

The

ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XVI. no. 10 — NOVEMBER — 1944



• LETTERS •

Money Well Spent

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

This is the second time within the past six months that we have been forced to turn in an alarm to protect our properties and the way your company has performed in each case could not have been improved upon.

We are convinced that all of the money that we have paid out in the past for your protection, if no other service had been provided other than that rendered in these two instances, was money well spent.

J. A. LUBY

Gartland Foundry Co.
Terre Haute, Ind.

Commends Watchful Eyes

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We wish to commend you upon the manner in which your company thwarted the two recent attempts to burglarize our warehouse.

Our business seems to be a special target for burglars these days. However, we feel confident that the watchful eyes at your switchboard will keep a close look at our ticker tapes.

Incidentally, this makes three times in the past ten years that attempts were made and A.D.T. guards foiled the would-be burglars.

L. B. SILVERMAN

California Wine & Brandy Co.
Los Angeles, California.

Very Fortunate

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We feel very fortunate to be opening up for business again this morning. I am referring to the fire alarm that we had Sunday morning at 6:30, when again the sprinkler put this fire out before the fire department had to use any water on it.

We are very pleased with the way the fire department covered the merchandise and fixtures, which prevented us from having any loss whatsoever.

CARL HESS

Parisian, Inc.
Birmingham, Ala.

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 •

Fire Resistive Canvas

Although the circus fire at Hartford, Conn. on July 7 is the outstanding example of the combustible nature of canvas, a review of the fire records of most cities will show a large number of outbreaks each year in tents, awnings, tarpaulins and other coverings of this material.

The first official report on the circus disaster points out that "there is little hope at this time of adopting for tent purposes, a fabric that is inherently fire resistant." We are informed, however, by a manufacturer of cotton duck that in recent years considerable success has been attained in treating canvas with a fire, water, mildew and weather resistant finish.

As a result of these experiments this finish was available to our armed forces at the outbreak of the war, and much of the canvas purchased by the Army and Navy has been so treated. The demand from the services has been so great that the finish has not been available to the civilian trade except on the highest priorities.

According to our informant, it has been standard practice to treat circus tents with a wax compound which was not in any way intended to be fire resistant. It is claimed that with the new treatment the canvas will char but there will be no flame at the point of contact and when the flame is removed the glow will not spread. It is also stated that the finish will not wash out and will not lose its effectiveness over a long period of time.

The adoption of the new finish by circus organizations should do much to allay the public fear of a repetition of the Hartford disaster. If it meets expectations it should go a long way in reducing the fire hazard in all types of canvas coverings.

On the Cover

"Nedo" Dalmatian pet of Engine Company 14, Roxbury, Mass. is pictured in a comical pose. The hat fits, alright, for Nedo is a dogged smoke eater and is always raring to go whenever an alarm comes in that calls for action by his company. *International News Photo*

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The A.D.T. TRANSMITTER

VOL. XVI

NOVEMBER, 1944

No. 10

DRIVES CAR OFF END OF DOCK SOUGHT SMOKES

Missing Signal Leads to Discovery of Watchman Clinging to Cable Following Plunge into Sixty Feet of Water

Not many persons can drive a car off a dock and live to tell the tale, but Arthur Waller, watchman for the St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Co., Tacoma, Washington, did it on September 23, though considering his harrowing experience it is doubtful that he would care to give a repeat performance.

Waller, who covers most of his route in a car, apparently set out shortly after 4:00 a.m. He turned in his starting signal to A.D.T. but his next signal failed to come in. A few minutes later Guard Walker went to the plant and finding no trace of the missing man he sought the help of a watchman patrolling another route.

As the men started their search they were informed by a watchman on an adjacent pier that he had heard cries for help coming from the end of the dock. Joined by police officers, they rushed to the spot where they found Waller clinging to a cable, his hands cut and bleeding and suffering from cold, shock and exhaustion.

The officers lowered a rope to the struggling watchman and hauled him from the water. He was taken to a hospital for rest and treatment. When able to tell his story he said that as he started his car, for some unknown reason, it backed off the edge of the wharf into about sixty feet of water. Waller, still in the car as it sank under the water, through superhuman efforts was somehow able to extricate himself, and when he rose to the surface struggled to a piling where he grasped a wire cable binder and hung on tenaciously, the while calling for help, until discovered by his rescuers.

It is considered that the timely action taken plus the great strength and

endurance of Waller, who is stocky and weighs about 180 pounds, were responsible for saving his life.

After a few days of rest he was able to resume his duties at the plant.

BULB IGNITES BROOM

Spontaneous ignition of a broom propped against an electric light bulb set off the sprinklers in a show window of the Marshall Field & Company store at Evanston, Ill. on the evening of September 2. The resulting downpour put out the fire and caused an A.D.T. water-flow alarm. The fire department responded and did an excellent job in minimizing water damage.

But Phonetalarm System Thwarts Scheme to Raid Cigarette Vault

A vacant building adjoining the King Cigar Co., in Flint, Michigan was well-populated when guards and police searched it at 1:44 a.m. on August 6, after receiving a series of alarms from the Phonetalarm (sound detecting) System on the cigarette vault in the King building.

One adult, age 24, was found about to descend a wire cable from the roof of the vacant building to the roof of the cigar factory. On the third floor of the vacant building were three boys and two girls, fifteen to seventeen years of age, awaiting the man's return.

What caused the alarms is unknown. It is believed that they were the result of pounding on the building wall or the impact of some dislodged bricks which fell on the roof over the vault.



FIREFIGHTERS AT THE FRONT—As smoke and fire rise with angry intensity from burning petrol in a burst fuel supply line at the American fighting zone in France, front-line firefighters use long hoses in an effort to quench the blaze. Dense forests surrounding the blaze endangered all men in that area.

International

BURGLARY

BURGLARS START BLAZE

Quick Arrival of Police Officers Prevents Both Fire and Theft

Two burglars brought a dual threat to the M. Dumas & Sons store in Charleston, S. C. on the night of September 25, both fire and theft.

Answering an A.D.T. burglar alarm from the premises at 10:11 p.m., police rushed to the store just in time to see two men fleeing from the side door.

Apparently the two men had hidden themselves within the store at closing time, 7:50 p.m., and had taken their time about selecting their loot. The store is a retail dry goods and pawn shop, and carries a large stock of military uniforms.

Upon entering, the police and A.D.T. guards found the place full of smoke. The fire department was called immediately and an investigation was made to find the cause. It was discovered that the burglars had slipped a wool sock over an electric light bulb in front of the safe to subdue the glare while they worked. The sock had caught fire and fallen to the floor, upon highly inflammable material. A smoldering fire, which, had it not been detected quickly, would have threatened the whole building, was well under way.

Inside the door were stacked five large travelling bags packed with Army and Navy uniforms, shoes, shirts and socks. A large bundle of overcoats and raincoats also was with the bags. A small safe and the cash register had been ransacked. So leisurely were their operations (until they opened an A.D.T. protected door) that one man discarded his old trousers and shoes for new ones.

Through the laundry marks on the discarded trousers, the police were able to trace one of the burglars.

ARTISTICALLY INCLINED

A young soldier enroute from Texas to Illinois stopped off at St. Louis and paid an illegitimate visit to the Rembrandt Studio in that city at 1:42 a.m. on September 23.

He entered the studio through a



BROKEN UP—and why not? For this doll was stripped of a \$3,000 mink coat in the window of the David Adler fur store in Chicago on September 26. A.D.T. Guard Lt. Schumacher caught the culprit, retrieved the coat, and here is shown restoring the lady in the case to her hitherto respectable condition. Complete and courteous A.D.T. Service!

fourth floor rear fire escape window but so speedy was the response to the resulting burglar alarm that he was nabbed on the spot and turned over to the military police.

A BIT TOO CLEVER

Police Explode Youth's Ingenious Plan to Defeat Burglar Alarm

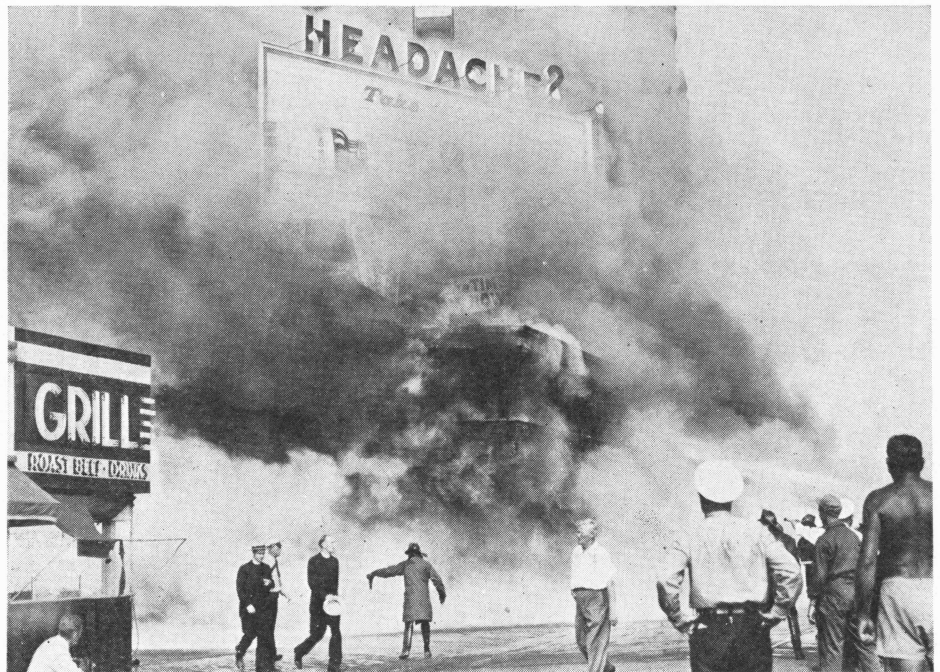
One Leo Cannon of San Francisco, twenty-one years of age, found his scientific method of show window breaking had all the potency of a cap-pistol, on the morning of September 9.

At 3:56 a.m. Cannon approached the show window of the Philip Klein jewelry store in San Francisco and carefully placed adhesive tape on the glass in a fifteen-inch circle. Then taking a blunt instrument he thrust it through the center. Much to his disappointment, however, the carefully placed tape held the jagged pieces of glass in place making it impossible for him to reach into the window.

Just as he was about to leave the scene he was collared by two police officers answering the A.D.T. burglar alarm from the premises caused by the shattering of the glass.

An A.D.T. guard assisted the owner in boarding up the broken window.

Cannon was believed to have a previous police record, and the district attorney's office held him on a charge of vagrancy pending further investigation preparatory to his trial.



HEADACHE?—AND HOW!—The sign above this burning building seems more than usually pertinent at the moment as firemen battle to douse the blaze that threatened the Knickerbocker Hotel in Atlantic City, N. J., on September 7. The fire which started in some surplus oil drums stored in the basement, quickly spread to the boardwalk. Many stores in the vicinity were damaged by the blaze.

International

FREAK ACCIDENT

A very unusual window smash took place in the Anne Lewis ladies' apparel shop in Buffalo recently.

At 3:43 a.m. on September 10, a city sprinkler truck was driving along Main Street when suddenly a rear wheel came off. The wheel rolled over the curb and into the shop, breaking two show case windows and a large side front show window.

A.D.T. guards watched the premises until the arrival of the store manager and assisted him in boarding up the openings until the plate glass could be replaced.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

Arno A. Zanelli, manager of the Press Club, 731 S.W. Oak Street, Portland, Ore., discovered on the early morning of September 6 that he has nothing to worry about as far as prowlers are concerned.

Zanelli started home when he remembered that he had forgotten to place the day's receipts in the safe. When he returned and opened the door, an A.D.T. alarm sounded and Patrolmen Wendlich and Berardinelli responded.

Outwardly embarrassed, Zanelli explained his presence in the club and proceeded to lock up the valuables—still lying safely on the bar where he had left them.

LAST ODD JOB

One Phil Steve of Boston has from time to time done odd jobs around the Paddock Cafe, Inc. in that city. Recently, however, Steve found himself unemployed and awaiting trial by Grand Jury. This for the reason that his last job around the cafe was a little too odd and turned out to be quite a bungled bit of unfinished business.

At 2:52 a.m. a burglar alarm was received from the bar and grill. At 2:56 police and A.D.T. guards were at every door of the cafe. Suddenly Steve emerged from the back door and was quickly caught by an officer. He pitched a bunch of keys into the darkness of the alley, but they soon were recovered and found to fit the doors perfectly. He had a quart bottle of liquor and \$122.00

in bills on his person, which had been taken from the cash register.

The cafe sustained no loss, except, of course, the services of a too handy odd job man.

A.D.T. SHOOTS CUPID

At 2:00 a.m. on September 19, in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, two love-lorn youngsters were eloping. The girl was sixteen and the boy seventeen, and in hot pursuit were the girl's frantic mama and papa.

That love does not conquer all was forcibly brought home to the kids by the exception, A.D.T. protection.

The boy and girl fled to the Duluth Hotel, but so close to their heels were the parents, that the lovers were forced to escape via a fire escape which led to the roof of Macey's store, adjacent to the Hotel. In order to descend from this building, they opened a window and entered the store, creating an A.D.T. alarm which summoned police and guards.

Upon arrival, the building janitor already had the would-be bride and groom in custody and heartlessly turned them over to the authorities. They were taken to police headquarters and later released to their parents.

FIRE

NO TIME OUT

Football Practice Uninterrupted As Firemen Put Out Fire in School

The football team at the North Charleston High School, Charleston, S. C. was having a stiff workout on the afternoon of September 19, when practice suddenly was interrupted by the arrival of fire engines.

Consulting the Aero Annunciator on the outside of the building, firemen rushed into the gymnasium basement where they found a fire in some shavings around a hot water heater which had been lighted to furnish water for showers.

No loss was incurred as the fire was extinguished without difficulty.

AMAZING SPEED

"I never saw anything so fast in my life," declared a foreman at the N. P. Nelson Iron Works, Paterson, N. J. as the fire apparatus pulled up to the door on the morning of September 1.

The reason for the firemen's speedy



International
FIVE-ALARM FIRE IN QUAKER CITY—Scores of persons were injured in this disastrous fire at the Quaker City Iron Works in Philadelphia, when magnesium tanks exploded, showering sparks for blocks around the neighborhood. The company manufactures tanks for the U. S. Army. Photograph shows firemen fighting fire under great difficulties with magnesium tanks still exploding.

arrival was a fire which broke out in a barrel of rags when a spark from a spot welding machine went astray. As the rags flared up the heat set off the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm and called the firefighters to the scene.

The fire was confined to the barrel.

CORK CAUSES SMOKY BLAZE

A sudden flare-up of gasoline in a special type heater being tested in a refrigerated testing room at the plant of the Olds Motor Works, Lansing, Mich., was the start of a stubborn blaze which gave the fire department a good two-hour workout one evening recently.

The intense heat quickly ignited the cork insulation of the room, causing dense clouds of smoke to pour from the building. Firemen summoned by an alarm from an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box battled the fire despite smoke, gas and ammonia fumes. One fireman was overcome and several others were completely exhausted before the danger was overcome.

There was no interruption of production. The efficient fire department action held the loss to a low amount.

AUTOMATIC ACTION

Breaking out in boxes of trash on the eighth floor of the A. B. Frank Company building (wholesale dry goods), San Antonio, Texas, at 9:21 p.m., a threatening fire was held under control by the automatic sprinklers until the fire department, automatically summoned by an A.D.T. alarm, arrived and put a finish to the flames.

WATCHMEN

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Watchman's Canine Companions Lead Way to Stricken Master

Lawrence Slicker, watchman in a warehouse of the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Irvington, N. J. was a constant and conscientious guardian of his building. Night after night in heat or cold Watchman Slicker

made his rounds accompanied by two companions, tried and true, his two faithful watchdogs. Seldom if ever was Mr. Slicker a moment off schedule in turning in his signals to the A.D.T. Central Station. It was cause for concern, therefore, when his 9:45 p.m. starting signal failed to register on September 6.

Fearing that all was not well, the Central Station operators notified the main plant, and dispatched Guard Lorenz to the warehouse. As he entered the building, Lorenz was met at the door by the two watchdogs who were howling pitifully. In almost human behavior, they grabbed the guard's coat, tugging at him and then running ahead, literally begging him to follow them. Thus they led him to their beloved master, Watchman Slicker, who was lying dead of a heart attack in front of his transmitting station.

HOTEL WATCHMAN HELPED

"Better call the Albany Hotel," said Operator Ryan, who was supervising watchmen's signals in the Denver Central Station at 4:55 a.m., September 14. Ryan had noted that the watchman

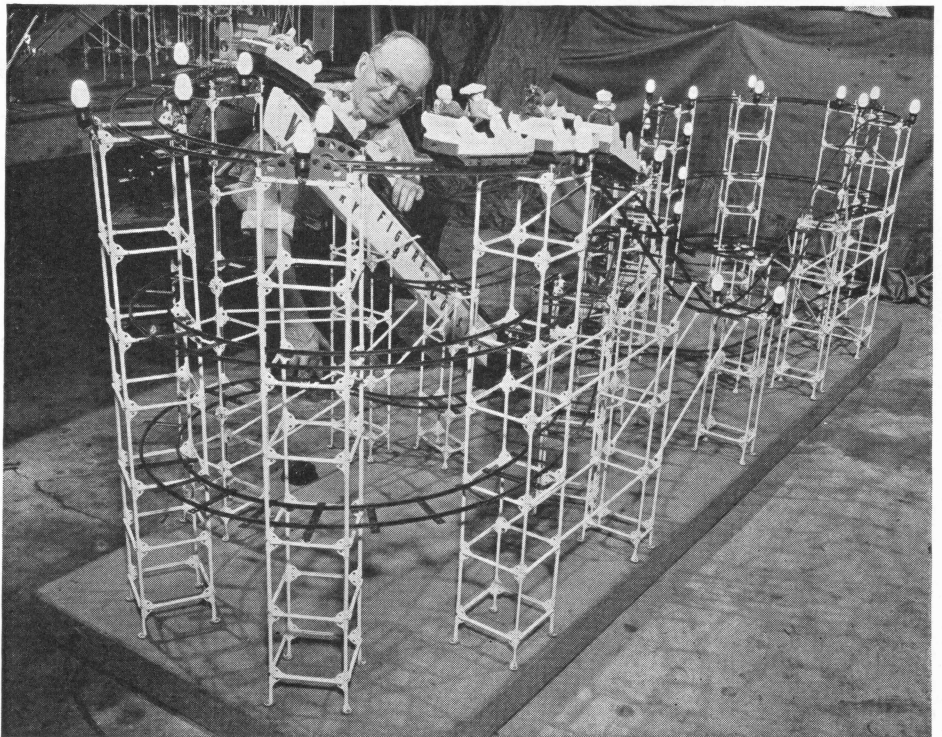
was overdue in transmitting his signal from a box on the sixth floor so Supervisor Cowell immediately telephoned the night clerk and informed him of the situation. A few minutes later the clerk replied that the watchman had been located in the basement and that he was seriously ill.

Cowell promptly went to the hotel where he found employees endeavoring to revive the watchman. He laid the man on a couch, applied cold towels and then called the police and asked them to send a doctor and an ambulance.

The stricken man was taken to a hospital where he received treatment for an organic condition. At the last report his condition was satisfactory.

In a note to A.D.T. Manager, T. J. Yocom, Mr. Ainslee D. Embree, manager of the hotel, stated: "Had we lacked A.D.T. service, this man might have remained on the basement floor long enough to get serious complications."

YOUR FURNACE OR BOILER ROOM are danger spots—do you keep them absolutely free from accumulations of combustible refuse?



BUILT OWN AMUSEMENT PARK—Albert Gibbney, A.D.T. plant man at Chicago, has a unique and entertaining hobby. He has a self-built, fully-operating, miniature amusement park right in his own garage. Besides the roller coaster shown in the picture, he has a ferris wheel, caterpillar ride and a breathtaking double whirl.

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

FIRE DAMAGES FUR STORAGE

Bulk of Garments Saved From Destruction as Response to Freak Burglar Alarm Uncovers Fire in Warehouse Vault

On September 25, exactly one year after the disastrous fur storage fire in New Haven, Conn., a similar fire damaged and destroyed a considerable number of fur and cloth coats in the cold storage vault of the Atlantic States Warehouse in Springfield, Mass.

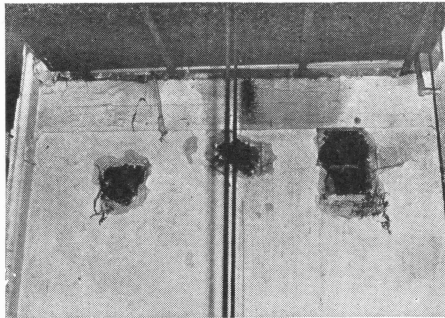
Although the loss has been estimated anywhere from \$50,000 to \$500,000, it would have been much greater if it had not been for the presence of an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm System which operated when the wires became wet from melting frost and gave the A.D.T. Central Station notification that something was amiss.

Upon receipt of the alarm at 7:00 p.m. two guards were sent to the warehouse to investigate. Going up to the seventh floor where the vault is located they opened the vault door but were forced to close it quickly when dense smoke poured fourth. They notified the fire department immediately, but before the firemen arrived a local sprinkler bell started ringing indicating that the sprinklers had started to operate inside the vault.

The vault is divided into about fifty wire cage compartments and the fire smoldered and ravaged the fur garments in two of them until the sprinkler system operated and prevented the flames from spreading. Firemen trying to get into the compartments suffered considerably from nauseating and acrid smoke that poured from the burning coats. Gas masks were effective only for a few minutes at a time. After extinguishing the fire the sprinkler system was quickly turned off to prevent further damage by water.

The firemen worked through most of the night as the thousands of garments in each of the two vaults which had been hit by fire had to be removed individually.

According to a recent report pub-



VENTILATION—holes cut by firemen at top of elevator shaft to assist in exhausting the nauseating smoke and fumes emitted by the burning fur and other material inside the vault.

lished in the National Underwriter "there were 25,000 coats in storage. All were subjected to smoke, but only about



MOPPING UP—Employees of the warehouse mop up water discharged by the sprinkler system which, though it wet some of the garments, did an effective job of holding the fire in check until the firemen arrived. The vault was divided into about fifty compartments of varying size similar to the one in the picture.

7,500 were wet in fighting the fire, and of these only about 3,000 to 5,000 were damaged to any degree by the fire. The fire department did a fine job in confining the water to the coats actually on fire, as far as possible. Underwriters Salvage of New York is handling the reconditioning of the coats."

The cause of the fire has not been definitely determined. According to newspaper reports, employees of the warehouse said that several persons had entered the vaults during the day. District Chief Menard said the probable cause was carelessness in smoking.

The management praised A.D.T. highly for its alertness which undoubtedly resulted in a much lower loss than otherwise would have been incurred.

A burglar alarm system, however, is not designed to detect fire and should not be depended upon for that purpose. A.D.T. engineers suggest Aero Automatic Fire Alarm Service, A.D.T. Automatic Fire and Smoke Detecting and Control System and A.D.T. Sprinkler Supervisory and Waterflow Alarm Systems to obtain the speediest possible detection and reporting of fires when engineering for the specific requirements of cold storage vaults.

WILLIAM G. LONG
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
SEATTLE 4

April 3, 1944

American District Telegraph Company
1337 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, 1, Washington

Gentlemen:

With reference to your report on the fire occurring in the King County Juvenile Detention Home on March 3, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the service which your Aero Automatic Fire Alarm system rendered.

In this detention home there is an average population of between twenty-five to thirty-five boys and girls ranging in age from infants to eighteen years.

Doors, windows and fire escapes are necessarily always locked in order to prevent escapes. This, of course, creates a potentially hazardous situation in case of fire and has been a constant source of worry and concern to me, because I am officially responsible for the safety of every child being detained.

The possibilities of panic in a fire have continually haunted me until we had an actual demonstration as to what your equipment actually does in time of emergency.

The fire was incendiary, having been planned and executed by some boys in detention who carefully worked out the details of a general escape of all inmates in the confusion which they thought would follow the fire.

In this plan they were frustrated for the reason that the automatic detector spotted the fire in the isolated clothes closet and in a few moments the fire department and police officers were on hand directing their attention to the specific spot of origin. It was all over in a few moments, no particular damage was caused, there was no panic, no confusion and no casualties.

As a matter of fact, it all happened so quickly and was so effectively handled that the staff workers in the other part of the building were not even disturbed and really didn't know what was happening until it was all over.

In my opinion, the entire cost of maintaining this alarm system, both past and future, has been more than paid for in this single incident.

I extend to your company, and to your representative who negotiated the installation, my heartfelt gratitude.

Yours respectfully,

W. G. Long

WGL:BT

THANK YOU, JUDGE LONG...

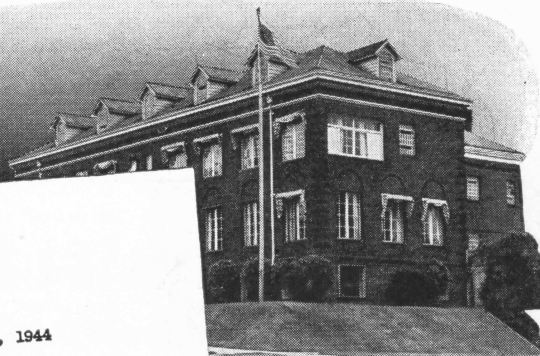
We are sure that everyone who is directly or indirectly responsible for the safety of life and property will welcome your opinion of the protection A. D. T. Aero Automatic Fire Detecting and Alarm Service affords...every moment of the day and night. Booklet and complete information on this widely endorsed fire detecting system will be sent without obligation. Write us...TODAY.

A. D. T. ELECTRIC PROTECTION SERVICES

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ADT

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