

Wards of Children's Aid Die in Cots Around Stove Coroner Opens Inquest

**One-Month-Old 'Jean'
Only Tot to Es-
cape.**

DECIDE DEATHS DUE TO COAL GAS

5 O'Clock Edition Service.

A triple funeral, arranged by the Children's Aid Society, will be held for the three little victims of today's tragedy on York street. After a short service at Woodburn's funeral home, James street, at 11 a.m., Friday, the bodies will be taken to Notre Dame cemetery. The mothers of the two little boys have not yet been at the funeral home to view the bodies.

Asleep in their cots in the kitchen of a York street house, three babies—two boys and a girl—lost their lives in the early hours of the morning from deadly coal gas given off by the stove around which they had been placed to keep warm.

The babies were Renee Robillard, 22 months old; Guy Martel, 12 months, and Antoinette Seguin, 14 months, all of whom were being cared for by Mrs. Malvina Kirouac at 244 York street, under the supervision of the Children's Aid Society.

Death struck at the three children through a simple incident that seemed of only momentary inconvenience at the time. Ordinarily, Mrs. Kirouac and the children slept on the second floor of the house, but last night the furnace went out, and Mrs. Kirouac placed the children in their cots in the kitchen beside the stove, while she and a fourth baby slept in the dining room adjoining, with the door between the two rooms slightly open so that she would know if anything was wrong.

Find Infants Dead.

Yet in spite of her care and precaution, silent death snuffed out the lives of the little ones in her charge. Awakening at five o'clock to go to her work in Government offices, Mrs. Kirouac was horrified to find the helpless babies lifeless. With a piercing cry that aroused the entire household, Mrs. Kirouac collapsed on the floor. She was prostrated by the shock and on orders of a physician was put to bed and not allowed to talk to anyone.

Dr. Arthur L. Richard, who was called to the Kirouac home as soon as the babies had been discovered lifeless, said death had been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. He performed an autopsy prior to the inquest. It was found that carbon monoxide poisoning caused the deaths. Names of the parents of the three dead children have not been given out by the Children's Aid Society, whose officials said such information was confidential.

Mrs. Kirouac is Prostrated.

When a Journal reporter visited the Kirouac residence at nine o'clock this morning he found the tidy two-storey house had become the scene of tears and desolation.

Members of the Kirouac family were all as much upset as if their

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Adjourn Inquest Until Tuesday

Dr. R. M. Cairns, coroner, opened an inquest at Woodburn's funeral parlors, 12 James street, this afternoon, on the body of Rene Robillard, on whom an autopsy had previously been performed by Dr. Arthur L. Richard. After the body had been formally identified by Mrs. Pauline Landry, visitor for the Children's Aid Society, the inquiry was adjourned until 8 p.m. next Tuesday at police headquarters.

Director Finds Boarding Home Up to Standard

Miss Grace Cale Investi- gates Fatality and Ex- plains How Children Are Cared For.

Officials of the Children's Aid Society lost no time in launching their inquiry into the York street tragedy. The police department was not notified for some hours after the deaths occurred, but immediately upon learning of the affair Sergt. David Mulvie of the morality squad sent Acting Detective Charles Coombs to the house.

Miss Grace Cale, director of the Children's Aid Society, spoke highly of the manner in which Mrs. Kirouac had always looked after the children. She was satisfied that everything had been done for the proper care of the babies.

"Mrs. Kirouac was so good that we put Antoinette in her care only a month ago because a family wanted to adopt the baby and we considered Mrs. Kirouac the best person to look after her until arrangements for the adoption were completed," Miss Cale explained.

Was Teaching Rene to Walk.

Mrs. Kirouac took the helpless infants in her charge to her heart as much as though they were her own. Miss Cale said. Only last night Mrs. Kirouac was helping 20-months-old Rene Robillard to learn to walk. Until then he had crept about the house and had got on so well that Mrs. Kirouac was teaching him to walk. Miss Cale pointed out that Mrs. Kirouac had been looking after Children's Aid wards under the supervision of the society for the past three years. Miss Cale's only criticism was that Mrs. Kirouac had a fourth child in her home unknown to the society. This was a breach of the regulations which insist that no other child can be taken into a boarding home without the consent of the society, Miss Cale declared.

A home such as Mrs. Kirouac has been running is known to the society as a "boarding home." Families desiring to care for babies under this plan must make application in writing and answer a complete questionnaire which will enable the society to

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