



**MYSTERY FIRES**

**Why Do Oily Rags or Pile Of Hay Burst Into Flames?**

By DAVID G. BAREUTHER  
AP Newsfeatures Writer

New York—Fire that starts without a spark is getting close scrutiny from scientists.

Both the National Bureau of Standards in Washington and the National Board of Fire Underwriters in New York are studying the mysterious chemical processes involved in spontaneous combustion, which causes oily rags in your home to burst into flames.

This study is part of the effort being made to reduce the nation's fire losses.

Within the past year fires have taken nearly 11,000 lives and caused an aggregate property loss of \$715,000,000, with supplementary losses running several times greater.

Few householders realize that there are a number of common substances which heat up by themselves and under certain conditions cause serious fires.

Experts have found four general classes of such substances:

1. Substances not themselves combustible, but which may cause ignition. Commonest in this class is unslaked lime, when it gets moist, it heats up.

2. Substances which catch fire below ordinary temperatures. These are chemicals like hydride of phosphorus. You don't have to worry about these—unless Junior has a chemistry set.

3. Substances which oxidize sufficiently at room temperatures to burst into flame. These include oils, such as linseed, soy, cottonseed, olive and others, when spread on rags or clothes. The oily mops you leave in your cellar can burst into fire. Some metals, such as iron, will ignite spontaneously when reduced to powder. Charcoal and soft coal will heat when left to themselves.

4. Hay and grain which are in a class by themselves. There's still a lot of mystery about exactly how a pile of innocent-looking hay starts to get hot without any aid from man or woman.

The commonest theory is that this is due to what the scientists call microbial thermogenesis. It means that microbes in the hay get busy after the hay is cut, and soak up a lot of oxygen. This causes a chemical reaction—and chemical reactions always produce heat.

Because of the mass of hay, the heat can't escape. It builds



Oily cotton ball is cut in half in bureau of standards revealing charred center.

up and speeds up more microbes to produce more heat. The next thing you know, Farmer Jones' barn is blazing.

All the experts can do about this so far is to warn the farmers not to cure their hay before putting it in the barn. Moisture seems to speed up the microbial thermogenesis.

Also, farmers are advised to take the temperature of their hay. If they stick a thermometer into it they can find out the temperature reaches 212 degrees it is time to call the fire department.

Householders, too, get a few tips from the fire experts. Throw away all oily rags, they urge. Don't store newspapers or combustible materials such as Christmas decorations in the attic. Warm weather can speed up chemical reactions.

If you must keep oily mops, hang them up where plenty of air can circulate around them. The air carries away the heat that might be generated. Or keep such mops in metal cans. The can keeps the heat-producing oxygen away from the oil.

R. P. Lynch, chairman of the local weeks committee, reports.

A breakdown of local figures shows that three disabled persons cannot find jobs in the clerical and sales work, for which they are fitted. Eight persons, disabled with injuries ranging from arthritis to amputations, cannot find jobs in the service industries.

Five of these eight are veterans. Five injured non-veterans cannot find employment in skilled work and eight persons, of which two are veterans, cannot find employment in the semi-skilled line.

**Amity Considering One Campaign Plan**

Amity—The Amity Community club held its first fall meeting since the summer vacation at the Methodist church. H. N. Wilcox, the new president, presided.

Phil Meeker, Community Chest chairman, reported that the drive got off to a good start. Discussion was held regarding the amount allocated to Amity in comparison to larger cities in the county. Also the feasibility of combining all other drives for funds such as polio, cancer, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, etc., under one major drive. No action was taken. The next regular meeting will be November 2.

**Tito Warns Huns Of Catastrophe**

Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Oct. 10 (AP)—Yugoslavia today warned the Hungarian people their communist government was leading them into the same "catastrophes" of the prewar regimes which allied them to Adolf Hitler.

The warning was made in an official 1500-word note handed to Hungarian Minister Sandor Kerestes.

It carried Marshal Tito's first answer to the five Soviet satellites who broke their friendship and mutual aid pacts with Yugoslavia.

The note was expected to be followed quickly by similar messages to Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Romania.

The note said the Yugoslav government had persistently pursued a sincere policy of friendship towards Hungary "so that they would not be led into new catastrophes."

It accused Hungary of: 1. Calling for revolt by the Yugoslav people against their "lawful government."

2. Trampling upon the fundamental rights of the Yugoslav minority in Hungary.

3. Violating diplomatic immunity of Yugoslav representatives by arrests, abusive treatment and expulsion.

4. Giving "extensive help" to Yugoslav "traitor-criminals" in their plots against the Tito regime.

5. Smuggling criminal "fascist elements and spies" into Yugoslavia.

6. Arbitrarily breaking economic agreements to further the economic blockade which the "U. S. S. R." and the governments subordinate to it have organized against Yugoslavia.

7. Violating the peace treaty by stopping reparations (the Yugoslav government formally has asked the U. S. and Britain to consider this violation.)

Furthermore, the note said, "Hungarian border patrols are constantly violating Yugoslav territory with the aim of provoking unrest."

**No War For 20 Years**

Rome, Oct. 8 (AP)—Atom Bomb Scientist Enrico Fermi predicted today that if the United States maintains atomic supremacy over Russia there will be no war for 20 years.

**A Dog's Life: That's What Tito Leads In the Russian Cartoons**



**Plane Will Pick Up Lowell Thomas Tues.**

New Delhi, India, Oct. 10 (AP)—American News Editor Lowell Thomas will be brought to Calcutta next Tuesday for medical treatment of an injured right hip, it was announced today.

The U. S. embassy said it had received a message from an American rescue party asking that the embassy's plane stand by at Siliguri airstrip in far northern India near the Tibetan border on the morning of Oct. 11.

A message received from the rescue party said Thomas had suffered a contusion of the right hip and was being brought by litter to Siliguri.

Thomas was injured when thrown from a horse while on an expedition into Tibet.

**Football Fans Prank Brings Injuries to Boy**

Minneapolis, Oct. 10 (AP)—William Bunker, 10, was in critical condition today from injuries suffered in the prank of high school football fans.

Witnesses told the police William had alighted from a street-car last night after a football game. Pupils remaining on the car reached through a window and seized his arms. The car started. William was dragged several feet. He fell under a rear wheel when the pranksters released him.

William suffered a mangled leg, shock and possible internal injuries.

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State and Liberty "On the Corner"

**Harry V. Collins New GOP Chief for Marion County**

By MARIAN LOWRY FISCHER

Harry V. Collins, Salem district telephone manager, is the new chairman for the Marion county republican central committee following the meeting and special election for the group late Saturday afternoon. Collins succeeds Orval Hager, Jr., who resigned recently when he moved his residence to Portland.

Mark Hatfield, instructor in political science at Willamette university, was chosen alternate chairman, replacing Mr. Collins when the latter became chairman.

All W. Loucks was elected congressional committeeman to fill the vacancy caused by the death of George Manolis.

All three selections were by unanimous vote of the same 40 precinct workers attending the meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Hager for his work as chairman, a post he held since last January, and also respect was paid to the late Mr. Manolis, long an active worker in the committee.

Several precinct workers expressed favor of a plan to hold a series of meetings by the central committee official and precinct committeemen and women in various sections of the county.

Jim Collins, who is in Multnomah county temporarily assisting the central committee there in precinct work, gave a talk. He discussed the plan of organizing neighborhood units, emphasizing the program as one where party leaders "do not talk to but talk with" the voters in the precincts.

The new chairman, Harry Collins, also gave a talk before adjournment, stating every one who calls himself a republican should be willing to work actively in the party. Apathy has no place in party work and unless Americans generally take more interest in their government the nation is facing a serious situation, he declared. Collins criticized leadership that allows the nation's debt to pile up and gives no thought "about those who must pay the bill."



Harry V. Collins

He warned that Oregon is regarded as the last frontier in the west for the GOP and that the democrats are going to do everything they can to swing Oregon into the democratic line.

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