

PAUL PRESTON NICKLE
(April 12, 1921-October 26, 1921)

PAUL PRESTON was the third child and first son of Lena Marie Augusta Dahlmann and Daniel Earl Nickle. As is the Irish custom he was named Preston after his father's brother, Thomas Preston Nickle. He was named Paul because it was a favorite name of his mother.

Paul Preston was born on April 12, 1921, at Springfield, MO. He was a sick baby from the time of his birth, suffering what was known in his day a "heart leakage problem" and was called by doctor's a "blue baby," because his poor circulation caused his skin to be a bluish color. There was no cure for him at that time and under his circumstances. Paul lived only six months and we sisters did not get to know him. His oldest sister, Evelean, has recorded in her life history what she terms her earliest childhood memory and in her own words described the night of his passing:

"My first memory was on a cold October night when I was awakened from my sleep by lights and sobs coming from the kitchen. Getting up I found mother holding her third child (her first son), Paul Preston. Dad was sitting at the kitchen table—his head on his arms and sobbing. This is all I remember, but their baby, Paul Preston, died that morning."

Mother and Dad seldom spoke about losing their six-month-old son. Mother's niece, Marie Nickle Brown, recalls Mother saying it was more difficult to lose Paul Preston than their second son, who also died, because they did not have the gospel at the time Paul Preston died and they did when their son, LeRoy, passed away. Marie made this statement to Joan and Nadyne in February 2006. Marie has a marvelous memory and was age 96 the month she said this.

Mother only had one very small picture of her baby Paul Preston. When Joan tried to make a copy of it, the photo got torn in pieces and lost in the copying machine and could not be retrieved. Although mother shed a few tears she told Joan that she was not to worry about losing the picture, and forgave her. But Joan sorrows yet to this day.

Mother, Dad and sisters went often to decorate Paul Preston and Le Roy Earl's graves. They had one tombstone with both names on it. Mother, Dad and sisters would get down on their knees to clear any overgrown grass and weeds away from the tombstone. Mother and Dad would stand over the graves and we girls could see them grieving for their little sons. Richard James Drummond, grandson to Dan and Lena has continued to decorate all of the graves for many years.

The boys are buried in the East Lawn Cemetery in Springfield, Green County, Missouri and their parents are now buried beside their little sons and are rejoicing in Heaven to be together with them again.

Compiled and written by Joan Nickle.
February, 2006