

# Company Head

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## Suit Witness

### Defective Glue Cost Heavily, Is Claim

~~Little Valley Leonard Erickson~~, president of the Fancher Furniture Company, Salamanca, first witness for his company in its suit asking \$500,000 in damages against the Arabol Manufacturer Company, New York City, was still testifying in response to questions of plaintiff's counsel, Clayton A. Smith of Buffalo, when Justice Hamilton Ward of Buffalo recessed supreme court for the day here Monday.

Adhesive products sold by the Arabol Company to the plaintiff company, manufacturers of dining rooms, bedroom furniture and radio cabinets, are asserted to have been defective causing actual damages of \$120,000, probable damages of \$40,000 and \$340,000 in loss of good will and prestige to the Salamanca concern.

Mr. Erickson told the jury of eight women and four men, and an alternate woman juror, that more than 400 pieces of dining room furniture in process at the Salamanca plant in early 1947 were found on inspection to be opening at the joints or indicating on test that the joints would soon disintegrate. He testified that only Arabol adhesives, first purchased in late 1946, were used for edge gluing and laminations in the defective pieces.

His company suspended dining room furniture manufacturing operations for three months in the fall of 1946. President Erickson told the court and jury, to devote full capacity to radio cabinet production, in which Arabol adhesives were not used. Hence it was not until May 1947, he testified, that a customer's complaint from Stearn Brothers store in New York City brought the Fancher Company first notice that its 10-piece dining room suites, retailing from \$800 to \$1,100, were coming apart at glued joints. Plant production was then 10 suites each day. Mr. Erickson stated.

President Erickson, young accountant-executive, said his company had been manufacturing furniture since 1911 and that Fred Hanna, foreman of the dry kilns and gluing operations also had been with the company since 1911.

The half-million-dollar law suit is the largest sum ever asked of a Cattaraugus County jury, veteran court officers declared, and involves a greater sum than in any case ever heard by Justice Hamilton Ward, the jurist said in reply to an inquiry.