

Mrs. Clyde Woolsey Fatally Burned in Gas Explosion Death Occurs Fifteen Hours After Ex- plosion which Partially Wrecks Home

PCR 4-17-1930

One of the most tragic accidents to occur in this section in years took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Woolsey in Wheatland on Wednesday morning at eight o'clock, when an explosion from gasoline fumes partially wrecked the Woolsey home and burned Mrs. Woolsey so severely that death took place on Wednesday night about 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Woolsey had been washing some window curtains in a bucket of high test gasoline, doing the work in the yard at the home, and had attempted to wring out the curtains by hand, but thought she could do the wringing operation more successfully with the electric wringer attached to the washing machine. She returned to the house and had just started the wringer when an explosion took place which blew out the entire side of the room. Mrs. Woolsey was thrown from the room into the yard by the force of the explosion, a distance of several feet, her clothing catching fire with the result that she was fatally burned about the body. Her mother, Mrs. Geo. J. Richardson, who lives next door to the Woolsey home, was also badly burned about the hands and arms in attempting to extinguish the flames which enveloped her daughter. Both women were immediately taken to the Wheatland Hospital for treatment, but the injuries sustained by Mrs. Woolsey as a result of the fire and force of the explosion resulted in her death last night.

The fire department was called but and prevented any conflagration of the building. The wall of the room was torn completely away from the rest of the house and turned plaster side down on the lawn as though some giant had pushed the lower part of the wall away from the foundation.

Mrs. Woolsey was one of the most popular members of the younger set in Wheatland, and was an officer and active member of the Wheatland Eastern Star Chapter. The accident and her death have cast a gloom over the city and the bereaved family has the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday afternoon at two o'clock at the Congregational church by Cecil Smith, pastor of the local Christian

FUNERAL OF MRS. WOOLSEY HELD ON SATURDAY

The funeral of Mrs. May Woolsey on Saturday afternoon, from the Congregational church was one of the most largely attended funerals ever held in Wheatland. The tragic nature of Mrs. Woolsey's death and the high esteem in which both the Richardson and Woolsey families are held being the reason for the attendance of friends and acquaintances from the entire community.

Mrs. May Richardson-Woolsey was born in Kansas on April 16th, 1894. She was married to Clyde W. Woolsey in March 1920, their wedding being a culmination of a World War romance though they were friends before war. Mr. Woolsey was called to the Navy to serve his country. The young people kept up a constant correspondence during the war and upon his return home they were married, the union proving to be an ideal one. One daughter, Norma, was born to them in 1924, with Mrs. Woolsey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Richardson, and a number of her friends and neighbors, witnessed the terrible accident that cost her life on the eve of her birthday, April 16th. The great mass of flowers banked on and around the casket testified to the love of hosts of friends and did the train of more than one hundred cars which followed the remains to the cemetery.

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OBITUARY

Anna May Richardson was born in Pamona, Kansas, April 17th, 1894. When she was only a child she came with her parents to Wheatland. It was here as she was entering into young womanhood, she accepted her Savior and became a member of the Methodist church. In 1919 she united with the Christian church.

She was united in marriage to W. Clyde Woolsey, March 3rd, 1920. To this union was born one daughter, Norma May, who is 6 years of age.

As the result of a very serious accident she departed this life at the hospital here at just 36 years of age.

She was an active member of the Christian church and all its activities. She was a good Christian, wife and mother and we fear that her place can hardly be filled.

Those who remain to mourn her loss are, her husband, a daughter, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Richardson, a brother, Fred and many other relatives besides a host of friends and neighbors.

It is not extravagance nor fulsome praise to say that no one in this community ranked higher than Mrs. Woolsey in the esteem and confidence of her acquaintances. By her very nature she seemed to be destined to be a friend in need. She was clean in thought, word, and every act of life.

The demise of such a one is an irreparable loss not only to her family but also to the entire community in which she lived. We may all well emulate her virtues and profit by her example.

Thus passes from our midst a devoted wife and daughter, a proud indulgent mother, a woman in whom there was no guile. Language is inadequate to express a proper evaluation of the high character of the one who has been taken from our midst.

"May," as we familiarly knew you, but shall not be permitted, on earth, longer to so address you, we your legion of friends and admirers, affectionately recalling your upright pilgrimage in the midst of this people, and your commendable qualities of head and heart, now tenderly bid you a reluctant and affectionate goodbye.

As James Whitcomb Riley has said:

I cannot say and I will not say

That she is dead; she is just away.

With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand

She has wandered into an unknown land and left us

Dreaming, how very fair it needs must be,

Since she lingers there; and you, oh you, who the wildest yearn

For the old-time step, and the glad return.

In the love of There, as the love of here,

Think of her still as the same, I say
She is not dead—she is just away.