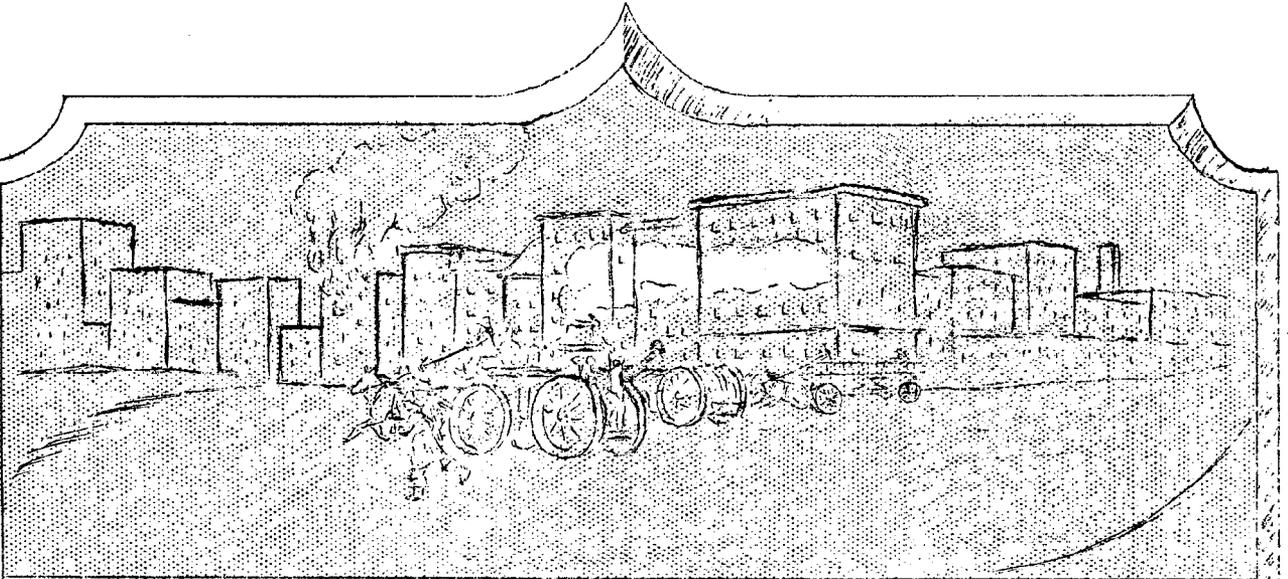


177

177

Annual Report
of the
PROVIDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT
for the Year Ended
December 31, 1952



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

INTER-CHAMBER
FIRE WASTE CONTEST

1951.

☆ CLASS III ☆

CITIES WITH POPULATION FROM 100,000 TO 250,000 FOR THE
BEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
IN FIRE PREVENTION

PRESENTED TO

PROVIDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Honorable Commissioner of Public Safety
209 Fountain Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Sir:

It is my privilege to respectfully submit for your consideration and approval the following Annual Report of the Providence Fire Department for the year ended December 31, 1952.

The principle function of a Fire Department is to provide fire protection which involves fire prevention and fire fighting. Fire fighting because of its nature seems to have a greater appeal to the general public than does fire prevention with its restrictions, prohibitions and interference with what are termed individual rights. However, I am happy to report to you that the fire losses for the year 1952 have been reduced by over one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, a fact which I consider noteworthy in view of the opposite trend throughout the nation.

Several factors are involved in this excellent fire loss record for the past year. One factor which I believe played a very important part in achieving this record was the recently installed system of dispatching a full box complement of apparatus to all still alarms for building fires. The old system called for one piece of apparatus to still alarms. If additional help was required the fire assumed serious proportions due to the delay in dispatching additional apparatus. This system has also proved effective in cutting down the number of multiple alarms. The comparatively few multiple alarms received during the year were from causes beyond the control of the Department and had reached the multiple alarm stage by the time the first apparatus arrived.

The system assures prompt and adequate help at the beginning of a fire when it counts most in preventing the spread of same.

The fire fighting force is deserving of high praise for the excellent and efficient manner in which they performed their work throughout the year. Without their wholehearted and loyal support such an excellent record could not have been achieved.

Another factor which I feel played an important part in the resultant excellent fire loss record is the stepped up Fire Prevention and fire inspection program conducted by the entire Department throughout the year.

Two additional inspectors were assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau during the year. This addition to the Bureau provides more complete coverage of the City. It also provides for the more expeditious handling of complaints handed in by companies out on district inspections. The volume of complaints has increased considerably as a result of the "In Service" fire inspection by companies equipped with two-way radio. Under the new plan entire companies are able to make district inspections while in service thereby being available to answer fire calls.

The program of Fire Prevention in our schools, lectures as well as demonstrations in all phases of fire safety is beginning to pay rich dividends in the matter of life safety and property loss from fire.

The people of Providence in their homes and places of business have exercised greater control in the prevention of fire during the past year than ever before as a result of our public education program as indicated by the reduction in building fires from 619 in 1951 to 490 in 1952.

The installation of two-way radio is a great step forward in the progress of the Department. It provides complete control of every piece of equipment at all times which is a distinct advantage in our normal operations.

The physical reorganization of the Department is now complete with the opening of the North Main Street Station, giving to the City of Providence one of the finest physical plants in the United States.

Our apparatus replacement program has resulted in the Department having modern up to date equipment to work with. Since 1942 the Department has acquired nineteen new pieces of equipment, with five pieces of equipment on order, four from the Federal Government on a matching fund basis.

The City of Providence was awarded first prize for all cities in the United States in its population class. The contest is conducted by the United States Chamber of Commerce to determine cities with the best fire prevention of fire fighting facilities.

Activities in the Department included cooperation in the Spring Clean-up Campaign, Fourth of July Safety Campaign, Anti-False Alarm Campaign and the sponsoring of fire prevention legislation. Other items were extension of the City's water main system and sprinkler installations in business establishments. During the year 1952 the Water Supply Board installed thirty-one post hydrants and replaced seventy standard and eleven special high service flush hydrants with post hydrants. They also added to the fire distribution system a total of 20,276 feet of new pipe. These new additions and changes in our fire distribution system greatly increase the efficiency of the system and increase the fire fighting facilities of the Department.

In presenting the award to the City of Providence the United States Chamber of Commerce was honoring the Providence Fire Department for having first - the most notable fire loss record for the year 1951, second - the best fire fighting facilities and third - the best community education program.

I have just been notified that the City of Providence has again been honored in another nationwide contest conducted by the National Fire Protection Association in Boston, Massachusetts. This latest honor to come to the City of Providence is first prize in its population class and fifth in all cities throughout the United States in the National Fire Prevention Week Contest. In over twenty years of participation in this National Fire Prevention Week Contest this is the first time that the City of Providence has won top honors. The award was given for the best municipal Fire Prevention Week Program.

I would like to point out an additional fact that I feel is noteworthy and in line with the good record achieved by the Department. As a result of a newly installed system of cutting down the number of companies responding to certain boxes in the outlying districts during the daytime hours, the Department has effected a saving of 340 runs by apparatus, which over a period of time will mean a tremendous saving in wear and tear of equipment.

Another reduction which is most gratifying is the reduction of false alarms for the year. During the year 1952 the Department responded to 192 less false alarms than the previous year. This is, I believe, the first year that such a reduction of this most annoying problem has been effected. I am firmly convinced that the program of installing outside bells on boxes that are chronic false alarm boxes is beginning to show results. This program will continue until all of the known false alarm boxes are equipped with the bells. It is hoped that it will eventually result in cutting down the false alarms to a minimum.

I am very proud to have the honor and privilege as Chief of Department to present this Annual Report of the Providence Fire Department for the year 1952. I also fully realize that such a splendid record could not have been achieved without the wholehearted support and cooperation accorded by the many agencies throughout the year. I wish especially to thank the Fire Prevention Committee of the Providence Chamber of Commerce for their loyal support throughout the year.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every member of the Department, to the Honorable members of the City Government and to you Commissioner Dunn for the fine cooperation and support given to me as Chief of Department all during the year 1952.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis A. Marshall

LEWIS A. MARSHALL,
Chief of Department.

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 19 1953

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE ORDER BE APPROVED.

W. Everett Whelan
Clerk

Gordon Jones, Superintendent - Automotive Repair Shop

Henry van Westendorp, Superintendent - Fire Alarm Telegraph

John B. Sullivan, Superintendent - Department of Building Repairs

Frank W. Schrage, Assistant Superintendent - Automotive Repair Shop

Clifton Leighton, Assistant Superintendent - Fire Alarm Telegraph

- - - -

Captain Frederick L. Badger
Captain George R. Carlson
Captain James F. Coleman, Jr.
Captain John F. Drury
Captain Richard B. J. Farmer
Captain John Feeney
Captain Thomas J. Fitzgerald
Captain William F. Gibbons
Captain Walter F. Hannaway
Captain Paul J. Herzog
Captain George O. Huestis
Captain Thomas J. Keenan
Captain James T. Killilea
Captain John R. Langton
Captain Joseph T. Lenahan
Captain Joseph B. Little

Captain Edward J. Dolan
Captain John T. McLaughlin
Captain Henry C. Maine
Captain Joseph P. Murrinan
Captain John J. Mohan
Captain James J. Neilan
Captain Carl H. Norberg
Captain Richard E. O'Leary
Captain Vincent T. Reardon
Captain Lincoln H. Ridgewell
Captain Sylvester F. Shea
Captain Earl J. Smith
Captain John E. Sullivan
Captain Frederick J. Ward
Captain Amos M. Weeden
Captain Riley A. Wilcox

- - - -

Lieutenant Russell H. Backman
Lieutenant Randolph F. Baggerson
Lieutenant William E. Beckett
Lieutenant Lawrence A. Bouchard
Lieutenant William D. Bourke
Lieutenant Francis E. Bressette
Lieutenant Arthur Brodeur
Lieutenant John E. Butler, Jr.
Lieutenant Edmund F. Carlson
Lieutenant Ambrose V. Clark
Lieutenant Raymond G. Connor
Lieutenant J.H. Logan Downey
Lieutenant Edwin A. Fay
Lieutenant Carl F. Fleigner
Lieutenant Anthony Gibalero
Lieutenant George E. LaPorte
Lieutenant George A. Gray

Lieutenant Edward J. Lester
Lieutenant William J. Lynch
Lieutenant Maurice J. Maguire
Lieutenant Joseph J. Mainey
Lieutenant Michael L. McDonough
Lieutenant John P. McKenna
Lieutenant Thomas McLaughlin
Lieutenant Edmond F. Mernane
Lieutenant George E. Nowell
Lieutenant Frederick J. O'Brien
Lieutenant Nicholas E. O'Brien
Lieutenant William H. O'Connell
Lieutenant Charles F. Potter
Lieutenant William S. Pryor
Lieutenant Alfred J. Reall
Lieutenant James W. Robertson
Lieutenant John L. Rooney

Lieutenant George E. Griffin
Lieutenant Frank Hodgson
Lieutenant William J. Hughes
Lieutenant William F. Kelley
Lieutenant Edward J. Kiernan
Lieutenant James E. Kilkenny

Lieutenant Raymond E. Shawcross
Lieutenant Francis A. Shea
Lieutenant Albert E. Skog
Lieutenant Daniel F. Stafford
Lieutenant George H. Vieweg
Lieutenant Bernard J. Waters

Lieutenant Leo P. Lavallee

	Chief	Deputy Chief	Batt. Chief	Supt.	Asst. Supt.	Captain	Lieut.	Privates	Civilians	Trainees	Military leave of absence
Headquarters	1		10				2		1		
Fire Prev. Bureau			1			1	2	6			
Fire Alarm Tel.				1	1			9	8		
Bu. Oper. Control			1					11			
Division of Train						2	1		1	15	
Repair Shop				1	1			3	7		
Building Repairs				1					5		
Rescue Co. #1							1	4			
" " #2							1	4			
Salvage Company								2			
Aide to Batt. Chief								11			
Carpenter Shop			1					2			
Engine Co. No. 1						1	2	10			
" " " 2						1	1	8	3		
" " " 3						1	1	11			
" " " 4						1	1	8			
" " " 5						1	2	8			
" " " 6						1	1	9			
" " " 7						1	2	10			
" " " 8						1	2	9			
" " " 9						1	2	10			1
" " " 10						1	2	10			
" " " 11						1	2	9			
" " " 12						1	2	10			
" " " 13						1	1	8			
" " " 14						1	2	10			
" " " 16						1	1	9			
" " " 17						1	2	8			1
" " " 18						1	1	11			
" " " 19						1	2	9			
" " " 20						1	1	8			
Ladder Co. No. 1						1	1	10			
" " " 2						1	1	11			
" " " 3						1	1	11			
" " " 4						1	1	11			
" " " 5						1	1	10			
" " " 6						1	1	11			
" " " 7						1	1	11			
" " " 8						1	1	11			
" " " 9						1	1	10			1
" " " 10						1	1	11			
Total	1		13	3	2	32	47	337	25	15	3

The apparatus consists of 19 Pumpers, 10 Ladder Trucks, 2 Engine Tenders, with 10 Triple Combination Pumpers and 4 Ladder Trucks in reserve.

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>G.P.M.</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Engine Co. No. 1	Triple Combination	1250	July 2, 1942
Engine Co. No. 2	" "	750	June 24, 1952
Engine Co. No. 3	" "	1250	November 20, 1945
Engine Co. No. 4	" "	1000	February 14, 1927
Engine Co. No. 5	" "	750	April 17, 1950
Engine Co. No. 6	" "	750	June 24, 1952
Engine Co. No. 7	" "	1250	July 14, 1942
Engine Co. No. 8	" "	750	April 10, 1950
Engine Co. No. 9	" "	1500	December 6, 1949
Engine Co. No. 10	" "	1000	August 25, 1927
Engine Co. No. 11	" "	1000	August 31, 1925
Engine Co. No. 12	" "	750	April 13, 1950
Engine Co. No. 13	" "	1000	March 5, 1924
Engine Co. No. 14	" "	750	April 13, 1950
Engine Co. No. 16	" "	1000	July 5, 1927
Engine Co. No. 17	" "	1000	August 26, 1927
Engine Co. No. 18	" "	750	September 18, 1952
Engine Co. No. 19	" "	1000	July 5, 1927
Engine Co. No. 20	" "	1000	March 5, 1924
Tender No. 7	Engine Tender		December 16, 1950
Tender No. 9	Engine Tender		August 23, 1950
Engine No. 18	Foamite Truck		September 18, 1952
Reserve No. 1	Triple combination	1000	August 25, 1929
" " 2	" "	1000	1924
" " 11	" "	1000	1924
" " 12	" "	1000	September 12, 1925
" " 13	" "	1000	August 25, 1925
" " 14	" "	1000	August 27, 1920
" " 16	" "	1000	June 16, 1919
" " 17	" "	1000	February 7, 1918
" " 19	" "	1000	August 18, 1920
" " 22	" "	1000	1926
Ladder Co. No. 1	Aerial		June 23, 1950
" " " 2	"		October 12, 1945
" " " 3	City Service		October 1, 1925
" " " 4	Aerial		November 23, 1942
" " " 5	"		March 27, 1946
" " " 6	"		April 16, 1916
" " " 7	"		February 21, 1950
" " " 8	City Service		June 5, 1929
" " " 9	Aerial		December 3, 1951
" " " 10	"		October 29, 1937
Ladder No. 6 Reserve	Aerial		1905
" " 7	City Service		1920
" " 9	" "		1919
" " 11	" "		1919

CAUSES OF FIRES AND ALARMS

For Fire in a building:

Candle - Lamp - Torch	20	Overheated Tar Kettle	1
Careless use of matches	14	" electric flat	2
" smoking	104	" oven	3
Cleansing solvents	2	Overturned portable oil heater	1
Defective chimney	6	Set by juveniles	17
" electrical appliance	9	Short circuit - wiring	17
" boiler - furnace	1	" " electric motor	3
" smoke pipe - flue	1	Rubbish - litter	15
" portable oil heater	6	Soot in chimney	10
" space " "	7	Spark from rubbish fire	51
" range oil burner	3	" " chimney	6
" power " "	2	" " motor-machine	1
" Gas heater	1	Spontaneous combustion	7
" wiring	2	Suspicious	9
Dust - lint	2	Overflow - space oil heater	2
Explosion	6	" range oil burner	2
Incendiary	2	Flareback " " "	1
Food - Grease	10	Miscellaneous	6
Hot ashes	2	Undetermined	121
Overheated boiler - furnace	4		
" electric motor	3		
" smoke pipe - flue	8		
		Total	490

Other than for a fire in a building:

False Alarm (Box)	314	Defective power oil burner	16
" " (Still)	71	" gas heater	1
Bon-fire	21*	" portable oil heater	2
Auto - truck - bus	355	" space " "	11
Bridge	11	" gas stove	2
Fence	21	" electric appliance	8
Dump	92	" chimney	3
Grass-brush-leaves	748	" boiler - furnace	1
Junk yard	6	" wiring	2
Lumber yard	4	Overflow power oil burner	2
Rubbish - litter	336	" space " "	7
Tree - pole	31	" range oil burner	37
Explosion	1	Overheated electric motor	18
Miscellaneous	169	" oven	4
Oil bomb in street	19	" smoke pipe	3
Rescue - emergency	828**	" tar kettle	3
Set by juveniles	2	" electric flar-iron	3
Needless - accidental	472	" boiler - furnace	2
Short circuit	3	Food - grease	1
Soot in chimney	11	Undetermined	5
Flareback - range oil burner	3		
Defective " " "	24		
		Total	3673

Note (*) 162 Bon-fires extinguished by roving apparatus during 4th of July.

Note (**) As noted above of the 4163 alarms answered by the Department 828 were calls for Rescue or Emergency services, separate and distinct from fire service.

NUMBER OF ALARMS DURING EACH HOUR

<u>Hour</u> <u>A.M.</u>	<u>Alarms</u> <u>A.M.</u>	<u>Hour</u> <u>P.M.</u>	<u>Alarms</u> <u>P.M.</u>
12 - 1	141	12 - 1	250
1 - 2	114	1 - 2	280
2 - 3	90	2 - 3	276
3 - 4	52	3 - 4	266
4 - 5	53	4 - 5	276
5 - 6	47	5 - 6	269
6 - 7	46	6 - 7	251
7 - 8	69	7 - 8	253
8 - 9	93	8 - 9	229
9 - 10	138	9 - 10	187
10 - 11	189	10 - 11	195
11 - 12	236	11 - 12	154
		Total	4163

NUMBER OF ALARMS DURING EACH DAY

Sunday	547
Monday	553
Tuesday	552
Wednesday	540
Thursday	619
Friday	675
Saturday	<u>677</u>
Total	4163

The following is the statistical summary of the activities of the fire fighting force of the Department for the year ended December 31, 1952:

Working time of companies at fires	4102 hours - 23 min.
Working time at dumps	180 " 10 "
Working time of pumpers at fires	97 " 57 "

- - - -

HOSE LINES USED:

Booster	No. of lines used	1349	-	Total feet of hose	-	165,900
1½" hose	" " "	477	-	" " " "	-	59,750
2½" "	" " "	587	-	" " " "	-	188,880
3" "	" " "	13	-	" " " "	-	4,300

- - - -

MASTER STREAM APPLIANCES USED:

Aerial pipe	1
Alfco Deck Gun	5
Eastman Barker	2
Baker Turret Pipe	1

- - - -

LADDERS USED:

Aerial Ladders - No. used	31	-	Total feet	2685
Portable " - " "	1058	-	" "	22800

- - - -

EXTINGUISHERS USED:

Foam	16
Soda - Acid	3
Pump Tank	269
Carbon Dioxide	53
Carbon Tetrachloride	69

- - - -

OTHER EQUIPMENT USED:

Salvage covers	835	Homelites	38
Bundles of laths	36	Generators	31
Rolls of roofing paper	103¼	Sprinkler heads	29
Smoke ejector	21		

EXTRA HOURS AND LOST TIME:

Extra hours of duty performed	3,945	hours	-	16	min.
Time in attendance at drills	1,887	"	-	42	"
Time lost by members through sickness	37,681	"	-	-	"
Time lost by members through injuries	44,346	"	-	37	"
Special time granted	4,261	"	-	10	"

- - - -

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING YEAR:

RESIDENTIAL: (dwellings, apartments, rooming houses, etc.)	63,412
NON-RESIDENTIAL: (Theatres, churches, hospitals, schools, etc)	3,407
MERCANTILE: (Retail stores, restaurants repair shops, etc)	7,163
MANUFACTURING: (Factories, bakeries, laundries, etc.)	1,261
STORAGE: Warehouses, piers, etc.)	297
MISCELLANEOUS: (Power plants, pumping stations, etc.)	233
HYDRANTS:	36,670
APPROVALS AND PERMITS:	
Gasoline	4,094
Garages	4,195
Dangerous Chemicals	319

- - - -

Blood donations made by members of the Department	-	17
Death caused by fire		2
Multiple alarm fires	- 2nd Alarm 6 - 3rd Alarm	2

FIRE LOSS DATA

Loss on buildings - Insured	\$418,063.72
Loss on contents - Insured	393,098.55
Loss on buildings - Uninsured, estimated	6,210.00
Loss on contents - Uninsured, estimated	2,018.00
Insurance carried on Buildings	\$16,179,423.00
Insurance carried on contents	5,249,710.00

Fire loss for the year 1951	\$997,205.42
Fire loss for the year 1952	<u>811,162.27</u>
Decrease for year	\$186,043.15

- - - -

Per capita loss for the year 1951	\$4.04
Per capita loss for the year 1952	3.28

- - - -

PENSION ROLL

Seven members of the Fire Department were placed on the Pension Rolls during the past year having made application to retire in the manner required by the Public Laws:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE PENSION EFFECTIVE</u>
Francis X. Fallon	January 20, 1952
William C. McKinnon	February 24, 1952
Frederick J. Cooney	May 18, 1952
Charles J. Albies	August 21, 1952
John T. Mullen	October 19, 1952
Frederick E. Case	December 1, 1952

- - - -

Four members resigned during the year:

Raymond A. Owen	June 23, 1952
Edward J. Reynolds	July 29, 1952
Kasmier J. Suibielski	September 14, 1952
Peter J. Haggarty	October 3, 1952

- - - -

MORTALITY

Six active members and six pensioned members died during the past year:

Lieutenant Cornelius Ryan - Active member
Died December 16, 1952

- - - -

Lieutenant Vincent Flannagan - Active member
Died March 30, 1952

- - - -

Lieutenant Vincent Duggan - Active member
Died October 27, 1952

- - - -

Private Rudolph Forsberg - Active member
Died June 30, 1952

- - - -

Private Robert Carroll - Active member
Died October 5, 1952

- - - -

Private James Francis - Active member
Died August 15, 1952

- - - -

John E. Doherty - Pensioned member
Died January 10, 1952

- - - -

George Vonnberg - Pensioned member
Died February 14, 1952

- - - -

William A. Orr - Pensioned member
Died May 4, 1952

- - - -

Frank E. Campbell - Pensioned member
Died May 8, 1952

- - - -

John E. McElroy - Pensioned member
Died May 30, 1952

- - - -

Nicholas R. Feely - Pensioned member
Died December 3, 1952

- - - -

PROVIDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF TRAINING
ANNUAL REPORT

The following constitutes the activities of the Division of Training for the year 1952.

On January 1, 1952, the 9th Trainee Class, consisting of 15 Trainees, who were inducted into the Trainees' School October 15, 1951, were completing their last week of Unit Training in Division Quarters.

On January 3rd, they submitted to their final unit examination and on January 7th, under an arranged schedule, the Trainees began their Advanced Training which consisted of one week each for each Trainee in the following services in the Fire Department; Fire Prevention Bureau, Salvage Co. No. 1, Rescue Co. No. 1, Repair Shop and Fire Alarm and; ten weeks each during which time, under group arrangement, the Trainees were assigned to Platoon Duty responding to fires as Auxiliary 13 out of the Division of Training under the supervision of two Duty Officers. This schedule was adopted to provide further training of the Trainees while on day duty in advanced training.

On April 18th, the 15 Trainees comprising the 9th Trainees Class completed their 6 months schooling and training and were appointed as permanent members of the Fire Department, 4th Grade, retroactive to April 15, 1952.

On April 13, 1952, Captain John T. McLaughlin, then Acting Director of Training was relieved of that duty and was assigned to command of Engine Co. No. 10 and Captain John R. Langton was assigned as Acting Director of the Division of Training.

On April 18th, under direction of the Chief of Department, Lewis A. Marshall, the Acting Director of Training prepared a set of Drill Practices and Training Evolutions for Individual Engine Companies' Training, individual Ladder Companies' Training and joint Engine and Ladder Companies' Training for Engine and Ladder Companies' Station Drill season beginning May 1st and terminating November 1st.

A schedule of Drill assignment days for individual company drills and joint company drills for both Engine and Ladder companies was also prepared and attached to the mimeographed copies of the Drill Practices and Drill Evolutions.

In approving and putting into effect the Drill Practices and Training Evolutions, the Chief of Department issued a General Order to the Department authorizing the Chiefs of Battalions to supervise both individual and joint company drills and empowered in the Chiefs of Battalions, the authority to order the execution of any drill practice or training evolution which in their opinion was beneficial in improving a Company's efficiency.

On May 7th, by order of the Chief of Department, plans were set in motion to induct 15 Trainees to comprise the 10th Training Class of this Division.

A qualifying competitive intelligence examination was conducted on June 19th at Central High School where 63 candidates reported for the examination.

However, because in the previous Trainees School there were 5 candidates to whom entrance was denied because of a doubtful draft status, only ten were chosen by the June 19th examination, the other five being made up of those candidates who had passed the previous examination and whose draft status was now clarified as satisfactory. The status of these five for acceptance in the 10th School was made possible by the Chief of Department, who exempted them from taking another qualifying examination and directed that these five be certified for the 10th School if their draft status was satisfactory and other conditions such as physical fitness etc., were complied with.

Beginning June 2nd, and continuing until July 18th, inclusive, an In-service Training Schedule, consisting of instructions in the handling of ladders and ladder drills, was conducted by this Division at the Training Tower on Dexter Street for members of the Engine and Ladder Companies.

Each day, Monday through Friday, for this period, Chiefs of Battalion District assigned three members daily from their Districts until all members of engine and ladder companies had received a full days training.

In the ladder instructions much emphasis was put into the proper hand positions to take and body action to be employed in raising ladders speedily and at the same time avert any chance of personal injury.

The instructions also consisted of raising ladders under every possible hindering circumstance such as wires, narrow passages on sides of buildings, on hills, etc.

The attendance at these instructions and drills totaled 343 officers and privates of the Engine and Ladder Companies.

On June 9th, this division, on orders from the Chief of Department, mimeographed and mailed out a form letter and form answer reply to 52 citizens who had signed up as auxiliary firemen requesting their participation with the department in assisting to extinguish street bonfires by manning auxiliary apparatus on the nights of the 3rd and 4th of July.

Also to the 28 auxiliary members whose replies expressed their intentions to participate, this division, on the 19th of June, mailed directions where to report and time of reporting.

These auxiliary firemen by the plans of the Chief of Department gained needed experience in laying and handling charged lines of hose at the numerous bonfires they combatted during the two day street bonfire period.

On July 21st, 15 accepted candidates for the 10th Trainees School reported to the division of training to begin their 6 months training in preparation for appointment to the Fire Department.

During the phase of their basic training when ordinarily they would be daily at the Drill Tower being instructed in and executing hose and ladder drills and evolutions, the annual hose and pump test was begun and because of depleted personnel within the department, the trainees were assigned in two groups daily, one group reporting to the tower in the A.M., to assist in laying lines and assist generally in the hose test, the other group remaining at the Division where instructions and hose and ladder evolutions were conducted. Each afternoon, the group that reported to the Tower in the A.M., remained at the Division for instructions and ladder and hose evolutions and the other group reported to the tower to assist in laying lines and generally assisting in the hose test.

With the completion of the annual hose test, the drill tower yard was again available to the trainees and their basic training at the drill tower was concluded with extensive pompier ladder practice and, on Sept. 9th a written examination covering basic training was conducted at the Division.

On September 2nd, Unit Training for the 10th Trainees Class was begun which continued until October 18th. During this time the Trainees were taught hydraulics, were instructed in the Chemistry of Fire, on ventilation, instructed in first aid, classification of fires, instructed in the rules and regulations of the Department, reviewed the equipment carried on apparatus and the use of same, as well as general instructions on required knowledge of hydrant locations, streets and intersection numbers and construction and occupancy of buildings.

Each Saturday afternoon from August 2nd until October 4th, inclusive, the entire class was taken to Fields Point for chaffering and tillering training and practice. The Trainees concluded their Unit Training with two written examinations, one on hydraulics and the other a general examination on subject matter covered in their instructions.

From July 28th until October 18th, the Trainees while on night duty responded with apparatus under supervision of Duty Lieutenants and Voluntary Duty Officers to alarms of fire, from boxes to which the Trainees were scheduled to respond, to observe and be instructed in fire extinguishing practices. As they became more proficient they were given more opportunity to participate in assisting at these fires to which they responded and at the spectacular Summer Street fire involving five buildings, Chief Officers and Company Officers at that fire gave very favorable comment to the Trainees work.

On Sept. 15th and continuing through October 2nd, and from October 17th through October 23rd, Hose and Ladder evolutions and pump practices were conducted daily at the Training Tower for working company units together with additional personnel to maintain a balanced group reporting daily.

The schedule for the daily attendance was drawn up by this Division and the evolutions conducted represented a good cross section of standard drill practices in progressive firefighting.

The attendance of officers and members of engine and ladder companies at these daily hose and ladder evolutions and pump practices totalled 318 members.

On October 20th, the 10th Trainee Class began their advanced Training which shall be concluded January 24, 1953.

During this period each trainee by an arranged schedule shall receive active firefighting and other pertinent active training as follows: six weeks with engine companies, four weeks with ladder companies, and one week each with the following Units of the Department: Fire Prevention Bureau, Rescue No. 1, Salvage Co. No. 1, Repair Shop and Fire Alarm Operational Control Office.

On October 10th, this Division, upon direction of the Chief of Department, announced the holding of a joint session promotional school for the training of seven competitively chosen privates and seven competitively chosen lieutenants for future promotions to lieutenants and captains, respectively, in the Fire Department.

The date for closing of applications was declared as of October 24th.

A competitive qualifying examination was conducted by the Acting Director of Training at Central High School on November 14th. Fifty one privates and 27 lieutenants participated in the examination.

Upon receiving the Certified List containing the names of the top seven privates and the top eight lieutenants, two lieutenants having tied for seventh place, the Chief of Department announced by General Orders on November 19th a list of names of those privates and lieutenants who had been competitively selected to attend the joint session promotional school and also set the date as of December 1st for the beginning of three weeks intensive course of the promotional school.

The promotional school instructions were concluded on December 20th and the sequence of the candidates finished both for promotion to lieutenants and captains was certified to the Chief of Department by the Acting Director of Training.

In addition to the foregone, this Division in compliance with the regulations continues to maintain a system of permanent records of members of Department and those who make application to become members as required in the regulations.

During the year, this Division also did extensive mimeographing of various types of forms and reports used in the Fire Department.

As this report is being concluded this Division, upon direction of the Chief of Department, is making plans for an early induction of another class of Trainees.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN R. LANGTON,
Captain, Acting
Director of Training.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

I respectfully submit for your consideration and approval the following report of the activities for the Bureau of Fire Prevention for the year ending December 31, 1952.

The year 1952 was a most successful year from the standpoint of Fire Prevention. The City of Providence won top honors in two nationwide Fire Prevention Contests.

During the year two additional inspectors were assigned to the Bureau. At the present time the personnel of the Bureau consists of ten members as follows: One Battalion Chief, one Captain two Lieutenants and six Inspectors. With the addition of the two inspectors the existing districts were cut down to some extent which will make for greater coverage of the City by the Bureau. It will also help to dispose of the complaints being sent in by the companies. Since the recent inspection of the "In Service" company inspections the complaints have increased considerably.

During the year one member of the Bureau was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned to the fire fighting force. Another member of the Bureau took a special course in oil burner installation and maintenance. This course is offered to one member of the Bureau by the New England Oil Heat Institute and all expenses are paid for by them.

During the year the Bureau had exhibits at the Shrine Circus held at the Narragansett Race Track, the Teacher's Institute at the Rhode Island College of Education and LaSalle Academy. The Bureau also sponsored an elaborate exhibit at the Civil Defense Alert America show held at the Cranston Street Armory.

Our year round school Fire Prevention program under the direction of Lieutenant Frederick J. O'Brien, Sr., is expanding each year. The Annual Teaching Unit prepared by Lieutenant O'Brien in cooperation with the Providence School Department, is in greater demand each year. Copies are being sent on request all over the United States and to some foreign countries.

A glance at the report of building fires will show a decided reduction in the number of same for the year. Also our fire loss record shows a sizeable reduction for the year.

In view of these reductions, in the face of rising fire losses throughout the rest of the Nation, it is reasonable to assume that our year round Fire Prevention Program coupled with the stepped up "In Service" fire inspections by the companies, are beginning to show good results.

While there is still much work to be done in the field of Fire Prevention and fire protection to achieve a completely fire safe City, every effort will be made by the members of the Bureau to constantly keep before the public the necessity of fire safety in their homes and places of business.

I herewith present the following resume of the activities of the Bureau of Fire Prevention for the year ending December 31, 1952:

INVESTIGATIONS:

Complaints	1037
Complaints corrected	559
Complaints - Unjustified	73
Buildings razed	72
Buildings repaired	71
Referred to Health Dept.	23
Referred to Bldg Insp.	47
Referred to Pub.Serv. Engr.	25
Request of occupants	139
Defec.chimneys-smoke pipe etc.	84
Fire escapes-panic bolts etc.	22
Obstructed exits	73
Open exposures	116
Burning rubbish	233
Rubbish conditions corrected	365
Additional exits needed	23

FIRES:

Fires investigated	985
Suspicious fires	32
Referred to Juvenile Div.	7
Fire losses investigated	1285
Court cases	6

PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY:

Bingos	370
Exhibitions (Boxing-Hockey)	8
Carnivals	16

INSPECTIONS:

Original inspections	1048
Re-inspections	819
Theaters	180
Convalescent homes	24
Nursing homes	9
Homes for children	90
Hospitals	13
Schools	186
Orphanages	10
Storage of vehicles	57
Gasoline applications	109
Storage of fuel oil in bulk	10
Dangerous chem.applications	59

MISCELLANEOUS:

Moving picture showings	33
Attendance at "	7426
Talks	157
Fire Prev.Demonstrations	40
Attendance at "	5658
No smoking signs issued	375
Conferences attended	1
Fire Drills conducted	161
Warning slips issued	3
Photographs taken	401
Extra Hours worked	572
Radio broadcasts	4
Television Broadcasts	8
Pamphlets distributed	990
Books "	842
Posters	241

Respectfully submitted,

LEO E. GORMAN,
Battalion Chief.

BUREAU OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL

The following is the report of activities of the Bureau of Operational Control for the year ending December 31, 1952.

As this division is responsible for the effective and accurate dispatching of department units and personnel, it is my privilege to report once again that dispatching companies to alarms of fire and other emergencies by voice over the vocalarm system has proven to be highly efficient.

Listed high among important achievements during 1952 was the installation of two-way radios in the apparatus of the Engine Companies of the Department. The benefits that have been gained from this rapid, dependable form of communication have proven to be of indispensable value and importance to this division for it allows us to communicate with a piece of apparatus while enroute to a fire, to turn them back in case of a false alarm or when their aid is not needed, to have apparatus communicate with each other while at a fire, to call for additional help when needed, and to place companies back in service at their earliest convenience. Records also show that this F. M. two-way radio has proven highly efficient to the Chief Officers operating on the firegrounds. Therefore, by the installation of radios in the Department apparatus, this Bureau has been given complete control of all cars and apparatus in the field, and a great amount of time has been saved.

Another time-saving device which has been added during the past year and which has been most helpful to the dispatcher, has been the installation of a special switch on the vocalarm desk by the Fire Alarm Division. This switch makes it possible for the dispatcher to transmit alarms of fire and other emergencies over the vocalarm and radio systems simultaneously.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN,
Battalion Chief.

CARPENTER SHOP

The work accomplished by the Carpenter Shop during the year 1952 is as follows:

A total of 325 feet of new ladders were built, including extension, roof, folding and step-ladders. Repairs were made to 435 feet of ladders. Two coats of varnish was applied to about 2500 feet of ladders, including the ladders on four ladder trucks. 24 various size poles were made for plaster hooks. 9 hose poles were made, 38 handles put in fire axes, new handles were made for a number of items including pull-over rakes, shovels and squeegees. 40 pieces of furniture were repaired. Made 6 new hose platforms. 6 new mop racks, 4 new work benches, 10 boxes for hot water cans, 8 battery boxes and 2 cabinets for equipment.

With the installation of two-way radio in the department brackets and shelves were made for 5 Engine Companies. Made and installed chair railing in 4 fire stations. A number of shelves were installed in the stock room at Fire Alarm Headquarters. Made patterns for Fire Alarm Bells. 585-8 x 8 hydrant signs were made. A new platform 8 x 10 was made to hold portable house used to demonstrate fire hazards during Fire Prevention Week. 44 wooden horses made for various Police Precincts. 2 - 4 x 6 Bulletin Boards made for Traffic Division.

A considerable amount of furniture was repaired and refinished for the Police Department.

The following work was done at Civilian Defense Headquarters: A part of the apparatus floor was partitioned off into a room 10 x 12. Made 4 - 4 x 6 standing frames, 2 - 4 x 5 standing frames, 2 - 7 x 30 tables, platform, with 4 casters to hold portable generator. Cut and fitted 5 pieces of plywood to cover windows in the event of an air raid.

A considerable amount of time was put into the making of 6 large tables and card racks for the board of canvassers.

The Carpenter Shop is called upon to make or repair many other items, too numerous to list but which are essential to the successful operation of both the Police and Fire Departments.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd) EUGENE L. HAWKINS
Battalion Chief.

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

As in the past, the Fire Alarm Division has continued to enlarge and improve the entire installation of the system by constant checking, testing and supervision. As can be seen, this procedure is mandatory to maintain the high degree of accuracy which has always been a necessity for the proper reception and transmission of alarms of fire.

Both the enlargement and maintenance of our installation has been hampered to some extent by the lack of materials, particularly line wire. We have had a considerable amount of this material on order for some time but to date the manufacturer has not made delivery as promised and as a consequence it has been necessary to completely revise our work schedule pending delivery.

During the past year the new fire station on North Main Street was finished and as this was the last building to be completed under the re-organization program, it was gratifying to see this program through to its completion.

As is the policy of this Division, we installed all of the necessary Fire Alarm equipment and all of the wiring serving this equipment. A major underground cable terminal was also installed in this building which can be used for testing and localizing troubles, should they ever occur. As of this date, this building is entirely completed except for a change that is to be made in the traffic light installation and this change is awaiting the delivery of some of the necessary equipment.

During the past year, we completed the project which was started some years ago of removing from service all of the oldest Fire Alarm Boxes. Some of these boxes were as much as 50 years old and through our routine testing system it was found that these boxes were not to be depended upon for the correct transmission of alarms of fire. All of these boxes have now been replaced by boxes of the latest type and should consequently be in service for many years to come.

As in the past, this Division has made connections to additional Fire Alarm Boxes as requests were made by private owners of properties who wish to have them so protected and also to public boxes as the materials were made available.

During the year 1952, we connected to five privately owned installations and also added three public boxes. We also removed two privately owned boxes at the request of their owners. At the present time, we have 880 Fire Alarm boxes connected to our system, both public and privately owned.

As this office feels that the various officers and members of this Department might be in a better position to know of the need of additional boxes in specific locations, it is hoped that any suggestions that they might have, be sent to this office for consideration.

During the year 1952, considerable strides have been made by this Division in the installation of two-way mobile radio equipment on the fire fighting apparatus of this Department. This Division has completed the installation of this type of equipment on 17 pieces of apparatus so that at the present time, in addition to the equipment which was installed previous to this year, all but three of the Engine Companies are fully equipped.

As of this date, the following is the lineup of mobile units of this Department which are equipped with two-way radios.

Chief of Department - 4 Battalion Chiefs cars - 1 spare Battalion Chiefs car - 16 Engine Companies - 2 Rescue Companies - Superintendent of Fire Alarm - Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm - Chief of Fire Prevention Bureau - Fire Alarm trouble truck. At the present time we are awaiting the delivery of a new Fire Alarm cable splicers truck and a new Fire Alarm line truck and when these trucks are turned over to this Division they will also be radio equipped. The necessary sets are now on hand in this Division.

The value of the entire radio installation in the Department has been proven time and time again and it is the general concensus of opinion that this network has speeded up communications as well as having almost completely eliminated the necessity of using the Fire Alarm Box Signal Code in transmitting messages from the scene of a fire to Fire Alarm Headquarters. This procedure is highly desirable as it gives the entire Department its two most wanted features, speed and accuracy.

Since the Police Signal System was turned over to this Division in 1949, we have been combining the Police Signal circuits with the Fire Alarm circuits wherever possible and I am pleased to report that this work is well on the way to becoming to the point when we will be able to sub-divide some of the Police Box circuits and thereby utilizing the new Police Telegraph Desk to its fullest extent and eliminate some of the overcrowding on certain of the Police Box circuits.

During the past year, we have been able to combine several of the Police Box Pedestals with Fire Alarm Box Pedestals thereby eliminating several hazards on the streets of the City.

During the past year, we received and installed the three new recorders on the Police Telegraph Desk which had been promised by the Gamewell Company to replace the equipment originally furnished and which was found to be unsatisfactory. Since these replacements were made, we have had practically no more trouble from this source and I feel that the present equipment is entirely satisfactory.

In an effort to eliminate some of the false alarms received by this Department, this Division is starting to install warning bells on certain of the public boxes which have been used often for this purpose. It is to be hoped that the installation of these bells will have the desired effect, as several previous installations of this type have. In the case of the few privately owned Fire Alarm Boxes which are used at times for sounding false alarms, this Division has taken the matter up with the owners of the properties and made suggestions to them. Several of these boxes can either be relocated to a more secure position or they can be equipped with lock type doors, either of which should clean up the false alarm use made of these boxes. In some few cases, it may be found that the removal of the boxes will not create a hazard and may prove to be the best means of eliminating this great nuisance.

During the past several years, a number of building plats have been opened up for the construction of houses and business establishments and it has been found that it will be necessary for this Division to extend its Fire Alarm Box circuits to give these areas the protection to which they are entitled. These installations will be made as the materials become available.

Another project which this Division has undertaken recently is the remaking of all of maps of the underground plant of the Department. During the last few years, there have been extensive changes in both the location and in the cable conductor sizes used that it has been found to be impracticable to revise the existing maps and as a consequence we have started to make an entire new set. This is another project which will not be completed for some time as this work will have to be done when and as the time becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HENRY van WESTENDORP
Superintendent.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING REPAIRS

Submitted herewith is the operational report of the Department of Building Repairs and Maintenance for the year 1952. This department is charged with the repairs and maintenance of buildings of both the Fire and Police Departments. The following is a summary of work accomplished during the year:

Fire stations painted outside	4	Fire stations painted inside	8
Police " " inside	1	Chiefs office " "	1
Iron work scrapped & painted	9	Apparatus doors "	5
Womens cell block painted	1	Tables & easels " for Fire Prev. Bureau.	
Rescue #2 interior painted		Traffic lines painted in Pol Garage	
Cellars of Fire Sta. "	4	180 Hydrant Standards Painted & repaired	
Hyd signs painted & repaired	500	Traffic horses painted & lettered	78
Celotex ceiling installed	1	" pulpits " & repaired	4
New window sash installed	2	Apparatus doors repaired	8
New overhead doors "	2	New storm windows installed	6
" elec. operator "	1	" benches in cell block at Prec. #3.	
Windows boarded up in 1 Fire Sta.		All ext. relocated in Hqrs. Bldg	
Repairs to pipes & plumbing at all buildings and stations during the year.			
Boilers recovered	5	Heating systems changed over	2
New floor drain installed	1	Clogged drains cleared	2
Plumbing in cell block overhauled		Gasoline pump installed	1
Boilers vacuumed & cleaned	20	" " repaired	8
Oil burner overhauled	1	Fill pipes raised & cemented	2
Cement floor installed	2	Buildings repointed	1
Capping & flashings installed	2	Gimmey "	1
Roof repairs	9	Lights of glass replaced	84
Lawns repaired & seeded		Locks & door checks repaired	24
Linoleum & tiles recemented		New asphalt floors installed	2
New oil drip pans installed	12	" linen closets "	2
Desks & chairs moved for voter registration drive. Fire Prevention exhibits moved for exhibits etc. Stations moved to new quarters - 3. 200 Dog license posters made & set out. Also assisted in observance of Fire Prevention week by setting up displays & hanging banners.			

In addition this department is called on to set out displays and hang banners for different charitable drives.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JOHN B. SULLIVAN
Superintendent.

REPORT OF AUTO MAINTENANCE - REPAIR SHOP

The automotive Division is responsible for the maintenance of the automotive units of the Department. A total of 79 units, 48 of these are major fire fighting units, including motor pumping engines, aerial ladder trucks, city service trucks, rescue and salvage trucks and auxiliary pumping units. The remaining 31 units comprise Chief Officers cars and the necessary trucks and automobiles used by the various divisions of the Department.

During the year the division had supervision of all pumping units at multiple alarms of fire. In addition to the aforementioned it is the duty of the division to supervise the acceptance tests of new apparatus, and the yearly service tests of the various pumping units within the Department.

In the year 1952 we received and placed in service three new 750 G.P.M., pumping units. Several over age units were disposed of.

The following summary of jobs completed for the year ending December 1952 are as follows:

Engines overhauled - pumping units	1
Transmissions " " "	2
" " ladder trucks	3
Fire pumps "	2
Motor inspections - oil pans down	26
Clutches " cleaned out	26
Booster tanks - installed	5
Minor repairs completed	1075
Battery changes	872

In addition to the above summary Homelite pumping units, generators used for lighting at night fires were serviced, also numerous appliances used within the Department were serviced in our machine shop.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) GORDON JONES
Superintendent.

RESCUE COMPANY NO. 1.

Report of activities for Rescue Co. No. 1, for the year ending
December 31, 1952:

Boxes	195
Stills	528
Special Signals	18
Second Alarms	0
Third Alarms	1
First Aid Rendered	507
E. & J. Cases	305
Revivals	225
Fetals	35
Refrigerator leaks	27
Ammonia leaks	5
Water rescues	8
Boat used	20
Drownings	3
Auto accidents	29
Elevator accidents	2
Save-In	0
Hangings	1
Miscellaneous cases	24
Child birth	5
Oxygen used (E cylinders)	156
Blood donors	3
Generators used	16
Lights (Flood)	16
Smoke ejectors used	35
Instructions given	278 Hours
Out of service	265 " 25 min.
Mileage	1675 Miles

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CHARLES F. POTTER
Lieutenant.

RESCUE COMPANY NO. 2

During the year ending December 31, 1952, due to the rapid increase in emergency Rescue work each year, from 254 runs in 1942 to 689 runs in 1951, it was found necessary to add to the forces of the Fire Department another Rescue Unit to be known as Rescue Co. No. 2. This unit was placed in service April 14, 1952 at 8:00, A.M., at 201 Messer Street, with a complement of five men. One Lieutenant and four Privates, using the 1½ ton 1939 Chevrolet formerly used by Rescue Co. No. 1. It is fully equipped and is now doing all types of rescue work.

A complete summary of the activities of this unit for the year ending December 31, 1952 is as follows:

First Aid rendered	176
E. & J. cases	115
Revivals	93
Fatals D.O.A.	24
Water rescues	1
Drownings	0
Refrigerator leaks	9
Ammonia leaks	3
Auto accidents	10
Cave-in	1
Elevator accidents	1
Engings	0
Boat & motor used	4
Miscellaneous cases	22
Oxygen cylinders used	51
Generators	5
Flood lights	2
Smoke & fume ejectors	8
Electric tools used	2
Total runs	390

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) ARTHUS BRODEUR,
Lieutenant.

SALVAGE COMPANY NO. 1.

The following is a summary of the operations of Salvage Company No. 1, for the year ending December 31, 1952:

Boxes	196
Stills	79
Special Signals	52
Hours in service	232 - 53 min.
Inside covers	627
Roof "	21
Sprinkler Heads	24
Roofing paper	43-3/4 rolls
Laths	14 bundles
Ladders used	80 feet

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JAMES H. COLEMAN, Jr.
Captain