

CH July 3, 1917

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH

Little Daughter of Gilbert Jenkins,
Grinnell Man, Dies at Aunt's
Home in Toledo.

BURNED TO DEATH IN GASOLINE EXPLOSION

Attempted to Start Fire With Gasoline
Thinking She Was Using
Kerosene.

Little Hazel Jenkins, 11-year-old daughter of Gilbert Jenkins, of Grinnell, met a horrible death by burning, at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Johnson, in Toledo, last Saturday evening.

She has been making her home with Mrs. Johnson, who was ill all last week. On this evening, Mrs. Johnson told the girl to start the fire in the basement and she would prepare supper. Mrs. Johnson was at that time confined to her bed. The girl got hold of some gasoline thinking doubtless that it was kerosene. As soon as she set fire to it there was a fierce explosion and the child was enveloped in a mass of flames. The aunt rushed to her assistance as soon as possible, but her efforts were futile and the little girl died within a very few minutes.

The aunt was frantic in her desire to save her and received burns of a very serious nature about the arms. The doctors fear that she will never regain full use of them and it means that she will be disabled for several weeks at the very least.

The father, who was working in Des Moines at the time, did not hear of his child's tragic fate until late Sunday morning, as his address was not known. The death of a child and the serious injury of a sister are proving almost more than he can endure.

He has been employed by Contractor C. W. Ennis for the past six years and has worked on practically all the buildings which Mr. Ennis has erected here since that time. Besides the little girl who was killed he has three sons all younger than the daughter. He is the sole support of his own family and his sister's family, which consists of three children besides the mother. Jenkins is a first class workman and was used often as foreman on much of the work. Mr. Ennis and a number of fellow workmen have raised a purse to show their sympathy to a fellow workman in time of bereavement and a good sized sum has been secured. The funeral will be held at Toledo today or tomorrow.