

## Lola M. Burlingame

( - 1 May 1912)

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*The Evening Star, May 2 1912, p. 9*

### **Monoxide Kills Two, And Another May Die**

#### **Mrs. Burlingame and Mrs. Watson Dead -- Washerwoman in Critical State**

Deadly carbon monoxide gas snuffed out two lives yesterday and left a third victim in a critical condition. The dead are Mrs. Lola M. Burlingame, wife of Harry T. Burlingame, desk sergeant at the fifth precinct police station, and Mrs. Stella Watson whose husband is a bartender. Mrs. Helen Naylor a colored washerwoman, was found in a critical condition and taken to the Casualty Hospital. Physicians say she may die.

The three women were found in the Burlingame apartment at 1443 1/2 A street southeast, about 7 o'clock p.m., when Mr. Burlingame returned home from the police station. Mrs. Burlingame and Mrs. Watson were on the bed in the sleeping apartment, while the colored woman was seated in the kitchen, where the subtle poison had been generated by a water heater.

#### *Dead Several Hours*

Mrs. Burlingame had been dead several hours physicians from the Casualty Hospital stated but Mrs. Watson was still breathing. She died while being conveyed to the hospital. Mrs. Naylor, although in the room in which the poisonous gas was generated, was in much better condition than was Mrs. Watson, and the physicians hurried her to the hospital. She was unconscious and unable to offer any explanation of the case.

When Burlingame saw that his wife was dead, and that Mrs. Watson and the colored woman were in a critical condition he sent a hurried message to the police station where he had been on duty all day.

Physicians labored hard to prolong Mrs. Watson's life and save the life of the colored woman. When the hospital was reached it was found that Mrs. Watson was dead, while the colored woman was improving, although her condition was critical

#### *Pulmotor Is Used*

As soon as Coroner Nevitt reached the hospital to view the body of Mrs. Watson he suggested the use of a pulmotor on the colored woman and the instrument was quickly supplied by the Washington Gas Light Company, and it was used to good effect. Coroner Nevitt said the pulmotor gave a fighting chance for life.

Coroner Nevitt made an investigation of the affair, and at an autopsy this afternoon it was declared Mrs. Watson's death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

There was an utter lack of a ventilating pipe to the water heater, the coroner stated, and there was no escape for the fumes. He said today that he will send a communication to the Commissioners on the fatality.

Arrangements have been made for the funeral of Mrs. Burlingame to take place from Lee's chapel at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The interment will be at Congressional cemetery. Mrs. Burlingame was Miss Lola Ellwood before her marriage ten years ago. No arrangements have been made for the funeral of Mrs. Watson.

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### **Double Funeral Held**

#### **Services for Mrs. Burlingame and Mrs. Watson, Monoxide Victims**

Funeral services for Mrs. Lola M. Burlingame and Mrs. Stella Watson, who were killed Wednesday by carbon monoxide gas escaping from a hot water heater at the home of Mrs. Burlingame, were conducted at Lee's chapel at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Rev. V. Hinson Howlett, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, officiated, and the interments were in Congressional cemetery.

Mrs. Helen Naylor, colored, who suffered from the poison in the kitchen of the Burlingame apartment, at 1443 1/2 A street southeast, at the time the two women named were suffocated, was still in a critical condition.