

Ida May Hopkins

(- 26 Oct 1929)

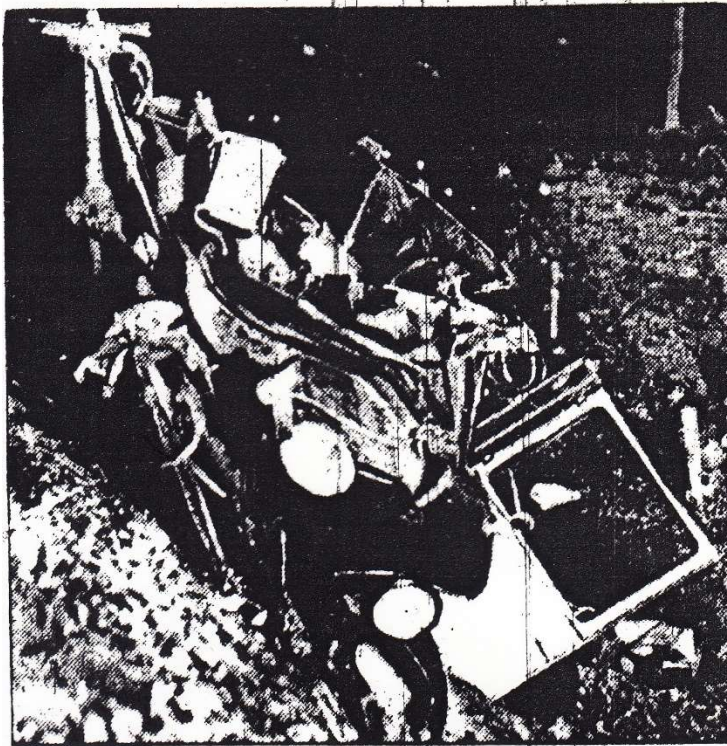
Hopkins, Ida May. Suddenly on Saturday, October 26, 1929, Ida May Hopkins. Funeral from W.W. Deal's Funeral home, 816 H st. n.e., on Wednesday, October 30 at 2 p.m. Funeral private. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, October 27, 1929, p. 1

**Two Women Killed By Express Train in Takoma Park Grade Collision
Automobile Carrying Three Occupants Demolished at
Chestnut Street Crossing. Bodies Thrown in Ravine
Daughter of One Victim Survives With Injuries**

**Mrs. Ida E. Hopkins and Mrs. Mary E. Johnson, 60-Year-Old Neighbors,
Identified Dead in Tragedy Which Occurred Just Before Midnight**

WRECK IN WHICH TWO WERE KILLED



All that is left of the automobile in which two women lost their lives when train hit their machine at the Takoma Park grade crossing late last night. —Star Staff Photo

Two women were crushed to death and a third badly injured late last night when a Baltimore & Ohio express train demolished their automobile at the deadly Chestnut street crossing, in Takoma Park, one of the few grade crossings left in the District.

The dead are Mrs. Ida E. Hopkins, 1517 Gales street northeast, and her neighbor, Mrs. Mary E. Johnson, 1521 Gales street northeast. Each was 60 years old. Miss Edith Hopkins, 33-year-old daughter of one of the dead women, was picked up from the wreckage by firemen from Silver Spring, Md., and taken to Walter Reed Hospital. Later she was removed to Emergency Hospital.

She is suffering from a fractured skull, fractured pelvis, and is badly cut and bruised. At an early hour this morning she was half conscious and hysterical. She was unable to tell of the crash.

Mrs. Johnson was driving the car.

Lieut. J.E. Bowers of the thirteenth precinct, the first officer to arrive on the scene, reported that he was unable to find any witnesses of the accident.

Scene of Other Accidents

Police of the thirteenth precinct, who investigated a report that the crossing signal was not working reported that when they arrived on the scene the light was flashing and the signal bell was still ringing. The train had stopped a short distance down the track.

The scene of several fatal accidents, the crossing has repeatedly been the object of attack by Takoma Park civic associations which fought for its elimination.

The train was traveling at about 40 miles an hour when it hit the machine, it was estimated. It was an express train from the West and carried no passengers. The engineer jammed on the brakes, but the automobile was carried 50 feet and thrown off the track and down a 30-foot embankment. The train came to a halt near the Takoma Park station. Later it proceeded to Newark, N.J., without coming into the station.

Physicians on Scene

Dr. Jerome J. Krick of Emergency Hospital was the first physician on the scene, and pronounced the two women dead. Their bodies were badly mangled. Dr. E.K. Richardson of Takoma Park picked up an automobile license tag from the wreckage, which gave the first clue to the identity of the victims. Lieut. Bowers later found a tiny brown purse, bearing Mrs. Hopkins' name, in the center of the railroad tracks.

Coroner Nevitt viewed the bodies and announced that an inquest would be held at 11:30 tomorrow morning.

James A. Johnson, husband of one of the dead women, an employe of the Government Printing Office, collapsed at the morgue while he was waiting for the bodies to arrive.

Husband Tells of Visit

He said the women had taken him to work yesterday afternoon, later going to the home of Miss Nettie Campbell, a sister of Mrs. Hopkins, who lives in Takoma Park. They were to return for him at 11 o'clock. When they did not arrive Johnson returned home, where he was apprised of the accident by The Star.

Mrs. Hopkins, a widow, made her home with her brother, J.W. Selby, at the Gales street address. He also was in ignorance of the accident until informed by newspaper men, then went with Mr. Johnson to the morgue.

The accident occurred about 11:45 o'clock. The first arrivals on the scene found only the wreckage and Miss Hopkins. Later automobile headlights were turned down the tracks and the search begun which revealed the bodies.

The Evening Star, October 30, 1929, p. 9

Victims of Crossing Crash Given Burial

Third Woman in Auto Accident Expected to Recover From Injuries

Simple services marked the separate funerals today of Mrs. Mary E. Johnson and Mrs. Ida Hopkins, who were fatally injured Saturday night when the automobile of Mrs. Johnson was demolished by a Baltimore & Ohio train at the Chestnut street crossing in Takoma Park.

Both funerals were conducted from the Deal Funeral Home, 816 H street northeast. Mrs. Johnson was buried in Glenwood Cemetery and Mrs. Hopkins in Congressional Cemetery.

The condition of Miss Edith Hopkins, injured in the accident, is reported better, Emergency Hospital officials say, and she probably will recover.