Hugoton Hermes
Official Paper of Stevens County
Hugoton, Kansas, Friday, Feb. 16, 1917

Schoolhouse Burned

Last Friday morning the Sunflower school house in the southwest part of the county, was burned and two boys received very severe burns. Floyd and Glenn Cunningham, aged thirteen and seven years respectively with two other children, arrived a little before the teacher, Jesse W. Reeve, and undertook to build up the fire. Mistaking it for kerosene, they put some gasoline in the stove and an explosion followed, the burning gasoline from the bursted can striking them on the lower part of the body and the legs; they at once ran to their home two miles away but the saturated clothing continued on fire and the burns were deep.

The teacher had arrived in sight of the building and he made all speed possible to get there and put out the fire, with the assistance of a man who arrived on horseback …
The local undertaking firm were called to the H.C. Cunningham home in southwest Stevens county Sunday night to prepare for burial the body of Floyd Cunningham, the thirteen year old boy who was burned in the explosion of gasoline while starting a fire at the Sunflower school house two weeks ago. Burial was made in the Barden cemetery in Oklahoma, Monday. Glenn, the seven year old boy, was still living but suffering great pain.

Floyd was born at Atlanta, Ks December 29, 1903. Besides the father and the mother, Clint and Rosa Cunningham, he had three brothers, Raymond, Glenn, and John; and three sisters, Marjorie, Letha and Melva. A short funeral service was conducted at the home by Elder A.C. Martin.