

TRIO IS KILLED AS MAIL TRAIN HITS AN AUTO

F.L. Irwin, Chief Engineer, B.H. Klee, clerk, Ralston Car Co.,
and C.E. Beauchamp, Car Inspector, Are victims.

AUTO REDUCED TO WRECKAGE

Machine Struck by Pennsylvania Flier Going at 55 Miles an Hour.
Accident Occurs in James Pike.

(The Ohio State Journal, August 14, 1912)

Three Columbus men were instantly killed yesterday afternoon when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a Pennsylvania fast mail train going 55 miles an hour. The accident occurred at the James Pike crossing, an eighth of a mile east of East Columbus.

The Dead:

FRANK L. IRWIN, aged 37, 1275 East Long Street, chief engineer of the Ralston Car Company.

C.E. BEAUCHAMP, aged 27, 198 Cleveland Avenue, chief car inspector for the Kanawha & Michigan Railroad.

BENJAMIN M. KLEE, aged 23, Railway Y.M.C.A., record clerk in the office of the Ralston Steel Car Company.

The three men were on their way in Mr. Irwin's machine to inspect finished cars. Mr. Irwin was driving and Mr. Beauchamp occupied the seat beside him. They had turned south into James Pike from Fifth Avenue and had an unobstructed view of the track in both directions.

Driven to the track in front of the westbound train, the man at the wheel apparently oblivious of its approach, the machine was struck squarely on the side. Not one of the occupants made an effort to jump, according to an eye witness.

Gasoline Tank Explodes.

Before the train had gone a distance of 200 feet, the gasoline tank of the automobile exploded under the engine and the flames leaped to a height of 30 feet, enveloping the locomotive in fire. Operator Harvey Groce said the whole front of the engine seemed to be afire as the train shot past the T&OC tower near the crossing.

Mr. Beauchamp, with the top of his skull crushed, was still breathing when he was reached, but died within a few moments. The body of Mr. Irwin was carried a considerable

distance and fell into a ditch. Mr. Klee's body was found on the pilot of the engine when the train was brought to a stop, 150 yards from the scene of the tragedy.

The machine was a mass of wreckage strewn along the track. According to the driver of an auto approaching from the opposition direction, who saw the men apparently drive in front of the train, the largest recognizable part left was a side lamp. The pilot of the engine was broken by the collision.

Mr. Irwin, the driver, was deaf. He and his companions were riding 18 or 20 miles an hour.

Irwin Careful Driver.

Mr. Irwin had driven automobiles for several years and was known as cool-headed in emergencies and careful.

All the bodies were badly cut and mangled. All sustained fractured skulls. Mr. Irwin's chest was crushed and both of Mr. Klee's legs were broken.

Mr. Irwin came to Columbus from Dayton about 10 years ago, and had been connected with the Ralston Company about five years.

He is survived by his widow and a 4-year-old son, Edward; a brother, Forrest E., 1033 East Long Street, and his father, Joseph Irwin, also of Columbus. The funeral probably will be held tomorrow afternoon at the residence, 1275 East Long Street. The Jones Company is in charge.

Mr. Irwin was a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner, and a K. of P. He had a wide acquaintance among business and manufacturing men in the city. He was an inventor and held patents on a number of his ideas. His wife is almost prostrated by his sudden death.

Mr. Beauchamp's home was in Chicago, although he had been stationed in Columbus two months and expected to be here for some time. He was in the employ of Albee and Company of Detroit, and was sent by his firm to oversee the building of cars for the K. & M. Railroad by the Ralston Company.

Burial in Chicago.

He had been away for a few days and returned Monday with his wife who had been staying in Chicago. They had taken rooms at 198 Cleveland Avenue. A 4-year-old son survives.