

Link: [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmatago/pa\\_buildings.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmatago/pa_buildings.htm) (History of Palacios Buildings)

*Palacios Beacon*, December 8, 1911

### **Three Palacios Homes Totally Destroyed Wednesday Morning.**

Fire, which broke out about eight o'clock Wednesday morning, totally destroyed the homes of Mrs. E. D. Adkins, Mrs. Lida Williams and Mr. W. C. Williams on the south bay front. The fire originated in the home of Mrs. Adkins from the gasoline stove. Just how it happened is not known, as Mrs. Adkins was in the garden, and no one else was in the house when the fire started in the kitchen. Fanned by a brisk wind from the northwest, the fire quickly enveloped the entire building, and in a few moments the house was a heap of ashes, but very little of the furniture being saved.

The fire quickly communicated to the large two story residence of Mrs. Lida Williams on the east, which was but a few feet away from the Adkins home. Mr. W. C. Williams' residence stood but about fifty feet east of Mrs. Williams' home, and heroic efforts were made to save it but to no avail, as the wind carried the fire directly against it. A considerable quantity of the furniture in Mrs. Williams' home was saved, and the greater portion of that of Mr. Williams was taken out before the house burned.

There was \$1000 insurance on the Adkins house and furniture, and Mrs. Williams had \$1800 on her house and \$1200 on the furnishings. Mr. Williams carried no insurance. The \$1200 furniture insurance of Mrs. Williams was with companies represented by the Perry Realty Co., while the remainder was with companies represented by Bonner & Brooks.

This disaster falls heavily on each of the owners, and the losses are to them most severe. In their great misfortune they each have had expressed the sincerest sympathy of every citizen. While this fire with one exception has been the most disastrous that has yet visited our city, we have cause for thankfulness that it is no greater. Had this fire originated anywhere toward the north part of the city, under the conditions as they existed, Palacios would have been almost entirely wiped out. It is believed that uncle "Billy" Williams' home might have been saved, had there been any fire fighting facilities at hand, but it so happened that there were no facilities of any kind with which to stay the flames, and the efforts made proved of practically no avail. At the time the fire started the water was shut off in the mains for repairing a broken pipe, which was in progress at the time. Even the alarm whistle was out of commission, and the fire was half over before it was generally known. The pump at the water works was started as soon as possible, but before this was of any avail, the fire had burned itself out. This is another warning to the people of this city that if something is not done soon to afford some fire protection, a greater disaster is bound to come upon us. Even the little chemical engine which could have been of service was out of commission through neglect to keep it in working order...

### **Express Their Thanks**

Mrs. E. D. Adkins, through the *Beacon*, returns her sincerest thanks to the many friends who have so generously proffered any needed assistance because of the great disaster the family suffered in the loss of their home Wednesday. She appreciates this kindness more than words can express.

Mrs. Lida Williams appreciates her many friends more than ever if that be possible for their ready assistance in saving what they could from the fire which destroyed her home, and for their numberless kindnesses and offers of assistance since. The one comfort of a great disaster is that it makes one to know and appreciate their friends as never before.

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