

CRASH KILLS 2 DECATUR BOYS

Brothers, 20 and 14, Die When Train Hits Truck

(Special to The Journal-Gazette)

DECATUR, Oct. 23 - Two Decatur boys were killed almost instantly at the 3:38 o'clock this morning when a truck was hit by a fast Pennsylvania passenger train at the Adams street crossing in this city.

The victims are Richard George Durbin, 20, and his brother William Max, 14. The younger lad died instantly with a skull fracture and Richard died a few minutes after being admitted to the Adams County Memorial hospital. His death was attributed to shock.

The older brother was employed as a driver for the Blue Creek Dairy company of this city. He had stopped at the home of his mother, Mrs. John Durbin, who lives two blocks west of the railroad crossing, to pick up his younger brother, who helped deliver milk.

The truck was hit soon after they left the mother's house.

Railroad officials said the train was traveling about 20 to 25 miles an hour, slowing down to drop mail at the station, which is only two blocks north of the scene of the tragedy. Thomas Church of Fort Wayne was the engineer of the train and C. F. Jenkins, also of Fort Wayne, was the conductor.

The victims were the sons of John Durbin, who was fatally injured December 3, 1936, in an auto-log wagon accident in Pleasant Mills.

The crossing is guarded during the day by a watchman, but is unguarded from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The older victim was married to Miss Nellie Hunt of this city September 24, 1936, and the couple had one child, Calvin LeRoy, four months old.

Surviving the two victims are the mother and three brothers, Daniel, John, Jr., and Kenneth Eugene.

Double funeral services will be held at the mother's home Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and at 2:30 o'clock at the First Baptist church. Burial will be in the Decatur cemetery.