

STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEE KILLED; DRIVER IS HELD

Milo Schooler, 23, Crushed to
Death on 71 Bridge

INQUEST TOMORROW NIGHT

Oklahoma Truck Plows Into Car
After Fatal Mishap—Kendrick-
town Woman Badly Injured

Milo Eugene Schooler, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira O. Schooler, 617 East Third street, an employee of the state highway department, was crushed to death at 11:15 this morning when he was struck by the rear end of a truck while working on the bridge over Spring river on highway 71, at the north edge of Carthage. Schooler, who died a few minutes after being taken to McCune-Brooks hospital, suffered a basal skull fracture and his pelvis and spine were badly crushed, torn and lacerated.

Schooler was one of nine men working on the highway north of Carthage cleaning off gravel and snow. The truck, owned by V. F. Weaver of Choteau, Okla., was driven by Norman Cross of Choteau and was traveling south.

Schooler Dragged 20 Feet

According to other members of the maintenance crew a coupe bus, stopped on the highway and a car driven by Harry Schwartz of Kansas City slowed down on account of the stalled coupe. The truck had started around the Schwartz car when the rear end struck Schooler, who had stepped up onto the base of the bridge railing in an effort to get out of the way of the truck. Schooler was dragged about 20 feet, according to witnesses. The truck then crushed head-on into a Chevrolet sedan driven by H. A. Choate of Kendricktown. Mrs. Choate, who was riding with her husband, received bruises on her head, abrasions on her legs and her tongue was cut. She also is suffering from shock. Her condition is considered serious. Mr. Choate suffered minor bruises.

Schooler and Mrs. Choate were taken to McCune-Brooks hospital in Knell ambulances.

Two Fellow Workers Hurt

Miles Jackson and Bill Alumbaugh, who also were working with the maintenance crew, received minor injuries. The fender of one of the machines struck Jackson, on the right leg. Alumbaugh, who was standing just south of Schooler on the railing, received a slight injury to his elbow.

Dr. A. N. Winchester, county coroner, will conduct an inquest at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow night at the Knell mortuary. Cross is being held in the jail here pending the outcome of the inquest.

On Job Only Few Days

Schooler was born May 17, 1915, on a farm northeast of Carthage. He had lived in Carthage and vicinity all of his life. He had been employed only a few days for the highway department under B. E. Gilbreath, maintenance patrolman.

Schooler is survived by his parents; two brothers, Ivan Schooler of Carthage and Orville Schooler, a chef at the U. S. army air corps station at Marsh Field, Calif.; and a sister, Mrs. Welma Palmer of Molina, Mo. Both the brother, Orville, and the sister are expected to come to Carthage for the funeral services.

The body is at the Knell mortuary. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

SCHOOLER INQUEST TONIGHT

Probe of Fatal Accident Will Be at
Knell Mortuary

Dr. A. N. Winchester, county coroner, will conduct an inquest at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the Knell mortuary into the death of Milo Schooler, 23, state highway employee, who was fatally injured yesterday morning while working on the bridge over Spring river on highway 71 just north of Carthage. Schooler was struck by the rear end of a truck which crushed him against the viaduct railing and dragged him about 20 feet. He died about 15 minutes later in McCune-Brooks hospital. The truck was driven by Norman Cross of Choteau, Okla.

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Schooler have not been made. A brother, Orville Schooler, a chef in the U. S. army air corps at Marsh Field, Calif., is expected to come and arrangements will not be made until his arrival.

Mrs. H. A. Choate of Kendricktown, who suffered severe injuries when the truck which struck Schooler, collided head-on with the Choate car, is reported about the same by the attending physician. She is a patient in McCune-Brooks hospital.

Cross is held by officers pending outcome of the inquest.

NO BLAME IN TRUCK DEATH

OPEN VERDICT IS RETURNED IN
SCHOOLER ACCIDENT

Jury Recommends Highway Department Place Flagman or Warning
Signs When Men Working

A coroner's jury returned an open verdict last night following an inquest into the death Monday morning of Milo Schooler, state highway department employee, who died at McCune-Brooks hospital about 30 minutes after being crushed when a grain truck skidded into him on the highway 71 bridge over Spring river at the north edge of Carthage. The jury placed no blame for the accident but included in its verdict a recommendation that flagmen or warning signs be placed at points where highway employees are working. It was testified that no flagmen or warning signals were used Monday as workmen cleared snow and gravel from the span.

Elza Johnson, assistant prosecuting attorney, said following the inquest that charges of careless and reckless driving probably will be filed against Marvin Cross of Choteau, Okla., driver of the truck which fatally injured young Schooler. Cross has been held in the county jail here since the accident.

Sixteen witnesses testified at the inquest, including eight members of the highway crew who were working with Schooler at the time of the accident.

The jury's verdict is as follows: "We, the jury, find that Milo Schooler came to his death by being hit by a truck driven by Marvin Cross, who, in trying to avoid hitting a car in front of him, swerved his truck to the wrong side of the road and in so doing struck and fatally injured said Milo Schooler. The jury desires to recommend to the state highway department that they should require flagmen or warning signs when employees are working on bridges or restricted places."

Members of the jury were Willis Wallingford, foreman; W. C. Faulkner, L. E. Spry, Hugh H. Sittler, J. Elmer Mallory and R. D. Brown.

Dr. K. E. Baker, Carthage physician, was the first witness and testified that he was called to the hospital shortly after 11 o'clock Monday morning to attend young Schooler and that the boy died a short time after his arrival at the hospital. Baker placed the time of death at 11:25 o'clock. Charles Knoblauch, ambulance driver, and Frank W. Knell of the Knell mortuary testified concerning the call to the scene of the accident and in removing the accident victims to McCune-Brooks hospital.

H. C. Choate of Kendricktown, driver of the car which collided head-on with the grain truck driven by Cross, was the next witness and said he did not observe the truck until a second before the collision, that he was driving slowly watching the workers who were on both sides of the bridge. Mrs. Choate was injured in the collision and is still in the hospital.

Verne Lemery, foreman of the crew which was working on the bridge, Loj Ross, Burch Roper, Norman Sipp, Orville Scott, Harold Hitchcock, Bill Alumbaugh and Miles Jackson, all highway employees, testified to witnessing the accident. Most of the witnesses stated Cross' truck was being driven about 40 to 50 miles an hour when he set his brakes in an effort to avoid colliding with a car which had slowed almost to a stop on the bridge. They said that the truck skidded for about 50 feet, swerving to the east side of the bridge. The truck was heavily loaded.

Marshal John Tryon and Policemen Arthur Bingmah and Ray Vaile testified to being called to the scene of the accident and of taking Cross into custody.

Lemery was recalled to the witness chair and asked why no warning signals or flagmen had been stationed at each end of the bridge. He replied that in his 10 years with the highway department he had never been authorized to have flagmen nor had he been provided with warning signs of any kind.

Cross then testified that as he rounded the curve just north of the viaduct that a car passed him. Just as he came to the bridge, this car suddenly stopped in front of him and the accident occurred as he attempted to avoid striking this car. He said he did not see the Choate car until he swerved around the car on the right hand side of the roadway to avoid striking it and did not know he had struck the Schooler boy until he climbed out of the truck. He placed his speed at about 20 miles an hour.