

'Little Restaurant' Fire Alarm System Deplored by Fire Chief

Naming a "little restaurant near 8th and Willamette" the closest thing we have to a fire alarm at the moment, Eugene Fire Chief E. L. Surfus described to the Eugene Lions Club Wednesday city plans for improved fire alerting. He cited three occasions when spread of business section fires was halted following an alarm from the restaurant.

Last fall's grain elevator fire alarm was called in by a taxi driver who finally located the restaurant phone.

Telephone Report
A hotel fire at 8th and Willamette was finally reported by telephone from the "little restaurant." And a paint store fire that threatened the entire business

section was halted after dangerously delayed work by the department, answering to alarm turned in by phone from the same restaurant.

In each case, Surfus said, there was a delay in search for the phone to call the fire department.

Adequate Alarm
"An adequate alarm system," he added, "will mean time and time may save lives and property."

In the paint store, fire was extinguished only after paint came close to the blowing up stage, that might have meant the loss of the entire business corner.

"The city is too big," Surfus said, "for a 'little restaurant' alarm system."

The newly-passed financing

measure will help the department expansion program which includes installation of an alarm system. Surfus plans an accelerated investigation schedule as well.

The need is clear, he said. "There have been many recent fires set by both adults and juveniles. Quick apprehension of fire bugs will stop repeaters. That work calls for more men."

In the past year one man has been sentenced to four years in the penitentiary for arson, one man has been sent to an asylum for life, another has been placed on parole, and many juveniles have been processed.

Juveniles
Pointing to increased juvenile mischief, Surfus described fires set under porches, under stores, and in a neighborhood clubhouse as the work of budding arsonists in the past year.

"Such malicious fires, accidental fires, and careless fires have raised the per capita expense from flames in Eugene to an an-

McKenzie Still Snow-Coated

Highway department personnel may know by Friday the opening date of the McKenzie Highway, the Eugene office said Thursday. Crews are finding 20 feet of snow in the deep cut, and four inches of ice in other places.

Frost boils have caused some of the pavement to heave badly, the office reported. Cool weather has kept the snow from melting out fast, but a few warm sunny days will improve the situation.

The national average is \$4," he said.

The fire chief described the continuous departmental fire prevention campaign, the new sub-station plans for quick service in outlying areas, and the mutual aid agreements with Springfield, Bethel, Danebo, and Irving as part of progressive effort to knock this average down.

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