

**PUNISHED FOR MATCHES BEFORE**

# Little Girl Badly Burned As Clothes Catch on Fire

A three-year-old girl, whose mother had taken matches away from her only a few days ago, was severely burned yesterday morning near her home when her clothes caught on fire—apparently from playing with matches.

Little Patsy Jean Marthers, 3, of 0-3 Gonzales Gardens, was in "good" condition last night at Columbia Hospital with second and third degree burns over 25 to 30 per cent of her body, a hospital spokesman said.

The girl was burned on the left arm, chest, abdomen and left leg, the spokesman continued.

She was found several doors

down from her apartment about 10 o'clock yesterday morning with her clothes on fire.

Her mother, Mrs. Naomi Marthers, who had been next door to make a phone call, told police she quickly smothered out the flames and rushed the girl to the hospital.

Mrs. Marthers told officers her

daughter apparently had been playing with matches. She said the child had been caught playing with them and punished several days ago.

With the girl at the time of the

accident were her four-year-old brother, Charles, and a five-year-old cousin, Michael Brannan, Mrs. Marthers said.

Investigating were Detective L. D. Paschal and Officer D. A. Neely.

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