

DID YOU KNOW.....

A look back at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum by Susan Schlecht

*This week's article was found in the **May 11, 1911** issue of **The Ransom County Independent** published in Enderlin.*

BURNED TO THE GROUND

----- **Oldest Residence in Enderlin Devoured By Flames Last Monday Afternoon** -----

At a quarter of three o'clock last Monday afternoon, the fire alarm sounded for the first time in more than six months and hasty inquiry brought the information that E. Gullickson's residence on Sunset Hill was in flames.

In less than five minutes after the alarm sounded men and women were running to the scene of the conflagration intent on being of what assistance they could. The fire department got into quick action and, although part of the boys were misled by the alarm and started for the third ward, in just four minutes from the time the alarm sounded a line of hose was coupled to the hydrant of the feed mill. In spite of all that could be done to subdue the flames, the structure was a mass of ruins in thirty minutes after the fire started, with no hopes of saving it, so every effort was put forth to protecting the out-buildings. The large barn and granary were in imminent danger but by hard work of the fire boys these were saved, as well as some of the furniture of the house. Among one of the most valuable articles saved was the piano.

Mr. Gullickson was in Lisbon that day and when he returned home he found but a mass of smoldering ruins where when he left was his comfortable home which he had spent years in improving. Mrs. Gullickson was badly burned on the arms and that together with the shock and excitement has nearly prostrated her.

Mrs. Gullickson says the fire started from a kerosene stove. She had been in the kitchen but a few moments before the fire was discovered and does not know how it started, for when she left the kitchen, but one of the burners was going with a low blaze.

The loss is a severe one to Mr. Gullickson being approximately \$2000, with but \$1200 insurance on the buildings and furniture.

Sue's Comments: *I find it interesting that the mention of Mrs. Gullickson being badly burned on the arms is not noted until late in the article, almost as an after-thought! I would think that would have been the most important issue here instead of sympathy for Mr. Gullickson in the loss of his "comfortable" home! We no longer hear the phrase "nearly prostrated her" used in modern journalism; however since its meaning is to "lay out flat" it was probably an appropriate term in this case where the shock and burns may have been nearly enough to kill her.*

In checking the Enderlin Diamond Jubilee book for more information on the Gullickson family, I found that they came to ND from Iowa about 1880 and settled south of Buffalo. However, being used to the hills and shrubs of Iowa, they looked for another homestead away from the flat prairie and took a claim on a hill overlooking the present site of Enderlin. The extended family filed on adjoining land which included the present water tower hill. (Was this the Sunset Hill referred to in the article?) When they later sold this land, it became part of the Enderlin townsite.