

31 May 1930 Reno Evening Gazette

Nye Resident Dies Friday

"Tonopah, Nev. May 31 - Michael Fitzgerald aged sixty-four, died at the Mines Hospital Friday morning at the dawn of Memorial Day on which anniversary he expressed a desire to die. He was attended in the last moments by his sons, William and Paul, the latter arriving from Santa Barbara (CA) with his wife. Deceased was a brother of Thomas Fitzgerald, formerly superintendent of the Tonopah Belmont during its heaviest production and is now in charge of a Arizona property.

Death was due to Bronchial pneumonia from which he suffered ten days and for the past week was under treatment in the Mines Hospital.

Born in Tipperary, Ireland, Mr. Fitzgerald came to this country when twenty-seven years of age, settling in Aspen, Colo. and moving to Tonopah in 1913. His wife died March 15, 1927. He was a member of the Moose and for many years leased on the Divide and worked his own claims at Gilbert.

The funeral will be held Monday from St Patrick's Church after a solemn requiem mass with interment in the local cemetery."

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Fire Attempt Meets Failure

"Tonopah, Nev., Feb 5 - By a singular combination an apparent attempt to burn the home of the late Michael Fitzgerald was foiled. The details of the plan were perfectly arranged, says fire Chief McConnell. Since the death of the owner, two sons found work in Los Angeles and the home was left in the care of Bob Thomas, a neighbor, who discovered the plan last Monday.

Fuse similar to that used in mines had been extended from the outer porch to a closet in a rear room. The inside end was covered with oily rags and a match was applied to the puter end. In the natural course of events the fuse should have burned through and set fire to the rags and the house would have been destroyed, as the lonely location at McCullough Avenue and Booker Street would have insured escape from detection until too late.

The fuse failed. When the spark reached the rags the fire was smothered and the house was saved. Fire Chief McDonnell, after investigating, announced an arrest or two might be expected soon."