

DRB 105 - ANDERSON, ROSE



FILE NO.....

NOTE FOR FILE

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

DATE.....  
JUN 17 1974

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

MINUTE SHEET

FILE NUMBER

105-Anderson, Rose TD

REFERENCE

DATED

REFERRED TO

REMARKS

(To be signed in full showing Appointment, Telephone Number and Date)

DRB/DMS

This office has no comment to offer unless your Fire Marshall sees some negligence in the handling of the fire.

*[Signature]*  
JAB/c  
29 Dec 67 27058

Copy ~~to~~ on 626-1

DRES 356-1 (D/L)

DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD



CONSEIL DE RECHERCHES POUR LA DÉFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE  
MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE  
CANADA

SUFFIELD EXPERIMENTAL STATION

RALSTON, ALBERTA

STATION EXPÉRIMENTALE DE SUFFIELD

RALSTON, ALBERTA

15 December 1967.



① Chairman  
Defence Research Board  
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Referred to *DMS*  
DEC 27 1967  
*ARB 105 - Anderson, Rose*  
*DMS/SD 26/10*

INQUEST - Mrs. Rose Anderson

1. On October 22nd, 1967 Mrs. Rose Anderson lost her life in a fire which occurred at her residence in Ralston, No. 19 Edgewood Road. An inquest was held in Ralston under the direction of the Coroner, Dr. E.J. Skinner, on November 15th and two copies of the court reporters record of this hearing are attached. Also attached are copies of the report of the Provincial Fire Inspector who came here at our request.

2. The recommendations of the Coroners Jury, and the evidence given at the inquest, have been carefully studied and some immediate enquiries have clarified some aspects of the points raised at the inquiry. A summary of this later information is attached in the form of a memorandum, Director of Logistics to Director-General, dated 23 November 1967.

3. One point which we would emphasize is that the wording "inadequate response" was apparently intended to apply to the number of men on shift (and on call) and not to the rescue of the unfortunate victim of the fire, because all evidence indicates a remarkably rapid performance in this respect.

4. We have, however, appointed a Committee to review the operations and capabilities of the Fire Department, and should have their report by December 31st. This may well form the basis of a request for changes in the staff structure, and in operating procedures.

② JAC/c  
Attach. For your comments, please, and/or your advice as to any further action we should take at this time.  
*A.P.R. Lambert*  
(A.P.R. Lambert)  
for Director-General  
*DMS/SD*  
27/12/67

DRES 356-1 (D/L)

DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD  
RALSTON ALBERTA

23 November 1967.

MEMO TO: Director-General

RE: Inquest Into the Death of Mrs. Rose Anderson

1. The Coroner's jury at the inquest into the death of Mrs. Rose Anderson indicated that there was "inadequate response" of the station Fire Department and they made a number of recommendations. As a result of this I have been checking pretty closely into the whole operation and have obtained the following information.
2. The response to the fire was very rapid and I have been able to establish the following times:
  - 1320 hrs Alarm receiver - fire vehicles out gate.
  - 1323 hrs Arrive Ralston village - Box 124.  
McDonald, Money Penny to house.
  - 1324 hrs Two attempts to enter house.
  - 1326 hrs Windows broken, all water in pumper tank used, hose permanently hooked up, fire essentially out and smoke clearing.  
Fireman McDonald went into house.
  - 1327 hrs Mrs. Anderson brought out of house.
3. After establishing the above timetable I then checked with the guards and find that the ambulance left the gate at 1327 so that it must have been called at approximately 1326 hrs. According to the Fire Chief he tried to enter the building at about this time and shouted for someone to call the ambulance and the doctor. Immediately following this, fireman McDonald went into the house and was able to bring Mrs. Anderson out. This means that, following the receipt of the alarm at 1320, the Fire Department arrived at the house at about 1323 and in approximately two minutes or certainly less than three they had made two attempts to enter the house, had broken the windows and poured in sufficient water to effectively put out the fire and had then removed Mrs. Anderson.
4. There was some question about the difficulty of opening hydrant No. 11 behind Mrs. Anderson's house. The Fire Department records show that this was checked on September 12th and October 17th and on these dates the cap was removed, the valve was slightly opened to be sure it would operate, and the barrel was checked for water so that the hydrant would not freeze up during the winter.
5. It was also brought out at the inquest that escape from the window in the bedroom would likely be impossible and the Fire Chief agreed (and this was published in the Medicine Hat News) that Mrs. Anderson was "trapped". However, the evidence shows that she got out of the bedroom where the fire started and went into the second bedroom - presumably in her confusion to check on the safety of the children. She was found with one hand grasping

- 2 -

the bars of the crib and this would lead to such a conclusion. Had she not been confused and gone to check in the other bedroom she probably could have made her way to the main door and out of the burning building.

6. The question of radios was mentioned. We have one radio in the pumper which is used for long distance responses (area, etc.), one in the small truck and one in the guards' vehicle with master sets in the fire hall and the guardhouse. Unfortunately, the small truck was not taken to the fire and the radio-equipped pumper is used for fires at greater distances from the station, e.g. in the area. The department depends on either sending in a second alarm for assistance or the use of the telephone for fires which are either in the Camp or Ralston areas.

7. Familiarization with the interior layout of the houses was mentioned, but it was not brought out that all firemen are involved in an annual inspection of every house in the Village and thus should be reasonably familiar with the layouts.

8. The question of training was also brought up and the general practice is to carry out drills every Sunday and to hold lectures and study on the night shifts.

9. The Provincial Fire Inspector's report had not arrived at the time of the inquest but came in the following day. This states "the response by the Fire Department was quick and the deceased was located and removed within a matter of minutes".

10. It appears that the phrase "inadequate response" was perhaps intended to apply only to the fact that 3 men were on shift whereas the Fire Chief stated at the inquest that 4 or 5 are required to run the equipment. The 3 on shift were augmented by the Fire Chief himself, who was on call for duty on that particular shift, and by some 5 or 6 other firemen who were on call in the Village or in the Camp in case of emergency. I believe this situation was the subject of a great deal of discussion before the inquest and most people had made up their mind that there was a defect in operation in this respect long before the evidence was heard.

APRL/ad

(A.P.R. Lambert)  
Director of Logistics

**Pages 36 to / à 38  
are withheld pursuant to section  
sont retenues en vertu de l'article**

**13(1)(c)**

**of the Access to Information Act  
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**

C A N A D A            )  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA    )  
T O W I T :             )

BEING THE EVIDENCE AND  
PROCEEDINGS TAKEN IN AN  
INQUEST INQUIRING INTO  
THE DEATH OF:

MARGARET ROSE ANDERSON

I N D E X

WITNESSES:

DR. PAUL RACETTE:

Direct Examination ..... 4

WALTER DEERING:

Direct Examination ..... 9  
Re-called ..... 100

MATHEW P. EREMENKO:

Direct Examination ..... 19

GST. NATHANIEL EARL MacDONALD:

Direct Examination ..... 28

PATRICK KERRIGAN:

Direct Examination ..... 33

WILLIAM JOHN MONEYPENNY:

Direct Examination ..... 38

MICHAEL FRANCIS McDONALD:

Direct Examination ..... 50

GERRIT BROEKSTRA:

Direct Examination ..... 64

WALLACE I. McKENZIE:

Direct Examination ..... 67

JOHN FLEMING:

Direct Examination ..... 72

CONSTANTINE CHRISTOS EVANGELOS:

Direct Examination ..... 94

FREIDA KERRIGAN:

Direct Examination ..... 96

...

C A N A D A )  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA )  
T O W I T : )

DEPOSITIONS TAKEN BEFORE

E.G.F. Skinner, one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, at Ralston, Alberta, on the 15th day of November, A.D. 1967, on an inquiry for our said Lady the Queen, as to when, where, how and by what means, Margaret Rose Anderson came to her death.

...

J U R Y

- R.C. McKenzie
- John Watson
- Dr. M.C. Hamblin
- W.E.A. Walters
- R.A. Thain
- N. Nowicki

...

APPEARANCES:

- CONSTABLE N.E. MACDONALD ..... Appeared for the Crown,
- J.B. SNOW, Esq. .... Official Court Reporter.

...

(JURY POLLED, ALL PRESENT)

- 2 -

THE CORONER: Gentlemen, would you pick one of your members of the Jury to act as Foreman? The choice is yours.

A JUROR: Dr. Hamblin.

THE CORONER: All right. Dr. Hamblin, would you come over here and take the oath.

(JURY FOREMAN SWORN)

(REMAINING JURORS SWORN)

THE CORONER: Now, just answer your names, and if you are sworn just answer by saying sworn.

Mr. McKenzie?

MR. MCKENZIE: Sworn.

THE CORONER: Mr. Watson?

MR. WATSON: Sworn.

THE CORONER: Dr. Hamblin?

DR. HAMBLIN: Sworn.

THE CORONER: Mr. Walters?

MR. WALTERS: Sworn.

THE CORONER: Mr. Thain?

MR. THAIN: Sworn.

THE CORONER: Mr. Nowicki?

MR. NOWICKI: Sworn.

THE CORONER: Good. Now, I will tell you, we are here today, as most of the Jury know, I presume, to investigate the death of Mrs. Rose Anderson. We have to find out how, when, where, and by what means she came to her death. We will be presenting to you various witnesses. We will hear the evidence of the

- 3 -

witnesses. They will be questioned by myself, probably . And then if you have any questions you want to ask them I will permit you to question them. By this means we are able to get information that sometimes I may miss.

Are there any legal gentlemen here, any Counsel?

CST. MACDONALD: No sir.

THE CORONER: There aren't, eh. Okay. Fine.

Now, I will just read into the evidence that on the 22nd day of October, Mrs. Rose Anderson's body was identified to me by Mr. N.E. Macdonald. Is that correct, Mr. MacDonald?

CST. MACDONALD: Yes.

THE CORONER: And he knew Mrs. Rose Anderson very well. Her body was identified to me by him.

There was another witness we were going to call, but unfortunately, cannot, because he is in England. That is Dr. Stewart. So I have a statement of his which I will read into the evidence, and I will read it right now.

"Statement of Dr. W.C. Stewart-2 Porton Place- Ralston, Alta.

At approximately 1330 hours or less on the 22nd of October, 1967, I received a phone call from a lady who stated that I was needed at 19 Edgewood Road. I went immediately to this point and on arrival I found Mrs. Anderson on the front lawn and one of the firemen was carrying out mouth to mouth

- 4 -

respiration. I took over with this for about 5 minutes and checked Mrs. Anderson with a stethoscope and found no heart beat. I pronounced her dead at this time. She was removed to the Medicine Hat Hospital by Station ambulance. I noticed burns on the right forearm but I do not think they were too serious.

Sgd.: W.C. Stewart, M.D.

Witness: Cst. MacDonald, N.E. "

Unfortunately, one cannot question a statement, so that's about all we can do with that.

Now, who have you got as the first witness?

CST. MACDONALD: You have the list there, sir.

THE CORONER: Yes. I think I better call Dr. Racette first.

I usually call the medical evidence first, so that they can get away, because they have wither got patients or laboratory work to do.

DR. PAUL RACETTE, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Dr. Racette, you are a medical practitioner, duly qualified to practice in the Province of Alberta?

A I am, sir.

Q A certified specialist in pathology?

A Yes sir.

Q And you are on the staff of the Medicine Hat General

- 5 -

Hospital?

A Yes sir.

Q Now, did you, at my request, carry out an autopsy on the deceased lady, Mrs. Rose Anderson?

A Yes, I did.

Q If you would tell the Jury your finding, please?

A Well, very briefly, this lady had superficial burns which involved parts of her face, parts of her trunk, her back, the shoulder regions, and both arms. The burns, I felt, were first and second degree burns. They did not seem very deep, at all.

In addition, she had large ulcers, and it looked as if the larynx and the voice box and the trachea had been burned, suggesting to me that she had inhaled some hot gas and flame before she died. The lungs were very heavy, full of blood and fluid, probably the fluid coming from the blood. It was my understanding she was given artificial respiration for upwards of half an hour at the scene of the fire. So whether this fluid and blood was there because of this, or if it was there because of having inhaled hot gases, or flame, is difficult to say, but I would think that probably both were the case.

The tissues of the body in general showed a cherry pink color, which one sees with carbon monoxide poisoning.

We submitted a specimen of her blood, and

- 6 -

stomach contents, to the Provincial Analyst in Edmonton, who, in a telephone conversation, indicated to us that this lady, at the time of her death, had an ethel alcohol concentration in the blood of .2 per cent, and a carbon monoxide maximum saturation of 70.2 per cent.

Now, these levels, in a person of this size .2 per cent blood alcohol could probably be associated with intoxication. In a person who is not accustomed to drinking, probably gross intoxication.

This level of carbon monoxide in the blood is almost invariably fatal. In most cases <sup>of</sup> carbon monoxide 60 per cent maximum saturation is fatal.

Alcohol and carbon monoxide usually work together, and they usually kill, when they work together this way they usually kill by interferring with the oxygen supply to the brain cells, and death usually follows soon afterwards.

To summarize, I think this lady died from carbon monoxide poisoning. Her burns were severe, but not beyond recovery. Had she lived, she probably would have healed these burns.

I should mention that there was also a rather large bruise on one side of the scalp. It was very fresh. There was no inflammation around it, which suggested to me that this had occurred just a few minutes before death. It didn't seem to have been made by any blunt object,

- 7 -

or by a sharp object. It was a diffuse thing. The type of bruise that one would get simply by falling on the floor, or being struck by a piece of lumber, or something like this.

THE CORONER:

Q Whereabouts was it?

A Pardon?

Q Whereabouts was it?

A In was in this position in the scalp, here. But I have forgotten the side. It's on the right. It was on the right side. Roughly in this position.

Q Yes. So, in your opinion, death was due to carbon monoxide gas?

A Yes.

Q Whether or not it was accentuated by the alcohol, it was a high concentration, anyway?

A The carbon monoxide, alone, would have been sufficient.

Q At that level?

A At that level, would have been sufficient to cause death.

Q I have an idea that we are going to get evidence that this lady was not found in the position where she originally was seen.

A Yes.

Q Is that in keeping with the situation?

A Yes. It would have taken several minutes, I would think, to build up this carbon monoxide level, and she probably was running around, trying to escape the fire, and no doubt

- 8 -

inhaled some very hot gases, or flame.

Q Well, I was wondering whether the hot gases would cause fairly instant unconsciousness?

A Probably would, but need not necessarily.

Q No. If she moved it probably didn't. It probably didn't.

A It probably, it would probably, in my opinion, represent breathing these hot gases in and out over a period of time.

Q Yes. Fine. Have the Jury any questions they would like to ask Dr. Racette? I am going to excuse him if he wishes to go.

A JUROR:

Q Does the carbon monoxide content in the blood cease rising when the person ceases breathing, or does it increase if a body is left in a carbon monoxide atmosphere?

A No. When a person stops breathing, of course, the exchange with the outside air no longer takes place. From then on the carbon monoxide level gradually decreases. This is why we add flouride to the blood, to prevent the carbon dioxide from disappearing during the post-mortum.

Q The 70 per cent, is this a calculated figure, or the minimum?

A This is based on the assumption that this person had a normal blood hemoglobin level. This is a maximum figure, 70 per cent, which would be based on a hemoglobin concentration of 15 per cent. So, assuming that this patient was not grossly anemic, this would certainly, in my opinion, represent a fatal level of carbon monoxide.

- 9 -

Q Is there any evidence that any drugs were involved, or could have been involved in the death? In other words, pills which she might have been taking, or anything like this, which might contribute to the death, or to severe conditions of either intoxication or carbon monoxide poisoning?

A We telephoned the Provincial Analyst yesterday afternoon to obtain the report in time for this inquest, and she indicated to us that the reason she had not sent a report earlier was that she was doing further studies on specimens we sent her. So all she had done to that time was the alcohol, and the carbon monoxide.

Q How extensive is your information on the length of time artificial respiration was carried out?

A That, I don't know.

Q You don't know?

THE CORONER: No. He doesn't know that. We will be getting evidence to that effect. Right. Thank you very much, Dr. Racette. You are excused.

THE WITNESS: I could stay for a few minutes, if you--

THE CORONER: Well, I don't think we will need you.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Mr. W. Deering.

WALTER DEERING, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Now, you are Mr. Walter Deering, and what is your occupation?

- 10 -

A Watchman.

Q For whom?

A Defense Research.

Q Defense Reserach. And where?

A Suffield.

Q Suffield Experimental Station, Alberta?

A That's right, sir.

Q Now, on October the 22nd last were you on duty?

A Yes, I was, sir.

Q You know the matter we are discussing? We are discussing the death of Mrs. Rose Anderson. Can you tell us anything in connection with this, starting a little before you got involved in the situation? What happened on that day?

A I was on--

Q What time did you got to work?

A 0900 .

Q Nine o'clock. Yes.

A Yes.

Q And then what happened?

A Well, I was on patrol, and I was called in by radio at approximately--

Q You were on patrol?

A Yes, I was.

Q You were patrolling in a car?

A Yes.

Q Yes. Carry on. Then what happened?

- 11 -

A I was called by radio, by Mr. Cowan.

Q Yes.

A The Supervisor.

Q Yes.

A To go to Edgewood Road, Suite 19, to pick up Mrs. Anderson for work.

Q I see. You were told to go there and pick Mrs. Anderson up for work?

A That's right, sir.

Q Yes. Then what? Did you go?

A Yes. I went down to pick her up, and there didn't seem to be any light at the moment. So I honked the horn.

Q Yes.

A A few times. And nothing happened. So I got out of the vehicle and knocked at the door.

Q Yes.

A And waited for a couple of minutes, and nothing seemed to appear. So I started back for the vehicle, and I noticed the inside door open of the suite.

Q I show you a plan of this. Can you show me where the door was?

There is the door. What is this here? Edgewood Road?

CST. MACDONALD: No. This is just a plan showing the length of the house.

THE CORONER: Oh, I see. And this is a door

going into the house?

CST. MACDONALD: Yes. Right here, sir.

THE CORONER: I see. Fine. All right. And  
what happened then?

THE WITNESS: She opened the door and just waved,  
which indicated to me that she was getting ready for work.

THE CORONER:

Q I see.

A So I went back to the car and waited, and Mr. Cowan called  
me on the radio and asked me what the hold up was. So I  
told him I would be probably a few minutes. She had come  
to the door, and I imagined she was getting ready for work.

Q Yes.

A So, approximately ten minutes later he called again.

Q Yes.

A And called me back to the station, to the Main Gate.

Q Yes. I see. Now, you actually saw her?

A Yes. I saw her.

Q And did she say anything?

A No.

Q Did she do anything?

A She just waved.

Q She waved?

A Yes.

Q I see. So you waited a few minutes, and Mr. Cowan called  
you back to the gate, was it?

- 13 -

A To the station, yes.

Q To the station?

A Yes.

Q And what happened then? Nothing, I suppose?

A No. Nothing happened from there.

Q Yes. And what was the next thing which you got involved in?

A Well, at 1320 the fire truck left the station.

Q Did you see it leave?

A Yes. I seen it leave.

Q Where were you?

A I was at the main gate.

Q At the main gate. That's where you work, is it?

A That's right, sir.

Q Did you know where it was going?

A No, I didn't.

Q So what did you do? Anything, then?

A Well, there was no siren.

Q No.

A And no red flasher, so I just took it for granted that it was a trial run.

Q Was it customary, I mean, did it often go out the gate?

A Quite often, yes.

Q So there was nothing unusual about this?

A No.

Q I see. Carry on.

A So, after they had gone I heard the bell tinkle at the fire

- 14 -

hall.

Q Yes.

A Which sounded like the checking of a fire box.

Q Yes.

A And I was watching this, I seen a girl come out of the fire hall, and she kept looking towards Ralston.

Q I see.

A So just to make sure, myself, I proceeded over to the fire hall to check this out. The bell, apparently, was still ringing.

Q Yes.

A So, as I entered there I checked the pad on the board.

Q Yes.

A And it was clear.

Q What does that mean?

A Well, there was--

Q What is the pad?

A There is a padd under the phone which, they put the place of the call on.

Q Oh, I see. The person who answers the phone, you mean?

A Pardon?

Q The person who answers the call?

A That's right, sir.

Q Yes.

A So I checked further, and checked on the machine, and the data showed a 113, or 133, rather.

- 15 -

- Q Your evidence is that the pad was clean, and the tape on the fire indicator had taped out 133?
- A Yes.
- Q What does that mean? That is the time?
- A No. That is a number on a fire box.
- Q Oh, I see. Yes.
- A So I checked on the board.
- Q Yes.
- A To see where that fire box was located.
- Q I see.
- A So I immediately phoned the Fire Chief.
- Q Where was the Fire Chief?
- A In the village of Ralston.
- Q He was in the village?
- A Yes.
- Q You spoke to him?
- A Yes.
- Q And then what happened?
- A I kept calling/<sup>the</sup>off duty firemen, and I went right down to the board, until the off duty firemen arrived at the fire hall.
- Q I see. Do the off duty firemen live on the camp, or--
- A Well, they live in Ralston and Medicine Hat.
- Q Yes. I see. Did you have to phone Medicine Hat for any of them?
- A No.
- Q I see. So your contact, really, with Mrs. Anderson finished

- 16 -

when you left the house?

A That's right.

Q I see. You didn't see, or have anything to do with her after that?

A No sir.

Q All right. Mr. Foreman, any questions you would like to ask Mr. Deering?

A JUROR:

Q When you left the house where Mrs. Anderson was in the morning after waiting for ten minutes you didn't check again with her before you went back?

A No, I didn't. The inside door was left open.

Q But you didn't check to see whether she, in fact, had got ready to go to work?

A No.

Q Do you know, or was there any further attempt made to pick her up, by someone else?

A No. I was called back to the station, and said that if she called I would go back and pick her up.

Q I see. When you called the off duty firemen did they, in fact, come to the fire hall, or did they go to the fire in the village?

A No. They came to the fire hall first.

Q From the village?

A No. They were out at the camp at the time.

Q Oh, I see. They were at the camp. Were there any of the

- 17 -

off duty firemen in the village that you called?

A Yes.

Q And they, I presume, went to the fire?

A Yes. They came directly to the fire hall.

THE CORONER:

Q They went to the fire hall? They went from the village to the fire hall?

A Yes.

Q Then back to the fire? The firemen that were in the village, when you called them?

A Yes. There was two came up from the village.

Q From the village?

A That's right, sir.

Q And where did they go?

A To the fire hall.

Q And then they went back down to the village?

A That's right, sir.

Q I see. Was there any reason why they had to do that? To get their gear, or anything like that?

A Well, I imagine so. All the gear is at the fire hall, sir.

Q Yes. Do you have any more questions?

A JUROR:

Q Is it customary practice, when the fire truck leaves the fire hall and past your observation point, do you automatically go to the fire hall at that point?

A Yes. If the fire bell rings I automatically go to the fire

- 18 -

hall.

Q There was no siren at this time, was there?

A No.

Q There was no siren, and no red flashing light, is that right?

A That's right.

Q The truck went past you just as if it was going on a normal trial run?

A That's right, sir.

Q After the truck went out were there no more firemen in the fire hall at this point? All the firemen went out on the truck?

A Well, there was no firemen there when I arrived.

Q There was no firemen there. And this girl, is she part of the fire hall staff?

A No.

Q You said she came out of the fire hall.

A Well, this girl, apparently, had been visiting at the fire hall at the time.

Q Oh, I see. She was visiting there?

A Yes.

Q And you went to the fire hall because you heard the bell ringing?

A That's right, sir.

Q Was there any attempt at this time on your part to contact other security personnel?

A Yes. We had one man on patrol, and two of us at the post.

- 19 -

Q When you went to the fire hall you didn't contact the man on patrol first?

A Oh, yes. I put the flashing light on, sir.

Q Oh, I see.

THE CORONER:

Q How many people were on the fire truck when it went out?

A Just three, as far as I could see.

Q Is that what it normally carries?

A In what way, sir?

Q Well, if it is going to a fire?

A No.

Q How many men would it normally carry?

A Well, as a rule, there is four.

Q Four. I see. Fine. Well, I think that's all, Mr. Deering.

Thank you very much.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Mr. Eremenko.

MATHEW P. EREMENKO, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Mr. Eremenko, now, you are employed by the Suffield Experimental Station?

A That's right.

Q In what capacity?

A Fireman.

- 20 -

Q Fireman. How long have you been a fireman?

A Almost two years.

Q Do you hold any position as a fireman?

A No. Just plain fireman.

Q Just plain fireman?

A Right.

Q I see. Now, on October the 22nd of this year were you on duty?

A That's right. I was on duty.

Q What time did you go on duty?

A We went on duty a quarter to seven.

Q In the morning?

A That's right.

Q Did anything eventually happen in the morning?

A Not in the morning, but in the afternoon.

Q In the afternoon?

A In the afternoon.

Q What happened in the afternoon?

A About 1:20.

Q Yes.

A As we were in the fire hall the fire phone rang.

Q You were in the fire hall. You say we were. How many were there?

A At the time there was three.

Q Three. I see. That's about twenty past one. 1320?

A Approximately, yes.

- 21 -

Q Yes. Carry on.

A And at the same time, before we went to the truck and alarm came in.

Q The telephone told you to go somewhere, did it?

A No. We were suppose to answer it, but the fire alarm went at the same time. The bell.

Q Yes. I see. So you didn't actually answer the phone?

A Well, I didn't.

Q No.

A I put my clothes on and I pushed the button in the door to open the doors, and I got in the truck and started it up.

Q Yes.

A And Mr. Money Penny, he came to the truck, and we proceeded--

Q Yes.

A To Ralston, which he said was 124 fire box. So that's what he said was on Edgewood Road.

Q I see.

A So we proceeded down there, and as we were going we could not see any smoke. So we went in the middle gate, and we still couldn't see no smoke. So we proceeded to Number 124 box, and then I seen a group of people there, stopped. So we stopped there and somebody shouted to us, there's somebody in the house.

Q I see.

A Which, by that time, we could see there was puffs of smoke coming from the top of the house.

- 22 -

Q Would that be 19 Edgewood Road?

A Yes. I think it was.

Q I see.

A And Jack Money Penny and Mike McDonald, they jumped off to go to the house.

Q Right.

A To rescue. And as they went by I jumped off the truck and asked if there was any additional equipment they needed, but he was away to the house, so he didn't hear me. So I proceeded back to the truck, and I proceeded to the fire hydrant about 100 feet from the house.

Q Yes.

A And I drove up there, and I gyried around, backed up a ways, and then jumped off and hooked up my hose from the back, and I drove back 100 feet and set my pumps into motion out of the auxiliary tank we have on there.

Q You carry an auxiliary tank?

A That's right.

Q Yes.

A So I got the water in there immediately, which I, Mike McDonald was on the other end, and got the hose.

Q Yes.

A And Mr. Money Penny, then he assisted in hooking up the hose from the hydrant to the truck.

Q Yes. Did you have any trouble with the hydrant?

A When I hooked it up, when I got it completed the water

- 23 -

was delayed, oh, a very short time. Apparently, it was hard opening, or something. He needed help.

Q Yes.

A So when the water came to the truck I readjusted my, the governor on the truck, and I proceeded to help. And meanwhile Mike had---

Q Who is Mike?

A Mr. McDonald.

Q Yes.

A He had the hose in the window, pouring the water in, and when I reset my Governor on the truck I proceeded to help to assist in any way I could. When I got to the door someone shouted to me, you can't get in without a mask. So I ran back to the truck to get the mask. When I came back somebody, body, Mike McDonald and someone else, they brought the lady out. Mrs. Anderson.

Q I see.

A And Mike proceeded to give her artificial respiration.

Q Yes.

A And then they, when I came somebody shouted for the resuscitator. So I went back to the truck, got the resuscitator, and we put it in operation with, Mr. Fleming, he applied it to the face of the--

Q Yes.

A And then the Doctor came.

Q Yes. Dr. Stewart?

- 24 -

A Dr. Stewart came.

Q Yes.

A And he worked on Mrs. Anderson then. Meanwhile the truck acted up, so I proceeded to the truck.

Q How do you mean, the truck acted up?

A Well, it raced up. Apparently somebody was there. The motor was, the governor was set, you see, and it raced up a little bit.

Q Oh, I see.

A It raced up, so I figured/<sup>maybe</sup>there was something wrong. So I run to the truck.

Q Yes.

A I proceeded to my truck, and worked on it.

Q Did you see Mrs. Anderson?

A Yes, I did. When they brought her out.

Q Was she already out of the house when you saw her, or were they just bringing her out?

A She was out.

Q She was out?

A She was out. And Mike was giving her artificial respiration.

Q How was she dressed?

A She was dressed in white, I think.

Q House clothing? I mean, going out clothing, or--

A Well, I don't know if it was house clothing or not. I'm not sure.

Q No. Can you remember if she had anything in her hand?

- 25 -

A No. I don't remember anything.

Q You don't remember?

A No. Not if she had anything in her hand or not, because Mr. Fleming was assisting Mr. Mike McDonald.

Q Yes. You drove the truck from the fire hall to the scene of the fire?

A That's right.

Q We have heard evidence that the fire truck left the station without the light going?

A I guess I didn't have it on. In the rush I didn't have the light on.

Q Did you have the siren going, or anything? Is it customary?

A It is customary to have the siren going, but apparently we didn't have it going.

Q Now, I think you may find the foreman has some questions he may want to ask you.

A JUROR:

Q When you were at the fire station before the call you said that first of all the phone rang the second the bell rang, is that right?

A That's right. Before we, before I came to the truck the alarm was, the bells were going.

Q Did someone actually answer the phone?

A I haven't seen it.

Q You are not sure?

- 26 -

A I'm not sure, because I hit for the truck, and I put my clothes on.

Q I see. So in other words, you were directed as to where to go by one of the other firemen?

A Well, when I got in the truck he said Edgewood Road. 124 Edgewood Road. The box on Edgewood Road.

Q I see. Where is this box on Edgewood Road?

A It's past the house, 19.

Q South of the house?

A South of the house.

Q So in other words, you actually had to pass the house in order to get to it?

A To get to that box, yes, but we seen the people standing there.

Q And you didn't actually get to the box?

A We didn't actually get to the box, no.

Q Where is 133?

A It's back in here. Right in here.

Q Right in there. I see.

A Either there, or lower down. Approximately on the corner.

Q Is it customary to have just three firemen on duty?

A No. I think it's four, but apparently, I understand that one of the fireman is suppose to be on call in the, he was, we were suppose to call him when we had any trouble. He was on call at any time.

Q This resuscitator that was used, did it work?

A As far as I am concerned, yes.

- 27 -

THE CORONER:

Q Just to get it straight in my mind, you said there were three of you on duty?

A At the time. Well, four, actually, because one fellow was on call, but we were suppose to get a hold of him whenever we needed him. In the fire hall there was only three.

Q The regulations call for three men in the fire hall?

A As far as regulations, I don't know.

Q Well, let me put it this way; whenever you have been on duty how many men were there?

A Four.

Q Four. In the fire hall?

A Yes.

Q On this particular occasion there were how many?

A There were three.

Q There were three. I see.

A JUROR:

Q Did Mike McDonald have a mask?

A Gee, I think he had one on him when I seen him when he came out.

Q He had one on him?

A Yes. Because we always have one attached to--

Q You presume he went in the building with the mask on, and had it off when he came out?

A Well, I don't know. I presume he had a mask on when he went in. But when he came out, I seen him when he was with

- 28 -

her, and he had the mask loose, beside him. Harging on his coat.

THE CORONER: All right. Thank you very much.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Constable MacDonald, I think we will call you. I should have called you first, or second, really.

CONSTABLE NATHANIEL EARL MACDONALD,

having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Mr. MacDonald, you are a Constable, can you tell us what your capacity is, and what--

A I am the Constable employed by the DRES for the Village of Ralston.

Q I see. Are you the head of the police department?

A No sir.

Q You are not?

A No. I am attached to security.

Q Oh, I see. Now, you investigated this fire?

A Yes sir.

Q Could you tell us the results of your investigation, sir, so the jury understands the location, and so on? You may use this, if you wish.

A On the 22nd of October, at the time of the fire, I was off duty at the time and I was in Medicine Hat, visiting, with my wife, and I received a call from my daughter, stating that

- 29 -

a fire had occurred in Ralston, and I arrived back in the village at 1500 hours. I immediately went to 19 Edgewood Road. On arrival there, I arrived there to find that Mr. Mike McDonald, one of the fireman, was still on duty. He was inside the building, and in walking into the building I noticed that one bedroom in the southeast corner had been badly burned, and Mr. McDonald took me to another bedroom, in the southwest corner, and explained that they had found the body in this bedroom, and he had assistance in taking the body out.

I had been in contact with Mrs. Anderson on quite a few occasions. In the past year she had two grandchildren living with her, and she would call me periodically over trouble, in her mind, trouble the children got into, and this went on, oh, sometimes as much as twice a week, of the year the children were here in school.

But, in checking the bedroom in the southeast corner, the one that had been so badly burned, I notice an ash tray on the floor, which can be quite easily shown. It's up in this picture.

Now, I knew Mrs. Anderson quite well. I knew she was very very careless with cigarettes. I have actually seen her take a lighted cigarette and put it down on the padded arm of the chesterfield when I have been there.

Q Yes.

- 30 -

A I checked the house over, mainly for safe keeping. Went through cupboards. I looked for any signs of any alcohol containers, looked for drugs, and there was nothing of that sort found, at all.

After checking the house there was one security officer sent down, and he was on duty until the next morning at nine o'clock, looking after the building, because it was open, because of the broken windows and doors. In the meantime I proceeded to Medicine Hat and contacted the Coroner, and it was at this time that the body was identified at the morgue at the Medicine Hat Hospital. But I was not in the village at the time of the fire.

Q Who made that plan?

A This plan, sir, is drawn up by the engineering section of D.R.E.S.

Q Does that plan represent that <sup>particular</sup> house?

A It represents the same type. There is four or five.

Q Numerous other houses?

A Of the same type, sir, yes. This is not 19.

Q I see. This is just--

A Of that type of house.

Q I see. Now, the jurymen may not all be cognizant of the layout of these houses. I think you should just explain to them.

(WITNESS GOES TO JURY)

- 31 -

THE WITNESS: This is the four bedroom, we call them suites, in the village. Living room, dinning room. This is the bedroom, here, and it is lying, as it should, in the south. This bedroom was badly burned. As a matter of fact, so badly burned that it was completely burned up. This bedroom was not burned, at all. All through the hallway all the paint was blistered off from about the waist level up. There was no sign of fire in the living room, And in the dining room there was a candlelabra on the table, and the candles had just foked down to the candlelabra.

There were two bedrooms, and this is the one that was badly burned, and this is the one in which she was found. She was found on this bed, in the other bedroom, lying across the bed, this way, with one arm over on the crib.

This is the utility room, and washers on this side, and this is the way the building shows, south, north, and west.

A JUROR:

Q Where is the main entrance?

A The main entrance is here, and the back entrance is here.

Q Leading into the kitchen?

A No. The utility room. The main entrance is through here, and the hallway is up here, to the bedrooms

Q The windows in the bedrooms? in room

A There are two windows in each bedroom. Two large--

- 32 -

Q Are these--

A They are open.

Q In other words, a person could escape through these windows?

A I think so. And these two windows had been broken by the firemen to get water in.

That is the same diagram on the board.

THE CORONER:

Q Now, maybe you could explain once again where all these fire boxes are?

A Well, this is the house, right there.

Q That is the house, there.

A This is the house, right here, sir. Now, there is a fire alarm right by here, which is the maintenance garage. That's 124. There's another one just up here.

Q Is that 133?

A No. 133 is over in this area, sir.

Q Oh, I see.

A But that, apparently, was rung in after 124. The two involved, there is one there, which is, oh, half a block.

Q Yes.

A And the one up here, which is one block.

Q Where are the hydrants?

A The hydrants are right there, and there, sir.

Q I see. Fine. Does the jury have any questions you would like to ask?

A JUROR:

- 33 -

Q The children were not in the village at the time?

A The children? No. They had gone back to their father, in B.C., for school this year.

THE CORONER:

Q You say you knew Mrs. Anderson fairly well, did you?

A Yes sir. I did.

Q Was she in the habit of drinking fairly heavily?

A Yes sir.

Q She was, eh?

A Yes sir.

Q Did she handle her liquor fairly well?

A I would think not, sir. No.

Q She would get out of control fairly easily?

A Yes sir. She would get quite high strung with it.

Q Yes. I see. Fine. Thank you very much.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Mr. Kerrigan. I will just adjourn for a minute.

(BRIEF ADJOURNMENT)

PATRICK KERRIGAN, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Now, Mr. Kerrigan, what is your occupation?

A Heavy equipment operator.

Q You are a heavy equipment operator where?

A At the Suffield Experimental Station.

Q At the Suffield Experimental Station. I see. And on

- 34 -

October the 22nd last were you on duty?

A No.

Q You weren't? You weren't on duty on October the 22nd?

A No.

Q What were you doing on October the 22nd in connection with this investigation?

A I was in my garage, and some children came in and hollered fire. My home is situated right behind the--

Q Oh, I see. You live directly behind it?

A Yes.

Q I see. Can you show us on the plan? This is the house in question.

A I live right in here. Number 6.

Q I see. Okay. What happened then?

A Some children came in and they hollered fire. I ran out and I seen that the Anderson residence was on fire.

Q You found the Anderson residence was on fire?

A Smoke coming from it.

Q Yes. I see.

A And I immediately ran over with Wally McKenzie, The back door was locked, and we went to the front door, and it was open.

Q You and who?

A Wally McKenzie.

Q Was he there before you?

A He was there before I was.

- 35 -

Q Oh, I see.

A So we went to the back door, and it was locked, so we went to the front door, and it was open, but there was too much smoke, so we closed the door, and waited for the fire department.

Q I see. You didn't give the alarm?

A No.

Q Had the alarm already been given, then?

A Yes.

Q I see. Did you get a call at 10:15 on that morning from the Security Guard?

A No.

Q What?

A No.

Q Oh, I see what's happened. I have got your wife's statement.

Now, were you there when the fire truck arrived?

A Yes.

Q And what happened then? Did you do anything then?

A I assisted the firemen in laying out the hoses.

Q I see. And did you, were you near the hydrants, at all?

A Yes. I assisted in opening the hydrant.

Q Was there any trouble with the hydrant?

A It was stiff.

Q It was. Stiffer than it should have been?

A In my estimation.

- 36 -

Q How long did it take to open it?

A I couldn't really say.

Q I see. Did you see them take Mrs. Anderson out?

A No. Mrs. Anderson was laying on the front sidewalk.

Q You saw her laying on the sidewalk?

A When the firemen brought her there.

Q I see. And you saw her there?

A Yes.

Q Was she holding anything?

A No. Not to my knowledge.

Q Not to your knowledge?

A The best of my knowledge.

Q Nothing in her hands?

A No.

Q Now, the jury might have some questions to ask you, Mr. Kerrigan.

A JUROR:

Q When you say the hydrant was stiff, some are stiffer than others, but they all take about the same time to open. It depends on the size of wrench you are working with, isn't that true?

A Yes.

Q It wouldn't be a delay?

A What do you mean?

Q Would it be stiff enough to cause a delay, or was it just hard to open?

- 37 -

A It was hard to open. It did come open. It took two of us to open it, by working back and forth.

THE CORONER:

Q You are saying it took longer to open than it should have? Is that what you are saying?

A Yes.

Q Yes. I think you feel there was a delay over the ordinary time?

A I would think so.

Q You are sure? We are not trying to put words in your mouth?

A No. No. It was extremely stiff.

A JUROR:

Q Were you and Wally at the fire before the firemen arrived?

A Yes.

Q Did you know Mrs. Anderson was inside?

A Yes. I surmised she was in there.

Q Did you pass a fire box on the way to the house? Somebody said there was one near the maintenance shack?

A There is a fire hydrant.

Q There is a which?

A There is a fire hydrant.

Q But there is no alarm there, is this correct?

A I don't think so.

Q The hydrant that they hooked on to, is that the one at the back of your house?

A North of my house.

- 38 -

Q Yes.

THE CORONER:

Q North of your house?

A North. I mean west.

A JUROR:

Q Yes. That one they hooked onto was on Edgewood Road?

A No.

THE CORONER:

Q In other words, it was on the same street as the house that was burning?

A No. It was between the two streets.

Q Between the two streets. Can you point it out, in relation to your home?

A There is the garage, and it would be just here.

Q It wasn't over here?

A No. No.

Q Right. Have the jury anymore questions of this witness?

All right. I think you can stand down, Mr. Kerrigan.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: You will have a chance of recalling any of the witnesses you wish later on.

Mr. Moneypenney.

WILLIAM JOHN MONEYPENNEY, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

- 39 -

Q Will you tell me what your occupation is, and where you work?

A Fire Fighter. D.R.E.S. Suffield.

Q Fire Fighter?

A Yes.

Q D.R.E.S. Suffield. Will you speak up so that the Court Stenographer and the jury can hear you?

Now, On October the 22nd last were you on duty?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell us what happened on that particular day, starting with what time you came to work?

A Well, I was at work, started work at 0145.

Q Yes. In the morning?

A Yes. In the morning. And then I phoned the Fire Chief and informed him that we were a man short then.

Q In the morning this was?

A Yes.

Q You phoned the Fire Chief and told him what?

A That one man hadn't come in.

Q One man short?

A Yes.

Q I see. Did you know why you were short? Did you know why he hadn't come in? Was he sick?

A Well, he had special leave.

Q He had special leave?

A Yes.

- 40 -

Q I see.

A And he said, "Okay", that he would be available, in the village--

Q I see.

A In case something happened.

Q So the fact is, then, he wasn't in the fire hall, but he was available in some other place?

A He was available, yes.

Q I see.

A When the fire phone rang, and I went to answer it.

Q About what time would that be?

A About 1320, I guess.

Q I see.

A And I didn't get to answer it because the box alarm came in just about the same time.

Q Yes.

A And I thought, well, if I lift the receiver I won't hear what's being said, because the bell makes a terrific noise.

Q I see.

A So then I immediately started getting into my fire clothes, and just before I did go to the truck I did lift the receiver, on the off chance that I would be able to hear, but I couldn't hear anything. So we took off, and I overlooked blowing the siren on the fire hall.

Q Yes.

A Which would inform the guard that he has to go to the fire

- 44 -

Q Yes. I see. Now, you saw Mrs. Anderson laying on the ground outside?

A Yes.

Q Was she holding anything?

A I didn't notice.

Q Not that you noticed?

A No. I didn't notice anything.

Q The jury may have some questions they would like to ask you.

A JUROR:

Q When you got the back door open was there anything, as far as smoke coming out?

A Well, when I put my hand on the lock inside it was pretty hot, and, what else do you mean, sir?

Q Any smoke come out, any sign of flame, at all?

A No.

Q You said you broke the windows, and then, maybe I misunderstood, but you said after you had broken the windows and opened the door you went and hooked up the hose, is this right?

A Yes. I took the hose off the truck, and you have to uncouple it. That's right. There is 900 feet on each section.

Q Yes.

A And it has to be uncoupled.

Q I know, but in which order did you do it? Did you break the windows, and then go--

A Oh, yes. Yes. Oh, yes. After I broke the windows, then I went in the house again, but conditions hadn't changed. I

- 45 -

couldn't see any improvement in the conditions. So then I called the truck driver to get the truck on the hydrant.

Q Is this not going around the other way? Shouldn't you have had water available before you broke the windows?

A Well, my first consideration was to try and get the woman out of the house. That was the first thing I thought of.

Q Did you have any mask available at that particular time?

A Yes.

Q Were you wearing it?

A When I went in the first time, yes. After I came off the truck.

Q You went in the front door, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And you were wearing a mask?

A Yes.

Q But you came out because you couldn't see? Is this the reason?

A Well, no. The thing was that I had to get the smoke moving. There is two reasons. The wind was blowing from the southwest, and if you open a door like that the air rushes in, and you get a back draft, and you get fire flashing right through the house from the exhaust that had built up from the fire. There was lots of smoke.

Q Well, you said at this time your intent was to attempt to find the woman. Did you make such an attempt when you went in, or were you concerned more with getting the smoke out of the way, or--

- 46 -

A Yes. That made the situation much worse.

Q So you were concerned with--

A Well, I had to get, yes, I had to get that moving. That was my idea.

Q But did you make any attempt to look in any of the rooms, or was it too dark in there to see?

A Yes. I did make an attempt.

Q I see. And then you came back out again?

A Yes.

Q You went around to the back door?--

A Yes.

Q And tried to open it?

A Yes.

Q Did you get into the house after opening the back door?

A Yes.

Q Did you just get into the kitchen?

A Yes. And then I came out again.

Q And then you came out again. I see. Are you the senior fire fighter in this particular crew?

A No. No. I was at that time. I was at that time, but not now.

Q Can you tell me how long you have been a fire fighter?

A Roughly 13 years.

THE CORONER:

Q How many years?

A 13.

Q 13. What is your age, by the way?

- 47 -

A 50.

Q 50?

A Yes.

A JUROR:

Q How many times have you been at a fire? Is this a lot of times,  
or--

A No, not a lot of times. We haven't had very many fires.

Q All these 13 years you have been here at Ralston?

A Yes.

Q Do you have procedures laid down which you practise, which  
you discuss, as to how to go about fighting a fire when it  
occurs?

A Yes.

Q In other words, you know that when you get there you are  
suppose to do certain things first?

A Yes,

Q And you more or less follow these procedures?

A Yes.

Q This is what you were doing at this time?

A Yes.

Q I hate to go back to this, but I still think there is something  
here that doesn't tie in with my thinking, so I'd like you to  
maybe clear this up.

Do you think that with the one extra  
person that should have been there, but wasn't, you could  
have eliminated this business of breaking the windows, and

- 48 -

not having the hoses hooked up, because you just said that you did this, there was a danger, with this wind blowing, of a flash fire. Now, if there is a danger of a flash fire, which obviously, by looking at those pictures, to me, I would maybe think this is what happened, yet, the hydrants weren't hooked up when these windows were broken. Now--

A Yes. Well, if that had been a telephone call, if the box hadn't rung we would have picked the hydrant out right away, because we would have known where we were going, but we didn't know where the fire was. We had to go there and find out, and then, like I said, whenever this person shouted there's a woman in there, my first thought was to try and get her out.

Q I see. You arrived there the same time as the truck, and had to wait for the truck to get into position and hook up the hydrant, and so on, and in the meantime you were attempting to enter the house, is this the---

A Yes. I was on the truck.

Q Well, who, on the truck, was sort of responsible for hooking the hoses up? There was three of you? There was the driver and two others ?

A Yes. Well, McDonald was actually the hydrant man, but he was in the house then, I presume, you see. So, I mean, we had to double up, to a certain extent, and get things done.

Q In going to the house, and going around to the back and opening windows, and so on, did you see any flame at that

- 49 -

time?

A No. There was no flame at any time when I got the back door open.

THE CORONER:

Q When you were breaking the windows and trying to get in where was Mr. McDonald?

A I don't know where he was. He was inside the house, I guess.

Q You didn't see him?

A No.

Q Did he come down on the truck?

A Yes.

Q I see.

A JUROR:

Q Presumably, it was Mr. McDonald who brought the body out, is this right?

A Yes.

Q He had gone in the front door?

A Yes.

THE CORONER: Right. Thank you very much, Mr. Money Penny.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: I think I am going to adjourn for ten minutes to give the stenographer a break.

(TEN MINUTE ADJOURNMENT)

THE CORONER: Mr. McDonald is the next witness.

- 50 -

MICHAEL FRANCIS MCDONALD, having

first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Are you still working here?

A Yes, I am.

Q Yes. I see. Now, can you tell me what you do, and where you work?

A I work for the Defense Research Establishment at Suffield, and the fire department.

Q And the fire department. Right. Now, would you speak up. On October the 22nd this year were you on duty?

A Yes.

Q You were. I see. Can you tell us what happened? The time you came to work, and so on?

A I arrived at work at 8:30.

Q Yes.

A We had a, there was no calls, or anything.

Q Just speak up. The jury are having trouble hearing you.

A Oh. Approximately one o'clock the fire phone rang, and a matter of seconds after that the bell started ringing. We responded. We went to the address, I believe it's 19 Edgewood Road. Do you just want me to go through the whole thing, sir?

Q I want you to tell us exactly what happened from the moment you started out on this trip, yes.

A All right.

- 51 -

Q Yes.

A We arrived at the scene. We didn't really know what was going on because there was no smoke. The house, 19 Edgewood Road, was blocked up pretty tight. The windows and doors. There was a bit of smoke coming out of the chimney, but not very much. And Mr. Wally McKenzie was the first one that seemed to know what was going on, and he told us there was a woman in there, in the bedroom, so Jack Money Penny and I immediately went inside. We put our masks on, and the smoke and heat was too much for the masks. We only got a few feet in and we realized we couldn't do anything. The smoke was going right through the mask, and we couldn't see a thing, and the heat was pretty bad. So we went outside the door, and Mr. Money Penny decided to ventilate on the leeward side of the building, and I asked Mr. Wally McKenzie where her bedroom window was, and he showed me. I broke, sprung the outside window open.

Incidentally, I broke my hand in doing it. I didn't know it at the time, though.

We broke the other window, and then got the one and one-half inch line into play, because it was quite obvious that it was burning quite bad in that room, still. So I got the one and a half line in there, and got water right away, and put out probably most of the fire. It didn't take very long. And then Mr. Wally McKenzie came around,

- 52 -

I don't know where he was, but he told me that the house was clear now, after the ventilation, and extinguishing most of it. So I put my mask on and went inside again and searched. I didn't know where she was. I searched several of the rooms first, and I found her in the bedroom. It wasn't her bedroom, as I was given to understand, but I saw her, the smoke was still quite bad. I had to get close before I realized she was there. Actually, I think I felt for her, and then I saw her, after I realized she was there, and she was slumped over the bed, on the opposite side of the bed from the door, and she was half on and half off of the bed, and her right hand, she was grasping on to a baby crib. I just noticed it then. Naturally I checked the baby crib first, because I would have carried out any infants in there first of all. And I realized there was no one else there, so I started carrying her out. She was too heavy for a fireman's lift, so I was dragging her out, and I got her out, oh, part way down the hallway, and, I don't know whether, I guess the gentleman is <sup>not</sup> here. I don't know his name. He is a dutch gentleman. I imagine he would know all about it. But, anyhow, the smoke wasn't too bad in the hall, and we dragged her out, and then I think the Fire Chief came in, just then, and so we just continued dragging her out. We naturally lifted her up over any objects so we wouldn't cut her, or anything, because there was a bit of broken glass, I think, and we got her

- 53 -

outside, and I immediately applied mouth to mouth resuscitation, while, meanwhile, they brought, someone else brought the pneolator resuscitator there and we got the pneolator working, and once it started to operate, then I quit giving her mouth to mouth.

Oh, I'm sorry. Meanwhile, I think someone else was applying open heart massage. I think the Fire Chief was doing that. I'm not exactly sure who was, but anyhow the pneolator was working. We used that. And it didn't seem to have any effect, but we were using it anyhow. And then I believe Dr. Stewart arrived, and he started giving her mouth to mouth, and I think open heart massage, and then, also, we brought the E.&J. resuscitator from the ambulance in, as soon as the ambulance got there. And we used that also, but to no effect. And Dr. Stewart asked for his stethoscope. He put it to her heart, and he said; "She's gone." So we quit, and by then the fire was out, because I believe there were a few civilians around where the fire was, outside the room, and I think they probably put the hose in, or continued until the fire was just about out, and so, I believe Constable MacDonald was there at the time, and we, him and I and I'm not sure who else looked around the whole house. We searched for anything like alcohol, bottles, or, and he was also looking for drugs, sedatives, and so on, and we didn't come up with anything, and by then I believe the Fire Chief decided

000090

- 54 -

that there was no danger of the fire starting up again, so the fire truck left, but I stayed behind just to make sure. We had the one and a half inch line in there, charged, and ready to go, in case the fire should happen to start again in the attic. And I stayed there, I believe, until six o'clock at night, and someone came for me, and we wrote out, I got back to the fire hall and we wrote out statements, I believe, and then I went off duty, and that was it.

Q So you were the first one to get to Mrs. Anderson, were you?

A Yes.

Q When you first saw her did you notice whether she had anything in her hand?

A I don't believe so. I don't think so. Her right hand was grasping the baby crib. I didn't see anything in the left hand.

Q Her right hand was grasping the baby crib. Which way was she laying across the bed? Can you show me on the picture?

A Yes. She was lying across like that. Her front body, torso, was there. Her legss were along there. I believe she was--

Q Where was her head?

A Her head was right there.

Q I see. So she had gone around here?

A Yes. And her right hand was hanging onto one of those bars, and I didn't see anything in her left hand.

Q I see. Okay.

- 55 -

A JUROR:

Q She was lying on her stomach, was she?

A Yes, I think so. Yes.

THE CORONER:

Q Now, I am quite sure the jury will have some questions they would like to ask you, Mr. McDonald.

A JUROR:

Q When you arrived at the fire were you informed immediately that Mrs. Anderson was in the house? Were you told immediately?

A Yes. We weren't told who it was, but we were told immediately there was a woman in the house.

Q There was not too much of a delay?

A No.

Q When your truck pulled up in front of this house you immediately, along with Mr. Money Penny, left the truck and went to the house, and tried to enter it, is this--

A Yes.

Q Without any delay?

A No. First thing we did.

Q Is this what you were charged to do at the time? I am thinking in terms of your normal procedures for fighting a fire.

A Yes. The first sequence is rescue.

Q Is rescue. And at this point you were not concerned with hooking up hoses?

- 56 -

A I wasn't, myself. Mr. Moneypenny and I ran right in.

Q I see. Now, this one and a half inch hose you talked about, this is attached to the truck?

A Yes.

Q And you got this out in a hurry--

A Yes.

Q And got it started. Now, which window did you start spraying through to hit the fire?

A It was this window right here.

Q I see.

A JUROR:

Q What was the visible flame level before you broke the window?

A I didn't see any flames, but I heard them. There was too much smoke to see any flames, but I could tell, it still seemed to be burning in there quite bad.

Q This was in the room, itself?

A Pardon?

Q This was in the bedroom, itself?

A Yes.

Q This was by sound?

A Yes.

Q Did you detect flames or anything when you first tried to enter the building?

A No.

Q Was Mrs. Anderson's clothing burnt, at all, when you found her?

- 57 -

A No. The only thing I saw that was burnt was her arms, and they were just singed.

Q Yes.

A JUROR:

Q When you came out did you attempt to go back to the truck to get a light to assist you inside? Did you get a light?

A Yes, I did.

Q You did?

A Yes. I believe, at first I tried to enter the building, twice. The first time Mr. Moneypenny and I went in and we were driven out, and then I ran to get this light, and went in again, and it didn't do any good, and I was still driven out.

Q And then you got the hoses?

A Yes.

Q And Mr. Moneypenny went to the back of the house?

A I believe he did, yes.

Q I see. When you got Mrs. Anderson out of the house did you consider that she was still alive, or were you just--

A Well, I didn't consider anything. I just thought the first thing to do was give her mouth to mouth.

Q While you were going in those times, Mike, did you encounter flames?

A No. I didn't get very far in the house. Can I show you about how far I went at first?

Q Please. Yes.

A I went in, I believe, to about as far as here, and the

- 58 -

smoke was so bad that I couldn't breath, myself, even.

Despite the mask. And I didn't know where anything was. It was completely black. And I believe that's about as far as I went, and I couldn't even see my way out. And I just sort of felt my way out. And I didn't see any signs of flames.

Q Now, when you went in the final time and rescued Mrs. Anderson you could see better at this time, could you?

A A bit better, yes. It was clear.

Q It was clear?

A Actually it wasn't that bad in the hall.

Q It was a case of whipping around from room to room to find her?

A Yes.

THE CORONER:

Q Can you remember how she was dressed, Mr. McDonald?

A Well, I didn't really pay attention that much to how she was dressed, but I thought, at the time, that she was wearing a white house coat.

Q A house coat, yes.

A It looked like that to me.

Q She didn't have clothing on as if she was going out?

A Well, I couldn't really tell that.

A JUROR:

Q Can you tell us after you got her out?

A Pardon me?

Q When you were giving her mouth to mouth resuscitation, or

- 59 -

after--

A Yes.

Q Could you tell how she was dressed at this time?

A Well, I could have, but I just didn't notice.

Q You just didn't notice.

A It was a light, probably a white colored dress, or house coat.

Q It is considered reasonable practise for you to go in by yourself is it?

A Well, there was only three of us on duty. The first time we went in we were together. The second time I believe I tried it alone, and I was driven out again. And the third time, when I finally did get her out, the house wasn't that bad. But, well, it is considered practise to go in two at a time, but we <sup>were</sup> quite thin on the ground, so to speak.

Q Well, did the fourth member of your team arrive while you were trying to get in?

A Yes. Well, I'm not exactly sure. The fourth member was the Fire Chief. The first time I notice him, was, I think, when I was carrying Mrs. Anderson outside the house.

Q You always work the same people on the same shift, do you?

A Yes.

Q And is the Fire Chief on your shift?

A No. We were short shifted. He was at home at the time, on call. He was at home all the time, like.

Q When did you realize you had hurt your arm? I am asking, because you stayed there until six o'clock in the evening,

- 60 -

I think.

A Well, I noticed it was sore, but it didn't seem that bad at the time, but I definitely had intended to have it checked the next day. When I thought it was quite bad was when I woke up the next day, and it was swollen and quite sore.

THE CORONER:

Q Now, Mr. McDonald, I'd just like you to describe what the sort of routine is, I don't think we have had this before, in the fire department, say, on days when there aren't any fires? You come on duty, say, at 8:45. What happens then? What do you do any the ordinary way?

A Well, is there a difference, during a weekday, or--

Q Well, no. I'd like to know sort of a full week, really, if you can tell us what the situation is in the fire department.

A Well, we, usually the first thing we do is we check the vehicles. We run them up.

Q Yes.

A Warm them up. And then during weekdays there is, oh, a variety of things. There are many things we could do, we do throughout the year. There is routine maintenance on the building, during the summer, work on the yard--

Q What building?

A On the fire hall.

Q I see. Yes.

A And there is many inspections that we have to carry out throughout the year. There is ladders, hoses, extinguishers,

- 61 -

There is--

Q Yes. What I am getting at, are you on an eight hour shift?

A We are on a ten hour day, and a fourteen hour night.

Q I see. Are you fully occupied all the time?

A No. I wouldn't say we are fully occupied all the time, no.

On weekends we confine ourselves to training, normally.

Q Well, this is what I am getting at. How much training do you do?

A Well, we have, we are on two days., two weekend days every month, and we are on training the whole part of the day, there. Naturally we can't go too far from the hall, but we do the best we can.

Q Learning, or practicing using the equipment?

A Yes. Normally it is practical during the weekend days, and then at nights we do most of the theoretical study, and--

Q Oh, I see.

A And things like that.

Q Yes. The reason I am asking this is that I had a similar inquest a little while ago. Do you do any physical training?

A Not with the fire hall, but I keep myself in fairly good shape on my own.

Q This is a personal thing?

A Pardon?

Q This is a personal thing of your own, though?

A Yes.

Q What I am getting at is if you had to attend a big fire you

- 62 -

are engaged in extremely strenuous work, and unless you are physically fit it is sometimes not always easy to carry out your duties.

A Yes.

A JUROR:

Q How extensively do you learn floor plans of the various houses in the village? Have you ever got to this stage?

A No. It has never come up.

Q In other words, when you went into this house you had no idea of the floor plan?

A No. I did ask where the bedroom was, and they told me approximately where it was.

Q Mike, during this training do you actually ever go through your actual procedure, like going out through the gate with your siren going?

A We have never done that during training, but we did have a false alarm once, in the village.

Q That is the only time it happened, eh?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever been to a fire before in your experience on the Suffield Force?

A Not to any extent. I have had two grass fires, and a backhouse fire, and a false alarm, and that was it.

Q Have you ever had the opportunity to give mouth to mouth resuscitation before?

A Not in real life, but we have training devices where it is

- 63 -

the next thing to real, where they strap a bag on someones chest, and a mouth piece, and it is quite close to the real thing.

Q But you weren't using a mouth piece at this point?

A No. The mouth piece is strictly for sanitary reasons, unless we happen to have one on hand. We do have a Brooks Airway, they call it, which is used if you happen to have one, but normally you don't carry one around. They are on the ambulance, I believe.

Q When you used this resuscitator, Mike, why did you bring in the second one? You said you brought in the other one from the ambulance?

A Yes. I'm not really sure. It is a better resuscitator, because it works on a positive and negative pressure, and therefore, actually it breaths in for you. It expands your chest, and also it exhales you. Where the other one, the Pneolator, simply puts air into your chest, and then the pressure on your lungs, due to the air, expands it.

Q The second one, you say, is better?

A Well, it's a matter of opinion, but I think a lot of people would agree with this.

Q Was it used?

A Yes.

Q It was used?

A We used it, yes.

Q How long had you been in the fire hall when this happened, Mike?

- 64 -

A I believe 9 months and 3 weeks.

Q I think you have shown considerable knowledge, technical knowledge, of the equipment and that sort of thing.

A Well, we have gone over it pretty thoroughly in the past.

THE CORONER: Right. Thank you, Mr. McDonald. I think that's all.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

GERRIT BROEKSTRA, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr, Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Are you connected with the D.R.E.S., at Suffield?

A Yes. I am working on a fellowship here at the station.

Q I see. Can you tell us of your association with this fire and death, and what happened on October the 22nd?

A Well, that particular afternoon I was studying in my house, and the day before that day I promised Chris Evangelos to go to their house, and I went out of the front door, and at that moment I saw the fire car passing, and I didn't know there was a fire, and I followed, more or less, with my eyes, the car, and then I saw some people standing there, and at that time I saw the smoke coming from the back of the house. So I crossed the street, and there I met Mrs. McKenzie, and she told me that there was still somebody in the house there.

Well, I stayed there for awhile, and then I went over to the front door of the house, and at

- 65 -

that time a man that I didn't know, but later they told me it was Mike--

Q Yes.

A Went into the house with the respirator and a lamp, and he came out after a short while, and he turned around to the corner of the house, took some tools out of the fire car, and he broke the glass in the window at the side of the house, and then the fire really started. Then he put out some hoses. That's what I saw. And I helped him by the car. And the moment he sprayed water on the fire I returned to the front door, where Chris Evangelos and Wally McKenzie were, and we tried several times to get into the house, but it was impossible.

Then, after awhile, Mike returned, and he went into the house again, and I followed him into the hall, and I stayed there, and it took awhile, and then I saw him coming with the body between his legs.

Q Yes.

A At the end of the corridor. So I went into the corridor and we took her out together. Well, that's about all.

Q I see. Yes. Did you notice if she had anything in her hand?

A If she had something in her hand?

Q Yes.

A No. I didn't notice that she had something in her hand.

Q Can you remember what sort of clothing she was wearing?

A Yes. She had a white dress. I suppose it was her uniform,

- 66 -

or something.

Q Oh, I see. Sort of a uniform dress, yes. Did you think she was alive when she was brought out, or did you think she was dead?

A I don't know. The only thing I know after is that Mike started that mouth to mouth rescue method.

Q Yes. I see.

A She took a short breath, but I'm not sure it was a sign of life, or something.

Q No. You mean she took a short breath <sup>when</sup> ~~if~~ no one was breathing into her, or--

A Mike was breathing into her, and he stopped for awhile, and she took a short breath. I don't know if it was breath, or something else.

Q I see. I think the jury may have some questions they might like to ask you.

A JUROR:

Q You didn't think it was particularly dangerous to go into the house, Gerrit?

A Pardon?

Q You didn't think it was dangerous to go in the house?

A Well, I didn't think about the danger. I just knew there was somebody in the house, and I just tried to get her out. That's all. I didn't think about something else. About danger, or something.

Q The smoke and the heat--

- 67 -

A Well, in the hall lots of smoke. There was no heat. The hall was more or less completely filled with smoke, and that's why I couldn't get in. My eyes filled with tears, and I couldn't get in.

Q When you first got there you said there was no visible fire, is that right?

A That's right, yes. The only thing I saw of the fire was the smoke the first time I went out of my own house, and after that window was broken I saw the flames coming,

THE CORONER: Right. Thank you very much. That's all.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

WALLACE I. MCKENZIE, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q I'd like you to speak up so that the Jury can hear what you have to say, Mr. McKenzie.

Will you first of all establish your occupation, and where you work?

A I am a lab technician for S.E.S.

Q For the Suffield Experimental Station?

A Yes.

Q I see. On October the 22nd what happened, so far as you are concerned, in relation to this investigation? October the 22nd is the day we have established that the fire took place.

- 68 -

A Yes. You want me to relate the entire happenings?

Q As far as you are concerned, and your association with it.

A Well, I was in our back porch with my wife, working on the washing machine at the time.

Q I see.

A And she looked out and saw smoke coming from Mrs. Anderson's house. So I immediately ran down through my back yard and across the front lawns to her house.

Q Yes. You are fairly close, then, are you?

A Yes. Just one suite away.

Q Yes. I see.

A I ran around the corner of her house, to make sure it was smoke. When I ascertained that it was, then I went immediately to the call box which is adjacent to the suite, there.

Q Yes.

A From there I ran back. I met Mr. Kerrigan and his boy, and we went to the back door and tried to open it. It was locked. I tried to kick it open, but still didn't manage, so we went around to the front door and tried to go in. We made it into the hallway, partially, and then we were driven back out by smoke.

Q That is your and Mr. Kerrigan, is it?

A Yes.

Q Yes.

A We waited outside, with the front door open, to see whether

- 69 -

the smoke would clear somewhat, and we tried to go in again, but still didn't make it. I tried crawling in along the floor, but I could only get down as far as the corner, and then it was impossible.

Q I see. The smoke was too bad?

A Yes.

Q Yes.

A Yes.

Q I see.

A So we came out again. I ran back around the side and looked at the windows, but I heard the house starting to bulge a little. By this time quite a crowd had gathered, and I believe I yelled, "You better get back, get all the kids back, I think she may blow."

Q Yes.

A And I backed off, myself, ran out into the front street while we waited for the fire department to arrive, and in the interim period we tried once again to go in, but with no success.

Q I see. How long did it take for the fire department to arrive, do you know?

A I couldn't place an accurate time on it, because, I mean, I was so involved, myself, at the time that I wouldn't even estimate .

Q No.

A And, well, as I say, we tried to get in once again, and then

- 70 -

were driven out. I did look, as we were in there I looked around the front room and in the kitchen, you know, as best I could, and I knew that Mrs. Anderson wasn't there. So we assumed she must be down in the far end of the house, the southeast corner.

Q Yes.

A And then we came out again, and waited a few minutes, tried once more, and then the fire department arrived.

Q Yes.

A The space of time involved I really couldn't say, because--

Q No. I see. All right. The jury might want to ask you a few questions.

A JUROR:

Q When you first arrived at Mrs. Anderson's did you call into the house, at all, Wally, for an answer?

A No. As I say, when I first saw it I went to the alarm box.

Q Yes.

A And then I went to the back door, and went around to the front, but I didn't call, at all.

Q Did you know she was inside?

A Well, Mr. Kerrigan said to me that he knew she was in there.

Q Which fire box did you ring, Wally? Can you show us on the map which one it is?

A Well, the fire box is right about here.

- 71 -

Q I see. Okay. After the Fire Department arrived did you assist in anyway further?

A Well, I didn't really want to get in their way, but I yelled to Mr. McDonald that there was a woman in the house, but she needed a rescuer to go in, and then he attempted to go in, himself, with a respirator but the smoke was so thick he came out again. I was standing at the front door, and he said he couldn't see. So he ran over to the fire engine and got a lamp, and then he tried to go in again.

Q Did you assist in anyway further with the firemen, in putting up hoses, or anything like this?

A Well, once they had attempted to go in and get Mrs. Anderson they came out and they were going to force entry through the windows, which they did do, and my son and I, we held the hose at one stage. When Mr. McDonald tried to go back in we held the hose in the bedroom window. After they retrieved Mrs. Anderson from the house, well, then I stood at her head while Mr. McDonald tried to give artificial resuscitation, and I was there to assist in anyway that I could.

Q Before you left home did you tell your wife to phone the Fire Department, or anything like this?

A No, I did not. Apparently she did on her own.

Q Do you know if anyone else turned in an alarm?

A Well, I heard since that my wife instructed some children to turn one in. She tried to phone one in.

Q Wally, all the previous witnesses said that during the time

- 72 -

of resuscitation she coughed once. Were you there at that time?

A Yes. Well, the driver of the fire engine brought the resuscitator up and it was applied for quite sometime, it seemed, to no avail, and then the resuscitator, you know how the valve in them works, it seemed to click about six times.

Q In other words, this resuscitator didn't seem to be working, or just the fact that it wasn't doing any good?

A Well, I couldn't say. I don't know. But the valve seemed to work a few times just prior to her, well, how can I put it? What would make a valve work all of a sudden, and then just stop?

Q Wally, could you estimate how long artificial respiration was attempted? Five minutes, Ten minutes, half an hour?

A Gee, I would hate to set a time on it. I really don't know. It was attempted for quite sometime, it seemed to me.

THE CORONER: Right. Thank you very much.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: The only thing on how long artificial respiration was given, we haven't got any exact time I don't think, but Dr. Stewart gave it for five minutes, and someone else before him.

John Fleming.

JOHN FLEMING, having first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Just try and speak up so we can hear you.

- 7B -

What is your capacity, your position, your occupation?

A Fire Chief.

Q You are Fire Chief with the D.R.B.?

A DRB.

Q I see. Now, were you on duty on this day of the fire we are investigating?

A No. I was on call in Ralston.

Q You were on call in Ralston. I see. Can you tell us what you know<sup>of</sup>/it from the moment you became aware there was a fire to start with?

A Well, I got a call by telephone from Mr. Deering, reporting that we did have a fire, and it came in from Box 133.

Q Yes.

A Box 133, as I knew, was on Dugway.

Q Pardon?

A On Dugway Drive, which is north.

Q Yes.

A I proceeded there, and on my way I noticed that the fire truck was in position, over at the suite involved. Seemingly, this box number had come in from a<sup>second</sup>/box.

Q Yes.

A I proceeded on my way, with my own car, and on arrival, making a split second sizeup of the situation, I found out that the apparatus was in position, the hose was led, the water was on. Making this decision, or sizeup, or whatever you want to call it, I entered the building. I can't recall, going in, whether I

- 74 -

passed Mr. Brockstra or whether I passed him coming out. I got so far down the hallway, I didn't have a respirator on. This is not the practice with call alert people in the Village, to have a permanent respirator on their coat, as it is the on duty firemen. Consequently, when I got in there and had a look, and had a good stomach full of it, I got out of there quick.

Q Yes.

A My decision was to come out and maybe to order the hose line in the front door. By this time they had added water to the room involved.

Q I beg your pardon?

A They had added water to the room involved.

Q To the room involved. I see.

A I immediately went back, then, and by this time Mike McDonald and Mr. Brockstra had the deceased, dragged her right to the front door, where I assisted them from there, placing the deceased on the lawn, where Mr. McDonald took over mouth to mouth artificial respiration.

Q Who gave artificial respiration?

A Mr. McDonald.

Q Mr. McDonald. I see. To answer a question the Jury have been concerned with, how long was artificial respiration given, altogether?

A This would be a matter of minutes.

Q Well, we have had evidence that Dr. Stewart gave artificial respiration for probably about five minutes, and Mr. McDonald was giving it before that.

- 75 -

A Times can be funny.

Q Pardon?

A Times can be funny.

Q Yes.

A What one person thinks is five minutes, is two minutes. So this is hard to pin point if down to where it was seven minutes, or five minutes.

Q I see. It wasn't for half an hour, though?

A Oh, no. Nothing like that.

Q I see. Yes. Carry on.

A Mr. McDonald continued the artificial respiration, mouth to mouth method. Next thing I knew the resuscitator was by his side, on the step, where I immediately placed the face piece, after turning on the resuscitator, onto the deceased.

Before doing this I did notice that there was a purplish look to the face, and an unusual reddness.

Q Yes.

A Which I --

Q What do you mean by reddness?

A An unusual reddness, with the purple color.

Q Pinky, sort of?

A Yes.

Q I see.

A Which I did think, to me, was possible signs of cyanosis.

Q Of what?

A Cyanosis.

Q I see.

- 76 -

Q I see. Yes.

A We hadn't been applying the resuscitator very long until the Doctor was on the scene.

Q I see.

A He immediately came and started mouth to mouth himself.

Q I see. Yes.

A And I would say minutes after that he asked for a stethoscope.

Q Yes.

A And he told me, he says "Give up." By that time I had also ordered a light port resuscitator from the ambulance which had arrived there by that time too. This was all in a matter of minutes, I still say, too. I thought we could use the light port, because it has got a different action than the pneolator in question. The pneolator in question has only got an intermittent positive action, where the light port, or E & J as some people refer to it.

Q Yes.

A Has an intermittent positive and negative phase. But before I could get the light port into operation Dr. Stewart had told me --

Q She was dead?

A That was it.

Q Yes. Now, how many firemen were there on duty that day?

A Three.

Q Three. Is that the usual number?

A No. Normally we have a full complement of five. Most of the

- 77 -

year we have four, with holidays.

Q With what?

A Four men.

Q Four.

A Most days, with their outside work to do, fire prevention, maintenance work, extinguishers, and what have you, there could be three men in the hall on many occasions.

Q Yes. So it is not unusual for there just to be three men there?

A Normally not. Unusual, I would say, on <sup>the</sup> weekend. Being a Sunday, I did make the decision, myself, rather than involve another shift--

Q Yes.

A Or over time, I went along and instructed Mr. Money Penny that I would go along with three men for that day.

Q Yes.

A Being a quiet day, the camp closed down.

Q Yes. Now, I think the jury will probably have some questions they would like to ask you, Mr. Fleming.

A Yes.

A JUROR:

Q When the security people take over the fire hall and start phoning are you first on the list?

A Yes.

Q There is no automatic hook up in your house, though?

A No.

- 78 -

Q Has this been considered?

A They had one a number of years ago, and this is quite a nerve shattering thing it's good enough to get home at five o'clock and get off that job, and get a little relaxation, rather than having bells and buzzers going in your house.

Q The normal shift on that day should have been four, is that right, John?

A The normal shift Lieutenant that day was on annual leave, and the second fellow had called in for special leave on account of his wife being sick at home. He had four kiddies, and he could get no one to look after the four kiddies.

Q So you just made the decision--

A Well, I made the decision, taking into consideration what man power I had available to call for on the station and village that particular day, which we had six.

Q And how many people lived in Ralston?

A Six, and myself is seven.

Q Do you think there should be more people living in Ralston, then, in the fire department, if this is going to be the case?

A Would you clarify that, please?

Q Well, it seems to me that, if we can't survive on three then it looks to me as though maybe we should have more members, either employed by the fire department, or more people in the fire department living in Ralston?

A No. I think the percentage of firemen living in Ralston is quite reasonable, out of the full number which we have got,

- 79 -

if these men are readily available in the event of an emergency. We got to plan from the smallest fire to the biggest catastrophe we can get around here.

Q And in your opinion, you think this is sufficient?

A Three men? I certainly do not. No.

Q You mentioned over time. Why should over time come into your consideration?

A I was going to say I'm a Scotchman, but I'm an Irishman. But this is one of the things that--

Q I don't think overtime should become a consideration in a fire department. I think it's the least thing that should be considered.

A Well, as I say, normally, during the week I, most times during the year I have got four, and we have outside chores to do, as well, and most times during the week you are going to have one or two men off somewhere, on particular jobs, throughout the season. So if you are talking about immediate response, the same thing can happen as happened, this day on any day, because we are down to a minimum number of men.

Q Do you consider that three men are sufficient to operate a unit of the size of the one that came to this fire?

A To put water into operation quickly, no.

Q Because we have had evidence that two of the men, initially, attempted to enter the house to provide rescue--

A Yes.

- 80 -

Q The third man, the driver of the vehicle, was left to hook up the machine, and was unable to do it alone.

A Well, these are split decisions that have got to be made by someone, and these split decisions are made in seconds. It's easy for people to look back and say, well, they should have done this, and they should have done that. Sometimes you hit it right, and sometimes you hit it wrong. But the first thing on any fire call is what I say is an initial size up of the complete situation, and in that initial size up it takes in, the saving of life is the first, primary thing. Secondly, is the method of extinguishing. And thirdly, is the total confinement of the fire, and to keep it from spreading.

THE CORONER:

Q What was that last remark? I didn't hear that one.

A Total confinement, to keep the fire from spreading--

Q Oh.

A Is the third one.

Q Yes.

A So these are all split decisions that a fellow makes, and even with 23 men there this is tough to do sometimes.

A JUROR:

Q But how many men would you consider to be a practical minimum number to have on a unit such as this?

A One man, one officer and four men.

Q Five total?

A Yes.

- 81 -

THE CORONER:

Q Is that what is laid down in regulations?

A Pardon?

Q Is that what is laid down in your regulations?

A This is laid down in department of National Defense Regulations.

Q Yes.

A There will be a minimum of one fire officer, and four fire fighters.

Q I see. Yes.

A JUROR:

Q But there were only four men scheduled to be on duty this day?

A That particular day.

Q How do you get around the regulation?

A Well, how do I get around it all week, for immediate response? As I say, during the week, at most times during the year I have got four men on the crew, but out of those four I have one out somewhere around the camp on other duties, fire prevention and maintenance work, so, basically, during the week you are boiled down to three men again.

Q Of these three men that you had on duty, John, was one of them in charge of the other two?

A Oh, yes. There's always a senior fire fighter.

Q Is the siren on the fire hall, itself, for the station, only? It's not suppose to wake the village, at all, is it?

A No. In fact, it depends on the wind direction, sometimes

- 82 -

you can hear it, sometimes you can't.

Q So if the siren had been turned on as early as possible it doesn't sound as if it would have made any difference?

A Not to the village, no.

Q What about the siren on the fire engine? Would this have been heard in the village as it approached?

A Well, it would have given a warning to the people concerned that the vehicle was on its way.

Q It would also--

A Reassurance.

Q Give them assurance that aid was coming, would it not?

A Reassurance.

Q Now, in the case of a fire, such as this one, what is your opinion of having a lot of people around? I am thinking of ordinary people, not part of the fire department, assisting you as needed, or standing around in close quarters, attempting to, just watching, or waiting to see whether there is any need for assistance that can be given.

A People are fine if you can put the proper people under direction to work.

Q Do you feel, then, that in any case where there is a fire of this nature that there should be someone there, presumably a policeman, or a security officer, who is capable of directing traffic?

A It would help, definitely.

Q This would help considerably?

- 83 -

A Yes.

Q Under the normal procedures, when the security guard goes to the fire hall from the front gate, as we have heard, was he required to call, or notify the security, the rest of the security officers that there is an emergency?

A The only one on the list, as such, is Constable MacDonald.

Q What happens when he is off duty, as he was at this time?

A There is no one else on the list.

Q In other words, when he is off duty there is no one to go to the village to be present at the fire to direct traffic--

A Well, this, I would imagine, would be up to the supervisor on shift that day. It was normal procedure.

Q As to whether or not he, or someone else would proceed--

A This is laid down in station fire orders, that they will be there during all fire calls,

Q Was there a policeman there at this time?

A Yes.

Q During the fire?

A I was quite busy.

Q You don't know?

A I did see one there. Mr. Cowan was there. Now, when he arrived on the scene, I don't know if it was during it or afterward.

Q Are you satisfied with the way your three firemen operated at the fire?

- 84 -

A I would say right now that in my estimation, in the years I have been a fireman, which is going on 25 years, and this is not my first occasion to have a set up like this, by no means, that with three men, what they did that day was exceptionally good.

For one thing, there is a prime rule in any fire department that you go to the box that is punched in on your recorder. In this case the first box that came in was 124. They approached into the village. You have got to that box to see where the fire is. Consequently, they are faced south on Edgewood. They had past up a hydrant, which is logical. They had to go to the fire box. By this time the closest hydrant was 200 feet, 250 feet in the alley way. Consequently, the truck was positioned in the wrong way, where they had to go into the alley way, back around, and take the hydrant, and lay hose back to the fire. This was unfortunate, Even with a full crew. This was split thinking again, on what to do in this situation.

So I would say right now and then that with the three men I had on, I have nothing but praise for what they did that particular day. I don't think any other three men could have done anymore than what they did.

Q Mr. Fleming, when a fire such as this occurs, the ambulance, in this case, appeared fairly rapidly. How is this notified, and who drives it?

A How was it notified?

- 85 -

Q Yes. Who called the ambulance?

A I haven't heard anyone else, so I don't know who.

Q Who drove the ambulance?

A Charlie Lemna.

Q He was an off duty fireman?

A But I know when we got the deceased, or before we positioned her on the lawn I remember hollering, get the doctor and the ambulance. This is seconds again.

Q You hollered this. But you have no idea who might have responded, if anybody?

A No, I don't. The next thing I knew the ambulance was back.

Q Which arrived first, the ambulance or the doctor ?

A The doctor.

Q The doctor arrived first?

A Yes. Now, why I get into this minutes, the call was received at 1320, 20 minutes after one. To make a good run under these conditions--

THE CORONER:

Q Pardon?

A A good run, or a good response, with a fast vehicle, which our F.W.D. is not an exceptionally fast vehicle, I would say there could have been a lapse of time between 3 and 4 minutes. Four minutes, no more.

A JUROR:

Q From the time the alarm went in until the time they arrived at the house?

- 86 -

A To even read an alarm call coming in to the hall, if you were to read the complete tape, all our boxes are timed for 60 seconds, but we always wait for two lines, it comes in in four punches, but we always wait for two complete punches before we run, just to verify that first punch. Now, I would say the time they got down there would have been, give or take, 1324. The ambulance, as I recall, was booked out at 1327, so it was three minutes.

Q That would have been three minutes from the time the truck arrived to the time when the ambulance was called, and by this time the off duty firemen would have--

A Oh, yes. Oh, definitely. They generally arrive within a minute, or a couple of minutes, depending on where they are at.

Q They stay around the station, though, do they?

A Some of them do, yes.

Q Is there any contact between the truck and the fire hall after it is dispatched?

A The first run truck? No. We have no radio.

Q In other words, you cannot have one of your fireman call for the ambulance from the truck, or anything like that?

A No.

Q It would have to depend upon locating a telephone?

A We have requested radios, and at the time they weren't available. They helped us out with one on our second run truck, and one in our jeep. The thinking here was that the

- 87 -

second run truck is the second truck, ordinarily, that would leave the station in the event of any other emergency. If it was Suffield, or a car far down the road, or a smash up, or something like this, or a tanker turns over, a tanker on the road, it would be the vehicle that would go, normally, off the camp. This was the thinking in putting the two-way radio in that.

Q Would there be anybody at the fire hall to even activate the radio if a call had come in?

A Oh, yes.

Q This was the security man, was it?

A Either him, or the first called duty man at home.

Q I think you could clear it up a bit for a lot of people, Johnny, if you would give us your ideas of this first and second run truck.

I can see letting the first vehicle go down with four men, even three in this case.

A Yes.

Q And the rest of the equipment is up at the fire hall with the number two truck, and the ambulance--

A Yes.

Q Is covered by whoever responds, and as quickly as they responded in this case, these people at the station--

A Yes.

Q You don't automatically hustle all these people off in the same car?

- 88 -

A Oh, no. Defenitely not. You have got to take into consideration that you have got to be prepared for a second call. If the first run rig gets down there and we find out that this first call is out of proportion, normally it is an automatic thing to get to the nearest phone, or to pull the closest box, and to get the other crew and truck down there.

Q How many men would/<sup>you</sup>have to have on number two truck before you considered it a reliable crew?

A In addition to your first crew? I can quote you D&D. I would say at least one driver, and four trained body men. One proficient operator, and four body men.

Q You haven't really got much hope of getting that, have you?

A If you need a second run truck, now, we are talking about a really major fire, because between both trucks we can shoot 1400 gallons per minute, so you have got a major fire on your hands before we are going to call a second truck. Most of your house fires within the confines of Ralston, outside of the community centre, can be easily handled with one truck with inch and a half lines. This is proved.

Q Your firemen on duty who attempted to go into the house wearing a respirator--

A Yes.

Q Two of them, in fact, said they were driven back because the smoke and fumes penetrated the masks.

A Yes.

- 89 -

Q Is this to be expected?

A Oh, definitely.

Q In fact, these masks are incapable of really keeping out a lot of smoke?

A This, again, normally in the percentages of your fires that you will fight what we call an all service respirator is sufficient. It has got its capabilities, like everything else. Someone seems to think that because you have got a respirator on your face that this is everything. But you can't tell, unless you go in first with a meter, or something, which we don't do. You go in and you get a dose of it, yourself, and you know that the cannister is no good. But the capabilities of the cannister are for two percent, in this case let's call it combined gases, or let's put it down to two percent of carbon monoxide gas, if you have 16 percent of oxygen in the air. In this particular case I readily see how these cannisters did smoke up.

Q Does your unit have any kind of back up equipment?

A Yes. We certainly do. We are self-contained on there, and, as I say, these decisions were made. We momentarily backed out. By this time the atmosphere was being cleared. Even going to the rigs and getting the stuff off, they have got special adjustments, and that, you go through, and what have you, and there was no time factor here, at all, lost.

THE CORONER:

Q Mr. Fleming, have you any suggestions of improvements that

- 90 -

might be made to your set up to help the situation in the future, other than what you already mentioned?

A Well, if it was possible to have a maximum crew on at all times.

Q Yes.

A This is the biggest recommendation.

Q Yes. I agree with you. Now, before we let you go, has any investigation been carried out as to, we haven't established this for sure, I don't think, how the fire started?

A Well, directly after we had the thing extinguished, and at that time my own reckoning was that the fire had definitely started from a cigarette, either from the bed, or, there was rug covering on there, it's possible it could have been discarded on a rug, or dropped on a rug.

Q I see.

A I'm presuming that. But from the evidence available at that time, and it was a dirty mess--

Q Yes.

A I would say, from the one single bed, myself, I thought it had started in the bed.

Q Was there any official investigation carried out by fire experts?

A Yes. There definitely was.

Q Were you there when this was done?

A This was unfortunate, because on the same day this happened I had a death in the family, in Calgary.

- 91 -

Q Oh.

A And I got away from camp here on Monday morning.

Q I see. So you didn't see him?

A I did see Mr. O'Toole on the Friday. The following Friday.

Q I see. Well, did he say anything to you then as to how it had started?

A He assumed, too, that there was a possibility that it had started from the rug situated at the head of the bed. This was going on to flooring, sub-flooring, depth of chare, and stuff like this, which I did not have time, at that time, to do, myself.

Q So he was able to locate a particular place where it started?

A Definitely. The same as I did, in the region of the single bed.

Q I see. Anymore questions?

A JUROR:

Q One question. Would you consider that a person trapped in a building such as this, knowing that they were trapped, unable to get to the doors, could they get out of windows readily?

A No. Definitely not.

Q I am thinking in terms of the bedroom in which the body was found.

A Definitely not. Not in the structure of this particular building. You couldn't get out readily.

Q In other words, she was trapped?

- 92 -

A Well, to be short of a word, yes.

Q Mrs. Anderson was not excessively burned on her body?

A No.

Q So you believe she wasn't in the bedroom that actually burned?

A Oh, definitely not.

Q She was in the other bedroom?

A Definitely. Now, if I am wrong, she could have been in the burning area. It would be solely a guess on my part, but I would say the burns were superficial.

THE CORONER:

Q You would say what?

A The burns were superficial.

Q Yes. You are suggesting she wasn't in the badly burned room, at all, or--

A No. I'm not suggesting that. It's possible that she could have collapsed in this bedroom, to start with.

Q Yes.

A Either on the bed--

Q Yes.

A Or on the floor.

Q Yes.

A And that a cigarette in the vicinity of the deceased, it's quite possible that the burns that I did see on her could have been got from the rug, if it was burning, or the bedding, itself.

Q Yes.

- 93 -

A And at this time had got up and got into the other room.

Q Yes. Right. Thank you very much. Unless there are any more questions--

A JUROR:

Q This business of when she coughed, outside.

A Yes.

Q Suppose to have taken a breath of air. Is this a sign of life, at all?

A To me, as I say again, this is something that goes with experience, and I have had occasions before where this was hit up at me. They thought that the person was breathing. And what you think and what you know sometimes are two different things.

Now, I don't care what piece of equipment you use. On this particular piece of equipment if you don't get the cushion, or the face piece, whatever you want to call it, positioned on an air tight fit on the contours of the face you will get a leakage, and to a by-stander this would resemble, maybe, that she did take a gasp, or something like this.

Q She was turned on her side to get--

A Dr. Stewart had, two or three times had rolled the body on its side, and you could hear a guggle, or whatever you want to call it.

Q There was some suggestion that open heart resuscitation was attempted. Did you see this occur?

- 94 -

THE CORONER: What was that?

A JUROR: Open heart resuscitation.

THE CORONER: Yes.

THE WITNESS: I might have tried it, myself, after  
awhile, but, this is cardiac massage you are talking about,  
eh?

A JUROR:

Q The term was open heart massage. Whatever this means, I  
don't know.

THE CORONER:

Q You didn't see any open heart massage?

A Well, I might have had my hands there, in the position that--

Q Yes. Externally. That is cardiac massage. Right. Thank  
you very much, Mr. Fleming.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Well, Gentlemen of the jury, that  
is all the witness we have to call. I will, first of all,  
ask if there is anyone else in the building, or in this  
room, who would like to give evidence or who has anything to  
say in connection with this.

CONSTANTINE CHRISTOS EVANGELOS, having  
first been duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as  
follows:

Q Do you want to clear something up?

A Yes. There is only two things, here. The clothing she

- 95 -

was wearing--

Q Yes.

A And the length of time she had mouth to mouth respiration.

Q Yes.

A Mouth to mouth respiration couldn't have been anymore than five minutes, the total time, because of the things that happened there, that I ran to my house to get a blanket to cover her up, and so on, and this couldn't have taken more than 30 seconds, so this is what gives me some idea of how long they were giving mouth to mouth.

Her clothing, when they brought her out of the house her over garments were up to her waist, and she was wearing proper underclothing, and so on, and her top garment was her work uniform.

Q She was in a work uniform?

A Yes.

Q Yes. I see.

A So this is all I really have to say.

Q This is what I wondered, you see. We had evidence that she was suppose to go to work, and had been called on and wasn't ready.

Okay. Any questions?

A JUROR:

Q Just one, Chris. Was any attempt to contact her during the morning when she failed to show up for work made?

A Well, I really don't know. Apparently Bill Cowan was talking

- 96 -

to her on the phone. So, there wasn't too much said. It happened that Rose wasn't feeling up to coming to work before, not too often. Once, I think, in the time that I have known her, and I think Bill Cowan had phoned her, and she said that she would need five or ten minutes to get ready to come to work. Now, just when this happened, I don't know. I couldn't say if anybody tried or not. I think perhaps Mrs. Kerrigan's statement may--

Q Who was in charge of the cafeteria at the time that day?

A Mrs. Kerrigan, I believe.

THE CORONER: Would you like Mrs. Kerrigan called?

A JUROR: Does she have a statement?

THE CORONER: Pardon?

A JUROR: Does she have a statement?

THE CORONER: There is a statement here, yes.

A JUROR: That would probably clear it up.

THE CORONER: Yes. Right. Thank you very much,  
Mr. Evangelos.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: We will adjourn for five or ten  
minutes.

(BRIEF ADJOURNMENT)

FREIDA KERRIGAN, having first been  
duly sworn, examined by Dr. Skinner, testified as follows:

Q Now, I'd like you to just, you can sit around and face  
the jury a bit, if you like. They particularly want to

- 97 -

hear what you have to say.

First of all, can you establish what you do, Mrs. Kerrigan, in Suffield?

A I am a cook.---

Q You are a cook.

A At the Cafeteria.

Q Pardon?

A I am a cook at the cafeteria.

Q A cook at the cafeteria. Now, were you on duty on October 22nd?

A Yes, I was.

Q Now, could you tell the jury what happened, and your connection in relation to this fatality?

A Well, Mrs. Anderson was suppose to be at work at ten, and she didn't come in.

Q Yes.

A So I wasn't too alarmed, but the guard phoned me and said transport was in Medicine Hat, and they would have to pick them up.

Q Yes.

A So I wasn't too concerned about this. So I asked the guard would he phone Mrs. Anderson and inform her that they had to pick her up. He said he would. So it must have been about 20 minutes to an half an hour later the guard called me back and said there was no sign of her coming to work.

Q I see. Were any steps taken to contact her after that?

A No. I called Mr. Levere.

Q Oh, I see. Yes. Did this happen very often, that she would fail to turn up for work?

A Not too often. A few times it happened.

Q Yes. Without any reason, just not turn up?

A Yes.

Q Had she done that before?

A Yes.

Q I see. Yes. Now, I think maybe the jury would like to ask you a few questions.

A JUROR:

Q The procedure in this case is that when she didn't show up, and the security man said that she didn't appear to be going to come, you just called Mr. Levere?

A Yes, I did.

Q And, in other words, it is <sup>his</sup> job to do any follow up on this?

A Well, yes. He is the head of section.

THE CORONER:

Q I see. What was that gentleman's name?

A Mr. Levere.

Q Where does Mr. Levere live?

CST. MACDONALD: He lives in the village, sir.

THE CORONER: Do you want to speak to Mr. Levere, to have him give evidence?

A JUROR: Does he have any statement in this?

THE CORONER: No. No. But he was contacted. He

- 99 -

doesn't have to have a statement to give evidence here.

A JUROR: Is anyone else here who can answer for him, to indicate if any follow up was carried out?

CST. MACDONALD: I think Mrs. Kerrigan goes further in her statement.

A JUROR:

Q Did anyone take her place, Mrs. Kerrigan?

A Yes. Mrs. Tate.

Q Mrs. Tate did. Oh. I think this is what we are trying to find out.

A Yes. He told me to contact Mrs. Willis or Mrs. Tate. Mrs. Willis wasn't home, and I contacted Mrs. Tate, and she came to work.

Q Who told you to do that?

A Mr. Levere.

Q Oh, I see. He rang you, did he?

A No. I phoned him.

Q Oh. You phoned him, and he said, you contact them, <sup>and</sup> /you were in charge that day?

A Yes.

Q And then you contacted Mrs. Tate?

A Yes.

Q This is what we were looking for, So you weren't short handed, then, you were able to get--

A Yes.

Q That's fine.

- 100 -

THE CORONER: This answers your question?

A JUROR: Yes.

THE CORONER: Well, that seems to be all we require,  
Mrs. Kerrigan. Thank you very much for coming.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Now, once again I will ask if there  
is anyone in the auditorium who would care to say anything?

If not, I will ask the Jury if there  
are any other witnesses they would like to have recalled?

A JUROR: I would like to recall Mr. Deering.

THE CORONER: Mr.?

A JUROR: Mr. Deering.

THE CORONER: Mr. Deering.

WALTER DEERING, recalled, having  
previously been duly sworn, examined by a juror, testified  
as follows:

Q When the fire call came in and you went to the fire hall you  
turned on the light to warn the other security person on duty,  
the patrolman, presumably, that there was an emergency. Is  
it required that he respond immediately to this emergency, and  
proceed to the--

A Yes. He either calls immediately, as he recognizes the light,  
or, if he is close enough, he comes right in.

Q Did he do this on this occasion?

- 101 -

A Oh, he came right in. .

Q Did he then proceed to the village?

A No. He was to proceed to the lab, so the supervisor could proceed to the village, and this is what took place.

Q I see. How long did this take, have you any idea?

A Well, this again, was approximately minutes. He proceeded down there right after the ambulance had left.

Q The supervisor then proceeded to the village?

A That's right, sir.

Q I see. So that he would have appeared on the scene shortly after the ambulance?

A That's right, sir.

Q Just one thing I would like to just clarify. You said that in the beginning you went, at 10:30, or somewhere around that time, you went and called for Mrs. Anderson. You were told to go and do this by the supervisor, is that right?

A That's right, sir.

Q And she came to the door, or she waved to you, and you waited for ten minutes, and then she didn't come, and then you were recalled back to the station?

A That's right.

Q Now, I am curious to know why you didn't go back to the house and find out whether she was coming or not? Why you just toddled off on a summons from the station? This seems--

A Well, it's the same thing, you follow your orders, according to your supervisor, and this, again, was past due time, and

- 102 -

he called me in, and he said, if she's ready we can then go down and pick her up. She would phone us.

Q I find this extremely difficult to accept. Here you are, you are sent down, and then there is someone here waiting, that you assumed was getting ready, and the supervisor says, come back. Are we to assume that the supervisor likens himself onto God, that when he speaks you jump? Because, if so, this is rather strange in this day and age.

To me it just seems almost unbelievable that you are waiting here for a person that you know is up, that you know is getting dressed, the supervisor calls you, and you go. I am afraid that I would be extremely annoyed if I happened to be in the same position.

THE CORONER:

Q You didn't go back, anyway, Mr. Deering?

A Yes, I went back, sir. And this was about--

Q No. I mean, you were waiting in the car for Mrs.--

A Anderson.

Q Anderson to come out and then you got this message to return to base. You didn't go back to the house and see if she was ready again?

A No, I didn't, sir.

Q I mean, inspite of what one may feel, you didn't do it, anyway?

A No. I was called back to base, and--

Q I see. Now, tell me, have you ever had a similar situation, gone for her and she wasn't ready, and you waited?

- 103 -

A No, not a similar situation . There has been times when there was a lapse of maybe five minutes or so, but--

Q Yes. How long did you wait, actually, before you got the message?

A From the time I arrived down there until I was back at the gate was a lapse of about 25 minutes.

Q Yes. I mean, how long did you wait outside the house in the car after she had waved to you?

A Oh, approximately ten to fifteen minutes.

Q Ten to fifteen minutes.

A JUROR:

Q Now, did you say that you actually went back to her place again, later?

THE CORONER: No.

THE WITNESS: No. We weren't called back later.

A JUROR:

Q You were not called back?

A We expected her to phone when she was ready.

Q But she didn't phone?

A She didn't phone, no.

Q With respect to the security of the village, when the policeman, Mr. MacDonald, is not on duty is it the security guard's responsibility for the security of the village, to patrol the village, and so forth?

A That's right, sir.

Q Do you actually make patrols, or is this just a periodic--

- 104 -

A No. I'm sorry. We weren't on patrol that morning. I was on toxic patrol that morning.

Q But there was no one patrolling the village at the time?

A Not at the time, no.

Q In other words, do you patrol the village at times when Mr. MacDonald is not on duty?

A Yes. Our supervisor generally does this, patrols within the camp.

Q This is just a hit or miss process?

A That's right, sir.

Q In other words, you do this periodically?

A That's right, sir.

THE CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Deering.

(WITNESS STANDS DOWN)

THE CORONER: Are there any more witnesses you would like recalled?

Well, listening to the evidence, gentlemen, to sum up what actual happened, it would appear that the deceased lady was, very unfortunately, intoxicated, and not really able to look after herself, and as a result of this, she was smoking, she probably set the fire herself with a cigarette, and the house caught fire, and she died. That is probably what happened.

Her blood level of alcohol is such, that, for those of you who are not familiar with what .2 per cent means, I think most of you probably will be, but

- 105 -

.1 is the percentage which the R.C.M.P. are trying to get established in Canada as the level of impairment. So that will give you some idea. .2 is twice that.

And, of course, the actual cause of death, in her case, would be carbon monoxide poisoning from the combustion.

Now, you are entitled, and probably will make certain recommendations. This, you are perfectly entitled to do. It is quite proper that you should do it if you feel that they are reasonable.

When you bring in your verdict as to the actual circumstances of the death, if you would bring it in in such a way that you bring out the four main points as to when, where, how, and by what means the deceased came to her death. If you read through the inquisition here you will see it is worded in such a way. "That you good and lawful men, being duly sworn, charged to inquire for our Sovereign Lady the Queen, when, where, how, and by what means Rose Anderson came to her death." You will write it up in such a form, making any recommendations that you feel you care to, and you are fully entitled to do that.

If there are any questions you want to ask me, please do so.

A JUROR: Do you have any statements, or any further evidence.

THE CORONER: I have statements here, but those

cannot be used.

A JUROR: They can't be used?

THE CORONER: No. I mean, you have to go on the evidence that has been presented to you. Sometimes the statements and the actual evidence are not always the same.

Constable, in that case, I will get you to take the jury out.

(CONSTABLE MACDONALD SWORN TO GUARD THE JURY)

(BRIEF ADJOURNMENT)

JURY'S VERDICT:

We, the jury, find that Mrs. Rose Anderson came to her death between 10:30 and 13:30 hours on the 22nd of October, 1967, in a bedroom of her home at 19 Edgewood Road in the village of Ralston, Alberta, by asphyxiation due to carbon monoxide poisoning resulting from the fire in her residence. Cause of the fire was not established but may have been started by a cigarette dropped by the deceased while in an intoxicated state. There is no indication that negligence on the part of other persons contributed to Mrs. Anderson's death, but inadequate response to the fire was noted in the evidence, and the following recommendations are made.

(1) Insufficient staff were on duty in the fire hall and security section to adequately respond to an emergency situation of this kind and remedial steps must be taken in accordance with recommendations of the fire chief.

(2) Window escape from the bedroom in which the body

- 107 -

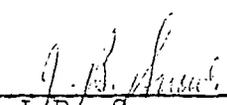
was found is considered almost impossible and steps must be taken to correct this in all such residence.

(3) Rules and regulations must be enforced with respect to sirens and lights at the fire hall and on the fire equipment. Radio equipment must be installed in each unit.

(WHICH CONCLUDED THE HEARING)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

I, J.B. Snow, Official Court Reporter, hereby certify that I attended the above Hearing and took faithful shorthand notes, and that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the evidence taken down by me in shorthand and transcribed from my shorthand notes to the best of my skill and ability.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J.B. Snow,  
Official Court Reporter.

105-1

PRIORITY

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FM DEFRES RALSTON

TO DEFRES OTTAWA

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UNCLAS DRES 1364



OCT 23 19 12 '67

O.P.I. *[Handwritten signature]*

INITIAL FIRE REPORT FOLLOWING. TELECON HUMPHREY-FOOKS. FIRE OCCURRED AT 19 EDGEWOOD ROAD IN A SUITE ON OCTOBER 22, ALARM RECEIVED AT 1320 HOURS, DWELLING OCCUPIED BY MRS ROSE ANDERSON. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATES FIRE STARTED FROM SMOKING IN BED. FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED AT APPROXIMATELY 1323 HOURS. EQUIPMENT USED: FWD PUMPER, 350 FT OF 1 1/2 INC HOSE, 150 FT OF 2 1/2 INCH HOSE WITH FOG NOZZLES, FIRE AXE, PIKE POLE, ALL SERVICE RESPIRATORS AND PNEOLATOR RESUSICATATOR. FIRE EQUIPMENT WAS SUFFICIENT AND SERVICEABLE. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WAS NOT REQUIRED. MRS ANDERSON WAS ASPHYXIATED AND COULD NOT BE REVIVED. ESTIMATED DAMAGE TO THE DWELLING WAS APPROXIMATELY 3,000 DOLLARS. DR WC STEWART WAS THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT THE SCENE

BT  
24

*Orig. M/Compt*  
*Copy: C. [Handwritten]*

DIARY

~~DRBS 330-1~~

Ottawa 4, Ontario,  
October 23, 1967.

Executive Assistant  
to the Minister

1. Mrs. Margaret Rose Anderson, an employee at Defence Research Establishment Suffield, was discovered burned to death or asphyxiated in the Married Quarters at Ralston at 1:20 p.m. on October 22. Apparently she had been smoking in bed and as all the windows were tightly closed, the bedroom was gutted before the fire was discovered.
2. Her family has been notified and DRB will hold a court of enquiry.

WDH/JMc

cc: CDRB  
DC(O)  
IO/DRB

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
A. M. FORDYCE

(A. M. Fordyce)  
Comptroller.