



RALPH EDWARDS, driver of Engine Number 7, newest rig in the Klamath Falls fleet, gives a loving polish to the complex workings of a rig in the firehouse.



JACK CULLEY, a relief driver, is pictured here as he was checking the gear on Engine Number 5.

Fireman's Life Is Not All Sitting Around The Station; He Works Hard

By **ROY ROWE**
Fire Chief, KFFD

You pay the taxes to maintain your fire department, so I think it is good sense to get acquainted with your fire department and its members. We welcome you as taxpayers to come to the fire station and get acquainted with us.

We have Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, teachers and their pupils and groups of first aiders who come to the fire station. They are taken on tour of the station and learn how alarms come in, records are kept, living quarters are kept and in general how firemen live and operate their equipment.

We welcome you to do the same thing.

We think if you know what it costs you in taxes and fire insurance to operate your fire department we will then be able to get you to help us keep these costs down.

The Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau in Portland sets our fire insurance rates in Oregon. They are based on manpower, fire equipment, number of fire stations and fire losses. Now this is where you can help us by getting rid of any fire hazards in your home or place of business as this will help cut our fire losses.

The fire insurance companies are agencies who handle our money to pay these fire losses. The more fire losses the more money they will take from us. It is not their money that pays these fire losses but yours and so you see that by helping us you are helping your own pocketbook.

The Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau wants us to have three fire stations and 27 men on duty all the time. We have one fire station and nine men on duty, so you see this is one reason why we need your cooperation. We have two fire inspectors who periodically inspect all the business places in town trying to convince you what is fire safe and what is not.

We also inspect homes with the owners' consent to point out fire hazards and how to get rid of them, then it is up to the homeowner.

It takes housework to keep a

home or fire station clean. A clean home seldom burns, so the first thing in the morning, it is housework in the fire station. Fire equipment must be kept in tip-top shape all the time, every morning each truck must be checked for oil, gasoline, water and to see that the battery is up and a record kept of each truck and signed by each driver.

The officer in charge sits the first watch in the morning. By sitting watch we mean sitting at the desk where the telephones and radios are. While the officer is on watch the firemen do their housework and regular morning chores, then each fireman on duty has to take turns at sitting on watch. There is a fireman on watch 24 hours a day, so when the phone rings it will be answered right now. Seconds count in this business.

From the time the phone rings and the address of the fire is given and the fire truck leaves the station takes about 20 to 25 seconds. Remember this, fire does not recognize sick, well, rich, poor, young or old. Also fires does not wait for firemen to arrive, so if you think you have a fire don't wait, call your fire department. That is what we are getting paid for.

Some people think firemen have nothing to do at the fire station but lie around, play checkers, cards and talk about women. I have had many people call and ask me to get their son, brother or uncle a job on the fire department because he has a heart condition and this would be just the thing for him. Boy, what an impression some people have of a fireman's life.

Let's take a second here and see. Sure firemen sleep (hope to sleep) at night, but not as well as if they were home. They know that if that bell rings at night, they have to jump out of bed and into their turnout and boots, come down that nice shiny brass pole and be on that truck and ready to go in about 20 to 25 seconds. The truck leaves the station, snow hits you in the face, weather is about 10 degrees above zero, you get to the fire and find you have a bad



JIM BROWN, hoseman with the Klamath Fire Department, is shown here manning the watch beside the radio and telephone, alert to any call for aid.



FIREMEN CAN RELAX AT LEAST A LITTLE between calls. Here Jim Brown, hoseman, and M. F. Shreeves, another hoseman, are shown at one of the tables in the living quarters.

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