

# Fire Loss At All-Time High, Nyssa Fire Chief Claims

Fire losses throughout the United States, when measured in dollars, are at an all-time high!

This was reported here today as the nation, spurred by President Truman's Fire Prevention Week proclamation appeal, took stock of its 1951 three-quarter billion dollar loss in property and 11,000 lives.

Basis for the report were statistics of the National Board of Fire Underwriters that put fire losses for 1951 at \$730,084,000.

In commenting on these losses, Frank Morris, chief of the Nyssa fire department, declared that the \$730 million loss for 1951 was \$80 million, or 12.3 per cent more than for the preceding year.

The NBFU statistics on the number of fires, compiled from reports submitted by fire chiefs throughout the country, reflect a substantial rise in the number of building fires in urban areas during 1951, when they amounted to 400,000, an increase of 7.4 per cent over the previous year.

Much of this loss in lives and property, he observed, resulted from fire in the home and cited the estimate of 886,703 fires in U. S. cities

last year. Nearly half, or 418,871 of them, were building fires, nearly three-fourths of the building fires, of 293,776, being residences.

He explained that the figures represent estimates of fires in cities of 2,500 population or more and did not, by any means, represent all the fires that occurred in all communities. This means that one fire occurs every 36 seconds—with an untold number of additional fires on farms and in smaller communities.

The major cause of these fires was careless use of matches and smoking. Such carelessness, he declared, accounts for close to 27 per cent of the nation's reported fire losses.

Other major causes of fire, he concluded, were misuse of electricity, exposure to fire originating off premises, sparks on roofs, overheated or defective chimneys or flues, lighting, overheated stoves, furnaces or boilers, ignition of hot greases, spontaneous combustion and explosions.

Lowest balance for one day in the U. S. Treasury was \$28,239.61 on Dec. 31, 1789.

Big Ben, the London clock, has four dials.

## 27 Worst Fires In U.S. History

Here is a list of the 27 worst fires and explosions in American history—worst from the viewpoint of the 7,375 lives lost in contrast to the millions of dollars in property damage. They are arranged in the order of the number of fatalities resulting from each fire.

1. Peshtigo, Wis., and environs (1871) 1,152
2. New York, N. Y. S. S. General Slocum (1904) 1,021
3. Chicago, Ill., Iroquois Theatre (1903) 602
4. Boston, Mass., Coconut Grove Night Club (1942) 491
5. Texas City, Texas, Water Front Explosion (1947) 468
6. Cloquet, Minn., and environs (1918) 400
7. Columbus, Ohio, State Penitentiary (1930) 330
8. Chicago, Ill., "Great Fire" (Oct. 8, 1871) 300
9. New London, Texas, School (1937) 294
10. Brooklyn, N. Y., Conway's Theatre (1876) 289
11. Natchez, Miss., Dance Hall (1940) 207
12. Collinwood, Ohio, Lake View School (1908) 176
13. Boyertown, Pa., Opera House (1903) 169
14. Hartford, Conn., Circus (1944) 168
15. Hoboken, N. J., Docks and Ships (1900) 145
16. New York, N. Y., Triangle Shirtwaist Factory (1911) 145
17. Asbury Park, N. J., S.S. Morro Castle (1934) 134
18. Cleveland, Ohio, Gas Plant (1944) 130
19. Cleveland, Ohio, Clinic Hospital (1929) 125
20. Atlanta, Ga., Wynecoff Hotel (1946) 122
21. West Frankfort, Ill., Mine Explosion (1951) 119
22. Centralia, Ill., Mine Explosion (1947) 111
23. Camden, S. C., School (1923) 77
24. Effingham, Ill., St. Anthony's Hospital (1949) 74
25. Chicago, Ill., La Salle Hotel (1946) 61
26. Davenport, Iowa, Mercy Hospital (1950) 41
27. Chicago, Ill., Street Car-Gasoline Truck Collision (1950) 34

## Farm Fires Cause Nation Heavy Loss

Farm fires last year took thousands of lives and destroyed \$100,000,000 worth of property, much of it badly-needed food supplies, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

In warning farmers that the loss of food supplies, vital to the country's welfare and that of free nations abroad, are mostly the result of individual carelessness and faulty building construction, the NBFU called for year-round support of community efforts for greater fire safety everywhere.

In its fire Prevention Week statement, NBFU pointed out that farm fires in general result in almost to-

### Farm Fire Booklet

Full discussion of fire hazards and the means for overcoming them are described in detail in NBFU's new farm booklet, "Your Farm and Fire Safety," which is available on request in writing to its head office, 85 John Street, New York 38, New York.

tal loss. "Unlike buildings in urban areas where fire protection and water supplies are adequate, those in farm areas are often completely destroyed when they catch fire," it said.

In telling of the causes of farm fires, the NBFU said that increased use of gasoline-burning farm machinery and electrical equipment have created many new fire hazards and advised farmers to store large quantities of gasoline in underground tanks equipped with standard pumps.

"Electrical machinery," it added, "should be installed where there is no danger that hay and grain dust may be ignited by a spark and all machinery should be cleaned and oiled regularly to prevent overheating."

### ARSON ARRESTS

One thousand and three persons were arrested on charges of arson during 1951, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Of these 883 were men and 115 were women.

### Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week, now a nation-wide observance, originated years ago in the Middle West. There many communities each year conducted special "clean-up" campaigns.

As a result of these campaigns there were fewer fires and soon those communities began referring to their "clean-up" day as Fire Prevention Day.

As the years went by most communities began observing Fire Prevention Day on October 9, the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Thus it came about that in 1911, 22 governors issued proclamations calling for state-wide observance of Fire Prevention Day.

Nine years later President Wilson issued the first national Fire Prevention Week proclamation. This year marks the week's 33rd national observance.

The First Bank of the U. S. was chartered in 1791.

## News From Big Bend

Miss Helen Hatch  
Phone Parma 1-821

The Lora Pillsbury place was sold this last week to a family from Utah. The Arthur Hatch family and Mr. Pillsbury will go to New York to make their home.

Visitors over the week-end in the Joe Brumback home were her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ahearn, of Salt Lake City. Their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mays, of Greenwood Spring, Colo., accompanied them to visit her sister, Mrs. Ahearn, of Payette.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Raney, spent the day Sunday, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Gaylen Raney, in Huntington. On their way home, they visited another brother, E. B. Raney, who is in the hospital in Weiser.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Lucas and family visited Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moore in Central Cove.

Darrell English accompanied his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. English and his two sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Don Bowen, all of Nampa and Mrs. Gale Martin, of Adrian to Halfway, Ore. Thursday, to attend the funeral of a cousin, Mrs. Bessie English.

Mrs. Boyce Vande Water has been on the sick list, but is improving at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Gay Strong, of Parma, and Miss Mary Knapp, of Roswell, were Sunday dinner guests at the Tom Jones home.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Turner and family called at the Joe King home Monday. Mrs. Turner is known to all her friends as Opal Johannessen. Mr. Turner is a telegraph operator at Parma.

Miss La Rayne Smith, is working at the telephone office in Boise.

Miss Janice Jones, Miss Imogene Eden and Joyce Jelenick spent the week-end with their parents. Miss Jelenick is working in the telephone office in Boise. The other two girls are in nurses training.

Mrs. Chester Stanton and Miss Helen Hatch went to Ontario Thursday as project leaders of the A and B Extension unit for gift wrapping. The demonstrator was Miss Jessalee Mallalieu of Corvallis.

Bernie Pollard, stayed Thursday night with Junion Eden who had returned home for a few days from Nevada and Burns, Ore., where he has been working.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weir and Mary called at the Ralph Stark home Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Samer and Catherine entertained with a birthday dinner for Robert Weir, who was celebrating his 84th birthday Sunday. Among those present were Mrs. Weir, Mary and Charles.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smith took

Parma-Marsing football game Friday evening. Later they visited his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Hap Riggs and family.

A big family dinner and get-together was enjoyed in the Ralph Stark home Sunday. Those present were his sister, Mrs. Joe Stone and husband, of Gaston, Ore.; Mr. and Mrs. Ira Pettis, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pettis, of Boise; Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Auferhar, of Caldwell; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ferguson, of Apple Valley; Mrs. Pauline McGinnis and Mrs. Joyce Davis and baby, of Adrian, and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hatch, Helen and Phillip.

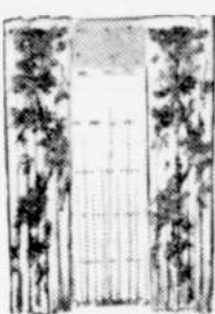
Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher called in the Harvey Hatch home Monday on their way to the Adrian cannery.

Harvey Hatch and Phillip attended the final jolopy races for this season in Nyssa Sunday afternoon.

Miss Alice Thompson, accompanied Don Troyer, of Parma, and Rev. Miller, of the Caldwell Presbyterian church, to Boise Saturday morning to attend an officers' meeting of the Presbyterian youth synod. Sunday she accompanied a group of young people from Parma to Emmet to attend an officers' meeting of the Youth Presbyterial of the Boise district. Alice is the secretary of the Boise Youth Presbyterial.

Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mrs. Dyre Roberts and Mrs. Irma Hopkins attended a high school P.T.A. executive meeting in Adrian Monday evening.

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Fires resulting from KNOWN CAUSES in the U. S., 1941 through 1950

As reported to the National Board of Fire Underwriters in a single decade.

| Number of Claims | Causes                                        | Per Cent of Claims | Property Loss Value | Per Cent |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|
| 639,234          | Matches—Smoking                               | 26.96%             | \$ 353,837,548      | 17.49%   |
| 276,566          | Misuse of Electricity                         | 11.65              | 226,715,008         | 11.21    |
| 190,473          | Exposure (Fire originating off premises)      | 8.40               | 236,314,362         | 11.68    |
| 63,692           | Sparks on roofs                               | 2.68               | 44,237,707          | 2.19     |
| 136,118          | Overheated or defective Chimneys, Flues, etc. | 5.73               | 135,771,242         | 6.71     |
| 181,061          | Lightning                                     | 7.63               | 99,765,935          | 4.93     |
| 161,894          | Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their Pipes     | 6.82               | 178,224,307         | 8.81     |
| 89,618           | Open Lights                                   | 3.78               | 55,506,796          | 2.74     |
| 198,610          | Petroleum and its products                    | 8.37               | 176,962,065         | 8.75     |
| 74,157           | Hot Ashes and Coals—Open Fires                | 3.12               | 41,512,042          | 2.05     |
| 88,079           | Ignition of Hot Grease, etc.                  | 3.71               | 41,278,839          | 2.04     |
| 49,357           | Spontaneous Combustion                        | 2.08               | 128,922,017         | 6.37     |
| 38,867           | Gas—Natural & Artificial                      | 1.64               | 42,843,047          | 2.12     |
| 27,386           | Sparks Arising from Combustion                | 1.15               | 38,572,945          | 1.91     |
| 35,403           | Rubbish and Litter                            | 1.49               | 26,760,504          | 1.32     |
| 58,549           | Miscellaneous—Cause Known but not classified  | 2.47               | 86,566,949          | 4.23     |
| 25,891           | Friction, Sparks from Running Machinery       | 1.09               | 64,844,348          | 3.20     |
| 36,015           | Explosions                                    | 1.10               | 43,903,776          | 2.17     |
| 3,178            | Fireworks, Balloons, etc.                     | .14                | 1,706,654           | .08      |
| 2,373,468        |                                               | 100.00%            | \$2,023,245,101     | 100.00%  |

The terror of this mother and child will no doubt be short-lived, for the fire department has come in time. But, what of the "second terror" that follows, when they realize that they cannot cope with the cash loss that fire has brought. Insurance could have saved them from financial tragedy . . . it may yet save you! Call right now to arrange for adequate property coverage . . . Consult your phone directory for the names of reliable insurance agents in your community.

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NYSSA FIRE INSURANCE AGENTS

