

Tragedy in Sunshine fire

Mother fails to save her baby



Flames fanned by strong winds forced a Sunshine mother back from the door of her kitchen in which the youngest of her six children was burnt to death yesterday.

Mrs. Doris Leary, of Garnet st., Sunshine,

Garnet st., Sunshine, rushed towards her kitchen crying "My baby's in there. My baby's in there," after workmen had told her that her home was on fire.

She had been hanging out clothes only a few yards away, but the wind had drowned out the sound of the flames.

Four months old baby

the sound of the flames.

Four months old baby Christopher Leary was in his pram in the kitchen, which was being warmed by a kerosene heater.

Forced door open

When men working on the road in front of the Leary home noticed the fire, they rushed around

Leary home noticed the fire, they rushed around to the back calling to Mrs. Leary.

She forced open the kitchen door, but was driven back by the flames.

Mr. Dominic O'Donnell, of Burke rd., East Malvern, one of the workmen, said the whole house was ablaze when they tried to get in.

Mr. O'Donnell and the men with him suffered lacerations when parts of the roof fell on them.

The fibro-cement and wooden house was burnt out.

Police believe the blaze could have been started by flames from the heater catching clothing or furnishings. But Mrs. Leary told them she did not leave any clothing near the fire.

Mr. William Leary is a R.A.A.F. corporal at Tottenham.

Mrs. Leary and her family spent the night at a neighbor's place.



Mr. Dominic O'Donnell