

Elwood Call Leader

Monday, October 1, 1923

Elwood, Indiana

North Madison County

FIVE KILLED ON CROSSING

Elwood Beet Field Workers Victims of Crash East of Elwood Sunday Afternoon Two Injured in Hospital

The Ford automobile in which seven persons were riding was struck by an eastbound traction car at a crossing on the Range line Road three miles east of the city, a few minutes before 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, five of the party being instantly killed and two seriously injured.

News of the crash reached this city and ambulances moved the dead to the York morgue and the injured to the Hoppenrath Hospital. The dead are: Leon DeMeere, 54; Mrs. Leon DeMeere, 50; Aloysius DeFore, 43; Julius Lanno, 44; Jolliffe Koch, 55.

Injured were: Helen DeMeere, 9, head badly cut and body bruised; Mary DeMeere, 5, injured

about the head and body and limb broken.

Both of the children were brought to the hospital were thought to have been fatally injured. Reports today are to the fact that they are getting along well and prospects favorable to their recovery.

Dead Were Beet Workers

Leon DeMeere and family resided on the Mattingly farm, east of Tipton, and came from Moline, Illinois some months ago to work in the beet fields. DeFore and Lanno were beet workers employed on the Jerry Bannon farm northeast of the city. Koch was a German farmer who removed to a farm a mile south of the scene of the accident from Akron, Ohio last May. The men had become acquainted by working in the beet crop and Koch invited them to his home for supper Sunday evening. He had gone after them in his automobile and it is surmised that the occupants of the machine were so busily engaged in talking that

Koch drove on the track without noticing the approach of the car.

Thrown to Side of Track

The traction car struck the machine squarely, throwing it twenty feet down the track and hurling the occupants to the side of the track. The interurban hit the machine a second time, after the front trucks of the car had jumped the rails, running along on the ties for two hundred feet. Six trolley poles were torn down and traffic was delayed until a line car arrived from Tipton to make repairs.

Russell Hahn was conductor and George Horton motorman of the car. Both reside at Tipton. Motorman Horton was injured slightly and the passengers on the car received a shaking up but none were hurt.

Older Children Alive

Two older children of the DeMeere family, Josephine, 15 and John 12, had gone to Tipton to spend the afternoon and escaped the fate of the others. They were notified of the death of their par-

ents and came to Elwood last evening, being cared for by Father Biegel at St. Joseph's parish house. Father Biegel also visited the injured children at the hospital and provided a nurse to aid in caring for them.

Relatives Are Summoned

Telegrams were sent last evening to Mrs. Henry McPrays of Moline, Illinois, a sister of Leon DeMeere; to relatives of Lanno; who came from Rock Island, Illinois, and to a brother of DeFore at Moline. Relatives of the Koch family are said to be on their way from Akron, Ohio.

The bodies will be at the morgue until these relatives arrive or word is received from them regarding the disposition of the bodies. Coroner Helbert is expected to arrive this evening from Anderson and with Dr. L.A. Mott, deputy, will conduct an inquiry.

Neighbors Aid Family

Mrs. Jolliffe Koch and her four children were taken for an automobile ride by a neighbor Sunday

afternoon while her husband went after the guests for supper. She had just returned home when the news of the crossing tragedy was imparted.

Neighbors hurried to the home to render aid but were unable to successfully minister to the bereaved wife because of the fact she was unable to speak English. Charles C. Henze and Rev. Greenwalt went to the Koch home and acted in the capacity of interpreters.

Many Visit Scene

New of the accident spread rapidly and a short time afterward, all of the roads leading to the scene were filled with automobiles. Those who saw the remains of the wreck say that the automobile was smashed into bits.

There has also been a continuous stream of curious persons visiting the morgue today to look at the bodies of the five unfortunates there.

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