

# BILLY SMITH'S WIFE SUFFERS HORRIBLE DEATH

**Is Burned While Trying to  
Fill a Gasoline Stove That  
Was Still Ignited and Dies  
in Agony.**

Mrs. Anna May Smith, wife of Detective "Billy" Smith, of 1005 Wyoming street, died in great agony last evening at six o'clock as a result of having been burned while lighting a gasoline stove at her home. From her knees to her waist, Mrs. Smith's body was a mass of charred flesh, while her shoulders were also badly burned.

Half an hour after extinguishing, as she thought, the flames of a gasoline stove, Mrs. Smith began pouring the contents of an oil can into the reservoir of the stove. But the burners were still ignited and the flames leaped up and caught her clothing.

The flash blinded and bewildered her, and in a moment she felt the fire burning her body. Running to the bath room she turned on the water, but while she was endeavoring to extinguish the fire at one place on her body, the flames were burning her flesh in other places.

Eventually the water rose in the bath tub and Mrs. Smith lay down and succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not until she had been fatally burned.

She was still lying in the bath tub when neighbors, attracted to the scene by her screams, arrived and lifted her to a bed. Dr. W. H. Anderson was summoned and the wounds were dressed.

In the meantime her husband, who was on duty at the police station, arrived and, with their three little children, was with Mrs. Smith until she died.

Mrs. Smith was but 22 years of age when she died. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McDevitt, Mr. McDevitt now being employed as pumper for the El Paso-Northeastern at this point.

She was born in Wellsville, O., and had been living in El Paso about seven years and was married here to Mr. Smith, shortly after arrival.

The funeral service will be held at the church of the Immaculate Conception tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, after which interment will be made in the Catholic cemetery at Concordia.