



• LETTERS •

Efficiency Appreciated

American District Telegraph Co.:

We desire to commend you for the very efficient service rendered during the night of January 7, when a small fire developed on our first floor and was so quickly detected and reported to the fire department by your organization.

We appreciate the promptness and efficiency of your service and wanted you to know just how we feel about it.

S. L. Wellhouse

National Paper Co., Atlanta, Ga.

Proved Its Worth

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We want to express to your company our full appreciation for the services rendered in connection with the fire which broke out in our building on January 25 at 1:42 a.m.

We only now realize the advantages of the service your company renders and, as a result of the operation of the sprinkler alarm system and the alertness of your employees, a serious fire loss was avoided.

It also gave us a great deal of satisfaction to have your guard on duty immediately, protecting our property while the fire was being extinguished. The ADT System has proved its worth and we are happy to know that our property is protected so efficiently.

R. L. Ammarell

Berks Products Corp., Reading, Pa.

Wouldn't Be Without It

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

I was very satisfied with the way the situation was handled when you answered the burglar alarm received from our premises on January 5.

I have had ADT Protection for eighteen years and wouldn't be without it. I wish to commend you for your efficiency and promptness.

G. KIRALY

G. Kiraly, Trenton, N. J.

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.), founded in 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in the manufacture, installation, maintenance and operation of electrical supervisory and alarm systems for protection against fire, burglary and intrusion, watchman supervision, etc.

A.D.T. Central Station Protection Services are available in more than 350 cities and towns in the United States. In this type of service the protection system in the subscriber's premises is connected to an outside A.D.T. Central Station which provides continuous electrical supervision, transmits alarms to the fire and police departments and investigates trouble and other emergency signals.

Outside of Central Station areas, A.D.T. installs protection equipment for owner operation, with visual or audible signals within the protected premises and, when desired, direct-wire connections to police or fire departments. In exceptionally large establishments, systems may be installed to operate through owner-operated proprietary central stations on the premises.

Whether the system operates through an A.D.T. Central Station or is of the local or proprietary type, A.D.T. provides periodic inspections, systematic tests and complete maintenance by an organization trained and experienced in this type of work. Without this specialized attention there is little assurance that any protective signaling system will operate when an emergency arises.

A.D.T. Protection Services include the following systems:

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM: Summons fire fighting forces when sprinkler operates. Maintains a continuous automatic check on shut-off valves and other points controlling water supply.

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

WATCHMAN SUPERVISORY AND MANUAL FIRE ALARM: Investigates any failure to signal Central Station. Includes Manual Fire Alarm Boxes to summon the fire department quickly and accurately.

BURGLAR ALARM: Automatically detects unlawful entry or intrusion and initiates immediate investigation.

HOLDUP ALARM: Summons police in case of attack by bandits and in other emergencies.

Also: Automatic Fire Control for Air Duct Systems; Heating System and Industrial Process Supervision and other miscellaneous supervisory services.

• EDITORIAL •

An Important Qualification

"Automatic Indication of Fire" is the title of a "special interest bulletin" recently issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

The bulletin calls attention to the many instances of heavy loss of life and property through failure to discover the fire promptly or to notify the fire department in time for effective action.

As a cure for these conditions the bulletin says, "it is a self-evident proposition that automatic detection of fire would go far towards providing life safety, especially for those places which are occupied throughout the twenty-four hours and where people sleep."

Elaborating on the subject, the bulletin strongly recommends the use of automatic fire alarm systems, as follows: "In the view of those versed in fire protection, the automatic detection of fire through thermostats and alarm systems provides a safeguard for life and property exceeded only by the automatic sprinkler."

The bulletin makes one important qualification: "The dependability of any of them (automatic fire alarms) depends upon the degree of inspection, testing and maintenance. Experience has been that constant supervision, as rendered by companies maintaining a central supervising office, and under contract to inspect, test and maintain the system, is the best form of service; also that where such central supervising office is not available, then the inspection, testing and maintenance should be under contract with an experienced and dependable organization."

While this statement was made in connection with automatic fire alarm systems, it holds equally true for any type of protective signaling system. Dependable operation demands continuous specialized attention.

On the Cover

Trenton, N. J. firemen had trouble aplenty, trying to battle this hot blaze which swept through two buildings in the downtown business section of the city on February 10. Press Assn.

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 13, 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.



VOL. XX

MARCH, 1948

No. 3

GUARDS BATTLE EX-CONVICTS "

Win Fistic Encounter in Semidarkness as Burglar Alarm Reveals Parolees' Presence in Legion Post Clubrooms

Two defiant ex-convicts, who apparently judge everyone by their own yardstick, owe their lives to the unruffled judgment and physical bravery of ADT guards Charles Miller and Fred Diringer of the Buffalo Central Station.

When Miller and Diringer arrived at the Semper Fidelis Post of the American Legion on January 4 in answer to a burglar alarm received at 5:01 a.m., they found the front door broken in. With guns drawn, they cautiously entered the club to investigate.

In the semidarkness they saw the first of two figures emerge from behind a juke box and move towards them. The guards could hardly believe their ears as they heard him shout, "Go ahead shoot! You haven't got the nerve!" The defiant individual was immediately joined by a companion and, swinging their fists, the two tried to rush the guards.

Diringer and Miller easily could have picked them off with their guns, but being no slouches when it comes to fisticuffs, they decided to meet the intruders on even terms and fight it out the hard way. It required several minutes to show the pugnacious pair some of the finer points of pugilism, but they were completely subdued at the end of the lesson.

They were turned over to Buffalo police who took them in for questioning. At headquarters they were identified as Angelo J. Callea, 22, and Michael Amoroso, 24. Both had police records and were recently released from Elmira Reformatory where Callea had been serving time for a gas station stickup; and Amoroso for automobile theft.

They explained their foolhardy defiance of the guards thusly: "We didn't know they were officers. All we could



Michael Amoroso Angelo Callea Pugnacity failed to pay off

see at first was the outline of their caps. We thought they were cab drivers giving us the business."

Walter Keller, commander of the Post, was highly pleased with the efficiency of the ADT Service and expressed high admiration for the courage of Guards Diringer and Miller.



MILLION-DOLLAR BLAZE — Open fire doors on an elevator shaft and absence of automatic protection permitted flames to gain rapid headway in a heavily stocked warehouse in Boston's wool and leather district. Firemen battled blaze for hours on January 15

'SOUND' PROTECTION

Coal thieves, who apparently had come to consider the basement of the H. Krulewich real estate office in Chicago as their regular source of supply, faced a sudden and unexpected fuel shortage on January 6.

After Mr. Krulewich found his coal pile had suspiciously dwindled by two tons, he decided to make things a little more difficult for the thieves, and had an iron crossbar installed on the inside of the cellar door.

On their return visit the determined crooks, affronted but not disheartened, grimly set to work to attain their objective. They energetically pounded away at the door with hammers or other heavy instruments, making so much noise that the sound was picked up by microphones of the ADT Phonetalarm System protecting the vault on the floor above.

The thieves succeeded in battering through the door, but were frightened away by the wail of approaching sirens before they had time to pilfer the coal pile again.

WATCHMAN OVERCOME

Prompt use of an ADT Emergency Police Call Device probably saved the life of a watchman overcome by gas on Saturday, January 3, at the plant of the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Company, Louisville, Ky.

Fumigators working on the fifth floor that morning had used a gas which escaped to the first floor where the watchman made his patrol in the afternoon. Fortunately his plight was discovered by a fellow watchman who used the ADT device to summon assistance.

Police officers, who arrived within a few minutes, employed emergency measures and the stricken man soon was revived.

BURGLARY

'GENTLEMAN BURGLAR'

Police Block Path of Boastful Bandit Trying to Flee With Cash

A holdup man who tried to make up in bravado what he lacked in the way of a weapon, discovered on February 5 that his loud voice led to his undoing.

Entering the jewelry store of Anton Horvat in Baltimore, at 8:23 p.m., the bandit ominously pointed what appeared to be the barrel of a pistol peeping through a hole in his pocket, but which in reality was a piece of pipe. In a commanding voice he addressed the three visible occupants of the store: "This is a holdup!"

Charles Mead, a jeweler working in the rear of the shop, heard the word "holdup" and quickly operated an ADT Police Call Device. The criminal, Joseph Kohnan, then herded the store's occupants into a washroom, forcing Mead to join the others en route.

Pausing for a bit of braggadocio, he said, "I'm the gentleman burglar who pulled the Chester Street job. You read about me in the papers. I don't want any jewelry—just cash."

At the conclusion of this impressive speech, Kohnan proceeded to the cash register and helped himself to \$80. He managed to carry it to within ten feet of the front door when he was suddenly confronted by two Baltimore detectives who arrived in response to the ADT alarm. Kohnan was swiftly and forcibly relieved of his loot, and taken to the Central District Police Station.

LOST AND FOUND

Iron bars do not a prison make nor do they keep burglars out if they are determined to break in. This was convincingly demonstrated recently to the owners of a market in St. Louis.

When the ADT Burglar Alarm was installed on the market, the proprietor felt that he did not need it on certain windows which were barred. On December 13, an experienced burglar advisedly avoided the innocent-looking ADT-protected windows and sawed the iron bars from another. He helped himself to \$350 worth of the store's whiskey, cigarettes and cash, and made his getaway.

Upon discovery of the burglary, the enlightened store owner requested ADT to place protection on all windows. And, as usual, ADT came through. Electrician Sullivan had just started to work on the job when he spied a social security card and an unemployment compensation card which the burglar had dropped on his way out.

These were turned over to police who recognized the name as that of a known criminal. He was picked up immediately at his home where part of the stolen goods was recovered.

STITCH IN TIME

Only five days after its installation, an ADT Burglar Alarm System at the shop of Ben the Tailor, in St. Louis, demonstrated its value.

At 2:45 a.m. on January 18, the Central Station received an alarm from the tailor shop. Within three minutes, police officers captured the culprit, a 31-year-old burglar who had broken a panel out of a rear door.

Ben Brommesher, proprietor of the store, was highly gratified by the quick return from his investment in ADT Protection and stated that the service had prevented a large loss.



PICNIC FOR BURGLARS — Alfred Krieg, president of Industrial Photo Products, Inc., examines wrecked safe after visit by week-end burglars who made similar raids on several concerns in building at 150 Chambers St., New York City. The thieves took time out for lunch which was washed down with a quantity of very fine Scotch whiskey

FAMILY AFFAIR

Mother Held as Modern Fagin Who Taught Children to Steal

The arrest of two brothers, 10 and 14 years old, who were captured recently by ADT guards as the boys ransacked Holland's, Inc., radio and jewelry store, Chicago, has led to the exposure of an entire family as a group of organized thieves.

The boys' 37-year-old mother, a modern female Fagin who apparently encouraged her children to steal, was arrested on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of minors. The two boys, another son, 15, and a 13-yearold daughter, who often acted as lookout, were also held by police.

ADT guards investigating a burglar alarm received at 7:25 p.m. on December 26, examined the outside of the Holland store, and found nothing amiss. W. J. Holland, the proprietor, was notified and arrived with keys to the building.

Once inside, the guards quickly apprehended the two boys who had ransacked all the first and second floor offices. The floors were strewn with articles which the boys had scattered in their feverish search for loot. They had thirteen cigarette lighters, two cigarette cases and several sets of keys in their possession.

The youthful thieves had entered the building by climbing a fire escape to the roof. They easily slipped through a small skylight, slightly over a foot square, and with cat-like grace dropped twelve feet into a second-floor washroom. In opening the skylight, however, they unknowingly broke two dowels of an ADT Burglar Alarm Screen.

At the boys' home, police recovered merchandise valued at \$1,000. It was believed that the exposure of the family "gang" would solve eight or ten other burglaries committed in the Chicago stockyards district. The father of the four misguided children has been missing for eight years.

'CAREER MAN'

"You can't take me in, I make my living this way." An ADT guard, unimpressed by this strange logic, held the man for the police after catching him red-handed stealing from the Pacific Iron & Metal Co., junk dealers, Seattle, Wash., on January 31.

Dispatched when the man had unwittingly crossed the beam of an ADT Invisible Ray Device at 6:10 a.m., the guard nabbed the junkyard raider as he attempted to make off with some used battery material.

The arrest was the seventh within a month at the yard, which seems to be a lure for thieves.

TIMETABLE TEAMWORK

"I'll be ready for him, if he comes here," said Bernard Benson, manager of the People's Liquor Store, St. Louis, as he put down the telephone on the evening of January 20. He had just been warned that a neighboring liquor store had been held up only an hour before.

Shortly afterward, at 8:53 p.m., the stickup man walked into the store. Benson, recognizing him from the description he had received over the telephone. promptly operated an ADT Emergency Police Call Device. Almost immediately, police were on their way to the store, even before the anticipated holdup actually had happened.

Within two minutes police officers arrived and caught the bandit as he tried to make a getaway.



PROPER PRECAUTION

Guard Takes No Chances on **Rekindle of Fire in Lumber Mill**

While making his 10:00 p.m. patrol on January 27, a watchman for a Pittsburgh, Pa., lumber concern detected an odor of smoke and discovered what appeared to be a small fire under the floor of the planing mill.

Using a fire extinguisher and pails of water, the watchman went to work on the fire and apparently had extinguished it when the ADT Central Station investigated to ascertain why the watchman had not transmitted the signal indicating the finish of his round.

The watchman explained how he had been occupied and stated that he be-

MARCH, 1948



DRAMATIC RESCUE - An invalid is lowered to safety in a canvas bag from the burning Hotel Martin in Milwaukee on Feb. 24. No lives were lost

lieved the fire was out, but an ADT guard who went to the premises discovered what appeared to be steam coming from the opening in the floor. As there was a possibility that there were some unextinguished embers, the Central Station dispatched the fire department to the plant. Firemen drenched the area until satisfied that no danger existed.

Officials of the plant praised the watchman and the ADT for their timely action. The watchman was instructed to operate an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box at once, should a similar situation develop in the future.

FIRE BREAKS 'IN'

a building of Max Fischer & Sons (wiping materials) at Los Angeles, developed extensive proportions early on the morning of January 21. The blaze spread to the building, threatening the entire property.

A fire in waste paper outside of

As flames licked at the window frame the heat broke the glass and ignited bales of rags on the inside. The rapid rise in temperature immediately actuated the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System at 5:08 a.m.

At the same time the fire spread along an exterior canopy until it reached a sprinklered section of the plant where one head fused, causing an ADT waterflow alarm at 5:14 a.m. Firemen, who had responded to the Aero alarm, found no difficulty in controlling the blaze.

DANGER AVERTED

Warned by the sounding of the alarm gong of the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System on January 29, employees of the Charleston Orphan Asylum, Charleston, S. C., dashed to the basement where they found the smoke pipe on the boiler almost red with heat.

Firemen, who arrived simultaneously, discovered that the pipe was clogged with soot, giving off intense heat. Repairs were made immediately. Officers of the orphanage and Fire Chief Olsen expressed their pleasure at the efficient operation of the alarm system.



Press Assn.

TRAPPED — Escape cut off by fire. a woman waits at third-floor window of a Philadelphia building after firemen had made a vain effort to reach her with a ladder about six feet too short



Press Assn.

RESCUED—As the woman hung by her hands from the window ledge, a fireman climbed the ladder and guided her feet to the top rung. He caught her as she let go and piloted her to safety

EASILY EXTINGUISHED

Fast Attacks on Fires in Spray **Booths Forestall Heavy Damage**

Paint spraying operations at the plant of the Badger Lumber and Mfg. Co., Oshkosh, Wis., were interrupted on January 16 when sparks from an electric motor on an exhaust fan set fire to paint residue in a spray booth.

The fire generated a large volume of dense smoke but caused little damage, since the blaze was put out in short order by firemen called to the plant through operation of an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box.

At the Phil R. Hinkley machine shop, Cleveland, on December 31, smoke filtering through an ADT Invisible Ray Device caused a burglar alarm and led to the discovery of a smoldering fire in a spray booth.

The fire, not apparent at first, was discovered after a search by an ADT guard who immediately notified the fire department.

In both cases, extinguishment was accomplished before there was sufficient heat to operate the automatic sprinklers.

CLEANING SOLUTION IGNITES

Employees cleaning a printing press with a flammable liquid started a potentially dangerous fire at the American Sales Book Company's plant in Buffalo on December 10.

The outbreak occurred when an employee upset a heating element, which ignited the fluid. Firemen, summoned by operation of an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box, extinguished the blaze with a booster line after employees had held the flames in check with hand extinguishers.

WATCHMEN

FAST AWAKENING

Watchman Suddenly Realizes That There Is 'Help at His Fingertips'

The sudden realization that fire alarm boxes are provided by ADT for the reporting of fire probably saved a Miami, Fla., shipyard from disaster, and an overeager but well-meaning watchman a great deal of embarrassment recently.

At 3:50 a.m. on January 12, the watchman discovered an incipient blaze in the shipyard's drafting room. In his haste to report the outbreak, he elected to use the telephone to notify the ADT Central Station, but became confused and called the wrong number.

At that instant the watchman observed an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box, which was only a few feet away, and without further delay broke the glass in the door and pulled the operating lever in accordance with instructions.

A few minutes later the fire department arrived and easily extinguished the blaze, which destroyed a filing rack, a desk and a chair. The loss was held to approximately \$300.

BANK WATCHMAN DIES

Michael Gilmore, 71 years old, watchman at the Hudson Trust Company, Hoboken, N. J., failed to transmit his scheduled signal to the ADT Central Station at 6:00 a.m. on January 22. Investigation revealed that he had died in the basement of the bank.

Roy Hassard, ADT guard, dispatched to investigate, failed to gain entrance to the bank and summoned Christina A. Rathjen, secretary to the bank's president, who has a passkey.

Gilmore's body was found on the floor of the rest room. A doctor pronounced him dead of natural causes.



DAN ENGLISH RETIRES

Dan English, operating superintendent at Detroit for the past twenty years, retired on pension, effective January 31.

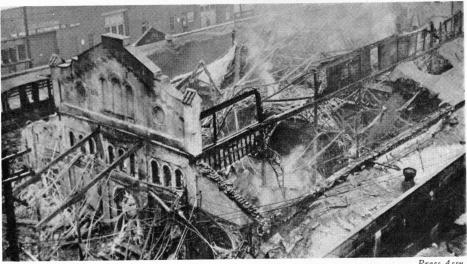
Mr. English has had forty-two years of service with ADT, dating from October 1905. He gained experience in several different positions between 1905 and 1915, in which year he joined the Plant Department as sprinkler inspector. He became manager at Jackson, Mich. in 1918 and manager at Toledo in 1921. Mr. English was appointed operating superintendent at Detroit in May, 1927.

A large group of his friends and associates from Detroit and elsewhere recently honored Dan at a farewell dinner.

TWO PENSIONED

The Benefit Fund Committee has announced the retirement on pension of Thomas Murray, a member of the New York Plant Department, and George Potratz, a guard at Chicago-Main.

Mr. Murray has been employed by ADT since 1911. He was recently feted at a party given by 150 of his fellow employees prior to his retirement on February 2. Mr. Potratz joined the ADT organization in January 1921. His retirement became effective January 15.



Press Assn

MARKET HOUSE RAZED - Smoke rises from fire-blackened wreckage of North Market at Columbus, Ohio, after an estimated \$500,000 fire ruined the structure on February 7. Sales booths heavily stocked with meat and produce for Saturday shopping crowds were completely destroyed. Three firemen were injured at fire

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

IT STARTS WITH THE FINISH!

Dressing Up Our Manufactured Goods in Their 'Best Bib'n Tucker' Frequently Poses a Problem for Fire Engineers

By ROI B. WOOLLEY

A workman at a furniture factory in Pennsylvania, who had just returned from lunch, was changing his clothes when he was startled by a slight explosion in a spray booth. This was followed by a flash which singed his eyebrows and forced him to make a quick escape down a stairway.

As flames burst from the windows, passers-by notified the fire department, but by the time firemen arrived the entire second floor of the building was completely involved. Additional forces were summoned, but the fire was not controlled until several buildings had been destroyed.

Investigation disclosed that the fire, the origin of which was a mystery, had spread rapidly, fed by residues and finishing materials around the spray booths, and quickly had extended to quantities of freshly painted furniture in the room. This fire is typical of many outbreaks in properties where spraying operations are conducted.

A few years ago I visited a small plant which employed sprayed-on lacquer in its finishing process. This work was being done in one corner of the shop; the only ventilation was furnished by one or two open windows; paint residue covered the floors and walls. Here was a condition ripe for a disastrous fire—which, I am told, came to pass.

It would appear that too many manufacturers do not know that Underwriters' regulations require that spraying operations be conducted in completely ventilated booths, with provision for a fresh air supply as well as an exhaust. Spray booths should be of metal or other non-combustible material with a separate exhaust duct for each booth, leading by the shortest route to the outside of the building.

Causes of fires from spraying operations can be divided into four major groups—electrical, spontaneous igni-



STARTED IN SPRAY BOOTH – Flames leap high in \$250,000 fre which destroyed several buildings of a Pennsylvania furniture manufacturing plant. The fire was touched off by an explosion of vapors from spraying operations

tion, careless operation and maintenance, and miscellaneous.

In the electrical group, motors which have been improperly installed or maintained account for most outbreaks. One fire of this type completely destroyed a building in Seattle, Wash., after an arcing motor in the ventilating duct of a spray booth had ignited vapor from a spray gun. In another case a bad fire was narrowly averted by prompt firefighting action when a spark from a motor ignited lacquer residue in the booth and its ventilating duct.

To prevent such fires, exhaust fans should be of the non-arcing type. Fan motors should never be located in the duct or booth, but should be outside, with the fan drive by shaft or enclosed belt or chain extending through the wall of the duct.

Broken light bulbs have touched off many a costly spray booth fire. No lighting fixture or other electrical equipment should be located in the booth or close to the face of the booth where flammable spray or vapors may come in contact with it.

Spontaneous ignition, which comprises the second group, usually occurs when paint and lacquer residue is allowed to accumulate in booths and ducts, or when scrapings, oily rags or waste are not properly cared for. One of the largest fires in this category resulted in a \$388,000 loss in North Carolina, when spontaneous ignition of residue fired vapors which had accumulated in the room after the exhaust fans had been shut down.

The third group, covering careless operation and maintenance, includes smoking, overheating of motors, use of tools which cause sparks, and use of soldering irons and blow torches in spray booths. It should be needless to repeat it, but smoking near spraying operations should be shunned like the plague. The use of flammable solvents for cleaning should be restricted to kerosene or similar high flash point liquids. Scraping should be done only with brass or other non-sparking scraperssteel tools may cause sparks. Stacks and ducts should be free of vapors and wet down before cleaning.

Typical of fires from miscellaneous causes, group four, is one which occurred in a finishing room of a Union City, Pa., factory. Fumes from lacquer thinner evaporating from recently sprayed furniture, accumulated over a week end and reached an explosive mixture which flashed into flame during an electrical storm, apparently from an induced spark.

Paint residue deposited on roofs from exhaust ducts may cause a fire unless it is promptly removed. In one such case the residue ignited spontaneously and burned through the roof to the top floor where, fortunately, it was snuffed out by the sprinkler system.

Whenever possible, spray booths should be provided with automatic sprinklers. Ducts also should be protected by automatic, or open, manually controlled sprinklers. Whether or not sprinklers are present, it's imperative that provisions be made for promptly calling the fire department. Many of these fires are of the flash variety and spread rapidly. A waterflow alarm or other automatic fire alarm, which summons fire-fighting forces immediately and automatically may prove a most important factor in putting an early and inexpensive end to fires which "start with the finish."

