

“KEEPING PACE” - #68

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HEAVEN HILL DISTILLERY FIRE:



The fireball in this photograph becomes even more impressive when one is told that the two buildings are spaced 250 feet apart. Reporter Rebecca Ray of the “Bardstown Kentucky Standard” newspaper took this photo, which is reprinted here with permission.

Both of these buildings were then destroyed during the fire along with five others like them. Although the firemen lost \$18,000 worth of equipment fighting this fire, fortunately none of them was hurt.

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DELAYED IGNITION PROVED IN KEROSENE HEATER:



This photograph shows a rectangular-type kerosene heater being tested at my office while the Blue Ash Fire Department stood by. For this test, I poured one cup of kerosene and four cups of gasoline together into its gravity-fed fuel tank. Then I used an electric igniter while standing 100 feet away to ignite the kerosene. A video camera was started, and for one hour the kerosene burned normally.

Because gasoline is lighter than kerosene, the gasoline sat on top of the kerosene in the fuel tank until the kerosene was consumed. At that time, the gasoline ignited, and it continued to burn, as shown in the photograph, for 1 ½ hours.

For this test, I set the wick at its lowest setting to simulate the subject case in which a houseboat was destroyed and two others badly damaged. After the subject fire, the Cincinnati Fire Department found gasoline in the fuel tank of a similar kerosene heater located at the area of origin.

Another expert had stated that this was just a coincidence and instead blamed a short circuit in wiring eight feet away from the heater. Yet, he took none of this wiring as evidence. The case settled a few days after my test.

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