

Catherine Myers

(- 17 Dec 1909)

Myers. Suddenly on December 17, 1909, at 1005 9th street southeast, Mrs. Catherine Myers, grandmother of Mrs. Edna Thompson. Funeral from her late residence on Monday, December 20 at 3 p.m.

The Evening Star, December 18, 1909, p. 7

She is Burned to Death While Lighting Her Pipe

Aged Woman's Screams Drowned by Piano and Aid Comes to Her Too Late

Mrs. Katharine Myers, eighty-five years old was burned to death yesterday afternoon at her home, 1005 9th street southeast. Her dress caught fire while she was lighting her pipe, it is believed.

She ran from her kitchen into the yard screaming. Before anyone could help her she had been fatally burned. The dying woman was taken to the Casualty Hospital.

Sergt. O.C. Ryan and Policeman Morgan were passing in the patrol wagon on their way to the station at the time. They came to the woman's aid and extinguished the flames.

Policeman R.E. Jones also tried to help. Sergt. Ryan and he had their hands burned, and the park policeman's face was slightly burned. They were treated at the hospital.

Alonzo D. Shaw, son-in-law of Mrs. Myers, was in the front room with his son and the latter's musical instructor. The sound of the piano prevented those in the room from hearing the screams of the woman.

No. 18 engine company went to the premises. The police had extinguished the flames before they arrived.

Coroner Nevitt made an investigation and gave a certificate of accidental death. An undertaker took charge of the body this morning and prepared it for burial.

The Washington Post, December 18, 1909, p. 16

Woman Burned to Death

Attempt to Light Pipe Fatal to Octogenarian

Police Sergeant and Private Severely Injured in

Effort to Extinguish Blazing Garments

Mrs. Katherine Myers, 85 years old, of 1005 Ninth street southeast, was so severely burned yesterday afternoon that she died at 8 o'clock last night. Sergt. Ryan, of the Fifth Precinct, and Park Policeman R.E. Jones, sustained burns about the hands and arms while attempting to rescue the aged woman.

Mrs. Myers was lighting her pipe over a kitchen range when her dress ignited. She screamed and ran into the back yard. Her daughter, Mrs. Thompson, hearing the cries, rushed downstairs, but by the time she reached the back yard Sergt. Ryan and Jones had arrived.

Both men drew off their coats and attempted to place them around Mrs. Myers, but she fell to the ground. Sergt. Ryan took the woman in his arms, sustaining burns on his hands and wrists, causing him almost to drop her, and Jones came to his aid. Jones, too, was burned.

The policemen summoned the ambulance from Casualty Hospital, and everything possible was done for the sufferer, but her life could not be saved.