

FIRE SUSPECT CALLED SANE

Doctors Testify Defendant Knew What He Was Doing.

William David Hudson, 37 years old, 636 North Fifth street, on trial in Vigo Circuit Court for arson, was found to be sane according to the testimony Tuesday by Drs. Coen Luckett and Milton Rubin, the court-appointed physicians who examined the defendant.

Hudson is charged with setting fire to the home of Luther Davidson, 227 Lafayette avenue, on May 27, and admitted on the witness stand today that he confessed the crime to Detectives Seward and Porter the day following the blaze.

It is expected that the case will be given to the jury for deliberation sometime Tuesday afternoon following arguments by both the defense and the prosecution.

Through his attorney, N. George Nasser, the county pauper attorney appointed by the court to defend Hudson, the defendant pleaded insanity.

In finding him sane, the physicians' testimony was that Hudson was found to be of sub-normal intellect, but sane. They found that Hudson could not read or write and that he quit the third grade at the age of 16 years of age.

Father Is Called.

Albert Hudson, father of the defendant and a witness for the defense, testified that a great-grandfather of Hudson's was insane and committed suicide; a grandfather was insane and confined to a state institution, and that an uncle was also insane. The physicians, however, contended that while they were uninformed of Hudson's family background, that the condition was not hereditary.

When the trial got underway Monday afternoon, Attorney Nasser objected to the introduction of Hudson's statement concerning the fire. Judge H. DeWitt Owen overruled the motion and the confession was read to the jury.

From the stand today, Hudson said he didn't remember setting fire to the home, that he was drinking heavily at the time, and signed the statement only to effect the release of his brother-in-law, Donald O. McKinney, of South Twelfth street from jail.

McKinney was arrested by Detectives Seward and Porter after he is alleged to have denied that Hudson that night, but said he home when the officers were attempting to locate the man.

McKinney was arrested at Thirtieth and Crawford street in view of Hudson and McKinney's wife, who were in a nearby grocery store, according to Detective Porter who testified this morning.

How House Was Fired.

Luther Davidson, whose house was allegedly fired, testified he was not at home at the time of the blaze. He said he did not see Hudson that night, but said he knew Hudson drank to excess and that Hudson kept company with his mother-in-law, Aretta Tanner.

The state is attempting to show that Hudson set fire to the home to retaliate against Mrs. Tanner over her refusal to do his washing.

Yesterday afternoon the prosecution, conducted by Prosecutor John R. Jett and Deputy Prosecutor Thomas Gallagher, placed Aretta Phillips, 10 years old, a resident of the neighborhood on the stand to testify that she saw Hudson throw kerosene on the Davidson home and light a match. Assistant Fire Chief Clarence Scofield, also a state's witness, told the jury that there was evidence of "oil" at the scene.

Members of the jury are Eva S. Valentine, R. R. 1, West Terre Haute; Herman Tocum, R. R. 1, West Terre Haute; Enoch E. Fuller, 807 South Second street; E. E. Evans, 417 North Sixth street; Herbert Fanz, R. R. 2, Brazil; Fred Schrof, 2818 South Eleventh and One-half street; Omer Caldwell, 1145 Eighth avenue; Oren Anders, R. R. 1, Terre Haute; William H. Alman, R. R. 2, Terre Haute; Delma Richie, Lewis, Ind.; Charles Moore, 2411 North Twenty-sixth street, and Roscoe Williams, R. R. 1, West Terre Haute.

JUNIOR RED CROSS PLANS YEAR'S WORK

Junior Red Cross sponsors from the city and county schools will meet at the chapter house, North Ninth street, Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock to outline the year's work in the 71 member schools.

Miss Alice Femeyer will preside. Other members of the committee include: Miss Blanche Fuqua, city schools; Miss Erma George, Gar-

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Luther Dean Davidson, home in Terre Haute set on fire. Court case. 20 Sept. 1949

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