

City, Pac. Hld.

Lighthouse

Is Fired On

JUL 9 1945

The powerful revolving light at the Pt. Pinos lighthouse in Pacific Grove narrowly escaped demolation early this morning when two mysterious shots were fired at the light from an automobile cruising nearby. One shot crashed through the one-inch glass lantern which surrounds the light as a protection.

Had not the bullet been deflected by the heavy glass, the light itself would have been struck and the lens shattered, as it was on a direct line with the bullet hole, authorities investigating the incident said.

TWO ON DUTY

The mystery shooting occurred at 3:30 a.m., one shot being fired from approximately 500 yards away and the second from Asilomar boulevard about 250 yards distant.

On duty at the time were Sidney E. Cheshire, coast guard lookout in the lighthouse proper, and Clifton O. Stafford, coast guard radio operator, who was in the radio station nearby. The first shot was heard by Cheshire who reported the incident by telephone to Stafford, the second shot occurring while the pair were conversing.

CAR SEEN

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It was the second shot which struck the glass lantern surrounding the light. The hole made by the bullet was approximately three inches in diameter and the surrounding glass was shattered for a considerable area. The gun was estimated to have been a high powered weapon such as a 30-30 rifle judging by the size of the bullet hole and the sound made by the shot.

The coast guardsmen on duty saw the car from which the shots were fired but were unable to obtain any identification due to the darkness.

The incident was investigated by the Pacific Grove police who were summoned to the scene at once, then later by Lieutenant Commander H. F. Burnham, coast guard captain of the port of Monterey, Deputy Sheriff Eugene Trenner, and F.B.I. representatives.

Commander Burnham was inclined to attribute the shooting to drunks or mischief makers, rather than a deliberate plot to destroy the light.