



• LETTERS •

Worthwhile Service

American District Telegraph Co.:

We wish to acknowledge your recent letter in regard to the service your man performed on the morning of November 17 when our night watchman was taken ill.

It is certainly a worthwhile service as otherwise we would have been left without any protection. We wish to thank you for the promptness with which you responded to the call.

C. T. HENSHALL

Connell Building Scranton, Pa.

Aero Proves Its Value

American District Telegraph Co.:

We appreciate your report concerning the fire alarm from our premises a few days ago. We also appreciate more than ever the value of the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm installation put in our plant about five years ago.

Naturally the full value of equipment of this kind cannot be realized until it is put to use. This being the first experience with how the system works, we feel very fortunate in having this protection as it kept the loss down to a minimum.

Had it not been for ADT we are quite sure our operation would have been seriously hampered and it would have taken several days to get in shape to operate again.

LLOYD E. ARMSTRONG Armstrong Manufacturing Company Portland, Oregon

100% Approval

American District Telegraph Co.:

Permit me to say that your prompt response to our manual fire alarm signal meets with our approval one hundred per cent.

Had one of our employees not acted so quickly, a very bad fire would have resulted and would possibly have spread to our own property directly opposite. J. L. BROWN

Dallas Railway & Terminal Co. Dallas, Texas

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 •

Oak Ridge Wins

In a competition which included entries from 2,928 American and Canadian municipalities, fire departments and fire safety organizations, Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been named the winner in the twentyfifth annual Fire Prevention Week contest staged jointly by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the National Fire Protection Association. Second and third places in the judging went to Memphis and Chicago, respectively.

Fifteen industrial companies were singled out for national honors in the industrial division of the contest. Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corporation's plants, K-25 and Y-12, located at Oak Ridge, tied for first place.

One entry from Alaska, two from Hawaii, 658 from Canada and 2,267 from municipalities in the United States contributed to the largest number ever to be submitted in the contest, according to T. Alfred Fleming, chairman of the contest.

Features of the Fire Prevention Week observance, which won the national prize for Oak Ridge, were intensive inspections of all dwellings and industrial plants to uncover fire hazards, inspections of fire alarm systems, water supplies and hydrants, fire drills, practice runs and firefighting demonstrations by the fire department, special film showings and citywide publicity.

On the Cover

Chicago firemen direct their hose streams on the blazing six-story, 74year-old Capitol Hotel, from which 150 guests were routed in the early morning hours of December 10.

It was a 5-11 alarm fire and a total of forty-two pieces of fire equipment responded. Numerous exits and fire escapes and other precautionary measures taken to comply with the city's fire code were credited with saving the lives of the guests. The loss was \$100,000.

Guests of Chicago's Victoria Hotel were not so fortunate when fire broke out at 4:30 a.m. on December 12. Although the fire department confined the flames to the fifth floor, five persons died in dense smoke and fumes.

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JANUARY, 1949

HAUL

TORCH STARTS SHAFT FIRE

No. 1

THWART LIQUOR STORE Falling Liquor Cases Foil Daring Trio After Five-and-a-Half-Hour Attempt to Drill Through Ten-Inch Brick Wall

After working for five and a half hours in a daring attempt to hack their way into a State of Ohio Liquor Store on December 5, three Toledo criminals inadvertently tripped an ADT Burglar Alarm and were taken into custody by guards and police a scant three minutes later.

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With their arrest a well-concocted plan for disposing of \$10,000 worth of liquor stock through an already designated buyer was broken up.

When police officers and ADT guards arrived at the store in response to an alarm received at 1:32 a.m., they found that the front and rear doors were locked securely.

Entering by means of a key, they noticed something that made them run around to the side of the bulding facing a used-car lot. There they discovered a covered truck backed flush against the wall of the liquor store.

One of the burglars was sitting in the cab while the other was in the back, busily engaged in enlarging a hole in the 10-inch thick masonry wall.

Both men surrendered without a struggle and promptly implicated a third who apparently fled without warning his associates when the police arrived on the scene.

Under police questioning, the attackers revealed that they had started to work on the wall at eight o'clock on the previous evening, employing an ax, chisel and an assortment of hammers. So well-concealed were their operations that passersby took no notice of what was going on. When captured, the men had already made a 12-inch by 8-inch hole in the wall.

The burglar alarm was transmitted when they broke through the wall and



MORNING-AFTER "HANG-OVER Employee Walter F. Bain inspects 12" by 8" hole cut out by Toledo burglars during recent ill-fated attempt to loot state liquor store. Empty Scotch case shows size of hole made in thick masonry wall

knocked over a number of empty liquor cases which fell to the floor and actuated an ADT Burglar Alarm Device.

The men, identified by police as Adolph Syph, William Wilson and James White, are being held for investigation and trial.

No loss was reported by the management of the liquor store.

READY ASSISTANCE

Elbert Christopher, a 48-year-old watchman for the Fairfield. Conn. plant of McKesson & Robbins, Inc., was assisted by an ADT guard and police officers when he slipped and fell on the morning of November 10.

ADT Guard Charles Makara, investigating Christopher's failure to transmit his 3:50 a.m. signal, found the watchman lying in a pool of blood on the washroom floor.

Central Station operators summoned the police and Christopher was taken to a hospital where he was treated for lacerations of the face.

Sparks from a welder's torch started a fire on November 25 in the elevator shaft of the Copra Oil & Meal Company, Wilmington, Calif. The blaze threatened to assume serious proportions before it was brought under control by firemen responding to two ADT alarms.

An employee operated an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box at 11:29 a.m., about the same time that twelve sprinkler heads fused to check the flames and transmit a waterflow alarm.

The firemen succeeded in confining the flames to the shaft. The greater part of the estimated \$700 loss was attributed to water damage.

According to W. H. Merrill, manager of the company, copra meal is constantly being hauled through the shaft for processing. Particles of the meal usually line the walls of the shaft, making welding a potentially hazardous operation.

TRAP TOBACCO THIEF

An ADT Burglar Alarm System in a large midwestern warehouse recently foiled an employee's attempt to pilfer two cases of cigarettes from a thirdfloor stock room.

Although the warehouse was open for business on the morning of November 20, the alarm system protecting the third and fourth floors had been left in service. At 7:54 a.m., the ADT Central Station notified warehouse officials that an alarm had been received. They proceeded to the third floor where they found a janitor attempting to remove two cases of cigarettes. He was summarily dismissed from his job.

In commenting upon the incident, Morris Stern, general manager, said: "ADT has certainly been the solution of many a headache experienced before its installation."

BURGLARY

IMPATIENT INTRUDER

Ex-Convict Captured After Three Attempts to Enter Jewelry Store

A Chicago criminal whose tenacity was exceeded only by his ignorance of burglar alarm systems is back behind bars—another "victim" of ADT.

Early on the morning of November 30, Thomas Bell, 24 years old, undertook to burglarize the South Shore Liquor Store in Chicago. His first plan of action was to pry open the covering of a rear basement stairway, but he soon found his path blocked by the basement door. Next he attempted to force open the rear overhead doors, but again he was unsuccessful.

Having obviously reached the breaking point of his patience, Bell went around to the front entrance and heaved a brick through a glass door. Three minutes later Chicago police and ADT Guards Neely and Pierce arrived at the store where they took the offender into custody.

Bell was revealed as being a familiar figure to Chicago authorities, having a previous police record.

BAD BREAK

Less than a minute after a Canton, Ohio, man had smashed an ADTprotected show window of Art's Department Store on the morning of December 8, city detectives were on the scene to make the arrest.

The amazed offender, identified as 37-year-old James F. Hagymasi, broke the window almost within sight of the arresting officers who were cruising in a radio patrol car approximately 200 feet from the department store.

Central Station operators sent out the alarm at 1:12 a.m. and by 1:13 Hagymasi had become an involuntary guest of the state. There was no loss.

SECOND STORY MAN

Cambridge, Mass., police and ADT Guard D. A. Hussey used an effective means of trapping a 40-year-old exconvict who had climbed a ladder to enter a second-floor window of the Universal Sportswear Company recently. They simply removed the ladder.

The "aerialist," identified by police as Joseph Chapin, recently released from Massachusetts State Prison, promptly jumped from a second-floor ledge right into the waiting arms of the officers.

Chapin had gone through an unprotected rear window and interrupted the beam of an ADT Invisible Ray Device.

NOT VERY NOURISHING

Even though he had just lifted several watches from the show window of the J. M. Wildman jewelry store, George Wray didn't have enough "time" when he sought to elude capture by Rochester police and ADT guards on the morning of November 10.

Wray, a 52-year-old vagrant, who stated that he hadn't eaten for two days, smashed the ADT-protected window with a can opener after feasting his eyes on the "delicacies" displayed therein.

Guards and police arrived on the scene to find Wray still engrossed in making a selection of the finest available watches, seven of which were found in his possession when his "windowshopping" spree came to an end.

The prisoner was booked at police headquarters on charges of third-degree burglary and second-degree grand larceny. No loss was reported by the owner.

STRIFE WITH FATHER

A certain Dallas drugstore proprietor is a man who doesn't believe in taking chances. So when a young girl dashed into the store a step ahead of a middleaged pursuer on a recent evening, he took one look and operated an ADT Holdup Alarm Device under the counter.

Responding police were surprised to learn that the disturbance was strictly a family affair. The girl had decided to run away from home but her father objected. She nevertheless started to run and didn't stop until she broke up what theretofore had been a nice, quiet evening for the pharmacist.

Why she picked the drugstore as the finish line could not be immediately determined. It is assumed, however, that father was rapidly gaining ground before the drugstore owner stepped in to settle the issue.

BOLD OPERATORS

A nation-wide shoplifting ring may have been exposed recently with the arrest of five persons observed pilfering merchandise from a Chicago clothing store.

Recognizing the quintet as having visited the store ten days before when a quantity of merchandise disappeared, the proprietor unobtrusively operated an ADT Police Call Device. Police made the arrest three minutes later.



Rochester Times Union

TIME ON HIS HANDS—The accused George Wray is the picture of despondency as he listens to grand larceny charges of Detective Chief Edward W. Collins. Wray was arrested after smashing ADT-protected show window of Rochester jewelry store. ADT Guard George Newman, who aided in speedy capture, is at left

SAGA OF THE NEW WEST

Los Angeles "Badman" Arrested Following Jewelry Store Brawl

None of them Los Angeles dudes batted an eye at seeing a cowboy strolling along classy Wilshire Boulevard the other day, but things began to happen, pardner, when the ranger ambled into B. D. Howes' jewelry store.

Right off he demanded to see the boss, but the hired hands weren't a hankerin' fer no trouble, so they told the stranger to git—and fast. At that he starts tossin' lefts and rights and raises such a ruckus that Mr. Howes comes out of his office and threatens to call the sheriff.

The loner replies that such a move will mean the last of Mr. Howes on this here earth. Well, sir, Mr. Howes sets off one of them thar ADT Holdup Alarm Devices and the desperado lights out for the front door with Mr. Howes and all his outfit in full pursuit.

The stranger then hails a passing coach makin' its noon run, but Mr. Howes tells the driver that he'll be a aidin' and abettin' a criminal if he lets him aboard, so the coach rattles off, lickety-split.

The varmint then starts to go it on foot, but the boys from the sheriff's office and one of them fellers from the ADT Company ride up just in time to corral the cuss.

Last we hear the hombre ain't a hardened criminal like they have back East, but the constable decides to cool him off some just the same, so that he won't be aiming' to disturb the peace when he gets out—which he won't fer a spell.

FIRE

FIRES HIT PAINT PLANT

Outbreaks Caused by Spontaneous Ignition and Static Electricity

Two potentially serious fires threatened the Advance Paint Company plant in Indianapolis recently, causing some damage to installations before being brought under control by firemen responding to ADT waterflow alarms.

The first outbreak occurred on the afternoon of October 6 when an employee neglected to put down a metal bucket before opening a lacquer thinner valve. Static electricity from the man's body is believed to have ignited the thinner. Flames shot out into the room, which was filled with lacquer fumes, causing 235 sprinkler heads to open.

Responding firemen succeeded in confining the blaze to its point of origin. The loss was caused chiefly by water but it is believed there would have been heavy fire damage if the blaze had not been checked by the sprinkler system.

Spontaneous ignition of China wood oil-soaked rags lying on sacks of graphite and calcium carbonate started a fire in the basement of the same plant on the evening of November 23. An ADT waterflow alarm summoned the fire department which quickly extinguished the blaze.

There was no loss.

LIGHT BULB STARTS FIRE

A light bulb, accidentally smashed while employees of the World Color Printing Company, St. Louis, were cleaning a printing press, caused a flash fire on November 30 which resulted in a loss of \$3,500.

Six sprinkler heads fused almost immediately, transmitting an ADT waterflow alarm signal at 8:21 p.m. The sprinkler system held the outbreak in check until firemen arrived to finish off the fire.

BLAZE PUT TO BED

The water treatment was speedily administered to a fire automatically detected and reported by the ADT Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System in St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit, on December 8.

When a patient in a private room accidentally set fire to his bed at 5:54 a.m., the sudden rise in temperature promptly actuated the Aero System, resulting in the immediate summoning of the fire department, which easily extinguished the blaze.

The hospital reported no loss.

HOT PLATE OVERHEATS

An overheated electric hot plate in an office supply room caused a fire at the plant of the Armstrong Manufacturing Company, Portland, Ore., on the night of November 28. The damage might have been great but efficient work by the fire department, summoned by operation of the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm, held the loss to \$50.

The firemen responded to the alarm, transmitted through the ADT Central Station, at 11:46 p.m. Arriving at the plant soon after the outbreak of the blaze, they put out the flames with hand extinguishers. Most of the damage was to a mimeograph machine and the table on which it was resting.



STALLED—Bodies for Mercury automobiles were damaged during blaze which swept the assembly line of the Ford Motor Company's Rouge Plant in Dearborn, Mich., on December 15. Damage to autos caused a loss estimated at \$500,000

JANUARY, 1949

REFINERY BLAZE CHECKED

ADT guards responding to a burglar alarm from the Reliance Lead Solder & Babbitt Company in Buffalo on the night of December 7 discovered a fire in the smelting room and quickly notified the fire department.

The alarm was transmitted to the ADT Central Station when flames came in contact with the Burglar Alarm wiring along the wall. The fire department arrived in time to control the blaze and hold the damage to the building and its contents an estimated \$300.

LAUNDRY BLAZE DETECTED

An outbreak of fire at the plant of the Galland Linen Service, San Francisco, was speedily detected on November 19 by the ADT Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System.

The blaze originated on a table piled high with laundry in the center of the receiving room. Firemen responded so quickly that there was only slight damage to the table and a conveyor. Loss \$250.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

WATCHMEN

SAVE STRICKEN WATCHMAN

Shortly after completing his 5:00 a.m. round recently in the Connell Building, Scranton, Pa., watchman William Richards informed the ADT Central Station by telephone that he was unable to continue his morning rounds due to a sudden illness.

Police and ADT Guards were sent to the building where they found Richards suffering from a hemorrhage. They rushed the ailing watchman to a hospital where, later, he was reported to be out of danger.

SUCCUMBS AFTER RESCUE

Unable to reach the telephone when stricken with a heart attack early on the morning of November 22, the night engineer for the Fedders-Quigan Corporation of Buffalo summoned assistance by tripping the nearest ADT Burglar Alarm Device.

Responding police and Guard F.

Diringer discovered the engineer lying on the floor of the machine shop. The police officers immediately rushed the sick man to a hospital where he died three days later.

FIND WATCHMEN DEAD

On a recent Sunday morning the ADT Central Station failed to receive the second of two scheduled signals from the watchman of the U.S. Electric Tool Company, Cincinnati.

Guard Deutsch was dispatched to investigate and, finding all the doors locked, he entered the building through a rear window. A short search revealed the watchman lying on the floor, apparently lifeless.

Deutsch promptly notified the city life saving squad which rushed to the scene. They pronounced the watchman dead of a heart attack.

Following the failure of a Columbus, Ohio, watchman to signal the start of his 4:15 a.m. round on November 25, ADT Guard Farmer hurried to the Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric Company where he found the watchman lying on the office floor.

Police and Fire Department emergency squads were immediately summoned to the plant where an examination disclosed that the watchman had succumbed to a cerebral hemorrhage.



HARRY FINNEY HONORED

Harold S. Finney, former general plant inspector, who retired on August 1, recently was honored by his friends



in the New York district with the presentation of a television set. "Harry," as he is

affectionately known to his host of friends, had served continuously with ADT from September 30, 1912 until

his retirement a few months ago.

All of Mr. Finney's ADT friends and associates join in wishing him many happy years of well-earned leisure.

RETIREMENTS ANNOUNCED

Paul H. Davis, facility supervisor in the Boston Plant Department, retired on pension as of November 28, 1948.

Mr. Davis became associated with the ADT organization September 10, 1918.

The Benefit Fund Committee recently announced the retirement on pension of A. S. Luckwell, service supervisor at Minneapolis, effective January 1, 1949. Mr. Luckwell had been with ADT

since September 4, 1924.



THEY ALSO SERVED—Six of the surviving members of the volunteer fire-men's association which served the community of Newton in the borough of Queens before the turn of the century recall "the good old days" during recent Golden Jubilee Exhibition at New York City. Holding trumpet is Herman Ringe, sole surviving chief, now president of the Ridgewood Savings Bank. Looking over his shoulder is George Brecht, veteran member also of the ADT Supply Department

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

NEW LOOK IN FIRE PREVENTION

Modern Industrial Developments Call for the Keenest Engineering Thought on the Subject of Protection

By T. ALFRED FLEMING Director of Conservation National Board of Fire Underwriters

Two years ago this month a 50-pound drum of calcium carbide was accidentally spilled on a pier in Weehawken, N. J. The carbide ran into a damp pit where, upon contact with the moisture, it promptly began to generate acetylene gas. In some unknown manner the gas became ignited and, in a twinkling, the whole pier went off like a box of matches. The final score was a \$3,000,000 loss.

Shortly before that a New England plant was gutted when water from a leaking pipe dripped into an open keg of barium oxide which presently ignited spontaneously. And about a month later a Los Angeles electroplating plant blew up, killing fifteen people and causing damages of \$1,500,000. In this case, perchloric acid was being used in the plating process: a very dangerous chemical which must always be kept under refrigeration and which must never come in contact with any organic substance.

At this particular plant the refrigerating system protecting the acid vat went out of kilter for about eight minutes. About that time a chemist placed a plastic rack (organic material) containing small parts in the vat. In the blast which resulted from this simple action, the man himself was completely disintegrated.

As a result of this disaster, a midwestern fire chief ordered a quick survey of his city's industries to determine if any of them had any appreciable quantities of the stuff on hand. To his amazement, his inspectors found over eighteen plants using it, many of them without realizing its potentialities.

All of which emphasizes the point that one of the most significant safety problems in modern industry is the rapid increase in the use of dangerous chemicals, dangerous gases and dangerous processes which have destructive powers akin to the atom bomb.

Not many years ago, for example, we used to think that pressures of 1,500 lbs. per square inch were pretty high. Today polyethyl production, for synthetic rubber, is carried on under pressures of 45,000 lbs. per square inch. You can imagine the consequence if something goes wrong in such a process!

Temperatures, by the same token, have also become fantastic. Various industries today are working at from 300° below zero to 3,000° above—either of which is extremely hazardous. We now have special tank trucks transporting liquefied oxygen through our cities at a temperature of 300° below zero. If you want to know what happens when one of these trucks lets go, re-read the reports on the Cleveland Gas Holder explosion some four years ago which killed 130 people in their tracks.

Some of these things which threaten us today sound familiar and harmless. We all know about the synthetic blonde who gets that way through the use of peroxide, a commonplace medicinecabinet preparation in mild concentrations. Yet that same hydrogen peroxide, in higher concentrations, has burned down a half-dozen furniture plants where it was being used to bleach wood —and where carelessness has allowed it to become contaminated with organic materials.

Likewise, you will find the average dentist today painting children's teeth with fluorine to safeguard against future cavities. This same stuff, in another form, is now widely used in the manufacture of high-test gasoline. In this form it is a corrosive powerful enough to eat through an iron pipe with ease. When ignited, it produces the most intense heat of any element known and will cause steel and even water to "burn."

Thus, as we go from industry to industry, we find the list of highly dangerous products rapidly increasing-increasing more rapidly, in fact, than our general awareness of the stringent need for proper precautions. Not only does this enormously complicate the business of fire fighting-it also takes the issue of fire prevention far beyond the level of pep talks and stirring posters. More and more we find the need for the keenest of engineering thought in the solution of these involved problems. And even this can hardly hope to get to first base without the comprehension of these problems on the part of management.

Scanning the industrial fire reports from month to month, one wonders just how many top executives realize how much sudden death is lurking underneath their luxurious leather chairs!



Wide World

UNPROVED PROCESS CAUSED BLAST—which damaged twelve city blocks when 300 gallons of perchloric acid solution exploded in a Los Angeles electroplating plant. Force was equal to that of one and a half tons of nitroglycerine







Watchman Supervision

Central Station-Supervised ELECTRIC PROTECTION SERVICES

safeguard against

FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP

and other hazardous conditions

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION



Manual Fire Alarms



Automatic Sprinkler Supervision

Immediate action when danger threatens is the primary function of ADT Central Station Protection Services.

Protective installations in thousands of commercial, industrial and other properties throughout the United States are connected to ADT Central Stations for immediate detection of fire, burglary and other hazards, and for prompt notification of fire and police departments or other emergency forces.

Whatever the type of protective signaling system, ADT installs the equipment and provides continuous supervision, periodic tests and inspections and complete maintenance by an organization of trained and experienced personnel. This continuous specialized attention by the ADT organization assures constantly dependable operation.

Write us concerning your protection problems.



Automatic Fire Alarms

Vault Burglar Alarms



AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO. 155 SIXTH AVENUE NEW YORK 13, N. Y. Central Stations in All Principal Cities

Mercantile Burglar Alarms