

Family lucky to survive killer

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had bound one stick of dynamite to his leg and attached a fuse, which he lighted. The explosion did what dynamite is supposed to do to whatever is in the way. Readers of the *Telephone* were not spared the details of what happened to Hurst and his daughters. He was killed instantly, as was Maude. But her body mercifully shielded those of her sisters.

Policeman Hugh Hinkle, on duty at the station, was the first to arrive at the house. Having heard the explosion, he thought it had occurred at Showers Factory or the Karsall grain mill. When he ventured into the house, his flashlight revealed Elizabeth on the bed, and he carried her outside. Not realizing that Hurst had died in the room, Hinkle searched for the stone-worker outside.

Unhurt occupants of the house

were: Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hurst and their two babies; Rena Hurst and sons, Jewett, and William Hurst; the Rev. Stevens of the Salvation Army; Tim Monahan; William Gourley; William Worley; and Ed, Walter and Alexander Smallwood. Daylight revealed how lucky they were. Unexploded sticks of dynamite were found under the bed of Clifford and his wife and in another room.

Elizabeth age 6, was treated for cuts and bruises. It was 13-year-old Fanny who became the object of concern on the part of the Bloomington community. She had completely lost an 8- by 5-inch patch of flesh on her thigh, and Dr. C.E. Harris was worried about the possibility that she would develop blood poisoning.

The *Telephone* commented that when the morbid and the curious dropped by the damaged house, a resourceful policeman by the name

of Henry Dudley, who was on duty there, took up a collection for the Hurst family. On September 30 the newspaper announced to Bloomingtonians that Dr. Harris was putting out a call for volunteers to donate skin grafts for Fanny.

Compassion came in the form of four little school girls and a boy, who appeared at the hospital to donate some of their own skin for Fanny. The *Telephone* proudly reported that the little donors were Louise Tapp, Mary Andrews, Elsie and Grace Cooper and Raymond Fowler. Added the newspaper on October 10, "The children showed their nerve, and none of them flinched when the surgeon's knife was applied."

Fanny recovered. The *Bloomington City Directory* of 1916-18 indicates that she was working as a machine operator where her sister, Maude, had been employed — the Field Mitten Factory.