

MASON CITY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL

REPORT FOR

1953

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MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEARLY REPORT

1953

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YEARLY REPORT OF THE PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, IOWA FOR THE
YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1953

To the Honorable George E. Mendon, February 12, 1954
Mayor,
Mason City, Iowa.

Dear Sir;

I have the honor herewith to submit to you the
YEARLY REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT for the year ending,
December 31, 1953. This being my third and the forty-fourth
yearly report of the paid fire department of the City of
Mason City, Iowa.

Also being the ninth yearly report under the
Mayor-Council form of City Government.

It will show as far as possible the record of
operations, alarms, valuations, insurance and losses on
buildings and contents by fire during the year and my
recommendations for the betterment and improvement of
the Department and fire service and increasing of its
efficiency.

Any information pertaining to the Department
desired by you and not contained herein, will be
supplied on your request.

This report is due right after the end of the
year, but due to the slow process of adjusting fires by
the Insurance Adjusters, these reports usually run late.
All losses herein are the true losses as received from
insurance adjusters, as the Department makes no estimated
losses.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Boyd Arnold,
Chief of Fire Department.

PERSONNEL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31st, 1953

Chief of Department	1
Superintendent of Fire Prevention Bureau	1
Captain of Fire Department	2
Lieutenant of Fire Department	6
Clerk of Fire Department	1
Firemen First Class	20
Firemen Second Class	3
Firemen Third Class	0
Probationary Firemen	4
Total all grades	38

Of the above Personnel, the following
special assignments are made.

Fire Alarm Operator, Fireman First Class	1
Fire Alarm Operator, Lieutenant	1
Relief Fire Alarm Operator & Inspector, Lieutenant ...	1

NAME & RANK	DATE OF APPOINTMENT TO DEPARTMENT		TO RANK
CHIEF			
Arnold, A. Boyd	July	1,1928 ..:.....	June 4,1951
SUPT. OF FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU			
Sweeney, Vern E.	October	5,1920 ..:.....	September 1,1937
CAPTAINS			
Pierce, Clifford J.	May	18,1928 ..:.....	June 16,1944
Cunningham, John K.	January	20,1931 ..:.....	February 2,1952
LIEUTENANT			
Hutchison, Harold H.	June	1,1929 ..:.....	September 1,1939
Hesse, Frank A.	August	1,1930 ..:.....	September 1,1939
Faktor, Martin J.	September	1,1929 ..:.....	June 16,1944
Moore, Fred E.	October	16,1937 ..:.....	August 1,1946
Lauen, Marvin A.	September	1,1939 ..:.....	February 2,1952
Schurtz, Harold E.	September	1,1939 ..:.....	April 7,1952
CLERK OF FIRE DEPARTMENT			
Ray D. Waller	January	10,1940 ..:.....	August 1,1946
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS			
Grelk, Fred O.	May	1,1933 ..:.....	February 1,1938
McGrath, William P.	November	8,1934 ..:.....	September 1,1938
Arnold, Lynn A.	August	1,1935 ..:.....	September 16,1938
Hesse, Alfred B.	April	13,1936 ..:.....	May 16,1939
Powers, Leo M.	December	1,1936 ..:.....	February 16,1940
Carroll, Jesse J.	September	1,1939 ..:.....	September 1,1942
Gardinier, Lyle E.	September	1,1939 ..:.....	September 1,1942
Fritz, Elmer J.	September	1,1939 ..:.....	February 1,1943
Berry, Walter M.	April	16,1946 ..:.....	April 16,1946
Cunningham, Warren H.	April	16,1946 ..:.....	December 26,1947
Lauer, Vincent A.	April	16,1946 ..:.....	January 3,1948
Dosen, Mike M.	April	16,1946 ..:.....	March 8,1948
Holt, John H.	July	18,1946 ..:.....	January 18,1949
McDougle, Dwaine O.	July	19,1946 ..:.....	January 19,1949
Allen, Dan N.	November	19,1946 ..:.....	May 18,1949
Rice, Louis V. Jr.	January	1,1947 ..:.....	July 1,1949
Blunt, Richard R.	March	20,1949 ..:.....	September 20,1950
Bender, John E.	June	1,1951 ..:.....	June 1,1953
Gerdes, Marvin A.	July	16,1951 ..:.....	July 16,1953
Luecht, Ralph R.	November	1,1951 ..:.....	November 1,1953
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS			
Vosburgh, Marvin L.	June	1,1952 ..:.....	June 1,1953
Briscoe, Bernard B.	August	1,1952 ..:.....	August 1,1953
Martin, Donald C.	December	1,1952 ..:.....	December 1,1953
PROBATIONARY FIREMAN			
Pearson, Richard L.	August	1,1953 ..:.....	August 1,1953
Marsh, Harold R.	October	23,1953 ..:.....	October 23,1953
Boyden, Karl N.	November	1,1953 ..:.....	November 1,1953
Peterson, Marvin C.	November	16,1953 ..:.....	November 16,1953
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS			
FIRE ALARM OPERATOR.	Lt. Martin J. Faktor	Appointed...	July 6,1946
FIRE ALARM OPERATOR.	William P. McGrath	Appointed...	February 8,1946
RELIEF OPERATOR & INSPECTOR.	Fred E. Moore	Appointed...	July 20,1953

F I R E D E P A R T M E N T R O S T E R
Y E A R - 1 9 5 2

<u>NAME & TITLE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
CHIEF		
A.Boyd Arnold	641 South Georgia Avenue	3222 W
SUPT. OF FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU		
Vern E. Sweeney	1824 South Federal Avenue	2036
CAPTAINS		
Clifford J. Pierce	234-6th Street South East	1575 W
John K.Cunningham	670-9th Street South East	2569 W
LIEUTENANT		
Harold H.Hutchison	303 North Jackson Avenue	4129 W
Frank A.Hesse	1320 South Pennsylvania Avenue	3672 J
Faktor, Martin J.....	220 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1st Street South West	4035
Fred E. Moore	540-7th Street South East	2477
Marvin A.Lauen	209 North Connecticut Avenue	4835 W
Harold E.Schurtz	2514 South Federal Avenue	3915 W
CLERK OF FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Ray D.Waller	705-9th Street North West	4371 W
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS		
Fred O.Greik	827-9th Street North East	4665
William F.McGrath	432-1st Street North East	2384
Lynn A.Arnold	230-5th Street North East	3338
Alfred B.Hesse	221-3rd Street North West	2094
Lee M.Powers	1504-South Kentucky	5060 W
Jesse J.Carroll	725 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Federal Avenue	6089 W
Lyle E.Gardinier	113-23rd Street South West	2209 W
Elmer J. Fritz	1441 North President Avenue	2403 W
Walter M.Berry	821-8th Street South East	2529 W
Warren H.Cunningham	1319-Elm Drive	5341 M
Vincent A.Lauer	201-South Virginia Avenue	3013 LW
Mike M.Bosen	720-South Polk Place	4924 W
John H.Holt	2715-South Jefferson Avenue	4218 LW
Dwaine O.McDougle	517-13th Street South East	5827 R
Dan N.Allen	2253-21st Street South West	4852 W
Louis V.Rice,Jr.....	512-14th Street North West	2693 J
Richard R. Blunt	821-South Carolina Place	2569 J
John H.Bender	237-7th Street South East	6188 M
Marvin A.Gerdes	1324 South Carolina Avenue	4740 R
Ralph R. Luecht	304-1st Street South East	5692 W
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS		
Marvin L.Vosburgh	814 North Federal Avenue	4577W
Bernard B.Briscoe	834-3rd Street South East	6197 W
Donald O.Martin	803-East State Street	6066 LW
PROBATIONARY FIREMAN		
Richard L.Pearson	609-North Delaware Avenue	4737 J
Harold R. Marsh	512-South Carolina Avenue	5329 LM
Karl N.Boyden	241-27th Street South West	3874 LJ
Marvin C. Peterson	1113-North Van Buren Avenue	2624 LJ

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1953

RANK	NAME	DATE OF ENTRY	TOTAL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1953					
CHIEF	A.Boyd Arnold	July 1st,1928	25	Years	6	Months	0	days
Supt. of FIRE PREVENT.	Vern E.Sweeney	October 5th,1920	12	"	2	"	26	"
	Called back to duty	September 1st,1937	16	"	4	"	0	"
	Vern E.Sweeney	Total Time	28	"	6	"	26	"
CAPTAIN	Clifford J.Pierce	May 18th,1928	25	"	7	"	13	"
CAPTAIN	John K.Cunningham	January 20th,1931	22	"	11	"	11	"
LIEUTENANT	Harold H.Hutchison	June 1st,1929	24	"	7	"	0	"
LIEUTENANT	Frank A.Hesse	August 1st,1930	23	"	5	"	0	"
LIEUTENANT	Fred E.Moore	October 16th,1937	16	"	2	"	15	"
LIEUTENANT	Martin J.Faktor	September 1st,1929	24	"	4	"	0	"
LIEUTENANT	Marvin A.Lauen	September 1st,1939	14	"	4	"	0	"
LIEUTENANT	Harold E.Schurts	September 1st,1939	14	"	4	"	0	"
CLERK OF FIRE DEPT.	Ray D.Waller	January 10th,1940	13	"	11	"	21	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Fred O.Grelk	May 1st,1933	20	"	8	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	William P.McGrath	November 8th,1934	19	"	1	"	23	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Lynn A.Arnold	August 1st,1935	18	"	5	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Alfred B.Hesse	April 13th,1936	17	"	8	"	18	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Leo M.Powers	December 1st,1936	17	"	1	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Jesse J.Carroll	September 1st,1939	14	"	4	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Lyle E.Gardinier	September 1st,1939	14	"	4	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Elmer J.Fritz	September 1st,1939	14	"	4	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Walter M.Berry	April 16th,1946	7	"	8	"	15	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Warren H.Cunningham	April 16th,1946	7	"	8	"	15	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Vincent A.Lauer	April 16th,1946	7	"	8	"	15	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Mike M.Dosen	April 16th,1946	7	"	8	"	15	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	John H.Holt	July 18th,1946	7	"	6	"	13	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Dwaine O.McDougle	July 19th,1946	7	"	6	"	12	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Dan N.Allen	November 19th,1946	7	"	1	"	12	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Louis V.Rice,Jr.	January 1st,1947	7	"	0	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Richard R.Blunt	March 20th,1948	5	"	9	"	11	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	John H.Bender	June 1st,1951	2	"	7	"	0	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Marvin A.Gerdes	July 16th,1951	2	"	5	"	15	"
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Ralph R.Luecht	November 1st,1951	2	"	2	"	0	"

PERSONNAL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1953
continued

RANK	NAME	DATE OF ENTRY		TOTAL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1953		
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS	Marvin L. Vosburgh	June	1st, 1952	1 Year	7 Months	0 Days
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS	Bernard B. Briscoe	August	1st, 1952	1 "	5 "	0 "
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS	Donald O. Martin	December	1st, 1952	1 "	1 "	0 "
PROBATIONARY FIREMAN	Richard L. Pearson	August	1st, 1953	0 "	5 "	0 "
PROBATIONARY FIREMAN	Harold R. Marsh	October	23rd, 1953	0 "	2 "	9 "
PROBATIONARY FIREMAN	Karl N. Boyden	November	1st, 1953	0 "	2 "	0 "
PROBATIONARY FIREMAN	Marvin C. Peterson	November	16th, 1953	0 "	1 "	15 "

MEMBERSHIP ON PENSION AND RETIREMENT LIST

DATE OF PENSION	RANK HELD AT TIME OF RETIREMENT	NAME	AMOUNT OF PENSION PER MONTH
June 1st, 1952	Widow of Fireman First Class	Mrs Raymond Goudreau	\$ 50.00 Per Month
February 18th, 1943	Lieutenant	Earl W. Barker	\$ 80.00 " "
March 1st, 1943	Fireman First Class	August C. May	\$ 75.00 " "
December 4th, 1943	Chief	Daniel H. Shire	\$ 135.00 " "
July 1st, 1946	Lieutenant	Lester I. Dutcher	\$ 96.25 " "
August 1st, 1950	Fireman First Class	Leo D. King	\$ 116.25 " "
April 1st, 1951	Chief	James Kelley	\$ 197.25 " "
February 1st, 1952	Captain	Thomas M. Keenan	\$ 141.25 " "
October 27th, 1953	Fireman First Class	Douglas C. Fields	\$ 150.00 " "

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Howard E. Bruce
MAYOR

A. Boyd Arnold
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Vern E. Sweeney
Supt. of Fire Prevention Bureau

Fred E. Moore
Relief Operator and Inspector

Ray D. Waller
Clerk of Fire Department

William P. McGrath

FIRE ALARM OPERATORS

Martin J. Faktor

HEADQUARTERS

FIRST BATTALION

SECOND BATTALION

SALVAGE CO. NO. 1

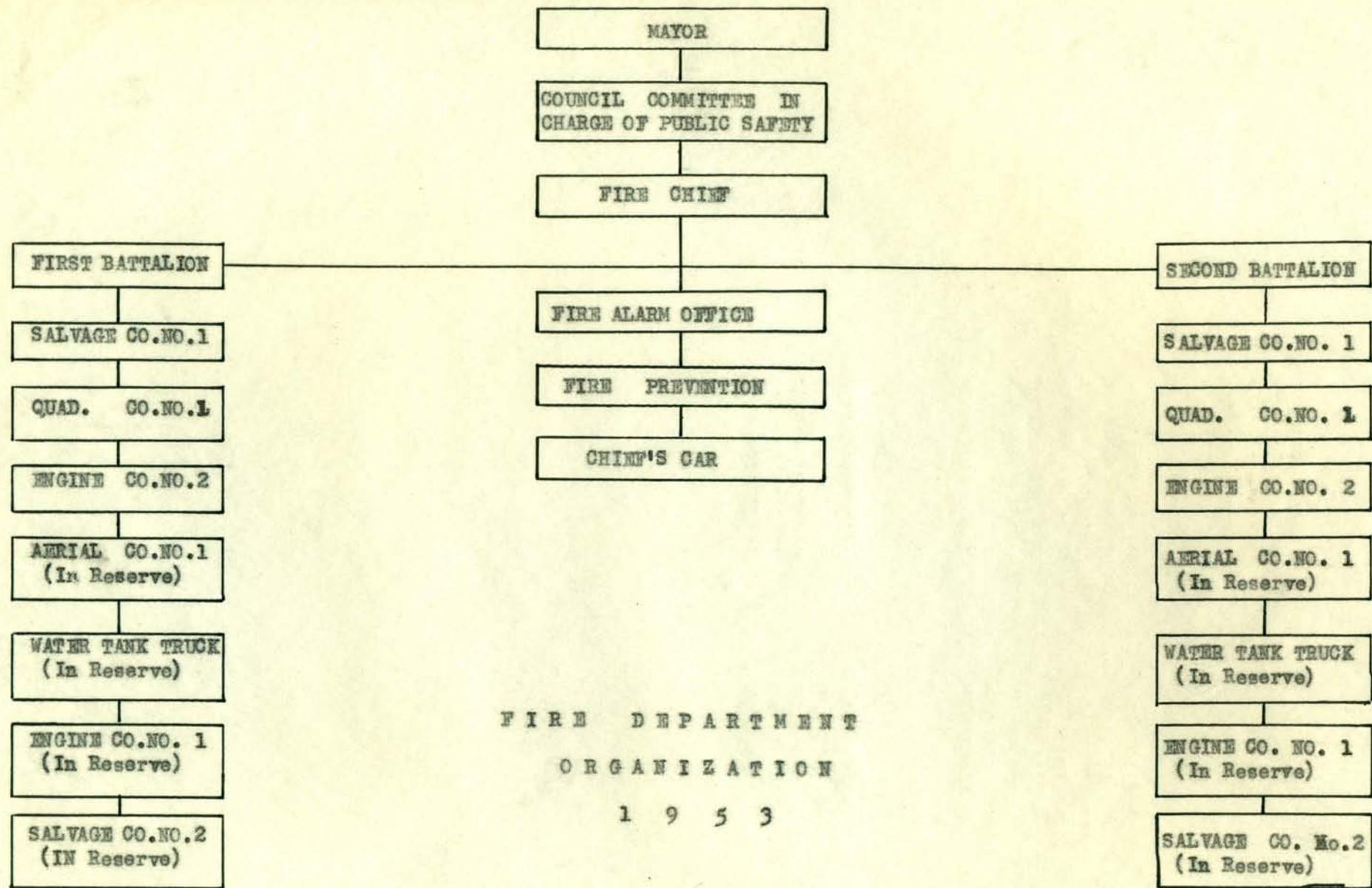
Harold E. Schurtz	Lieutenant	Marvin A. Lauen
Harold R. Marsh	Driver	Ray D. Waller
Bernard B. Briscoe	Salvage man	Donald O. Martin
Marvin L. Vosburgh	Salvage man	John H. Bender
Vincent A. Lauer	Salvage man	Richard L. Pearson

QUAD. CO. NO. 1

Clifford J. Pierce	Captain	John K. Cunningham
Leo M. Powers	Driver	Lynn A. Arnold
Jesse J. Carroll	Ladder man No. 1	Fred O. Grek
Marvin A. Gerdes	Ladder man No. 2	Dwaine O. McDougle
Mike M. Dosen	Ladder man No. 3	Ralph R. Luecht
John H. Holt	Plugman	Richard R. Blunt
Marvin C. Peterson	Pipeman	Karl Boyden
Dan N. Allen	Pipeman	

ENGINE CO. NO. 2

Harold H. Hutchison	Lieutenant	Frank A. Hesse
Lyle E. Gardinier	Driver	Alfred B. Hesse
Warren H. Cunningham	Plugman	Elmer J. Fritz
Walter M. Berry	Pipeman	Louis V. Rice, Jr.



FIRE DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATION

1 9 5 3

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT YEARLY REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31st, 1953

ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Fire Prevention Bureau was organized on September 1, 1937 with Vern E. Sweeney as Superintendent. He has carried on the duties of Superintendent since the Bureau's organization. Under the direction of Bureau Superintendent Sweeney and Lieutenant Fred E. Moore, the Fire Prevention Bureau spent considerable time giving Fire Prevention talks, to the Schools, Industrial plants, Business establishments and Clubs. They also made the Public Fire Minded with their talks over Radio Stations and through articles published in the daily paper. The Bureau cooperated with the State Fire Marshal Office, State Hotel and Restaurant Inspector, and all the City Departments. Under their direction there were 296 Salvage Company and 4983 building inspections made.

BUREAU ACTIVITIES;

Regular inspections	2133
Reinspections	730
Special inspections	274
Total inspections	3137
Commercial buildings inspected	1796
Industrial buildings inspected	45
Warehouses inspected	105
Wholesale houses inspected	79
Apartment buildings inspected	253
Hotel inspections	50
Nursing home inspections	182
Theatre inspections	40
School inspections	75
Church inspections	12
Fire escape inspections	65
Gasoline & Oil Bulk Plants inspected	130
Gasoline & Fuel Oil Tank Installations	4
Gasoline Transport & Delivery Trucks inspected	18
Miscellaneous inspections	283
Total	3137

FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS

	FIRST BATTALION		SECOND BATTALION		DEPARTMENT	
	Fire	Salvage	Fire	Salvage	Fire	Salvage
Probationary	13	9	18	27	31	36
Fireman 3rd Cl.	111	22	68	11	179	33
Fireman 2nd Cl.	89	40	105	9	194	49
Fireman 1st Cl.	333	53	492	36	825	89
Officers	16	58	32	31	48	89
Special	215		109		324	
Total	777	182	824	114	1601	296
		SOUTH	STATION			
Fireman 1st Cl.	165		31		196	
Officers	9		31		40	
Special			9		9	
Total	174		71		245	
Total Fire Department Inspections						2142

PERMITS ISSUED

Burning permits	1887
Occupational	49

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

- continued -

COMPLAINTS:

Complaints received and investigated 37
 Complaints not justified 7

COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO:

		Corrected
Building Department	10	10
Electrical Department	26	21
Sanitary Department	5	5
Police Court	4	4
P.G.& E.	1	1

CONDITIONS FOUND

		Removed
Waste material in excess	221	205
Rubbish found	118	117
Fales paper in excess	2	2
Oily rags & Mops not properly stored ..	27	27
Ashes found in combustible containers..	4	4
Flammable liquids in violation	14	14
Flammable decorations found	9	9
Xmas trees found in violation	7	7
Garbage conditions found	16	16

OBSTRUCTIONS FOUND

		Removed
Fire escapes	8	8
Hallways	30	30
Sprinkler systems	6	6
Exits	6	6
Fire doors	5	5
Aisles	26	26
		Corrected
Exit lights out or not properly marked.	22	22
Exit doors found locked	3	3
Exit doors out of order	3	2
Panic bars out of order	4	4
Fire doors out of order	12	12

ELECTRIC WIRING

		Removed
Drop cords found over metals	31	31
Drop cords in violation	49	43
Bad electric wiring found	11	9

NOTICES SERVED

Written notices served	3
Verbal notices served	192
Compliance with correction orders.....	187

BUREAU SPECIAL DETAIL

Fire Prevention posters distributed	200
Inspection blanks etc. distributed to schools	None

REMARKS

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Home inspection blanks distributed	500
Fire Prevention pamphlets distributed	1000
Fire Prevention addresses over P.A.System.....	4

REMARKS
-continued-

Two Fire Prevention movies were put on at all grade schools.
Fire drills were put on at all schools.

SUMMARY

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS

Garages	102
Cleaners	17
Service Stations	75
Cafes	37
Lodges & Clubs	4
Not classified	48
	<hr/>
	283

OCCUPATIONAL PERMITS ISSUED

Gasoline Bulk Plants	18
Transport	15
Blasting	2
Fumigation	2
Gasoline	10
Chemical Storage	2
	<hr/>
	49

COMPANY INSPECTIONS

Schools	155
I.O.O.F. Home	22
Nursing Homes	76
Fire Drills & Inspections of Schools	68

A copy of rules and regulations governing nursing homes were issued to all nursing homes.

Fire escapes were ordered on the following nursing homes:

221 North Georgia Avenue.	Wass Nursing Home # 1
206 Third Street North East	Wass Nursing Home # 3
220 Fifth Street North East	Norris Nursing Home.

FIRE OPERATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1953

Alarms received verbal	19
Alarms received police	36
Alarms received by fire box	1
Alarms received by sprinkler	2
Alarms received Telephone 60 or 61	79
Alarms received Telephone 135	298
Total Alarms	435
Alarms False	3
Alarms received A.M.	138
Alarms received P.M.	297
Miles traveled to alarms.....	860.5
Hours worked at alarms.....	234:16
Number of Firemen operating at alarms.....	2,162
Number of times pumps operated for booster	160
Number of times pumps operated for hose lines	7
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose used.....	Feet 550
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose used.....	Feet 1,750
Booster hose used	Feet 32,800
Booster tank used	Gallon 39,490
Hand pumps used	Gallon 312.5
Ladders used	Feet 1,553
Hydrents used	14
All-Service gas masks used	5
McCAA oxygen masks used	1
M & J Resuscitator and inhalator used	5
Life boat used	1
Light generator used	7
250 Watt light used	2
500 Watt light used	7
Smoke ejector used	113
Chemox gas masks used	2
Smoke curtain used	20
Dry Powder extinguisher used	1

FIRE OCCURRED IN

In Brick & Stone buildings.....	23
In iron clad buildings	3
In stucco and brick veneer buildings	2
In frame buildings	64
In concrete block buildings.....	2
In buildings not classified above	1
In Automobiles and trucks.....	34
Other than building fires	116
Total fires	245

EXTENT OF FIRES

Confined to point of origin	228
Confined to room of origin	4
Confined to floor of origin	1
Confined to building of origin	11
Extended to adjoining building	1

FIRE OPERATION REPORT -continued

VALUES AND LOSSES

Total Value of the Buildings involved by fire	\$ 3,436,831.00
Total Value of the contents involved by fire	665,144.69
Total Value of all property involved by fire	\$ 4,101,975.69
Total Insurance on buildings involved by fire	\$ 2,957,783.00
Total insurance on contents involved by fire	507,644.69
Total insurance on property involved by fire	\$ 3,465,427.69
Total insurance loss on buildings	\$ 30,259.89
Total insurance loss on contents	11,978.49
Total insurance loss for year 1953	\$ 42,238.38
Total loss insured and uninsured on buildings	\$ 31,115.41
Total loss insured and uninsured on contents	13,018.49
Total loss insured and uninsured for year 1953	\$ 44,133.90

LOSS PER FIRE

No loss	167
Less than \$ 5.00	3
Less than \$ 100.00	36
Less than \$ 500.00	25
Less than \$ 1,000.00	6
Less than \$ 5,000.00	6
Less than \$ 10,000.00	1
Over \$ 10,000.00	1

 PERSONS KILLED & INJURED
 DUE TO FIRE
 1953

Firemen killed during the Year	0
Firemen injured during the Year	19
Civilians killed during the Year	0
Civilians injured during the Year	5

SALVAGE WORK

At fires	197
Salvage Covers Spread	13
Other than fires	153
Salvage Covers Spread	3

COMPARISON OF LOSSES

Loss for 1952	\$ 95,061.12
Loss for 1953	\$ 44,133.90

CAUSES OF FIRES YEAR - 1953

Anti-Freeze on hot motor	3
Ashes in paper carton	1
Backfire through carburator	3
Burner left on under meat	1
Children playing with matches	9
Chimney burning out	3
Cigarette	34
Clothes on top of clothes dryer	1
Defective pilot light on gas stove	1
Defective wiring	2
Driving with emergency brakes on	3
Dump fire burning out of control	4
Electric light bulb against clothes	1
Emergency brake stuck	1
Escaping gas ignited by pilot light	1
Fire at dump set fire to truck	1
Fire and smoke from clinker pile on floor	1
Flame from welding or cutting torch	6
Flooded carburator	1
Flooded oil heater	1
Fumes from paint and varnish remover ignited	2
Fuses set fire to grass & leaves	1
Gas stove ignited fumes from linoleum cement	1
Gasoline vapors ignited by gas heater	1
Glove on fire in alley	1
Grass fire out of control	4
Grease burning under grill	2
Grease in broiler on fire	1
Grease on stove	1
Heat from lamp bulb set fire to cap	1
Heat pipe too close to wood	1
Hot ashes in pit set fire to rubbish	1
Hot lead set fire to rags	1
Illegal burning of rubbish in alley	1
Kerosene stove exploded	1
Legal bonfire mistaken for grass fire	1
Lighted match in charcoal cabinet	1
Lightning	1
Lint in floor furnace ignited	1

Oil flare tipped over	4
Oil heater flared up	2
Overheated charcoal heater	1
Overheated furnace	1
Overheated motor	1
Overheated oil heater	1
Overheated stove pipe	3
Overheated tar kettle	1
Paraffin boiled over on stove	1
Plumber soldering sewer joint set fire to floor	1
Road flare too close to barricade	2
Rubbish fire spread to building	1
Rubbish fire spread to grass	1
Set fire to car body to burn out wood	1
Short in T.V. set	1
Short in wiring	10
Small boy set fire to towel while lighting stove	1
Smoking in bed	6
Sparks from bonfire	1
Sparks from chimney	2
Sparks from dump fire	8
Sparks from incinerator	30
Sparks from rubbish fire	12
Spontaneous combustion	5
Toast burning in oven	1
Undetermined	5
Unknown	35
Unknown party set fire to rags in mens toilet, public building..	1
Using match for light set fire to anti-Freeze	1
Vulcanizing liquid ignited during vulcanizing operation	1
Wall paper steamer flared up	1
Wax boiled over on stove	1
Total	245

KIND OF PROPERTY FIRE OCCURRED
IN YEAR 1953

Apartment House.....	4
Automobiles and Trucks	34
Baled Hay	1
Cafe	4
Chimney Fire	3
Church	1
Clay loading conveyor and hopper	1
Coal Storage	3
Corn crib	1
Corn field	1
Dwelling	45
Freight terminal	1
Garbage can rack	1
Garage - Private	10
Garage - Public	2
Grass,Leaves, rubbish and brush	90
Hotel	4
Packing house	1
Millworks	1
Oil in street	3
Outside toilet	1
Railroad Car	1
Railroad Yard Office	1
Rending Plant	1
Rest Home	1
Rest room in park	1
Road Flare	2
School House	1
Service Station	3
Shed	3
Stock Yard Office	1
Street Barricade	2
Sulphur Pit	1
Tar Kettle	1
Tractor	1
Trash Can	6
Trash Truck	1
Tree	1
Wash House	1
Warehouse	3
Workshop	1
Total	245

EMERGENCY CALLS

1953

- January 31; 11:30AM Walter Raymer age 55 address 912-2nd Street South West. Suffered from carbon monoxide gas from Automobile in closed garage, attending Doctors, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Smiley, E. & J. Resuscitator & 2-bottles of oxygen used. Taken to Park Hospital by Snell Ambulance.
- February 6th; 11:15AM Mrs W.F. Ingraham address 1135-1st Street North West, Partially overcome by Natural Gas from stove turned on but not lighted. attending Doctor, Dr. Egloff, used E. & J. resuscitator. and 1-bottle of oxygen .
- February 25th; 3:06 PM, Salvage #1, call from Police Department, for baby suffocated at 118 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Federal Avenue. Baby apparently not breathing. Nurse of Dr. Geo. Tice Present, Dr. Geo. Tice arrived after the departments arrival. E. & J. Resuscitator used 30 minutes. (1-bottle of oxygen) Baby Larry Charles Turner, age 6 months, Pronounced dead by Dr. Tice. Cause unknown at time of alarm. Later diagnosis Pneumonia.
- May 10th; 12:01 AM Mr Lou Krieger age 44, address 215 North Adams. Died of heart attack, used E. & J. Resuscitator and 1/4 bottle oxygen. Pronounced dead by Dr. Hale.
- August 17th; 8:40AM Mr Harold Marshall age 54- 305-South Rhode Island Avenue died of heart attack, used E. & J. Resuscitator 2 bottles oxygen, 2- first aid blankets. Attending Doctor, Dr. Starr. Fire Department worked on party :34 minutes. Dr. Starr pronounced Mr Marshall dead at 9:14 AM Major Funeral Home called.
- September 3rd; 6:46 AM Mrs Louis Johnson age 48, 321 North Hampshire Avenue found dead in automobile parked in closed garage with motor running. Nothing used, Party appeared to have been in garage for quite some time. Found by Police Department.
- September 21st; 3:10 PM Sam Gjerdes of Garner, Iowa. Buried in cavein of manhole excavation at 15th and South Virginia Avenue. Employee of E.G. Grimen Co. Man was dug out to waist on arrival.

NUMBER OF ALARMS BY MONTH, DAY AND HOUR
FOR YEAR 1953

MONTH	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	TOTAL
January	2	3	4	3	6	3	4	25
February	2	4	4	3	1	7	1	22
March	4	3	0	3	6	9	9	34
April	2	4	4	12	6	5	7	40
May	9	5	0	3	2	3	7	29
June	10	7	0	3	3	6	0	29
July	11	2	11	6	8	2	1	41
August	4	5	6	3	4	2	10	34
September	2	6	6	8	6	2	12	42
October	3	3	7	7	11	13	8	52
November	6	10	11	7	5	9	5	53
December	7	5	6	9	2	3	2	34
Total	62	57	59	67	60	64	66	435

ALARMS BY HOUR
1953

A. M.		P. M.	
HOUR	ALARMS	HOUR	ALARMS
12 - 1	9	12 - 1	34
1 - 2	5	1 - 2	27
2 - 3	4	2 - 3	27
3 - 4	3	3 - 4	25
4 - 5	2	4 - 5	32
5 - 6	9	5 - 6	26
6 - 7	5	6 - 7	25
7 - 8	11	7 - 8	29
8 - 9	14	8 - 9	22
9 - 10	19	9 - 10	24
10 - 11	26	10 - 11	17
11 - 12	31	11 - 12	9

Total Alarms
435

FIRE ALARM OFFICE
REPORT
FOR

YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1953

ALARMS RECEIVED BY EACH DETAIL

Month	8 AM to 4 PM	4 PM to 12 Mid.	12 Mid. to 8 AM	Total
January	10	10	5	25
February	13	7	2	22
March	13	18	3	34
April	19	15	6	40
May	14	13	2	29
June	15	11	3	29
July	14	21	6	41
August	10	19	5	34
September	23	12	7	42
October	25	24	3	52
November	29	22	2	53
December	17	12	5	34
Total	202	184	49	435

FIRE ALARM OPERATORS

FIRST DETAIL
William P. McGrath

SECOND DETAIL
Second detail filled
each day from fire
force on floor

THIRD DETAIL
Martin J. Faktor

ALARMS FIRMS AND LOSSES OF EACH BATTALION
 BY MONTH FOR
 YEAR - ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1953

ALARMS	FIRST FIRMS	BATTALION	FIRE LOSS	MONTH	ALARMS	SECOND FIRMS	BATTALION	FIRE LOSS
12	9		\$ 17,133.05	JANUARY	13	8		\$ 4,083.67
6	4		624.95	FEBRUARY	16	8		734.77
20	13		191.88	MARCH	14	13		2,689.67
22	13		6,810.13	APRIL	18	9		424.15
15	7		92.10	MAY	14	6		110.46
22	5		1,513.37	JUNE	7	1		None
20	5		840.61	JULY	21	9		2,500.00
20	10		341.00	AUGUST	14	7		None
25	17		441.46	SEPTEMBER	17	11		25.00
25	18		324.53	OCTOBER	27	22		1,163.66
30	21		115.00	NOVEMBER	23	13		485.00
12	4		235.25	DECEMBER	22	12		3,254.19
229	126		\$ 28,663.33	TOTAL	206	119		\$ 15,470.57

R E C A P I T U L A T I O N

ALARMS	FIRMS	FIRE LOSS
435	245	\$44,133.90

DISTRICT FIRE REPORT
For The Year
1953
OPERATION

ALARMS RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE

DISTRICTS	A.M.	P.M.	Verb.	Pol.	F.Box	Spr.	61	135	Total
Northwest	33	48	3	6	0	0	17	55	81
Northeast	37	82	2	11	1	0	28	77	119
Southwest	41	98	10	10	0	2	17	100	139
Southeast.....	27	69	4	9	0	0	17	66	96
Total	138	297	19	36	1	2	79	298	435

VALUES AND LOSSES
BUILDINGS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL VALUE	INSURANCE ON	TOTAL LOSS
Northwest	\$1,469,250.00	\$ 1,373,100.00	\$ 2,274.22
Northeast	226,710.00	190,377.00	2,211.04
Southwest	1,623,800.00	1,318,935.00	25,243.18
Southeast	117,071.00	75,371.00	1,386.97
Total	\$ 3,436,831.00	\$ 2,957,783.00	\$ 31,115.41

VALUES AND LOSSES
CONTENTS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL VALUE	INSURANCE ON	TOTAL LOSS
Northwest	\$ 334,650.00	\$ 279,900.00	\$ 547.22
Northeast	66,887.50	44,887.50	2,961.15
Southwest	220,250.00	160,000.00	6,793.68
Southeast	43,357.19	22,857.19	2,716.44
Total	\$ 665,144.69	\$ 507,644.69	\$ 13,018.49

TOTAL FOR ALL DISTRICTS

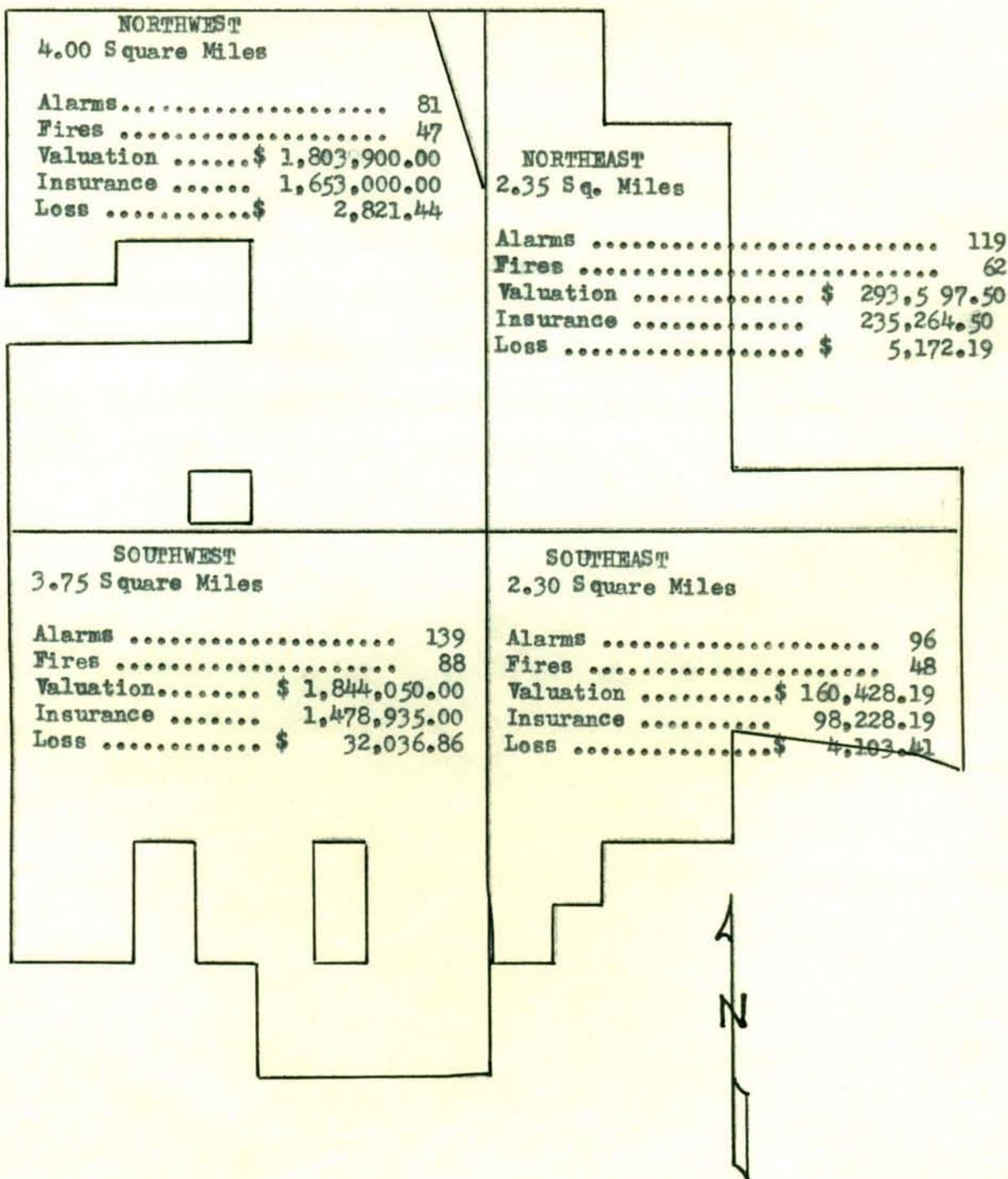
TOTAL VALUE	INSURANCE ON	TOTAL LOSS
\$ 4,101,975.69	\$ 3,465,427.69	\$ 44,133.90

ALARMS RECEIVED BY DISTRICTS

FIRE LOSS BY DISTRICTS

FOR THE YEAR

1953



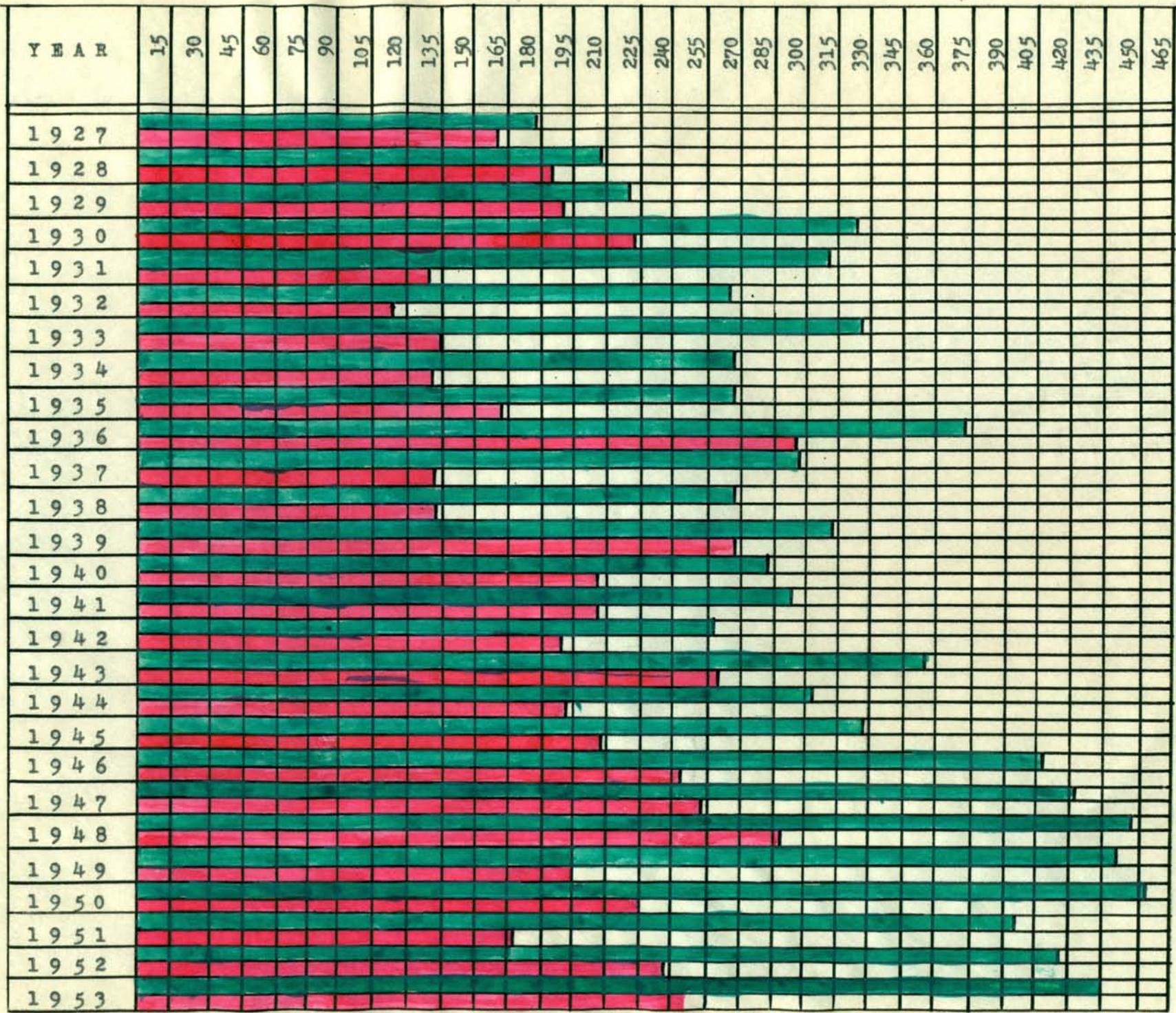
TREND OF FIRE LOSSES FROM 1943 TO 1953

YEAR	NUMBER OF ALARMS	NUMBER OF FIRES	AMOUNT OF PROPERTY THREATENED	AMOUNT OF INSURANCE ON PROPERTY	AMOUNT OF INSURANCE LOSS	AMOUNT OF FIRE LOSS	FIRE LOSS PER CAPITA	AVERAGE LOSS PER FIRE
1943	353	229	\$ 4,021,982.20	\$ 2,491,211.84	\$ 44,694.69	\$ 52,610.65	1.942	\$ 229.74
1944	304	191	4,064,629.05	1,652,034.80	18,011.46	23,267.76	.859	121.83
1945	330	207	2,352,090.25	1,702,445.65	19,948.56	20,886.95	.7713	100.90
1946	406	242	3,691,002.49	3,070,093.00	48,872.70	57,299.89	2.115	236.78
1947	422	254	3,495,793.72	2,912,401.80	36,450.18	45,236.38	1.67	178.09
1948	448	287	11,376,639.10	9,909,669.40	33,291.70	45,054.72	1.66	156.99
1949	440	195	1,407,119.58	976,166.00	14,876.13	25,305.58	.934	130.03
1950	452	223	2,996,988.56	1,945,848.98	82,541.70	126,226.10	4.216	566.21
1951	395	167	2,366,909.00	1,816,092.00	12,775.94	13,646.38	.491	81.12
1952	416	233	5,047,030.22	3,651,665.28	79,577.31	95,061.12	3.397	407.99
1953	435	245	4,101,975.69	3,465,427.69	42,238.38	44,133.90	1.577	180.14

ALARMS



FIRES



POLICE DEPARTMENT COOPERATION AT FIRES

YEAR - 1953

MONTH	TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS	TOTAL ALARMS NO POLICE PRESENT	TOTAL ALARMS POLICE PRESENT	TOTAL NUMBER OF POLICE AT ALARMS
JANUARY	25	0	25	31
FEBRUARY	22	2	22	20
MARCH	34	2	32	41
APRIL	40	2	38	58
MAY	29	4	25	26
JUNE	29	14	15	18
JULY	41	9	32	39
AUGUST	34	4	30	31
SEPTEMBER	42	7	35	41
OCTOBER	52	8	44	47
NOVEMBER	53	11	42	42
DECEMBER	34	5	29	35
TOTAL	435	68	367	429

APPOINTMENTS

August 1, 1953	Richard L. Pearson	Appointed Probationary Fireman.
October 23, 1953	Harold R. Marsh	Appointed Probationary Fireman.
November 1, 1953	Karl N. Boyden	Appointed Probationary Fireman.
November 16, 1953	Marvin C. Peterson	Appointed Probationary Fireman.

RESIGNED

February 16, 1953	Richard L. Pearson	Fireman 2nd Class
March 7th, 1953	Harold R. Marsh	Fireman 1st Class
September 16, 1953	William H. VerHelst	Fireman 1st Class

RETIRED

8:00AM October 27th, 1953 Douglas C. Fields, Fireman 1st Class retired from the Department with 22 Years, 1 month and 27 days of service, and having passed his Fiftieth birthday. By action of Pension and Retirement Board meeting of October 22, 1953.

PROMOTED

February 1st, 1953	Bernard B. Briscoe from Prob. Fireman to F 3rd Cl.	Grade 90%
June 1st, 1953	Marvin L. Vosburgh from F. 3rd Cl. to F. 2nd Cl.	Grade 78%
June 1st, 1953	Donald O. Martin from Prob. Fireman to F. 3rd Cl.	Grade 91%
June 1st, 1953	John H. Bender from F. 2nd Cl. to F. 1st Cl.	Grade 87%
July 16th, 1953	Marvin A. Gerdes from F. 2nd Cl. to F. 1st Cl.	Grade 93%
August 1st, 1953	Bernard B. Briscoe from F. 3rd Cl. to F. 2nd Cl.	Grade 83%
December 1st, 1953	Donald O. Martin from F. 3rd Cl. to F. 2nd Cl.	Grade 82%
June 4th, 1953	Ray D. Waller, promoted to clerk of Department Given Seniority as Clerk of Fire Department from August 1, 1946 by Civil Service Commission.	Grade 95%
June 4th, 1953	Vern H. Sweeney promoted to Superintendent of Fire Prevention Bureau grade 98%. Given Seniority as Superintendent of Fire Prevention Bureau from September 1st, 1937 by The Civil Service Commission.	

NEW EQUIPMENT ADDED TO TRUCKS AND STATION

February 3, 1953	1 new Universal Berkshire gas Stove was purchased and installed in the kitchen at Headquarters Station.
February 6, 1953	5 new Chrom spring filled lounge chairs was purchased.
April 1, 1953	5 fluorescent light fixtures purchased and installed at Headquarters
May 14, 1953	1 Motorola Model F.M.T.R.U.-80-D Transmitter, Receiver and antenna complete for Mobile Unit. Mounted on Salvage # 2
July 21, 1953	2 Pick up tubes with nozzles to apply foam, for fighting gasoline and oil fires, with 1 1/2-5 gallon pails of liquid foam. One each was issued to Quad. #1 and Salvage #1.
August 31, 1953	2 Chemox Masks. Making a total of six of these masks in the Department, 3 on the Quad. #1 and 3 on Salvage #1.
November 2, 1953	1-20 circuit Fire Station Panel, for receiving fire alarms from Nursing Homes.
December 2, 1953	2 Kidde # air pressurized dry chemical Fire Extinguishers 1 each installed on Salv. #1 and Quad. #1

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
YEARLY REPORT
1953

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Serious thought should be given toward the securing of a short wave band for the Fire Department and the placing in service of a station for the Fire Department. At the present time we get along very well in using the Police wave length but in time of an emergency the Police would have to use this wave length at the same time we would want to use it and it might prove difficult.
2. A Drill Tower should be built, on the cement slab at the rear of the South Station, for the proper training of the men in department evolutions, use of ladders, use of pumpers and hose streams and use of gas masks.
3. At the present time Engine No. 2 at the South Station, is fifteen years old. Engine No. 1, which is in reserve at the Central Station, is twenty years old. We are unable to get parts for the motor of Engine No. 1 and it should be replaced. During 1954 I would like to take bids for a 750-gallon pumper to replace Engine No. 2. Engine No. 2 would then be put in reserve and the City could dispose of Engine #1 which has more than served its time. This New Pumper would be bought for delivery in 1955.
4. Investigation should be made as to the cost of equipment for a control, in the Fire Alarm Office, to enable the department to change the stop and go lights, on Federal Avenue and first Street S.E. and S.W. so that all traffic would cease during the time emergency apparatus was in the vicinity of these lights and responding to an alarm.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to extend my hearty appreciation to you and the Members of the City Council for their loyal support in all Fire Department matters, for without yours and their support the efficiency of the Department could not have been maintained.

It affords me great pleasure to commend to you, the Officers and Members of the Fire Department and Fire Prevention Bureau for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties.

I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to all other City Departments for their hearty good will and co-operation during the year.

To the Globe Gazette and the Radio Stations, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for their fair commendatory and impartial reports and articles published relating to the work performed by this department.

Respectfully submitted,

Boyd Arnold, Chief of
Fire Department.