

House Burned

Two Dead

Tuesday morning this village experienced the greatest tragedy of its history when the home of Henry Gunderson burned to the ground, their two little girls, one three years old and the other thirteen months, losing their lives in the flames.

The mother had started a fire in the kitchen stove, and, leaving the children for a few minutes, went to one of the neighbors on an errand. When she started home she was horrified to find the house in flames, and by the time she reached it the inside was so far gone there was no hope whatever of rescuing the children or saving any of the contents. Men who arrived at the same time broke in windows and cut holes in the wall but to no purpose.

After the building burned down Mr. and Mrs. Dan White accompanied by Mrs. Gunderson, went after the father, who was working near Courtenay. In the meantime the bodies were removed, wrapped in sheets and taken to a nearby house. Dr. Brimi, coroner, was summoned, but under the circumstances deemed it unnecessary to hold an inquest.

Tuesday evening the bodies were prepared for burial as best as could be, and Wednesday at two o'clock the funeral was held in the M. E. church with Rev. A. M. Hewson officiating. Burial was at Hartman cemetery. The pall bearers were four little girls: Florence Starr, Laretta Davidson, Ruby Olson and Bernice Davidson.

The only thing to be thought of that might have caused the fire was a defective flue, or possibly overheated stove pipe. The kitchen stove was in a lean-to and was connected with the chimney by several lengths of pipe. The fire evidently started burning more quickly than was expected, either causing the pipe to loosen and fall from being overheated, or the attic to catch from stray sparks.

It was a dreadful circumstance to say the least, and the parents, especially the mother, are heart-broken over the loss of their little ones. Mrs. Gunderson has gone to Fargo to her parents' home in order to get away from the scene of the tragedy.