

Report made at New York City on October 27, 1934 for period of July and Aug. 1934 by T. H. Sisk.

Title: Bruno Richard Hauptmann with aliases.

Character of case: Kidnaping and murder of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.

Synopsis of Facts:

Scrap books containing newspaper clippings, programs, calling cards, Christmas cards and souvenirs saved by Dr. Condon ~~xx~~ since the year 1885 examined, and outstanding data reported herein.

DETAILS: Several months ago, the writer, on the occasion of an interview with Dr. John F. Condon at his residence, learned that Condon had two scrap books containing newspaper clippings covering his athletic activities when he was attending college and in the early days of his life, including also calling cards, Christmas Cards, and various other souvenirs. These scrap books were borrowed from Dr. Condon, and ~~examined~~ during the months of July and August, whenever the writer had an opportunity, same were examined and read, and all names appearing therein were copied and are being preserved in agent's notes in the New York office. None of the names appearing in these scrap books appear to have any connection with the instant case, each name having been checked against the index in the Lindbergh case.

The principal lists of names obtained from these scrap books are as follows:

List of prize students of P.S. 32 where Condon was Principal in 1899.

Students of the Class of 1900 at P. S. 32 where Condon was Principal

Grammar School Baseball Team of P.S. #89 of which John F. Condon was Captain about the year 1880.

A list of athletes with whom Dr. Condon completed in grammar school and high school around the year 1880.

Violin class taught by Dr. Condon when Principal of P.S. #12 around the year 1890 or 1900.

Personnel of the baseball team on which Condon played in the year 1898.  
A list of all names appearing on calling cards in the scrap books.

List of names of graduating pupils from P. S. 39, year not given.

Names of students who graduated from Evening School, #39, of which Condon was Principal year not given.

List of teachers from P. S. 39, year not given.

List of all persons who played baseball with Dr. Condon on amateur teams, both independent teams and school teams, in various years, prior to the year 1900.

From indications in the scrap books, some of Dr. Condon's early associates and friends who are now persons of prominence are the following:

Samuel McMillan - Pres. of the Park Board of N. Y. C.

Secretary Leary of the Park Board.

Anthony Stumpf - owner of the "North Side News".

- Congressman Ward
- Superintendent Parsons of the Park Comm.
- Louis F. Haffen, prominent New Yorker
- Fire Marshal Jas. Mitchel.

A further examination of the scrap books indicates that Condon had a penchant for writing poems on patriotic subjects. Numerous newspaper items contained in the scrap books showed that these poems were written by Condon beginning about the year 1880 and continuing on through his life, most of them being published in the "North Side News" and the "Bronx Home News", both Bronx newspapers. The names of a few of these poems are given below, to show the trend of Dr. Condon's mind and also to show that his manifestations of patriotism in regard to the Lindbergh case are not new, but were a life long trend. The names of the poems follow:

- The Martyrs Who Died on the Main
- The Civil War in Verse
- The Scholar's Paradise
- General U. S. Grant
- The Sons of Veterans
- Little Jim's Christmas
- Abraham Lincoln
- Lady Washington
- Louis F. Haffen Campaign Song
- A Monody on Nathan Hale
- Her Decoration Day
- When Grant Shook Hands with Lee

Also in the scrap books were many commendatory and laudatory articles about Condon in connection with his athletic ability and praise for his work as a teacher and principal of various grammar schools throughout the Bronx, over a period of 40 years. The articles are too numerous to quote herein. However, the following taken from the New York Evening Sun and the Bronx Home News, in the year 1900, exact dates not indicated, are examples of the type of article in question:

"Mr. John F. Condon of Morrisania has a record as a citizen, a teacher, and as an athlete that any man might be proud of. By dint of hard saving and self denial, he has succeeded in paying off a mortgage of \$1000. on his father's property. He neither smokes, chews, nor drinks intoxicating liquors, is a regular church attendant and a most devoted and faithful son and brother. Naturally his arduous duties as a teacher and the close confinement attendant thereon has induced him to turn his attention to athletic enterprises, and being endowed with a strong and sturdy constitution he has placed himself in the foremost ranks in the athletic world".

Then follows a record of the Doctor's achievements in athletics over a number of years, an examination of which shows that he has excelled in nearly

From 1882 to 1884 Dr. Condon was employed by the Western Union Telegraph Co. as an entry clerk and a change operator, which position he resigned in order to teach school.

"Among the many teachers in the contest there is not one who takes a greater interest in public school boys than does Mr. John F. Condon. He includes physical with mental education, and many a mother who sent a delicate boy to him has noted the boy's steady improvement in mind and body. Many college athletes have been trained by Mr. Condon while they were members of his class, naming them - Kelly of Princeton; Goff and Craft of City College of New York; Monks, Ray and Michel of Yale; Cobb and Bedford of Princeton.

In the recent examination for principals, Mr. Condon stood among the highest, and it is said he has few superiors in the system in rhetoric and logic. He is the author of "The Civil War in Verse", a system of mnemonics to pupils, an epic poem and he has about 100 short methods in arithmetic copyrighted. His greatest pride is his Congressional medal for life saving, with five lives to his credit saved from drowning. He has taught in P. S. #68, where he put 140 boys in college in five years, and in P. S. 89, where he held the football championship for 7 years. In more than 12 years he has not lost a single night or day from teaching. As a disciplinarian, he has not reported or discharged a single boy for ~~his~~ disorder from class since he has been teaching.

When he graduated from high school, he took the highest honors and wrote the valedictory for the class of #77. He entered New York College ~~and~~ the same year and was graduated in 1882, having been one of the most popular students to have finished there since the foundation of the college. He passed the teachers examination in 1883, and was appointed principal of P.S. #68 on January 8, 1884, where his success in teaching the college class brought pupils from all quarters to him for instruction. He has written for magazines, papers, etc."

Another article found in the scrap books which might possibly be of interest in connection with the instant case is quoted below. Same bears a pencil notation that it came from a New York newspaper in the year 1900, but the name of the paper and the date are not given:

"A novel interesting game of baseball has been started in the vicinity of 193rd Street. In order to get the boys in shape for the season, John F. Condon has originated a game which bids fair to become a permanent pastime for young workmen and school boys, who can only play about 1/2 hour daily. Having ascertained the number of all ~~the~~ houses under course of erection in the vicinity, he took the names of all the mechanics who desired to play baseball and summoned them to play the school nine. The mechanics nine, consisting of plumbers, carpenters, masons and bricklayers, were allowed to go to bat and to continue batting to 1 P. M., regardless of the number who were put out."

The scrap books show that Dr. Condon spent five or six years as player or manager of a baseball team, called the Suburban Club, which had a club house on the corner of Park Avenue and 176th Street, in the Bronx, and played most of its games at Crotona Park, at East Tremont and Arthur Avenues. The team traveled quite a bit playing games at Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Little Falls, N. J., and at various fields throughout the Bronx. Condon also played for many years with a Bronx baseball team called the Emeralds, which likewise traveled around throughout New York State.

According to newspaper articles appearing in the scrap books, Dr. Condon received numerous medals and awards for his athletic achievements and for lifesaving. These are listed as follows:

In 1886 Dr. Condon received a Congressional medal of honor for saving the life of Henry Schaeffer, who fell through the ice at Zeltner's Lake, Bronx. This medal was awarded Dr. Condon by an Act of Congress under date of June 20, 1894. The medal is inscribed 'In testimony of heroic deeds in saving life from the perils of the sea - to John F. Condon for rescuing a boy from drowning, February, 1886.'

In 1888 Dr. Condon received a pair of silver ice skates from the City of New York for saving the life of an unnamed person who fell through the ice in the 110th St. lake, Central Park, New York City. Commissioner of Education DeBevoise presented the award to Dr. Condon.

In March, 1934, Dr. Condon received a testimonial from a Bronx theatre for preventing a panic during a theatre fire. It appeared that hundreds of people were in the theatre when fire broke out, and everyone rushed madly for the exits. Dr. Condon stood up on a seat and reasoned with the people and restored quiet.

About 1900 Dr. Condon saved a boy from drowning in Crotona Lake, New York City, for which he received public praise in all the newspapers. The boy was Walter Hoy, age 9, who was skating in Crotona Park. Dr. Condon obtained a pole and put it under the boy's arms.

Other medals won by Dr. Condon were the James Godwin medal for being the best all-round athlete in New York College; the "autographed flag" of the American Athletic Club, all-around championship athlete; sixty gold medals for various athletic contests; Byrnes medal for being champion sprinter of New York.

About --- The Bronx Home News carried the following article:

"Young Joe Condon's Bravery -

There was great excitement at Lake Teednyiskung Tuesday of last week over the upsetting of a canoe. In the boat were Jessie, Lloyd and Ward Brown, sons and daughter of Mrs. P. Brown of Brooklyn. There were no swimmers in the party and the entire trio was in danger of drowning. Had it not been for the timely action of Mr. Joseph Condon of Morrisania, who notwithstanding the fact he was heavily encumbered with clothing, swam to the rescue and succeeded in keeping the bronws above water until Dr. Tanner Hawley rendered able assistance, there would undoubtedly have been loss of life. It is needless to say that the heroic New Yorker won the gratitude of Mrs. Brown and a just measure of praise from all the witnesses of his brave act."

"At Staten Island Mr. John F. Condon jumped from Doyle's Pier and saved a boy after he sank beneath the surface for the third time. This is the fourth life he has saved."

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Gold watch presented to John F. Condon by the baseball friends of the Bronx World, September 25, 1902, presented by Commissioner Henry Bruckner.

In 1903 Condon saved the life of David Lickefberg, age 19, at Van Cortlandt Lake, when he broke through the ice.

Further, from these scrap books, the following facts concerning Condon's life were learned:

Condon graduated from Public School 61, Third Avenue and 169th Street, the Bronx, in the year 1877, and was valedictorian of his class. He completed the classical course in New York College in the year 1882, without losing a day from school in five years. He received an A. B. degree from St. John's College, but the year of graduation is not given. He also received the following degrees, from various colleges:

City College of New York	--	A. B. Degree Year 1882
Fordham University	--	M. A. Degree Year 1902
New York University	--	Dr. of Pedagogy Year 1904

Dr. Condon lived at the following addresses during the early period of his life, but the years are not given:

882 East 169th Street, Bronx, N. Y.

96th Street and Central Park West, New York City.

Washington Avenue and 170th St., Bronx, N. Y.

110th Street and Washington Avenue, New York City.

Dr. Condon began teaching in the year 1884 in Public School #61, in the Bronx. Thereafter, he taught at the following schools:

Grammar School #89, where he remained until March 7, ~~1892~~ 1892.

Grammar School #93, First Assistant Principal, from 1892 to ----

Principal of P.S. 95, from year 1900 for several years.

As First Assistant Principal of Grammar School #93 for several years.

Teacher at Grammar School #68, 128th Street and Sixth Avenue, for several years.

Principal for 30 years at P.S. #12 corner of Frisbee Avenue and Overing St., Westchester Square, Bronx.

Was also member and director of Edwin Gould Foundation during same period.

Teacher at P.S. 61, Bronx, in year 1884.

Teacher at Melrose Evening School for 5 years, exact period not known but subsequent to 1905.

Teacher for eight years in Harlem Evening High School, exact period not known, but subsequent to 1905.

Teacher for five years at P.S. #39, 235 East 125th Street, New York City, and Principal of Evening School at P.S. 39 for several years.

Principal of P.S. 32, exact period not known.

Vice Principal of P.S. #62, 159th Street and Third Avenue, Bronx, for several

years, exact period not known.

Teacher for 14 years in night school at Morris High School, 165th Street and Boston Road, Bronx, from 1913 to 1927.

Teacher for three years at Mt. Ursula Normal School for Catholic Sisters, corner Bainbridge Avenue and Bedford Park Blvd., Bronx, from 1918 to 1921.

Teacher for 20 years at College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, N. Y., which is a Catholic college for girls, from year 1911 to 1932.

Lecturer at Fordham University for 3 years, from 1930 through year 1932.

According to an early newspaper clipping, Dr. Condon took the New York City examination for principal and passed the examination with the highest mark of the several hundred who took the examination. The World Telegram, in an article prior to 1900, exact date not given, had the following to say about this achievement: "It is said that he (Dr. Condon) has few superiors in the system in rhetoric and logic. He has 100 short methods in arithmetic copyrighted. In more than 12 years teaching, both day and night, he has not lost a day or night from teaching. As a disciplinarian, he has not reported or discharged a single boy for disorder in class."

During his baseball days, newspaper items indicate that Dr. Condon was voted the best all around baseball player in the Bronx, both when he attended high school and college, and later when he played on independent teams. He was known as the "Tremont Peach". The papers wrote him up as the best ballplayer since Ty Cobb. After becoming older, Dr. Condon umpired many games in the Bronx, and earned the title, "Old American Eagle Eye" and was offered a position as umpire at the Polo Grounds, but refused it in view of his teaching profession.

Prior to the year 1900, Dr. Condon married Myra J. Brown of Harlem, his present wife, who was also a school teacher. Dr. Condon's oldest son Joseph Condon, attended Fordham University, where he distinguished himself as a baseball player.