

Understanding Fuses May Save Your Life

Some 26,000 American homes will be damaged this year from fires caused by the misuse of electricity. An estimated 500 lives will be lost. Damage will run into millions.

Much of this death and destruction will result from the fact that most people don't understand the principals behind one of the smallest but most important gadgets in their homes—the electrical fuse.

In today's appliance filled home, the fuse has become one of the prime nuisances in life. It's always blowing out—that is, it's being blown out when more electricity is put through it than it is designed to carry.

Here's how the fuse works: Each electrical circuit in the average home has a safe capacity of 15 amperes. An ampere is the measure of the quantity of electricity. Since the electrical consumption of most household appliances is indicated in watts, you can, for all practical purposes, figure that 100 watts will utilize one ampere of current.

WHEN "MRS. JONES" is in the kitchen ironing, her iron is using nine amperes. A 100-watt light in the ceiling uses one more ampere, the washing machine in the basement sharing the kitchen and living room circuit, is running at a two ampere clip and the children are watching TV—adding three more amperes. That's a total of 15 amperes in use—the circuit's capacity. But the kitchen gets stuffy and "Mrs. Jones" flicks on the fan. Poof! Everything shuts off.

What happened is that the fan overloaded the circuit. Down in the cellar the little metal band in the fuse melted, cutting off the circuit.

"Mrs. Jones" is smart, she will pull the master switch, replace the blown fuse with another of the same size and will not have so many appliances turned on at the same time in the future.

But what most people do is to replace the burned out fuse with one that will carry a heavier current, or use a coin instead of a fuse. For a brief period, this heavier fuse or the coin will permit the use of everything at once. But the circuit will overheat, burn out wiring and probably start a fire.

MORE THAN four-fifths of the country's dwellings were built before the last war, when most of them had no electrical wiring according to American Manufacturers.

Unless your home or apartment is post-war, you probably are blowing fuses at an increasing rate. What can you do about it?

Be sure to never have a combination of appliances operating on one circuit that will total more than 15 amperes, unless a power circuit is installed and specifically designed for heavier loads and fuses.

A good rule is never to turn on more than two heat producing appliances (toasters, grills and etc.) at once. They rate as high ampere users, three of them generally will bring you over the limit.

If you live in an old house, it's a good idea to check your house to see that the wiring is as modern as your appliances. You may find it necessary to install an additional circuit. But if you can't afford this, or if you are a tenant and the landlord balks at the extra expense, an electrical survey of appliances and their ampere requirements is recommended so that circuits will not be overloaded.

Prepared as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

To Boss Sales Of Paint Firm

Lyle E. Frohberg's appointment as sales president in charge of sales has been announced by the Rinsch-Mason Co., of Detroit.

Frohberg, who lives at 1019 Canterbury, has been connected with the paint industry since 1935, and with Rinsch-Mason since 1948 where he has advanced through various sales executive positions.

Rinsch-Mason nationally markets a complete line of automotive and industrial finishes, and has plant installations in Anaheim, Calif., and Windsor, Ont.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham Background • Local History in Story and Picture •



Ordered His Tea Direct from Japan

L. B. Peabody, whose general store above was on the southwest corner of Woodward and Maple, created quite a sensation in the sleepy little village of Birmingham in 1888, when he received a shipment of tea direct from Japan.

It was stated that he was "positively the only merchant in this town to do this."

Village folk came flocking into his store, not only buy the Japanese tea, but also to see the strange markings on the packages and to look with complete fascination at the invoice which Peabody displayed.

Peabody was in business on the corner location for almost 30 years and in 1901 retired. He sold his store and property to John Hanna for \$4,000 cash, according to the account in The Birmingham Eccentric.

National Honors For Underwriter

Harry J. Altick, 1018 Kenesaw, general agent for the State Mutual Life Assurance Co., and a resident of Detroit, has won nationwide honors for receiving the Manager's Magazine annual award for the best article published during the past year.

Altick received the award at the general agents and managers conference during the annual meeting of the National Association of Life Underwriters in Boston.

The article, entitled, "Let's Stop Kidding Ourselves," pointed out how a life insurance agency manager can undermine his new manpower program through rationalization. Listing ten "automatic eliminators" he uses in his agency, Altick outlined a system he has developed for rejecting potential failures.



Elect at Hillsdale

Four Birmingham youths have new offices at Hillsdale college, and four are Birmingham High school 1954 graduates. James Sturgis is president and Larry Girard is treasurer of the Freshman class, while Janet Simons is treasurer of the Freshman women at Mauch hall, and Noel Cloutier, representative of freshmen women to the hall to the student federation.

Birmingham Girls Attend Kingswood

Twenty-two new students from the Birmingham area are among 265 girls from several states, South America, Europe and the Virgin Islands, now attending Kingswood School Cranbrook.

They are: Janie Anderson, Susan Allan, Linda Bates, Thayer Rice, Maud Cooper, Anne Coughlin, Barbara Cripps, Lynn Dawson, Joyce Harlan, Sue and Barbara Hapke, Sarah Horton, Emily Kellogg, Carol Klenke, Marilyn MacKenzie, Molly Martin, Linda Myers, Mary-Love Russell, Pat Shile, Sheila Smith, Sara Sanford, and Starr Walker.

Winning Photo

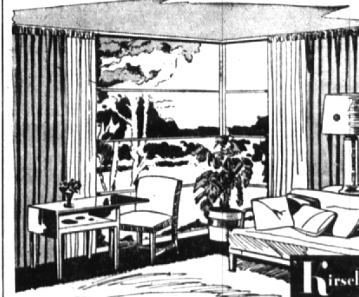
Eric W. Weinman, 2317 Windemere, claimed a fourth place award in the colored photograph contest staged this summer by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for pictures taken in the Authority's five parks. Weinman's winning photo was of a photographer and model at the Dexter-Huron park.

OPEN THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS

Following his service as a lieutenant in the Navy, he was appointed general agent in Detroit for State Mutual in 1946.

Altick is treasurer of the Detroit Managers' Assn., and a past president of the Detroit Life Underwriters Assn.

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Unusual Magazines Honored by Kiwanis

An unusual request for unusual magazines has come from the Great Lakes Writers League. Mrs. Robert Ormond, 1169 N. Woodward, is accepting magazines in behalf of the group which are subscription purchases only. She said they wish to build a complete library of these periodicals, types which are never listed as newsstand sales.

A certificate of merit for outstanding service in Kiwanis public relations has been presented to William Springer by the Central Kiwanis club of Detroit. Springer, a resident of Wing Lake, spoke to the group in observance of National Newspaper Week. He is the publisher and founder of the New Center News, Detroit weekly.



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