

Jury judges Conrail guilty

• Wooster man wins
\$2.4 million for injuries
from car-train crash

Beacon Journal staff report

A federal jury in Cleveland has awarded a 25-year-old Wooster man \$2.4 million for injuries he suffered more than two years ago when his car was struck by a Conrail train at a crossing in Wayne County.

After an eight-day trial and three days of deliberations, the jury in Judge George White's court awarded William C. Hostetter of Old Columbus Road a total of \$3.6 million.

But the jury held the railroad system was responsible for only 65 percent of the damages, with Hostetter being 35 percent at fault in the May 12, 1993, accident — reducing the award to the \$2.4 million figure.

Hostetter, an Army veteran of

See SUIT, Page C3

SUIT

• Crossing lacked gates despite earlier accident

Continued from Page C1

Desert Storm, was on his way to the Wayne Campus of the University of Akron in Orrville about 9 a.m. when his car was struck by a Conrail train as he tried to drive across

the tracks on Rohrer Road in Green Township.

Hostetter was taken to Dunlap Memorial Hospital in Orrville and then flown by helicopter to Akron General Medical Center, where he spent several months in treatment

for head injuries and broken bones.

In his suit, handled by Akron attorney Patrick Hart with the law firm of Scanlon & Gearinger, Hostetter claimed the railroad was at fault because there were no flashing lights or gates at the crossing even though an accident there in 1991 had resulted in a fatality.

Hostetter maintained that the injuries he suffered left him with short-term memory loss and other neurological damage that made it impossible for him to continue his education or find employment.

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Stark/Wayne
Counties
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IN THE REGION

Page C2, Saturday, August 26, 1995

CLEVELAND \$2.4 million awarded in car-train crash suit

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← Summit Co. edition