

# Body mix-up set off painful controversy

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controversy the legal question was who had jurisdiction over deciding the final disposition of the body? Monroe County Judge Q. Austin East said he felt, since both families lived in Bedford, the case should be decided in the court there. He did also speculate whether Dr. Lyons could be named in the suit as the coroner responsible for the identification of the bodies, even though the suit would probably be filed in Lawrence County.

Meanwhile a prosecution case was possible against the driver of the bus, Wayne Cranmer.

In his official statement he reported that he was called out of bed to work by the bus company at 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 9. He arrived at the terminal in Indianapolis at 10:30. He also insisted that he had had eight hours of sleep prior to his run, that 35 passengers were on the bus when they left and six had gotten off before they reached the Dolan area.

Cranmer was suspended by the Greyhound Lines who gave three reasons for their action, based on his record:

- That he had been fired from a Standard Grocery Company job for a careless accident less than four miles from Dolan;
- THAT NO TRACES of mechanical difficulties with the bus had been found by four investigators for the Interstate Commerce Commission, and;
- Two passengers had said Cranmer was "nodding drowsily".

(However, another survivor commented that Cranmer had been chatting with a passenger and was probably nodding in answer to a question).

The *World-Telephone* quoted County Prosecutor Robert McCrea as saying that he was considering taking the facts before the grand jury to see if it might be a case of reckless homicide.

On Nov. 29 and 30 the jury heard testimony concerning the wreck from Cranmer and others involved. The jury found no reason to indict him.

On Sept. 15, 1949, Elsie Adamson filed suit in Lawrence County Court for custody of body No. 1. In her suit she named as defendants Mrs. Myrtle Winkler, mother of Vernon Trisler, and the City of Bedford as owner of the cemetery where the body was buried.

**RELATIVES OF TRISLER** insisted that if body No. 1 was Adamson instead, then some mistake was made in identification of another body found in the wreck. The Trislers stated that evidence could be shown that Trisler boarded the bus in Indianapolis on Aug. 9, 1949.

The case of Elsie Adamson vs. Myrtle Winkler and the City of Bedford was finally dismissed by the Lawrence County Court on Oct. 16, 1951, over two years after the bus wreck, at the request of Mrs. Adamson's attorney.

Body No. 11 is buried in Beech Grove Cemetery at Bedford under the name of Vernon Trisler.

John Doe is still buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington.