

Duane Kay Kafka
September 20, 1941 – October 24, 1951

The Wheatland Times
October 25, 1951

Polio Claims Lives Of Two Children Here; Two Other Victims Recovering

Polio claimed the life of Sylva Kafka, age 13 on Saturday of last week and her younger brother Duane, age 10 late Wednesday evening of this week. Both children were stricken with bulbar polio, the most fatal type of the dreaded disease. Sylva passed away at the Wheatland General hospital, and her brother, Duane was taken to Casper where he succumbed.

They are the daughter and son of Beula Kafka and Joseph Kafka.

Another case of polio, reported earlier last week, was that of Jean Ann Bowdish, age 13 months. She is in the Wheatland General hospital and is reported to have had only a light case that has weakened one leg. She is expected to be dismissed in the next few days. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bowdish.

The fourth case was reported this morning when it became known that Mike Powers, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Powers, is recovering from a light case of polio, his case having been diagnosed otherwise last week by a Laramie physician.

The same physician found it to be polio in a checkup this week and the child, who was sent from there to a Denver hospital, will be released within the next twenty-four hours. At present there is some stiffness in one of Mike's legs. The Powers had spent last week in Laramie to be near Mr. Powers, who was convalescing from surgery there, and Mike contracted what appeared to be only glandular and kidney trouble.

The recent outbreak of polio here is the first in several years and the two deaths are the first fatalities since about 1934.

Bulbar Polio Takes Lives Of Two Kafka Children

Bulbar polio took the lives of Sylva A. Kafka, 13-year-old Wheatland girl last Saturday, October 20 at a local hospital and her brother, Duane, 10, late Wednesday, October 24 at the Casper Memorial hospital. Both were children of Beula Kafka and Joseph Kafka.

Sylva, born in Wheatland, January 5, 1938 was in the eighth grade and a member of the Christian church.

Duane, who was born in Laramie, September 20, 1941 was in the fourth grade.

Private services for Sylva were held Sunday at Schaders, the Rev. Henry Heaton officiating and interment was in the Wheatland cemetery.

Schaders will return the body of Duane to Wheatland today (Thursday) and private services will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Burial will be made in the Wheatland cemetery beside his sister, with Mr. C.E. Henry officiating.

Survivors of the two children include their parents; two brothers, Douglas and Neil; and two sisters, Marilyn and Sharon.

The Platte County Record
October 26, 1951

Polio Claims Two Lives In One Wheatland Family

Sylva Ann Kafka died Saturday, October 20, from Bulbar Polio, in the Wheatland hospital, at the age of 13.

Sylva Ann was born in Wheatland, January 15, 1938 and was a member of the Christian Church.

Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Beula Kafka, her father, Joseph Kafka, and the following brothers and sisters, Marilyn, Neil, Duane, Sharon, and Douglas all of Wheatland.

Private funeral services were held Sunday at 10:30 a.m., C.E. Henry officiating. Burial was made in the Wheatland cemetery.

Duane Kafka died Wednesday night at the Casper Memorial hospital with polio, after being rushed there Tuesday.

Duane was born in Laramie, September 20, 1941, and died at the age of 10.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Beula Kafka, and his father, Joseph Kafka, two sisters, Marilyn and Sharon, and two brothers, Douglas and Neil.

Schrader Funeral Home returned the body to Wheatland Thursday and private services will be held today (Friday) at the Chapel with C.E. Henry officiating, at 2 p.m. Burial will be beside his sister in the Wheatland cemetery.