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The Indianapolis Times

Unsettled with rain probably tonight and Saturday; somewhat warmer tonight, cooler Saturday.

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INDIANAPOLIS, FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1931

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HOME

TWO CENTS Outside Marion
County 3 Cents

TRAIN WRECKS SCHOOL BUS; FIVE KILLED

23 Children Injured; Six
May Die; Trapped
in Car.

BOY, 8, TRAGEDY HERO

Lad With Fractured Ankle
Staggers Ten Blocks to
Call for Aid.

By United Press
MERCED, Cal., May 8.—Out of a school bus tragedy that claimed the lives of five children today emerged an 8-year-old boy hero, who staggered ten blocks with a fractured ankle so he could notify his teachers that the motor stage carrying his chums had been hit by a train.

The boy, Leland Belame, was one of forty-four school children on the bus when a Santa Fe freight train ran into it at the G street crossing, killing five and causing serious injury to twenty-three others, six of whom were near death today.

Screams Drowned in Crash

"The screams of the children were drowned by the awful crash of the engine striking the bus," said M. E. Wickland, whose automobile was just behind the stage. "Some of the children were scattered along the tracks, while others were trapped inside. It was horrible."

E. Meyers, who was back of the Wickland machine, said he saw a girl break a window of the bus and leap out, only to be crushed under the wheels of the locomotive.

Andro Albiano, 9, one of the students who escaped with slight injuries, described his experiences. He was sitting next to Kregger, the driver.

"He drove right up on the tracks," Andro said. "Then all of a sudden he slammed on the brakes just as we got in front of the engine. It came so quickly I don't know what happened next. I found myself lying on the ground with the other children all around me."

Although seriously hurt, the Belame boy staggered away from the scene, hobbled back ten blocks to the school, and notified the teachers, who sent him to a hospital, then hastened to join doctors and nurses in caring for the other injured.

Crushed in Bus

Some of the children, all between 6 and 10 years old, were crushed inside the bus. Others were thrown under the trucks of the locomotive. Others fell beside the tracks. Only nineteen escaped with minor injuries.

The children killed were Roy and Dolores Epsom, 8-year-old twins of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Epsom; Jean Ahr, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ahr; Robert Fuller, 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Fuller, and Marshall Purle.

Among those not expected to live was J. B. Kregger, 50, driver of the bus. He was conscious for a few minutes after the crash. His only words were, "I did not see the train."

Mother Sees Crash

All the children lived in the Bear Creek agricultural section, north of Merced. They were homeward bound from school Thursday afternoon when the crash occurred.

The freight train had slowed down for the crossing. Engineer George Parks and Conductor J. A. Holmes said. They also claimed that the whistle was blown, but that the bus ran on to the tracks so quickly they could not stop.

Mrs. E. E. Durand was in an automobile trying to catch up with the bus to take her son home. She witnessed the crash and fainted. The son was not seriously hurt.

John Robinson Jr. approaching from the other side, knew his daughter was in the bus. He searched frantically through the wreckage, found the girl, and took her to the hospital.

EDUCATOR LAUDS WETS

Prohibition Attacked by Dr. John Grier Hibben of Princeton.

By United Press
PRINCETON, N. J., May 8.—President federal control of liquor traffic is "neither responsible nor effective," Dr. John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton university, was quoted as saying today in "The Daily Princeton," undergraduate newspaper.

The article quotes him as saying he favors the spirit of the Crusaders, anti-prohibition organization, which is seeking members among university students.

Prohibition, Dr. Hibben said, according to the Princetonian, "in the end is a state problem."

NEGRO CASE TO JURY

Indianapolis Man Asks \$10,000 From Bus Firm for Changing Seat.

Federal jury this afternoon was to decide whether James B. Battley, Indianapolis Negro attorney, is entitled to the \$10,000 damages he asks from the Interstate Transit, Inc., because he was asked to move to the back of a bus in Louisville, Ky.

Testimony showed that no rough or loud language or force was used in asking Battley to move back in the coach and that he was told he could recover the money he spent for a ticket. Battley charged that he was discriminated against because of his race.

Honest John

By United Press
CHICAGO, May 8.—"I'm going straight from now on," said John Kuffel when the municipal court put him on probation recently after he had confessed stealing an automobile.

Today John came back to make his weekly report to the court.

"Everything's rosy," he said. "I've got a job and I obey the law."

While John spoke his piece in the courtroom, a traffic officer outside examined the new Kuffel automobile. He found first that the license plates had been stolen from another motor car. Then he found that the machine itself had been stolen.

"Let's go over to the station," said the traffic officer, when John came out of court.

There it was found, and John confessed it, that his suit and topcoat had been stolen, too. Even his shoes belonged on another man's feet.

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