Tucson Fire Department

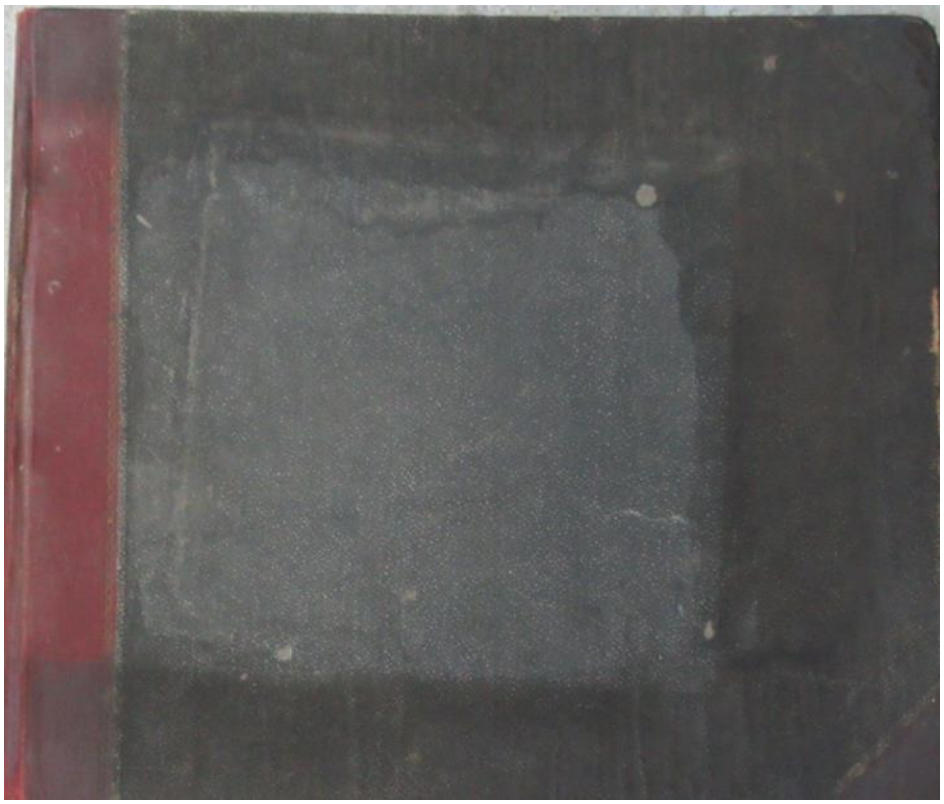
Joseph A. Roberts — Personal Scrapbook 4

SPECIAL NOTICE

This information came from the collection of Chief Joseph Antonio Roberts (born March 5, 1889—died October 17, 1966) (appointed TVFD January 11, 1913 — end of service June 6, 1938), his son, Battalion Chief James Earl Roberts (born August 10, 1929—died April 1, 1965) (Appointed TFD, May 1, 1951—end of service April 1, 1965). It was passed down to James Earl & Karen Roberts. Collection shown below.

JOSEPH A. ROBERTS
Chief Tucson Fire Department

JAMES E. ROBERTS



SPECIAL NOTICE

The following is a scrapbook is from the Roberts collection. We have copied the pages the best we can. It was thought by the family that this was a journal kept by Joe. Then he just put articles over some of the journal pages. However we feel this was a record of jobs by J. B. Matz, Specialty Contractors, Inc. and they probably gave Joe this journal to use as a scrap-book.

It was passed down to James Earl & Karen Roberts. Collection shown below.

James Earl Roberts

James Earl Roberts 62, passed away June 23, 2010. He is survived by the love of his life, Karen Roberts; his three daughters, Tammy Valenzuela (Henry), Sherri Landry (Keith) and Melissa McCormack (Richard) and his grandchildren, Dani, Hailee, Henry, Greyson, David, Yvonne, Stevie, Ritchie, Jimmy and Giana. He is also survived by his brother, Tom Roberts and his sister, Cathy Williamson. He served seven years in the USAF and spent 28 years working as an aircraft mechanic at DMAFB, where he retired as a supervisor. Daddy loved to camp at the lake and be on his boat. He passed his love of the outdoors onto his children and grandchildren. Even though Daddy was only able to serve seven years in the military, he was forever a solider at heart. He was the most patriotic man we knew! Daddy will be deeply missed by all who loved him and remembered by all who knew him. Funeral Service will be held at EAST LAWN PALMS CHAPEL, 5801 E. Grant Rd., on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Interment and Military Honors to follow at East Lawn Palms Cemetery.

—John L. Parker Photo

BEFORE THE BLAST, A HANDSOME STRUCTURE . . . NOW A SHAMBLES

An explosion which took a heavy toll of lives late yesterday morning turned Supreme Cleaners, 2332 N. Stone Ave., from a large attractive structure (left) into a pile of rubble (right)

Smoke, Flying Bricks, Balls Of Fire: They Saw It Hap

By JACK MAGEE

Eyewitnesses to the big blast at the Supreme Cleaners plant on the southeast corner of N. Stone Ave. and E. Grant Road told of seeing women blown out of the plant into the middle of the street, rescuing persons trapped inside, and ducking flying glass and huge chunks of concrete and bricks.

Here are comments from some of those who saw it happen:

Chet Haller, 40, of 1744 E. Spring St., assistant manager of A. J. Bayless supermarket, 2 W. Grant Road:

"I heard just one big WHOOM! It pretty near knocked us all off our feet here at the store. There wasn't much of a fire at first. Just around the boiler. Later, the roof caved in. The corner wall was blown out by the explosion. I saw seven or eight people come out the front end. Three women were blown out. One man was buried in the front of the store. The stuff — bricks and debris — was still flying when I looked out. I crawled into the front on my hands and knees and helped get the buried man out."

Jose P. Trujillo, 29, of 2233 S. 5th Ave., clerk in the Bayless supermarket:

"I went to the back of the plant. I saw one girl standing up and I helped pull her out. I helped pull out a man and another girl. A city gas crew working nearby shut off the gas."

Carl Anderson, 65, of 5535 E. Fairmount St., clerk in Coronado Drug Store, 2 W. Grant Road:

"I was looking out the store window when the explosion came. The roof of the plant just opened up and black smoke came out. The plate glass in front of me blew outward. Two or three women were lying in the middle of the street (North Stone Avenue). Four or five persons were running out of the plant.

A car was hit by debris but someone got in it and drove it away."

Mills Pace, 49, of 4034 E. Hawthorne St., manager of Miracle Mile Drug Center:

"I heard the explosion and drove to the scene. I found a woman trapped . . . timbers were lying across her body. Some other guys helped me pull the timbers off. She was alive but bleeding very badly."

James Orosco, 47, of 31 W. Alturas St.:

"I was at home when the explosion broke a window in my house. I ran to the plant. My wife (Theresa, 41) was working in the rough dry department of the plant. I found her at a service station across the street. She said the explosion came out of the cleaning department which was separated from hers by a wall. She said bricks hit her on the head. I think she ran out."

(The Oroscos' 1961 sedan, parked on Grant Road alongside the plant, was nearly flattened by concrete blocks from the plant wall and debris. One chunk was four feet long, two feet wide and a foot thick).

Barney Huser, part owner of the H&H Texaco Station, 1 E. Grant Road: "Glass showered the station. It looked as though it had snowed." (One of his attendants, Art Schlegle, received minor cuts on his head, face and legs from the flying glass).

James Flanary of Pontiac, Mich., a winter visitor:

"It looked like the Fourth of July. I was driving along and all of a sudden there was the concussion and flames and debris, and those huge machines and things started flying through the air. There seemed to be two distinct explosions. The whole thing just opened up ahead of us. Everything was flying through the air—some of it sideways, but most of it up. All through the fire and smoke were these red balls of fire. They looked like those bombs you see on the Fourth of July. . . . After the explosion there had been a deathly silence, but now I could hear people screaming. Two or three fellows were running into the building when I got there and started dragging started ed slow fed by cause

Plant Will Definitely Be Rebuilt

By PETER STARRETT

Supreme Cleaners will definitely rebuild its plant—probably in the same location—and should be back in operation in four to six months, the firm's attorney said.

Atty. Richard Goetz said Stanley Salonic—who arrived back in town from a business trip late last night—will begin making plans for the rebuilding "as soon as the shock wears off and he can intelligently figure out what must be done."

Stanley Salonic and his brother, Harris Salonic, are owners of the business. Harris was severely injured in the blast that yesterday wiped out the North Stone Avenue dry cleaning plant, killing six persons.

"Mr. (Stanley) Salonic's first concern was for his brother and his employes," Goetz said. "Two of the women killed had been employes ever since the plant was built."

GOETZ SAID all of the clothing in the plant was fully insured and that customers can pick up forms on which to file loss claims at any of the 15 Supreme outlets over the city.

"We are urging them to do this as soon as possible, so their own loss will be for the shortest length of time," Goetz said. He added that customers who carry their own clothing insurance can make a claim to their own insurance agent and let him deal with Supreme.

ASKED WHETHER officials of the firm have any idea of what caused the explosion, Goetz said they do not, but feel that it probably was not caused by cleaning fluids.

"I want to correct an impression that we were using any highly flamable materials not allowed in other plants in the city," Goetz said. "That just isn't true. All of the major cleaners who have been established here for any length of time use the same fluids we do. You can take a lighted match and throw it into a tank full of that stuff and the only thing that happens is that the match goes out," Goetz said.

HE ADDED that about three months ago the firm had increased its insurance and switched insurance agencies. At that time, the new agency, Tucson Realty and Trust, had required a complete survey of the plant and sent in safety engineers to do it, Goetz said. The engineers had required some minor alterations in one area of the [illegible] had been car-

SIFT BLAST SITE RUBBLE FOR CATASTROPHE CAUSE

THE STORY—SEARCH, SCRATCH, SAVE

Using their bare hands as tools, rescuers dug Supreme Cleaners operator Harris Salonic from under the rubble of yesterday's blast at the North Stone Avenue cleaning plant. The man with the watch on his wrist is holding Salonic's leg.

Death Toll Climbs To 6; 36 Injured

By JAY HALL

As the death toll climbed to six a contingent of city investigators moved today into the rubble of Supreme Cleaners to sift out clues to yesterday's disastrous explosion.

Gov. Paul Fannin, arrived from Phoenix and joined Mayor Lew Davis in a heavy-hearted look at the tragic aftermath.

A spokesman for Supreme ventured a preliminary estimate of the loss at approximately $300,000.

BESIDES THE six dead, 28 persons were sent to hospitals with injuries, some critical, and eight others were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

The list of the dead included:

Francis Edward Convers, 41, of Route 1, Box 604 N. Cortaro Road.

Mrs. Vidilia Kingery, 33, of 373 E. Navajo Road.

Mrs. Carmen C. Tovar, 32, of 1072 N. Contzen Ave.

John E. Nichols, 23, of 818 W. Utah St.

Mrs. Cecilia H. Aros, 19, of 412 W. 5th St.

Martin Schwellnus, 52, of 434 E. 9th St.

One of the victims, Schwellnus, was not a Supreme em-

o o o

Casualty List

Here is a list of the dead and injured in yesterday's explosion at the Supreme Cleaners. The names of the dead were released by the Reilly Funeral Home and those of the injured by St. Mary's Hospital, Tucson Medical Center and the Pima County Hospital.

DEAD

Francis Edward Convers, 41, of Rte. 1, Box 604, North Cortaro Road.

Mrs. Vidilia C. Kingery, 33, of 373 E. Navajo Road.

Mrs. Carmen G. Tovar, 32, of 1072 N. Contzen Ave.

Mrs. Cecilia H. Aros, 19, of 412 W. 5th St.

Martin Schwellnus, 52, of 434 E. 9th St.

John E. Nichols, 23, of 818 W. Utah St.

More On Blast

Other pictures and stories of yesterday's tragic blast at Supreme Cleaners may be found on Pages 3, 13 and 15.

ployе. A union bricklayer, he was making repairs to the basement floor when the explosion came. He had begun the repair job a couple of days before and was scheduled to complete it by 11 a.m. yesterday. He was applying final touches when the blast came a few minutes after 11.

SCHWELLNUS was a German soldier during World War II but later became a naturalized citizen.

Thin wisps of smoke rising from the plant today were an acrid reminder of yesterday's stunning tragedy.

The curious were still coming this morning to view the wreckage, though crowds were far thinner than yesterday's peak estimated at 2,500.

The plant at 2332 N. Stone Ave. suffered almost a 100 per cent casualty list—dead or injured—of the employes on duty at the time of the devastating blast shortly after 11 a.m. About 40 persons were believed at work at the time.

Battalion Chief Howard M. Danielson, chief of the city's fire prevention bureau, vowed today, "We will search the wreckage from one end to the other to find the cause."

The investigating team of 12 men includes two firemen, two city detectives, two public works department employes and six members of the city inspection division.

"We have nothing definite now," Danielson said. But he did have theories.

"To me, it looks like some sort of a gas explosion," said the fire department official. "It could have been gasoline fumes, sewer gas or natural gas," he said.

For the time being, he ruled out cleaning solvents as the probable cause.

He said, "The chief solvent used at that plant was perchlorethylene, a non - flammable, non-explosive fluid. We think there also was a

Continued, Page 2

INJURED

(At St. Mary's Hospital)

Josie Soliz, 42, of 2321 N. Stone Ave., bruises, condition satisfactory.

Gloria Madero, 19, of 494 S. Convent Ave., bruises, satisfactory.

Natividad Madero, 41, (Gloria's mother), 494 S. Convent Ave., bruises, satisfactory.

Mrs. Carmen Pedroza, 21, 443½ E. 32nd St., shock, satisfactory.

Celina Duarte, 24, of 1318 W. Niagara, fractured leg, bruises, serious.

Olive Aros, 18, of 412 W. 5th St., fractured skull and jaw, critical (sister of Cecilia Aros, who was killed).

Bernard Oliver, 38, of 1613 Via Honda, cuts, satisfactory.

Harris Salonic, 41, of 2411 E. Waverly St., co-owner of the plant, severe scalp cut, 35 per cent burned, critical.

Carmen Ramos, 25, of 320 W. Laguna St., fractured ankle and elbow and possible skull fracture, bruises, cuts, serious.

TREATED, RELEASED

(At St. Mary's Hospital)

Anna Hughes, 50, of 2225 N. Tucson Blvd.

Lucy Villa, 37, of 1643 W. Ontario St.

Paul Kaufman, 43, of 2573 Calle Tovar.

Mrs. Theresa Orosco, 41, of 31 W. Alturas St.

Gloria Munoz, of 139 W. Simpson St.

Terry Mange, of 136 W. 17th St.

Dora Munoz, 27, of 5935 S. Morris Blvd.

Olga Martinez, 23, of 415 S. Arizona Ave.

Richard Stuart, of 1615 W. Alturas St.

Jeannette Barrett, 27, of 102 E. Alturas St.

(At Tucson Medical Center)

Louis Carrillo, 36, of 6317 Calle Orion.

Ventura Urquidez, 22, of 203 W. Sahuaro St.

Bertha Mahan, 39, of 1631 N. McKinley Ave.

Coronado Noehmi, 25, of 148 E. 24th St.

Serafina Hernandez, 28, of 538 W. 17th St.

J. Andriette O'Connor, 22, of 2833 Rickey Vista.

Betty J. Ruiz, 33, of 925 S. 8th Ave.

Robert L. Clark, 50, of Star Motel & Trailer Court, a passerby, 3465 E. Benson Hwy.

(At Pima County Hospital)

Robert Nasby, 25, of 4810 E. Copper St.

Ladder Truck Quickly Brought Into Action

Firefighters from Tucson Fire Dept. Company 1, perch high on a ladder to fight the fire that followed yesterday's explosion. All firemen, on duty and off, were called into service. Fire Chief John Freeman was lavish in his praise not only for the efforts of his own men but also for the many civilians who rallied to the side of firemen and police during their grim task. (All photos this page by Jack Sheaffer, Dick Wisdom and Tom Foust)

Sad Duty For Priest

The Rev. Laurentian Doerr, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, moves through rubble to administer last rites to a victim of the Supreme Cleaners explosion. He was one of many priests and other members of the clergy at the scene.

Injured Man Trapped By Debris

Members of the Tucson Fire Dept. Rescue Squad work to free Harris Salonic, co-owner of Supreme Cleaners, from where he was trapped in a corner of the building's basement. He was pinned under concrete, plumbing pipes and wood studs for more than an hour. Salonic was taken to St. Mary's Hospital.

Influx Of Spectators Kept In Control By Police

Here is part of the estimated 2,500 persons who gathered at the scene of yesterday's tragedy. Police quickly sealed the area off to traffic and kept the crowd from [illegible] the area of the explosion spread throughout the city hundreds of cars started jamming the area. Policemen aided by sheriff's deputies, Civil Defense workers, and Davis-Monthan airmen kept the blast scene fairly clear of spectators.

Hospitals Set For Disaster

By DOMINIC CROLLA

Disaster struck in Tucson yesterday.

But within minutes, the city's hospitals were ready for it.

Emergency plans at St. Mary's Hospital, Tucson Medical Center and Pima County Hospital went into action immediately as the word got out that the death and injury toll from the explosion at Supreme Cleaners was expected to be high.

With military-like precision the three hospitals administered to the injured and received the dead from what has been described by officials as Tucson's worst disaster.

THE HOSPITALS knew only one thing when they got the news shortly after 11 a.m.: there had been an explosion and no one had any idea at that stage of the seriousness of the situation.

The hospitals proved they could handle the situation.

Quickly, calmly all of them prepared for the worst.

At St. Mary's, where less than a year ago that hospital's emergency plan, Operation Mercy, was tried out in a full-day exercise, the signal was given for key personnel to stand by.

The hospital's fully rehearsed procedures worked well in a real Operation Mercy. Luckily, it was not necessary to call in additional doctors—the chief of surgery, orthopedic physicians and surgeons, interns and residents were all in the hospital at the time. They were alerted for emergency work and there were enough of them to care for the number of injured St. Mary's was capable of handling.

NURSING, laboratory, X-ray, housekeeping, and supply personnel were also placed on standby and additional supplies were readied.

"Tragic as it was," said a St. Mary's official, "our hospital responded to the emergency magnificently. Our dry run last June proved its worth. Everything was under control — the arrival of ambulances, the treatment of the injured and the hospital's liaison with relatives and friends of the victims."

The situation was not much different at Tucson Medical Center. There, however, additional doctors and nurses were called in when police notified the hospital there had been a tragedy.

TELEPHONE LINES came alive with calls as doctors and nurses summoned their counterparts. Eight operating rooms were placed on standby procedures. Extra blood was brought in from the Red Cross and a special blood-typing room was set up in readiness.

Two hours after the notification of the explosion, TMC's plan was abandoned after treatment of five victims and a fireman who had been overcome by smoke.

"The success of the emergency plans," said Richard Durbin, TMC administrator "proves that Tucson and its hospitals are ready for any kind of disaster."

The emergency room at Pima County Hospital, always busy, was cleared for action and the entire staff was alerted. Additional supplies were placed in the emergency room, but the hospital's out-patient clinic, which had 75 patients at the time, continued to operate.

"We're always ready for emergencies and yesterday was no exception," said George Kennedy, the hospital's assistant administrator.

Davis Gives Sympathies To Victims

Mayor Lew Davis today extended "my greatest sympathies to the families of the people who were killed and injured" in yesterday's Supreme Cleaners & Launderers explosion.

At the same time, the mayor gave a vote of thanks "to all the volunteers and people of this community who immediately appeared on the scene of yesterday's tragedy to help with the rescue operations."

Davis singled out the city's own public works, fire and police crews, together with volunteer agencies and individuals, for praise in yesterday's rescue operations.

"And don't forget Davis-Monthan Air Force Base," he added. "They were tremendous."

The mayor added, "I've never seen anything like it for community cooperation."

Firemen Move Close To Flaming Ruins

Smoke billowed hundreds of feet in the air minutes after yesterday's explosion reduced Supreme Cleaners to rubble. This picture shows firemen playing a strong stream of water close to the searing flames. Debris from the building was tossed together like match sticks. Rubble was blown into the intersection of Grant and Stone damaging several cars.

T-755-L Roosevelt School T-797-C Shy, Chief V
T-756-R Wong

CLEANING MACHINE HOISTED AWAY

FLAREUP SLOWS RESCUERS

Tucson Daily
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1963 PAGE 19

—Citizen Photo

WHERE GAS LEAK WAS LOCATED

Workers from Tucson Gas & Electric excavate a gas main in which a leak was located last night, about 65 feet away from the blast point of Friday's Supreme Cleaner explosion. They are checking to see if there are additional leaks. In uniform and cap at left is Howard Danielson, chief investigator for the Tucson Fire Department. Scattered ruins of the dry cleaning plant are in the background.

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1963

—James Flaherty Photo

WOMAN VICTIM TREATED

Unidentified woman injured in the blast at Supreme Cleaners is treated at scene by rescue workers before being removed to a hospital.

Many Came To Help

Huge Equipment Aid 'Invaluable'

"It was the people who came to help with scores than just their hands and brains. The people who came to offer their cranes, bulldozers and scoops with some really pushed on through the hot, tragic situation."

That's the way the words of Tucson Fire Chief John H. Freeman, who supervised the digging through the smoldering debris of the explosion-leveled dry cleaning plant last night at the scene of the Supreme Cleaners plant explosion.

The majority of the people who came to help, he said, "are all heroes to me. That is something to be thankful for. Most of the thanks goes to the scores of volunteers who just kept coming and coming to lend a hand the best way they could. I've never seen anything like it," Freeman said last night with a tone of great respect.

The job of clearing away the wreckage took about six hours, but "we would have been there a week if it weren't for the volunteers. There's no telling how long digging think-ing there might be someone trapped under the collapsed building. And they just wouldn't give up until we absolutely knew there wasn't another person in there," Freeman said.

There must have been at least a hundred workers with all kinds of machines and trucks and equipment on call for one of them. The city just doesn't have the heavy equipment it takes to do a job like this. What would we have done?" Freeman asked.

The fire chief said, "One man walked up to me and said 'I have three trucks here, what do you want me to do on like that for hours.'"

In closing Freeman said, "We didn't have to ask a soul for help, but it was the heartiest a great lesson today."

Three Boys Admit Burning Cross

BERKELEY, Calif., March 29 (AP)—Three teenage boys admitted Friday they planted a burning cross in the yard of Dr. Fred S. Stripp, candidate for mayor and advocate of an anti-discrimination housing ordinance which also comes up for vote Tuesday.

The boys said they lit the gasoline-soaked cross made of broomsticks, Wednesday night while Stripp was addressing an election rally. They were charged with malicious mischief.

The boys insisted the cross-burning had no connection with the proposed housing ordinance which has divided Berkeley into opposing camps. They said they did it "as a prank."

The ordinance would make it a misdemeanor to discriminate in sale or rental of housing because of race, religion or national origin.

Ronan Urges Crime Study In Phoenix

PHOENIX, March 29 (AP)—Maricopa County Atty. Charles N. Ronan Friday urged an independent survey of the crime problem in Phoenix.

Reporting a 30 per cent increase in major crimes over the same period last year, Ronan said, "The community must come to grips with this problem."

Although he said he was not sure what the problem could be handled, he said a professional study of the police force, prosecution and the courts would be a good start.

Ronan attributes much of the increased crime to lazity in bail bond policies, widely varying sentences for crimi-nals and too little use of the grand jury.

Ronan said there were 2,-646 major crimes in the Phoe-nix area in the first two months of 1963, a 26.7 per cent increase over the same two months last year. The number of murders rose from four to seven in the comparative period, he noted.

Red Ship In Cuba

HAVANA, March 29 (AP)—The Baikal, a small Russian passenger liner, was tied up Friday in Havana harbor. It was believed at the same pier that was used by the ship that carried Soviet missiles to Cuba. The 3,000-ton vessel docked Wednesday and unloaded some 1,000 Soviet passengers, mostly technicians and their families.

Second News Section

The Arizona Daily Star

★ An Independent NEWSpaper Printing The News Impartially ★

Second News Section

VOL. 122 NO. 89 TUCSON, ARIZONA, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1963 SECTION B—PAGE ONE

Car Smashed By Rubble From Cleaning Plant Blast

Rubble from an explosion that rocked Supreme Cleaners, Grant Rd. and N. Stone Ave., yesterday slammed down on the car, left center, smashing one side of it down to about two feet. The car was parked at the north side of the cleaning establishment when the blast ripped open the building shortly after 11 a.m. Also seen in the picture are firemen and rescue workers searching the debris for dead and injured.

ed By Falling Rubble

body was in the cars. Fireman, upper center, search for plant employee who were trapped under the ruins. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

Flammables' Use Was Permitted

Cleaners Had Non-Conforming Clearance After Annexation By City Of Tucson

By DEAN FAIRCHILD

The Supreme Cleaners building which exploded yesterday had a non-conformance usage permit because it was built in the county two months before it was annexed into the city.

Chief Inspector Richard Higginbotham said that because of this the operators were allowed to use flammable solvents and equipment which would not be permitted if the business were started from scratch today.

Bruce Wilson, insurance agent, said the blast apparently occurred within the dry-cleaning section of the plant.

Wilson of Tucson Realty & Insurance said Harris Salmon, Supreme's president, recently revised the coverage so that virtually 100 per cent recovery from damages will be made.

Higginbotham said an inspection department crew were trying to assist in determining the cause. He said mechanical, boiler and plumbing code inspectors are combing the wreckage for evidence.

"This building was built while the property was in the county," Higginbotham emphasized. "It was built without any building code supervision."

City files show the most recent construction activity to have been in February of 1962 when a $20,000 addition to the rear of the structure was added. That work, detailed by architect William Wilde

"I heard the explosion, looked around to see the side of the building going out and then some women began screaming and running out of the building," explosion eyewitness John Switzer said yesterday.

"I was standing in the office (of the Henry Boas Chevron Service Station, across from Supreme Cleaners when I heard that boom," Switzer, 50, of 1280 N. Apache Ave., continued.

"It blew out the windows in the station. It knocked out the electricity and stopped our clock at 11:06:30," Switzer said.

Switzer said his boss, Henry Boas, raced to the telephone to call the authorities.

Rescue Work Is Community Effort

Firemen, city employes, ambulance attendants and volunteers move large chunks of concrete from the Supreme Cleaners basement with their bare hands in their search for victims. Most of the dead were found here. Several were not uncovered until late afternoon. Many passersby pitched in and worked hard to help officials. One volunteer stopped and broke his leg, nurses at St. Mary's Hospital said. (Sheaffer photo by Dick Wisdom)

Fireman Risks Life To Search For Victims

An unidentified fireman takes a precarious stand on top of the smouldering debris to look for more victims of an explosion at Supreme Cleaners, 2332 N. Stone Ave. An off-duty fireman who rushed to help holds a hose, at far right. The roof and north wall of the building was flattened. The explosion broke windows and scattered debris over the entire neighborhood. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

Citizen Photos | KEEPING THE CROWD BACK

THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Volunteers Rush To Search For Victims

Debris rained over all four corners of the intersection at Grant and Stone when the Supreme Cleaners exploded. Here volunteers dig through still flaming ruins, searching for victims. About 40 employes were working in the building. Six were killed. This view was taken from the front of the building on Stone Ave. (Tom Foust photo)

Catlin Repair
John Hardy
Number Distrib.

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 30, 1963 TU

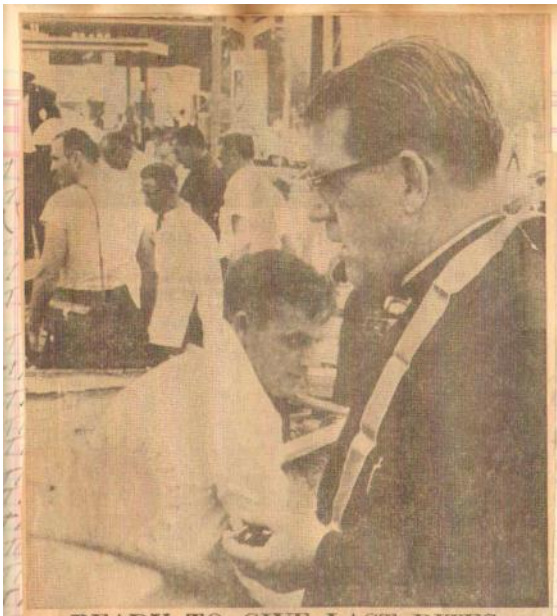
Camera Records Cata

MEN AND MACHINES TO THE RESCUE

Urschell (Hardy)
Carroll
Mary's Hospital
(Anna Horn)
Bob De Wetland)

Survivor Flees Tucson Holocaust

Bernard Oliver, 1613 Via Honda, was one of the first of the injured helped out of the flaming wreckage of Supreme Cleaners, 2332 N. Stone Ave., yesterday after an explosion demolished the building. This photo was taken by Star assistant sports editor Tom Faust before police or firemen arrived. The explosion-fire killed six persons and injured 32. Oliver was in serious condition last night in St. Mary's Hospital. A co-worker, Fred Conyers, who was standing back-to-back with Oliver, was killed. Another co-worker, Mrs. Josie Soliz, was standing on the other side of a wall near the utility pole when the blast occurred. She was knocked down, but got up and helped free Oliver. A passerby, Charles Maynard, second from right, said a reporter he was afraid of the ruins, but felt he had to go in and help out when he heard victims scream. Cause of the blast [illegible] tors said each of the firm's boilers was found to be intact. [Front photo copyright by the Arizona Daily Star, March 29, 1963]



READY TO GIVE LAST RITES

Mayor Davis Sees Tragic Area

Police Lt. Kenneth Ice shows Mayor Lew Davis a spot where one of the victims of the explosion was found. The mayor learned of the tragedy after arriving in Tucson following a business trip to Phoenix. He was visibly shaken by the loss of life and had high praise for the way the community joined forces in rescue work. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

School Evacuated In 53 Seconds After Alarm

A fire at Townsend Junior High School, 2120 N. Beverly Blvd., yesterday afternoon caused only $300 damage and no injuries when firemen and students alike performed like clockwork after the alarm was sounded.

Jim Roberts, battalion fire chief, said the fire in the music instrument storage room was discovered when the head custodian, Ted Pain, saw smoke coming from an exhaust fan. Pain fought the fire with extinguishers but was unable to control it.

Clarence Logan, superintendent at Townsend, said the 350 students attending classes at the $1,200,000 school evacuated the building in 53 seconds, almost a record time.

Roberts said firemen extinguished the fire within minutes after receiving the call.

The cause of the fire, which destroyed sheet music, several storage lockers and part of the ceiling, was not determined but it is under investigation, Roberts said.

AY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1963

THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Many Are On Scene

Fiery Explosion Tragedy Described By Witnesses

Mayor Lew Davis didn't know about the Supreme Cleaners explosion yesterday until he arrived at Tucson International Airport after conferring with legislators in Phoenix.

When he arrived at the airport at 3 p.m., he drove to the explosion-shattered plant. A fireman gave the mayor a protective coat and hat to wear as he walked through the area.

"There wasn't a thing I could do, except to commend them for what they were doing. I thought they did a tremendous job. It was wonderful the way the community responded to help," Davis said. He spent about three hours watching cleanup and rescue operations.

★ ★ ★ ★

One of the first eyewitnesses on the scene said he found three women lying in the street where they had apparently been blown by the explosion that destroyed Supreme Cleaners yesterday.

"There was a terrific explosion. I thought my station had blown up," said Joe Marchese, owner of the Enco Service Station at 2250 N. Stone Ave., a block away from cleaners.

He said the force of the blast knocked his employe Leroy Perrussel off his feet and onto a pickup truck he was servicing.

"I saw the roof go up and then everything started coming down," Marchese said. "I ran down to the scene and saw three women lying in the street. I knelt down to help them and the wreckage burst into flame.

"People kept running up and helping the people out until the flames got too bad. There was just smoke at first and then the fire started. It just enveloped the whole building. It was real fast," Marchese said.

He said after he did what he could for the three injured women he helped direct traffic at the scene.

★ ★ ★ ★

Red Cross workers rushed to the scene with supplies of plasma, and first aid personnel were dispatched to help in rescue work. A Red Cross disaster trailer also was taken to the scene to serve as a first aid station and canteen.

Volunteer Red Cross workers also went to hospitals to help in identifying victims of the explosion and emergency nursing service was offered for private duty for critical patients.

★ ★ ★ ★

Robert Salonic, 13-year-old son of Harris Salonic, one of the owners of Supreme Cleaners injured in yesterday's explosion, was to have taken his Bar Mitzvah this morning at Congregation Anshei Israel. The rites have been postponed.

The ceremony is for youths of 13, signalizing their entrance into manhood.

★ ★ ★ ★

Frantic pleas boomed over the fire department's radio network as searchers tried to get in an inventory of the dead and injured.

"We know there were about 35 people in there," said the official but faceless voice about 11:30 a.m. "We've got to know how many there are at the hospitals so we'll be able to tell how many are in there."

Anxious minutes later came the reply from communications headquarters:

"The people at the hospitals say they don't know. They're so busy they can't stop to count; you'll have to wait."

Replied the voice at the scene:

"But we've absolutely got to know. We've got to know how many there are still in there."

The radio fell silent as the pathetic pleas for the inventory droned on to helpless ears.

★ ★ ★ ★

Last night the Tucson Chapter of the Red Cross was processing wires to obtain emergency leaves for relatives of explosion victims.

They are signalman Albert H. Aros serving aboard the Kitty Hawk in the South Pacific and Pvt. Roy Madero, stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Two of Aros' sisters were injured, one fatally. Madero's mother and sister are both hospitalized with injuries.

12

ona Daily Star

NEWSpaper Printing The News Impartially ★

FINAL EDITION TEN CENTS

ONA, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1963 MA 2-5855 THIRTY-SIX PAGES

DIE, 32 INJURED PLANT EXPLOSION

Blast Turns Firm Into Wild Inferno

By DICK CASEY

One of the worst disasters in Tucson's history claimed six lives and injured 32 yesterday when the main plant of Supreme Cleaners, Grant Rd. and Stone Ave., exploded in a wall of flame and debris. An estimated 40 employes were inside the building when two blasts rocketed chunks of concrete for blocks and trapped many of the workers under piles of wreckage.

★ ★ ★ ★

Casualty List

Listed below are the victims in yesterday's explosion and fire at the Supreme Cleaners main plant.

DEAD

Francis Edward Conyers, 41, of N. Cortaro Rd.

Mrs. Vidilia C. Kingery, 33, of 373 E. Navajo Rd.

Mrs. Carmen C. Tovar, 32, of 1072 N. Contzen Ave.

Mrs. Cecilia Aros, 19, of 412 W. St. Clair St.

Martin Schwellnus, 52, of 434 E. 9th St.

John Nichols, 23, of 818 W. Utah St.

Two of the victims were blown into the street by the explosions and killed instantly. Rescue workers and volunteer help worked throughout the night probing the still smoldering ruins looking for the bodies of persons who may be still buried in the wreckage.

The dead were identified as: Francis Edward Conyers, 41, of N. Cortaro Rd.;

Mrs. Vidilia C. Kingery, 33, of 373 E. Navajo St.;

Mrs. Carmen C. Tovar, 32, of 1072 N. Contzen Ave.;

Martin Schwellnus, 52, of 434 E. 9th St.;

Cecilia Aros, 19, of 412 W. St. Claire St.

John Nichols, 23, 818 W. Utah St.

The property loss may exceed $200,000 according to firemen, but no official damage estimate was available

★ See additional stories on pages 2A, 3A, 4A and 1B for a full page of pictures and pages 5B, 6B and 7B for additional stories and pictures.

WEATHER

Forecast for Tucson: Partly cloudy, slightly warmer.

Temperatures

Yesterday: HIGH 71 LOW 60

Year Ago: HIGH 78 LOW 47

U. S. Weather Bureau

The Arizo

★ An Independent

VOL. 122 NO. 89 Entered as second class matter Post Office, Tucson, Arizona TUCSON, ARIZ

6 TUCSONANS IN CLEANING

INJURED

Hospitalized

Harris Salonic, of 3410 E. Waverly St., burns, cuts, critical.

Carmen Ramos, of 320 W. Tanque St., leg, elbow and skull fractures, serious.

Olivia Aros, age and address unknown, skull and jaw fractures, serious.

Celina Duarte, 1318 W. Niagara St., leg fractures, cuts, serious.

Gloria Madero, of 494 S. Convent Ave., cuts, bruises, satisfactory.

Natividad Madero (Gloria's mother), of 494 S. Convent Ave., cuts, bruises, satisfactory.

Bernard Oliver, of 1613 Via Honda, multiple cuts, satisfactory.

Louis Carrillo, 36, of 6317 Calle Orion, admitted for observation.

Treated and Released

Ventura Uniguidez Jr., 22, of 203 W. Sahara St.

Bertha Mahan, 39, of 1631 N. McKinley Ave.

Pauline O'Connor, 22, of 2833 N. Richey Vista.

Serafina Hernandez, 28, of 538 W. 17th St.

Coronado Nohemi, 25, of 148 E. 24th St.

Betty Ruiz, 33, of 925 S. 8th Ave.

Robert Clark, 50, of Star Motel.

Lucy Villa of 1643 W. Ontario St.

Olga Martinez, of 415 S. Arizona Ave.

Anna Hughes, of 2225 N. Tucson Blvd.

Terry Mange, of 136 W. Simpson St.

Dora Munoz, of 5935 S. Morris Ave.

Gloria Munoz, of 139 W. Simpson St.

Theresa Orosco, of 31 W. Alturas St.

Others treated and released according to police (ages and addresses unavailable): Arnie Hentson, Altagracia Rodriguez, Rosie Chesser, Rosemarie Chavez, Isabel Fimbres, Jesus Godoy, Mary Camargo, Lola Krumpasky, and Jeanette Barnett.

last night. Cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Patrolman George Brooks was about three blocks from the scene on routine patrol when he heard the explosion which rocked his policecar.

"I headed straight for it (the plant) and when I got there debris was still falling out of the sky," the officer said.

He was joined immediately by Charles Maynard, 24, of 1030 E. Halcyon St., who was about a block away on his way home for lunch.

"When I got there I was scared to go near but I heard people screaming and rushed to a man whose leg was just hanging on by a thread. I picked him up and started carrying him to the street," Maynard said.

"One man had blood all over his face," the Tucson Gas employe said in a shaky voice.

Although the cause of the explosions was not determined the roaring fire was fed by an inflammable cleaning solvent used in the dry cleaning area.

About 20 women were working in the southwest corner of the plant in the laundry department and a similar number in the dry cleaning plant where the explosions are believed to have occurred.

The entire north wall was blown into Grant Rd., crushing three parked cars. The area looked as if a bomb had been dropped.

The force of the blast was so great that a 200-pound piece of concrete was hurled through the corrugated metal roof of the nearby Musselman's Cycle Shop, on N. Stone Ave.

The windows of two nearby service stations and that of the Coronado Drug in the Grantstone Shopping Center across the street were sucked out, scattering glass over a wide area.

High tension wires dangled like large earthworms in the surrounding area and police had to keep the estimated crowd of 2,500 persons cordoned off from the area to prevent further injuries.

While rescue parties worked feverishly in a drizzling rain from leaden skies, priests quietly performed the last rites to those either dead or dying. It was an eerie scene.

"It's terrible," said Father A. Malone, of the St. Augustine Cathedral, "the worst I've ever seen."

One of the co-owners of the large cleaning plant, Harris Salonic, of 2414 E. Waverly St., was trapped for more than an hour in a corner of the basement area of the dry cleaning plant, pinned under rock, wood and other debris.

"It was a miracle that he got out alive," said one man who aided in administering first aid to Salonic.

Henry Boas, owner of Boas Chevron Service Station, 2331 N. Stone Ave., said he was standing at his station

(Continued on 2A, Col. 5)

• News Index •

Californian accused of faking bracero work records, 1D

Congress had better get busy if it wants to avoid "do-nothing" epithet, 9B

President of N.Y. firm where employes are working without pay accused of phony bank deal, 8A

U2 planes were looking over wrong part of Cuba in October, 4B

Ask Andy ..6C Molner ...9B
Bridge ....10B Movies ...5C
Comics ....6C Pub. Rec. .9B
Crossword 4C Radio-TV ..7C
Editorial ..10D Sports 1C
Financial ...8B Weather ..5A

When Perfection Arrives, It Arrives In 'Bunches'

KANKAKEE, Ill., March 29 (AP)—Nine women who have been meeting twice a month for 32 years to play bridge took part Thursday in the rarest sight in the game — four perfect hands.

Bridge experts said there were no odds on the probability of four perfect hands dealt at one time. The odds on 13 spades being dealt to one person among four players are 1 in 635,013,559,600. The chances of drawing 13 cards of one suit among four players are 1 in 158,753,389,900.

The four players were Mrs. Gordon Hay, Mrs. Harry Lehman, Mrs. Lester Wagner and Mrs. Albert Sellers. Mrs. Hay dealt the cards after they had been cut by the player to her right. Being the first bidder, Mrs. Hay bid seven spades.

After amazed glances were exchanged by the other players, each laid down her hand. Each displayed 13 cards of one suit. Four other women players and the hostess witnessed the play.

Every Employe Covered By Arizona Insurance

All employes of Supreme Cleaners who were injured or killed in yesterday's explosion are covered by Arizona Industrial Commission insurance, J. Prugh Herndon, manager of the Tucson office, said last night.

"We have every field man in the area on the job doing everything possible to speed the processing of claims," he said.

The Industrial Commission insurance, he said, provides for doctor and hospital costs and compensatory payments until the injured are fit to return to work; while death benefits include burial expenses, and payments to the widow for life, based upon 35 per cent of the deceased's average monthly earnings. Where dependent children are involved the monthly payments go to a maximum of 66 per cent of the average monthly earnings.

Herndon said the chairman of the Industrial Commission, A. R. Kleindienst, of Phoenix, would be in Tucson today to review the accident and speed the processing of claims.

He said that the number of employes eligible for claims was undetermined as of late last night.

A comprehensive insurance program, brought up to date about a year ago, covered a portion of the property losses at the cleaning plant, according to Albert Gibson, vice president of the Tucson Realty and Trust Co., the insuring agent.

The employes, dead and injured, were covered by the Industrial Commission insurance, Gibson said, while the other policy cared for customers material, (except furs), building and machinery damage, loss due to interruption of business and other incidentals.

The question of liability will be taken up only after the cause of the explosion is known.

Claim sheets for customers will be available at all 15 branches of the Supreme Cleaners company, Gibson said, and customers can recover the cash value of their property by calling at the pickup station where it was left and filling out the claim. Each claim will be processed as rapidly as possible.

A spokesman for Supreme said arrangements have been made to continue all dry cleaning and laundry services without interruption through branch locations.

PLASMA GIVEN TO BLAST VICTIM

—Citizen Photos

CARRYING OUT THE INJURED

Even civilians helped carry out the injured from the destroyed plant as firemen and others toiled relentlessly to put out the fire and get to the many who were believed buried beneath tons of sordid debris. Firemen pump water over the smoldering ruins (below) as huge steel beams hang precariously overhead endangering all who worked tirelessly in the rubble.

csson Daily Citizen

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1963 PAGE 11

—James Flaherty Photo

ONLY MOMENTS AFTER EXPLOSION

An unidentified man runs through the street amid rubble from the demolished Supreme Cleaners' main plant a few minutes after the explosion. Stucco and cinder block from the building were hurled hundreds of feet.

CUTTING OFF POWER

A 225-pound piece of reinforced concrete [illegible] through the roof of the [illegible] Cycle Shop, south of the cleaning plant.

Fire followed the explosion and flames and dense, black smoke was seen across the city.

A part-owner of the cleaners, Harris Salonio, 2401 E. Waverly, was trapped in a corner of the basement by debris for more than an hour. He was rushed into surgery at St. Mary's Hospital.

None of the employes knew what happened. Some said they heard two explosions. Others said there was only one. The second noise firemen said, could have been caused by the walls and roof collapsing.

"I'm one of the luckiest people alive," said Mrs. Josie Soliz, 42, of 2321 N. Stone, an employe of the cleaning plant. "I'm saying my prayers and thanking God."

Mrs. Soliz said she was working next to the north wall — one that was flattened by the blast.

"It knocked me down, but I stayed conscious," she said. I helped one man whose foot was caught between two pipes.

"I had to take his shoe off to get him loose. (The man was later identified as Bernard Oliver, who was in serious condition at the hospital last night.) "Then I climbed over what was left of the wall.

"There was no warning. It was like a bomb. We were just working when it happened. Nobody knew what happened."

Mrs. Soliz' dress was torn to shreds, but hospital authorities said she suffered only bruises and abrasions.

Another survivor who considers himself lucky is A. D. Hinson, 39, of 2086 San Jose Dr. "I just walked away from the dry cleaning side (where the explosion apparently occurred) when it happened," he said. "It just went BANG. I couldn't see anything for the dust, and I had to feel my way out.

"When I got outside, I saw three girls lying in the street. About five minutes later the blaze started. It went up all at once."

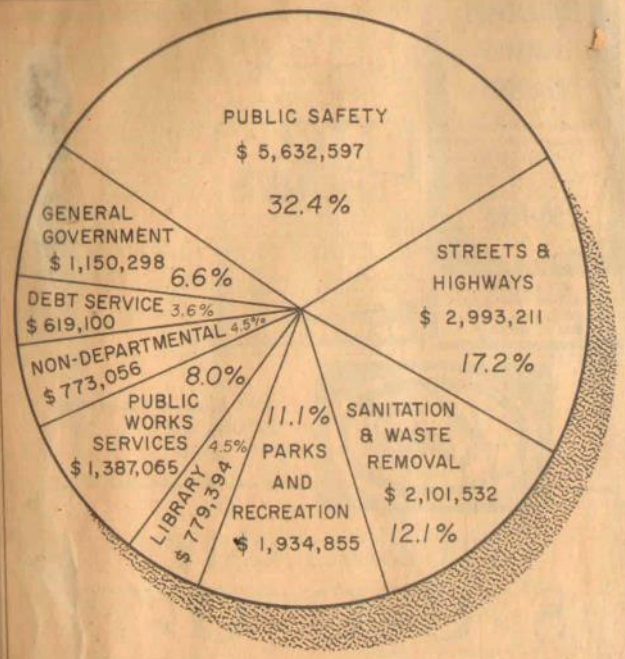
Hinson was examined at the hospital, but he was not injured.

"Oh my God, we've been bombed!" Mrs. Roy Pettit said that was the first thing that went through her mind when she heard the explosion. The Pettits operate a grocery store on Grant Rd. across the street from the cleaning plant.

"I was in my apartment (at the rear of the store) when I heard a plane go over," she said. "Then BOOM, and glass started falling all around me."

Policeman George Brooks was patrolling his beat at First and Grant. "I didn't hear anything," he said, "but I saw a big cloud of smoke. It looked like an A-bomb."

2067 T Joseph Walsh r 10-24-52 4/29/52



How City Will Spend Tax Dollar

Table below shows the amounts City Mgr. Mark E. Keane has allocated for various departmental functions during the 1963-64 fiscal year beginning July 1. Col. 1 lists the sums budgeted by Asst. City Mgr. Roger O'Mara, who prepared the current year's budget, for fiscal '62-63, ending June 30. Col. 2 shows the amounts city officials believe each department will have spent by June 30 while Col. 3 indicates the spending requests departmental chiefs made during an unprecedented series of City Hall budget request hearings during April. Col. 4 contains the amounts Keane believes the city can afford to spend.

PURPOSE	Budgeted 1962-63	Estimated 1962-63	Requested 1963-64	Budgeted 1963-64
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Mayor and Council	46,695	45,816	46,237	47,737
Post Auditor	17,661	17,366	20,060	20,060
City Manager	67,798	67,015	66,488	65,713
Administration				
Director's Office	21,563	30,216	25,628	24,793
Budget and Research	27,761	23,907	38,016	36,911
Accounting	111,656	90,730	180,955	142,558
Treasury	53,666	55,793	63,399	59,084
Licenses	64,544	58,528	95,748	93,183
Data Processing	42,952	37,880	124,664	83,590
Purchasing	92,877	94,839	124,932	115,041
Sub-Total	415,019	391,893	653,342	555,160
City Attorney	86,247	94,073	101,275	101,765
City Courts	38,230	45,132	84,030	81,173
City Clerk	30,015	31,066	44,266	40,021
Elections	38,397	38,632	50,559	47,818
Personnel	44,964	50,195	72,897	74,275
Planning and Zoning	75,942	68,039	142,417	116,576
Total	860,968	849,227	1,281,571	1,150,298

PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police Department				
Administration	97,140	130,893	847,850	188,201
Uniform Division	1,319,862	1,259,823	2,217,977	1,813,234
Detective Division	208,797	218,031	424,335	302,652
Records, Detention, Crime Lab	330,948	329,308	692,694	405,297
Sub-Total	1,956,747	1,958,055	4,181,956	2,729,384
Fire Department				
Administration	116,120	178,232	222,283	182,936
Combat	1,525,366	1,504,886	2,397,251	2,066,103
Prevention & Investigation	63,735	70,000	138,525	105,628
Sub-Total	1,705,221	1,753,118	2,758,059	2,354,667
Radio Operations Center	97,515	87,704	227,078	166,230
Inspections	283,299	294,847	510,279	382,316
Total	4,042,782	4,093,724	7,677,372	5,632,597
PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES				
Public Works Director's Office	50,717	54,636	78,297	75,178
Engineering	839,642	990,653	1,144,849	1,113,129
Building Maintenance	130,214	202,646	221,040	179,334
Automotive Shop	96,810	55,128	172,695	—0—
Radio Shop	36,736	20,463	28,259	19,424
Total	1,154,119	1,323,526	1,645,140	1,387,065
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS				
Traffic Engineering	27,254	29,659	34,501	53,047
Street Lighting Maintenance	120,250	110,270	137,574	127,035
Traffic Control	221,023	214,030	455,795	335,356
General Streets Maintenance	613,174	643,245	1,020,697	741,601
Drainage Maintenance	99,520	88,981	989,212	180,575
Patching Utility Cuts	73,576	84,820	128,421	87,897
Traffic & Street Improvements	490,000	500,230	12,541,200	1,467,700
Total	1,644,797	1,671,235	15,307,400	2,993,211
SANITATION & WASTE REMOVAL				
Sewerage				
Sewer Maintenance	85,233	85,652	99,517	93,840
Treatment Plant	213,609	220,564	295,564	236,462
Sewer Improvements	500,000	175,700	1,180,100	102,080
Sub-Total	798,842	481,916	1,575,181	432,382
Refuse				
Garbage Collection	981,500	1,031,107	1,200,606	1,073,797
Trash Collection	285,355	281,132	516,205	327,393
Disposal	181,842	116,396	235,731	137,924
Street Sweeping	103,555	93,114	216,089	130,036
Sub-Total	1,552,252	1,521,749	2,168,631	1,669,150
Total	2,351,094	2,003,665	3,743,812	2,101,532
LIBRARIES	347,202	348,334	998,787	779,394
PARKS AND RECREATION				
Administration	12,905	12,905	35,779	29,317
Recreation	398,318	241,840	613,962	421,491
Parks Maintenance	948,028	880,036	2,051,498	1,200,111
Golf Courses	237,052	239,301	279,784	258,022
Baseball Parks	24,130	21,306	55,551	25,914
Total	1,550,453	1,475,388	3,036,574	1,934,855
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	2,089,084	1,745,747	491,903	773,056
DEBT SERVICE	592,163	472,163	434,760	619,100
TOTAL	14,632,662	13,983,009	34,617,319	17,371,108

Advertisement

11/29/52
12/19/52
11/29/52
12/30/52
11/29/52
11/29/52
12/23/52
11/24/52

FIREMEN POUR water on blazing tires at West 29th Street Auto Wreckers, 709 W. 29th St. yesterday during a fire that caused approximately $3,000 damage to the firm. Extent of loss of the tires was not determined. Firefighter Ronald Reimer, 27, suffered exhaustion at the scene and was taken to Tucson General Hospital. He was listed in satisfactory condition. Lighter area to left in photo was rainbow formed by the spraying water.

HERE IS A portion of the 80,000 to 100,000 tires stored at West 29th Street Auto Wreckers. Fire at the two-acre site destroyed hundreds of tires before the blaze was brought under control by city firemen. The blaze sent a thick cloud of black smoke swirling over the southwest edge of the city. Smoke was so dense that it momentarily stalled traffic on the Freeway near the 29th St. overpass. Thousands of spectators were drawn to the scene.

GOOD MORNING
If you don't want to be sailing on a sea of trouble, throw out your anger.

The Arizona Daily Star

★ An Independent NEWSpaper Printing The News Impartially ★

VOL. 122 NO. 157 TUCSON, ARIZONA, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 6, 1963

G. APRIL 13, 1964

3 Firemen Promoted

Promotion of Battalion Chief Richard H. Bayless to a new position of assistant chief was announced today by Fire Chief John H. Freeman.

Freeman also has advanced two other men to fill vacancies.

Robert Slagle and Robert W. Rojeski were promoted from captain to battalion chief.

Last week, former Battalion Chief Leonel F. Peterson was appointed to a new position, deputy chief, to work closely with Freeman.

It also was announced today that the city Civil Service Commission has approved extension of employment for Freeman, 62, and Assistant Chief Harold Mickola, 63.

David F. Fitzgerald, city personnel director, said that such approval is necessary on an annual basis for employes over 60 years of age.

Council Approves Architects For 3 Fire Tower

Dec

The architectural firm of Cain, Nelson and Wares has been retained for a fee of $6,847 to design a fire drill tower and station on 3.6 acres of land along Ajo Way between Park Ave. and the Southern Pacific Co. Nogales branch line.

Yesterday the City Council approved hiring the firm and authorized the expenditure of $25,000 for purchasing the site. A fire station located on the site will permit coverage extending up to two miles in each direction, Fire Chief John Freeman reported.

In other action yesterday the council adopted the 1962 National Electrical Code with an amendment which would require that all buildings more than 35 feet in height or which would have more than 200 occupants be required to have conduit wiring.

Dec 3 1965

On Library Site

1/9/64

SECTION A—PAGE NINE

Tucson Plans To Buy Two Fire Trucks

The City of Tucson is calling for bids on two fire trucks for the Fire Dept. at an estimated cost of $87,000.

According to Fire Chief John Freeman the aerial ladder truck should cost "about the same as a similar vehicle ordered in 1961 ... about $53,000. The 1,250-gallon pumper truck also should cost about the same price as the last unit ordered ... about $32,000.

The ladder truck will replace an 85-foot ladder fire truck which was the only one in service for 10 years prior to 1961 and is now on its last legs, Freeman said. The new truck will have a 100-foot ladder.

The new pumper will replace the last front line city unit with less than 1,000-gallon capacity.

After the bids are reviewed and a contract is awarded, about Feb. 20, it will take several months to build the units and have them delivered, Freeman said. "These trucks are custom made," he said.

The total cost of putting the new pumper in service will be about $5,000 more than the bid because it must be equipped with hose, radio and a siren, the chief said. Only a siren and radio need to be put on the ladder unit when it arrives.

Feb. 1964

Two Fire Trucks Ordered By City

The city has ordered two fire trucks from the Crown Coach Co. of Los Angeles and the Seagrave Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, at a total price of $93,503.32.

The delivery of a 1,250-gallon pumper from Crown Coach will be about Aug. 25. The Crown bid was $33,133.32 which was nearly $2,000 more than the apparent low bidder for the vehicle. Fire Chief John Freeman said yesterday that the Central Fire Truck Corp. of St. Louis did not submit a bid which matched the specifications for the vehicle.

The Seagrave Corp. will deliver the $60,370 ladder truck in 150 working days which will mean sometime in September, Freeman said. There was no other bid for the ladder truck.

—Citizen Photo

UNSCHEDULED ROUNDUP

Cattle from nearby livestock pens are moved out of harm's way during peak of yesterday's tire fire on West 29th Street. Dense smoke from the burning rubber attracted a big crowd.

May 23, 1964

—Citizen Photo by Jim Kammerer

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER

Fireman Sanford B. Mowday Jr., 31, who was overcome by smoke during a fire yesterday at Templock Insulation Inc., is treated by Acting Capt. Raymond T. Fousel before being taken to a hospital. Mowday, of 2502 E. 23rd St., and Fousel, of 5362 E. Waverly St., both are assigned to Station 8. (Another Picture Page 2)

partly on land owned by

Two Women Employed By Fire Dept.

By GENE BROOKS

One of Tucson's heretofore all-male bastions, the Fire Department, yesterday crumbled before the onslaught of feminine efficiency and the city government's concern with economy.

Two women employes became full-time employes of the department, replacing firemen who can return to firefighting duties.

Both women are assigned to the administrative offices at Fire Station 1, at 142 S. 6th Ave. The only structural change required to accommodate the distaff employes was remodeling of a second floor storage closet into a powder room.

The women are Mrs. Mabel Pritchett, of 3065 N. Dodge Blvd., transferred to the department yesterday as a clerk-typist after four years with the city purchasing office, and a new city employe, Miss Eleanor Newhouse, of 1776 S. Palo Verde Ave., a stenographer.

Both women qualified for their new jobs under provisions of the city's civil service system.

The firemen they replaced, both in the $420 to $480 per month wage bracket, are Weldon Nix and Douglas Noon. The clerk-typist wage bracket is $264 to $315 per month. Stenographers are paid $276 to $330.

A Fire Department spokesman pointed out that wages saved will, over a period of a few months, pay for remodeling of the powder room.

The women will not wear firemen's uniforms, and this will be a saving, too, because the city gives firemen a uniform allowance.

4-c Sanford Jr. High School 4180 c-9

20-48 12-20
8-49 4-8-

TUCSON, ARIZONA, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1964

Fire Department Deputy Named

Leonel F. Peterson, a 23-year veteran with the Tucson Fire Dept., has been promoted to the new No. 2 position in the department—deputy chief.

Fire Chief John Freeman announced the promotion yesterday. It will be effective Sunday.

According to Freeman, the new deputy will serve as head of the department in the absence of the chief. Peterson's new duties will be mostly in an administrative capacity.

Peterson was born in Miami and moved to Tucson in 1938. The next year he joined the Fire Dept. He was promoted to captain in 1962. In 1963 he was appointed drill master with the rank of battalion chief. Two years ago he was placed in charge of all fire fighting crews in Dist. 2 (the north part of Tucson) during the department's A shift.

With his wife, June, and daughter Judy, Peterson lives at 328 N. Wilson Ave. He has a married son, Jim, living in Phoenix.

LEONEL F. PETERSON

According to Freeman, Peterson placed first in the oral and written exams for the position. Twelve men took the test. The job pays $720 to $860 per month.

Deputy Fire Chief Position Created

The Tucson Civil Service Commission yesterday created the position of deputy fire chief, the number two job in the Fire Dept.s

The commission also recommended that the City Council set the salary range for the job from $730 to $860 per month.

In other action the commission took under advisement a request for an increase in the pay range for water meter readers.

1/9/64

11-30-48

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1964

Electrical Fire Destroys Tucson Home

Fire swept through the two-story frame stucco home of a Tucson family at 1439 E. Hedrick St. shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday, causing damage estimated by firemen at $10,000.

District 2 Fire Chief Jim Roberts blamed an electrical short for starting the blaze, which also damaged a small efficiency apartment at the same address.

The owner and occupant, 51-year-old John F. Gannon, said he was not at home when the fire started. His wife, Marie, and their two daughters, ages 16 and 11, were in the house but escaped from the residence unhurt.

Gannon's wife told firemen she unplugged a lamp from an electrical outlet and it shorted out. Firemen said a spark apparently ignited a couch below the outlet and the fire spread rapidly through the five-room residence.

Roberts said the damage estimate included loss of contents in the home, but said damage could run higher.

Earlier yesterday, flames destroyed a storage-room at 4531 N. Brown Ave., causing an estimated $3,000 damage to the building and contents.

The Flowing Wells Volunteer Fire Dept. said they were called to that address at 2:45 p.m. yesterday. The call interrupted Chief of Tucson Police Bernard L. Garmire, who was speaking at a flag dedication ceremony then in progress at the Fire Dept. at 1451 W. Willits Rd.

A faulty electric refrigerator was blamed for the fire.

10-15-48

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 19, 1964

AND E. SIDE UNIT

Freeman Asks Land For New Fire Station

Funds to buy land for a new central fire station and to construct a new two-company station on the East Side were requested yesterday by Fire Chief John Freeman as he asked the City Council for $2,537,185 for fiscal year 1964-65.

Freeman's requested budget is $172,518 more than he is receiving this year.

THE FIRE CHIEF said he needs $125,000 to buy a lot somewhere on the edge of the downtown area as a site for a new station to replace the existing central fire station on South 6th Avenue. The present station was built in 1909, when the department's engines were pulled by horses. Freeman said he needs a parcel about 105 feet by 175 feet.

In addition, the chief said he wants $15,000 to buy some land near E. 22nd St. and S. Wilmot Road and $96,000 to build a station to house both an engine company and a ladder company. The new East Side station would replace one which the city now rents at 22nd and Sahuara Ave. Freeman described this rented station as "totally inadequate."

FREEMAN SAID he also must have an additional $50,000 to complete the drill tower and two-company station now planned at E. Ajo Way and S. Park Ave. The current year's budget contains $130,000 for this structure.

Two new 1,250-gallon engines and the hiring of three more men round out the fire chief's budget request.

The three additional personnel would bring the department's total authorized strength up to 60.

o o o

Fire Chief Asks New Station

Seeks $125,000 To Purchase Land

A request for $125,000 to buy land for a new central fire station heads a Fire Dept. proposed budget of $2,537,185 for next year.

Fire Chief John Freeman said the present central headquarters at the corner of 6th Ave. and 13th St. is totally inadequate both in size and location.

Freeman said the new site had been tentatively chosen but it could not be divulged at this time. It is a 105-by-175-foot lot in the fringe of the downtown area. The $125,000 does not include any funds for construction of a new central station.

The 1964-65 budget request is seven per cent higher than the $2,354,667 budget for this year. Only 3½ additional personnel are being requested (the half employe will be a part-time administrative assistant).

The proposed budget also includes $161,000 for the purchase of land for a new two-company fire station near 22nd St. and Wilmot Rd. plus construction of the building.

Two other major items in the new budget total $88,326, most of which is for the purchase of two new 1,250-gallon pumper fire engines, and $50,000 for the completion of a two-company station and drill tower at the corner of Ajo Hwy. and Park Ave. This structure should be in use but not completed by September, Freeman said.

If the proposed budget is adopted Freeman said there will be s e v e n 1-company fire stations, three 2-company stations and one 3-company station. There will also be 27 front line fire engines.

Freeman said the present central fire station was built in 1909 and was designed for horse-drawn equipment. "It has about outlived its usefulness," the chief said.

Four additional personnel will be assigned to the prevention, training and engineering sections in the proposed budget.

Fire Rating May Mean Big Savings

Tucsonians soon may realize a savings of $200,000 or more a year in fire insurance premiums, Fire Chief John Freeman said yesterday.

Freeman said that a recently completed survey of the city by the National Board of Fire Underwriters may result in Tucson's being elevated from its present Class 4 fire rating to Class 3.

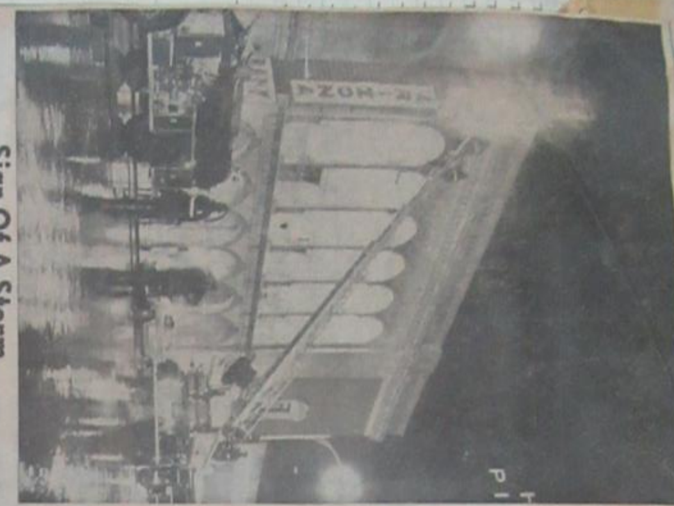
"We think we'll be well near the top of Class 4, and we could make it into Class 3," Freeman said. "We'll probably find out in June."

The chief said that although no exact figures are available, it has been estimated that the rise to Class 3 would result in an annual saving of $200,000 or more in fire insurance premiums for local residents.

If the national bureau again rates Tucson in Class 4, Freeman said, the city could improve a few areas of its fire protection, ask for a supplementary rating next year and stand a good chance of then being elevated to Class 3.

July 15, 1964

TUCSON, ARIZ



Sign Of A Storm

Outlined by downtown lights and wet streets, Tucson firemen battle a lightning-caused fire that partially destroyed the sign in front of the Southern Arizona Bank, 150 N. Stone. The blaze was extinguished. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

May 23, 1964

Entered as second class matter Post Office, Tucson, Arizona

TUCSON DAILY CITIZ

—Citizen Photo

INSULATION PLANT BLAZE

Fire fighters battle flames at Templock Insulation Co., 1840 W. Grant Road, after west end of building collapsed, revealing tons of burning paper last evening. Damage in the fire, discovered about 5:30 p.m., was estimated at upwards of $61,000. Firemen were examining the ruins today to discover the cause.

4-5-49	4-5-49	4-5-49	4-6-49
7-6-49	7-7-49	9-30-49	7-30-49 8-31-49 9-30-49
5-6-49	5-6-49	5-9-49	5-10-49

April
September
May
August – December
May
May
May
May
May
July
June

Fire Captain Sues City

7/15/64

By DON ROBINSON

A fire department captain is suing the city for $60,000 claiming that he was not only refused compensation for a "street location program" he invented but was transferred to an obscure outpost.

Capt. Roger Zuniga, the plaintiff, says that he presented the patented invention to the fire department in 1960 and was told by Chief John Freeman to install it.

He has met several times with city officials in an attempt to be paid for the system and has been turned down each time, the complaint prepared by Attorney William Messing claims.

When on Jan. 10, 1962, he demanded compensation, the pleading alleges, he was removed from an administrative post and assigned to a fire company located at 3941 E. 22nd St.

In addition, the *Superior Court* pleading says, Zuniga has twice been passed up on promotions and his seniority rights have been curtailed.

His program, used to speed up the response of fire fighting equipment, was first offered the city in 1945 but was then dismissed as being "impractical," the suit says.

Capt. Zuniga says in the lawsuit that he has been with the department since 1942 and that from then until 1959 he had part-time employment with various engineering firms here. He has U. S. Patent Office rights on the program that has been in use for the past two years, the pleading says.

The suit asks $25,000 compensation for the program, $25,000 in punitive damage and $10,000 for shame and humiliation.

THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR June 9, 1964

4 'Bomb Area' Buildings Destroyed In Flash Fire

A flash fire of undetermined origin swept through the working complex of two business firms at Campbell Ave. and E. 17th St. last night, burning four buildings to the ground and causing an estimated $12,500 damage.

District Two Fire Chief Capt. Jim Roberts said the cause of the blaze, which could be seen from as far away as Grant Rd., was not determined last night, but that investigators are making a routine check on the possibility of arson.

Three buildings belonging to the Howard E. Caffrey Construction Co. were destroyed by the flames and the owner said another $10,000 in tools and power equipment in the aluminum structures were ruined.

The owner, Howard Caffrey, said the building contained power saws, lathes, drill presses and dozens of smaller tools. He said the three small buildings that were destroyed were probably worth about $1,500.

Jack Mathews, of 2344 E. Eastland St., the owner of the Mathews Pre-Casting and Excavation Co., which had a trailer house office in the same area, said he estimated damage to the trailer and other items including some spare tires, at about $1,000.

Mathews said the business here in Tucson was a branch of the Mathews Pre-Casting and Excavation Co. of Phoenix, which is owned by his father, Noah Mathews, who was visiting in Tucson yesterday at the time of the fire.

Lee Bates, an employe of the Mathews Co., said he returned to the company about 4:30 p.m. to pick up a small bed to take to a room he just rented on S. Campbell Ave.

Bates told Capt. Roberts that he saw the buildings as the fire was getting well under way and attempted to squelch the flames. He gave up after the heat became too intense.

A passing police patrolman turned in the alarm and Bates said another man, who was not identified, ran across the field to the burning buildings and told him that he had turned in an alarm also.

Jack Mathews said he came to the fire shortly after Bates when he tried to dial a number from his home phone and found the extension busy. He explained that it was on the same line with the telephone at the office on Campbell Ave. and he thought he might have left the extension off the hook. He said he saw the flames as he neared the business.

Firemen said the buildings were burned to the ground and a pick-up truck owned by the Caffrey Construction Co. also was ruined.

The fire was in the same general vicinity where police have investigated four explosions within the past week. Investigators said there appears to be no connection.

The buildings were located a block and a half east of KTUC radio station. The mysterious explosions have been set off on four different occasions in a vacant area west of the station.

Blaze Takes Command

It almost seemed as if the fire were fighting back at these firemen at Campbell Ave. and E. 17th St. last night. Firemen sprayed the building from three sides and the steam and smoke were so thick that one crew inadvertently sprayed through the building and hit the men above. The fire burned down four buildings, causing an estimated $12,500 damage. (Sheaffer photo)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1964

Fire Truck Bids Given Close Study

The apparent low bid of $31,455 by the Central Fire Truck Corp. of St. Louis, Mo., for a 1,250-gallon pumper fire truck is being examined for legal and technical compliance with bidding procedures.

The city attorney's office is looking over the bid to see if certain omissions would be grounds for declaring the bid not legitimate. Also Fire Chief John Freeman will go over the specifications to see that they comply with those set forth by the city.

Two other bids were also received for the pumper: Crown Coach Co. of Los Angeles with $33,133.32, and Thunderbird Sales Corp. of Phoenix for Seagrave Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, with $33,574.

Thunderbird submitted the only bid for a fire truck with a 100-foot ladder . . . $60,370.

These three bids appear to meet the legal requirements but will be reviewed by Freeman to see that they meet specifications, according to Sidney Wilson, city purchasing agent.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1964

Beyond The Call Of Duty

Mayor Lew Davis, center, congratulates two City Fire Department battalion chiefs for their volunteer work as first aid instructors for the Red Cross. Chief Fred Sprung (left) was given the Red Cross service medal for more than 600 volunteer hours in the past five years. Chief Robert Siegel received a certificate of appreciation for serving more than 300 hours in three years. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1964

Robert Freeman Dies At Age 69

Robert P. Freeman, former Tucson Fire Dept. captain and brother of fire Chief J. H. Freeman, died Wednesday at Chula Vista, Calif. He was 69.

He joined the Tucson Fire Dept. in 1920, after serving in Europe during World War I. He retired in 1947 and moved to Chula Vista.

Mr. Freeman first came to Tucson in 1914 and started a chicken ranch. He was an active American Legion member.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Chula Vista.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, and a son, Robert E., of Chula Vista; two brothers, J. H. Freeman of Tucson, and Ted Freeman of Phoenix; four sisters, Mrs. Sam C. Dougherty of Detroit, Mrs. Jesse James and Mrs. John E. McNab of Phoenix, and Mrs. R. O. Newman of Wilmington Beach, Calif.; his mother, Mrs. William F. Freeman of Phoenix, and one grandchild.

Tel. Co.

4-10-50	4-10-50	4-27-50	4-29-50
4-5-50	4-5-50	4-15-50	4-19-50
5-1-50	4-29-50	4-30-50	5-8-50
4-31-50	5-1-50	5-8-50	5-13-50
5-11-50	5-11-50	5-12-50	5-16-50

May
May

VOL. 122 NO. 219 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1963 TUCSON, A

On SP Near Stone Ave.

Anxious Hours Caused By Leaking Insecticide

City Firemen Dilute Dangerous Fluid

A deadly insecticide caused firemen some anxious hours yesterday when the concentrated fluid was discovered leaking from a boxcar in downtown Tucson.

A drum containing the chemical—which attacks the nervous system if inhaled and has been known to kill—sprung a leak at the Southern Pacific freight house near Stone Ave. underpass.

Firemen poured more than 8,500 gallons of water into the car to dilute the leaking fluid.

After a more than two-hour vigil by firemen the car was pulled from the loading dock at the freight house and taken to an isolated area as a precaution, according to Ralph A. Coltrin, assistant superintendent of the SP in Tucson.

"It could have been pretty bad but fortunately nobody was hurt," Coltrin said.

The leaking drum was discovered about 1:30 p.m. when the car was opened and a freight handler noticed fluid leaking from the floor.

Police and firemen rushed to the scene and while firemen doused the interior of the boxcar, police kept traffic away from the area.

Fire Capt. Homer Edds said in addition to the water used, firemen also sprayed more than 1,000 gallons of "wet water" into the car.

He said "wet water" is chemically-treated and has an accelerated soaking action.

The leaking drum contained parathion cyanimid in a highly concentrated form.

Dr. James Witt, of the University of Arizona entomology department, said the chemical is hazardous in its concentrated form, and in the past has caused death to farm workers who have failed to wash it off and seek aid.

The insecticide is commonly used in Arizona in a diluted form to spray cotton crops, Witt said. The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits the sale of parathion to homeowners because of its dangerous properties, he added.

Fire Chief John Freeman said that a similar incident involving parathion occurred recently in Los Angeles and 12 firemen were overcome from fumes but all recovered.

He added that three of his men, John Jacome, Oscar Baca and Tim Burns, were the only firemen who entered the car yesterday. He said they were being watched closely to see if they develop any of the symptoms caused by exposure to parathion.

"They were not sick and didn't show any signs that anything was wrong but we are going to watch them closely," he said.

Coltrin contacted the company which manufactures the insecticide in New Jersey and said a representative from the firm was being sent to Tucson to check and see what may have caused the drum to leak.

"We're going to watch it (the boxcar) closely and we have switched it to an isolated area but I think the danger is over now," Coltrin said. All of the fluid leaked out and the drum is now empty, he said.

He said the car was en route to Oakland, Calif., from New Jersey and was part of a train which had been switched onto a siding at the freight yard.

TUCSON TODAY

Theater: "Five Finger Exercise," UA production, 8:30 p.m., University Theater, Olive Road off Speedway, UA campus.

UA Art Gallery: Permanent Kress, Gallagher and Pfeiffer Collections, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., UA campus, Olive Road at Speedway.

Desert Museum: Living exhibits of more than 350 kinds of Arizona-Sonora animals and plants, 9 a.m. to sundown, Tucson Mountain Park.

Ariz. Pioneers' Historical Society: Exhibits of "Stirrups of the Southwest, 1540-1900," "Knives of the Frontier," from the James Serven collection and a display of U.S. Cavalry uniforms, 1856-88, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 949 E. 2nd St.

Ariz. State Museum: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 3rd St. entrance, UA campus.

Mineralogy Museum: 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Geology Bldg., North Drive, UA campus.

Quake Halts Weddings

SKOPJE, Yugoslavia, Aug. 6 (AP)—The town council here has refused to perform marriages because it lacks a decent district in which to hold the wedding ceremonies, officials report. The council has been conducting its open air offices since an earthquake destroyed the city last month.

New Administrator Gets Sunnyside Post

Gerald Troester, 34, of York, Neb., begins work today as assistant superintendent of Sunnyside Schools.

Troester is filling a position newly created by the Sunnyside Board of Education. He will assist John K. Herrera, superintendent. His salary, budgeted, is $11,500 a year.

Potentially Lethal Chemical Controlled

Firemen poured gallons of water into and around a Southern Pacific boxcar which yesterday was the scene of a potentially dangerous situation when a 55-gallon drum of highly-concentrated lethal insecticide sprung a leak at the SP freight house. Fireman H. S. Ray mans one of the many hoses used to soak the area of the leaking fluid. Firemen and police stood guard at the scene for more than two hours yesterday afternoon. No one was hurt. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

10-31-50 10-31-50 11-3-50 11-8-50
11-3-50 11-3-50 1-31-51
11-10-50 11-10-50 11-11-50 11-13-50
11-13-50 11-13-50 11-13-50 11-15-50
11-15-50 11-15-50 11-15-50 11-20-50
1-31-51

11-25-50 11-25-50 11-26-50 11-27-50

Guess What? He Didn't Want To Be A Fireman

By JAY HALL

Howard M. Danielson was one of those rare young boys who simply didn't want to be a fireman.

So what is he now? A 23-year veteran of the Tucson Fire Department, a battalion chief and head of the city's fire prevention bureau.

Danielson wanted to be a doctor. As it turned out, he wasn't able to go to college. He spent the years from the time he left Tucson High School until he joined the fire department in such jobs as carpenter's helper, painter and similar work.

He became a fireman after he had taken examinations for both police and fire department employment, and "the fireman's job came through first."

But what's he saying now?

"I'm 53 and am eligible to retire at 57. But if I stay healthy, I'm not going to. I'm going to stay on until I'm 60 when the regulations say I'll have to retire."

His employment in 1940 is now a historical milestone in one sense.

Until that time the city had no fire prevention bureau. The late J. C. Sievert, then fire chief, decided it was time to get one. He hired Danielson with the idea of getting one started. Establishing it was a gradual process taking a few years and Danielson was the whole fire prevention bureau until 1948. Now he has six assistants.

The work keeps the whole bureau busy. Danielson and his men try to go to the scene of every fire with more than $200 damage, to all fires where the cause isn't known and, particularly, to every fire where arson is suspected.

Additionally, the bureau attempts to inspect every commercial establishment for fire hazard once a year. But the size of the staff is so inadequate, Danielson said, that "we can only get around to about 42 per cent of them annually. And I think we ought to inspect some businesses which are particularly fire hazard potentials — like lumberyards, theaters and bulk oil plants — four times a year."

—Citizen Photo

HOWARD M. DANIELSON

Nationally, about every fifth fire is reportedly the result of arson. Danielson is happy that, although the percentage is elusive, the arson rate isn't nearly that high in Tucson.

When arson is evident or suspected his men work with a policeman assigned full time to arson investigations and call in a special investigator from the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

The face of the arsonist is sometimes that of the pyromaniac, or the fraud perpetrator, or the spiteful and in one case memorable to Danielson the face of a 12-year-old boy "who had real nice parents."

Although arson is not suspected, Danielson's team has never been busier than with the recent explosion of Supreme Cleaners at Grant Road and Stone Ave. which killed seven persons. The answer to the cause, if any is ever found, now lies in analyzing information and results of tests.

Every fireman has an image of his "biggest fire" and Danielson is no exception. Although there have been others in which the dollar loss was greater, Danielson's most memorable goes back to the $138,000 blaze in 1941 at the two-story Woolworth's, then on the south side of Congress just west of Grunewald & Adams, 60 E. Congress.

"Everything, including the roof and all the stock, ended up in the basement," he recalls.

Besides fire investigations and inspections for hazards, his team conducts school fire drills, helps set up disaster plans at hospitals and demonstrations and talks to all sorts of groups.

Danielson lives at 2365 N. Vine Ave. Born in Boone, Iowa, he came to Tucson when he was 12.

He talks about firemen being underpaid—but with the air of one who recognizes that a single drop of vinegar isn't enough to sour a whole gallon of milk.

"I think I've had a real good life," he said.

Arizona Album

OLD MISSIONS AND CHURCHES

Edited By Albert R. Buehman

SOUTH SIXTH, WITH METHODIST CHURCH, WILLARD HOTEL

In this interesting old-time photo you are looking north at the east side of South Sixth Avenue — just south of where it crosses Broadway. The fire department is just taking off to answer a call. Over the heads of the firemen and the horses may be seen the old First Methodist Church and to the south of it the old Willard Hotel. Both the church and the hotel were landmarks for a good many years.

This was the second location for the church, it having originally been built in 1881 just off North Stone Avenue on Pennington Street on property now occupied by the Pioneer Hotel. Some 36 years ago the church relocated at North Park Avenue and East Fourth Street, adjacent to the University of Arizona.

This photo was taken in 1910 and is reprinted by courtesy of Dr. W. R. Manning.

Fire Hydrant Top Tells A Lot

By TONY PAYTON

Did you ever notice the fire hydrant on your corner? What color is it?

Silver, you say?

Take a good look at it the next time you're out, and pay particular attention to the top of it. In case you didn't know, they come in three colors — red, orange and green.

The Tucson Fire Department says the color on top tells how high the pressure is. If the hydrant near your home is green, then you're in good shape. Green-topped hydrants turn out more than 1,000 gallons of water per minute, and the top-notch ones go as high as 3,000.

Orange toppers are the fair to middling ones that boost 500 to 1,000 gallons a minute. This is pretty good, but just hope they don't come around and paint it red next month.

Hydrants with red tops are good for only 500 gallons a minute, and some for less than that.

Rest assured that not too many red ones are around. Fire Department officials say only 10 per cent are in this category, while 30 per cent are orange and 60 per cent are green. There are 3,200 hydrants.

Fire Chief Herb Russell, head of the engineering and mapping division of the department, says there are three main reasons for the difference in water pressure. First, there is the size of the water main — whether it is 10-inch or 20-inch or even larger. Second, there is the distance from the source of water, sometimes 2 to 3 miles. Third, there is the type of gridding, or how many water users there are on one line.

You'll be happy to know that firemen come around once a year with gauge with wrench in hand to check each hydrant in the city. They check the amount of pressure and determine how many gallons flow per minute by seeing how far a stream of water shoots across the street in the air.

Russell says hydrants are located at least every 450 feet, an average city block, from any house in town. In downtown, high-value areas, they are closer usually about every 300 feet apart.

The Fire Department says it is two minutes from any place in Tucson. The department says even remote areas inside the city limits are just four minutes away.

With 12 stations throughout the city, with 18 trucks ready around the clock, the only reason it could take a little longer than four minutes is if the station in your area has been called out on another fire and a truck must come from a more distant station.

Fire underwriters recommend that stations be no more than 3 miles away in residential areas, and 1½ miles from downtown areas. According to Russell, Tucson conforms to this recommendation.

Chief Howard Danielson, head of the Fire Prevention Bureau, said trucks responded to 4,274 calls last year, and this year the total will be more.

Of course, not all of the calls last year turned out to be fires. Danielson said only 1,817 required water for a blaze. The other 2,457 included rescue runs, gas leaks, false alarms and other emergencies.

While most fires occur between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m., the peak time of day is 4 to 5 p.m., Danielson said. But it doesn't make any difference which day of the week it is. "Over the long run we average about the same number of calls on Monday or Tuesday as any other day of the week," he said.

GOOD MORNING
Tip to married men: To get out of an argument with your wife, just listen.

The Arizona Daily Star
★ An Independent NEWSpaper Printing The News Impartially ★

Second NEWS SECTION

VOL. 123 NO. 163 TUCSON, ARIZONA, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1964 SECTION B PAGE ONE

A Real Green Gusher

This green-topped hydrant at Hawthorne St. and Anderson Blvd. discharges water at more than 1,000 gallons a minute as firemen check its output. From left to right are Dennis Barta, Bob Mather and Frank Huber. After the pressure is checked, the hydrant is painted special reflective paint. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

7/52
7/52
7/52
8/19/52
8/11/52
9/52
9/52
9/52

St. Mary's Nurses Had Little Leisure, Still Shopped For Silk

GRADUATES OF FIRST CLASS

Mrs. Elton Barnes (right) poses with a classmate on the grounds of St. Mary's Hospital. The students wear the school uniform—a blue and white striped dress with white apron, collar and cap. Originally light blue, the stripes were later changed to dark blue.

By MARY GERDAN

"Student nurses didn't have much time for recreation in those days," recalls Mrs. Elton Barnes, a member of the first graduating class of St. Mary's School of Nursing.

"We had only five graduates in 1918. The girls came but they didn't stay. It was a very hard life."

Mrs. Barnes, the former Stella Roof, was 22, "a most proper age," when she enrolled in St. Mary's first nursing class in October, 1915. Three years later, on May 30, 1918, she received her graduation certificate.

Students paid no tuition at that time and received eight dollars a month which was used to pay for their books and laundry.

The girls were required to live in the two-story Nurses' Home. Two girls shared a room which contained two beds, two dressers with wash basins, and two closets. The bathrooms were down the hall. There also was a Recreation Room where the students could receive gentlemen callers.

Students were strictly supervised. "We had to have permission from the superintendent to leave the hospital and had to return by 10 p.m."

Although they had little leisure, the girls did manage an occasional shopping trip to town. They came in a Model T jitney operated by a man and his wife. "I don't remember their name." The fare was 10 or 15 cents.

"We shopped for silk taffeta or foulard street dresses," she recalls. "Silk was proper attire for street wear."

At the hospital, the students wore uniforms: blue-striped ankle length dresses with starched buster brown collars, long white aprons and white caps. Shoes were of canvas and had rubber heels. "We had 12 aprons and six dresses."

When Mrs. Barnes enrolled in the school of nursing Sister Francis de Sales was its director, and the hospital had only 100 patients.

In addition to the regular hospital, St. Mary's housed a Southern Pacific ward and, in the basement, the county hospital. The tuberculosis sanitarium was in a separate building.

"We did bedside nursing, took temperatures, gave baths, etc. — things nurses aides do today. Later, we administered medications and worked in surgery."

"I don't recall anyone dying from lack of sanitary conditions. Everything was spotless. One of our duties was to make bandages and surgical dressings and sterilize them in the autoclave.

"We also washed the operating room floor with a disinfectant."

The students worked at the hospital, studied, and at night attended doctors' lectures. Their courses included anatomy and physiology, obstetrics, dietetics and "materia medica" for nurses (a study of substances used in treating the sick: drugs, serums, solutions of bacteria or extracts of organs.)

"We didn't keep track of extra hours; we didn't have weekends free, either." Students attended class 50 weeks of the year, with only a two-week vacation.

Today, Mrs. Barnes, now the mother of two grown children, lives with her husband at 4102 Camino de la Colina.

Saturday, May 2, she will be among honored guests at St. Mary's golden anniversary celebration.

The Most Rev. Francis J. Green, Bishop of Tucson, will celebrate a pontifical high mass at 11 a.m. at San Agustin Cathedral and later in the day, a tea is planned from 1 to 4 p.m. on the hospital grounds. Student nurses will be tea hostesses. At 4 p.m. the Saipointe High School Glee Club will present a musical program.

School Of Nursing Marks 50 Years

On Saturday, May 2, St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing celebrates its 50th anniversary.

It was opened on Dec. 1, 1914 by a group of Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and was the first school of its kind in the area.

Today the nursing program consists of a three-year diploma program with one class admitted each September.

Since its establishment in 1914 the school has turned out more than 750 graduates. Graduation ceremonies for the 18 members of the 1964 class are scheduled for May 26.

EARLY CLASS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING

oung women enrolled in St. Mary's School of Nursing when it opened 50 years mong them was Tucsonian Mrs. Elton Barnes, (third from left) who was then Stella Roof. The picture was taken in front of St. Mary's Hospital.

NURSES' HOME AT ST. MARY'S

Students in the school of nursing lived at the Nurses' Home during their three years of study. Although strictly supervised, the girls were allowed gentlemen callers in the Recreation Room of the home. Sometimes they attended movies at the Broadway or Opera House.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thank you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Retired Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star,* The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen,* for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation