

Continuation Of Falconwood Fire Inquiry

(Continued from page 3)

Q—Was there lots of water?
A—Yes, on our hose there was.
Q—Was there good pressure?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Explain how you know there was good pressure.
A—It took the kink out of the hose very quick.
Q—It straightened the hose right out?
A—Pretty well.
Q—And made it hard and there seemed to be good force from the nozzle?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Did you have a patient in your ward by the name of Roach?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Where did he sleep? In the dormitory?
A—In the dormitory.
Q—Did he have access to the pantry?
A—During the daytime he did.
Q—He was one of the patients that would eat down stairs?
A—Yes.
Q—Would the pantry door be open in the daytime?
A—Part time, yes.
Q—Any patient could go in there?
A—Yes.
Q—There was no reason why they should not, I suppose. Murphy, are you sure that the door leading into the elevator shaft was nailed up, or do you just surmise it?
A—Well, I imagine I saw nails there.
Q—Could it be opened? Did you ever try to open it?
A—I never tried to open it, or I never saw it opened.

JOHN MURPHY (Continued)
Q—(Mr. Stewart) Did any of the inmates keep any clothing or anything of that kind in those places?
A—No, sir, only what was on their back.
Q—(Mr. Beer) During the winter time was there any patients from your ward that were allowed to roam around the grounds?
A—Charlie Roach would be taken out.
Q—He would be taken out?
A—Yes.
Q—Was he allowed to wander around?
A—When he got out he would go wherever he wanted to.
Q—No person went with him?
A—No.
Q—He always came back?
A—He always came back.
Q—Did he ever bring back a parcel or any article?
A—He would have little things like bottles and one little thing and another of no much account.
Q—Stuff he would pick up?
A—Stuff he would pick up.
Q—Did any of the patients have lockers or anything of that nature?
A—No.
Q—Any place they could put stuff of their own?
A—No.
Q—Roach would be considered an exceptionally good patient?
A—I think he was a pretty good patient—a good fellow.
Q—He always went out and always came back?
A—Yes, and did what he was told.

Q—(Mr. Stewart) A bit noisy sometimes, wasn't he?
A—A bit noisy sometimes.
Q—(Mr. Beer) Was he allowed to wander through the other wards?
A—I cannot say.
Q—Have you ever known him to be in another ward?
A—I never saw him.
Q—Did you ever have a patient from any other ward except Ward 1 in your ward?
A—No.
Q—You never did?
A—No.
Q—It was not usual for patients to visit back and forth?
A—No.

JOHN MAHAR, Sworn.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) You were in Ward 1?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Been there how long?
A—I will be there four years the 14th of February.
Q—Whom did you succeed?
A—I worked in the fire hall as fireman practically, nearly a month when I first went there. I was then transferred to Ward 2, and from Ward 2 to Ward 1.
Q—Who was in Ward 1 before you?
A—I think it was Kenneth McLean and Henry Jenkins.
Q—So they had been moved about then?
A—Yes, sir.

Q—How long were you in Ward 2?
A—I was in Ward 2 about 11 months.
Q—With whom?
A—Kenneth McLean.
Q—And he is still in Ward 2?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Before you went into Ward 1?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Who did you say went into Ward 1 when you went there?
A—James Livingstone and John Murphy, and John Murphy was transferred to Ward 2.
Q—Did you have any inmates from Ward 1 who were in the attic?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Who were they?
A—He had one—Lemuel Compton.
Q—Did you have charge of him altogether, I mean when he left the ward?
A—No, sir.
Q—Who took charge of him?
A—He was put up in the attic by one of the men from Ward 2.
Q—You never took him up?
A—No, sir.
Q—Who took him up that night, do you know?
A—I do not know, sir, it would be one of the men from Ward 2.
Q—Just explain how these patients, your man and Ward 2 men would be taken up there, I think perhaps you could give us this information?
A—He came up from the patient dining-room.
Q—In other words immediately after supper?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—You would be there when they went to supper?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Then went to the Ward 2 attendants?
A—Would follow them up.
Q—Take charge of them?
A—Take charge of them.
Q—How long had that been the rule?
A—That has been customary ever since I went there.
Q—Were you informed that you would not be responsible after supper for that patient?
A—I understood that the men in Ward 2 had charge of the attic.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) How did you get your understanding?
A—It was only an understanding. It was the rule that one of the men in Ward 2 took care of those patients that had gone to the attic.
Q—The rules as you understood them on patients in the attic.
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Is that in the book?
A—I don't have read it in that.
Q—Were you informed by the Superintendent?
A—No, sir.
Q—The general rule is that the attendant of a ward is responsible for all the inmates of it?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Day and night?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Then this would be an exception to the general rule?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—You were relieved of any responsibility after supper of any patient of yours that went to the attic?
A—I understood that, I was.
Q—That was the only inmate from Ward 1 that was in the attic that night, was it?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—Have you ever had anything to do with the attic at all?
A—Yes, sir. During my time in Ward 2 I always had taken care of the attic.
Q—You had taken care of the attic?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—(Mr. Beer) In what way?
A—By looking after the beds, seeing that they were dressed and following the patients up in the evening.
Q—You would be responsible for the cleanliness of the dormitory?
A—Yes, sir.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) When was the first information you had of the fire?
A—I was off duty that night, I was on Ward 1, that is my own ward.
Q—You were off duty but on your own ward? Who had charge of the ward?
A—James Livingstone. I was in the room, though, that James Livingstone and I slept in.
Q—What information did you have of the fire first?
A—I had been making out the day book, the happenings of the day up until six o'clock, that is I was making out the daily report.
Q—Do you keep these in every ward?

A—Yes.
Q—Who does that work?
A—The man in charge. The man who has charge of the Ward really does it but owing to Mr. Livingstone not having education I made out the book.
Q—Where are these books kept?
A—They are kept in the room in which we slept and then returned to the office the next morning. The book is taken down by the man who takes care of the dining room.
Q—Were these books, any of them destroyed by the fire?
A—I would say they were all destroyed. The one we had in our charge was destroyed.
Q—Over what period of time did your books extend?
A—I had only been making out those reports in this book for a short time. I don't remember the date.
Q—Would it be less than a year?
A—Yes.
Q—What record do you keep there? Do you keep a record of the conduct of the patients?
A—Yes, mostly the conduct of the patients, as well as reporting any one of the patients that was sick of those that had been working on the farm or elsewhere employed.
Q—Are there any patients from Ward 1, or were there at the time of the fire confined in the basement?
A—No, sir.
Q—You never took him up?
A—No, sir.
Q—Who took him up that night, do you know?
A—I do not know, sir, it would be one of the men from Ward 2.
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A—Yes, sir.
Q—Have you ever had anything to do with the attic at all?
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Q—You had taken care of the attic?
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Q—What information did you have of the fire first?
A—I had been making out the day book, the happenings of the day up until six o'clock, that is I was making out the daily report.
Q—Do you keep these in every ward?

Q—(Mr. Stewart) Did you escort the prisoners from the female Ward to the jail?
A—No.
Q—You stayed in the institution?
A—Yes, I helped take one of these patients out as far as the main door, that is I placed him in the car at the main door. I was helping carry out some of the female patients and I informed John Livingstone if they needed me I would help place the patients in cars that were going to the jail.
Q—In other words your patients were kept in the female section of the building until it was decided it was necessary to move the female patients?
A—Yes.
Q—That eastern wing was then cleared out?
A—Yes.
JAMES LIVINGSTON (Sworn.)
Q—(Mr. Stewart) How long have you been an attendant at Falconwood?
A—I have been there four years in March.
Q—In March coming?
Q—Yes.
Q—Have you been an attendant ever since you came there?
A—Yes.
Q—What Ward did you go on first?
A—I had charge of Ward 6 first for a while.
Q—How long were you there?
A—I guess about six months on the Ward.
Q—When you said you had charge, do you mean you were the only one there?
A—Mr. Sample was there first and I took his place.
Q—Then you moved where?
A—Down to Ward 1.
Q—You have been there ever since?
A—Yes.
Q—You had one inmate from Ward 1 in the attic?
A—Up in the attic, yes, sir.
Q—That was?
A—Compton.
Q—(Mr. Beer) You were on duty the night of the fire?
A—I never left my Ward, right on duty.
Q—What about Compton, did he get out?
A—He was up in the attic.
Q—Was he rescued from the attic?
A—There were men sent up to take them out.
Q—Was he rescued from the attic?
A—No, I don't think he was.
Q—Had he been lost?
A—Yes.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) Who had the responsibility for those sent up there?
A—As far as I know Ward 2 had charge of the attic. They always looked after the attic.
Q—They had charge of all those in the attic?
A—Yes.
Q—Who gave you those instructions?
A—About the attic.
Q—As a matter of fact isn't it the general rule of the institution that each attendant is responsible for the inmates in his ward? If you have a certain number of patients in Ward 1 and you and John Mahar are in charge and one escape you are responsible?
A—If they get out.
Q—Are you not responsible for everything that happens in that ward?
A—Yes.
Q—This time is an exception, that is if any of your patients are taken to the attic by instructions of those in charge of the institution then you are not responsible for them while they are in the attic?
A—That is right.
Q—Who made that rule?
A—I don't know.
Q—Who told you it was the rule?
A—No one told me the rule only I seen them doing it myself.
Q—Did anybody ever tell you that while the patients of Ward 1 were in the attic that you were not responsible for them?
A—No, they didn't.
Q—Who told you that Ward 2 attendants were responsible for that?
A—John Mahar was on that ward first and he was down with me af-

terwards and he had had to look after them when he was on Ward 2.
Q—What about John Mahar, was he there before you?
A—Pretty near about the same time.
Q—(Mr. Beer) You say you were in Ward 6 for a while?
A—Yes.
Q—How many years ago would that be?
A—I had charge of Ward 1 about three and a half years. I was on Ward 6 for 6 months. I have been in the institution four years next March.
Q—During the period you were in Ward 6 was the attic dormitory used?
A—Yes.
Q—The patients went up there every night?
A—Just the same as now—they used to go up from the dining room.
Q—When you were in Ward 6 the only time that you would be on duty there when there were patients in the attic dormitory would be from 6 to 9?
A—Yes.
Q—Was it noticeable that these patients were in the attic dormitory when you were in Ward 6?
A—Yes.
Q—In what way was it noticeable?
A—There was accommodation.
Q—How did you know they were there?
A—I have been up there. I have been through the building.
Q—You were up there at night?
A—I used to go up and look at them.
Q—Why did you do that?
A—Just went up to see if everything was all right. I would take a walk up.
Q—You thought that a good conscientious attendant would look in on them once in a while?
A—Yes.
Q—Were you instructed to do that?
A—No.
Q—Was it customary for the men who had been there before you to do that?
A—No.
Q—In other words you did it on your own initiative?
A—Yes.
Q—Were these patients in the attic at any time noisy?
A—Not that I know.
Q—When you were in Ward 6 and they were in the attic dormitory could you hear them talking and moving about at any time?
A—No, we didn't hear anything.
Q—I am trying to find out whether you could hear any person walking about up there?
A—If they were walking about you could hear them.
Q—And if they were to shout?
A—Sure, you could hear them.
Q—Suppose you were in the Ward below that—that would be Ward 4?
A—Yes.
Q—Do you think that you would be able to hear some person in the attic dormitory shouting if you were in Ward 4?
A—I should think you would.
Q—Right through two floors?
A—Yes, I would think so.
Q—How was the attic dormitory lighted for night purposes?
A—They had the lights on.
Q—Electric lights?
A—Yes.
Q—I understand that the attic dormitory was divided into different sections?
A—Yes.
Q—There was a main dormitory, what would be where you would first go into when you came up the stairs?
A—Yes.
Q—And there was a light in that?
A—Yes.
Q—Where was that?
A—Hung in the ceiling.
Q—About the middle of the room?
A—Yes.
Q—Was there a piece of drop cord or wire hanging down with the light on the end of it?
A—Yes, sure.
Q—Did you ever look at the ceiling?
A—Yes.
Q—Were there any wires running across the ceiling?
A—I couldn't see them.
Q—If there were wires actually running across the ceiling to where the light dropped down you could see them?
A—They would be inside.
Q—But there were no wires exposed on the ceiling. There were no wires you could see running across the ceiling?
A—No.
Q—They were running across above the plaster?
A—Yes.
Q—There must have been a blind attic above that?
A—I never was up there.
Q—Was there a hatchway where you might get up to the attic ceiling? Did you ever know of a hatchway there?
A—I never saw it myself but I heard someone say there was a hatch there.
Q—How long ago did you hear

them talking about the hatchway—was it since the fire?
A—Yes.
Q—Did you ever know of any electricians working out there?
A—I don't know.
Q—During your time?
A—I don't know the gentlemen but I saw them working out there.
Q—I suppose they would be out there quite often?
A—Quite often.
Q—It is quite a big institution and something was likely to go wrong with the electric wiring and so forth?
A—Yes.
Q—Have they been working in your ward?
A—Putting on lights in the ward.
Q—Just screwing on lights? Wouldn't the engineer do that?
A—They put different switches on, I think, in Ward 1 and mostly went through all the wards.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) When was that?
A—Here a while ago.
Q—How long ago?
A—About a month ago.
Q—This summer?
A—No.
Q—Do you know whether the lights in the attic were kept on all the time?
A—I couldn't say that.
Q—Have you been up there in the day time?
A—I have not been in the attic this good while.
Q—(Mr. Beer) When you would go up were the lights on when you went up?
A—Yes, that was at night.
Q—How did they turn off?
A—There was a switch there.
Q—Where was that?
A—Right on the light there.
Q—You would reach up and turn it off?
A—Yes, one for each light.
Q—Whose duty was it to turn off the lights when they were supposed to go off?
A—The lights were supposed to go off at nine.
Q—Who turned off the light in Ward 1?
A—I did when I would be on my nights.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) The night watchman did not turn off your lights?
A—No. The other man, Mahar, was on with me.
Q—And you would turn them off at nine?
A—Yes, sure.
Q—You were there the night of the fire?
A—Yes, I was on duty and I was putting Mr. — to bed. He always wanted me to put him to bed. I was putting him to bed when I heard them shouting out fire in Ward 2. You couldn't smell smoke or see anything and I put him to bed and ran down as tight as I could and McLean came along and in the elevator the fire was coming down like a barrel of fire. It was coming that fast. We helped them get the hose in and it wasn't a bit of good on the fire. I ran down in the bath house and looked out the window and the whole attic was burned right up into Ward 2.
Q—(Mr. Beer) The fire had been under way for quite a while?
A—Yes.
Q—You don't know where it started?
A—No. I said it was time to get patients out and I had 28 bad patients on the ward.
Q—They were your patients who were down in the basement?
A—Yes, four bad patients there.
Q—(Mr. Stewart) What do you mean by "bad"?
A—They were violent patients.
Q—How long have they been in the institution? Those who were kept below?
A—There was one fellow there since the war and there was another I don't know how long he had been there. He was there since my time. He was there twice since my time.
Q—Were they in the institution before these cells were put there?
A—Yes.
Q—Did you have them?
A—Yes.
Q—Mahar took those men out the night of the fire?
A—Well, I can say this, when I went out there I was called out in trouble and I adjusted it.
Q—In the central building?
A—Yes. The only way I could tell was to put the test machine to see if there was any trouble.
Q—Did you have any grounds in the male section?
A—No.
Q—Tell me just what effect that ground in the wire will have on the safety of the building.
A—Well, if water runs around any other wires the wires will leak electricity, a circuit occurs and if your fuse is anyway heavy there is fire.
Q—In other words, another name for ground is short circuit?
A—Yes, it is another word for short circuit.
Q—You found quite a number of grounds in the eastern section, that would be the women's section?
A—I have a machine. It is the best I could get, and she would ring.

the male section and the eastern wing, which is known as the female section.
A—Yes, sir.
Q—You have done considerable electrical work in different parts of this building?
A—No, only in one part.
Q—Your work has been entirely confined to one part? I am asking you if you ever did any work in the three sections of the building.
A—Yes, I did. But that would be about twenty-two years ago, or twenty years ago, if it comes to that. The first telephones that were put in there I helped to put them in.
Q—Telephones?
A—Yes, I helped with them.
Q—Have you done electric light wiring in the western section at any time?
A—No, never.
Q—You never did?
A—No.
Q—You have done it in other sections of the building?
A—I did in the women's section.
Q—In the western wing?
A—Yes, that was about four years ago. It was in the boiler room. Palmer and Watson and I did it together.
Q—Do you know if any electrical wiring work has been done in the male section of the building within the last three months.
A—Yes.
Q—You actually know of work being done there?
A—Yes.
Q—Who was the electrician doing the work?
A—FitzGerald and his son.
Q—What FitzGerald would that be?
A—Geoffrey FitzGerald.
Q—He had the contract?
A—I was with him. I was supposed to be with him.
Q—You had the contract?
A—It wasn't what you would call a contract. It was to put the building in shape. FitzGerald was sent out by some of the party.
Q—You mean by the Government, in order to bring the wiring in that building up to standard?
A—Up to Underwriters.
Q—According to the Canadian Code?
A—According to any code. In order to make it safe.
Q—Did you work entirely in the female section and Mr. FitzGerald entirely in the male section.
A—I was running the pipe.
Q—I know, but you told me you didn't do any electrical wiring work.
A—I didn't attach the wires.
Q—Mr. Stewart: He is not trying to suggest you were responsible.
Q—I am not suggesting or trying to suggest that you or anybody else was responsible for the fire. What I want to know is, are you familiar with the building?
A—Yes.
Q—You did work, then, in the western section of the building, or in the male ward? That is what I want to know.
A—Yes.
Q—You ran a metal conduit or pipe to contain wires?
A—Yes.
Q—Where did you run that from and where to?
A—From the basement to the third floor.
Q—To the ceiling of the third floor?
A—Not quite.
Q—You didn't complete it?
A—We ran it for what we call the night lights, and that was nine feet from the floor.
Q—You were preparing to wire a new set of night lights?
A—Yes, taking the old ones out.
Q—In what end of the male section of the building were you running that?
A—That would be the east end.
Q—To the men's ward?
A—That would be the handiest of the Doctor's quarters. It might be about fifteen or sixteen to twenty feet inside the door.
Q—But you were not familiar to any extent with the existing wiring in the male ward?
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A—Yes, it is another word for short circuit.
Q—You found quite a number of grounds in the eastern section, that would be the women's section?
A—I have a machine. It is the best I could get, and she would ring.

Q—How would it ring?
A—It would ring like a telephone, almost as loud.
Q—You could hear it quite a distance?
A—Yes.
Q—In order to operate that machine do you make one contact with your switch board and the water pipe, and if there is live electricity flowing through the different parts of the building it is bound to connect into the water pipe, and will go back and make a circuit, it rings the bell and the more contact that circuit has the louder that bell will ring?
A—Yes. But I made another test. The power was off out there in the daytime; I put the test on and I tried on the wall to see could I get a tingle in the fingers, but that day they were washing the floors all around. After a few days I couldn't get a tingle off the wall.
Q—You were surmising there was a certain leakage of water? You could feel the electricity in the wall of the building?
A—Yes, but not all over the building.
Q—In the female section?
A—In the bathroom part.
Q—Did you test the male section?
A—Yes, I did.
Q—Did you find any ground?
A—I think I did.
Q—Did you get your bell to ring?
A—I got a ding.
Q—What do you mean, ding?
A—A kind of a tingle.
Q—(Mr. Beer) So that you were convinced there were no ground in the male section of the wing?
A—Yes.
Q—You were convinced?
A—I was convinced.
Q—Now Mr. Brown, suppose you have new insulation of the common knob and drop variety of electrical wiring, that is an exposed wiring the wires are exposed to whatever might come in contact with them although they are sealed and insulated and we have an air space between the ceiling and the roof and the roof leaks to some extent possibly continuously, possibly wiring does not have time to cool out before it becomes wet again, what effect does that have on the insulation?
A—If the wires are clear and the water going down, the wires are not touching, they won't do any harm.
Q—I was speaking of an insulation knob and drop and two wires apart and they are on. Would the be any fire?
A—If they were on, knob and drop, yes.
Q—I think what you are coming at is that cord and rosette?
A—No, sir.
Q—You do not believe that ordinary knob and drop wiring if the were cleared to the woodwork of the building by screws and the knob that is a porcelain knob which holds a wire in position is screw right through into the woodwork of the building and the wire, a certain percentage of this touch would it touch the screw insulate on the wire?
A—No.
Q—You might have a ground if a wet day and not on a dry day if the roof had leaked in a rain storm and it became wet then you might have a ground?
A—Yes.
Q—If the roof was dry you would not have a ground?
A—If the wire is put in the ground and screwed it would not touch the wire.
Q—It is not why you should, am asking you why it should? Is it your experience that in awkward places to install the wiring where you have to strengthen the wire screw in the knobs and put you wire through the knob, it is quite possible the wire might be shown in against the screw and screws?

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A—Yes, sir.
Q—Been there how long?
A—I will be there four years the 14th of February.
Q—Whom did you succeed?
A—I worked in the fire hall as fireman practically, nearly a month when I first went there. I was then transferred to Ward 2, and from Ward 2 to Ward 1.
Q—Who was in Ward 1 before you?
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Q—So they had been moved about then?
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