

J.H. FINCHER STORE ON JACKSON STREET CAUGHT EARLY LAST NIGHT
AND THREATENED BLOCK.

Stock Ruined by Flames and Smoke. Blaze Burned Through and injured J.W.
Burrous Store

The Hugo Husonian November 4, 1915 - transcribed by Ron Henson
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Fire broke out last night just before eight o'clock in the store of J.H. Fincher on West Jackson street between the Erie theater [sic] and the J.W. Burrous store. The alarm was turned in by Chief Watson and R.C. Lane who noticed the smoke pouring out of the front end of the store. Both fire wagons made a quick run and the firemen soon had a line of hose at the front door and one at the back. Clouds of heavy suffocating smoke rolled out the entrance and made an entry into the store room impossible.

Flames were licking the walls and hanging draperies but the center of the fire seemed to be at the back. There it was finally located and extinguished. The thin partition between the burning store and J.W. Burrous burned through in one place and damaged the latter's stock. The Fincher stock was thoroughly drenched and soaked with water but the Burrous store was more damaged by the smoke than the flames.

During the fire Will Allen ran into a loose live wire and was thought to have been hurt was the current was not strong enough to do him much injury.

The people seeing the show next door in the Erie theater were told of the fire by the proprietor, Mr. Gill, and they made a quiet exit.

An investigation this morning shows that the flames started on top of a table beneath the stair leading to a half deck where Mr. Fincher had his office and it was there that the most damage was done. Mr. Fincher was covered by \$2100 of insurance. A month ago Mr. Burrous sold half of his stock to Mr. Fincher and a thin wooden partition was built between. The two buildings are owned by C.G. Shull and J.K. Bywaters. Their loss will run to several hundred dollars.