The most lamentable occurrence we have ever known in this neighborhood took place at 15 minutes past 7 Friday evening, five miles northwest of Collins, when the I. N. Smith home and contents were consumed by fire in a few minutes. Four children lost their lives by the fire, one of them Curtis Smith, son of I. N. Smith, the other three being his grandchildren, their parents being Mr. and Mrs. Payne Hickman, who with their family lived with her father, I. N. Smith. Hickman children dead are Gaylard Vaughn Hickman, aged four years, Elsie Fern Hickman aged three years and Leon Wayne Hickman aged eighteen months.

By little less that a miracle Verle Brouhard was saved. He escaped by a window, all the children, except the baby were in the dining room and they thought they would make more heat. They put cobs in the stove and probably by mistake used gasoline, of which there was about 14 gallons in the can. There was no kerosene, as Mrs. Hickman had used it up filling the lamps before she left. Mr. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Hickman, the baby and Verle Brouhard were taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Granger. A nurse was hurriedly brought from Chas. Cooper's, where she had been employed, and soon afterwards two physicians from Colo and a nurse from the Nevada Sanitarium arrived.

Every care and attention was given the sufferers. The baby died the next morning. Mr. Smith's hands and face were badly burned, but he has greatly improved and it is believed he will recover. Mrs. Hickman's hand was badly cut. She is convalescing. Verle Brouhard suffered but little injury.

The story of the sad catastrophe is as follows: I. N. Smith's farm home on the northwest corner of Collins township, was occupied by himself, his son Curtis La Vern Smith, his grandson Verle Brouhard, his daughter Mrs. Payne Hickman and husband with their children. Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Hickman, leaving their children at home with Mr. Smith...