

City Woman Killed In RI Auto Crash

WARWICK, R.I. — A Taunton woman was killed when her family's car flipped onto a concrete barrier Saturday night but six other passengers in the vehicle received only cuts and bruises as the car struck the barrier, slid on its roof and rolled over several times.

Maria (Gomes) Viera, 33, of 13 Friend St. was pronounced dead on arrival at Kent County Memorial Hospital. State police said it was a "miracle" none of the other passengers, including the victim's 73-year-old mother and seven-month-old son, were seriously injured.

The car, police said, was travelling on Route 95 when it veered out of control, flipped onto a concrete barrier, slid 130 feet on its roof and then rolled over several times as it fell back on the highway.

At the time of the accident, police reported, the victim was holding her seven-month-old son, Steven, who was treated at Rhode Island Hospital for cuts and bruises.

The car was driven by the victim's husband, Luis Viera, 37, who was also treated at Rhode Island Hospital.

Other passengers in the car were the couple's other two children, Mark P., 9, and Richard, 4; Mrs. Viera's brother, Joseph Gomes, 50; and her mother, Maria Gomes, 73.

Police said some of the passengers were thrown from the car as it slid along the highway and rolled over.

Mrs. Gomes had been employed for several years as a machine operator at Rennie Curtain Manufacturing Co. in Taunton. She was a communicant of St. Anthony's Church.

Born in Flores, Azores, daughter of Maria J. (Azevedo) Gomes and the late Francisco F. Gomes, she came to this country in 1969 and had been a Taunton resident ever since.

Besides her husband, mother, three sons and brother, she leaves another brother, Caetano T. Gomes of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; three sisters, Mrs. Jose (Maria) Nunes of Flores, Mrs. Manuel (Selina) Pereira and Mrs. Francisco (Alverina) Nunes, both of Vancouver, Canada; and several nieces and nephews.