

# Community Remembers School Bus Accident

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On Thursday, September 10, 1959, the town of Loch Lynn, Maryland, was devastated when a school bus carrying twenty-seven children stalled on the tracks at the MD 560 railroad crossing. In one of the nation's worst school bus/train disasters, seven children were killed and eleven sustained moderate to severe injuries. Nine escaped the bus without physical injury, but all of those in the vicinity that day were left with unforgettable images in their memory.

On September 10, 2019, the town came together in remembrance by holding a 60-year commemorative program at the site of the accident. Carolyn Corley, Mayor of Loch Lynn Heights, welcomed survivors of the tragedy, members of their families, friends and others to the event. A plaque, dedicated in 2015, near the railroad crossing on East First Avenue, Loch Lynn, displays photographs and names of the seven children who died. As a result of this accident, several new laws and safety precautions were put in place to prevent this type of accident from happening again.

Roy Hinkle, who was injured on the bus that day—his 13th birthday—says, “I’m glad that they’re remembering what happened and showing that the town hasn’t forgotten.”

*A comprehensive display entitled “A Garrett County School Bus Tragedy” can be viewed at the Garrett County Museum of Transportation at 108 E. Liberty Street, Oakland, Maryland.*



**Top:** Carolyn Corley’s welcoming remarks at the 60-year commemorative program.

**Bottom:** Some of the friends and family members attending the 2019 program.

## Fatally Injured Students



**Janet Deem, 12**  
Dennett Road  
Elementary School



**Nancy Deem, 15**  
Southern  
High School



**Merle Harvey, 11**  
Dennett Road  
Elementary School



**Nancy Harvey, 12**  
Dennett Road  
Elementary School



**Richard Hinkle, 11**  
Dennett Road  
Elementary School



**Lee Hoffman, 11**  
Dennett Road  
Elementary School



**Shirley Lee, 12**  
Dennett Road  
Elementary School