

Stalking My Hometown

1924-1947

Too Late for August

In 1942, ironically, Aug Dommer, a railroad worker, was the last man is killed by a train before Winamac gets its first crossing flashers installed later that spring.

(Notice that the announcement about the flashers is published in the same issue as the death announcement.)

Flashers being installed on two crossings

INSTALLING FLASHERS

A corps of Pennsylvania workmen have been engaged this week in laying the wires and installing the boxes preparatory to the installing of the crossing flashers at Adams and Madison streets. However, it will be several weeks before the flashers are in operation.

Winamac (IN) Republican Mar 25 1942: 1. Microfilm.

Train kills worker installing RR flashers

Accident Victim



AUGUST DOMMER

FAST TRAIN KILLS TRACK WORKMAN

August Dommer, Rail Section Employee, Loses Life in Accident.

Death came suddenly Tuesday forenoon to August F. Dommer of Denham, a railway section employee, when he was struck by a Pennsylvania fast train as it sped southward through Winamac.

Automatic flasher signals are now being installed at three street crossings here, and the Denham section crew had been sent down to assist in the work. August was a member of that crew, with his uncle Charles Dommer as foreman.

The men were working just below the curve at the north edge of town. August was operating a drill on the east rail of the northbound track, and was warned to leave his work when the high-speed "Jeffersonian" passenger train whistled above the curve.

Bewildered by Danger.

The drill stuck, and August had difficulty in removing it. By the time it came loose in response to his tugs at it, he had apparently become confused as to which track the train was approaching upon. Fellow workmen stated that he made a quick leap off the northbound track toward the rails of the other track, thus throwing himself directly in the path of the locomotive.

The impact threw him more than a hundred feet, severely mangling him. The remains were removed to the Fry & Lange funeral home, where they lay until the hour of the funeral this afternoon. Services at the Denham Lutheran church, conducted by the Rev. Alvin P. Starck, were followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery.

Family of Rail Workers.

August was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dommer of Jefferson township, and would have been thirty-four years of age on May 5. He had been engaged in railway work for twelve years. His grandfather, August Dommer Sr., was long a section foreman, as was also his father previous to the family's removal to the farm west of Winamac.

Three years ago last autumn August was married to Miss Janice Raider of Monticello. They lived at Dunkirk for a while, later locating at Denham. They have no children, but Mrs. Dommer expects to become mother soon.

Surviving, besides the widow and parents, are brothers Walter of Gary, Harold of Winamac, and Henry, Richard, Ronald and Donald at home; sisters Mrs. Helen Burg of Knox, Mrs. Velma Kasten and Mrs. Thelma Weldy of Winamac, and Mabel, Marcella and Mary at home.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Mar 26 1942: 1. Microfilm.

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Aug Dommer Meets Death on Railroad

■ August Frederick Dommer, 33, lost his life about 10:30 Tuesday morning when he was struck by the fast southbound Jeffersonian Pullman train as he was working on the section near the Winamac stockyards. Dommer had been working on the east track drilling holes as the train approached. The drill stuck as he attempted to remove it but suddenly gave way, causing him to lose his balance and fall into the path of the train. The body was thrown clear of the track by the engine of the train, death resulting instantly from the impact.

Winamac (IN) Republican Mar 26 1942: 1. Microfilm.

The deceased was born May 5, 1908, in Denham, a son of Otto and Mollie Henning Dommer, and had spent his entire life in that community. He was united in marriage in 1938 to Janice Raider of Monticello.

Surviving besides the widow are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dommer, of Jefferson township; six brothers, Walter of Gary, Harold of Winamac, Henry, Richard, Ronald and Donald at home; and six sisters, Helen Berg of Knox, Thelma Weldy of Winamac, Velma Kasten of Jefferson township, Mabel, Mary and Marella at home.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon at the Denham Lutheran church with Rev. A. P. Starck in charge. Interment was in the Denham cemetery.

Flashers at all Winamac RR crossings

Flashers Now Protect All Rail- Street Crossings

The work of installing automatic flasher signals at four street crossings in Winamac was completed this week by Pennsylvania railway workmen. They are now in operation, and the watchman at Main street has been dispensed with.

The signals protect all four points at which streets cross the tracks—Madison, Main, Adams and Washington. Experts in charge of the installation stated that the total cost exceeded \$20,000.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat May 28 1942: 1. Microfilm.

Besides the flashers themselves, the equipment includes a control box at each crossing. Each of these houses an intricate array of delicate instruments which regulate the signals under varying conditions. If a train stops to switch, for example, signals at crossings then free of hazard cease operating after a certain number of minutes. They start up again as the train approaches such crossings.

Current for the signals is supplied by the city light system. If it fails, an automatic device shunts the flashers onto a reserve battery.

Since Main street angles slightly as it crosses the tracks, additional overhead flashers have been installed at that point.

Flashers at all Winamac RR crossings

New Flashers Working

The new flashers that have been installed at the Adams, Main and Madison street crossings were placed in operation Saturday morning. The watchman at the Main street crossing has been disposed of and the shanty was torn down.

Winamac (IN) Republican May 28 1942: 1. Microfilm.