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AWFUL ACCIDENT--THREE KILLED

GREGORY'S BUS FILLED WITH PASSENGERS, SMASHED TO PIECES BY THE CHICAGO & ALTON HUMMER.

James Gregory, Transfer Agent; John Devere, of Kankakee, the Contractor; and Mrs F. W. Strickland, of Lowell, Indiana, Killed.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE HAD PROPER PROTECTION YEARS AGO.

Probably one of the most terrible accidents that ever occurred in Dwight happened last Saturday evening when the Alton Hummer struck the transfer bus of James Gregory at the Franklin street and Mazon avenue crossing, killing him and two other people instantly and injuring an equal number quite severely. Mr. Gregory had made his usual trip to the Chicago, Indiana & Southern depot to meet the west-bound passenger train and was on his way back. In the bus were Mrs. Nettie Strickland, wife of Frank Strickland of Lowell, Ind., and former resident of Chenoa; John Devere, the well known artificial stone contractor of Kankakee, and Mrs. Devere and their two children.

Mr. Gregory was hurrying his horses along with the idea of making connection with the car on the Bloomington, Pontiac & Joliet Electric road, as some of the occupants of the carriage wanted to go to Odell. As he approached the Franklin street and Mazon avenue crossing of the Alton he speeded his horses along still faster, so as to avoid any possibility of an accident while passing over the tracks. Whether he saw the approaching train and speeded his horses for that reason and misjudged the distance or whether he did not see the approaching train will never be known. Just as the horses were passing over the north-bound tracks the train hit the bus, striking it just under the seat of the driver, and smashed the entire top into a thousand pieces. Mrs. Strickland, who was in the front of the bus, and Mr. Gregory, who was driving, were both thrown directly in front of the train and were mangled almost beyond recognition. Mr. Gregory was carried for about 200 feet and it was necessary to back the train up to unfasten him from the trucks, where he was caught. Mr. Devere was thrown to one side of the track and when found was still alive. He was immediately taken to C. M. Baker & Son's store, but died a few minutes after. He was crushed about the head and body.

The two horses were thrown to one side and were killed almost instantly. The escape of Mrs. Devere and two children was a miracle. It was thought they were thrown out the rear door of the bus, which was probably opened when the train struck, and in this way avoided instant death. Mrs. Devere and two children were thrown clear of the tracks onto the parking near the crossing.

Within a few minutes after the accident scores of people from the nearby places rushed to the scene and removed Mrs. Devere and two children from the debris. Mrs. Devere was able to walk with assistance to the laboratory of the Leslie E. Keeley Co., where she and the two children were given medical attention. From there they were taken to the Livingston hotel. Mrs. Devere suffered severe pains in the back, indicating internal injuries, and along with the shock was in a critical condition. Francis, aged 6, was suffering from a serious scalp wound, and Roseland, aged 4, suffered with her left leg, which was injured near the hip.

The Hummer was running a few minutes late, and every power was being exerted to make up the time, consequently the train was making high speed as it reached the depot.

After hitting the bus the train was not stopped until it had traveled a distance of about 300 feet, which showed at what speed they must have been running.

Mr. Devere is well known in this city, having put in the concrete curbing on the recent paving that was put in this year. He was also well known in many of the surrounding towns. He was engaged in putting in concrete curbing at Odell, and came to this city Saturday evening to visit his wife and children, who were coming to spend Sunday with him, when he met his awful death. He was a man 30 years of age and was a member of the

Masonic lodge. They took charge of the remains while here and marched in a body to the C. I. & S. depot Monday morning when the remains were shipped to Kankakee for burial.

John Devere was born in Otto township, Kankakee county, May 19, 1867, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Devere, who were both natives of France. The son was educated in the Kankakee public schools and graduated from the high school of that city. He taught school for a number of years and became principal of the Steuben school, serving in that capacity for three years. He resigned this position to engage in the cement business, then in its infancy.

He organized the Kankakee Artificial Stone and Lime company and became the secretary and treasurer. The business grew, and at the time of his death Mr. Devere was extensively engaged in contracting work.

On January 1, 1904, he was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Bamberger, and two children were born to them. Mr. Devere served one term as alderman of the Sixth ward in the city council and for ten years was the secretary of the Kankakee Valley Horticultural society.

Funeral services were held at his home at 348 Chicago avenue, Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. C. Hazen of Janesville, Wis., formerly pastor of the First Baptist church of Kankakee, conducted the service, assisted by Rev. G. A. Sheets, the present pastor. Interment was made at Mound Grove, conducted by the Masonic fraternity.

Mrs. Nettie Strickland, wife of F. Strickland of Lowell, Ind., was 35 years of age and was a member of the Eastern Star. She was on her way to Chenoa, where she expected to spend some time with relatives. They formerly resided there. Mr. Strickland having conducted a livery barn there a number of years ago. They afterward resided on a farm near Emington, and still later moved to Indiana, where they were engaged in farming. Mr. Strickland was called up by phone Saturday evening, and was told of the sad accident, and he arrived early Sunday morning.

The Eastern Star lodge, of which Mrs. Strickland was a member, marched to the depot Sunday when the remains were shipped to her home in Indiana.

Mr. Strickland wishes to thank the members of this lodge, as well as many other people, for assistance and sympathy extended at this time.

Nettie Edith Watson was born in Marshall county, Illinois, September 21, 1874, and died at Dwight, Ill., November 16, 1912, at the age of 38 years, 1 month and 25 days. She was married to Frank Strickland February 24, 1892. To this union was born seven children, four of whom survive their mother, three having died in infancy. Most of her life she lived in Illinois, and a few years ago she and her husband and children moved to Lake county. Two years ago they moved to their beautiful home one mile northwest of Lowell. On Easter Sunday, 1911, she, with her four children, united with the M. E. church at Lowell, since which time she has been an active worker in the church and Sunday school. She was an honored member of the Eastern Star, the Royal Neighbors of America and the adult bible class of the M. E. Sunday school. Her wise counsel will be missed in all these organizations. Mrs. Strickland was a true wife and a mother in every sense of the word. Her first thought was for the comfort and happiness of her husband and children. They were her all and here in the home is where she will be missed more than any other place. There will be no one who can fill her place as she did. She it was who made home the best place on earth for her family.

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