

Two Wheeler Men Receive Illinois Rail- road Safety Medals

Aug. 31,
1943

Samuel G. Ward and Earl D. Wilson of Wheeler were awarded safety medals by the Illinois Central railroad at Effingham, Saturday, following a dinner at the Benwood hotel for Mr. and Mrs. Ward and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. The presentation was made by T. J. Brosnahan of Palestine, supervisor, Mr. Ward's immediate superior before he was retired as a section foreman. J. S. Buswell of Palestine, trainmaster, was also in attendance.

The medals were of solid silver, plated with gold, and bore the Illinois Central diamond emblem on one side and an engraved message on the other. Mr. Ward's said: "Samuel G. Ward for discovering main track washout near Wheeler, Ill., May 24, 1943." Mr. Wilson's read: "Earl D. Wilson for reporting main track washout near Wheeler, Ill., May 24, 1943."

A "Flash Flood"

On the night of May 24, a rain estimated at six inches, produced a "flash flood" in Muddy creek at Wheeler, which brought the creek to the highest point ever known and into a number of houses and buildings, as well as over the track. Mr. Ward suspected that the track might be washed out and as soon as he could determine this, had Mr. Wilson telephone the Illinois Central station at Newton, and together they flagged down trains which might have gone into the bad section of track with disastrous results.