

**Mrs. Trait**  
DEC 29 1979  
**Tries to Set**  
**Self Ablaze.**

(Gail Trait), 27, who was convicted Dec. 20 of murdering her four children, tried to set herself on fire in the Erie County Holding Center about 2:40 Friday morning, the Sheriff's Department reported.

They said she wasn't injured because Deputy Trula Williams doused Mrs. Trait with a fire extinguisher seconds after the prisoner touched a match to her gown.

A small hole was burned in the chest area of the garment, Holding Center Superintendent Joe Foreman told the Courier-Express.

**Announced Intent**

He said Mrs. Trait, who is awaiting sentencing Jan. 24, had announced to Deputy Williams that she was going to set herself on fire and "promptly made the attempt."

Foreman said prisoners who behave themselves are permitted to have matches and cigarettes.

Mrs. Trait was returned to a cell which she has occupied by herself.

A jury had rejected an insanity defense on behalf of Mrs. Trait who had stabbed her young children repeatedly and then dismembered the bodies.