

WOMAN DIES AFTER SMASH AT CROSSING

AN 89-year-old Hawera woman, Mrs Ethel Nellie O'Callaghan, died in Calvary Hospital, Hawera, yesterday afternoon from injuries received in a railcar-car smash on the Turuturu railway crossing at 3.13 p.m.

Mrs O'Callaghan's husband, Mr William O'Callaghan (88), who was driving, was taken to hospital suffering from severe shock, cuts and abrasions.

He was still in a very shocked state today. His condition was reported to be "as well as can be expected."

The accident was the second bad crash on the crossing in less than two months.

Mr O'Callaghan was driving towards Hawera and the railcar was travelling north to New Plymouth. It had just left the Hawera railway station.

The railcar slammed into the passenger's side of the car, tossed it from the rails and slewed it more than 20 feet almost into a roadside drain.

The car was wrecked and the railcar was damaged in front. The cow-catcher was removed and the railcar continued its journey after a delay of 25 minutes.

The railcar was driven by Mr Wilfred James Mist, Wrantage St, New Plymouth. Mr and Mrs O'Callaghan were residents of the Calvary Hospital and were returning from an afternoon drive when they were involved in the crash.

The couple had been married for 62 years. Mrs O'Callaghan was formerly a Miss Russell, daughter of a prominent Christchurch solicitor, Mr T. J. Russell. Her surviving sister lives in England.

Mr O'Callaghan was formerly a Hawera car dealer. He has been closely associated with the Automobile Association and is a director of the Europa Oil Company.

Large "caution" road-markings are to be painted on the approaches to the Turuturu railway crossing, the scene of yesterday's fatal railcar-car smash.

The Hawera county engineer, Mr F. Mugeridge, said today that former caution lines were wiped out by recent reconstruction work on the road.

The markings would be replaced immediately. The crossing has been the scene of two serious accidents within two months.

Auctioneer fined £100

WELLINGTON, This Day (PA). — Auctioneers should be above suspicion and of sound integrity, Mr Justice Tompkins said this morning in the Supreme

BARRIERS

Preliminary work has begun on the erection of automatic traffic barriers and an alarm system at the Weymouth St railway level crossing in New Plymouth.

The crossing is on the only access road to Kawaroa Park and the swimming baths.

A Railways Department official said today that the barriers would swing down automatically on the approach of a train. They would be linked with warning bells and flashing lights.

The devices were expected to be in operation in about two months.

Court.

Trevor Kenneth Findlay (39), auctioneer and land agent, Upper Hutt, was fined £100 when he appeared for sentence on a charge of theft of £7/10/- by failing to account.

On behalf of Findlay, Mr G. C. Kent said the offence was out of character, was a curious, isolated incident never likely to be repeated, and Findlay had never spared himself in community efforts.

Journalism award

WELLINGTON, This Day (PA). — The five Baird awards in journalism and Press photography for 1963 have been announced. The awards are for news, feature and sports writing and sports and general photography. The prize is £50 in each section.

born babies.

Feature writing (judges, Messrs Kitching and Cross): Graham Witt, Southland Daily News, Invercargill (award winner); M. W. Smith, Auckland Star, and Alan Hitchens, The Dominion (both highly commended).

Mr Witt's winning entry consisted of a set of three

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