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## GONG OPENED RACE TO FIRE

The race was on whenever the fire gongs went off back in 1910.

The new little borough had given up its system of putting out fires by the bucket brigade method, and had bought itself a proud new fire engine – Engine No. 1. But there was no room to house the horses needed to pull the engine, so the sounding of the fire gong was a signal for any delivery men who happened to be in town with their horses to take off as fast as possible to the fire house – and the first one there was rewarded \$5 on the spot. Then the winning horses were hitched up to the truck and off they went to the fire.

The alarm system itself was composed of three metal locomotive tires hung in strategic parts of town. Anyone spotting a fire would run to the nearest tire, grab the sledge hammer that was attached, and swing away.