

# **Soup Poisoner Believed Under Arrest**

JEAN CRONES, NOTORIOUS CHEF, WHOM OFFICIALS THINK, IS  
NOW UNDER ARREST.





# *Anarquismo y sopa de pollo*

*La historia detrás del intento de envenenamiento anarquista de 1916*

**Rodolfo Montes de Oca**

# JEAN CRONES, IN NUN'S GARB, IS SEEN HERE

Alleged Chicago Poisoner and  
Anarchist Traced to Turtle  
Creek Strike Zone.

WESTERN SLEUTHS COME

Having every confidence that they will succeed in capturing Jean Crones, the Chicago chef, who is said to have attempted the lives of Archbishop Mundelein and hundreds of guests at a banquet in the University Club in that city last February, two Chicago detectives and Deputy Sheriff Frank Morgan are combing the strike region of the

JEAN CRONES, Chicago poisoner, who was seen in Pittsburgh dressed in the garb of a nun.



*“Querido jefe de policía: Veo que todavía estás detrás de mí. Por qué no vienes por mí. Quizás te pueda dar un poco de sopa. Algo ocurrirá pronto. Como deseo tener algún viejo arzobispo o juez para darle la sopa. Próximamente tendré un arzobispo de invitado. Mira mi huella, siempre vuelvo a nacer, quizás cuando vengas a buscarme te haga volar conmigo”*

**-Jean Crones-**

Durante las pasadas navidades y a través de un comunicado, el proyecto “Némesis Verde” de la Federación Anarquista Informal (FAI/FRI) informo que desde el 22 de diciembre hasta el 05 de enero envenenaría productos de trasnacionales Nestlé, Coca-Cola, Unilever y la griega Delta<sup>1</sup> con lejía (sales de cloro) y ácido clorhídrico<sup>2</sup>; repitiendo la tentativa emprendida por esa organización en el 2013<sup>3</sup>. Estas acciones y a miles de kilómetros de Grecia, tuvieron su antecedente hace un centenio, con un trabajador italiano que emigro de Colonia (Alemania) a la Gran Manzana y cuyo nombre todavía retumba en los oídos policíacos.

El 12 de febrero de 1916, en el comedor del Club Universitario de Chicago (EE.UU) y aprovechando el natalicio del expresidentes Abraham Lincoln, se celebró un banquete en honor

<sup>1</sup> Un grupo anarquista amenaza con envenenar alimentos. Web: <http://www.revistainforetail.com/noticiadet/un-grupo-anarquista-amenaza-con-envenenar-alimentos/17e97b5d349c857ccbb1bb4481646278>

<sup>2</sup> Un grupo terrorista amenaza con envenenar las Navidades de todo un país. Web: [http://www.playgroundmag.net/food/terrorista-saboteando-Navidades-envenenando-comida\\_0\\_1888611128.html](http://www.playgroundmag.net/food/terrorista-saboteando-Navidades-envenenando-comida_0_1888611128.html)

<sup>3</sup> Grupo anarquista griego envenena refrescos en protesta contra las multinacionales. Web: <https://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/view/115275-veneno-coca-cola-nestea-grecia>

al arzobispo de la ciudad, George Mundelein (1872-1939), al cual asistieron trescientos invitados, entre ellos sacerdotes católicos, banqueros, el gobernador de Illinois, Edward F. Dunne, Charles Deneen y el ex alcalde de la ciudad, Carter Harrison Jr.

Mundelein nació en un vecindario de inmigrantes pobres de la clase obrera, el Lower East Side de Manhattan, en 1872 y creció en albergues y viviendas de expatriados. Hijo de un padre alemán y de una madre irlandesa, su doble herencia étnica fue la principal razón para que en 1915, el joven obispo de Brooklyn fuese elegido para dirigir la archidiócesis de Chicago, ciudad industrial llena de diversidad y conflictos étnicos, incluso entre católicos. A la edad de 43 años, Mundelein era el arzobispo americano más joven de su tiempo. A lo largo de los años, el jefe de los católicos en Chicago resultó ser una importante voz del reformismo obrero, aliado del *New Deal* de Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945).

Durante la velada, el plato principal del encuentro fue una sopa elaborada entre otros, por un joven ayudante de cocina proveniente de New York llamado Jean Crones, el cual aprovechando el descuido del chef, vertió arsénico en las ollas donde se cocinaba el plato principal. Al momento de empezar a comer, un número indeterminado de comensales empezó a vomitar y sufrir malestares físicos, con lo cual ante la algarabía, el envenenador se dio a la fuga sin concretar su proyecto.

Hay 03 teorías que tratan de explicar las razones del fracaso, la primera de ella es que al haber más asistentes (16 invitados inesperados), el arsénico se diluyó, la segunda es que otro cocinero pensó que la sopa de Crones se había dañado vertiendo en el excusado las calderas envenenados; y la tercera es que un médico, al ver los primeros síntomas acudió a la cocina a preparar un emético de mostaza que dio a los afectados.<sup>4</sup> Casualmente las tres explicaciones contribuyeron a que el atentado no tuviese una víctima fatal.

Jean Crones, al cual la prensa bautizó como el “sopero anarquista”, según el historiador Paul Avrich (1931-2006) es el seudónimo usado por el italiano Nestor Dondoglio, cercano a los círculos ilegalistas partidarios de la acción directa de Luigi Galleani (1861-1931); poco se sabe de su vida, se cree que al momento del ataque era un veinteañero<sup>5</sup> que había trabajado anteriormente como cocinero en el Hotel Binghamton de la gran manzana<sup>6</sup>. Cuando su habitación de South Side fue allanada por la policía, se consiguió una biblioteca con literatura libertaria, un laboratorio y una serie de cartas donde se adjudicaba el acto.

Lo que siguió a continuación fue una parodia de persecución policial, la declaración de responsabilidad produjo una serie de cartas enviadas a comisarías<sup>7</sup> y periódicos en diferentes ciudades y pueblos de la extensa geografía norteamericana. Durante 07 años una seguidilla de comunicados fueron enviados a diferentes órganos de difusión amenazando a la policía; y como suele ocurrir en estos casos, más de un “buen ciudadano” lo vio caminando en la penumbra de la noche o incluso vestido de monja<sup>8</sup>.

Un mes después de los hechos, el nivel de pavor era tan grande que durante la celebración del Día de San Patricio, los católicos de Chicago del *Irish Fellowship Club*, contrataron a un catador de comida oficial para su banquete anual. Sin mencionar las noticias sensacionalistas que hablaban de su inminente captura<sup>9</sup>, cartas de suicidio<sup>10</sup> o los mensajes amenazantes que aparecieron en baños de restaurantes<sup>11</sup>.

No obstante, la acción del anarquista generó polémica en sus afines, Alexander Berkman (1870-1936) desde las páginas *The Blast* se opuso a la existencia de Crones, afirmando que era

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<sup>4</sup> A century ago today, an anarchist tried to kill Chicago's archbishop with soup. Chicago Tribune, 10 de febrero de 2016. Extraído de la Web: < <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-poison-soup-anniversary-met-20160209-story.html>>

<sup>5</sup> Boats of poison Plot, threatens death in letters. The New York Time, 17 de febrero de 1916.

<sup>6</sup> Jean Crones, poisoner. Scranton Republican, 21 de febrero de 1916.

<sup>7</sup> Jean Crones turns up in Fayetteville? Wilmington Morning Star, 26 de febrero de 1916.

<sup>8</sup> Jean Crones becomes a nun. Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 15 de mayo de 1916.

<sup>9</sup> Poisoner's arrest near. Chicago Daily Tribune, 14 de febrero de 1916.

<sup>10</sup> Jean Crones now located at bottom of the lake. Chicago Daily Tribune, 14 de mayo de 1916.

<sup>11</sup> Jean Crones at Waukesha? Handwriting on wall. Chicago Daily Tribune, 23 de julio de 1916.

“un viejo truco de la policía de Chicago”<sup>12</sup> para atacar a los círculos libertarios y radicales; otros sin ningún argumento especularon de su amistad con la viuda del regicida Gaetano Bresci (1869-1901)<sup>13</sup>. Mientras que Ben Reitman (1879-1943), el celebre “Dr. hobo” supuestamente lo entrevistó, al cual el cocinero le confió el *leitmotiv* de su acción:

“Yo te diré por que, la iglesia católica esta en contra de la ciencia y la clase trabajadora. El prelado mantiene a la gente pobre en la ignorancia. En Italia y España, los trabajadores no tienen ninguna educación y ellos son responsables de ello. Los ricos que asistieron al banquete eran inescrupulosos agentes del capitalismo, que apuñalan y oprimen al pobre; eran gordos que babeaban vino sobre sus platos de siete dólares. Ellos son enemigos malditos del proletariado. La iglesia, los políticos, el ejercito, la policía, los empresarios- todos ellos presentes en el banquete-se merecían ese castigo, incluso la muerte, hay que asustarlos como yo lo hice.”<sup>14</sup>

Esta supuesta infidencia de Crones a Reitman le valió varios interrogatorios policiales, al igual que el periplo judicial que tuvo que afrontar el vecino de habitación y compañero de ideas, John Allegrini, el cual fue encarcelado y procesado por asistir junto al prófugo a una conferencia de Emma Goldam (1869-1940)<sup>15</sup>. Aunque existió una cacería humana para dar con Crones que comenzó con la puesta en escena de 400 policías y 150 detectives<sup>16</sup>, el alterego del anarquista nunca fue capturado, según Avrich, Dondoglio murió en 1934 en Connecticut, donde había recibido refugio de una familia de granjeros italianos sin ser capturado<sup>17</sup>; se desconoce las razones de su deceso.

El intento de envenenamiento masivo emprendido por Crones, es uno de los hechos históricos del anarquismo en Estados Unidos menos estudiado, las conexiones poco exploradas y el hecho de que su artífice no fue capturado; dejan un amargo sabor en el paladar de los historiadores oficiales. No existen libros ni documentales de Investigation Discovery, Natgeo o Discovery Channel que hablen sobre este caso. No obstante, parece que el espanto de Jean Crones suele resucitar cada cierto tiempo, incluso en lugares tan distantes como la región helénica.

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<sup>12</sup> BERKMAN, Alexander (2005). The Blast: complete collection of the incendiary San Francisco bi-monthly anarchist newspaper. AK Press. Oakland-Edimburg. p.61.

<sup>13</sup> MACLACHLAN, Colin. M (1991). Anarchism and the Mexican Revolution: The Political Trials of Ricardo Flores Magón. University of California Press. p.68.

<sup>14</sup> BRUNS, Roger A (1987). The damndest radical: the life and world of Ben Reitman, Chicago's celebrated social reformer, hobo king, and whorehouse psysician. University of Illinois Press. p.158.

<sup>15</sup> JO DEEGAN, Mary (2012). Self, War and Society: George Herbert Mead's macrosociology. Transaction Publisher.p.42.

<sup>16</sup> PACYGA, Dominic (2009). A biography: Chicago. The University of Chicago Press.p.196

<sup>17</sup> AVRICH, Paul (1991). Sacco and Vanzetti, the anarchist background. Princenton University Press. New Jersey. p.215.



*Cocina del club universitario donde ocurrió la ataque de Jean Crones  
(Foto del Library of Congress/Chicago Daily News)*



*El Comisionado de Salud de la ciudad de Chicago, el Dr. John Robertson analiza el componentes  
químico encontrados en la habitación de Jean Crones, ubicado en la calle 22 con Avenida Prairie  
cerca del área comunitaria del South Side de la ciudad.  
(Foto del Chicago Daily News)*



*Carta encontrada en la habitación de Jean Crones donde asume el ataque con arsénico  
(Foto del Chicago Daily News)*



*Tarjeta de presentación usada por Nestor Dondoglio para hacerse pasar por Jean Crones,  
obsérvese en la imagen y escrito a pulso las palabras entrega general y posiblemente clepe (que  
significa llamar o nombrar) o chef (mal escrito como chefe)  
(Foto del Chicago Daily News)*



*Foto donde aparece de Joseph Roussell, el dueño de un salón frecuentado por el anarquista Jean Crone, de pie entre los detectives Otten y Sullivan, con un hombre no identificado en Chicago (Foto del Chicago Daily News)*



*Foto del izquierda a derecha, el arzobispo Mannix de Australia y George Mundelein en 1920 en Chicago (Foto del Chicago Daily News)*

# 100 POISONED AT BANQUET

GARRISON QUITS THE CABINET; BREAKS WITH WILSON ON DEFENSE.

POISONER PLANNED DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP MUNDELEIN AT BANQUET, POLICE THEORY.

**POISONER PLANNED DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP MUNDELEIN AT BANQUET, POLICE THEORY.**

Police today announced that they believe they have identified the man who planned the poisoning of Archbishop Mundelein at a banquet in New York City. The police say that the man, who is now in custody, was the one who prepared the soup that was served at the banquet and which caused the poisoning.

The police also say that they believe the man was acting in concert with a group of anarchists who were planning to assassinate the archbishop. The police say that they have evidence to believe that the man was the one who prepared the soup and that he was the one who served it to the archbishop.

The police say that they have also identified the man who was the one who was the first to be poisoned. The police say that they have evidence to believe that the man was the one who was the first to be poisoned and that he was the one who was the first to die.

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## PLOTTER POISONS SOUP AT BANQUET

### POISONER'S ARREST NEAR



**THE "DESTROYERS" ARE ANARCHISTS WHO HATE ALL CHURCHES**

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## HUGE BOMB PLOT EXPOSED

**BOASTS OF POISON PLOT, THREATENS DEATHS IN LETTER**

Police today announced that they have exposed a huge bomb plot. The police say that they have evidence to believe that a group of anarchists were planning to assassinate the president of the United States and the vice president. The police say that they have also evidence to believe that the group was planning to assassinate the archbishop of Chicago.

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Last Photograph of Poison Chef



POISON CHIEF

## PLANNING A BOMB



CRONES PLANTS POLICE IN SECOND LETTER TO TIMES

## POLICE CONFUSED IN SEARCH FOR CRONES

**CRONES BIDS ADIEU TO NEW YORK POLICE**

Police today announced that they are confused in their search for Jean Crones. The police say that they have evidence to believe that Crones was the one who was the first to be poisoned. The police say that they have also evidence to believe that Crones was the one who was the first to die.

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## JEAN CRONES SUSPECT

**FIELD NEAR BINGHAMTON**

Police today announced that they are searching for Jean Crones in the field near Binghamton. The police say that they have evidence to believe that Crones was the one who was the first to be poisoned. The police say that they have also evidence to believe that Crones was the one who was the first to die.

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## LATEST CRONES STORY, AS USUAL, NETS GOOSE EGG

**CRONES ON SEA, WORD TO POLICE**

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