

Bodies And Concrete Hurlled Onto Ice By Giant Explosion

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les laid out in the coliseum under the merry eye of a pasted-on chorus girl which had served as a prop for the show.

Survivors Tell Story
Those who lived through it told the story:

Policeman Jack Ohrburg: "It's the first time I've ever had a 3-year-old girl die in my arms crying 'Daddy, daddy!'"

Richard Crowell, 20, college student, who dragged his girl friend from the rubble and struggled towards safety: "There was a popcorn concession stand beneath us... all over us. I carried Karol. I could see people screaming and running. Legs and arms were sticking out of the rubble. On the way out we had to cross people I believe were dead. One man had his head sticking in the flames."

John Williams, Columbus, Ohio, a member of the company of "Holiday on Ice." "No performers were hurt but some were knocked off their feet from the impact. Fire and flame followed immediately. People ran onto the ice. They didn't know what to do. They were slipping on the ice. The people were just like cattle. They came across the ice and got out of there."

Police Chief Robert Reilly: "I thought I had seen death, but I guess I was wrong. I don't care if you have seen five wars."

Critical Condition
Some of the injured were in critical condition.
Other survivors thought at

first the explosion was part of the show.

The skaters were twirling in center ice at 11:11 p.m. EST when the southern end of the barn-like arena exploded. To some, it sounded like firecrackers and they started moving peacefully towards the exit.

But suddenly bodies were falling onto the ice, hurtled from as far as 50 feet away. So were huge chunks of concrete. Flames leaped from the wreckage. Parents clasped their children, tried to shield them, and died with them. Some fled across the ice, slipping, falling, and rising again.

Coroner Dennis Nicholas said he had counted the bodies of at least 32 women.

Youth Describes Scene After Tragic Explosion

EDITOR'S NOTE — Richard Crowell, 20, Indianapolis college student, was with his parents and girlfriend at the Indianapolis Coliseum when an explosion ripped through it. The following is his account.

By RICHARD CROWELL, As Told To UPI

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (UPI)—They had this special where you buy two tickets and get two free. My folks got the tickets and invited me to bring my girl.

Dad got box seats that were right above one of the main sections. In front of us there were about 10 rows of wooden chairs with people right next to the ice.

The show was superior to any we had seen before. The skit just before the finale involved two comedians who slid off the ice with firecrackers going off.

Then the finale began and just when the stars were going through their final spins, there was this great noise — like a huge firecracker.

All around us was the smell of smoke and the dust of the explosion. About 15 feet away

was a geyser of flame. I didn't know where my mother or father was but Karol (17-year-old girlfriend) was on my right. She was half buried in the rubble. I was thrown up in the air. I lost my glasses.

If I hadn't been holding on to Karol I probably wouldn't have found her.

I pulled her out by the armpits, she was unconscious. My left leg had been wedged into the rubble, I sprained it when I pulled it out.

There was popcorn from the concession stand beneath us... all over us.

I carried Karol to a section that was still standing. I could see people screaming and running. Legs and arms were sticking out of the rubble.

On the way out we had to cross persons I believe were dead. One man had his head sticking in the flames.

When we got outside, Karol was crying. Dad met us and feared another explosion. We heard ambulances but decided it would be quicker to go by car.

Dad drove us, honking through several red lights, down to St. Vincent Hospital. We were among the first to arrive at the hospital.

Every person I saw later looked 10 times worse off than us.

602 Died In 1903 Tragedy

By United Press International
The most tragic fire in a place of public entertainment was the blaze that killed 602 persons in Chicago's Rookery Theater Dec. 30, 1903.

Fire killed 491 persons in the Coconut Grove, nightclub, in Boston, Mass., on Nov. 28, 1942.

On Dec. 5, 1876, 295 persons were killed when fire swept through a Brooklyn (N.Y.) theater.

Two hundred persons lost their lives at the famed Opera Comique of Paris during a fire there May 25, 1887. On Sept. 4 of the same year another 200 were killed in a fire at a theater in Exeter, Eng.

In a blaze at the Mayaguez Theater in San Juan, P.R., 150 persons died June 20, 1919.

A fire in the Ringling Brothers circus tent in Hartford, Conn., killed 168 persons July 6, 1914.

Most recently, a circus fire in Niteroi, Brazil, Dec. 17, 1962, killed 323 persons and injured 800.



TRAPPED BOY SAVED — Firemen reaches out to help a trapped boy at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum in Indianapolis Thursday night following an explosion that killed 67 and injured hundreds.



FIRST AID RENDERED — A victim is comforted by friends after first aid was given following an explosion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum Thursday night.

Mayor Escapes Explosion

EDITOR'S NOTE — Indianapolis Mayor Albert Losche was in the audience when an explosion ripped the Indiana State Fairground Coliseum Thursday night. This is his story.

By MAYOR ALBERT LOSCHE, As Told To UPI

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (UPI)—I've never seen anything like it. It's the worst tragedy in the history of Indianapolis.

It must have been some sort of gas explosion, but I don't know for sure. Ordinarily, I would have been sitting in the section that blew up. I always get 10 Shrine Night tickets on the south side of the coliseum, but this year I was late buying my tickets and ended up on the extreme north side.

Everybody was enjoying the show, but all of a sudden there was a terrific explosion and

bodies started flying onto the ice. Flames were shooting 25 to 30 feet into the air.

Fumes started building up and people were screaming and trying to get out. The aisles were all jammed and it was very difficult to get out of the building.

Just about the time I got my guests outside the first firemen showed up to put out the fire.

Local Artists Part Of Show

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY—Two artists from Klamath Falls are among 31 Oregon artists whose paintings and drawings will be exhibited Nov. 4 to 24 at Oregon State University.

They are Howard A. Hall Jr. of 4307 Laverne Avenue, who will show three oil paintings, and Lyle F. Matoush of 1517 Donald, who will exhibit one color intaglio and one collage.

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Georgia Blast Kills 7

MARIETTA, Ga. (UPI)—An explosion shattered a crowded store Thursday night on the town square here where hundreds had gathered for a children's Halloween parade. Seven persons were killed and scores injured.

Rescue workers pulled the seventh victim from the rubble of Atherton's Drug Store early today. He was identified as Terry Carter, 7. He had last

been seen entering the store with his father.

"They were holding hands when they walked in," said the youngster's uncle, John Carter. They were going to buy Terry a mask."

The boy's 33-year-old father also was killed by the blast.

The explosion, believed caused by gas leaking from a heater located in a shallow basement near the front of the store, sent splintered glass, chunks of concrete and other debris hurtling across the street toward the square.

People standing on the sidewalk watching the festivities were knocked over and the body of one victim was hurled into the street.

Twenty-seven persons were treated for injuries at Kennebec Hospital. Nine were hospitalized in serious condition.

The blast happened at 6:25 p.m. Thursday during the after-work shopping rush in this suburban town of 25,000 and brought fire engines and ambulances rushing into the square where masked young-

sters were competing in a costume contest.

"It was like a jet breaking the sound barrier," said high school student Barry Hill who was sitting with some friends in a car near the store when the blast occurred. "Oh, it was 50 times louder than that."

"We all ducked our heads and glass from the windows in the store embedded in our car. When we looked over there, there was nothing... everything just collapsed... it all collapsed on people."

Hunters Save Indian Guide

100-MILE HOUSE, B.C. (UPI)—Two United States hunters saved the life of a one-armed Indian guide as a giant grizzly bear was mauling him.

The bear had its jaws clamped over the head of Edward Dixon, 44, near here.

The animal was cut down by a fusillade of shots from George Riddle and Cleo Cripps, both of Las Vegas.

New Attack Launched By Algeria

RABAT, Morocco (UPI)—Algerian forces launched a massive artillery and infantry attack against the border town of Figuig at dawn today. A short time later, King Hassan of Morocco announced that his troops had withdrawn about a mile from the town.

Figuig is 37 miles northeast of Colomb Bechar. With an estimated population of more than 10,000 persons, it is the biggest town yet to figure in the Algerian-Moroccan border fighting.

On French maps it is shown about three miles inside Morocco. The attack began at 7 a.m. today, the king said, some 18 hours before the cease-fire, agreed to at Bamako this week, is scheduled to come into force. The truce was signed by Hassan and Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella.

The king called newsmen to his throne room at midday and told them "a criminal Algerian attack has been in progress since this morning against Figuig."

He said the population of Figuig suffered "loss of lives and property among men, women and children." Border reports said the Algerians used artillery and heavy mortars to shell the town before their infantry moved in.

"BOOMERANG" RETURNS

STOCKBURY, England (UPI)—William Reed said today his mongrel puppy has returned to his home here three times after being sold.

The dog's name is "Boomerang."

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