

# Sidewalk Chiefs Answer Alarms to Bolster Force

BY ERWIN BACH

If you're a sidewalk fire chief with a burning desire to do more than just watch, you might take a tip from fire fans of the Chicago Civil Defense Fire and Rescue Service.

Organized last New Year's day by Mayor Daley and Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn, the volunteer fire fighters scooted to a 5-11 alarm sounded for the burning Hubbard street warehouse. After 14 hours there, members answered a 2-11 alarm on the north side.

## Saves Extra Calls

"The fire chiefs tell us our aid makes all the difference and often saves pulling an extra alarm," says Charles J. Johnson, 5846 N. Washtenaw av., service chief supervisor.

He adds, however, that "we're not a social organization. We're all work." Membership now totals about 80.

Training is received from the city's fire department twice weekly. All members are volunteers.

Fire fighting techniques, first aid, and use of rescue equipment are learned at the 7:45 p. m. Tuesday session in the Chicago Fire Department Drill school, 720 W. Vernon Park pl. Saturday drill at Engine 26, Grand and Wolcott avenues, is devoted to truck and equipment maintenance.

## Duties Vary

Linked by telephone and a system of amateur radio sets, the volunteers answer all extra-alarms, primarily on a city geographical basis. The service has six rescue trucks scattered thruout town.

What do they do on the scene of a fire? Any nonhazardous work, says Johnson, which includes carrying gas, rolling fire hose, giving first aid to firemen, and operating the water towers and high pressure apparatus.