

Auto Smashed By Pennsy Railroad Train

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four persons were killed Friday night in a car-train crash at Hamlet in Starke County, bringing the two-day death toll in Indiana traffic accidents to eight.

Killed in the Hamlet crash were: Victor Laux, 44; his wife, Amelia, 44; their son, Joseph 4, and Mrs. Laux's sister, Miss Leona Blum, 53, all of Hamlet.

Their car was demolished by a Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train at the Starke Street crossing in Hamlet.

Flashers Said Working

State police said flasher signals were working at the crossing and a conductor from a switch train was flagging down traffic with a lantern.

Officers said Laux drove up the tracks, stopped, then pulled on around the conductor and into the path of the east-bound train.

Laux died en route to the Starke County Hospital at Knox and the others were killed instantly.

Jerry Canada, 11, Avoca, was killed shortly before the weekend period officially began when his bicycle was struck by a car on Ind. 54 in Avoca, six miles northwest of Bedford.

Slams On Brakes

The driver, James Aliano Jr., 26, Rt. 2, Bedford, told police he was meeting an oncoming vehicle when he suddenly saw three youths riding bicycles in front of him. He said he slammed on his brakes, but his auto struck young Canada, who was riding behind the others.

Charles E. Merriman, 22, Mooresville, was killed early today when his car skidded on slippery Ind. 144 just west of Franklin and slammed into a tree.

A former Lafayette semi-pro and professional baseball player, Kent Sterling, 38, West Lafayette, died this morning from injuries suffered when his car slid off slippery U.S. 32 in Fowler and hit a utility pole.

Formerly Pitcher

Fowler police said Sterling apparently was speeding on a curve. He was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Lafayette where he died three hours later.

Sterling pitched for the old Lafayette Chiefs of the former Ohio Valley League.

Albert Jones, 70, Elwood, a retired night watchman, was killed Friday night by a hit-and-run driver. Police said neighbors found Jones lying in the street but no car was seen.

Roberto R. Obregon, 23, a soldier stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky., died Friday of injuries suffered in a two-car crash on Ind. 67, two miles north of Martinsville, Thursday. The driver of the other car, Junior McNeely, 28, Worthington, was injured and taken to the West 10th Street Veterans Hospital in Indianapolis.

Clipped By:



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