

The **ADT** TRANSMITTER

vol. XXII. no. 2 — FEBRUARY — 1950



HOSPITAL HOLOCAUST
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• LETTERS •

Saved Time and Money

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

We are certainly more than pleased with the promptness and dispatch with which the fire here at our plant was handled.

Your alarm system certainly saved us a great deal of time and money as the prompt action by your people and the fire department got the blaze under control in a very short time.

Please express our appreciation to those of your employees who were involved in receiving and sending the alarm.

GARVIN M. BROWN

Indianapolis Stove Company
Indianapolis, Indiana

Damage Appreciably Reduced

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

We want to particularly express our appreciation for the very efficient manner in which your office handled the recent sprinkler alarm in our service building on Warehouse Street.

Undoubtedly the timely arrival of the fire department appreciably reduced the damage which might have been caused. We are most grateful for your prompt action.

R. L. COMBS

Broadway Department Store
Los Angeles, California

Strictly "Sold"

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

Although we have been a subscriber to your burglar alarm service only since this past September 1, your service has already resulted in the capture of two separate burglars who were attempting to burglarize our office building in recent months.

You have certainly made us quick believers in the value of your ADT Central Station Burglar Alarm Service.

We can assure you that we are strictly "sold" on the merits of this good service and we will overlook no opportunity to strongly recommend its use to our friends.

ED A. LESLIE

E. A. Leslie Lumber Yards
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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 •

Hospital Holocaust

The cover of this issue tells a "10,000-word story" of another hospital fire tragedy. This photograph bears a grim resemblance to the holocaust of nine months ago when seventy-seven helpless patients met death in the burning St. Anthony's Hospital, Effingham, Illinois.

Investigators who probed the St. Anthony's catastrophe reported that the flames gained great headway because of belated discovery and delay in giving the alarm. It was their opinion that the fire might have been held to insignificant proportions had the building been equipped with automatic sprinklers or an automatic alarm system.

Immediately following the St. Anthony's disaster Fire Chief Lester Schick of Davenport, Iowa, made a survey of the Mercy Hospital in that city and recommended automatic protection. No action was taken, and when fire struck the institution last month forty-one women occupants of the St. Elizabeth's Ward Building paid with their lives because the tragic lessons of St. Anthony's and so many before it had gone unheeded.

Flames were shooting from windows on the first and second floors when the first piece of fire apparatus arrived. Other evidence indicated considerable delay in discovery. Conclusions of the Iowa Inspection Bureau in its report on the fire placed this factor foremost in accounting for the heavy loss of life.

Among its recommendations for preventing such disasters in hospitals the report stressed the exceptional value of automatic protection with this statement: "Next to a system of automatic sprinklers, a properly installed automatic fire detection and reporting equipment is the best known device to prevent delay in discovery of a fire and transmission of an alarm."

There are hundreds of hospital buildings in this country no better protected than were St. Anthony's or St. Elizabeth's. The question logically follows: How many of these institutions will become the subject of later tragic post-mortems because they too failed to heed these oft-repeated recommendations for reliable and adequate fire detection, alarm and extinguishing systems?

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.

The ADT TRANSMITTER

VOL. XXII

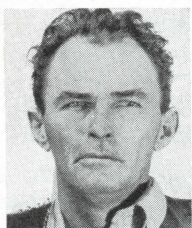
FEBRUARY, 1950

No. 2

PROTECTED SAFE FOILS YEGG

Captured While Attempting to Crack Drugstore Safe, Criminal Gets Name on Blotter 28th Time in 28 Years

When Houston police officers responded to an ADT burglar alarm from the Ranger Drug Store on December 18 and captured one Hugh Basil Graham, it marked the twenty-eighth time in twenty-eight years that Graham was found to be on the wrong side of the law.



Hugh Graham Graham, known by authorities to be a methodical and painstaking criminal despite his long record of "failures," now faces another lengthy stretch because he went about the business of looting the Ranger store with the casual attitude of a man shopping for a tube of tooth paste.

During the early-morning hours, he broke into a tool shed adjoining the drugstore and removed a sledge hammer, a couple of chisels and some rope. He then sauntered around to the rear of the two-story building, which was undergoing alterations, forced his way through an unprotected door which led to the second floor and used the sledge hammer to smash a gaping hole in the ceiling.

He then proceeded to knot the rope, attach it firmly to a fixture and lower himself into the store. At that moment it must have occurred to Graham that he had neglected to bring along a sack for stowing his loot, so he removed a handbag from a showcase, attached it to the end of the rope which dangled from the ceiling and began to "shop around."

Into the handbag went \$704 in cash, 44 cigarette lighters, 18 pens and pencils, \$56 worth of drugs, 45,000 narcotic tablets of undisclosed value, and several other miscellaneous articles of merchandise. The size and capacity of modern-

day women's handbags notwithstanding, police later marvelled at the amount of loot which Graham was able to stuff into one bag.

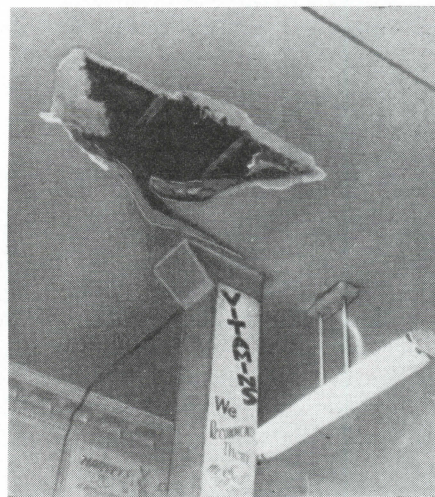
Working as methodically as ever, Graham proceeded to the next and most important phase of his wholesale burglary: the cracking of the office safe. Although the ADT label was outlined on the door, Graham either ignored or overlooked it and went to work with the inevitable sledge hammer. In a matter of seconds, Central Station operators were dispatching police officers to the scene.

Patrolmen arrived in three minutes' time and Graham, showing some speed for the first time during the entire operation, hustled behind a counter where he attempted to hide. The officers spotted him quickly, however, and he wisely offered no resistance.

Before being escorted from the store,



BURGLAR TRAP—Drugstore proprietor Samuel Stone inspects safe which burglar broke open in defiance of ADT sign. Burglar alarm summoned police who identified intruder as old offender



DIDN'T NEED VITAMINS—Using sledge hammer to smash gaping hole in ceiling, burglar proved he didn't need vitamins as advertised in Ranger store

Graham looked around at the scene of his near-triumph, sighed philosophically, brushed the dust from his trousers and strode forth to face his twenty-eighth booking in as many years.

Authorities revealed that Graham, at one time or another using five different aliases, has spent a large portion of his forty-seven years behind bars. Rarely did he leave the state of Texas, but when he did in 1933, Oregon authorities were quick to jail him as he was operating under the somewhat descriptive name of Albert Motley.

Graham was a familiar figure in jailhouses in such Texas communities as Dallas, Houston, Tyler and Marshall, serving sentences for burglary, theft and assault. A specialty of his was to "roll" an unsuspecting drunk during the early-morning hours. In 1921 he was sentenced to nine years for attempted robbery. Several years later, he was sentenced to fifty years in the Texas State Prison for armed robbery. Released in 1944, he ran off a string of twenty more arrests before the ADT Burglar Alarm in the Ranger store paved the way for another long stretch.

BURGLARY

FROM BAD TO WORSE

Survives 25-Foot Plunge, But Is Tripped by ADT Burglar Alarm

A Los Angeles burglar recently survived a 25-foot fall from the ceiling of Dearden's department store only to



Joseph Podbielski

be apprehended by police who responded to an ADT burglar alarm signal.

The prisoner, 27-year-old Joseph Podbielski, stated that he had hidden in a pile of cardboards behind the store until after closing hours. Then he kicked in an unprotected skylight after climbing a drainpipe to a fire-escape ladder which led to the roof.

In lowering himself to the floor, he grabbed a lighting fixture but it broke under his weight and down came Podbielski. In his abrupt descent, he narrowly missed hitting a steel couch, which could have killed him.

Evidently none the worse for wear, he picked himself up and promptly passed through the beam of an ADT Invisible Ray Device. When police arrived three minutes later, they discovered Podbielski decked out in four pairs of slacks, three of which he had just removed from a women's clothing rack.



N. Y. Daily Mirror
FINAL CLEANUP—Following raid by burglars on safe of R. J. Prentiss, Brooklyn, N. Y., on December 20. An electric drill, unwittingly left in the office, made the job an easy one. The yeggs obtained only \$350 for their efforts

Piled up in the middle of the floor were several fur coats and other merchandise, including a blanket and a pair of eyeglasses.

In his pockets the officers found several miscellaneous articles which he had taken from desk drawers. Authorities disclosed that Podbielski had once been arrested in Boston. The pilfered goods were returned to the management.

BATTLING BURGLAR SUBDUED

A "slugfest" between a Toledo policeman and a burglar resulted in the latter taking a "count" in headquarters where he faced charges of breaking and entering the plant of the Wabash Scrap Material Company early on the morning of December 24.

When police officers Norbert Miller and Irvin Smith arrived at the plant shortly after an ADT burglar alarm had been transmitted at 1:19 a.m., two men leaped from a window and started running in the direction of a fence at the rear of the building.

Miller nabbed one of them, later identified as 28-year-old Ambrose Easter, as he attempted to scale the fence, and Smith chased the other. In the ensuing scuffle, Miller suffered cuts and bruises on the face as Easter tried to grab the officer's gun from its holster, but the plucky policeman held on until assistance arrived.

The other intruder succeeded in eluding Smith, but the authorities feel that his freedom is only temporary. The officers reported that the culprits entered the building through a protected window. There was no loss at the plant.

"MISSION" UNCOMPLETED

A 20-year-old Air Force corporal and a middle-aged civilian were arrested by San Antonio police on the morning of December 1, two minutes after they had smashed an ADT-protected show window of the Mission Jewelry Store and removed articles valued at approximately \$675.

The men were running from the scene when squad cars arrived, but they halted as the officers closed in. Police recovered an assortment of merchandise valued at \$612.

Both were lodged in the city jail after being booked for burglary and theft.

CHECK CASHER CHECKED

A phony check artist recently took his place in a Nashville police lineup for the eighth time in two years after being trapped through the operation of an ADT Police Call Device.

Manager Eddie DuBois, on duty in the Swankey Liquor Store, became suspicious of a man who entered the shop during the early evening and asked to have a \$20 check cashed. DuBois operated the Police Call Device and engaged the man in conversation until the officers arrived.

Police immediately recognized the imposter as Robert Ragan, 31, arrested previously in Nashville on seven different occasions on similar charges, including forgery. The officers found in his possession two other checks made out to "cash" and several blank checks.

ROUTED FROM RESTAURANT

A couple of Galveston burglars almost succeeded in escaping arrest after forcing an ADT-protected rear door of



Lewis McCray

James Allen

the Oriental Cafe on the morning of January 7, but a sharp-shooting police officer brought one down and the other promptly threw up his hands in surrender.

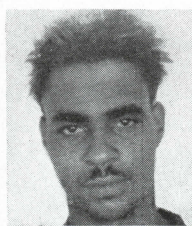
When ADT guards and police arrived on the scene at 12:37 a.m., they found two rear panels kicked in and the intruders running from the cafe. The officers gave chase, firing several times over the heads of the fugitives. When this failed to stop them, a patrolman lowered his sights and shot one of the team through the arm.

Both men came to an immediate halt and the officers removed them to headquarters. The wounded man, Lewis McCray, was found to have suffered a broken arm when hit by the bullet. Both he and his partner, James Allen, were booked for breaking and entering and attempted burglary.

TRAPPED ON THIRD TRY

Old Offender Is Victim of ADT Device on Third Raid of Night

Disdainful of the common criminal practice of spreading one's burglaries out over an extended period, Herbert



Herbert Franklin

Franklin of San Antonio recently tried to manage several during a single night, only to find himself later facing charges of breaking and entering three separate business establishments.

Police and ADT guards came upon Herb lying next to a protected skylight on the roof of Irving's, a women's clothing store. He readily admitted smashing the store, but said he was forced to hide when officers and guards converged on the building a scant two minutes later.

In revealing his evening's accomplishments, Franklin stated that he broke into a neighboring shoe store, secured the necessary tools in the office, and removed \$19 from an unprotected safe. Another safe proved too strong for him, but before leaving he broke open a soft-drink machine and helped himself to an undetermined number of nickels.

He also told of making an unsuccessful attempt to break into a photographer's studio next to the dress shop. Authorities found that he was on a five-year suspended sentence for previous crimes.

FIRE

FORTUNATE DISCOVERY

Burglar Alarm Brings ADT Guard To Blazing Mill in Nick of Time

Kansas City ADT Guard A. L. Wells approached the premises of the Norris Grain Company with caution on the evening of January 3. He had been sent to investigate a burglar alarm signal received at 5:22 p.m.

Looking through the millwright shop window, Wells saw flames climbing along a far wall almost to the ceiling. Without further investigation, he ran to a telephone in the company office and

instructed the Central Station to dispatch the fire department.

In order not to admit oxygen, Wells wisely refrained from opening the shop door until the fire department arrived a few minutes later. Chemical extinguishers soon brought the blaze under control.

The firemen complimented Wells for his alert action which made it possible to save the building and its contents. Several wooden lockers and other combustible material stored near by certainly would have become quickly involved had the fire gained headway.

It is believed that the fire was caused by a defective butane blower heater. Wells was dispatched when the flames burned through a Burglar Alarm Screen on the lower part of the window, causing an alarm to be transmitted to the ADT Central Station.

BACKSTAGE DRAMA

While making his 6:00 a.m. patrol on November 16, a watchman at the Keith-Albee Theater, Rochester, N. Y., detected an odor of smoke and discovered a fire in one of the motors on the stage.

The watchman took only a few steps to reach an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box which he operated to summon the fire department. Firemen extinguished the blaze before it could spread. The loss was estimated at \$25.

PAINT ROOM BLAZE

Sparks from a ventilating fan started a fire in the paint room of the Standard Products Company, Whitman, Mass., at 5:05 on the morning of December 14.

Five sprinkler heads operated, controlling the blaze and causing an ADT waterflow alarm which summoned the fire department automatically. Three minutes later a watchman operated an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box but the firemen were already on their way.

The loss was held to \$200.

FAST ACTION SAVES FIVE

One man died and five others suffered serious burns recently when fire followed an explosion that ripped through an aluminum trailer in which they were working in the plant of the Trailmobile Company, Cincinnati.

The explosion occurred at 6:24 p.m., when a concentration of rubber cement vapors became ignited. Three sprinkler heads opened and confined the flames until the fire department arrived in response to an ADT Manual Fire Alarm.

The workers were pulled from the trailer and rushed to a hospital. Third-degree burns proved fatal to one but the other five men responded to treatment. Efficient fire protection was credited with averting more serious consequences.

The loss was estimated at \$2,000.



Wide-World Photo

DAVENPORT DISASTER—Blackened hospital beds litter the yard in front of Mercy Hospital, Davenport, Ia., after early-morning blaze swept the mental institution on January 7. Trapped in their rooms when the flames shot through the building, forty-one patients died and hundreds of others were seriously burned

TRASH FIRE DETECTED

Spontaneous ignition of a quantity of uncovered trash started a fire in the garage of the M. D. Cohen Company, Terre Haute, on the morning of December 27.

Firemen, summoned automatically by the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm at 12:35 a.m., lost no time in controlling the blaze, which slightly damaged the ceiling, a door casing and rafters.

SPRINKLERS EFFECTIVE

A short circuit in a lamp cord in the furniture department of Goldblatt's Department Store in Chicago caused a few anxious moments on the morning of November 29.

Firemen responding to an ADT water-flow alarm shortly after 5:30 a.m. found that the blaze had been extinguished by the sprinkler system. They promptly shut off the water.

The store was ready and waiting for the rush of Yuletide shoppers when the doors opened a few hours later. Officials announced that the loss had been held to \$450.

WATCHMEN

INJURED IN FALLS

Unable to reach a telephone after falling fifteen feet from a catwalk in the boiler room of Cargill, Inc., on the afternoon of December 13, a Milwaukee watchman summoned aid by operating an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box.

Firemen found the watchman, 60-year-old Richard Henn, in severe pain and removed him to Johnson Emergency Hospital for treatment. An examination disclosed that Henn was suffering from a dislocated right shoulder.

When the watchman for the N. W. Ayer Company in Philadelphia was injured in a fall on the morning of December 23, a plant engineer obtained ready assistance by contacting the ADT Central Station.

Guards dispatched to the premises arranged for the watchman to be removed to the Jefferson Hospital. After receiving treatment, he was able to proceed to his home.

WATCHMAN'S HANDBOOK

Since its original publication, more than 45,000 copies of The Watchman's Handbook have been distributed to organizations throughout the country. To meet the continuing demand a new edition has recently been issued.

The American District Telegraph Company will be happy to send copies to any organization employing watchmen or guards, whether a subscriber to ADT service or not.

Requests should be made to the Executive Office, 155 Sixth Avenue, New York 13, N. Y.

BANK EMPLOYEE ASSISTED

A signal from an Emergency Call Station at 11:52 p.m. on December 5 sent ADT guards to the Long Island City Savings Bank where it was found that Frank McQuade, a porter, had suffered a stroke.

The guards reported that the man needed immediate medical attention. Central Station operators called St. John's Hospital which sent a doctor and two police officers to the bank.

Mr. McQuade was taken to the hospital without delay. According to the last report, his condition was improving.



SURPRISE VISITORS — Washington, D. C., firemen were battling fire in second floor of Kaufman's Department Store before occupants even knew of the blaze. Passerby noticed smoke pouring from building and pulled street box. Loss amounted to \$150,000

AMNESIA VICTIM AIDED

When Watchman J. P. Morgan of the California Packing Corporation, Ogden, Utah, failed to transmit his 2:00 a.m. reporting signal on December 27, ADT Central Station operators in Salt Lake City, forty miles distant, started an immediate investigation.

V. L. Clark, ADT resident inspector in Ogden, was quickly dispatched to the plant in an effort to raise the delinquent watchman. When Clark was unable to find any trace of Morgan, he summoned Assistant Plant Superintendent Wood and the men combed the area in an intensive search.

They eventually came upon Morgan as he was walking toward the plant from the direction of the city's business district. The watchman revealed that he could not remember anything he had done or where he had been for several hours.

Morgan was promptly placed under a doctor's care. Mr. Wood stated that the company was very pleased with the action taken by ADT.

ORGANIZATION

SIXTEEN RECEIVE AWARDS

As of February, 1950, the following personnel have been awarded diamond emblems in token of twenty-five years of continuous service with the ADT organization:

- E. H. BRADY, Lincoln, Oper'g
- A. L. CAMPOVO, Boston, Oper'g
- W. A. CHATELAIN, Salt Lake City, Plant
- E. CUTTLE, New York, Plant
- W. F. FISHER, Fort Wayne, Oper'g
- B. FRANK, Long Island City, Oper'g
- J. G. GOMPERTS, Bridgeport, Plant
- M. LANESE, Jersey City, Plant
- L. LOFDAHL, Racine, Oper'g
- G. R. MARTIN, Atlanta, Oper'g
- E. MCADAMS, Fort Wayne, Plant
- L. MILLER, Racine, Oper'g
- A. R. MURRAY, Duluth, Oper'g
- S. OLSON, Chicago, Plant
- C. RIGAUD, New York, Eng.
- C. STEELE, Minneapolis, Plant