

## FIVE ARE KILLED WHEN SOUTHERN FREIGHT WRECKS

Only One Man of Entire Crew  
Survives When Freight  
Train No. 68 Left Rails  
Saturday

Gilkey, July 5.—Three trainmen were instantly killed, and two others fatally injured when Southern freight train No. 68, northbound, was wrecked about two miles from here, at 1:28 Saturday afternoon.

The dead are:  
M. M. Kendrick, of Rock Hill, S. C., engineer.

J. P. Eaker, Marion, conductor.

M. L. Weaver, Thermal City, brakeman.

P. C. Ward, Vein Mountain, brakeman.

Alf Lytle, Rock Hill, negro fireman.

F. H. Penninger, flagman of Shelby, is the sole survivor of the train crew.

### Scalded to Death

Kendrick, Eaker and Lytle were instantly killed when the engine and 12 cars of the freight leaped from the rails to the ties, plowing up the roadway before toppling over. Weaver and Ward died Saturday afternoon in the Rutherford hospital. All were victims of scalding steam released by the impact.

### Riding in Engine

All of those killed were riding in the engine at the time of the crash. Penninger was riding in the caboose, 20 cars behind, which stopped on the trestle. Rushing to the front of the train, he succeeded in pulling one of the dead men and the two injured from the wreckage, and remained there until help arrived some time later. When the ambulances had left the scene he remained at his post, keeping watch up and down the track to flag any other train which might approach.

### Cause of Wreck Unknown

Railroad officials are now probing the cause of the wreck but have arrived at no conclusion. The only theory so far expressed is that spreading rails precipitated the train from the track. A total of fifteen loaded and five empty cars were being carried. General opinion is that the train was running in excess of its regular speed to make the grade with this heavy load, beyond the trestle, and when the engine hit the slight curve beyond the trestle the tracks spread. Twelve cars and the engine left the track, leaving eight cars and the cab on the track.

A wrecking crew left Rock Hill immediately after the news of the wreck had been received there. Traffic over the road was resumed Sunday.

A span of track more than two hundred yards long was torn up. The work of the wrecking crew was made all the more difficult on account of the wet, soggy ground, and the fact that the wreck occurred on a fill.

### Loyalty of Penninger

Seldom is such loyalty and heroism shown as was displayed by Fred Penninger, flagman and sole survivor of the crew. After the crash he picked himself up from the floor of the cab, rushed over the top of the cars and wreckage to the engine and unaided and unassisted began in what way he could to rescue his fellow workmen. First removing Ward and Weaver from the tangled mass of steel, and finding them alive attempted the rescue of the other three. He stood by until all bodies were removed and then made the report of the wreck and turned in to the Agent at Ruth, Mr. C. T. Hamrick, the way-bills for the entire list of freight carried on No. 68.

### Crack Train Crew

The crew on No. 68 was the crack train crew of the Shelby-Marion line. All of the members were old, experienced railroad men, all having been on their respective jobs almost since boyhood. "Pete" Eaker, one of the line's most popular freight conductors had spent about thirty five years with the Southern, while Kendrick had a record almost as long, and

## SURVIVOR TELLS DEATH SCENE AT TRAIN DISASTER

Fred Penninger, Shelby Boy,  
Only One Living of Six  
Who Rode The Death  
Train

"I was in the caboose writing when suddenly and without warning, I was hurled across the cab by a jolt and shock. The impact came so quickly and so hard that I could not tell for a moment where, or what had happened," that's how the crash felt to the only living surviving member of the train crew that rode to a rendezvous with Death shortly after noon Saturday in Rutherford county.

The sole survivor of the crew of six men is Fred H. Penninger, young Shelby man, who was flagman on the freight.

Penninger was riding in the caboose and the five others, including two Shelby natives, were in the engine cab.

### It Was Horrible

"It was horrible. I can't tell you exact details of how things happened or such as that," the young railroader told a member of The Star staff after he had returned to his home here late Saturday evening.

"I dashed out of the caboose, out the end of the trestle, and up to the debris of the engine and cars. Steam was hissing everywhere and water running about. It was a terrible scene. Just what I did or thought for the next 10 or 15 minutes I do not know. All I do know, is that I worked and tugged to get them out. I pulled Pete Eaker out, but he was dead.

### Nobody Spoke

"Then I pulled out Ward and Weaver. They say both of them were living then but neither one of them said a word. Until somebody came, I was there by myself doing my best to get them out. I couldn't get the two others out. They were pinned down by the locomotive or something.

"I kept working and trying to straighten up things the best I could until an ambulance got there and I got Ward and Weaver in and sent off to the hospital. Then we got the work train back—we passed it at Gilkey—and I turned the rest of it over to that crew and came home."

### Anxious About Mother

Penninger, who has been in wrecks before, was anxious about his mother. He was afraid she would not believe that he was safe until she saw him, and he came as quickly as he could leave the task of caring for his dead and dying friends.

Penninger lives on East Sumter street and is married. He is a son of Mrs. T. R. Penninger, who lives in the same house and of the late Policeman Penninger who was killed years ago at Sharon, S. C., by Mills Moore, recently captured in Arkansas.

### Kept Track Clear

Even amid the disaster and the

Weaver and Ward had a total of more than twenty years service.

### Funeral of P. C. Ward Sunday

Funeral services for Perry C. Ward, brakeman, who was fatally injured Saturday in wreck of freight No. 68, was held at Macedonia Baptist church, four miles north of Thermal City, Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and were in charge of Revs. Roland White and John Hodge.

Mr. Ward was thirty-two years of age and had been a brakeman on the Southern for sixteen years. He was a native of Rutherford County and made his home at Spindale until about a year ago.

He was a member of the Macedonia Baptist church and was a regular attendant when his duties permitted.

He is survived by a wife, five children, seven brothers and two sisters.

It is said that the largest number of people ever gathered at Macedonia were present Sunday for the funeral services.

Interment was in the Macedonia cemetery.

## Scene at Fatal Wreck Near Gilkey



A part of the throng that visited the scene of the wreck is shown standing back of the coal car. Between it and the locomotive the body of the wreck victims was pinned. (Photo Courtesy Asheville Times.)

## JOHN H. CALLAHAN DIED WEDNESDAY

Ellenboro, July 6.—Funeral services for Mr. John H. Callahan were held Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at High Shoals Baptist church in the presence of hundreds of sorrowing friends and relatives gathered from Cleveland and Rutherford Counties to pay their last respects to one of the county's well-known citizens.

Mr. Callahan died at his home in Ellenboro Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the age of sixty-six years. He had been suffering from high blood pressure and heart trouble and had been confined to bed during the last two weeks.

He was married twice, first to Miss Ella Pope, of Rutherford. To this union were born seven children, all of whom survive and are as follows: Miss Fannie Callahan, Henrietta; Mrs. Bruce Taylor, Ellenboro; Messrs. Addie Callahan, Greenville, S. C.; Ed of Ellenboro; Tom of Avondale; Will and Arthur of Buffalo, S. C. His second wife was Miss Alice Bailey, of Rutherford, who survives him. He is also survived by five brothers and one sister, Mr. Bob Callahan, Rutherford, J. L., of Alexander, Charles, of Lattimore, Alfred and Res., of Cleveland County, and Mrs. Lizzie Pope, of Cleveland county.

### PAPER CROWDED

Giving the force a holiday Monday has caused this week's paper to be crowded, necessitating leaving out some news letters and other items. Our faithful correspondents will receive full credit for letters held over to next week. Handling twelve pages, with a late start, precludes publishing an extra supplement.

dying groans of his fellow-workers the code of the railroad flagman stuck to the memory of Penninger and just as soon as he could turn the rescue work over to others he secured his flags and signals and with the aid of a boy who lived near the wreck placed warning signals south on the track. He knew that his train had the right-of-way ahead and that no danger could be expected in that direction soon, but he didn't know about the track behind and he flagged it to prevent another disaster.

Despite the harrowing experiences he had been through Penninger exhibited nerves of steel in telling briefly of what happened. He was shaken, of course, by the ordeal he had been through and the death of his pals, but not to the extreme of panicky nerves or an excited demeanor. His relation of the wreck incident was calmly given.

Asked about what he thought caused the wreck and the speed of the train he asked not to be queried on such a subject. "That's not for me to say. The officials will determine that and it's too serious a matter to talk about."—Cleveland Star.

## FUNERAL HELD FOR M. LYNCH WEAVER VICTIM OF WRECK

Hundreds Pay Last Respects to  
Young Southern Railway  
Employee at Ancestral  
Home at Thermal  
City

One of the largest crowds ever seen at a funeral in that section of the county attended the services held for Mr. Lynch Weaver at the old homestead at Thermal City Sunday afternoon. The sudden and unexpected death coming to this fine young man of a splendid old family came even more poignantly from the fact that the scattered children were coming home for a family reunion on the Fourth, all having arrived, or being on their way except one, Mr. Mike Weaver, of Seattle, Wash., who at present is on a business trip to Alaska.

The beautiful lawn was crowded, while the overflow crowd ran out into the highway, when time for the services arrived at 2:30 o'clock. The body was tenderly brought out onto the front porch, while the family, the choir and the ministers were given places upon the porch, surrounded outside by tenderly sympathetic friends and neighbors, gathered to pay the last sad respects to a young man known and loved by every one.

Officiating ministers were the Rev. J. B. Tabor, pastor of the M. E. Church at Gilkey and former pastor of the church at Thermal City, destroyed by fire some time ago; Rev. W. L. Latham, of Rutherford, pastor of the Presbyterian church, and the Rev. G. R. Gillespie, of Forest City. Revs. Tabor and Latham read appropriate scriptural passages while Rev. Gillespie prayed in a most fervent and touching manner.

The singing, pronounced by many as most sympathetically beautiful, was furnished by a choir consisting of Misses Nell Young and Mayme Martin, Forest City; Mrs. R. E. Biggerstaff, Mrs. C. E. Alcock, Mrs. G. R. Gillespie, Mr. G. V. Frye, Forest City; Mrs. L. C. Cobb, Mr. Howard Camnitz, Chimney Rock; Mr. G. A. Hines and Mr. Douglas Crawford, Rutherford. Songs selected were: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

After the services at the home, the funeral cortege wended its way to the top of the knoll across the highway, where the family burial grounds are situated. This is a beautiful setting for a burial ground, being at the very top of a rounded mountain, commanding a view of a beautiful valley and other mountains in the background and overlooking the Weaver estate. This well kept and sacred spot has been for 94

## THINKS CITY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN NEWS

Kiwanis Club Passes Resolution  
Requesting That Forest  
City News be Covered  
by Local Representative

There has been much complaint from citizens of Forest City for some time on account of the way in which news from this city and immediate territory has been handled in the daily papers of the state. The dissatisfaction arises from the fact that practically all of this news is sent from correspondents at Rutherfordton and under date line of that city, many times without regard to accuracy and often entirely contradictory to facts. There is also a feeling that, inasmuch as Forest City is the largest city in the county, news from here should go under Forest City date line.

In order to more forcibly bring the matter to the attention of the daily papers, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the local Kiwanis Club at its meeting Tuesday evening:

Whereas; Forest City is continually being discriminated against in the matter of special news articles, concerning local occurrences of news value, to the several large daily papers of the State,

And whereas; All said special articles are published under a Rutherfordton headline, many times without regard to accuracy and often entirely contrary to the facts,

And Whereas; Forest City is the largest city in the county and through its wide patronage to the important daily papers of the State, deserving consideration from said papers;

Be It Resolved by the Forest City Kiwanis Club that said papers, having circulation in Rutherford county, be apprised of existing conditions and urged to appoint special Forest City representatives who will be responsible in a specially defined territory for all news of local and general news value.

And it is further resolved that the influence of the Forest City Kiwanis Club will be exerted in favor of those dailies willing to give to local interest the consideration that citizens of Forest City have an inalienable right to expect.

Forest City citizens are indignant over the latest and most flagrant of the articles appearing under Rutherfordton date line in which a wholly inaccurate account is given of the rescue of a drowning boy at Woodland Swimming Pool last Friday evening. The article in question is inaccurate in its entirety, the fact being that the boy was rescued by Miss Ruth Moore of Alexander, assisted by Frank Newton.

### Kiwanis Note

Forest City is to have three appropriate Kiwanis signs, worded as follows: "Welcome to Forest City, the City Beautiful," erected at the east and west entrance to the city on Route 20 and one on Route 207. These beautiful designs were submitted by Rev. G. R. Gillespie and enthusiastically accepted by the club.

Prof. A. C. Finch had charge of the program, which was along patriotic lines in honor of the Fourth. Several visitors were present. The next meeting of the club will be held at Lake Lure Inn next Monday evening.

### MORE COTTON BLOSSOMS

Cal Mosley, colored, of the Doggett Grove section brought three cotton blooms to the Courier office that were picked on his farm Sunday. Cal is a farmer on the land of Mr. Shaw Randall, near Sulphur Springs, and is the second person to show cotton blossoms this year.

Miss Grace Carson, of Gastonia, is a guest of Misses Ruth and Eleanor Gillespie in Forest City this week, having accompanied them home from their visit to Gastonia last week.