

Inside diameter of metal connection  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". Hose and connection  $12\frac{3}{4}$ " long.

I gave Mr. Nicholls a verbal report in my Office. He had with him Mr. Ward of the Fire Underwriters' Association.

I stated that a hammer apparently was used by a right handed man. The marks are on an angle such as would be made by a right hand strike. The strikes are from behind the metal connection. A man could easily have held the hose by his left hand on a red painted hydrant and with a pitted face hammer (round hammer) he could strike the hose connection and then use a medium coarse file to obliterate the round, pitted marks left by the face of the hammer. The file marks are up and down from the hose to the connection, not running parallel with the thread. The small holes from the hammer face are raised marks on the metal connection like O O O O Below the hammer marks are heavy marks with red paint ground into pits, showing that a heavy resistant substance with red material on it had been placed underneath the connection.

The hose metal connection indicated dust adhering to the threads, which would indicate the hose threads had not been used for a long time. There was evidence of fine brass filings in thread below blow marks, but there was no evidence of gravel, rock or emery powder.

I stated that I had reserved the red pigment taken from the metal and am keeping it in the Laboratory for future reference. The mark "J.V." on hose and "J.V." on metal connection. I stated that a written report would follow at a later date, should a case develop.



April 15th, 1940. 11:00 A.M.

Mr. Percy Nicholls, Deputy Fire Marshall, came to the Laboratory. The Fire Marshall wished me to be more definite in my report of ~~December~~<sup>November</sup> 17, 1939, as they wished to take action against Walter Cudworth for damaging fire hose and creating a public mischief. The house which was destroyed by fire belonged to Cudworth's mother, B. M. Cudworth, and was insured for \$700. but the insurance money has not so far been collected. Walter Cudworth is 32 years of age, married, and is Assistant Fire Chief of Greenwood's volunteer fire brigade. The Cudworths have had seven fires in Greenwood. Walter Cudworth operates and owns a garage which is across the street from the fire hose station. When Mr. Nicholls looked around Cudworth's Garage just after the fire, he saw a hammer and a file lying on the bench. He didn't bother with them at that time, but brought the hose coupling to me in Vancouver. I informed Mr. Nicholls, after examining the hose coupling, to return to Greenwood and look for a hammer with a corrugated or rough face, also a medium coarse file. He immediately stated he had seen such a hammer and file in Greenwood. He returned to Greenwood immediately and found a hammer of the description referred to above, but the file he had previously seen had disappeared. Mr. Cudworth denied ever having a file, stated that he always borrowed a file from Mr. Kuppen Bender, a mechanic. Kuppen Bender denies ever lending a file to Cudworth. Kuppen Bender, who is a German, expressed an opinion to Mr. Nicholls when he first saw the hose, that it had been struck with a hammer and filed. The evidence which Kuppen Bender gave at the Fire Marshall's enquiry was that the hose coupling had been damaged by the coupling hitting stones on the road as the hose truck hurried along. He was faced with his previous



statement to the Deputy Fire Marshall and a perjury charge was laid against him. He was convicted and sentenced to two years, suspended sentence, and placed under bond for \$500. He stated that his first statement was correct, in his opinion the coupling was damaged by a hammer and file. Mr. Nicholls is convinced that Walter Cudworth made a statement that he knew the hose in question was damaged before the fire. It appears that he also wished to burn his garage, equipment and automobile, which was giving him a lot of trouble.

I asked Mr. Nicholls to have the hose and hammer returned to me for further examination.



Greenwood, B. C., Fire

B. M. Cudworth, fire, Greenwood, B.C. on October 8, 1939.

Damage about \$700.

Intent was apparently to burn the whole section of  
Greenwood.



7464 J.V. B. C. Police envelope containing small  
piece of burned and charred label  $7/8$ " wide  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long.  
Mark on envelope "Label taken from Simpson's Catalogue  
in Cudworth's house."

(No report given on this label as there was no  
written or other evidence visible on it.)