

October's Traffic Toll Zooms To 23

By United Press International
Two triple-fatality accidents sent the Indiana traffic death toll for the first four days of October skyrocketing to at least 23 in a startling spurt of tragedies that defied explanation.

Three young women were killed late Wednesday night when their car was struck by a Pennsylvania Railroad train near Yorktown. It raised the train-auto collision toll in two wrecks in three days to eight.

A father and his two young sons were killed Wednesday afternoon in an accident on Indiana 2 near LaPorte when their car struck a cable stretched between two road graders working on the shoulders of the highway.

And a 6-year-old South Bend boy, Gary A. Knapik, died Wednesday afternoon from injuries suffered Tuesday when he was hit by a car as he hurried home from playing in a woods. The Yorktown train-auto victims were Etta Smith, 22, Anderson, driver of the car; Regina

Mills, 20, and Elizabeth Cox, 20, Anderson. Miss Smith and Miss Mills were killed outright. Miss Cox died this morning at a Muncie hospital.

Train engineer C.R. Campbell, Logansport, said the train was traveling more than 45 miles per hour when it struck the car. He said he saw the vehicle approaching the crossing and sounded the whistle but the car did not stop.

It was difficult to explain the sudden spurt in fatalities, which threatened to send the toll up to or past the comparative totals for 1960 after weeks of death reductions from the year-ago figures.

Except for some rain Sunday on the first day of the month, the weather furnished no driving hazards.

The death toll reached 774 compared with 798 this time last year.

Among the latest victims were a father and his two young sons killed in a freak accident near LaPorte. A third son was "very critically" injured when the family car hit a cable stretched be-

tween two graders.

Killed were Paul E. Eckman, 28, R.R. 1, New Carlisle, and his sons, Robert, 4, and Randy Lee, 6 months. Another son, Roland, 8, was critical at Holy Family Hospital in LaPorte.

Police said the Eckman car, enroute from LaPorte to New Carlisle, approached the graders from the rear and Eckman apparently did not see the cable. The cable sheared the top off the car and decapitated one of the boys.

Ray Toppin, 62, Anderson, died Wednesday in St. John's Hospital in Anderson from injuries suffered Sept. 29 in a collision at the intersection of a county road and Indiana 109 near Anderson.

State police said the latest car-train collision killing three near Yorktown, and the five-fatality train-car crash near Indianapolis on Monday afternoon which killed Franklin Central High School pupils, raised the 1961 car-train accident death toll to 52 compared with 69 for the entire year 1960.

The final 92 travelers touched

Welcome Home Party For Tourists A Bust

WELCOME HOME PARTY CHICAGO (UPI) — Even the welcome home party for Erin's Own was a bust.

All 100 Chicagoans stranded for a week at the Shannon, Ireland, airport when a succession of troubles beset their chartered airliner, were home today, but the return flight added new chapters of fiasco to the bad luck of the Irish.

The final 92 travelers touched

down at O'Hare International Airport more than four hours late Wednesday afternoon.

By the time they arrived, most of the sandwiches and coffee sent for the travelers from Chicago's swank Pump Room of the Ambassador East Hotel were gone, consumed by the crowd of about 200 friends and relatives awaiting them.

Only a few of the travelers appeared for a "social get-together" Wednesday night at Gene O'Hagen's West Side saloon, "unofficial headquarters" for the 100 Gaelic football buffs who formed Erin's Own Club.

"Most of them were too tired. A few showed up and they were rather subdued. There were more newsmen and curiosity seekers here tonight than club members," O'Hagen said.

Some drank Irish whisky and moured the 400 bottles of the dew of the hills which had to be left behind when their plane was found to be overweight.

There was no talk of another trip to Ireland next year, although O'Hagen said it "wouldn't surprise me if they decide to charter another plane. I don't think it will be from the same airline, though."

The flight back was dogged by the same string of misfortune which kept the Chicago Irish grounded at Shannon, some without funds, others ill and hungry.

The plane was late taking off and over the Atlantic the chartered aircraft encountered head winds which forced it to make an unscheduled refueling stop at Buffalo, N.Y.

— Make it a federal crime for an American citizen to spy against the United States while in a foreign country.

— Require employees of domestic organizations substantially controlled by foreign governments or political parties to register as foreign agents.

— Make it a federal crime to counterfeit bonds and other obligations issued by states.

— Authorize the President to lend 16 more warships from the reserve fleet to U.S. Allies.

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