

[Rice, Dorothy]

One Child Killed and Four Persons Injured
When Fast Trolley Car Strikes Auto
Father Failed to Hear Whistle Until Automobile Was on R. & E. Tracks

One child was killed, two persons possibly fatally injured and two more or less severely hurt when a seven passenger touring car owned and operated by Harry Rice¹, of No. 53 Oakland street was struck by a city bound trolley car on the Rochester & Eastern Railway in the town of Brighton shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. With Mr. Rice at the time of the accident were his wife and three children.

Dorothy Rice, 8 years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rice, was killed.

The injured are: Jack Rice, 4 years old, possible internal injuries; Robert Rice, 6 years old, possible fracture of skull; Mrs. Hazel Rice, lacerations and bruises on the body and suffering from shock, and Harry Rice, cut in the face and scalp.

Crossing Usually Dangerous

R. & E. train 18, was being run from Geneva to Rochester with Henry Gardner, conductor, in charge. H. J. Maxon was motorman. Both men live in Canandaigua. Maxon is a veteran in the service of the Rochester and Eastern and up to yesterday never had an accident. He is known as one of the most careful motormen on the road, it is said.

The Rice party had left Monroe avenue just north of where it crosses the old Erie canal bed and had turned down Creek road. The crossing at which the accident occurred is midway between Monroe avenue and Clover street. One side of the crossing is bordered by an orchard and thick shrubbery, and the view of the tracks on the other side is obstructed by a small shed that serves as a waiting room.

Changed to Intermediate Gear

When the automobile neared the crossing, according to Mr. Rice, he slowed down and changed from high into second gear, owing to the fact that the condition of the crossing is such that makes it impossible to cross at a high speed without jolting the occupants of the vehicle severely. He said that he did this as a matter of precaution, also.

The driver of the machine said positively that he did not hear a warning whistle and was not aware of the approach of the car until he was on the tracks. He said that it was only when the car was almost upon the automobile that the motorman sounded his whistle four times.

Say Motorman Blew Whistle

Some of the people who were in the trolley car, however, asserted that the motorman blew four warning blasts on his whistle while he was several hundred feet from the crossing, and that when the automobile suddenly shot onto the tracks he gave the four blasts which Mr. Rice heard.

¹ Harry and Hazel Rice were members of the First Universalist Society in Rochester.

[Rice, Dorothy]

The car struck the rear end of the automobile, hurling it against a line pole, which was snapped in two at the base, and both automobile and pole struck a small white house at the junction of the road and the tracks. All the occupants of the automobile were thrown out. The car ran about 350 feet before it was brought to a stop.

Mother Becomes Hysterical

Mrs. Rice did not lose consciousness but became hysterical from pain and shock. The children, who had been riding in the rear of the automobile, and suffered most in the crash, were placed on a car and rushed to the city. The ambulance from the Hahnemann Hospital met the car at the city line. Dorothy, however, was dead before arrival at the hospital. Mrs. Rice was taken to the Homeopathic Hospital in an automobile belonging to Charles [Mussfeld?] of Creek road, Brighton. Mr. Rice was given medical attention and later removed to his home. At the hospital it was said that Mrs. Rice was not seriously injured, but was suffering from shock.

Jack and Robert were seriously hurt, but whether the injuries will prove fatal cannot be told at this time.

Automobile Total Wreck

The machine was wrecked. The two rear wheels were shorn completely off and the body was battered and twisted.

Mr. Rice, who is a contracting carpenter, has visited that section of Brighton a number of times and is well known to people living in the vicinity of the crossing. It was said yesterday by a few of them that Mr. Rice always had appeared to be a careful driver.

No attempt has been made to place the blame for the accident. An investigation was made by men from the sheriff's office. The body of the little girl was removed to the morgue at the direction of David H. Atwater.

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