Plainville Railroad Crossing Crash Fatal To Family Of Three

A southbound freight train slammed into a car at a Plainville crossing about 11 a.m. Friday, killing a family of three and critically injuring a relative.

Sheriff Hughdon Davis said Marvin Hazlewood, 24, his wife, Mrs. Virginia Hazlewood, 19, and their 3-year-old son, Donald, were killed and Gerald Bishop, 9, Mr. Hazlewood's nephew, was critically hurt. The Hazlewoods live 3 miles west of Plainville.

Young Bishop received a compound fracture of the left leg, face, head and chest injuries. He is in Floyd County Hospital, Rome.

The two adults were pronounced dead at the scene of the crash by Floyd County coroner John L. Davenport. The Hazlewood boy was pronounced dead on arrival at Floyd Hospital.
Sheriff Davis quoted the conductor of the train, E. B. Noland, as saying the train was traveling at 30 to 35 miles an hour, approaching the crossing when he saw the Hazelwood car drive onto the tracks. He said the man was driving and was looking in the opposite direction from the train. He said the train horn was sounded and he thought the car was going to halt. Instead it attempted to cross in front of the train.

The train was a Southern Railway freight, southbound to Atlanta with 98 cars. Reports from the scene said three diesel engines and 32 cars passed the crossing, dragging the Hazelwood car some 65 to 70 feet, before the train could be stopped. The car, which was knocked into a mail crane, was demolished. The train engineer was Tom Neal of Atlanta.

Investigating the accident were Gordon County Sheriff Davis and Deputy L. M. McEntire and Floyd Deputies Wallace Camp and Henry Salmon.

The Hazelwood car reportedly was headed west in the direction of the Rome-Calhoun highway.

The dead were identified by G. D. Hazelwood, father of the dead man, M 15 1960

Two ambulances from Calhoun and two others from Rome went to the scene to find the bodies lying between the wrecked car and railroad tracks. Young Bishop was found on the automobile's