



Ex-Judge Wireman indicted on burglary, other counts

By JOHN NORBERG
Staff Writer

Former Lafayette City Court Judge Lewis T. Wireman today was indicted, arrested and charged with 12 counts of conspiracy, receiving stolen goods and burglarizing homes.

All of the counts refer to the period during which he sat on the bench including five charges that he personally broke into Lafayette area homes stealing personal items, including antique coins.

Wireman was arrested in a parking lot in front of West Lafayette City Hall at 12:30 p.m. today as he left the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission hearing which had adjourned for the day. He faces similar charges before the commission which is attempting to disbar him.

ONE OF the homes he is charged with conspiring to burglarize is that of Maurice Callahan, a fellow Lafayette Democratic city official-engineer.

Wireman was immediately taken to the Indiana State Police post where he was fingerprinted and booked. Bond was set at \$35,000 by Superior Court 1 Judge Robert Munro.

Wireman, after his arrest, de-

manded a 1:30 p.m. hearing before a judge.

He was indicted by the grand jury twice. One of the indictments charges him with three counts of first-degree burglary. That indictment is not being publicly released at this time.

THE OTHER indictment names nine charges against him:

--Two counts of first-degree burglary at the home of Alvin Morehouse, 1820 Ravinia Rd., W.L., on Feb. 20 and May 11, 1974.

--Conspiring to break into the home of Morehouse with David Banton and Richard Dean Smith.

--Theft by "knowingly" obtaining control over a revolver and three rifles stolen from the home of William Osborn, 1318 South St., on Feb. 20, 1974. Value of the items was listed at \$300.

--Theft by "knowingly" obtaining control over \$150 stolen from the home of Kenneth L. McCord, of Lori-Lee Mobile Home Court. The incident is alleged to have occurred Feb. 25, 1974.

--Conspiring with Smith and David and Paul Banton to break into the home of George Gourko, Mar Jan Mobile Home Court on March 8, 1974.

--Theft by obtaining control over rare coins valued at \$10,000 stolen from the Gourko residence. Gourko owns a downtown coin store.

--Conspiring with the Bantons and Smith to break into Callahan's home, 1401 N. 27th St., on March 15, 1974.

--Theft by "knowingly" obtaining control of Lincoln pennies valued at \$700 stolen from the Morehouse home. The incident allegedly took place May 15, 1974.

DAVID BANTON and Smith both have testified before the grand jury investigating corruption here, giving evidence against Wireman.

A controversial figure the past four years, Wireman was elected judge in 1971, defeating Cy Gerde, now Special Prosecutor George L. Hanna's law partner.

Wireman's bid for re-election was smashed last November by allegations that he was involved in criminal activity. He was defeated by over 5,000 votes by Republican Raymond Gollmitzer in one of the most one-sided city races in recent memory.

Wireman is an avid coin collector. Special Prosecutor George Hanna says Tippecanoe County grand jury indictments this week have "smashed" organized crime rings that allegedly had influence over certain Lafayette and county police officers.

against the older of the two gangs for at least seven years," he said.

Lafayette Police Chief Paul Butler had no comment today.

"I'm not saying anything about it," he said. "I don't have to deny it. The people around here know me."

"I'VE NEVER heard anything about it," Sheriff John Rusk said. "That (allegation) covers a lot of territory. This is the first I've heard of it."

Dick Weatherford is the brother of Mike Weatherford, a central figure in street violence that occurred in Lafayette in the fall of 1974.

On Halloween night that year Mike Weatherford's wrecker truck was blown up and Kenneth Terry was later murdered — both still unsolved crimes.

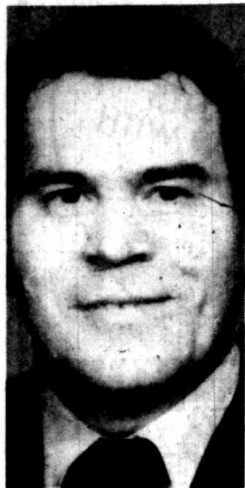
Dick Weatherford, 34, has been charged with third-degree arson at Alton Boxboard the night after the murder and wrecker truck explosion.

He is being held on \$25,000 bond. Damage to the Boxboard plant that night was listed at \$57,000.

DICK WEATHERFORD previously has been convicted for second-degree burglary, theft from an interstate shipment and conspiracy



RICHARD WEATHERFORD
... arrested on arson count



LEWIS T. WIREMAN

Inside

Anderson senator