

**Extracted from St. John Vianney November 02, 2008 Bulletin**

**Turned on the Gasoline "The South Bend Weekly Tribune", Saturday, July 1, 1899**

George Smith and Charles Murphy, residing north of town, were arrested Saturday afternoon for malicious trespass on complaint of Mr. Robert Nutt, the north side grocer. The young men were in town Saturday and while loafing in the rear of Mr. Nutt's grocery one of the boys turned the faucet of the large gasoline tank allowing the fluid to run out. When discovered and shut off about \$5 worth had run down the alley and no one was in sight. A woman, however, identified George Smith as the guilty party and Officer Walter Finch went after Smith and his companion, Murphy. In Justice Enos Long's court Saturday evening at 5 o'clock was fined \$1 and costs including the payment of \$5 to Mr. Nutt for damages, in all amounting to \$18. The young man put up his bicycle as security. Murphy was discharged there being no evidence against him. This is the second time Mr. Nutt has lost oil in this way.

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\$5 worth of gasoline lost!! Today that would mean we turn the faucet on and right back off ☺ On top of that show me a tank with a faucet for gasoline and I will show you an empty tank with the price of gasoline these days. And the guy put up his bicycle!! Today they would simply say don't do that again and tell the business to go after his insurance for recovery. Times are a changing.

Tune in next week for my article concerning why I posted this story beside that I found the prices amusing.

— Carl