

Six Persons Killed In Midnight Crash Of Cars Near Norfolk

Freight Train And Electric Train Collide In Darkness. Scores Were Badly Hurt Former New Bern Man Was Among Those Who Were Killed

Norfolk, Va., July 17.—Six persons are dead and thirty are in the hospital with broken limbs and bruised bodies as the result of a collision between an electric train on the Virginia Passenger and Power Company's Ocean View Section and a coal train on the Virginian Railway.

The dead are: Mrs. Ernest Gross, of Norfolk; Joseph Cooper; J. B. Watson; John Goodman; Unidentified man supposed to be Prof. Lee Hatch, a dancing master.

Miss Annie Meehan of Norfolk died after reaching the hospital.

The accident occurred at 12:30 this morning at Fairmount Crossing three miles from Norfolk. The electric train due to leave Ocean View at midnight was ten minutes late and was speeding at a rate of forty miles an hour. The coal train composed of seventy empty cars was bound for West Virginia. The safety gates at the crossing were closed but the electric car crashed through these and into the moving train, the front car of the electric train leaped into the air and turned over.

There were eighty people in this car and many were buried beneath the wreckage. People residing near the scene of the wreck used axes to cut away the broken timber beneath which men and women with broken limbs cried for help. All of those killed were in the front car. The motorman, O. A. Atkinson escaped with a broken leg. Passengers on the front car declare the motorman was warned of the danger before the collision.

A passenger in a seat directly behind the motorman begged him to slacken his speed when the warning glare of red lights at the crossing became visible some distance away. The car sped on and the speed was not reduced until the electric train was almost upon the coal train. Reports of prosecution for criminal negligence are general but the authorities have not yet taken action.

Passengers on the electric train declare every one of the passengers in the front car would have been killed had not the coal train been brought to a stand still immediately after the crash.

Mrs. Cross who died in the hospital had her four-year-old son in her lap when the collision occurred but the child was unhurt.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT

NORFOLK, July 17.—Six were killed and scores were injured when an electric train of two cars of the Virginia Passenger and Power Company en route from Ocean View to Norfolk, crashed into a coal train on the Virginian Railroad at Fairmount Part crossing a few minutes after midnight.

Ambulances from every local hospital were rushed to the scene of the and the work of digging out injured was hurried under the direction of traction officials and Fire Chief Richard F. McLaughlin.

The Ocean View car and trailer were crowded when the train left the resort at 12:15, with motorman W. K. Atkinson at the controller.

With Engineer J. L. Ivey at the throttle the Virginian Railway train left Sewell's Point at midnight, with 71 empty coal cars for Victoria. According to the trainmen H. L. Simmons, head brakeman, opened the safety gates over the railroad tracks so as to permit the passage of the train and closed the gates against the street car. Flagman D. R. Fitchford was waiting to close the gates across the railroad track.

Mrs. Biddie Mitchell returned yesterday from a visit of several days with relatives at Pollockville.

When The Crash Came

Then the crash came. The coal train was broken in two and the crowded Ocean View cars with their load of passengers dragged two of the big steel gondolas a car length along the track.

The first car of the Ocean View train turned over on its side and was piled up a mass of wreckage, against one of the poles that supported the trolley wires.

To those who arrived at the wreck a few minutes later it seemed a miracle that the death list was not greater.

At one o'clock the rescue work was well under way. Those whose hurts were not serious were rushed to hospitals in the city in ambulances and those able to do so embarked emergency cars which carried them down town.

Women Cry For Help. Women's screams rose above the noise of shouted orders to the working crews of men and one woman repeated constantly, "Oh, my God! Oh my God!"

Motorman Atkinson was caught at his post, one of his legs badly crushed. A woman was pinned near him.

"Help the women first," he kept saying to the men who worked with crowbars and jacks to lift the weight from them.

Beneath one of the coal cars lay a white man's body, unrecognized. By its side was a straw hat. Inside the band a label read, "218 Mount Vernon avenue, Port Norfolk."

Passengers Describe Crash. Passengers of the Ocean View train in their accounts of the collision all agreed on one thing—the appalling suddenness of the crash.

H. L. Baxter of Wallacetown, N. C. a guest at the Fairfax hotel, was sitting on the front of the first trolley car, next to the motorman. Here is his story of the crash.

"The Ocean View car had been making good time. I did not notice any slackening in its speed before the collision. When I realized what had happened, the car was on its side and everything was in darkness. How I got out I don't know. I was huddled alongside the controller box and crawled out."

W. H. Vandergrift of Norfolk was on the front seat of the first car in the Ocean View train. When this car turned over he climbed over the roof and escaped without serious hurts. His left wrist was sprained. He was with Joe Cooper, he said. He didn't know what had become of Cooper. He didn't see him after the collision.

M. C. Tatum, Harry Mann's assistant, was in the second car. He was not injured. He saw one woman pulled out of the wreckage, both of her legs crushed.

J. J. Cole of the Virginia Pilot's Association was in the second seat of the trailer. His right knee was hurt and he was cut about the head.

Francis A. Blount, colored, who said he worked for a railroad company once, declared the Ocean View train was going 40 miles an hour.

R. E. Franklin, conductor of the wrecked resort train, had his leg crushed.

W. H. Loper, who was on the front seat had his hand crushed. He said the safety gates were down when the trolley crashed into the crossing.

Miss Agnes Tobin, 219 Queen street, hand cut.

Miss Minnie Williamson of Columbia, S. C., was badly bruised about the face and body.

Miss Hellen Tilley, 23 Maple avenue, Berkeley, bruised about the body.

Arthur F. Hall of the U. S. S. Franklin, bruises.

H. Crun had his right shoulder broken. D. C. Lyons had one of his legs smashed.

M. S. Summers, who lives on Third street, said he saw the coal train and the trolley cars. He saw a brakeman closing the safety gates, he said, and then the collision.

L. Y. Kirby and J. H. Kirby, brothers, of Raleigh avenue were setting together in the first car. Both were unhurt, and both immediately began helping in the rescue work.

Mrs. H. P. Whitehurst left last evening for Mars Hill where she will spend the remainder of the summer. She was accompanied by her husband as far as Goldboro.

CHIEF BRENNAN. Stamford (Conn.) Police Official Probing Balou Mystery.



Photo by American Press Association.

Blango Goddett Charged With Robbing Camp

NEGRO BROUGHT TO NEW BERN AND PLACED IN JAIL.

Blango Goddett, colored, was brought to New Bern by M. F. Russell from Havelock yesterday and in default of a two hundred and fifty dollar justified bond was placed in the county jail to await the September term of Craven county Superior Court.

Goddett was charged with breaking in the logging camp of Allen Whittenton about four miles from Havelock and stealing a considerable amount of the furniture from the sleeping quarters. Some of the goods were found on him when he was arrested. It is also alleged that he set fire to the camp, which was completely destroyed, but the evidence for that offense was not sufficient and he was given a hearing before Justice of the Peace H. A. Marshall yesterday morning on the charge of house breaking and larceny. After hearing the evidence probable cause was found and he was placed under a two hundred and fifty dollar bond.

D. F. JARVIS GETTING ALONG VERY NICELY.

Reports yesterday afternoon from Morehead City are to the effect that D. F. Jarvis, who was taken suddenly with an attack of appendicitis Wednesday, is getting on nicely.

Mr. Jarvis was taken to Morehead City Thursday where he was operated on by Drs. R. S. Primrose and R. N. Duffy. It is reported that the operation was a little difficult, but it was a very successful one and his rapid recovery is expected.

ANOTHER ZINGO PICTURE AT THE ATHENS TODAY.

The second installment of the famous "Zingo" series of pictures is to be shown at the Athens theatre today. In this picture, which is in four reels, the spectator will see Zingo in the clouds. There he puts off a sensational fight which is said to be a real thriller.

MOTOR CAR TO MOREHEAD CITY TONIGHT

The Riverdale Hoe Company will tonight operate the Norfolk Southern Railway Company's motor car to Morehead City for the benefit of those New Bernians who desire to go down to the seashore to enjoy the ocean breeze and participate in the dance to be held at the Atlantic Hotel. The fare for the round trip will be only one dollar and a cordial invitation to attend is extended to all.

BUCK RANGE CONTEST CLOSED LAST NIGHT

The Junior Buck Range contest that has been going on at J. S. Bassnight's Hardware store since the eighth of June closed last night, and the votes will be counted as soon as R. A. Nunn, who has the key to the box in which the votes have been deposited, returns to the city.

IMPROVEMENTS AT WOOD-LANE DRUG COMPANY'S STORE

A show window has been made on each side of the door at Wood-Lane's drug store and yesterday these were handsomely decorated with high grade perfume and medicines. The display in these windows will be changed every other day with different articles. Hunter White, special window designer for S. Coplon and Son's department store, will arrange the display.

Former New Bernian Was Killed in Wreck

JOHN. B WATSON LOST HIS LIFE EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING.

News of the accident near Norfolk, Va., early yesterday morning in which six persons lost their lives and a score or more injured, caused a pall of sadness to fall over New Bern, owing to the fact that one of the victims who was killed almost instantly, was a former New Bernian and had hundreds of friends here.

This was John B. Watson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Watson who reside on Pollock street. Mr. Watson left New Bern about five years ago and went to Norfolk where he accepted a position in one of the leading hotels. Later he became engaged in the dairy business and a little more than a year ago he purchased a steam laundry and has been engaged in the operation of this up until the time of his death.

MISSING GIRLS THOUGHT TO BE ON AN ISLAND

So Think People of Gulf Coast Where They Were Seen.

THE MYSTERY IS CLEARING.

If Rumors are True The Atlanta Sensation Will Soon End.

BILOXI, Miss., July 17.—Mrs. Elois Nelms Dennis and Miss Beatrice Nelms, the women for whom the police in six or more cities have made an exhaustive search, are on Petit Bois island, or in some nearby gulf coast city, according to information brought to Biloxi today.

Mrs. Dennis and Miss Nelms were practically identified by a party of Biloxi fishermen who cruised to Petit Bois island, but it is reported that the central figures in the mysterious case have departed for the coast and are in hiding in some coast hamlet.

An effort was made today to organize a posse to go to Petit Bois and arrest Mrs. Dennis and Miss Nelms. Owing to absence of legal authority and due to the fact that waters in the gulf were running high in a squall, this procedure has been for the time abandoned.

Petit Bois island is thirty miles from Biloxi, in the Gulf of Mexico. It is not Mississippi territory, but lies between Alabama and Mississippi. Hence, police officers in the city feared to go to the island to make the arrests. Attorney General P. C. Lee of Jackson was telegraphed late this afternoon for authority to make the arrests of the missing women.

Up to a late hour he had not been heard from and even if necessary papers are secured today, no attempt will be made to go to Petit Bois, as the seas are running high. Meanwhile, it is rumored in Biloxi that Mrs. Dennis and Miss Nelms have taken a boat from Petit Bois and escaped to Gulfport.

It was reported that they were seen at Gulfport. Sheriff J. C. Elmer received a telegram at Gulfport this afternoon to be on the lookout for the missing women.

He states he does not believe they are in Gulfport although they may have been there. Mrs. Dennis and Miss Nelms have been in Petit Bois for about ten days, according to the report.

They were accompanied by two men to the island and have remained with them since then, or until they left the island. When seen by Biloxi fishermen they engaged in conversation, which led the local men to believe they were the missing women. They were in high spirits and in the best of health, according to the report of the Biloxi men.

An effort was made here today by Ed. L. Suter, a Biloxi contractor, to organize a posse to go to Petit Bois, Mr. Suter made an effort to secure authority from the government cutter Winona, which is lying off the Biloxi coast for regatta races.

Mr. Suter stated tonight that he intended going to Petit Bois island tomorrow morning in case he succeeded in getting papers for their arrest. Mrs. Dennis and Miss Nelms with their two male companions according to report, went to Petit island on the auxiliary power boat "Mizpah" from New Orleans. Coast vessels will be notified to be on the lookout for the Mizpah.

MRS. HELEN M. ANGLE. Chief Witness in Connecticut Death Mystery.



TWENTY MINUTE STRIKE IN LOCAL N. S. SHOPS

UNION MEN REFUSED TO WORK WITH THE "SCABS"

What came near resulting in a strike of the men employed in the machine shops, the boiler makers and some of the men on the yards of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company, occurred here Thursday morning when three men who were employed in the shops refused to join the union in which the other men are affiliated.

The union here is very strong, practically all of the men in the shops being members and they refused to work with "scabs". The men went to work at 7 o'clock and at that time informed the three men who were not members that they had an opportunity of becoming affiliated with the union but they for some reason declined to accept the invitation. The situation was thoroughly explained to them and they were told that unless they became members that the other men would not work with them. Still they were obdurate and when this fact became known the other men laid down their tools and walked out of the shops.

The situation for a while had a most serious aspect. Five minutes passed by and during this time one of the bosses was engaged in explaining the situation to the three non union men. For twenty minutes they held out in their determination to stay out of the union but finally they were convinced of the error of their decision and gladly decided to join. The men were out for about twenty minutes and at the end of this time, after the cause of the trouble had been remedied, they returned to their tasks. This is the first time that any such incident has occurred in the local shops of the Norfolk Southern for a considerable time.

Ghent Park Was Crowded Last Night.

FIREMEN'S NIGHT AT POPULAR RESORT PROVED TO BE REAL FEATURE.

Last night was "Firemen's Night" at Ghent Park, the New Bern Steam Fire Engine Company having charge of that popular resort for the evening and several thousand citizens went out to witness the sights.

The feature of the evening was a sketched up on by the Rufus Armstrong Company. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was loudly praised. The Railroad Quartet, composed of Cecil Vernelson, Edgar Tynes, David Spencer and David Martin was one of the real hits of the evening and the songs rendered by them pleased all.

Dancing was engaged in during the evening and the prize of the two and a half pound box of candy, donated by the Pinnix drug store, was awarded to Miss Mary Turner who was dancing with Albert T. Willis.

architect and a former New Bern an, went to the scene and there identified Mr. Watson's body. This he took in charge and had it embalmed and it was brought in from Norfolk at 4:20 o'clock this morning.

The hour of the funeral, which will be conducted from Centenary Methodist church tomorrow, has not been definitely decided upon at the present time but will be stated in the Journal tomorrow morning.

The deceased is survived by his wife and two children, his father and mother and three sisters, Misses Nancy and Edna Watson of New Bern and Mrs. Jack Pearce of Pollockville; brothers, Dr. Walter, William, Guy and Leo of this city.

The following out of town relatives and friends have arrived in the city to attend the funeral: M. J. Alpha of Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Taylor and Miss Vera and Benjamin Taylor of Pollockville, A. S. Lee of Croatan, Rev. B. H. Melvin of Richmond, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee Craig of Gastonia, Miss Mildred Zaeringer of New Orleans, La., Miss Lillian Watson Gastonia and Mrs. Jack Pearce of Pollockville.

FEMALE BUNGO ARTIST TO LEAVE THIS CITY

Claimed to Be From Mount Olive N. C.

WAS OF GENTEEL APPEARANCE

Refused to Prove That She Was An Impostor.

New Bern citizens have in the past been swindled so many times by the slick bunco artists that the police have of late been keeping their weather-eye peeled for these parasites and in consequence it is so common that one of this variety plies the r trade here.

Yesterday morning an elderly woman of very genteel appearance arrived in the city and went the rounds soliciting contributions for some orphan asylum. The woman put up a very pathetic appeal, saying that the money would be used in defraying the expenses of taking care of the little tots who had been left alone in the world and it is said that she collected quite a neat sum before her operations were put to an abrupt stop by an order from Mayor Pro Tem William Ellis who ordered her to cease soliciting until she could prove beyond a doubt that her mission here was bona fide.

The woman claimed that she was from Mount Olive, N. C., and was well known there. Mr. Ellis then suggested that she get in communication with the Mayor of that town and have him to verify her assertions so that there could be no doubts as to the truth of her statements. However, this did not appeal to the woman and she declared that rather than go to any such trouble would desist from her soliciting and would get out of the city and this she did, leaving yesterday afternoon.

A few weeks ago two foreigners who claimed to be soliciting funds for a church in Turkey came to New Bern to "work" the citizens. They were found to be impostors and were forced to make a speedy get away.

Refused to Prove That She Was An Impostor.

New Bern citizens have in the past been swindled so many times by the slick bunco artists that the police have of late been keeping their weather-eye peeled for these parasites and in consequence it is so common that one of this variety plies the r trade here.

Yesterday morning an elderly woman of very genteel appearance arrived in the city and went the rounds soliciting contributions for some orphan asylum. The woman put up a very pathetic appeal, saying that the money would be used in defraying the expenses of taking care of the little tots who had been left alone in the world and it is said that she collected quite a neat sum before her operations were put to an abrupt stop by an order from Mayor Pro Tem William Ellis who ordered her to cease soliciting until she could prove beyond a doubt that her mission here was bona fide.

The woman claimed that she was from Mount Olive, N. C., and was well known there. Mr. Ellis then suggested that she get in communication with the Mayor of that town and have him to verify her assertions so that there could be no doubts as to the truth of her statements. However, this did not appeal to the woman and she declared that rather than go to any such trouble would desist from her soliciting and would get out of the city and this she did, leaving yesterday afternoon.

A few weeks ago two foreigners who claimed to be soliciting funds for a church in Turkey came to New Bern to "work" the citizens. They were found to be impostors and were forced to make a speedy get away.

Refused to Prove That She Was An Impostor.

New Bern citizens have in the past been swindled so many times by the slick bunco artists that the police have of late been keeping their weather-eye peeled for these parasites and in consequence it is so common that one of this variety plies the r trade here.

Yesterday morning an elderly woman of very genteel appearance arrived in the city and went the rounds soliciting contributions for some orphan asylum. The woman put up a very pathetic appeal, saying that the money would be used in defraying the expenses of taking care of the little tots who had been left alone in the world and it is said that she collected quite a neat sum before her operations were put to an abrupt stop by an order from Mayor Pro Tem William Ellis who ordered her to cease soliciting until she could prove beyond a doubt that her mission here was bona fide.

The woman claimed that she was from Mount Olive, N. C., and was well known there. Mr. Ellis then suggested that she get in communication with the Mayor of that town and have him to verify her assertions so that there could be no doubts as to the truth of her statements. However, this did not appeal to the woman and she declared that rather than go to any such trouble would desist from her soliciting and would get out of the city and this she did, leaving yesterday afternoon.

A few weeks ago two foreigners who claimed to be soliciting funds for a church in Turkey came to New Bern to "work" the citizens. They were found to be impostors and were forced to make a speedy get away.

Refused to Prove That She Was An Impostor.

New Bern citizens have in the past been swindled so many times by the slick bunco artists that the police have of late been keeping their weather-eye peeled for these parasites and in consequence it is so common that one of this variety plies the r trade here.

Yesterday morning an elderly woman of very genteel appearance arrived in the city and went the rounds soliciting contributions for some orphan asylum. The woman put up a very pathetic appeal, saying that the money would be used in defraying the expenses of taking care of the little tots who had been left alone in the world and it is said that she collected quite a neat sum before her operations were put to an abrupt stop by an order from Mayor Pro Tem William Ellis who ordered her to cease soliciting until she could prove beyond a doubt that her mission here was bona fide.

The woman claimed that she was from Mount Olive, N. C., and was well known there. Mr. Ellis then suggested that she get in communication with the Mayor of that town and have him to verify her assertions so that there could be no doubts as to the truth of her statements. However, this did not appeal to the woman and she declared that rather than go to any such trouble would desist from her soliciting and would get out of the city and this she did, leaving yesterday afternoon.