



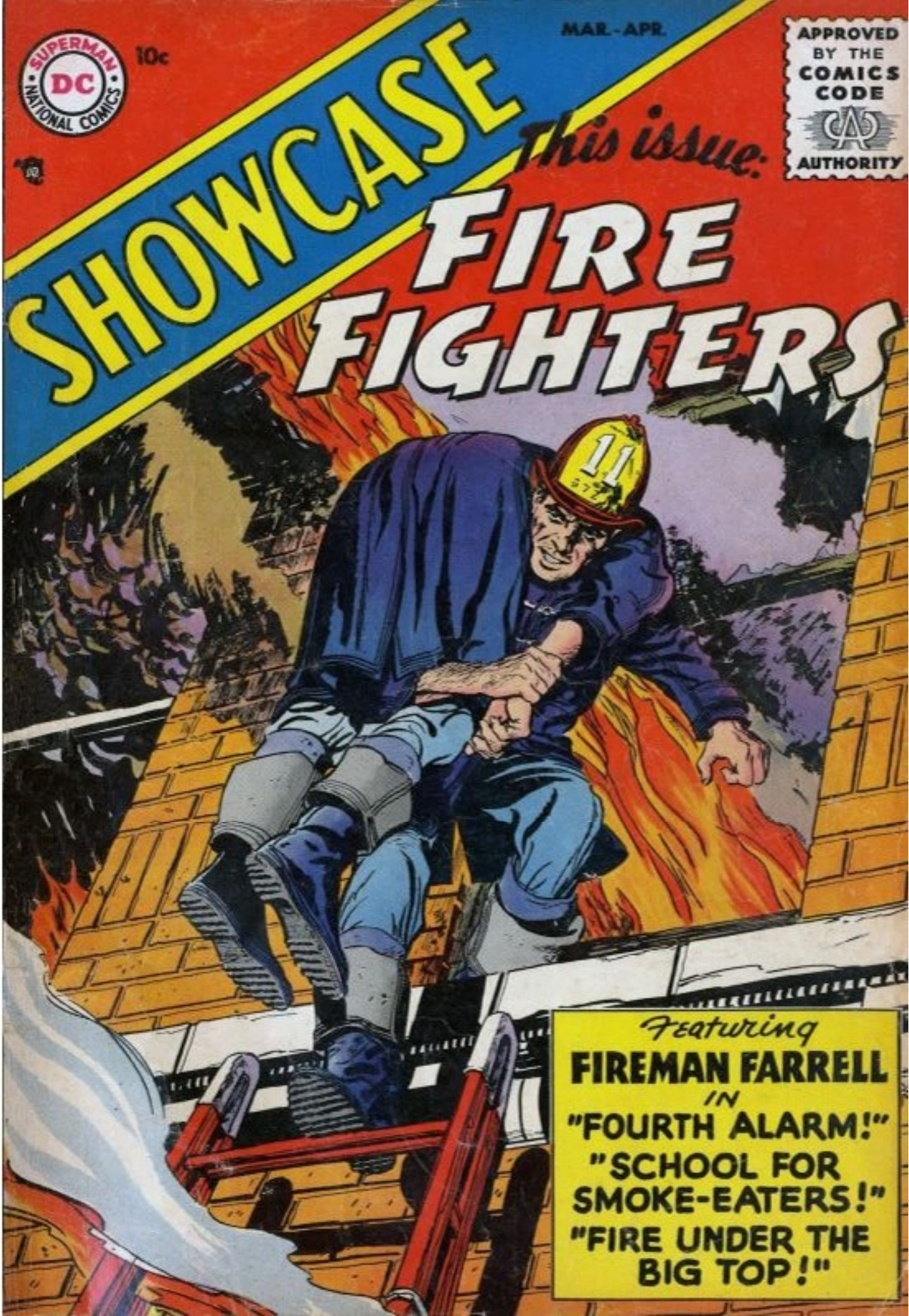
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AUTHORITY



SHOWCASE

This issue:

FIRE FIGHTERS

Featuring
FIREMAN FARRELL
IN
"FOURTH ALARM!"
"SCHOOL FOR SMOKE-EATERS!"
"FIRE UNDER THE BIG TOP!"

The Story Behind **SHOWCASE**

NOW THAT YOU'VE BOUGHT YOUR FIRST COPY OF **SHOWCASE**, WE'LL WAGER YOUR REACTION TO ITS CONTENTS IS SIMILAR TO LARRY BLAKE'S...



GOLLY! THE EDITORS OF **NATIONAL COMICS** PUT OUT A BRAND-NEW MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE ADVENTURES OF FIREMEN, JUST AS I'D ONCE SUGGESTED IN A LETTER TO THEM! MUST BE A COINCIDENCE! THEY'D NEVER HAVE TAKEN MY LETTER SERIOUSLY!



BUT LARRY BLAKE'S LETTER **HAD** BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY, ALONG WITH THE REQUESTS OF COUNTLESS OTHER COMIC BOOK FANS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. IN THE EDITOR'S OFFICE AT NATIONAL COMICS...



If you publish a magazine about fire fighters my friends and I will support it

I NEVER DREAMED SO MANY SUPERMAN-DC READERS FAVORED SUCH AN IDEA. MMM... I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THIS UP WITH MY STAFF.

BUT WHEN THE STAFF OF NATIONAL COMICS MET, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT MANY OTHER EXCELLENT IDEAS FOR NEW CHARACTERS AND FEATURES ARE CONSTANTLY POURING IN FROM OUR READERS.



HOW TO FILL THESE, AND OTHER REQUESTS POSED A PROBLEM. IT WAS IMPRACTICAL TO RELEASE A VARIETY OF NEW MAGAZINES AT ONE TIME, HOPING YOU COULD SUPPORT THEM ALL. BUT THEN...



I'VE GOT IT-- A WAY TO PRESENT **ALL** THE GOOD IDEAS SENT IN BY OUR READERS. WE'LL INTRODUCE THEM ONE AT A TIME, IN A NEW MAGAZINE TO BE CALLED **SHOWCASE**!



AND SO WAS BORN **SHOWCASE**, THE MOST NOVEL IDEA EVER SEEN IN THE COMIC BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY. A MAGAZINE INSPIRED BY **YOU**! FOR THE FIRST ISSUE ON THE BASIS OF MOST REQUESTS MADE, THE **FIRE-FIGHTING** THEME WAS SELECTED.



THERE'S A **BIG SURPRISE** WAITING FOR YOU IN THE VERY NEXT ISSUE OF **SHOWCASE**. IT WILL INTRODUCE A BRAND-NEW COLORFUL HERO SUGGESTED BY **YOU**!



WE SUGGEST YOU RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW. IN THE MEANWHILE, SEND US REQUESTS FOR THE TYPE OF FEATURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE ISSUES OF **SHOWCASE**.

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FIREMAN FARRELL

THE MASK PROTECTS MY LUNGS AND EYES, BUT I CAN'T SEE A THING THROUGH THIS SMOKE! ONE WRONG STEP-- AND I'M A GONER!

THE MOST DANGEROUS DIPLOMA EVER AWARDED TO A STUDENT IS THE ONE YOU EARN AT THE CENTER CITY FIREMEN'S TRAINING SCHOOL. YOUNG FRED FARRELL'S FINAL EXAM WAS WRITTEN IN FLAME AND SMOKE 100 FEET IN THE AIR-- AND HE HAD TO KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS, BECAUSE HIS LIFE HUNG IN THE BALANCE AT...

THE SCHOOL FOR SMOKE-EATERS



THIS STORY BEGINS IN THE HOME OF YOUNG FRED FARRELL, PROBATIONARY FIREMAN, ON A VERY EVENTFUL DAY.

SIGH! IF YOUR FATHER COULD HAVE LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY, FRED, HE'D HAVE BEEN AS PROUD OF YOU AS I AM!

WHOA!...NOT SO FAST, MOM!



DON'T FORGET, I STILL HAVE TO PASS TODAY'S FINAL EXAM BEFORE I EARN MY BADGE!

YOU'VE ALREADY EARNED THIS ONE, SON... I'LL PIN IT INSIDE YOUR JACKET FOR LUCK! IT WAS THE FIRST BADGE YOUR FATHER EVER WORE, TOO!



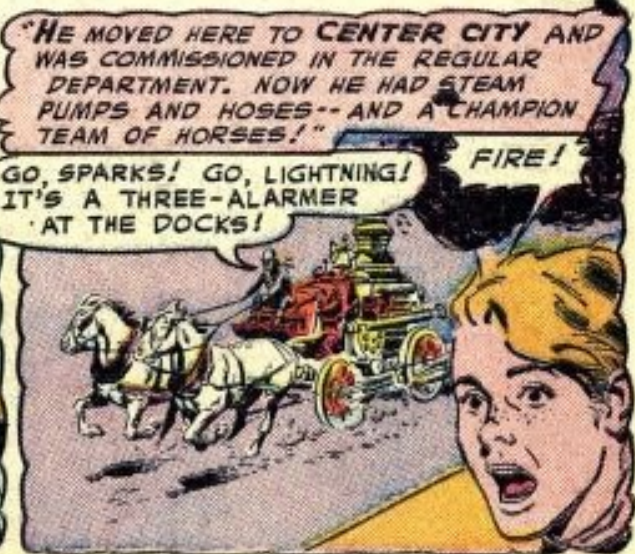


SHOWCASE



"AT 18, HE WAS ALREADY CHIEF OF HIS HOMETOWN VOLUNTEERS. THEY HAD NO PUMPS OR HOSES THEN--JUST BUCKETS AND MUSCLES..."

MORE BUCKETS!
LET THE WOMEN
AND CHILDREN
PASS THE
EMPTY!
KEEP THEM
GOING!



"HE MOVED HERE TO CENTER CITY AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN THE REGULAR DEPARTMENT. NOW HE HAD STEAM PUMPS AND HOSES--AND A CHAMPION TEAM OF HORSES!"

GO, SPARKS! GO, LIGHTNING!
IT'S A THREE-ALARMER
AT THE DOCKS!

FIRE!



"EVEN AFTER THEY MADE HIM AN OFFICER, HE WAS STILL THE FIRST MAN INTO THE SMOKE AND FLAMES, UNTIL--UNTIL THAT TERRIBLE DAY..."

OH, FRED SOB!
DON'T LEAVE
US!

DON'T CRY, BETH...
THERE'S NO BETTER
WAY FOR A MAN TO DIE
THAN BY SAVING THE
LIVES OF OTHERS!



THEY CALLED HIM
"OLD SMOKY", AND
EVERY PAPER PRINTED
A TRIBUTE TO HIM...
BUT WHO REMEMBERS
HIS NAME TODAY?

DON'T WORRY, MOM, HIS
NAME WILL NEVER DIE!
I ONLY HOPE I CAN
LIVE UP TO IT!



LATER, AS HE ARRIVES AT THE TRAINING SCHOOL, YOUNG FARRELL'S WORDS CAME VIVIDLY TO LIFE...

HEY, FARRELL,
GIVE US A STORY! ARE
YOU CARRYING ON THE
TRADITION OF YOUR
FATHER?

SMILE
FOR THE
CAMERA,
FARRELL!

PLEASE, BOYS, DON'T
MAKE A BIG DEAL
OUT OF THIS! I'M
JUST A GUY TRYING
TO EARN HIS
BADGE,
THAT'S
ALL!



WELL, IF IT ISN'T
THAT GREAT HERO,
FIREMAN FARRELL!
COULDN'T WAIT
TILL AFTER OUR
FINAL EXAM TO
HOLD YOUR PRESS
CONFERENCE, EH?

I DIDN'T ASK THE
REPORTERS HERE,
MILLER... YOU
KNOW THAT!



SHOWCASE



INSIDE, SOME MINUTES LATER...

HAVE YOU MADE PLANS FOR BECOMING COMMISSIONER, FARRELL? WITH THAT GREAT FAMILY NAME, YOU'RE A CINCH!

I'M NOT TRADING ON MY NAME, MILLER!

HEY, RED, WHY DON'T YOU QUIT RIDING FARRELL? YOU'VE BEEN AT IT ALL WEEK!

SURE I HAVE-- BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE PHONIES WHO TRY TO CASH IN ON THEIR FATHERS' REPUTATIONS!

KEEP IT UP MILLER, AND I'LL PULL THAT HELMET RIGHT DOWN OVER YOUR EARS!

HEY, YOU TWO!

TRAIN LOCK

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE HAD TO BREAK YOU UP, FARRELL AND MILLER! NOW CUT IT OUT!

Y-YES, LIEUTENANT!

ALL RIGHT-- NOW, FOR THE FINAL EXAM, WE'VE DIVIDED YOU INTO TWO TEAMS! CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD TO SEE WHERE YOU'RE ASSIGNED!

AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AT THE TRAINING GROUNDS...

THE FIRE "VICTIM" IS A DUMMY, OF COURSE, BUT THE FLAMES WILL BE REAL ENOUGH... SO LOOK OUT!

THEN, AS FARRELL ASSEMBLES HIS CREW FOR FINAL INSTRUCTIONS...

THIS APARTMENT HOUSE IS YOUR TARGET! FARRELL WILL LEAD THE **HOOK-AND-LADDER COMPANY**, MILLER WILL TAKE THE **PUMP COMPANY**!

CLARK WILL HANDLE THE FRONT WHEEL AND NOONAN THE REAR WHEEL AND AERIAL LADDER! REMEMBER, OUR MAIN JOB IS TO SAVE LIVES... LET MILLER'S CREW FIGHT THE FIRE.





SHOWCASE



INSIDE THE FIREHOUSE, THE HOOK-AND-LADDER MEN WAIT NERVOUSLY FOR THE SIGNAL...



ALL RIGHT, MEN, HIT THE FLOOR! TIME IS OUR MAJOR WEAPON!



THE FIRE IS ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR, AND THE "VICTIM" IS TRAPPED ON THE FLOOR ABOVE! WHEN WE REACH THERE, NOONAN, YOU'LL PULL OUT YOUR WHEEL AND SWING THE AERIAL LADDER INTO POSITION!



BUT SECONDS LATER...

THE VICTIM IS TRAPPED ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR, AND THIS LADDER WON'T REACH HIM! LARRY, GET ME A **POMPIER**!



THE POMPIER--OR SCALING LADDER-- ONE OF THE FIRE-MAN'S MOST DANGEROUS IMPLEMENTS...



AT THE TOP OF THE AERIAL LADDER, THE YOUNG FIREMAN HITS HIS FIRST HAZARD...

I'LL SNAP ON THE SAFETY BELT, GET READY TO MOUNT THE POMPIER AND... WHEW! THAT HEAT!



LOOK OUT, FRED!

GOOD THING MY BELT IS HOLDING ME!



WE'VE GOT TO COOL THIS WALL OFF, LARRY, OR WE'LL NEVER GET THERE! CALL DOWN FOR THE **WATER TOWER!**

GOOD MOVE!

THE MESSAGE IS QUICKLY RELAYED-- AND IN LESS THAN A MINUTE...

TOWER ON ITS WAY!

TOWER ON ITS WAY!

THE MOBILE WATER TOWER SPRINGS UP 65 FEET IN THE AIR-- AND SUDDENLY, A GREAT RUSH OF WATER POURS FORTH AT THE RATE OF 1200 GALLONS PER MINUTE!

IF THAT COOLED THINGS OFF! NOW FOR THE POMPIER... I'VE GOT TO HOOK IT UP THERE ON THE FIRST TRY-- AND AWAY FROM OUR "VICTIM"!

DEFTLY, THE YOUNG FIREMAN SWINGS THE HOOK ONTO THE WINDOW LEDGE ABOVE-- AND WITH A MIGHTY TUG, HE SINKS THE METAL TEETH INTO THE WOOD...

QUICKLY, FARRELL GAINS THE LEDGE AND RAISES THE VICTIM IN THE FAMED **FIREMAN'S LIFT**...

QUICK BUT CAREFUL, FARRELL! LIKE LARRY SAID, THE POMPIER IS A TRICKY LITTLE TOOL! ONE FALSE STEP AND-- THAT'S ALL!

YOU MAY BE A DUMMY, MISTER, BUT YOU'RE HEAVY AS AN OX! WELL, HERE WE GO!

BELOW, THE OTHER STUDENT FIREMEN LOOK ON IN AWE...

BOY, THAT FARRELL HAS GUTS! LOOK AT HIM MOVE!

ALL RIGHT, QUIT GAWKING! WE'VE GOT OUR OWN JOB TO DO!



RED MILLER'S MOTOR PUMP CREW SWIFTLY SWINGS INTO ACTION...

WE'LL USE THEIR AERIAL LADDER! FOX, HOOK THE PUMP UP TO THE STANCHION... GAINER, BRING THE LINE OVER HERE AND FOLLOW ME!

OKAY, RED!



AT THE FIFTH FLOOR LEVEL, MILLER HAS TO STAND ASIDE TO LET FARRELL PASS DOWN WITH THE FIRE "VICTIM"...

COME ON, HERO... STEP ON IT SO A COUPLE OF REAL SMOKE-EATERS CAN GET UP TO THAT BLAZE!

IF I WERE YOU, RED, I'D GET A GOOD LOOK AT THAT FIRE BEFORE I PUT A HOSE ON IT!



THAT BLAZE LOOKS AND SMELLS LIKE A CLASS-B! YOU MIGHT DO BETTER WITH A FOAM EXTINGUISHER THAN A WATER LINE!

KEEP YOUR ADVICE TO YOURSELF... WATER IS THE BEST FIRE EXTINGUISHER EVER INVENTED!

***CLASS-B FIRE:**
A BLAZE CAUSED BY OIL, NAPHTHA, GASOLINE, ETC.



AT THE SEVENTH FLOOR, SOURCE OF THE BLAZE, MILLER SWINGS OFF THE LADDER AND ONTO THE SMOKING WINDOW...

OKAY, GAINER, TELL THEM TO CHARGE THE LINE... I'M GOING IN!

THE MIGHTY ENGINE IN THE PUMPING TRUCK SENDS A COLUMN OF WATER UP THROUGH 90 FEET OF HOSE...

OPEN HER GENTLY NOW, BOY... TOO MUCH SUDDEN PRESSURE COULD TOSS YOU RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW! NOW, IN YOU GO...

CHARGE THE LINE!





SHOWCASE



MEANWHILE, SEVEN STORIES BELOW, WHERE
FOGARTY HAS COMPLETED THE RESCUE...

LEND A HAND, LARRY, AND
GET THE "VICTIM" OVER
TO THE AMBULANCE...
THEN TELL CHARLEY
TO BRING ME A GAS
MASK AND FOAM
EXTINGUISHER!

YOU THINK RED
IS IN TROUBLE,
EH?



SOON... IF MILLER ISN'T OUT
OF THERE BY THE TIME
I CLIMB UP, I'M GOING IN AFTER
HIM! HAVE THE RESUSCITATOR
READY... HE MAY HAVE
CAUGHT SOME SMOKE!

GOOD LUCK,
FRED!



WITHIN A FEW SHORT MOMENTS...

NO SIGN OF
MILLER... BUT
I KNOW HE'S IN THERE!
I'LL FOLLOW HIS LINE...
THAT SHOULD LEAD
ME TO HIM!



IF I'M RIGHT, AND THIS
FIRE WAS STARTED BY
OIL OR NAPHTHA, MILLER
MUST HAVE CAUGHT
HIMSELF A LUNGFUL
OF CARBON DIOXIDE!
I'VE GOT TO FIND
HIM--FAST!



THE FOAM EXTINGUISHER CREATES A PATH OF
SAFETY AS FARRELL MOVES THROUGH THE
DENSE SMOKE--TILL FINALLY...

THERE HE IS,
UNCONSCIOUS, YET
STILL FIGHTING
THE BLAZE! MUST
GET HIM OUT IN
THE AIR!



THIS FIRE LOOKS LIKE IT'S
GETTING OUT OF HAND...
BUT I CAN'T STOP NOW--
MILLER MAY BE
SERIOUSLY HURT!





SHOWCASE



BUT WHEN, AT LAST, THEY REACH THE COOL AIR...

I'LL BE OKAY, FARRELL!
GET BACK IN THERE AND
DOUSE THAT BLAZE, OR
NOT A MAN AMONG US
WILL GRADUATE FIRE
SCHOOL!

YOU'RE A BORN
FIRE-EATER, RED!



BACK INTO THE BLAZE GOES FIREMAN
FARRELL--AND AS THE FLAMES RECEDE
UNDER THE BATH OF FOAM, HE MAKES A
DISCOVERY...

HERE'S THE LITTLE PACKAGE
THAT STARTED THINGS OFF!
NO WONDER MILLER COULDN'T
FIGHT IT WITH WATER!



IN A FEW MINUTES, THE MAN-MADE MAGIC OF THE
FOAM EXTINGUISHER PUTS AN END TO THE
INFERNO...

UP YOU GO,
FIREMAN!

I'LL SURE FEEL SILLY BEING
CARRIED DOWN THAT LADDER,
BUT I'D NEVER MAKE IT UNDER
MY OWN STEAM!



SOMEBODY GIVE ME A
HAND... THIS SMOKE-
EATER WEIGHS A TON!
WHAT DO YOU EAT FOR
BREAKFAST, MILLER
CANNONBALLS?

WOW! WHAT A
PICTURE! WHAT
A STORY! "SON
OF HERO BECOMES
HERO!"



FORGET THAT "SON OF HERO"
STUFF, BUDDY! FIREMAN
FARRELL IS WALKING IN
HIS OWN SHOES... I
LEARNED THAT
TODAY!

SHAKE, RED... WE
BOTH LEARNED MORE
THAN FIRE-FIGHTING
IN THIS BLAZE.



AND SO, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

WELL, FRED, YOUR BOY DID IT, LIKE YOU
ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD! AND I'LL
BET YOU'RE PLEASED AS PUNCH--
WHEREVER YOU ARE!





SHOWCASE





FIREMAN FARRELL

HIGH ABOVE A FLAMING CARNIVAL, FIREMAN FRED FARRELL RISKS HIS LIFE TO SAVE ANOTHER'S -- THE LIFE OF AN ANIMAL. THROUGH SMOKE AND FLAME, HE CLIMBS THE TRACKS OF A BLAZING ROLLER COASTER, TO SAVE A MADDENED ELEPHANT FROM THE...

FIRE UNDER THE BIG TOP

HE CAN'T MARCH THAT ANIMAL BACK DOWN THROUGH THE FLAMES-- AND THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAVE IT!

THERE MUST BE A WAY... THERE MUST!



ONE MORNING, IN THE OFFICE OF FIRE

LIEUTENANT REINER... RELAX, FRED...

FIREMAN FARRELL REPORTING AS ORDERED, SIR!

I'VE HAD YOU ASSIGNED HERE FOR AWHILE, TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF FIRE INSPECTION DUTY! IT'S DEPARTMENT POLICY TO TRAIN NEW MEN FOR SPECIALIZED WORK!

OUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT WILL TAKE US TO THE CARNIVAL GROUNDS! MY CAR IS OUT FRONT...





SHOWCASE



EN ROUTE TO THE CARNIVAL, THE LIEUTENANT OUTLINES THEIR JOB...

A NEW SIDESHOW IS OPENING TONIGHT, AND THEY'RE USING A FIREWORKS DISPLAY TO ATTRACT BUSINESS!

DID THEY REGISTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SIR?

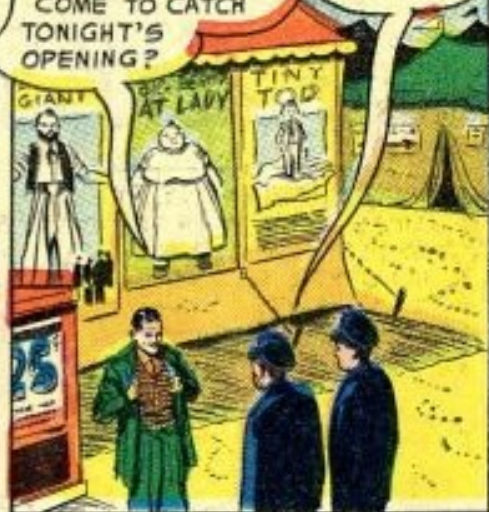
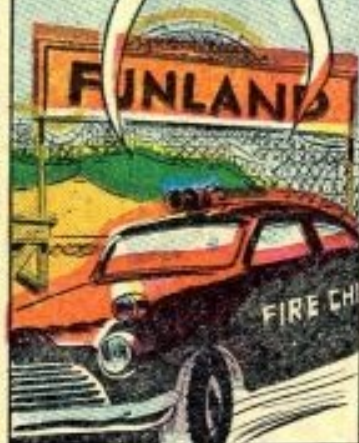
NO-- THAT'S WHY I'M CONCERNED... IT'S A FREAK SHOW, RUN BY A MAN NAMED BAYLOR!

WE CAN PARK HERE AND WALK INTO THE CARNIVAL GROUNDS!

SHORTLY, AT THE SITE OF THE NEW SIDESHOW...

YEP, I'M PHIL BAYLOR... ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE YOU BOYS FROM THE DEPARTMENT! YOU COME TO CATCH TONIGHT'S OPENING?

NOT EXACTLY, MR. BAYLOR...



WE UNDERSTAND YOU'RE OPENING THE SHOW WITH A FIREWORKS DISPLAY! OF COURSE YOU'LL HAVE A LICENSED PYRO-TECHNICS EXPERT HANDLING IT--?

WELL-- UH-- NOT EXACTLY...

THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T NEED A LICENSED MAN, LIEUTENANT! I'VE RUN FIREWORKS SHOWS FOR YEARS! NEVER STUDIED IT, BUT I'VE LEARNED ENOUGH BY EXPERIENCE!



SORRY... OUR REGULATIONS REQUIRE A LICENSED MAN-- ANYTHING LESS AND PROPERTY! GET A PYRO-TECHNICIAN OR CALL OFF YOUR DISPLAY.

I CAN'T CANCEL THE SHOW-- AND A LICENSED MAN WOULD COST \$100! HEY-- WAIT, LIEUTENANT!

BAH! \$100 DOWN THE DRAIN! IF HE THINKS I'M GOING TO WASTE THAT KIND OF CASH, HE'S CRAZY!

NOW HOLD ON, PHIL...





SHOWCASE





SO BAYLOR DECIDED TO DEFY THE LIEUTENANT'S ORDERS! THIS WILL LEAD HIM INTO A PACK OF TROUBLE... AND LET'S HOPE THAT'S ALL IT LEADS TO!



HEY--LOOK, MA! THERE GOES A BIG ONE!

THAT FOOL BAYLOR--SENDING UP GIANT ROCKETS IN A CLOSED IN AREA LIKE THIS!



SUDDENLY, THE SOARING MISSILE TWISTS CRAZILY, AND... THE ROCKET--IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!

IT'S CRASHING INTO THE TENT!

IT'S ON FIRE... THE TENT'S ON FIRE! HELP!



INSTINCTIVELY, FARRELL RACES TO THE NEAREST ALARM BOX...

THE FIRST MOVE IS TO SIGNAL FOR HELP... THEN I'LL CHECK ON ANY PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN CAUGHT INSIDE THE TENT!



IS THERE ANYBODY LEFT INSIDE THE TENT, BAYLOR?

NO, NOBODY! I COULDN'T HELP THIS, FIREMAN... IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

MY BABY--MY LITTLE GEORGIE... WHERE'S MY BABY?



MY LITTLE BOY! HE WAS WITH ME UNTIL WE GOT TO THE DOOR OF THE TENT-- AND NOW HE'S... OH NO!

NOBODY LEFT INSIDE, EH, BAYLOR? YOU'D BETTER PRAY THAT THAT KID IS ALL RIGHT... YOUR LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT!



SHOWCASE



THIS WOULD BE A LOT EASIER IF I HAD ONE OF THE BOYS HOLDING A HOSE ON THE ENTRANCE-WAY-- BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO WAIT FOR THAT!



INSIDE, THE TENT IS A RING OF FLAME...

THE KID! MUST GET HIM WRAPPED UP AND SAFELY OUT THAT DOORWAY...

HELP ME, MISTER! PLEASE--HELP ME!



WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, FARRELL WRAPS THE CHILD IN HIS UNIFORM JACKET AND BRAVES THE FLAMES A SECOND TIME...

BUT NO SOONER IS THE CHILD IN HIS GRATEFUL MOTHER'S ARMS THAN A NEW EMERGENCY ARISES...

OKAY, GET SOME CARNIVAL FOLK TO HELP YOU LOAD THE ANIMALS ON TRUCKS AND MOVE THEM OUT-- FAST!

DON'T CRY, SONNY... IT'S JUST LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY-- ONLY BIGGER!

I DON'T CRY-- I DON'T CRY, MISTER... BAWWW!

THAT WONDERFUL MAN SAVED YOU, GEORGE!

HEY, FIREMAN! MY ANIMALS ARE HOUSED BEHIND THIS TENT... WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM OUT! FIRE DRIVES THE BIG CATS WILD!



JUST THEN, A FAMILIAR SOUND PIERCES THE AIR-- AND A HAPPY SIGHT GREET'S THE HARRIED FIREMAN'S EYES...

THE SMOKE-EATERS... THEY'VE ARRIVED!

MANCUSO, START THE PUMP! HOGAN, HOOK THE LINE UP TO THAT HYDRANT! ON THE DOUBLE!

I'M FRED FARRELL OF HOOK-AND-LADDER COMPANY 77... I TURNED IN THE ALARM!

WE CAN USE YOU... GRAB THIS SAFETY BELT AND HELMET AND COAT!





SHOWCASE





SHOWCASE



TAKE A CREW DOWN TO THE WEST END OF THE FIRE, FARRELL... FOR NOW, WE'LL CONCENTRATE ON CHECKING THE SPREAD!

YES, SIR!

UNDER ORDERS, FARRELL AND HIS CREW BEGIN WETTING DOWN THE BUILDINGS BORDERING THE FIRE...
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THINGS COOL AND WET! IF THE WIND LETS UP, WE CAN SAVE EVERYTHING FROM HERE TO THE WEST!

HOPE WE DON'T HAVE A CONFLAGRATION* ON OUR HANDS!



*CONFLAGRATION: ANY BLAZE BEYOND HUMAN CONTROL.



AT THAT MOMENT...
L-LOOK! UP ON THE SCENIC RAILWAY!

GREAT SCOTT-- AN ELEPHANT!



IT'S TOBY-- MY BABY ELEPHANT! HE WAS FRIGHTENED... BROKE OUT OF HIS CAGE AND PICKED THE FASTEST ROUTE AWAY FROM THE FIRE!

W-WHAT'LL WE DO? WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM UP THERE TO BURN!

THE WORD IS FLASHED BACK TO THE CHIEF-- AND SECONDS LATER, HE APPEARS WITH INSTRUCTIONS...

SINCE WE CAN'T GET THAT ANIMAL TO WALK BACK DOWN THROUGH THE FLAMES, OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO PUT HIM OUT OF HIS PAIN-- WITH THIS GUN, FARRELL!

Y-YES, SIR!



BUT THE FEARLESS FIREMAN SUDDENLY GETS ANOTHER IDEA, WHICH SENDS HIM RACING INTO ACTION...

NO NEED TO SHOOT THAT ELEPHANT, IF I CAN HELP IT! THERE'S ONE WAY TO SAVE HIM, AND I'M GOING TO CHANCE IT!



ENRAGED WITH FEAR, THE YOUNG BEAST REARS UP AT THE SIGHT OF AN APPROACHING HUMAN...

EASY, TOBY BOY, EASY! WE'RE GOING TO BEAT THIS THING... YOU WAIT AND SEE!



SHOWCASE



THIS SAFETY BELT IS TESTED UP TO 1200 POUNDS! YOU'RE NOT AN OUNCE OVER SIX HUNDRED, TOBY, SO THIS MAY WORK!



GET THE **AERIAL LADDER** OVER HERE... THIS ANIMAL CAN STILL BE SAVED!

MINUTES LATER, THE TRUCK APPEARS AND THE LADDER ZOOMS INTO THE AIR...

ALL RIGHT, DROP HER DOWN NOW, SLOWLY... BUT KEEP THE TRUCK BACK FAR ENOUGH SO THE LADDER DOESN'T DIP INTO THE FLAMES!



AS SOON AS THE LADDER REACHES HIM, FARRELL SNAPS THE OTHER END OF THE SAFETY BELT ONTO IT...

OKAY, THAT DOES IT! SWING HER UP AND AWAY, BOYS! PULL THE TRUCK BACK... AND SWING HER GENTLY!



HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT! THAT'S THE NEATEST RESCUE I'VE EVER SEEN.

HURRAY!

WHAT A MAN!

AND SO, PRESENTLY...

NICE GOING, FARRELL... YOU RISKED A LOT FOR THAT ANIMAL!

ANY LIFE IS IMPORTANT, CHIEF--EVEN AN ELEPHANT'S, EH, TOBY?

FINALLY, WITH THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL, THE MAN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT IS LED AWAY...

YOU SAVED A 100 DOLLARS TONIGHT, BAYLOR, BUT LOOK AT THE COST! YOU'LL HAVE A LONG TIME TO CONTEMPLATE THE MISTAKE YOU MADE-- IN JAIL!



THE END



To the Boys and Girls of America

THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL IS YOUR

GUARANTEE

OF THE *BEST* IN COMICS READING

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS

SECRETS OF THE FIREHOUSE



A Smoke-Eater's Life is Fraught With Peril—and Some Polish

WHY do fire fighters break glass, smash walls, and knock down doors? When *can't* a fireman use water in fighting a blaze? What does a fireman fear more than an actual blaze? Anyone who has the answers to all these questions knows that there is a great deal more to being a fireman than sitting around the firehouse waiting for a bell to clang.

Despite the unexpectedness of the fireman's job, his working day is one of ironclad discipline. His first chore on arriving at quarters is to change from his crisp and clean uniform to his working clothes.

He is now ready for the inspection of the apparatus. At the same time, others are scrubbing the place clean. This is called policing the quarters, which ends at noon. Lunch is served in the kitchen, where the men unwrap the boxes they have brought from home. Coffee is on the house.

From two to four, drills and lectures are held. From four to six, which is closing time for that shift, the men are on recreation.

Meanwhile, there is a continuous clanging of the signal gong. No particular attention is paid to this until it

bongs out the number of the box to which the company must roll.

The man on the watch desk instantly yells, "Get out!" and as the men come sliding down the brass pole, he gives them the location of the box from which the fire signal came.

The men leap to their places on the running boards of pumper and truck, and in a matter of seconds are rolling to the fire.

The ladder truck is the first apparatus to arrive at a fire. This truck is still the most important part of the fire-fighter's equipment. Immediately on arriving at the fire, the ladders go into action. These ladders are light but strong, and are so constructed that they snap right back to their original position when relieved of their burden.

The most business-like piece of apparatus is the hose truck, or "wagon" as it is called in some cities. The hose truck plays the vital role of bringing the water to the fire.

Have you ever wondered of what material the hose, which can withstand such terrific pressures of water, is made of? Most people would think it's rubber, but it is actually a woven fabric, made of linen or cotton fiber.

Hoses come in various sizes—and each size is used for a special purpose. Small fires require a hose of 1 1/2-inch. Commercial buildings are treated with the 2 1/2-inch size. If the fire is fought strictly from the outside, a 3-inch hose is used.

Even the water is used in different sizes, depending upon the requirements. First, there is the solid stream that overpowers a blaze by its sheer force of volume. Then there is the spray, causing a shower of water. This is used sometimes to protect firemen working close to a fire.

One of the most recent weapons in fire-fighting is the release of fog through hoses, which has a great cooling effect and removes oxygen from the air. Without oxygen, the fiercest fire will perish.

Firemen divide all fires into three major classifications. Class A consists of fire in ordinary combustible substances, such as wood, paper, rags. These fires are extinguished by water. Class B includes fires of inflammable liquids, gasoline, oils, etc., from which air must be removed by smothering or blanketting. Class C consists of fires in electrical equipment.

Firemen, like people in other lines of work, have developed their own vocabulary. Some of the more interesting terms are: "All Hands," meaning a fire at which all the companies are needed; "Charged Line," a hose filled with water and ready to be discharged from the nozzle; "Kink Chasers," are firemen delegated to straighten out kinks or sharp bends in the hose; "Over your head and all around!" means that with the fire raging all about, the firemen should get down on their knees for air and whip the stream around in all directions; "What's the exposure?" is another way of asking whether the

fire can spread to the next building.

But now let's get back to the questions asked at the beginning of this article.

Firemen break glass windows to allow smoke and gas to escape, thereby giving firemen inside the building a better chance to live.

The use of water at the correct pressure is only one of the many problems of using the hose that the fireman must consider. The fireman must keep his eye on the stream at all times, alert for any changing condition. It is possible to direct a stream of water against a stack of baled cotton, and have the goods burn up anyway! Why? Because a heavy stream of water bounces right off. In this case, a light stream of water would be more effective.

Finally, the question: "What does a fireman fear more than the blaze itself?" The answer is dust and heated air.

Inside a building, the fireman spreads his stream about very carefully, so as not to raise any dust before he has a chance to wet the atmosphere down. Otherwise, the dust, hitting the blaze in a cloud, can cause an explosion that can destroy the building.

But it is the heated air that the fireman hates most of all, because it squeezes out all the oxygen, bringing a choking death. Heated air can do more than that. It can ignite the room it is in even though the fire is a block away.

There is a great deal more the firefighter knows about his dangerous and complicated calling, but the time has now come to "Take in!" This is perhaps the most popular expression around the firehouse. It means: "The fire's out. You can roll up your equipment and go back to quarters!"

—Jerry McKay



FIREMAN FARRELL

FIREMEN WORK FOR WAGES -- BUT HOW CAN YOU MEASURE THE DANGERS THEY FACE IN DOLLARS AND CENTS? HOW MUCH WILL THE VOTERS OF **CENTER CITY** PAY TO THE HEROES OF ITS FIRE DEPARTMENT WHEN THEY ANSWER THE...

FOURTH ALARM



ALL RIGHT, MEN,
PUT YOUR BACKS
INTO IT! IF THIS WIND
SHIFTS, THE FIRE-BOAT
IS GOING TO BE IN
PLENTY OF
TROUBLE!



ONE EVENING, IN THE MAIN STUDIOS OF THE
NATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK...

GOOD EVENING... THIS IS EDGAR R. MEADOW
WITH ANOTHER EDITION OF "LET'S TAKE A
LOOK!" TONIGHT OUR ROVING CAMERA
CREW IS IN **CENTER CITY!**



TOMORROW MORNING, **CENTER CITY** WILL
VOTE ON A PAY INCREASE FOR ITS FIREMEN...
BUT WE'RE GOING TO POLL THE VOTERS
ON THE PROPOSITION RIGHT NOW!
ARE YOU READY, CHARLEY?

READY,
ED!



WITH THE WINK OF AN ELECTRONIC EYE, THE SCENE FLASHES TO A STREET IN **CENTER CITY**...

OUR FIRST INTERVIEW IS WITH HAROLD MILLS, A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN! MR. MILLS, ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST THE PAY INCREASE FOR FIREMEN?

AGAINST!

CAN YOU TELL US WHY YOU'RE OPPOSED?

CERTAINLY... **CENTER CITY** HAS THE HIGHEST TAX RATE IN THE STATE! INCREASING FIREMEN'S WAGES WOULD SEND THE TAXES UP AGAIN, THAT'S ALL!



AS THE TELECAST CONTINUES, ANOTHER INTERVIEW GOES OUT ACROSS THE NATION...

I'M MARY BURKE... AS A MOTHER, I'M OPPOSED TO ANY CITY WAGE INCREASES UNTIL THE TEACHERS RECEIVE THEIRS!

WHAT A FOOLISH ARGUMENT!

JUST AROUND THE CORNER FROM HERE, THE MEN OF **HOOK-AND-LADDER COMPANY 77** SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY... WE'RE GOING TO DRIVE AROUND AND INTERVIEW THEM NOW, ED!



ARRIVING AT THE FIREHOUSE, THE TV REPORTER, CONTINUES HIS ROUNDUP...

WILL YOU SPEAK FOR THE COMPANY, CAPTAIN WALSH?

NO, THE MEN HAVE ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE CREW TO SPEAK FOR THEM... HE'S FIREMAN FRED FARRELL!

OKAY... TELL US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PAY INCREASE, FRED!

I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO THE MEN! TAKE BILL, THERE... HE HAS TWO LITTLE FIREMEN AT HOME AND ANOTHER ON THE WAY--AND YOU KNOW HOW EXPENSIVE KIDS' CLOTHES ARE!





SHOWCASE



SAM, OVER HERE, SUPPORTS BOTH HIS PARENTS-- AND JOE, NEXT TO HIM, HAS TWO KIDS WHO'VE NEVER SEEN A SUMMER CAMP!



STILL, NO MATTER HOW THE VOTE GOES TOMORROW, THESE MEN WILL GO ON DOING THEIR JOBS! THEY DIDN'T JOIN THE DEPARTMENT TO GET RICH, AND...



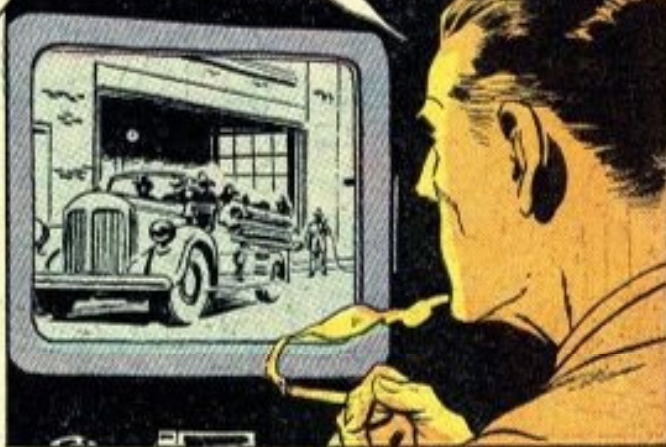
AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, A CALL TO ACTION BRINGS AN ABRUPT END TO THE INTERVIEW...

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... THERE'S A BLAZE OVER AT THE WATERFRONT!

I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME ON THE AIR... WILL IT BE OKAY FOR ME TO FOLLOW THE ENGINES TO THE BLAZE, ED? HOW ABOUT IT, STUDIO?

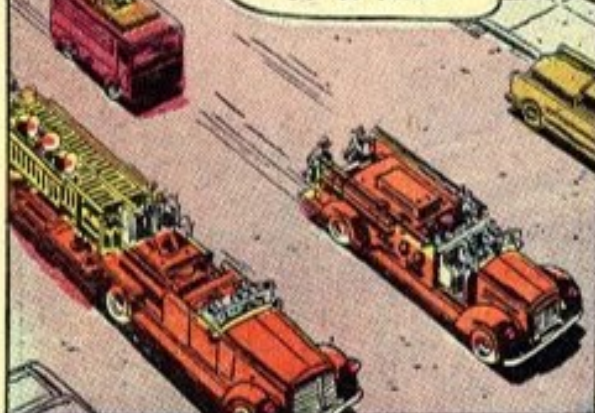


GO AHEAD, CHARLEY! MAYBE THIS WILL GIVE THE VOTERS A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THEY'LL BE DECIDING TOMORROW!



AS THE TELEVISION TRUCK RACES THROUGH THE STREETS, THE CAMERA CATCHES EVERY MOMENT OF EXCITEMENT...

THIS IS THE FIRST NATIONWIDE TELECAST OF A FIRE!



MINUTES LATER, AT THE WATERFRONT...

COHEN, HOOK THAT LINE INTO THE STANCHION... FARRELL, BRING UP SOME CELLAR PIPES! SOMEONE RING IN ANOTHER ALARM!

CAPTAIN WALSH, CAN YOU BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THE SITUATION?





SHOWCASE



SO FAR WE'RE LUCKY... THE WIND IS BLOWING THE FLAMES AWAY FROM SHORE! IF IT SHIFTS, THIS PIER-- THE WHOLE HARBOR, IN FACT-- COULD GO UP IN SMOKE!

IS THAT YOUR MAJOR PROBLEM-- PROTECTING THE PIER?

NO... IT'S THAT WAREHOUSE, LOADED WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS! THE COLOR OF THE FLAME TELLS US THAT NONE OF THE CHEMICALS HAVE GONE UP YET... BUT IF ANY DO-- LOOK OUT!



SUDDENLY, A FRIGHTENING CRY GOES UP...

THE WIND-- IT'S SHIFTING!

PROTECT THE PIER!

AN UNLUCKY GUST OF WIND, AND THE BATTLE OPENS ON A SECOND FRONT...



LET'S HAVE A ROPE UP HERE... I'M GOING TO CHECK THE UNDER-SIDE OF THE PIER!



WHAT'S THE ROPE FOR, CAPTAIN?

FARRELL IS GOING OVER THE SIDE OF THE PIER TO SEE IF THE FIRE HAS CAUGHT UNDER-NEATH! IF IT HAS, WE'LL NEED A NEW TACTIC!

WITH TWO MEN HOLDING THE LINE, FRED SWINGS DOWN... TAKE IT EASY, FRED... WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU DOWN THERE!

RIGHT, SAM... LOWER AWAY!





SHOWCASE



WE'RE MOVING IN NOW TO GET A LOOK AT THIS "ROUTINE" BIT OF FIRE FIGHTING! WE'LL TRY AND CATCH A SHOT OF FIREMAN FARRELL AS HE SWINGS BELOW THE PIER...



MEANWHILE, AT THE HOME OF ONE AMAZED VIDEO VIEWER...

COUGH! COUGH! POOR FELLOW... HE CAN BARELY BREATHE! HAROLD MILLS, YOU'RE A FOOL! THOSE MEN DESERVE EVERY PENNY THEY GET... AND MORE!



OKAY, I'VE SPOTTED IT! GET ME BACK UP, SAM... IT'S HOT AS A FRYING PAN DOWN HERE!



BACK ON THE PIER, FRED PUTS HIS INFORMATION TO WORK...

ANOTHER MINUTE AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL THOSE FLAMES DOWN THERE THROUGH YOUR BOOTS! WE'LL NEED MORE **CELLAR PIPES**, SAM!



CELLAR-PIPES, DESIGNED FOR SUB-SURFACE FIRES, ARE SWIFTLY INSERTED INTO MINIATURE MANHOLES IN THE PIER FLOOR...

A ROW OF THESE LINES OUGHT TO SMOTHER IT! MEANWHILE, WE CAN GET AT THE SURFACE FIRE!



INDEED, THE AMAZING PIPES DO THEIR WORK IN RECORD TIME!



WHILE UP ABOVE...

THE WIND HAS SHIFTED, DRIVING THE FLAMES TOWARD THIS CREW FIGHTING THE PIER FIRE! A CALL HAS BEEN SENT OUT FOR THE FIREBOAT!





SHOWCASE



AND ABOARD THE FIREBOAT **PHOENIX**...

OUR FIRST TARGET IS THE PIER... WE'LL MOVE IN AS CLOSE AS WE CAN! BUT WATCH IT-- THIS WIND IS TRICKY!



THIS WIND IS LIKE A NERVOUS CAT... CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY SHE'S GOING TO JUMP NEXT!

HERE COMES THE FIREBOAT... I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE THEM!



THAT'S THE FIREBOAT **PHOENIX** IN ACTION... ARE YOU GETTING IT AT THE STUDIO, ED?

WE'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE, CHARLEY! THIS MAKES QUITE A STORY FOR THE NATION... AND IT'S ALL FIRST-HAND!



BUT AS THE VESSEL MOVES IN TO SMOTHER THE PIER BLAZE, THE WIND AGAIN REVERSES ITSELF, AND...

LOOK OUT, SMITH!



SOMEBODY CARRY SMITH BELOW DECKS... THE REST OF YOU STAY AT YOUR POSTS! WE'RE GOING TO SMOTHER THIS FIRE

NOW!



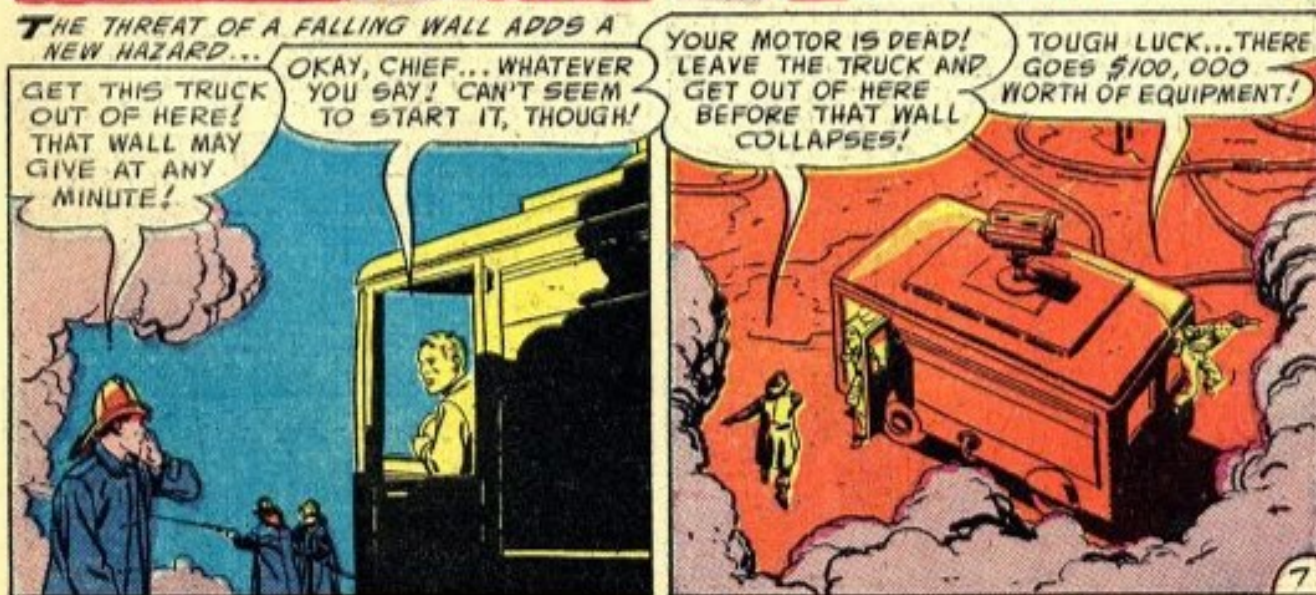
AND IN HER QUIET HOME, MARY BURKE WITNESSES THE COURAGE OF THE SMOKE-EATER...

VERY BRAVE, TOMMY... I DON'T WASN'T HE KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE EVER SPOKEN AGAINST SUCH MEN! MOM?





SHOWCASE





SHOWCASE



BUT THE DESERTED CAMERA, ITS LENS WIDE OPEN, CONTINUES TO OPERATE...

WAIT! THAT'S THE WAREHOUSE OWNER-- CONRAD! HE'S CARRYING AWAY THE TERMINAL BOX--TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE OF HIS CRIME! WHAT A STORY!



IF I CAN JUST DITCH THIS IN THE WATER, I'LL... WHAT--? THE WALL--IT'S BEGINNING TO GIVE! I'VE GOT TO SURRENDER OR DIE!



AS CONRAD'S FRANTIC CRY PIERCES THE WALL OF FLAME...

THERE'S SOMEBODY IN THERE, AND I'M GOING TO GET HIM OUT!

WHAT A STORY! HOPE THE CAMERA'S CATCHING IT ALL!



WITHIN SECONDS...

FIREMAN FARRELL IS COMPLETING THE RESCUE, BUT OUR CAMERA HAS CAUGHT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PUT CONRAD AWAY FOR CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE!



WELL, THAT'S OUR STORY! THEY'LL PUT OUT THE FIRE, AND BY MORNING, WHEN THE POLLS OPEN, THESE HEROES WILL BE ANSWERING ANOTHER CALL TO DANGER! MEANWHILE, WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING, VOTERS OF CENTER CITY?



WITH THE DAWN, THE VOTERS GIVE THEIR ANSWER...

THOSE FIREMEN WILL GET MY VOTE!

ANYBODY WHO VOTES AGAINST THEM SHOULD HAVE HIS HEAD EXAMINED!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



THE END