

Chief Cites Danger And Expense Of Fraudulent City Fire Alarms

Acting Fire Chief Leo Weidner Saturday reported that two false alarms were turned in to the department on Friday.

"I wonder if those who turn in these false alarms realize what they are doing," he said.

The alarms were at 824 West Jackson street, at 8:23 a.m., and at the Medford high school, at 11:23 p.m.

Chief Weidner cited the heavy expense and potential danger to residents and firemen in the false alarms. In a statement issued Saturday the chief said:

"Sending out heavy fire apparatus is hazardous and expensive, and works against the best interests of the city. There is a definite possibility of some one being killed or injured in these needless runs. Firemen drive as carefully as they can, but in spite of this, every year there

are serious accidents resulting in fatalities and permanent injuries caused by traffic accidents involving fire apparatus, in many cases while responding to false alarms.

"It is also possible that a fire could occur while the fire apparatus is responding to these false alarms, it could gain considerable headway and do untold damage before adequate fire equipment could be rerouted to it. This is particularly true in a city the size of Medford where a limited amount of fire equipment is available.

School Alarm Bad
"The alarm at the high school was especially bad. Because of the size of the building and its importance to the community, it is necessary to call a general alarm when a fire is reported from that location. This is expensive because it calls in volunteers or callmen, and they must be paid whether there is a fire or not. It is a conservative estimate that each of these false and general alarms cost the city \$75, and it could cost several thousand dollars, plus the loss of life should there be an accident while responding.

"Another thing that is causing trouble is the prankster who calls the fire department just for the fun of it. We average about four of these calls per day. When the alarm number is dialed it sets off the house alarm system in the fire station, and consequently, the firemen immediately assume their positions on the apparatus for response. When

the telephone is answered, the caller hangs up. At the present time there is a fireman on sick leave with a serious back injury caused by one of the nuisance calls.

"The city government and the fire department of Medford are trying to provide the best possible fire protection for the people of Medford, and the senseless sending in of false alarms is damaging to that effort. The people of Medford should do everything possible to curb the practice of sending in false alarms."

Caseworkers Needed By Welfare Groups

Beginning caseworkers are needed for state and county public welfare commissions, according to a recent announcement of the state civil service commission.

Starting salary is \$200 per month and provision is made for annual merit increases. The duties of the position are of a beginning nature in the study and determination of eligibility of persons requiring welfare assistance. To be admitted to the written test, an application must be a college graduate with courses in the social sciences. Responsible related experience can be substituted for two years of the required training.

Deadline for filing to take the examination is April 8. Application blanks and further information can be obtained from the state civil service commission, public service building, Salem, or 614 Mead building, Portland.

WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT
Chicago, Mar. 18—(U.P.)—Defense Secretary Louis Johnson said last night that the nation's scientists are developing "unprecedented" weapons to offset any manpower advantages of a potential enemy.

MORE TEACHERS OUSTED
Kelso, Wash., Mar. 18—(U.P.)—Chairman James Kelley of the Kelso school board said today that 11 Kelso teachers will not be offered new contracts. Originally Kelley announced that 17 teachers would not be hired.

Ordinary household bleaches may be used on most white nylon fabrics.



JET-PROPELLED AUTO—The British auto industry's first jet-propelled auto runs along at 90 miles an hour during test run at Silverstone, England. Manufactured by the Rover Motor Co., the car is powered by a pair of twin kerosene-fed jet turbines. Behind the wheel is Maurice C. Wilks, chief engineer, while F. R. Bell (right), the designer rides as a passenger.

A Nichols' Worth of—

Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington, Mar. 17—(U.P.)—Not all the racket on Capitol Hill is generated in the halls of congress.



Harman Nichols

Much of it is put on wax and sent back home for all to hear.

The man who tells senators and congressmen how lousy they sound—and gets away with same—is Robert J. Coar, who is what you might call "not unassuming."

He's an old movie hand who would just as soon belt a director on the head with a stick as not. He now bosses five recording stations in the senate and house office buildings.

Coar, who can talk a bit himself, makes good speakers out of terrible ones and excellent orators. About 200 of the lawmakers make recordings regularly and send them back to radio stations in their home districts.

When his own blab was blown back at him, the representative fumed.

He'd Be Ruined

"Good heavens, is that me?" he asked, ungrammatically.

Coar told him it certainly was. "Can't we do it over?" asked the congressman. "That thing can't be on the air. I'd be ruined."

"Sure. And this time," the movie expert advised, "take it easy. Pretend you are talking to a friend in his living room. He wouldn't want you to yell at him."

The young law-giver today is one of the best speakers in the house.

Senators have their troubles, too. Once, an old-timer put a stirring speech on wax and then waited to hear it played back. Right in the midst of a "now-my-dear-constituents, etc." sentence, there came a burp and a couple of "gulp gulps" that weren't in the script. The dignified senator did the thing over and explained with a red neck that his upper plate had flopped out while he was orally driving home a point.

Average 200 Daily

A lot of biggies patronize the studios and the output of records averages about 200 daily. Effectiveness of such broadcasts became apparent when Karl Mundt, R., S.D., won his campaign for the senate almost entirely by radio. When he was in the house he was too busy to go home and beat the bushes.

Sen. Robert A. Taft, R., O., sends home canned speeches which are broadcast over 44 stations each week. Other regulars are Sen. Pat McCarran, D., Nev.; Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, R., Me.; Sen. Russell Long, D., La.; and Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas, D., Calif.

Coar said that one of his most

interesting assignments was when Sen. W. Lee (pass the biscuits, pappy) O'Daniel of Texas was on the hill. Pappy used to fetch along a hill billy band to do the background for his weekly recordings.

"He must have had a deal with Jim Petrillo," the movie man said.

At any rate the service is one of the few in the government that can show a profit. Our uncle kicks in \$24,000 a year in salaries and pays \$1 a year in Coar for use of his equipment. The congressmen have to pay \$3.50 a platter plus express charges. Today the studios show a surplus of \$54,000.



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The Grange

Enterprise Grange

Enterprise Grange of Wimer met March 14 with a potluck "Maggie and Jiggs" dinner in the spirit of St. Patrick's day. Corned beef and cabbage were served in abundant quantities. Visitors at the dinner and meeting were Mr. and Mrs. J. Golding of Live Oak Grange.

The following were given first and second degree obligations: Mr. and Mrs. M. Kelly, Mrs. E. Stromberg, Mrs. L. Redstone. Receiving the third and fourth degrees were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stone, Kenneth Russell, E. Stromberg and Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Barrie.

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