

6 Brothers

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on fire but I could hear the children screaming and crying inside. Then it was quiet."

The mother said, "I would feel a little better if I could have got one of the babies out. I don't know how it started. Maybe the boys hung their clothes too close to the fire to dry."

A natural-gas stove was left burning at night, she said, to warm the upstairs.

"There were no matches in the house. I left the children all last summer when I worked in Brantford and their father went to Toronto, and nothing happened," Mrs. Henry sobbed.

Wakened Others

"Marvin did his best. His feet were scorched from running across the hot floor to wake the others. He said the Dutchman (Arthur Crawford) had the baby in his arms. He doesn't know why the rest didn't follow him through the window."

The cousin was nicknamed "Dutchman" when he attended school on the reserve.

In the hospital today Marvin related how he awakened "because the house felt hot," opened the door and saw the downstairs on fire. He awakened his brothers, sisters and cousin.

Reached Baby

"They got scared and went under the bed. I had the baby in my arms. I was going to jump with her. When they started to scream I gave her to the Dutchman and told them to follow me out," he related.

"They didn't come but I heard them screaming through the window."

The children apparently went down the stairs instead, for R.C.M.P. officers found the charred remains of the little bodies in a heap where the foot of the stairs had been.

Totally Destroyed

There was not a piece of timber left on the foundation, and embers had been carried 50 feet by the wind. The twisted remains of a baby buggy, stove, washing machine and bicycle could be seen amongst the debris.

Mrs. Henry had been raised in this home for it had been built by her father.

The bodies are at the Styres funeral home in Ohsweken.

The Brantford fire department received no alarm and did not know of the tragedy until hours later. Roads were almost impassable and many cars were stuck. One reported hired a tractor to reach the scene when his car was mired.