

FIRE FORCES 2,500 FROM FORD SHOW

Blaze on Pavilion's 2d Floor
Put Out, but Sprinklers
Soak the Ceiling

PART OF EXHIBIT CLOSED

Fair Expects It to Reopen
Today—Attendance Sets
a Record for Sunday

By WALTER CARLSON

Between 2,500 and 3,000 persons were safely evacuated from the Ford Pavilion at the World's Fair in about four minutes yesterday when a small fire was discovered behind an exhibit on the second floor.

Though the fire was extinguished quickly, it set off a number of automatic sprinklers.

The water quickly seeped through from the second floor to an area usually crowded with visitors. However, before the sprinklers went on visitors were evacuated, and no one was sprinkled.

The fire was discovered at 2:12 P.M. and the entire pavilion was closed to the public for three hours while the water was mopped up and the Magic Skyway ride was checked by fair safety officers. At 5:15 P.M. the east ride was reopened.

The west ride, which takes fairgoers past the same exhibits but on a different roadway, remained closed. It is expected to open today.

Cause Not Determined

The cause of the fire, which was put out in seven minutes, was not immediately determined, nor was the extent of the damage.

All equipment appeared to be working properly in the pavilion, but the west ride was kept closed because the first-floor ceiling was soaked and there was some fear of falling plaster.

Some of the water dripped into an indoor lagoon of the International Garden display, in which new cars are mounted on islands. Water also sprayed an escalator and the usually crowded staging area where visitors board the automatically operated Ford-built convertibles to ride into the past and future.

The fire burned some wood framing of a backdrop for part of an exhibit that uses mock-ups of the manufacturing process. Visitors have to walk past this exhibit before boarding the west ride.

Firemen Too Late

First on the scene with a fire hose was Capt. Greg Metcalf, a member of the Pinkerton force permanently on the staff of the pavilion. The fair's fire department arrived after the fire was out.

Many of those evacuated did not even know there was a fire. One, a woman, indignantly asked a guard: "You mean we have to leave? We stood in line an hour."

While all this was going on, two attendants at the Avis Antique Car Ride had to go to a first aid station for tetanus shots because they had been bitten by a couple of patrons.

It seems that two young men were riding in one of the open cars and were annoying two girls in the car behind them. The attendants, Richard White, 18 years old, and Omar Garcia, 19, told the two to stop. They didn't. The attendants told them to leave. They wouldn't.

In attempting to forcibly remove the men from the car, the attendants were bitten—Mr. White in the chest and Mr. Garcia on a finger. The biters fled into the crowd.

With the weather just right

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for fairgoing—not too warm, cold or wet—the attendance grew steadily all day. By 10 P. M. it had set a record for a Sunday, 241,829. The previous high for a Sunday was 240,644, on May 17, and the largest day's attendance was 289,811, on May 16.

The attendance yesterday was swelled by religious groups. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, for instance, succeeded in doing what a Broadway musical could not do — nearly filling the 2,400-seat Texas Pavilion Music Hall.

And a lecturer on Christian Science drew a crowd to the Singer Bowl that exceeded the crowds at almost all of the previous functions at the Bowl and that rivaled the throng of 12,000 who heard former President Dwight D. Eisenhower speak there on July 8.

The 375-voice Mormon Choir from Salt Lake City marked its 35th anniversary of broadcasting by giving its regular Sunday morning performance over the C.B.S. network on the stage of the Texas Pavilion. The stage was used by the show "To Broadway With Love" until it closed Saturday night for lack of business.

Yesterday's program was free.

The choir also gave an outdoor concert later in the day in front of the Mormon Pavilion.

Christian Science Day was the occasion for the lecture at the Singer Bowl. Twelve thousand persons turned out to hear Herbert E. Rieke of Indianapolis, a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, speak on "Discovering Peaceful Relationships."

Fire Closes Ford's World Fair Pavilion

NEW YORK (AP) — A small fire, quickly extinguished, caused evacuation of from 2,500 to 3,000 persons from the Ford Pavilion at the World's Fair Sunday. The pavilion was closed for three hours while water from automatic sprinklers set off by the blaze was mopped up. One of two rides which takes fairgoers past exhibits was kept closed for the day, because of fear that water-soaked plaster might fall.

Fire Closes Ford Pavilion 3 Hours

New York (AP)—A small fire forced evacuation of the Ford pavilion at the World's Fair yesterday. The blaze was quickly extinguished and there were no injuries.

However, the pavilion had to be closed for three hours to mop up water damage caused by automatic sprinklers. The 3,000 fairgoers in the building got out before the sprinklers went on.

Cause of the fire has not been determined.