Railroad Fatalities Identified

Potter — The Cheyenne County Sheriff’s office has identified the two maintenance employees of the Union Pacific Railroad who were killed Friday night when struck by a freight train east of Potter.

They were Kenneth Meerkatz, 28, of Polk, and Junior Jay Pinto, 51, of Chinle, Ariz.

A Union Pacific official in Omaha said the men were part of a 12-man work crew cleaning up an area where new rails had been installed.

The train was traveling about 35 m.p.h. and had sounded its horn, but apparently the men did not hear the warning, the railroad official said.

Meerkatz had worked for the railroad for six years.

He is survived by his wife, the former Bonnie Shaw, one son, Jerry, and three daughters, Luanne, Amy and Angie, all at home. Other survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Meerkatz, Polk; brothers, Leon, Ronald, both of Polk; sister, Mrs. Robert Hurley, Grand Island.

Services for Meerkatz tentatively have been set for Monday at the Metz Funeral Home, York.