

# Gasoline Truck Driver Cremated After Collision

## Huge Vehicle Filled At Quaker State Refinery In Valley

Richard Little, 21, of East Aurora, N. Y., was burned to death in a shocking accident Saturday morning while driving a huge tank truck loaded with gasoline from the Quaker State Oil Refinery at Farmers Valley, outside of Smethport, to Buffalo.

It is probable the driver momentarily nodded in sleep after an all-night trip to Smethport and return to Buffalo with the result that the 10-ton truck on which was mounted a big tank filled with 4,140 gallons of gasoline hit a concrete signal standard at the L.R.C.-Erie Railroad crossing in Sheridan Drive, Buffalo, and capsized.

An explosion occurred and flames shot 100 feet in the air.

Several fire companies responded but could not approach the tank of burning gasoline.

Little's charred body was not identified for some time after it was removed.

The fire damaged the street pavement and the intense heat twisted the railroad tracks for a distance of 30 feet.

The tank truck was owned by the A. R. Grundy Company which operates a fleet of the vehicles on nightly runs between the local refinery and Buffalo and Rochester, supplying gasoline dealers in those areas.

The shocking accident happened shortly before 7 o'clock Saturday morning.

The Daily Messenger, Canandaigua, NY, 1/4/1937:

Fire that enveloped a 10-ton gasoline truck after it crashed into the concrete abutment of a railroad grade crossing at Tonawanda trapped Richard Little, 25, of East Aurora. Would-be rescuers located him in the wreckage but could not extricate him.

## Two Lives Snuffed Out In Auto Mishaps

Automobile accidents continue to take their toll, this past week snuffing out lives of two men of this community.

The most spectacular of the tragedies was the death of Richard Little, 21, of 567 Oakwood avenue, who was killed Saturday when driving a truck loaded with 4,140 gallons of gasoline, which collided with two concrete signal beacons at the I.R.C.-Erie railroad crossing, in Sheridan drive, half a mile east of Colvin avenue. The machine overturned and was destroyed in the terrific blaze which followed, making aid from firemen impossible.

It is believed that the young man was dead of a fractured skull before the flames reached his body.

• He was born May 8, 1915, in East Aurora. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Immaculate Conception Church, and also a volunteer fireman of Chemical Hose Company No. 1. He was employed by the A. R. Gundry Company, Rochester, hauling concern, and was enroute Bradford, Pa., to North Tonawanda, when the accident occurred.

Funeral services were held Monday morning from Immaculate Conception Church, the Rev. Father James H. Kane officiating. Burial was in Immaculate Conception cemetery, Bowen road.

Besides his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Little, Richard is survived by one sister, Margaret M., at home, and two brothers, Frank E., Fredonia, and George T., of Avon.

George Bloecher, 64, of Schang road, Wales Center, died Friday in Mercy Hospital from injuries received in a collision of automobiles in West Seneca last Wednesday. His sister, Miss Louise Bloecher, 54, was also badly hurt and is in Mercy Hospital.

Funeral services were held Monday, with burial in Dutch Hollow cemetery. Surviving are three sisters, Louise, Mrs. Elizabeth Keiver, Harris corners, and Mrs. Lena Stillinger, Jewettville.