

TRAIN HITS CAR

THE SUNDAY NEWS—SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1941

Auto Carried Mile After Crash West Of Florin

Paul K. Nissley, Lancaster Route 3, Wife and Two Children Were Returning From Family Reunion—Man's Head and Legs Amputated

Four members of one family—father, mother, brother and sister—were killed when their automobile was struck by a fast Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train at Welfley's crossing, one-half mile west of Florin, at about 7:10 p. m. Saturday.

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

After attending the Musser family reunion held on the farm of Elias Musser, one mile south of the scene of the fatality, the group was enroute to their home when their light coupe was struck broadside by train number 633, known as the "Susquehanna," enroute from Philadelphia to Williamsport.

The Mussers had been traveling north on the Marietta road and were on the north track of the grade crossing when they were struck. The crossing, according to State Motor Police and railroad authorities, is marked by the standard "stop, look and listen" sign.

Car Straddled Tracks

Members of the train crew told authorities that when the train was halted the machine was straddled across the tracks and the entire right side was pushed in. They summoned a tow truck and after attaching a hoist the wreckage was removed from the tracks.

Engineer Blew Whistle

Dr. A. V. Walter, of this city, county coroner, who was also at the scene, said that the engineer told him that he saw the automobile approaching the crossing and he blew his whistle, but the car came on.

Dr. Walter, Dr. Workman, State Motor Police and railroad authorities, will continue their investigations today as it is said that there

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were several eye-witnesses to the crash but they could not be located late Saturday night.

Railroad authorities said that the only damage they could observe on the engine was a broken cow-catcher. However, a railing on a bridge at the first underpass on the old Harrisburg pike was broken when struck by the wreckage.

Sergeant Owens, of the State Motor Police, who was in charge of the investigation assisted by Privates Minchoff and Klatt, said that the crossing where the fatality occurred has visibility for approximately 1000 yards.

Carried Nearly Mile

Following the crash, the auto was carried three-quarters of a mile before the train was brought to a halt. When the train crew investigated they found Mrs. Nissley still in the car but the other three members of the family were tossed out by the impact and strewn along the tracks.

Members of the train crew stopped a passing motorist to convey Mrs. Nissley to the Crippled Children's hospital at Elizabethtown while Lloyd Kurtz, of West Nottingham Academy, Colona, Md., another passing motorist, brought the boy to St. Joseph's hospital. Both the mother and son were pronounced dead upon their arrival at the two institutions.

Two Bodies Mangled

The bodies of the father and daughter were badly mangled and parts of them found lying along the road bed. The train apparently had run over the father as the torso was completely cut off from the head and legs. The girl was decapitated.

Positive identification of the bodies remained undisclosed for more than three hours until Nissley's father, David Nissley, of Roaring Springs, was taken to the Elizabethtown hospital by Dr. William M. Workman, of Mount Joy, deputy coroner, to view the body of the mother.

Crash Victims



MR. AND MRS. PAUL K. NISSLEY



FRANCIS EDWARD NISSLEY



JOAN ELAINE NISSLEY

Second Fatality

The crossing, the scene of another fatality on February 20 when Charles William Zink and Ray Martin Shields, both of Marietta, were instantly killed when their car was struck by a train, is now being surveyed by state and county officials for possible elimination when bridges are built in the borough.

The train crew composed of W. W. Cresswell, engineer, and V. R. Finnegan, conductor, both of Philadelphia, told authorities that the train was traveling at about seventy miles an hour in an area in which seventy-five miles an hour is permitted by railroad authorities.

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 scattered evidence of the wreckage.

FOUR IN FAMILY KILLED AS AUTO IS HIT BY TRAIN

An inquest will be held Tuesday in the deaths of four persons, comprising one family, killed when their automobile was struck by a Pennsylvania railroad train at Welfley's Crossing, a half mile west of Florin at 8:10 p. m. Saturday, according to Dr. A. V. Walter, county coroner Sunday night.

The dead were:

Paul K. Nissley, twenty-seven, a carpenter, of Lancaster R. D. 3, Landis Valley.

Mary Cole Nissley, twenty-eight, his wife.

Francis Edward Nissley, four, and Joan Elaine, eight months, their children.

The Nissley family, according to

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LANCASTER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEATHS

35

Since January 1, 1941
Same Date—1940—28

Paul's father, David M. Nissley, of Roaring Springs, R. D. 1, were enroute to their 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, a light coupe, was struck broadside by a double-engine passenger train, enroute to Harrisburg.

WRECKAGE CARRIED MILE

The force of the accident twisted the light coupe to a mass of wreckage, jamming in against the cow-catcher of the locomotive where it held until the train was stopped a mile away from the crossing.