

ACCIDENT AT DEATH'S CROSSING

ELECTRIC CAR SMASHED BY A LOCOMOTIVE.

**CREW AND SINGLE OCCUPANT
HAVE VERY NARROW
ESCAPES.**

**Carelessness of Engineer and of
Man in Charge of the Gates
Responsible for the
Wreck.**

Owing to the carelessness of Southern Pacific employes, engine 1960 of that company crashed into a car of the San Francisco and San Mateo electric line at 9:45 o'clock last night, completely destroying the car and seriously injuring its only passenger, Mrs. Layman.

That no one was killed in the collision is remarkable, as the car was smashed almost into pieces by the force of the collision and thrown clear of the intersecting tracks.

The scene of the accident was at the railroad crossing near the corner of Sickles avenue and San Jose road, Ocean View, and the locality has been the place of such a number of accidents in the past that it has earned the name from residents of the vicinity of "Death's Crossing."

Last night's collision was largely due to the carelessness of William Brown, the engineer of locomotive 1960, who was waiting on a siding near the crossing for the approach of a train which he was to assist up a grade. A freight train had just passed the crossing and the gates had been raised to allow the electric car to pass through when, without a single warning from his whistle or his bell, Brown turned on the throttle and suddenly started ahead. The motorneer, seeing that the gates had been raised, had also started, and when half way across the tracks his car was struck squarely in the middle by the coming engine, which had gained considerable speed. The trolley car was turned over and forced completely off the track by the collision, and the conductor and motorneer escaped with their lives by jumping. Mrs. Layman was thrown from her seat and badly cut by the falling glass, besides sustaining other injuries from her fall.

Every precaution was taken previous to the accident by the conductor of the car, who had run forward, and seeing the gates open and the engine standing still, had motioned for his motorneer to go ahead. The switchman at the crossing, from his location, however, should have been able to see the engine start and either give a warning to the car or close the gate. He did neither, but stood as if paralyzed when the accident occurred.

Mrs. Layman, when removed from the debris of the wrecked car, received medical attention from Dr. Vander,

who lives near the scene of the accident. She was later removed to her home, 834 Twenty-ninth street. The smashed car was in charge of Conductor J. S. Ford and Motorman J. B. Kelly, both of whom are old employes of the San Mateo road.