

## BALL PLAYER HURT IN CRASH NEAR NEW MADRID IS KILLED, PAL IN HOSPITAL

Wm. S. Wells, 23, an outfielder with a Springfield baseball team and resident of Ooltewoh, Tenn., had regained his memory, according to a report issued at the local Emergency hospital Thursday noon. Wells and a companion, Francis D. Gray, 27 years old, were involved in a collision between a Cotton Belt passenger train and a small car, one mile north of New Madrid on Highway 61 Wednesday afternoon. Gray was instantly killed, and Wells suffered possible fractures and temporary lapse of memory.

According to the Sikeston correspondent of The Standard, Wells was driving the Ford coupe at the time of the accident.

At the point where the accident occurred the railroad crosses the highway at an angle. The engineer said that he sounded a series of whistles as the train approached the crossing, but he said the car crashed into the locomotive as the two came to the crossing at the same time. The automobile was hurled several feet and caught fire.

Horace Stair, New Madrid youth, who was a witness to the accident and aided trainmen in pulling the bodies from the burning car, said neither the train nor car was making excessive speed.

According to what members of the train crew told officers, the attention of the driver of the car apparently could not be attracted by the warning whistles. An unobstructed view of the crossing is available for some distance on either side of the road, it is claimed.

Papers found on the body of Gray

aided in his identification, which was completed when authorities communicated by telephone with his wife. On his person was found about \$75 in cash and a check for \$93.33 from a Springfield baseball club. Gray's skull was fractured by a blow he suffered, causing instant death.

According to information learned by county authorities through communication with relatives of the men, they had completed a baseball season contract at Springfield, where Gray was a pitcher and Wells an outfielder and were enroute home when the accident occurred.

A coroner's jury impaneled by Justice George Knott returned a verdict that Gray came to his death from an accident resulting from his automobile crashing into the train.

The remains of Gray were removed Thursday to his home, in Rossville, Ga., a suburb of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Springfield, Mo., September 3.—Francis D. (Dick) Gray, 22, who was killed in an automobile accident near New Madrid, today, was a star pitcher with the local Western Association baseball team this year. The season closed Monday, and Gray, accompanied by other players, went to St. Louis yesterday to see a baseball game before returning to his home at Chattanooga, Tenn.

W. S. Wells, who was seriously injured in the accident, is an outfielder with the Springfield Club. His home is at Chattanooga.

Gray left here with Wells and friends here were unable to understand Wells' statement, after he had regained consciousness, saying that he picked Gray up on the highway.

## Dick\_Gray\_death\_details

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