

Asks Inquest Into Death of J.M. Cramer

Mrs. Cramer Dies In California

Mrs. Hattie May Thomas Cramer, 73, died yesterday in Victorville, Calif. She was a sister of Mrs. Viola Straub, 214 Third street, J. L. Thomas, 515 LeRoy street, and Mrs. Sadie Williams, of Howard county.

She was born Aug. 15, 1890, in Pettis county, the daughter of William Thomas and Nancy Phillips Thomas. She was married to Grover Cramer on Aug. 5, 1906, in Sedalia. He died Aug. 23, 1952.

Mrs. Cramer lived in Arlington, Texas, until about two months ago when she moved to Victorville. She had been ill about one year.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Nora Sonntag and Mrs. Rose Cardona, of Victorville; three sons, Lee Cramer of California, Wyatt Cramer and Tom Cramer, both of Texas; five sisters, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Straub, Mrs. Mary Skidmore of California, Mrs. Mildred Kelley and Mrs. Dottie Smith, both of Kansas City; two brothers, J. L. Thomas and W. R. Thomas, of Independence. One daughter died earlier.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the Goodman and Boller Funeral Home, with burial in Walnut Grove cemetery. Other arrangements are incomplete.

An inquest into the death of John Melton Cramer, 74, was called by Coroner Dr. M. L. Diekroger for 10 a.m. Wednesday in the court house. Mr. Cramer was killed yesterday when hit by a 105-car Missouri Pacific Railroad freight train.

Mr. Cramer, Delmar Duncan and Eugene Shelnett were walking west on the railroad tracks, about 250 feet east of the highway bridge, about 4:05 p.m. when the train passed, apparently killing Mr. Cramer and injuring Duncan.

Duncan was treated in the emergency room at St. Joseph hospital for an arm injury. He was not admitted to the hospital. Shelnett jumped from the tracks and was not injured. All three are Boonville residents.

Engineer V. G. Salmons told the Boonville police, who investigated, that "About three poles east of the highway bridge I saw three men approaching, one on the north, one in the middle of the tracks, and one on the south side. The one in the middle stepped to the south."

He sounded the train whistle, but the men failed to get off the tracks in time to prevent the accident, he said.

Other members of the train crew were fireman O. H. Marr; head brakeman C. N. Oliver; conductor R. M. Loach; and brakeman J. L. Glenn. All are from Jefferson City. The train's destination was St. Louis, and it originated in Kansas City. It had no regularly scheduled stop in Boonville.

Salmons told police that the train was traveling about 45 miles per hour at the time of the accident.

Joe Pyles, who witnessed the accident from the Highway 40 bridge, told police that he saw the three men walking west toward the train, and heard the train whistle. One of the three reached for the man in the middle of the tracks, and Pyles thought they jumped from the tracks.

"One got up and walked away, and I knew the other was hurt,"

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Pyles told police.

Mr. Cramer was born Oct. 26, 1889, at Blackwater, the son of John Cramer and Sarah Stout Cramer. In 1913, he married Inez Stevens, at Boonville. She died in 1962. He was a member of the Pleasant Hill Baptist church and spent his entire lifetime in this area.

Survivors include four daughters, Mrs. Margaret Frederick and Mrs. Faye Kelley, both of Independence, Mrs. Lorene Sears and Mrs. Ruby Lummus, both of Boonville; four sons, Roy Cramer, Kansas City, Charles Cramer and Harvey Cramer, both of Independence, Riley Cramer, Boonville; three sisters, Mrs. Henderson Taylor, Smithton, Mrs. S. E. Johnson, Boonville, and Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, New Franklin; one brother, Joe Cramer, Lamine; 22 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. One son,

William Cramer, died in 1948.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Goodman and Boller Funeral chapel with the Rev. Stanley Birge in charge. Burial will be in the Old Lamine cemetery.

Friends may call at the Goodman and Boller chapel until time for the services.