

*The*

# **ADT TRANSMITTER**

vol. XIV. no. 12 — DECEMBER — 1942



## • LETTERS •

### Waterflow Warning

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Each issue of THE TRANSMITTER tells of numerous incidents in which the A.D.T. service has rendered exceptionally fine results. However, I don't recall reading of an experience such as we had a year ago. On a Sunday last July a main water line "blew up" cutting a great portion of the city off from its water supply. Our waterflow service was the only warning we had that such an accident had happened.

In our newspaper plant there are many pieces of water-cooled machinery. Without the alarm, we undoubtedly would have suffered heavy damage to this equipment. In addition, our fire hazard would have materially increased.

We are most pleased with the prompt, courteous and efficient services continually rendered by A.D.T. Your Washington office is perfect.

C. C. LATTIN

Times Herald  
Washington, D. C.

### Perfect Demonstration

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We are very pleased to compliment your local staff for the efficient manner in handling the recent attempted burglary which was foiled by your prompt dispatch of guards to our premises, upon the sounding of the A.D.T. alarm. In the writer's opinion it was a perfect demonstration of the benefits to be derived by your service, viz:

1. Alertness and quick dispatch of guards to the scene of trouble.
2. Premises immediately policed and searched for culprit.
3. Notice at once transmitted by phone to one of our company's officers.
4. Broken window boarded up by your men to safeguard until permanent repairs could be made.
5. Capture of the culprit with stolen cigarettes and landed in jail.
6. Information obtained leading to arrest of the "fence" being operated to receive stolen merchandise.

ROBERT H. HYDE

West Coast Grocery Company  
Tacoma, Washington

## A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.), founded 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in electric protection services.

A.D.T. Central Stations serve upward of 32,000 subscribers in 350 municipalities from coast to coast. The aggregate property values protected by A.D.T. exceed twenty-two billion dollars. This figure does not include the values of cash and securities in the U.S. Treasury, U.S. Mints, Federal Reserve Banks and branches, thousands of banks throughout the country, or the U.S. bullion depositories at Fort Knox and West Point, all of which employ one or more A.D.T. Protection Services.

**SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM:** Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm. Electrically supervises all vital parts of the sprinkler system.

**AERO AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTING AND ALARM SYSTEM:** Detects fire and summons fire department automatically.

**WATCHMAN SUPERVISORY AND MANUAL FIRE ALARM:** Watchman's patrol stations are electrically connected with the Central Station, which investigates any failure to signal on time. Manual Fire Alarm Boxes provide means to summon the fire department quickly and accurately.

**BURGLAR ALARM:** Any unlawful entry or irregular opening is automatically detected and immediately investigated by A.D.T. guards with police cooperation.

**HOLDUP ALARM:** Provides means for secretly summoning police in case of attack by bandits or other emergency.

**INVISIBLE RAY (PHOTOELECTRIC) ALARM:** Protective medium is beam of invisible light. For boundary protection, paralleling fences, and for any open areas indoors or out.

**TELAPPROACH:** Surrounds safe or metal cabinet with a field of radio waves. Approach of any person within the electrical field results in an alarm.

**HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISION:** Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in heating systems.

**INDUSTRIAL PROCESS SUPERVISION:** Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in various industrial operations.

**AUTOMATIC FIRE CONTROL FOR AIR DUCT SYSTEMS:** Provides automatic smoke and fire detecting and alarm devices for air conditioning and other air duct systems.

## • EDITORIAL •

### No News Is Good News

Escaped Convicts Captured . . . Bank Teller Routs Robber . . . Two Jewel Thefts Thwarted . . . These are typical first-page headlines which often greet regular readers of The A.D.T. Transmitter and from which the impression might be gained that Burglar Alarm Service is the major part of A.D.T.'s business. This is not the case. The reason for "playing up" burglar alarms is simply because the news of A.D.T. performance in such cases usually is dramatic, whereas in the case of fire prevention and allied services, "no news is good news".

With fire, all that happens usually is . . . alarm received, fire department dispatched, outbreak extinguished with little or no damage. . . . Each month THE TRANSMITTER could be filled with nothing but repetitions of this story, which, though, it would testify to A.D.T. efficiency, would not make interesting reading.

While it is true that A.D.T., as a nation-wide organization, supplies Burglar Alarm Service to a tremendous number of subscribers throughout the United States, its subscribers to Fire Protection Services outnumber the Burglar Alarm subscribers by more than fifty percent. The major portion of these subscribers to Fire Protection Services and a substantial number of the Burglar Alarm subscribers are industrial concerns that are highly essential to the war effort.

We make this point to stress the important role A.D.T. is playing in the nation's victory program. We wish it were possible to describe in detail the many installations that have been made to protect some of the nation's most important private and Governmental establishments against fire, intrusion, sabotage and other kindred hazards. We can only go so far, however, as to say that A.D.T. is on a full wartime basis, striving its utmost to assure that no untoward incident shall interrupt the steady flow of materials and supplies that are so vital to the success of our armed forces.

### Christmas 1942

To good folks everywhere, THE A.D.T. TRANSMITTER extends sincere holiday greetings and good wishes for the future.

**THE A. D. T. TRANSMITTER:** A monthly news-magazine of outstanding events and features concerning fire, burglary and holdup. Published monthly by the American District Telegraph Company, 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.—R. K. HYDE, Editor . . . Edited and distributed for the information of employees, subscribers and other interested persons. All articles printed are the individual opinions of the authors. To insure delivery of your copy of THE A. D. T. TRANSMITTER each month, kindly notify the editor of any change in address.

# The A.D.T. TRANSMITTER

VOL. XIV

DECEMBER, 1942

No. 12

## WATCHMAN HAS FATAL ATTACK

*On First Night of Its Installation, A.D.T. Watchman's Security Service Proves Its Worth by Summoning Aid*

A missing signal from a watchman usually is a sign of trouble. But when Watchman Miller of the Master Products Company failed to ring in at 1:30 a.m. on November 3, the men on duty in the Cleveland A.D.T. Central Station, remembering that A.D.T. Watchman Security Service had been newly installed at the punch press products company and was in operation that night for the first time, at first supposed that Watchman Miller probably had not fully grasped his duties in connection with the new system or was not yet acquainted with its workings. Nevertheless in spite of the assumption that the watchman merely needed instruction, a guard was immediately dispatched to ascertain

the reason for failure to signal and to give help if necessary.

Guard Klopec, who went to the plant, was unable to gain entrance and telephoned for assistance in getting in. When the investigators finally got inside the plant, they at first could see no sign of the watchman, but after a search they came upon Mr. Miller lying on the floor, dead. An examination made upon the arrival of the police disclosed that he had succumbed to a heart attack.

On the very first night of its installation the service which was installed to protect the plant and bring aid to the watchman in case of emergency was the agency by which his death was discovered.

## RARE LOOT

*Would-Be Tire Thieves Thwarted by A.D.T. Alarm*

Tires, more precious these days than jewels, were the bait which lured two men to the Louis Rielfield Tire Co. in Detroit on November 16. They broke in by battering the glass in a rear door, without difficulty and without causing an alarm. But the officials of the company were too wise to permit entry to be so safe and easy; anticipating just such an attempt, they had installed an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm inside the premises through which the men soon passed. Four minutes later the police came speeding up and hauled the intruders out of a truck in which they had frantically taken refuge. So quickly did the patrolmen arrive that the men had not yet had a chance even to get their hands on the valuable loot they hoped would soon be theirs.



Press Association

**SPRINKLERS SHUT OFF**—Flash fire said to have started from spot welding spark completely destroyed three-story building housing National Silver and F. B. Rogers factories in Taunton, Mass., with a loss of \$275,000, and stopping war work. The post indicator valve controlling the sprinkler system was found to have been closed

## TANKED UP

"Fill 'er up!" was the injunction of a crew member of a Coast Guard patrol boat as the vessel hove to at the wharf of the Associated Oil Co. in Alameda, California, on November 1.

The job of "tanking up" finished, the man operating the boat stepped on the starter. Suddenly, there was an explosion, wrecking the boat and starting a fire that threatened the oil storage tanks on the wharf. However, the oil company attendant immediately operated an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm, and the blaze was extinguished by the fire department before it had a chance to spread to the wharf.

The crew members of the boat, all of whom were injured, were taken to a hospital in Coast Guard station ambulances. It was not learned what caused the explosion.

## BURGLARY

### UNLIKELY STORY

#### *Youth's Nonchalance Fails to Impress Guard*

"Oh, I'm just resting here," calmly replied the young man sitting in the chute door when A.D.T. Guard Elder inquired what he was doing. And he leaned back indolently as if he intended to continue taking his ease for some time. The front of the chute door leading into the Commercial Candy Company of Kansas City seemed an odd place in which to relax, and as it was an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm which had brought the guard to the premises, it appeared unlikely that the atmosphere was altogether peaceful.

Then the guard noticed that the door was ajar and he inquired if anyone had gone inside. "No," said the young man crossly as if annoyed at this interruption of his siesta. But at that moment the police arrived and some of them accompanied the guard into the basement. There two more youths were found, crouching in a corner. As they were armed with a revolver, blackjack, pinch-bar and extra keys, they didn't even try

to think of an excuse for their presence.

All three offenders were taken to police headquarters, where they were identified as having been in trouble before. Fortunately the burglar alarm led to their discovery at the candy company before they did any damage.

### A LA SANTA

Inspired, perhaps, by the approach of the Christmas season, three Chicago burglars decided to take a leaf from Santa's book and get into Max Raffeld's clothing store in Chicago by coming down the chimney. But they found to their chagrin that buildings nowadays aren't adapted to that mode of entry and as a substitute were obliged to take the chimney apart. Once safely inside, modern devices again proved an obstacle for the intruders promptly walked through the beam of the A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm and set the law on their trail.

The unwitting thieves, however, believing their trouble behind them, busily went to work selecting an ample supply of suits and overcoats till the sound of sirens warned them that the game was up. Then they frantically abandoned their booty and fled to the roof and, though the patrolmen hotly pursued them, managed to make their escape.

### HIS ERROR

As so many transgressors have found to their sorrow, it is an almost invariably fatal mistake to return to the scene of the crime. It certainly proved so in the case of a Tacoma burglar.

When A.D.T. guards and policemen arrived at the West Coast Grocery Co. in response to a burglar alarm on the evening of November 5, the only evidence of any intruder appeared to be a broken window in the rear of the main building. Whoever had caused the alarm had apparently departed the way he entered.

But while the guards were making temporary repairs on the wiring, a youth crept through the window and picked up a large paper sack lying on the floor, which was filled with cartons of cigarettes taken from stock. Presumably the burglar had an accomplice who warned him of the approach of the police. When he dropped the booty in his headlong flight, he couldn't resist the urge to come back and try to retrieve it, and perhaps collect still more.

The capture of the thief cleared up five other cases for the police and implicated other youths as well as leading to the arrest of the "fence."

### FELT RIGHT AT HOME

Perhaps it was the profusion of "nuts" in the scrap metal yard that made Ed Allen, former inmate of several asylums, feel that there was something homelike in the atmosphere at the Pacific Iron & Metal Co. in Seattle. Anyhow, on the night of October 21 he wandered into the premises, broke into the office of the warehouse building and, making himself as comfortable as possible, curled up and went to sleep.

That is the way A.D.T. guards found him a few minutes later, as they arrived in response to the alarm which resulted when the intruder broke in through the window. Highly indignant at his rude awakening, Allen protested that "a man's got a right to sleep, ain't he?"

So senseless were the culprit's remarks and actions that the guards were not surprised to learn, when Allen was investigated at the police station, that he was a former asylum inmate and also the possessor of a long criminal record.



*Press Association*

**FEMININE FIRE FIGHTERS**—Members of Massachusetts Women's Defense Corps demonstrate methods for the rescue of smoke victims in recent graduation ceremonies at Needham. They received certificates as fully accredited fire fighters

# FIRE

## KNEW WHAT TO DO

### *Employees Make Good Use of Emergency Devices*

Quick-witted, well-trained employees who knew how and when to make use of the fire protection equipment provided them were in all probability instrumental recently in preventing a bad fire and a resultant loss of a large amount of vital rubber and tires.

One day recently fire broke out in some tire buffings, due to spontaneous ignition, at the Mohawk Rubber Company of Akron, but was soon detected by one of the employees. With complete presence of mind he immediately hastened to turn in an alarm of fire through an A.D.T. Manual Box. As a result of prompt action on the part of all concerned, particularly the employee who turned in the alarm, the blaze was confined to the room where it started and the damage from fire and water amounted to only two hundred dollars.

A somewhat similar instance occurred at the Southern Warehouse & Forwarding Company of Jacksonville when a blaze started in a rest room located on the docks as a result of a carelessly discarded lighted match. Though the fire was under control when the firemen arrived, before fighting the flames the employees had operated the A.D.T. Alarm provided for their protection so as to insure the arrival of expert assistance in case of difficulty. The loss was only about fifty dollars, whereas the consequences would have been serious if the fire had spread to the fertilizers and large amounts of merchandise stored nearby.

## FACTOR OF SAFETY

Fire and burglars appeared to be making a simultaneous attack on the Isbell-Kent-Oakes Dry Goods Co. of Denver on the night of July 29, for an A.D.T. waterflow alarm came in at the Central Station and a burglar alarm as well. The A.D.T. guards who were dispatched to investigate found a fire caused by an overheated water heater igniting the flooring.



*LIGHTNING "UMBRELLA" — Man-made lightning, streaking toward a model high explosives plant at the Westinghouse Laboratory in Trafford, Pa., is deflected by a wire "umbrella" which guides it harmlessly into the earth*

## MIDNIGHT SUN

The premises of the Barrett Division of the Allied Chemical & Dye Corp. in St. Louis were dark and deserted on the night of November 10 except for an A.D.T. guard who was methodically inspecting the burglar alarm equipment to check on a trouble signal that had come

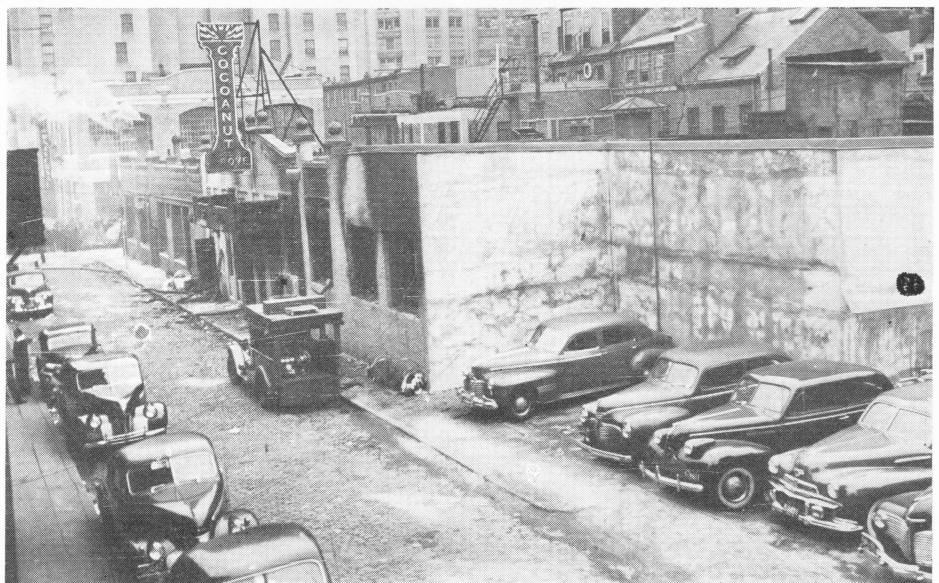
in at the Central Station a few minutes earlier.

Suddenly he had a feeling that there was something very wrong. Somehow, it seemed to be much lighter outside than it had any right to be at that time of the night. Looking out of a window, he found that the cause of this "midnight sun" effect was a fire on top of a storage tank in the yard.

The guard immediately summoned the fire department, which extinguished the blaze before any loss resulted. The burglar alarm trouble condition, was thus the lucky cause of the timely discovery of the fire.

## ON THE JOB

A crackling fire was built inside a brand-new incinerator at the Miami Shipbuilding Corporation at Miami, Florida, in order to dry out the mortar. The workmen, however, had neglected to remove the scaffolding which kindled and flared up so fiercely as to endanger nearby buildings. Fortunately, Watchman McPherson who was on duty at the time saw the blaze and at once made sure of prompt assistance by operating the fire alarm box connected with a nearby Aero System. The firemen who came in response were able to put out the blaze before it had a chance to spread or cause any damage.



*VAINLY WAITING—Victims' cars outside the Coconut Grove night club in Boston are a mute reminder of the tragedy on November 28, when sudden fire swept the club and 487 persons lost their lives in the flames and resulting panic*

# WATCHMEN

## ACCIDENT DISCOVERED

### *Overdue Signal Leads to Aid for Watchman*

A makeshift ladder made out of boxes collapsed when Watchman Weigel climbed on it in order to put out a light on the first floor of the Walgreen Company in Chicago on November 21. As a result the watchman fell to the concrete floor, striking his head and receiving a deep scalp laceration.

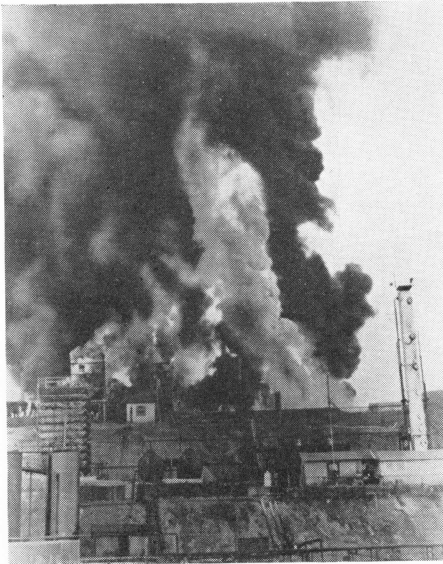
But Mr. Weigel's plight did not go unnoticed. When his signal failed to come in on time at the A.D.T. Central Station, a guard was at once dispatched to investigate. He notified the superintendent of the building of the accident and took the injured man to a physician where several stitches had to be taken in the wound. If outside assistance had not been summoned by reason of the watchman's inability to signal on schedule, his injury might have gone unattended for some time.

## SPEEDY AID

Night hours can be filled with hazards for the watchman, often in sole charge of protecting property. In several instances recently watchmen in Chicago establishments discovered incipient fires while making their lonely patrols, but in each case they were able to secure speedy assistance by means of an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm.

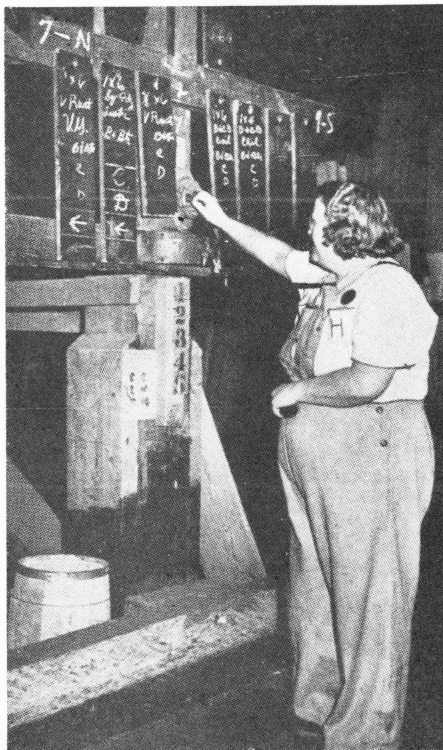
At the Harris Brothers Company, manufacturers of millwork, Watchman Melovick came upon a small blaze in the yard near a lumber shed. . . . Another night outbreak occurred at the Chicago Screw Company, due to a short circuit in the wiring, but was detected by the watchman on duty. . . . Watchman Jones observed a fire near a rubbish conveyor while making his rounds at C. D. Osborn & Co. . . . Material in an oven in the paint shop at the Handy Realty Co. caught fire and was blazing briskly when Watchman Sasso discovered it. . . .

In none of these cases did any damage result thanks to the foresight of the



*International*  
**PRECIOUS OIL BURNS**—Fire started by explosion destroys refinery at O. C. Field Gasoline Corp., Casmalia, Calif., on October 27. Between 15,000 and 20,000 gallons of oil were destroyed

management in providing A.D.T. Fire Alarm Boxes, the good judgment of the watchmen in using them, and the speed of firemen in responding.



**WATCHWOMAN**—Mrs. Roy Haynes operates an A.D.T. box on her tour as watchman in a lumber mill. Mrs. Haynes is a housewife with a ten-year-old son

## TYPICAL

Two recent cases, typical of A.D.T. supervised watchmen, show how losses are minimized when proper means are provided for calling the fire department.

On the night of November 19, in Columbus, Ohio, the watchman at the Columbus Metal Products Co. discovered that a chimney and part of the roof had caught fire from an overheated furnace. He immediately summoned the fire department by means of the nearby A.D.T. Box. The firemen extinguished the blaze with a loss of only fifty dollars.

A potential disaster at the million-dollar plant of the California Cotton Mills, Oakland, was averted on October 29 by effective action of the fire department, summoned by an A.D.T. Box immediately after the watchman discovered the outbreak. Several heads of the unsupervised sprinkler system opened and served to keep the fire under control until the arrival of the fire department. The damage that resulted was largely due to the wetting down of cotton by water from the sprinkler system.

## PREPARED FOR EMERGENCY

Guard McDermott of Louisville had occasion recently to prove the value of his first aid training when an accident occurred at the Louisville Cooperage Co.

Failure to receive a signal from the cooperage plant at the proper time on Sunday night, November 22, brought Guard McDermott to find out what was wrong. He discovered that Watchman Allen had fallen while making his rounds and suffered a scalp injury. The guard expertly rendered first aid to make the injured man comfortable, after which an official of the company arrived and directed the watchman to be taken to a hospital for further treatment.

# ORGANIZATION

## PENSIONED EMPLOYEE

E. L. Vogelmann who has been in the employ of the A.D.T. Company since July, 1909, was retired on pension on December 1, 1942. He was employed as a service supervisor at Baltimore.

## THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

### GIVE HIM MORE THAN A BADGE

*Unless a Watchman Is Well Trained In His Job and Supported By Automatic Systems, He's Working in the Dark*

By PAUL W. KEARNEY

"Chief," said Captain Moran as the two of them worked valiantly to bring a quart of chicken chow mein under control in the former's quarters, "here's another trade paper article panning that watchman who was responsible for turning off the sprinkler in that rubber fire. What I want to know is, why don't they take a couple of pokes for a change at the management of these plants who don't train a guy properly so he knows what to do in a pinch?"

"You said a mouthful there, Tommy," agreed the Chief, helping himself to another portion. Then, waving his fork for emphasis: "They give me a big pain in the neck! They get a new man and the very first day he comes into the plant they stick a flashlight in his mitt, pin a badge on his coat—and, whoops, he's a watchman. What's he gonna do if something happens? Nobody knows!

"This particular fellow turns off the sprinklers because he *thought* that's what he was supposed to do. Nobody ever told him anything different. Yet last Sunday down at that woolen mill they had about five thousand dollars worth of water damage from a broken sprinkler pipe. The watchman heard a local waterflow alarm ringing for *three hours*—but he didn't do anything because he didn't know what it was. Nobody ever told him!

Remember that little spontaneous ignition blaze we had out at the fertilizer factory? That watchman not only didn't know *where* the sprinkler valve was—he didn't even know *what* it was. Nobody ever told him.

The Chief paused in sheer disgust, slamming his fork on his plate of chow mein which was rapidly getting cold. "Boy, in the movies that'd be good comedy, but here it ain't so funny. You read about that \$4,000,000 blaze in New

Orleans? Well, the watchman who discovered that when it was still small ran around in circles and a full half-hour was wasted before any alarm at all went in. It seems nobody ever showed him where the various alarm boxes were!

"No sirree, it takes more than a badge and a flashlight to make a watchman. They've got a tough job and they gotta be trained for it just like you do for any job. And believe me, Tommy, no matter how well trained they are, they still need to be checked by a Central Station and backed up by automatic systems.

"That goes double today with all this manpower shortage they're squawking about. There are an awful lot of able-bodied guys who'd lots rather be on the production line are doing guard duty that could be done better by automatics. Not only as far as fire is concerned

but also as protection against intruders, which is a real job these winter nights with dim-outs and fogs and snow storms to cut down visibility. These new electronic systems alone are worth a whole regiment of men to any big plant. Because, just like the Aero and Sprinkler Supervisory Systems, they cover a lot of ground at one time; they're looking in every direction at once; they're never worrying about the wife's lumbago or the rent money or that second piece of mince pie they shouldn't have eaten.

"You know this new rubber warehouse down by the river? Well, they've put automatics in there and now they've taken two men off the night watch and put them on production jobs where they were short-handed—and they're still the best guarded plant in the city."

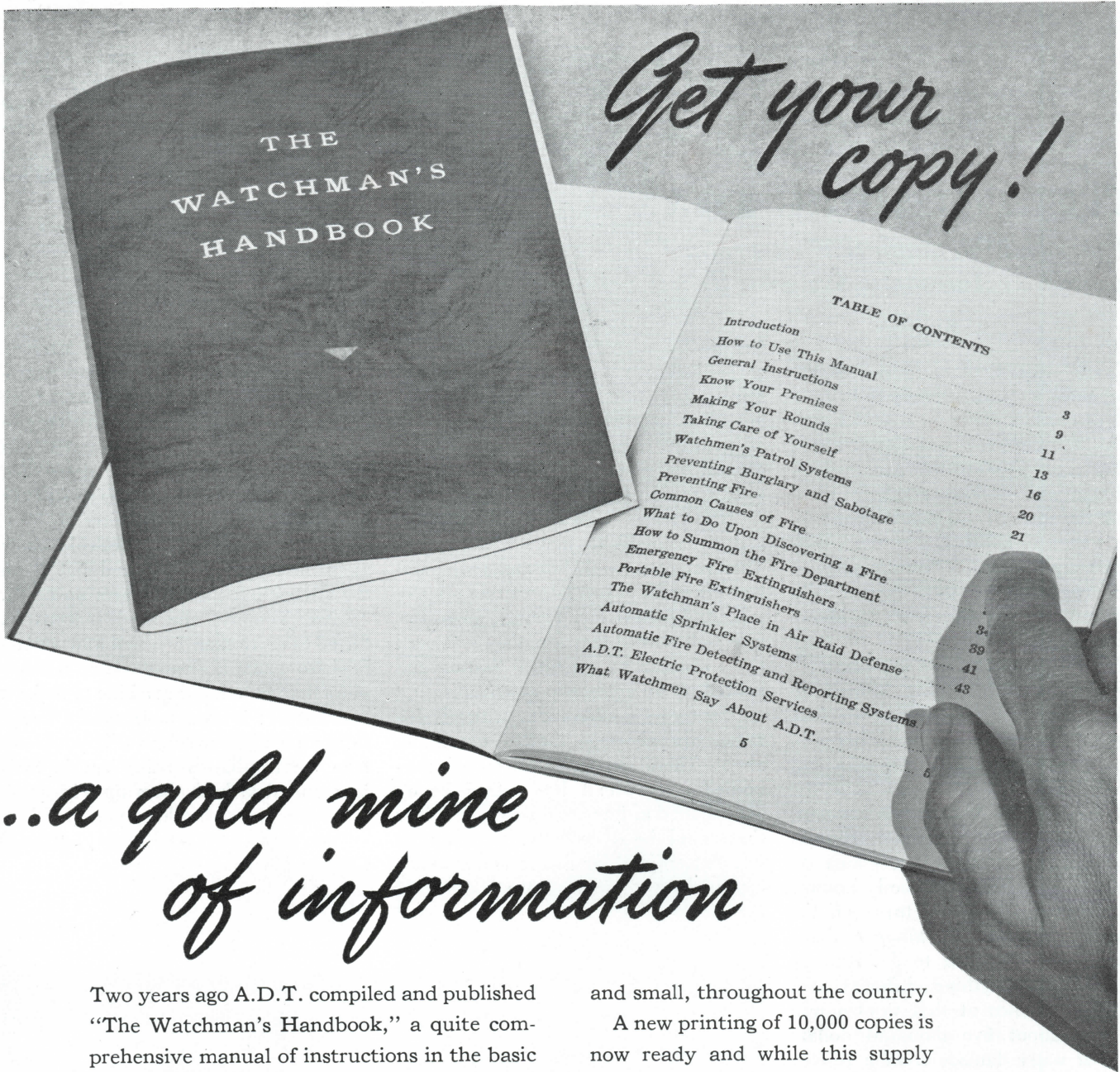
The Chief scraped his ice-cold chow mein back into the can and put it on the electric hot plate to warm up again.

"No, Tommy," he said reflectively, "it takes more than a pencil and a notebook to make a stenographer; it takes more than an adding machine to make a bookkeeper; it takes more than a badge to make a night watchman. If you don't take the trouble to train 'em in their jobs and then back them up with modern equipment, what have you got?"

"You've got \$4,000,000 fires!" grunted Captain Moran.



**TRAINED FOR ANY EMERGENCY**—Guards and watchmen at Glenn L. Martin Company, Baltimore, in drill formation. This force is backed-up by A.D.T. Automatic Fire and Intrusion Protection Services under Central Station supervision



*Get your copy!*

THE  
WATCHMAN'S  
HANDBOOK

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*..a gold mine of information*

Two years ago A.D.T. compiled and published "The Watchman's Handbook," a quite comprehensive manual of instructions in the basic responsibilities of watchmen. The table of contents reproduced above indicates the material it contains.

That there was real need for a handbook of this kind is indicated by the fact that more than 35,000 copies have been distributed for the help and guidance of watchmen and guards in all types of establishments, large

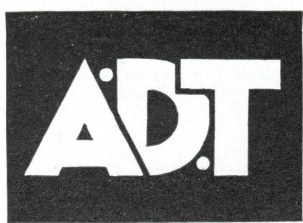
and small, throughout the country.

A new printing of 10,000 copies is now ready and while this supply lasts we will be glad to send you as many copies as you may reasonably require for your guards or watchmen. This handbook is available to you whether or not your property is A.D.T. protected, and there will be no charge or obligation whatever.

Please address your request to our Executive Office at 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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