

Alarm-A-Day Average In '48' Gives Firemen A Busy Year

Local firemen averaged slightly over one alarm per day during 1948, according to the annual report released this week. They responded to 379 alarms of which three were false and 10 were emergency first aid calls.

V. W. Griffith department chief, in his report pointed out that the number of runs had increased about 54 per cent over the previous year. An analysis of the fires showed that this increase was due entirely to the additional number of homes here, the increase in population and the greater amount of exposure to fire hazards which this has brought about.

While estimated fire losses have increased 100 per cent, the per capita cost here is only \$1.22 and compared to the \$4.00 national figure, Griffith said that figures supplied by the city assessor for the aggregate value of combustible buildings and personal property in Birmingham let the value at approximately \$60,000,000.

Conservative Figure
This figure, however, is based on a conservative percentage. If the more liberal valuation scale is used, the amount increases one third, or a total of \$90,000,000. The total fire loss has been set at an estimated \$18,280, an exceptionally low figure as compared to the property valuation, endangered by these fires is valued at \$4,207,100.

This figure speaks for itself as to the effort that has been expended to control fire by the de-

partment, the local press, the public at large and other groups vitally concerned," Griffith said.

More Water at Drills
More water was pumped by the local department on drill than was actually used at fires. This, in itself, accounts for a good share of the low fire loss enjoyed in Birmingham. Furnishings and rooms in which the fire is not actually located are not wantonly damaged by water.

October proved to be the worst month of the year, when 46 alarms were recorded. This was followed closely by February with a total of 40. With 17 calls received, July appeared to be the safest month in 1948. Noon, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., with 28, 28 and 27 calls, respectively, were the most dangerous hours while the quietest.

Other runs included one to assist a child who had choked on a piece of chewing gum; to rescue a

youngster caught in a clothes chute, and to give aid to a person asphyxiated by carbon monoxide gas. All were handled successfully.

2,710 Inspections
The fire marshal's report showed a total of 2,710 inspections made during the year. Of the 146 found unsatisfactory, 114 were corrected by the owner or occupants. Each of the business places, churches, day nurseries, and public buildings in the city was inspected seven times by members of the department.

There were 370 inspections made on "high risk" buildings such as stores carrying a heavy stock of combustible merchandise, warehouses, and industrial buildings having considerable flammable stock. Of these 14 were found to be unsatisfactory, five of which were corrected during the year.

Two unsatisfactory conditions found in local theatres remained uncorrected at the end of the year; four in dry cleaning establishments; one apartment house; eight in churches and two in public buildings. Suggested corrections were made promptly in one flammable liquid bulk plant; two public and parochial schools and one day nursery.

Point Out Fire Hazards
The department sent out letters to 67 local persons recommending the correction of fire hazards during the year. They also conducted 58 drills in public schools. A total of 96 public gatherings were checked by members of the department to check on decorations, the size of the crowd and to see that proper fire precautions were being observed.

Permits were issued for 16 underground storage tanks with installation being made of the installation. During the year, regulations were also drawn up controlling the delivery of flammable liquids by truck transports and to control interior decorations in public and mercantile buildings.

Well Report
As a whole the city used 574,821,500 gallons of water last year, or 38,321 per person. Pumps were operated at the wells a total of over 21,000 hours, pumping this water through the miles of mains. The total cost of electricity for all wells was \$8,117.66.

Throughout the year 62 specimens were taken from the various wells for analysis, with no rejection being recorded of any.

During the past year emergency drawings of many business blocks were completed. These are to be carried on the aerial truck, and are planned to give members of the department immediate information as to the best possible means to get at a fire in any of several locations in the building.

He Probably Followed It!
He loved fishing so much that he thought everyone else ought to love it. In his zeal he took a novice with him on a fishing trip, furnishing all the tackle. The expert settled the novice in a likely spot and then began fishing near far away. In a little while the novice called: "How much does the red and green things cost?"

"You mean the float?" the expert replied. "Oh, about a dime, I guess."

"Well," said the novice, "I owe you a dime; mine has sunk."

Supervisors Urged To Create Oakland Plan Commission

The Oakland County Citizens League, Inc., urges that the supervisors of the county are considering the formation of a Planning Commission. The several committees which have been named are getting their studies of the six divisions of county planning under way and are urging the supervisors to act on forming and appointing the commission members.

Out of the 49 governmental units in the county, only 18 have planning commissions, while 27 have zoning ordinances. The League reports that most of these have found that vital plans are developing and becoming major problems for the county. Health and safety are endangered, and what used to be attractive countryside has depreciated in cash value as well as a place to live and retire, it claims. Cities, villages and townships, not yet active in the movement, are feeling increased pressure to join the active groups to protect and improve the county's assets through local and county-wide cooperation.

Public Meetings
The committees are being made up of persons from all parts of the county who are interested. Meetings are open to the public, and persons who wish to present a particular local problem are especially sought.

Already several committees have been appointed and are at work to gather information regarding possible improvement, how to strengthen the present weaknesses, and how to prevent other unpleasant developments.

Two groups are working on technical aspects of planning. They are studying the mechanics of such things as writing ordinances, enforcement and appeals, and to improve the effectiveness of planning.

Local persons working on county committees include Harry S. Klein, C. Leland Gunn, Edwin M. Beresford, Whiting Raymond and Mrs. V. Clarke of Birmingham; Mrs. W. W. Williams, Wing Lake; Ferd Brock, Karl Bailey and Henry S. Booth, Bloomfield Hills.

Atomic Energy Show Will Be Displayed At Cranbrook Soon

Atomic Energy, a new exhibition prepared by the editors of Life Magazine will be on view at the Cranbrook Institute of Science during February. This photographic exhibition was prepared in consultation with the United States Atomic Energy Commission which has urged nationwide education on the subject.

More concerned with the practical use of atomic energy to aid than with nuclear physics, the numerous photographs emphasize the importance of the layman's understanding of the social and political aspects of this great source of energy.

Atomic Energy opens with the seven scientists whose peacetime research led to wartime development of atomic energy in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Bikini, experiments with animals, radiation sickness and mutation. The second section is devoted to postwar use: the development of atomic power and continuing research. Here are seen pictures of a plutonium laboratory, the new California cyclotron, work in the production of radioactive isotopes at Oak Ridge, and the new uses of radioactive isotopes in therapy, industry and commerce.

The last section is devoted to the problem of atomic energy control. This involves the world sources of uranium, the mining of uranium and the possible diversion of atomic energy to war. The exhibition closes with panels describing the problem in education, in statistics and as it is manifested in the ways of the human spirit.

The text of Atomic Energy is, in part, quotations from the famous report on the International Control of Atomic Energy prepared for the Secretary of State.

Suburban Window Cleaners
ARTHUR ZETTEL
Birmingham Phone 2106
1619 Cole

PECK'S Cash and Carry
Suits, Topcoats, \$1.29
Plain Dresses...
CLEANED and PRESSED
Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

Otto Agency Wins Company Award

C. Carroll Otto, 419 Lake Park drive, general agent in Detroit for The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, recently accepted the President's Trophy in behalf of his agency. Other Birmingham residents connected with the Otto Agency are C. G. Heisterberg, John G. Mulock, Donald J. Parry and Clarence W. Kraft. This award represents the highest agency honor and was presented by President John S. Thompson at the annual General Agents Meeting recently held in Chicago.

Otto became general agent in Detroit on Sept. 1, 1940. He joined Mutual Benefit in 1917 as an agent in Chicago and was appointed general agent at St. Louis in 1929.

The Detroit office has long held a high place among all the company's agencies both in new business each year and in the number of agents and leading producers. This year the Otto Agency ranked number one in production as it did last year.

Long Wait
The pompous stranger stalked into the office and demanded to see the manager.
"I'm sorry, but he's not here," replied the secretary. "Is there anything I can do?"

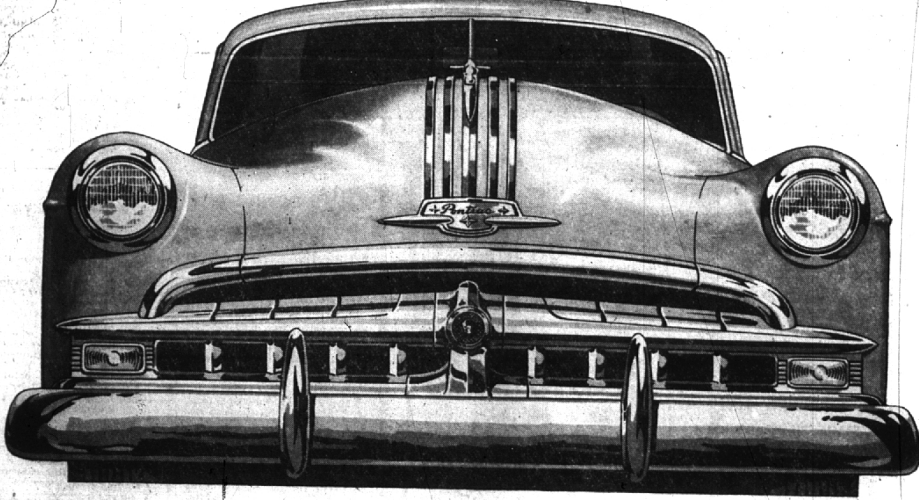
"No," he snapped the visitor. "I never deal with subordinates. I'll wait until the manager returns."
"Very well, take a seat," said the secretary, and went on with her work.

About an hour later the man got impatient.
"How much longer do you think the manager will be?" he demanded.
"Oh, about two weeks," was the calm reply. "He started his vacation yesterday!"

Announcing the

1949 PONTIAC

Now on display



The Finest of all New Features in the Smartest of all New Cars!

1. THE YEAR'S OUTSTANDING BEAUTY
2. LOWEST PRICED CAR WITH GM HYDRA-MATIC DRIVE
3. COMPLETELY NEW BODIES BY FISHER
4. WIDER SEATS—ADDED ROOM
5. WIDE, EASY-ACCESS DOORS
6. NEW WIDE-HORIZON CURVED WINDSHIELD
7. SAFE-T-NEW DRIVER VIEW
8. NEW DIAL-CLUSTER DASH
9. EXCLUSIVE TRAVELUX RIDE
10. NEW FINGER-TIP STARTER BUTTON ON INSTRUMENT PANEL
11. NEW HEATING AND VENTILATING SYSTEM
12. CARRY-MORE LUGGAGE SPACE
13. NEW LOW-PRESSURE TIRES, 15" WHEELS AND WIDER RIMS
14. PONTIAC FAMOUS IMPROVED STRAIGHT RIGHT AND SIX CYLINDER ENGINES

We extend to you and your family a most cordial invitation to come in and see the great new 1949 Pontiac! Definitely and decidedly, it's the finest, most beautiful Pontiac we have ever been privileged to show. You will admire everything about it: the flashing smartness of its completely new Bodies by Fisher—its many new features—its fine performance. Here's a real step forward in the motor car world... one that you should see without delay!

PONTIAC—Division of General Motors

Birmingham Branch - Cadillac Motor Car Division.

275 N. WOODWARD AT WILLITS

PHONE B'HAM 1021

Firestone LEADERSHIP SALE

Feels Cool in Summer... Warm in Winter

TERMS To Suit You at Sternal's Firestone

Ask About Our BUDGET PLAN

EQUIP YOUR CAR WITH Firestone De Luxe CHAMPIONS

FOR SAFE TROUBLE-FREE WINTER DRIVING

LOW AS 1.25 A WEEK

Up to 80% more non-skid sipes! Up to 85% stronger! Wider, flatter tread gives up to 32% more mileage!

HURRY... SUPPLY LIMITED! 350 Gal. Firestone "FRIGITONE" PERMANENT ANTI-FREEZE

Heater Thermostats 1.50 up

You'll get more ample heat with 1 new thermostat properly installed.

Attractive Plaid Design
A fiber cushion, exceptionally well made for long wear. Shaped for perfect snug-fit.

Car Cushion \$1.65

SHOP AND SAVE!

Glass Filter Rods	60c	50c
Coffemaker	2.95	2.19
Electric Waffle Iron	\$9.45	\$8.95
Electric Travel Iron	6.95	4.98
Electric Iron	10.95	\$7.95

DON'T MISS THESE!

BANDY MANDY Scouring Pads	10c	5c
Table Tennis	6.95	4.95
Fog Light	7.50	6.50
BOYS' & GIRLS' SKATES	9.95	8.88
Men's Lined Leather Gloves	3.98	1.98

Reg. 3.49 Value
8-Cup Aluminum PERCOLATOR \$2.92

Brows delicious manager will be!"

Heavy aluminum Cool handle.

F. Delicious One-Dish Meals

Reg. 8.95
Casserole \$7.95

Any home-maker would want this beautiful, modern casserole. Capacity, 3 1/2 qts.

\$3.59

6-Piece Box End WRENCH SET

A size for most every job. Made for those hard-to-get-to places. Drop-forged steel. Text treated.

Relieves Driving Fatigue

Sternal's

AUTO SUPPLY

405 S. WOODWARD AT DAINES

PHONE 9 FOR ROAD SERVICE
Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.