

**A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY ON  
LE ROY EARL NICKLE  
(AUG. 14, 1926 - SEPT. 13, 1931)  
By W. Nadyne Nickle, his sister**

**LeRoy Earl Nickle, the sixth child and second son born to Daniel Earl and Lena Marie Dahlman Nickle, brought great joy to his parents. Their first son (Paul Preston) died in 1921 at six months of age, so they rejoiced at LeRoy's birth following four daughters.**

**A cousin, Marie Nickle Brown (born in 1909 and age 90 at the time of the interview) was asked about a description of LeRoy. She said he was a darling child. He had light brown hair and grey/blue eyes. He had fair skin and he loved to climb. She remembered his mother, Lena, worrying he was going to fall off of things and she was continually pulling him down from furniture (like a piano) and other objects. She remembered that he looked a lot like his older sister, Evelyn, – especially the shape of his face. Everyone thought he was really cute. She said the entire family was heart broken when he died and although Marie and her family had moved to Utah at this time, when they heard the news they all cried. She said it was reported that at LeRoy's funeral people said that his sister, Betty Jean, kept saying "He's asleep. He's just asleep."**

**Having passed away prior to the birth of his youngest sister, Nadyne, and his sister, JoAn, being only a few months old at the time of his death, "LeRoy" was later almost a name associated with a little red wagon that hung high on the wall in our garage and we were told we were not allowed to play with it because it "belonged to LeRoy." The other thing we all knew about him was that he had walked across a street in front of his home on Franklin Street while the street was being paved with fresh cement and was still wet. We would often drive by and stop and look at his permanent little footprints left in the street for many years after he left us.**

**His death at the age of five years was heart breaking, not only to his parents, six sisters (his sister and playmate, Betty Jean, who was three at the time), but to uncles, aunts, cousins, neighbors and friends in his neighborhood. They all loved him and remember to this day. As a child LeRoy would give "cowboy kisses" (meaning maybe he would give you a kiss if he could hide behind his cowboy hat {like they did in the cowboy movies} so no one could see. He would do the typical little boy things like throwing rocks. His sister, Gladys, remembers an incident where he threw a rock at passing car near his home, and how one man stopped his car and chased him home – reporting the incident to his distraught family, who found LeRoy hiding under his bed. The incident was resolved with a strong warning after the driver found he was Dan Nickle's son and he knew and respected his father.**

**His sister, Betty Jean (2 years younger than LeRoy), has memories of being his playmate and thinking he knew everything. She recalled once when she stepped on a bee and it stung her. She ran crying to mother. LeRoy ran away and later came back and told her it**

was okay because he had killed that old bee. Tender memories of a little - big brother.

Betty Jean was in the hospital with him (both suffering from dehydration from eating green fruit – in that day they did not know how to correct this problem). The doctor's thought Betty Jean would die, but she recuperated and LeRoy passed away from pneumonia.

Betty Jean, who was three, has a many memories of him. She remembers the hospital bed she had, in the same room with her brother, and there being a little shelf where they would put milk and crackers.

Jean remembers being very sad after LeRoy died and how her sister, Evelyn, took her into the back yard and told her a story of a butterfly and how it turned from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly and flew away. She compared this to what happened to LeRoy. This impressed Jean and she still remembers her sister's comforting words about their brother.

Since the family had moved from Franklin Street, his sisters, Gladys and Evelyn, were sent to inform the neighbors in their old neighborhood that LeRoy had died and they reported how at each door the neighbors would cry and they would cry and then go on to the next house. They remembered, many years later, that the two of them would be called on to do the same thing after the death of their mother, making sure her neighbors knew of her passing.

Through all of their growing up years, the sisters would visit the graves of their brothers. Dan and Lena (his parents) were later buried beside their two boys in the East Lawn Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri.

All of his sisters wondered what it would have been like to have had two brothers to grow up with, and we all look forward to meeting them one day.

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(Obituary from the Springfield, Missouri, newspaper)

#### **LEROY EARL NICKEL (NICKLE)**

LeRoy Earl Nickel (Nickle), five-year-old son of Mr. And Mrs. Daniel Nickel (Nickle), 2252 Pierce avenue, died at 7:45 o'clock last night in a hospital here. Besides the parents, the child is survived by six sisters; Evelyn, 14; Gladys, 12; Lorene, 9; Nora Jane, 7; Betty Jane (Jean), 3; and Norma Joan, 11 months. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday afternoon in the Church of Jesus Christ and (of) Latter Day (Latter-day) Saints, North Missouri avenue and High street, the Rev. J. B. Hawkes officiating. Burial will be in East Lawn cemetery under direction of the F. C. Thieme funeral home.