

## Laura V. Blanchard ( - 7 Jul 1919)

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### **Girl Killed As Auto From D.C. Is Ditched**

Miss Laura Blanchard, employed temporarily as a waitress by the Charles restaurant, 625 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, was killed and five companions were injured last night on the Frederick pike, seven miles from Ellicott City, Md., when the automobile in which they were returning to Washington skidded over a freshly tarred roadbed into a roadside ditch.

The injured are reported to be William F. Macklin of this city, driver of the car; Miss Lucille Merkle of 468 6th street northwest, Helen N. Wilson and Harry R. Martin of Wilmington, Del., and Harry Carroll of this city.

The accident occurred when the driver attempted to avoid a truck loaded with telegraph poles which backed without warning into the road. Miss Blanchard was instantly killed.

Miss Merkle, who lives here with her mother, escaped with bruises to the right side and right arm. She proceeded to Washington for treatment, and was taken to Ellicott City this morning to attend the inquest.

At the restaurant it was stated that a party of four, including Miss Blanchard, had been there last week, intending to leave immediately to spend Fourth of July week at Atlantic city. Since then nothing was heard from them. Miss Blanchard had been employed there only in rush hours and nothing of her relatives could be learned.

The condition of the injured, except Carroll, is said not to be serious.