

# 6 Exits in Burned Wing

## School Got Clean Bill in October Fire Inspection

Our Lady of The Angels School, which burned yesterday, is a two-story building on the northeast corner of Avers avenue and Iowa street. It was built in 1910 and remodeled seven years ago. Construction is brick, with wood trim in the corridors and in the large, classrooms with their high ceilings.

Chief Robert O'Brien, of the fire prevention bureau, said the school was inspected early in October, during Fire Prevention Week, and found to be in compliance with the safety code. No violations were reported.

### 1,200 IN CLASS

The school had an enrollment of 1,635 in eight grades and kindergarten. About 1,200 pupils were in class yesterday when fire flashed through the second floor of the north wing.

This wing is approximately 50 by 100 feet, with eight classrooms on each floor. There are at least six exits, three at the front and three near the rear.

Three interior wooden staircases and a metal fire escape lead from the second floor. All were reported in good condition, as was the fire alarm system.

### SPOTTED AT EXIT

The fire is believed to have started under a stairway in a shallow basement at the northeast corner of the building.

The flames were first spotted at this exit. The stairs were badly charred, but basement rooms adjoining the staircase were not damaged by fire.

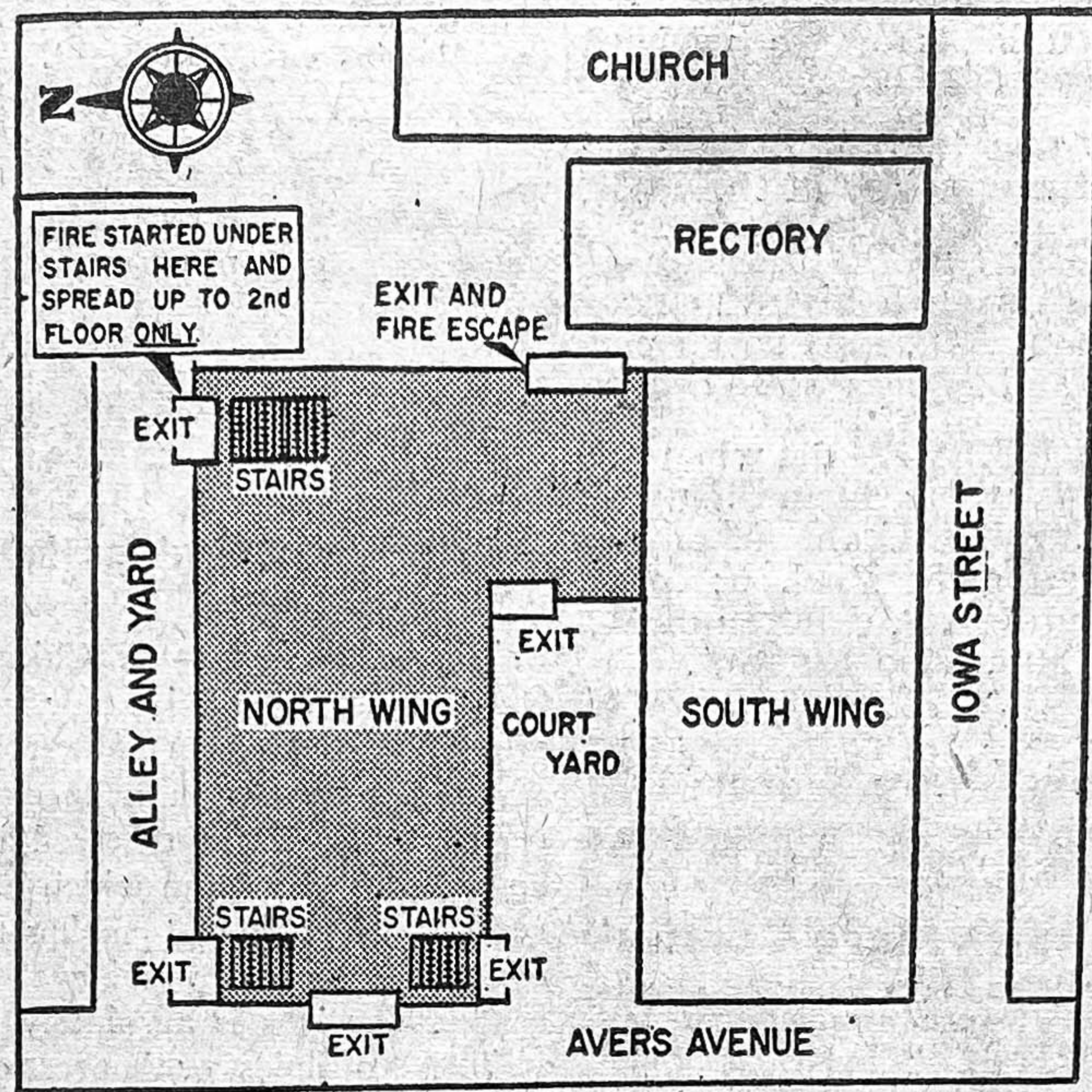
It is not known what—if anything—was stored here. However, investigators found evidences of a possible accumulation of rubbish.

### SWEEPS HALL

Apparently, flames spread up the northeast stairs and were blocked from entering the first floor by a wooden door.

The fire is believed to have raced up to the second floor and swept down the corridor, cutting off the classrooms.

The most heavily burned area was at the rear of the second floor. The front part was not as badly damaged and a room in the northwest corner was hardly touched in comparison with the rest of the second floor.



POINT where fire started is shown on this diagram of Our Lady of Angels School. Shaded areas indicate burned portions.

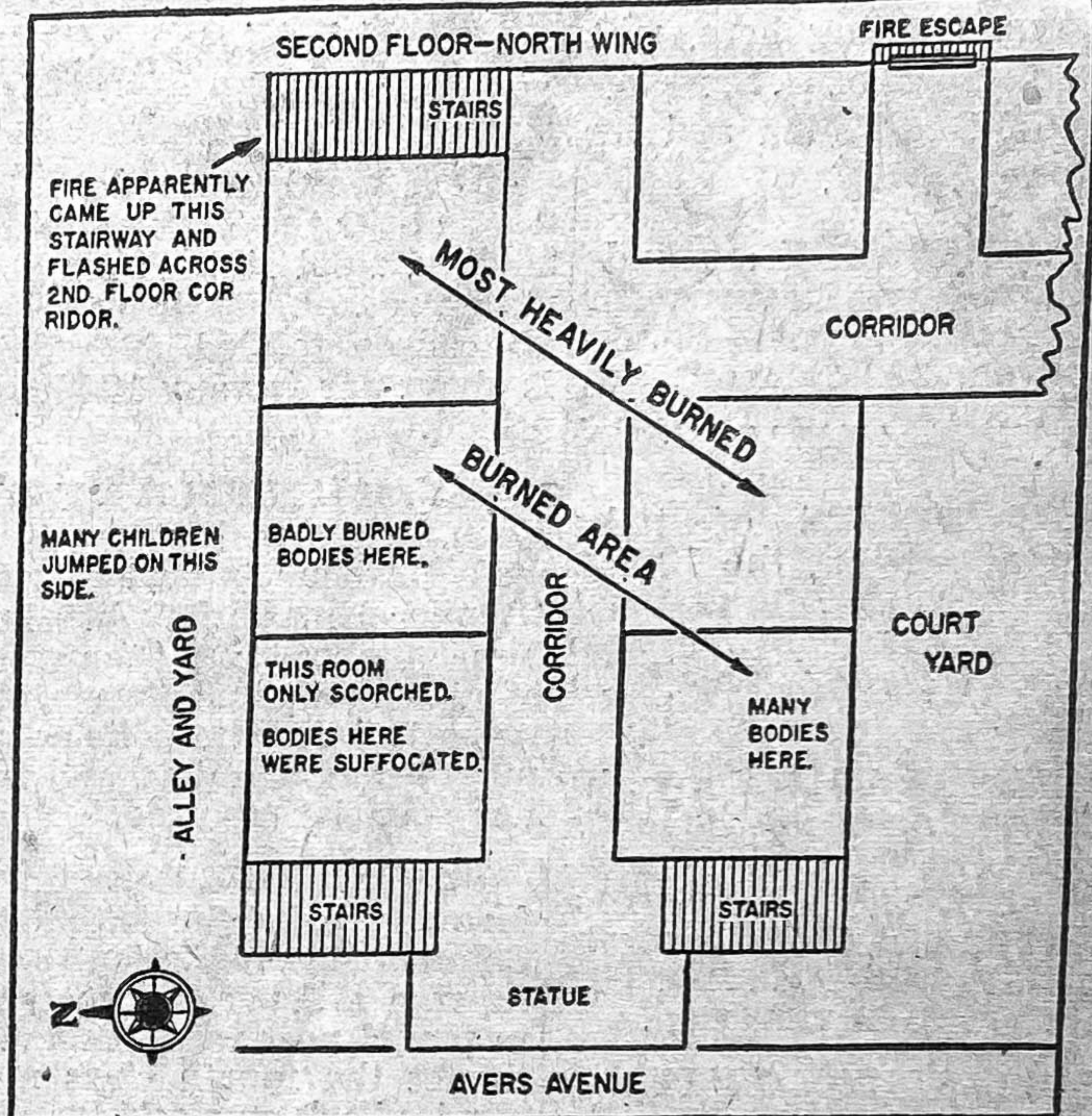


DIAGRAM of Our Lady of Angels School shows burned areas where many bodies of young victims were found.

## Hospitals Work Around Clock to Relieve Injured

BY NORTON KAY

Hundreds of doctors, nurses, nuns and medical aides last night worked around the clock in four hospitals, administering drugs, sedatives, blood and blood plasma in the battle to save lives and relieve the agony of 100 children burned or injured in the fire at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic school.

The four hospitals are St. Anne's, 4950 W. Thomas st.; Franklin Boulevard Community, 3240 W. Franklin Blvd.; Walther Memorial, 1116 N. Kedzie av., and Garfield Park Community, 3821 West Washington Blvd.

At St. Anne's, Sister Al-munda, administrator of the hospital, realized what lay ahead when the first charred body was brought into the emergency room. She immediately put in calls for Dr. James Callahan, chief of staff, and Dr. James E. Se-graves, chairman of the hospital's disaster plan.

### HELP SUMMONED

Early today blood supplies began to run short.

Another phase of the disaster plan went into effect. The Chicago Blood Donor Service, Inc., 2056 N. Clark st., was called. So was the Michael Reese Foundation and Mt. Sinai Blood Center. All responded quickly with plasma and whole blood.

Despite requests that calls to the hospital be limited, the

switchboard continued buzzing. Some calls offered their blood.

More difficult were the calls starting with:

"My name is ..... and my boy or girl hasn't been found. I wonder if .. ."

### STORY RETOLD

The story at St. Anne's is only one.

At Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital, the staff had been practicing an emergency disaster plan.

An official trial run had been scheduled for Dec. 26.

Dr. Patrick A. DeMoon, administrator, and Dr. William J. Krulick, chief of staff, last night found that emergency. There was no humor when Dr. DeMoon said:

"We moved up the date. Last night we saw it."

## Nurse on Duty Finds Niece Among Dead

A nurse on duty at St. Anne's Hospital when more than 50 casualties of Our Lady of Angels School fire were brought in identified one body as that of her niece, Margaret Kucan, 10.

The nurse is Mrs. Fern Kucan, 3842 W. Huron st.

Margaret's father, Slavko, operates a barber shop in the family home at 3814 W. Chicago av., a block north of the fire scene.

He said he was cutting hair when he heard about the fire left his customers and ran to the school.

Kucan said firemen were so busy trying to catch jumping children that the ladders were unmanned. He added:

"I scrambled half way up one ladder, looking for Margaret. I must have passed a couple of dozen kids down the ladder but I never saw Margaret.

"The kids were bloody and they were screaming screaming awful.

"Mike Chiapetta, that's junior, the son of the barber who works for me, was there, too, and I told him to look for Margaret but he couldn't find her either."

At home, Margaret's mother, Yola, waited for news.

The Kucans have another

child, John, 4. Like Margaret, John was adopted. Kucan said:

"We wanted children and we were glad to get Margaret and John.

"We had a big Christmas planned but that's out now. I helped as many kids as I could.

"But I couldn't help Margaret."

### Donation Places Listed

## Blood Donors Needed

Officials of the three hospitals that handled the majority of the injured children have asked for blood contributions to replace their hard pressed supply.

A spokesman for St. Anne's Hospital, where 75 pints of blood were used during the first 12 hours of the tragedy, said there was no immediate danger of the blood supply running short, but the blood must be replaced.

St. Anne's, Walther Memorial and Franklin Boulevard Hospital made plans to pool the contributions and distribute them to replace the blood used.

The following centers have volunteered to serve as collection agencies:

Chicago Blood Donor Service, 2026 N. Clark st., GR 7-5800.

Chicago Blood Donor Service, 7242 Wentworth ac., HU 3-9200.

Michael Reese Hospital Research Foundation, 530 E. 31st

Western av., HI 5-8444.

Beverly Blood Center, 13 E. 119th st., HI 5-8444.

Interstate Blood Bank, 2444 W. North av., BR 8-2441.

## Survivors Laud Brave School Nuns

Bravery of nuns who fought to save the lives of their pupils in yesterday's fire at Our Lady of the Angels School was recounted today by survivors and others.

Three sisters lost their lives along with 87 pupils.

The nuns were Sister Mary Seraphica Kelley, 43, and Sister Mary St. Canice Lyng, 44, both born in Chicago; and Sister Mary Clara...

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