

# CAR DIVES TO RIVER; 3 DIE, MORE MISSING

Thirty Passengers Are Caught  
Under Water Near Pittsburgh  
—19 of Them Escape.

## SOME SWIM TO SAFETY

Lifting of Car to Surface Expected  
to Release Many Trapped  
Bodies.

*Special to The New York Times.*

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 17.—Two persons were fatally injured, a third was drowned and the waters of the Ohio near McKees Rocks are being dragged tonight for bodies as the result of a dive into the river made by a trolley car containing thirty passengers late this afternoon.

The car, bound for Pittsburgh, jumped the track on a curve at the west approach to the Fleming Park Bridge, snapped off a telegraph pole, crashed through the guard rail of the bridge and plunged fifty feet into the water.

Nineteen passengers who reached the shore were taken to the Ohio Valley Hospital at McKees Rocks, where two died later, one a girl of 10 and the other an aged woman. Neither body had been identified late tonight. The body of an unidentified girl was brought to the surface later by grappling hooks.

### Survivors Tell of Escape.

John Freeburg was in the back of the car when it plunged into the water. He broke a rear window and crawled out to the steep, slippery bank. He said he tried to drag out several persons who were struggling into the rear of the car, but finding his efforts unavailing started up the bank for help. An aged man came down the bank and helped him part way up the slope.

Irwin Teplar was riding in the front of the car near the motorman. When the front end became submerged he broke a window and got outside, then swam to shore. He saw no others about, he said.

Luce Depetro of 33 Fleming Avenue, Stowe Township, told the police he was on the car when it raced widely along the level stretch on the island. He was thrown off when the car broke through the bridge rail, turning over before it hit the water. He said seven of the passengers were women. Depetro suffered internal injuries and a bruised back.

Joseph Miller, 14 years old, of Fleming Park, was apparently the only witness of the accident.

"I saw the car coming swiftly, and I said to myself that it would never make the turn," he said. "It leaped from the rails as it started round the bend. Before I realized what had happened the car knocked over the pole and bridge rail and was lying upright in the water."

### Motorman Not Expected to Live.

Several of those injured said they noticed nothing unusual until the car hit the pole. Everything happened so quickly that they were struggling in the water-filled car before they realized what had occurred. The condition of Harry Korshun, the motorman, was so serious that it was impossible to examine him. Little hope was held out for his recovery.

News of the accident spread quickly, and soon the roads leading to the bridge were choked with automobiles. More than 10,000 persons gathered on the banks of the river and watched the search for bodies.

The Rev. George A. Bammer, assistant pastor of the St. Mary's Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, was one of those who crawled down a steep bank and helped to extricate the living passengers from their watery prison.

Ambulances, physicians and an undertaker were rushed to the scene immediately.

The car was three-fourths submerged, the front end lying in about six and one-half feet of water. George Murren, chief of county detectives, and Oliver Alexander and George Beisler, county detectives, entered the car and poked about with pike poles in fruitless effort to find bodies. They reported that windows had been smashed and there was evidence that a terrific struggle had been made by the passengers in their efforts to escape.

Coroner William McGregor has started an investigation. He believes some of the passengers escaped from the car only to drown outside. Skiffs were procured and men with grappling irons began dragging the channel bed. They had worked thus for two hours when they brought up the first body, that of the girl.

A diver was sent down to search the channel bed near the trucks of the car, where many bodies were believed to be trapped.

Wrecking crews of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad and of the Pittsburgh Railways Company late tonight started to lift the car from the water. Deputy Coroners expressed the belief this would reveal several bodies.