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State of Iowa
1942

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

State Fire Marshal

FOR THE YEAR

1941

JOHN W. STROHM
State Fire Marshal

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
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Des Moines

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Des Moines, Iowa, January 31, 1942

HON. GEO. A. WILSON, **Governor of Iowa,**

Des Moines, Iowa

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of law, I have the honor to submit the Thirty-first Annual Report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1941, and ending December 31, 1941, both dates inclusive.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM, **State Fire Marshal**

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PROCLAMATION

The strain put upon humanity by the overturn of the orderly processes of life makes it imperative that we of Iowa, as well as all others, should seek to conserve and protect all our resources and all our substance. In every possible way we must stop the leaks where losses occur. One of the greatest of these is the fire hazard through which is opened the door to immense loss of material things.

The records of the state show a fire loss of \$1,957,083 for the first six months of the current year and of this loss there was \$842,642 on farm and town dwellings. To a large extent this is needless waste and can be prevented. It is our duty to do all we can to lessen the fire hazard.

Therefore, I, Geo. A. Wilson, Governor, hereby proclaim the week of October 5 to 11, 1941, as

FIRE PROTECTION WEEK

It is my earnest wish that all Iowa people give serious attention to the danger of fire and to make of the week one truly helpful in lessening the fire loss of Iowa. Let there be general cooperation with our Iowa firemen who devote their lives to their work, saving life and property from the ravages of fire.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Iowa. Done at Des Moines, this 24th day of September, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One, of the State of Iowa, the Ninety-Fifth, and of the Independence of the United States the One Hundred and Sixty-Sixth.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

GEO. A. WILSON

(SEAL)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

Appointed by the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Term, Four Years, Expires July 1, 1943

| Office | Name | Legal Residence | County |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Fire Marshal | John W. Strohm | Clinton | Clinton |
| Assistant | A. Lubberden | Pella | Marion |
| Assistant | C. W. Cornell | Bedford | Taylor |
| Assistant | Zack T. Cook | Des Moines | Polk |
| Secretary | Olive R. Sly | Boone | Boone |

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Someone may ask, "Does Fire Prevention Pay?"
Our answer is "Yes."

The fire record for 1941 shows that there were 802 less fires reported, than in 1940, and the fire loss reduced from \$4,449,-221 for 1940, to \$3,455,043 for 1941.

The number of town dwelling fires was reduced from 2,051 with a property loss of \$554,721 for 1940, to 1,745 fires and a property loss of \$491,939 for 1941.

Sparks from chimney lead in the cause of fires, 792 fires reported, and Smoker's Carelessness and fires classified as "Unknown" follow with 437 fires each. Defective flues follow with 228 fires.

We are giving credit for the reduction in Iowa's fire loss to the Fire Departments of Iowa, and all others interested in Fire Prevention. Reports of fire prevention programs in schools and civic organizations were received throughout the year, with special fire prevention programs put on during Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, 1941.

Fire Prevention education is part of our Iowa school program, children carry fire prevention messages into Iowa homes and parents and children take an active interest in the elimination of fire hazards from their homes.

4-H Club members and other farm organizations are coming to the aid of Iowa's Fire Prevention program, by helping to reduce our farm fire loss.

Farm fire fighting equipment in a large number of Iowa communities is responsible for a large portion of the reduction of rural fire loss for 1941.

Simple fire protection measures can be taken on every farm.

All fires are small at the start and can often be prevented from spreading by the use of fire extinguishers; conveniently located boxes of sand, barrels filled with water, or cisterns, all help in extinguishing fires.

Iowa farmers cannot afford the annual needless waste of farm property.

Iowa's farm property loss amounted to approximately \$1,-314,022 for 1941.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 1941

Fifteen thousand Fire Prevention posters were sent out by the State Fire Marshal's office, fire prevention talks were made in schools, civic and social organizations, P. T. A. meetings, church groups and other Fire Prevention organizations.

All Iowa seemed to have a special interest in Fire Prevention Week activities—the radio and the press gave generously of their time and space for Fire Prevention talks while the Fire Departments throughout Iowa were active in making home inspections, as well as inspections of schools, public buildings, and business buildings.

Reports of Fire Prevention Week programs were sent to this office and referred to the National Board of Fire Underwriters to be entered in the annual contest covering Fire Prevention Week activities throughout the United States of America.

Fire Prevention HAS paid throughout 1941, now, looking ahead to 1942, let us remember to

Fight Fire With Fire Prevention.

Fire Prevention Is Our Patriotic Duty.

Fire Defense Aids National Defense.

TO FIRE CHIEFS, MAYORS AND TOWNSHIP CLERKS:

For the benefit of those Fire Chiefs, Mayors and Township Clerks, newly appointed or elected, we call attention to Chapter 80, Sections 1624, 1625, 1626 and 1627, Code, Iowa, 1939, providing that all fires be reported to this office within one week of the occurrence of the fire, giving the value of the building, value of contents, **amount** of damage to building, **amount** of damage to contents, insurance carried and cause of fire.

Fire report blanks are furnished by this office upon request.

ALL questions in the report must be answered fully so that our records will be complete.

Fire Chiefs are asked **NOT** to report fires that occur **OUTSIDE** of the corporate limits of their city or town. Rural or country fires must be reported by the township clerk for the township in which the fire occurs.

It helps this office in keeping the records up to date if all

reports are sent in promptly, and we will appreciate your continued cooperation in this matter.

IOWA FIREMEN

ALL Iowa firemen are faced with more responsibility today than ever before. New fire hazards to watch, guarding against malicious damage and the general prevention of fires by more rigid inspections.

The National Fire Protection Association and the National Board of Fire Underwriters are doing everything within their power to furnish material that will be helpful in handling incendiary or malicious fires.

Many of our small factories are working at high speed on defense orders; these must be filled in record time and there is no time to lose on account of fire, therefore, the firemen of Iowa will be called upon to make more frequent inspections, assist in organizing fire brigades in factories and help in the instruction of workers in organizing auxiliary firemen.

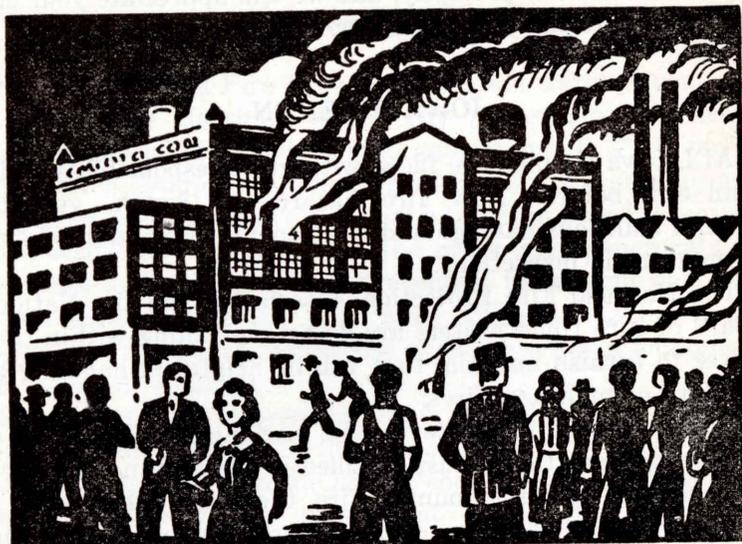
Property owners will find Iowa firemen willing and ready to inspect their property for fire hazards, suggest methods for the elimination of such hazards, and make suggestions for adequate fire protection and safety of employees.

FIRE PREVENTION FOR DEFENSE

Because defense needs are so largely of an economic character, the importance of an adequate fire prevention program to protect and conserve our resources is evident.

When communities insist upon having proper protection their security and the security of the Nation is strengthened. Defense orders no doubt will tax to capacity an increasing number of industries and any curtailment of production, caused by fire, slows down the defense program. Particularly at a time like this, vigorous activities should be undertaken to guard against careless fires and every precaution should be taken to prevent fires of an incendiary origin.

A bulletin sent out by the Insurance Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States points out that



FIRE — DESTROYER OF INDUSTRY

PRODUCTION, profits and jobs cease when fire attacks an industry — national defense suffers.

Now is the time to correct all fire dangers before they cause trouble. Inspections will bring them to light.

On request we will gladly furnish a self-inspection blank to guide you.

flammable and explosive products add to the danger. The bulletin says:

“The cause of most ‘accidental’ fires is carelessness. The possibility of incendiarism should always be kept in mind.”

National fire loss, always a problem to the nation, becomes increasingly so now and it is the patriotic duty of every citizen to cooperate in its elimination.

Now is the time to call this duty to the attention of the public, and the voluntary work that is being done throughout the country to prevent fires is a definite instance of American democracy in action.

FIRE DEFENSE IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Our Government is taking every precaution to protect the great defense plants that have been constructed, and those now under construction against saboteurs and others who would destroy our defense industries.

Industry will do well to organize fire departments among their workers, working with the local fire departments and arrange to have a fire brigade on duty at all times.

FARM FIRE PROBLEM

The property of the farmer and the safety of his family rest to an important extent upon dependable fire control.

Some progress has been made in controlling farm fires, however, there remains much to be done in the development of efficient systems of rural fire prevention. This is evident from the fact that American farm fires annually take a toll of some 3,500 lives, cause property loss of approximately \$100,000,000 and in addition destroy large quantities of valuable live stock.

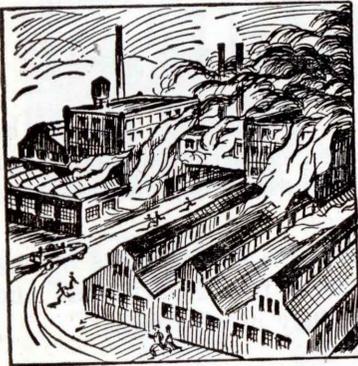
Naturally such waste impedes the full development of agricultural resources.

We are counting on the farm boys and girls, as well as their fathers and mothers, to make it their job to check up and see to it that dangerous fire hazards in their homes are discovered and removed.

These hazards are usually easy to discover and not difficult to correct. Yet, the saving in life and property values for only modest fire prevention efforts may be tremendous.

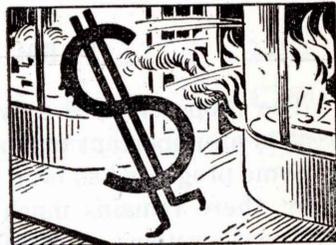
Farmers, as a class, have reason to give particular attention to the reduction of fire hazards and the adoption of protective measures. Their problems offer difficulties not encountered in population centers.

SAFEGUARD DOLLARS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE



Great Fires Were Small Fires First

ALMOST every outbreak of fire could be confined near the place of origin if the building were constructed properly and protective devices installed. Consult your fire chief and building code for information on this subject.



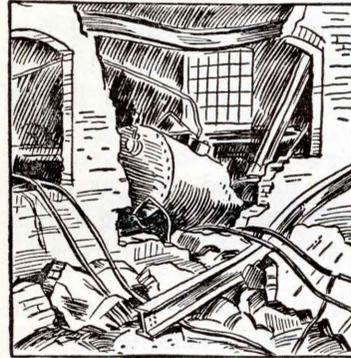
CASH RUNS OUT WHEN FIRE ENTERS!

OTHER stores get your customers if fire closes your store.

Eliminating fire dangers is the patriotic way of safeguarding dollars vital to national defense. Inspect your premises today!

On request we will gladly furnish a self-inspection blank to guide you.

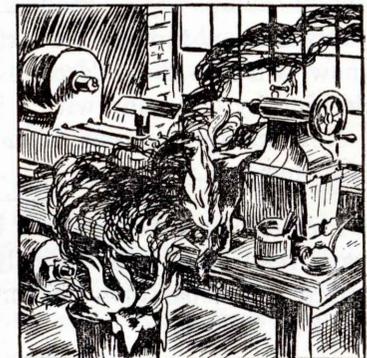
SAFEGUARD DOLLARS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE



Carelessness,
Lack of Information } Bring
Explosions

WHEN the possible causes of explosions are understood and employees are trained to be careful, safety to life and property result. It is to your advantage to undertake research along this line and set up rules for the guidance of workmen.

SAFEGUARD DOLLARS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE



Fire Breeds in Oily Waste

CHEMICAL action causes heat and flames when oily waste is left in a pile. For safety's sake put all such waste material into a metal container that closes tightly.

FIRE FACTS

One carelessly discarded match or cigarette may start a fire that destroys your home. See that the "smokes" are disposed of safely. Keep matches away from children.

Wiring should be kept in safe condition. Replace frayed cords. Have an electrician make needed repairs. Always disconnect the electric iron when leaving the room. Use only standard fuse plugs.

Inspect all stoves, heaters, smokepipes and chimneys, clean them and make any needed repairs. Remove or protect any wood or combustible material exposed to heat.

Always keep basements, attics, and closets clean and free from rubbish and unnecessary combustible material. Use only metal ash and trash barrels. Burn rubbish in a safe place.

Remember that gasoline should be handled with as much care as DYNAMITE—use only non-burnable cleaning fluids. Keep oil stoves, burners and lamps clean and in good repair.

Organize a family fire drill so that if fire comes all will know what to do. Teach everyone how to smother fire in clothing by wrapping with a blanket or rug.

New building or repairs should be with fire resistive materials wherever possible.

Fire extinguishers, water buckets or garden hose kept always ready and used quickly may be worth more than the entire fire department ten minutes later. Equip your home for fire fighting.

Inspect your home for fire hazards at regular intervals. If you find any dangerous condition correct it IMMEDIATELY. If in doubt consult your FIRE DEPARTMENT and follow their advice.

Run to the fire alarm box if you discover fire. Know where it is and how to use it, also know how to send an alarm by telephone if there are no fire alarm boxes nearby.

Enlist everyone in the fight on fire. Everyone pays the fire tax. Any family may suffer loss of fire or personal injury by fire. Every fire can be prevented if everyone will do his part.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills in schools are more important than ever before. Iowa's children must be prepared to take care of themselves in an emergency, and there is no better time to give them this training than when they are in school.

Effective and orderly fire drills will help children to overcome fear and avoid panic when they are required to meet an emergency.

Section 1651, Code, Iowa, 1939, provides:

1651. FIRE DRILLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—EXITS UNLOCKED. "It shall be the duty of the state fire marshal and his designated subordinate to require teachers of public and private schools, in all buildings of more than one story, to have at least one fire drill each month, and to require all teachers of such schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during school hours."

This office has prepared a pamphlet on fire drill suggestions which will be sent to any school free upon request.

Fire drills should not stop in schools. It is equally important to hold fire drills in factories and other industrial plants to familiarize employees with exits and fire escapes.

INSPECTIONS

Inspections of fire hazards are made by the State Fire Marshal's office at the request of fire chiefs or other local officials.

304 inspections were made in 65 counties in 1941, including fire hazards, fire escapes and compressed gas installations, and orders issued have been complied with in nearly every case.

Inspection and removal of fire hazards play an important part in Fire Prevention.

A clean place seldom burns.

IOWA STATE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Iowa State Fire Prevention Association, a non-profit organization working for the reduction of fire loss in Iowa, reports, as follows:

For the year 1941

| Town | Number of Risks | Number Defective | Recommendations | Addresses | People Addressed |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Fort Dodge | 293 | 224 | 732 | 7 | 2754 |
| Keokuk | 294 | 217 | 745 | 4 | 1625 |
| Mason City | 355 | 280 | 849 | 5 | 2635 |
| Sac City | 99 | 93 | 391 | 1 | 865 |
| Shenandoah | 182 | 147 | 479 | 3 | 1530 |
| | | | | 1 play at sch'l | |
| | | | | 5 Radio | |
| | | | | 3 | |
| | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | Radio | |

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK ADDRESSES

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|
| Number of addresses to school children | 18 | |
| Number of children addressed | | 2680 |
| Number of addresses to adults | 10 | |
| Number of adults addressed | | 1110 |
| Number of radio addresses from various state Stations .. | 13 | |
| Radio addresses made by the State Fire Marshal on Des Moines stations | 3 | |

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Now more than ever before is there a need for volunteer firemen to be on the alert, and we must all take advantage of every opportunity we have to learn as much as we can about fire fighting.

We not only have the common causes of fire to fight today, but in the present emergency we may be called on to fight fires of different kind.

Helpful information and suggestions on all phases of fire fighting are passed on to the volunteer firemen of Iowa and the nation through the Volunteer Firemen's Section of the National Fire Protection Association, and if your department is not now a member of this organization it would be well to write for full particulars, addressing your inquiry to the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Massachusetts, or to the office of the State Fire Marshal, Des Moines, Iowa.

ARSON INVESTIGATORS

There were 87 investigations in 54 counties in 1941, some of which are submitted for your information.

CERRO GORDO COUNTY: An investigation was made of a dwelling house fire in Cerro Gordo County. The occupant entered a plea of guilty on a charge of "Attempt to defraud the insurance Company" and was sentenced to five years in the State Penitentiary in Fort Madison.

CRAWFORD COUNTY: An investigation was made of a beer tavern fire in Crawford, and in view of the evidence obtained, this case is pending.

FREMONT COUNTY: On January 22, 1941, a fire occurred in a public garage in Fremont County. The owner of the garage was arrested, indicted by the County Grand Jury, tried in the District Court and convicted of Arson. He was sentenced to the state penitentiary at Fort Madison for a term of ten years and the case was appealed to the State Supreme Court where it is now pending.

HENRY COUNTY: On November 21, 1940, a fire occurred in an unoccupied dwelling house in Henry County. Assisted by Henry County officials this office made an investigation of the fire and as a result the owner was arrested.

In March 1941, the owner was tried for Arson, convicted and sentenced to twenty years in the state penitentiary at Fort Madison.

JOHNSON COUNTY: A series of fires occurring in Johnson County were investigated by this Department and two Johnson County girls admitted starting these fires. This case is pending.

KEOKUK COUNTY: An investigation was made of a farm dwelling fire that occurred in Keokuk County. The occupants of this dwelling pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted arson and were sentenced and paroled to the County Sheriff.

KEOKUK COUNTY: An investigation was made of a fire in a school house in Keokuk County. This fire was set by a transient who was picked up and after questioning, admitted that he started the fire. He plead guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in the State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa.

MONONA COUNTY: Investigation was made of a fire in a building occupied as a cafe and beer tavern in Monona County. The operator of the cafe and beer tavern admitted setting the fire to collect insurance. Defendant plead guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in the Men's Reformatory at Anamosa, Iowa.

POLK COUNTY: A young man, 18 years of age, maliciously started a grass fire in the residential district in Des Moines. After making an investigation of the case this

young man was apprehended and the case referred to the proper authorities.

POLK COUNTY: For the past several years an arson ring operating in Des Moines was responsible for approximately thirty dwelling house fires. In 1941 two members of this gang were convicted and the arson ring broken.

SHELBY COUNTY: An investigation was made of a dwelling house fire in Shelby County, and in view of the evidence obtained, this case is still pending.

TAMA COUNTY: An investigation was made of a dwelling house fire in Tama County. The suspect was arrested but failed to appear for the trial set for October 20, 1941. Suspect was later surrendered by the bondsman to the Sheriff and the case is pending.

WOODBURY COUNTY: On January 2, 1941, a fire and explosion occurred in a dwelling house in Sioux City, Iowa. Assisted by County and City authorities this office made an investigation and the findings resulted in the arrest and conviction of the owner and occupant who was sentenced to the State penitentiary at Fort Madison for a term of two years.

LOSS OF LIFE BY FIRE

No one knows what the exact cost of fire is with regard to human life. However, a very conservative figure reveals to us that since the first World War, fire in the United States has killed over twice as many people as were represented by the battle mortality of the American Expeditionary forces.

PROPERTY LOSS

Economically the problem is serious. Fire not only destroys property that often is never replaced, but it throws people out of employment and the cost of every fire falls upon each member of the community for a portion of the cost. Therefore, it is true that **EVERY FIRE IS YOUR FIRE.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT EFFORT

One of the fundamental factors in the success of Fire Prevention is the work of the Fire Departments and firemen in Iowa. In cooperation with city authorities a number of Iowa Fire Departments are promoting a home inspection campaign of immeasurable aid in reducing dwelling house fires. Regular inspections of public buildings and business structures have unquestionably obtained beneficial results for the community, and similar results are to be derived from the home inspection campaign.

Fire Prevention demonstrations and talks before school children, and adult groups, are given by the Fire Departments, and others interested in Fire Prevention, thereby contributing to the public's understanding of fire prevention.

Today fire fighting is a profession. Physical fitness and the ability to carry out the manual work involved in extinguishing a fire are still essentials of the service, but equal emphasis is given to obtaining knowledge of fires, their extinction and prevention, from the theoretical standpoint.

Schools of training for firemen as part of the vocational educational program are now general throughout the country.

Fire department operations have been benefited by the almost general adoption of salvage operations, the development and use of gas masks, oxygen, breathing apparatus, special material for oil fires, and nozzles for powerful streams.

The holocaust now raging in Europe is making the importance of fire departments more evident. The use of incendiary bombs in war has developed a series of new problems for fire fighters and thorough study will have to be made of these problems to provide adequate measures for defense. Modern warfare makes firemen just about as important as soldiers in checking the offensive of the enemy.

ANNUAL FIRE SCHOOL

The annual Fire School, sponsored by the Iowa State College, is under the able supervision and direction of Mr. Lindon J. Murphy of the Engineering Extension Service, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

One hundred and twenty-one Iowa cities and towns were represented by 443 firemen attending the Annual Fire School in Ames, Iowa, in May 1941.

The 1942 Fire School will be held in Ames, May 19-20-21 and 22.

DISTRICT FIRE SCHOOLS

831 firemen from 153 towns and cities attended the Fall District Fire Schools held in Akron, Milford, Clarion, Elkader, State Center, Tipton, Council Bluffs, Mount Pleasant, Osceola, and Audubon.

PREPAREDNESS

To be prepared to do our part in National Defense we must be prepared to meet any fire emergency that may arise. It is our patriotic duty to prevent fires from starting and to quickly and effectively extinguish them when they do start.

Firemen must be thoroughly familiar with the fire hazards in their own community, make thorough inspections, and cause fire hazards to be removed.

Fire equipment must be given the best possible care to protect and keep it in good working condition, ready for any emergency.

Fire hose, ladders, fire tools, and other items essential to effective fire fighting must be protected by careful handling and good care.

Organize your fire department and hold regular meetings for the purpose of keeping informed on improved fire fighting methods.

Information on Fireman Training can be secured by writing to Lindon J. Murphy, Director, Iowa Fire Schools, Engineering Extension Service, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS

The national fire loss for the United States for 1940, amounted to \$290,000,000, or \$2.21 per capita.

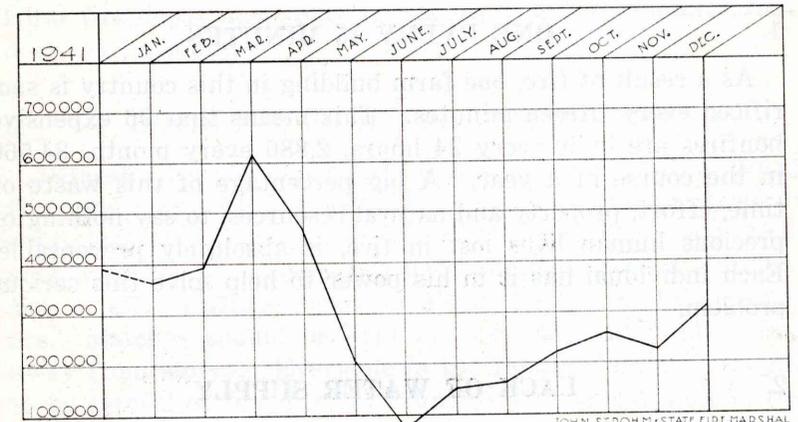
IOWA'S PER CAPITA FIRE LOSS

| Year | Fire Loss | Per Capita |
|------|-------------|------------|
| 1939 | \$4,745,909 | \$1.87 |
| 1940 | 4,449,221 | 1.75 |
| 1941 | 3,455,043 | 1.43 |

IOWA'S FIRE LOSS

(Compiled by Months)

| Month | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| January | \$ 361,463 | \$ 612,782 | \$ 357,690 |
| February | 700,392 | 512,382 | 398,853 |
| March | 388,877 | 516,999 | 615,546 |
| April | 450,411 | 438,048 | 442,068 |
| May | 298,258 | 211,230 | 211,965 |
| June | 313,588 | 220,681 | 73,782 |
| July | 343,695 | 392,640 | 158,757 |
| August | 214,636 | 389,593 | 165,270 |
| September | 384,744 | 228,768 | 217,146 |
| October | 429,750 | 356,922 | 265,704 |
| November | 470,149 | 168,620 | 228,137 |
| December | 389,946 | 390,556 | 319,670 |
| | \$ 4,745,909 | \$ 4,449,221 | \$ 3,455,043 |



This graph, compiled by the State Fire Marshal's office, shows the monthly fire loss in Iowa for 1941.

FIRE LOSS IN LARGER CITIES

| City | 1940 | 1941 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Ames | \$ 18,623 | \$ 54,482 |
| Boone | 13,078 | 31,354 |
| Burlington | 53,801 | 19,479* |
| Cedar Rapids | 65,552 | 27,323 |
| Clinton | 18,175 | 24,010 |
| Council Bluffs | 66,454 | 32,343 |
| Davenport | 212,950 | 130,821 |
| Des Moines | 285,327 | 252,371 |
| Dubuque | 22,293 | 26,616 |
| Fort Dodge | 31,372 | 42,140 |
| Fort Madison | 18,900 | 14,973 |
| Iowa City | 48,306 | 39,089 |
| Keokuk | 17,451 | 57,229 |
| Marshalltown | 73,967 | 11,313 |
| Mason City | 43,405* | 7,227* |
| Muscatine | 204,182 | 68,243 |
| Oskaloosa | 4,850 | 21,442 |
| Ottumwa | 130,738 | 134,191 |
| Sioux City | 152,176 | 48,761 |
| Waterloo | 121,622 | 73,095 |

*The fire loss for Mason City, Iowa, was incomplete at the time the books were closed for 1940, and also for Burlington and Mason City for 1941.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. ONE EVERY 15 MINUTES

As a result of fire, one farm building in this country is sacrificed every fifteen minutes. This means that 96 expensive bonfires are built every 24 hours, 2,880 every month, 34,560 in the course of a year. A big percentage of this waste of time, effort, property and natural resources, to say nothing of precious human lives lost in fire, is absolutely preventable. Each individual has it in his power to help solve this serious problem.

2. LACK OF WATER SUPPLY

Investigations made by those interested in rural fire protection show a large percentage of farms that are practically without protection from the standpoint of water supply. No fire department, bucket brigade, hand pump or anything else can cope with fire unless there is water. This is one feature

of fire protection that demands attention on the part of any rural property owner who is really concerned about protecting his family and property against the dangers and losses caused by fire.

3. YOUR FIRE TAX

If the farmers of this country were assessed for the amount of the annual fire losses on farms, each farmer would have a yearly fire tax of about SIXTEEN DOLLARS. This loss is one of the most serious drains upon the agricultural wealth of the country.

4. FEW DOLLARS SAVE THOUSANDS

A community fire apparatus, serving farmers in any particular neighborhood, will save thousands of dollars for every dollar invested.

5. ASK THOSE WHO KNOW

Most farmers living in districts unprotected by rural fire departments are probably acquainted with persons living in protected districts. It is suggested that such unprotected farmers get in touch with someone who can tell them how a rural fire department may be set up in any community that does not have one.

6. HINTS FOR HOME FIRE PREVENTION

Deposits of waste paper and trash of all kinds help to spread fire, interfere with the work of firemen, and cause spontaneous ignition. Dust cloths, mops, oils, polishes, and rags should be kept in closets which do not permit ready circulation of air. Dustless mops should be kept in metal containers. Matches should be kept out of reach of children and away from stoves. Everyone in the family should be taught to be careful of fire, how to eliminate fire causes, how to extinguish burning clothing. And by all means a suitable fire extinguisher, properly charged, should be kept in a convenient place.

7. DANGER IN OVER-HEATED PIPES

The smoke pipe from a stove or furnace should never run within twelve inches of a wooden partition or wall or ceiling made of wooden lath and plaster. If set closer, it may ignite woodwork when very hot. It should enter the chimney directly, if possible, but if it must pass through a wall, it should be surrounded with a ventilated collar, or "thimble," specially made for that purpose.

8. HIGH COST OF LIGHTNING

Lightning has cost the farmers of America as high as five and a half million dollars in a single year. Insurance can only partially repay these losses, which also include stored crops, equipment and other possessions, to say nothing of the lives lost as a result of this danger. Protection against lightning is a good and sensible investment.

9. THE PROBLEM OF OVERHEATED HAY

Spontaneous ignition is a real bugaboo to every farmer who stores semi-cured hay over the stable. The loss of hay and the barn itself is serious enough, but not nearly so serious as the loss of cows and horses kept in the lower part of the barn. More and more farmers are storing their hay in separate structures, and those who do are experiencing fewer sleepless nights.

10. REMEMBER—Sparks from chimney, Defective flues, Smoker's Carelessness, Spontaneous Combustion in hay, rags and rubbish, Defective electric wiring, and gasoline carelessness are among the most common causes of farm fires.

Inspect your premises and remove all fire hazards.

Prevent unnecessary farm fires.

TABLE NO. I

Showing the total number of fires reported by counties. Cities of more than 10,000 are set out separately. Damage to buildings and contents is combined.

| Counties and cities of 10,000 and over | No. Fires | Fire Loss |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Adair | 6 | \$ 8,925 |
| Adams | 7 | 9,208 |
| Allamakee | 8 | 10,465 |
| Appanoose | 35 | 27,036 |
| Audubon | 11 | 6,609 |
| Benton | 18 | 27,031 |
| Black Hawk - Waterloo | 152 | 73,095 |
| Balance - Black Hawk County | 19 | 38,826 |
| Boone - Boone | 30 | 31,354 |
| Balance - Boone County | 14 | 15,852 |
| Bremer | 1 | 27,940 |
| Buchanan | 21 | 17,832 |
| Buena Vista | 13 | 79,386 |
| Butler | 14 | 18,573 |
| Calhoun | 15 | 43,404 |
| Carroll | 33 | 10,201 |
| Cass | 50 | 12,703 |
| Cedar | 24 | 22,894 |
| Cerro Gordo - Mason City | 84 | *7,227 |
| Balance - Cerro Gordo County | 5 | 6,685 |
| Cherokee | 7 | 6,051 |
| Chickasaw | 10 | 15,826 |
| Clarke | 6 | 6,336 |
| Clay | 14 | 8,099 |
| Clayton | 27 | 58,095 |
| Clinton - Clinton | 75 | 24,010 |
| Balance - Clinton County | 19 | 15,438 |
| Crawford | 8 | 15,239 |
| Dallas | 25 | 39,247 |
| Davis | 16 | 30,055 |
| Decatur | 12 | 10,748 |
| Delaware | 20 | 38,738 |
| Des Moines - Burlington | 85 | *19,479 |
| Balance - Des Moines County | 8 | 4,552 |
| Dickinson | 14 | 16,279 |
| Dubuque - Dubuque | 110 | 26,616 |
| Balance - Dubuque County | 6 | 11,693 |
| Emmet | 15 | 49,475 |
| Fayette | 60 | 36,683 |
| Floyd | 14 | 14,508 |
| Franklin | 19 | 23,671 |
| Fremont | 11 | 13,556 |
| Greene | 21 | 12,932 |
| Grundy | 10 | 3,144 |
| Guthrie | 4 | 3,215 |
| Hamilton | 27 | 55,206 |
| Hancock | 11 | 69,519 |
| Hardin | 28 | 26,785 |
| Harrison | 16 | 10,265 |
| Henry | 7 | 4,933 |

TABLE NO. I Continued

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Howard | 9 | 34,375 |
| Humboldt | 18 | 17,677 |
| Ida | 12 | 41,273 |
| Iowa | 13 | 39,281 |
| Jackson | 14 | 34,986 |
| Jasper | 59 | 33,258 |
| Jefferson | 41 | 17,615 |
| Johnson - Iowa City | 68 | 39,089 |
| Balance Johnson County | 9 | 22,343 |
| Jones | 4 | 49,500 |
| Keokuk | 25 | 46,024 |
| Kossuth | 8 | 6,634 |
| Lee - Fort Madison | 20 | 14,973 |
| Keokuk | 49 | 55,229 |
| Balance - Lee County | 18 | 14,795 |
| Linn - Cedar Rapids | 160 | 27,323 |
| Balance - Linn County | 32 | 30,007 |
| Louisa | 8 | 12,975 |
| Lucas | 28 | 17,268 |
| Lyon | 7 | 92,907 |
| Madison | 31 | 14,883 |
| Mahaska - Oskaloosa | 42 | 21,442 |
| Balance - Mahaska County | 20 | 32,125 |
| Marion | 30 | 27,227 |
| Marshall - Marshalltown | 38 | 11,313 |
| Balance - Marshall County | 5 | 11,550 |
| Mills | 8 | 40,040 |
| Mitchell | 16 | 22,754 |
| Monona | 4 | 9,625 |
| Monroe | 15 | 14,641 |
| Montgomery | 26 | 30,359 |
| Muscatine - Muscatine | 78 | 68,243 |
| Balance - Muscatine County | 19 | 42,511 |
| O'Brien | 16 | 10,292 |
| Osceola | 2 | 40 |
| Page | 16 | 16,806 |
| Palo Alto | 9 | 4,827 |
| Plymouth | 17 | 21,893 |
| Pocahontas | 14 | 19,872 |
| Polk - Des Moines | 763 | 252,371 |
| Balance - Polk County | 23 | 32,364 |
| Pottawattamie - Council Bluffs | 124 | 32,343 |
| Balance - Pottawattamie County | 12 | 9,681 |
| Poweshiek | 33 | 16,708 |
| Ringgold | 20 | 17,066 |
| Sac | 18 | 11,404 |
| Scott - Davenport | 165 | 130,821 |
| Balance - Scott County | 11 | 18,996 |
| Shelby | 11 | 6,944 |
| Sioux | 28 | 30,721 |
| Story - Ames | 23 | 54,482 |
| Balance - Story County | 23 | 14,655 |
| Tama | 28 | 33,943 |
| Taylor | 25 | 28,065 |
| Union | 21 | 133,755 |
| Van Buren | 12 | 12,680 |

TABLE NO. I Continued

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Wapello - Ottumwa | 80 | 134,191 |
| Balance - Wapello County | 11 | 4,602 |
| Warren | 11 | 32,117 |
| Washington | 16 | 12,453 |
| Wayne | 14 | 15,310 |
| Webster - Fort Dodge | 48 | 42,140 |
| Balance - Webster County | 19 | 30,950 |
| Winnebago | 9 | 7,774 |
| Winneshiek | 9 | 11,330 |
| Woodbury - Sioux City | 222 | 48,761 |
| Balance - Woodbury County | 16 | 24,955 |
| Worth | 11 | 16,752 |
| Wright | 6 | 3,090 |
| | 4,085 | \$3,455,043 |

TABLE NO. II

Showing the kind of property destroyed. Damage to Buildings and contents set out separately.

| Kind of Property | No. Fires | Damage Buildings | Damage Contents |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| Automobiles | 358 | \$ 28,763 | \$ 1,111 |
| Trucks | 72 | 8,247 | 3,474 |
| Auto accessories | 1 | 69 | 100 |
| Awnings | 47 | 1,280 | 0 |
| Bakeries | 8 | 1,092 | 287 |
| Banks | 1 | 210 | 1,010 |
| Barns - FARM | 141 | 210,965 | 79,698 |
| TOWN | 54 | 16,475 | 4,609 |
| Beer Taverns | 28 | 1,352 | 6,258 |
| Cars - box cars and coal cars | 4 | 5,303 | 2,485 |
| Passenger and street cars | 7 | 2,580 | 0 |
| Car repair shops and roundhouses | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Chicken brooders and hatcheries | 39 | 4,123 | 2,999 |
| Chicken houses - poultry houses | 16 | 3,278 | 1,947 |
| Churches | 21 | 72,105 | 12,277 |
| Cleaning and dyeing | 6 | 17,250 | 943 |
| Coal mines | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Corn cribs and granaries | 18 | 11,400 | 12,028 |
| Creameries - cream stations and dairies | 7 | 1,003 | 1,174 |
| Dance halls | 4 | 4,910 | 400 |
| Depots - Freight | 4 | 1,635 | 535 |
| Passenger | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| Elevators and seed houses | 7 | 21,299 | 16,757 |
| Engine and boiler rooms | 5 | 824 | 100 |
| Factories | 34 | 25,921 | 98,106 |
| Filling stations | 33 | 5,107 | 5,259 |
| Oil storage | 2 | 200 | 249 |
| Foundries | 5 | 816 | 1,115 |
| Funeral homes | 2 | 2,537 | 1,000 |
| Garages - private | 142 | 19,607 | 20,882 |
| Public | 38 | 19,549 | 15,863 |
| Hay, grain and straw stacks, grain fields and meadows | 9 | 618 | 0 |

TABLE NO. II Continued

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| Hog Houses | 14 | 4,838 | 3,457 |
| Hospitals and nurses' homes | 2 | 45 | 0 |
| Hotels | 27 | 15,251 | 9,279 |
| Houses - Apartments | 129 | 92,499 | 21,946 |
| Fraternity | 3 | 172 | 156 |
| Farm | 333 | 570,394 | 170,737 |
| Town | 1,745 | 351,366 | 140,573 |
| Old Peoples' Homes | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rooming Houses | 14 | 3,562 | 731 |
| Summer kitchens and wash houses | 15 | 2,184 | 1,833 |
| Ice houses | 3 | 425 | 133 |
| Laundries | 10 | 500 | 1,334 |
| Lodge Halls | 6 | 1,123 | 4,435 |
| Lumber yards | 4 | 650 | 650 |
| Meat markets | 6 | 438 | 921 |
| Mills - feed mills and feed stores | 10 | 19,200 | 10,891 |
| Flour | 1 | 0 | 50 |
| Planing and saw mills | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Office buildings - offices | 31 | 10,984 | 48,076 |
| Packing plants and stock yards | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pool halls | 3 | 902 | 812 |
| Post offices | 3 | 1,180 | 175 |
| Printing plants | 15 | 3,749 | 13,176 |
| Produce houses | 6 | 9,265 | 14,572 |
| Pump and engine houses | 5 | 2,532 | 2,198 |
| Restaurants and cafes - lunch rooms | 44 | 21,682 | 33,485 |
| Schools | 24 | 148,818 | 22,438 |
| Sheds - coal and wood | 53 | 2,013 | 515 |
| Machine sheds | 22 | 11,478 | 13,319 |
| Shops - barber | 7 | 105 | 581 |
| Blacksmith | 5 | 3,260 | 166 |
| Carpenter and work shops | 4 | 116 | 350 |
| Hair dressing shops | 7 | 795 | 2,308 |
| Plumbing and heating | 4 | 3,315 | 8,052 |
| Shoe repair shops | 3 | 105 | 89 |
| Tailor shop | 1 | 0 | 329 |
| Smoke houses | 6 | 130 | 280 |
| Stores | 211 | 232,645 | 290,433 |
| Theatres | 14 | 113,220 | 10,259 |
| Trailer houses | 14 | 3,106 | 1,580 |
| Warehouses and storage | 57 | 36,197 | 61,635 |
| Miscellaneous | 108 | 75,044 | 32,546 |
| | 4,085 | \$2,231,821 | \$1,223,222 |
| | | | 2,231,821 |
| | | | \$3,455,043 |

TABLE NO. III

| | No. Fires | Loss |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Adjoining | 184 | \$ 243,097 |
| Ashes and coal against wood | 36 | 8,449 |
| Auto backfire | 43 | 3,139 |
| Auto wreck | 7 | 3,942 |
| Broken gas line - alcohol on motor | 50 | 1,923 |

TABLE NO. III Continued

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Blow and oil torches | 37 | 13,690 |
| Bonfires, grass fires | 112 | 23,909 |
| Brooder lamps and stoves | 30 | 3,762 |
| Candle, lamp and lantern carelessness | 26 | 8,584 |
| Children with matches | 71 | 11,319 |
| Cleaning clothing, rugs and floors with gasoline | 9 | 1,841 |
| Clothing and bedding too near stoves and stovepipes | 18 | 2,606 |
| Compressed gas | 1 | 6,000 |
| Curtains blowing into flames | 17 | 2,615 |
| Defective auto wiring | 140 | 15,125 |
| Defective electric wiring | 213 | 179,456 |
| Defective electric appliances | 9 | 49,625 |
| Defective fireplace | 18 | 1,882 |
| Defective flues | 228 | 247,244 |
| Defective and overheated stoves and heating plants | 146 | 116,337 |
| Defective oil burners | 30 | 13,161 |
| Defective oil and gasoline stoves | 173 | 55,969 |
| Defective and overheated pipes to stoves and furnaces | 81 | 28,834 |
| Dust in hot air registers | 3 | 320 |
| Electric iron - current left on | 23 | 11,115 |
| Films | 11 | 13,147 |
| Fireworks | 1 | 35 |
| Friction | 6 | 1,144 |
| Fumigation | 3 | 426 |
| Gasoline and kerosene carelessness | 56 | 24,347 |
| Gasoline and volatile oil explosion | 13 | 48,863 |
| Grease, paint, tar, war and food boiling over | 33 | 8,145 |
| Incendiary | 19 | 20,049 |
| Lightning - Not Rodded | 106 | 123,657 |
| Rodded | 3 | 78,700 |
| Lightning running in on radio wires | 5 | 919 |
| Match carelessness | 50 | 14,663 |
| Rubbish piled against furnace and flues | 19 | 13,675 |
| Short circuit - electric motors, refrigerators, etc. | 76 | 15,259 |
| Smoker's carelessness | 437 | 156,259 |
| Smoking meat | 4 | 114 |
| Sparks from engines and locomotives | 20 | 52,050 |
| Sparks from chimney | 792 | 361,378 |
| Sparks from stoves and furnaces | 35 | 19,715 |
| Spontaneous Combustion: - Coal dust | 11 | 9,667 |
| Hay - straw - grain - feed | 37 | 78,502 |
| Rags - rubbish | 85 | 147,781 |
| Shavings - sawdust | 5 | 4,629 |
| Static Electricity | 7 | 1,207 |
| Thawing water pipes | 6 | 793 |
| Unknown | 437 | 1,104,621 |
| Using gasoline and kerosene to start fires | 8 | 11,364 |
| Miscellaneous | 90 | 84,067 |
| | 4,085 | \$3,455,043 |

CONCLUSION

It gives me real pleasure to say **THANK YOU** to each and every person in Iowa who has had a part in our Fire Prevention program in 1941.

We have worked together with a common aim - **FIRE PREVENTION** and a reduction in our annual fire loss, and from the fire record for 1941, we have been successful in making some progress.

However, we must be on the alert - we have a **REAL JOB** ahead of us, and we cannot afford the loss of our resources by needless fire waste.

Remember our Patriotic Duty - **FIRE PREVENTION**.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM, State Fire Marshal
DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

