

# Family Killed at Crossing Near Florin



MONDAY, JULY 28, 1941

MR. AND MRS. PAUL K. NISSLEY FRANCIS EDWARD NISSLEY JOAN ELAINE NISSLEY

Mrs. Nissley is survived by her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. David Cole, Preston, Md.; sisters, Mrs. May Gates, of Delaware; Rachael Cole, of Preston, Md.; brothers, Eldridge, Dewey, Willard, Rollo, Morris, and William Cole, all of Preston, Md.

An inquest in the deaths will be held Thursday afternoon at 10 o'clock in the Mount Joy fire hall. The four were killed at a crossing over the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks while returning from a family reunion near Florin.

There are only "stop-look-and-listen" signs at the crossing. Two men from Marietta were killed at the same place on February 20.

**NISSLEY**—Entered into rest in East Donegal Twp. on July 26, 1941, Paul K. Nissley, in his 28th year; Mary Cole Nissley, his wife, in her 29th year; Francis Edwin, their son, in his fourth year; Joan Elaine, their daughter, in her first year. The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral without further notice from The Crossroads Brethren in Christ church, Florin, Tuesday at 9:30 a. m. (ST) with interment in adjoining cemetery. Friends may call at the Nissley Funeral Home, 228 E. Main st., Mt. Joy, Monday from 7 to 9 p. m.

## 1000 AT FUNERAL FOR FAMILY OF 4

### Florin Church Crowded For Services; All Buried in One Grave.

Funeral services were held this morning for the four members of one family who were killed when their auto was hit by a train at Welfley's crossing near Florin, Saturday night.

Almost 1,000 relatives, neighbors, and friends of the late Mr. and Mrs. Paul K. Nissley, and son and daughter, Francis Edward and Joan Elaine, of Landis Valley, crowded into the little Crossroads Brethren in Christ church, Florin, for the services.

As the church chorus sang "Abide With Me," two caskets, one containing the body of the mother, and the other holding those of the father and his two children, were carried into the church.

#### 3 Ministers At Service

Rev. Wilfred I. Brown, of Lancaster, delivered the funeral sermon. Rev. Abner Martin, of Elizabethtown, and Rev. Irwin W. Musser, Florin, assisted at the services.

Huge floral pieces decorated the grave. The caskets were interred in a specially-constructed grave.

Only the body of the mother was viewed at the church. The casket of the others was not opened.

#### Police On Duty

Brief ceremonies were held for the immediate family at the Nissley Funeral Home, Mount Joy, prior to the service at the church. A highway patrolman was on duty to handle the extra traffic, and the funeral procession had a police escort.

Francis, the four-year-old son was killed on his birthday and Mrs. Nissley had celebrated her birthday the day before. The father was

28 years old and the baby girl eight months old.

Nissley is survived by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. David Nissley, Roaring Springs, Pa.; sisters, Mrs. Naomi Sil, Ruth Nissley, both of Bremerton, Wash., Mrs. Paul Graybill, Altoona; brothers, Marvin K. Nissley, Florin; Nathan K. Nissley, Bremerton, Wash.; and Benjamin K. Nissley, Lancaster.

The Nissley family was on the way home after attending a family gathering in honor of Mrs. Benjamin Nissley, who lives at the home of Elias Musser, a mile south of Florin. Seventy-six direct descendants of Mrs. Nissley and their families attended the reunion.

The Nissleys were traveling north on the Marietta road when their car was struck broadside by a double-engine passenger train, enroute to Harrisburg. W. P. Cresswell, engineer, told the county coroner he saw the auto approaching the crossing and blew his whistle, but the car came on. The train was traveling at about 70 miles an hour at the time, he said. The crossing has visibility for approximately 1,000 yards, according to Motor Police, and is protected by "stop-look-and-listen" signs.

#### Thousands Drawn To Scene

A wreck car from a Rheems garage was summoned to pull the coupe from the engine. The cowcatcher was damaged and had to be repaired before the train could proceed. Traffic in the vicinity was jammed for more than four hours after the crash and thousands of persons lined along the tracks to see the wreckage.

Roy Heisey, Rheems gang fore-

man on the railroad, was credited with preventing another catastrophe when he flagged a flier that might have plowed into the crowd watching the removal of the wrecked auto. Heisey noticed a light in the distance, seized a lantern and brought to a halt the "Broadway Limited," enroute to Harrisburg.

Authorities revealed today that

Nissley's pocketbook was not found. It probably contained his pay check which he had received shortly before leaving for Florin on Saturday afternoon.

Besides his father, Nissley is survived by his mother, Mary Alice Kanode Nissley, and the following brothers and sisters: Marcus K., of Florin; Naomi, wife of Leonard Sill; her twin sister, Ruth, and Nathan K., all of Bremerton, Wash.; Benjamin K., 110 Ruby street, this city, and Mary, wife of Paul Graybill, Altoona.

Rev. David J. W. Noll, head of the local ~~Ministerium~~, gave a report of the religious program to be held in the Legion park, Sunday, July 24, as a closing feature.

# NISSLEY RITES TOMORROW

## Single Grave For 4 Victims of Train; Inquest Thursday.

### CROSSING "MAY BE CLOSED" WHEN BRIDGE IS BUILT

The crossing where the Nissley family died Saturday evening "may be closed" when the proposed bridge is built at Florin by the State Highway Department, but it is not one of the crossings definitely scheduled to be eliminated by the bridge.

The bridge, already approved by the Public Utility Commission, would eliminate crossings at Market and Plum streets, and at Chocolate avenue, Florin.

The crossing where six have died in the last six months—the four Nissleys and two Marietta men—is on the road from Marietta to Milton Grove and is known in Florin as the Welfley Crossing.

During the bridge survey, engineers had suggested that this crossing could be closed and traffic diverted to the new bridge, but no definite decision ever was reached, according to the Highway Department.

Funeral services for the family of four killed by a train Saturday evening will be held at the Crossroad Brethren in Christ Church near Florin at 9:30 A. M. (ST) tomorrow, with interment in a single grave in the adjoining cemetery.

The dead were:

Paul K. Nissley, twenty-seven, a carpenter, of Landis Valley, Lancaster R. D. 3; his wife, Mary Cole Nissley, twenty-eight, and their children Francis Edward, four and Joan Elaine, eight months.

All died almost instantly when their car was struck by a fast Pennsylvania Railroad train at Welfley's Crossing, a half mile west of Florin, at 8:10 P. M. Saturday.

#### Inquest Thursday

An inquest will be held Thursday at 1 P. M. in the Mt. Joy Fire Hall, with Dr. A. V. Walter, county coroner, and Dr. John M. Workman, Mt. Joy, deputy coroner, in charge.

The crossing was the scene of a double fatality February 20 when Charles William Zink and Ray Martin Shields, both of Marietta, were killed under similar circumstances.

The force of the impact smashed the Nissleys' light coupe into the cowcatcher of the locomotive where it was held until the train was stopped about a mile beyond the crossing. Mrs. Nissley and Francis were removed from the wreckage and conveyed to hospitals, where both were pronounced dead on arrival.

The body of the infant was found, its head partially severed, lying near the Florin underpass. The torso of the father, badly mutilated, was

found along the track about 600 yards from the point of impact. The head became lodged under a dining car of the train and was carried to Pittsburgh before it was discovered.

#### Identified By Man's Father

Three hours after the accident, the victims were identified by Nissley's father, David M. Nissley, of Roaring Springs R. D. 1, Blair county. He was taken to the Crippled Children's Hospital at Elizabethtown to view the body of his daughter-in-law. Francis was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, where she also was pronounced dead on arrival.