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15 Die in Flames As Bus Is Wrecked North of Bloomington

10 of Charred Bodies Still Unidentified;
12 Injured as Vehicle Hits Abutment

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driver said. "It swerved and I tried to straighten it up. But I couldn't do it."

The big bus smashed into the north end of the bridge, chipping out a triangular block of concrete as big as a house door.

The bus exploded into flames as it careened on across the bridge, streaking a trail of flaming gasoline behind it.

It continued about 50 feet and then skidded another 60 feet before overturning onto its left side on the east side of the road.

Huge volleys of flame shot forth and screaming passengers, their bodies wreathed in fire, tried to fight their way out of windows of the upturned side.

An eyewitness description of the tragic after-events came from Mr. and Mrs. Everett Miles, living on a farm about 100 yards from the scene of the crash.

"We heard the crash," Mrs. Dorothy Miles related. "Everett and I looked out and saw three men come out of the end window."

"The bus was burning and there was a streak of flames down the highway in back of it, clear back to the north end of the bridge."

"By that time one of the men got to the barnyard and he asked us to call for help."

"Everett ran to the scene to help. I called the sheriff, then the hospital and Day Funeral Home to send out ambulances."

White-Hot Skeleton of Steel

With the rescue vehicles came a fire-pumper with 500 gallons of water. The flames were extinguished but the white-hot skeleton of steel kept rescue workers from helping persons trapped inside.

Bloomington firemen James Murphy and George Wampler joined the rescue crew to assist the injured and lay out the dead, after they manned the pumper to extinguish the fire.

The driver of the bus played a heroic part in rescuing passengers, state patrolmen said. They said he repeatedly went back into the flaming holocaust to drag out passengers through windows and emergency exits.

Tosses Child to Safety

As he came out on his next to last trip Mrs. Lucille Melton, 34, Vernon, screamed to him that she had left her daughter, Judith Ann, in the bus. Driver Cranmer fought his way back in, found the child and tossed her into the arms of her mother. The little girl suffered a broken nose, bumping a window frame as the driver threw her out.

Wells W. Richardson, 19, Evansville, was en route home after attending a tennis tournament at Elkhart.

"I was dozing when all of a sudden I heard a big crash," he said. "The next thing I knew I was on my back. A man broke out a back window and I dived through it."

"By that time the whole bus was on fire. I saw lots of bodies just before I went out the window, but there wasn't time to help them. I had to dive through flames myself to get out."

Escape Through Holes

Deputy Sheriff Fred Mills said about half the survivors got out of the bus through a hole in the windshield directly in front of the steering wheel. Others fled through the hole kicked in the rear window by Edgar Davis, 43, of Indianapolis.

Mayor Thomas L. Lemon of Bloomington hurried to the scene to help direct rescue work.

Bloomington Hospital called out its personnel and set up emergency wards to care for the injured.

Highway 37, on which the crash occurred, is a two-lane pavement which winds and curves through the hills of Southern Indiana.

However, the accident happened on a straightaway, fairly level stretch that dips into a shallow valley, crosses the 35-foot-long bridge and then rises over a low hill.

The driver of the bus was a 22-year-old Navy veteran, who had been employed with Greyhound the past six months. He resides at 1112 Hoyt Ave. with his wife of 15 months, Louise Cranmer.

His wife, informed of the tragedy this morning, said the Greyhound company had told her only that her husband was detained in Bloomington because of an accident. He had been on the Bloomington run the past three months, she said.

Report Hunt Got \$86,000 Hotel Fee

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Two Children Removed

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Another body of a child was removed later. Both children appeared to be about 8 or 9 years of age.

The bodies were placed on stretchers covered by oil cloth or rubber blankets.

Belongings of the victims that could be recovered were placed beside the bodies so as to facilitate identification.

'I Flew Right Through the Windshield'

Saw Bus Headed for Bridge but Couldn't Do Anything, Truck Driver Relates

(Continued From Page One)

An Evansville truck driver was sitting on a front seat of the Greyhound bus when it rammed a bridge abutment near Bloomington. Here is his story.

By WILFRED LUTTRELL as Told to the United Press

BLOOMINGTON, Aug. 10—I was riding the bus home to Evansville from Indianapolis. The bus was nearly full. I had a front seat on the right aisle.

Just before the crash, I saw what was going to happen. We were heading right toward the bridge abutment. But I thought the driver would cut back into the traffic lane.

By that time it was too late to do anything. I flew through the air and went out through the windshield.

Luke Shute of Bloomington was sitting by me and he went out the windshield with me.

I landed on the concrete highway on top of some glass from the windshield. I was cut and bruised from skimming along the road on top of that glass.

By the time I got on my feet, the bus was a mass of fire. I saw one man with his clothes on fire. He threw himself down on the road and rolled over a couple of times and put the fire out. I don't think he was hurt much.

People were screaming and jumping out the back window. I don't think anyone got out through the windshield but me and Shute and the bus driver. I think one passenger climbed out of a side window.

I saw people trying to get out. Some of them didn't make it. I ran to a farmhouse nearby and had them call an ambulance. Then I went back and tried to do what I could for the people that were hurt worse than I was.

I've been driving a truck for 15 years over most of the country. But I never saw anything like this before. What's more, I hope I never do again.

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(Continued From Page One)

By 7 a. m. a large crowd of curious onlookers had flocked to the scene. Mortuary attaches said that none appeared to be relatives of the victims.

All were being ordered back to make room for ambulances.

State police were on the scene directing traffic. One lane of Ind.-37, the west side of the road, was kept open. Traffic was ordered to drive slow past the wreckage, then to speed up. No cars were allowed to stop.

Witnesses said the bus wreckage which had become a funeral pyre was tangled and molten. "It looked just like cobwebs," one said.

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for all stops along the winding Road 37, one of the state's deadliest.

State police said troopers regularly watched busses for compliance with the 50-mile-an-hour speed limit in Indiana. In 1948 40 bus drivers were arrested and 24 warned by patrolmen for speeding.

Worst bus crash on record in Indiana before today happened Feb. 17, 1947, when 13 railroad section workers were killed near Michigan City when their bus was struck by an electric train.

Another Great Lakes Greyhound bus was involved July 3 in a crash which killed three occupants of a car near Glens Valley on Road 37.

Robbers Miss \$455 in Pocket

An Evansville produce buyer who said he was robbed of \$2900 at gun point last night today said the holdup man overlooked \$455 carried in a trousers pocket.

Gordon Mayberry, 28, the buyer, told police he parked his truck in the 300 block S. East St. after arriving here to make purchases at the South Side Market.

As he locked the truck door, two men stepped from a car and approached him. One held a pistol, Mr. Mayberry said, and the other took the billfold from his pocket. After removing the money, Mr. Mayberry stated, the man returned the purse, and left the scene in the car.

THREE QUAKES IN JAPAN

NAGOYA, Japan, Aug. 10 (UP)—Three slight earthquake shocks were felt here today, but no damage was reported. Center of the quakes was placed about 20 miles north of Kyoto.

Parents Killed in Tragedy

Billy Ellerbrook . . . His elderly parents were the first known dead.

City Street Worker Collapses in Heat

Predict 93° High as Hope for Relief Fades

Pollen Count . . . 4 per cubic yd.

A 57-year-old City Asphalt Plant worker was overcome shortly before noon today as hopes for relief from the torrid heat wave over the week-end waned.

George Dulin, of 1805 Martin-dale Ave., was operating a steam roller at 30th St. and Forest Manor in near 90-degree temperature when he collapsed. He was treated by General Hospital ambulance attendants and taken to his home.

Hopes for cooling air from the Northwest faded as cities in the area reported higher temperatures. Previously, the weatherman held out a chance that slightly cooler air from the Northwest would move into Indiana sometime Saturday.

But now, the Weather Bureau said, there was no relief in sight from scorching summer sun and sultry southerly winds.

See Low of 70

Mostly fair skies were expected to be accompanied by a high of 93 late today and a maximum reading of 92 to 94 tomorrow. The weatherman forecast a low of 70 for tonight.

Scattered showers late today and tomorrow afternoon were expected to do little more than lay the dust in sun-scorched Indianapolis streets.

A broiling summer sun through thinly veiled skies sent the mercury zooming to 93 by 4 p. m. yesterday. Showers in various parts of the city later in the day brought no relief.

Sticky super-heated air cooled to only 80 by midnight. Its coolest was 73 at 6 a. m.

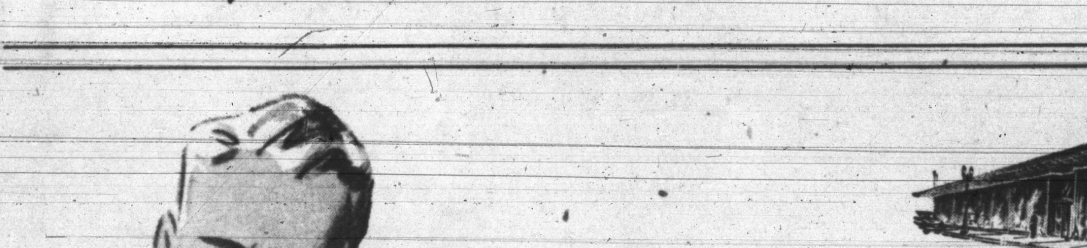
57 Fields Available For B-36 Listed

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It once was feared the bomber was so big it would need special bases. The fears have been dispelled, it was learned, by development of a new landing gear.

The new gear, which eliminates need for extra long runways, reportedly played a big part in the high command's decision to continue buying B-36's—decisions that are under investigation by the House Services Committee.

L. S. Ayres & Co. The Men's Store, Street Floor, South Building

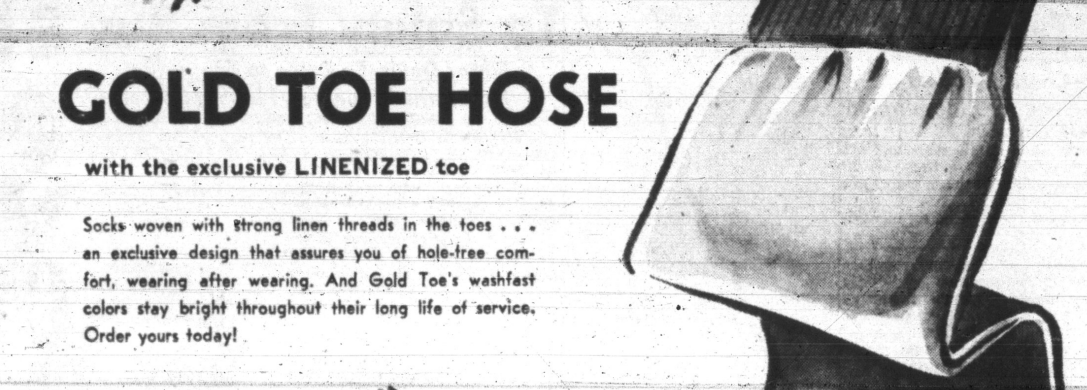


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Black, maroon, navy and brown. Sizes 10 to 13. Ankle only.

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"We were homes in Evansville."

"I was dozing back of the awakened with rifle crash. The trapped passenger."

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"The man just out the back. He got out and . . ."

"The man as Edgar Davis, driver, credited with having persons from no."

"The first look around for had followed. There were screaming flames were what I could."

Young Ric from shock, d frantically Her baby was cried."

"Jarred M Awakened Gilliland, who scene of the he ran to a v and saw the ward."

Joe Masters yards from crash, told r dorous noise struck the al from a deep."

Mr. Masto and police of was a mass of tire highway on fire."

Bartender In Free-Marion

MARION, bartender was tion today at a tavern brawl.

Tavern Ow signed a statu James E. Isra fought with-lard, in the day, police s

Dillard Jon the brawl sta between two Dalton and said he tried that Mr. Isra fracas.

NEWTON J was on his taurant, said when he saw his 38 cal. one shot at 1 let struck him.

Mr. Israel hospital and given five Physicians sa critical" cond Jones was charge.

Widow She'll Bark To Bark

ST. LOUIS Mrs. Carleton widow, today she would be ben Barkley or two.

She said sh that she-and would be we next Sunday week later."

Both, she s

MR. BAR Hadley to a Sunday and a party earl

Questioned romance. Mr that Mrs. H charming an a very nice

Ambitious Bore Thro

Burglars through the son Department Meridian St. estimated \$1,000.

Phillip Efr the store, drilled holes up boards. He said the ADT burglar to leave by th unable to fo and had to through the

"In-leaving burglars left a lady's coat roof. Only a pennies."