

9m 30s.  
Asp off Oct. 15, 1965

About a quarter of eleven I heard an explosion which sounded like a match being thrown on gasoline. The sound came from the front of the building. I had heard no cars previous to the blast. I had been sitting in the back room reading and jumped up saying "someone just set fire to the place" and ran to the front of the building. I looked at the fire which was burning up a piece of cardboard and the wood around it. I ran and got a blanket from the back room and went out the front door to try and put out the fire. I saw no one. Having little success with the blanket I ran back in and poured some water we had in a jar for drinking on the fire. While I was so engaged Lynn

Hollander called the Police & Fire Depts. I then ran to the house next door and shouted someone had set the office on fire. While there I filled a bucket that was sitting under their outside faucet and returned and threwed it on the fire. I then returned to the house next door where a neighbor was filling his bucket. We filled our buckets and returned to the office, where, by this time the fire had spread to the rafters above the window. I ran into the back room and climbed into the rafters while the neighbor handed me a bucket of water. For a while I could not breathe or advance because of the smoke. So I shouted to

the neighbor to take a tee-shirt out of my dresser and wet it and throw it up to me, which he did. He then took the other bucket and went into the front of the office where he succeeded in putting the fire out before I could reach it.

This all happened in about 5 minutes. As I came out of the rafters the fire dept. arrived. I went to the front door and briefly explained what had happened while other firemen checked the rafters to see the fire was out. About a minute later a police car arrived with an officer who I believe is named Holt. I told him briefly what had

happened. Meanwhile another police car arrived with an Officer <sup>A.O.</sup> Jenkins who is also a Deputy Sheriff for Lake County. I went over the above information with him and said that it was arson. He asked a fireman at the aforementioned window if there was any thing (to indicate arson). The fireman said yes and picked up a partly burnt rag. Officer Jenkins asked if there was anything on it and the fireman sniffed it and said yes it was kerosene. The fireman kept the rag and the fire dept left with the first police car. I asked Officer Jenkins if he wanted to take a formal statement and he said no, he had all the information

and there probably wasn't  
 much chance of catching  
 whoever did it anyway. I  
 told Officer Jenkins that  
 I thought that whoever  
 set the had come through  
 the ~~path~~ <sup>the way</sup> in back of the  
 office to a road nearby.  
 I said this because I can generally  
 hear people on the road.  
 Officer Jenkins left about 11:30  
 P.M. The above happened on  
 the night of Oct. 15 at 300  
 Chapel St., Carthage Miss.,  
 which is my residence.

Walter Gilbert