

Physician, trying to cross tracks, killed by train

CRANSTON — Dr. Simon L. Blumen, a physician with a practice in Johnston, was struck and killed by an Amtrak passenger train while trying to cross the tracks slightly south of the Park Avenue railroad bridge yesterday afternoon, police said.

Dr. Blumen, 64, of 168 Lauren St., was alone, crossing the tracks from the Wellington Avenue side to the Elmwood Avenue side shortly after 3 p.m. when he was hit by the train, which was traveling south at about 70 miles an hour, police said.

Capt. Robert Brown said the area around the bridge is a popular shortcut.

"We can find nothing to lead us to believe it is anything but an accident," Brown said at the scene.

Police said Amtrak Metroliner 227 with four passenger cars and a food service car was en route from

Boston to New Haven, Conn., with eventual connections to Washington, D.C.

The train was leaving a 50 mile-an-hour speed limit area and entering an 85 mile-an-hour speed limit area when it struck Dr. Blumen. Amtrak Police Sgt. William Boland said the train was most likely accelerating at impact.

The victim's left shoe ended up in front of the Bakery Thrift Shop, about 100 feet from the railroad tracks.

Brown said the engineer saw the man near the bridge abutment and sounded the train whistle. He said the train operators told investigators it appeared the man tried to get out of the way.

The train managed to stop several hundred yards south of the bridge. The engineer radioed the Amtrak tower in Attleboro, Mass., which notified police, said Boland.

The train provides express service from Boston to Washington and operates only on Sundays, Amtrak officials said. Train traffic was delayed more than an hour.

Police are still investigating.

BLUMEN, SIMON

3-6-90 **Dr. Simon Blumen funeral tomorrow**

CRANSTON — A funeral will be held tomorrow for Dr. Simon Blumen, 64, of 168 Laurens St., a family practitioner for more than 20 years with offices in Smithfield and Johnston, who died Sunday when struck by an Amtrak train. He was the husband of Katherine (Koff) Blumen.

Born in Romania, a son of the late Abraham and Ann Blumen, he moved from Smithfield to Cranston 10 years ago.

Dr. Blumen was a member of the Rhode Island Medical Society and the American Association of Family Physicians.

Besides his wife he leaves a sister, Miriam Kase in Israel.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.