

Vacation A Day Early

The Brother told The Evening Citizen that he did not know how the fire actually started in the tree, but he believed that a short circuit in the wiring of the colored lights may have been responsible.

The Brother put in a telephone call to the Ottawa Fire Department and a second alarm was turned in the moment the apparatus arrived.

Tons of water were being poured into the building at press time. The firemen said that they believed that they would be able to save the main part of the structure.

The old brick-and-stone school, built in 1904, is the largest separate school in the city and houses the Ottawa Separate School Board's administrative offices on the ground floor.

The school was scheduled to close tomorrow for the Christmas holidays.

Assisting Brother Lucien in the attempt to put out the flaming Christmas tree was Brother Vincent. Both are of the Christian Brothers order.

Brother Victor, another member of the school staff, said that the brothers were making a regular check of the school when the fire was discovered. Brother Victor saw that the flames were spreading despite the attempts of Brothers Lucien and Vincent, and he ran to a fire alarm in the school and set it off.

"I then went down the hall to a room and brought the pupils out. About 10 children were making Christmas cradles during the noon hour. There were three teachers also in the building."

Brother Victor led the children towards the far end of the school, away from the fire, and out to safety, without mishap.

"The flames were spreading through the walls," Brother Victor said.

The ottawa Citizen 21 dec 1953 page 1 suite

Clipped By:



landrygenealogy
Wed, Mar 11, 2020