

Keeper Tells Of Threats To Burn River Club House

(Continued from page one)

Wynne said. He said that the noise he heard could not have been Mr. Bowers since it was in the back part of the house.

William Ray Bowers son of the dead man and the next witness examined, stated that he went there for his father and found the place burned down about 8:00 o'clock Monday morning. Although he was not certain his father had been burned, he notified the sheriff, and explained that he could not identify the charred body as that of his father.

The next witness, Otis Bullock who lives on the Slade farm, said that he was fishing in Slade's eddy, a mile and a quarter from the club house, when he saw Currie run by on the bank about 6:45 o'clock. Currie said something about a house. He had a liquor

bottle in his belt and a flashlight. He was barefooted and bareheaded and we did not pay much attention to him. We fished 15 or 20 minutes after that, went to our home then to the club house which was just about burned down. We saw the Wynne boys there and they said they had heard a noise in the house, that it could have been Currie. We explained to them that we had seen Currie down the river," Bullock said.

A. C. Currie, father of the lodge, said that he saw his son between 6 and 7 o'clock that Saturday morning, and Tony tried to talk. "He said someone had burned his house down and tried to burn him up. Tony was so drunk that I paid him no mind, and he went to bed," the father said.

Fate Gurganus, fishing in the eddy with Bullock, said he saw Currie walking by on the bank and he told us. "You all know something about my house burning up," Gurganus, his evidence supporting that offered by Bullock, estimated that Currie must have left the burning club house about 6:20 o'clock.

Bryant Wynne, reaching the burning house with his brother about 6:30, said he found no one at the camp, that the front end

of the house was falling in when they reached there. Stating that he heard a noise in the house, he explained that it could have been some object falling to the floor.

Questioned by the coroner, the lodge keeper stated that he had been there since December, 1945, that he was supposed to sleep in the lodge and patrol the 13,000 acres of hunting grounds. "It all seems like a dream to me," Currie said. He did not know when Bowers went to the camp and explained that he had been there for a long time and had been sick for three or four days.

Currie explained that he thought it was Saturday. "We cooked breakfast, and from then on we continued to drink, sending to Oak City for liquor. In addition to the five pints we got there I got two quarts of gin and a pint of liquor from the Williamston store and Bowers got a quart by messenger," Currie said.

Declaring that he did not know whether he had any supper or not, Currie said that he was awakened early Saturday morning, that he saw the fire in the porch and burning through the window. How he got out of the burning building, he said he did not know. He did not recall seeing Bullock and Gurganus as he passed down the river bank to his father's logging camp. He remembered reaching his father's camp and telling him that the lodge was on fire. His father told him he was on one of those drunken spells again.

Currie said he thought of nothing when he discovered the lodge was on fire, that he did not even think of his clothes or Mr. Bowers, that he left apparently attracted in what he had slept in, not knowing whether he slept on the bed or the floor.

Currie, his testimony apparently carrying little weight on account of his condition, expressed the opinion that the lodge was fired on the outside. Asked what he based his opinion on, Currie said that he had heard a man say, "The club did not treat him right, he would leave it so the wind would blow the ashes into the river." He later identified the man as Don Johnson, stating that a club member had had trouble with the man. During the deer hunting season, Currie said the club member went to Williamston, bought \$16 worth of barbecue and two quarts of liquor to greet the deer hunters. The club member and Johnson had some trouble and he heard the club member say he would wring Johnson's neck. Johnson ran away, saying

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Two persons were hurt, one critically, in as many accidents on the highways of this county in the sixteenth week of the current year, but despite the additions, the accident figures are trailing those for the corresponding period in 1946.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accidents on the highways by county during the week of this year and last for each year to the present time.

16th Week				
Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge				
1947	2	2	0	\$ 200
1946	1	1	0	700
Comparisons To Date				
1947	42	23	3	9,350
1946	49	33	2	13,070

as he ran "wait until I get my gun."

Currie stated that he and Bowers never had any trouble, that Bowers married some of his mother's people.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, investigating the tragedy, said that the snaps to Bowers' pocketbook were found under the burned bed springs, indicating that the man was burned while he slept, that robbery was ruled out as a motive. However, no trace of Bowers' gold watch has been found. Neighbors said they saw smoke rising over the lodge, and that the Wynne brothers passed there a short time later, that no one else was seen going to or leaving the lodge prior to that hour that morning.

It was learned that the burned lantern was found about ten feet from the location where Mr. Melton had left it the night before, indicating that either Currie or Bowers had moved it, and giving rise to the possibility that one or the other of the two men got up early that morning and fired the lodge while trying to light the lantern.

It was also learned that Bowers had fired a mattress while smoking in bed some time ago. When he was found, the fire was burning between his legs. Members of the lodge moved him off the bed, put out the fire and put him back in bed. He knew nothing about it.

J. B. Matthews Dies In County

(Robersonville Herald)

Jesse B. Matthews, prominent farmer and citizen of this community died at his home near here last Friday afternoon following a heart attack. Although he had been in ill health for over a year, he was only 56 years old. Mr. Matthews was engaged in farming at his home.

Funeral services were held from the home of his son, Russell Matthews near here Saturday at 3 p. m. Interment was in the family cemetery.

His first wife, the former Addie Biggs Rogers, died in 1941.

Surviving are his second wife, the former Estelle Rollins; three sons by his first marriage, Clarence and Russell Matthews of near Robersonville, and Mayo Matthews of Williamston.

Random Round-up Of Odds and Ends

Some one avers there's nothing new under the sun. Possibly he's right, but the following odds and ends "borrowed" from various newspapers would seem to indicate that this modern age is, at least, making a new approach to the same old things:

Please try and move as soon as you can.—Police Chief of Belvidere, N. J., to "Skin" Snover, who was jailed for intoxication and then stayed on, insisting he was entitled to 30 days' eviction notice.

You are not the only man with a troublesome wife. Ninety out of 100 men have troublesome wives.—A London magistrate to William Pegg, arrested for chasing his "nagging" wife through the streets with a belt in his hand, for thirty days. The road sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and the costs.

Pleading not guilty, Eddie Price was adjudged guilty of non-support, and the action was continued under prayer for judgment until the first Monday in July.

Lafayette Pearsall, charged with an assault on a female, was adjudged guilty over his plea of innocence and drew twenty months on the roads.

Judge J. C. Smith Handles 34 Cases In County's Court

(Continued from page one)

less driving. Hollis E. Moore was found guilty of failing to stop at a traffic light and was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs.

Pleading guilty of careless and reckless driving, Carl Junior Little was fined \$25, taxed with the cost and sentenced to jail for two days. His driver's license was revoked for six months.

Booker T. Teel, pleading guilty of drunken driving, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the sentence to begin on next November 15. He is to pay costs and post bond in the sum of \$250.

Raleigh LeRoy Tetterton was fined \$50, required to pay the costs and had his license revoked for one year for drunken driving.

The cases charging Leon Brown with drunken driving and Barney Conway with speeding were continued until May 12.

Dallas Wood was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs for speeding.

Charlie Mack Jenkins failed to answer when called in the case charging him with speeding.

Charged with drunken driving, Richard Denton Wood pleaded guilty and was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

A continuance was granted until next Monday in the case charging Benjamin Edwards with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Bobby Stalls, pleading guilty of drunken driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and no operator's license is to be issued him for one year.

Charged with drunken driving and resisting arrest, Grady Thomas entered no plea. Adjudged guilty he was fined \$75, taxed with the cost and had his operator's license revoked for one year.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle after his driver's license was revoked, Warren J. Riley was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs.

Paul Hale, Jr., charged with speeding, pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 plus the costs.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Allen McNear was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his operator's license revoked for one year.

Drunk and down on the highway, Rufus Taylor pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads

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NOTICE: WE'LL HAVE REPRESENTATIVE in Williamston twice each week. We have springs for making innerspring mattresses. Write Washington Mattress Co. Phone 825-J, Washington, ap 22 6t

RADIO BATTERIES—WIZARD Deluxe are only \$6.35. Western Auto Associate Store. m 29 tf

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FOR SALE — SEVERAL USED Elgin, Waltham and Hamilton pocket watches. Are in A-1 order and excellent timekeepers. Priced 12.50 to 25.00. Peele's-Jewelers, 121 Main, Tel. 55-J. ap 29 3t

FOR SALE: 50 BBLs. CORN & 50 cords wood. D. G. Matthews, Hamilton, N. C. ap 29 6t

FOR SALE: 2 STORY, 7 ROOM house on Church Street. Lot 60 by 120. See J. S. Whitley, a 29 tf

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