

MATHEWS, HAROLD

1905-July 26, 1913

Harold, the eight year old son of Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Mathews, who live on a homestead 20 miles east of town in the Goshen Hole, died about five o'clock Saturday evening from the poison injected into his system by the bite of a rattlesnake.

The boy in company with a younger brother went out on the range Friday evening to get the milch cows and were about a mile from the house when they came upon a rattlesnake. Harold found a stick about two feet long and tried to kill the snake, and in his efforts to kill the reptile, he got his hand too close to it and it struck sinking its fangs into his right hand.

The boys realized the danger and started to walk home, but had gone only a short distance when Harold became sick and could walk no farther. The brother caught their pony which was only a short distance away and helped him onto it, and they went home. It was nearly an hour from the time he was bitten until they reached home, and the venom was partly absorbed into his system.

The parents did everything possible to take the venom from the wound. The arm was corded in two places, the wound scarified and the poison sucked from it; but the poison was so absorbed in his system that the efforts were useless. Dr. Rigdon was summoned, and after treating him, brought the boy to the home of his aunt, Mrs. George Richardson, near Wheatland, where he could give him closer attention. Everything possible was done to save the young life, but all was in vain and he passed away Saturday evening.

Funeral services conducted by Rev. J.K. Hicks were held at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at two o'clock and the remains laid in their final resting place in the Wheatland cemetery.