

# Children's Grandmother Reportedly Told of Peril

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Less than 36 hours before an East Side mother allegedly killed her four children, the woman's boyfriend reportedly told her relatives that she intended to kill the children.

Mrs. Gail Trait's children were found murdered late Sunday night by firefighters responding to a rescue call. Their bodies were lying in pools of blood in the upstairs apartment at 122 Montana Ave.

The slain children were Kylla, 9, Amina, 6, Inez, 4, and Demario, 2.

The boyfriend, identified only as Ernest, an independent taxicab driver, reportedly warned Mrs. Dorothy Williams, the suspect's mother, about her daughter's intention. He could not be contacted for comment late Monday night.

Mrs. Williams would not comment Monday night.

Mrs. Louise Peterson, the owner of the house where the murders occurred, said Mrs. Williams told police early Monday morning about Mrs. Trait's alleged threat to kill the children.

## Tried Twice to Enter

Mrs. Peterson said the taxicab driver attempted to get Mrs. Trait to open the door and let him enter on at least two occasions Sunday, but Mrs. Trait refused.

Mrs. Peterson, who resides in the downstairs flat of 122 Montana, said she was sitting in her kitchen talking to two of her neighbors when she heard the children screaming.

"When I heard the children crying," Mrs. Peterson said, "I thought she was whipping the kids."

Mrs. Lena Jones of 124 Montana Ave., said: "When I heard the children hollering, I asked Mrs. Peterson if I could go upstairs to see what was wrong because I suspected that something weird was going on the way the children were carrying on."

Mrs. Jones said Mrs. Peterson refused to allow her to go upstairs. "She told me it was none of my business."

## Didn't Answer Door

However, Mrs. Jones said she rang the doorbell several times but Mrs. Trait did not answer the door.

Mrs. Jones said when Mrs. Trait staggered downstairs to the front porch of the two-family house, her hands, arms and clothes were covered with blood. She was fully dressed except for her shoes.

"She was yelling 'you are not my mother — you are not my mother,' as she collapsed into my arms," said Mrs. Jones, who lives next door to the scene of the mass killing.

"I tried to grab her before she fell to the floor," Mrs. Jones said. "But she fell on top of me and got blood all over my clothes. I then yelled to Mrs. Peterson to call the police."

"My conscience is killing me today because if I had gone upstairs when I heard the children crying, I might have been able to save one or two of the children."

"Those were four beautiful little children," Mrs. Jones said as she wiped tears from her eyes. "I can't sleep anymore because I can still see the children," Mrs. Jones said as she wiped are dead. But at least I know they are gone to heaven," she added.