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# Fidelity Man Burns to Death

## George Whitlock Home Destroyed by Fire

FIDELITY, Feb. 7. (Special) — George Whitlock, 76, former highway commissioner of Fidelity township, was burned to death in a fire that destroyed his frame residence here early this morning.

Mrs. Forrest Crocker, a neighbor, testified at an inquest conducted this morning by the coroner, Dr. E. M. Brewster, that she was awakened at 12:30 a. m. today and saw Whitlock's house in flames. She aroused her husband and another neighbor, Mrs. George Bell, and a cry of "fire" was set up, Mrs. Crocker said. By the time they reached the house, however, it was totally in flames and the roof was falling in, she said. The body of a man could be seen inside, she testified. A verdict of accidental death due to suffocation and burns was returned. Whitlock had lived alone since the death of his wife, the former Miss Ada Reno, in 1939.

Whitlock is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Emma Smith of Bethel and Mrs. Dora Smith of Jerseyville; three sons, Arnold of Fidelity, Dewey of Bunker Hill and Forrest of Kane.

Funeral rites will be conducted at Fidelity Baptist Church at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday by the Rev. Herman Rhoads of Plainview. Burial will be in Whitlock cemetery near Rockbridge.