

Sues Docks' Insurers

\$45,000 Damages Awarded For Injury To Electrician

1/16/59

A Mobile Circuit Court jury yesterday awarded Marvin Eugene Wilkins, of 829 Pringle Dr., \$45,000 for back injuries suffered in

a State Docks mishap Nov. 21, 1957.

Wilkins, 30, an electrician for Gulf Electric Co., was injured when a large cubicle fell onto the platform of a truck where he was standing. Wilkins contended he suffered a severe jolt when the cubicle hit as he attempted to jump from the platform, though he was not actually struck by the falling object.

Wilkins, represented by Attys. Robert T. Cunningham and D. Richard Bounds, had asked \$100,000.

The verdict came after a two-day trial before Judge William C. Taylor.

It was returned against the Zurich Insurance Co., Chicago,

Ill., insurers for the State Docks. State law forbids suits against the state, but provides that suits may be filed directly against insurers of state facilities.

The insurance company was represented by Attys. Alex T. Howard Jr. and James L. May Jr.

Wilkins contended the docks employes were negligent in permitting the cubicle to fall. The defendants argued that Wilkins was guilty of contributory negligence and that he had assumed risk in being where he was.

SNOW IN PARIS

PARIS (AP) — Large, fluffy snowflakes fell much of the day in Paris, snarling airport traffic and swelling the Seine.