



THE NORRIS-ROSENBAUM ELEVATOR FIRE

On May 11, 1939, another great fire of the century occurred in the two pictures at the left. A 3-11 and six specials for five engines each were transmitted from Station 1611, and also four special duty calls for extra squads, boats, and other special equipment, all between 8:53 AM and 10:46 AM. Millions of bushels of grain, and malt, plus four large elevators were destroyed. In the lower middle left picture, 14 different engine companies can be seen operating alongside the Calumet River canal east of the fire building. A second and different fire started after the box(1611) was struck, and this required a full assignment, at Box 1635, Cottage Grove & 103 RD St, only blocks from this conflagration at 103 RD St and the West Bank of the Calumet River.

Pictures Courtesy of
Cook County Board - Inspection
Bureau



(LEFT) THE SANTE-FE ELEVATOR FIRE which occurred on December 23, 1932, which did devastating damage, and took the lives of six employees at Welcott Avenue & 27 TH St.

(RIGHT) THE VAN SCHAACK CHEMICAL CO FIRE that occurred on August 17, 1940 took the lives of five firemen, all but one of ENG 43. Ironically, fire had been struck out, but unbeknown to firemen, this company situated at 3406 Henderson Avenue was employed in secret work for the government in World War 2, and had been experimenting with a high volital liquid, of which its fumes were heavier than air, and of a high saturative nature; without warning a sudden explosion ripped through the burned out structure seriously and fatally burning to death, and trapping many firemen who's screams could be heard painfully until they had been extracted. This as terrible as it was and hard as is to forget, was a perfect example of why smoking buy any inhabitant, should never take place on or after the flames have been extinguished within a closed in structure; there are many, who were there, who can verify this statement.

DIED OF INJURIES

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Lieut Schmidt | ENG 114 |
| Lieut Mulcahy | ENG 43 |
| F.F. Harsche | ENG 43 |
| F.F. Schillingboth | ENG 43 |
| F.F. R. Carroll | ENG 43 |



SANTE-FE ELEVATOR FIRE

5-11 ALARM - BOX 165

VAN SCHAACK CHEMICAL CO

9:39 AM 4-11 BOX 6178