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TROLLEY CRASH KILLS THREE

Head On Collision of North Jersey Transit Cars Superintendent of the Road One of the Dead – Car He Was Running “Wildcat” Struck One That Was Carrying Passengers – More Than a Dozen Hurt. Hackensack, N.J., July 21.

Three men were fatally hurt and a dozen or more passengers were seriously injured about 3 o'clock this afternoon when two cars on the North Jersey Rapid Transit Company's trolley line met in a head on collision between Prospect and Grove streets, Ridgewood. F. J. Pilgrim, superintendent of the line, was internally injured and had one of his legs so badly crushed that it was amputated in the General Hospital at Paterson. He died at 7 o'clock this evening. John Hutchinson, motorman, died ten minutes after he was taken from the wreck and while on the way to the hospital. John L. Protalli of 21 Sixth street, Paterson, had his right leg amputated in Paterson Hospital and he died after the operation.

Among those seriously injured were Jacob Friedman, conductor, of Belmont avenue, Paterson, scalp wounds and bruises; Louis Ringling, laborer, of 365 Market street, Newark, severe cuts on the head. Persons suffering from cuts and bruises are Philip Carusio of Suffern, Lewis Edmonds, 776 Eighth avenue, Manhattan; Albert Jemge of Passaic, Max and Carl Kretzchluna of Passaic, William Katze of 630 West 135th street, Manhattan, and Sebastian Palesci of Suffern.

The North Jersey rapid transit line is operated between Warren Point, across the river from Paterson, to Suffern by way of Ridgewood, Hohokus, Allendale, Ramsey and Mahawah [sic]. A northbound car left Warren Point at 2:30 in charge of Conductor Friedman and Motorman Hutchinson. Unknown to them Supt. Pilgrim was travelling south with a wild-cat car to get a party of children who had been on an outing in Paterson. It is the general belief that he was trying to “steal” the Glen Roc switch against the regular. The sharp curve where the crash occurred is hidden from either end by heavy brush and neither motorman could prevent a collision, even after seeing the trouble ahead.

The car, laden with passengers, was going down hill at a high rate of speed and the two cars were telescoped. Motorman Hutchinson's body was forced to the ceiling of the car and the first six rows of seats were hurled back. It is remarkable that more lives were not lost. A car was summoned to take the worst of the injured to Paterson and hospital ambulances, police patrol wagons, and autos waited the arrival of the trolley at Warren Point. The motorman was dead when Warren Point was reached. Autos conveyed those not seriously injured from the wreck to Dr. Vroom's office in Ridgewood, where he attended them.

General Manager Evans of the transit company hurried to Ridgewood when notified of the collision and started an investigation at once. Through no official statement was given out it was said that the regular passenger trolley had a clear signal after leaving the Glen Rock switch. Both trolley cars were wrecked and it was with difficulty that the injured were rescued. The cars are supplied with high speed motors and easily make thirty miles an hour.

Coroner Tracey and Prosecutor Wright of Bergen county will make an investigation.

The rapid transit line has been in operation a little over a year. The through service to Suffern was inaugurated about a month ago.

Supt. Pilgrim lived in Ridgewood. He leaves a widow and two children