

TRY TO KILL FAMILY WITH BOMB

LONG BEACH HOME BLOWN TO RUINS

MARSHAL CONKLIN VICTIM OF HORRIBLE PLOT

REIGN OF TERROR ENSUES

Attempt is Made to Murder Officer With Wife and Little Children While They Are Asleep

In an unsuccessful attempt to murder City Marshal J. J. Conklin of Long Beach, his wife and five children, the Conklin home at 1030 South Elm street was destroyed by dynamite about 2 o'clock yesterday morning, but beyond a few bruises the family almost miraculously escaped uninjured.

The perpetrators are believed to be a gang of law breakers against whom Conklin has waged a relentless war.

As a result of the outrage, coming as the culmination of a dozen hold-ups, robberies, six incendiary fires and the robbery of the postoffice, all within the past four months, a reign of terror exists in Long Beach, citizens not knowing what may be the next act of lawlessness.

That the Conklin family was not killed is probably due to the fact that those interested in the plot were evidently unacquainted with the properties of the explosive, as the dynamite was so placed that its worst effects found vent on the outside of the building. Moreover the occupants of the house were in bed, being in part protected by their reclining position.

Terrific Explosion

The noise of the explosion was heard by everybody in the city who happened to be awake at the time and shook houses near that of the marshal's home with a violence similar to that of an earthquake, sending the occupants to their doors to investigate. Window panes a block away were shattered.

Conklin remained at his office until after midnight and did not retire until about 1 o'clock. He was sound asleep when the explosion occurred. The first recollection he has is of sitting on the side of the bed trying to realize what had happened. His wife was aroused first and rushing to the side of her husband found him dazed by the shock.

The marshal and his wife then hurried to their children. One of them, Lena, occupied a room off the front porch, twelve feet from where the bomb had been placed. This room and the parlor adjoining were completely demolished and Lena lay under a heap of plaster and other debris, on top of which was a chair, blown from an opposite corner of the room. The little girl was taken from the bed and found to be suffering from nothing more than fright and a few cuts and bruises. Three other children, Mildred, Hazel and Gordon, were in rear rooms and were not hurt. The marshal's eldest son, Clarence, was spending the night with friends at Huntington Beach.

Door Blown From Hinges

In the parlor the front door had been blown from its hinges and thrown clear across the room, knocking a section of lath and plaster off the wall on the opposite side. Strong oak chairs were torn to pieces and scattered about. The front of the piano, which stood ten feet from the front door, was smashed in and the instrument ruined. Every floor in the house was sprung, twisted or warped out of shape, the windows were blown from their fastenings and a heavy iron drain pipe in the rear of the kitchen was broken in two places. The building is a total wreck and its contents are almost entirely destroyed. The damage is estimated at \$3000, on which no insurance can be collected.

When the marshal went outside he found that the front porch had been blown to pieces and lay a heap of kindling wood on the ground. Excited neighbors collected at the ruined home and immediately organized a posse to search for the perpetrators of the act. Feeling ran high and the town was searched for the criminals, who would undoubtedly have been roughly handled if caught, but no trace of them was found. The marshal buckled a belt containing his revolver and several dozen cartridges about his waist and joined in the search. He wore the belt all yesterday.

Suspect Firebugs

Suspicion is generally directed to the gang of firebugs driven out by Marshal Conklin last week. This gang was suspected of the recent dynamiting of the Long Beach postoffice in June and the attempt to burn the Riviera hotel July 13. One of them, Leroy Andrews, about three weeks ago confessed to burning the Casa Palma rooming house. Andrews is now in the county jail on the charge of arson. Three other members of the gang were kept under surveillance but no evidence against them could be secured, and last week Conklin ordered them to leave town. They disappeared Saturday. The theory is that the gang wanted to avenge Andrews, whose attempt to gain immunity by a charge against Mrs. Grace Getz had failed. People living on American avenue say that at the time of the explosion they heard the sound of a horse running up that street, and this incident they couple with the escape of the guilty parties.

The wrecking of Conklin's house is the last of a series of hardships which he has experienced lately. His refusal



VIEW OF MARSHAL CONKLIN'S HOUSE AFTER EXPLOSION



CITY MARSHAL J. J. CONKLIN



PARLOR OF CONKLIN HOME, SHOWING DAMAGE WROUGHT BY DYNAMITE

to recognize Leslie W. Folsom, who was appointed a patrolman by the city trustees, led that official to prefer charges of malfeasance in office which led to an order by Superior Judge Bordwell directing Conklin's removal, to take effect August 31.

Then an auditing committee found Conklin short over \$1000 in his accounts as tax collector, and he has been called upon to make this amount good.

Political Enemies Offer Aid

The marshal's political enemies were the first to offer him their sympathies and aid yesterday morning, which he accepted in the right spirit, refusing to entertain any suspicion that they might have had anything to do with the outrage.

"Every one seems to think he can take a shot at a man up a tree," he said disconsolately to a reporter yesterday morning.

The only members of the city council in town today were those of the police committee, Oakford, Cate and Campbell, who are Conklin's political opponents. They held a special meeting and adopted resolutions of sympathy for the marshal and offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest of those responsible for the crime. There is a question whether the city can legally pay this amount, but the trustees and several other citizens have agreed to make it up by private subscription if the city cannot appropriate such a sum.

In addition to this, lists have been circulated for the relief of the marshal. Over \$1500 was subscribed today and it is expected his loss will be more than covered. In addition there is a change of sentiment regarding the marshal's other troubles, and it is possible there will be a demand for his retention in office which will be too strong to be resisted.

LOCAL PASTOR TENDERS HIS SERVICE AS NURSE

Rev. J. S. Matthews, Episcopal Clergyman and Immune, Desires to Aid Stricken of New Orleans

Rev. J. S. Matthews, an Episcopal clergyman of the Los Angeles diocese who resides at 648 South Olive street, recently tendered his services to Governor Blanchard of Louisiana as a nurse for yellow fever patients, being himself an immune.

He received a letter from Governor Blanchard yesterday thanking him for the proffer of services, but assuring Rev. Mr. Matthews that in the event the scourge should become general and additional nurses were needed the proffer would be gratefully accepted.

Rev. Mr. Matthews was formerly in charge of a mission in Alexandria, La., and rendered good service to the stricken during the scourge of 1897, when he was also attacked by the disease.

Travelers' Requisites, Suit cases, leather bags, hand bags. It is economy for those who contemplate a summer trip—largest stock—low prices prevail. Sanborn, Vail & Co., 357 South Broadway.

FATHER GREGOIRE TELLS OF THE FEVER PLAGUE

Personal Friend of Archbishop Chappelle Says Conditions Are Worse Than Ever Before

Having passed through three epidemics of yellow fever in New Orleans and wishing to return to minister to the sick in the present epidemic, Rev. C. Gregoire, pastor pro tem of St. Patrick's church, expresses the belief that the present epidemic will be one of the worst in the history of the fever stricken city. Father Gregoire was a personal friend of Archbishop Chappelle and says that his death has done more to depress the city and frighten the people than any other incident.

Father Gregoire says the fever does not usually break out until the last of

August, but that this year it commenced early in July, giving at least two months more time before the coming of the first frost, which is depended upon to stamp out the fever. He received a letter from friends there saying that business is demoralized and that the monetary loss to the city will be great.

Fast Trains to Catalina. On the Salt Lake Route leave Los Angeles at 7:40 and 9 a. m., 12:30 p. m., daily except Sunday; on Sunday only at 8:45 a. m. Extra boat on Saturdays connects with train leaving Los Angeles 5:25 p. m.; same convenient schedule returning. Passengers traveling on the Salt Lake Route get first choice of steamer accommodations, in addition to a beautiful seashore ride from Long Beach to San Pedro. Information 260 South Spring street. Both phones 852. First street station, Home 499, Main 4095.

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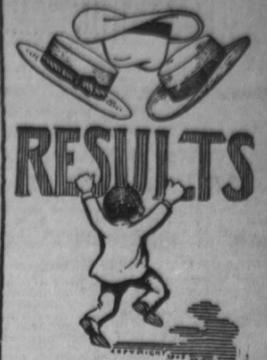
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