded by the Hon. E. T. SMITH, a vote of thanks was seconded to the Chairman and to Mr. Threlfall for getting up the testimonials. Three cheers having been given for Mrs. Miller the gathering dispersed. Refreshments were afterwards partaken of by the brigade and a number of gentlemen in the council chamber. Several toasts were honoured, and the proceedings, which were of an informal character, terminated at an early hour.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 14 May 1884, page 7***

## THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

## TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I, with many others, was much pleased to read the account you gave of the presentation of gold medals to our gallant firemen in recognition of their bravery and valuable services during what is rightly termed the week of fires. As a body of men banded together for the saving of property from the devouring element, their energy, bravery, and valiant conduct could not have been surpassed. I was present at Messrs, Cowell Brothers' fire before any firemen arrived on the scene, and noticed that Mr. Joseph Steed was the first fireman on the spot, he being the one who assisted Captain Moore's brigade on their arrival, and worked with them until his own (the Norwood reel) came from Mr. Packham's fire at Kensington. I have

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

further noticed that while all the other men's names have appeared in your columns in connection with the various fires, Steed has never been mentioned, not even on the occasion of the presentation of the medals. This man was at the fire in Rundle-street, where a part of a roof fell on him and Captain Warman, and in the reports of that conflagration the name of Fireman Buttery was substituted for his, although Buttery was not at the fire at all. At Cowell Brothers' fire I saw several young men working with the brigade, who must have rendered great assistance. Four of them I know, viz.—Mr. F. Colliver, Mr. E. Mason, Mr. D. Stephens, and Mr. Irwin. These men worked the whole of Monday into the small hours on Tuesday, and again on Tuesday night, when their day's work was over. Now I think such conduct as this should at least be rewarded with a vote of thanks.— I am, &c.,

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE. Norwood, May 12, 1884.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 1 December 1884, page 3***

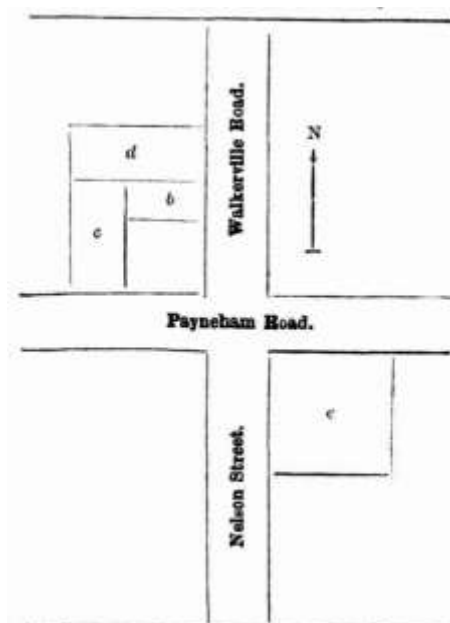
**Alarming Fire at East Adelaide.**

Another destructive fire broke out early on Sunday morning at East Adelaide. Whatever doubts may be felt as to the origin of some of the other fires which have recently occurred, all the evidence would seem to point to the distinctly incendiary character of this one. The scene of the fire was the store of Mr. Parks, at the corner of the Payneham and Walkerville roads, and opposite to the Buck's Head Hotel. It will be remembered that Parks was recently the victim of a most dastardly outrage, having been stabbed on his own premises in the course of an affray which occurred on the evening of his daughter's wedding. From the injuries he then received he is still suffering, and he now lies in a very precarious condition, Mr. Parks's daughters, who were nursing their father, state that it was half past 1 when they went to bed. One of the girls went into the kitchen and put out a light that was there and also the only other light in the house, which was in the sitting-room. They were awakened about 4 a.m. by a loud crackling noise as though the place was on fire, and the volumes of smoke which poured into the dwelling-house proved this to be the case. They found the whole of the shop was in a blaze, and the flames appeared to have already got into the roof. One of the boys ran to fetch Inspector Ray, who lives close by. The rest of the family moved Mr. Parks from his bed, and got him out in a chair into the backyard, where he was wrapped in blankets. The fire spread with such extraordinary rapidity that even before Mr. Parks could be got out of the building the flames had burst through from the shop into the dwelling, and for a minute or two it seemed doubtful whether he could be got safely into the yard in time to prevent his being suffocated by the smoke. As soon as Mr. Parks was in a position of comparative safety, an attempt was made to remove the more easily shifted articles of furniture. It was difficult to save much, but the piano and a good many of the smaller things in the bed room in the dwellinghouse were got out. When first seen the fire appeared to have got its chief hold round and about the door of the store at the corner of the Walkerville and Payneham roads. From this point it spread right and left, ran through the roof, and destroying the partition separating the shop from the adjoining offices rented by the East Adelaide Corporation, made its way into the latter in about twenty minutes. Superintendent Moore, with the town brigade, Lieutenant Kippist, with the Norwood reel, and the Payneham reel were quickly in attendance, but could do little, as the fire had pretty well burnt itself out in three-quarters of an hour to an hour. Very few people were present except just at the last. The first man actually at the fire was Inspector Ray, whose statement we append. Mrs. Bauer, the wife of the landlord of the Buck's Head Hotel, says she first noticed the fire at 18 minutes past 4, when she was awakened by her husband and looked at her watch to see the time. Day was just breaking. She saw no one about, except Inspector Ray. Her husband went over then and she followed, and helped to get some of the corporation boxes and other property safely to the hotel. The buildings destroyed are the property of Mr. Kiekebusche, and were insured for £1200, and the contents of the store were

insured for £650. The Parks family appear to have been singularly unlucky lately. In addition to this calamity, the shock of which has affected Mr. Parks in his present state of health very prejudicially, one of his sons was a sufferer by the recent fire in Rundle-street, as his shop was one adjoining Everitt's and Mallabone's, and only a few yards from Gay's.

As to the cause of the fire, it will be noticed that Inspector Ray saw a wooden pair of steps which, though placed some few feet from the building, were in a blaze, and he observed flames coming out from the store over the top of the door. The beams of the flooring at the doorway are completely charred through, and it is a singular fact that the verandah posts are all or nearly all charred from top to bottom. An eyewitness states that the flames ran downwards along the posts with great rapidity. This would appear to point to the probability of their having had kerosine or other inflammable stuff poured over them, and that someone has made use of the steps for the purpose of pouring something into the shop through the fanlight. If some of the kerosine were spilt on the steps, that might account for these having caught light in the manner described by Ray. The corporation offices destroyed were to have been the scene to-day of an election for the office of councillor for the East Adelaide ward. We understand a temporary booth will be erected as near as possible to the site of the offices for the benefit of electors.

#### PLAN OF LOCALITY OF FIRE.



#### Explanation.

- a. Parks's store, completely burnt out. Fire supposed to have broken out at door at junction of Walkerville and Payneham roads.
- b. Corporation offices rented off Parks; burnt out.
- c. Parks's dwelling house, roof destroyed, and some rooms gutted.
- d. Detached bakery and yard. Bakery uninjured.
- e. Buck's Head Hotel.

#### IMPORTANT STATEMENTS OF INSPECTOR RAY

Mr. Inspector Ray, one of the officials of the East Adelaide Corporation, and a special constable for the district, gives the following account of the fire. He says:—"I was called at 4.10 a.m. by one of Mr. Parks's sons, who knocked at my place, and called out that his father's store was on fire. I hurried on my clothes, and as I live close by, I was round at the store by 4.15. It was then daybreak, the air was very clear and bright, and in a few minutes it was broad daylight. I was the first person at the scene of the fire, no one else being present, so far as I could see, but the members of Mr. Parks family. They were up and dressed, and were trying to remove their father from the dwelling house (marked c on the plan). Flames were rushing out at the fanlight opening at the top of the shop door at the corner of the Walkerville-road. Cannot say whether the fanlight was broken or removed. It may have been twisted round on the swivel. Flames were also pouring out above the level of the shutters of the window, facing Walkerville-road, but only for a distance of a few feet from the door. The windows must have been broken near the door, but towards the corporation office, (marked d on the plan) no smoke or flame was issuing, so I imagine the windows were whole in that direction. A verandah runs right round Parks's block. About three feet away from the door before referred to, and under the verandah, I noticed a pair of steps. I noticed that the whole of that half of the steps which was nearest to Paynham-road was ablaze from top to bottom. I am sure the flames from the fanlight could not have reached the steps. As Park's family seemed to be doing all they could in the dwelling house, and the fire had got such a hold of the store that it was impossible to get into it, I ran to the corporation office, broke open the windows, and in this way got out several of the ballot boxes and other things within reach of the window. The elections are to come off on Monday, and so there were a good many books and papers about. One of Mr. Parks's daughters ran and told me there was a watch and chain and other valuables in one of the bedrooms, so I wrapped a cloth round my head, and went into the dwelling-house and got out a good many things for them. I found I could not possibly make my way into the shop. Mr. Gosse, the clerk to the corporation, was early on the scene, and Mr. Langridge, a painter, from the neighborhood. Mr. Gosse unlocked the door, but something would not give way, and we had to smash it in. By this time the fire had got fair hold of the office. Langridge and I got almost everything out of the office. We unlocked the safe and got away the official books and papers. There was only a wooden partition between the shop and the corporation office. This was soon ablaze, and the heat from that and from the burning roof was fearful. I was a good deal scorched, and my whiskers and hair were singed, and Langridge, who behaved very pluckily, got rather badly burnt. My uniform cap was knocked off somehow, and got burnt, and just as I was making a final effort to get out the last of the things the rafters fell in and I was knocked down. The falling debris hurt my back and right arm, and my right hand is much burned. Mr. Bauer, the landlord of the Buck's Head Hotel and Trooper Singleton rushed into the office and succeeded in dragging me out. I wonder I got off with so little harm done. Unfortunately for me, it seems the only things left in the office at the time were some Masonic books which were my own property, and were locked away in a drawer. They were worth some £3 or so. Mr. Bauer, who ran a considerable risk, fortunately escaped unhurt. My wife followed soon after me to the fire, and called my attention to a curious thing. The fire had then got hold of the woodwork of the verandah, This was about 4 40 a.m. I should think. The flames, of course, caught the verandah posts at the top, but the singular thing was that the fire appeared to run down the posts from top to bottom almost instantaneously. Did not notice whether the posts seemed to be covered or coated with anything. They are ordinary white-painted posts. Of course the heat and smoke were too great to admit of close inspection. My wife called out tolerably loud to me, "Why it looks as if some one had thrown kerosine over the posts." I said "Hush; perhaps it's the varnish;" but I could not help noticing the flames rushing downwards as they did. I have had some experience in the matter of fires, as I was in my younger days a fireman at Bury St. Edmunds, in England, and received permanent injuries at a fire in that town in 1853.

1885

**South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 4 February 1885, page 6**

## FIRE AT KENT TOWN.

A fire broke out near Allen's Corner. Kent Town, about ten minutes past 1 this morning, on the premises lately rebuilt by Mr. J. D. Davis for Mr. J. Wootton, who carries on in them a millinery and dressmaking establishment. The alarm was first given by a passer-by, who observed the premises to be on fire, and called up Mr. Wootton. It was over ten minutes before any one went for the Norwood fire-reel, and when the messenger got to the station, opposite the Maid and Magpie Inn, it was found that the shed was locked and the key in the possession of some one living southwards beyond the Kent Town Jubilee Church. Messengers, fleet of foot were dispatched for the key, and within about seven minutes the reel and firemen were on the spot. In the meantime the Head Station Reel had arrived and had been playing on the flames, and was followed by the St. Peters Reel. By 1.35 the fire was practically subdued, though everything on the premises was burned with the exception of several articles of furniture, chiefly from the servant's room. The servant was awakened by the police. The tarpavement was in full blaze, and looked at one time as though it would be a means of spreading the flames to the next premises, only just finished, and occupied by Mr. White, chemist. The rapidity with which the flames reduced the whole place to a glowing heap of ruins was only equalled by the quickness with which the fire was subdued when the hose began to play upon it. Close at the back of the premises were a number of wooden erections built against the wall of the store, belonging to Messrs. Driver and Stockwell, known as the Singer Sewing Machine Depot, and this again joins Mr. Krüger's coach factory, where a good many vehicles and a large coachmaking plant, with a lot of timber, is kept for the purposes of his trade in a yard at the back. There are other premises used as a cordial factory close to this, so that had the night not been absolutely a dead calm there is every probability that there would have been an extensive and disastrous fire. The Norwood Fire Brigade deserve praise for the activity and intelligence with which they acted, attacking the fire at exactly the right spot ; but as the roof fell in within a minute or two after some of the men with the hose had re-tired from the midst of the flaming mass, it appears they required a warning to temper their zeal with discretion and not to rush into danger, when, by standing without the room, they could just as well have reached the same spot with the water. Brave men's lives are far too valuable to be risked in such a manner, especially where absolutely no property can be saved, and no lives in danger. Mr. Wootton's stock, furniture, and fixtures are insured in the Lion Insurance Company for £600, and in the Adelaide Marine Insurance Company for £215. The building was insured for £400. Mr. Wootton considers that he has suffered a severe loss from the fire, as his business, which promised well, is now completely destroyed. He is utterly unable to account for the fire. On Tuesday night he went to bed at 11 or 11.30 p.m. He had before this locked up the shop, but had sent the servant in for his coat. He was not sure whether she had carried in a lighted candle with her or not, but she returned with the coat and gave him back the key, He was aroused some time after this by loud cries of "Fire." He jumped up hastily and came downstairs. The key of the shop was not forthcoming, and so nothing could be saved out of the shop. He lost all his books, with the exception of his ledger. Mrs. Wootton and her child have been stopping down at the Bay, and are expected to return on Wednesday or Thursday.

**South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 21 October 1885, page 5**

A disastrous fire occurred on the premises of Mrs. Wray, a widow, keeping a store at the corner of William and George streets, Norwood, at about 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning. When first discovered the flames were found to be raging in the shop, but owing to the dense smoke and heat it was impossible to get near them. A messenger was immediately



dispatched for the Norwood fire reel, which arrived in the space of a few minutes, in charge of Captain Warman and several members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade. By this time the fire had obtained a good hold in the shop, and, assisted by a strong easterly wind, soon completed its dire work. The flames rose to a great height, and the sparks were carried for a considerable distance, but fortunately without causing any farther damage. Aided by a good presence of water the brigade soon had the flames in check, and by about half-past 3 all danger of their spreading to a number of cottages adjoining was at an end. The shop, which was well stocked with goods, was completely gutted. The property belongs to Mr. D. Sayers, of Norwood, and is with adjoining buildings insured in the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company for £900. Mrs. Wray's stock-in-trade was insured in the same company for £300.

1886

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 4 January 1886, page 2***

#### GENERAL NEWS.

A fire broke out at about ten minutes past 12 o'clock on Sunday morning on the property of Mr. John Selby, at Walkerville, whereby from 80 to 100 yards of kangaroo acacia hedge were burnt. The houses opposite to the scene of the fire are said to have been in great danger. The flames were first seen by Corporal Walters, of the Norwood Police Force, who, although the outbreak was not in his district, assisted greatly in preventing much damage being done. The fire was extinguished by the Norwood Fire Brigade in a very short time.

The city coroner has visited the premises of Mrs. Pound, in Edward-street, Norwood, on which a fire took place on Wednesday last, and has discovered that the fire was caused by the throwing of red-hot ashes into a wooden ash-box. Although Mrs. Pound will sustain considerable loss through her property being uninsured, the coroner does not consider an inquest necessary.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 6 March 1886, page 10***

#### The Week.

A fire, by which a three-roomed cottage was totally destroyed, broke out just before midnight on Monday at Ascot Vale, Burnside. The Flinders-street and Norwood Volunteer reels were quickly in attendance, but the flames had played such havoc before their arrival that it was quite impossible to do much more than keep the fire from spreading. The cottage, which was an unoccupied one, was the property of Mr. Bennett, of Norwood.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 11 May 1886, page 7***

#### MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

##### KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD, MONDAY. MAY 10.

Present—The Mayor (Mr. F. H. Wigg), Councillors Packham, Beaumont, Stevens, Mills, Benson, Carr, Hales, and Mildren, and the Town Clerk (Mr. G. W. Gooden).

The Fire Brigade.— Councillor Stevens moved that a subscription of £10 10s. be granted to the Fire Brigade, and permission be given them to occupy the Corporation land. Councillor Packham seconded. Carried.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 3 July 1886, page 4***

Small Fire at Norwood.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

At about 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon a small fire occurred on the premises of Mr. C. Keam, butcher, Parade, Norwood. Some workmen were in the front shop endeavouring to discover the locality of a leakage in the gaspipe. While engaged in this task a light was placed near the pipe, and this meeting with an escaping stream of gas a great flame was suddenly ignited, which burnt fiercely for several minutes, charring a portion of the counter. A crowd quickly collected, and the services of the Norwood Fire Brigade being called into requisition the flames were speedily extinguished before any material damage had been done.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 30 October 1886, page 6***

CORONERS' INQUEST.

THE FIRE AT KENT TOWN.

On Friday the city coroner held an enquiry at the Maid and Magpie Hotel into the circumstances of the fire which broke out early on the preceding morning in a bakehouse belonging to Mr. J. W. Jarvis, at the corner of Kent-terrace and Rundle-street, Kent Town. Mr. A. Benson was Foreman of the Jury. The evidence showed that the fire was discovered about 1 30 on the morning of the 23th inst., by Police-constable Mullen. It was confined to about 2 tons of firewood. The constable, alarmed two of Mr. Jarvis's employés who were sleeping on the premises, and shortly afterwards three fire reels, St. Peter's, Adelaide (No. 1), and Norwood, were on the scene. St. Peter's Brigade was the first to arrive, and the flames were extinguished by them before much damage was done. Mr. Jarvis does not live on the premises. It appeared that a quantity of wood was stacked in a loft above the oven and furnace, in very close proximity to them. A considerable amount of heat was thrown off from the oven, and it must have communicated with the wood in the room above, separated only by a wooden floor. It was customary for Mr. Jarvis to have the firewood placed in the loft. The Jury returned the following verdict:— "We are of opinion that there is no direct evidence to show the origin of the fire which occurred on the premises of Mr. J. W. Jarvis, on the morning of the 28th, but we believe that the flames were accidentally communicated from the oven." In a rider they also drew attention to the reprehensible practice pursued by bakers in placing wood required for fuel in such close proximity to the oven, and expressed their admiration at the promptitude displayed by the fire brigades in arriving at and subduing the flames.

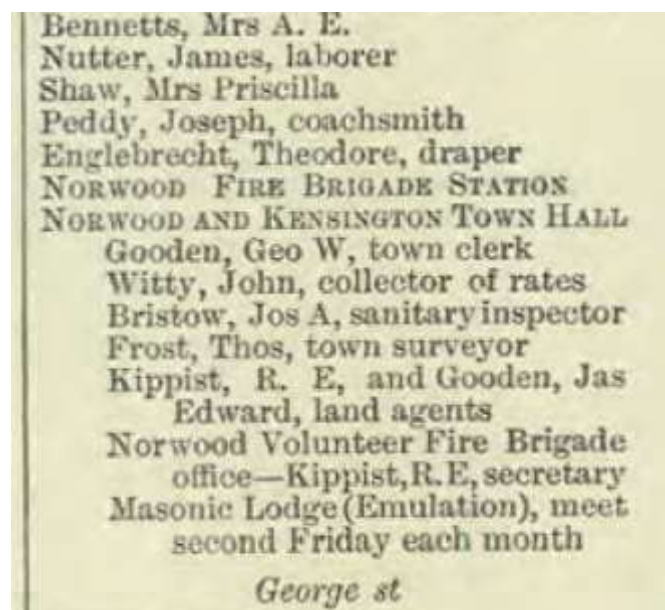
***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 27 November 1886, page 22***

FIRE AT PAYNEHAM.

An inquest was held by the city coroner (Mr. T. Ward), at the Buck's Head Hotel, East Adelaide, on the fire which occurred on the premises of Mr. J. Magor, at Payneham, and which resulted in a haystack being totally destroyed. Mr. J. Grivell was chosen fore-man of the jury. John Magor, the owner of the stack, stated that he was away at Kadina some time ago, when he received a telegram intimating that his shed and stables had been destroyed by fire. The shed was not insured. Had been told there was a stranger about the place at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the fire. On Tuesday, at about half-past 7 in the evening, a haystack, which is situated about 200 feet from his residence, was burnt down. Was in the house at the time of the fire. There was a fence around the stack, and he estimated the hay as being worth £6 per ton. The stack was not insured. Now had reason to think the fire was the work of an incendiary. The wind was blowing strongly at the time, and no one was about the premises. Eli Grivell stated that when Mr. Magor had gone to Kadina his wife had been in the habit of looking after the premises. On the day that Mr. Magor's sheds. &c, had been destroyed a man had come on the premises, and on being questioned by witness he stated that he "wanted a job." Replied that Mr. Magor was away, whereupon the man departed.

Could not give any evidence as to the origin of either of the fires, but was inclined to think they were the work of an incendiary. Chas. James, traveller, said his attention was drawn to the fire by his wife, but it could not have been burning for more than two minutes prior to his arrival on the scene. The fire lasted about two hours, but he did not see any suspicious characters about the place during the time it was burning. Mary Elizabeth Woon said she lived at Moonta, and was staying at Mrs. Magor's at the time of the fire. She was sitting in the front verandah with Miss Magor when she saw the reflection of the fire, and on looking found the whole haystack on fire. Knew nothing as to the origin of the fire. Paul Little, builder, said he was a member of the Norwood Fire Brigade, and about half past 7 was called to the fire. Immediately went and got the fire reel out, and with others proceeded to the scene of the fire. He suggested that there should be more fireplugs on the Payneham-road, as in the case of a large fire occurring there would not be plugs enough available. The jury, after retiring, returned a verdict to the effect that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated. They called the attention of the authorities to the want of fireplugs on the Payneham-road.

1887



*From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1887 giving the location of the Fire Reel Station on the Parade, on the Western side of the new Town Hall in a tin shed.*

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 14 February 1887, page 3**

#### Fire at Norwood.

What might have been a serious fire was fortunately stopped by the promptness of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade on Sunday morning. About 20 minutes past 1 o'clock the alarm was given that there was a fire on the Parade, nearly opposite the Norwood Club, and it was found that the well-known drapery establishment of Mr. W. Montgomery was in a blaze. The firebell of the local brigade soon roused the firemen and inhabitants of the neighborhood, and within a few minutes Fireman Hollis and Mr. Bulpitt were at the scene of the fire, They were quickly followed by Capt. T. S. Warman, his two lieutenants, and one other fireman, and, as usual, too many willing assistants, whose services retard rather than assist the firemen. Smoke could be seen issuing from the building, but the windows having been recently whitewashed the actual location of the fire could not be discovered until the captain and one of his lieutenants burst in the door, when the flames were seen to be burning fiercely in the north-western portion of the shop. They were soon got under, and were kept confined to the

shop. The building is a two-story one, and received but little damage. Nearly the whole of the stock, however, is damaged by fire, smoke, and water. The building and fixtures are owned by Mr. H. Newberry, and are insured in the Equitable Fire Insurance Company for £650, Mr. W. Montgomery is the leaseholder, and is insured as follows:—Commercial Union Insurance Company, £700; Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, £500; Phoenix Fire Office, £500. The coroner visited the premises on Sunday afternoon, and decided to commence an enquiry this morning at the Norwood Hotel.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 14 February 1887, page 3***

#### FIRES.

##### DRAPER'S STORE BURNED AT NORWOOD.

A fire occurred early on Sunday morning on the Parade, Norwood. Though not very large a good deal of damage was done, and until the firemen got the flames under control fears were entertained that an extensive conflagration would be the result. A few minutes after 1 o'clock on Sunday morning a young man going up the Parade noticed dense smoke issuing from the premises occupied by Mr. William Montgomery as a draper, &c. The alarm was at once given, and before many minutes had elapsed the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Captain Warland and Lieutenant Kippist, were at the scene. The men soon got the water playing on the flames, which were fiercest in the western corner of the shop, close to the window. Owing to the pressure of water being fairly good and the excellent work done by Firemen Hollis and the brothers Steed and the police, ere a quarter of an hour had elapsed all danger of the fire spreading was averted, but the stock, which consisted of the usual assortment of goods found in a draper's shop, was nearly all destroyed. The building was a brick one with an iron roof, and was of two stories. The ceiling between the shop and upper rooms was a plaster one, and it was due to this fact that the flames did not get on to the upper floor, as they burned through the front verandah. There are a couple of rooms at the back of the shop, but they were also uninjured. It is not known yet how the fire originated. The shop was closed about 11 o'clock, when Mr. Montgomery went to his private residence on Osmond-terrace. No one lives on the premises, and the upstairs and back rooms were unoccupied. The flames appear to have started in the north-western corner of the shop, and did most damage on the western side, where most of the goods were destroyed. The articles that stood on the shelves on the eastern side of the premises were principally damaged by water, but the counters that stood in the centre and one or two tables on which show goods were placed were consumed. Owing to the inflammable nature of the goods the fire while it lasted was very fierce, and burned quickly. Owing to the nature of the night and the comparative smallness of the fire Captain Salter, the Superintendent of the City Brigade, did not feel justified in weakening the force available in the city. At the same time, if the local brigade had been unable to cope with the difficulty it is more than likely that a corps would have been sent from the city. Mr. Montgomery had his stock insured for £1,600, the furniture £100, and building and fixtures £650, as follows:—Stock—Phoenix £500, London and Liverpool and Globe £500, and the Commercial Union £600, and furniture £100. The building and fixtures, which are owned by Mr. H. Newberry, are insured in the Equitable for £650. In the afternoon Coroner Ward visited the scene of the fire, and decided to begin an enquiry at the Norwood Hotel this morning.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 15 February 1887, page 7***

##### INQUEST AT NORWOOD.

The city coroner opened an inquest on Monday at the Norwood Hotel as to the fire at Mr. Montgomery's premises on the previous day. The only evidence taken was that of Constable Richmond, who stated that about 1.5 am. on January 13 he heard an alarm, and on going to

Mr. Montgomery's he saw smoke coming out of the top of the verandah. He jumped on to the top of the shutters and saw the reflection of the fire behind the counter on the right hand side of the shop. The shop was full of smoke, but no blaze was visible. The brigade arrived in seven minutes, and had the fire subdued in twenty minutes. The inquest was adjourned.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 18 February 1887, page 7***

## FIRES.

### THE NORWOOD FIRE.

On Thursday, February 17, the City Coroner (Mr. T. Ward, J.P.) resumed at the Norwood Hotel the enquiry respecting the fire in Mr. William Montgomery's draper's shop at the Parade, Norwood. early on the previous Sunday morning. Mr. G. J. Out-law was foreman of the Jury. Mr. Hargrave (of Messrs. Knox, Gwynne, & Hargrave) appeared on behalf of Mr. Montgomery, and Mr. D. Robin represented the Insurance Companies. William Montgomery said that he left his shop about 10.30 or 10.40 p.m. on Saturday night. Had three shop assistants — two girls and a youth. Joseph Litchfield, the youth, was the last on the premises. Litchfield locked up, and witness was with him when he fastened the doors. Was at the side entrance. Litchfield kept the keys. Witness had been accustomed for a considerable time to allow him to have charge of the keys of the establishment. Believed it was a practice to allow a junior assistant to have charge of the keys. Litchfield was of perfectly sober habits. Had never known him to return to the premises after locking up. Was called to the fire by Ernest Warncken about a quarter past 2 a.m. Retired to bed about 11 o'clock or a quarter past 11. Fireman Harris, who was at the fire before witness arrived, broke the side window and wrenched the lock off the door. The smoke was so dense that witness could not see in the shop. On witness's arrival the fire was under control. Lived on Osmond-terrace, about five or seven minutes' walk from the establishment. Was in the shop a minute or two before the assistant locked up. About a quarter, past 10 went to the shop door and remarked to the assistant that something was burning. He replied that he thought it was the smell of gas because there was an extra pressure on. Afterwards served two young ladies with some goods on the opposite side to where the fire started. The gas was not burning in the windows ; it was burning outside. The gas was only in the centre of the shop. Had no idea as to the origin of the fire. Believed, however, that the fire was brought in with the goods that were placed outside the door for show. The stock was insured in the following Companies : — Commercial Union, £600 ; Phoenix, £500 ; Liverpool and London and Globe, £500. The shop fixtures did not belong to witness, who considered that the stock was uninsured. Took stock six months ago, and brought the total value up to £1,590. Left his books in the shop. By Inspector Bee— The stock-sheets and other books were still missing. There were towels, sacks, &c, under the counter. Could not account for the hole in the floor behind the counter, unless it was caused by burnt goods dropping off the counter. An east wind was blowing on Saturday night. The female assistants left the shop a few minutes before 10 p.m. The police did not call witness to the fire. The business was a fairly paying one. Mr. Newbury owned the premises. Joseph Litchfield, Mr. Montgomery's assistant, deposed that he had been with his employer three years. He corroborated Mr. Montgomery's evidence with reference to witness. Ernest Warncken, at Mr. Montgomery's request, came to witness's house for the keys on the morning of the fire. Gave them to him. There was no smell of fire when witness and his employer left about 10.30 p.m. Could not account for the fire. There were some goods hanging just inside the door, including woollen materials and a variety of dresses. Took the goods down at 10 p.m., and did not observe any fire amongst them. Did not use a candle on Saturday night. Mr. Montgomery turned the gas off. Did not remember seeing the stock-sheets since last stock-day. Would know them if he saw them. Thomas S. Warman, Captain of the Nor-wood Fire Brigade, said that about 1.15 a.m. he was called to the scene of the fire.

Found that the fire was near the right-hand side of counter. It began blazing when the wind got to it. Fancied that the fire started under the counter. The goods on the top of the counter were not burnt much. All danger was averted in three minutes. Could form no idea of the cause of the fire. Frank Fay, carpenters corroborated Captain Warman's testimony. Ernest Warncken, grocer, deposed that he was in the Workmen's Club on Saturday night last when a young man rushed in and said "Montgomery's shop is on fire." Did not know who he was. He said that a policeman was waiting for him, and he ran out. It was about half-past 1 o'clock when witness called Mr. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery asked him to go for the keys. Henry Hollis, fireman, corroborated the evidence regarding the position where the fire was supposed to have started, and added that he brought a reel, and the fire was soon got under. The Coroner animadverted on Mr. Montgomery leaving his iron safe in the city for a considerable time, and allowing his books to be in different parts of the establishment. It was unwise of Mr. Montgomery to entrust a youth with the keys, especially when the shop contained £1,600 worth of property. There, however, appeared to be no suspicious circumstances respecting the fire, though like many other fires the cause might not be ascertained. The Jury returned the following verdict : — "We believe that the fire started in the north-west corner of the shop, but there is no evidence to show its origin.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 21 February 1887, page 2***

Fire Brigade Inspection.

On Friday evening, February 18, the members of the Norwood, Payneham, and St. Peters brigades met in front of the Town Hall, Norwood, and gave an exhibition of their powers of grappling with the fiery element. After going through various manœuvres, which were witnessed by a large number of residents and visitors, including the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. E. T. Smith, M.P., Alderman Shaw, the Mayor and Council of Kensington and Norwood, some members of the Unley and St. Peters Corporations, and the chairman and Councillor Cornish of the Burnside District Council, The mayor (Mr. Stevens) invited the firemen and visitors into the council chamber to enjoy his hospitality. His Worship in a neat speech, proposed the health of various members of the fire brigades, and paid them a well-deserved compliment for the manner in which they have acquitted themselves that evening as well as on the other occasions when their services has been voluntary given. He trusted they would have a pleasant to Victoria, where they are to take part in the Fire Brigade Demonstration and as a member of the Fire Brigade Board (local) he would be happy to accompany them. Captain WARMAN, of the Norwood Brigade, responded to the toast, and, in reference to the past actions of the brigade, assured the company that their services were always at the disposal of the public in protecting life and property, whether public or private. He claimed for the brigade a recognition at the hands of the Government, and considered they had been unfairly treated in not having free passes granted to Melbourne. Captain LAKE, of Payneham, and Fireman NEWITTE, of St. Peters, also responded. The MAYOR of ADELAIDE (Mr. E. T. Smith, M.P.) congratulated the brigades on their proficiency, and expressed a hope that the reels would be extended to Marryatville and Burnside. He also was anxious to see the Norwood hand reel give place to that of a horse reel.

He referred to the willingness of the brigade to render active service even outside their own town, and spoke in high terms of commendation of the assistance they rendered at the Rundle-street fire on Christmas Eve. As regards the action of the Government in not granting free passes, he mentioned that in company with his colleague he had waited on the Commissioner with the hope of obtaining this concession, but could not prevail upon him to grant it. He was sure, however, that the local brigade would not be out of pocket, and as far as he was concerned he was determined they should not. (Applause.) The MAYOR of UNLEY also paid a high compliment to the brigades, and recognised his obligations to

Captain Warman and Secretary Kippist for the information and instruction they had afforded. He also observed that he hoped to have a fire brigade demonstration on the Unley Oval, on which occasion he would offer small prizes. Alderman Shaw, the Mayor of St. Peters, and the Chairman of the Burnside District Council having endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers, the health of his worship (Mr. Stevens) was proposed by the ex-mayor, Mr. F. H. WIGG, J.P., and duly responded to.

The firemen who are to take part in the Jubilee Fire Brigades' Demonstration leave by express for Melbourne this afternoon. The Norwood Brigade send 7 members, Kent Town and St. Peters 5, Hindmarsh 5, Payneham 4, Mount Gambier 11, and Port Pirie 3. Free passes for the firemen have been granted by the Victorian Government to Melbourne from the border, but, as above stated, our Government refused a similar concession. Mr. E. T. Smith, however, with his customary generosity, trusting to others to join with him, has forwarded to Mr. R. E. Kippist, hon. sec. N.V.F.B., a cheque to defray the fares of the Norwood, Kent Town and St. Peters, and the Payneham V.F. Brigades.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 21 February 1887, page 2***

FIRE BRIGADES' JUBILEE. — South Australia is to be represented at the Grand United Australasian Fire Brigades' Jubilee which takes place in Melbourne on February 24, 25, and 26 by the following Volunteer Fire Brigades:—Norwood, Captain T. S. Warman and six men ; Kent Town and St. Peters, 1st Lieutenant F. J. Fisher and four men ; Hindmarsh, Captain J. Reed and four men ; Payneham, Captain C. Blake and four men; Mount Gambier, eleven men; Port Pirie, three men. A sufficient number of men and all appliances will be left in charge of the above Brigade Stations. Free passes have been granted on the Victorian side of the Border to the whole of the above, and although the same concession could not be obtained this side of the Border Mr. E. T. Smith, M. P., with his usual generosity (and the hope of assistance from other friends) has forwarded to Mr. R. E. Kippist, Hon. Secretary Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, a cheque to defray the fares of the Norwood, Kent Town, St. Peters, and Payneham Brigades, so that South Australia shall be well represented. The brigades leave by this afternoon's express.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 18 March 1887, page 3***

Fire at Stepney.

A fire occurred on Thursday afternoon in a carpenter's shop owned by Mr. Thomas Dunk, of Henry-street, Stepney. The flames started at about a quarter to 4 o'clock in a timber rack underneath the workshop, and were first noticed by Mr. Dunk's daughter, who immediately gave the alarm. The town fire reels were summoned by telephone, and notice was also sent to the Norwood Volunteer Brigade, which was the first to arrive, though it was followed soon after by the others. The material in the workshop being of such an in-flammable nature, the flames spread with amazing rapidity assisted by a rather strong wind. The efforts of the firemen were inadequate to cope with the flames and the whole of the shop was reduced to ashes. A trap which was in the workshop was also burnt, it being impossible to remove it. Mr. Dunk is insured in the Equitable Insurance Office for £200, but he considers himself a loser to the extent of £350. No cause has yet been assigned to the origin of the fire. The city coroner has been informed.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 18 March 1887, page 4***

Fire at Stepney.— A fire broke out in Henry-street, Stepney, on premises belonging to Mr. Thomas Dunk, builder, on Thursday afternoon. The property, a two-story building, consisted of a carpenters' shop, a stable, and a coachhouse, the walls and roof being of galvanized

iron. The fire was first observed at about ten minutes to 4 o'clock, and before any endeavours to extinguish it could be made the place was entirely ablaze. About five or six minutes past 4 the Norwood Fire Brigade, under Captain Warman, was on the scene, and shortly afterwards the Kent Town and St. Peters and No. 2 Reel from the city arrived. The place was, however, completely destroyed, and had it not been for the speedy arrival of the firemen Mr. Dunk's residence, which is in close proximity to the scene, of the fire, might have suffered from the effects of the flames. In the building were valuable carpenters' tools, a buggy, machine, various implements, and wood. The building and stock were insured for £200 in the Equitable Fire Insurance Company, but this amount will not cover the damage. Mr. Dunk estimates his loss at £350 or £400. No reason has yet been assigned for the out-break. Mr. Dunk was the last person in the building. He locked up the place about 11 o'clock in the morning, and was away from home at the time of the fire.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 22 March 1887, page 3***

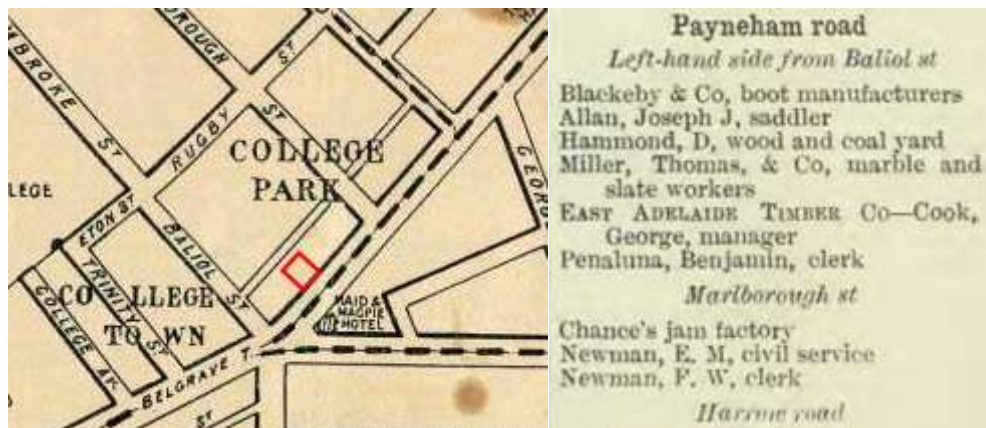
INQUEST AT STEPNEY.

Mr. J. Williams, J.P., held an enquiry at the Oriental Hotel on Monday as to the fire which occurred on Mr. T. Dunk's premises on March 17. Inspector Bee appeared for the police, and Mr. A. Abrahams for the Insurance Company. Mr. C. Gooden was chosen foreman. Thomas Dunk stated that he left the premises quite safe about 10 o'clock on the morning of the fire. He was in the shop upstairs for about half an hour previous. There was an outside ladder to reach the top story, which consisted of a workshop. There were five benches in it and all his tools, as also those of the boys. Underneath was a stable and traphouse. The top story was all closed in, as also the lower shed with the exception of the east side, which was open. The building consisted of wooden frame with covering of galvanized iron. Witness did not smoke. The children sometimes played about the shed, but witness generally sent them away when he saw them. In the lower story there was a bench used for planing and a few shavings. Was insured for £200. The timber stacked in the place was worth £25. Had six doors finished upstairs. Heated the glue in the house. All the insured property was his wife's. It was made over to her in 1885. The tools belonged to witness. Was told of the fire when he came home at 5 p.m. Louisa Schwartz said she was at Dunk's place on March 17 at about a quarter to 4. Saw no children about. Met Miss Dunk and they stood talking at the gate. Miss Dunk, who was facing the shed, called out that there was a fire. Saw the shed was alight. The fire seemed to come from the inside of the shed. They went and alarmed Mrs. Dunk, who was inside with the children. John Bray Garland, police-constable, gave evidence as to seeing the fire, but could find no trace of the origin. Ellen Dunk, daughter of Thomas Dunk, corroborated the evidence of Miss Schwartz, and said her little brother sometimes had matches. He was in the back garden at the time of the fire. The smoke was coming from the corner near the creek. Arthur Franklin, of the Norwood Brigade, stated that he was called to a fire in Henry-street. Found no reel there, and fetched the St. Peters. When he came back the Norwood Reel had arrived. Thomas Dunk, a little boy, son of the owner, said he had been to school on that day. When he came home he got some papers, scissors, and paste, and then went outside to make a kite. Went to the fowlhouse. None of the children went to the shop. Never had matches outside. Told his mother of the fire before his sister and Miss Schwartz came in. They came in immediately after. There were some boys in the creek on March 17, but none at the time of the fire. Louisa A. C. Dunk was at home at the time of the fire. Was in the kitchen sewing, and on hearing a loud knock at the door was told of the fire by her daughter and Miss Schwartz. Saw the smoke coming from underneath the shop. The little boy was at the back a little before the fire making a kite. He was in the house when the knock came to the door. Had never seen the children with matches. There were often strange boys at the back near the creek. The Jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.



**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 6 April 1887, page 6**

On Tuesday evening, at about 9 o'clock, or a few minutes after a fire broke out in Messrs. T. Miller & Co.'s marble factory, at College Park, opposite the Maid and Magpie Hotel. A shed built of galvanized iron and wood, and used as a drying room in the manufacture of imitation marble mantelpieces, caught fire, and was quickly enveloped in flames. The alarm was at once given to the St. Peter's Brigade, the reel of which is stationed at the Maid and Magpie Hotel. Second - lieutenant Gliber and Fireman Franklin soon had a hose playing on the flames. The Norwood Volunteer Brigade arrived at about a quarter past 9 o'clock, and the Payneham and city brigades were not long in putting in an appearance. Two hoses were played on the building, and the fire was completely extinguished by half-past 9 o'clock. The flames were confined to the rear portion of the works, and had they spread to the front a woodyard to the west and a timber yard to the east would have been in danger, and the fire would have assumed greater proportions. No cause can be yet assigned for the fire. The owner, Mr. Miller, lives at Fifth Creek, and was not on the spot at the time. If not insured he will be a considerable loser, as a large number of tools were destroyed. Three policemen were at the fire, and good order prevailed among the crowd, which was very great.

**Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 13 April 1887, page 3**

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

## KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD. TUESDAY, APRIL 12.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. E. C. Stevens), Councillors Threlfall, Gepp, Packham, Beaumont, Benson, Taylor, and Hales.

The Fire Brigade.— Councillor MORRIS continued the discussion on the question of the Fire Brigade. To test the feeling of the Council he moved—" That the question be deferred till this day six months." He thought that the Council had enough to do to meet their expenditure, and if a volunteer brigade was formed it would be a failure. Councillor SMITH seconded. The MAYOR thought that the ratepayers would blame the Council if a brigade was not formed and another fire occurred. The best way would be to leave the question open, and say the Council were prepared to subsidize a brigade if formed. With a local brigade the Council would have to pay one-sixth of the cost. They would send delegates to the Board, and it would rest with the Board how many reels would be sent to the district. The first cost would be about £100, and yearly about £20. Councillor SHIERLAW moved as an amendment—" That the Board be written to and asked for particulars of the cost, &c." Councillor MORRIS withdrew his motion, and the amendment was carried.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 15 April 1887, page 3**

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## Firemen's Dispute.

The members of the Adelaide Fire Brigade Board met at the head-station at 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, and finally passed the ten men recommended by the superintendent for the vacant positions in the brigade. At 6 o'clock the late members of the brigade were paid off by Mr. W. B. Wilkinson (secretary of the board), and they quietly dispersed. The superintendent immediately divided his new firemen into two staffs, dispatching five of them to No. 2 Station, Waymouth-street, and keeping five at the head station. The men who have been selected, have all been accustomed to discipline of one sort or another, either having been members or ex-members of the permanent and naval forces, men-of-wars-men, or men who have previously acted as firemen. They are a good stamp of men. Captain Warman, of the Norwood Volunteer Brigade, took charge of No. 2 station on Thursday evening, having very kindly volunteered his services. Captain Reid, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade has kindly consented to do similar duty this evening, so that at both stations there will be an officer in charge. The members of St. Peter's Volunteer Brigade in addition to the members of the Norwood and Hindmarsh brigades, have signified their willingness to act in cases of emergency, and several remained in the vicinity of the stations on Thursday evening, and as efficient men are in charge of the Arcade and King William-street reels no fears as to the safety of the city need be enter-tained, Mr. Wilkinson made a thorough inspection of the stations and reels on Thurs-day.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 16 April 1887, page 8***

## CORONER'S INQUESTS.

The City Coroner on Saturday, April 9, continued the inquest on the circumstances attending the outbreak of fire at Thomas Miller's premises, College Town, on April, 5 James Pawditch had been asked to look over the debris, and put on two men to assist him. He went carefully through the debris, and found the remains of tools (produced), also a small spokeshave. Thought the tools would be worth about 30s. before being burnt. He found a hole near the furnace in the lath-and-plaster 9x6 inches, containing rubbish saturated with tar and black varnish. The material produced was not anything like the quantity found; it would only be a sixth part of what was found in different places. He found some near the water-closet and the partition in the furnace-room. Thought the hole was made for ventilation. Found some of the same material near the water-closet. Found a bag on the crossbars; it was saturated with tar and black varnish. Also a doormat with tar on it. Held the opinion that the fire started near the water closet. Found the same inflammable material from the furnace-room to the water-closet. Also found some on the left hand side entering the furnace room. The doormat was in the centre of the building, between the closet and the furnace room. From the appearance of the hole it seemed that the material had recently been wet. Could not say if the lath-and-plaster had recently been broken, as the material would dissolve it. There might be variegated colours in the fire from the varnish. By Mr. Miller — Did not know the process of enamelling. Had seen the enamellers tools, but could not say if they would show in the debris. Thomas Miller (recalled) repeated his statement with respect to the value of the insurances. His tools were made of boxwood and indiarubber, and he did not think £40 a high price for them. Estimated the loss at about £600. There was a lot of paper about the place, as it was used to stuff up all the holes, as the place was infested with rats, and the lacquer might run into the paper. The plaster was worn away the place where the material was found by the continued use of the trusses. It was the usual thing to leave a fire in the furnace when leaving the premises. Could not account for the material being found above the level of the hole unless the lacquer boiled up. A cup of lacquer would boil up a good deal. The bags found saturated with tar were used in the business for lifting the hot slates. The mat referred to was used for cleaning boots when enamel-ling. Thomas Joseph Kelly, police-constable, was present when

the debris was turned over, and said he only saw the material produced in the hole, and not from the water-closet to the furnace-room. There were bags saturated with tar about the place. The material found was half in and half out of the hole. Heard rats when he was on duty at night. Arthur Franklin, member of the Norwood and St. Peters Brigades, arrived at the fire about a quarter-past 9. It was burning in two places. The north end was all in flames. The furnace fire was alight. The Jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated. They believed that the furnace-room was of a flimsy and inflammable character, and were of opinion that the Corporation should be empowered to inspect buildings where furnaces are erected, in order to see that they are made of durable material.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 13 May 1887, page 6***

#### NORWOOD FIRE REEL.

An entertainment was given in St. Peters Town Hall on Thursday evening, May 12, by the South Wanderers' Minstrel Troupe in aid of a new reel for the Norwood and St. Peters Fire Brigade. There was a poor attendance. An excellent programme was well carried out. Mr. S. McDonald acted as bones, Mr. J. Robertson as interlocutor, and Mr. W. Pine played on the tambo. Several good choruses were given. Mr. A. Spiller contributed a ballad "Elsie of the Glen," followed by Mr. Pine with "The Jubilee." Mr. J. McDonald rendered "Let the Angels" and "The Cabin on the Mississippi Shores." Mr. W. Pasquill sang "Up to Dick." A double clog dance by Mr. Pine was encored. A comic lecture by Mr. Guster, and a song "Camelia May," given by Mr. Pine, ended the programme. A large number took part in a dance subsequently.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 8 October 1887, page 4***

#### Latest News.

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE. — On Friday evening His Worship the Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. G. E. C. Stevens, J.P.) formally handed over to the trustees of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade the horse-reel recently made by Messrs, Barlow and Sons to the order of the brigade. The reel is constructed in the most modern style, one advantage being that the firemen, instead of climbing into a high seat, step on to a low platform at the rear of the vehicle, the box containing appliances being conveniently placed in front of them, and thus made easy of access. A gong (worked by the feet of the driver) is placed at the side. Another novelty consists in the height of the wheels (5 ft. 8 in.), causing the reel to run with the greatest ease. The framework is constructed of hickory and ash, and the whole has a very fine appearance. The Mayor, after apologizing for the absence of Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P., and J. Bertram, J.P. (trustees), and eulogizing the workmanship of Messrs Barlow & Sons, handed over the reel to Mr. S. D. Glyde, J.P., the remaining trustee. Mr. Glyde suitably responded. Subsequently, at the invitation of the Mayor, a large company assembled in the Town Hall Refreshment-room, where a sumptuous repast was partaken of and various toasts honoured. The Mayor, in proposing the "Norwood, St. Peters, and Payneham Brigades," took occasion to refer to the harmony which had characterised the proceedings of the brigades and to their willingness to turn out at all hours gratuitously. He felt that at present the brigades received insufficient support from the Insurance Companies. Vocal music was rendered at intervals by members of the company.

1888

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 31 December 1888, page 2***

Fire at Kensington.

A fire which almost completely destroyed the house owned and occupied by Mr. Thomas Lane, of Bridge street, Kensington, occurred on Sunday morning. The house consists of six rooms and a kitchen. The alarm was first given to Captain Warman of the Norwood Fire Brigade at 20 minutes past 4 o'clock, and a reel was immediately dispatched to the scene of the fire, a reel from the St. Peters Fire Brigade following. The four front rooms were completely gutted and the furniture destroyed, and the kitchen was also burnt ; in fact, the whole building may be said to have been practically demolished. The only occupants of the house were Mr. Lane and his son. Mr. Lane went to bed at 10 o'clock, and his son retired at a quarter to 11. It is thought that the fire was caused through the overturning of a lamp which was left burning. The house was insured for £200 in the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company and £200 in the South Australian Insurance Company, and the furniture was insured for £200 in the South Australian Company.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 31 December 1888, page 3***

Fires.

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.—A six-roomed cottage situated in Bridge-street, Kensington, belonging to Mr. Thomas Lane, engineer, was burnt down early on Sunday morning, December 30. The house was occupied by Mr. Lane and his son Arthur. It is stated that the father retired to bed at 10 p.m. on Saturday, leaving a kerosine lamp alight in the dining-room. Arthur Lane returned from the city at a quarter to 11, and shortly afterwards put out the light and went to bed. Mr. Lane was nearly suffocated when he awoke, and going to his son's room found him in the same condition. The fire had by then got a firm hold of the premises, and before it could be subdued the six rooms were completely gutted and the roof fallen in ; the furniture also was burnt. The Norwood and St. Peters Fire Brigades, under Captain Warman, were called out between twenty and thirty minutes past 4, and remained on the scene for about an hour and a half, during which time they saved the back part of the premises. The house was insured for £400 and the furniture for £200 in the Colonial Mutual Office. An inquest will be held to-day. The fire, which broke out at about 4 o'clock, is supposed to have originated in the dining-room where the lamp had been burning.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 31 December 1888, page 2***

The Fire at Kensington.

The Inquest.

The City Coroner (Dr. Whittell) held an inquest at the Globe Hotel, Kensington, on Monday morning into the fire which occurred at the premises of Mr. Lane, Bridge-street, Kensington, early on Sunday morning. Heinrich Wilhelm Weidemeyer, living next door to Mr. Lane, said about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning he was roused from sleep by smoke about the house. This he found was coming from Lane's, and he tried to get into the house, but was unsuccessful. He called the people in the house, and a little later saw Mr. Lane with a hose, which was attracted to the waterpipe playing on the fire. Thomas Lane, gas engineer, the owner and occupier of the property where the fire occurred, said about 10 o'clock on Saturday he went to bed leaving a lamp turned low down burning on the sitting-room for his son who was out. About 4 o'clock a lot of smoke came into his bedroom and awakened him. He saw flames in the passage coming to the room, and putting on his trousers, slipped out of his bedroom window and ran round the side of the house to call his son, who was asleep in one of the back rooms. After calling his son for some time he came out of the window—almost dazed with the smoke. He sent his son for the firereel, while he gave the alarm and fastened a hose to the tap, but he could get no pressure of water on the fire. The house was insured for £400 in the Colonial Mutual and South Australian Insurance Companies, and the furniture

and effects for £200 in the South Australian Company. The fire seemed to be most extensive in the room where the lamp was left burning. After he gave the hose to a neighbour, he and his son rescued some birds that were in the verandah. Then he was unable to do anything further, as a bad leg that he was suffering from gave way. Arthur Lane, son of the previous witness, said that he arrived home at a quarter to 11 o'clock on the night previous to the fire, and before going to bed he blew out the kerosine lamp and went to bed. He saw no sign of fire when he went to bed. Samuel Warman, Captain of the Norwood and St. Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade, said they were called to the fire about twenty minutes past 4, and on getting to the scene about five minutes afterwards the building was wrapped in flames, but the fire seemed to be fiercest in the kitchen, and seemed to have originated in that room. He saw the remains of a lamp on the floor after the fire, but saw nothing suspicious. The Jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated. Mr. W. Burnet was present on behalf of the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company, and Mr. DeCean on behalf of the South Australian Insurance Company.

1890

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 30 January 1890, page 3***

#### Fire.

A fire broke out at Miss M. Morcom's general store on the Magill-road late on Wednesday night. The flames first appeared in the front shop and quickly spread till they had got a good hold of an adjoining room, In the meantime St. Peter's firereel came on the scene, but as there were only two men with it the hose was practically useless. Later on a reel arrived from the head station, and after considerable difficulty managed to put out the fire. The whole of the contents of the shop were consumed with a portion of the goods in the next room. Superintendent Booker informs us that it is necessary that the local brigades should be connected with the head station, as it is evident that there must have been some delay with the first message about this fire. Had he received the information earlier the amount of damage would have been much lighter.

***South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895), Saturday 8 February 1890, page 8***

#### THE FIRE AT STEPNEY.

An enquiry into the cause of the fire which lately occurred on the premises of Miss M. A. Morcom, at Stepney, was held by the city coroner (Dr. Whittell) at the Alma Hotel, Norwood, on Friday, Jan. 31, Mr. Thomas appeared for the New Zealand Insurance Company. Lavinia Levy, sister of Miss Morcom, said she was dressing the shop window with drapery and millinery at about 8.30 p.m, on the 29th inst. She had some muslin in her hand and was standing on steps when these gave a slight lurch and she was thrown for-ward. Then noticed that the muslin in the window was in flames. Was attempting to put out the fire when her sister came and pulled her out. Went into the street and asked a man to run for the firereel. He refused to go, but asked her if there was anyone inside. Witness said "No; let the building go." Mary Ann Morcom, the occupier of the shop, said she had been carrying on business for about two years, and had been satisfied with the results. Last February at stocktaking the stock was found to be worth a little over £500, and it had been increased since then. The stock was insured for £400. Did not make any attempt to stop the fire to which her attention was called by her sister be-cause she saw it was no use. John William Cossey, connected with the St. Peters fire brigade, said he received a call from a man named Hyland at about 10.45 p.m. on the evening in question, and about 10 minutes afterwards was at the scene. The fire was fairly under in about half an hour, the hose being in good order. Reels from Adelaide and Norwood arrived when the water had been turned off Jane Morcom, who managed her sister's business, stated that the stock-sheets had been kept in the shop. P.C.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Richmond, who was present, said the flames were subdued in from about eight to ten minutes after the arrival of the St. Peters reel. The hose was in good order, and the firemen appeared to do their duty properly. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the fire was purely accidental, and added a rider commending the action of the St. Peters fire brigade.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 19 February 1890, page 3***

The Norwood Fire Brigade.

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE BOARD.— A meeting of the Fire Brigade Board for the town of Kensington and Norwood was held in the Council Chamber on Friday, February 14. There were present—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Gepp. Chairman), Messrs. R. K. Threfall and W. H. Craigie. The meeting was held to enquire into the charge made by Superintendent Booker, of the City Fire Brigade, that two members of the Norwood and St. Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade were under the influence of drink at the fire on Miss Morcom's premises, Magill-road, St Peters, on January 29. The communication conveying the charge was received by the Secretary to the Board (Mr. George Gooden) from the Secretary of the Fire Brigade Board, taken as an extract from Superintendent Booker's report on the fire. Superintendent Booker and Captain Warman (of the local brigade) were present, and all the members of the brigade who attended and extinguished the fire. Four local firemen, two civilians (Messrs. D. H. Weir and T. Veitch), one member of the City Brigade, and two police constables who were at the fire gave evidence. All the witnesses (with the exception of the fireman from the city) positively declared that all the local firemen were perfectly sober before, after, and during the time of the fire. The fireman from the City Brigade admitted that he thought the the men were the worse for liquor, because they were rolling about when the fire was out and the premises were dark, and from their conversation. He could not identify any of the men as having been under the influence of drink. The Board gave Superintendent Booker every opportunity of asking the witnesses questions, but he failed to elicit any evidence to support the charge. The Board unanimously agreed that the charge made by Superintendent Booker was unfounded, and suggested to the City Board that before a charge should be made against any of the local firemen the truth should be established.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 26 March 1890, page 4***

THE FIRE AT PAYNEHAM.

The city coroner (Dr. Whittell) on Tuesday held an inquest at the Duke of Wellington Hotel, Payneham, on the fire which occurred on the premises of Frederick Hermann Schauer, at Payneham, on Monday. March 24. Frederick Herman Schauer, hawker, of Payneham, said he was awakened at about 1 or 1.30 by his wife, who told him there was a strong smell of smoke in the house. He got up and found the whole premises in flames, but could do nothing but wait for the fire reel, which arrived some time after. Believed the fire started in the storeroom, which contained amongst other things some tins of kerosine. Had no suspicion of any of his neighbors setting the place on fire. Was insured for £100 in the Hamburg Magdeburgh Fire Insurance Company. Estimated his loss at over £150. Emma Schauer, wife of F. H. Schauer, corroborated her husband's evidence. Frank Fahey, carpenter, of the Parade, Norwood, said he was a member of the Norwood Fire Brigade. Saw the fire at about 1.30 on Monday, Went for the reel and awoke one of the firemen, and arrived at the scene of the fire in about a quarter of an hour after seeing it. There was no one about except Schauer, his wife, and a child. Schauer and his wife said they cried out fire, but none of the neighbors came. Benjamin Gilding Gardiner, residing at West Marden, said he lived about 80 yards from Schaur, Heard no alarm of fire. He was called between 2 and 3 o'clock by the captain of the Norwood Fire Brigade. The jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence to show how

the fire originated, adding that praise was due to the Norwood Fire Brigade for their promptitude in attendance at the fire.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 17 April 1890, page 2***

Fire at Norwood.

The inhabitants of West Norwood were startled on Wednesday evening by seeing a mass of flame issuing from a large house in William-street, and close to Charles-street. On examination it was found to be the residence of Mr. J. Colliver. The fire at the beginning was confined to the back portion of the house, which was built of wood. Those first on the spot discovered a hose, with which good work in the way of quenching the fire could have been done, but unfortunately all endeavors to find a water tap proved fruitless, and the only alternative was to throw a few buckets of water obtained from a tank on the flames. The City Permanent Fire Brigade and the Norwood, and St. Peter's Volunteer Fire Brigades, after the lapse of about 20 minutes, appeared on the scene, and a good supply of water being available from the main a well directed stream speedily put out the fire, which was just spreading to the main portion of the house. A number of willing workers removed a quantity of valuable furniture to places of safety, and although it is impossible to say at present the amount of damage done, it should not be very great. The house was insured in the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company for £300 and the furniture for £100. The origin of the fire appears somewhat mysterious. Mr. and Mrs. Colliver and their son locked up the house about 6 o'clock for the purpose of attending the annual tea and public meetings at the Kent Town Wesleyan Church, and everything was then safe. An inquest will be held this afternoon at the Vintage Shades Hotel, Norwood.

1891

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 5 January 1891, page 2***

Latest News.

A CURIOUS FIRE.—This morning on the Parade, Norwood, at about half-past 11 o'clock, a lode of furniture while being taken in the direction of Adelaide caught fire. Deep drainage men who were making some connections close by saw the fire, and ran up with a hose. The top part of the freight was burned.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 10 January 1891, page 5***

DISASTROUS FIRE IN NORWOOD.

THREE SHOPS DESTROYED.

AN IMPOTENT FIRE BRIGADE.

Ever since the memorable fire which reduced the large timber-yard at Cowell's Corner to cinders residents of Norwood have enjoyed an entire immunity from serious fires. The eastern suburbs are principally occupied for residential purposes, and the fact that there are comparatively few shops and factories is no doubt to a large extent responsible for this, and consequently a feeling of comparative security has prevailed. Had this not been the case the largely populated district would at the present time have been more efficiently protected against the disaster of fire. Recently extensive new apparatus was purchased by the local Fire Brigade, and possibly also owing to the uncertainty which has been brought about by new legislation with regard to the Fire Brigades the new hose was not fitted to a reel, and simply and solely owing to the effete condition of old material a most disastrous fire raged in the vicinity of the Norwood Town Hall early on Saturday morning.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## THE SCENE OF THE FIRE.

On the Parade, facing the Norwood Fire Brigade Station, between the intersections of Coke-street and Edward-street, was a rather imposing row of shops, which were erected a few years back by Mr. H. Buttery, who himself utilized for a long time two of the shops, but a few months ago let the Coke-street corner one of these two. It was at the back of this corner shop that the fire broke out in a shed, not belonging to the tenant, but used in connection with Mr. Buttery's upholstery business. This shop was occupied by Mr. M. Bant, a saddler, and next came Mr. Buttery's shop, then the grocery establishment of Mr. C. J. Stevens, and next to it a branch of the Federal Boot Company's business, and further towards Edward-street fancy, bootmakers', and other shops. The whole of these were well stocked, but the occupiers, at any rate at the Coke-street end—those which were destroyed— did not live in them. The owner of the row is at present living at the seaside. Even, however, if any one were living on the premises it is extremely unlikely, as events turned out, that the disaster would have been averted.

## ITS ORIGIN.

As is so often the case the cause of the out-break is a mystery, although there is no doubt as to where it began. Although the fire did not break out until after midnight, so early as 11 o'clock a passer-by living in the street remarked at home that when turning the corner from the Parade he had detected the smell of fire, but the circumstances did not seem unusual enough to arouse any suspicions. It was at twenty minutes past 12 that the fire was first discovered by Messrs. F. C. Bowen and A. C. G. Dale, two gentlemen who were returning from a Masonic meeting. They were proceeding along the Parade when they saw flame issuing from the shed abutting on Coke-street. Constable Ryan, on whose beat the fire occurred, heard their alarm, and immediately ran to the Norwood Fire Brigade Station. A fire could not occur much nearer the station than this, as the reel had only to be drawn out of the shed, which adjoins the Town Hall, the hose unwound, and the water played on to the flames. The reel was promptly got out, and so certain did it seem that in a few moments a strong stream of water would be operating, that no other attempt was made to deal with the fire, which was then of small dimensions. It was not for one moment anticipated that an ineffective reel was being dragged. A very short time sufficed to show that something was the matter. Four or five members of the brigade quickly turned out, although Captain T. Warman was not on the scene, and with a little delay the hose was attached to the hydrant. Then it was found that the coupling could not be fixed to the nozzle, the throat of which was bruised badly—to the extent of a quarter of an inch. A hammer could not be obtained to straighten it, and many minutes' delay before any water could be drawn. Another coupling was tried, but it was so rusty as to be useless. When at last the water-pressure was applied the hose would not stand it, and the men were of course unable to play on to the flames. They had to stand by and see the fire after getting a good hold of the shed, which was used as a workshop, and contained very inflammable material, extend to the shop in front of it. Once it got a hold of Mr. Bant's saddlery premises it was feared that the whole row was doomed, because the buildings, besides being rather heavily stocked are of light construction, the dividing walls being only of brick and plaster. Rapidly the flames spread until Messrs. Bant's, Buttery's, and Stevens's shops were at the mercy of the devouring element. At nine minutes to 1 Superintendent Booker arrived with a contingent from the head station in Adelaide. It was too late to save the three shops mentioned, so he directed his attention to the prevention of the spread of the flames. He and his men achieved their object and confined the fire to the limits it had attained when they arrived. By a quarter-past there was no more danger, and by half-past 1 the fire was practically out for want of fuel.

## THE DAMAGE.



The fire completely demolished three shops, and considerable damage was caused by water to the adjoining boot shop. Although the fire occurred at such a late hour a large number of residents turned out and assisted in removing goods and furniture from the threatened buildings to the roadway, where in the absence of any of the rowdy element they remained uninterfered with. The heaviest loser is probably Mr. Bant, who, as far as we could learn, was the only one not insured. He had £150 worth of stock, which was completely destroyed. When he arrived on the scene he found his shop enveloped in flames, and it was impossible to attempt to save anything. Mr. Stevens when he got down at about half-past 12 was able to enter his shop and saved most of his books, some of which, by the way, he had been working on at home until nearly midnight. He is insured in the Lion Company for £500 in the stock and £50 in the fittings and utensils—amounts which he roughly estimates will about cover his loss. Mr. Buttery was not on the scene of the fire at all, but we understand that he is also insured in the same Company.

#### THE NORWOOD REEL.

The local fire brigade, it must be admitted, has done useful service since its inception, not only in the popular eastern suburbs, but also in the city and other suburbs, and it was in a measure the victim of misfortune on this occasion. But there appears to be strong reason to suppose that one of their number is responsible for the condition of the couplings. It was only on the preceding night that the brigade were out for practice, and if the couplings were then damaged the man who had to attend to them manifestly did not do his duty if he did not report the defect. So far as we can ascertain he did not, or surely such an important omission would have been immediately rectified, and three valuable shops would have been saved.



Bell, Geo, hairdresser & tobacconist
<i>Coke st</i>
Bant, R, saddler
Buttery, Henry, cabinetmaker
Stevens, F. J, grocer
Gurner, Mrs Mary, fancy dealer
Cox, Stephen Robt, bootmaker
Oekenden, H. G, draper & clothier
Pope, Benjamin, carrier
Rio, Edward, bootmaker
Kendle, Mrs Rebecca
Barnes, D. W, fruiterer
Davy, Thos, bootmaker
Norwood wine saloon—Little, Paul
Bulpitt, Benjamin B, grocer
<i>George st</i>
SALVATION ARMY BARRACKS

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 10 January 1891, page 2***

LARGE FIRE AT NORWOOD.

THREE SHOPS GUTTED.

INEFFECTIVE APPLIANCES.

DAMAGE BETWEEN £2,000 AND £3,000.

The fire which occurred in the city on Thursday night was closely followed by one in the suburbs. Messrs, Harper & Co,'s premises having been partly destroyed it was to be expected that Adelaide, after the experience of the last two or three years, would be left in peace for some time to come, but early this morning a large conflagration broke out on the Parade, Norwood, at the corner of Coke street. The fire apparently started in Mr. H. Buttery's upholstery factory, and it soon gathered strength and spread with amazing rapidity to Mr, R, Bante's saddlery establishment at the corner of the two streets. The flames were observed by

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Messrs, Bowen and Dale, who were standing at the intersection of the Parade and Sydenham-road, at about 12.15 o'clock. These gentlemen immediately rushed to Cowell's Corner to give the alarm, but unfortunately there was no means of telephoning to the Central Brigade in Adelaide, the members of which received their first knowledge of the fire from The Advertiser Office. Messrs. Bowen and Dale met Constable Ryan, who was hurrying up the Parade, and the alarm was given at the Norwood Fire Brigade station. The reel in Coke street was the first on the scene, but notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the brigademen it was sometime before the hoses were brought to work. The Norwood brigade did their best, but according to the statement of a gentleman who once belonged to the brigade the couplings were so unworkable that it was impossible to bring a good stream of water to bear on the fire. The cause of this is believed to have been a dent in the couplings, and an old fireman expressed the opinion that had they been able to attack the flames at once much valuable property would have been saved and the fire confined to the workshops. As it was it spread first to Mr. Bante's saddlery shop facing the Parade, and then in succession to Mr. H. Buttery's furniture shop, then to Mr. F. J. Stevens's grocer's shop, and on to a branch of the Federal Boot Company. The first three shops were completely gutted, but the Federal Boot Company's premises were only partly burnt, although a great deal of injury was done by the water, Messrs. Bante, Buttery, and Stevens's shops were utterly destroyed, and nothing was saved from their large stocks, When the fire burnt itself out at an early hour this morning nothing was left but the blackened walls of the premises. Next to these were situated the tenements in possession of Mr. Cox, a bootmaker, Mrs. Gurner, fancy goods emporium, and Mr. H. C. Ockenden, draper. As soon as the alarm was given willing hands helped to remove the goods in each, and very soon the Parade was littered with the stock of the three shops. About 50 minutes past midnight the City Brigade arrived on the scene, and their reels rapidly opened operations on the flames in a manner which showed that the members were thoroughly conversant with their work. Despite the inflammable nature of the buildings it was soon seen that the energetic efforts of the firemen were taking effect, as gradually the flames subsided. The fire was confined to the three corner shops, and the damage is estimated at between £2,000 and £3,000. Of course, this is but a rough estimate, and probably when all is summed up it will be found to be much in excess of this amount. All the premises and stocks except Mr. Bante's and Mr. Buttery's are, we understand, insured, but we have not been able to ascertain full particulars.

#### THE ADELAIDE BRIGADE.

The first information of a fire was conveyed to the Metropolitan station from The Advertiser office at about 12.25 a.m., and it was not long before Superintendent Booker was en route. When he arrived he saw there was no hope of saving the three buildings at the western end of the block, but as the pressure of water was exceptionally good he managed to check the further progress of the flames, Mr. Booker says that when he got to the scene the Norwood brigade had been unable to get any water on the flames.

#### THE LOCAL REEL.

The fire proved beyond doubt that the condition of the local fire brigade is anything but satisfactory. Had the brigade been perfectly organised and the appliances in an efficient state the fire would probably have been confined to the shed where it originated, as the reel was stationed within a few feet of the premises. As it happened, however, if the metropolitan brigade had not promptly responded to the call made upon it the whole block would have been destroyed. The discreditable condition of affairs in connection with the Norwood brigade was the subject of general remark, and it was accentuated by the absence from the fire of both the captain and the lieutenant of the local organisation. In view of this outbreak steps

should at once be taken to reorganise the brigade, as the eastern suburbs are practically defenceless.

#### P.C. RYAN'S STATEMENT.

Police-Constable Ryan, who was on duty on the Parade, states that he passed the premises at 11.30, when there was no sign of a fire. At about 12.20 he was opposite the Old Colonist Hotel, at the west end of the Parade, when he noticed flames coming from the back of Buttery's factory. He hurried to the place and found that the shed at the back, used as a carpenter's and cabinetmaker's shop, was well alight. At that time the front portion of the building was apparently untouched. He at once started for the local reel immediately opposite, and after some delay the hose was attached to the hydrant in Coke-street. But by this time both Buttery's and Bante's shops had caught. The stream of water available was very scanty, and had not the slightest effect. The attempt to bring a second jet from the Parade resulted in failure, as the couplings of the hose were faulty and could not be joined together. When Superintendent Booker, with a two horse reel and six men from the metropolitan station arrived about 10 minutes to 1 o'clock he quickly got to work, but by this time there was no hope of saving the shops of either Mr. Buttery, Mr. Bante, or Mr. Stevens, and their efforts were largely directed to preserving the adjacent buildings. By 1.45 o'clock the flames were subdued, the fire having been confined to the premises which were alight when the Adelaide reel arrived.

#### STATEMENT BY MR OSBORNE.

Mr. W. Osborne, manager of the Norwood branch of the Federal Boot Company, states that at 12.15 he was aroused by the crackling of the flames, and hurriedly dressing rushed on to the pavement. He at once realised that a fire of a serious description had broken out, and that his shop was in imminent danger, so he returned and alarmed his wife and family. When he first discovered the fire it must he thinks have been burning for at least 10 minutes. With another man who then arrived he crossed the road to the station of the Norwood brigade, and awoke the officer in charge. Other assistance was at once available, and no time was lost in bringing the reel out of the station. It was found, however, that the hoses, of which there were two, were simply useless. The brigade appears to have been in a state of disorganisation, some of the members having recently left, their successors being comparatively inexperienced. The lack of preparedness was shown in the inefficient state of the appliances, for no sooner were attempts made to fix the hoses than they broke, Mr Pearce, a member of the Federal Boot Company, was away at the time of the disaster. The stock and fixtures of the F.B.C. were insured in the Lion Insurance Company.

#### MR STEVENS'S STATEMENT.

Mr. F. J. Stevens, grocer, who lives in Harris-street, and is a tenant of one of the shops destroyed, did not receive warning till 12.30 o'clock, when the conflagration was burning fiercely. He had taken his books home with him and was working at them till 11.45 on Friday night. His fittings and fixtures were insured in the Lion Company for £150 and the stock for £500. He estimates that his loss will probably amount to this sum. All his books except one were saved, but the whole of the stock was completely destroyed, and when he reached the premises he had only time to save one book out of two that were left in the shop.

#### MR. BANTE UNINSURED.

Mr. R. Bante, the saddler and harness maker, who occupied the corner shop, lives in Stacey-street. He says that no one slept in his shop, which he left early in the evening. He is

uninsured, and estimates his loss at £150. When he arrived on the scene his premises were wrapped in flames, and there was no chance of saving anything.

MR. COX SPEAKS.

Mr. Cox, bootmaker, whose premises were partly injured, had recently decided to combine with his own business that of a secondhand furniture dealer, and had already in-vested somewhat heavily in goods. Of these he removed a considerable portion, but as he had to leave them in the roadway they were within the range of the hoses, and must have been considerably damaged by the water besides being otherwise injured. Mr. Cox states that his stock and fixtures are insured in the New Zealand Company for £225.

The Inquest.

The matter has not yet been officially reported to the coroner, so that no decision has been arrived at as to when an inquest will be held.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 12 January 1891, page 6***

THE NORWOOD FIRE.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

An inspection of the scene of the fire which occurred early on Saturday morning on the Parade, Norwood, showed the completeness of the work of the destructive agent. Messrs. Bants, Buttery's, and Stevens's places are entirely gutted, nothing but the bare walls remaining, whilst the verandahs in front of the shops have been reduced to ruins. The position of some of the occupiers who have had their business establishments taken away is extremely hard. This is more especially so in the case of Mr. Bant, whose saddlery shop occupied the end position. He was not insured for the slightest sum, and he has lost all, even his tools being destroyed. Mr. Buttery has the misfortune to be in almost the same position. He insured the whole block of buildings in the Guardian office for £1,000, which is divided in six policies, one on each shop, but apart from this he is totally uncovered. His cabinet making place has been cleared out. There was also a lot of silverplated and glass stuff in the shop, and this suffered a similar fate to the rest of the contents. Mr. Buttery left his premises at a quarter-past 6 on Friday evening, and went to Henley Beach, where he is living. He first heard of the occurrence from a gentleman in Adelaide, upon whom Mr. Buttery called on Saturday morning to transact some business, and he immediately went to the spot. Perhaps the one who comes out of the fire best is Mr. F. G. Stevens, the grocer, who is insured for £500 on his stock in the Lion Company and £50 upon his fixtures and this he estimates will about make up for his losses, although he is also burned right out, and next to his place is the establishment of the Federal Boot Company, the stock of which is insured for £500. It was here that the fire was evidently stopped, it occupying a position between the three gutted shops and the two others, which, with the exception of the roof, which was burnt the whole length of the block, were comparatively slightly damaged. However, the fire did some damage in the boot shop, as also did the water, and between the two all the stock will be rendered unfit for sale. Mr. Gurner's shop, in which fancy goods are retailed, comes next. Although the fire reached the roof water did most damage. Mr. Gurner left Adelaide for the North on Friday morning, and his mother, who attends to the shop, cannot say whether the place is insured. It was once, but Mrs. Gurner says that unless her son renewed the policy without her knowledge it was allowed to lapse. Last on the list is the shoemaker's place, belonging to Mr. Cox, who was insured in the New Zealand Company for £225. His stock suffered greatly from the water, but his policy should cover all his losses. An estimate of the total damage cannot yet be ascertained, as none of the occupiers are in a position to make up their losses, but it must be

considerable. From the Parade the ruins have a melancholy look, but the appearance from the back is worse. Most of the fencing has been burnt, and the back shed, where the fire was supposed to have originated, is picked out only by a few charred posts, whilst a stack of flour, bran, and pollard marks the back premises of the grocer's place. No idea can be obtained as to the cause of the conflagration. Nor indeed is it certain where it originated. The Manager of the Federal Boot Company (Mr. W. Osborne) seems to have been the only one who was near the place at the time. He was sleeping at the back of the shop, and shortly after midnight his wife aroused him, calling his attention to a queer noise. Getting up he went to the back door, and then noticed the flames playing across his window. Instantly he removed his wife and three children, who were in the house, to a place of safety, and then started for the fire reel. A man met him at the station bringing out the reel, and they took the hose into Coke-street. The fire was burning fiercely at the back, where there was a lot of matchboard sheds. Mr. Osborne unwound the hose whilst the other man tried to fix on the nose to the fire plug, but this could not be done, and Mr. Osborne then went back to the Parade, where other men were trying to get another hose on, but with little better results. This delay in fixing the apparatus proved most disastrous, for the fire had a strong headway before water could be applied. A chapter of accidents seemed to have befallen the Norwood brigade that night. Just a few hours before the fire occurred two of the firemen were on the station and fixed everything in order. There was then nothing wrong; yet when an attempt was made at the fire to fix the hose it was found that the coupling was damaged. This was caused, it has been thought, by one of the reels running over it on the way to the fire. However, the more serious disaster was the bursting of the hose. This was practically inexcusable, as the brigade had a supply of 300 ft. of fresh hose only waiting for the couplings. Why these were not fixed it has not been ascertained, but it is said there was some discussion about fixed patent or ordinary couplings, and so the matter was left over. The inquest will be held this afternoon. The city brigade had arrived and were at work at the fire ten minutes after they received the call from the Norwood Town Hall, which was certainly very smart work considering that the reel had to be taken about two and a half miles. A suggestion has been made by a gentleman who takes a great interest in the fire brigades. It is that if the municipality of Norwood and Kensington are content to have for the protection of the town a brigade on the "volunteer" system an arrangement should be made with the proper authorities by which, in addition to the volunteer firemen, a thoroughly qualified and efficient fireman should be permanently located at the Norwood station, and should be paid for his services, the same as the firemen in the city, and, further, that there should be a system of fire alarms radiating into the station similar to that connected with the head-quarters in Adelaide. This same gentleman, who is anxious to give every credit to volunteer brigades, points out that there is a danger of amateur enthusiasm prevailing to an undue extent in the volunteer system, and expresses the belief that a properly equipped, well organized, permanently stationed brigade would cost the ratepayers much less than an irresponsible volunteer brigade. He says there is no excuse for any brigade if they undertake the work of extinguishing fires in neglecting to keep their appliances in good order and proper repair. A representative from this office called on Superintendent Booker as to fire brigades, and he said : — A great mistake has been made throughout the colony with regard to volunteer fire brigades. Some people classed them as "local brigades." A local brigade under the late Act was a brigade supported out of the revenue of the Fire Brigades Board. The Norwood Brigade is purely a "volunteer" brigade. They elect their own officers, frame their own rules and regulations, and pretty well do as they like. On December 31, when the new Act came into force, local Fire Brigade Boards throughout the colony ceased to exist. The new Act does not interfere as far as disbanding the volunteer brigades is concerned. If they pretend to protect their district, and the district accepts them as the recognised protection, they have neglected their duty when their appliances were in such an unworkable state as was the case on Saturday morning. None of the volunteer brigades have applied for registration under clause 27 of the new Act. He could mention districts round about Adelaide

where they had not got as much as a bucket for fire protection. A crumb appeared in Saturday's Journal as follows: — "At the last meeting of Norwood Corporation letters were read from Central Fire Board disbanding the local brigade." It is an incorrect statement of the situation. The notice which was sent to the Corporation referred to registration of the volunteer brigades under clause 27 of the Act.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 13 January 1891, page 7***

#### CORONERS' INQUESTS.

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE—AN OPEN VERDICT.

An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the origin of the fire which occurred early on Saturday morning on the premises belonging to Mr. H. Buttery was held at the Norwood Hotel on Monday afternoon by Dr. Whittell. Mr. Joyner represented Mr. Buttery, and the Superintendent watched the proceedings on behalf of the Fire Brigades Board. Henry Buttery, upholsterer and plateglass silverer, said he carried on business in one of the shops which were destroyed. The block of buildings belonged to him, and each shop was tenanted. Those occupied by Messrs. Bant, Stevens, and himself were most injured. With his two sons he was conducting his business as usual on Friday. When it was necessary to obtain heat this was done in an out-house at the rear of the premises, but this was not affected by the fire. Left his business about a quarter-past 6 o'clock on Friday, when everything was safe. A match had not been struck in the premises used by him for four days. Valued his stock at £500. There was one box of matches on the premises, and these were in the office. After leaving on Friday he drove direct to Henley Beach, where he was residing. Did not hear of the fire until 9 o'clock on Saturday morning. His stock was not insured, but the shops were insured to the extent of £1,000, and were mortgaged for about £300 more than that amount. The insurance would not cover the cost of replacing the building, and he was consequently a loser by the difference, together with the value of the stock. His reasons for not insuring his stock were that the rates were so high and the reel was so close at hand that he thought £20 would cover any loss to which he might be liable by fire. When the fire scare was prevalent some six or seven years ago the National and New Zealand Companies, anxious to reduce their risks, refused to accept the properties. In 1878, when trading as Buttery Brothers in Rundle-street, he was also burnt out, but his insurance did not cover his loss ; while two or three years ago he discovered on his premises a small fire, which was caused by the lamp used in connection with an incubator, but he speedily put it out with a bucket of water. Could form no opinion as to the origin of the fire which occurred on Friday. Was on friendly terms with all his tenants with the exception perhaps of Mr. Stevens, whom he had been reluctantly compelled to give notice to quit. He did not have any suspicion that Mr. Stevens was concerned in the origin of the fire. Frederick Jones Stevens, grocer, said he carried on business in a shop adjoining that used by Mr. Buttery. Left the shop on Friday about 9 o'clock, when everything was safe. Had used gaslight that evening. About half-past 12 on the following morning he was apprised of the occurrence of the fire, and immediately went to the scene. Bant's and Buttery's shops were in full blaze on his arrival. Unlocked his front shop door, and in company with a fireman went inside and discovered the flames just creeping over the wall from Buttery's shop. The fire did not originate in his establishment. Could not say where the fire broke out. His stock was insured for £425, and the fixings at £75 in the Lion Company. Felt satisfied that the insurance would not cover his loss. All his account-books except one were saved. Considered that he was on good terms with his landlord. After he had received notice to quit he made arrangements so that he could carry his business on until his new shop was ready by employing Mr. Hubble to take the shop. Richard Bant, saddler, who occupied the corner shop, stated that when he left on Friday at a little after 6 everything was safe. Was called to the fire about 1 o'clock on Saturday morning, when the three western shops were all in flames. Did

not keep any inflammable material on his premises, and could not say how the fire originated. Was not insured, and had lost all he possessed. William Osborn, Manager of a boot shop situated next to that of Mr. Stevens, said he lived on the premises, and on going to bed about 10 o'clock there were no signs of fire. Was awakened shortly after midnight by his wife who said she heard a noise as though from a fire, but at first thought it was her imagination. Subsequently got up and saw the reflection of a fire through a window. Immediately got his family out of danger and gave the alarm. Others appeared on the scene, and the fire reel was got out and taken into Coke-street. The fire appeared to be burning at the rear of the premises near Coke-street. An effort was made to fix the hose on to the waterpipes, but for some reason no water was obtained, at all events for some time. Another was fixed on to the hydrant in the Parade, but the hose was defective and the water could not be made to reach the verandahs. After another attempt had been made to play on the flames he observed a contingent of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, who in a very few minutes succeeded in getting a stream of water. About twenty minutes elapsed between the time the Norwood Reel was first drawn out and the arrival of the City Brigade, and by this stage the fire had obtained a hold of the three western shops, and was just catching the one he occupied. John Bray Garland, police-constable, said he passed the premises at about midnight and there was then no sign of fire. Edmund Ryan, police-constable, was on duty on the Parade on Friday night. Passed Buttery's shops about ten minutes to 12, when everything was all right. When crossing the Parade at the intersection of Sydenham-road he discerned smoke issuing in the neighbourhood of Coke-street. Immediately ran back to Mr. Buttery's block of buildings, and on looking through the window of the office found it was on fire. The flames seemed to be spreading from the office. Took steps to alarm members of the local fire brigade. The reel was got out, and the firemen tried to fix the couplings on to the hydrant. They succeeded in doing this in Coke-street, and a fair stream of water was played on to the fire. Those on the Parade, how-ever, owing to the damaged hose did not meet with much success. The Adelaide Brigade arrived at this stage, and in something like twenty minutes succeeded in getting the upper hand of the fire. Had been a member of the Adelaide Fire Brigade for three years. The members of the local brigade turned out without the slightest delay, but there was delay in getting their appliances fixed. This was due to defective apparatus, and not from want of skill on the part of the men. The hose from Coke-street was playing on Mr. Stevens's premises. By Superintendent Booker—If everything had been in good order one man could easily have put the fire out when he first saw it with out its spreading to the shops. By Juror— The hose belonging to the local brigade was playing for some ten or twelve minutes before the Adelaide Brigade arrived. Reginald Blundell said he had been connected with the Norwood Brigade for about two years. Was one of the first to arrive at the fire on Saturday morning. He and another member of the brigade succeeded in connecting the hose with the hydrant in two or three seconds and this was devoted to the prevention of the spread of the fire. There was a good pressure of water, which reached to Mr. Stevens's shop. A second hose was fixed in Coke-street, and with this they played on the two corner shops. These two hoses having been fixed, he was ordered by the man in charge to pay some attention to the Parade. On getting to the shed he found that some persons had got out hose which had been condemned months before, and was consequently useless. This was not done by any of the firemen. Tried to find the good hose, but it had become so mixed up with the defective material that he could not find it. By Superintendent Booker—Captain Warman was in charge of the brigade, but had not seen him at any fires since he had been connected with it. The appliances at Coke-street were in good order, but the others were not. Paul Little, another member of the brigade, also gave evidence. Thomas Warman, captain of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, said he was not called to the fire on Friday. He lived at Marden, and owing to this fact he wanted to resign his position, but he was asked by the "boys" to wait until the election. Had been out with the brigade once during the last six months. The authorities, the Fire Brigade Board, and the Insurance Companies were too "miserly" to provide the brigade with

telephonic communication even between the three stations, much less between the members of the brigade. The brigade possessed 1,200 ft. of good hose. Superintendent Booker said at 12.39 on Saturday morning he received information from the Norwood Town Hall by telephone that a fire had occurred on the Parade. Enquired if the services of the Metropolitan Brigade were required, and the reply he received was that the fire was spreading from shop to shop, and that the Parade was in danger. Immediately sent out a reel, and found that the fire was on the point of entering the Federal Boot Company's premises. The fire waxed strongest in the front of the buildings. Saw fire appliances on the road, but did not observe any water playing on to the fire in the front. After getting two lines of hose working from the front to prevent the spread of the fire he went into Coke-street, and found a man at work with one line of hose, but it was not of sufficient length to make the water reach the fire. He instructed him to add another length of hose, as he was simply wasting water. After his arrival he found the volunteer fire men willing to carry out his orders, but their appliances were so defective, in his opinion, that they were heavily handicapped. He considered that if proper precautions had been taken and the appliances kept in proper working order at least one half of the property destroyed should have been saved. He condemned the whole of the hose which was in use and the couplings, which were of two different gauges. The Jury returned a verdict that sufficient evidence had not been produced to show the origin of the fire.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 16 January 1891, page 5**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Shortly after 3 o'clock on Thursday morning Constable Murphy, who was on duty on the Parade, Norwood, observed flames issuing from the rear of a building occupied by Mrs. Bates, situated on the Parade, near Queen street. The constable immediately gave the alarm, and six or seven members of the local fire brigade were quickly on the spot and subdued the flames. Several feet of fencing adjacent to a stable and coachhouse were destroyed, and as numerous buildings are in the vicinity the fire might have assumed serious proportions had it not been speedily checked. Con-stantle Murphy removed two horses from the stable and a family trap and express van from the coach home to a place of safety. Through the courtesy of Messrs. Patfull, store-keepers, arrangements have been made by which the St. Peters branch of the fire brigade can be communicated with by telephone from the Norwood Town Hall at a minute's notice in case of fire. This course was adopted for the first time on Thursday morning, and several St. Peters men were rapidly on the scene, but fortunately their services were not required.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 20 March 1891, page 7**

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual general meeting of the Norwood and St. Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the Town Hall, Norwood, on Wednesday. Mr. Councillor W. S. Craigie (vice-president) in the chair. The balance-sheet and auditor's report were adopted, which showed :—Liabilities, £13 9s 8d ; assets £244 18s. 7d. Various alterations were made in the rules, several being held over for a special general meeting to be held after the delegates of the brigade and the corporation have conferred on the reorganisation of the brigade. The election of officers resulted as follows:— Patron, Sir E. T. Smith, M.P.; vice-patrons, Hon. T. Playford. M.P., and Mr. J. Shaw: president, Mr J. Hall (Mayor of Kensington and Norwood) and 24 vice-presidents; captain, J. W. Cossey; lieutenants—Norwood reel. P. Little ; St. Peters reel, E. P. Knight; branchmen—Norwood reel, F. B. Steed: St. Peters reel, W. J. Porter ; apparatus officer, W. Tuxford ; committee of management, T. S. Warman. R. E. Kippist, J. W. Cossey. P. Little. E. P. Knight, F. R. Steed, C. F. W. Maschmedt, W. Tuxford, and A. A. Burford; auditors, F. Colliver and W. J. Porter; secretary and treasurer, R. E. Kippist.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024



**Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 24 March 1891, page 4**

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD,

MONDAY, MARCH 23.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. J. Hall, J.P.), Councillors Threlfall, Binks, Fimister, Fraser, Williams, White, and the Town Clerk (Mr. Gooden). Finance.— Receipts, £179 1s. 3d.; expenditure, £76 1s. 4d.; credit Bank account, £725 17s. 10d. In reply to a letter from the Town Clerk to the Secretary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands the following report was received:—The Superintendent of Telegraphs states that fire-alarms could be fitted up for an annual rental, as follows:—For the wire, 25s. for each quarter of a mile up to one mile, and 20s. per quarter mile over that distance, and for each call-box 25s. per annum. Received. The MAYOR reported the result of a conversation between himself and the Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board re the Council coming under the Fire Brigades Act. He said it appeared they were in a different position to what they thought. The Chairman of the Board said that he thought it was necessary for them to come under the Act to throw off the responsibility of the local brigade. The Mayor thought it was desirable for two or three members to wait on the Chairman of the Board. Councillor Fraser moved— "That the Town Clerk write to the Fire Brigades Board, asking under what condition they could come under the Fire Brigades Act and at the same time maintaining their own Volunteer Fire Brigade." Carried.

1892

**Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 8 September 1892, page 2**

Fire in Norwood.

FIRE AT NORTH NORWOOD.—The St. Peters Branch of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade had a call to attend a fire at Koster's Pottery Works at North Norwood at 6 o'clock on Thursday morning. Although the distance is over a mile, the reel, in charge of Captain Cossey, was on the scene about six minutes after receiving the call. When they arrived they found several men with buckets putting water on the fire, and with the assistance of the Brigade the fire was soon extinguished. The damage was estimated at £80.

**The Advertiser, Tuesday 20th September 1892 page 7**

NORWOOD AND ST. PETERS FIRE BRIGADE.

The eleventh anniversary of the starting of the Norwood and St. Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade was celebrated in the Norwood Town Hall on Tuesday evening, September 13. A torchlight procession—consisting of 18 men of the Norwood and St. Peters Brigade, with a horse reel and two hand reels under Captain Cossey, and 13 men of the Hindmarsh Brigade, with two-horse reel and a hand reel under Captain Duncan—was formed at the Maid and Magpie Hotel, Stepney at about 7 o'clock and proceeded to the Norwood Town Hall. On reaching the hall the men adjourned to the upper room, where refreshments had been provided, and a large company had assembled. The Mayor of Norwood (Mr. J. Hall) occupied the chair, being supported by Sir E. T. Smith, Mr. D. Packham, and the members of the Norwood and St. Peters Corporations. Mr. J. Shaw filled the vice chair, being supported by Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., and B. Mr. Gould, M.P. The loyal toasts having been honored, Councillor White proposed "The Parliament," and remarked that they were much indebted to the three members present for the interest they had taken in the volunteer brigades. Sir E. T. Smith apologised for the absence of the Hon. T. Playford. This was the 21st year that he had had the honor of representing East Torrens in the House of Assembly, and for 15 years he had been associated with Mr. Playford. He was confident that the present Parliament would do

some good work before the session closed, even if they passed only the Pastoral, Conciliation, and Electoral Bills. A sum of money had been placed on the Estimates for the erection of fire alarms in Kensington and Norwood, St. Peters and Hindmarsh, and he believed the vote would be passed. (Cheers.) Mr. Gould said he had always been interested in the volunteer fire brigade movement, which had been started in Norwood and followed in Hindmarsh. He hoped that before Parliament closed they would have a record of which they need not feel ashamed. Mr. Brooker said the actions of the present Parliament had been more keenly criticised than those of any of its predecessors. This, he considered, was the result of the spread of education. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Packham proposed "The Norwood and St. Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade." He was proud of the brigade, which had done good work in the past. Mr. T. R. Steed, who responded, said the brigade was in a very efficient state, and with the aid of alarms and telephones they would be able to turn out at a moment's notice. Messrs. Kippist and Gooden, who were retiring, had been very active members. The Chairman presented Messrs. R. E. Kippist and J. E. Gooden with certificates in recognition of the services they had rendered in connection with the brigade. He was sorry both gentlemen had been prevented from attending. Mr. Diamond responded for Mr. Kippist, and Mr. T. Worman for Mr. Gooden. Councillor Theklfall submitted "Kindred brigades." Superintendent Reed acknowledged the toast on behalf of the Hindmarsh brigade, and Mr. W. Loader for Payneham. Sir E. T. Smith proposed "The corporations of Kensington and Norwood, and St. Peters." Kensington and Norwood had now reached the position of being next in importance to the Adelaide Corporation, and St. Peters had made great improvements. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood said he was gratified at the number of works which had been done during his term of office, especially that at Peacock's Hill. Councillor Brown replied for St. Peters Corporation. The toasts of "The Chairman" and "Vice chairman" concluded the proceedings, during which songs and recitations were given by Messrs. E. J. Dean, E. Harvey, H. Batter, A. Hambling, H. Fay, and L. Fisher.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 27 October 1891, page 4***

At 20 minutes to 9 on Saturday evening a call of fire was made at No. 3 Fire-reel Station, Sydenham-road, Norwood, and in less than two minutes three firemen, Messrs. Steed, Colliver, and Tuxford, with the reel and 550 ft. of good hose, were on the scene. The premises were occupied by Mr. Shand, and the fire was caused by a child going into the bedroom with a lighted candle, which ignited the bedclothes. When the firemen arrived the room was in flames, the bed curtains and other articles being considerably burnt. The fire was very quickly subdued without the use of the hose.

1893

***Taken from Geoffrey H. Manning A Colonial Experience***

By 1893 it was known as Norwood and Saint Peters Volunteer Fire Brigade and was composed as follows: Head Station, on The Parade - Eight active members, one horse reel and appliances, one handreel and appliances and 600 feet of hose, Captain, J.W. Cossey and Lieutenant A. Hope; No. 2 Station, St Peters Branch - six active members, one handreel and appliances and 500 feet of hose, Lieutenant, W. Porter; No. 3 Station, Sydenham Road - Four active members, one handreel and appliances and 650 feet of hose, Lieutenant F.R. Steed. The secretary of the brigade was F. Colliver.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 17 January 1893, page 2***

Fire Alarms for Norwood.

FIRE ALARMS AT NORWOOD.—The Kensington and Norwood Corporation are about to receive the reward of patience. For quite two years they have urged successive Governments

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

to erect four fire alarms in their municipality. Mr. Todd, the chief of the Electrical Department of the colony, now has the matter in hand, and he has given instructions that as an initiatory step the spots where the fire alarms are required shall be indicated.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 8 April 1893, page 4***

#### ALARM OF FIRE.

For the purpose of testing the efficiency of the Norwood Local Fire Brigade it was resolved by the Fire Committee of the Corporation to have a call-out of the brigade on Friday evening. At about half-past 8 o'clock there assembled at George-street the Mayor and Councillors Anstey, Calder, Gannoni, Hendeison, and Williams. A mounted messenger was dispatched to alarm the different stations. Within six minutes of his departure the reel from the Town Hall arrived with three firemen, and in a few seconds the hose was unrolled and the brigade ready for action. In eighteen minutes the reel from St. Peters arrived with Captain Cossey and five men, and in a few seconds they were also ready for action. On receiving the summons at the Town Hall the caretaker immediately telephoned to Patfull Brothers at Stepney, and one of the firm rushed up to the station at the Maid and Magpie, and rang the alarm bell, and by the time the mounted messenger reached the station the captain and his five men were ready to start. One of the fireman keeps his horse and spring-cart ready each evening for a fire from 6 till 12 o'clock, and his conveyance brought down the reel and the men. A large amount of rubbish had been collected in a paddock, and this was set fire to, and served not only as an alarm of fire, but was successful in collecting a large number of people.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 14 July 1893, page 2***

#### Latest News.

SMALL FIRE AT NORWOOD.—At 9.30 on Wednesday evening the Head Station of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a fire in Queen-street, and in three minutes and a half were on the scene. The fire, which was not of a serious nature, was promptly extinguished.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 22 July 1893, page 7***

#### A NEW FIRE ALARM.

On Friday evening an experiment was made with the fire alarm recently fitted up at the head fire station at the Norwood Town Hall. The apparatus is in the station and is connected with a wire stretched to the tower. When the handle is pulled the hammer is raised and the bell gives out no uncertain sound. The test was applied in several ways, slowly and quickly, and that it was effective was proved by the large crowd that soon assembled at the station. After the trial a meeting of the Fire Committee was held, and it was agreed to further consider whether the situation of the handle for ringing the bell could not be improved upon. At present the station is open each evening till after midnight. If a fire should break out during the evening there would be no difficulty in sounding the alarm, but after midnight much valuable time might be lost in waking up the caretaker at the Town Hall for the key of the station. One suggestion made was that the handle should be placed outside the Town Hall lobby, so that it could be reached at any hour of the day or night by any one interested. The few instances of the fire alarms in the city being tampered with were adduced as an answer that larrikins would be inclined to ring the bell and disappear.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 6 September 1893, page 2***

#### SMALL FIRE.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit  
[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)  
 Last modified 30 Jun 2024

On Tuesday, between 10.30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m., a small fire occurred in the dwelling-house of John Davies, Percival-street, Norwood. The occupants of the house had gone out, leaving a small fire on the oven. On returning it was found that some of the burning wood had fallen over, setting fire to a box, which, together with a large dresser, was burnt. The fire was soon extinguished. No damage was done to the walls of the house.

1894

***From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1894.***

Norwood VFB, The Parade North side next to the Town Hall.

***South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895), Saturday 24 February 1894, page 6***

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A fire occurred early on Sunday morning at the corner of Charles-street and the Kensington road, Norwood, by which a two-storey house was completely gutted. It consisted of two shops and dwelling-rooms above. Only one of the shops was occupied by Messrs, W. & E. Summerhayes as a general store. Master Whitecliff Gardiner gave the alarm to the Norwood Fire Brigade, who received the call out at 2.30 a.m. No. 1 reel was on the scene in charge of Lieutenant Warman in a very short time, and within a few minutes No. 3 reel arrived from Sydenham-road with Lieutenant Steed in charge, and later came No. 2 reel from St Peter's branch with Captain Cossey in charge. The house is owned by Mr. Jerger, now in Western Australia. On arrival of the brigade the fire had a good hold on the place, which had evidently been burning for some considerable time, but after working at it for a short time it was got under, but not until it had completely gutted the two houses. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at a quarter to 4 in the morning, but did not send any assistance, as Norwood is outside their sphere of work. Mrs. Anderson's house next door had a narrow escape, as it is partly roofed with shingles. A house was built some eight years ago on the same site as that destroyed on Sunday morning, but it collapsed and had to be re-erected. Last summer Mr. Gardiner put out a fire in one of the upstairs rooms of the same house. Mr. Summerhayes says he and his mother were at the shop until half-past 10 on Saturday night, when they left for their home in Dulwich. No one slept on the premises. As his mother was not very well a fire was lighted in the shop parlor to warm some water, and as far as they knew they extinguished it before leaving. The only ex-planation of the fire so far is that the ashes must have come alight again. Mr. Summerhayes was insured for £100, and reckons the stock, furniture, and fixtures lost at £120. He had occupied the store for six months. By some police negligence the ruins were left unguarded during at least part of Sunday afternoon, and scores of children scrambled in their Sunday clothes among the blackened joists and rafters, and at the risk of having a piece of timber on their heads.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 18 July 1894, page 3***

#### NORWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual general meeting of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the Norwood Town Hall July 9. All the members were present, and Captain Cossey presided. Only one alteration was made in the rules. The captain's report, which was read, showed that the brigade had received and attended to 21 calls during the year, 11 of which were actual fires, the remainder being rubbish heaps or false alarms. It also showed that the officers and men had worked harmoniously together. The report was adopted Votes of thanks were accorded to the retiring officers. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted thus:—Captain, Mr. F. R. Steed ; lieutenants—No. 1 station, Mr. H. Etheridge; No. 2 station, Mr. D. Bell pro tem; No. 3 station, Mr. W. Tuxford; secretary, Mr. R. Blundell.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 20 September 1894, page 2***

LATEST NEWS.

THE NORWOOD AND ST. PETERS VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.—We have been informed that this organization is in a critical condition. According to our information a lieutenant and five men have resigned, and have applied to Superintendent Booker to be enrolled as local auxiliaries in the event of the Norwood and St. Peters Corporations agreeing to come under the Central Fire Board. As regards the St. Peters branch, we have been informed that all the men have resigned except one officer. As the eastern suburbs are entirely dependent on the local brigade for assistance in case of an outbreak of fire, it is the duty of the local authorities to take immediate steps to meet the emergency.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 22 September 1894, page 7

NORWOOD AND ST. PETERS FIRE BRIGADE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir— I think a very short reply from me to the paragraph appearing in your columns on the above subject is necessary. The facts are that one lieutenant and three men (not five) have resigned, but we yet have ten active firemen able and willing to do duty should occasion arise, besides a number of reserve men at all times ready to assist. I must in justice state that the four who have resigned have all had less than twelve months' experience, while those who are still loyal have (with three exceptions) been connected with the brigade for years. In fact with the three exceptions referred to the seceders are youngest in experience we have had. If anything further is needed to reassure our residents I may add that already there are several applicants for the vacancies by most desirable residents. In conclusion, why this fearful excitement about our district? In other municipalities— in Unley, for instance —no provision at all is made for fire brigades, and yet they sleep undisturbed by fire or other alarms.

I am, Sir, &c., F. R. STEED, Captain N. and St.P.V.F.B.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 27 October 1894, page 6

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Some time ago the premises at the corner of Charles-Street and Kensington-road, Norwood, known as Trüdingers store were destroyed by fire. The building, which comprised two shops, was being rebuilt and was nearly finished, but a little after Thursday midnight the premises were found to be on fire, the flames having a firm hold on the building when the outbreak was discovered. An alarm was given to the Sydenham-road station of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, and on arrival at the scene the men with the hand-reel speedily set to work and got the flames under, these being confined to the front part of the premises. The origin of the fire is at present unknown. The building was insured in the Commercial Union Insurance Office for £600.

1895

***From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1895.***

Norwood Volunteer Fire brigade, station located next to the Town hall on The Parade, North Side between Edward and George Streets.

Norwood VF Brigade, Fire Reel No3. Sydenham Road, West side, between The Parade and Williams Street [Willis and Colliver Streets].

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 21 February 1895, page 5**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning a fire occurred in the turner and carpenter's shop belonging to Mr. J. H. L. Burmeister, of the Parade, Norwood, by which the shop and contents were totally destroyed. The stock and tools were insured in the Commercial Assurance Company's office for £450, and the whole of the buildings were insured for £500 in the Phoenix Fire Insurances Company. The shop destroyed was a very old building constructed of concrete and iron. Mr. Burmeister can give no idea of the cause of the fire. Immediately the alarm was given the Norwood and Adelaide firereels attended and extinguished the flames. No inquest will be held.

**South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 15 March 1895, page 3**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Shortly after 5 o'clock on Thursday evening an alarm of fire was received at the Norwood Firereel Station. In less than a minute three firemen, in charge of Lieutenant Blundell and Constable Kelly, were on their way to the scene of the fire, which was at the residence of Mr. Adcock, Wellington-road. On the arrival of the fireman it was found that the roof of the house was alight. The conflagration was caused by the ridge-pole running through the chimney catching fire. Valuable assistance was rendered by the local butcher, who, with the assistance of a garden hose, kept the flames in check until the arrival of the brigade, who, in a short time, had a powerful stream of water effectively playing. Credit is due to the firemen for the prompt manner in which they answered the call. The policy of insurance had been renewed within the last few days.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 24 April 1895, page 4**

THE FIRE BRIGADE QUESTION.

NORWOOD AND ST. PETERS.

A joint meeting of the Kensington and Norwood and St. Peters town councils was held at the Norwood Town Hall on Tuesday evening to consider the desirableness of coming under the metropolitan fire brigade system. There were present the Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. T. White), the Mayor of St. Peters (Mr. J. Wyles), Councillors Mattingly, Watson, Gannoni, Binks, and Packham (Norwood), Stacey, Lodge, Glover, McShane, McDougall, Haines, and Brown (St. Peters).

The Chairman (Mr. White) apologised for the absence of Councillor Threlfall. He gave a short resume of the volunteer fire brigade system which had been in force for some years, during which they had had very little occasion for their services. There was a feeling some time ago that the two corporations should join and come under the central system. An estimate from the metropolitan board placed the cost of this being effected at £292.

The Norwood council at that time decided to stand by the volunteer system, but lately the central board had been approached and another estimate had been received as follows:— Two permanent men, £232 ; accident assurance, £3; forage and shoeing, £25 ; four fire alarms, £25; four fire alarms (St. Peters), £30 ; telephone to head station, £10; uniform and bedding, £25; sundry repairs, £25 ; rent of station and cottage, £40; supervision, £18 ; total, £433. It would also be necessary to make several alterations to the station, the roof being too low to admit a horse being driven through. They would also have to build a station so that the approximate additional outlay during the first year would be:— Alterations to station and

building stables, £30 ; horse and harness, £25; repairs and alteration to reel, £10; lamps and sundries, £10; 500 ft. of hose, £50; total, £125. He considered this estimate high, and thought it could be reduced.

The annual moiety from both corporations would amount to £96— Norwood paying £64 and St. Peters £32. All the local firemen under the volunteer system had resigned. Mr. Wyles generally supported the idea of coming under the central system. Councillor McShane wanted to know whether in the event of the two corporations coming under the board they would be bound for all time?

The Chairman thought the agreement could be terminated on fair notice being given, but was not sure. That was a matter of detail, however. What they had to decide was whether they would recuscitate the old system or come under the operations of the central board.

After a desultory discussion Mr. Wyles moved—"That it is desirable for the joint corporations to join the Central Fire Brigade system." Councillor Stacey seconded the motion, which would not throw them irretrievably into the hands of the central brigade.

The Chairman said if they continued the volunteer system, and the Government gave them a system of fire alarms, it would cost more than if they came under the central system.

Councillor Brown thought it would be cheaper to have signals connected with the central station without having any local station, because the former would be almost as near as any central local point would be to the outskirts of the two districts.

The Chairman said under the volunteer system the corporation would not be protected by law against any damage that the brigade might do to any property adjoining a house on fire.

The motion was carried by 8 vote's to 5, the Chairman mentioning that had the three absent Norwood councillors been present they would have favored the motion. Councillors Glover, Mattingly, Lodge, McDougall, and Haines voted against the motion.

Mr. Wyles moved to the effect, that the term for which the joint corporations should join the central board should be three years, provided that the cost should not exceed an amount to be mutually agreed upon.

Councillor Binks seconded the motion, which was carried, and a committee was appointed to wait on the Metropolitan Board to ascertain the terms under which the corporations could join, and to subsequently report to an adjourned meeting.

The meeting then adjourned till Monday week.

***Free Press (SA : 1895), Saturday 27 April 1895, page 4***

The Volunteer Fire Brigade.

THE history of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade is briefly this :—About 14 years ago a volunteer fire brigade was organized, and for several years, notwithstanding the great lack of many necessary articles, the members who were earnest and enthusiastic workers did yeoman service whenever the fire fiend was about. Some five or six years ago several of the best men resigned, and the brigade became much disorganised. It was then taken over by the Town Council, four members of the Norwood and Kensington Council and the Mayor, two Councillors from St. Peters and four members of the Brigade forming the Board of Management Committee. The Corporation paid all liabilities. Both Norwood and Kensington and St. Peters paid annual subscriptions to meet expenditure, and good sums were obtained

from private sources. Another reel was purchased, making the complement three hand and one horse reel, the sheds were much enlarged, the fittings and couplings were made uniform with the Adelaide Brigade, and the comfort of the men was thoughtfully studied. Everything appeared to be working well under Captain Cossey, but at the election of officers last June he was replaced by Captain Steed, when much dissatisfaction was speedily developed, several of the Brigade resigned at once, and more a few weeks later, and the members have been in a very unsettled state for some months. During the last three years the Committee have spent £220 on the brigade which appears to be an excessive sum for the period. Finding that general dissatisfaction prevailed at the manner in which the brigade was being conducted the members a few days since tendered their resignations which was accepted. When they give as a reason for their action that "they realize that their efforts have not been appreciated" they appear to wish to place the responsibility for their collapse upon the Council who are wholly blameless in the matter. The whole question was considered at a meeting of the joint Councils on Tuesday evening, a full report of which will be found in another column, when it was decided "That it is desirable for the joint Corporations to join the Central Fire-Brigade system." This we consider is the best plan that could be adopted. Up to the present time the local brigade not having been a registered body the Council have been liable for all damage they might cause. The men could come and go as it suited their convenience, as there was nothing binding on them, and all new men joining had to be provided with uniforms. If the Central Brigade has control of the municipalities the expense will be very little greater, and perfect efficiency will be secured. The men will always be on the spot, and the telephones and fire alarms always available. We trust that no obstacles will arise to prevent the desirable consummation, and that residents in the municipalities will soon be able to sleep in security from danger by fire. It must be understood that in recommending the adoption of the proposed plan we do not intend to underrate the value of the services rendered by the Volunteer Brigade, but it is apparent that when veterans are being replaced by raw recruits the efficiency of the service must suffer and we believe that the ratepayers of that two municipalities will endorse the action of the Councils.

***Free Press (SA : 1895), Saturday 27 April 1895, page 6***

The Fire Brigade Question.

A joint meeting of the Corporations of Kensington and Norwood and St. Peters was held in the Norwood Town Hall on Tuesday evening to discuss the Fire-Brigade question. There were present—The Mayor (Mr. T. White, in the chair) and Councillors Mattingly, Gannoni, Binks, Watson, and Packham, and the Town Clerk (Mr. G. W. Gooden), from the Norwood Council; and the Mayor (Mr. J. Wyles) and Councillors Brown, Lodge, McShane, McDougall, Hames, Stacy, and Glover, from St. Peters Corporation. There was not a solitary ratepayer present. The Chairman mentioned that Councillors Henderson and Threlfall could not be present. He said that they had had Volunteer Fire Brigade system for some years, but, fortunately or unfortunately, they had had little use for the volunteers. Some time ago there was a feeling in some quarters that the two municipalities should combine and come under the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. A statement from the central brigade gave the total annual cost as about £292, but the Council at the time decided to stick to the volunteer system. Lately again the central brigade had again been approached, and after an inspection had given an estimate of annual cost as follows :—Two permanent men, £232 ; accident assurance, £3 ; forage and shoeing, £25 ; four fire alarms, £25 ; four do. for St. Peters, £30 ; telephone to head station, £10 ; uniform and bedding, £25 ; sundry repairs, £25 ; rent of station and cottage, £40 ; supervision, £18 ; or a total of £433. The report stated that it would also be necessary to make several alterations to the station, the roof being too low to admit a horse driven through the station doors ; it would also be necessary to build a stable so that the approximate additional outlay during the first year would be :— Alteration to present station and building stable, £30 ; horse



and harness, £25; repairs and alteration to reel, £10 ; lamps and sundries, £10 ; 500 ft. of hose, £50; total, £125. This estimate he considered altogether too high, but the chances were that it would be reduced. As the two Councils by the agreements would have to bear two-ninths of the cost between them, their joint annual contributions would be about £96. Mr. Wyles spoke in favour of the arrangement, and Councillor Glover was against it in its present form. Councillor McShane asked if they would be bound to stay under the Metropolitan Board for all time if once they came under it. The Chairman thought it highly improbable that if they were satisfied they would be compelled to consider contributions. The arrangement would probably be terminable by fair and equitable notice. Councillor McShane thought the point should be settled before anything definite was done. The Chairman said the main questions were—Were they prepared to continue the volunteer system—there was no system now, as all the members of the local brigades had resigned—or to resuscitate it, or to have no system, or to come under the Metropolitan Board ? Councillor Watson considered that the ratepayers should not have to pay at all for fire protection as they were nearly all already insured. Mr. Wyles said that insurance rates would be raised in that case, and Councillor Stacy pointed out that, the annual contributions to the Central Board would be only about a farthing in the pound. Mr. Wyles moved— "That it is desirable for the joint Corporations to join the Central Fire Brigade system." Councillor Stacy seconded. Councillor Brown suggested that the Central Brigade should manage everything from town, so that the only cost would be for telephones to the head station. There would be no brigade to maintain in the suburbs. Some parts of the municipality were as near to the metropolitan brigade as to the place where the suburban brigades would be. The Chairman stated that legal opinion was that under the volunteer system, which was not protected by law, the brigade would be liable at law for damage done by them.

The motion was carried by 8 votes to 5, the Chairman mentioning that had Councillors Threlfall and Hall been present they would probably have voted for the motion, and he thought Councillor Henderson would have been for it. The five against the motion were Councillors Glover, Mattingly, McDougall, Lodge, and Hames. Mr. Wyles moved that the joint Corporations offer to join the Central Fire Brigade for three years at an amount to be mutually agreed upon. Councillor Binks seconded, and the motion was carried by 11 votes to 1 (Councillor Mattingly). Councillor McShane moved that a committee be formed, consisting of the two Mayors and Councillors Mattingly Binks, Glover, and Brown, to confer with the Metropolitan Board and report to an adjourned meeting. Councillor Stacy seconded. Carried.

***Free Press (SA : 1895), Saturday 18 May 1895, page 7***

Norwood Fire Brigade.

A deputation from the Kensington and Norwood and St. Peters Town Councils waited on the Fire Brigade Board at the central station, Wakefield-street, on Friday May 10 to ask whether the terms under which they could become affiliated with the central board could be lessened from £100 to £75. The desire of the two corporations was that a station should be established at Norwood in connection with the central one. Mr. John Wyles (Mayor of St. Peters) said the joint corporations had met more than once to discuss the matter, and had concluded that it would be a good thing to join the Central Fire Brigades Board. They decided in this direction with a single proviso, and that was as to the expense. Mr. T. White (Mayor of Kensington and Norwood) said a volunteer system had been conducted in the eastern suburbs with a fair measure of success until the volunteers' enthusiasm died out in spite of some £200 being spent. The most fruitful cause of dissatisfaction was the ability of the Brigades to elect their own officers, and the councils had lately been very dissatisfied with the work of the brigade, as there appeared to be an utter want of esprit-de-corps amongst the men belonging to the volunteer brigades. The risks in the eastern suburbs were not great, as there were very few

factories. The Norwood Corporation was willing to allow £50 per annum, while St. Peters Corporation was willing to give £25. With two permanent men it was stated that £100 per annum would be required but if the board could arrange for one permanent man being stationed in the municipality and having the call on the services of four or five auxiliaries he believed it could be done for an expenditure of £75 on the part of the corporations. They considered that the estimated expense involved was too much, but if the Board could see their way clear to give them protection from the fire for the amount he had suggested the councils would be prepared to come under the jurisdiction of the Board. Councillors Binks (Norwood) and Brown (St. Peters) supported the request of the deputation. The Chairman of the board (Mr. C. L. Meyer) said when the first estimate was given them they were trying the auxiliary men at Port Adelaide. That system proved unsatisfactory, and accordingly the Board thought it would be best to have two permanent men on the spot. The estimate was therefore raised. It was impossible to protect the eastern suburbs without a horsereel and two men, and he could not see how the expenditure could be lessened. The board were not likely to do things by halves, as they had a reputation at stake in the city of Adelaide, which for the sake of £25 they would not risk by giving fire protection to Norwood and St. Peters of an indifferent character. If it were to be done it would have to be done properly. As to expenses for the first year he admitted that the items were heavy, but if the superintendant found that the expenditure was not absolutely needed it would not be incurred. The shed would have to be altered. He could not see his way clear to any other system but that suggested by the Central Board. The Fire Brigades Act was so worded that once a corporation came under the Board there was no provision for retiring, but so far they had had no serious trouble with any corporations that had come under the jurisdiction of the board, and he did not anticipate, if the eastern suburbs came under their jurisdiction, that anything of that kind would arise. The question of the locality of the new station would not be decided until later on, but it was not at all essential that the site should be next to the Norwood Town Hall. A meeting is to be held on Tuesday next when we trust that a final decision will be arrived at and the joint municipalities affiliated with the central board.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 28 December 1895, page 4***

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigades Act has been extended to Kensington and Norwood by a proclamation published in this week's Gazette. This question has for several years past been a bone of contention between two factions in the eastern suburbs. At the time when Mr. J. Hall was mayor the local brigade was rendered very successful, and later on a union was made with the Corporation of St Peters, and a joint station was established near the Maid and Magpie. The Norwood Corporation was at this time divided on the question of whether it was better to trust to a local brigade or to come under the Central Fire Board, but since the resignation of the local brigade there has been practical unanimity on the subject. It is worth mention that the old local brigade of some 10 or 12 years ago did yeoman service at the time of the "fire epidemic" in the premier suburb. The result of the proclamation is that the duty of protecting the eastern suburbs from fire now falls on the Fire Brigades Board, and no doubt no time will be lost in establishing a station in that district with fire alarms in a circuit and also direct telephonic communication with the metropolitan station. The new station will be on much the same scale as that which is already established at North Adelaide. It is to be hoped that the rest of the suburbs will soon follow the example of Norwood, and by contributing to the Fire Brigades Board ensure protection against a danger which is ever present.

1896

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 7 January 1896, page 5***

Fire Protection for Norwood. — In Christmas week the important suburb of Norwood and Kensington was gazetted under the Fire Brigades Act, and now the Metropolitan Brigade can be called upon on a fire breaking out there. The local Volunteer Fire Brigade has been done away with for some months, and the suburb has for some time been without protection from fire. At present temporary communication with the head station in Wakefield-street is established by telephone from the old volunteer station on the Parade, Norwood, where a fireman with a handreel is kept constantly on the watch day and night ; but other arrangements more complete will be made in the course of a few days. Fire alarms will then be fixed at various points, and will be connected direct with the station at Norwood. This will form a circuit of alarms similar to those in the city, whereby the Metropolitan Station can be called at a moments notice.

Wednesday 13 May. Affiliation with the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 March 1896, page 6**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At about half-past 7 o'clock on Friday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from Norwood. A reel with Superintendent Booker in charge at once turned out, and they were joined by the Norwood Brigade. The fire was found to be confined to a workshop at the back of Mr. F. Camp's premises in Elizabeth-street, Norwood, and the flames had a complete hold of the building, which was eventually destroyed. The brigade were called too late to prevent the destruction of the workshops, but they were able to stop the flames from spreading. The damage done is estimated at £40. The cause of the fire is unknown.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 13 May 1896, page 3**

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

##### IMPROVED APPLIANCES.

To-night the new fire brigade station at Norwood will be formally opened by the Mayor of Kensington and Norwood. For some time the question of the protection from fire of the large area under the jurisdiction of this corporation has received serious consideration. It was during the time that Mr. T. A. Caterer occupied the mayoral chair that steps were first taken to minimise the danger to life and property. In 1882 a meeting was held in Mr. Caterer's schoolroom to discuss the advisableness of forming a volunteer fire brigade. The moving spirit at that time was an old American fireman, Mr. T. S. Warman, who with Messrs. A. J. Diamond, R. E. Kippist, J. E. Gooden, R. K. Threlfall, A. Benson, and other leading residents secured the end in view. A volunteer brigade was established, and subscriptions were received from various sources. Between £60 and £70 was obtained in the first instance, and sufficient funds were raised to supply the necessary appliances and uniforms. The brigade as first constituted consisted of a dozen men, Mr. Warman being captain and Mr. Diamond superintendent. This system remained in force for about eight years, and the cost to the corporation was next to nothing. An agitation arose in the council about six years ago that the corporation should become affiliated with the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, but the volunteer system was adhered to until dissensions arose between the members of the brigade. Then the council considered it time to step in and ensure efficient protection. That could only be achieved by affiliation with the metropolitan board, but this course was not adopted until every other means had been resorted to in the hope of keeping the members of the volunteer brigade together. The volunteer fire station was an unpretentious iron structure adjoining the Town Hall, But when the council decided on the new departure, arrangements were made to build premises suitable for housing the brigade. The new fire station stands on a piece of corporation property adjoining the old Town Hall on the Parade, and the building

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

was erected from plans approved by the Fire Brigades Board. It consists of an engine-room, married couple's quarters, and single men's rooms, besides stalls for the horses. The appliances belonging to the volunteer brigade were taken over by the Fire Brigades Board, and in many instances remodelled. The station is now equipped with a horse reel and the necessary patent harness for a rapid turnout, while the stable doors can also, by means of electricity, be opened from any of the alarms in the streets. In fact the Norwood station now, so far as appliances and the mechanical and electrical arrangements are concerned, is perfect. There is a fire alarm circuit radiating into the station, and this will be added to in the near future by four more alarms at St. Peters. The station will be formally opened at 7.30 to-night, when the members of the Fire Brigades Board and others interested are expected to be present.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 14 May 1896, page 7**

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

##### THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The official opening of the new fire brigade station for the town of Kensington and Norwood took place on Wednesday evening, when the occasion was celebrated by a dinner given in the Town Hall by the mayor (Mr. K. K. Threlfall). Previously, however, the guests to the number of about 150 assembled at the station and examined the new appliances and buildings, which were described in Wednesday's Advertiser. The Mayor, in formally declaring the station open, referred to the fact that the Metropolitan Brigade had given them great assistance. The town had in the past been well served by an earnest volunteer brigade, but the appliances were altogether inefficient. Now, however, they could depend upon the town being well served. The Superintendent of Fire Brigades (Mr. G. A. Booker) then rang up the metropolitan station. A reel was in attendance in 7½ minutes, and was closely followed by the two steamers with full steam up. An adjournment was made to the banqueting-room, where an excellent repast had been provided by Mr. F. Bricknell. The mayor occupied the chair, and was supported on his right by Sir Edwin Smith, M.L.C., and Messrs. C. L. Meyer (chairman of the Fire Brigades Board), and J. Wyles (Mayor of St Peters), and on his left by Messrs. John Darling, jun., M.P., C. Tucker (Mayor of Adelaide), C. R. Morris (Mayor of Port Adelaide), and W. H. Cox (Mayor of Gawler). The loyal toasts having been honored, Mr. T. Gepp proposed "The Parliament," He doubted to some extent whether the new Parliament really existed, as it had yet to meet, although he was reminded that the gentlemen who had been elected were drawing their salaries. (Laughter.) The Parliament, like a new-born babe, had all its troubles before it; but he hoped that it would do better than its predecessors—and they knew that there was room. There was little difference in the personnel of the present Parliament and the past, except perhaps that there was a little greater infusion of the Yankee element. He did not know whether this was altogether desirable when we were continually raising the cry of "Australia for the Australians," and would not allow the inoffensive Chinese to come here. (Laughter.) He trusted that the Parliament would do good work and would not initiate more experimental legislation. (Hear, hear.) Sir E. T. Smith, in responding, congratulated the mayor and the ex-mayor (Mr. T. White) in having done the right thing in becoming affiliated with the Metropolitan Brigade, because, although it might cost more, the ratepayers would be conscious of having a more efficient service. At the same time he did not wish to disparage the work of the old volunteer brigade, who had done yeoman service without fee or reward. (Hear, hear.) He agreed with Mr. Gepp that we should not have more experimental legislation, but rather something practical, and he deprecated any thing like party government He regretted Mr. Coneybeer was unavoidably absent, but they had another member present who would uphold the honor of the district in politics as his brother was upholding the honor of Australian cricket in the fields of the old country. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Darling, who also

responded, was received with applause. He felt some difficulty in replying because he was under such a deep debt of gratitude to the electors of the district in having returned him to represent them in the House of Assembly. Of course he could say nothing definite as to what would be done by the present Parliament. But he thought now that women had been accorded the franchise we would have no further class or parochial legislation, but legislation of such a character as would bring about a renewal of confidence in the colony of which we had every reason to be so proud. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to think that any attempt to alter the franchise of the electors of the Legislative Council would be defeated if the numbers of that chamber and the newly elected members worked strenuously together, in spite of what appeared to be the odds against them. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that they would find enterprise and energy encouraged in every way, as they could have but one desire, and that was the true advancement of the colony, which would give us permanent prosperity. One of the first things that Parliament would have to deal with was the settling of the out side pastoral country so that it might not be merely a breeding ground for vermin. (Hear, hear.) With due economy and with proper administration he thought there would be no necessity to increase the burden of taxation during the next three years. He thanked them for the kind way in which they had received the toast (Applause.) Mr. G. E. C. Stevens proposed "The Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board" They had had an opportunity that evening of witnessing the smartness of the brigade, and the town had every reason to be satisfied at having come under the jurisdiction of the board that guided it (Hear, bear.) Mr. Meyer, in responding, paid a high tribute to the work performed by the old Nor-wood Volunteer Brigade at a time when the Metropolitan Brigade was greatly pressed. (Hear, hear.) He did not, however, believe in the volunteer system, because such important services should not be rendered to the citizens gratis. Norwood would eventually be the centre of a circuit for dealing with the eastern suburbs, but he hoped that the town would long be spared a conflagration. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Morris also responded, and congratulated the town on the splendid station that been erected. (Hear, bear.) He trusted to see a perfect system established in the corporations and district councils surrounding the city, and that at a minimum cost. Superintendent Booker also replied. He wished to do away with the idea that the brigade was perfect, considering the immense area it had to cover. It, however, would do its best to carry out the duties cast upon it (Hear, bear.) Mr. Wyles proposed "The town and trade of Kensington and Norwood," and Mr. James Hall responded. The toast of "Kindred corporations" was given by Mr. Hugh Fraser. The Mayor of Adelaide, in reply, said he hoped the time would not be far distant when the whole of the local bodies within a radius of 12 miles of the city would come under the Fire Brigades Act (Hear, hear.) Though it might at present cost the ratepayers a little more that would be more than saved by reduced insurance premiums. He trusted to see a closer affiliation between municipal bodies so as to prevent the lopping and pruning of grants-in-aid which had been indulged in by several recent Governments. (Hear, hear.) Councillor Stacey, of St. Peters, also responded. The health of the contractors (Messrs. Essary & Coatsworth) was honored at the instance of Councillor Binks, while "The old fire brigade" was proposed by Mr. T. White and acknowledged by Messrs. Warman and T. Ainslie Caterer, who were two of the original members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade formed in 1881. Sir E. T. Smith proposed, and Mr. J. Darling, Jun., M.P., supported, the toast of the "Mayor," which was suitably acknowledged. Several songs and musical numbers by Signor Setaro's string band enlivened the proceedings.

***Bunyip, Friday May 15th 1896 page 4***

A new fire brigade station opened at Norwood.



Location of the new fire alarms connected by telephone to Adelaide Headquarters, along with the new fire station



***Taken from Geoffrey H. Manning A Colonial Experience***

By early 1896 the affiliation had occurred and a new fire station was opened nearly opposite the town hall on 13 May 1896. It was connected by telephone with the Adelaide headquarters and alarms were placed at Allen's Corner, at Cowell's Corner, at the corner of William and Elizabeth Streets and in High Street, Kensington, opposite to the Rising Sun Hotel. Thus, if a fire broke out help would be sent from Adelaide.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 15 September 1896, page 2***

**FIRE AT NORWOOD.**

On Tuesday morning at about 11 o'clock a fire occurred on the Parade, Norwood. The building, which belongs to Mr. Scarfe, of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co., was consider-ably

damaged. The Fire Brigade from the city were soon on the spot and succeeded in subduing the flames. The premises were occupied by Mrs. Brunbrett, dressmaker.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 28 September 1896, page 3***

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Late Mr. Henry Hannaford.

The late Mr. Henry Hannaford, who died rather suddenly at his residence, Norwood, at about 4 a.m. on Sunday, was born in London on January 31, 1870, and appointed to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on June 24, 1891. He was stationed at various stations in the district, and upon the opening of the Norwood station was placed in charge thereof, being a most careful and reliable man. He leaves a wife to mourn his loss, having only been married for about five months. A couple of days since he was reported at the head office as under Dr. Hayward's charge for a severe attack of neuralgia, and the news of his rather sudden death on Sunday morning came as a shock to his comrades and many friends. He will be buried to-day with full brigade honors, the funeral cortege leaving the Norwood station at 3.30 p.m. for the Payneham Cemetery.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 28 September 1896, page 5***

The Late Mr. H. Hannaford. — The death is announced of Mr. Henry Hannaford at Norwood on Sunday. Mr. Hannaford, who was only twenty-four years of age, had been a member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for about six years, and was looked on as one of the best men. When the branch station of the Metropolitan Brigade was established at Norwood about six months ago Mr. Hannaford was given the post of acting officer in charge— a position which he held to the day of his death. He has left a widow. The funeral will leave the Norwood Station at 3.30 this afternoon. The officers and men of the Fire Brigades will follow the remains.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 29 September 1896, page 6***

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE LATE MR. HENRY HANNAFORD.

The remains of the late Mr. Henry Hannaford, recently officer in charge of the Norwood Fire Brigade station, were interred at the Payneham cemetery on Monday afternoon with full brigade honors. The bier, which was covered with lovely floral tributes, was conveyed on a fire-reel draped in black and covered with the Union Jack, and driven by a band of brigadesmen in full dress. Behind came a body of men from H.M.C.S. Protector, also in uniform, and the mourning coaches were followed by a large number of vehicles. Around the grave a large and sympathetic crowd assembled. The chief mourners were—Mr. Charles E. Everett (father in law), Mr. and Mrs. Small (cousins), Mr and Mrs. J. C. Everett, Mr. E. E. Everett, Mr Frank P. Everett, and Master H. Everett (brothers-in-law), Miss Kate Everett (sister-in-law), and Mrs. G. Everett (cousin). There were also present— Councillor Binks and Mr Gooden (town clerk) (representing the Town Council of Kensington and Norwood), Messrs. W. Barker, A. Beasley, F. Packer, Plunkett, W. G. Furze, W. Green, S. Solomon, J. Waddell, C. H. S. Williams, C. J. Chester, W. D. Trudgen, F. Stephens, C. Hill, W. Everett, Evans, R. Hounslow, Schroeder, James Hall, G. E. Mouldon, D. Parker, A. Proctor, E. Parks, N. Solomon, Whinnerah, W. Howard, N. Hill, V. Hill, H. D. Everett, F. J. Dickie (in charge of firemen), McHenry Lewis (in charge of sailors from Protector), J. Beasley, W. Bone, jun., C. S. Toms, and J. Stephen. The Rev. R. W. G. Dempster conducted the service, and the funeral arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. Pengeley and Knabe.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

**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.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 30 September 1896, page 2**

## THE FIRE BRIGADE.

## A SERIOUS DIFFICULTY.

## ALL THE FIREMEN RESIGN.

At last the attention of the public may be diverted from the hospital trouble, which has provided so much interesting reading matter of late, to another in connection with an institution which is of great importance to the community. The new difficulty is in connection with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, of which practically all the members have resigned. The trouble arose in a most unexpected manner. Last Sunday Mr. Henry Hannaford, one of the smartest and most valued members of the Nor-wood Fire Brigade Station staff, died, and when this fact became known his comrades attached to the headquarters at once saw Superintendent Booker, and expressed a wish that the deceased should be buried with full brigade honors. The funeral was to take place on the next day, Monday, and the superintendent, following precedent, gave his consent to the wishes of the men, and all the necessary arrangements were at once commenced. Clause 31, subsection 3, of the Fire Brigades Act of 1890, in defining the general duties of the superintendent states:—"He shall have at all times the immediate charge and control of all engines, horses, carts, reels, buckets, hoses, ladders, fire escapes, and other plant, the property of the board, and shall keep the same in a fit state at all times for efficient service." In order that the men might be perfect in the duties they would have to perform at the funeral they went into the details, and the bandsmen rehearsed the "Dead march in Saul." The chairman of the board (Mr. C. L. Meyer) resides out of the city, and in order, to acquaint him with what he had done the superintendent proceeded to his house and saw Mr. Meyer, who raised no objection to the course proposed to be adopted. The funeral was fixed to take place at 3.30 p.m. on Monday,

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024



and a horse reel and two other reels were got ready to leave the city station. At ten minutes past 3 o'clock, however, a message was received through the telephone from the chairman of the board stating that only one reel was to be allowed to leave the station, and that all the firemen save five were to return to their posts. The message was given to Superintendent Booker, who answered the telephone in response to the chairman's ring.

The superintendent, with whom discipline is always paramount, at once paraded the men and informed them of what the chairman said, and told them to return to their posts with the exception of five, who, taking one reel, left to attend the funeral. Mr. Booker had on Sunday engaged a trap to convey any members of the board who desired to be present at the funeral, but on Monday morning he had been informed that owing to pressure of business none of them could get away, so he cancelled the order for the vehicle. It maybe mentioned that the superintendent had made ample provision in case of an out-break of fire during the absence of the greater portion of the men at the funeral. A steamer was ready at head-quarters, and at the North Adelaide and other stations a man was kept at the telephone to at once ring up the chief at the metropolitan station—who, by the way, did not intend leaving his post during the time that the firemen were away, so as to be prepared for any emergency that might arise.

The majority of the members of the fire brigade staff felt that the slight they had received was one that called for a strong pro-test. It was not, they considered, only a slight to them, but to a deceased comrade, and one of them when seen at the station on Tues-day evening by a representative of The Advertiser, asked with some indignation, "Is a comrade to be charred before we can bury his body with brigade honors ?" On the point as to the powers of the board the Act says in clause 21—"The board may delegate any of their powers to a committee consisting of not less than three of the members of the board, and such committee shall to the extent of the powers delegated be deemed to be the board within the meaning of the Act." After the funeral the firemen met and discussed the matter among themselves, and the result was that they decided to resign as a body. Accordingly on Tuesday morning 16 of the permanent members of the Fire Brigade forwarded their resignations to head-quarters. Later on other resignations came to hand, and by Tuesday evening the number had swollen to 22. These, we understand, are the men of the metropolitan and suburban brigades. This fact was made known to the members of the board, and three of them at once signed a requisition calling for a special meeting, which will be held on Monday next. The men gave one week's notice, and this will expire on Tuesday next, when, unless something is done in the meantime, they will leave their posts. This is an important matter just now, as with the hot weather rapidly setting in the danger of fire is great, and this is the season when the men whom Superintendent Booker has trained so admirably are most needed at their stations to reassure the citizens.

When seen on Tuesday evening Superintendent Booker, who was found at the Central Fire Station, declined to make any statement in regard to the matter.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 6 October 1896, page 2***

THE FIRE BRIGADE DIFFICULTY.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD,

SYMPATHY WITH THE MEN.

A special meeting of the Fire Brigade Board was held on Monday to consider the recent complications between the firemen and the Chairman in connection with the refusal to allow them to attend the funeral of Fireman Hannaford. The Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. C. Tucker, occupied the chair, and the following resolutions were adopted:— I. That the Board

sympathizes with the firemen in their desire to fittingly pay their last respects to the remains of their late comrade, Fireman, Hannaford, and regret that circumstances arose that prevented the majority of them carrying out their wishes. II. That in the opinion of the Board the Superintendent had been fully alive to the responsibility resting on him to protect the city and suburbs during the temporary absence of the firemen. III. That it would have been better if the Board had been consulted as to the arrangements proposed for the Brigade's attendance at the funeral. IV. That the Chairman in stopping the Brigade acted as he conscientiously believed to be necessary for the protection of property in the case of fire, and without any desire to compromise the Superintendent, or to show want of sympathy with the men in their desire to honour their late comrade. Shortly after the resolutions passed by the Board had been read to the firemen by the Chairman the men were mustered by Superintendent Booker, who asked them if they were content to withdraw their resignations and to accept the Board's resolutions as a termination of the question. The men apparently were unanimous in their decision, and after answering "Yes" in a body they gave three cheers and immediately resumed their work. After the Board rose the Superintendent caused the men at the other stations, who had also unanimously tendered their resignations, to be communicated with, and he was then informed that they were also satisfied with the Board's action, and were content to continue as heretofore. In the course of the evening Superintendent Booker was surprised to find on his office table three letters of resignation from individual members of the Brigade. Exercising his power Mr. Booker accepted their resignations forthwith, as he saw that the men were determined in any case to leave the Brigade. The three firemen in question, L. C. Main, C. L. Knowles, and G. C. Butcher, were at once released from duty and allowed to leave the service of the Board.

1897

***From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1897.***

Norwood Volunteer Fire brigade, The Parade, South Side, East of George Street.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 3 December 1897, page 2***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

P.C. Richmond has reported to the city coroner that a small fire occurred at a shed at the rear of a house of Mr. Walter James Berry, of Amhurst-avenue, North Norwood, on Thursday evening. Some horses which were in the stable took fright and were rescued with difficulty. The Adelaide and Norwood fire reels were speedily, on the spot and the flames were subdued. The damage is estimated at about £40, a pagnell and harness having been injured in addition to the shed. The coroner has decided that an inquest is unnecessary.

1898

***From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1898.***

Norwood Volunteer Fire brigade, The Parade, Next to old Town Hall which was on the corner of George Street and The Parade.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 7 February 1898, page 2***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Shortly after 6 o'clock on Saturday evening a small fire occurred at the premises of Mr. John Sullivan, bootmaker, of Flinders-street, Norwood. It appears that a shed containing some lumber and clothes caught alight. The local fire brigade was quickly on the scene, but the flames were extinguished before its arrival. The damage is estimated at from £3 to £4. The coroner has been informed.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 31 May 1898, page 4***

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Small Fire at Norwood.

At about half-past 8 o'clock on Monday evening a small fire occurred in the house of Mr. Frederick Netchford, of No. 57, Edward-street, Norwood. A kerosine lamp had been left near the bed, and the curtains became ignited and were destroyed with some bedding. The damage is estimated at about £10.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 22 November 1898, page 4***

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

At 10.50 p.m. on Monday a call to a fire in Union-street, Kensington, was given by a small boy to the Norwood Fire Station. The reel at once went to the fire. At the same time a telephone message was received at the Head Fire Station, Wakefield-street, and a fully equipped reel was instantly dispatched to Kensington. The fire was in a carpenters workshop, occupied by Mr. E. A. Pemberton, who did not know how it started. The building was of galvanized iron, measuring about 21 ft. by 20 ft., and when the brigade arrived was burning fiercely. The houses near by were endangered, but the efforts of the firemen saved them. The carpenter's shop and its contents were completely destroyed. The owner could not make any estimation of his loss. The stock and premises were insured.

1899

***From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1899.***

Norwood Station on The Parade.

1900

***From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1900.***

Norwood Station on The Parade.

1901

***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

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 4 November 1902, page 4***

NORWOOD FIRE REEL.

The Kensington and Norwood Town Council recently discussed the proposed increase in the staff of the local fire station. It was resolved that the cost should be ascertained, and on Monday the secretary to the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. H. M. Bristowe) sent the following letter:—"In further reply to your letter of the 7th inst., which was placed before the board at their meeting on Friday last, I am directed to inform you that the additions to the Norwood Brigade were made upon the recommendation of the superintendent, who reported that they were necessary owing to the long runs and the class of risks which the brigade has to cope with. The following are estimates of the increased cost:— For the first year— One horse, £25; harness, £8; uniform, bedding, &c., £14; fireman's wages, £104; total, £151. Second and following years— Fireman's wages, £104; uniform, £10; total, £114. The proportion payable by your corporation is two-ninths of the above, less one-third payable by the St. Peters Corporation." The Town Clerk stated that the cost to the council for the first and subsequent years was £22 and £10. The letter was received.

***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.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 4 November 1902, page 4***

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

At the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Corporation on Monday evening the following letter was read from Mr. F. W. Bristow (the secretary of the Fire Brigades Board:—"In further reply to your letter of October 7, which was placed before the board at their meeting on Friday last, I am directed to inform you that the additions to the Norwood Brigade were made upon the recommendation of the superintendent, who reported that they were necessary owing to the long runs and the class of risks which the brigade has to cope with. The following are estimates of the increased cost:—For the first year—One horse, £25; harness, £8; uniform, bedding, &c., £14; fireman's wages, £104; total, £151. Second and following years— Fireman's wages, £104; uniform, £10; total, £114. The proportion payable by your corporation is two-ninths of the above; less one-third payable by the St. Peters Corporation." The letter was received.

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.

1904

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

## FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

## MAYFIELD &amp; 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 unable 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.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

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), 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.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1904- Fire at R. J. Buttery & Sons, furniture makers, Norwood.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 9 December 1904, page 4**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A call was received at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station at 7.10 a.m. on Thursday to a fire at William street, Norwood. A reel was immediately dispatched, and upon arrival on the scene it was found that reels from the Norwood Station had already two jets of water playing on the fire, upon the premises of Mr. R. J. Buttery's cabinet-making establishment, at the corner of William street and Osmond terrace. The conflagration had obtained a good hold, and the whole building, consisting of jarrah posts and iron, was destroyed. The premises were insured in the United Insurance Company for £430.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 9 December 1904, page 6**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED. DAMAGE £2,000.

Early on Thursday morning the workshops of Messrs. R. J. Buttery & Sons, furniture makers, at the corner of William-street and Osmond-terrace, together with the whole of the stock and machinery, were totally destroyed by fire. The firm has been in business at Norwood for many years, and owns the property on which the factory was built. Unfortunately, in consequence of the near approach of Christmas, an unusually heavy stock of manufactured furniture was kept on the premises in order to meet the demand which customarily arises at this period of the year, and as the building and contents were but partially covered by insurance the loss will be a heavy one to the Messrs. Buttery.

The outbreak occurred at 6.50 and Mr. Buttery, senior, a gentleman over 70 years of age in accordance with his usual custom, lighted the gas-engine in the machinery room in readiness for starting work at 7.30. He then went to another part of the building, and hearing a crackling noise, looked round, and saw that the engine-room was ablaze. The buildings were constructed of wood, with a galvanized iron roof, and covered a space, of 62 ft. by 30 ft. The portion of them containing the finished furniture was two storeys in height, and the remainder was a one-storied structure used as a factory. Mr. Buttery, seeing that the fire had a good hold, rushed out with the intention of communicating with the fire brigade by the nearest telephone. His shortest way of reaching the street was to run through the flames into Church-avenue-lane, so he pluckily faced the fiery ordeal and ran the gauntlet, with the result that his arms and face were painfully scorched and blistered. However, his injuries fortunately, did not necessitate medical assistance. Mr. Buttery attributes the origin of the fire to a leakage in the gas engine.



Reels from the Norwood and the Metropolitan fire brigades were quickly in attendance, but on the arrival of the firemen the whole of the buildings and contents were enveloped in flames, and it was evident there was no possible hope of saving them. Attention was mainly directed towards preventing the fire from jumping Church-avenue lane, a narrow thoroughfare and in this the brigades were successful, although the entrance gates to Mr. Henry Martin's premises were destroyed and also some of the fencing. The fire was also kept from spreading to the private residence of Mr. Buttery, sen., on the same block of land as the factory, and facing Osborn-terrace. By 10 o'clock the whole of the workshops, stock of furniture, machinery, and tools, &c, were reduced to a blackened heap of ruins.

Mr. Buttery, jun., estimates the value of the buildings, plant, and stock destroyed at £2,000, and this was only partially covered by policy in the United insurance Company for £450. Seven or eight workmen, who were employed by Messrs. Buttery, and Sons, have been temporarily thrown out of employment by the fire.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 9 December 1904, page 1***

A FIRE CALL FROM NORWOOD.

On Friday morning, shortly before 11 o'clock the headquarters fire brigade received a call to Coke-street, Norwood. On arrival at the scene they found that their services were not needed. Garden refuse was being burnt, and a wooden fence close by had become ignited, but a few buckets of water quickly quenched the fire.

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

COMPLAINT AGAINST FIRE BRIGADE.

A complaint regarding the efficiency of the fire brigade was received at the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Council on Monday evening from Mr. R. H. Buttery, whose furniture factory in William street, Norwood, was recently destroyed by fire. The writer said that the following facts in connection with the occurrence stood out as most glaring:—"The brigade was an unreasonable time in getting to work after the call was received, namely, 17 minutes. On arrival the firemen did not ascertain the best mode of attacking the fire, but went to work in a roundabout way, and when spoken to by myself and others connected with the premises used foul and obscene language. They did not carry sufficient appliances to cope with a fire of any magnitude, only two branches being in their possession, and the Norwood corps failed to advise the city brigade when leaving their station. The Adelaide detachment was a long time in coming out, as a telephone message was sent at 6.57 a.m., and the men arrived at 7.20. I would further add that the Norwood Brigade received a call at 6.53 from the Elizabeth street alarm, and it was 7.10 before they had the water on. I even ran off about 100 ft. of hose, and fixed the branch myself before a supposed practical fireman could fix a hydrant. I can prove that all the times I have given are correct; also, that there were other blunders which would take too long to enumerate." The writer of the letter trusted that the matter would be thoroughly investigated for the sake of the town in general. Ald. Binks moved—"That the complaint be forwarded to the Chief Secretary." Cr. Leeder seconded, and stated that several persons had mentioned to him that the firemen were an unusual time in getting a stream of water on to the flames, and their mode of working was "ridiculous." The incident was being discussed widely. The motion was carried.

***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.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 24 December 1904, page 11**

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE.

#### WERE THE BRIGADE DILATORY?

At the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Town Council on Friday evening a letter was read from the secretary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, enclosing a copy of Superintendent Booker's report regarding the complaint of Mr. R. H. Buttery, of William-street, Norwood, with reference to the efficiency of the brigade. The report has already been published.

Alderman Dankel said there was nothing in the report to confute what Mr. Buttery had said about the unusually long time the reels took to reach the scene of the fire after the alarm had been given. Mr. Buttery had timed it as 17 minutes, and he would like to hear what Superintendent Booker said about that. The Mayor stated that the report said, "The times mentioned are quite contrary to fact." Councillor Gannoni said the superintendent did not say what the times really were.

The Mayor stated that he had had an opportunity of speaking to Superintendent Booker about the case, and the latter had expressed his willingness to come out to the hall and talk the matter over with the members of the council. He would also at any time give the councillors an opportunity of seeing if the brigade really were dilatory by giving them a surprise call from any part of the town.

Alderman Phillips moved that the report be forwarded to Mr. Buttery for consideration, and that further action should be deferred until his reply was received. Alderman Binks seconded.

Councillor Essery said that it would be unfair to allow Superintendent Booker to give the council his version of the affair without giving Mr. Buttery an equal opportunity. Councillor Hales said they were entitled to more satisfaction than had been offered by the superintendent, as they paid a large amount towards the cost of the fire brigade. The Government should hold a searching enquiry into the matter. The motion was carried.

1905

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 10 January 1905, page 6**

#### THE NORWOOD FIRE.

#### MR. BUTTERY'S COMPLAINT.

On Monday evening, at the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Council, the following letter was received from Mr. R. H. Buttery, in reply to Superintendent Booker's statement regarding the complaint of Mr. Buttery in reference to the fire which recently occurred at the latter's factory:—

"I have to thank you for the town clerk's favor of December 29, and the consideration you are giving this matter concerning the efficiency of the fire brigade. In commenting upon Superintendent Booker's report of his investigation of the work and conduct of the brigade when engaged at our fire on December 8, there can only be one conclusion, viz., that it is a

feeble attempt at whitewashing by a one-sided man with one eye. What evidence and facts he obtained are only known to himself, for he was not at the fire, nor has he interviewed anyone connected with our firm or premises, but I am told he did view the landscape o'er' from William-street while sitting in his buggy one evening. In considering the re-port, I will deal with the last portion first, in which he refers to experience, and will content myself with saying that as a fire-man I worked at the largest fires which have occurred in Adelaide and suburbs, including Cowell's, Burford's, Pulsford's. Packham's, Marshall's, and the Academy of Music, and several others. This in itself is sufficient evidence that I know what I am talking about, and now what is Superintendent Booker's experience? Perhaps there is someone who can tell the public, for I am sure he will not. The exhibiting turns out, which the superintendent relies so much on for efficiency, are unreliable, and are no criterion, for there is always a suspicion of what is going to take place. While talking to a fireman I asked him what he would do if the superintendent came round with some gentlemen, and he replied that he would go and put his boots on. But the superintendent evades all through his report a straightforward reply. When the brigade arrived at the fire it was myself who knew the most vital part and best means of getting into the premises, that asked them to bring their hose in a certain direction, and no bystanders were present, only myself and one of our men, and I re-peat the charge that they replied with foul and obscene language. Regarding the man with eleven years' experience, I can only say that I ran off one length of hose, fixed the branch, and waited a considerable time while he was fixing a hydrant, and when I tell you that the Norwood volunteer brigade ran 100 yards, fixed hydrant, ran off 100 ft. of hose, fixed branch, and showed water in 43 seconds, and this was done in the presence of your corporation, with Mr. H. Hughes as timekeeper, you will agree with me that his eleven years have been wasted, and his education in the work of fire extinction has been sadly neglected. Another complaint that the brigade does not carry sufficient apparatus, and the Norwood brigade failing to send the call on to the city brigade when leaving their station for the scene of the fire the superintendent does not mention, so we must accept his silence as admission. The times I give of the call and attendance are correct, and in accordance with facts and entries in the brigade book, for I stated 7 minutes to 7 a.m. and they have entered it as 6.53 a.m. The call was sent to the city by a gentleman from Shepherd's, and Mr. Shepherd took the time, viz., 6.57 a.m., and when the water came through the hose which I had fixed I ran to my room I and ascertained the time to be 7.12 a.m., and it does not make it otherwise by Superintendent Booker saving it is erroneous simply to screen himself and the brigade. The superintendent's statement that I was excited at the time is another attempt to mislead the public, and it is not Superintendent Booker to be satisfied, but those who have property at stake, and contribute to the support of the brigade. In conclusion, gentlemen, I think the bare facts which are laid plainly before you, and which I am ready to prove, are correct. The only reason I am dealing with this matter is that our town may have a reliable protection from fire, and not a supposed one, for if the chaffmills and other large factories were to catch fire there is nothing to stop them. Much more could be said about this matter, but I will content myself by leaving it in your hands, as you are the representatives of the ratepayers and enjoy their confidence."

Councillor Auld moved that the letter be received. He failed to see what good the council could do by going further into the matter. The letter was not couched in the courteous terms it should be. He had no doubt the remarks made would have an effect upon the Norwood brigade if they had been a little lax. Alderman Binks seconded the motion, and Councillor Essery asked what action the council could take. The Mayor—Simply ask for an enquiry to be held by the Fire Brigades Board. Councillor Essery said he certainly thought Mr. BATTERY had some ground for complaint, and he did not think there was anything particularly discourteous in the letter. He was no doubt smarting under the loss of his property, and there was perhaps a little more sting in the letter than there would be in an ordinary communication. Superintendent Booker's letter did not answer certain questions and charges made by Mr. BATTERY, and on that account the latter had some cause for complaint.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Councillor Hooper said he was inclined to think that insufficient interest had been taken in the matter by the council, and Alderman Phillips stated that he had expected Mr. Buttery would apply to the council asking for full enquiries to be made. All that he had done was to write contradicting statements made by the superintendent. The motion was carried.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 27 April 1905, page 1***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At 12 minutes past 9 on Wednesday night the Adelaide Fire Brigade Station received a call from Norwood. The head reel turned out and proceeded to the outbreak. The Norwood reel was also in attendance. The fire was discovered among bags in a chaff store belonging to Messrs. G. Gray & Co., of Nelson street. But little damage was done, and the flames were soon extinguished. The building is insured in the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 19 September 1905, page 4***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Sgt. Bennett reported to the Metropolitan Watchhouse authorities that a fire occurred at Mr. Nicholas Butterly's grocery shop on Sydenham road early on Monday morning. At about 20 minutes to 3 Mr. Butterly heard a crackling noise, and awakened to find the room full of smoke. He immediately opened the door leading into the shop, which was in flames. Mr. J. Shard communicated with the fire brigade, and a reel from Norwood and two from the head station promptly arrived and extinguished the fire. The whole of the stock was destroyed. The stock was insured in the North Queensland Company for £55, and the premises in the South British Company for £450.

1906

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 10 November 1906, page 6***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

On Friday afternoon P.C. Martin was on duty in front of the town hall, Norwood, when he noticed flames issuing from the secondhand shop at the corner of the Parade and Osmond terrace, occupied by Mr. C. A. Slater. He at once called up the local reel by the alarm, and then went to the police station to summon the metropolitan reel. Before he had returned to the corner, only a few minutes after, the Norwood reel was in action combating the flames, and soon had the fire under. The damage was not very extensive. The stock is insured in the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Company for £200. An inquest has been deemed unnecessary.

1907

***Port Pirie Recorder and North Western Mail (SA : 1898 - 1918), Wednesday 30 January 1907, page 3***

Fire at Norwood.

Early on Tuesday morning a fire broke out in a tobacconists shop owned by Mr. H. W. Nairn, of Norwood. The damage is estimated at £50.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 30 January 1907, page 4***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At an early hour on Tuesday morning a fire broke out at the shop of Mr. H. W. Nairn, hairdresser and tobacconist, Parade, Norwood. The premises are situated next to the local

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

fire brigade station, the members of which set to work to extinguish the fire as soon as it was noticed. The metropolitan fire station received an alarm at about 3.30 from Norwood, and the chemical engine was sent out. There was no need to use it, however, for the Norwood firemen had succeeded in getting the flames under control when it arrived. The shop and an adjoining room were considerably damaged—one estimate said that the loss amounted to about £50. The building was insured in the Norwich Union Office for £300 and the contents in the North Queensland Insurance Company for £264. The proprietor (Mr. Nairn) used the premises for business on the morning of the holiday, and closed them at 1.30 on the same afternoon. On Monday evening he went to Glenelg, where he has been living with his family for several weeks. No inquest will be held.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 3 April 1907, page 4**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Shortly before 9.45 on Tuesday morning Mr. Emil Gottliebsen, furniture maker, of Magill road, Norwood, left his shop— one of four on the corner of Magill road and Kent terrace, known as the Junction Row, to speak with the occupier next door, and had only been absent a few minutes when he was informed that the place was on fire. Thick, black smoke was found to be issuing from the building, and by the time the Norwood Brigade and the combination chemical engine and salvage van, dispatched from the Adelaide Station, arrived on the scene the flames had extended along the woodwork of the verandah at the rear of the buildings, and obtained a fairly good hold of the interior of Mr. Gottliebsen's shop. A few minutes' work on the part of the firemen saved the adjoining premises, and it was not long before the fire was completely extinguished. A subsequent examination showed that the outbreak had occurred in a storeroom at the rear of the shop, which contained a considerable quantity of cane, pith, and rush. The stock of this material was totally destroyed, and the storeroom was severely damaged. The wooden ceiling of the shop was badly charred, and furniture in the living rooms at the back was injured by smoke and water. The rest of the shops, occupied respectively by Mr. J. Warren, stationer; Mr. T. G. Griffin, bootseller; and Mr. G. S. Wald, draper, were scorched and slightly damaged by smoke and water. Mr. Gottliebsen's belongings were insured for £125 in the Colonial Mutual Company, of which £75 was on the stock and plant. The damage was estimated by the owner at £60. The stock in the next two shops escaped practically uninjured; but Mr. Wald considered that his new season's goods had suffered to the extent of £100. They were insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Company. The shops, owned by Mr. J. Evans (secretary of the South Australian Gas Company), were insured in the Patriotic Company for £1,000. Mr. Gottliebsen said he could not account for the outbreak. He had been absent only a few minutes when the reader of the gas meter visited the shop, and the latter had been gone only about a minute when he was informed of the fire. He had left no light or fire burning, and a gas stove had not been touched by the conflagration.

1908

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 22 September 1908, page 4**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood police notified the Watch-house authorities on Monday morning that a fire had occurred in a room attached to St. Bartholomew's Sunday School building on Beulah road. The outbreak, which was first noticed at about 4.30 a.m., caused much damage to the roof, window frame, forms, and a bookcase which was in the room. The fire originated about the gas meter situated under the bookcases, and caught woodwork extending to the roof. The building, furniture, piano, and organ were insured in the North Queensland Assurance Company for £890.

**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.

1909

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 13 February 1909, page 13**

#### GENERAL NEWS

#### FIRE IN AN ORCHARD.

Shortly before 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the East-parade alarm at Kensington. A reel was dispatched from Adelaide, as well as one from the Norwood station, and it was ascertained that a fire had broken out in an orchard owned by Mr. W. Cornell, of Gurr's-road, North Kensington. Before the flames could be extinguished by the brigade about an acre of fruit trees had been damaged and a quantity of grass burnt.

1910

**From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1910.**

Norwood Fire brigade Station, The Parade, South side, between George and Margaret Streets, T. W. Bland in charge.



**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 27 January 1910, page 4**

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 5.20 on Wednesday afternoon to the premises occupied by Mr. W. Basse, at the corner of Beulah road and George street. On arrival it was

found that the back portion of the house was alight, and that a washhouse, bathroom and verandah had been destroyed. Slight damage was done to a bedroom. The blaze spread next door to the yards of Mr. E. Hall's aerated water establishment and burned four wood and iron sheds. The water pressure available for extinguishing the fire was exceptionally poor. Both premises were insured. The motor engine was sent from the Metropolitan Fire Station to assist the Norwood reel, but a mishap occurred to it on the way. At the corner of Hutt and Pirie streets a milkcart crossed in front and the driver turned sharply to avoid a collision with it. The swerve caused a tire to come off, and in consequence the motor ran suddenly on to the footpath. It stopped against a wall, but no damage was caused. A telephone message was immediately sent to the head station, and horse appliances were dis-patched to the fire.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 1 December 1910, page 14***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A fire occurred on Wednesday afternoon at a secondhand furniture dealer's shop at Parade, Norwood, occupied by C. Slater. The Norwood Fire Brigade were quickly on the scene, and prevented the flames from spreading to a dwelling adjacent to the shop. Considerable damage, however, was done to the shop and its contents by fire and water. The origin of the fire is a mystery, as nobody was on the premises when the outbreak occurred. The building is owned by Mr. A. G. Schrader, of Osmond-terrace, Norwood, and was insured.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 1 December 1910, page 7***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A secondhand dealers shop, on the corner of the Parade and Osmond terrace, Norwood, occupied by Mr. C. Slater, and owned by Mr. A. G. Schrader, caught alight on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Slater left the premises for Glenelg between 1 and 2 o'clock, after having locked them up. During his absence several persons saw an unusual amount of smoke coming from the chimneys, and the Norwood Fire Brigade was called at 4.45. The flames, which started in the shop, were promptly extinguished. The damage to the building is small, but a quantity of furniture was burnt. The shop was insured for £300, and the furniture and effects were covered to the amount of £150.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 14 December 1910, page 6***

FIRE ALARMS AT NORWOOD.

When the annual perambulation of the Kensington and Norwood Council had been concluded on Tuesday a visit was made to the Norwood Fire Station. Members of the council were surprised to hear that there are but 12 alarms in the whole of the town. The station has 16 connections, but of this number four are without the municipality bounds. Probably at the next meeting of the council the question of providing more fire alarms will be raised, as it was considered by the town fathers that those available at present were insufficient.

1911

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 25 January 1911, page 1***

FIRE AT MAGIL.

Butcher's Shop Blazing.

Danger of Spreading.

At about 2 o'clock this afternoon a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. W. D. Cosgrove, butcher, of Magill. The origin is believed to be in the hayloft, where there is a quantity of highly inflammable matter. The Norwood fire brigade was soon on the scene, and at the time of going to press the flames had not been subdued. The premises are situated opposite to the Magill Post Office, and as there was danger of the fire spreading, the postmistress (Mrs. Galloway) promptly placed all the books in the safe. The fire was extinguished as a result of prompt and energetic work on the part of the Norwood Fire Brigade. It was confined mainly to a shed, stables, and blacksmith's shop in the rear portion of the premises. The cause of the conflagration was supposed to have been a spark from the blacksmith's shop. The first intimation of anything amiss was a fierce blaze raging above the horses heads. Twenty-five horses were hurriedly removed from the stables and a number of vehicles, including butchers' carts, drags, and buggies, were also saved. Half a dozen sheep, brought in for killing, were burnt, and 25 sets of harness, a quantity of blacksmith's appliances, and a new drilling machine were destroyed. One portion of the premises was used by Mr. C. Howitt, a storekeeper, and his losses' included kerosine, bone manure, coal, and straw. The building was not insured. If it had not been for the arrival for the fire brigade at the critical moment it is believed that the whole block of buildings would have gone. Owing to the rapid spread of the flames it was deemed advisable to remove all the furniture in the house on to the roadway. At one time there was the possibility of the public school close by catching fire, and the children were marched out into the yard. Mr. Howitt's grocery store and the Worlds End Temperance Hotel were in the danger zone.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 26 January 1911, page 9***

#### FIRE AT MAGILL.

#### COSGROVES STABLES PARTLY DESTROYED.

#### DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £600.

Shortly after 10 p.m. on Wednesday a fire broke out on the premises occupied by Mr. W. D. Cosgrove, butcher and mail contractor, carrying on business at the corner of Magill and Penfold's roads, Magill. The Norwood Fire Brigade were quickly on the scene, and found that the fire was located in the stable. The firemen, who had the assistance of a large contingent of local residents, succeeded in extinguishing the flames after a period of an hour had elapsed. It was then discovered that a large quantity of fodder had been destroyed, that six sheep had been burnt to death, that 20 sets of harness, a buggy, trap, and spring cart had been consumed by the flames, and that the building had been partly destroyed. The loss, which is estimated at £600, is covered by insurance.

Mr. Howitt, general grocer, had stored under the same roof a quantity of kerosine and artificial manure. All this was destroyed. Mr. Cosgrove is unable to state how the fire originated.

The buildings comprised a nine-roomed dwelling-house, butcher's shop, blacksmith's premises, and stables. The dwelling-house, which has a frontage of about 30 ft. to the Magill-road, was left intact.

Mr. E. Bennett, butcher in the employ of Mr. Cosgrove, said he was washing out the shop, which adjoins the premises, when Mr. T. Lynch, a blacksmith employed by Mr. Cosgrove, ran in and informed him that the loft of the stables was alight. He immediately called upon the residents living in the vicinity to come and assist them. Mr. Bennett added that the response was most willing, and the people worked hard in an effort to prevent the flames from spreading. Mr. Bennett said he managed to get the horses and some sets of harness away from the flames, but he could not save the sheep. The sheep were to be killed on the



following morning. Only a week previously £50 worth of blacksmith's implements had been stored there and all of it has been destroyed.

Foreman Bland, of the Norwood Brigade, stated that when he arrived the blacksmith's premises and stables were practically destroyed. "There was," he continued, "a nine-roomed house adjoining the shed, but we applied a line of hose in that direction and were successful in keeping the flames from reaching it. We had two lines of hose going, with a powerful supply of water."

Thinking that the post-office on the opposite side of the street was in danger of catching fire, the postmistress removed valuable documents and books from the building, but it soon became apparent that there was no cause for alarm. The members of Mr. Cosgrove's family, fearful lest the flames should overtake their home before the brigade arrived, took their furniture and belongings into the street.

The residents of the district deserve great praise for the manner in which they worked to save the premises from destruction. No sooner was the alarm given than both men and women turned out and rendered help.

***Narracoorte Herald (SA : 1875 - 1954), Friday 27 January 1911, page 2***

TELEGRAMS

(From our own Correspondent.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide, January 28.

FIRE AT MAGILL.

On Wednesday afternoon a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. W. D. Cosgrove, butcher and mail contractor, of Magill, and a 25-stall stable, blacksmith's shop, and large trapshed were burnt. A number of sheep were roasted alive. The fire was caused by a spark from the forge dropping into the hay loft over the stable. The Norwood brigade put the fire out. Mr. Howitt, storekeeper, had his stable and shed adjoining burnt down.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 28 January 1911, page 40***

FIRE AT MAGILL.

Shortly after 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday a fire broke out on the premises occupied by Mr. W. D. Cosgrove, butcher and mail contractor, carrying on business at the corner of Magill and Penfold's roads, Magill. The Norwood Fire Brigade were quickly on the scene and found that the fire was located in the stable. The firemen, who had the assistance of a large contingent of local residents, succeeded in extinguishing the flames after a period of an hour had elapsed. It was then discovered that a large quantity of fodder had been destroyed, that six sheep had been burnt to death, and that the building had been partly destroyed. A quantity of furniture and many costly vehicles were saved from destruction by the firemen and residents of Magill. It is not known how the fire originated Mr. Cosgrove was in Adelaide at the time of the outbreak, and his family were unable to state if the loss was covered by insurance. The buildings comprised a nine-roomed dwelling-house, butcher's shop, blacksmith's premises, and stables. The dwelling-house, which has a frontage of about 30 ft. to the Magill-road, was left intact. The stables and blacksmith's shop comprised an extensive building, which was situated at the rear of the dwelling-house and butcher's shop.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 14 March 1911, page 4***

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

During the inspection of the Fire Brigades Board at Kensington and Norwood on February 10 a call out was made from the corner of Sydenham and Kensington roads, and was responded to by the local brigade in 3m. 40s. The board drew the attention of the local council on Monday night to the bad pressure of water, which was of no use whatever for the purposes of fire extinction. It was resolved to call the attention of the Waterworks Department to the matter.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 30 October 1911, page 4***

CASUALTIES.

FIRE CALLS.

FIRE IN A STABLE.

A fire, whose cause is unknown, occurred in a stable at the rear of Mr. C. Crowhurst's house, Ann street, Stepney, at 7.30 on Saturday evening. It broke out in a large box of rubbish, and blazed fiercely for about five minutes, but was prevented, by means of buckets of water, from spreading to the neighbour's house adjoining. It was fairly well under control when the Norwood Brigade arrived and extinguished it. A horse and trolley in the stable were taken out just in time. The inside of the shed was singed, and one or two beams were burned, but no other damage was done.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 18 November 1911, page 12***

FIRE AT MAGILL.

The Norwood fire brigade received a call to Magill road yesterday afternoon, and found that a few bundles of straw were on fire. The blaze was extinguished before any damage was done.

1912

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 16 January 1912, page 8***

EFFICIENT NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr. J. H. Cooke, a member of the Fire Brigades Board, sent the following letter to the Kensington and Norwood Corporation, which was read at last night's council meeting:—"I am sure you will be pleased to hear that at the recent inspection of your brigade everything was found to be in a state of perfect order and efficiency."

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 12 March 1912, page 8***

GENERAL NEWS.

THE FIRE BRIGADE TROUBLE.

At the meeting of the Norwood Town Council on Monday evening, Councillor Essery moved that the thanks of the council and ratepayers be extended to those who assisted in protecting the property of the citizens during the Fire Brigade trouble. Councillor Flaherty moved an amendment to the effect that firemen who stood by the brigades in case of emergency as civilians also be thanked. The Mayor (Mr. Prosser) pointed out that Councillor Essery's motion referred to Norwood only, and he did not know whether the men in that district had remained

at their posts, but he would make enquiries. The original motion was carried without Councillor Flaherty's amendment.

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE TROUBLE.

At the meeting of the City Council a fortnight ago Councillor Lundie drew up a number of questions with respect to the Fire Brigade's trouble, and asked Councillor Frinsdorf, through the mayor, for information on the points raised. At Monday afternoon's meeting of the council the following reply by Councillor Frinsdorf was read: "I received the questions from you which Councillor Lundie asked at the last meeting of the council, and in the first place desire to state that as the matters to which the questions mostly relate have now been fixed up, there appears to me to be no need for any replies to be given. In the second place, I should have to decline to answer any such questions asked by an individual members of the council relating to the internal working and administration of the Fire Brigades Board, unless requested to do so by a special resolution of the council."

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

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

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.

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

THE MAGILL ROAD FIRE.



THE BLAZE AT ITS FIERCEST. Krischock photo.

*Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 30 December 1913, page 1*

FIRE AT MAGILL.

A fire that might have been attended with serious consequences occurred at an outbuilding used as a laundry at the residence of Mr. H. Krantz, at the corner of the Magill-road and Mahar-road, on Monday night. A strong north-easterly breeze was blowing, and there was a good deal of danger of the fire spreading to the large orangery and buildings in the vicinity. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at ten minutes past 9 o'clock, and lost no time in arriving on the scene. For a few minutes the flames mounted high, and were distinctly seen in the city. This was the result, however, of the inflammable character of the building, which was of timber and iron, and was lined with matchwood. When the brigade reached the spot the building and contents were completely demolished. About 500 ft. of hose were laid out, and the men worked with their accustomed vigor to extinguish the smouldering fire, as it was realised that if the breeze should fan it again into flames it might spread with ruinous effect. As it was the last spark was extinguished in a comparatively short time. It is believed that the fire had its origin in some embers left in the washing copper, and the dry material, with which the building was built, easily ignited. The outhouse, which was about 30 years old, was not insured.

*Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 30 December 1913, page 2*

FIRE AT MAGILL

LAUNDRY DESTROYED.

A blaze at the corner of the Magill and Mahar roads last evening caused considerable excitement for an hour. The fire occurred in a wood-and-iron building used as a laundry at Mr. H. Krantz's residence at the junction of the thoroughfares. The Norwood Fire Brigade was telephoned for, and arrived promptly, though the scene of the fire was some distance outside its district. When the brigade arrived, however, the building was well alight, and nothing could

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

be done to save it. The laundry and contents were totally destroyed. The flames were in close proximity to a stable and shadehouse and several paddocks covered with high dry grass. Had the fire spread to these the consequences would have been serious. The Norwood brigade, under District Officer Bland, made a good save. The building was uninsured.

1914

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 January 1914, page 43***

#### FIRE AT MAGILL.

A fire that might have been attended with serious consequences occurred at an outbuilding used as a laundry at the residence of Mr. H. Krantz, at the corner of the Magill-road and Mahar-road, on Monday night. A strong north-easterly breeze was blowing, and there was a good deal of danger of the fire spreading to the large orangery and buildings in the vicinity. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at ten minutes past 9 o'clock, and lost no time in arriving on the scene. For a few minutes the flames mounted high, and were distinctly seen in the city. This was the result, however, of the inflammable character of the building, which was of timber and iron, and was lined with Matchwood. When the brigade reached the spot the building and contents were completely demolished. About 500 ft. of hose were laid out, and the men worked with their accustomed vigor to extinguish the smouldering fire, as it was realised that if the breeze should fan it again into flames it might spread with ruinous effect. As it was the last spark was extinguished in a comparatively short time. It is believed that the fire had its origin in some embers left in the washing copper, and the dry material, with which the building was built, easily ignited. The outhouse, which was about 30 years old, was not insured.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 1914 – Fire at Messrs. R. J. Buttery and Son, Kent Town.

***State Library of South Australia - Historical information:***

Superintendent Rickwood developed angina pectoris as a result of physical stress incurred whilst fighting a fire at Buttery's furniture factory in Norwood during January 1914.

Superintendent Rickwood of the South Australian Fire Brigade died on March 16th 1914.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 5 January 1914, page 1***

#### FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED.

GREAT DAMAGE DONE.

EARLY MORNING BLAZE.

Another furniture factory was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning, the establishment of Messrs. R. J. Buttery and Son, situated at the corner of Young and Rundle streets, Kent Town, being gutted. When the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived on the scene shortly before 1 a.m. the premises, a two-story wood and iron structure, measuring about 150 ft. in length, were well alight. Flames shot into the air to a height of about 100 ft., and for a while the heat was terrific.

It was soon seen that there was little hope of saving the building, which was well stocked with furniture; and consequently the firemen gave their attention to preventing the fire from spreading to the neighboring houses. In this they were successful, and, with the exception of the destruction of a fence, the damage was confined to the premises of Messrs. Buttery & Son.

The factory, which was full of inflammable material, was completely burned out within half an hour of the time the outbreak was discovered. The Norwood Fire Brigade, which was first on the scene, did useful work checking the progress of the flames in the early stages, but aided by a westerly breeze the fire gradually made headway. The motor reel from headquarters was on the spot shortly afterwards, and another line of hose proved sufficient to keep the fire within bounds, although all efforts to save any portion of the factory or its contents were, as stated, fruit-less.

Mrs C. L. Griffiths, who lives next door, was awakened by the reflection of the flames, and went to give the alarm, but found that a policeman, who had seen the fire from Rundle-street, Kent Town, had already done so.

The fence dividing the premises of Mrs. C. L. Griffiths from those of Messrs. Buttery & Son, though surrounded by a large hoarding, was destroyed, owing to the dropping of lighted pieces of timber from the burning building.

At half-past 1 the fire was well under control, but in parts of the ruined building fierce flames were continually shooting up as some particularly inflammable material, such as resin, was ignited, and small popping explosions were heard now and again, but not serious ones.

Despite the unusual hour a large crowd of men and women gathered—clad for the most part in night attire—and watched with interest the firemen at work. Some of them, indeed, took too much interest, and went home drenched with the spray from the hoses.

A few years ago the firm had the misfortune to have their factory, situated in William-street, Norwood, destroyed by fire.

#### A HEAVY LOSS.

Mr. R. H. Buttery resides at Henley Beach, and knew nothing of the fire until he drove to town on Monday morning to reopen the factory after the holidays. He is quite unable to explain the cause of the outbreak, which means to him a very serious loss. The factory was closed on December 24, and had not been reopened at all during the holidays, so that it is obvious the origin of the fire was not internal. It is surmised that the out-break may have been caused by a lighted cigarette end or match being carelessly thrown under the door.

Mr. Buttery estimates the total damage at £2,300, only £800 of which is covered by insurance. The building was insured for £300, the plant and machinery for £350, and the stock for £150. The machinery included a fine 30-h.p. Crossley gas engine, a 36-in. circular saw bench, an 18-in. circular saw bench, a 36-in. band saw, an 18-in. thickness planing machine, a 9-in. "buzzer" planing machine, a boring and morticing machine, a tenoning machine, a verticle reversible spindle machine, a lathe, and a sand papering machine.

About a dozen hands were employed, but their loss of tools, with one exception, is covered by insurance. There was in the factory a big stock of timber, marble, and tiles; and upstairs a quantity of furniture in various stages of construction. The ruined factory attracted a good deal of attention from passers-by on Monday. Absolutely nothing appeared to have escaped, and the building was a mere skeleton of charred timber and twisted iron.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 6 January 1914, page 7***

THE KENT TOWN FIRE.

Damage £2,300.



The scene of the fire, which devastated the furniture factory of R. J. Buttery and Sons, at the corner of Young and Rundle streets, Kent Town, in the early hours of Monday, was visited by many persons during the day. Mr. Henry Buttery did not learn of the disaster until he drove to town from his residence at Henley Beach to reopen the premises after the holidays. He estimated the damage at £2,300, and the insurances to only £800. The machinery destroyed comprised a 30-h.p. gas engine, two circular sawbenches, two planing machines, a boring and mortising machine, spindle machine, tenoning machine, lathe, sandpapering machine, and there had been a considerable stock of timber, marble slabs, and of furniture in process of construction. The building was insured for £300, with the Insurance Company of Australasia; the plant for £350 in the United Fire Insurance Company; and the stock for £150 in the same office.

—A Horse Injured.—

When the Norwood reel arrived in response to a call, given at 12.45 a.m., the building was aflame from end to end. The roof of the structure had already fallen in, and as the reel swung westward, up Rundle street from Young street, apparently the upper floor gave way, for a tremendous flame shot up, and a terrific blast of heat caught the vehicle in its passage, blistering the paint on the side nearest the fire and badly scorching the face of the offside horse, which had to be taken to town for veterinary treatment. On the other side of the factory the heat from the burning building blistered the paint on the wood-work of houses 100 ft. away to the north.

— The Ruins.—

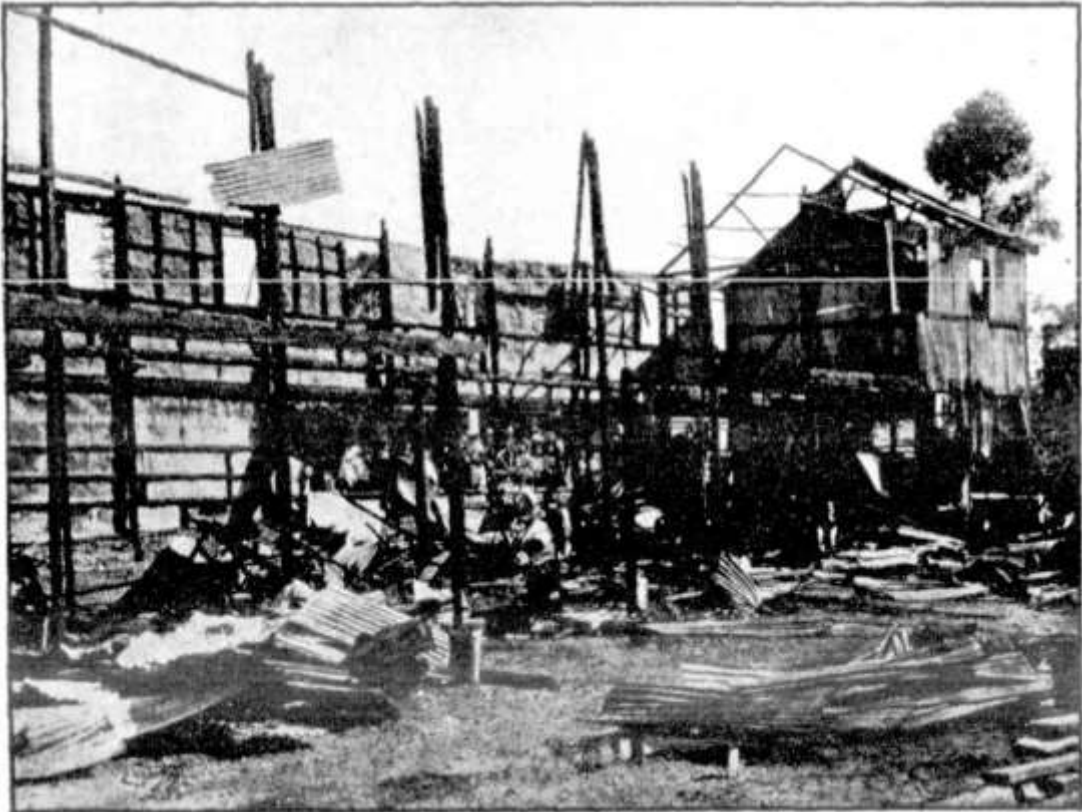
There is nothing left standing of the factory beyond useless charred posts, and the debris, so far as can be seen, includes a large gas engine, two circular saws, a planing machine, bandsaw, and general joinery machine. A few years ago the firm's factory in William street, Norwood, was destroyed by fire, and only a fortnight ago the floods that resulted from the heavy rain did much damage to the premises devastated by the flames.

—False Alarm. —

The Norwood Fire Brigade appliances had scarcely been housed after Buttery's blaze when a call was received from the Maid and Magpie corner. The reel was taken out, but the firemen found that it had responded to a false alarm.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1914, page 30***

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT KENT TOWN. (See page 42.)



MESSRS. R. J. BUTTERY & SON'S FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE ON MONDAY. Krischock, photo.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1914 – Fire at Melville, Limited, Payneham.

***Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 17 January 1914, page 37***

#### ANOTHER FURNITURE FIRE.

#### MELVILLE, LIMITED, BURNT OUT.

The last four serious fires in the metropolitan area have been in furniture factories. The first was in the early part of December, when the factory belonging to Melville, Limited, on Magill road was burnt out. Then followed Pengeley's and Buttery's, and on Tuesday afternoon Melville, Limited, in the firm's new premises at Payneham were destroyed. After the first conflagration, which gutted the factory, the company secured premises, belonging to Mr. C. F. Muller, situated on Payneham road about 200 yards on the city side of Sewell's gardens. There the business of furniture manufacturers was carried on. At about 5.30 p.m. a fire broke out and ruined plant and machinery which, it is estimated, was valued at about £1,000.

The trouble occurred within the bounds of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade. Within the last few weeks electric alarms have been installed in the Payneham area, and since then there have been quite a number of genuine calls. The members of the brigade are summoned by a hooter. They were called out, and the Norwood Brigade was notified from Maylands. The motor reel from North Adelaide was also sent to the scene. When the firefighters arrived, the wood and iron structure was ablaze, and efforts were directed to save the surrounding buildings and outer sheds. The brigades, working under Foreman Brand, co-operated with the Payneham volunteers, and finding that the factory was doomed, directed their attention to saving a shed at the rear, 13 ft. by 14 ft., which was stocked with window sashes, doors, and other materials. This was saved. A brick house facing Payneham road, occupied by Mr. J.

Frayne, foreman for Mr. C. F. Muller, who formerly used the premises in his business as a builder and contractor, was also protected. In this building Messrs. Sando & Stirling, house and land agents, have offices. The factory, however, was totally destroyed, with the exception of a gas engine, which was little damaged. Melville, Limited, reckon the loss, according to Foreman Brand, at £500 or £600, including new plant and machinery, and Mr. Miller considers that the machinery and building have been damaged to the extent of £300 to £400. The factory was 90 ft. by 60 ft., composed of wood and iron, and was valued at about £300.

—Police Reports.—

Constable Richardson, stationed at Payneham, reported that stock and machinery to the estimated value of about £1,000 were practically destroyed. The report added:—"William C. Melville, manager for the firm, states that after being burnt out at Magill road a short time ago, his firm rented the present building from Mr. C. F. Muller, to allow them to carry on their business until a new building was erected at the former place. He was at the factory this (Tuesday) morning, but left about 10.30 a.m., and about 5.40 p.m. he was rung up by telephone, and told that the place was burning. The stock was valued at between £500 and £600, and he considers the machinery belonging to Mr. Muller was worth about £350. Victor J. Walsh, of Broad street, Payneham, machinest, states that he was the last of the employes to leave the premises, which he did about 5 p.m., after closing the back door and turning off the gas at the meter. At that time there was no sign or smell of fire. Half an hour later the alarm was given, and when he arrived with the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade (of which he is a member) the place was well alight. Frank McRostie, of Broad street, Payneham, carpenter (and a member of the Payneham Brigade) states that he was in First avenue, Joslin, when he noticed smoke issuing from the centre of the back part of the building. He got there as soon as possible, and the fire had not got a great hold at that time, and appeared to have started not far from the centre, in front of the gas engine. David Gilbert, (captain of the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade), states that he and 11 members arrived on the scene within five minutes of the alarm being given, but the eastern half of the building was well alight, and all they could do was to prevent it from spreading to the adjoining premises.

Mr. Miller, the owner of the property, it at present staying at Noarlunga on a holiday.

—A Fine Volunteer Brigade.—

The residents of Payneham have every reason to feel proud of their volunteer fire brigade, which consists of 10 men. During the last 18 days that body has had to respond to no fewer than seven calls. At yesterday's conflagration the brigade was on the scene in four minutes after the hooter gave the alarm. But for the prompt response the damage would have been much greater, as all around Melville's shop are stocks of timber, which were preserved in-tact. On December 31 the brigade made a fine "save" on the occasion when two shops opposite the Payneham Institute were gutted. Considering that most of the members of the brigade are daily engaged in laborious work it is no mean task to keep themselves in readiness for a call out, besides having after each fire to clean up from 600 to 1,000 ft. of hose. But for the existence of this volunteer organization the ratepayers of the district would probably be called upon to contribute at least an-other 1d. rate as their contribution to-wards the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Men who give their services gratis for such a cause are deserving of every support, and it is hoped that their recent splendid work will bring them much more practical assistance in the future from the people than has been received in the past.

—The Insurances.—

Mr. W. E. Collins, one of the directors of Melville, Limited, states that the stock was insured for £550 and fire machinery for £70 with the Queensland Company.

Death of Fireman Herbert Brand Hedgers. SAFB Norwood Brigade. 30<sup>th</sup> January 1914  
**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 31 January 1914, page 19**

AFTER THE FIRE

DEATH OF A FIREMAN.

On the occasion of the big fire at Buttery's furniture shop a little while ago the wooden building and its contents blazed up, with excessive fury, and the heat was so intense that one of the brigade horses in galloping past, had all one side of its head shockingly scorched, and the paint on that side of the reel blistered and peeled off even though it was within range of this heat only for a second or so. On the same occasion Fireman Herbert Brand Hedgers, aged 41, was overcome by the heat while putting down the first standpipe. He collapsed and a few days later had to be removed to the Adelaide Hospital, where he died on Friday at 5-30 p m. The interment will take place tomorrow afternoon at the West-terrace Cemetery, and will be a "fireman's funeral."

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 2 February 1914, page 6**

FIREMEN'S FUNERAL.

The late Mr. H.B. Hedger (foreman of the Norwood Fire Brigade), who died as the result of injuries he received at the fire at Messrs. R. J. Buttery & Sons' premises, was accorded a fireman's funeral on Sunday. The cortege left his late residence in Birrell street, Norwood headed by the Norwood Mission Band, under Mr. G. Williams. The coffin was placed on the hose cart, which had taken Mr. Hedger to the fire, and the vehicle was drawn by the same team of horses. All along the route to the West Terrace Cemetery hundreds of people watched the mournful procession, which marched to the strains of the "Dead March" in "Saul." The men from the metropolitan stations and Port Adelaide joined in at East terrace. They were under Chief Officer Rickwood, and Deputy Chief Officer Dickie. Station Officer Bland, who has the supervision of the Norwood branch, made all the necessary arrangements, and controlled the cortege. The Hindmarsh volunteer force and the Payneham volunteer section were led by Chief Officer Plenty, with two lieutenants and Capt. Gilbert with one lieu-tenant respectively. When the coffin was passing the head station the flag was half-masted, and the men on duty under Station Officer Butler paraded on the footpath in front of the building, and reverently saluted as the remains of their late comrade were borne along. The pallbearers at the grave were Foremen Teague, Woods, Scheller, Parsons, Griffin, and Schiminant. Foreman Koskee drove the horse cart, with Fireman Buchanan at the brake. The Rev. E. H. Bleby conducted the service, at the conclusion of which the band played "Go bury thy sorrow." A large number of wreaths were sent by the officers and men from all stations. Although the majority of the men were in attendance, the various districts were fully protected. There were sufficient men under Station Officer Butler at headquarters to man three appliances, and a reel and three men were sent to Norwood to relieve those who were at the funeral. All other portions of the metropolitan area were carefully guarded, and the volunteer brigades arranged for various members of the respective companies to be on duty.

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 9 October 1914, page 2**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

About 5.22 p.m. yesterday an alarm of fire was sent to the Norwood Fire Brigade through the Beulah road alarm as the result of a fire that had broken out in a carpenter's shop owned by Mr. D. Collins. The flames were extinguished before much damage was done.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 26 October 1914, page 3**

## OUTBREAKS OF FIRE.

The fire brigade received a call at 8.10 p.m. on Saturday from the alarm at Beulah-road, Norwood, and proceeded to an outbreak in a house on Osmond-terrace, occupied by Mr. S. Oliver. A small quantity of clothing was damaged. The place was not insured. The cause of the fire is unknown.

At 11.55 p.m. on Saturday a fire occurred in a house 88, Gilles-street, Adelaide, occupied by Mr. Reed, and owned by Mr. Belcher, of Grote-street. The contents of two rooms were slightly damaged. The premises were insured for £150 with the London and Lancashire Company. The cause of the outbreak is not known.

On Saturday afternoon there was a grass fire on property owned by Mr. P. M. Newland, at Rochester-street, Knightsbridge, caused by children playing with matches.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 28 October 1914, page 2***

### FIRE IN BOOTSHOP

Shortly before 7 o'clock last night the Norwood Fire Brigade was called to Mr. Robertson's bootshop in the Parade, Norwood. A fire, which started in some empty boxes in the back yard, was extinguished before much damage resulted.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 30 October 1914, page 1***

### MOTOR FIRE REEL WANTED.

The St. Peters Town Council on Monday decided that the Fire Brigades Board be requested to replace the present horse reel at Norwood by a motor reel, and that other bodies which contributed towards the Norwood brigade be asked to support the request.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 30 October 1914, page 4***

### NORWOOD'S FIRE APPLIANCES.

The appliances for fighting fires in the possession of the Norwood Fire Brigade were referred to at a meeting of the St. Peters Corporation last night. In reference to the small fire which occurred in Fifth avenue, St. Peters, Alderman Snell said that he had been given to understand that 20 minutes elapsed between the time that the alarm was given and when the fire brigades arrived on the scene. He did not wish to cast any reflection on the brigades. It was quite possible that a mistake of some kind had been made when the alarm was given. The Adelaide motor reel arrived at the same time as the Norwood horse reel. Any delay at a fire was always likely to be serious. He moved that the council should send a circular to the municipal bodies in the district covered by the Norwood Fire Brigade asking them to support a request to the Fire Brigades Board that the present horse reel at Norwood be replaced by a motor reel. Councillor Crowley seconded the motion, which was carried.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 30 October 1914, page 4***

### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

At a meeting of the St. Peters Corporation on Thursday night Ald. Snell moved— That this council respectfully request the Fire Brigades Board to replace the present horse reel at Norwood with a motor reel. He referred to the length of time which had elapsed between the breaking of the glass and the arrival of the brigade at the scene of a fire at East Adelaide that day. At present they paid two-ninths of the cost of the upkeep of the Norwood brigade, and

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

the additional expenditure which would be incurred in the installation of a motor reel would not cost their council more than £50. Cr. Crowley seconded the motion, which was carried.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 13 November 1914, page 4***

#### NORWOOD FIRE APPLIANCES.

The following is a copy of a letter received at the fortnightly meeting of the St. Peters Corporation last night from the secretary of the Fire Brigades Board : —"In further reply to your letter of the 30th ult., which was placed before the board at its last meeting, I beg to inform you that the Board has directed me to state that the matter of replacing the present horse reel at the Norwood Station with a motor reel is being considered." The letter was received.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 2 December 1914, page 8***

#### LOCAL BRIGADE BUSY.

The Metropolitan, and Norwood Fire Brigades were busy on Tuesday, when five alarms of fire, were received. The first call was at 3.35 a.m., to an outbreak at the ham and beef shop in the occupation of Mr. H. A. Moss, on the Payneham road, and opposite the Maid and Magpie Hotel. The building was considerably damaged, and the contents wholly destroyed. The fire spread to the adjoining premises of Messrs. Moore and Binks, chemists, and slightly damaged the dispensing room. Both the premises belong to Mr. S. Newland, and were insured. The cause of the fire is unknown. At 9.10 a.m. the Norwood Brigade received a call by telephone to attend an outbreak in the Norwood parade. It was found that some tar at the grocery store of Mr. W. Gluis, the owner and occupier, had ignited. The blaze was quickly subdued before any other damage had been caused.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 2 December 1914, page 8***

#### A YOUTH INJURED.

The Metropolitan and Norwood Fire Brigades were called at 1.20 p.m. on Tuesday to an outbreak at the grocery store of Mrs. Larkin, in Seventh avenue, St. Peters. The premises are newly built, and have been in occupation for only a few weeks. Eric Stuart, aged 17, who lives at Unley, and is employed at the shop, sustained severe burns about the face and arms, and had to be taken to the Adelaide Hospital. The fire, which destroyed the shop and contents, and dwelling rooms, was caused through the explosion of a spirit stove. The property was built and owned by Mr. R. H. Taylor, of Seventh avenue, who had not completed the insurance arrangements, and the damage, which is heavy, represents a dead loss to him. The stock was also uninsured. Last week the dwelling rooms were taken by Mr Gardiner. While the fire was being extinguished a call was received from Magill. An engine was withdrawn and sent there, but the alarm was found to be a false one. On Tuesday night at 11.30 o'clock the Metropolitan Brigade had a call from the Norwood Post Office alarm. The fire was found to be on the premises of Mr. Lawrie, confectioner, and was caused by a light coming into contact with the window dressings. The contents were slightly damaged. This was the fifth call received from Norwood within 24 hours.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 2 December 1914, page 3***

#### TAR ON FIRE.

About 10 minutes past 9 yesterday morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned to the Parade, Norwood. There some tar, the owner of which is not known, was on fire. The tar was destroyed.

1915

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 2 February 1915, page 6**

#### FIRES.

##### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call by telephone on Sunday, at 10.23 p.m., to attend a small fire in a house at Mont-rose-avenue, Norwood, owned by Mr. H. J. Gitsham, stationmaster at Lyndoch, and occupied by Mr. O. Beckham. There was slight damage done to the contents of a bedroom and passage and to the building. It is not known if the furniture was insured, but the building is covered by an insurance policy in the Manchester office for £350.

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 3 February 1915, page 3**

##### THE NORWOOD FIRE.

There will be no enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the fire which caused about £180 worth of damage to furniture in the house of Mr. Douglas Beckmann, a baker, in Montrose avenue, Norwood, on Sunday night. Mr. John McCanley, who, in the absence of Mrs. Beckman and family, was batching with Mr. Beckmann, informed Constable Taylor that he returned to the house about 10 o'clock, and finding that Mr. Beckmann was absent, drove to Adelaide, where he met Mr. Beckmann. They both drove to the beach, where they remained for the night, the atmosphere in town being oppressively hot. When they returned to Norwood next morning, about 7.30 o'clock, they found a policeman in charge of the house, which had been partly damaged by fire.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 22 March 1915, page 4**

##### MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

At about 9 o'clock on Saturday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from Osmond-terrace, Norwood. On arriving they found a motor car, belonging to Mr. Anderson Wilson, of Angas-street, had been on fire, but the flames were already extinguished. The damage done was very slight.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 27 April 1915, page 1**

##### COLLISION AT MAYLANDS

##### Fire Reel and Electric Tram

A collision occurred on the Magill-road early on Tuesday morning between the hose carriage from the Norwood Fire Station and an electric tram. The scene of the impact was a crossing between Osmond-terrace and Nelson-street. A call was received at the Norwood Fire Station at 5.53 a.m., from Harrow-road. St. Peters, which eventually turned out to be a false alarm. It was in proceeding to answer the call that the hose carriage came to grief. Station-officer Bland was in charge, with a crew of three men, but they escaped uninjured, although the reel was slightly damaged. The two horses attached to the appliance sustained no injury. The front windows of the electric car were smashed.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 28 April 1915, page 8**

CASUALTIES

FIRE REEL AND ELECTRIC TRAM COLLIDE.

At about 5.57 a.m. on Tuesday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from Harrow road, St. Peters. The horse reel turned out, and proceeded along the Parade and Osmond terrace. When crossing the Magill road the reel collided with an electric car, driven by Motorman Allen. The driver of the reel was thrown out on to the pole, but the other firemen managed to retain their seats. The reel was considerably damaged, and one of the horses was slightly injured. The motor fire appliance from the Metropolitan Station was summoned, but on arrival it was discovered that the call was a false alarm.

**Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 8 May 1915, page 13**

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call on Friday evening, through the Norwood Fire Station, from a house in First avenue, East Adelaide, occupied by Mr. H. S. Christiansen, adjoining whose premises was a wood-and-iron shed, containing bedroom furniture, which was burnt, and slight damage caused to the rear portion of the roof of the main building. The premises, which are owned by Mr. C. Hutton, of Marlborough street, East Adelaide, were insured. The cause of the fire is unknown.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 June 1915, page 5**

A MOTOR LORRY ON FIRE.

At 10.6 to-night the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the corner of Payneham road and George street to a fire that had started on a motor lorry owned by H. Graves and driven by G. Williams. The cause of the fire was ignition of Petrol from one of the side lamps. Little damage resulted.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 9 September 1915, page 10**

BICYCLE DAMAGED BY FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade reports that at 9.21 p.m. on Wednesday the Norwood Brigade was summoned by telephone to Walsall street, Kensington Park. It was discovered that a motor bicycle, belonging to Mr. K. A. Ferguson, had caught fire, owing to a light having come in contact with the benzine in the machine. The fire was put out by the use of a single chemical extinguisher. The bicycle was not insured.

1916

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 15 January 1916, page 7**

SMALL FIRE AT PAYNEHAM.

At 4.15 a.m. on Friday the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a house occupied by Mrs. Hawkins, on the Payneham-road. The outbreak was a small one, and as the Norwood brigade were already on the scene the Payneham brigade returned to the station.

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 18 February 1916, page 2**



FIRE AT A TOBACCONIST'S.

At 5.12 p.m. yesterday the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call from the fire alarm at the Norwood Post Office notifying that the premises occupied by R Donaldson, a hairdresser and tobacconist, had caught fire, the cause of which was unknown. The brigade proceeded to the scene, and extinguished the flames. The stock and fittings were damaged by fire. The building, which was owned by Mr. H. J. Brooks, was insured in the Royal Insurance Company for £100, and the contents were insured in the Queensland Insurance Company for £100.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 9 March 1916, page 6**

FIRE CAUSED BY CHILDREN

At about 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the residence of Mrs. R. Judd, Fourth-avenue, St. Peters. A quantity of rubbish had been set alight by children playing with matches and the flames spread to a paling fence, portion of which was destroyed.

**Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 14 July 1916, page 4**

FIRE AT EAST ADELAIDE.

At 10.13 p.m. on Thursday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to Mr. Doman's residence, Winchester-street, East Adelaide. Motor cars and sheds were severely damaged, and six cases of petrol were destroyed. The firemen extinguished the blaze quickly. The cause of the outbreak was a short circuit. The building and contents were insured in the Victoria Company.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 6 September 1916, page 9**

CHILD CAUSES FIRE.

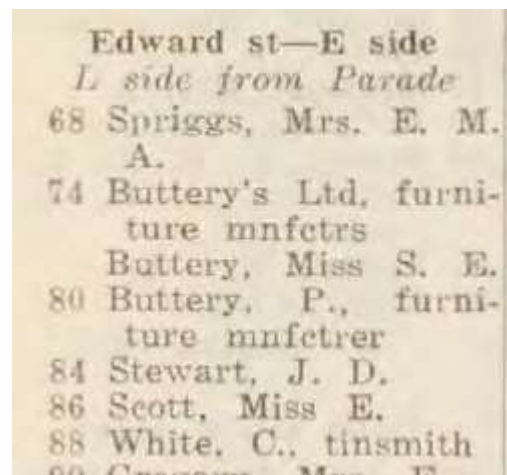
On Tuesday evening, at the residence of Dr. C. T. Cooper, at Kensington road, Norwood, a child dropped alighted candle on to some clothing, with the result that a quantity of furniture in the room was burned. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned and quickly extinguished the outbreak.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Fire at Norwood, Henry Buttery & Sons, furniture manufacturer.



PRG 280/1/33/121

*Fire damage at Buttery Bros. furniture manufacturers, Norwood [PRG 280/1/33/121]. Extensive damage caused by a major fire at the premises of Buttery Bros. furniture manufacturers, No.7 Coke Street, Norwood, South Australia. 1916. Part of Searcy Collection.*



*Location of Buttery & Sons Furniture Manufactory, Edwards Street, Norwood 1932. From the 1929 The Register Street Guide Adelaide And Suburbs.*

**Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 9 September 1916, page 3**

A NORWOOD BLAZE.

Furniture Factory Demolished.

One of the biggest and most destructive fires in the history of Norwood occurred on Friday night. The furniture manufactory of the well-known firm of Messrs. Henry Buttery & Sons, in Coke street, off the Parade, was razed to the ground, and the contents were entirely demolished. The outbreak was first detected at about 11.30, when a pedestrian observed a suspicious glare within the spacious galvanized iron building. Not many minutes afterwards the whole building was burning furiously. Viewed from the metropolis and distant suburbs the conflagration made a striking spectacle. The darkness of the night intensified the reflection of the flames upon the sky, and the roads in the vicinity were thronged with people hurrying to the scene. At midnight lines of motor cars and other vehicles were to be seen on the Parade. Among the spectators were many folk who, apparently, had left their beds, and hastily wrapped themselves in greatcoats to share in the excitement. When the extensive roof of the doomed building collapsed the display was inspiring. Myriads of brilliant sparks scattered in all directions, and the effect was most impressive. Telephone wires in front of the factory collapsed through the fire.

—Firemen's Difficulties.—

The Norwood Fire Brigade responded promptly to the call. When the firemen arrived they found the task too great for them. The flames had secured too strong a hold to be quickly extinguished. The Norwood men were reinforced by a contingent from the Metropolitan Brigade. The greatest difficulty which confronted the firemen, however, was the weakness of the water pressure. This factor rendered their efforts almost futile. There was no danger of the flames spreading, but the occupiers of houses on the opposite side of the street became alarmed to such an extent that several of them removed furniture from their homes. The only danger suffered by those persons was the blistering of the paint at the front of the houses, and several cracked window panes. The firm of Messrs. Buttery & Sons was originally established by Mr. Henry Buttery, sen., in 1871, when operations were conducted at premises in Rundle street. The business was removed to Norwood in 1882, and had been conducted at the place at which the fire occurred since 1907. The factory, it was explained by one of the partners, had no connection with the establishment. of Mr. R. J. Buttery, in Kent Town, which was gutted by fire several years ago.

—Origin a Mystery.—

The contents of the destroyed building comprised valuable wood working plant, made and unfinished furniture, and a considerable stock of timber. Practically all this was burned, and a considerable portion of the salvaged goods was badly damaged. The origin of the outbreak is surrounded in mystery. The last persons on the premises on Friday night were two members of the firm. When they left, between 5 and 6 p.m. everything appeared to be in order. The damage is estimated at about £2,900. With regard to the actual amount of insurances nothing definite could be learned, but it is understood that the property was not heavily covered. Mr. T. A. Buttery said that the insurances were placed with the Law Union and Rock Company. The firm would be seriously inconvenienced as a result of its loss, as it had on hand several large furniture contracts.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 9 September 1916, page 10***

BIG FIRE AT NORWOOD.

FURNITURE FACTORY SWEEP ESTIMATED DAMAGE £2,900.

One of the fiercest fires in the history of Norwood broke out shortly before 11.30 p.m. on Friday on the premises of Mr. Henry Buttery, furniture manufacturer, situated between Coke and Edward streets, close to the Norwood Parade. The mill, timber stocks, machinery and

work departments were swept by the flames in an incredibly short space of time. The whole vicinity was lit up with the brightness of day by the blaze, the reflection of which was visible from King William-street and many distant parts of the metropolitan area. A large crowd quickly gathered.

The outbreak was not detected until it had obtained a stronghold over the wood and iron sheds, with their inflammable contents, and by the time the alarm could be sounded the whole space covered by the buildings was a raging mass of flames. The call to the fire brigade was given by Con-stable Rowney, who gashed his hand badly in the act of smashing the glass on the Osmond-terrace signal box. The Norwood reel turned out under Station-Officer Bland, and supports were sent from the Metropolitan Brigade, comprising the motor pump and motor hose carriage, under Deputy Chief-officer Cooper.

The business, which was one of the oldest in Norwood, was conducted by Mr. Henry Buttery and his sons Councillor T. R. Buttery (Norwood), Councillor Frederick Buttery (Burnside), Councillor Alfred Buttery (St. Peters), and Messrs. Henry Buttery jun., David Buttery, and Percy Buttery. Councillor T. R. Buttery resides in a house adjoining the factory. He was at the Magill-road, about half a mile from home, when he saw a column of fire shoot up. By the time he reached home the business premises were alight from one end to the other. None of the houses near by were in immediate danger, as a slight breeze took the sparks into the garden of Councillor W. G. Auld, on the southern side of the factory.

Councillor T. R. Buttery, interviewed at midnight by a representative of "The Advertiser." stated that the firm was carrying fairly large stocks of furniture and materials. A valuable quantity of oak, black-wood, white pine, and other timber were stacked up ready for use. The place was insured in the Law Union and Rock Company, but he could not say the exact amount that was covered. The business was first established in Adelaide in 1871, and at Norwood in 1882.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 11 September 1916, page 6***

THE NORWOOD FIRE.

The scene at the furniture factory of Messrs. Henry Buttery & Sons, Coke-street, Norwood, on Saturday morning, after the fire of the previous night, was one of charred desolation. So complete and violent had been the blaze that the site of the establishment had been swept almost bare. It was difficult to trace where the different structures had stood, the ground being strewn everywhere with crumpled galvanized iron. In the western corner a portion of the engine-house, containing a 45 h.p. producer gas engine, was standing, and the engine, although damaged, did not appear to have been entirely ruined. The mill, measuring 100 by 40 ft., and the timber-stacking shed, 100 by 35 ft., were wholly demolished. The latter, in addition to seasoned oak and blackwood, contained a lot of valuable inlaid veneer, imported from England, and difficult to replace at the present time. The appliances in the premise swept by the flames included a 16-inch overhanding planer and jointer, a 24-inch planer, two good lathes, a band-saw, a multiple boring machine, a swing crosscut, morticing, and sand-papery machines. The origin of the fire was not known. Work was finished at 6 p.m. on Friday, and no lights were used. One of the partners stated on Saturday that no fire was ever left in the engine. The Messrs. Buttery's polishing and upholstering department, a separate building, on the eastern side of Coke-street, nearer the Parade, was not touched by the fire. The Law, Union, and Rock Insurance Company reported that the policies on the burnt premises totalled £1,900.

1917

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 February 1917, page 5***

## NORWOOD FIRE.

### A Horse Killed

A fire occurred on the Norwood parade this afternoon, at the rear of shops occupied by Mr. H. Denton, butcher, and Mrs. V. N. McKay, ham and beef dealer. The outbreak was due to the boiling over of some tar. Motor sheds, stabling, a lift, and two carts were completely destroyed, and a horse was killed. The conflagration was extinguished by the local fire brigade. The property is part of the Hunt estate, for which Messrs. Poole and Johnstone are the trustees.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 5 February 1917, page 6**

### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a summons from the alarm at the Norwood Post Office on Saturday at 3.53 p.m. Two men, under Foreman Mason, quickly turned out, and found that the rear portion of the premises of Mr. H. Denton, a butcher, on the Parade, was ablaze. The cause of the outbreak is attributed to the fact that Mr. W. Robertson (a brother-in-law of Mr. Denton) was engaged close to the stables in boiling tar, which boiled over and caused a big blaze. A motor shed and the stables were completely burned, and a delivery horse was incinerated. Two other horses which were in the same stable were fortunately rescued without having received injuries. When the fire was discovered by Mrs. Denton her first thought was for the safety of the imprisoned animals, and she courageously entered the stables and released them from the ropes by which they were secured to the stalls. A loft and its contents (a ton of chaff), two delivery carts, 2 tons of wool, and three sets of harness were also destroyed. In taking his motor car from the shed Mr. Denton received an injury to the left arm from the flames. He estimates his loss at £200, which is not covered by insurance owing to the policy having expired last week. Slight damage was also done to the adjoining property of Mrs. V. M. Mackay. Station Officer Tyson, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, with four men assisted the local brigade in extinguishing the conflagration, and assistance was also rendered by the Rose Park Boy Scouts.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 29 June 1917, page 6**

### GENERAL NEWS.

#### NEW MOTOR FIRE REELS.

Three fine new motor reels, similar to that recently supplied to Thebarton, have been built to the order of the Fire Brigades Board for the Port Adelaide, Unley, and Norwood stations. They will take the place of horse reels at present in use, and will enable the districts to be much more effectively protected against fire. The Unley brigade, for instance, has an area of five square miles to look after. The advantage of motor power is the uniform speed attainable over long distances, whereas the pace of horses is much reduced after they have galloped half a mile with a reel. The new appliances made their appearance in the streets of Adelaide on Thursday. They are being tested prior to being handed over to the board. The motors were supplied by Messrs. Eyes & Crowle, and the bodies by Mr. F. T. Hack.

1918

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 4 February 1918, page 6**

### A GRASS FIRE.

The fire brigade was called out at 7-26 p.m. on Saturday to extinguish a grass fire, which had broken out in Pile's Paddock. Kensington. The flames were subdued before any great damage was done.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 1 May 1918, page 6**

#### TAR FIRE NEAR MAGILL.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call on Tuesday at 1.51 p.m. to Dunstan's, East Parade, Corryton. A fire had been started through some tar having boiled over. The tar plant was slightly damaged.

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 10 October 1917, page 2**

#### FIRE BRIGADE BUSY

The Norwood Brigade last evening was called from the Acacias, Kensington, but the alarm was false.

1920

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 28 January 1920, page 2**

#### JAM FACTORY FIRE

#### GIB BLAZE AT PAYNEHAM.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £35,000.

The jam factory generally known as Robert McEwin & Co.'s, at East Adelaide, but now amalgamated with H. Jones' Cooperative Ltd., was almost wholly destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning. The damage is estimated at £35,000.

The outbreak was first noticed by Mr. David Greenberg, a baker, living in Nelson street, Stepney. It was then 4.40 a.m. By 5 o'clock the firemen were battling with the flames, and it was hoped that the main factory building would be saved, and that the fire would be confined to the engine room at the rear, where it had originated. The supply of water, however, proved insufficient, and the flames spreading rapidly soon enveloped the main building.

The gutted building faces the Payneham road, where the St. Peters car turns off to the left along Harrow road. 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 £5000 worth. Along the north-west wall of the main building was a large galvanised iron shed, containing, about 250,000 tons of preserved fruit. This has been saved, together with the engine, boiler, and the 13 coppers and necessary pant in the jam boiling room. Not a tin of jam escaped, 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.

The Norwood Fire Brigade were the first on the scene, and soon afterward a motor appliance arrived from Wakefield street head station. A second one came from North Adelaide, and subsequently a horse drawn steam pump came from Wakefield street. 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 into operation there not sufficient water to keep it going.

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 5000 tins of apricot jam. 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.

The cause of the fire is not known. 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 con-fined to the engine room and the damage amounting to about £300, had already been repaired.



39 McEwin, Robert & Co  
 Ltd, preserve mnfctrs  
 41 Summerton, W, whwrght  
 Hanson, Mrs C. W.  
*Harrow rd*



*Robert McEwin & Co. factory fire [PRG 280/1/19/258. The jam, preserved fruit and sauce factory of Robert McEwin & Co. Ltd. near the intersection of Payneham Road and Harrow Road, College Park, was destroyed by fire on the morning of Tuesday 27 January 1920. Part of Searcy Collection*



*Robert McEwin & Co. factory fire [PRG 280/1/19/492. The jam, preserved fruit and sauce factory of Robert McEwin & Co. Ltd. near the intersection of Payneham Road and Harrow Road, College Park, was destroyed by fire on the morning of Tuesday 27 January 1920. Part of Searcy Collection*

**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 con-fined to the engine room, and the damage amounting to about £500, had already been repaired.

***Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 31 January 1920, page 2***

PICTURE THEATRE DESTROYED.

BLAZE AT EAST ADELAIDE.

Three Firemen Injured.

A spacious wood-and-iron structure, the Star Picture Theatre, situated near the Maid and Magpie Hotel, on the Payneham road, East Adelaide, caught fire on Saturday morning, and was practically destroyed. At about 10.30 o'clock the Norwood Fire Brigade was on the scene, and shortly afterwards the Adelaide Station was represented. Four lines of hose were utilized, but the flames had secured a good hold. It was stated by a spectator who was one of the first to notice the conflagration that a tongue of flame shot up the side of the wall facing the hotel, and that very soon the ceiling and the walls of the building, which were of wood, were blazing. Several hundred people were soon on the spot, but if they had hoped to witness a spectacular fire they were disappointed. All that could be seen was smoke issuing from the roof and from points along the walls. It was apparent, however, that the flames were working havoc inside the building. The piano, biograph, matting, and films were carried out into the street, and several householders nearby, viewing the fire with apprehension, conveyed some of their belongings out of their residences. A line of hose which stretched across the Magill road interfered with the tramcar traffic in that direction. —Roof Collapses.— Meanwhile the firemen were keeping the flames in check, and at about 12 o'clock several of them clambered on to the roof in an endeavour to subdue the conflagration in that portion of the structure. They were working on the rear part, between the ceiling and the roof frame, when the latter fell upon three of them. They were conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital, where Station Officer Thomas Sayers, of the City Brigade, was detained. He was seriously hurt, for one of his lungs

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

was injured by a broken rib, and on Saturday evening his condition had not changed. Mr. W. Lee sustained hurts to both leg and arm, and a fireman named Grow suffered from shock, but has returned to duty. It is thought that the fusing of electric wires was responsible for the outbreak. The building was owned by Mr. H. Crabb, and was leased by Mr. F. J. Coffey. It is stated that the structure, which cost £2,500 to build, was insured for £1,500. The plant was also insured.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 13 February 1920, page 1***

TWO SMALL FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received two calls simultaneously about 9.40 a.m. on Friday, one from Unley and one from Norwood.

The former was to the premises of Messrs. J. and H. Mansfield, King William-road, Hyde Park, grain merchants, where a wheat and pollard stack was alight, owing to the burning of rubbish in a tank near the stack. A large quantity of bags of pollard were very severely damaged.

The second fire was in a two-story workshop, owned and occupied, by Mr. B. L. Bond, builder and contractor, at the corner of Adelaide-road and Dover-street, Maylands. The workshop and contents were very severely damaged, and a new English motor car was destroyed. A motor appliance was sent from headquarters to assist the Norwood Brigade.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 27 February 1920, page 8***

FIRE AT A GARAGE.

The Norwood Fire Brigade responded promptly at about 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday to an outbreak at premises occupied by Mr. J. M. McLeod, and used as a motor garage and workshop, at Walkerville road, St. Peters. Half a dozen motor cars were stored in the premises, but slight damage only was done to a car owned by Mr. Hague, of Winchester street. The fire was located in the loft of the building, which formerly was used as stables, and had it gained a hold on the wood and iron structure the whole place would have gone.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 April 1920, page 35***

FIRE ON A TROLLY.

On Monday afternoon an unusual fire occurred on the Magill-road at Norwood. A trolley laden with new furniture from Pengelley's factory, Edwardstown, and driven by Mr. Thomas Showbrook, was proceeding in the direction of Magill, when the driver's attention was drawn to the fact that the load was burning at the rear end. Mr. Showbrook immediately unharnessed the horse from the conveyance, and then, with the assistance of others, endeavored to put out the flames. As they did not succeed the vehicle and load were capsized on the roadway. Meanwhile the Norwood Fire Brigade, which had been summoned, completed the work of extinction of the blaze. Much of the furniture was damaged, as was the back of the trolley.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 17 April 1920, page 35***

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The danger of using methylated spirits near a fire was again demonstrated at Norwood on April 9, when a shop on the Parade, owned by Mr. J. F. W. Mankey, was badly damaged. The building, which adjoins that of Mr. W. Lomman, grocer and baker, was divided by a

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

corrugated iron partition. Mr. Mankey occupied one half and Mr. J. Sickert, a working electrician, the other. Shortly before 2 p.m. Miss Mankey had occasion to go from her father's shop to Mr. Sickert's, and noticing a fire in the fireplace and a small bowl of methylated spirits, in which Mr. Sickert was washing electric lamps, standing on the counter about 6 ft. away, issued a word of warning in regard to the contents of the bowl. No sooner had she done so than there was a loud explosion, with a big burst of flame, and by the time Miss Mankey, Mr. Sickert, and his assistant (Mr. P. Wooding) could reach the door the premises were ablaze. The fire brigade's prompt arrival saved the main building, and prevented the flames from extending to Mr. Lomman's, but the contents were damaged and the front windows broken. The building was insured, and Mr. Sickert's stock was covered for £100. Mr. Mankey's property was not insured, but most of his stock was saved.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 8 July 1920, page 13***

BURNSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

July 5.

The Fire Brigades Board stated that on and after August 2 the Norwood fire district will be extended to include Knoxville, Frewville, Glen Osmond, and part of Beaumont.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 28 October 1920, page 8***

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRE.

At 9.25 a.m. on Wednesday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a house in Stepney street, St. Peters, occupied by Mr. P. Sickert. A faulty flue in the kitchen caused the outbreak, as a consequence of which the matchwood ceiling and portion of the woodwork of the room were damaged. None of the furniture was destroyed.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 31 December 1920, page 6***

MOTOR CAR BURNT.

At 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to Watson avenue, Rose Park, and upon arrival found a motor car on fire. The conveyance was severely damaged before the flames were extinguished. The car was valued at about £450, and was insured in the Northern Insurance Company for £300. The vehicle was of the Victory touring type, and was owned by Mr. Harry Mendelson, of Mack & Co., Grenfell street. Mr. Mendelson stated that he did not know how the blaze started.

1921

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 8 January 1921, page 36***

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to Watson-avenue, Rose Park, early on December 30, where they found a motor car, owned and driven by Mr. H. Mendelson of Messrs. Mack & Co., Grenfell-street, on fire. The flames were extinguished, but the body of the car was badly burnt. The vehicle was valued at £450, and was insured with the Northern Insurance Company for £300.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 9 February 1921, page 7***

## FIRE AT A CHURCH

The Norwood fire brigade received a call at on 11.57 on Tuesday morning, intimating that there was a fire at St. Aidan's Church, Payneham road. Two sheds and their contents were destroyed, and part of the belfry burnt, before the fire could be extinguished. The fire is believed to have been caused by the dry grass in the grounds becoming ignited and spreading to the sheds and church.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 8 February 1921, page 1***

## CHURCH IN DANGER.

## Fire at Payneham.

St. Aidan's Church, at the corner of the Payneham-road and the Felixstowe-road, Payneham, was in serious danger of destruction by fire on Tuesday. The grass in the churchyard caught alight, and the flames attacked the wood and iron sheds, and the belfry at the rear of the church. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned, a few minutes before noon, and on arrival found the outbuildings in a blaze. Efforts were concentrated upon keeping the fire from entering the church, and the building, which is a large and handsome brick structure, escaped damage. It was in considerable peril, as the fire was immediately below a large stained glass window, and near a vestry door. The out-buildings and contents were destroyed, but the heavy bell remained suspended in the skeleton of the tower. The damage is estimated at about £100. The burned buildings were not insured, but the church is insured for £600, the furniture for £200, and a stained glass window for £200.

1922

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 11 February 1922, page 6***

## FIRE AT ST. PETERS.

A weatherboard dwelling at the corner of Seventh avenue and St. Peters street, East Adelaide, was, with its contents, destroyed by fire on Friday evening. It was in the occupation of an aged couple, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, who had resided in the house for about 20 years. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned, but the flames had such a hold on the place that its destruction was speedily accomplished. The origin of the fire is unknown. The occupants were stated to have been away from home at the time of the fire. The premises were insured for about £350.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 18 February 1922, page 40***

## HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

A small weatherboard house and its contents, on the corner of Seventh-avenue and St. Peters road, East Adelaide, were completely destroyed by fire on Friday evening. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a telephone message in connection with the blaze at about 8 o'clock, and the Adelaide Brigade received a call a minute later. Just as the firemen arrived the roof fell in, and there was no hope of saving either the building or its contents. There was no one on the premises at the time.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 18 March 1922, page 7***

## FIRE AT ST. PETERS.

A blaze which resulted in the total loss of about £100 worth of paint and wall-paper belonging to Mr. G. S. Spargo, a painter and decorator, of St. Peters, occurred on Friday evening. The

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

occurrence was marked by unusual and unlucky circumstances. Mr. Spargo, who at present resides in First avenue, St. Peters, recently purchased a house in Third avenue, between Walkerville road and Winchester street, which was occupied by Mr. J. W. Fisk, who is living in retirement. As Mr. Fisk did not intend to vacate the premises for a time, Mr. Spargo took the opportunity of conveying his large stock of paint and wallpaper beforehand to a shed at the rear of the house he had just purchased. It was this shed and its contents which were destroyed. The outbreak, it is understood, was first noticed by Mrs. Alexander, a neighbour of Mr. Fisk, shortly after 6 p.m. The Norwood Fire Brigade were immediately sent for, and were promptly on the scene—a narrow lane at the rear of the houses facing Third avenue. The inflammable material in the shed blazed furiously, and the intermittent explosion of cartridges, a quantity of which were in the shed, added to the excitement. It was some time before the blaze was extinguished, by which time the shed was almost totally destroyed. The rear fence and back of a structure on the property, occupied by Mr. Burford, of the firm of Cutterbuck Brothers, Adelaide, was also considerably burnt. Usually a motor car is kept in Mr. Burford's shed, but fortunately it was not there at the time of the fire. Mr. Spargo said he had no idea how the flames originated. It is understood that the property was insured.

***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.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 25 April 1922, page 3***

FIRE AT TOORAK

MOTOR SHED GUTTED.

On Monday morning a weatherboard and iron motor shed, and a portion of a fence, the property of Miss D. Jeffries, of Grant Avenue, Toorak, were gutted by fire. The Norwood Fire Brigade duly arrived, in answer to the summons, but was too late to save the shed or a portion of the fence.

1923

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 27 January 1923, page 8***

SMALL FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call shortly after 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon from Erictane Flats, Charles street. On arrival it was found that a fire had broken out in an upstairs room, occupied by Mr. F. M. McBride, through the flame from a gas stove having come into contact with a quantity of saw dust. The fire was soon under control. The room and its contents were slightly damaged.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 27 January 1923, page 11***

A SMALL FIRE.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called on Friday afternoon to Earlston Flats, at Charles-street, and found a room on the first floor, occupied by Mr. E. M. McBride, in flames. The fire was quickly extinguished, slight damage having been done to the room and the furniture. The fire was caused by a flame from a gas ring coming into contact with sawdust.

***Express (Adelaide, SA : 1922 - 1923), Friday 2 February 1923, page 4***

DESTRUCTIVE BLAZE IN PAYNEHAM

Garage and Cycle Factory.

Swept by Flames

Serious damage was done by a fire which raged in the early hours of Friday morning at Mr. L. A. Elliott's Garage and Cycle Factory, a substantial brick and iron building on the main road at Payneham, nearly opposite the district council chambers. Nobody was on the premises when the outbreak was discovered. Adjacent to the garage and workrooms is Mr. J. W. Ware's bakery, and Mr. and Mrs. Ware were sleeping in a house at the rear of their shop on Payneham-road. About 1.30 a.m. the latter was awakened by a banging noise, and presently noticed an intense glare and heard the hissing of flames. Mr. Ware hurriedly put on boots and a coat and ran out to notify the brigade. The alarm was received by Station-Officer Bland, of Norwood, from the corner of Wellington and Payneham roads at 1.46 a.m., and he promptly turned out with the motor appliance. By the time Mr. Ware had returned to the scene the fire, which he had at first noticed in the roof of the garage near where it adjoined Mr. Elliott's showroom, had extended to the back of the factory, a distance of about 150 ft. from the street.

Constable Pawling of Payneham, was called out at 1.50, and the Norwood brigade passed him as he was running towards the fire. The place was alight from the middle to the bottom end when he reached the scene the flames were showing up at a considerable height about the roof. The fire brigade headquarters in Wakefield-street were informed of the destructive

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

nature of the outbreak. Other properties in the vicinity were in imminent danger, and two appliances were sent out from the city to assist in coping with the flames.

A sensational incident was an explosion of a full petrol tank in one of two large motor lorries stored in the garage. There was an alarming concussion, which caused windows and doors to rattle in houses nearly half a mile away. Simultaneously a section of the roof was shot skyward on a column of fire, and collapsed with a loud crash, which scattered sparks and blazing debris in all directions. There were several other minor explosions of petrol. The firemen broke into the premises and tackled the task of saving the showroom abutting on Payneham-road.

It appeared likely that Mr. Ware's bake-house and storeroom would be involved in the blaze, but the brigade, after a hard battle, prevented a spread in that direction. Mr. Ware extricated a 1-ton lorry from his shed, as destruction threatened it, but a baker's cart was left standing about 30 ft. from the burning garage, and the heat caused the paint on it to blister.

The brigade by copious application of water from the hoses prevented the fire from spreading to the showroom, and the damage there was principally due to the discoloration effected by smoke. There were 16 motor cycles and about 20 push bicycles in the showroom, besides a large quantity of tyres, motor oils, and accessories.

Mr. L. A. Elliott (the proprietor) resides at Wellington-road, Evandale, and was advised of the occurrence by a messenger about 3.30 a.m. By the time he got to the garage, between 3.30 and 4 a.m., the fire was out and the brigade men were preparing to depart. He had not the remotest idea as to the cause of the outbreak, and said everything was in order when he left the premises shortly after 6 o'clock on Thursday evening. Inside the factory he could find nothing to indicate where or how it started, but Mr. Ware was positive that the seat of the fire in the early stages appeared to be in the roof at about half distance from the street to the rear.

The large workroom presented a sorry spectacle on Friday morning, as the destruction wrought in it had been complete. Two motor lorries, a motor car, and a large number of motor cycles had been reduced to a tangled mass of buckled and scorched iron and steel, among which sheets of crumpled roofing iron were scattered about in great confusion. The tyres of the ruined vehicles had been practically reduced to carbon.

One of the ruined motor lorries, a 32 h.p. Commer, with a torpedo charabanc body, was the property of Mr. V. J. Walsh, of Payneham, and has been his stock-in-trade for a furniture-removing and passenger-carrying business. It had been stored by him in the garage. The other lorry, a 22-h.p. Commer, belonged to Mr. Elliott. That of Mr. Walsh was insured for £100, but was valued by him at between £600 and £700. It had a passenger body built of seasoned ash. Mr. Elliotts lorry was worth between £400 and £500. A 22-h.p. Maxwell single-seater motor car, with a carrying tray, the property of Mr. Elliott, was also completely destroyed. It was not a new car, but was in first-class order, having just been overhauled.

In the wreckage of the factory it was impossible to determine the exact number of motor cycles destroyed, but there appeared to be about 20. The loss includes a dozen or so absolutely new machines, valued at £70 to £90 each. These had been built and enamelled on the premises, and were all ready for sending out. Among the other motor cycles destroyed was that on which Mr. A. J. B. Clark won the One-mile Knock Solo Handicap in the Motor Cycle Club speed trials at Sellick's Beach on Saturday last, and which he was riding when he crashed into a picket fence during a race at Thebarton Oval on Wednesday. The charred and distorted mass in the burnt-out workroom included a large number of wheels and other parts used in motor cycling and bicycle construction



Mr. Elliott stated that the fire would not prevent him from carrying on business, as the showroom was intact, and his lathes appeared to be undamaged. It was his intention to make a fresh start at the earliest possible moment. There was an insurance policy on the premises with the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation. The adjusters were at work on Friday, but it was stated to be impossible without a thorough investigation in detail to estimate even approximately the extent of the damage, which must amount to some thousands of pounds.

***Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Friday 2 February 1923, page 1***

## SUBURBAN BLAZE

### EARLY MORNING SENSATION

#### Payneham Garage Destroyed

Shortly before 2 o'clock this morning the residents in the vicinity of Elliott's Cycle and Motor Factory and Garage, Payneham road, Payneham, were awakened by a roaring and crackling emanating from a fire which completely gutted the rear portion of the premises. The alarm was given by Mr. A. Fuller, who was sleeping on the balcony of the Duke of Wellington Hotel, and who telephoned to the Norwood Fire Station. One appliance was dispatched from the suburban station, and two more were summoned from headquarters, in Wakefield street. When the firemen arrived at the scene of the conflagration, the flames had obtained a good hold on the middle of the building, which was of wood and iron, and a portion of the roof towards the rear had fallen in. Meanwhile the occupants of the adjoining houses had been awakened, and apprised of the danger. The firemen, under Deputy Chief Officer Cooper, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, soon ran out several hoses, and were able to confine the blaze to the workshop and garage, which were separated from the saleroom and office by a partition. The arrival of the brigade was especially timely, as the flames were creeping along the ridgetapping over the front portion of the building. Soon after the fire had begun the spectators were startled by a load explosion, which it is thought was caused by the ignition of the petrol in the tank of one of the motor lorries housed in the garage. The flames had spread quickly, owing to a certain amount of petrol and oil being on the premises, and the heat was intense. After strenuous work for about an hour and a half, the blaze was subdued, and all that remained of the building and contents were the charred corner posts and a heap of twisted, blackened metal, with roofing iron scattered on top.

#### Serious Losses.

Of two Commer motor lorries, and a Maxwell car—which had been left in the garage overnight—all that was recognisable were the radiator and the front portions of the chassis of one lorry and the car. A number of motor cycles in the course of construction were also destroyed. One of the lorries was the property of Mr. V. Walsh, of Broad street, Payneham, and the other losses were incurred by Mr. L. Elliott, of Wellington road. Mr. Walsh's loss was not fully covered by insurance. Mr. Elliott, when interviewed by a representative of The Register immediately after the fire, stated that he was unable to estimate the amount of damage done, but that it would be fully covered by insurance. The building and its contents were insured with the Employers' Liability Company. The origin of the blaze is not known, but it is stated that the flames were first seen about the middle of the building. The rear of the premises was completely gutted, but the front remained intact. Fortunately a dead calm prevailed at the time. The work of the firemen was meritorious. This is the first fire that has occurred in Payneham for many years.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 February 1923, page 2***

CITY ACCIDENTS.

MOTOR CAR CATCHES FIRE.

About 9.20 on Saturday evening the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to George Street, Norwood, where a motor car standing in a yard had become ignited. The brigade extinguished the blaze, but not before the body and upholstery of the car had been considerably damaged. The engine and chassis were slightly damaged. The car is owned by Mr. E. Lutz, of Mallala, but particulars concerning its value and insurance were unavailable.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 19 March 1923, page 8***

STABLE AND HORSE BURNT.

At 2.41 a.m. on Sunday the Norwood Brigade was summoned to Tusmore avenue, Knightsbridge. A fire was burning in a wood-and-iron stable belonging to Mr. F. Gaetjens. The brigade was promptly upon the scene, but the hold of the flames was too great for the structure to be saved. A horse was burnt to death. A buggy, a dray, harness, and sundry goods were also lost. The property was not insured. The flames extended and consumed an adjoining shed and contents (which included some furniture) at the home of Mr. J. A. Shepherd.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 30 March 1923, page 6***

SMALL SUBURBAN FIRES.

The Unley Fire Brigade received a telephone call at 8.15 p.m. on Thursday to a rubbish fire at the rear of Edwards's boot factory, in Maud street, Unley. The outbreak was promptly extinguished. About 8 o'clock on Thursday night the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call, by telephone, to Mills street, Dulwich, where a half-ton motor truck, the property of Mr. H. Houseman, was alight. The fire, which was caused by petrol fumes from the tank coming in contact with a side-lamp, was confined to the seating and the floor of the vehicle. The car was insured with the New Zealand Insurance Company, Limited.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 5 April 1923, page 9***

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a house in Torrens-street, East Adelaide at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday. A quantity of building material including 40 ft. of paling fence belonging to Mr. C. C. Clark, builder and contractor, and 20 ft. belonging to Mrs. E. Slater, was destroyed.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 5 April 1923, page 2***

A GRASS FIRE.

At 11.30 on Wednesday morning, the Fire Brigade Station received a call from Torrens street, North Adelaide, to a grass fire in that locality. Portion of a building and 40 feet of paling fence, belonging to Mr. C. C. Clarke, builder and contractor, was damaged and slight damage was done to a building and fence belonging to Mrs. E. E. Slater. The Norwood brigade effected a good "save."

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 5 May 1923, page 11***

FIRE AT NORWOOD METHODIST CHURCH.

On Friday morning the Norwood Fire Station received a call by telephone to the Methodist Church, at Sydenham road. A blaze was raging in some wood-and-iron outbuildings attached to the church, and which, with their contents, were totally destroyed. Among the contents were a library, gymnasium apparatus, and catering outfit. The church building was slightly damaged. The origin of the fire is unknown.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 5 May 1923, page 8**

MOTOR TRUCK ABLAZE.

At about 6 p.m. on Friday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to proceed to North terrace, Kent Town. There they found a Ford one-ton truck, the property of the Army and Navy Stores, Limited, in charge of Mr. E. Forbes, ablaze. Considerable damage resulted to the engine and to the front portion of the conveyance before the flames could be subdued. The accident occurred while the driver was refilling his petrol tank.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 29 October 1923, page 4**

FIRE AT KENT TOWN

Escapes in Night Attire

GOOD SAVE BY BRIGADE

Persons sleeping in rooms above the shop occupied by Mr. J. H. Secombe, chemist and druggist, at Allan's Corner, Rundle street, Kent Town, were driven from their beds this morning at 3 o'clock by smoke from a fire, and had to escape in their night attire. The shop is in the centre of a two-storey dwelling, and there are eight shops adjacent to it. Mr. R. Cox told the Norwood Fire Brigade of the outbreak, and they made a quick response to the call. The firemen discovered the shop and contents well alight. Getting to work with chemicals and later with a line of hose they confined the outbreak to the one shop. Heat caused aerated water bottles to explode. It was a good save. Flames licked the door of the dispensary, but they were kept from reaching stores of highly inflammable chemicals. The shop, stock, and fittings were severely damaged and the storeroom slightly.

1924

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 January 1924, page 10**

VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

From "NEIGHBOR":—It is stated in your report of the fire at Thornton-street, Kensington, that Mr. Wells, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, first noticed the outbreak. This is not correct. Some little time after 1.30 p.m. on Sunday I found my house full of smoke. I went through to the back yard, where I found the back fence well alight. Immediately I called my wife, who called out to Mr. Wells next door, I in the meantime running for the brigade. Mr. Wells hardly knew of the fire until the brigade arrived.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 5 January 1924, page 44**

FENCE BURNT AT KENSINGTON.

The residence of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (Mr. F. H. Wells), in Thornton-street, Kensington, and a house adjoining, on the north side, had a narrow escape from being consumed by fire on Sunday afternoon between 3 and 4 o'clock, when about a chain and a half of a paling fence, which divides the properties, was destroyed. Mr. Wells was the first to notice smoke curling up from the fence, which was soon well alight. The Norwood Fire Brigade quickly arrived, but the pressure of water was too low for the hose to be of much assistance, and the fire was fought with buckets of water from the house-tanks, which were, fortunately, well stocked, as the result of recent rains.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 9 February 1924, page 51***

SMALL FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A fire, as a result of which a couch valued at £5 was destroyed, occurred at the residence of Mrs. E. Smith, Wall-street, Norwood. The fire was caused by a spark from a pipe falling on a couch.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 14 February 1924, page 7***

Fire at St. Peters

At 9.15 this morning the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to the residence of Mr. J. H. Thompson, of 4 Torrens street, St. Peters. A small shed at the rear of the main building was burned down.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 1 April 1924, page 8***

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At 8.45 o'clock on Monday morning the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Mr. H. A. Behrens, of Queen street, Norwood, where it was found that a shed was afire. The building and its contents, comprising a stock of electric fittings, toys, motor accessories, glass, and china were destroyed. The goods were insured for £2,000, but the shed was not so covered. The flames spread to an outhouse on the adjacent premises, the property of Mr. A. H. Robertson, but there the conflagration was extinguished before much damage had resulted. It is stated that some clothing in a shed nearby was ignited by a spark from a washhouse, and caused the bigger outbreak.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 10 April 1924, page 6***

BEULAH PARK FIRE

Lime Catches Alight

A stack of lime in bags caught alight late last night in Melrose avenue, Beulah Park, on a property where a new bungalow is being erected by Mr. H. H. Brittain. Twenty bags of lime were stacked against a paling fence, and as they were insufficiently covered from the rain, the lime became heated, and caused the bags to burn. The Norwood Brigade smothered the flames with sand before any material damage was done to the adjoining property.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 22 April 1924, page 7***

HERE AND THERE

### Fire at Marryatville

Much damage was caused by a fire which occurred on Saturday night in a grocer's shop occupied by Mr. F. L. Eastwood, 52 Kensington road, Marryatville. The Norwood Fire Brigade quickly extinguished the flames. The cause of the outbreak is not known. The property was insured.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 5 December 1924, page 13**

### CASUALTIES

#### GRASS FIRES AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called to two grass fires on Thursday afternoon. The first broke out at 2.6 p.m. at the Women's Croquet Lawn, Second avenue, St. Peters, where some rubbish, which was being burned, was caught by the wind and the flames spread beyond the control of the attendants. The brigade was able to quench the blaze after about 10 yards of an adjoining paling fence, owned by Mrs. E. Watson, had been burned. The second blaze took place about 3.15 p.m. in a block adjoining Charlick Brothers' bulk store, in William street, Norwood. No damage was done.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 16 December 1924, page 16**

#### A FIRE AT MAYLANDS.

At 10 a.m. on Monday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a shop and six-roomed house in Phillis-street, Maylands, owned by Mrs. A. E. Griffin, and occupied by Mr. W. J. Whitters. The fire was caused by the upsetting of a kerosine lamp, and the shop fittings and a portion of the stock were slightly damaged.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 16 December 1924, page 8**

#### SHOP BURNT AT MAYLANDS.

At 10 o'clock, on Monday morning, the Norwood Fire Brigade turned out to an alarm call from premises at the corner of Clifton and Phillis streets, Maylands, occupied by Mr. W. J. Whitters, and consisting of a six-roomed dwelling, with a grocery and softgoods shop attached. The shop was well alight, but after about an hour's work, the flames were extinguished, without their having spread to the residential portion of the building. Stock and fittings were damaged. There is an insurance on the premises. Regarding the origin of the outbreak it is stated that early on Monday morning a kerosine lamp was being tested in the shop when the flames got away from it, and ignited some material. The fire was stamped out, but evidently some sparks were left, and at the time of the second fire the shop was closed, the storekeeper being absent on business.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 22 December 1924, page 8**

#### Shed on Fire

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to North terrace, Kensington Gardens, at 9.42 on Sunday morning. A shed at the rear of premises occupied by Mr. Stanford Ross was alight. The brigade prevented the fire spreading, but was unable to save the shed, which, with its contents, including garden tools, was destroyed. The shed was not insured. Part of the fence was also burned.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 23 December 1924, page 11**

## FIRE AT OVAL

### Boxthorn Blazes Fiercely

Spreading from an adjoining rubbish heap, flames caught the hedge at the south-western corner of the Norwood Oval at 12.15 this afternoon, and destroyed between 20 and 30 yards of boxthorn hedge, as well as damaging the wooden posts of the galvanised iron fence. The Norwood Fire Brigade, under Foreman Mason, was summoned, and quickly prevented the flames doing further damage. The boxthorn was dry and blazed fiercely. The oval and the adjoining property belong to the Norwood Corporation. The fence was insured.

1925

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 January 1925, page 47***

## FIRE AT NORWOOD OVAL.

Owing to a fire in an adjoining rubbish heap the hedge at the south-western corner of the Norwood Oval caught alight on December 23. The Norwood Fire Brigade was soon on the scene, and pre-vented the flames from doing much damage. About a chain of the boxthorn fence was destroyed.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 January 1925, page 8***

## A CITY FIRE.

### BRIGADE SUMMONED TO RICHARDS BUILDING.

What might have proved a disastrous city fire was narrowly averted on Sunday night through the vigilance of a passer-by. Noticing a reflection from Richards' Building, he investigated and saw in the rear of the ground floor, where re-building operations have been in progress, a mass of debris partly alight. Promptly he summoned the brigade, which hastened to the scene, and with the aid of a few lengths of hose extinguished the outbreak before any serious damage had been done. People were making their way home intent on catching last trams or trains to the suburbs shortly after 10 o'clock, when the motor fire equipment was seen speeding along King William-street and turning into Currie-street. Soon the news spread that Richards Building was ablaze. It is said that nothing collects a crowd so quickly as a wedding or a fire, and certainly so far as the latter was concerned there was nothing lacking in the way of proof of the assertion. Sightseers were doomed to disappointment, for no excitement was provided. In a few minutes the brigade had everything well under control, and the flames were extinguished before many would-be spectators arrived on the scene.

## Small Grass Fires.

About 4.15 p.m. the Unley Brigade was summoned to a grass fire in an open paddock in Addison-road, and about an hour previously the services of the Norwood Brigade had been requisitioned for a grass fire in a paddock in William-street. Shortly before 9 p.m. the Metropolitan Brigade received an alarm in connection with a similar outbreak on the south park lands, opposite Palmerston-road and Park-terrace. In none of the three instances was damage caused.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 4 February 1925, page 12***

## FIRE DESTROYS CASES.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 1.50 a.m. on Tuesday to Felixstowe-road, Payneham, where there had been an outbreak of fire on Mr. J. Drage's property. Damage

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

was done to some empty cases and some firewood was destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 20 April 1925, page 4***

FIRE AT EVANDALE

Shop and Contents Destroyed

At an early hour this morning fire severely damaged the stationery and fancy goods shop in Bakewell road, Evandale, kept by Mrs. Franklin. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call by telephone shortly after 4 o'clock and hurrying to the scene more than two miles away found the premises well alight. Station Officer Tyson with two firemen quickly got the flames under control. The shop and contents were badly damaged. Mrs. Franklin was absent from the city at the time. The building, which is owned by Mr. R. N. Conegrave, is insured.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 21 April 1925, page 8***

FIRE AT ST. PETERS.

At 4.5 a.m. on Monday, the Norwood Fire Station received a call to a fire in a small stationery and fancy goods shop in Bakewell road, St. Peters, kept by a Mrs. Franklin. On the arrival of the brigade, the fire had a good hold on the building, and very little could be saved. Mrs. Franklin, who lives at Luhr's road, South Payneham, locked up the shop on Saturday at noon, everything was all right then, and nobody had been on the premises since. Mrs. Franklin left on Saturday afternoon for a holiday at Victor Harbour. Both the building and the goods were insured. The shop was the property of Mr. R. N. Conigrave, of Bakewell road.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 25 May 1925, page 12***

FIRE AT MAYLANDS.

At 4 a.m. on Saturday the Norwood Fire Brigade Station received a call from Frederick street, Maylands, where they found the hall of the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes in flames. The firefighters had to force an entry to the building, and then soon had the fire under control. The contents of the building were considerably damaged, but to what extent has not yet been ascertained. The cause of the blaze is unknown.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 25 May 1925, page 9***

FIRE AT MAYLANDS.

BUFFALO HALL GUTTED.

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED.

The Buffalo Lodge Hall, at the corner of Janet and Frederick streets, Maylands, was practically gutted at an early hour on Saturday. Incendiarism is suspected.

At 4 o'clock on Saturday morning the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the hall at the corner of Janet and Frederick streets, Maylands, owned by the Magill and Payneham Lodge, of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos. The hall, which is used for the purposes of the lodge, and is also leased for dances and picture entertainments, was well alight upon the arrival of the brigade, and before the blaze could be extinguished, the interior of the hall was practically gutted. The building, a single-storey brick structure, 60 x 30, which had recently been renovated, was slightly damaged. Evidence of what appeared to be three or four distinct

outbreaks in the interior of the building was, it is alleged, observed by the brigade. One of these was in the rear and another in the front of the hall among the fittings and woodwork, and one or two were near the centre of the building. The matter was reported to the police for investigation.

The alarm was first given by Mr. P. Robinson, who lives in Janet-street, along-side the hall. He was awakened by Mr. N. Y. Schofield, who was passing at the time and had observed that the hall was well alight. Mr. Robinson then awakened Mr. A. W. Park, the hall-keeper and caretaker, who lives nearly opposite the hall. Mr. Park stated on Saturday that the hall was not in use on the previous night. There had been a dance on Thursday, and the hall had been cleaned out on Friday afternoon in preparation for the picture show on Saturday. He had locked the hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday and everything was then in order. Mr. Brown had two cinema machines, which were not insured, damaged by fire. All the electrical work in the operating box and in the hall was destroyed. Mr. R. C. Brown, electrical engineer, of Kintore-avenue, Prospect, who has a lease of the hall for dance and picture entertainments, said on Saturday that a big show was billed for Saturday afternoon and evening. He had gone to the country on Friday morning and did not return until about 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, when he was apprised of the fire. As far as he could judge, he had lost everything contained in the hall, and estimated his loss at £600. His plant was insured with the Commonwealth General Insurance Company for £400. He considered that anyone could have easily secured entrance to the hall by pushing back one of the windows. According to Mr. N. Y. Schofield, who gave the alarm, the building was well alight when he noticed the fire, and the flames were beginning to burst through the windows. The building is insured with the Commonwealth General Assurance Company for £750. But for the prompt action of the Norwood Fire Brigade the damage would have been considerably greater, and the hall itself would probably have been completely destroyed.

#### Beer as an Extinguisher.

Two hundred bottles of beer, which were stored in a locker, acted to some extent as a fire extinguisher. They exploded, and their contents saved, not only the locker in which they were stored, but also an adjoining locker, in which were valuable papers and documents belonging to the lodge.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 25 May 1925, page 12***

#### ELECTRICAL FIRE AT NORWOOD.

On Saturday evening a fire occurred in the electrical apparatus that supplies the current to the biograph machines at the Norwood Town Hall. The mains were switched on at 6.20, and about 5 minutes later clouds of smoke were issuing from the basement through the orchestra pit. Almost simultaneously the main fuses blew out. Fortunately the enclosure is fire-proof, and the fire could not spread. According to the manager, trouble had been brewing for a considerable time, but it had been so deep seated that electrical experts could not locate the fault. The National Picture Company (the leasees) had to turn away many hundreds of their patrons, but everything will be remedied by Wednesday, when pictures will be screened as usual.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 June 1925, page 12***

#### FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

On Saturday afternoon the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a house occupied by Mr. W. Jenkinson, at Dimboola-street, North Kensington. The kitchen of the house, which is a



stone building of three rooms and a lean-to, was ablaze, and considerable damage was done to the two back rooms before the flames were extinguished. It is stated that the fire had its origin through some tar which was being heated on a stove boiling over. The premises were insured for £400.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 September 1925, page 17**

SUSPECTED SACRILEGE.

At All Soul's Church. Ladies' Memorial Chapel Burned.

Shortly after 3.30 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, the ladies' memorial chapel at All Soul's Church of England, St Peters was damaged by fire. Sacrilege and arson are suspected by the Rector, Canon Swan.

The fire was first noticed shortly after 3.30 p.m. by Miss Langsford, who lives next door to the church. She telephoned to the Norwood Fire Brigade and a reel was dispatched to the church. Two lines of hose were brought to bear on the blaze which was quickly subdued.

Rector Expected It.

Canon Murphy, who is the rector of the church, was at present away in England, and Canon Swan has been carrying on the duties there for some weeks past. He stated on Wednesday night that the blaze had not come unexpectedly to him. When he visited the church on Tuesday he found a state of great disorder, books having been thrown all over the place, and he also found several dead matches in the chancel. In view of that discovery he strongly suspected that the fire was a case of sacrilege and arson. All Soul's Church was built in 1916, and takes the form of a cross, the cross-arm being formed by two small chapels. The ladies' chapel—the one which suffered by the fire—is on the right of the church and was the tribute of the women of the parish to those members of the church who fought in the Great War. It is constructed of stone and the floor is wood and with a length of 30 ft. and breadth of 20 ft. could accommodate about 50 people. A small altar was completely destroyed by the fire and the flooring was badly burned, but the seats practically escaped damage. Let into the walls were marble tablets commemorating those who fell. Either these had been deliberately picked out of the cement holding them in place, or the heat of the fire had cracked the cement, for when the fire was put out they were found lying broken on the floor. An organ in the chapel was also burned. Fortunately a beautiful stained-glass window, presented to the church by Mr. H. K. Wendt in memory of a son who was killed in action, was not harmed. Canon Swan estimates the damage at between £400 and £500.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 19 September 1925, page 46**

FAMILY RENDERED HOMELESS.

AN EARLY MORNING FIRE.

Shortly after 5 o'clock on the morning of September 11 the shop and dwelling leased by Mr. and Mrs. P. Turner, in High-street, Kensington, was completely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at £1,300. The family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Turner and two young daughters, escaped from the building in their night clothes, and had to be provided with wearing apparel by friends. The shop is a drapery and cool drink store, and is managed by Mrs. Turner. She was awakened by a crackling noise about 5 a.m. She roused the family, who were unable to rescue anything of value. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone, but on its arrival the place was almost in ruins. A reel from the city station also attended. No cause for the fire could be discovered. Until other arrangements can be made,

the unfortunate family intend to live in an iron shed at the back of the building. A new ice chest had just been installed in the shop to cope with the summer trade.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 17 October 1925, page 1***

#### FIRE AT CORRYTON

A fire which broke out yesterday at the rear of the residence of Mr. C. L. Leaver, Magill road, Corryton, did damage estimated at £30 to the roof of the house. It is believed that the fire began through an electric light earth-wire fusing. The outbreak was quickly quelled by the Norwood Fire Brigade. The house was insured.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 29 October 1925, page 10***

#### FIRE ON PAYNEHAM ROAD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 7.45 on Wednesday evening from the alarm near to the Avenues Hotel, Payneham road, Stepney. A reel proceeded to the premises occupied in part by Mr. G. K. Crouch, bootmaker, Payneham, road, and in part by a laundry. The flames had secured a hold in the former portion of the structure, which was of wood and iron; but the firemen prevented them from penetrating the partition to the laundry and from spreading to neighbouring shops. Within 10 minutes the fire was under control. After that the firemen had frequently to "break" their hose to allow traffic to proceed. The bootshop was badly damaged, but little harm was done to the laundry.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 12 November 1925, page 12***

#### CASUALTIES.

#### FIRE AT TOORAK.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at about 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon to Watson avenue, Toorak, and there found a workshop at the rear of the residence occupied by Mrs. L. Baxter in flames. The building was severely damaged. It was thought that the blaze originated in some hot ashes near to the structure. The brigade was absent from the station for about half an hour.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 13 November 1925, page 8***

#### OBITUARY

At a meeting of the Norwood Club, Incorporated, reference was made to the death of their late treasurer (Mr. T. S. Warman) and the high esteem in which he had been held by the club members. He was one of the founders of the club and had filled the position of treasurer for 41 years. He was born at Chelsea, England, in 1884 and, after having travelled through America, he landed in South Australia in 1876. He was one of the founders of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, being the first captain. The late Mr. R. E. Kippist was his first lieutenant and secretary, and his brother, Mr. W. Warman, was second lieutenant. He was a member of the Norwood Institute for 43 years.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 5 December 1925, page 18***

#### A SMALL FIRE.

Shortly before 11 a.m. yesterday the Norwood Fire Brigade were summoned to Charles-Street, Norwood, where a wood-shed, the property of Mr. W. Sanders, was found to be alight. Wood and tools, which the shed contained, were slightly damaged.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 December 1925, page 4***

Fire Brigades Busy

In expectation for outbreaks of fire the staffs at the respective stations were on the qui vive all day. Everything was quiet in the metropolitan area, but the out-stations responded to nine calls. The most important was at Norwood where a blaze broke out in a large shed at 65 Nelson street, St. Peters, shortly before midday, and the structure was completely gutted. One room of an adjoining dwelling was also damaged. The shed belonged to Mr. Championn, of Omar place. Unley Park.

A shed in the back yard of Mr. Eric Hamilton, Old Beach road, Brighton, was destroyed by fire this morning. Damage to the extent of £30 was caused. The maid lit the copper in the building at 11.30 this morning. She went away for five minutes and upon her re-turn found the place in flames. The Glenelg Fire Brigade was summoned, but they arrived too late to effect a save.

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

BLAZE AT NORWOOD.

Rapid progress was made by a fire in a large shed at 65 Nelson street, St. Peters, about midday. The place was soon reduced to ruins. The Norwood Brigade were quickly on the scene, but at best could only prevent the spread of the fire to adjoining buildings, which escaped with the exception of one room of an adjacent dwelling. The shed was the property of Mr. Champion, of Omar place, Unley Park. At Brighton, a shed and contents, valued at about £30, at the house occupied by Mr. E. Hamilton, at Old Beach road, Brighton, was burned about 11.30 am. It is believed to have been caused by a copper, which was lit and left unattended for a short time. Grass fires were also extinguished about 10.58 a.m., at Park street, Norwood, and at 12.16 p.m. near the Islington Workshops. At 12.29 a.m. on Saturday the City Brigade received a call to the premises of Tom Reid & Sons' furniture store in Solomon street, Adelaide, where some burning rubbish caused alarm.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 8 December 1925, page 10***

USELESS FIRE PLUGS

Brigade Handicapped

At a recent fire at a house in Nelson street, Stepney, owned by Mr. A. Champion, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, it is stated, was hampered in its operations through the fire plugs being covered with tar and tarred road metal. The firemen found it necessary to connect with a fire plug in Ann street, which meant bringing into use 1,000 ft. of hose, whereas a few feet only would have sufficed had the other plugs been available.

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

WORKSHOP DESTROYED.

About 3 p.m. on Saturday, the Norwood Fire Brigade attended a fire at the premises of Mr. C. L. Burrows, Greenhill road, Burnside, where a workshop close to the house was found to be burning furiously. Hoses were soon directed on the flames, and, aided by a good water supply, the firemen prevented a spread of the outbreak to the house nearby. The wood and

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

iron workshop which contained two bicycles was completely burned. The fire is said to have been caused by a grass fire spreading from an adjoining paddock.

1926

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

#### Rubbish Catches Alight.

A fire broke out among some lumber in a shed on the property of Mrs. J. W. Wishart, of 63 Hyde street, Kensington, about 3.39 p.m. on Friday. The Norwood Brigade was summoned, and was present in time to confine the fire to a small heap of rubbish. Practically no damage was done.

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

#### SMALL FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade at 3.39 p.m. yesterday were summoned to the residence of Mr. J. W. Wishart, at High-street, Kensington, where it was found that fire from burning rubbish in the yard had spread to lumber in a shed. The outbreak was quickly subdued, no material damage resulting.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 15 January 1926, page 13**

#### GRASS FIRE IN FRUIT GARDEN.

Responding to a call to the residence of Mr. R. L. Griffiths, at Kensington road, Burnside, shortly after 4 p.m. on Thursday, the Norwood Fire Brigade found that a grass fire had occurred. Mr. Griffiths has a fruit garden of about 20 acres, over which the fire rapidly spread. The firemen extinguished the blaze after working for several hours. Mr. Griffiths stated that he believed the fire originated at a spot in a paddock above his garden, known as Silleby Park, where a small rubbish fire had been lighted. This had got beyond control, and, aided, by a strong gully wind, had quickly raced down the slope to his garden. Although timber and material in the garden were destroyed, and the flames surrounded two houses, those buildings suffered no damage. Many of his fruit trees had been scorched. He estimated his loss to be at the most £15.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 25 January 1926, page 13**

#### GRASS FIRES.

A small grass fire broke out about 1.30 on Saturday afternoon in a paddock belonging to Mr. O. K. Wednt, in Stanley-street, Upper Kensington. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended and extinguished the flames. About two acres of grass was burnt. About the same time grass in Cheltenham-street, Unley caught alight, and the Unley Fire Brigade was called to extinguish it.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 26 January 1926, page 15**

#### FIRE REEL "A LAUGHING-STOCK."

At a meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Town Council on Monday evening Alderman Hughes, referring to the reel of the Norwood Fire Brigade, said it was a laughing-stock, as it could only proceed at a walking pace up a hill. He moved that the attention of the Fire Brigades Board be drawn to the unsatisfactory state of the motor fire reel. Alderman Hanson said that although it appeared that the fire brigade paid attention to the traffic regulations

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

when proceeding to a fire, it was speed that was wanted on such occasions. Children were sometimes to be seen hanging on to the rear of the vehicle as it went along. The motion was agreed to.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 28 January 1926, page 1***

MYSTERIOUS FIRE

Car and Garage Burned

A motor car belonging to Mr. A. H. Osborn, of the corner of Second street and Knightsbridge road, Knightsbridge, was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The garage in which it was housed and its contents were also burned. The door of the garage, which is located at the side of the house, was found to be open. Mr. Osborn stated that the lock had been forced. At 1.21 o'clock this morning the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from the Knightsbridge road fire alarm, and promptly extinguished the flames. The car was covered by insurance.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 28 January 1925, page 1***

Bitumen on Fire

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the Burnside District Council's depot at the corner of Greenhill and Portrush roads at 2.40 a.m. today. A small fire had broken out in a bitumen tank. Little damage was done, and work with the plant was resumed this morning. Overheating was said to have been the cause of the outbreak.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 February 1926, page 3***

Malicious False Alarm

A malicious false alarm was responsible for calling out the Norwood Fire Brigade shortly before noon today. The glass of the alarm near the Avenues Hotel, Payneham, was broken and the handle turned.

Grass Fire at Monreith

Shortly before one o'clock this afternoon the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to Monreith, where a grass fire had broken out at the corner of Greenhill road and Cudmore avenue. It was extinguished without difficulty. No damage was caused. The fire covered about half an acre. It is not known how it started.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 8 February 1926, page 5***

Fire at Kent Town

At 2.22 o'clock on Saturday morning the Norwood Fire Brigade was called to the home of Mr. S. Davidson, of King William street, Kent Town. The house, which is the property of Misses Resiegh, of Henley Beach road, Torrens ville, was insured. Portion of the kitchen and contents were slightly damaged. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 9 February 1926, page 10***

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

QUESTION OF EFFICIENCY.

At a meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Corporation on Monday night, the Town Clerk read a reply from the Fire Brigades Board to a letter from the council alleging that the Norwood fire reel was not efficient. The letter embodied a report from the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie), on the condition of the Norwood motor hose carriage. The Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board added to the report that the speed on the reel was necessarily influenced by the condition of the roads, a statement which was greeted with laughter. Mr. Dickie, in reporting in the press comments as to the unsatisfactory state of the Norwood appliance, stated that the machine had been replaced, by one from the head station. When examined it was found that one of the valves was not acting properly, and consequently the engine lost power. That, no doubt, was the cause of the council's comments. The machine had since been tested and found to be capable of a speed of 27 miles an hour, and it had also ascended Frome road to North terrace on top-gear, with no appreciable loss of speed. When the Mayor put the motion of the receipt of the letter, Cr. Mitchell said that, in his opinion, Mr. Dickie's report indicated negligence by the members of the local brigade. On Saturday night, at the time of the fire in the city, he waited for the Norwood Brigade to go to town. It was a long time coming. At length he heard the pealing of the bells, but did not see the brigade. It had no lights, and nearly, collided with a stationary motor car which was drawn up on the side of the road. If that were the regular practice of the Norwood Brigade it was time it disposed of it. He had had several years' experience of fire fighting in Western Australia, and considered that the inefficiency of the Norwood Brigade was not the fault of the board; it was the fault of the local men. Such conduct as he had related was a direct insult to the municipal body. He moved that a letter of protest should be sent to the board regarding the Saturday night incident, and that the members of the Norwood Brigade should be informed of the council's action. Cr. Lengnich seconded the motion. On the occasion of a recent outbreak at Burnside, he said it took the brigade 22 minutes to reach the scene. The motion was carried unanimously.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 February 1926, page 4***

#### FIRE AT ST. PETERS

A small fire occurred tonight at 10 o'clock in a small shop next to the S.A. Fruitgrowers' Association on the Payneham road, St. Peters. It is understood that the shop is occupied by a Miss Dixon, a milliner. The Norwood Fire Brigade was quickly in attendance and subdued the fire before much damage was done.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 23 February 1926, page 13***

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE.

At the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Corporation on Monday evening, the following report was received from Mr. W. Tyson, station officer of the Norwood Fire Brigade, under date February 9:— "Referring to report in the daily paper with reference to the attendance of the Norwood motor on Saturday night, February 6, I wish to report that the motor at this station never went better than on that occasion. As for having no lights, the lights were switched on, when leaving the station and were burning brightly, the whole way in. The report states that we nearly collided with a stationary motor car. As a matter of fact, there were two motor cars and a tramcar abreast as we turned King William street corner into North terrace, and we had to go over on the wrong side of the road to get through. Cr. Mitchell stated that when the motor passed his residence on the evening in question to attend the fire at the Cameron Shoe Company's premises on North terrace, there were no lights burning on the motor. Several other persons whom he knew could bear out his statement in that respect. It was decided to make further enquiries into the matter before officially dealing with Mr. Tyson's communication.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 6 March 1926, page 8**

BITUMEN ON FIRE.

A small fire occurred at the bitumen depot of the Burnside District Council on Friday. Some bitumen became ignited while being heated. The flames were extinguished by the Norwood Fire Brigade before any damage was done to the process plant.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 17 March 1926, page 17**

A BAKEHOUSE ON FIRE.

About 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to Beulah-road Extension, North Kensington, where a bakehouse, owned by Mrs. C. M. Habner, and rented by Mr. S. R. E. Cheney, a smallgoods maker, was on fire. The premises and the contents were considerably damaged before the flames were extinguished.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 March 1926, page 4**

FIERCE SUBURBAN FIRE

Beaumont Residence Destroyed

LANDMARK OF FOOTHILLS

A large unfurnished house at Devereaux road, Beaumont, which until recently was occupied by Mr. C. C. Ferguson, was completely gutted by fire this evening. Situated at the foot of the hills near the Salvation Army Aged Men's Retreat, the property was a well-known landmark. The outbreak was first noticed shortly after 8 o'clock, and when the Fire Brigade arrived on the scene the fire had secured a complete hold of the building. The glare of the leaping flames lighted up the district for hundreds of yards around, and a large number of people were attracted from the surrounding suburbs by the blaze. The Norwood and Adelaide Fire Stations operated on the outbreak, which was not subdued until well after 10 o'clock.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 23 March 1926, page 15**

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE

NEGLIGENCE ALLEGED.

A development in connection with the statement made recently by Cr. Mitchell at the Norwood Council, calling attention to the fact that on the night of the fire at the Cameron Shoe factory (February 6), the Norwood motor brigade had proceeded to the city with the headlights unlighted, and had narrowly averted a collision, occurred at the meeting of that council on Monday night. A letter was produced to the council in reply to the latter's communication to the Fire Brigades Board, asking for an explanation of the occurrence. It stated that Station Officer Tyson, of Norwood, had reported to the head office that on the night in question, the head lamps were alight when the brigade left the station, and were burning brightly all the way to the city. A second letter was produced, signed by three ratepayers stating that they witnessed the Norwood Brigade on the night in question, and its head lamps were not alight. On the motion of Cr. Thomas, it was resolved to forward a copy of the second letter to the Fire Brigades Board, and to request the board to enquire into the matter.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 6 May 1926, page 8**

CASUALTIES.

## FIRE ON PAYNEHAM ROAD.

Early on Wednesday evening a fire broke out in a motor garage, situated next to the Payneham road factory of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society. The Norwood Fire Brigade, under Officer W. Tyson, was soon on the scene, but not before the flames had gained a good hold on the garage. As the blaze developed, another reel was dispatched from the city brigade. By this time the flames had spread to the adjoining jam factory, the eastern portion of which caught alight. Through the efforts of the firemen, however, extensive damage to the factory was prevented. The garage was completely destroyed.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 6 May 1926, page 14**

### GARAGE BURNT

#### Two Motor Cars Destroyed

A fire destroyed the motor garage of Mr. R. W. Forbes, at Payneham road, East Adelaide, last night. Mr. Forbes, who lives at Livingston road, Thebarton, locked the premises at 7 o'clock, when everything was all right. About half an hour later the building, which was constructed of wood and iron, was a mass of flames. When the Norwood and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades arrived on the scene the garage and its contents, including two secondhand motor cars, had been destroyed, and the firemen turned their attention to saving the adjoining building of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society, Limited. The garage, which was owned by Mr. James Magher, 135 Payneham road, St. Peters, was uninsured. The contents were insured with the Federal Mutual Fire Insurance Company for £300.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 May 1926, page 4**

### FIRE FOLLOWS EXPLOSION

#### Bitumen Plant Alight

An explosion, followed by a fire, at the Kensington and Norwood Corporation bitumen heating plant at Shipster road, Kensington, this morning resulted in the shed covering the plant being practically destroyed, beside other damage, the amount of which has been assessed at about £100. The explosion is thought to have been due to gas in one of the tanks having become ignited. Mr. Thomas Hughes, an employe of the corporation, was engaged in his duties on the plant when the explosion occurred. He said that about 8.50 o'clock the plant was in full working order, both tanks being filled with bitumen, which was being heated. The eastern tank showed a temperature of 360 degrees and the western 300. He was on the platform of the tank taking the measurement of the contents. There was an explosion and it went up in flames. Mr. Hughes had a narrow escape from serious injury. Attempts to subdue the outbreak were made by the employes, who threw sand and water on the flames. The Norwood Fire Brigade were sent for, but owing to misdirection went to Payneham first. When they reached Shipster road they quickly quelled the fire. It is understood that portion of the damaged plant was uninsured. Constables Sessle and Winch, of Marryatville, who were summoned, rendered assistance. Mr. Sessle will prepare a report for the coroner.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 9 August 1926, page 11**

### A NORWOOD SHOP FIRE.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called on Saturday night to a fire at a grocery shop occupied by Mr. Williams, on Kent-terrace, Kent Town. Goods in the middle of the shop were ablaze,



but the brigade was able to confine the outbreak to that part of the premises. The fittings were damaged by fire and water. The premises and contents were insured.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 30 October 1926, page 6**

Masonic Hall on Fire

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call shortly before 11 o'clock yesterday morning to the Masonic Lodge Hall, Parade, Norwood, where the floor was burning. The flames were soon extinguished. Several square feet of floor was destroyed. It is thought that a lighted cigarette or match dropped on a mat caused the outbreak.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 15 November 1926, page 9**

HOUSEBREAKERS IN NORWOOD.

Three cases of housebreaking were reported to the Norwood police during the weekend. At 3.30 p.m. on Saturday the Norwood Fire Brigade Station received a call to Messrs. W. P. Hughes & Sons' butchers store, Parade, Norwood. The brigade found that the shop was on fire, and although the flames were quickly extinguished, considerable damage was done to a counter, the walls, and a freezing-chamber. Behind the shop is a seven-roomed house, and when the rooms were searched by the police, it was discovered that beds had been turned upside down and drawers disturbed. It is suspected that the fire was caused by thieves. Other cases of housebreaking were reported at the residence of Mr. P. Oliphant, Hughes-street, Kensington, and the shop of Mr. E. S. L. Shepherd, chemist, of Parade, Norwood. Both premises were entered during the afternoon, and from Mr. Oliphant's house the sum of 30/ was removed. No valuables or money were stolen from Mr. Shepherd's shop.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 29 November 1926, page 9**

FIRE MYSTERIES

At Norwood and Prospect.

Two mysterious fires occurred during the week-end. At Norwood, on Friday night the residence of Mr. E. S. Gaerth, 39 George street, was ransacked during the temporary absence of the occupants, and a fire broke out. About the same hour, 9 o'clock, on Saturday night, a similar outbreak occurred at Prospect at the residence of Mrs. D. A. Harrington, Gloucester street. In both cases incendiaryism is suspected. These two fire mysteries closely resemble cases of fires in suspicious circumstances at W. P. Hughes's shop, Norwood, about a fortnight ago, and at two other residences in the northern suburbs during the last two months. In each case the house had been thoroughly ransacked and furniture and fittings heaped up and set alight in one of the rooms, usually a bedroom. The Norwood Fire Brigade was advised of the outbreak at Mr. Gaerth's house just before 9 p.m. on Friday by a person who had noticed dense-smoke rolling out of one of the rooms. The house is near the fire station, and expeditious work by the brigade confined the flames to a bedroom, which was well alight when it arrived. The room had been shut tightly, and the lack of ventilation, it is considered, prevented the fire from spreading. After the outbreak had been subdued, an investigation revealed the work of burglars. The house had been turned upside down, and even the drawers in a kitchen dresser had been pulled out and examined. Not a room escaped, and in the bedroom in which the fire broke out furniture had been heaped up on the bed. The intruder must have worked quickly, as it is stated that the occupants of the house were absent for not more than three-quarters of an hour. A considerable sum of money and valuable goods were missed, and it is presumed that they were stolen by the intruders.

The second mysterious fire occurred at Prospect on Saturday night in similar circumstances. The residence of Mrs. D. A. Harrington was visited during her absence. Just after 8.30 p.m. passers by noticed clouds of smoke pouring from the house, and summoned the North Adelaide Fire Brigade. The back of the structure was well alight, and considerable difficulty was experienced in subduing the flames. The ceiling in one room collapsed, and a quantity of furniture was burned and otherwise damaged. A search showed that this house also had been ransacked before the fire occurred, and that the furniture had been disarranged, apparently by a feverish searcher. Goods and valuables it is reported were missed, but to what extent is not known. The police are investigating both cases, the circumstances of which bear a remarkable resemblance, and which co-incide approximately with the previous outbreaks in these suburbs.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 29 November 1926, page 11***

#### FOUR GRASS FIRES.

Four grass fires occupied the attention of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Sunday. The hot dry winds of the weekend made the grass in the parklands and in vacant suburban allotments susceptible to ignition. The headquarters staff had two calls to the west parklands. Shortly after 10 a.m., they were summoned to a fire near the Observatory, and two hours later to another outbreak in the part adjoining the playground. The Thebarton Brigade was called to a fire in a paddock at Cowandilla about 2.30 p.m., and the Norwood firefighters, about an hour later, had to beat out a grass fire on a vacant block at the corner of Walkerville-road and Sixth-avenue, St. Peters. In each instance strenuous work confined the flames to grass, and no other damage resulted.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 2 December 1926, page 1***

#### Norwood Grass Fires

Norwood Fire Brigade last night received two calls to attend grass fires—the first at 6.18 o'clock to the rear of 4 Clark street, Norwood, and the second to the rear of 39 Capper street, Kent Town. In neither case was any damage done to property. This morning the brigade was called to a paddock at Ashbourne avenue, Burnside, where a grass fire had started through some rubbish having been set alight.

***Saturday Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1929), Saturday 4 December 1926, page 1***

#### MOTOR CAR BURNT.

##### Fire at Norwood.

A fire which occurred at Clark street, Norwood, on Friday night, destroyed a motor car and shed. Mrs. E. Amey owns and occupies the premises on which the shed was located, and the car was the property of her son. It is believed that petrol left in the tank exploded through the heat of the weather. The fire burned another shed adjoining the first-named one, but the Norwood Brigade prevented further damage.

***Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Thursday 9 December 1926, page 2***

#### Tar Sprayer on Fire.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

At about 11 o'clock this morning the tar-sprayer of the St. Peters' Municipal Council caught alight at St. Peters. It is thought that the outbreak was due to tar having over-flowed the tank

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

and run into the fire-box. Tar poured into the street for a distance of about 200 yards, flames spreading with it along the gutters. There was much danger to adjoining fences, but the prompt arrival of the Norwood Fire Brigade enabled the outbreak to be subdued.

The tar-sprayer was badly damaged, the wooden kerbing was burned and an electric light pole and two fireplug indicator posts also suffered.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 10 December 1926, page 11***

FIRE CALLS.

Eleven on Thursday.

During Thursday metropolitan fire brigades received 11 calls to various suburbs, but eight of them were to put out grass fires. Little damage was done, the outbreaks being characterized as minor. A grass fire at Kensington Gardens on a vacant allotment between East terrace and Koorra avenue damaged the fences of adjoining houses, while damage was done to the fence at the rear of the factory of E. S. Wigg & Son., Limited, Walsh street, Southwark, through a grass fire. At 11.50 a.m. the Adelaide Brigade received a call to a four-roomed house in Brown street, occupied by Mr. J. Sanders. The fire which originated from burning rubbish in the back yard, had secured a good hold on the two back rooms and the back verandah by the time the brigade arrived, and it was only with difficulty that the two front rooms were saved. The back part of the premises was destroyed. During the lunch hour the City Brigade also received a call to Sister Wood's private hospital in Hutt street, City, where a chimney had caught alight. The Norwood Brigade were called to Bakewell road, where a fire had started in the kitchen of a house of Mr. A. Basheer. The blaze was started by an electric iron having been left on. The contents of the room were badly damaged.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 16 December 1926, page 1***

Fire at Rose Park School

Norwood Fire Brigade was called to Rose Park School this morning. A fire had broken out in a heap of rubbish in the boys' playground. The rubbish consisted of limbs of trees and other waste matter collected in a pile on account of the break-up of the school. No damage was done.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 16 December 1926, page 9***

NUMEROUS SMALL FIRES.

City and suburban brigades experienced a particularly busy time on Wednesday afternoon and evening. In addition to the big blaze at Torrensville, the Adelaide station shortly afterwards had to send a machine to a grass fire at the East park lands. The flames were quickly subdued, and no damage was done. At 7.45 p.m. a call was received from Simpson & Son's factory, in Wakefield street. An appliance was soon on the spot, where a carpenter's bench and pile of timber decking were alight. The outbreak was speedily under control. The cause is unknown. At 9.16 p.m. a machine was despatched to a grass fire on the Victoria Park Racecourse. No damage was done. A more serious outbreak occurred at the West park lands, opposite Waymouth street, at about the same time. Two appliances were sent, and on arrival the firemen found an area of grass and a football dressing shed well alight. The shed was destroyed. At 8.22 p.m. the Unley brigade received a call to Cumberland avenue, Clarence Park, where grass was burning on a property owned by Mr. A. J. Crawford, residing at the corner of Monmouth avenue and Goodwood road. The blaze was extinguished before any damage was done. The Norwood brigade received a call at 4.55 p.m. to 23 Charles

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

street, Norwood, where a heap of rubbish was on fire in the yard of premises occupied by Mrs. N. Gill. Portion of a fence was also burned. About 11 o'clock on Wednesday night the Norwood Fire Brigade was called to a grass fire which had broken out in a paddock at the top of Greenhill road, near Tusmore. After extinguishing this they were called to two successive outbreaks in paddocks at intervening distances of about a quarter of a mile.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 20 December 1926, page 10**

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

TWO MALICIOUS CALLS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade turned out three times on Saturday night, only once for a genuine call. Bedding caught fire at the residence of Mrs. Lewis, Field-street, at about 9.45. Little damage to property was done, but Mrs. Shaw, who was sleeping in the bed, was severely burned and might have been more seriously injured but for the prompt action of Mrs. E. J. O'Brien, who dragged her out of the burning mass. Mrs. Shaw was taken to the Adelaide Hospital. At 10.52 the equipment turned out for a malicious false alarm from the Botanic Park alarm, and at 11.20 a false sprinkler alarm brought them out again. The Norwood Fire Brigade had a malicious false alarm from Rundle-street, Kent Town, at 11.18. On Sunday about noon a grass fire broke out on the property of Mrs. T. Bates, Henley Beach-road, Torrensville, caused by a rubbish fire getting away. The brigade was summoned and the blaze extinguished, little damage being done. Another grass fire in Cohen-avenue, between South-terrace and Park-terrace, was also dealt with at about 1.10.

1927

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 4 January 1927, page 8**

CASUALTIES.

METROPOLITAN GRASS FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Station received a call at 6.56 on Monday evening to the west parklands near Hindley street, where a grass fire was quickly extinguished. Another fire broke out a little distance away at 7.24. The Norwood Fire Brigade also dealt effectively with a small grass fire near the Burnside District Council Hall on Monday. The loss in every instance was negligible.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 5 January 1927, page 10**

Grass Fire at St. Peters

At the rear of the premises of Plain-clothes Constable A. A. Semmens at 80 Harrow road, St. Peters, a quantity of dried grass caught alight. Damage was done to a high paling fence. Norwood Fire Brigade was called, but before its arrival Mr. Semmens with Messrs. J. Colligan, W. Plunkett, and Clarrie Northway had the fire under control.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 11 January 1927, page 8**

STABLES GUTTED

Fire at Newstead

Flames were seen issuing from the rear of the premises of Mr. W. G. Hagger, Magill road, Newstead, yesterday afternoon. It was found that the stable, coachhouse workshop, and motor garage were on fire. Norwood Fire Brigade attended and quelled the outbreak, but not

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

before the stable, coachhouse, and workshop had been gutted. The motor garage was also severely burned, and three windows of the house of a neighbor were destroyed by the heat. A quantity of tools and other property suffered destruction. Constable J. Pawling submitted a report to the City Coroner, who decided that an inquest was unnecessary. It is thought that the blaze began in some straw contained in packing cases which was ignited by the rays of the sun passing through the glass of the windows.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 11 January 1927, page 12***

#### BRIGADES KEPT BUSY

##### Low Water Pressure

Probably caused by the excessive heat, a number of small fires engaged the attention of the Adelaide and suburban fire brigades this morning. Although water pressure was poor, the brigades rendered fine work by their promptness, and were able to subdue all the outbreaks. At 10.30 o'clock Norwood Fire Brigade was called to 62 Frederick street, where grass had blazed. Little damage was done. Adelaide Fire Brigade turned out at 11 o'clock to South terrace, to the house occupied by Mr. J. T. Wainwright, where a fire was in progress. It had apparently started in some grass on a nearby vacant allotment, and had spread toward the dwelling. A fence and shadehouse were destroyed. Next call for the same brigade came from Botanic Park. Hackney road, where some jarrah posts were burned down by flames which emanated from a grass fire. Unley Brigade attended a blaze at 1.40 o'clock this afternoon at the premises of Mr. R. Whittle, grocer, of Goodwood road. Colonel Light Gardens. Portion of a fence was damaged, as well as a quantity of firewood. The origin of the blaze is thought to have been a grass fire.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 11 January 1927, page 7***

#### HANGING HEAD DOWN

##### Man Suspended by Leg

#### ELECTRIC SHOCKS

Cr. W. H. Noal, of Kensington and Norwood Council, who was an eye-witness when four employes of Adelaide Electric Supply Company, Limited, received electric shocks at Norwood on Sunday morning while working on high-tension poles, said that the men had a wonderful escape from death. The men were Messrs. Thomas Johnston, aged 45, of Clifton street, Malvern: Frederick Gregory, aged 39, of Queen street, Adelaide: Arthur Symons, aged 47, of Phyllis street, Holmesdale: and Clarence Skinner, aged 35, of Margaret street, Norwood. Cr. Noal said that he was sitting on the verandah of his home, which was only a few hundred yards from where the men were working, when his attention was attracted by the screams of men who were obviously in great pain. He rushed on to the road and was surprised to see a man lying across the electric light wires at the top of a pole. Smoke was issuing from his clothes and he appeared to be in agony. On looking farther up the road he saw another man in a similar predicament, and on a third post there were two men lying across the wires. One man was in a most dangerous plight as he had evidently fallen when he received the electric shock, and only the fact that his foot had become entangled in two wires prevented him from falling to the ground. When Mr. Noal saw the unfortunate workman he was hanging head downward suspended by a leg. No time was lost by Mr. Noal in summoning assistance, and in a short while the ambulance and the Norwood Fire Brigade were on the scene. From the time the accident occurred until the last man was rescued Mr. Noal estimates that a period of between 20 and 25 minutes elapsed. During that time the men were suffering acutely. Their

clothes were alight throughout the period that they were in the air. Norwood Fire Brigade rescued the men by means of a long ladder and a rope which was passed round the body of each man, who was then eased to the ground. Every assistance was given by local residents, who held sheets and blankets at the bottom of the poles to break the fall of the men should they drop to the ground.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 12 January 1927, page 11**

SMALL FIRES.

At 9.54 a small grass fire was attended by the Norwood Fire Brigade at the residence of Mr. S. Stonemonth, Rosslyn Park.

**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

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

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), Thursday 17 February 1927, page 14**

GRASS FIRES.

Three calls were received by the Norwood Fire Brigade to grass fires on Tuesday. About 9 a.m. a call was received from the Lambert-road alarm to Second-avenue, Joslin, where a quantity of grass and fencing was burned. In the afternoon a telephone call was received to Magill-road, Newstead, where a paling fence and a quantity of grass were burned on the property of Mr. Richard Terrell. At 4.20 the brigade was called to a grass fire on the property of Mr. C. M. Heuzenroeder, at Northumberland-street, Eastpool. Slight damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 February 1927, page 1**

Grass Fire at Glynde

At 2 o'clock this afternoon, a grass fire occurred in a small unoccupied orangery at Glynde road. Norwood Fire Brigade was called and quelled the flames before any damage was done.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 18 February 1927, page 15**

SMALL GRASS FIRE.

A small grass fire started in an orchard near the Glynde-road, Glynde, at 2 p.m. on Thursday. The Norwood Fire Brigade was called and the fire was soon got under control.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 18 February 1927, page 9**

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

Several Small Outbreaks.

The Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades had a busy time on Thursday answering calls in different parts of the city and suburbs. At 10.41 a.m. the head station attended a blaze at a rubbish tip at Devitt avenue, Firlie. A good save was effected, for several houses were in danger.

At 1.54 the Norwood Brigade turned out to a grass fire at Glynde road, Tranmere, on the property of Mr. J. E. Searcy, of Verco Buildings. The same brigade had in the morning extinguished a fire at Gurr's road, Kensington, on property occupied by Mr. A. Sandford, provision merchant. Little damage was done. A city reel was called out a few minutes before 1 a.m. on Thursday to Nottingham avenue, Richmond. A motor lorry owned by Mr. B. McKee, of Hampstead place, off Carrington street, city, was in flames. It is believed that a defective carburetter was the cause of the trouble. The vehicle was considerably damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 2 March 1927, page 1**

Grass Fire at Tranmere

Shortly before noon today Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone to a grass fire on a vacant allotment in Birkenshaw avenue, Tranmere. The flames were quickly extinguished. A small wood and iron shed on an adjacent property was slightly damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 2 March 1927, page 1**

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## EARLY MORNING BLAZE

### Shop Destroyed at Stepney

At 4.30 o'clock this morning Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a shop on Magill road, Stepney, occupied by Mr. S. W. B. March, general storekeeper. The flames had a good hold on the store building when the brigade arrived, and despite the efforts of the latter much damage was done. Part of the shop fittings and contents were destroyed and most of the remainder was damaged by smoke. The shop was owned jointly by Miss A. N. Macaul and Mrs. E. J. Gifford, of 26 Frederick street, Maylands. It is understood that the building was insured.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 3 March 1927, page 10**

## CASUALTIES.

### FIRE IN A SHOP.

At 4.34 a.m. on Wednesday the Norwood Fire Brigade responded to a call to the corner of Nelson street and Magill road, Stepney, where they found that premises occupied by Mr. S. W. B. March, in his business as a general storekeeper, had caught fire. The flames then had a good hold upon the building, but the prompt arrival of the brigade resulted in the fire soon being subdued. Part of the fittings and contents of the shop, however, was destroyed, and the remainder was damaged by smoke. The property, which is owned by Mrs. Alice May MacCaul and Mrs. Gilford, of 26 Frederick street, Maylands, also the contents, were insured. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

## STORE SHED DESTROYED.

On Wednesday, at 11.40 a.m., the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to Berkenshaw avenue, Tranmere, where it was found that a grass fire had broken out on a block, owned by Mr. J. R. Honan, whose home adjoins the property. The flames set alight to a wood-and-iron store shed in a corner of the grounds, and the structure was destroyed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 11 March 1927, page 15**

## TREES AND FENCING BURNED.

A large number of trees, spine grass, and 30 ft. of fencing at the rear of the residence of Mr. W. Menz, at Queen-street, Norwood, were destroyed by fire on Thursday afternoon.

## A GRASS FIRE.

At 1 p.m. on Thursday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a grass fire on a vacant allotment at the corner of Lomond-avenue and Magill-road, Magill. The firemen subdued the flames before much damage was done.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 6 April 1927, page 14**

## MOTOR LORRY ON FIRE.

A motor lorry, owned by Mr. J. Goldsworthy, of Magill-road, Norwood, was slightly damaged by fire at Parade, Norwood, shortly after 4 p.m. on Tuesday. The outbreak was caused by the electric wires, for lighting purposes on the lorry, fusing. The Norwood Fire Brigade put out the fire.



**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 23 April 1927, page 1**

Minor Outbreaks

Two minor outbreaks of fire were notified to Norwood Fire Brigade today. In each case the conflagration had been extinguished before any serious damage was done. At 3.5 o'clock the brigade was called to a house at Baliol street, College Park, occupied by Mr. G. F. Richardson. Fire had destroyed a small shed in the yard. The roof of a house in Ann street, Stepney, was damaged slightly by fire. The house was occupied by Mr. W. H. Bedwell, and was owned by Mrs. A. Sorrell, of James street, Stepney.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 May 1927, page 11**

A FIRE AT KENSINGTON OVAL.

Shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the Kensington Oval where a shed the property of the Burnside Council was on fire. The flames were quickly extinguished, but not before the shed and contents were considerably damaged. The contents of the shed belonged to the Norwood Methodist Tennis Club, and included two barrels of tar, which were destroyed. About 24 yards of fencing were also destroyed.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 11 August 1927, page 4**

ELECTRIC CABLE FUSES

Magill Cars Delayed

Through a tramway feeding cable fusing at Magill road, Corryton, shortly after 5 o'clock this morning, the first car to and from Magill was delayed a few minutes. No damage was done. When the cable fused a bright flame shot into the air, and the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned. On arrival the insulation was still burning. The tramway standard was scorched by the flame.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 30 September 1927, page 14**

Fire at Corryton

At 12.20 o'clock this afternoon Norwood Fire Brigade was called by telephone to the residence of Mrs. J. V. Bannon, of 18 Lincoln street, Corryton. A fire had been started by wood falling out of an open fireplace. The blaze was quickly extinguished. The house was of four rooms and a kitchen. One room was damaged by fire and the others by smoke. It is understood that the house was insured.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 October 1927, page 1**

Fire in Marryatville Shop

Flame from a gas jet ignited some spirits at the shop of Mr. B. Hall, picture framer, at the corner of Clapton and Kensington roads, Marryatville, today. Some woodwork in the shop caught alight and the walls were scorched before the fire was extinguished. From Marryatville Police Station, situated next door, Constable C. J. Thoroughgood ran his garden hose into the shop. With the assistance of several nearby workmen he was able to extinguish the flames before the arrival of Norwood Fire Brigade.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 21 October 1927, page 16**

## CLOTHING ON FIRE.

## A GIRL SEVERELY BURNED.

Yesterday afternoon a fire occurred in Mr. B. Hall's picture-frame making shop at Clapton-road, Marryatville. It was caused through a vessel of turpentine and beeswax boiling over, and the flames spread into the running mixture. When several brushes near by were ignited, Miss Mavis North (16), who has been employed at the shop for some time, pluckily seized them, threw them to the floor, and endeavored to extinguish the flames by treading on them. Her clothes caught fire, and she was badly burned about the hands and legs. She was taken to her home, which is also in Clapton-road, and attended by Dr. Brownell. The injuries sustained were painful, and Miss North will probably be confined to her bed for a fortnight. The shop is nearly opposite the Marryatville Police-station, and Constable Thorogood ran a line of hose across the road from his front garden tap, and had it playing on the flames when the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived. The brigade had been summoned by telephone from the corner of Kensington-road and Clapton road at 2.1 p.m. Assistance was rendered by a number of men engaged in the locality on tramway works. The shop is owned by Mr. R. Wilson, of Marryatville. Comparatively little damage was done, although fittings were destroyed and windows broken.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 16 November 1927, page 12**

## NORWOOD FIRES.

## Damage More Than £200.

The Norwood Fire Brigade spent a strenuous day on Tuesday, when four outbreaks of fire were controlled. Two of the fires destroyed valuable sheds and a ten-acre vacant paddock, and a small allotment were burnt. The brigade was summoned at about noon to Philips street, Kensington, where a fire had broken out and partly destroyed a shed containing a plant for tar boiling. The property, which is owned by Dunstan, Limited, tarpavers, suffered little damage. The outbreak was the result of tar boiling over. At 3.30 p.m. the brigade was called to Kensington road, Marryatville, where a fire, which had begun in a lane, was burning some sheds. The fire was soon extinguished. The damage is estimated at more than £200. One of the sheds owned by the Kensington Park Methodist Church contained tennis material, tables, and other valuable equipment belonging to the church. The contents were damaged to the extent of about £100. The other shed, which was owned by Mr. T. H. Webb, of Kensington road. Leabrook, also suffered £100 worth of damage. A joiner's sawshed, owned by Mr. Webb, was slightly damaged. It is thought that the fires were the result of children setting alight to grass in a lane adjoining. The brigade was also summoned to two grass fires. One of the outbreaks occurred at 1.48 p.m. in Jesse street, Kensington Gardens, in a small paddock. The fire was extinguished and no damage was done. At 2.44 on Tuesday afternoon, a fire broke out at Sprod avenue, Kensington Gardens in a ten-acre vacant paddock. The whole of the paddock was in flames, but no damage resulted.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 1**

## Grassfire at Tusmore

Norwood Fire Brigade was called to a grass fire on a vacant block of land at the corner of Portrush and Greenhill roads, Tusmore, this morning. Firemen quickly had the flames under control. It is believed that the outbreak was caused by a spark having escaped from a fire nearby, at which a gang of workmen was boiling a billy for lunch.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 15**

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

FIRE IN OPERATING BOX.

PICTURE SHOW INTERRUPTED.

Shortly after the picture show conducted by National Pictures, Limited, in the Norwood Town Hall last night had started a fire broke out in the operating room and destroyed four reels of film and put out of action one of two projecting machines. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned at 8.35 p.m., and the fire, the cause of which is not known, was soon put out with the aid of chemical extinguishers. The management sent to the Princess Theatre, Marryatville, which is also under their control, for films to provide a programme for the entertainment, which was resumed later.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 November 1927, page 14***

TWO SMALL GRASS FIRES.

The Unley Fire Brigade attended a small grass fire on a vacant allotment in Fisher-street at 10.33 a.m. yesterday. At 10.46 the Norwood Brigade went to a grass fire in Nyall-avenue, Kensington Gardens. No damage was done at either fire.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 16 November 1927, page 12***

NORWOOD FIRES.

Damage More Than £200.

The Norwood Fire Brigade spent a strenuous day on Tuesday, when four outbreaks of fire were controlled. Two of the fires destroyed valuable sheds and a ten-acre vacant paddock, and a small allotment were burnt.

The brigade was summoned at about noon to Philips street, Kensington, where a fire had broken out and partly destroyed a shed containing a plant for tar boiling. The property, which is owned by Dunstan, Limited, tarpavers, suffered little damage. The outbreak was the result of tar boiling over. At 3.30 p.m. the brigade was called to Kensington road, Marryatville, where a fire, which had begun in a lane, was burning some sheds. The fire was soon extinguished. The damage is estimated at more than £200. One of the sheds owned by the Kensington Park Methodist Church contained tennis material, tables, and other valuable equipment belonging to the church. The contents were damaged to the extent of about £100. The other shed, which was owned by Mr. T. H. Webb, of Kensington road. Leabrook, also suffered £100 worth of damage. A joiner's sawshed, owned by Mr. Webb, was slightly damaged. It is thought that the fires were the result of children setting alight to grass in a lane adjoining.

The brigade was also summoned to two grass fires. One of the outbreaks occurred at 1.48 p.m. in Jesse street, Kensington Gardens, in a small paddock. The fire was extinguished and no damage was done. At 2.44 on Tuesday afternoon, a fire broke out at Sprod avenue, Kensington Gardens in a ten-acre vacant paddock. The whole of the paddock was in flames, but no damage resulted.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 16 November 1927, page 15***

GRASS FIRES.

The Norwood Fire Brigade on Tuesday was called to two grass fires. One at 1.48 p.m. was in Jessie-street, Kensington Park, and the other at 2.44 p.m. in Monreith on a vacant allotment. The fires were extinguished before much damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 November 1927, page 1**

FIRE AT NORWOOD

£400 WORTH OF DAMAGE

Motor Bursts Into Flames

Damage estimated at £400 was caused by a fire which broke out in a shop on Kensington road, Norwood, this morning. The shop is one of a business block, and is occupied by Mr. W. H. Charles, boot-maker and repairer. It is part of a two-storied structure. Several rooms comprise the first floor. They are not in use. In the shop were leather, wooden lasts, machinery, and fittings, which were damaged by fire, heat, and smoke. The staircase leading to the first floor was badly burned. About 8 o'clock Mr. Charles opened the shop. A few minutes later he switched on a one-horsepower electric motor, which generated the power for his machines. Immediately the motor burst into flames and rapidly ignited the stairway under which it was placed. Mr. Charles communicated with Norwood Fire Brigade. The machinery, fittings, and stock were insured with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation.

**Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Tuesday 22 November 1927, page 1**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

£400 WORTH OF DAMAGE DONE.

ADELAIDE, Monday.

Damage estimated at £400 was caused by a fire in a shop on Kensington Road, Norwood, this morning. The shop is one of a business block occupied by Mr. W. H. Charles, boot-maker, and repairer. The fire was extinguished by the Norwood Fire Brigade. The machinery, fittings, and stock were insured with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation.

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

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRES AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned on Monday morning to Kensington-road, where a two-storey shop, occupied by Mr. W. H. Charles, a bootmaker, was burning. The blaze was under control in half an hour after the brigade's arrival, but the fittings and contents of the shop were severely damaged, and the other rooms affected by smoke. The fire was caused by a short circuit in an electric motor under the staircase. The premises were insured with the Ocean and Accident Guarantee Corporation.

The Norwood Brigade received its second call shortly before mid-day, when a shed was found to be burning at the rear of a house occupied by Mr. D. Hirsch, at Angas-street, Kent Town. The shed, which was used as a workroom, was destroyed, and a kitchen was slightly damaged. The fire was caused by hot ashes being thrown on to some inflammable material in the yard. The house is the property of Mr. J. Christie, of High-street, Burnside.

**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.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 1 December 1927, page 19***

**SHEDS BURNT AT NORWOOD.**

At 9.23 a.m. on Wednesday the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to Olive-road, St. Peters, where a shed on premises occupied by Mrs. Phillips, and another at the rear of Mr. Budella's house in Battam's-road, were alight. Both sheds, which were used as storerooms, were partly damaged, and a paling fence separating the structures was burnt.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 1 December 1927, page 15***

**CASUALTIES.**

**FIRE AT ST. PETERS.**

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call on Wednesday morning to Olive road. St. Peters, where two adjoining sheds, the property of Mrs. Phillips were on fire. One was used by a gasfitter, but the second was nearly empty. Both structures were burnt to the ground.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 1 December 1927, page 4***

**Grassfire at Kensington**

Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to a small grassfire on the property of Mr. T. McCormack, Magill road, North Kensington today. No damage was done.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 1 December 1927, page 15**

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR CYCLIST BURNT.

At the intersection of Osmond terrace and Beulah road, Norwood, near the police station, on Wednesday, a motor cycle, ridden by Mr. Robert Edward Francis, caught fire. The Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the flames. The machine was badly damaged, however, and Mr. Francis received severe burns on the legs and arms. He was treated by Mr. S. L. Shepherd, the chemist, and allowed to go home.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 14 December 1927, page 15**

A MOTOR CAR BURNT.

Soon after Dr. H. P. Brownell of the Parade, Norwood, had left his motor car in his garage on Tuesday afternoon, a maid noticed that it was on fire. The Norwood fire brigade, in response to a call by telephone, arrived, and with two chemical extinguishers and the use of the garden hose put out the fire. The motor car was severely damaged, the body work being totally destroyed. The petrol tank was not reached by the flames. As soon as it was possible, the brigade wheeled the motor car from the garage and prevented the fire spreading to this building.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1927, page 12**

Fire at Stepney

Shortly after 10.30 o'clock this morning Norwood Fire Brigade attended a fire at the residence of Mr. S. L. Hillier, 87 Nelson street, Stepney. The brigade quickly extinguished the blaze. Little damage was done to a washhouse and paling fence.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 20 December 1927, page 15**

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE AT KENT TOWN.

The Norwood Fire Brigade attended a fire at the home of Mr. S. L. Hillier, of Nelson-street, Stepney, yesterday morning. The washhouse and a paling fence were slightly damaged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 20 December 1927, page 16**

SUBURBAN WATER SUPPLY.

No Relief for Norwood. Complete Rehabilitation Required.

The Commissioner of Public Works stated on Monday, in effect, that the supply of water in Kensington and Norwood was the best that could be provided with the existing system. The only permanent solution was a rehabilitation scheme, "running into the second million," which was being prepared. The shortage at Mitcham could be more easily dealt with, and an attempt would be made to provide the necessary money this year.

A deputation representing the Kensington and Norwood Corporation was introduced to the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. M. McIntosh) by the Hon. F. W. Coneybeer, M.P., on Monday morning. The latter stated that he knew the difficulties the Government were facing,

but the matter of the improvement of the water supply in Kensington and Norwood was extremely serious.

#### No Drinking Water.

The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. J. J. Woods) said the water shortage in the suburbs mentioned was particularly acute. Not only could people not flush cisterns, but there were hundreds of instances where they could not even get drinking water. About 12 months ago he had accompanied a deputation to the then Commissioner of Public Works from cordial manufacturers in Norwood who had stated that if there was not an improvement they would have to close down and throw a number of men out of employment. That was a serious matter, but represented only a small portion of the difficulty. Pressure readings had been taken regularly at the Norwood fire station, and had been as low as 8 lb. Norwood was the most thickly populated area in South Australia, according to official statistics, and in such area shortage of water invariably led to trouble. There had been reported 230 cases where people had not had a drop of water all day, and been obliged to borrow from people who had tanks. The suggested increase of rates would be a wicked thing in view of the wretched service that residents of Norwood were getting at present. The first call on the Government was for water for drinking and sewerage purposes. Twelve months ago they were in just the same plight as they were now. He would not be so bold as to say that there had been no attempt at improvement, but on the last occasion when the deputation waited on the Minister, the Hydraulic Engineer had been told that something must be done at once, and the people immediately got a good pressure. The Commissioner — We are using to-day as full a pressure as ever has been used. Mr. Woods— But the pressure at the fire brigade-station was only 8 lb., and within twelve hours it rose to 45 lb. last year. The Commissioner— Everything that has ever been done is being done now, and as much more as possible. That is an actual fact.

#### Extreme Cases Due to Local Defects.

The Town Clerk (Mr. E. O. Gooden) gave a list which he had received from the health inspector, of the more serious cases. In Kensington the worst served areas were Bishop's-place, Regent-street, and High-street, and in Norwood Queen and George streets. In the Town Hall on a hot night there was no water whatever in the fire hoses in the main hall on the upper floor. There were chemical extinguishers, but these would not cope with a bad fire. At the Norwood Public School it was impossible for the children — who numbered about 2,000— to get a drink during recess. In Regent-street a man had to borrow a bucket of water from a neighbor whenever he wanted to flush his cistern. The Commissioner — Extreme cases are probably due to local faults in that particular system. Mr. Gooden—That is probably so in some cases, but the complaints are too general for that to be the full explanation. The Commissioner—I think it would be better if we did not quote extreme and isolated cases. No system in the world could supply 100 per cent service at peak periods. Mr. Woods—We would be content with 50 per cent.

#### Immediate Relief Impossible.

In reply the Minister referred to the statement of Mr. Woods that the position was no better than last year. He could assure him that during the summer local improvements had been made by the extension of the high level zones. So far as the district generally was concerned, it was impossible to promise immediate relief. The sensational recovery last year had been due in part to a cool change coinciding with the deputation, and lessening the demand for water, and partly to the boosting of the mains. He could not promise that the mains would be further boosted, as they had been taxed to their fullest capacity before the pre-sent deputation was even heard of. The only permanent solution of the trouble was to bring into the district a

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

new trunk main. This proposal had been investigated by the department, and a good deal of work done had been done with this object in view. It would involve the construction of a new reservoir at the foothills for which eight sites had been examined. He was looking forward to receiving a report from the Hydraulic Engineer (Mr. H. E. Bellamy) on a proposal for the permanent improvement of the supply. That proposal would in turn have to be referred to the Public Works Committee.

#### Lack of Foresight

Mr. Woods, the Minister remarked, had said that it was the duty of the Government to provide water for drinking purposes when it was required, and also suggested that as the supply was there it was not a great problem to supply enough for domestic purposes. He did not think that the question need be looked at from the point of view of people not having enough to drink. If there were such cases it was due to lack of foresight, as sufficient water could easily be collected in any sort of receptacle to tide householders over a thirsty period. He had not heard of the school children being without drinking water, and as Minister of Education and Commissioner of Public Works he might reasonably expect to be the first to hear any complaints from either teachers or scholars. Fire and sewerage were two great difficulties. Other cities found it necessary to deal with the difficulty by curtailing the water for gardening purposes. He did not want to do that, but the desire to beautify their homes — with which he was quite sympathetic— certainly created a demand for water which was not anticipated by the original designers of the existing water supply scheme. The scheme had, as a matter of fact, been subjected to severe criticism at the time it was installed on account of the size of the mains. Mr. Coneybeer— Hundreds of gardens have completely "gone to the pack" on account of lack of water. The people have not been using water for gardens. The Commissioner — In many cities the watering of gardens has been absolutely forbidden at peak periods. The gardens in Adelaide that have gone out for lack of water are extremely few.

#### People Must Shoulder Responsibility.

Every other public utility was in the same position. Nothing conceived by man could stand up to 100 per cent. efficiency at peak periods. He was aware of the fact that there was room for improvement, and hoped that it would be made. It was not merely a question of boosting the mains. The conditions would be the same as they were at present until the people were prepared to shoulder the responsibility for a rehabilitation scheme, costing not a few hundreds, but running into the second million. Mr. Woods— The people would do that. The Commissioner said complaints were not confined to the metropolitan area. Mr. Woods had said that the people of Norwood would be satisfied with a 50 per cent. service. He was quite sure that taking the periods of shortage with the periods of plenty they had more than 50 per cent. throughout the year. The Government had no resources up their sleeve, and the position could not be improved by merely waving a magic wand. The department was alive to the difficulty, which was not a local one, or even confined to South Australia, but was common to every water scheme he had ever heard of. Other authorities were taking steps to limit the demand instead of increasing the supply. The Government did not want to do that, but if people all drew water from the mains at the same time it was impossible to maintain a supply. He hoped some scheme would be evolved which would overcome the difficulty.

***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.

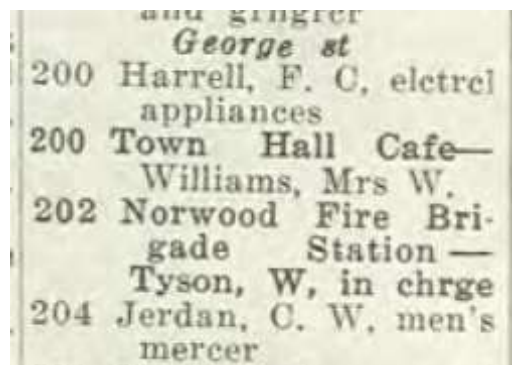
**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 31 December 1927, page 10**

#### A SMALL FIRE AT PAYNEHAM.

At 9.50 a.m. on Friday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the house of Mrs. L. O. Brauer, Harcourt-road, Payneham. A small fire had occurred in a back verandah, where washing operations were being carried out. Neighbors had extinguished the flames, however, with a hose. A safe and brooms were destroyed and the timbers of the verandah were damaged. The damage was not extensive.

1928

From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1928 giving the location of the Fire Reel Station on the Parade, South side, on the Eastern side of the old Town Hall in a brick building.



**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 3 January 1928, page 1**

#### CHILD STARTS FIRE

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

### Played With Matches

A child playing with matches caused a grass fire on a vacant block of land at Arthur street, Payneham, this morning. The flames traversed the block, and burning a hedge, entered the property of Mr. F. W. Gilbert (curator of Payneham Cemetery), in Keen street. Neighbors and workmen from the cemetery checked the fire, which was extinguished by Norwood Fire Brigade. Fruit trees on the property of Mr. Gilbert were badly scorched. No other damage was done.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 11 January 1928, page 2***

### TWO SUBURBAN FIRES

#### Slight Damage Done

Shortly before 8 o'clock this morning Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to a house in Victoria avenue, Rose Park, owned and occupied by Mr. A. R. Humphrey. A shed on the property was alight but the brigade soon quelled the outbreak. It was caused by flames spreading from a heap of rubbish that was being burned. The shed contained a quantity of tar, firewood, and timber, all of which was damaged by the flames. About half an hour later, before the brigade had returned to the station, a call was received from King's College, North Parade, Kensington Gardens. The firemen were informed and went there from Rose Park. About 60 ft. of paling fence was ablaze. A quantity of grass was being burned when a gust of wind carried the flames to the fence. The fence was badly charred, but no other damage was done.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 12 January 1928, page 13***

### TWO CALLS TO FIRES.

The Norwood Fire Brigade answered two calls on Wednesday morning. The first came from Victoria avenue, Rose Park, where a fire was burning on the premises owned and occupied by Mr. A. R. Humphrey. A wood and iron shed was well alight, and a dense volume of smoke was arising, caused by the burning of two drums of tar. The shed also contained firewood and timber. The brigade was successful in getting the fire under control, and while so doing it was summoned to King's College, at North Parade, Kensington Gardens, where 60 feet of paling fencing was destroyed. The Victoria avenue fire was caused by sparks from burning rubbish, and in the case of the King's College outbreak grass was being burned off when the wind forced the flames against the fence.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 February 1928, page 1***

### FIRE AT POTTERY

Flames from a kiln in the pottery of Messrs. A. J. and E. H. Koster, Avonmore avenue, North Norwood, caused a stack of wood and the roof of the pottery building to be burned this evening. At 5.57 p.m. Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from the Albermarle avenue, North Norwood, alarm. The brigade had the outbreak under control before serious damage was done.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 13 February 1928, page 8***

### CASUALTIES.

### A POTTERY FIRE.

A stack of wood and the roof of the pottery of Messrs. A. J. and E. H. Koster, of Avonmore avenue, North Norwood, took fire on Saturday evening, when flames escaped from an adjoining kiln. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended and controlled the blaze.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 17 February 1928, page 9**

#### EARLY MORNING BLAZE.

##### Shop Destroyed on Magill Road.

Three shops, owned by Mr. C. B. Weiss, of Moules road, Magill, and situated on the Magill road at Kensington Park north, were involved in a fire which broke out between 2 and 3 o'clock on Thursday morning. The fire originated in a drapery shop which was conducted by Mrs. L. Dick, of Edward street, Norwood, and the flames quickly secured a firm hold, and could be seen for miles around. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended, but found it impossible to save the drapery shop, which, with its contents, including a sewing machine, was completely gutted. They confined their energies to preventing the flames from spreading to the adjoining premises. A shop next door was occupied by Mrs. C. Bradford, who conducted a smallgoods and confectionery business. She occupied a six-roomed dwelling at the rear, and was asleep in the house with one child when the fire began. She was awakened by the smoke, and hastened outside. The front portion of the shop was burnt, and all the stock damaged. Alongside was the shop of Mr. A. S. C. Buik, bookseller and stationer, of Napier terrace, King's Park. At the rear of the shop is another five-roomed dwelling, which is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. M. Haynes and family. The two dwellings were not affected, but the occupants had begun to drag out their furniture to a place of safety. Heat caused the windows to break in the newsagency shop, and water damaged many books and papers. The verandah and roof was badly scorched. The building and contents were covered by insurance, and the damage is estimated at nearly £500. Constable W. T. A. Andrews, of Burnside, is preparing a re-port for the City Coroner.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 17 February 1928, page 10**

#### FIRE IN SHOPS ON MAGILL ROAD.



A fire broke out early on Thursday morning, in a shop on the Magill road, at Kensington Park North, and completely destroyed the building and its contents. Although the flames spread to

the two adjoining shops, causing considerable damage, the Norwood Fire Brigade effected a good save. Damage is estimated at £500.

**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 25 February 1928, page 52**

FIRE IN SHOPS ON MAGILL ROAD.

## FIRE IN SHOPS ON MAGILL ROAD.



A fire broke out early on Thursday, February 16, in a shop on the Magill road, at Kensington Park North, and completely destroyed the building and its contents. Although the flames spread to the two adjoining shops, causing considerable damage, the Norwood Fire Brigade effected a good save. Damage is estimated at £500.

A fire broke out early on Thursday, February 16, in a shop on the Magill road, at Kensington Park North, and completely destroyed the building and its contents. Although the flames spread to the two adjoining shops, causing considerable damage, the Norwood Fire Brigade effected a good save. Damage is estimated at £500.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 2 March 1928, page 1**

### Fire at Rose Park

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call this morning to the residence of Dr. H. B. James, Victoria avenue, Rose Park. Some rubbish which had been burned in the yard had spread to a heap of firewood, which was partly destroyed. No other damage was done.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 14 March 1928, page 11**

### A FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A fire broke out about 4.30 p.m. on Monday at the residence of Dr. K. S. Hetzel, Parade, Norwood, and a woodshed and hothouse were destroyed. The fire threatened the timber yard of Messrs. Cowell Bros. & Co., which adjoins the property. Employees of the firm checked the blaze with fire extinguishers until the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 11 April 1928, page 9**

### A FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the millinery shop of Mrs. Clarkson, of Parade, Norwood, at 5.5 a.m. on Tuesday. The outbreak was quickly extinguished. Slight damage was done to the contents, which were insured. The cause of the outbreak is not known.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 11 April 1928, page 8**

CASUALTIES.

MILLINERY SHOP BURNED.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to 156 Parade, Norwood, at 5.5 o'clock on Tuesday morning, to a fire at a milliner's shop, conducted by Mrs. Clarkson and owned by the Executer Trustee and Agency Company, Limited, of Grenfell street. The flames had reached the ceiling when the fire brigade arrived, and portion of the counter had been destroyed. A quantity of millinery was also burned, but the outbreak was controlled before much serious damage was done, and a timely save was effected. The shop and contents were insured.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 21 April 1928, page 19**

FIRE IN A SHOP.

While walking along Dulwich-avenue, Dulwich, on Friday night, a man noticed flames in a shop occupied by Mr. T. Matthews, hairdresser and tobacconist. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned, and on arrival saw flames issuing from under the counter in the front portion of the shop. The blaze was quickly extinguished. The counter and a quantity of stock, which was underneath it, were destroyed. Other stock on shelves was damaged by fire and water.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 June 1928, page 5**

NORWOOD OUTBREAK

Goods Valued at £250 Burned

Part of a general store on Wellington road, North Norwood, occupied by Mrs. G. M. Little, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Contents valued at approximately £250 were consumed. The cause is unknown. Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned shortly after 1 o'clock. Upon arrival the firemen found the whole of the shop ablaze. By strenuous effort they managed to protect a five-roomed dwelling at the rear. Furniture in the dining room was damaged by heat and water. The property belongs to Mr. Edward Fuge. Contents were insured with the Federal Mutual Fire Insurance Company, but the buildings were not covered.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 8 June 1928, page 11**

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

£250 Damage.

The general store of Mrs, G. M. Little, in Wellington road, North Norwood, was partly destroyed by fire early on Thursday morning, and goods valued at about £250 were burnt and damaged. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned shortly after 1 o'clock, by which time the fire had got a good hold, but the men were successful in preventing the blaze spreading to the dwelling at the rear of the shop, which is the property of Mr. Edward Fuge.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 8 June 1928, page 12**

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called at 1.5 a.m. to a fire in the store and dwelling occupied by Mrs. G. M. Little at 13 Wellington road, North Norwood, owned by Mr. E. Fuge, of 22 Avonmore avenue. The shop and contents were severely damaged by fire and the remainder of the building was damaged by smoke.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 26 June 1928, page 12***

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

Exception was taken at the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Town Council last night to the design of the new fire brigade station which, is to be erected on the Parade. Councillor Jolly said the council had approved of the plans and specifications, as these conformed to regulations, and nothing else could be done. But although the foundations had been started, it was not too late to protest against the front designs and the roofing; which were despicably common, and more like a country cottage than a public building worthy of the municipality. He suggested the town clerk should communicate with the Fire Brigades' Board with a view to having immediate alterations made. The mayor offered to wait on the board to see what action could be taken, and the council accepted the offer.

BUILDING TENDERS ADVERTISED IN THE REGISTER.

NORWOOD.—Erection of Fire Brigade Station, Friday, June 15. Bruce and Harral, architects.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 26 June 1928, page 11***

NEWS OF THE DAY.

NEW FIRE STATION AT NORWOOD.

Reference was made at the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Council last night to the fire station, to be erected on the Parade, Norwood. Cr. Jolly said it was unfortunate that the council could not take some action to induce the Fire Brigades Board to construct a more imposing structure than that proposed. The mayor (Mr. J. J. Woods) said the building was nothing better than a glorified stable. It was decided that the mayor and the town clerk should approach the board with a view to endeavouring to have alterations made to the plan.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 9 July 1928, page 17***

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called to the carpenter's shop of Mr. S. A. Swain, in Lomond-avenue, North Kensington, about 4.20 p.m. on Sunday. The brigade fought to prevent the flames igniting the shavings and timber stacked in the shop. The only damage was to two benches which were slightly burned.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 10 July 1928, page 16***

NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE STATION

Exception was taken recently to the design of the new fire brigade station which is being erected on the Norwood Parade and a deputation was appointed to see whether an alteration could well be made to provide a building more in keeping with the importance of the municipality. At the meeting of the Kensington and Norwood Town Council last night. the

Mayor (Mr. J. J. Woods) reported that with the town clerk he had waited on the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board and later inspected the new fire stations at Thebarton and Prospect. The Prospect station which was then being finished. was similar in all respects to the proposed Norwood structure. It had a very much better appearance than the plans indicated. Although not all that could be desired, he believed the members of the council would be satisfied with the building when it was completed.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 2 October 1928, page 13***

Norwood Fire Brigade Busy

Two calls were received by Norwood Fire Station early this morning. One, at 1.45 o'clock, was to the house of Mr. W. Page, 27 Adelaide street, Maylands. No cause can be found for the fire that occurred there, and severely damaged one room and the back verandah. At 4.24 another call was received to a shop and dwelling in Kent terrace, Norwood, tenanted by Mr. C. Sopp, greengrocer. Two rooms were damaged by the fire, which was caused by an electric iron being left switched on.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 3 October 1928, page 8***

CASUALTIES.

FIRES AT NORWOOD.

A call was received by the Norwood Fire Brigade from the Maylands fire alarm about 1.45 a.m. on Tuesday to a house in Adelaide street, Maylands. A fire, the cause of which was unknown, had broken out in a six-roomed dwelling, occupied and owned by Mr. W. Page. One room and a back verandah were damaged. The property was not insured. Another outbreak occurred in Kent terrace, Norwood, in a shop and dwelling occupied by Mr. C. Fopp, greengrocer, and owned by Mr. Woodlands, of Wirrabara. Owing to an electric iron having been left turned on, one room was severely and another slightly damaged.

FIRE IN A SHOP.

A fire, in which £40 damage was done, broke out in a shop at the corner of William and Kent streets, Norwood, about 4 a.m. on Tuesday. A news vendor on his way to the city saw smoke and sparks issuing from the beading of the roof and awoke the occupants. The occupier, Mr. Con Emil Fopp, a green-grocer, called the Norwood Brigade, which extinguished the flames. The fire was confined to the kitchen and contents, which together with the ceiling were destroyed. The contents of a storeroom were also damaged by water. It is understood that the outbreak was caused by a switch connected with an electric iron having been left on.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 18 October 1928, page 1***

Fire at East Adelaide

Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to an outbreak of fire in a workshop at the rear of a dwelling occupied by Mr. S. C. Foster, Walkerville road, East Adelaide, this morning. Mr. Foster conducts a brass finishing business, and it was in the office of those premise that the fire occurred. The cause is unknown. The office portion was damaged to the extent of £54. Constable Rose, of St. Peters, is pre-paring a report for the City Coroner.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 16 November 1928, page 19***

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to the home of Mr. L. Rosengarton, Wilson-street, Stepney, yesterday afternoon. A heap of rubbish was alight in the back yard, and flames had spread to a paling fence, which was partly destroyed.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 17 November 1928, page 7***

#### Boxthorn Burned

Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to extinguish a quantity of boxthorn which was ablaze on a vacant allotment in Ninth avenue, St. Peters, at 10.26 o'clock this morning. The weed had been cut and was piled in a large heap. The firemen beat out the flames. No damage was done to property.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 November 1928, page 1***

#### PETROL TANK BURSTS

Petrol which leaked from the tank of a motor cycle on Norwood parade, near Sydenham road, this morning, ignited, and in a few moments the machine was on fire. The tank exploded and the cycle was badly damaged. Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned, and the firemen quelled the flames with a chemical extinguisher. The cycle was the property of Mr. A. Hill, of Kensington Gardens.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 29 November 1928, page 22***

#### Fire at Stadium

Portion of the interior fittings of Norwood Boxing Stadium caught alight early this morning. Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned about 6.30 o'clock, and found that a row of chairs, part of a fence, and portion of the ring were on fire. Total damage is estimated at £6. Mr. Charles Bowers is the promoter of engagements at the Stadium. Training operations were conducted last night, persons having been on the premises until about 11 o'clock. Plainclothes Constable G. Volsen, of Norwood, furnished a report to the City Coroner, who deemed an inquest to be unnecessary.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 30 November 1928, page 14***

#### FIRE AT NORWOOD STADIUM.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the boxing stadium, at the corner of Cairns street and Parade, Norwood, at 6.45 a.m. on Thursday. It was found that the fence along Cairns street had caught fire, and that several chairs in the open-air stadium had been burnt. The damage was estimated at about £5.

***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.



**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 15 December 1928, page 3**

FIRE AT NORWOOD

Bulk Store Damaged

Norwood Fire Brigade effected a good save this afternoon, when a wood and iron building in a right of way called Little Young street, off Kent terrace, Kent Town, caught alight. The premises are owned by Mr. W. T. Flint, of Kent terrace, Kent Town. The building, which was used as a bulk store, was seen to be in flames about 4.50 o'clock. When the fire brigade arrived at the scene the front portion was almost completely destroyed. The brigade was handicapped, as there was no water plug nearby, and 600 ft. of hose had to be taken to Kent terrace. Damage to the front of the building was extensive, but the back part was only slightly damaged. It is believed that oil and tar were stored there.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 19 December 1928, page 19**

FIRES AT NORWOOD.

The Norwood Fire Brigade attended two fires on Tuesday. At 9.58 the firemen attended an outbreak in a shadehouse at the rear of a home in George-street, Stepney. No damage was done. Shortly after mid-day a grass fire on a Block of land in Gurr's-road, Kensington, was extinguished before any damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 December 1928, page 14**

FIRE AT MAGILL

About 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned to Sandford street, Magill, where a boxthorn hedge, some fencing posts, and grass were burned. The site is that of a disused pottery.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 21 December 1928, page 11**

FIRES IN NORWOOD DISTRICT.

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called to Kooringa Flats, Kooringa-avenue Kensington Park North, at 1.18 on Wednesday afternoon, and found that a kitchen on the first floor had been damaged by an electric iron which had been left switched on. The iron burnt through the top of a dresser into a drawer. The flats are owned by Mr. H H. Hardy, of Anzac Highway, South Plympton, and the occupier of that in which the fire occurred is Mrs. M. Willis, who was out at the time.

About £35 damage was done before the brigade extinguished the fire. At 3 25 p.m. on Wednesday the Norwood Fire Brigade was called to the old pottery, Sandford-street Magill, where a fence and boxthorn hedge were alight. No damage was reported.

At 4.40 p.m. on Thursday the same brigade received a call to Coorara-avenue, South Payneham, where grass had caught alight from a rubbish heap which was being burnt. Several women helped to beat out the flames. Mrs. P. Manning received a nasty cut over her left ear through being struck by a piece of barbed wire, which was caught in a wet bag wielded by a neighbor.

1929

From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1928 giving the location of the Fire Reel Station on the Parade, North side, almost on the corner of Kensington Terrace (Portrush Road).



**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 January 1929, page 14**

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

While Mr. F. B. Fitzner was working at his car at his home, Swaine-avenue, Rose Park, yesterday afternoon, the engine burst into flames as the result of it backfiring. The Norwood Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene, and extinguished the blaze before any damage was done.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 2 January 1929, page 14**

FIRES IN SUBURBS.

At about 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon the Unley Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to Charles street, Forestville, where a fire had broken out in a back room of a house occupied by Mr. C. B. Griffiths. The fire had a good hold on the rear portion of the house when the brigade, in charge of Station Officer Luck, arrived, and it was well over an hour later before the blaze was extinguished. The room in which the fire broke out was badly damaged, and two front rooms were also damaged by the smoke and water.

Later in the afternoon the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to Swaine avenue. Rose Park, where a motor car, belonging to Mr. F. B. Fitner, had caught alight. The blaze was quickly extinguished. Mr. Fitner said that the fire was caused by the engine backfiring while he was cleaning it.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 14 January 1929, page 17**

GRASS FIRE AT KNOXVILLE.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a vacant allotment near Greenhill-road, Knoxville, on Saturday afternoon. A fire, which had started in some tall grass, was subdued before any damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 23 January 1929, page 1**

VILLA BURNED

FIRE AT ROSE PARK

## HOUSE PARTLY GUTTED

A seven-roomed boarding house at Rose Park was partly destroyed by fire this morning. Shortly after 11 o'clock a fire was noticed in a villa at 7 Hewitt avenue, Rose Park, occupied by Miss G. Reece as a boarding-house. The rear portion, comprising enclosures of wood and iron, was destroyed and much damage was done to the roof and other parts of the house. Miss Reece, with Miss Sylvia Lucas (domestic help), was in the front bedroom when she heard a noise. She went into the passage and found it filled with smoke, which appeared to come from the rear of the house. Miss Reece rushed into the house of a neighbor, who notified the fire brigade by telephone. Miss Lucas escaped from the building at the same time.

Appliances from Norwood and head stations soon arrived, and hoses were run out at the back and front of the burning house. Station Officer J. Koskie was in charge of operations. The flames were checked after most of the roof timbers had been partly burned and collapsed in some places, letting the galvanised iron down on to the ceiling timbers. Smoke and water damaged the walls and furniture in several rooms at the front of the house, but two others, including the sitting room, which contained a new player piano valued at £350, were little affected. When the flames were overcome several neighbors assisted to remove furniture. The house was owned by Mrs. A. Dow, of Farina, and was insured with the Southern Union General Insurance Company of Australia, Limited, for £800. The furniture, valued at £400, and insured for £300, was owned by Mrs. A. C. Reece, of 103 King William street, Kent Town (mother of Miss Reece). The player piano was also fully covered by insurance. Miss Reece said that shortly before the fire broke out she had the bathheater alight in the enclosed back verandah.



VILLA WHICH WAS PARTLY DESTROYED BY FIRE AT ROSE PARK TODAY  
The bathheater from which the fire is thought to have originated is situated between the fireman and the traffic constable in the right of the picture.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 January 1929, page 11**

SHEDS BURNT AT ST. PETERS.

About 4 a.m. on Sunday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to Fifth-avenue, East Adelaide, where two adjoining sheds owned by Messrs. V. C. Ryan and J. H. Hodge, were alight. The sheds and contents, valued at about £50, were destroyed. They were not insured.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 7 February 1929, page 10**

#### TWO GRASS FIRES.

The Unley and Norwood Fire Brigades attended two grass fires on Wednesday. The former brigade extinguished an outbreak on a vacant allotment on Sunnyside-road, Glen Osmond. The Norwood firemen were summoned to a fire at the yard at the rear of the house of Mrs. Stacey, at Walkerville-road, St. Peters. Fencing and grass were destroyed.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 February 1929, page 17**

#### TWO GRASSFIRES

##### Knoxville Residents Alarmed

A number of Knoxville residents became alarmed last night, when flames leaped from a vacant allotment in Allinga avenue. Long grass burned rapidly, but firemen from Norwood Fire Station kept the flames under control. Firebreaks were burned to keep the blaze from spreading to adjoining premises. About 11.15 o'clock this morning Norwood Brigade was called to quell a grass fire at the rear of an empty house in Chapel street, Norwood. No damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 12 February 1929, page 5**

#### NORWOOD FIRE BRIGADE

Norwood fire district consists of the municipalities of Kensington and Norwood and St. Peters, the district of Payneham, and the major portion of Burnside. Notwithstanding the large area and the great value of property contained in it, the local brigade, with its up-to-date appliances, is well qualified to deal effectively with any outbreak of fire. The premises and equipment are kept in good order, and the station is a credit to the local officers. Mr. J. J. Woods. In his report as Mayor of Kensington and Norwood for 1928, pays this tribute to the brigade. In pursuance of its general policy, the Fire Brigades Board purchased a block of land on Parade, Norwood, near Kensington terrace. The brigade has moved into new premises on that site. The amount payable by the council as its proportion of the cost of maintaining the brigade for 1928 was £96.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 13 February 1929, page 12**

#### Rubbish Burned

Norwood Fire Brigade was called at 2.16 o'clock this morning to quell an outbreak of fire in a yard at the rear of a joinery shop occupied by Carden and Bridges, at Magill road, Norwood. A quantity of rubbish was burned. The property is owned by Mr. T. W. Hill, of Renmark.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 15 February 1929, page 15**

#### A SPECTACULAR BLAZE, JOINERY FACTORY GUTTED.

OUTBREAK AT NORWOOD. DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £2,500.

The joinery factory of Mr. Frederick Charles Quarrell, at Cypress-street, Norwood, near the Robin Hood Hotel was gutted by fire on Thursday night. Flames issued from the premises to a height of about 60 feet.

The outbreak was first noticed about 9.30 by Mrs. Davids, whose yard ad-joins the western side of the factory. Her attention was drawn by sparks issuing from the north-western corner of the premises. Mrs. Davids then saw flames coming from the corner. She immediately turned her garden hose on a window, which broke, but the water from the hose was not sufficient to quell the blaze. Flames and smoke swept towards her home. A passer-by notified the Norwood Fire Brigade. Before the firemen arrived Messrs. George Gormley and G. Tredrea noticed the fire from their homes in Donegal-street, and ran to the scene. They smashed open the office, but could not find any water. The flames and smoke soon made them retreat to the roadway. Mr. Gormley said that if water had been handy they would probably have been able to check the fire. A gust of wind seemed to cause the flames to spread quickly over the factory. With Mr. Tredrea, he was successful in removing a motor lorry from the premises. When the brigade arrived the fire had a strong hold. Mr. Quarrell was at the seaside with his wife and family when the fire started. Shortly after 10 o'clock he was driving along the Norwood Parade, when his daughter drew his attention to flames in the direction of his factory. He hurried to his home, which adjoins his factory, and was astounded to see the premises ablaze. He went to the rear of the factory to release a pony owned by his son, but the animal had been previously taken out. Mr. Quarrell estimated the damage done to the factory at £2,500. He valued his electric machinery plant at £1,000. All the machinery was dam-aged beyond repair. The building, which was a wood and iron structure, was valued at £350, and the stock, which consisted of a large quantity of timber and window and door frames, at £600. The damage is partly covered by insurance. Mr. Quarrell said he and his two sons had been the only persons working on the premises of late.

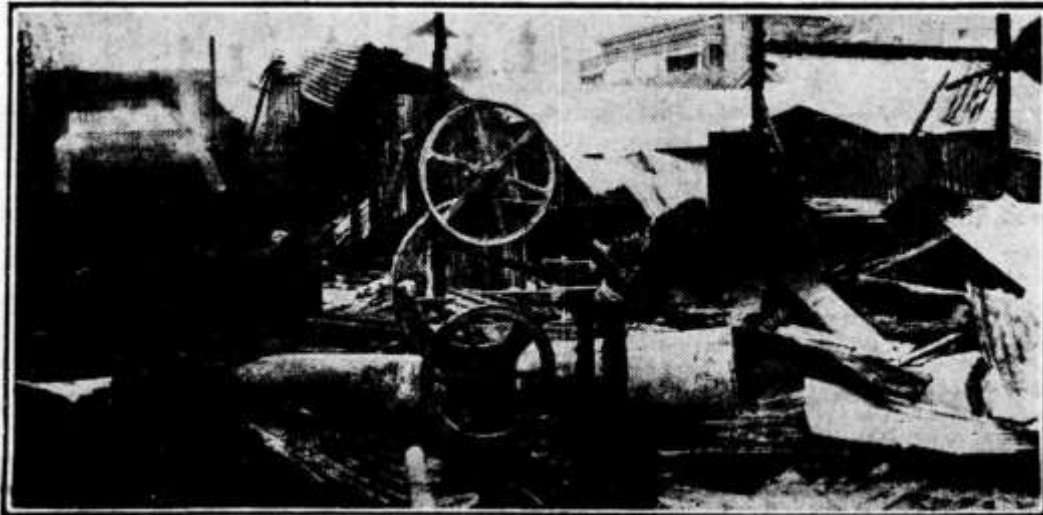
#### The Brigade Report.

The Norwood Fire Brigade received the call at 9.53. When they arrived at the scene flames were issuing from several parts of the premises to a height of about 60 ft. The water pressure at first was poor, but with the assistance of a pump from the head station the pressure was improved. Shortly after the firemen started work the roof fell in. Pieces of burning timber and iron from the roof were flung in all directions. Several firemen and civilians had narrow escapes from injury. A wash-house at the rear of the home of Mrs. Davids was destroyed, besides clothing which was in a number of tubs.

#### Electric Wires Snapped.

Several live electric wires were bro-ken during the fire, and they hung from a pole in front of the factory. Attracted by the flames and smoke which could be seen from the city and suburbs, over 5,000 people attended the outbreak. The police had a busy time in keeping people from standing near the electric poles in the vicinity until the arrival of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. breakdown service. When "The Advertiser" went to press large pieces of timber were smouldering and the firemen were still at work.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 15 February 1929, page 1***



#### JOINERY FACTORY AT NORWOOD AFTER FIRE LAST NIGHT

The building and its contents are owned by Mr. F. C. Quarrell. The loss is partly covered by insurance. (Article on Page 11.)

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 15 February 1929, page 2***

#### SPECTACULAR NIGHT FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH JOINERY WORKS

#### FIERCE BLAZE AT NORWOOD ENDANGERS ADJOINING HOUSES

Firemen Do Good Work Under Trying Circumstances and Prevent Spread of Flames

#### FALLING POWER WIRES CAUSE DANGER .

SEVERAL occupied residences were in imminent danger of destruction, when leaping flames destroyed the joinery works of Mr. F. C. Quarrell, at Norwood, late last night, but Adelaide and Norwood brigades made a fine save.

There were tense moments when falling electric power wires short-circuited in the water from the hoses and kept the firemen jumping. Total damage was in the vicinity of £1,400.

Beginning in mysterious fashion at the rear of the works, which are situated in a back street off Kensington terrace, the blaze swept upwards and through the one storied wood-and-iron structure, and made a clean sweep of the premises. Norwood Brigade received its first intimation shortly before 10 p.m.; but, by the time the appliance reached the scene, flames leaping high in the air signalled the doom of the structure.

#### FIREMEN'S EXCITING EXPERIENCES

Reinforcements arrived from Adelaide, and a concerted effort was made from three sides to check the spread of the conflagration to dwellings immediately adjoining and extending westwards along to Donnelly street. The glare from the blaze could be seen for miles, and attracted motorists from far and near, the crowd reaching proportions which necessitated regulation by Norwood police. At the height of the blaze, heavy wires carrying current to the power plant in the works fell to the ground as the upper front portion of the factory collapsed in a shower of sparks. Streams of water from the hard held hoses and the dripping sheets of galvanized iron formed ready avenues for lively short circuits, and it was only by the exercise of the greatest fortitude that the firemen were able to concentrate in their efforts, the current

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

kicking through them in extraordinary fashion. An Electric Light Company repair gang was quickly on the spot, however, and climbing the poles in the thick of the smoke, effected repairs with the aid of arc lamps from the roadway.

Danger to the nearby houses was averted after a short and strenuous battle, and relieved occupants began replacing possessions which had been hurried into the roadway at the height of the danger. By 11 p.m. the outbreak was well under control, but practically all that remained of the joinery works was a heap of blackened and twisted iron, a few charred uprights, and a small shed at one end from which a pony and a motor truck had been hurriedly removed before the flames reached them.

#### PREMISES WERE INSURED

The works were established by Mr. Quarrell and his two sons about five years ago, and were completely equipped with modern joinery plant and machinery. Insurance with the Palatine Company and the Chamber of Manufactures was for about £1,300; but Mr. Quarrell, the backyard of whose residence abutted on the works, said that would not completely cover his loss. Work recently had been slack, and he had been lately carrying on with only his sons to help. "I cannot understand how the fire occurred," he said. "I had been to Henley Beach with members of my family, and when I returned at about 10.30 I received a bad shock to see the place burning. "We use no fires of any kind in the works. Everything is done electrically, even the heating of the glue pot, and we did not use that to-day."

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 15 February 1929, page 1***

#### SHED ON FIRE

At 2.20 o'clock this afternoon Norwood Fire Brigade was called to the premises of Mrs. P. Brindsley, of Bolingbroke avenue, Toorak Gardens, where a shed at the rear of the house had caught fire. The shed and contents were slightly damaged.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 16***



MIDNIGHT PICTURE OF NORWOOD FIRE: Firemen photographed amid the ruins of the joinery works of Mr. F. C. Quarrell, at Kensington terrace, Norwood.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 19 March 1929, page 4***

### Hay Catches Fire

A large quantity of hay caught fire in an enclosure at the dairy of Mr. J. Buttery, Burnside road, Corryton, this morning. The flames burned the hay severerly, and also caused slight damage to several sheds. Norwood Fire Brigade quelled the outbreak. It is thought that the hay ignited spontaneously. Some of the lower portion of the stack had been in position for a long time.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 20 March 1929, page 11***

### COLLEGE PARK FIRE

#### Woman Saves Motor Car

Fire destroyed the greater portion of a large shed and motor garage at the rear of the house of Mrs. Louisa Bock, Belgrave terrace, College Park, this morning. The building was stocked with furniture, household goods, and wallpaper. The total damage is estimated by the owner at £250. Mrs. Bock was in bed at the time the outbreak occurred. She hurried outside and entering the blazing shed saved a valuable motor car from the flames. Her right forearm was painfully burned. Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned and extinguished the fire.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 17 May 1929, page 16***

### HOUSE AND CONTENTS DAMAGED

While clothes were being cleaned with petrol in a house owned by Mr. J. O'Donnell and occupied by him and Mr. T. Hitchcock in Maesbury-street, Kensington, on Thursday evening, the fumes came in contact with a naked light, and the explosion which resulted set the place on fire. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended, and extinguished the fire, but not before the house and contents were severely damaged.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 21 May 1929, page 1***

### LOSS OF YOUNG COUPLE

#### Furniture Destroyed by Fire

Furniture valued at £150, the property of a young man and his fiancée, whose wedding was to have taken place shortly, was destroyed by fire at Fourth avenue, Joslin, about 5 o'clock this morning. It was not insured. The fire occurred at a house owned by Brig.-Gen. R. L. Leane (Commissioner of Police) and occupied by Mr. H. C. Clark. The furniture was stored in a sleepout at the rear. It was the property of Miss Clark and her fiancée, who is in the country. The sleepout, contents, and the back verandah were totally destroyed. Mrs. D. Darwent, a neighbor, saw smoke and flames issuing from the rear of the house. She roused Mr. Clark, and Norwood Brigade was summoned. Constable J. Pawling, of Payneham, prepared a report for the City Coroner, who deemed an inquest unnecessary.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 8 July 1929, page 11***

### SMALL FIRE AT KNIGHTSBRIDGE

The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 3.23 a.m. on Saturday to two adjoining shops in Burnside-road, Knightsbridge, tenanted by Mr. S. Lange, hairdresser and tobacconist and Mr. C. W. Newman, bootmaker and repairer, and owned by Mr. J. Flaherty, of Woodville. A small fire was put out in the hairdresser's shop. The premises occupied by Mr. Newman were slightly damaged also.



**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 6 September 1929, page 5**

BEDDING BURNED

Child With Candle

Shortly after a child with a lighted candle had entered a bedroom at a home in Woods lane, off Church avenue, Norwood, last night, the bedding was found to be alight. Damage amounting to £6 was done. Mrs. S. M. Harris was in the kitchen at her home when her daughter, Margaret (aged four years) went into a bedroom to get her father's lunch bag. The child took a lighted candle into the room, but came out without it. Shortly afterward Mrs. Harris found smoke coming through the half-opened bedroom door. She rushed into the room and tried to put out the burning bedding by rolling it up. She also used a bucket of water. Norwood Fire Brigade arrived and extinguished the flames. It is thought that the candle in the hands of the child set the bedspread alight. Plainclothes Constable G. Volsen, of Norwood, prepared a report for Dr. Ramsay Smith (City Coroner), who deemed an inquest unnecessary.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 24 October 1929, page 1**

Fire in Cellar

Shortly after midday Norwood Fire Brigade was called to a house occupied by Mr. W. A. Harrison in Queen street, Norwood. Fire had broken out in the cellar, which with an adjoining room was slightly damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 December 1929, page 9**

FIRE IN GARAGE

Two Cars Destroyed

Explosions and crackling called attention to a garage at the residence of Mr. N. J. C. Harrison, of Grant avenue, Toorak, about 9.30 o'clock this morning. The garage, a wood-and-iron structure, was on fire. Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the flames, but not before two motor cars had been damaged extensively. Extent of the damage could not be gauged until an investigation had been made. The garage (30 ft. x 12 ft.) was valued at £100, and the flames wrought havoc with the woodwork. Mr. Harrison values the cars at £600. One is a sedan and the other a roadster. They were insured for £350. Recently about £50 was spent on the sedan in equipping it with new tyres and repainting it. The body and tyres of both vehicles were ruined completely. Miss Marjorie Harrison, elder daughter of Mr. Harrison, found that the shed was on fire when explosions caused her to investigate. Flames were then leaping through the roof of the structure. Mr. Harrison, who is employed in the chief mechanical engineer's office in South Australian Railways Department, returned home in response to a message to find the fire out. He could offer no explanation of what might have caused the outbreak. He was in the shed about 8 o'clock this morning, and saw nothing then to cause alarm. Constable O'Leary, of Dulwich, will submit a report on the fire to the City Coroner.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Monday 9 December 1929, page 2**

Police Arrest Payneham Dairyman on Charge of Arson

FIRE YESTERDAY £600

Empty House Burnt Down

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## MYSTERIOUS CAR

Following a fire at Payneham early yesterday morning, when an unoccupied five-roomed house in Hallett avenue, worth about £600, was burnt to the ground, Herbert John Cope, 54, dairyman, of Payneham, was arrested on a charge of arson. He is the father-in-law of the owner of the house. Mr. Owen Louis Streng, of Palmerston road, North Unley. Police suspicion was aroused by a report from a man living near the scene of the fire. He said that about 2 a.m. he heard a motor car drive up and stop outside the house. He looked out and saw no headlights. Later, he heard the car drive away. Soon afterwards flames were seen coming from the house. By the time the fire brigade was called, the house was too far gone to be saved. Only a few posts and sheets of iron remained. The house was insured.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 12 December 1929, page 19***

## GRASS FIRE AT STEPNEY

At 11.40 o'clock this morning Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the residence of Mrs. N. Donald, of Ann street, Stepney. On the arrival of the firemen it was found that a quantity of grass had caught alight in the backyard. The blaze was quickly extinguished. No damage was caused.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 18 December 1929, page 2***

## FOR TRIAL ON ARSON CHARGE

Man Alleged To Have Fired Son-In-Law's House

## ADMISSION, SAY POLICE

Herbert Joseph Cope, of Payneham, was committed for trial by the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, on a charge of having maliciously and wilfully set fire to a house in Hallett avenue, Peckham, belonging to Louis Strong, on December 8.

The Assistant Police Prosecutor (Mr. Walsh) said that on the night before the fire Cope was at his daughter's house. He left in his motor car at 1.30 a.m. A person living near the house at Peckham heard a motor car from where he was standing on his lawn. He saw a car without lights going along the road. Shortly afterwards a glare from the direction of the house appeared. The fire brigade was called, but it was too late to save the premises. It would be shown, he said, that there was a tin of tar in the kitchen of the house, which had been unoccupied for some time. In reply to police questioning, Mr. Walsh said, Cope had said that he left his son-in-law's place with his daughter about 1.30 a.m., went to the house, and burnt it.

## MENTALLY WEAK

Thomas John Barnett, land agent, of Prospect, said the house was bought by Cope, who sold it to Streng. Cope's only interest on December 8 was £100 payable a few years hence. Mr. C. T. Gun (for Cope)— Would you say Cope is a man of weak mentality and bad memory? — Yes. Hesitant in his actions and speech? — Yes. Do you know that he has a brother and sister in the Mental Hospital? — I believe so.

Louis Streng, son-in-law of Cope, said he agreed to buy the property from Cope on July 23. His father-in-law was experiencing financial difficulty. Frederick James Wilson, of Magill, said on the morning of December 8 he was on a stretcher on the front lawn of his house, in Hallett avenue, and saw a motor car with lights out travelling towards the house which was burned.

Detective Grow said that Cope told him he had set fire to the house. Later Cope made a statement, and was arrested. Cope was allowed bail of £200.

After fighting a grass fire in a paddock at Ascot Park yesterday afternoon, James Joseph Murphy, 50, of Austral terrace, Morphetville Park, collapsed and died. Death is thought to have been due to heart failure.

1930

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 4 February 1930, page 12**

#### FIRE AT ST. PETERS

##### Greengrocer Fights Flames

At 10.47 o'clock this morning Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the dwelling of Mrs. Toombs, of 4 Flora street, St. Peters. Until the arrival of the firemen a greengrocer who had noticed smoke issuing from the front of the premises had been fighting the flames. Mrs. Toombs, who is stated to be a widow, was not home at the time of the outbreak. It is believed that an electric iron in which the current had been turned on was responsible for the blaze, which was extinguished shortly before 11 o'clock. The fire damaged a couch, ironing board, and some articles of clothing in a front sitting room.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 6 February 1930, page 4**

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call this morning to a shed owned by Mr. P. A. Kelly, of Parade, Norwood. The blaze was quickly extinguished. Little damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 February 1930, page 1**

#### FIRE AT KENT TOWN

##### Factory Destroyed; Houses Damaged

##### ESTIMATED LOSS EXCEEDS £3,000

Fire destroyed the furniture factory of Mr. J. Morris, 35 Rundle street, Kent Town, about 5.30 o'clock this morning, and damaged the premises of Mr. H. Johns (next door) and other buildings in the vicinity. One spark destroyed a mattress more than 100 yards from the factory. Damage to the factory is estimated at £3,000. Portion of the loss is covered by insurance.

About four hours before the large fire a small outbreak in front of the premises destroyed a piano case in which Kensington and Norwood Corporation employees had been keeping tools for their work near the Norwood tramlines. Several residents are of opinion that the first fire, the origin of which is not known, threw out a spark which started the other. The factory, which covered a large area between Rundle and Little Rundle streets, was a mass of wreckage when viewed afterward. Charred wood and scorched iron and water-rusted machinery made a desolate picture.

It was evident that the building was doomed when the Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades arrived shortly after 5.40. The fire was extinguished at 6.18. Two pumps and four lines of hose were in use. Had the wind been blowing from a more westerly direction, a number of houses on the eastern side of the factory may have been destroyed, as there is much dry grass in the yards. Flames passed through the rear of the cycle shop of Mr. Johns (next door) and into his adjoining dwelling.

## LOSS OF FORMER FOOTBALLER

Mr. Johns, who is a former Norwood footballer, estimated the damage sustained at £200. The loss is covered by insurance. One of the first to observe the initial outbreak was Mr. A. McArthur, who lives a few doors away. "As soon as I noticed that the piano case was alight between 1 and 2 o'clock I rang the Fire Brigade. It is a mystery how it started. I got the tools out of the case." Miss T. Harrison, from a house on the other side of Rundle street, observed the second blaze—about 5.30—and reported it to her grandmother. "It was dreadful," said Mrs. D. King, who lives in King William street, more than 100 yards away. "My two boys were sleeping out when a spark blew over and set alight to a new mattress. Of course, it had to be one of my good ones! We used buckets of water to put out the flying sparks. One of the telegraph poles nearby looked like a lighted torch."

## FOWLS DISAPPEAR

"My heart was in my mouth because my insurance ran out about a year ago," remarked Mrs. M. Neate, of King William street, who lost several fowls, and had her back fence damaged. "I will always insure my property after this," she declared. Mr. P. Daly, who was sleeping in a flat at Little Rundle street owned by Mrs. J. Calder, of Kent terrace, Norwood, awakened to find flames coming through his window. "Someone called out, and I grabbed what I could of my belongings and took them outside," he said. Three charred and paneless windows testified to the truth of the words of Mr. Daly and of Mr. C. Girdler, who had been sleeping in the next room of the flat. Mr. A. Murrin, who was on the same property, escaped without loss, but the walls were damaged slightly. All three inmates of the flat would have fared much worse had the wind changed its venue a little.



FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE AT KENT TOWN THIS MORNING—The property belongs to Mr. J. Morris, 35 Rundle street. The blaze, which was fanned by a breeze, occurred about 5.30 o'clock. It also damaged the premises of Mr. H. Johns next door, and of other neighbors. Firemen are shown viewing the mass of charred wood, scorched iron, and water rusted machinery.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 11 February 1930, page 28***



**KENT TOWN FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE:** A general view of the burnt out factory, the property of Mr. J. Morris. The fire occurred about 5.30 a.m. yesterday. The damage is estimated at £1,000. Portion of the loss is covered by insurance. The fire had a firm hold when the Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades arrived shortly after 5.40, and two pumps and four lines of hose were used before the blaze was extinguished at 6.18.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 21 February 1930, page 14***

#### Fire at Linden Park

About 10 o'clock last night Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a shed off Greenhill road, Linden Park. While awaiting the arrival of firemen, Constable Andrews, of Burnside, endeavored to extinguish the blaze with buckets of water. The shed, which was destroyed, was owned by Warwick Brothers, builders, of Knoxville. Damage amounted to £44.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 21 February 1930, page 19***

#### PAYNEHAM FIRE

##### WIND ENDANGERS COTTAGES

A fire which broke out at 7.15 last night on the site of a former box factory in Lewis-street, Payneham, caused considerable alarm to neighbors. A large heap of old sawdust became alight and the sparks blew into a large paddock adjoining, setting the grass on fire. The strong wind sent the flames sweeping across the field toward some cottages and gardens. The arrival of the Norwood Fire Brigade prevented a serious fire. Later the Norwood brigade were relieved by firemen from the city brigade, who stood by during the night.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 25 March 1930, page 13***

#### Fire at Toorak.

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 9.55 o'clock this morning to a fire in a house at Kensington road, Toorak. The premises were locked, and it is understood that the occupants are away. The blaze, which was extinguished, caused slight damage to a kitchen at the rear of the dwelling.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 22 May 1930, page 17***

#### FIRE AT PAYNEHAM SHOP DESTROYED

##### Narrow Escape Of Occupants

Fire destroyed a grocery shop and contents and two rooms of an attached dwelling on the corner of Battams and Payneham roads, Payneham, early this morning. Mrs. Mary Lamond and her daughter, Miss M. Lamond, barely had time to escape from the house in their night

attire. With the exception of the kitchen fittings, all furniture was destroyed. It is believed that the outbreak was caused by an electric light wire fusing. Damage is said to exceed £1,000.

#### CEILING CAVES IN

Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned at 3.9 o'clock. Soon after its arrival the ceiling and roof of the building caved in, and damage was caused to several rooms. Firemen did good work to prevent the flames spreading to an adjoining house. The premises are owned by Mrs. A. Pilcher, of Light terrace, Southwark, and were occupied by Mrs. Lamond, who conducted a small goods and confectionery business. Miss K. Hambridge also occupies a furnished room in the dwelling, but she was not at home this morning. The fire originated in the front portion of the premises. Miss Lamond was awakened by what she thought was a cat scratching on the door, but to her alarm discovered the building in flames. She and her mother escaped in their night attire, and shortly afterward the roof of the building collapsed.

#### PREMISES INSURED

The shop was fully stocked, but the value of its contents is not known. The premises were valued at £1,400, and were insured. Stock and furniture was also insured. Mrs. Lamond had been in business about five years.

Led by Station Officer W. Tyson, Norwood firemen worked hard to quell the outbreak. It was 5.35 o'clock before the brigade was able to return to its station. Although the flames did not extend to the room occupied by Miss. Hambridge, all the furniture was damaged by heat and water. This afternoon portion of the building was still smouldering, but there was no danger of a further outbreak.

#### ***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 December 1930, page 5***

##### Fire in Kitchen

A curtain and window blind were destroyed and walls and woodwork discolored by a fire in the kitchen of Mrs. A. W. Pittman, Alexandra avenue, Rose Park. Norwood Fire Brigade quickly extinguished the blaze, which is believed to have started through the blind and curtain having been blown against a hot clothes iron on a table. Constable O'Leary, of Dulwich, prepared a report for Mr. F. C. Siekmann (Acting City Coroner) who deemed an inquest unnecessary.

#### ***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Monday 8 December 1930, page 3***

##### BABY NEARLY SUFFOCATED

##### Alone; Fire In House

##### NEIGHBOURS BREAK IN

A FOUR year old boy, left alone in a house at St. Peters on Saturday night was nearly suffocated when clothes hanging in the hall caught fire. Neighbours smashed into the place with an axe and rescued him. The child was Raymond Downs. His father, Mr. Alfred George Downs, was on night duty for the Tramways Trust. Mrs. Downs and her mother spent the early part of the evening at the house, put the child to bed, and went out about 8.40 p.m. They did not return until nearly 11. They found the boy in the care of neighbours, who told them that about 9 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Button, of Battams street, were passing the house when they heard the child scream, and saw the flicker of flames in the hall.

##### DENSE SMOKE

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

Mr. Button knocked on the door, received no answer, and alarmed for the safety of the child, secured an axe and smashed a window. Dense volumes of smoke poured out. Mr. Stewart, another neighbour, climbed through the window and carried out the child, who was on the verge of collapse. He recovered soon afterwards. The Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the fire, which had not gone beyond the hall. St. Peters police are preparing a report for the coroner.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 29 December 1930, page 6**

#### SHED DESTROYED BY FIRE

At 12.25 p.m. yesterday, the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to the residence of Mr. T. G. Pettman in Stanley-street, Leabrook. They found that a shed was well alight. The brigade had the blaze under control before much damage had been done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 29 December 1930, page 6**

#### SUBURBAN FIRES

##### Garage and Shed Burned

A wood-and-iron garage was completely destroyed and a sedan motor car extensively damaged by fire this afternoon at the home of Mr. C. R. Bowker, Grand View grove, Toorak Gardens. No estimate can be formed of the damage. Norwood Fire Brigade was in attendance, and had the outbreak under control within a few minutes.

At the home of Mr. E. T. Pascoe, Victoria avenue, Rose Park, this afternoon, a shed and contents were burned. The shed was insured. The cause of the fire is unknown. Metropolitan Fire Brigade attended. No estimate of the damage has yet been made.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 30 December 1930, page 3**

##### Motor Garage Destroyed

A garage and motor car at the home of Mr. T. R. Bowker, Grand View avenue, Toorak Gardens, were destroyed by fire yesterday. The Norwood Fire Brigade was called, but there was little left of the building when the firemen arrived.

1931

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 1 January 1931, page 8**

#### ROOF BURNT AT NORWOOD

Believed to have been caused by heat from the chimney of a copper, a fire broke out in the roof of a house occupied by Mrs. E. L. Wardale, Beulah road, Norwood, yesterday morning. The Norwood Fire Brigade was called. Furniture was taken from the rooms, and the firemen, by removing several sheets of iron from the roof, extinguished the blaze. The roof and ceiling were considerably damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1931, page 6**

##### Grass Fire Extinguished

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 12.25 o'clock this afternoon to a grass fire on the Knox Estate, about six miles east of Adelaide. Although it was a large blaze no damage was

caused. The fire started near Kensington Park Golf Links. It burned much grass before it was extinguished about 2 o'clock.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 29 January 1931, page 13**

Norwood Fire Brigade received a call to a greengrocery and confectionery shop at 189 Parade, Norwood. Mr. A. L. Murrie, of Hardy's road, Torrensville is the occupier of the premises. The brigade quickly extinguished the outbreak, which destroyed a counter and damaged portion of the shop fittings and stocks. Damage is estimated at £20.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 30 January 1931, page 8**

Inquest On Norwood Fire

Following enquiries by Detective Nicholls and Plainclothes-Constable Volsen, an inquest into the fire at the shop of A. L. Murrie, fruiterer and confectioner, at Parade, Norwood, on Wednesday, will be held next Wednesday by Mr. F. C. Siekmann.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 3 February 1931, page 9**

FACTORY DESTROYED

FIRE AT NORWOOD STOCK ALSO BURNED

Damage Estimated at £800 Damage estimated at more than £800 was caused by fire this morning to the furniture workshops of Temby and Co., Magill road, Norwood, and adjoining premises. Firemen confined their efforts to surrounding dwellings when it was seen that it was impossible to save the factory. Horses were removed from stables next door when the blaze was at its height. Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from the Maid and Magpie alarm about 5 o'clock. When the brigade arrived the main building, which was of wood and iron, was burning fiercely. Flames rose to a height of more than 50 ft. Only charred remains were left at the premises of Mr. K. W. Temby (proprietor). A workshop measuring 63 ft. by 20 ft., and a storeroom 25 ft. by 12 ft., and their contents, consisting chiefly articles of furniture both finished and in various stages of preparation, were destroyed. Mr. Temby, who lives at Queen street, Knoxville, said that when he and his staff left the building about 5.30 o'clock last night everything was in order. He was notified shortly after 5 o'clock this morning, but when he arrived there was no possibility of saving the building.

PARTIALLY INSURED

He estimates the total damage to his property at about £700. The loss was partially covered by insurance. Mr Temby has been extremely unfortunate recently. A few weeks ago thieves entered his home and stole important documents. "Among the furniture destroyed," said Mr Temby "was a new suite, which a carrier had promised to call for yesterday afternoon. He failed to do so. The articles were to have been sent to Nhill, Victoria." One of the most fortunate neighbors was Mr T. Jones, who has stables on the western side of the factory. Immediately he saw the fire he released a number of horses. The blaze entered his property, but only about £5 in damage resulted. Mr. Jones attempted to quell the outbreak on his side of the workshops with a garden hose.

TOOLS AND PAINT LOST

"It has not left me a paintbrush," said Mr. R. J. Muirhead, whose shed at the rear, containing tools and paint, was destroyed. Turpentine and oil, he said, caused the blaze to burn more fiercely. He estimates his loss at nearly £40. It was not covered by insurance. He removed a



motor car and motor cycle from the shed before they were damaged. Mr. A. C. Palmer, who lost a shed and contents on the eastern side of the work-shops, sustained damage to the extent of nearly £50 Constable Volsen, of Norwood, is preparing a report.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 4 February 1931, page 2**

ARSON CHARGE, Fire at Norwood

SHOPOWNER COMMITTED

In the Coroner's Court, Adelaide, this morning, Mr. F. C. Siekmann conducted an enquiry into the circumstances of a fire in a shop tenanted by Alan Lindsay Murrie on Parade, Norwood, on Wednesday, January 28. After Murrie and his wife had declined to give evidence on the ground that it might incriminate them, the finding of the coroner was that Murrie "had feloniously, unlawfully, and wilfully set fire to the property." Murrie, who reserved his defence, was allowed bail on a surety of £25. He was committed for trial on a charge of arson. Mr. A. L. Pickering, of the Crown Law Department, appeared to assist the coroner and Mr. H. Martin represented Mr Murrie. Mr. K. R. Wyllie acted on behalf of the Royal Insurance Company, Limited Leslie Hilland Bruce Hudd, police photographer, stationed at Adelaide, produced several photographs showing views of the interior of the shop after the fire, and of a stump of candle stuck in a piece of card in the centre of a box. Constable Miller, of Norwood, said that while on patrol duty on January 28 he saw smoke coming from the shop about 3.10 o'clock in the morning. He called the Fire Brigade. After the fire had been extinguished witness searched the premises premises.

MATERIAL UNDER COUNTER

He found under the counter on the western side of the shop a cardboard box (produced). Nearby were three sheets of brown paper, which would prevent a light from the candle showing on the window Also on each side of the box were sheets of newspaper, strawberry punnets, and a smaller box. On a shelf immediately above were punnets, empty chocolate boxes, and several dusters. By Mr. Pickering—Witness passed the premises five or six times during the night William Tyson, station officer, of Nor-wood Fire Brigade, said that the fire which was confined to the eastern side of the shop, appeared to have been smouldering for some time. By Mr. Pickering—When water was played on to the seat of the fire it did not take effect immediately. There was something "peculiar" about the flame. If it had been merely wood and paper, he would have expected the water to take effect immediately. Oils, grease, or wax would for a minute or two militate against the effectiveness of the stream.

"IMPROVISED CANDLESTICK"

Detective Nicholls gave evidence of a conversation he had had with Murrie concerning his banking account. Questioned regarding the material under the counter Murrie had stated that he had left some papers there, but the strawberry punnets must have been placed there by his daughter. The piece of candle through the cardboard had been there for weeks, and was an "improvised candle stick." He could not explain how the candle had got in its present condition unless it was by accident. After having informed Murrie that he was not satisfied with his explanation concerning the candle, witness said that he cautioned Murrie that any further statements might be used in evidence. Witness had also interviewed Mrs. Edith Mary Murrie (wife) who denied any knowledge of the inflammable material behind the counter. "A good deal might have been explained by Mr. and Mrs. Murrie had they chosen to give evidence," said Mr. Siekmann, in summing up. "However, I am forced to conclude that the shop was deliberately set alight by Murrie."

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 4 February 1931, page 2**

FIRE AT NORWOOD

Furniture Factory And Sheds Destroyed.

A FURNITURE factory at Magill road, Norwood, and two adjoining premises were destroyed by fire, and other premises were damaged yesterday. The factory — a wood and iron building— owned by Messrs. Temby & Co.— was burning fiercely when the Norwood Brigade arrived about 5 a.m. Despite strenuous efforts by the firemen, a nearby paint shed owned by Mr. R. J. Muirhead, and containing turpentine and oils, was demolished. The damage— about £40— was not covered by insurance. Flames also entered the workshop of Mr. T. Jones, who managed to put them out with a garden hose before much damage was done. A shed and contents owned by Mr. A. C. Palmer on the eastern side of the factory, were destroyed. The loss was about £50. The whole of the furniture workshop and storeroom and furniture in all stages of construction were demolished. The proprietor. (Mr. K. W. Temby) estimates the damage at £700, which is partly covered by insurance.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 5 February 1931, page 34**

FACTORY DESTROYED

Horses Rescued From Stables

Fire yesterday morning destroyed the furniture factory of Messrs. Temby and Company, at Magill-road, Norwood. Three small adjoining premises were also burnt. The total damage is estimated at £800. When the Norwood Brigade arrived shortly after 5 a.m. the main building of wood and iron was burning fiercely. The brigade confined its attention to surrounding dwellings, but a paint shed owned by Mr. R. J. Muirhead caught alight and was quickly burnt to the ground. On the western side of Temby and Company's premises are the stables of Mr. T. Jones, and when they were threatened he released his horses. Later the stables caught fire, but the flames were extinguished before much damage was done. Mr. Jones attempted to save his workshop with a garden hose, and although the fire entered his building little damage resulted. Mr. Muirhead estimated his loss at £40, and Mr. A. C. Palmer, who lost a shed and contents on the eastern side of the factory, valued at £50. The furniture factory was only partly insured.

**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Thursday 12 February 1931, page 45**

ARSON ALLEGED

Shopkeeper Alleged To Have Set Fire To Premises

Alan Lindsay Murrie, shopkeeper, of Parade, Norwood, was committed for trial by the Coroner (Mr. F. C. Siekman) last week day on a charge of arson, in connection with a fire which destroyed a portion of a counter and fittings at his confectionery shop early on January 28. He was allowed bail in a surety of £25.

Constable R. C. L. Miller said that at 3.10 a.m. he saw smoke issuing from Murrie's shop and notified the fire brigade. Articles under the eastern counter were burning. He found a cardboard box under the western counter. There was a candle in the box, which was partly covered by three sheets of brown paper. For about three feet each side of the box there were pieces of newspaper, strawberry punnets, and another cardboard box. There were also empty boxes and paper and several dusters lying nearby.

## "SOMETHING PECULIAR"

William Tyson, station officer of the Norwood Fire Brigade, said he was of the opinion that the fire started above the floor. The premises would have been burnt out if the fire had not been discovered early. From his experience, there was something peculiar about the flames when he arrived. If the fire had been merely wood and paper he would have expected the water to take effect immediately, but it did not for several minutes. Oils and grease would cause the water not to take effect for several minutes, but he did not find any trace of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Murrie each declined to give evidence. Mr. Siekmann said that there was a good deal to be explained by Murrie and his wife if they desired to do so. The fire was surrounded by suspicious circumstances. "I am forced to find," he concluded, "that the fire was deliberately set alight by Murrie, as he was the last to leave the shop."

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 25 March 1931, page 7***

### FIRE AT SERVICE STATION

Norwood Fire Brigade was called at 7.18 o'clock this morning to a service station occupied by Mr. J. Turner at Glynde. Damage done to the structure, which was of wood and iron, was only slight, but that to contents was severe. Losses were covered by insurance.

***Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Thursday 26 March 1931, page 12***

### FIRE IN GARAGE

Believed to have begun from the fusing of an electric wire, fire broke out in a garage occupied by Mr. J. Turner on the Lower North-East-road, Payneham, yesterday morning. Mr. Turner noticed the flames when he opened the premises at 7 a.m. The Norwood brigade, under Chief-Officer Tyson, made a good save, but the premises, and a number of motor cars, were damaged. The building is owned by Mr. H. P. King, of Evandale, and is insured.

***Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Friday 15 May 1931, page 20***

### CRIMINAL SESSIONS

The Criminal Sittings were continued before Mr. Justice Angus Parsons and jurors, at the Supreme Court yesterday. The Crown Prosecutor (Mr. R. R. Chamberlain) prosecuted.

#### Fire at Norwood

Adam Lindsay Murrie (50) denied that at Parade, Norwood, on January 28 he had maliciously set fire to stock and fittings in a shop in such circumstances that if the shop had been thereby set fire to the offence would have amounted to a felony. Mr. Eric Millhouse appeared for the defence. Mr. Chamberlain said that the prosecution alleged that Murrie was the last person to leave the shop on January 27. At about 3 o'clock on the following morning Constable R. C. L. Miller saw smoke issuing from the shop. He summoned the fire brigade and the officers found a quantity of stuff burning under the eastern counter. The fire was quickly extinguished. It was discovered that under the western counter there was a cardboard box which contained a quantity of paper and portion of a candle. Some brown paper had been placed around the box in such a position that it would have acted as a screen to the flame if the box and its contents had become alight, and would to some extent at least have obscured the view of it to persons passing the window outside of the shop. Murrie had purchased the business some time ago, and had insured the stock and fittings for more than he paid for the business. The evidence was purely circumstantial, and after the jury had heard it and also the evidence for the

defence it would be their duty to say whether or not Murrie was guilty of the charge brought against him. Murrie told the court that after he had locked the door of the shop he was reminded that he had left some fruit behind, and he entered again to get it. He struck a match to enable him to see it. Earlier in the evening he went into the cellar to get a box of chocolates. He took the candle, for which some weeks ago he had improvised a holder out of the box produced in evidence. The paper cuttings were left in the box to catch the spurm and prevent it falling on his hands. He could not say how the box got into the position in which it was afterwards found. Murrie said he was not in financial difficulties. The business was paying, and he certainly would not have parted with it for the amount for which it was insured. The hearing was adjourned until this morning.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 15 May 1931, page 5**

Not Guilty

About 3.10 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, January 28. Constable R. C. L. Miller, of Norwood, was on patrol duty at Parade, Norwood, when he saw smoke issuing from under the roof of a shop occupied by Alan Lindsay Murrie (aged 50 years), shopkeeper, of Torrensville. Murrie today denied to Mr. Justice Angas Parsons and jurors in the Criminal Court a charge of having unlawfully and maliciously set fire to stock and fittings in the shop in such circumstances that if the shop had been set fire to the offence would have amounted to a felony. Defendant was found not guilty by jurors and acquitted. Mr. R. R. Chamberlain (Crown Prosecutor) conducted the case for the Crown. Mr. Eric Millhouse defended.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 December 1931, page 2**

Norwood Fire Brigade was called to a grassfire in a lane between Fifth and Sixth avenues, St. Peters, today. A motor car which had been left there caught alight, but apart from the tyres, which were burned, no damage was done. The motor is owned by Mr. J. March, of Port Pirie, who is on a holiday in Adelaide.

1932

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 16 January 1932, page 2**

Cars Burned at Norwood and Fullarton

Two cars were burned today. A baby motor car owned by Mr. George Bawden Turner, of 30 Pirie street, Kent Town, was damaged by fire at Norwood today. It was valued at £120. The blaze was subdued with a garden hose. Severe damage was done by fire this afternoon to a motor car and other articles in a garage at the home of Mr. K. E. Waugh, Fisher street, Fullarton. A perambulator, tent, and other articles in the garage were destroyed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 January 1932, page 9**

POOR WATER SUPPLY ROUSES NORWOOD

Council Dissatisfied With Minister's Statement

Kensington and Norwood Council is not satisfied with the statement of the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) that the poor water pressure available in the eastern suburbs is due to the fact that the pipes will not take a greater pressure. Ald. J. J. Woods, at a meeting of the council in the town hall last night, drew attention to the serious plight of the ratepayers of Kensington and Norwood with regard to the water service. He said he and the mayor (Mr. W. S. Hanson) visited the Commissioner of Public Works on December 23 to tell him of the town's serious position. The Minister had promised to see what could be done, and explained

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

that the pipes in the eastern suburbs were in such a poor condition that no better pressure could be applied. Mr. Woods said nothing had been done, and he had since learned that the average pressure was about 26 lb. to the square inch. However, in the winter, this rose to an average of about 43 lb. While it was said there was plenty of water at Millbrook, Happy Valley, and the other reservoirs, the eastern districts were getting about as much water as parts of the Sahara Desert.

#### "A State Of Menace"

Ald. Woods said that the conditions were a living scandal. Four years ago, when he was mayor, the same trouble had arisen. Several prominent manufacturers had threatened to leave the district. Mr. Bellamy, the then Hydraulic Engineer, had said the pipes would not stand the pressure. The Premier (Mr. Hill) had replied— "You've got to increase the pressure. I'd sooner have burst pipes than no water in them." The town, Ald. Woods said, was in a state of menace. The fire brigade could not put out a decent garbage fire. Business men in the town were seriously alarmed at suggestions of increased insurance rates by companies who considered that there was 25 per cent. more risk. He was prepared to go to the length of making the matter a political one. Kensington and Norwood ratepayers wanted an adequate water supply. It was time the council made the matter an all-important issue. He moved that the mayor and himself be appointed to investigate the matter. Ald. Buttery—Up to the hilt. Cr. Lengnick said that he had heard complaints that there was barely enough water to drink coming through the pipes. Ald. Thomas supported Ald. Woods on the ground that the bad supply of water would cause deterioration in the health of the town. He also would like an explanation from the Minister about the difference in the summer and winter pressures. It was decided to give the mayor and Ald. Woods power to act in the matter.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 27 January 1932, page 15***

#### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT MAYLANDS

##### Factory Burnt Down

##### HOUSE AND DAIRY

Believed to have started when an electric motor fused, a fire swept through the factory of R. Gray & Co., woodturners, of Frederick street, Maylands, soon after 9 p.m. yesterday, and destroyed the building (which was of wood and iron), plant and stock.

About 9 p.m. two youths saw a brilliant spark come from the south-eastern corner of the factory. They then saw woodwork nearby on fire. Before they could do anything to prevent them, the flames had a firm grip, and the youths informed Mrs. H. S. Mann, whose house adjoins the factory. She rang for the Norwood Fire Brigade. The firemen could do little to check the blaze, which had spread rapidly through the building. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was then called, and the combined forces concentrated on preventing the fire from spreading to neighboring houses.

##### Houses In Danger

Fencing at the rear of Mrs. Mann's premises took fire, and volunteers helped to remove furniture from the house to the roadway. Beyond the fencing no damage was done, but Mrs. G. Robinson, whose dairy is at the rear of the factory, was not so fortunate. A small shed was burnt down, and harness and poultry kept inside it destroyed. One of the dairy hands returned just in time to save three horses, which were tethered near the shed. Business at Gray's factory has been brisk for the past few weeks, and a large number of chairs were stored

inside. Mr. Gray and his family were away from their home during the evening, and did not return until late.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 1 February 1932, page 9**

FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser," February 1, 1882

NORWOOD'S Volunteer Fire Brigade, formed six months ago, has a plant consisting of a hand-reel, a full supply of piping, and all necessary paraphernalia for use at a fire. The reel station in Edward street, close to the Parade, was erected voluntarily by brigade members. Subscriptions received amount to £150. The nine firemen have as officers Messrs. J. A. Thomson (captain), T. S. Warman (lieu-tenant), and R. R. Kippist (second-lieutenant). The uniform of the brigade is red and blue.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 February 1932, page 1**

£1,000 Fire in Large Toorak Home

Bedrooms Guttled; Valuable Clothing Lost

Fire and smoke in a large house owned and occupied by Mrs. J. A. Breden, of Cudmore avenue, Toorak Gardens, last night caused damage estimated at £1,000. Several rooms and a large quantity of valuable clothing and other personal effects were destroyed. No one was at home when the fire started. It is believed to have been caused by the fusing of electric wires. Most of the loss is covered by insurance. Norwood Fire Brigade was called at 8.48. When the firemen arrived on the scene, in charge of Station Officer Tyson, flames were sweeping through the tiled roof. As the doors and windows were locked the firefighters had to force an entrance before they could attack the flames. They were reinforced by firemen from Adelaide, and in spite of the severe damage a good save was made, as the front rooms of the house and their contents were untouched. Falling tiles made the task of the firemen difficult. Two rear bedrooms were gutted, and damage was also done to the hall, laundry, and roof. Constable O'Leary, of Dulwich, has prepared a report for the coroner.

(Picture on Page 5)

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 February 1932, page 5**

All That Was Left of the Laundry



Believed to have been caused by electric wires fusing fire caused £1,000 damage to the house of Mrs. J. A. Breden, Toorak, last night. This is the laundry.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 August 1932, page 22***

#### £500 Fire At Olive Oil Factory

The Norwood Fire Brigade early yesterday morning prevented a blazing room igniting the olive oil factory of Mr. G. F. Cleland at Beaumont. Workmen arrived about 7 a.m., in time to find the warming shed on fire and two 250-gallon tanks of oil burning furiously. Huge wreaths of smoke ascended, and by the time the brigade arrived it seemed that the adjoining factory, which was insured for £5,000. would catch fire. It is believed that a spark from the fire box in the shed caused the wood to alight. The loss, estimated at £500, is covered by insurance.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 November 1932, page 10***

#### Sleep-out Burned at Kent Town

A sleepout adjoining the house of Mrs. E. O. Hughes, in Angas street, Kent Town, caught fire at noon today. The Norwood Fire Brigade quelled the fire before it had spread to the house. The contents of the sleepout were destroyed, and the sleepout was badly damaged.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 November 1932, page 1***

#### FIRE DESTROYS CHICKEN BROODER AT ST. PETERS

A chicken brooder was destroyed and a fowl house slightly damaged by a fire which broke out tonight on the property of Mrs. A. Lyon, of Eighth avenue, St. Peters. The Norwood Fire Brigade prevented the fire from spreading to other parts of the fowlhouse, and soon had the

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

blaze under control. It is believed that the lamp inside the brooder became overheated. Nobody was home at the time, but neighbor, noticing the flames, communicated with the fire brigade. The brooder contained a large number of eggs.

**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.

1933

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 20 February 1933, page 9**

House Destroyed By Fire At Payneham

Early yesterday morning a fire destroyed four rooms of a five-roomed dwelling in Mary street, Payneham, and their contents. Only one wall of the burned rooms was left standing. The house was occupied by Mr. F. Jones, and owned by Mrs. E. Smith, of Maxwell terrace, Dunleigh. The house and contents were insured. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call by telephone. The fire was burning fiercely when it arrived, and it was able to save only one room.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 5 April 1933, page 3**

BROADCASTING ROOM DAMAGED BY FIRE

Shortly before 9 o'clock last night Mr. R. G. Wainwright, of Hyde street, Tusmore Gardens, heard a crackling noise in the house of his next door neighbor, Mr. D. O'Leary. On investigation he found that a room used for wireless broadcasting was alight. After notifying the Norwood Fire Station Mr. Wainwright played a garden hose on the blaze until the arrival of the brigade. Mr. O'Leary, who is an amateur broadcaster, and his wife were absent from the



home. The wireless room was severely damaged, and a quantity of wireless material destroyed. Other rooms in the house were damaged by smoke.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 7 April 1933, page 21***

Factory Burnt In Norwood

A wood and iron cabinetmaker's factory, owned by Messrs. Wood & Davis, in Magill road, Norwood, near Osmond terrace, was burnt early this morning. Several hundreds of pounds damage was done to stock and machinery. The Norwood Fire Brigade managed to keep the flames from spreading to the nearby timber yard of Otto & Co., Ltd. While Mr. P. Farmer, who keeps a secondhand establishment nearby, was saving his three horses and trollies from a stable adjoining the burning building, his hands were badly burnt.

***Kadina and Wallaroo Times (SA : 1888 - 1954), Saturday 8 April 1933, page 2***

THE NORWOOD FIRE FAMILY ASSISTS BRIGADE TO SAVE HOME.

Adelaide, Friday.

Frightened by flames devouring the wood and iron furniture factory of Messrs J. E. Woods and C. B. Davis, at 124 Magill Road, Norwood, Mrs Frank Farmer and her two daughters, aged 21 and 14 years, who live next door, spent a worried two hours in the early morning darkness, today with Mr Farmer, who keeps a second-hand dealer's shop next to the ruined factory. They helped the Norwood fire brigade to prevent the flames from reaching their little wood and iron home.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 7 April 1933, page 7***

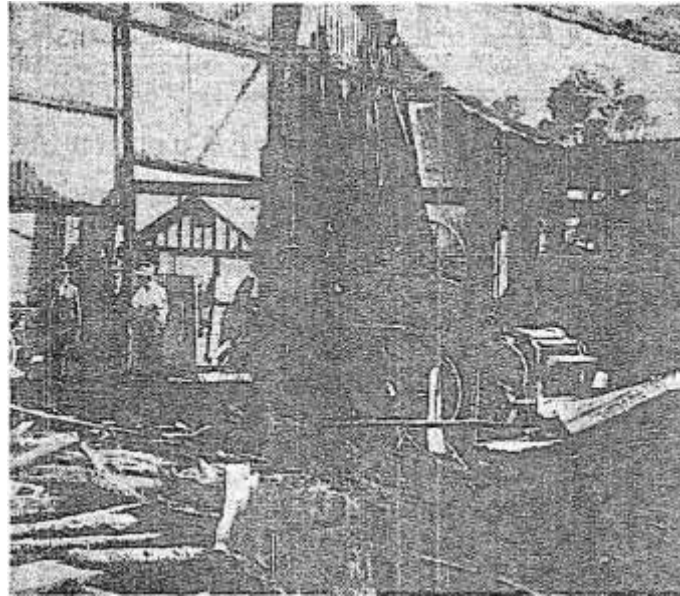
FRIGHTENED BY FLAMES

Women Help to Save Their Home Frightened by the flames devouring the wood and iron furniture factory of Messrs. J. E. Woods and C. B. Davis at 124 Magill road, Norwood. Mrs. Frank Farmer and her two daughters, aged 21 and 14, who live next door, spent a worried two hours in the early morning darkness today. With Mr. Farmer, who keeps a second hand dealer's shop next to the ruined factory, they helped the Norwood Fire Brigade to prevent the flames from reaching their little wood and iron home. "Timber and iron were crashing inside the factory, and we couldn't get near it for the heat." said Mrs. Farmer today. "We thought for a while that our place would be burned down, but the fire brigade and the calm night saved us." Nothing but charred timber and twisted sheets of galvanised iron and machinery remained of the factory today. No one knows how the fire began. It already had a strong hold when tramwaymen going home noticed it about 1 a.m. One of them awakened Mr. Farmer, who sounded the fire alarm across the road "The tramwaymen didn't know where the alarm was." said Mr. Farmer today. "They had to ride to the police station to notify the brigade. I think that all fire alarms should be lit with small red lights at night"

HORSES SAVED

Three horses in Mr. Farmer's stables were terrified by the flames. Mr. Farmer let them into his back garden for safety, and also pulled four trollies out of danger. His hands were badly blistered by the heat. The firemen poured hundreds of gallons of water on to the stacks of timber in the yard of G. B. Otto & Co., on the other Side of the factory, and so saved them. Messrs. Woods & Davis estimate the damage to their stock and plant, which were insured, at several hundred pounds. The factory building was owned by Mr. P. W. Lill, of Renmark. Constable W. L. Dohoney, of Norwood, is preparing the report for the coroner.

Skeleton of Norwood Factory



NOT MUCH WAS LEFT of Messrs. Wood & Davis' cabinetmaker's factory in Magill road, Norwood, after a fire early this morning. Stock and machinery was damaged.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 22 May 1933, page 5***

BOY GIVES FIRE ALARM

Smart work by the Norwood Fire Brigade shortly after 2 a.m. today prevented serious damage to a house owned and occupied by Mr M. S. Carman at Glynde road, Glynde. Jack Jury, a boy living next door, awoke to hear the crackling of flames, and gave the alarm. When the firemen arrived they found the premises locked, the owner having been away during the weekend. The fire was quickly put out. Damage was confined to the roof.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 17 June 1933, page 16***

Fire Long Distance From Nearest Plug

Soon after 12.30 a.m. today a fire started at the back of Mr. P. H. Egarr's carpentry workshop at Sixth avenue, St. Peters, and so far away is the nearest fire plug, that the building was half consumed before the Norwood brigade could attack the flames. Several hundreds of yards of hose was used. The value of the shop was estimated at £200.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 June 1933, page 2***

BOY LIGHTS FIRE AT REFORMATORY

A fire occurred at the Magill Reformatory late this afternoon. It is alleged that one of the boys obtained matches, and set alight to the blankets in his cell. Whether he hoped to burn his way out is not known, but apparently the position became too warm for him, for it is said that the first knowledge the authorities had of the outbreak was the anguished cries of "Fire!" Norwood Fire Brigade was called and extinguished the outbreak without any great damage being done.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 14 July 1933, page 23***

Fire Brigades Board Answers Complaint

The St. Peters Council recently wrote to the Fire Brigades Board asking for a report on a complaint that 25 minutes had elapsed between the time the Nor-wood Brigade had been called to a fire at Sixth avenue, St. Peters, and its arrival, also that the hoses leaked badly. At a meeting of the St. Peters Council last night a letter from the board, enclosing reports on the fire from the chief officer (J. E. Dickie) and the Nor-wood station officer (W. Tyson) was read. The chief officers pointed out that the alleged loss of time was exaggerated. The hose was in good order, but being of canvas there was a certain amount of "weep" until the material was saturated. The Norwood officer reported that the call came at 12.38 a.m., and that the brigade had turned out promptly. The council decided to accept the board's version.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 23 August 1933, page 16**

Fire Damages Sheds

Two adjoining sheds in Elizabeth street, Norwood, owned respectively by Mr. E. F. Edmonds and Mrs. Nils Svenson, were extensively damaged by a fire last night. The Norwood Fire Brigade, under Senior Fireman W. Mason, prevented the fire from spreading to nearby dwellings.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 27 November 1933, page 1**

GRASS FIRE STARTS AT KNOXVILLE

A grass fire, which started in the back yard of Mr. E. J. Harris' property at Le Strange street, Knoxville, today, destroyed about 12 ft. of paling fence. Three men from the Norwood Fire Brigade, including Station-Officer W. Tyson, were quickly on the scene and extinguished the flames.

1934

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 January 1934, page 1**

Mystery Man's Part in Fire

CORONER FINDS HIM RESPONSIBLE

Seen in Queer Circumstances

WITNESSES TELL How a man whose identity is unknown had been seen in mysterious circumstances shortly before a fire that occurred on premises at Hackney on December 25, was told at an inquest today. The City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn) found that this man, who was seen by three people, had deliberately lighted the fire, and that the occupants of the premises were not concerned in it. A police witness said that after the fire he had been informed of a deliberate attempt to set light to a hedge in Fourth avenue, St. Peters, but here again there was no adequate description of the man concerned. Mr. Blackburn said that he felt quite sure that the witnesses were not mistaken when they said that they clearly saw a man. Unfortunately they saw him apparently tending the fire with his back towards them, and assumed that all was in order. Constable Davis assisted the coroner, and Mr. K. R. Wyllie, fire adjuster, appeared for the New Zealand Insurance Co., Ltd., the insurers of the building.

Smell of Smoke

Traugott Theodor Marks, boardinghouse keeper, said that he went to church on Christmas night, and returned at 8.30 p.m. He had owned the property for 25 years. It was of two stories, with a basement and was built of stone and brick. On the east side was a sleepout, divided into four compartments. The first compartment was occupied by his son-in-law, Mr. Frank

Stompe, and his wife and two children. They were not in the house when he returned from church. Marks said that he and his wife had just retired for the night at 9 p.m. when there was a knock at the front door. He went to the door, and some visitors from Eudunda, who wished to arrange accommodation. They stayed about half an hour, and then left. He let them out of the front door. After they left he went to bed. Some time later the smell of smoke attracted his attention. He jumped out of bed and went to the front door. There were people there, and he found that the sleep-out was on fire. He had seen or heard nothing suspicious before then. Some body told him that the fire brigade would arrive at any moment. He went inside again, and saw a glow under the door leading to the sleep-out. He tried to open the door, but could not. When the fire was practically subdued the brigade men went inside, and later he saw the door open. Building Insured None of the furniture in the sleep-out was owned by him, said Mr. Marks. The building was insured for £750, and his own furniture was insured, but he had forgotten what amount. The policy had been in force all the time he had owned the premises. Harold Norman Sander, shop assistant, of Hampden, near Eudunda, said that he arrived at the Marks' place at 9.20 p.m. on December 25 with his brother and sister to get accommodation. They remained in the house for about three-quarters of an hour. They were about to leave again, and when about a quarter of the way to the gate saw what appeared to be a man burning rubbish. He thought at the time it was a garage. "At first I was doubtful whether a man was there, and walked back a little. It seemed funny for someone to be burning rubbish at that hour. When I was convinced that it was a man I turned back again and we went away." Sander said that the man appeared to be sitting or stooping, and was facing the flames. He thought the man wore a grey suit, and a hat, and was middle aged. Walter Clarence Sander, shop assistant, of Hampden, and Elva Bertha Post, clerk, of Eudunda, gave similar evidence. (Continued on Page 5.)

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 3 January 1934, page 5***

Mystery Fire (Continued from Page 1)

POLICE SEARCH FOR CLUES

Giving evidence at the Hackney fire inquest today, Constable C. W. T. Rigert, stationed at St. Peters, said that he made a thorough examination of the premises after the fire. He found no clue as to its origin. Constable McCormack, of St. Peters, said that since the fire had occurred he had received information of an apparent attempt to set fire deliberately to a hedge at Fourth avenue, St. Peters, at the end of November. He was unable to get a definite description of the man concerned. On the day following the fire at Hackney he made a thorough examination of buildings on the eastern side of the house and could find no evidence of rubbish having been burnt. Frank Stompe, agent, said that he had been living at the premises at Hackney, since 1913. On Christmas night with his wife and two children he visited friends at Norwood. Before leaving he locked the door of the inside front room. There was a double swing door leading to the sleepout. It could not be locked, and he usually tied a piece of rope round it if away for any length of time. He was not sure whether he did this on Christmas Day. The furniture and fittings in the rooms occupied by him were his own. They were not insured. Stompe said they left Norwood to return home at 11.15 p.m. When he arrived back he found the sleepout burned down. He was quite friendly with the neighbors, and knew of no one who bore him any ill-will.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 6 January 1934, page 11***

CAR SEVERELY DAMAGED IN GARAGE FIRE

A fire which broke out in the garage of Mr. J. H. Johnson, of Hyland terrace, Rosslyn Park, severely damaged a motor car and slightly damaged the garage to-night. Mr. Johnson had

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

placed his car in the garage after returning from a trip along the Gorge road, and was having tea when he noticed the blaze. When a Norwood fire engine with Station Officer W. Tyson and two men arrived the garage, a wood-and-iron building, was well alight, but the flames were extinguished within 15 minutes. It is believed that a short circuit in the car was responsible for the fire.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 15 January 1934, page 3***

#### FIRE DESTROYS SHED AT ROSTREVOR

A spark from a bath heater funnel is believed to have caused a fire which destroyed a thatched shed 30 ft. by 20 ft. at the home of Mrs. E. B. S. Miller, of the Morialta Kiosk, Morialta road, Rostrevor, yesterday. Damage was estimated at £30. The flames spread into an orchard and destroyed a dozen fruit trees. The Norwood Fire Brigade prevented the fire spreading to the house and other dwellings. Constable Nottage of Magill, submitted a report to the Assistant Coroner (Mr. Siekmann), who deemed an inquest unnecessary.

An inquest was also considered unnecessary on a fire which did several hundred pounds' worth of damage to the home of Mr. H. F. Walker, manager of Australian Wines Ltd., in Penfold road, Magill.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 16 January 1934, page 11***

#### Hedge On Fire At Norwood

The Norwood fire brigade received a call at 9.58 yesterday morning to a house in Boskenna avenue, Norwood, occupied by Mr. N. DeLaine, where a boxthorn hedge at the side of the house was burning. The fire was quickly extinguished. No damage was done.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17***

#### Busy Day For Norwood Fire Brigade

The Norwood Fire Brigade had a busy day yesterday, when three calls were received within three hours. At 10.43 a.m. the brigade was summoned by telephone to a fire at Wyatt's road, Burnside, in the property of Mr. B. L. Hayward, which is occupied by Mr. D. McNeil. It was reported that a spark from the washing copper had started a blaze in the laundry. The fire was quickly extinguished, and the two rooms were only slightly damaged. At 1.39 p.m. the brigade was called to a grass fire at Linden Park Gardens. The reel had only just returned when another telephone call summoned it to Montacute road, Newton Park. A paddock was burning fiercely when the brigade arrived, and some fence posts and telegraph posts were burned. Mr. C. F. Gray, a gardener, owns the paddock.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 26 January 1934, page 14***

#### No Inquest Into Norwood Fire

After receiving a report from Plain-clothes Constable Adams, of Norwood, on the fire at the S.A. Salvage Company's premises at Kent Town on Tues-day the coroner (Mr. Blackburn) decided that an inquest was unnecessary. The report said that the fire was caused by a spark, kindled when an assistant drew a piece of sandpaper from a shelf near the ceiling.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 15 February 1934, page 10***

#### Early Morning Fire

The Norwood fire brigade received a call early yesterday morning from Magill road, Stepney, where the confectionery and fruit shop of Mrs. E. S. Humphries was found to be alight. The shop and fittings were badly damaged. It is thought that the fire started under the counter. The shop is owned by Mr. C. P. Clifford, of Magill road, Magill.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 March 1934, page 1**

#### FIRE FOLLOWS STOVE EXPLOSION

After a kerosene stove had exploded in the kitchen of the home of Keeyas Lum, a Chinese, at First avenue, Joslin, this afternoon, flames shot up to the rafters and damaged the roof. The fire blackened the walls of the room before it was extinguished by the Norwood Fire Brigade.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 March 1934, page 1**

#### Fireman of 60 Hurt

With a badly gashed right arm tightly bandaged. Station Officer C. E. Tyson, the 60-year-old officer in charge of the Norwood Fire Brigade, showed great fortitude last night in fighting the fire at the factory of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society at Payneham last night. He refused to leave his post after he had been treated by a doctor, and fought on under difficulties with his fellow firemen. Nine stitches were inserted in his arm. It is believed that he was struck by falling glass or iron from the blazing roof. The mishap occurred in darkness, except for the light thrown on the firefighters by the flames. Station Officer Tyson said today that he did not know what hit him. "I heard some sort of a clatter, and felt myself knocked sideways," he said. "After a while I went to a chemist's shop, but the chemist was not there, and I saw a doctor, who treated the wound. I went back to the fire until midnight. The arm felt a little numb then, because the tight bandage was affecting the circulation of the blood."

The veteran has been unlucky recently. He was burned on the hand and chest during other fires this year. The manager of the factory (Mr. Tonkin) said today that it was impossible to estimate the exact damage, but it would be more than £1,000. The loss is covered by insurance. The blaze began in a woodyard nearby, and after destroying a large quantity of wood, swept into the factory next door.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 21 March 1934, page 4**

#### MOTOR CAR CATCHES FIRE

A motor car owned and driven by Mr. A. E. Overder, of Salisbury avenue, Trinity Gardens, caught fire about 1 a.m. today on the Magill road, Stepney. Mr Overder who is a tramway official, was returning home from work when the fire occurred. The Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 5 May 1934, page 19**

#### ELECTRIC IRON CAUSES FIRE

##### Contents Of Room In Norwood House Damaged

The contents of a room at a house on the Norwood Parade were severely damaged by fire last night, but the arrival of the Fire Brigade prevented the fire from spreading further. It is believed that the outbreak started when an electric iron became red hot and burnt through a table. There was nobody in the house when the brigade, which had been informed of the fire by a telephone call, arrived. Articles damaged included a wardrobe, sewing machine, sideboards, chairs, clothing.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 7 June 1934, page 6**

### FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

#### Occupants Absent

A fire that mysteriously broke out early today in a four-roomed house at Gorge road, Athelstone—the occupants of which were away on holidays—destroyed the building and contents in spite of a two-hour fight by firemen. The house is owned by Mr. J. F. Hockleys, gardener, who was absent at Milang on holiday. Nearby residents who were awakened by flames leaping from the house shortly after 1 a.m. called the Norwood Fire Brigade. The house, which was situated opposite the Athelstone Post Office, was insured. Enquiries are being made by the Campbelltown police, and a report will be submitted to the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 7 July 1934, page 1**

### MYSTERY FIRE

#### Outbreak At Payneham

#### OIL CLUES

A table centre which had been saturated with kerosene is an important clue to a mysterious fire which occurred at the home of Mr. R. Ey, in Taylor's avenue, Payneham, during his absence last night. It was found by the police after the outbreak, which caused damage estimated at £200. The loss was covered by insurance. Traces of kerosene were also discovered on a dinner wagon which was damaged by the flames, and there was a strong odor of it in the hall. A table cover was destroyed and a tea cosy was damaged. There is evidence of four separate fires. Another clue indicating that there may have been an intruder in the house is the condition of a screen on a back window. It had been taken down, but there is nothing to show who did it. A theory of robbery is discounted, because money left in the dwelling was still there. Nothing has been reported missing by the owner. Mr. and Mrs. Ey left home in their motor car about 7.15 o'clock in the evening. About 8.15 smoke is said to have been seen by neighbors. Men living nearby assisted Mr. Ey to keep the fire under control with hoses when the owner returned about 9 o'clock. The Norwood Fire Brigade resumed the fight against the flames, but the fire was practically out when the firemen arrived. Walls and ceilings were blackened by smoke, and furniture, carpets, and flooring were damaged. Mr. J. F. Hockley, who lives on the premises, was having a bath when Mr. and Mrs. Ey left the house. Later he went out. Everything is said to have been in order then. He has been a friend of Mr. Ey's for many years. Mr. Ey said today that the origin of the fire was a mystery to him. It was possible that someone might have been watching for the occupants to go out. Many articles which had been in a linenpress were destroyed. Constable Olsson, of Payneham, is preparing a report.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 27 July 1934, page 22**

#### £75 Fire Damage In Case Factory

Damage estimated at about £75 was caused by a fire late last night in Mr. K. F. J. Westley's new wooden case factory on Payneham road, St. Peters, between the Maid and Magpie Hotel and the Capitol Theatre. The factory, which is a wood and iron structure, adjoins the premises of the St. Peters Motor Company. The fire is believed to have originated through the short circuiting of electric wires. By snatching from the seat of the fire armfuls of wood, some of which was burning, Mr. Westley, his father, and Constable Dohoney, of St. Peters, prevented

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

the flames from spreading to stacks of cut boards. However, the fire considerably damaged a motor, valued at £55, used for driving the saws, also a small starting motor, a switchboard, and various fittings. Mr. Westley had begun to operate the factory only a fortnight ago. "I was so busy with other matters that I had postponed making the insurance arrangements until next week," he said. "I had produced only one consignment of cases from the factory; my whole plant is worth about £200." At 11.18 p.m. Constable Dohoney was called from the St. Peters police station by a passing lorry driver; the Westleys, who live in Henry street, about 500 yards from the factory, were awakened about the same time by a neighbor. A Norwood Fire Brigade squad, under the direction of Station Officer Tyson, got the blaze under control a few minutes after its arrival.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 6 November 1934, page 7**

#### Fire Brigade Saves Shed

The Norwood Fire Brigade attended a fire today on the premises of Mr. W. L. Parsons, Orange grove, Halton Gardens. Some firewood in a tank had caught alight, but was soon extinguished. The prompt arrival of the brigade probably saved a weatherboard shed containing a motor car. The fire is believed to have been caused through some smouldering fireworks inside the tank.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 27 November 1934, page 13**

#### Fire Damages Ink Store

Contents of an ink store at the rear of the home of Mr. Harold Thomas Newton, ink manufacturer, of Glyde street, North Kensington, were destroyed by fire about 8.15 p.m. yesterday, and the building, a wood and iron structure, was damaged. Mr. Newton said that everything was in order when the shop containing ink, cartons and packing, was locked up at 5 p.m. The flames were first noticed by Mr. Newton's grandson. The Norwood Brigade soon got the blaze under control.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 5 December 1934, page 5**

#### FIRE SPREADS TO SECOND SHED

##### Damage at Norwood

A fire which broke out early today in a wood-and-iron shed on the property of Mr. G. Elston, painter, of Queen street, Norwood, damaged the shed and destroyed some oil and paint. The oil and quaint quickly ignited, and fanned by the wind the fire spread to an adjoining shed in the back yard of a house owned and occupied by Mr. T. J. McCann. cabinetmaker. The shed was badly damaged, but some wood planks and furniture in it were saved. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned, but it was some time before the flames were extinguished.

1935

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 17 January 1935, page 15**

#### Kent Town Fire Destroys Shed And Truck

A fire destroyed a wood and iron shed at the rear of a house owned by Mr. H. Rainsford, Watchmaker, in Rundle street, Kent Town, early yesterday, causing damage estimated at more than £100. A motor truck and two canvas tents were also destroyed. The Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the fire.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 6 February 1935, page 19**

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024



### Shed Burnt At Stepney

A shed attached to a house in Ann street, Stepney, owned by W. T. Matthews, was destroyed by fire about 2 p.m. yesterday. The Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze. It is believed that the fire was caused by sparks flying from a wood stove in the shed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 11 March 1935, page 16**

### Grass Fire At St Peter's College

At 9.42 a.m. on Saturday the Norwood Fire Brigade received a telephone call to a grass fire at St. Peter's College. The brigade, under Senior Fireman Mason, attended, and prevented the fire from getting a hold in a neighbor's garden. The fire damaged a fence and a hedge on the western side of the college ground.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 26 July 1935, page 7**

### Norwood Fire Damage Estimated at £500

Damage caused by the fire at a paint shop in Avonmore avenue, North Norwood, last night was more severe than was at first thought. Mr. L. G. Lapthorne, the owner, who trades under the name Lapthorne & Mitton, today estimated the total damage at nearly £500. The insurance cover was £200. It is believed that the fusing of an electric wire caused the blaze. Mr. Lapthorne drove his motor lorry out of the blazing shed while a neighbor played a garden hose on the flames until the arrival of firemen.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 26 July 1935, page 21**

### DRIVES BLAZING TRUCK FROM PAINT SHOP FIRE

#### £400 Blaze At Norwood

Although the curtains and hood of his motor truck had caught fire, Mr. L. G. Lapthorne, on Avonmore avenue, North Norwood, drove the vehicle from a blazing paint shop at the rear of his home about 7.30 p.m. yesterday. His hands were slightly scorched. While he started the engine and backed the truck out, a neighbor, Mr. W. H. Temby, played a garden hose on the flames. Damage estimated at £400 was caused by the fire, which destroyed the wood and iron building and the stock of paints, oils, ladders, varnishes, spraying machine, and office equipment. The insurance cover was £200. Hurrying in answer to a telephone call, the Norwood Brigade were some-what delayed at first by entering the wrong street. Shortly after the firemen arrived there was a loud explosion believed to have been caused by a three-gallon drum of lacquer. Apparently this overturned a 40-gallon drum of turpentine, intensifying the blaze. With the Norwood Brigade working at the rear of the building and a squad from Adelaide under Station Officer Sayers at the front, the fire was soon controlled, but the inflammable contents had been destroyed. Mr. Lapthorne's attention was called to the fire by the fusing of the electric lights in his home, where he was listening to the wireless. Running out, he found the blaze in the shop centred at an open drum of paint-remover placed just below the electric light switch. Mr. Lapthorne said that he had a number of painting contracts on hand. The lacquer spraying machine, valued at £60, could be replaced only from America.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 29 July 1935, page 11**

### Hall Destroyed By Fire

The Boy Scouts' Hall, Fourth avenue, Joslin, was destroyed by fire on Saturday. In answer to a call by a street alarm at 3 p.m. the Norwood Fire Brigade, under Senior-Fireman Mason,

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

found the building alight from end to end. The fire was extinguished in about half an hour. The fire was caused by the boiling over of tar which Scouts were preparing for the purpose of dressing the flooring.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 August 1935, page 1**

STOP PRESS

FIRE AT NORWOOD

A fire tonight severely damaged the bakehouse of Mr. E. W. Bull, pastrycook, of the Parade, Norwood. Norwood brigade, under Senior Fireman Mason, prevented the fire spreading to Mr. Bull's shop. The owner of the premises, Mr. B. J. Elliott, of Evandale, tonight estimated the damage to the bake-house and machinery at £300.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 August 1935, page 16**

Bakehouse Destroyed In Fire

Damage estimated at £300 was caused by a fire in a bakehouse attached to the shop of Edwin Wrathall Bull, pastrycook, of Parade, Norwood, at the week-end. The shop was locked at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday by Mrs. Bull. The fire, the cause of which is not known, was noticed at 9.41 p.m. by a passerby, who informed the Norwood Fire Brigade. The fire was prevented from extending to the shop. The interior of the bakehouse was destroyed, and only the frame of the roof was left. A report on the fire is being prepared by Plainclothes Constable Phillips, of Norwood, for the City Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn).

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 9 September 1935, page 16**

Fire In Bedroom Awakens Man At Midnight

Waking shortly after midnight yesterday Mr. Wyatt, who resides with his sisters in Trinity street, College Town, found that furniture in his bedroom was on fire. Until the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived, a garden hose was played on the fire through the window. An arm chair was destroyed and the bed and a carpet were damaged. Mr. Wyatt received medical treatment for shock.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 2 December 1935, page 16**

Fire In Pillar Box Destroys Many Letters

Between 20 and 30 letters are believed to have been destroyed or damaged by a fire in a pillar box in front of the Norwood Town Hall early yesterday morning. Apparently the fire was caused by a lighted candle, which was dropped through the slot. Detective Bourke, who was passing in a police car, noticed smoke issuing from the box about 6 a.m., and called the Norwood Brigade. Only 26 letters out of about 50 could be sent on.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 9 December 1935, page 18**

Tin Plant Worth £600 Destroyed By Fire

Valued at about £600, the tinsmith's plant and building of Mr. C. Juncken in Boskenna avenue, Norwood, were reduced to ruins by fire yesterday afternoon. Some of the gear and fittings may be salvaged. The wood and iron structure had been disused for three months, but Mr. Juncken said that he had been negotiating to begin the manufacture of cooling safes there this week. The cause of the fire is unknown. When firemen from the Norwood and city

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

stations arrived, the building was well alight. Mr. Juncken, who lives in Kent terrace, Norwood, was at the beach all the afternoon and was informed of the fire on his return in the evening.

1936

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 23 January 1936, page 2**

#### Fire in Woodyard At East Adelaide

Slight damage was caused to a saw bench and a small quantity of wood when a fire broke out in a woodyard at the corner of Ninth avenue and Walkerville road, East Adelaide, last night. Norwood Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze before it could spread. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 7 February 1936, page 25**

#### Fire At Knoxville

At 7.15 a.m. yesterday a fire occurred in a motor garage on the premises occupied by Mr W. T. Finlay, Brook street, Knoxville. Two motor cars were removed without damage. Slight damage was done to the garage. The Norwood Brigade put the fire out.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 18 February 1936, page 20**

#### Motor Cycle Damaged By Fire

The Norwood Fire Brigade was called out yesterday when a motor cycle, owned by Aubrey Hillier, of Seventh avenue, St. Peters, caught fire in Dequetteville terrace, Kent Town. After Hillier had bought petrol at a service station he pushed his motor cycle some yards, a backfire occurred, and the machine took fire. The motor cycle was badly damaged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 12 May 1936, page 21**

#### Cable Box Fuse Causes Fire

When a feeder box, carrying cables for the Tramway power supply, fused about 9.30 a.m. yesterday it set alight to the verandah of the Junction Drapery Store at the corner of Magill road and Kent terrace. A canvas verandah blind was destroyed and slight damage was done to the building. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended. Traffic was delayed for about half an hour. The feeder box was on a tramway standard which passes through the verandah roof.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 27 August 1936, page 20**

#### Small Fire in Hotel

At Thorndon Park It is believed that a cigarette butt was the cause of a fire which broke out in the Reservoir Hotel, Thorndon Park, early today. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 5.53 a.m., and put out the flames after a sitting room and its furniture had been damaged to the extent of between £50 and £100. The hotel is occupied by Mr. W. A. Sampson and owned by Winnall and Sanderson. Constable Halloran, of Campbelltown, is preparing a report.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 26 November 1936, page 4**

#### Malicious False Alarm To Fire Brigade

A malicious false alarm to the Norwood Fire Brigade at 12.30 p.m. today resulted in the reel from that station and a reel from city headquarters, and Chief Station-Officer Whyte, dashing

to Eighth avenue, St. Peters. There was no sign of a fire in the district, and brigade officials were unable to trace the call, which was made by telephone.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 27 November 1936, page 2**

St. Peters Fire Call Believed Genuine

The fire alarm call yesterday which resulted in a reel from the Norwood station and a reel from city headquarters dashing to Eighth avenue, St. Peters, is believed by Chief Officer Whyte to have been genuine, although there was no sign of fire on the arrival of the brigades. Mr. Whyte said he thought that the fire had been extinguished by the time the reels arrived in the street, and the woman who made the call then decided not to reveal her identity. The brigade had had similar experiences. There had, however, been a number of false alarms lately from the street boxes. Young men were chiefly to blame.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 11 December 1936, page 18**

Fire In Roof Of Norwood Home

Firemen had a difficult task in extinguishing a fire in the shingle roof of the house occupied by Mr. R. Menz, in Queen street, Norwood, early yesterday morning. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte), who attended the fire, said that the brigade received a call at 4.25 a.m. When he arrived he found that the fire was in the shingle roof, which had been covered with an iron roof. Difficulty was experienced in getting to the fire, but the firemen had the blaze under control about a half-hour after their arrival. Appliances were sent from the city and Norwood stations. Although the furniture was removed from the rooms, the water damaged the ceiling. The property was insured.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 18 December 1936, page 20**

Fire Pump Clears Millions Gallons In 30 Hours

After it had pumped continuously for about 30 hours, it was estimated last night that a Fire Brigade appliance from Norwood had cleared more than a million gallons of floodwaters from the premises of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society in Payneham road, St. Peters. By this time, the work had practically been completed.

1937

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 2 February 1937, page 16**

Fire At Motor Garage

A fire occurred shortly after 9.15 a.m. yesterday at the rear of Hicks Motor House, North terrace, Kent Town. While rubbish was being burnt, the fire spread to some old tyres, which blazed up. Confectionery and other goods were also damaged in a storeroom of W. Bertram, caterer, next door. The fire was practically under control before the arrival of appliances from Norwood and the city. A report for the City coroner (Mr. Blackburn) is being prepared by Constable Rigert, of St. Peters.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 8 February 1937, page 23**

Petrol Causes Fire

A minor explosion of petrol at 9.46 a.m. yesterday in the laundry of a house at the Grove, Dulwich, occupied by Mrs. A. Drew, caused a fire which damaged clothing, destroyed the contents of the room, and slightly damaged the washhouse itself. The explosion occurred

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

while Mrs. Harford, a boarder, was cleaning clothing with petrol, some vapor from which was ignited by a fire in the copper. Appliances from the city and Norwood brigades answered the call.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 11 March 1937, page 20**

## FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

Intruder Said To Have Disturbed Occupant

Inquest To Be Held

A story of having seen a man in her house shortly before it was burnt was told to the police by a woman after a fire which destroyed a house and contents early yesterday morning. The house was occupied by Miss Kathleen Kennedy Munro, and was situated in Glen Stuart road, Rostrevor. The Norwood Fire Brigade received a call at 5.3 a.m., but the fire was burning fiercely when a reel arrived. Although assistance was given by machines from headquarters, the house was almost completely destroyed before the fire was got under control. When Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, of headquarters, arrived, he found Miss Munro attempting to remove heavy furniture from the house. She was suffering from burns to the hands, face, and head, and shock, and had to receive first-aid from the firemen. She told Mr. Whyte that she had been awakened by a noise. Going into the hallway she saw a man with a torch in his hand. She asked him what he was doing, but he only grunted. She went back to her room and the next thing she knew was that the house was on fire. Miss Munro later told the police that the man was more than six feet tall and was clean shaven. She believed that he was still in the house. A thorough search was made of the house after the fire had been put out, but nobody could be found. As a result of the report that a man was believed to have been burnt in the fire, the Acting City Coroner (Mr. W. F. J. McCann), accompanied by Plainclothes Constable E. J. Davis visited the house. A report was made by Detective Hanrahan, of the Criminal Investigation Branch, and Constable Nottage, of Magill, and Mr. McCann decided to hold an inquest on a date to be fixed. The house was owned by Mr John Ernest Page, who is now in America on a visit, and Miss Munro, who nursed Mr. Page's wife before her death, had been living in the house for some time. The house and contents were insured.

**Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Thursday 11 March 1937, page 1**

## FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

WOMAN'S STORY OF MAN WITH TORCH

Search For Body In Debris

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

A STORY of a man with a torch having been seen in a house shortly before it was destroyed by fire early today at Rostrevor was told to the police by the sole occupant, a middle-aged woman, who was slightly burned on the face and hands. Firemen searched portion of the house on arrival when told by the woman that a man was inside, and later examined the debris, but could find no body in the smouldering ruins. The house was almost gutted when the brigades arrived. Circumstances of the fire led to investigations by police officers.

The home, a well-built six-roomed villa standing in spacious grounds at Glen Stuart road, Rostrevor, was insured for £900, and furniture and effects were insured for £500. The owner, Mr. John Ernest Page, who is stated to be manager of the Gibson Box Company, George street, Sydney, is at present in New York on a business visit.

Norwood Fire Brigade, under Station-Officer Tyson, was summoned at 5 a.m. by the night attendant at the Old Folk's Home, and had just reached the scene with a pumping appliance when another pump from headquarters and Chief-Officer Whyte also arrived.

The occupant of the house, Miss Kathleen Kennedy Munro, who nursed Mr. Page's wife before her death, had been living for some time alone in the house. When the brigades arrived the firemen found Miss Munro dragging articles from the blazing house. Her hair had been singed, and her hands and face slightly burned, and she was suffering from shock. Firemen rendered first aid, and later Miss Munro was taken to the home of a friend and put to bed.

Miss Munro had managed to drag from the house a heavy chest, which, it was stated, a man would have found it difficult to handle. Miss Munro said that about 4.30 she heard a noise, and when it was repeated a little later she left her bed and went into the passage. She stated that she saw in the hall an exceptionally tall man, well over 6 ft. in height, clean shaven, and carrying a torch. When asked what he was doing there, he made no reply. Miss Munro said that she ran back into the bedroom and about 20 minutes later discovered that the house was on fire. Det. Hanrahan and Constable H. Clift, of the fingerprint branch, visited the scene and later a statement was secured from Miss Munro.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 16 March 1937, page 7***

Enquiry Into Magill Fire

An enquiry into a fire which destroyed a house in Glen Stuart road, Rostrevor, early last Wednesday morning, will be held by the Acting City Coroner (Mr. W. F. J. McCann) at 10 a.m. on Friday. The occupant of the house, Miss Kathleen Kennedy Munro, told the Fire Brigade that she was awakened by a noise, and on going into the hallway saw a man with a torch. She went back to her room, and the fire broke out shortly afterwards.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 April 1937, page 17***

Small Fire At Stepney

Slight damage was caused by a fire which broke out in a wooden lean-to at the premises of Tolley, Scott and Tolley, Ltd., Nelson street, Stepney, about 9.30 p.m. on Saturday. A quantity of coal which was stored in the shed was burned, while slight damage was caused when the fire extended to the boiler room. The fire was quickly controlled by a machine from Norwood under Station Officer Tyson and one from the head station under Chief Officer Whyte.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 5 November 1937, page 24***

Two Fires At Norwood

Two fires, one of which caused damage amounting to £160, were attended almost simultaneously by the Norwood Fire Brigade yesterday morning. The first occurred in Cairns street Norwood, where a partition separating two semi-detached houses was damaged. The firemen had to remove several sheets of iron from the roof to fight the blaze. Within half an hour of the first call another was received to deal with a fire which had broken out in a shed in Fifth avenue, St. Peters, used by Mr. Robert Ernest Herman under the trade name of Lixall Laboratories. The building and its contents, valued at £160, were destroyed. The loss was not covered by insurance. The causes of the fires are unknown.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 20 December 1937, page 20***

### Motor Cycle Destroyed By Fire

When a motor cycle valued at about £60, owned by William George Joffre Keen, motor mechanic, of Dover street, Maylands, was being ridden along Magill road, Holmesdale, about 7 p.m. on Saturday, it suddenly caught alight. The Norwood fire brigade put out the fire with chemicals, but the motor cycle was destroyed. Constable W. J. Delderfield is preparing a report for the Coroner.

1938

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 19 January 1938, page 20**

### Increased Expenditure On Norwood Fire Brigade

At a meeting of the Burnside Council last night a letter was received from the Fire Brigades Board in which it was estimated that the probable expenditure on maintenance of the Norwood Fire Brigade for the year ending December 31, 1938, would be £2,916. compared with £1,980 in 1937. The engineer and town clerk (Mr. H. E. S. Melbourne) explained that the increase was due to higher maintenance costs, and to the expenditure of £620 (compared with £50 in the previous year) on new pumping equipment. Burnside's share would be raised from £237 to £347

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 4 March 1938, page 7**

Sets Cot on Fire,

Then Goes to Sleep

After having set alight to the bedding in her cot, little Caroline Holmes, 3-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Holmes, of East parade, Kensington, climbed over the rails of the cot and got into another bed.

She did not say anything about the fire, and with her sister Barbara, five, and brother George, four, was soon sleeping peacefully. Meanwhile the bedding smouldered, and filled the room and an adjoining bedroom with choking fumes. The next thing the children knew was that coughing and spluttering, they were being carried downstairs in the brawny arms of Fireman T. J. Meaney, of the Norwood Fire Brigade. This was the reconstruction made to-day of a fire which nearly resulted in the suffocation of the three youngsters about 9 p.m. yesterday. They were dazed by the fumes when rescued, but revived in the fresh air. Caroline lispingly confessed today that she had been playing with matches before the mattress began to smoulder. Barbara also said that Caroline had been striking matches. Several burnt matches were found on the floor of the bedroom. Norwood firemen consider that the children would have been suffocated had not half a pane of glass in a front room been missing. This allowed smoke to escape and attract the attention of a passer-by, who raised the alarm. The children were coughing and choking in their sleep when Fire-man Meaney came to their aid. Their father, who was asleep at the back of the house downstairs, is a son of the late Harry Holmes, a famous crosscountry jockey. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have had 16 children, of whom 12 are living.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 March 1938, page 4**

### Small Fire Damage At St. Peters Home

Believed to have been started by a spark from an incenerator, a fire caused damage estimated at £10 to a woodshed at the home of Brig.-Gen. Price Weir, in Second avenue, St.

Peters, last night The Norwood Fire Brigade prevented the outbreak from spreading to adjoining buildings, but portion of a fence was damaged.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 5 March 1938, page 8**

Shed Destroyed by Fire At St. Peters

Damage estimated at £10 was caused when a woodshed at the home of Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir, Second avenue, St. Peters, was destroyed by fire last night. The Norwood Fire Brigade was called, and prevented the outbreak from spreading to other buildings. Portion of a fence was damaged. The fire is believed to have been caused by a spark from an incinerator. Constable Rigert, of St. Peters, is preparing a report.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 8 March 1938, page 15**

Unusual Charge Against Father After Fire

Arising out of a fire in a house at East parade, Kensington, on March 3, charges of having exposed three children to unnecessary danger were read in the Norwood Magistrates' court yesterday against the father of the children, William Woodfield Holmes. On the night of March 3, two young girls and a small boy were carried from a smoking bedroom by firemen. Mr. A. Coventry, who appeared for the defendant, asked for an adjournment until next Monday. This was granted.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 14 April 1938, page 27**

Man Fined For Portrush Road Grass Fire

George Arthur Godfrey, of Vernon street, Norwood, was fined £2, reduced to £1, with 7/6 costs, in the Norwood Court yesterday, for having lit a fire in the open air on March 28 without clearing an area of 12 ft. of all inflammable material. Sergeant Bourke prosecuted. Messrs. F. Duxbury and J. W. Smith were on the bench. Sergeant Bourke told the court that Constable Robertson had been called to Portrush road, where he found the Norwood Fire Brigade had been called to extinguish a grass fire. Godfrey stated that he had lit a fire in a bucket to boil a billy. The wind caused the hot ashes to set fire to grass nearby. He and another man had attempted to extinguish the blaze before the fire brigade arrived.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 17 May 1938, page 11**

Fire Station Bridge Party For Fund

The station officer of the Norwood Fire Station (Mr. W. Tyson) and members of his staff will organise a bridge party at the Norwood fire station on May 24. The proceeds will be given to the Distressed Soldiers' Fund. The subscription will be 5/ a table. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. H. B. Dankel) and members of the council will attend.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 20 August 1938, page 17**

Fire Alarm Breaker Fined £3 At Norwood

Anthony Frederick Huew Williams, of Frederick street. Maylands. appeared in the Norwood court yesterday on a charge of having, on August 13, unlawfully tampered with a signal apparatus for giving notice of fire. It was alleged that he broke the fire alarm on the corner of Albermarle avenue and Avonmore avenue, at North Norwood at 11.15 p.m. Defendant pleaded guilty. In outlining the case, Sergeant Bourke said that on the night of August 13 Williams, in company with a number of young men and women, had left the St. Morris picture

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024



theatre and begun skylarking and committing acts of horseplay along the route they took towards their homes. The defendant, with a boy aged 15, smashed the fire alarm. A man, hearing the smash, immediately followed the youths. He also informed the Fire Brigade, with which the apparatus was connected that it was a false alarm. As a result the defendant was interviewed by the police, and after first denying any knowledge of the escapade, admitted it and said that while he and the youth were responsible for the damage they all agreed to contribute toward the fine that might be imposed. Sergeant Bourke asked for a substantial penalty in view of all the circumstances. Mr. Duxbury said that the court took a serious view of such acts of horseplay. The maximum fine for the first offence was £5. A fine of £3 would be imposed and 10/ costs in default seven days' imprisonment. Mr. S. W. Dixon was also on the bench.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 24 August 1938, page 15***

Fire Destroys Grandstand On Paradise Oval

Damage estimated at about £500 was caused by a fire which practically destroyed the grandstand at the Glenroy Oval, Paradise road, Paradise, yesterday. First noticed by a passing motorist about 5.30 p.m., the blaze continued for more than an hour before it was extinguished. Although the locality is outside the fire protected area, Deputy Fire Chief Cook immediately directed from headquarters the dispatch of an appliance from the Norwood station. When the firemen arrived the blaze had a good hold. As well as the stand, stored equipment, such as hurdles, &c, the property of the Torrens Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society, was destroyed. The stand is owned by the Campbell-town District Council. It is understood that the loss is covered by insurance. Nobody was seen near the stand yesterday afternoon, and it is believed that the fire may have been caused by an electrical short circuit. Constable M. Halloran (Campbelltown), who investigated, is preparing a report for the Coroner.

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

Fire At Norwood

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

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

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

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

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

Fire At Knoxville

Damage estimated at about £1,500 was caused by a fire at about 11.15 p.m. yesterday in H. A. Shueard's boat factory, Conyngham street, Knoxville. Three motor appliances were sent

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

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 7 December 1938, page 13**

Fire Brigade Costs In Norwood

District Members of the Burnside Council were advised by the Fire Brigades Board at last night's meeting that the probable necessary expenditure within the Norwood fire district for the six months ended June 30, 1939, was estimated at £1,233. It was reported to the council that this amount was about 15 per cent. less than last year's figure.

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

£100 Damage In Fire At Case-Making Works

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

1939

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 24 January 1939, page 21**

No Fire Fighting Equipment At Norwood

Following the receipt of a letter from the Metropolitan Councils' Bushfire Fighting Committee, the Kensington and Norwood Council last night reported that it had no fire-fighting equipment available at Norwood. In any case of emergency, however, the council was prepared to make up to 12 men available for fire-fighting.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 4 February 1939, page 19**

Lit Fire In Open Without Permission

In the Norwood Court yesterday, Thomas Henry Thomas, of George street, Norwood, was fined £1, with 10/ costs, on a charge of having lit a fire in the open on his premises without first having obtained the consent of the Kensington and Norwood Corporation. Messrs. C. Koll and F. G. Hicks were on the bench.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 8 April 1939, page 13**

Motor Cycle On Fire After Collision

Edward Hall 27, clerk, of Birkinshaw avenue, Tranmere, was treated at the Adelaide Hospital yesterday, for lacerations received when the motor cycle he was riding came into collision with a motor car at the corner of William and Elizabeth streets, Norwood. After the impact the motor cycle caught on fire and was practically destroyed before the arrival of the Norwood Fire Brigade. Hall was taken to hospital in a civil ambulance.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 19 August 1939, page 2**

Service Station Destroyed By Fire

Only the brick walls of the service station of Mr. E. J. Liddle, at the corner of Greenhill and Burnside roads, Burnside, were left standing after the fire last night. Damage estimated at £350 to £400 was done. When the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived the roof had collapsed, and stocks of lubricating oil were sending up dense clouds of flame and smoke.

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

£350 DAMAGE IN SERVICE STATION FIRE

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

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

Service Station Destroyed By Fire

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

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

FIRE AT FURNITURE FACTORY

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

1940

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 13 January 1940, page 22**

FIRE IN DISTILLERY AT STEPNEY

Brandy Vats Ablaze

Courageous work by firemen from the Metropolitan and Norwood Fire Brigades prevented a more serious fire when a large bond storage cellar caught alight at the distillery of Tolley, Scott and Tolley, Nelson street, Stepney, yesterday. The cellar, which contained nine brandy vats, each with a capacity of 6.500 gallons, caught fire as a result of a short circuit, and within

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

a short time the large wooden vats were ablaze. Workmen endeavored to subdue the blaze with chemical fire extinguishers without success, and the two brigades which arrived a few minutes after the alarm was given, poured thousands of gallons of water into the building in a desperate effort to prevent an explosion. The heat caused the tops of at least four vats to break away, but the firemen, working close to the blaze despite the danger of one of the vats collapsing, soon had the fire under control. Part of the roof of the building was damaged, and seven of the vats were charred. Fearing an explosion at any moment, a resident warned other people living nearby to vacate their homes until the fire was subdued. The secretary of the company (Mr. R. A. Harper) said last night that the brigades had done splendid work in saving what might have been a much more serious fire. He was unable to estimate the damage done. Acting Chief Officer Cook was in charge of the brigades.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 18 January 1940, page 25***

#### FIRE IN DISTILLERY

##### Brandy Vats Ablaze

Courageous work by firemen from the Metropolitan and Norwood Fire Brigades prevented a more serious fire when a large bond storage cellar caught alight at the distillery of Tolley, Scott & Tolley, Nelson street, Stepney, on Friday. The cellar, which contained nine brandy vats, each with a capacity of 6,500 gallons, caught fire as a result of a short circuit, and within a short time the large wooden vats were ablaze. Workmen endeavored to subdue the blaze with chemical fire extinguishers without success, and the two brigades, which arrived a few minutes after the alarm was given, poured thousands of gallons of water into the building in a desperate effort to prevent an explosion. The heat caused the tops of at least four vats to break away, but the firemen, working close to the blaze despite the danger of one of the vats collapsing, soon had the fire under control. Part of the roof of the building was damaged, and seven of the vats were charred.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 5 February 1940, page 5***

#### FIRE DAMAGE AT REFORMATORY

Damage estimated at £200 was caused by a fire which partly destroyed an outbuilding at Magill Reformatory this afternoon. The main building was not affected. Damage was practically confined to the laundry and carpentry shop. About £15 worth of clothing belonging to the institution was either charred or destroyed, but the coppers and wash bins are of cement, and were not damaged. Timber valued at £30 was lost, but fortunately the benches and tools were not touched. Some finished articles were burnt. Attendants played hoses on the flames, which were put out by the Norwood Brigade. The cause of the fire is not known.

1941

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 April 1941, page 5***

#### Fire at Norwood

##### Destroys Doctor's Car

A fire, which broke out in a galvanised iron shed in the back yard of premises occupied by Dr N. S. Gunning at the corner of Kensington road and Webb street Norwood this afternoon, destroyed a motor car. Dr Gunning, who was not home had taken his other car from the shed this morning. It is thought that a spark from an incinerator, which was close to the shed, started the fire. The blazing shed was first noticed by two men, who live close by. They

rushed into the yard, and played a garden hose on the flames until outfits from headquarters brigade and Norwood arrived, when the fire was quickly extinguished.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 30 August 1941, page 7**

Fire Causes £25 Damage

Damage estimated at £25 was caused by a fire in a small wood shed at the rear of the home of Miss Florence Cook, of Watson avenue, Toorak, this afternoon. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 27 December 1941, page 1**

OUT AMONG THE A.R.P. POSTS

FIRE PUT OUT BEFORE BLACK-OUT

Half an hour before the black out; city firemen were called to an outbreak at the engineering works of R. H. Halliday, in Light square. Tyres and rubbish which were burning, were extinguished within a few minutes. The firemen were first attracted to a nearby building where char-coal had been raked from a gas producer and the unattended embers were glowing.

Emergency Fire Services on Job

About 50 members of emergency fire services in the Burnside, Norwood, St. Peters, Payneham, and Campbelltown areas were detailed from the Norwood Fire Station to stipulated posts before the black out. Inside the station control room for the first time three trained young women co-operated with the men in taking over telephones details of the alarm calls, and reports of the progress made in combating the fires. In contrast to the busy scene here was the dark and silent Norwood Parade.

Calls to eight "raid" points, including parts of North Norwood, Tusmore, Glenunga, Firlie, Kent Town, Norwood, Stepney, and Joslin were answered by the emergency firefighters during the black out.

Windows Flood-Lit

The failure of a firm in Pirie street to black-out caused much comment. The windows were flood-lit and reflectors from the glass and fittings were conspicuous for some way along the street. Shiny wood and metal work picked up the reflections and spoilt the effect over a wide area.

THEATRES FILLED

City picture theatres reported that the black-out did not affect attendances. Several were booked out and all others were well filled. Some theatres showed their feature film first so that the interval would not occur during the black out.

1942

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 January 1942, page 6**

Wood Destroyed In Magill

Fire About eight tons of wood valued at £10 were destroyed by fire yesterday in a yard at Magill. The blaze is believed to have been caused by a spark blown from a fire under a copper. The wood, which was stacked in the yard, was owned by Mr. W. P. Sutton, at the

corner of Penfold's and Magill road. The Norwood Fire Brigade prevented it from spreading to a nearby building.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 9 December 1942, page 6**

£500 Fire At Payneham

An Australian terrier dog was burnt to death in a fire which broke out at the nut-cracking plant of John Harold Johnson, engineer, in Luhr's road, South Payneham, early yesterday morning, and caused damage estimated at £500. A 60-ton heap of almond shells and engineering tools were destroyed and a shed was damaged. Norwood and Adelaide brigades prevented the fire from spreading to a nearby house.

1943

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 13 August 1943, page 5**

FIREMAN OVERCOME BY FUMES

£1,500 Damage By Fire At Norwood Bag Factory

A fireman was overcome by fumes, two persons were slightly injured, and damage estimated at nearly £1,500 was caused by a fire at the bag factory of Mrs. E. M. Brine, Donegal street, Norwood, shortly after 9 a.m. yesterday. More than 20 firemen from Adelaide and Norwood worked on the outbreak for an hour and a half. The manager (Mr. R. Brine) reported that the factory was only partly insured. More than an hour after the fire began, Fireman H. Gascoigne was operating a hose in the centre of the building when he was overcome by fumes. Before collapsing he called for help, and District Officer Davis and Station Officer Farthing forced their way through heaps of burning bags and thick smoke and dragged Gascoigne into the open air, where he revived. An employe, Bruce Ian Elliott, 16, of North terrace, city had his head cut by flying glass. He was treated at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Mr. Brine had a thumb badly lacerated while he was trying to force away some galvanized iron to get at the fire. Firemen were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to the adjoining factory of R. J. Nurse, builder and contractor, one of the biggest of its type in the State, where there were thousands of pounds worth of valuable timber and equipment. These premises were partly flooded by water from the hoses. Water pressure was low until pumps were connected to the mains. Approximately 36,000 bags, several bag-reconditioning machines and office equipment were either damaged or destroyed. Supplies of bags to essential users, particularly flour millers, will be interrupted.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 9 October 1943, page 4**

FIRE SERVICE GALA AT NORWOOD

The Fire Brigade and Emergency Fire Service gala at Norwood Oval on Monday will be a State-wide effort. Members of 15 E.F.S. districts throughout the State will compete, and the permanent firemen will give exhibitions of pyramids, ladder work, jumping from platforms, fire walking, smoke tests, etc. There will be two processions of 1,000 men and 75 fire appliances— one from the parade ground at 11.55 a.m. and the other from Clayton Church corner, Parade, Norwood, at 1.30 p.m. Proceeds will be for the Fighting Forces and Seamen's War Funds

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 12 October 1943, page 6**

FIRE BRIGADE GALA AT NORWOOD

## 6,000 Attend Patriotic Effort

The Fire Brigade and Emergency fire services gala at the Norwood Oval yesterday was attended by about 6,000 people. Assembling at the Parade Ground, a procession of 500 fire fighters, with 70 vehicles, marched to the Adelaide Town Hall, to music by the SA Caledonian Society Pipe Band (under Drum-Major R. West) and the Red Cross Emergency Services Women's Band. The salute was taken by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Walker). At the oval the Commissioner for Civil Defence (Lt-Col. G. D. Shaw), who was supported by the Lord Mayor, the chairman of the Fire Brigade Board (Mr. H. Jackson), and Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, expressed gratification at the public response to the efforts of the permanent fire staff and the Emergency fire services, the personnel of which had rendered valuable service to the community. A feature of the gala was the ladder and pump display. Jumping from a height of 38 ft., three firemen were caught in a safety net. A dressing race, by permanent firemen, indicated the rapidity with which the men respond to an action call. A demonstration of fire-resisting suits and oxygen-breathing apparatus, showed men walking through sheets of flame and emerging from smoke-encased cubicles. Boxing and wrestling, into which a few unrehearsed features were introduced, tug-of-war contests, and a sack race, added interest and humor for the spectators, amid a big and varied programme. Results:— Football kicking—K. Brown. 53 yds. 2 ft. 2 in. Dugan Cup competition (Emergency fire service)— Mitcham, 58 sec.; Adelaide, 58 3-5 sec.; Unley, 61 sec. Pumping drill—North Adelaide, 19 1-5 sec.; Norwood, 20 sec.; Hindmarsh 21 3-5 sec. Putting the shot—L. Dangerfield 33 ft. 4 in.; W. Williamson 30 ft. 2 in.; C. Smith, 29 ft. 10½ in. Tug-of-war (12 teams)—Mitcham won final from Adelaide. Boxing—Ross Pippet d. L. Foster, and in the next bout he drew with Joe Celeste. Wrestling—Lloyd Huxtable d. P. Huxtable. Sack race—T. F. Schwerdt, G. Hague, R. Grubb. Relay race—Port Adelaide team (D. Horstler, R. McLean, K. B. L. Brown, L. Dangerfield) won from Adelaide team (C. Dew. G. Sinclair, N. Castle, K. Brown). Caber tossing—Lloyd Huxtable, G. Sinclair. The whole of the proceeds will be devoted to the Red Cross Prisoner of War Fund, the Port Adelaide Seamen's Mission, the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund and the Missions to Seamen.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 10 December 1943, page 6**

## Back-Yard Fire Fine

An attempt to burn dry grass in her back yard cost Mrs. Maria Mathews, of Lockwood road, Erindale, £4/10/ in the Norwood Police Court today. Sergeant Stewart, who prosecuted, said the fire got out of her control and burnt some grass on an adjoining property.

1944

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 23 March 1944, page 6**

## Norwood Emergency Fire Service

Members of the Norwood section of the Civil Defence Emergency Fire Service held a social in the Norwood Town Hall last night to show their appreciation of the work of their retiring district officer Mr. R. Weston, and the retiring secretary Mr. J. Minchin. The members welcomed the new district officer, Mr. G. Bennetts, and the new secretary Mr. J. P. Trainer.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 22 April 1944, page 14**

## £350 LOSS IN ST. PETERS FIRE

Fire destroyed a motor car, a shed, and a shadehouse valued at £350, belonging to Mr. Leonard Baden Powell Bickle, of River street, St. Peters. A passer-by noticed the fire at 1

a.m. today, and notified the Norwood Fire Brigade. The car was partly covered by insurance, but the shed and contents were not insured.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 28 December 1944, page 3**

Creepers Set Alight

Norwood Fire Brigade was called to the home of Mr. G. Malone, in Bolingbroke Grove, Toorak Gardens, today, when a quantity of garden refuse caught fire and set alight to a creeper. The fire was subdued before any damage was done.

1945

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 23 January 1945, page 3**

Fire At Dulwich.—Containing timber, about 15 gallons of paint, and garden and carpenters' tools, a wood and iron shed at the rear of a house occupied by Mr. J. Andrews, of Dulwich avenue, Dulwich, was severely damaged by fire yesterday. The Norwood Fire Brigade and an appliance from the head station attended.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 9 February 1945, page 3**

Lit Fire in Tank; Fined £4

James Cameron, of Orange lane, Norwood, was fined £3/10/ with 10/ costs in the Norwood Police Court today for having on January 6 at Kent Town lit a fire in the open air without clearing the ground for at least 12 ft. of stubble or other inflammable material. Sergeant Stewart, who prosecuted, said the fire spread to some bamboos after it had been started by Cameron in a tank containing leaves and other foliage. Cameron was told by the police that the outbreak could have caused serious damage to nearby properties, but for the arrival of the Norwood and Adelaide Fire Brigades.

1946

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 14 January 1946, page 5**

Fencing Destroyed In Magill Fire

A large quantity of wood and iron fencing was destroyed by a grass fire at the corner of Queen terrace and Magill road. Magill, on Saturday afternoon. The fire travelled over three adjoining properties, one belonging to the Magill Post Office and two blocks owned by Penfold's Wines. Ltd. The fire began when a spark from an enclosed incinerator came into contact with the dry grass. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended.

Kerosene Stove Explodes

When a kerosene stove exploded in a home in Northumberland street, Heathpool, yesterday evening, window curtains and window frames were damaged. Flame caught the curtains, and only the timely action of neighbors prevented further serious damage. The house was occupied by Mr L. Freeding. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 1 August 1946, page 1**

FINDING IN McCANN HOME FIRE

Traces of five separate fires and a forced catch on a window were discovered at the Tusmore home of the Deputy Prices Commissioner (Mr. W. F. J. McCann), it was stated at an inquest today. The Acting City Coroner (Mr. Ziesing) found the fire had been deliberately lit on July 10



by a person or persons unknown during the temporary absence of the occupants. Describing an examination he made of his father's house after the fire, Dr. William James McCann, of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, said he found that the catch on a window of a back room had been forced. Woodwork on the window frame had been splintered apparently by a chisel or bar. Marks on the woodwork appeared to have been freshly made. He found traces of five separate fires in the house—in four of the bedrooms and in a lobby close to the window which had been forced. Thomas Milton Davis, station fire officer, of Norwood, said he received a call to the fire at 9.24 p.m. In a bedroom in the north-west corner of the house it appeared as though paper had been put on the bed and set alight, but had later gone out. In another bedroom the bed was smouldering, and he believed this fire had also been separately lit. There were two separate fires, apart from the main one, and he was quite satisfied that they had no connection with the main seat of the fire.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 August 1946, page 5**

McCANN FIRE "DELIBERATE"

Coroner's Finding At Inquest

That the fire at the home of the Deputy Prices Commissioner (Lt.-Col. W. F. J. McCann), at Tusmore avenue, Tusmore, was deliberately and maliciously lit on July 10 by some person or persons unknown, during the absence of the occupants, was the finding of the Acting City Coroner (Mr. Ziesing, SM) at an inquest yesterday.

One of Col. McCann's neighbors, Roger Newling, a grocer's assistant, said that the fire was first pointed out to him by his sister. He saw the north-western corner of the house in flames and notified the police. He then went to the wire door of the house and found it locked, but attempted to fight the flames with a garden hose. Before seeing the fire he had smelt something burning. A fire officer of the Norwood station, Thomas Milton Davis, said that when he and two other officers arrived at the scene at 9.28 p.m. the front room on the north-western side of the house was burning fiercely. The plaster had been burned off the walls and the floor had been burned through. In the north-eastern bedroom he found that some paper had been burning on a bed, but had gone out. He was sure that this fire had been lit separately, as well as a smouldering fire on a double bed in another bedroom.

Son's Evidence

Dr. W. J. McCann, who had been living at the Royal Adelaide Hospital during the absence of his parents in Sydney, said that he had visited the house on the previous night, and when he left about midnight it was locked and everything was in order. There was nothing about the premises to suggest that they had been entered. On visiting the house after the fire on July 10 he found that a window had been forced with a bar or chisel, and that the marks appeared to have been freshly made. He found evidence of five separate fires in the house, he said, and that paper had been removed from a desk to start a fire in one bedroom. Detective-Sergeant Gill said that he had noticed marks on the wire screen of the kitchen window, besides those on the other window, but no entry had been made there.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 1 October 1946, page 1**

McCANN FIRE CASE ARRESTS

Two Charged; One In Sydney

Arising out of the burning of the home of the Deputy Prices Commissioner (Lt-Col. W.F. J. McCann) at Tusmore on the night of July 10, two men, one a well-known Adelaide business

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

man, were simultaneously arrested yesterday in Sydney and Adelaide, and charged with arson. The men are Israel Golovsky, 49, accountant, of Adelaide, and Maurice Wilbur Albert Noble, 32, laborer, of Adelaide. Golovsky, who is also charged with being an accessory before the fact, was arrested at a house at Double Bay, Sydney, by Detective R. Whitrod, of Adelaide. Noble has been in custody since last Wednesday, when he was remanded on a housebreaking charge. Later in the day Golovsky was charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, with having, at Tusmore on July 10, set fire to the dwelling of Col. McCann. Golovsky was remanded on bail of £500. The Police Prosecutor (Sgt. Moulden) said that damage caused by the fire was between £2,000 and £3,000. Golovsky, asking for bail, said that he had the biggest clothing firm in South Australia. He was very well known in the commercial world and was a contractor with the South Australian Railways. He added that he had a great deal of property. Mr. Sheridan, SM. remanded him until Thursday. Police Enquiries Extensive enquiries have been made by the police since the fire. Last Tuesday Detectives Calder and Whitrod arrested a man in connection with an alleged robbery at Norwood. As a result of information which they received. Detectives Calder and Whitrod intensified their enquiries. In order to maintain secrecy, only detectives directly connected with the case were informed of the progress of the fresh enquiry, which extended to Victoria, New South Wales and Port Lincoln. On the completion of enquiries in Adelaide, Detective B. Harvey flew to Port Lincoln and Det-Set. W. Gill and Detective Whitrod flew to Melbourne and Sydney. Detective Whitrod detained Golovsky at the same time as Det-Sgt. Gill was questioning a man in Melbourne. Immediately advice was received of Golovsky's arrest in Sydney, police had a warrant executed seeking his extradition to Adelaide. Noble will probably appear before the Adelaide Police Court today. When Col. McCann returned from Melbourne on July 12, he said that bribes and threats had been used against him by persons who wished to have court proceedings dropped. Three days later Col. McCann received a letter threatening his life. Portion of the letter read:—"If we want to sell an article at a high price, we will do so and no one will stop us, and if he tries, well he knows what to expect." At an inquest into the cause of the fire, the Acting City Coroner (Mr. George Ziesing, SM) found that the fire had been deliberately lit by some person or persons un-known. Det-Sgt. G. Gully made enquiries in Adelaide while the investigation was being continued in the other States.

1947

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 29 January 1947, page 3**

#### Timber Damaged In Beaumont Fire

A fire which broke out in a stack of more than 12,000 ft. of matchwood and weatherboard at the rear of the workshop of Mr. O. R. Rogers, building contractor, of Beaumont road, Hazelwood Park, at 11.30 a.m. yesterday, caused about £200 worth of damage. Encouraged by a strong north-west wind, the flames spread from the stack of timber over four acres of grassland, charring more than 7,000 ft. of flooring timber. Four houses in the vicinity were threatened. Under the direction of the officer in charge of the Norwood Fire Brigade (Mr. T. M. Davis), firemen from Norwood and headquarters prevented the fire from crossing Beaumont road and endangering 12 houses and a large area of grassland and timber country.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1949, page 3**

#### House Fire At Magill

A front room of a brick and iron house at Gladstone avenue, Magill, was badly burned, another room was damaged, and a lounge suite was ruined in a fire which broke out in the sitting room of the house shortly after 1 p.m. yesterday. The house, which was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Byerley, was owned by Mr. Byerley's mother. Mrs. L. V. Byerley, of Olive street, Prospect. The fire is believed to have been caused by a fault in electric wiring behind a

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

lounge chair. Neighbors and Mrs. Byerley played a garden hose on the fire until the arrival of appliances from Norwood and headquarters fire brigades, which put the fire out. House and furniture were insured. Constable T. Ryan, of Magill, investigated.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 May 1947, page 5**

Bitumen Fire In Council Yard

When bitumen containing kerosene overflowed on to the firebox of a bitumen sprayer at the Tusmore depot of the Burnside Council at 9 a.m. yesterday, a fire broke out, sending dense clouds of smoke and flame shooting 20 feet into the air. Council employes played soda ash extinguishers on to blazing bitumen overflowing around the sprayer until fire brigade appliances from Adelaide and Norwood arrived a few minutes after the outbreak. Foam extinguishers brought the fire under control, and damage was confined to paintwork on an iron store shed and to overhead wires.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 21 June 1947, page 6**

FIRE AT FACTORY

Fire appliances from Norwood and headquarters were called to the canning factory of William Angliss & Co., Pty., Ltd., of L'Estrange street, Knoxville, today, when fire broke out in the ceiling of a drying room. Firemen quickly controlled the outbreak, and damage was confined to the roof timbers.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 8 August 1947, page 4**

Fire Destroys Lacquer In Norwood Factory

About 50 gallons of lacquer in several large containers was destroyed by a fire which occurred at the Norwood Engineering and Concrete Works, Margaret street, Norwood, yesterday afternoon. The factory, which is of wood and iron was slightly damaged. Eight employes were working in the factory when one of the containers holding about 10 gallons of lacquer caught alight, and the fire spread rapidly to other containers. The factory is owned by Mrs. L. M. Connelly, of Brighton road, Hove. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 29 August 1947, page 3**

Fire In House At Norwood

Caused by a kerosene heater exploding, a fire extensively damaged the kitchen and its contents in a house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. T. M Oyen, of Parade, Norwood, last night. The other rooms in the house, which is at the rear of Elliott's pram and wickerwork shop, were damaged by heat, water and smoke. The Norwood Fire Brigade and the appliance from the Metropolitan Brigade attended. Mr. and Mrs. Oyen, were in the sitting room when the heater burst into flames.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 3 September 1947, page 4**

Two Attempts To Fire House At Norwood

An unsuccessful attempt to destroy a house in Stephen street, Norwood, was made on Monday night by a person who lit a fire on the front doorstep. The circumstances of the fire were similar to a previous attempt a week ago when flames three feet high charred and blistered the front door. Mrs. Doris Manners reported to the police yesterday morning that while in her back yard at 6.30 p.m. she heard someone running down a lane at the rear. She

later found charred pieces of paper, a bottle half full of kerosene and some string near the front door. On August 28, Mrs. Manners was awakened at 1 a.m. by the noise of a small explosion which she later found to have been caused by a bottle of kerosene broken by the heat of a fire at the front door. Detective Calvesbert is investigating.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 4 September 1947, page 3**

THIRD TRY TO BURN HOUSE

Firebug Active At Norwood

A third attempt in the past week to set light, to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Charles Manners, of Stephen street, Norwood, was reported to the police early this morning. The timely arrival of Mr. Manners, who had just returned to his house with his wife prevented any damage to the spot where the firebug had prepared the blaze. Mr. and Mrs. Manners were entering their front gate at about 11.40 p.m. when they heard a noise on the premises, and Mr. Manners hurried round the back of the house, entering through the rear door. He ran down the passage and saw flames flickering outside a window of one of the side rooms. He pushed the window open and found a jar containing kerosene with newspapers burning strongly round it. He kicked the jar over and stamped out the blaze before it was able to spread any further. Mr. and Mrs. Manners did not see anybody on the premises, but they stated that the firebug must have escaped a few seconds before Mr. Manners entered the house. Early on Monday night a similar attempt was made by a firebug to set light to Mr. and Mrs. Manners's house. The first attempt to fire the house was made on Wednesday of last week.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 September 1947, page 3**

FIRE WAKENS GIRL

Family's Loss

AN occupant of a house on fire at Tranmere at 12.30 a.m. today had to take the telephone into the front doorway away from the smoke to call the Fire Brigade. Damage estimated at £350 was done to a study and passage at the home of Mr. E. W. Padfield at the corner of Magill road and Emerson grove. He is manager of Padfield's Motor Works, of Pirie street, City. Cause of the fire is unknown, but there is no suspicion of arson. The property was insured.

Study Cave-In

Most of the tiled roof of the study caved in. The destroyed contents included a sewing machine, carpet, lounge suite, radio set, linen, books, and other belongings. Mrs. Padfield said today the family went to bed about 11 p.m. and left the dying embers of a fire in the grate. Tongs were placed across the front of it. Her daughter, Fay, said that smoke entering her room, which was next to the study, awakened her at about 12.30 a.m.

Told Her Father

She told her father, who ran outside, tore away part of the wire screen, and played water from a hose into the room. When Mrs. Padfield went into the hall her hair was singed by fire while she was phoning the Fire Brigade. A youth passing on a bicycle also told the brigade. One appliance each from Norwood and the city extinguished the blaze within a few minutes. Mrs. Padfield's purse containing about £6, which had been left on the mantelpiece above the fireplace, was destroyed.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 September 1947, page 3**

Tranmere Home Fire Damage



CHARRED REMAINS of a sewing machine and other furniture in the study of the home of Mr. E. W. Padfield, at the corner of Magill road and Emerson grove, Tranmere. Damage estimated at £350 was done to the study and a passage when fire broke out early today.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 23 October 1947, page 5**

False Fire Alarm To Doctor's Home

When an appliance from the Norwood Fire Station answered a call to the home of Dr. Ivan Magarey, of Beulah road, Norwood, shortly after 10 a.m. yesterday, firemen found no trace of a fire. The alarm was given by an un-known woman, who telephoned Fire Brigade Headquarters. Mrs. Magarey told firemen that she had received several anonymous telephone calls from a woman within the past week. At various times she was told that the house was on fire, that the garage was alight, or that there was an intruder in the house.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 27 October 1947, page 1**

Attempt To Burn Car At Norwood

An attempt to set alight to a motor car parked at the rear of a house in Charles street, Norwood, was made on Friday morning. Mrs. Jessie Maude Amy, one of the occupants, saw a man standing in the backyard at about 11.30 a.m. but thinking him a visitor, went inside. About a quarter of an hour later she received a telephone call and a male voice said, "Your house will be fired tonight." The caller then hung up. She then noticed that paper which had been placed under a wheel of the car and set alight had burned itself out. The car belonged to Mervyn Wood, of the same address. Detective R. L. Leane is investigating.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 24 November 1947, page 3**

Fire At St. Morris

More than £20 worth of damage was caused by a fire which broke out in a cookhouse at the rear of a shop owned by William Michael Willis, of Magill road, St. Morris, late last night. A trotting jinker, a panel van cover, and two electric motors were damaged, as well as portion of

the wood and iron building. The Norwood Fire Brigade attended. Constable Marklew, of Norwood, made enquiries.

1948

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 January 1948, page 7**

#### DOG RAISED FIRE ALARM

Awakened by the barking of his dog at 1.30 a.m. today, a Norwood man found the door of his workshop on fire. A charred pile of dry grass had been placed under the door and a deliberate attempt made to burn down the workshop. The occupier, John Alonzo Wood, engineer, of Clarke street, Norwood, extinguished the fire, which damaged about 2 ft. of the door. Wood, who uses the workshop for making concrete mixers, locked it at 10.10 p.m. Had the dog not awakened him, the workshop may have been destroyed. Det.-Sgt. Walters is making inquiries.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 17 March 1948, page 3**

#### Norwood Fire Reel "Not Adequate"

Alderman L. Parsons, of the Burnside City Council, said at a meeting of the council last night that he thought the Norwood fire appliance could not possibly serve adequately all the districts it was expected to at present. The council asked the city engineer to prepare a report on the position so that the position could be further examined.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 12 October 1948, page 5**

#### Boy's 'Delayed Action' Fire Alarm Test

Appliances from headquarters and Norwood fire stations raced to Alexandra avenue, Rose Park, on Saturday afternoon to find that a false alarm had been given. Subsequently an 11-year-old boy allegedly told police that he had broken the glass in the alarm on Friday night and turned the handle on Saturday. He "expected to hear a bell" and was surprised to see the brigade come.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 22 October 1948, page 1**



Fire engine in smash, overturns

FOUR-TON fire appliance on its side after colliding with a tram on Kensington road, Norwood, today. RIGHT— J. Bates, driver of the appliance, was slightly injured



2 hurt in collision

In a spectacular crash at Norwood today, a four-ton fire appliance overturned and skidded on its side after a collision with a tram. Two firemen in the appliance remained in their seats, and were sprayed with foam from a chemical extinguisher which was set off in the crash. They were Fireman J. Bates (driver), who escaped with cuts on the face and hands, and Senior Fireman Ken Brown. Brown, whose back was bruised, was taken to Royal Adelaide Hospital and detained for X-ray examination. Crew and passengers of the tram escaped injury. The appliance, from Norwood station, was answering a call to the Grant avenue fire alarm—a false alarm caused by a wiring fault. The appliance was crossing Kensington road from George street into Giles street when a city-bound tram struck the rear.

1949

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 12 January 1949, page 1***

#### Booted III For Fire Brigades

A five-year-old boy's misadventure at Dulwich yesterday evening brought two fire appliances—one from HQ and the other from Norwood Fire Station—hot-foot to Dulwich avenue only to find that there was no fire. The boy, who was returning home with his mother after visiting friends, was wheeling his scooter with one hand and in the other swinging his shoes, which he had taken off because the day was hot. As he passed a street fire alarm he flipped the shoes at the glass panel, breaking it. As no one had turned the handle, the boy's mother was surprised when, a few minutes later, the brigades arrived. She told Constable Siebert, of Dulwich police, that she had intended telephoning the fire brigade to apologise for the incident after she had visited a butcher shop nearby. She was in the shop when the appliances arrived and immediately went to explain the mishap.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 24 January 1949, page 3***

#### CHARGE AGAINST FIRE BRIGADE

##### Dispute Over Call To Hotel

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024



An allegation that Norwood Fire Brigade had refused to attend a fire which broke out in an upstairs bedroom of The Chalet private hotel, Waterfall Gully road, Waterfall Gully, at about 6 p.m. on Friday, was made yesterday by Miss M. Marshall, daughter of the proprietress (Mrs. I. Malone). The fire, which caused about £100 worth of damage to the room, was extinguished by three men guests using a garden hose. It began in a chimney which served both the stove in the kitchen immediately below, and a fireplace in the bedroom. Miss Marshall said that when she telephoned the brigade immediately the fire was discovered "they 'hummed and hah'd' for a long time about the fire being outside their area." "Eventually I was told that the brigade would only attend if we were prepared to stand the expense," she said. When she asked which fire brigade served the area she was told that it was not covered by a regular station. "However, they did ring back twice to see how the fire was going." Miss Marshall declared yesterday that, as the hotel paid council rates, and "very high water rates considering the poor water pressure," something should be done to give residents more adequate fire protection. The fire could easily have had far more serious consequences. Constable Macintosh, of Burnside, investigated. Expense Factor The chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. Harry Jackson) said last night that the board had asked people residing beyond the areas served by the fire stations to recognise the fact that they would be expected to pay for the expense incurred if a brigade attended a fire. It would be of no use to send an appliance to a fire, however, if the water supply was inadequate or if no water was available for fire-fighting purposes. A proposal by Burnside Council for an auxiliary fire station for the district was rejected by the Fire Brigades Board because "the fire risks involved do not warrant the expense." The proposal was also opposed by the Australian Government Workers' Association as firemen "would not work with cheap volunteer labor."

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 April 1949, page 1***

Where There's A Fire There 's A Boy

Three fire appliances, each from different stations, were turned out on Saturday night after a report had been received at the Norwood Fire Station on Saturday night of a "serious fire" in a house at West terrace, Kensington Gardens. Appliances from Norwood and Brigade Headquarters attended, but no trace of fire could be found at the address mentioned. An appliance from the Unley brigade was then sent to an address at West terrace. Highgate, in case the message had been misunderstood. There was also no sign of fire at that address. Yesterday, Constable E. MacIntosh, of Burnside, and Constable H. Would, of Marryatville, questioned a 12-year-old Magill boy, who admitted giving the alarm from a public telephone box at the Erindale tram terminus. The boy, who said that he had given the alarm because he "wanted to see a fire engine fly out," watched the appliances arrive and then went home.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 July 1949, page 4***

Fire In Chicken Incubator

A kerosene-operated incubator and about 10 chicks were destroyed when a fire broke out in the incubator, housed in a brick and iron shed at Park road, Kensington Park, about 8.30 p.m. yesterday. The fire is believed to have started after the occupier of the house. Mr. John Herbert Read, schoolteacher, had turned the incubator flame up "because of the cold night." HQ and Norwood Fire Brigades attended. Constable H. Would, of Marryatville, investigated.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 6 August 1949, page 2***

£200 fire damage

Fire caused about £200 worth of damage to fittings in the electrical shop of J. D. Potts, Magill road, St. Peters, early today. Cause of the outbreak is not yet known. A man passing on a bicycle about 6.30 a.m. rang Fire Brigade headquarters and two appliances from the city and Norwood attended. Two valuable testers, loud-speakers, and a stock of valves were destroyed. Mr. Potts said he thought a small soldering-iron worked from batteries probably started the fire.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1949, page 3**

#### Dump Fire Menaces Home

With flames leaping over the roof, a house narrowly escaped destruction when a fire in the Kensington and Norwood Council's rubbish dump in Sheldon street, Norwood, got out of control yesterday morning. Fanned by a strong north-east wind, the fire spread rapidly through high grass and tons of dead branches and rubbish. At the height of the blaze flames were leaping 30 feet into the air and dense clouds of smoke which enveloped the district could be seen from the tower at Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street. Using wet bags, council employes were powerless to control the flames as they roared through the mass of rubbish. Five appliances from headquarters and Norwood attended and firemen had to saturate dry grass surrounding the dump before the flames were controlled only a few feet from the home of Mrs. W. Ellis. Flames menaced the side of the house while Mrs Ellis struggled through dense smoke to remove clothing and other belongings into the house next door, owned by Mrs. P. Ritter. Mrs. Ellis said she dreaded the annual burning of the dump by council employes. Two years ago her side fence had been destroyed and last year a wood and iron fence in front of the paddock had been badly charred. So intense was the heat that paint was blistered on the front of a house on the opposite side of the street. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) yesterday advised councils to notify the brigade beforehand when permission had been granted to burn rubbish. If this were done the brigade would be ready to send equipment necessary for extinguishing this type of fire.



Norwood Rubbish Dump Fire Out Of Control

Firemen playing a hose on a fire in the Kensington and Norwood Council rubbish dump in Sheldon street, Norwood, yesterday, after it had got out of control and threatened to spread to homes adjoining the dump. The out break was controlled without serious damage.

1950

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 30 August 1950, page 1**

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Last modified 30 Jun 2024

## Fire seen from city station

Flames from a fire in a garage at Toorak Gardens at 2 a.m. today could be seen from the watchtower at Fire Brigade headquarters. The fire was at the rear of the home of Mrs. Katherine Jane Hill, Watson avenue. Occupants of the house awakened shortly after 2 a.m., saved a new car. Fire appliances from Norwood and Adelaide quelled the outbreak, but the garage and neighboring fences were damaged to the extent of about £200.

1951

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 February 1951, page 3**

## Two Suburban Fires In Same Street

Police yesterday investigated two fires in outbuildings at Kent Town on opposite sides of the same street. The first which broke out at the home of Eliza Mary Johnstone, Little Young street, about 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday, destroyed a washhouse and contents, partly burned a closed car in an adjoining garage, and menaced stables in which were about eight valuable racehorses. The second, which broke out yesterday at Mr. J. H. C. Kennedy's premises, destroyed a workshop, a garage and a wood shed and damaged a surveyor's theodolite worth about £300 and a set of carpenter's tools. Norwood fire brigade attended. Sgt W. A. McIntyre and PCC M. O'Donoghue, of Norwood, made enquiries. Two appliances from SA Fire Brigade headquarters and one from Norwood attended the second fire, and PCC M. O'Donoghue and Constable B. Pierson, both of Norwood are preparing a report.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 5 February 1951, page 3**

## Small Fire At Norwood

Two motor cars in garages at Norwood were damaged by fire yesterday afternoon. They belonged to Edward Polley, of Webb street, Norwood, and Oscar Edwin Walker, of Queen street, Norwood. The fire started on the property of Warren Edgar Dungey, of Queen street, Norwood, where the garages are situated. Damage is estimated at about £120.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 22 May 1951, page 4**

## £250 Norwood Fire

About £250 worth of paint, glassware and other hardware was destroyed in a fire yesterday in a shed at the rear of premises trading under the name of Kitchens, Hardware, Parade, Norwood, and conducted by Mr. Ernest Turner. A spark from an incinerator is believed to have started the blaze. Appliances from headquarters and Norwood fire brigades prevented the fire from spreading. PCC S. M. Jones and Constable L. Rann, of Norwood, are preparing a report.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 September 1951, page 1**

Nurses, in their nightclothes, had only a few seconds to grab armfuls of clothes and run to safety before flames gutted their rooms at Osmond Terrace Private Hospital, Norwood, this morning.

Most of them dumped their clothes on the ground a few feet from the building and turned to re-enter in search of more. But the flames beat them back, and ignited the piles of clothing they had salvaged. The fire gutted the nurses' quarters and laundry Hospital laundry worth hundreds of pounds was destroyed and six young women lost all their possessions. The fire is believed to have started from a spark in the laundry about 5 a.m. It quickly spread to five

adjoining rooms, where five nurses and a cook were sleeping. "Mass of flames" The nurses' quarters and laundry were in a corrugated iron building at the rear of the wards, and connected to the main building by a wooden archway. Matron D. Selth said she was asleep in her room when a nurse dashed in screaming. "Fire. fire." She said: "I put on a dressing gown and ran out without waiting to put on my shoes. As soon as I saw it, I knew the nurses' quarters were doomed. The place was a roaring mass of flames. "I told a sister to ring the fire brigade, and we turned our garden hoses on to the flames. But it was hopeless. "The girls who were in the building were standing round wringing their hands. Some were crying. They lost everything they owned. "The fire brigade arrived pretty quickly, but, they couldn't find the hydrant for some time. A white guide post was knocked down some time ago and it hadn't been replaced. "I was afraid the flames might burn the wooden archway and reach the hospital proper. Several patients in the back rooms were frightened and upset." The building was insured.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 19 June 1954, page 62***

#### Hay burnt

Ten tons of hay were damaged by fire at Magill Reformatory today. Cause of the fire is unknown. Norwood Fire Brigade quickly brought it under control.