

FIRE FIEND VISITS BINFORD

Binford Has Its First Scare From Fire, One Fatality, Several Accidents and about \$800 Damages to Merchandise Fully Covered By Insurance

On Tuesday night at about nine o'clock a cry of "Fire" was heard in our town, which brought out the citizens in full force, and great excitement prevailed until the blaze was under control.

The scene of the fire was in the warehouse in the rear part of O. S. Gunderson & Co.'s store, and the fire started from the explosion of the gasoline tank of the lighting plant. The lights failing to give satisfaction caused Mr. Gunderson to make an investigation, and, while he was endeavoring to manipulate the generator, the tank which was situated several feet from the generator, exploded, the flames darting furiously upward and setting fire to a large quantity of combustible merchandise on the shelves above, and scattering fire in all directions thruout the room, badly burning the walls and ceiling beside damaging considerable goods stored in the room, and filling the entire establishment with a dense and suffocating smoke. Mr. Larson, the head clerk, sustained some bad burns about the hands and wrists while Mr. Gunderson, being almost overcome by the smoke and excitement and realizing that he was hemmed in on all sides sought to extricate himself by breaking through a nearby window, inflicting some bad injuries to his hands in so doing. This, and minor other accidents are reported, but the saddest tale to relate is the case of little Alvin Alm aged 7 years who was standing near the tank at the time of the explosion, and of whose presence Mr. Gunderson was not aware. The little fellow was badly burned about the face and limbs, while his body was not burned but his clothing was all aflame when he was rescued by his brother-Oscar, a boy of about 14 years, who was standing in the near vicinity but not close enough to receive injury, and who is especially deserving of great credit for dashing the second time into the flames after failing once, to rescue his little brother, and who in this way received some painful burns about the hands and arms. Here is a specimen of heroism seldom recorded and the brave boy is entitled to rich rewards for his unfaltering fearlessness. The men about the place were not aware of the presence of the boys, and consequently in a time of such alarm would not be expected to look after the little fellows.

Oscar Alm, after rescuing his brother from the burning mass, started with him at once from the place to try and get him home, but, fortunately he was met at the door by Rev. Donovan, who relieved him of his burden and carried the little sufferer to his home, where medical aid was immediately summoned, and, with the aid of willing hands the unfortunate boy was made to rest as easily as possible under the awful circumstances. So badly was the child burned that about four hours were required to dress his injuries, and it required a complete bandaging of the head, arms and lower limbs and hips. The trunk was not injured which was the only favorable feature at first, but his suffering was relieved and he lay for twelve hours with his case in the balance, he being delirious most of the time. At about nine o'clock Wednesday morning little Alvin's troubles were all ended by the kind Angel of Death which came to bear the little soul to its maker. The death of Alvin is considered an act of Supreme mercy since it was his lot to receive such injuries. The bereaved family have the unusual sympathy of the entire community in this their hour of deep sorrow.

The funeral services were conducted from the home at 2:30 o'clock P. M. today and interment was made in the Lutheran Cemetery south of town. Rev. Oien of McHenry preached the funeral sermon and was assisted by Rev. Donovan of this place.