

HUNDREDS HURT IN SUPPER-HOUR SUBWAY CRASH

Terrified Passengers Periled By Third Rail as N. Y. Trains Collide.

NEW YORK, March 31 (U. P.)—Police compiled today a list of 243 persons injured when two trains of the city-owned independent subway system collided underground at the height of the home-going rush hour last night.

None was killed and only 14 were confined in hospitals today. But hundreds of passengers in the two crowded four-car trains were flung into sides, endangered by the electrified third rail when they streamed out on to the tracks through emergency exits, or terrified while waiting 20 minutes in the wrecked cars to be rescued.

Train Stalled on Curve

The crash occurred in Astoria, Queens Borough, shortly before 6 p. m. One train, operated by Motorman William Abresca, was stalled on a sharp curve by a defective coupling. The other, operated by Paul Tomshaw and headed in the same direction, struck it from the rear.

Crews of both trains were questioned for hours and will go to the district attorney's office later today for an official investigation. Although they apparently had not been injured, Mr. Abresca and his conductor, Henry Stock, both complained of "feeling sick" and were taken to a hospital at midnight.

Investigators were puzzled because the automatic block signal system failed to prevent the crash. It stops a train automatically when it approaches too near another. Mr. Tomshaw said he got a red signal and was stopped after leaving the Steinway Street station, but proceeded when the light turned green.

Approached Curve Slowly

He approached the curve slowly because of the previous red light, he said, but was almost upon the stalled train before he saw it.

He clamped on the brakes, sending a terrific jerk through the train that hurled passengers from their seats. An instant later the crash came. The car floors buckled, straw cushions flew through the air, window panes shattered and passengers screamed. Some lay unconscious. Others battled their way out to the tracks. Many were bleeding from cuts.

Pedestrians on the street level, hearing the commotion underground, gave the alarm that brought 200 policemen, firemen and ambulances from seven hospitals. Policemen went down ladders through manholes to herd passengers off the tracks.

The fact that lights stayed on in both trains and that neither was derailed, helped to minimize the hysteria. In 20 minutes the trains were towed to the next station where the more seriously injured were laid out on the platform for emergency treatment.

RUTH ETTING DENIES LOVE THEFT CHARGE

HOLLYWOOD, March 31 (U. P.)—Blond Ruth Etting, retired blues singer, denied in a deposition today that she "showered gifts" upon handsome young Myrl Alderman and enticed him away from his previous wife.

She was sued for \$150,000 alienation of affections damages by Mrs. Alma Alderman. She married Alderman, her accompanist during the trial of Martin (Moe) Gimpel Snyder, her former husband, for the shooting of Alderman last fall.

Hoagy Lures the Mayor



GHASTLY RIDE COMES TO END

Texas Worker Hauls Victim 400 Miles Before Police Stop His Car.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 31 (U. P.)—Hugh White, middle-aged oil-field worker, was almost grateful last night when highway patrolmen overhauled his automobile. For 400 miles he had carried in the bullet-riddled body of his friend, G. F. (Punk) Weaver, whom he admitted shooting in a drunken quarrel.

White had no objective, had driven haphazardly eastward for 20 hours across vast southwest Texas where he could have dumped the body miles from the nearest house. Somehow he couldn't get rid of his victim.

When he stopped for gasoline here, a filling station attendant noticed blood trickling from the trunk of the automobile. He called police after White drove on.

White told Patrolman John Owenby that he and Weaver, a Royalty, Tex., garage owner, quarreled last night over dynamite they planned to steal at a well. Weaver, White said, suggested they get it to blast

fish in a river. They had been drinking, White said.

"We began arguing at the well and Weaver drew a 22-caliber pistol," said White. "I took it away from him and began firing. I don't know how many time I shot him."

White put Weaver's body in the rear seat of the car and started. At San Angelo, he crammed it in the trunk and continued.

On the windshield of White's car was a sticker advertising an amateur stage play: "Mystery at Mid-

night."

Land 14-Pound 'Possum Here



OFFER LIE TESTS IN FLOYD INQUIRY

Lorch Says Witnesses Will Have Opportunity to Vindicate Selves.

NEW ALBANY, Ind., March 31 (U. P.)—Opportunity to take a lie detector test will be offered to 16 witnesses appearing before the Floyd County Grand Jury investigating a shortage in the County Treasury, Prosecutor Frank E. Lorch Jr. said today.

Mr. Lorch said the witnesses would not be required to take the test, but that it would "give them a chance to vindicate themselves of any suspicion that they are withholding information."

He said he had made arrangements with experts of the Indiana State Police to give the lie detector tests before the jury.

One of the witnesses refused to take the test on attorney's counsel, but the remaining 15 failed to state whether they would take it or not, according to Mr. Lorch.

"The whole truth in this shortage has been buried beneath layers of hypocrisy and subterfuge," Mr. Lorch said. "If it is possible, either through human or mechanical wording,

All Alone

Solitaire Expert Plays 22 Games Daily For 6 Years.

O SHKOSH, Wis., March 31 (U. P.)—A thumbnail sketch of Otto (Scout) Ziebell, if not the best, at least the nation's most persistent solitaire player:

He has played an average of 22 games daily for nearly six years; he uses a new deck every three weeks because he wears the spots off the cards; he knows at least 25 different versions; his best record: 15 victories out of 24; his worst: three out of 27.

A Spanish-American War veteran, Mr. Ziebell, 66, worked with a construction firm 25 years without missing a day. He retired in 1930.

means, to solve this case, I intend to do it."

The present Grand Jury investigation is the third that has been made of the shortage. Indictments voted previously against Joshua T. Crandall of New Albany and Claude M. Gladden of Scottsburg, former field examiners for the State Board of Accounts, were quashed by the courts on the ground of faulty wording.

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