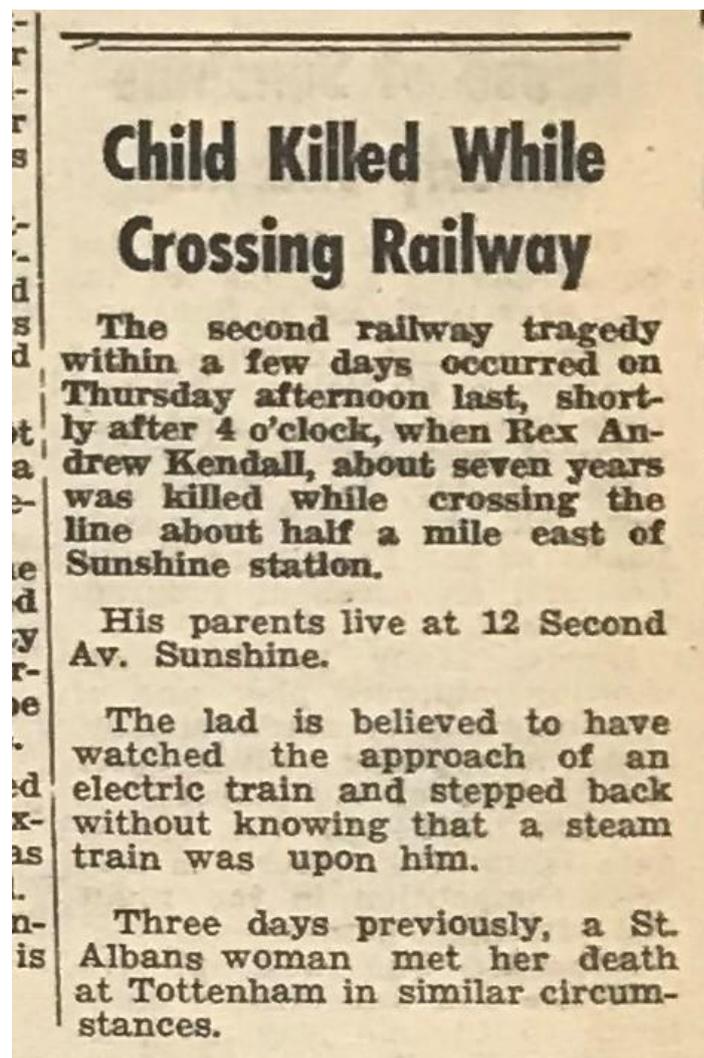


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Child killed while crossing railway, Rex Andrew Kendall, Age 7

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Rail tragedy points to need for action

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RAIL TRAGEDY POINTS TO NEED FOR ACTION

Death of a seven-year-old boy on the railway line near Sunshine station last Thursday brings the spotlight on a dangerous but natural practice which authorities should seek to eliminate.

Many children cross the line every day at various points between Monash St. and Wright St. — some of the older ones on their way to Sunshine Technical School, the younger ones on their way to Sunshine State School.

Departmental "zoning" of primary school children provides that all those from the south side of Monash Street must attend Sunshine State School, although the new Sunvale school would be much more convenient and safer to reach.

Official opinion is that the new overpass will eliminate any danger for children wishing to get from one side of the line to the other, but parents do not share this view, contending that the overpass will create a greater and faster flow of traffic and that road crossings will be equally if not more dangerous.

DON'T WAIT

A suggestion was made this week that council representations be made to the Railways department for the present footbridge at Hampshire Rd. to be transferred to a point easterly which would serve the purposes of safety and convenience for a large number of people.

A number of residents have

written on the subject. G. Bell mentions the convenient prohibited short cuts which adults use and set a bad example for children to follow and suggests the introduction of a safe crossing of some sort, and asks: Are persons of responsibility going to wait for another tragedy or act now?

Another letter from two concerned parents states it is astounding that Derby Rd. and Parsons St. are not linked to overcome the unpredictable tendencies of children and suggest a footbridge at this point.

The letter adds: "We hope it will be possible for something to be done by the proper authorities to avert similar accidents."

Deputation Leads

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School boy's death from misadventure, Malcom John Lock, Aged 6

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