

PAYNE, ELSIE ETHEL  
June 21, 1924-July 1, 1925

Elsie Ethel Payne, year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Payne, burned to death in a fire which destroyed their ranch house in the Flattop section about 9 A.M., Wednesday, the fire being apparently due to the explosion of a kerosene stove.

Mrs. Payne had given the baby a milk bottle and laid it on the bed in the adjoining room, leaving to carry some water to her husband who was a work in a field about a quarter of a mile away. Before leaving, she went to the stove and thought she had turned out all the burners.

While Mr. and Mrs. Payne were talking in the field, they saw their home burst into flames. They made all possible haste to reach it, but by the time they arrived, the flames were pouring out the windows, and it was certain that the baby was already past human aid.

A neighbor a mile away saw the fire after it started and was on the scene in a few minutes, while the telephones throughout the section were used to summon the entire country. The structure was built of heavy logs and had been lathed inside, but not yet plastered, making a hot and lasting fire. The neighbors fought the spread of the flames to the other buildings for five hours. As soon as the fire died down, they stamped out the remaining flames and searched the ashes for the body of the girl, finding the trunk still intact.

Mrs. Payne is the daughter of Fred L. Smith of Glendo. Two brothers of the little girl survive. The house and its contents were a total loss, there being no insurance.

The funeral was held at 10 A.M. today at the Union Congregational Church at Glendo.