

Victim Of "K. K." Branding Is Involved In Investigation Of His Torture



By HAROLD MATSON
NEA Service Writer

Rochester, N. H., July 10.—Could a man bring himself to inflict unbelievable self torture if he thought the evidence of it would provide an escape from financial difficulties?

The question is by no means being ignored in the investigation of the amazing experience of Nelson B. Burrows, one-legged insurance agent who tells a harrowing tale of torture at the hands of hooded men.

Burrows mysteriously disappeared from his home here, and as mysteriously returned to it. On his forehead and chest the letters "K. K." had been burned. He was weak from exposure and hunger. His stamp was raw from long walking.

He told of being kidnapped, drugged, tortured and then of dragging himself 20 miles to his home.

In face of the evidence his body bears and in face of the reputation of the man, authorities are directing their investigation toward the Ku Klux Klan, which organization Burrows accuses.

Burrows explains that the Klan sent him threatening letters, denouncing him for having been converted to Catholicism, and that they may have sought revenge because of his activities as a Knight of Columbus.

But from Portland, Me., comes Thomas H. Flaherty, with whom Burrows transacted his insurance business, who says "the story is fishy."

According to Flaherty, Burrows was preparing to dispose of his insurance business here. The two had made certain financial arrangements. There were a few debts, Flaherty says.

Almost too weak to walk, Burrows managed to mumble his story, as he sat exhausted in his home.

"On June 11 I had business in Dover. On the way to the station a man accosted me and asked a question. In Dover this same man, accompanied by another, approached me and we talked generalities. He asked me if I cared to ride back to Rochester in his car, and I told him I would like to.

"On our way back the man in the rear seat said: 'Say, we have something to drink here.'

"I took a drink. It was wine. Almost immediately afterwards I felt dazed, and I remember little after that except that they blindfolded me and tied my hands, and that we hauled up at a small shack in the woods.

"There were other men in the shack, but I cannot recall their conversation. I was thrown on the floor, and I saw one man go over to the stove and lift out a red-hot poker. He tried to put it against my forehead, but I fought him with all my strength. You see what he did—?" Burrows brushed his hair back and exhibited the seared marks on his forehead, apparently healing for about a week.

"After that I remember nothing," Burrows said, but he opened his

ued, "was coming to my senses in the grass along the road above Haverrhill. Pains in my body were terrible. I took an accounting of myself and found my hat, bag and \$297 insurance money I had collected missing."

Burrows relates his struggle homeward, dodging railroad stations and traffic centers, limping along on his wooden leg, each step a pain that shot through his whole body.

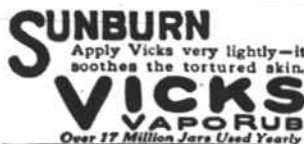
But the police are asking him where the shack is, why he came straight to a home of a friend, dodg-

ing stations, without seeking help from the authorities.

Officials of the Ku Klux Klan have publicly denied any knowledge of Burrows' experience, and the police have been unable to trace any of them who were missing during the man's absence.

In the meantime Burrows is in a serious condition as a result of his experience. Flaherty, the insurance man, is conducting a private investigation, and the state is working on the case.

Who branded Burrows?



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