

October 1973

2-3 miles East of Calton

One of worst in area history

Seven killed in crash

Seven persons died in the twisted wreckage of their two cars Saturday afternoon in what has been termed one of the worst crashes in the history of this area.

Five of the victims are members of one family. Dead are Jacob Peters, 29, of Vienna; his two sons, Heinrich, aged 10 months; Jacob Jr., 5; and uncle and aunt, Peter Remple Krahn, 71; and his wife Katharina Krahn, 69, of Port Burwell.

Mrs. Anna Peters, 39, and her daughter Tina, 6, were admitted to Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital where they are listed in fair condition. Another son,

Berhord Peters, 3, is in serious condition in Victoria Hospital, London.

Two men in the other car, Tony DeRyk, 35, the driver, and his passenger, Jon Hewson, 19, both of Aylmer, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Police said Mr. Peters, and Mr. and Mrs. Krahn were dead at the scene, and the two small children were dead on arrival at hospital.

The accident occurred at 5:20 p.m. on Elgin County Road 45, about a mile west of Highway 19, during a heavy rain storm. The cars, travelling in opposite

directions, met almost head-on.

Two ambulances from Tillsonburg hospital and one from Verhoeve ambulance of Langton were dispatched to the scene.

Attendants had to pray apart wreckage to remove the bodies and survivors.

One attendant said "We could hear children crying, but couldn't see them at first, until we started ripping the wreck apart."

The scene: "It was bad...real bad."

Investigation was by P. C. Keith Buxton, Port Burwell detachment, OPP, and Cpl. E. F. Martin of the Tillson-

burg detachment. Coroner Dr. L. G. Leatherdale, Aylmer, attended at the scene.

The Peters family had moved to the area about three months ago from Mexico.

Bodies of the family were taken to the Kebbel Funeral Home in Aylmer, and they will be buried according to tradition of the Mennonite sect to which they belonged.

The service has been delayed until Friday to allow time for relatives to arrive from Manitoba, where they were born, and from Saskatchewan and Mexico.

Mr. DeRyk is survived by his wife, the former Shirley

Bartlett; two children, David DeRyk and Debbie DeRyk, both at home; his mother, Mrs. Coleta DeRyk of Aylmer; four brothers, Gus DeRyk and Frank DeRyk, both of Aylmer, Peter DeRyk of Byron and Theo DeRyk of Tillsonburg; and two sisters, Mrs. Paul (Betty) Westelaken of St. Thomas, and Mrs. Lionel (Erna) Maracle of Aylmer.

Resting at the H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home until Tuesday morning, thence to Our Lady of Sorrows R. C. Church, for requiem high mass at 11 a.m.

Interment in Queen of Peace Cemetery.

Prayers will be said at the (Continued on Page 2)



JON HEWSTON

... leaves pregnant widow

are of us, part of the church back home, and we will take care of them."

All the bodies were taken to the Kebbel Funeral Home in Aylmer.

Mr. DeRyk, who owned a service station with his brother in Aylmer, worked across



ANTHONY DeRYK

... father of two killed

the street from Mr. Hewston, an employee at a tire store. Both stores are within 50 yards of the funeral home.

Mr. DeRyk, who will be buried Tuesday, is survived by a wife and two children. Mr.



JACOB PETERS

... driver of one vehicle

Hewston, also to be buried Tuesday, has one child and a 19-year-old, six-months-pregnant widow.

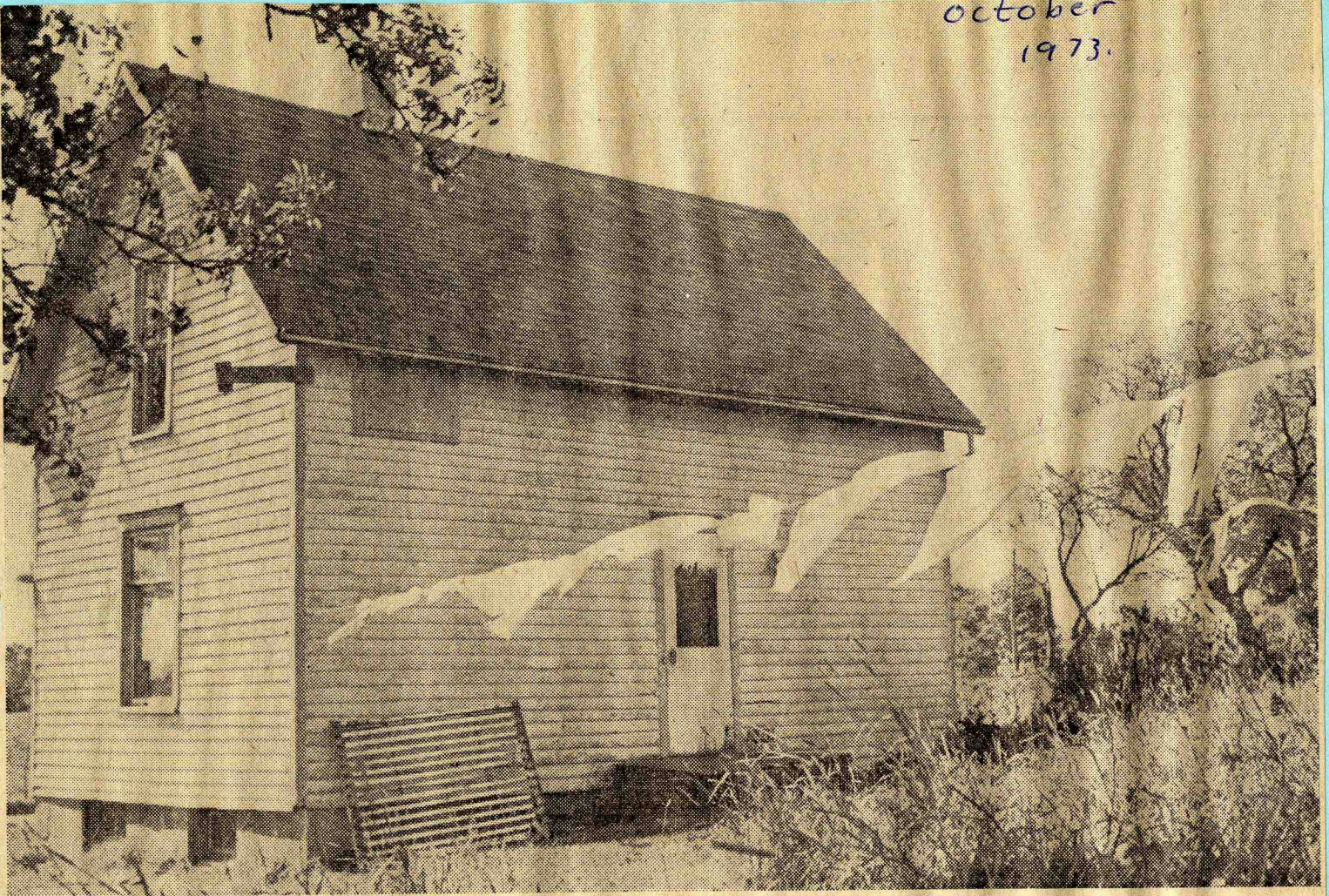
"It's really bad," said Emma Peltz, a nursing supervisor at the Tillsonburg hospital. "It's one of the worst things that has ever happened here."

"We had four boys killed here two weeks ago in an auto accident, but this..."



Seven people, including two small children, died in this Bayham Township collision Saturday afternoon during a blinding rain storm. Three others, Mrs. Anna Peters and her other two children were seriously injured and are in hospital. The Peters car is shown on the right side of the photo. Two men, Tony Deryk and Jon Hewson, Aylmer, died in the other car.

October
1973.



—By Bill Ironside of The Free Press

The Saturday wash blows in the bright Sunday morning sunshine at the home of the Peters family of Vienna. Five members of the family were killed Saturday.

Violent 2-car crash kills 7

(Continued from Page One)

OPP said, and the identities of the victims were not released until Sunday morning.

George Wiek of Vienna and three other Peters relatives went to the family's faded, white wood farmhouse Sunday morning.

Mr. Peters was apparently employed as a day laborer in the area. He, his wife and the four children slept in one small room of the old house. Three of the children apparently

slept on a mattress on the floor. The baby had a crib.

Relatives found clean, faded clothing drying on lines in the littered back yard and in the living room.

In the basement they found—and took home with them—a scrawny and hungry grey kitten.

Burial services for the Peters and Krahn will be delayed until Friday, to allow time for relatives to arrive from Manitoba—where

they were born—Saskatchewan and Mexico. They will be buried near Aylmer.

The Peters and Krahn were members of the "Mexican Mennonite" sect.

Following their religion's tradition, the five will be sewn in shrouds and buried in hand-made pine coffins. Fellow church members, again following tradition, are making the coffins.

"They were not yet a part of our church here," said an area churchman. "But they

Calton Church Wedding



Photo by Xavier
Margaret Elizabeth Axford and Peter G. Baxter exchanged wedding vows in Calton Baptist Church on September 29, 1973 at 2:30 p.m. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Axford, 263 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Ray Baxter, RR 1, Port Burwell. A reception was held at the Saxonia Hall, Aylmer. Following their return from a Northern Ontario honeymoon the couple took up residence in St. Thomas at 42 Parkside Drive, Apt.

Pete is the Sunday School Superintendant.



LOCAL FINISHERS — These six motorcycle riders were among the many local entries in the Otter Valley Riders Club annual endurance run held Sunday near Calton. From left are Jim Haskell, of St. Thomas; John Brown, of Port Stanley,

Clair Walker, RR 5, Aylmer; Martin Lewis, St. Thomas; Bill Chilton, Port Stanley, and George Chilton, St. Thomas. All of these riders finished the 50-mile course. Award winners were chosen by lots not according to their times. (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau).



ENDURANCE RUN — Already spattered with mud, this unidentified motorcycle rider makes his way through a gully near the beginning of a 50-mile endurance run sponsored by the Otter Valley Motorcycle Riders, held near Calton, Sunday. The route took the riders south from Calton to the lakeshore, and then in a loop to return to their starting point, one mile north of Calton. Thirty-seven of the 109 riders entered finished the run. (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

Mud, cold brightened 50-mile motorcycle run

NOV. 4 - 1973

CALTON — Broken chains, flat tires, frustrating mud and cold weather were among the ingredients of a 50-mile endurance motorcycle race that was held here Sunday.

More than 100 riders entered the contest which was not a race against one another or the clock but rather a test of machine and operator against the elements.

Almost every rider finishing the course was covered from head to foot in mud, and little wonder since the route went through creek beds, brush, dirt roads, and fields. One rider said one of the hills rose at a 75 degree angle.

The motorcycles were directed north from the club's meeting place about one mile north of Calton and went as far south as the lake. The bikers crossed and used county roads on part of the run as well as laneways, and often nothing more than a pathway.

Thirty-seven of the riders finished the run.

The overall winner of the day was Jim Fuller, of Richmond.

The awards were given as the result of a draw since it was not a race.

Riders came from Sarnia, Windsor, Kitchener, and the local area.

Treasurer of the Otter Valley Riders Incorporated, Ron Phillips, said the club would like to thank the landowners who made the run possible.

He said the course was tough and the young riders learned a lot. Motorcycles can go through places that only a horse would attempt, and Sunday these riders did just that.

Mr. Phillips said the endurance run was not a competition and the riders were just out to have fun.