

# *The* **ADT** TRANSMITTER

vol. XXII. no. 8 — SEPTEMBER — 1950



**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
October 8 to 14



## • LETTERS •

### Service and Cooperation

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

In reply to your letter with reference to the fire in our refinery, I can assure you that your company has rendered very satisfactory service. We had immediate notification of the alarm through your local equipment here within the plant and this was followed up by a telephone call to the writer.

The fire department arrived in about four minutes, the fire at that time being already under control. Your reported times on closures of the sprinkler valves, and later their restoration, was very helpful to us in establishing certain time factors.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you, not only for the above service, but for all the cooperation you have given us in the past twelve or eighteen months in which time we have established several new protection systems, have had several tests, etc.

G. H. TEMPLE

A. G. Spalding & Bros., Inc.  
Chicopee, Mass.

### Secure Feeling

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Your firm did a marvelous job in capturing the burglar who recently entered our premises. At the trial this morning the burglar was sentenced to jail.

At no time will I ever be without ADT service. It gives you a secure feeling when the store is closed, knowing at all times that the premises are well protected.

HENRY KOBOK

Honey Lou Bridal Shop  
Chicago, Illinois

### On the Cover

On May 13, 1950, fire broke out from an unknown cause in a building of a midwestern rubber company. Although the plant was equipped with an efficient automatic sprinkler system, the gravity tank had been drained. Without this supply of water the fire gained headway. The loss was \$450,000. Acme Photo.

## 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 •

### More Important Than Ever

According to custom, President Truman and the governors of the several states have proclaimed the week of October 8-14, 1950, as Fire Prevention Week.

Reports from many cities indicate unusual interest this year. It is evident that with the threat of a third World War, municipal groups and businessmen consider fire protection of paramount importance.

Because it is a time when the subject of fire commands public attention, Fire Prevention Week is an ideal period for business executives to institute or extend training programs for education of employees in preventing fires and taking proper action when fire breaks out.

Fire Prevention Week is also an appropriate occasion for inspections of industrial plants and other types of business properties to reveal and eliminate fire hazards. Detailed recommendations in this respect are contained in an article on page 7 by E. W. Fowler, assistant chief engineer of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Under present conditions, the need to conserve the nation's resources is especially great. Shortages of essential goods are again beginning to develop. We can all do our part to relieve the situation by helping in every way possible to reduce unnecessary losses suffered through destruction by fire.

### Getting 'em Young

Among the activities designed to promote interest in fire prevention, none are more worthy than the efforts now being made to train the youth of our nation in recognizing and eliminating fire hazards.

As a part of this program the National Fire Protection Association has recently capitalized on the popular appeal of "comic books" by issuing a 16-page book in color, entitled "Fire!"

The book presents the subject dramatically and in a way to impress grown-ups and that any child can understand. Copies sell at five cents each. Distribution during Fire Prevention Week is expected to be heavy.

**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.

# TRANSMIT

SEPTEMBER, 1950

## AZE NIPPED

### *t Koch Hospital Gives Usual reaks Out in Doctor's Room*

office, my telephone operator was again notified by your office over the transmitting system.

"She immediately called me and next called Doctor Friedman. I came running up to the hospital and, on my way up, heard the sirens from the fire department in the distance. As soon as he was notified, Doctor Friedman inspected the apartments on the floor on which he resides and discovered the fire on the divan.

"Almost at the same time, a member of the fire department came in directly to the fire and began with the fire extinguishers which we have in the building. He used three or four of these by the time the big hose was attached, and the fire was soon extinguished without further difficulty.

"Had the warning not been so prompt, this fire might have had very serious results. As it was, the slight amount of damage done was confined to the one room in which the fire started."

So efficient was the fire-fighting operation that none of the patients was disturbed. Hospital authorities report that the divan, valued at \$200, consti-

camp, hospital  
scribed the ensuing sequence of events as follows:

"The fire alarm system was most prompt in signaling the fire. As soon as the alarm had been received at your



**AERO PROTECTED** — Robert Koch Hospital in St. Louis, where serious fire was averted when Aero System operated for outbreak in Administration Building

\$5,000.

Aero's splendid record in the St. Louis hospitals is complemented by the fact that not a single life has been lost on account of fire, personal injuries having been limited to one slight burn on an inmate's hand in the State Hospital on October 22, 1948.

### **'Pageant' Features Kearney**

Regular readers of our "Ros-trum" page may be interested to know that we have an advance notice that their favorite author, and ours, Paul Kearney, will have a story in the October issue of PAGEANT.

From the title, "Booby-Trapping Bank Robbers," many of our amateur-detective readers will deduce, as we suspect, that the article will tell something of how ADT Services cramp a criminal's style.

It is recommended reading for those who would like to get a few pointers on the fine art of baffling bank bandits. On the news-stands September 8, filled with interesting, informative reading.

who finally wound up in the custody of juvenile authorities.

When told by police that their car failed to meet the requirements of the Nebraska state law and that a testing station safety sticker would not be granted them until repairs were made, the kids decided to raise the necessary funds by breaking into Morocco's Bar.

Police officers responded to an ADT burglar alarm at midnight on July 7 and discovered the pair in the act of prying open an ADT-protected rear door. The officers presented as evidence against them, two pairs of black gloves, a pair of pliers and a screwdriver. The gloves had been worn to prevent fingerprints.

### **OVERTIME PAYS OFF**

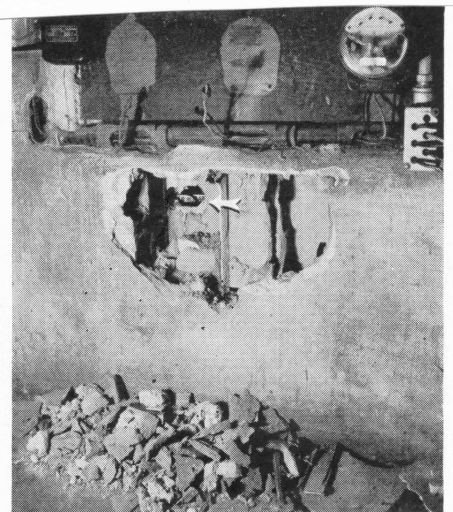
M. E. Harper of the T. E. Mercer Distributing Company, Fort Worth, Texas, was working late on a recent evening when he heard a noise on the roof.

As the ADT Burglar Alarm had not been "set," Mr. Harper called the ADT Central Station and asked for assistance. In a few minutes police officers arrived and discovered a man attempting to break in. He was promptly taken into custody.

The prisoner was identified as M. B. Pergason, an ex-convict, who was released from a penitentiary last January. Nothing was missing from the plant.

### **FUND-RAISING FAILS**

"Hot-rod-happy" kids the country over probably will appreciate the plight of a couple of Omaha youths, 15 and 16 years old, who turned to burglary to finance a repair job on their car, but



**"REINFORCED" CONCRETE**—Burglars gave up when they realized that they had cut wiring in ADT Protection on inside of concrete and terra-cotta wall



## LOADED WITH LOOT

A pair of Baltimore burglars, their pockets bulging with \$453 in cash, merchandise and checks, as well as as-



Chester Strong

Matthew Spencer

sorted items including a revolver, a knife, a half-pint of whisky and several passkeys, were arrested by police responding to an ADT burglar alarm from Sitnick's Liquor Store on July 27.

The officers arrived at the store shortly after 1:34 a.m. and promptly collared one of the intruders in a nearby alley. Seconds later, they spotted the head of the second culprit disappearing behind a ventilator opening from which the fan blades had been removed. Entering the store, they arrested the second burglar at gunpoint.

Taken to headquarters, the pair was identified as Matthew Spencer, 28, and Chester Strong, 27. The suspects revealed that they had forced an ADT-protected door on the first floor and were looting the place when the police arrived and surrounded the building.

Strong pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary and to charges of carrying a stolen pistol and a knife. He said he had taken the whisky and keys from the store and had given them to Spencer, who then attempted to leave through the ventilator. The money and pistol were removed from cash registers.

Summoned by the police, Milton Sitnick, proprietor, identified all the items as his property.

## FIRE

### LIGHTNING CUTS CAPER

#### *Burglar Alarm Doubles for Fire After Bolt Strikes Power Line*

A bolt of lightning which upset the electrical system supplying power to the machine shop of Butterworth Systems, Inc., Bayonne, N. J., on the evening of July 28, might have caused a

disastrous fire if its effects had not been revealed by the operation of the ADT Burglar Alarm.

Immediately after the bolt hit the plant, the coils of a motor on a lathe began to heat up, although the motor itself was not running. Within a few minutes, smoke from burning grease and oil penetrated the beam of an ADT Invisible Ray Device associated with the Burglar Alarm System installed to detect the presence of burglars or other intruders.

Police officers who responded to the alarm received at 10:31 p.m., spotted the smoke and promptly radioed for the fire department. The fire fighters employed carbon dioxide extinguishers and the blaze was under control in a few minutes. The management reported that the motor was the only loss.

### WIRE SERVICE PROTECTED

The ADT Smoke Detection and Alarm System protecting the Western Union Switching Center in Syracuse gave an impressive demonstration of its effectiveness when it instantly detected and reported the presence of smoke on the afternoon of July 2.

The smoke was caused by the overheating of a coil on a multiplex printing device. Upon receipt of the alarm, Central Station operators notified an employee on the premises and dispatched guards to investigate.

The employee disconnected the printer without difficulty. The burned coil constituted the only damage.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

While conducting a meeting on the morning of August 4, L. Kaeuffl, executive secretary of the German Old Peoples Home in Chicago, smelled smoke coming from somewhere on the premises.

Upon investigation, Mr. Kaeuffl discovered a smoldering fire on an ironing board in the basement and promptly operated an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box. In his own words, "The fire department was on the scene before I had time to grab a fire extinguisher."

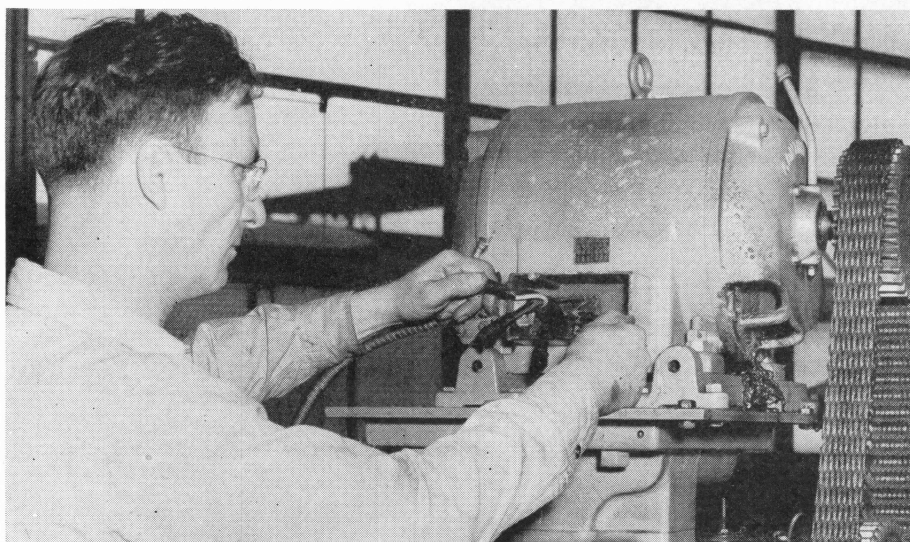
The fire fighters were able to quell the blaze before it had spread more than a few feet from its point of origin. Authorities reported that the outbreak was caused by a short circuit in an overheated electric iron which had been left on the ironing table.

There was slight damage to a small radio and window sill near by. Institution officials announced that the loss amounted to approximately \$150.

### ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

Utica firemen had an easy time with a blaze which broke out near a small shed at the rear of the plant of the Horrocks Ibbotson Company, fishing rod manufacturers, on July 8.

Authorities believe that the fire started when someone dropped a match or cigarette in the dry grass outside the shed. When the blaze spread to the interior of the shed, several sprinkler heads operated, transmitting an ADT waterflow alarm at 12:38 p.m.



**MOTOR MADE USELESS** — Mechanic Louis Herfurth inspects motor on lathe after lightning struck transformer at machine shop of Butterworth Systems, Inc., Bayonne, N. J., on July 28. Note blistered paint on surface caused by overheating



## NOT IN THE SCRIPT

"G. I. Joe," an RKO production slated for release in the near future, narrowly escaped "enemy" encirclement recently when a blaze threatened the Culver City set where the film was being made.

Prior to the day's shooting, a fire broke out in a weedy area behind the set and quickly spread to a near-by group of very dry wooden structures which instantly went up in flames.

A studio employee ran to the nearest ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box and transmitted an alarm which summoned firemen to the set in a matter of minutes. Efficient fire-fighting operations were credited with preventing the complete destruction of every building in the area.

An RKO official stated that the loss amounted to approximately \$14,000.

## WATCHMEN

### WATCHMEN ASSISTED

Jersey City ADT guards sped to two Hoboken plants of the Autographic Register Company in recent weeks to render assistance to two watchmen incapacitated while on duty.

On the morning of July 14, Central Station operators failed to receive the scheduled reporting signal from Watch-

### Handbook Still Available

Although there has been a heavy demand for copies of The Watchman's Handbook since the revised edition was published a few months ago, an ample supply is still on hand.

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

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

man Golden at the firm's Clinton Street plant. A guard who was dispatched soon found the watchman locked in an elevator. He was quickly released. Golden stated that he had gone to investigate a noise from the direction of the elevator and accidentally became locked inside.

Watchman Knott of the Willow Avenue plant was stricken with a heart attack while making his patrol on the morning of July 24. Although seriously ill, he was able to telephone the ADT Central Station and operators sent a guard to his assistance.

Upon arrival, the guard requested an ambulance which took the watchman to St. Mary's Hospital.

## ORGANIZATION

### RETIREMENTS ANNOUNCED

John H. Wootton, Houston Plant Superintendent since August 1, 1949, has retired on pension effective August 1, according to a recent announcement by the Benefit Fund Committee.

Mr. Wootton embarked on his ADT career on May 25, 1921, and shortly thereafter he was made plant superintendent of the Boston district. On September 1, 1921, he was appointed Chicago plant superintendent and remained in that capacity until he was transferred to the Houston district last year. Mr. Wootton now resides at 1445 Victoria Street, Chicago.

The retirement on pension of Alfred Blake, assistant manager of the Boston office, will become effective on September 19. Mr. Blake, who became a member of the ADT organization in September, 1910, now lives at 40 Franklin Street, Watertown, Mass.

The Committee also announced the retirement on pension of August Ohlson of the Chicago Plant Department, whose service dates from January 30, 1922. Ohlson lives at 4629 N. Winchester, Chicago. His retirement became effective on June 20.

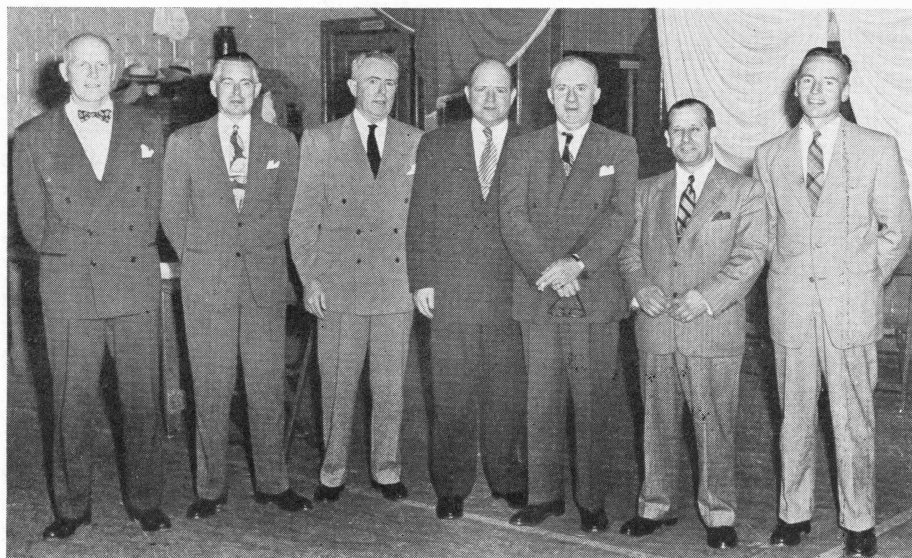
Daniel F. O'Connor, service supervisor at Waterbury, Conn., and an ADT employee since April 10, 1923, retired on pension effective August 22. His address is 97 Fairlawn Avenue, Waterbury.

William Penn, Camden service supervisor since June 5, 1924, retired on pension effective August 1. He now resides at 229 Marlin Street, Absecon, New Jersey.

### MANAGER WALP SUCCUMBS

Harry J. Walp, manager of the ADT office in Trenton, N. J., since August 28, 1930, passed away early on the morning of July 26 after an illness of several months. He was forty-six years of age.

Mr. Walp joined the ADT organization in Philadelphia as an operator on October 25, 1928, and was appointed manager of the Trenton office less than two years later. He had been on sick leave since April of this year.



**SIGNALMEN**—ADT group with Deputy Chief Thomas P. O'Brien, in charge of the fire alarm signal bureau of the New York City Fire Department, at a recent sectional meeting of the International Municipal Signal Association in Jersey City. (l. to r.) C. S. Hammergren, plant superintendent; M. H. A. Lindsay, chief engineer; A. W. Sullivan, special agent; Chief O'Brien; W. J. Doyle, commercial superintendent; F. C. Evans and R. Y. Atlee, supervising engineers



## THE ROSTRUM

*Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems*

### FIRST STEP TO FIRE SAFETY

#### *Fire Prevention Engineers Advise Regular Inspections By Qualified Experts to Detect Hazardous Conditions*

By E. W. FOWLER

*Assistant Chief Engineer*

*National Board of Fire Underwriters*

The owner of a New Jersey printing plant which had never suffered a serious fire during its 123-year history was asked whether he could give a brief formula for fire safety.

"Yes, I can," he replied. "It probably sounds extremely obvious, but I wonder whether it is widely used. The formula works, too . . . it has kept this building from burning on twelve different occasions.

"Each night before I go home, I just take a quick tour of the shop. I watch out for a still-burning cigarette, a pile of rubbish which might catch fire easily, or oily rags tucked away in a closet. I find fire hazards, and then get rid of them."

In large plants and small ones, that is the real secret of fire protection: Find the hazards and get rid of them.

But there are some hazards which might go unnoticed in a casual inspection. That is why a thorough plant inspection is recommended as part of the annual observance of Fire Prevention Week in factories, offices, stores, and other establishments.

One of the most common causes of fires in buildings of all types is simply poor housekeeping. Because this is a condition which can be spotted easily it frequently can be corrected in a relatively short time. An improvement in housekeeping is suggested as a first step toward greater fire safety.

A cigarette left burning on a concrete floor can cause a million dollars worth of destruction—if it falls in an area which is cluttered with loose paper, boxes, oil drums or other combustible material.

It is important, of course, to make workers understand that they endanger their jobs and sometimes their lives through such carelessness as tossing



**DANGER POINT** — Paper packing material placed too close to heating pipes constitutes a real danger. Fire safety inspector will report condition to plant "fire chief" for prompt correction

away lighted cigarettes. But it is equally important to put an end to the poor housekeeping which so often makes big fires out of little ones.

Over a ten-year period ended December 31, 1948, the four leading causes of fires of known origin were:

Matches and Smoking.....	28%
Faulty Chimneys, Stoves, Furnaces, etc. ....	20%
Misuse of Flammable Fluids.....	15%
Misuse of Electricity.....	11%



**COULD BE COSTLY** — Careless disposal of boxes, oil drums, loose paper and other combustible materials is hazardous. All such refuse should be deposited in a safe place away from buildings

These four causes accounted for nearly three-fourths of all our fires.

Recognizing the constant threat of the careless smoker, many businesses have found it worthwhile to replace the strict "No Smoking" rule with some provisions for safe smoking at particular periods of the day. This sometimes necessitates the provision of a carefully supervised room or area where workers do their smoking.

The heating system and the electrical system in many buildings are complicated enough to require the attention of an expert. And at least once a year, each of these systems should be inspected thoroughly. Necessary repairs should not be delayed.

This inspection is essential even if the heating and electrical systems have been giving perfect service. It is always best to make repairs before they are urgent—and it is always safer.

Although the danger involved in using any flammable fluid is widely recognized, such fluids are responsible for one out of every seven fires. Where large supplies are used in a business, it may be necessary to provide a separate room constructed according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters' standards.

Flammable liquids should be kept in drums equipped with dripless pumps rather than gravity faucets. Electric lights used in the immediate vicinity should be of the explosion-proof type, and the switch should be of similar type or else located outside the room.

More detailed suggestions on this and other common industrial fire hazards will be found in the booklet, "Stop Fires—Save Jobs," which is available from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York City.

Although the search for potential fire causes will help reduce the threat of a disastrous blaze, there is always the possibility that a hazard will be overlooked. For that reason National Board engineers recommend automatic protection. A central station-supervised automatic sprinkler system or a properly installed, supervised and maintained automatic fire detection and alarm system is often a part of a complete fire safety program.

The first step is to try to keep fires from getting started, but if one does get started, it is important to know about it immediately.



*For  
their  
sake...*

Prevent **FIRE**  
Save Lives



NATIONAL BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS



**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**OCTOBER 8 to 14**

**D**URING 1949, fire losses in the United States amounted to an estimated \$667,536,000, a figure only 6.1 per cent below the all-time record set in 1948. It was the first drop in the steady climb in fire losses which began in 1940. If this downtrend is to be continued, it is important that the public be thoroughly aroused to the tremendous toll taken each year, both in lives and property, through destruction by fire. Fire Prevention Week offers a special opportunity for each of us to cooperate by doing all we can to eliminate fire damage and to help broadcast the message of fire prevention. The above poster, which stresses the importance of fire prevention in the home, in industrial plants and other places of employment, is among the Fire Prevention Week material available through the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York 7, N. Y. Other appropriate posters and printed matter for use in fire prevention campaigns can be obtained from the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts.