

# Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association

President, George Howe, Fremont.  
 First Vice President, H. A. Graff, Seward.  
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 Secretary, E. A. Miller, Kearney.  
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 A department devoted to the interests of the volunteer firemen of the state of Nebraska.  
 Edited by Lloyd C. Thomas, state publicity chairman.

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEEMEN

Albion—H. E. Hallstead.	Neleigh—Jay Ames.
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Fullerton—John C. Chapman.	
Ulysses—B. S. Ogleby.	

Fire departments thruout the state were generally successful in securing what they asked for at the spring elections although at several points the voters denied them the buildings or equipment asked for. We fail to see how any intelligent body of voters can refuse to grant a fire department the proper equipment to fight fires with or the proper quarters in which to house the department. The volunteer fireman risks his limb and life to save property without pay. He certainly deserves proper equipment to fight fire with.

If your department wants new equipment or new quarters and it will be necessary to have the vote of your town to secure them, we would suggest that the campaign for next year's election be started without delay. A fire department can surely mold public opinion in their town within one year. Show your citizens through your newspapers why you should have the equipment or the quarters. Then keep at it for the entire year. We predict that the results at your next election will be perfectly satisfactory.

We are in receipt of a copy of the Proceedings of the Thirty-Second Annual Convention of the Association, held at Columbus on January 20, 21 and 22. The book is the best we have seen of this nature and certainly shows careful and painstaking work on the part of the secretary, E. A. Miller, of Kearney, and of the printer who published it, H. A. Webb, of Kearney. Members will do well to spend some spare time going over the proceedings. Much information of interest can be secured from it.

It seems rather hard to get interest aroused in a tournament for this year. Perhaps many towns fail to realize what this would mean to them. The appropriation granted by the association to the town which takes the tournament will go a long way towards defraying the expenses. A tournament brings many visitors to the town taking it and is a paying proposition in every way, if properly advertised. We would suggest that some of the towns in the eastern part of the state take up the matter with Harry Houser, chairman of the board of control, Fremont, Nebraska.

We are much gratified at the attention given this department by the different fire departments thruout the state. It is our intention to visit a number of the departments during the summer and discuss matters of interest with them. Notify us when you expect to have your smokers or gatherings during the summer and we will try and be with you. Nothing arouses more interest in a volunteer fire department than a good smoker at which you can invite your business men and your city officials. It will make them take interest and show them that you have a live department.

"Cigars and cigarettes carelessly thrown away caused 132,000 fires during the past year in the United States," says Fire Commissioner Robert Adamson of New York City. Many of the fires with unknown origin are doubtlessly caused by lighted cigar and cigarette stubs which are carelessly dropped or thrown away.

The Nebraska State Fire Prevention Association are preparing to furnish this department with bulletins and special articles. The good work done by these people should be recognized by all departments. They keep in as close touch as anyone, inspecting as they do, practically every business building in the state each year or oftener.

## FIRE PREVENTION

### SPEECH BY RIDGELL

Deputy State Fire Commissioner W. S. Ridgell, at a recent gathering of wholesale and retail merchants, spoke on fire prevention as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This department is in both the retail and wholesale business. We are wholesaling fire prevention and retailing fire protection, and we want every one of our retail merchants to put in a good stock of fire protection, in fact enough so that in case a fire should start while you are in your place of business you would be able to control it without having the fire department to turn on the water.

We are wholesaling fire prevention and want every retail merchant in the state of Nebraska to stock up to the limit, and will say there is no limit. Your stock of fire prevention will never get shop worn and you will never be compelled to sell it at a loss.

We will absolutely refuse to give the sale of these goods to any one merchant in a town, but will insist that every merchant carry a full stock. These goods we sell on yearly payments and will guarantee that provided the merchant keeps his store, basement, back yards stocked up, and see that your clerks keep the stock in good condition, that at the end of the year you will find that you have made a larger profit on Fire Prevention goods than any other that you carry in stock.

Fire reduction is a great, progressive, forward stride: Fire Destruction is a tremendous, wasteful, backward fall.

Retail merchants should see to it that their premises are kept clean and free from fire hazards. They should not allow waste and

rubbish to accumulate on their property. Why save in your back room, basements or back yards, that which you have carried out of the main room of your store because you wanted to throw it away as useless? Why keep combustible material around that you never intend to use or utilize for any purpose again? Why not haul it away to the public dump, or if your town has no public dump, haul it away from any building and burn it. **PURPOSELY YOURSELF.** This is much better and safer than to wait until the rubbish pile takes fire **ACCIDENTALLY, ITSELF,** and burns and destroys your property, and perhaps your neighbor's.

The spring season is now at hand when everyone, business men as well as housewives, will begin their annual spring cleaning. The winter's cold and snow accumulates a lot of rubbish and waste. In cleaning it out of your premises do not throw it where it will be a private or public menace. If you want to burn it your self, choose a **CALM** day for this task—it is criminal carelessness to start a bonfire on a **WINDY** day. Watch the fire closely until it is burned out. Then, **AFTER IT IS BURNED OUT AND THE FIRE DEAD,** throw water on the ashes to be sure before you leave it that the ashes are not even warm.

Too much precaution cannot be used in controlling bonfires.

We would further suggest that you retailers in the future pay more attention to your electric wiring. See that no wires touch the wood, and never hang an electric wire or cord over nails, hooks, or any metal. Where your wires run thru the ceiling or wood partition, you should see that they are protected by porcelain tubes. See that the wires do not hang loose but have them sup-

ported by porcelain bridges every five or six feet, so as to keep your wires at least one inch from the wood. When it is necessary for you to rewire your place of business or when building a new building, you should have your electric wires put in conduits.

You merchants should take this matter up with your town councils and see that they have all new wiring inspected by competent men, as at least 50 per cent of the men doing electrical work in the towns of the state are incompetent, and should not be allowed to put in this work, thereby endangering not only your property but the property of the entire community.

Gasoline and Kerosene are dangerous explosives and should always be treated as such. Great care must be used in handling and storing them. So highly explosive is gasoline, that the only safe way to store it in large quantities is in safe, underground tanks, where the gasoline can be run into the tank thru a pipe and pumped out as needed thru a pump. This is not only the safest, but the most economical way to store it.

Under the Fire Commission law of Nebraska it is a misdemeanor to store or keep on hand gasoline in any quantity, exceeding five gallons, unless it is buried in safe underground tanks. When gasoline is kept in quantities of 5 gallons or less it may be stored in metal cans painted red. It is best always to keep even the 5-gallon can in an outbuilding.

Kerosene or coal oil must be stored and handled with care. While gasoline gives off a highly explosive vapor when exposed to air, it quickly evaporates and disappears. Coal oil, when spilled upon the floor, leaves an oily, moist spot for weeks, and if a match should drop on this oil soaked floor, a blaze would quickly start.

Employes should be impressed with the fact that you will not tolerate careless habits in your store.

Smoking should be absolutely prohibited.

If you see an employe throw a match carelessly away, right then is the time to reprove him.

Your supply of matches should be kept in their proper places, and not thrown anywhere about the store.

Advocate the use of Safety matches and sell them to your customers at every opportunity in place of the Parlor match.

Several states have already passed laws prohibiting the manufacture, sale or use of the dangerous Parlor or "strike anywhere" match. We would recommend to the retail merchants of Nebraska that they take the matter up with their representatives-elect of the next legislature and try and have a law passed for the state of Nebraska that will do away with the sale and use of the dangerous Parlor or "strike anywhere" match.

Upon receiving a supply of matches we would suggest to merchants that they place them in a metal receptacle in a safe place where mice and rats cannot get at them.

As an advertising scheme we suggest that merchants purchase a supply of metal boxes suitable to be placed upon the walls in homes, and then request their customers to place or tack these boxes up in a convenient place, and **OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.**

Last year in the state of Nebraska there were 68 fires caused by "children and matches," and there were 56 other fires caused by "carelessness in different ways with matches," and probably 20 per cent of the 368 fires reported as unknown were caused by carelessness with matches making a total of KNOWN causes by matches of 124, and a probable total of 200 fires caused by "carelessness with matches" last year. These fires, with proper precaution on the part of the retail merchants, could be greatly reduced.

Fully 70 per cent of the fires which occur not only in Nebraska but in the United States, are due to carelessness. Take for example, the number of fires occurring from carelessness and neglect in this state during the past year, and you will readily see that most, if not all of them, could have been avoided if due care and precaution had been used:

- Hot ashes carelessly thrown . . . 22
- Bon-fires . . . 22
- Boys smoking . . . 1
- Stop left out of chimney hole . . . 2
- Curtains blowing against lamps or candles . . . 8
- Lighting fire with coal oil . . . 4
- Carelessly thrown cigar or cigarette stubs . . . 29
- Filling gasoline stoves while lighting, etc. . . 31
- Cleaning clothes with gasoline . . . 5
- Cleaning bed with gasoline . . . 5
- Electric wiring defective . . . 16
- Lantern in barn . . . 5
- Leaking oil on stove . . . 3
- Pipe lighted in coat pocket . . . 2
- Burning rubbish carelessly . . . 4
- Overheated stoves and stoves with no protection underneath . . . 31
- Stove too close to wall . . . 8
- Stove pipe hole filled with rags or paper . . . 2
- Stove pipe run through wood roof or partition . . . 16
- Hanging clothes too near a stove . . . 5
- Smoking in bed . . . 4

Most of these fires, if not all of them, could have been prevented if due care and precaution had been exercised. Carelessness and irresponsibility on the part of our citizens is the cause for most of the enormous fire loss sustained by this country, and it is only by practicing constantly and ever exercising care and precaution wherever fire dangers exist that we can hope to reduce this appalling loss to the minimum.

You understand that whenever your community suffers a fire loss that you as business men and citizens must pay that loss, as the insurance companies are but the collectors and distributors, and you must pay them their expenses for collecting and distributing and a reasonable profit as legitimate merchants.

One of the many explosive products on the market is the "naphtha"

stove polish. This polish is very inflammable. The manufacturer protects himself by putting a caution on each can not to use the polish when there is a fire in the stove. Housewives frequently overlook this caution, and the result is many fires, with severe injuries from this dangerous article. Retail dealers can refuse to handle and sell this explosive article, or they can, at least, discourage its use by advocating a non-inflammable stove polish.

Every store should be equipped with good Fire Extinguishers. All clerks should be taught how to use them in case of fire. Be sure they are good extinguishers approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Keep the aisles of your stores clean from obstructions. Always have an aisle or passageway in your basements. In case of fire this makes it easier for the firemen to get through to fight the fire.

Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting must go hand in hand, the one always working and on the alert to prevent fires, the other always ready to work when called upon. The Fire Preventor must be an indefatigable, everlastingly worker. He has all-ways tasks to perform. The Fire Fighter is like the soldier, he may rest a great deal of the time, but must be ever at his post of duty to await a call for help.

Fire Prevention is a wonderfully wide and worthy subject to work upon. It is of greater necessity and more importance than Fire Fighting. If the retail merchants in towns where they have a paid secretary would appoint him to make a thorough inspection of the business houses of the town at least four times a year (we will furnish blanks for making these inspections free of charge), you would note a reduction of your fire losses locally in a very short time. We will assist you in every possible way to compel business men, when they refuse to exercise due care and caution, to keep their premises free from fire dangers.

## STATE NEWS

At Ord the bond issue for a new city hall lost by only twelve votes. The firemen were much disappointed. Water bonds and electric light bonds carried but the city hall bonds lost. The plans were for a building 40x70, with ample room for the fire apparatus and a fine assembly room with all modern conveniences. This department, at their last regular meeting, ordered suitable markers for the graves of deceased members. The department has a fine band.

"Quick work on the part of the Osmond Vol. Fire Dept. saved from destruction by fire the power plant of the local electric light company. Two lines of hose and one chemical sufficed to extinguish the flames which enveloped the entire interior of the building and threatened to destroy the entire plant. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to have started from an explosion of gasoline vapor in the air from the ignition spark on the engine."

The Neleigh fire department enjoyed a very pleasant evening on April 11th at the home of Geo. Ferguson, the chief. Games were the principal amusement. At twelve o'clock a fine three-course lunch was served, which always takes well with the firemen. They extend a vote of thanks to Mrs. Ferguson.

### Schuyler Department Notes

On April 11th, at about five-thirty, p. m., the fire department was called out to extinguish a fire at the J. R. Overturf residence. The fire caught in the roof, evidently by a spark from the chimney. Very little damage resulted as the department responded very quickly to the alarm and put out the fire before it had gained any headway.

The Schuyler Volunteer Fire Department would like to hear from some of the other departments using wooden water mains, or that have replaced them with permanent mains and their experience relative to the length of time that the wooden mains will last. Schuyler has the old wooden mains which are about twenty-two years old and therefore would like some information from other towns regarding their water mains.

On Tuesday evening, March 21st, the fire department came very nearly being called out to extinguish a fire in the home of Geo. W. Howe. The fire, which showed every evidence of being incendiary, was started by pouring kerosene on the stairway and all doors leading to the stairway being closed. The fire could get no draught and therefore smothered itself. Mr. Howe and family were away at the time and did not learn of the attempt until they returned home some hours later. Mr. Howe has suffered a number of losses from fire in the last three years and all of incendiary origin and this fire like all the others was evidently started by the same party.

On Monday, April 6th, the regular monthly meeting of the Schuyler Volunteer Fire Department was held which proved to be a very enthusiastic one. Nine new members were enrolled on the department books. The proposition of installing a better system of locating a fire after the alarm had been sounded, was discussed. One system considered was the installing of a private telephone from the power house to the city hall which would give immediate and uninterrupted service thereby assisting materially in exactly locating and distinguishing any fire which might occur. The President appointed the following committee to take the matter before the city council: Chief Severyn, Chairman; Joseph J. Kubik and H. C. Smith.

The annual meeting is held on the first Monday in May and the constitution and by-laws call for an auditing committee of three members appointed by the President one month previous to the annual meeting to examine and audit the books of the Secretary and Treasurer at least one week previous to the annual meeting and report in writing at the annual meeting, and the following members were appointed: Geo. F. McKenzie, Chairman; E. E. Buresh, Vice-Chairman; and W. H. Lunsburg. After a general discussion, the meeting was adjourned until Monday, May 4th.

At a meeting of the Bloomfield department on March 25th, nine new members were taken in, making in all thirty-three members nearly all of whom are young active members, very capable of meeting all demands necessary. At this meeting the department was again divided into three companies: Hose No. 1, Hose No. 2, and Chemical. The fires are so few in our locality that we hardly ever get a chance to try anything new on them, owing to the consistent work of our fire chief who is always on the job with his Dutch cleanser.

The Fullerton department elected officers at their annual meeting. The new officers are: Chief, Earl Baldridge, President, Marsh Castle; Secretary, Guy Ralph; Treasurer, John Russell; Publicity Man, John C. Chapman. After the meeting a fine oyster supper was served.

The Kearney fire department will have regular fire drills once each month. These will consist of a run with the fire truck, coupling on, and using the ladders. The department has purchased new helmets with which they will be able to enter gas filled rooms. These were paid for by the city council.

The council had intended to purchase one helmet but the argument presented that if the man with the helmet should enter the burning building and anything occur either to the helmet or to his person, it would be impossible for a second member of the department to enter the building in order to rescue him. With the two helmets two men can enter the building and work together where many times one man could not handle the work, especially if the heavy water hose had to be carried into the building.

With the purchase of the helmets the department will now be in a position to fight any fire which might occur in this city. The chemical attachment of the truck has proved to be invaluable and has saved much property from being water soaked. With the helmets it will be possible to save more property than before, because in many cases the firemen could not enter the building because of the gas, and consequently the water had to be turned on to extinguish the fire.

The University Place department have received a new secretary's book from John Martin of Fremont. They find it very useful and recommend it for use by all departments. They have an air whistle completed and in working order, having just installed a new electrical device for opening and closing the air valve.

The Geneva Fire Department was unable to secure the new building for housing the fire apparatus and served the following notice on the mayor and city council: "Moved, that the Geneva Volunteer Fire Department hereby give notice to the mayor and city council of the city of Geneva, Nebr., that thirty days from this date, April 8, 1914, we will hand in our resignation as a body as members of this organization, the said resignation to take effect immediately on its receipt. You are hereby requested to give notice to the citizens of Geneva that they may take the necessary steps to organize a new fire department. In connection herewith we wish to extend to those citizens who so cordially supported the efforts to vote bonds wherewith to build a city hall and the proper housing of the city's fire fighting apparatus as well as those who have so earnestly and cordially supported this department's gratuitous work of fighting fires within the city in the years past. Sincerely and carried unanimously. Signed by the

GENEVA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, By Joseph Ertel, Secy."

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

1. W. B. Dudley, Chr., Wayne  
 S. A. Fowler, Central City  
 J. F. Dala, Tekamah  
 E. D. McCall  
 S. J. Henderson

2. Fred Sebold, Chr., West Point  
 J. L. Thorburn, Minden  
 W. H. Elbourne, North Bend  
 A. G. Evans  
 John Shickley

3. J. H. Casebeer, Chr., McCook  
 C. E. Seifken, Falls City  
 P. K. Walsh, Fairmont  
 Chas. Caldwell  
 J. A. Rice

4. W. S. Hardins, Chr., Friend  
 J. O. Morrison, Auburn  
 C. E. Chapin, Plattsmouth  
 W. C. Lyle  
 C. R. Elgas

5. C. U. Hendrickson, Chr., Hartington  
 H. H. Miller, St. Paul  
 R. F. Howe, Holdrege  
 F. M. Pond  
 E. S. Freeman

C. E. Babcock, W. I. Dallas, Chas. Krueger, C. C. Martin, E. M. Schoen, W. H. Steele, Columbia Fire Underwriters are not placed on any of these committees. If the chairman does not get the co-operation of his committee, he is at liberty to call upon any of the above for assistance.

The Executive Committee requests that the chairman of committees advise the Secretary stating the dates for each and every inspection, and it is the wish that all inspections should be made not later than May 15th. Inspection tickets and when slips are sent out, further instructions as to the method of handling inspections will be supplied.

None of these towns are very large nor the work very heavy, and we earnestly hope that the members will take hold immediately and do the work assigned. Copies of this bulletin have been sent to all members. NEBRASKA STATE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION. F. M. POND, Secy.

## BIG RESULTS FROM FARM

Build silos, milk cows, raise hogs, grow corn and alfalfa, use your head and work, are the essentials to success on a Box Butte farm according to E. Gregg, an eastern farmer who settled six miles south of Alliance three years ago.

Mr. Gregg brought forty-six Holstein cows with him. He started to milk as soon as he got located and has been doing it ever since. His cream check has averaged \$130 for each month since he came here. During the year 1912, he sold nearly \$1300 worth of hogs, in the year 1913 he sold nearly \$1500 worth. He has over fifty pigs at the present time fattened by seven sows. He raised all the corn he has fed his hogs during the past two years and in addition to raising enough to fill the silo that he erected soon after he came.

He has disposed of twenty-four of the cows that he brought with him and all the steers and at the present time has a herd of eighty-seven good Holstein cows.

## Do You Say "Who Are You?"

When you have made a telephone call and the person responds, or when you are answering the telephone, why not at once announce who you are?

When you answer the telephone, say, for example, "Adams & Company, Mr. Adams speaking." The old way of shouting, "Hello!" is inelegant and rather rude, and fortunately is fast becoming obsolete.

## Tell Who You Are

Say who you are, at once, when telephoning. That's the courteous, up-to-date method, eliminating abrupt and meaningless questions, getting right to the point, and starting the conversation the correct way.

The Smiling Voice Is the Winning Way.



NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY