Alexander Francis Horn, 5 years old, spread the alarm for a fire that broke out in his home early yesterday, and thereby became a hero in the eyes of the 18 other persons who live under the same roof in the two flat building at 1649 South Homan avenue.

The boy’s mother, Mrs. Maurice C. Horn, wife of an electrical salesman, got up at 4:20 a.m. to take some medicine. Alexander was asleep in her bed. In other rooms on the same floor, the second, slept Leon and Tillie Spak, owners of the building, their three grown children, Ann, Ruth, and Al, as well as Mr. and Mrs. L. Rottenberg, who, like the Horns, are roomers.

A match Mrs. Horn had lighted set fire to the bed clothing while Mrs. Horn was locked in the bathroom. Alexander awoke and began shouting. His cries brought Mrs. Spak, who roused the others. Together they put out the fire after it had caused damage estimated at $200.

In the first floor flat below were Marvin Spak, his wife, their daughter, Phyllis, 11 years old, and two out of town friends.

An article about Alexander Francis Horn, then five years old, appeared in the Chicago Tribune on February 9, 1935. The child Horn was alleged to have spread the alarm for a fire that broke out in his home. 1940 census records show Alexander Horn, aged 10, as an inmate of the Marks Nathan Jewish Orphan Home in Chicago, where he is reported as having lived for the previous five years. ~Wikipedia/Alex Horn