

MASON CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
1957
ANNUAL REPORT

YEARLY REPORT

1957

INDEX

PAGE

Activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau	8-9-10-11
Alarms and fires	23
Alarms by Battalions	19
Alarms by Day, Month and Year	17
Alarms by Districts	20
Alarms by Hour	17
Appointments to Department for year 1957	25
Appointments to Grade or rank	2
Assignment of personal	6
Bureau of Fire Prevention	8-9-10-11
Causes of Fires	14
Civilians Injured	12
Comparison of 30 year period, Fires and Alarms	23
Comparison of losses 1956 - 1957	12
Date of Appointment	3
District Fire Report	20-21
Emergency Calls	16
Fire Alarm Office Report of Alarms	18
Fire Alarm Operators	18
Fire and Alarm Comparison	23
Fire Causes	14
Fire Department Personnel	1
Fire Department Organization	6-7
Fire Department Roster	2
Fire Occured in	15
Fire Operation Report	12-13
Fire Report by Districts	20-21
Fire Values and Losses	12
First Aid Alarms Answered.....	16
Inspections of 1957	8
Investigation of False Alarms	10
King of Property Fire Occured In	15
Investigation of Fires	10
Loss Per Fire	22
Losses and Valuations	22
Losses by Battalion	19
Losses by Districts	20-21
Losses by Year	26
New Equipment	25
Organization	6-7
Pensions and Retirement	5
Per Capita Loss	27
Personel Assignment	6
Personel of Department	1
Persons Killed or Injured	13
Police Cooperation at Alarms	24
Promotions	25
Recommendations	28
Report of Operations	12
Resigned	25
Roster of Fire Department	2
Service Years of Personnel	4-5
Salvage Work	13
Township Alarms	12-25
Trend of Fire Losses Ten Year Period	22

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M A S O N C I T Y F I R E D E P A R T M E N T

F O R T H E Y E A R

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YEARLY REPORT OF THE PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, IOWA FOR THE
YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1957

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

April 4th, 1958

Sir;

I have the honor herewith to submit to you the
YEARLY REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT for the year ending,
December 31st, 1957. This being my seventh and the forty-eighth
yearly report of the paid fire department of the City of
Mason City, Iowa.

This is also the thirteenth yearly report after going back
to the Mayor-Council form of City Government.

This report will show as far as possible the record of
operations, alarms, valuations, insurance and losses on
fires that were responded to by this department during the
year. The data herein contained is almost entirely within the
corporate limits of the City, however Township calls made by this
Department will appear from time to time in this report, also my
recommendations for the betterment and improvement of the Department
and fire service and the increasing of its efficiency.

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

This report is due at the end of the year, but due to the amount
of time needed by the Insurance Adjusters to adjust and return a
fire claim this report usually runs a little late. All losses herein
are the true adjusted losses as received from the Insurance Adjusters,
no estimated losses are used for Department records.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Boyd Arnold,
Chief of Fire Department.

PERSONNEL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1957

Chief of Department	1
Superintendent of Fire Prevention Bureau.....	1
Captain of Fire Department	3
Lieutenant of Fire Department	4
Clerk of Fire Department	1
Firemen First Class	25
Firemen Second Class	2
Firemen Third Class	1
Probationary Firemen	0
Total all grades	38

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

Fire Alarm Operator, Fireman First Class	3
Drillmaster, Fire Inspector, Captain	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
Schurtz, Harold E.	.....September 1, 1939	.....January	1, 1956
Lieutenants			
Hesse, Frank A.	.....August 1, 1930	.....September	1, 1939
Lauer, Vincent A.	.....April 16, 1946	.....July	1, 1954
Rice, Louis V. Jr.	.....January 1, 1947	.....November	1, 1954
McDougle, Dwaine O.	.....July 19, 1946	.....February	1, 1956
Clerk of Fire Department			
Waller, Ray D.	.....January 10, 1940	.....August	1, 1946
Fireman First Class			
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
Dosen, Mike M.	.....April 16, 1946	.....March	8, 1948
Holt, John H.	.....July 18, 1946	.....January	18, 1949
Allen, Dan N.	.....November 19, 1946	.....May	18, 1949
Blunt, Richard R.	.....March 20, 1948	.....September	20, 1950
Bender, John H.	.....June 1, 1951	.....June	1, 1953
Gerdes, Marvin A.	.....July 16, 1951	.....July	16, 1953
Luecht, Ralph R.	.....November 1, 1951	.....November	1, 1953
Briscoe, Bernard B.	.....August 1, 1952	.....August	1, 1954
Martin, Donald O.	.....December 1, 1952	.....December	1, 1954
Pearson, Richard L.	.....August 1, 1953	.....August	1, 1955
Marsh, Harold R.	.....October 23, 1953	.....October	23, 1955
Peterson, Marvin G.	.....November 16, 1953	.....November	16, 1955
Swanson, Charles F.	.....November 1, 1954	.....November	1, 1956
Diets, Victor H.	.....December 11, 1954	.....December	11, 1956
Hickey, James J.	.....June 16, 1955	.....June	16, 1957
Moore, Lowell H.	.....October 1, 1955	.....October	1, 1957
Fireman Second Class			
Madden, Thomas O.	.....January 1, 1956	.....January	1, 1957
Van Horn, Ronald C.	.....February 1, 1956	.....February	1, 1957
Halverson, Arlo D.	.....June 1, 1956	.....June	1, 1957
Fireman Third Class			
Wedmore, Donald G.	.....March 16, 1957	.....September	16th, 1957
Special Assignments			
Peterson, Marvin G.	.....Fire Alarm Operator	.....Appointed August 31,	1954
Pearson, Richard L.	.....Fire Alarm Operator	.....Appointed October 13,	1954
Moore, Lowell H.	.....Fire Alarm Operator	.....Appointed Sept. 1,	1956
Schurtz, Harold E.	.....Fire Inspector, Drillmaster	Appointed November 5,	1954

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 7

NAME & TITLE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
CHIEF		
A.Boyd Arnold	641 South Georgia Avenue	GA 4 2036
SUPT. OF FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU		
Vern H.Sweeney	2210 South Georgia Avenue	GA 3 8516
CAPTAINS		
Clifford J.Pierce	234-6th Street South East	GA 3 6528
John K.Cunningham	670-9th Street South East	GA 3 7914
Harold E.Schurtz	2514-South Federal Avenue	GA 3 6090
LIEUTENANTS		
Frank A.Hesse	1920-South Pennsylvania Avenue	GA 4 1405
Vincent A.Lauer	201-South Virginia Avenue	GA 3 0218
Louis V.Rice,Jr.	815-South Connecticut Avenue	GA 3 8495
Dwaine O.McDougle	311-14th Street South East	GA 4 3820
CLERK OF FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Ray D.Waller	827-9th Street North East	GA 3 8160
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS		
Lynn A.Arnold	213-5th Street North West	GA 3 1447
Alfred B.Hesse	221-3rd Street North West	GA 3 2916
Leo M.Powers	1504-South Kentucky Avenue	GA 4 1224
Jesse J.Carroll	1652-Hillcrest Drive	GA 4 1443
Lyle E.Gardinier	113-23rd Street South West	GA 3 2804
Elmer J.Fritz	109-15th Street North West	GA 4 1391
Walter M.Berry	821-8th Street South East	GA 3 4881
Warren H.Cunningham	705-9th Street North West	GA 3 4179
Nike M.Dosen	720-South Polk Place	GA 3 3708
John H.Holt	2715-South Jefferson Avenue	GA 3 72 75
Dan W.Allen	2224-21st Street South West	GA 3 9366
Richard R.Blunt	821-South Carolina Place	GA 3 6907
John H.Bender	237-7th Street South East	GA 3 5239
Marvin R.Gerdes	1425 North Adams Avenue	GA 3 7269
Ralph R.Luecht	1442-North Jefferson Avenue	GA 4 3966
Bernard B.Briscoe	939-15th Street North East	GA 3 3423
Donald O.Martin	803-East State Street	GA 3 2777
Richard L.Pearson	121-South Hampshire Place	GA 4 4352
Harold R.Marsh	512-South Carolina Avenue	GA 3 4767
Marvin C.Peterson	822-North Harrison Avenue	GA 3 0466
Charles F.Swanson	23-25th Street South West	GA 4 1407
Victor H.Dietz	207 North Hampshire Avenue	GA 4 1503
James J.Hickey	128-26th Street South West	GA 3 2430
Lowell H.Moore	1204-South Rhode Island Avenue	GA 3 2905
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS		
Thomas O.Madden	115-24th Street South West	GA 3 3024
Ronald C.Van Horn	414-24th Street South West	GA 4 4014
Arlo D.Halvorsen	7-South Jefferson Avenue	GA 3 1878
FIREMAN THIRD CLASS		
Donald W.Wedmore	120-11th Street South West	GA 3 3781

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1957

RANK	NAME	DATE OF ENTRY	TOTAL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31, 1957		
			Years	Months	Days
CHIEF	A.Boyd Arnold	July 1st, 1928	29	6	0
SUPT. OF FIRE PREVENT.	Vern E.Sweeney	October 5th, 1920	12	2	26
	Called back to duty	September 1, 1937	20	4	0
	Total time Vern E.Sweeney		32	6	26
CAPTAIN	Clifford J.Pierce	May 18th, 1928	29	7	13
CAPTAIN	John K.Cunningham	January 20th, 1931	26	11	11
CAPTAIN	Harold E.Schurtz	September 1st, 1939	18	4	0
LIEUTENANT	Frank A.Hesse	August 1st, 1930	27	5	0
LIEUTENANT	Vincent A.Lauer	April 16th, 1946	11	8	15
LIEUTENANT	Louis V.Rice, Jr.	January 1st, 1947	11	0	0
LIEUTENANT	Dwaine O.McDougle	July 19th, 1946	11	5	12
CLERK OF FIRE DEPT.	Ray D.Waller	January 10th, 1940	17	11	21
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Lynn A.Arnold	August 1st, 1935	22	5	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Alfred B.Hesse	April 13th, 1936	21	8	18
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Leo M. Powers	December 1st, 1936	21	1	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Jesse J.Carroll	September 1st, 1939	18	4	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Lyle E.Gardinier	September 1st, 1939	18	4	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Elmer J. Fritz	September 1st, 1939	18	4	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Walter M.Berry	April 16th, 1946	11	8	15
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Warren H. Cunningham	April 16th, 1946	11	8	15
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Mike M. Dosen	April 16th, 1946	11	8	15
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	John H.Holt	July 18th, 1946	11	5	13
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Dan N.Allen	November 19th, 1946	11	1	12
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Richard R.Blunt	March 20th, 1948	9	9	11
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	John H. Bender	June 1st, 1951	6	7	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Marvin R.Gerdes	July 16th, 1951	6	5	15
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Ralph R.Luecht	November 1st, 1951	6	2	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Bernard B.Briscoe	August 1st, 1952	5	5	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Donald O. Martin	December 1st, 1952	5	1	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Richard L. Pearson	August 1st, 1953	4	5	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Harold R.Marsh	October 23rd, 1953	4	2	9
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Narvin C.Peterson	November 16th, 1953	4	1	15
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Charles F.Swanson	November 1st, 1954	3	2	0
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Victor H. Dietz	December 11th, 1954	3	0	20
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	James J.Hickey	June 16th, 1955	2	6	15

PERSONNAL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1957
continued

RANK	NAME	DATE OF ENTRY	TOTAL SERVICE TO DECEMBER 31st, 1957		
FIREMAN FIRST CLASS	Lowell H. Moore	October 1st, 1955	2 Years	3 Months	0 Days
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS	Thomas O. Madden	January 1st, 1956	2 "	0 "	0 "
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS	Ronald G. Van Horn	February 1st, 1956	1 "	11 "	0 "
FIREMAN SECOND CLASS	Arlo D. Halvorson	June 1st, 1956	1 "	7 "	0 "
FIREMAN THIRD CLASS	Donald G. Wedmore	March 16th, 1957	0 "	9 "	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	\$ 75.00 Per Month
February 18, 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 " "
September 1, 1956	Widow of Chief	Mrs James Kelley	\$ 75.00 " "
February 1st, 1952	Captain	Thomas M. Keenan	\$ 141.25 " "
October 27th, 1953	Fireman First Class	Douglas C. Fields	\$ 150.00 " "
August 1st, 1954	Widow of Lieutenant	Mrs Fred E. Moore	\$ 135.78 " "
October 1st, 1954	Fireman First Class	William P. McGrath	\$ 131.51 " "
October 1st, 1954	Lieutenant	Marvin A. Lauen	\$ 135.84 " "
October 1st, 1954	Lieutenant	Martin J. Faktor Jr.	\$ 160.00 " "
January 30th, 1956	Lieutenant	Harold H. Hutchison	\$ 177.50 " "
June 5th, 1956	Fireman First Class	Fredrick O. Grelk	ON July 20th, 1961 will receive \$ 166.00 per Month Pension.

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

George E. Mendon
Mayor

A. Boyd Arnold
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Vern E. Sweeney
Supt. of Fire Prevention Bureau

Harold E. Schurtz
Drillmaster & Inspector

Ray D. Waller
Clerk of Fire Department

FIRE ALARM OPERATORS

Richard L. Pearson

Marvin C. Peterson

Lowell H. Moore

HEADQUARTERS

FIRST BATTALION

SECOND BATTALION

SALVAGE CO. NO. 1

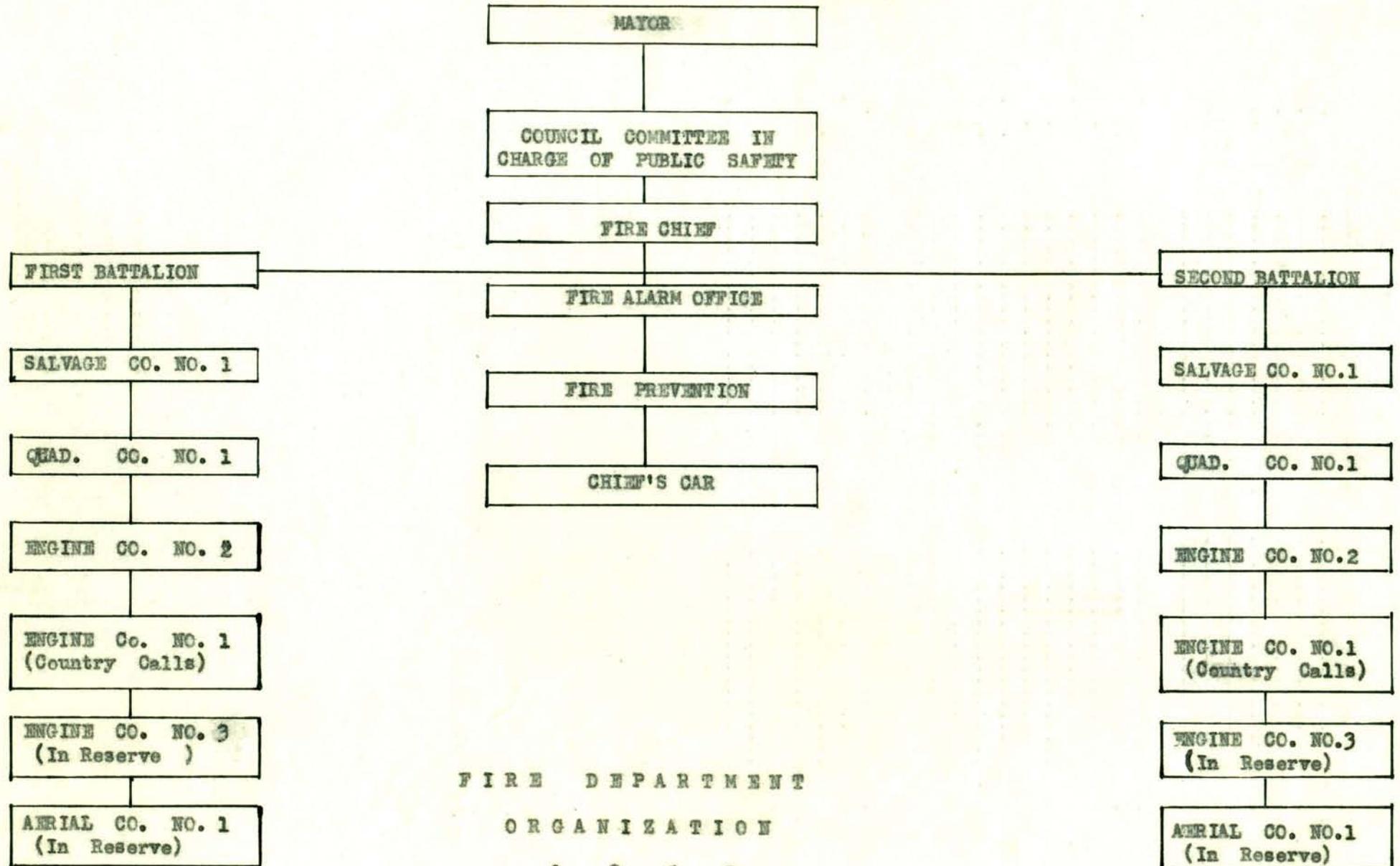
Louis V. Rice, Jr.	Lieutenant	Vincent A. Lauer
John H. Holt	Driver	John H. Bender
Victor H. Dietz	Salvageman	Charles F. Swanson
Thomas O. Madden	Salvageman	Ronald C. Van Horn

Quad. Co. No. 1

Clifford J. Pierce	Captain	John K. Cunningham
Leo M. Powers	Driver	Lynn A. Arnold
Mike M. Dosen	Ladderman No. 1	Jesse J. Carroll
Dan N. Allen	Ladderman No. 2	Ralph R. Luscht
Ray D. Waller	Ladderman No. 3	Richard R. Blunt
Marvin R. Gerdes	Plugman	James J. Hickey
Harold R. Marsh	Pipeman	Arlo D. Halverson
Donald E. Wedmore	Pipeman	Bernard B. Briscoe

ENGINE CO. No. 2

Dwaine O. McDougle	Lieutenant	Frank A. Hesse
Lyle E. Gardinier	Driver	Alfred B. Hesse
Walter M. Berry	Plugman	Warren H. Cunningham
Elmer J. Fritz	Pipeman	Donald O. Martin



FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATION

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MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT YEARLY REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31st, 1957

ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Fire Prevention Bureau was organized on September 1st, 1937 with Vern E. Sweeney as Superintendent. He has carried on the duties of Superintendent since the Bureau's organization. On November 1st, 1954 Captain Harold E. Schurtz was assigned to work with Superintendent Sweeney. Under the direction of Bureau Superintendent Vern Sweeney, the Fire Prevention Bureau made or supervised a total of 4,303 inspections. Included in these inspections, were company inspections of all places of great human hazard as well as business places and factories. Many hazards were removed or remedied due to the work of the Fire Prevention Bureau. The Bureau also carried on a year around program of Fire Prevention with special emphasis during Fire Prevention Week. The Bureau also investigated several fires of undetermined origin, also false alarms.

BUREAU ACTIVITIES

Regular inspections	1,427
Reinspections	547
Special inspections	340
Total	2,214
Commercial inspections	986
Industrial inspections	124
Warehouse inspections	123
Wholesale inspections	77
Apartment inspections	131
Hotel inspections	49
Hospital inspections	5
Nursing home inspections	115
Theatre inspections	8
School inspections	63
Church inspections	20
Paint spray booths inspected	46
Fire escape inspections	35
Garage inspections	102
Gasoline & Oil Bulk Plant Inspections	119
Gasoline & Fuel Oil Tank installations	5
Miscellaneous inspections	306
Total	2,314

FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS

	FIRST BATTALION		SECOND BATTALION		TOTAL DEPARTMENT	
	Fire	Salvage	Fire	Salvage	Fire	Salvage
Probationary	4				4	
Fireman 3rd Cl.	8	16	33	6	41	22
Fireman 2nd Cl.	66	12	132	42	198	54
Fireman 1st Cl.	438	78	474	121	912	199
Officers	55	43	33	55	88	98
Special	16				16	
Total	587	149	672	224	1259	373

SOUTH STATION

Fireman 1st Cl.	149		181		330	
Officers	10		17		27	
Total	159		198		357	

TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS 1,989

PERMITS ISSUED :

Burning Permits	1,626
Occupational	23

COMPLAINTS:

Complaints received and investigated	48
Complaints not justified	7

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

-continued-

			CORRECTED	FROM YEAR - 1956
COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO	Building department	14	8	0
	Electrical Department	32	31	0
	Sanitary Department	2	2	0
	Police Court	1	1	0
	Plumbing Department	3	2	0
	CONDITIONS FOUND			Removed
Waste materials not properly handled...	116	116		0
Rubbish Found	69	69		0
Extinguishers outdated	26	23		0
Misuse of incinerators	2	2		0
Flammable liquids in violation	25	25		0
Flammable decorations found	2	2		0
Garbage conditions found	2	2		0
OBSTRUCTIONS FOUND			Removed	
Fire escapes	2	2		
Hallways	14	14		
Exits	4	4		
Fire doors	7	7		
Aisles	12	12		
			Corrected	
Exit lights out or not properly marked.	26	23		
Exit doors found locked	1	1		
Exit doors out of order	4	4		
Fire doors out of order	9	9		
ELECTRIC WIRING			Removed	
Drop cords in violation	19	14		
Bad electric wiring found	12	10		
NOTICES SERVED				
Written notices served	32			
Verbal notices served	142			
Compliance with correction orders	169			
REMARKS			Corrected	
Cut-Off doors found blocked open	4	4		
Cut-Off doors found tied open	2	2		
Fire Escapes found out of order	2	2		1

INVESTIGATION OF FIRES 1957

January 14, 1957. 410-2nd Street North West, Lester Hotel. Hole burned in mattress of room # 3. This room rented to Donald Lash of Clarion, Iowa. Mattress had been dragged out and thrown to ground in alley. Department not called until next AM. when manager discovered the situation. Donald Lash had checked out and could not be located.

January 16, 1957. 1142 Maple Drive. George Fountas residence. Fire had occurred in closet. Family questioned, and children had on other occasions been caught playing with matches. Jimmie, age 4 admitted that he had struck a match and set fire to curtain over door to closet.

January 23, 1957. 220-7th Street North East. Edward Bergener residence. Fire occurred in upstairs bed room. Fire appeared to have started under a bed that was near a wall on which a plastic pin up lamp was not securely fastened. This lamp probably fell and broke on floor causing a short.

February 19, 1957. 830 South Harrison. Joe Ramirez residence. Fire involved entire house which consisted of 2 parts. the North portion was vacant at this time. This fire was investigated by the Fire Prevention Bureau in conjunction with the Fire Marshal's office. Charles Ellis deputy Fire Marshal from the Fire Marshal's office. No conclusion reached. Complete report on file in Bureau's file.

May 7, 1957. 2116 South Grover Avenue. Lewis Raprager residence. Fire Occurred in kitchen. Gary Raprager, age 5 admitted lighting a piece of paper from the pilot light on stove and dropped it in waste paper and rubbish piled near the stove.

October 5, 1957, 120-4th Street North West. Mrs Meyers residence. Fire occurred in mattresses piled in garage. This fire was caused by two boys playing with sticks in burning incinerator and then carrying them into the mattresses. These boys were Gary Silby, age 5 whose home address is 516 North Adams Avenue, and Douglas Pallard, age 6 home address 223 5th Street North West. The boys and their parents were talked to.

December 22, 1957, 1125 North Carolina Avenue. All's Market. Fire occurred in pile of cartons in basement. This fire was investigated by the Fire Prevention Bureau in conjunction with the Fire Marshal's office and the National Board of Fire Underwrite Mr John Hanna, Deputy Fire Marshal and Mr Bud Huffman of the National Board were the investigators. Much oral testimony was taken and several physical specimens were taken. The physical evidence was partially analyzed by a chemist. Three lie detector tests were given by Professor Holcum of the University of Iowa. The physical specimens are sealed in containers and are being retained. No conclusion was reached. Complete report on file by Bureau.

INVESTIGATION OF FALSE ALARMS

February 21, 1957, Alarm received for 4026 South Wilson Avenue. No fire was found. Call was traced to residence at 403-28th Street South West. Two small boys ages 4 and 6 were left alone at this place and the older boy, turned in this alarm.

December 31, 1957, Alarm received for fire along Railroad tracks. Bureau Inspector answered this alarm and no fire was found. Person calling gave the name of Roger Scheffler. On tracing this alarm it was found that it came from 637 South Maryland. Ronald Havig age 16 admitted turning in this alarm. On questioning Ronald Havig he implicated three other boys on turning in two other false alarms. They were the Alvi Bartsch residence at 538-15th Street South East on October 5th and the Buehler Cafe at 720 South Federal Avenue on October 20th. These boys were questioned and admitted that they were together when these alarms were turned in. These boys were Wilbur Wright, age 16 whose home address is 106-29th Street South West, George Klostener age 17 whose home address is 1209 6th Street South West and Raymond Peterson, age 16 home address 1210-6th Street South West. This information was turned over to Probation Officer Hanson.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1957

1201-4th Street South West, Mason City Hatchery. New Feed Mill. Open flame boiler located in elevator leg pit. Boiler was completely isolated from pit and opening to this room from outside mill.

1101 19th Street South West. I.O.O.F. Homes.

Complete installation of exit lights in Old Folks Home, Childrens Home and Hospital. Cut off doors installed on all open stairs on both Old Folks and Childrens Home. (This order has been revised to include basement level entrance to these stairs.) Fire escapes installed from 2nd floor of childrens home at South West. Fire Stop doors equipped with self closing devices on each end of connecting walk-way between childrens home and nursery building. Habit of locking the girls in their section of building was eliminated, locks removed.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1957

-continued-

180 Beaumont Drive. Mercy Hospital.

Fire Safety plan was developed with instructions for all employees. This was in conjunction with the Clinic Manager. A copy will be given to all present employees and to all new employees. (This will be printed in 1958)

2401 South Federal Avenue. Fabrico Manufacturing Co.

New Plastic Industry. Much study was made and recommendations for safe handling of materials and proper ventilating system for manufacturing area.

Mason City School System.

Complete survey was made of all schools as to location of, and type of extinguishers needed. This was made in the form of a work sheet and given to the Superintendent. The Board acted on this recommendation and purchasing agent is investigating standard makes of extinguishers before any are bought.

All Printing Plants in City.

Complete survey was made of all printing plants as to their handling of flammable liquids. All plants were brought up to Ordinance Standard on the handling of flammable liquids.

320-15th Street North East. Decker Packing Plant.

2 hydrants were raised, making these available in any season.

All Nursing Homes.

All nursing homes were inspected once a month and one inspection was made with a Deputy Fire Marshal. All homes were up to standard before the New Rules and Regulations were set forth by the Fire Marshals Office. All nursing homes were issued orders as what was required by the New Rules and Regulations as set forth by the State.

All Hotels

All hotels were brought up to standard on cut-off doors on stairs, exit doors, exit lights and escapes, except the Madmar Hotel which has not completed some parts of the order.

County Jail.

The order from the Bureau on fire safety equipment at the County jail was given to the Grand Jury and they made it a part of their recommendations to the County Supervisors for compliance.

219 West State Street Y.W.C.A. Annex.

Order issued for proper escapes and cut-off doors on stairs or occupancy by eliminated. Occupancy was eliminated.

FIRE OPERATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1957

Township Calls Received	32
Alarms received on Notifier Alarm Panel	23
Alarms received verbal	11
Alarms received Police	15
Alarms received over telephone 60 or 61, GA 3-2145 or GA 3-2146 ...	54
Alarms received sprinkler	6
Alarms received over telephone 135 or GA 3-3124	186
Alarms received over Telephone GA 3-3124 overflow	33
Total Alarms received	360
Alarms received False	6
Alarms received A.M. in City	116
Alarms received P.M. in City	212
Miles traveled to alarms	676.2
Hours worked at alarms	160:37
Number of Firemen operating at alarms	2,043
Number of times pumps operated for booster	83
Number of times pumps operated for hose lines	7
3 - Inch Hose Used	Feet 1,150
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - Inch Hose Used	Feet 1,460
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - Inch Hose Used	Feet 2,000
Booster Hose Used	Feet 17,900
Booster Tanks Used	Gallon 9,850
Hand Pumps Used	Gallon 167.5
Ladders Used	Feet 1,221
Hydrants#	16
All-Service gas masks used	8
Shemon Masks Used	4
E & J Resuscitator and Inhalator Used	3
Light generator Used	9
250 Watt Light Used	2
500 Watt Light Used	10
Smoke Ejector Used	78
Smoke Curtain Used	2
5 Lb. Dry Powder extinguisher Used	7
30 Lb. Dry Powder extinguisher used	1
Fires out on arrival	21

FIRE OCCURRED IN

Brick and Stone Buildings	20
Iron Clad Buildings	2
Stucco and Brick Veneer Buildings	2
Frame Buildings	44
Concrete Block Buildings	2
Buildings Not Classified Above	2
In Automobiles and Trucks	31
Other than Building Fires	38
Total Fires	141

EXTENT OF FIRES

Confined to point of origin	127
Confined to room of origin	3
Confined to Floor of origin	3
Confined to Building	7
Extended to adjoining building	1

FIRE OPERATION REPORT
-continued-

VALUES AND LOSSES

Total value of the buildings involved by fire	\$ 1,946,906.39
Total value of the contents involved by fire	472,834.77
Total value of all property involved by fire	\$ 2,419,741.16
Total insurance on buildings involved by fire	\$ 1,664,392.39
Total insurance on contents involved by fire	373,040.00
Total insurance on property involved by fire	\$ 2,037,432.39
Total insurance loss on buildings	\$ 25,352.79
Total insurance loss on contents	24,382.32
Total insurance loss for year 1957	\$ 49,735.11
Total loss insured and uninsured on buildings	\$ 28,725.65
Total loss insured and uninsured on contents	25,067.32
Total loss insured and uninsured for year 1957	\$ 53,792.97

LOSS PER FIRE

No loss	68
Less than \$ 5.00	3
Less than \$ 100.00	31
Less than \$ 500.00	22
Less than \$ 1,000.00	7
Less than \$ 5,000.00	7
Less than \$ 10,000.00	3
Over \$ 10,000.00	0

PERSONS KILLED AND INJURED
DUE TO FIRE
1957

Firemen killed during the year	0
Firemen injured during the year	16
Civilians killed during the year	0
Civilians injured during the year	3

SALVAGE WORK

At fires	128
Salvage covers used	7
Other than fires	159
Salvage covers used	11

COMPARISON OF LOSSES

Loss for 1956	\$ 66,497.87
Loss for 1957	\$ 53,792.97

CAUSES OF FIRES
YEAR - 1957

Anti-Freeze on hot motor	1
Backfire involved carburetor	7
Battery cable shorted	3
Boys smoking out bees, set fire to telephone pole	1
Broken gas line ignited by pilot light	1
Burning paper from rubbish fire blown under storage tank	1
Burning rubbish no permit	3
Candle set fire to window curtain	1
Children playing with lighted matches, candles & open flames	11
Chimney burning out	1
Cigarettes	16
Circulation fan stuck on furnace, belt caught on fire	1
Clothing left on top of electric hot plate	1
Cutting torch operation	1
Defective flooded oil heater	3
Electric light bulb set fire to clothing	1
Emergency brake left on	1
Excessive heat in rock dryer	1
Flame from blow torch	1
Flooded carburetor	6
Gas caught fire while adjusting burner on stove	1
Gasoline ignited by pilot light	3
Gasoline leaked on hot motor	1
Grease boiled over on stove	2
Grease in oven caught fire	2
Grease in vent pipe caught fire	1
Grill cleaning rag under counter	1
Hot road flares, set fire in truck of auto	1
Improper insulation around chimney	1
Incendiary	1
Meat in oven caught on fire	1
Natural gas ignited by pilot light	1
Neon sign shorted	3
Overheated bean dryer	1
Overheated clothes dryer	1
Overheated motor	3
Plastic backed mirror caught fire from lighted electric bulb	1
Railroad fusee dropped on bridge	1
Rubbish fire out of control	2
Rubbish fire unattended	2
Short in wiring	13
Short in wiring of T.V.	2
Smoking in bed	3
Sparks from cutting torch	1
Sparks from incinerator	5
Sparks from motor	1
Sparks from rubbish fire	4
Spontaneous Combustion	1
Street flare tipped over	2
Towel too near stove caught fire	2
Undetermined	1

EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID CALLS
1957

- March 26th, 5:31 PM. 801-2nd Street South West, call for resuscitator. Chan Welch age 60 found lying on basement floor, unconscious and breathing very hard. E. & J. used as inhalator. Doctor Stueland had been called and arrived. Sent Mr Welch to Mercy Hospital via Snell ambulance. Doctor stated Mr Welch had just been released from hospital due to stroke. Mr Welch was known to have high blood pressure also.
- July 16th 8:15 AM Called to Ideal Sand and Gravel Company, Dean Valley age 21, workman from Plymouth, Iowa. Buried in sand slide, was dead on arrival of Department.
- July 26th 2:16 PM Called to Mason City Airport to search Ozark Airplane, for reported bomb put on plane at Souix City, Iowa. Plane searched by Firemen, Police, and Post Office personel. After thorough seach of plane, nothing found.
- August 15th 7:26 PM. Park Hospital called for resuscitator for Rodney Thoen Age 9, who lived on a farm 5 miles West of Kensett, Iowa. Used Oxygen for about 5 minutes. Rodney Thoen pronounced dead by Doctor Burgence. Rodney had been covered up by soy beans while playing in bin on family farm and sufficated.
- August 18th 7:17 PM. resuscitator call to 305 South Louisiana, Harlow Jacoby, Suffered from Heart attack, used Resuscitator for 30 minutes. 3 bottles of oxygen used. Pronounced dead by Doctor Christopherson.
- September 12th 9:09 PM Welland Hammitt age 48 reported choking at home, 317 South Crescent Drive. On arrival found Mr Hammitt choking on fresh cake. Lieutenant dislodged cake with finger. Was OK on arrival of Doctor Wesley.

CIVILIANS INJURED

- February 3rd. 12:40 PM. Sandra Marxen age 4 suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns on both legs. At her home, 923 North Polk Avenue, when she tipped over can of gasoline used by her father to clean paint brushes. Gasoline ignited by pilot light of hot water heater.
- April 21st Barbara Decker, age 19 has badly burned on the leg and arms at 1030-16th Street North East. She was taken to Mercy Hospital by Snell ambulance service.
- December 9th 7:21 AM M.L.Stokes, employee of Walsh Construction Co. Burned about the eyes from fire in gasoline portable pump. at Lehigh Cement Plant. Taken to Hospital by foreman.

NUMBER OF ALARMS BY MONTH, DAY AND HOUR
FOR YEAR 1957

MONTH	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	TOTAL
January	3	3	3	4	12	5	4	34
February	1	9	3	2	2	5	5	27
March	1	3	4	2	3	1	4	18
April	5	1	4	5	2	4	7	28
May	0	4	6	4	6	1	3	24
June	4	3	10	4	3	1	3	28
July	1	5	5	6	2	5	8	32
August	2	6	6	3	4	3	2	26
September	5	4	2	1	4	6	6	28
October	1	2	1	4	6	3	7	24
November	3	4	4	6	3	6	3	29
December	8	4	8	3	1	2	4	30
TOTAL	34	48	56	44	48	42	56	328

ALARMS BY HOUR
1957

***** A. M. *****		***** P. M. *****	
HOUR	ALARMS	HOUR	ALARMS
12 - 1	8	12 - 1	22
1 - 2	5	1 - 2	27
2 - 3	1	2 - 3	18
3 - 4	1	3 - 4	18
4 - 5	5	4 - 5	21
5 - 6	8	5 - 6	15
6 - 7	4	6 - 7	20
7 - 8	14	7 - 8	23
8 - 9	17	8 - 9	16
9 - 10	13	9 - 10	18
10 - 11	22	10 - 11	8
11 - 12	18	11 - 12	6
TOTAL *****A.M. *****	116	TOTAL *****P.M. *****	212

TOTAL ALARMS
IN CITY

FIRE ALARM OFFICE
 REPORT
 FOR
 YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1957

ALARMS RECEIVED FOR EACH EIGHT HOUR PERIOD

MONTH	8 AM to 4 PM	4 PM to 12 Mid.	12 Mid. to 8 AM	Total
January	15	14	5	34
February	11	12	4	27
March	10	6	2	18
April	19	8	1	28
May	8	13	3	24
June	15	10	3	28
July	18	10	4	32
August	13	11	2	26
September	15	10	3	28
October	9	4	11	24
November	14	11	4	29
December	8	18	4	30
TOTAL	155	127	46	328

FIRE ALARM OPERATORS

Richard L. Pearson

Marvin C. Peterson

Lowell H. Moore

ALARMS FIRES AND LOSSES FOR
EACH BATTALION BY MONTH
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31
1957

ALARMS	FIRST FIRES	BATTALION FIRE LOSS	MONTH	ALARMS	SECOND FIRES	BATTALION FIRE LOSS
23	9	\$ 11,418.85	JANUARY	11	3	\$ 982.30
15	5	3,519.03	FEBRUARY	12	6	2,762.06
13	5	8,709.57	MARCH	5	2	272.00
15	9	3,848.05	APRIL	13	5	5.00
15	8	7,685.42	MAY	9	4	393.00
19	8	549.40	JUNE	9	4	None
15	6	250.00	JULY	17	7	109.13
10	8	125.63	AUGUST	16	6	97.00
16	5	50.00	SEPTEMBER	12	3	350.26
12	6	1,794.91	OCTOBER	12	7	672.75
12	8	385.39	NOVEMBER	17	3	902.95
13	5	459.65	DECEMBER	17	9	8,455.62
178	82	\$ 38,790.90	TOTAL:	150	59	\$ 15,002.07
R E C A P I T U L A T I O N						
ALARMS			FIRES			FIRE LOSS
323			141			\$ 53,792.97

DISTRICT FIRE REPORT
For the Year 1957
OPERATION

ALARMS RECEIVED BY _____ TELEPHONE

DISTRICT	A.M.	P.M.	VERB.	NOT.	ALARM	POL.	SFR.	F.BOX	ALARMS RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE			TOTAL
									GA-3 2145	OR GA-3 2146	GA-3 3124		FIRE OVERFLOW
Northwest..	25	52	0	6	4	0	0	13	44	10	77	
Northeast..	17	46	0	2	2	1	0	10	43	5	63	
Southwest..	41	62	8	15	3	1	0	12	55	9	103	
Southeast..	33	52	3	0	6	4	0	19	44	9	85	
Total	116	212	11	23	15	6	0	54	186	33	328	

VALUES AND LOSSES
BUILDINGS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL VALUE	INSURED FOR	TOTAL LOSS
Northwest	\$ 532,590.00	\$ 455,950.00	\$ 4,039.72
Northeast	1,063,449.00	941,275.00	10,235.24
Southwest	197,067.39	140,567.39	9,522.01
Southeast	153,800.00	126,600.00	4,928.68
Total	\$ 1,946,906.39	\$ 1,664,392.39	\$ 28,725.65

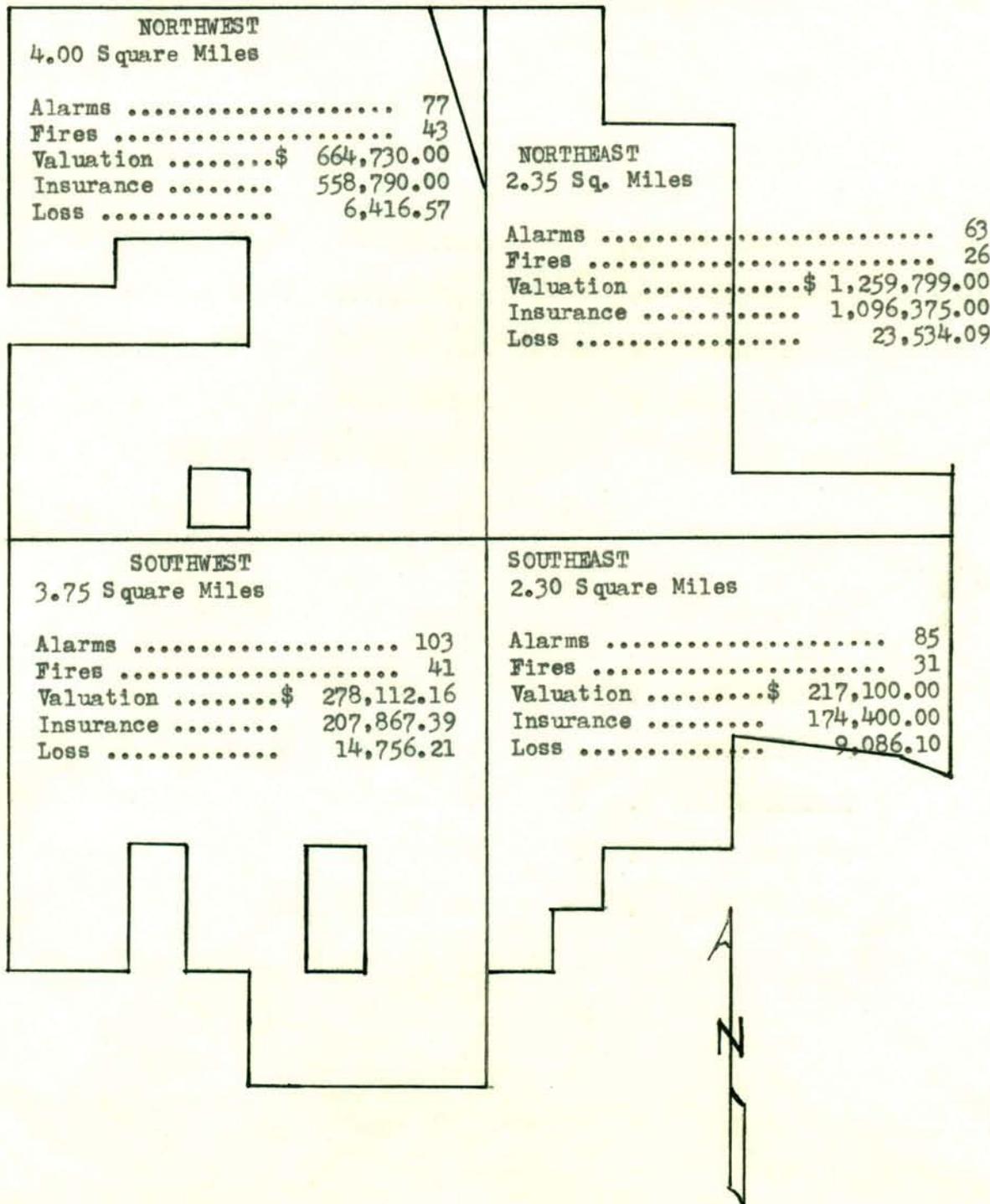
VALUES AND LOSSES
CONTENTS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL VALUE	INSURANCE CARRIED	TOTAL LOSS
NORTHWEST.....	\$ 132,140.00	\$ 102,840.00	\$ 2,376.85
NORTHEAST.....	196,350.00	155,100.00	13,298.85
SOUTHWEST	81,044.77	67,300.00	5,234.20
SOUTHEAST	63,300.00	47,800.00	4,157.42
TOTAL	\$ 472,834.77	\$ 373,040.00	\$ 25,067.32

TOTALS FOR ALL DISTRICTS

TOTAL VALUE	INSURANCE CARRIED	TOTAL LOSS
\$ 2,419,741.16	\$ 2,037,432.39	\$ 53,792.97

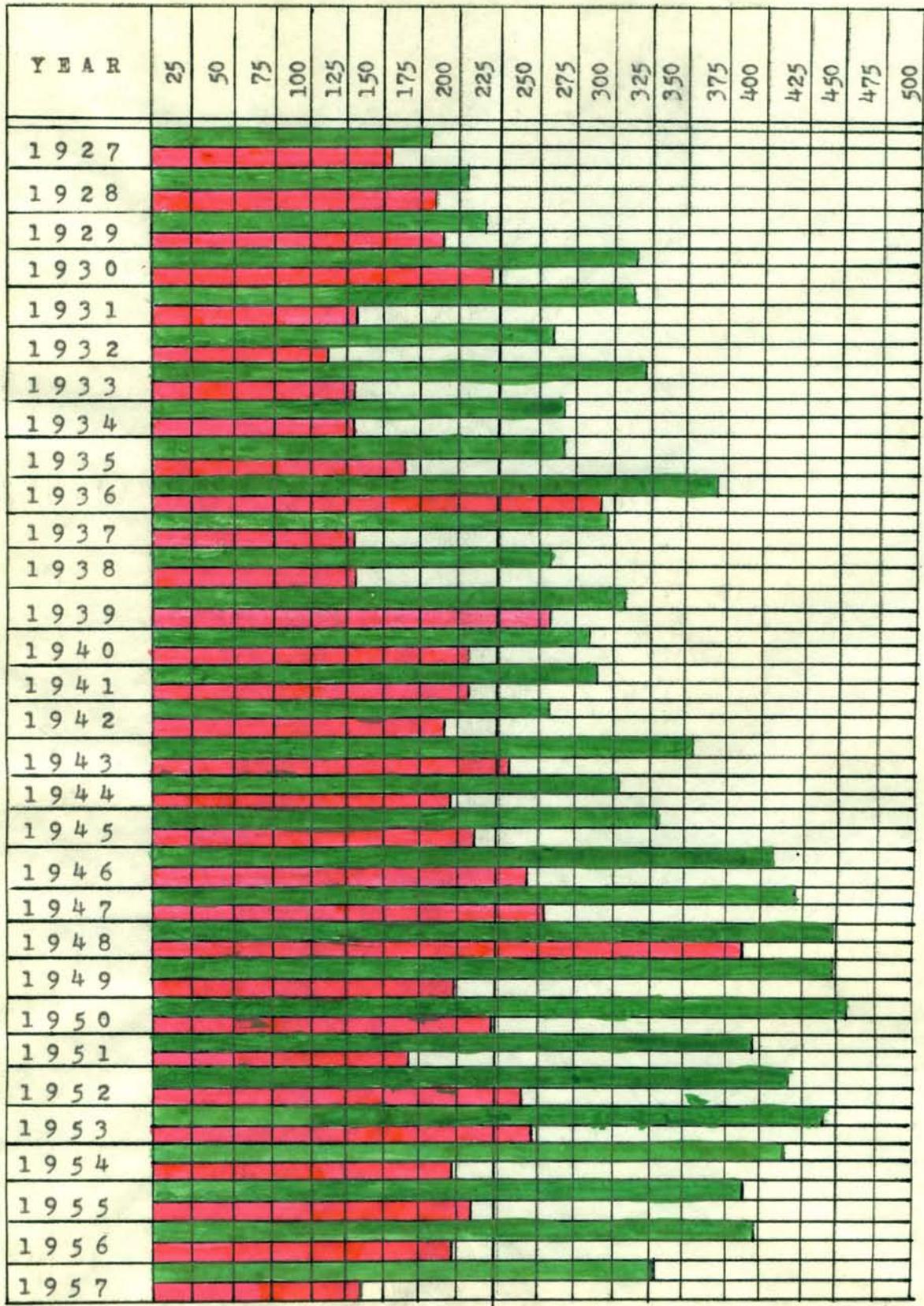
ALARMS RECEIVED BY DISTRICTS
 FIRE LOSS BY DISTRICTS
 FOR THE YEAR
 1957



TREND OF FIRE LOSSES FROM 1947 to 1957

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
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
1954	413	194	3,568,939.90	2,884,885.00	131,578.18	133,095.33	4.756	686.05
1955	387	206	4,839,877.92	3,626,345.36	40,496.14	43,747.64	1.56	212.37
1956	394	195	3,284,143.83	2,935,351.00	55,763.28	66,497.87	2.412	341.01
1957	328	141	2,419,741.16	2,037,432.39	49,735.11	53,792.97	1.92	381.51

COMPARISON OF ALARMS AND FIRES



■ ALARMS ■ FIRES

POLICE DEPARTMENT COOPERATION AT ALARMS

YEAR * 1957

MONTH	TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS	TOTAL ALARMS NO POLICE PRESENT	TOTAL ALARMS POLICE PRESENT	TOTAL NUMBER OF POLICE AT ALARMS
JANUARY	24	10	14	29
FEBRUARY	27	13	14	18
MARCH	18	5	13	19
APRIL	28	6	22	21
MAY	24	3	21	25
JUNE	28	6	22	15
JULY	32	11	21	27
AUGUST	26	7	19	20
SEPTEMBER	28	10	18	18
OCTOBER	24	7	17	20
NOVEMBER	29	6	23	23
DECEMBER	30	1	29	35
TOTAL	328	85	243	270

March 16th, 1957

Appointments
Donald E. Wedmore

Appointed Probationary Fireman.

March 16th, 1957

Resigned
Fireman First Class Marvin L. Vosburgh resigned from the Department to go farming. Marvin L. Vosburgh was appointed to the Fire Department, June 1, 1952

March 5th, 1957

New Equipment Received
Received Four Wheel Drive Truck., with International R.D. 501 motor. Waterous 750 Gallon per minute pump. Model 8-750 Serial No. G 80245, Engine No. 77424, 212 Horse Power. Put in service 3:10 PM March 5th, 1957. This truck will be known as Engine No. 1. On January 1, 1957 the City and the Fire Department entered into a contract with Mason Township and the South half of Lime Creek Township, to give the people outside the city limits and in these Townships fire protections. This piece of equipment will be used primarily in the protection of these outside properties.

EQUIPMENT TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE

Salvage #2 International 2 ton truck 6-cylinder Chassis B-3, 160 wheelbase. Chassis number B-3-17223, Motor number 2-17787, Put in service October 15th 1934. 350-400 gallon per minute Northern Rotary Gear Pump. number 157. Traded in on Four Wheel Drive Truck. Taken out of Service March 6th, 1957. Parked on slab at South Station. May 24th 1957 representative of Vivian Equipment Co., Ames, Iowa. picked up this truck and delivered it to Algona, Iowa.

Water Supply Truck # 1, 1936 International 6 Cylinder Chassis 16001 Motor number A.B. 52458-B. 500 gallon per minute Hale Rotary Gear Pump. No. 3-2710 put in service December 20th, 1936 as tractor for old Aerial ReBuilt for Water Supply Tank Truck. Capacity 850 gallon. Traded in on Four Wheel Drive Truck. Taken out of Service April 23rd and turned over to Dougherty Iowa Fire Department.

PROMOTIONS

January 1st, 1957	Fireman 3rd Class	Thomas O. Madden	Promoted to Fireman 2nd Cl.
February 1, 1957	Fireman 3rd Class	Ronald C. Van Horn	Promoted to Fireman 2nd Cl.
June 1st, 1957	Fireman 3rd Class	Arlo D. Halvorson	Promoted to Fireman 2nd Cl.
June 16th, 1957	Fireman 2nd Class	James J. Hickey	Promoted to Fireman 1st Cl.
September 16, 1957	Probationary Fireman	Donald E. Wedmore	promoted to Fireman 3rd Cl.
October 1st, 1957	Fireman 2nd Class	Lowell H. Moore	Promoted to Fireman 1st Cl.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

May 5th, 1957. The Northwestern Bell Telephone, switched over to Dial telephone. All numbers were changed. Our number 60 business telephone was changed to number GA-3-2145, our number 61 business telephone was changed to number GA-3-2146, our Fire Phone number 135 which was monitored by the Chief Operator at the Telephone Office was changed to GA-3-3124, without monitor service. One new line was connected to the Fire Department, this line is a overflow on line GA-3-3124, if line GA-3-3124 is busy with a fire alarm, and another alarm is being turned in, the last alarm will come in over the Fire Phone Overflow Line.

TOWNSHIP ALARMS

There were 32 township alarms answered this year. 24 of these alarms were fires, 20 alarms were answered in Mason Township, 9 alarms were answered in Lime township. Assistance was given to fire Departments in other townships, 1 in bath, 1 in Falls, and 1 in Lake townships.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

1 9 5 7

The Central Fire Station has become very crowded and, due to increased traffic, has become a problem in responding to alarms, especially during hours when traffic is heavy. Also the National Board of Fire Underwriters have, for a long time, recommended that a Fire Station be put in the North part of Mason City. In talking to representatives of the National Board they seem to feel that if our Central Station were moved North to about fifth or sixth and North Federal Avenue, this would relieve the necessity for a North Fire Station at the present and until there was greater expansion of the City North and East.

In view of this fact, I would recommend that immediate steps be taken to replace our Central Fire Station with a new and modern station in the vicinity of fifth or sixth and North Federal Avenue.

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 this 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 the 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, radio stations, and television station, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for their commendatory and impartial reports and articles relating to the work performed by this department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A.Boyd Arnold, Chief
Mason City Fire Department.