

4 Children Found

Stabbed to Death

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Mother Is Spattered With Blood Two Bodies Hacked In East Side Home

Four young children were found stabbed to death in a house on Buffalo's far East Side shortly before midnight Sunday as their mother was taken to a hospital uninjured but covered with blood.

A Fire Department rescue squad found the bodies of the children in upstairs room at 122 Montana Ave. near East Ferry Street when they responded to a call at 11:30 p.m.

The squad responded after 911 had received a telephone call about a woman on the porch of the house whom the call said "fell out," meaning she was in distress.

In Shock

Authorities originally believed the woman, identified by police as Mrs. Gail Trait of the Montana address and mother of the children had been stabbed. She was taken to the Erie County Comprehensive Health Care Center in shock and was reported "covered with blood," but not stabbed.

Police early this morning were looking for Charles Trait, whom they identified as the estranged husband of Mrs. Trait.

Detectives said that the arms and legs of two of the children had been hacked off and the other two children had been stabbed in their chests several times. The eyes of one child had been gouged out.

Anatomy Book Found

An anatomy book was found open on the floor near one of the children's bodies.

"This is the worst thing I've ever seen," one detective told a Courier-Express reporter at the scene this morning.

The children were identified as a boy, Dennis, 2, and three girls, Anna, 6, Kayla, 3, and Inez, 1.

Chief Det. J. Deagan of the Homicide Bureau said a kitchen knife and a paring knife found in the upstairs apartment were the apparent death weapons.

Police said Mrs. Trait and the children moved into the upstairs apartment Saturday night.

Chief Deagan said, "We believe we have a suspect" after the bodies were removed from the house.

A neighbor, Mrs. Rita Bryant, of 137 Montana Ave., told a reporter her children were involved with the murder of children Sunday afternoon, but Mrs. Bryant said she did not know their names.

The bodies of the four children were taken to the Erie County Morgue at 1:30 this morning.