

27 Coal Cars Pile Up In Milesburg Wreck

(Continued from page one)

heard the freight begin to pile up, and although there were unlimited possibilities for other casualties as the loaded cars were hurled about in the center of the small town, not a person was injured.

A broken wheel on the front truck of the eighth car in the train has been assigned as the cause of the wreck. The car, which did not overturn, was found at the front end of the pile-up, the broken wheel having plowed deep into the right-of-way. Nearly half of the wheel was missing and it wasn't until Monday morning while J. C. Resides, of Unionville, trackwalker for the railroad was making his usual inspection, that he found the missing half of the wheel at a point opposite the Sycamore Camp, west of Wingate, about three miles west of the wreck.

Mr. Resides reported that from the place where the section of wheel was found, the track showed regular markings where the broken edges of the wheel struck the rail. A short distance west of the Weaver crossing the truck with the broken wheel left the rails, tearing deep cuts into the ties as it bounced along. This continued for several hundred feet until the car reached a switch which threw the truck back on the rails.

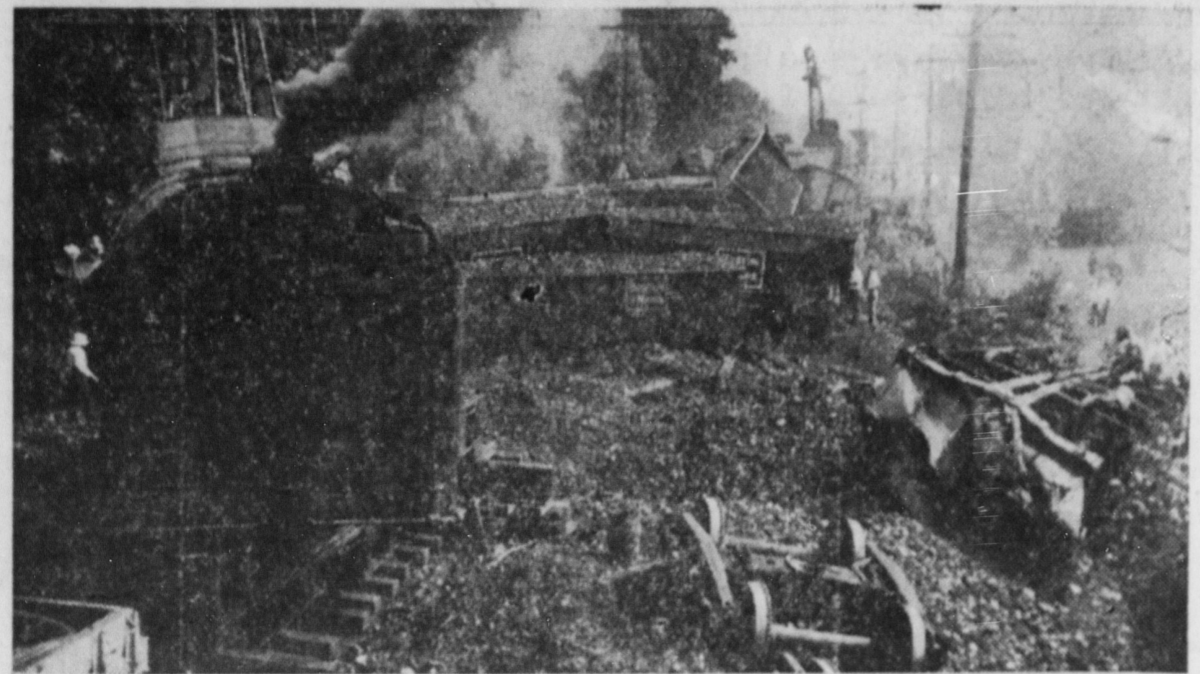
The defective truck remained on the track until after the car passed over the Weaver crossing when it again left the track and bounded along as before. This time, however, it reached a switch leading off in the opposite direction, and the switch instead of leading the truck back on the rails, carried it away from the train, apparently causing sufficient pull to force the rear truck off the track. The following 26 cars quickly jammed up before the long and heavy train came to a halt.

Mr. Tressler, alone in the Milesburg tower at the time, heard the noise as the first car left the rails just east of the tower, and fearing that he would be caught in the pile-up, he leaped to a telephone pole beside the tower and climbed to safety. One of the hurtling freight cars struck one corner of the tower and ripped away a sizeable portion of the frame structure.

The heavy steel gondolas, carrying on an average of about 55 tons of coal each—many of them much more than that—were jammed together with unbelievable force. Eight of the cars ranked themselves broadside across the right-of-way, being forced end-for-end into that position by the momentum of the cars in the rear. Other cars were shoved high up on the pile; some were twisted as though they were hairpins; one was entirely cut in two and others came out of the bottom of the heap with only slight damage.

Several hours after the wreck, derricks and wrecking crews from Altoona, Renovo and Northumberland arrived on the scene, and as the giant derricks pulled the twisted

27 COAL CARS PILE UP IN WRECK AT MILESBURG



In the above photo, taken from the tower from which operator Samuel G. Tressler, of Bellefonte, fled when he heard cars begin to wreck shortly before midnight, Sunday, a section of the "rear" part of the pile-up is visible. Cars were ranked side by side across the right-of-way as the swiftly moving train jammed against the wreck. A broken wheel on the eighth car of the 96-car coal train caused the trouble which tied up all traffic on the Bald Eagle Valley branch until late Monday afternoon. In the left foreground is one of the three 120-ton derricks rushed here to clear what is sometimes referred to as the "busiest single track railroad in the world." In the right background is another derrick working from the front end of the pile-up.



This photo, taken from the "front" end of the wreck, gives some idea of the tangle which faced the wrecking crews Monday morning. Some 1200 tons of soft coal was dumped at the site during the wreck and during the removal of the damaged cars. Much of the coal was shoveled by hand from the roadbed. In the left background is shown the tower from which Mr. Tressler fled, just before a hurtling car ripped out one corner of the frame structure. In this view the train was traveling toward you at the time of the wreck.

cars from the heap, upset them to empty the coal, and then piled them along the right-of-way, scores of laborers with shovels scooped the coal in heaps along the track and built a new track through mounds of coal and wreckage on both sides.

Of the 27 cars which left the track, 5 were placed on the rails without being emptied. The other 22 were emptied and the twisted cars thrown on heaps for later disposition.

To facilitate the clearing of the area, the railroad early in the morning sold the scattered coal to Plummer Davidson, of Wingate, who in turn retailed it to all comers. Trainers from all parts of the

county in trucks of all descriptions, worked during the day and night removing the hundreds of tons of coal.

Coal was being sold by the ton, at the rate of \$2.70, with reductions for lots of ten tons or more. The Titan Metal Manufacturing Company, Bellefonte, is reported to have purchased some 300 tons for use in the heating plant. The coal was of various sizes and qualities, and in many instances the different grades were mixed in the dumping and shoveling processes.

Much of the work at the wreck was under the personal supervision of E. C. Gegenheimer, of Altoona, superintendent of the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who came to Milesburg in his special car early Monday morning. He remained on the scene through the greater part of the day.

When the gondolas piled up, one car turned over and spilled its contents not ten feet from the porch of the Albert Bierly residence. Other cars came to rest near the properties of Ford Walker, Miss Ella Levi and Howard Nagle, along the road which separates the properties from the railroad right-of-way. Occupants of the houses reported that the wreck caused a thunderous roar, but none of them seemed much disturbed. One man, a railroader, claimed he didn't get awake until the telephone rang to summon him to duty at the wreck outside his door.

During Monday while the wreck was being cleared away, hundreds of spectators gathered at the scene and the garden plots of property owners on both sides of the railroad were trampled into deep dust as thousands of feet carried eager watchers along the scene. Amateur photographers "shot" the scene from every available angle.

The wreck occurred at 11:40 o'clock Sunday night, and it was just 17 hours and 40 minutes later that the final spike was driven in a track built through the wreckage. The first train to pass over the track was an 86-car westbound freight which passed through Milesburg at 7:20 p. m. Monday. At 2 o'clock Tuesday morning damage to the switch and track leading to Bellefonte from the Bald Eagle Valley branch was repaired.

The Bald Eagle Valley Branch, once known as the busiest single track railroad in the world, recently was placed in first class condition for the running of a series of test trains to try out new equipment being developed by the Association of American Railroads. The test train, which runs on irregular schedule, is now operating at speeds up to 100 miles an hour over the branch, on its run between Altoona and Lock Haven.

Railroad men reported yesterday that the damaged gondolas which have been thrown to the side of the tracks, probably will be loaded onto flat cars and taken to Altoona to be junked or reconditioned.

For several hours after the wreck, the Weaver crossing was blocked by the rear end of the train and traffic on Route 220 was forced to detour through back roads in Central City. The road leading from the crossing and running along the railroad past the Kohlbecker Hotel, was blocked by cars and coal.

Railroad men report that a serious freight wreck occurred at the same site some 25 years ago. A wreck of about the same propor-

tions is reported to have occurred at Martha Furnace many years ago.

Farm Home Burns Near Philipsburg

Family of Five Left Homeless in \$3000 Blaze on Saturday

Sparks falling on a wooden shingle roof caused another disastrous fire in the Philipsburg section Saturday when the big farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hubler, one mile beyond Whispering Pines, ignited and burned to the ground in a \$3,000 blaze which was not covered by insurance. The family of five were left homeless.

A stiff breeze whipped the flames so that they soon enveloped the whole house. Some of the downstairs furniture was removed as was one of the four beds. Clothing and beds on the second floor burned as did the contents of the cellar.

Mrs. Hubler stated that there was not much fire in the kitchen stove. She was in the house, together with a 14-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter. She was heating water to use for scrubbing. Mrs. Hubler was in the barn getting ready to thresh wheat.

The family used to carry insurance but in recent years were unable to keep it and left it drop. Fortunately the barn was protected by the wind blowing away from it, and was not damaged.

Blair Official Seriously Hurt

Skull Fractured When Victim's Head is Caught By Car Door

John R. Bassler, Blair county controller, whose home is in Roaring Spring, was critically injured in a peculiar manner Saturday night when his head was caught in the door of his car.

Mr. Bassler was backing his car out of the alley driveway and opened the door of the car to look out to see if the driveway was clear and at the same time evidently released the brake. With the brake released the car started forward and the door hit a cherry tree causing the door to fly shut and hit Mr. Bassler's head.

He tried to call his family when he found that he could not release himself but was unable to attract their attention before he became unconscious and remained in that position until midnight.

He was taken to the Nason Hospital where he regained consciousness and was able to tell what had happened. He is said to have suffered a fracture of the skull and severe face injuries.

Charged With Firing Own Barn

(Continued from page one)

pany, who investigated the Weiser fire and brought about the man's arrest. Weiser told them that he went to the barn about 9 o'clock Saturday night, June 24, struck a match and held it to some hay hanging down over an entry. He then walked outside while the fire spread through the mow. Weiser is reported to have said, "He then is said to have tried to save the horses, but failed because the heat was too intense."

Police declared that Weiser claimed he had been drinking and that he destroyed the barn because of "family troubles."

The man was apprehended at his home about 2 o'clock Friday afternoon and was questioned for a time at the State Police sub-station at Rockview penitentiary. That evening he was brought to the offices of District Attorney Musser Gettig, where the questioning was continued in the presence of that official and Corporal S. S. Mullenkoff of the Rockview sub-station.

Later the same night when arraigned before Squire Cowher, and after he had secured an attorney, Weiser was held without bail for court after the commonwealth's testimony had been heard by the Justice. Arson is not bailable by a Justice of the Peace.

The fire at the Weiser barn, "discovered" by a passing motorist, burned with great rapidity and within twenty minutes the structure collapsed. The Port Matilda Company was summoned to the scene and the Alpha Fire Company of State College, en route home from a firemen's parade in Tyrone, also aided in battling the flames.

Although the loss was partly covered by insurance, officers report that Weiser stood to lose nearly \$1,000 in the fire even if the insurance had been paid in full.

3 INJURED NEAR MILL HALL WHEN CARS SKID

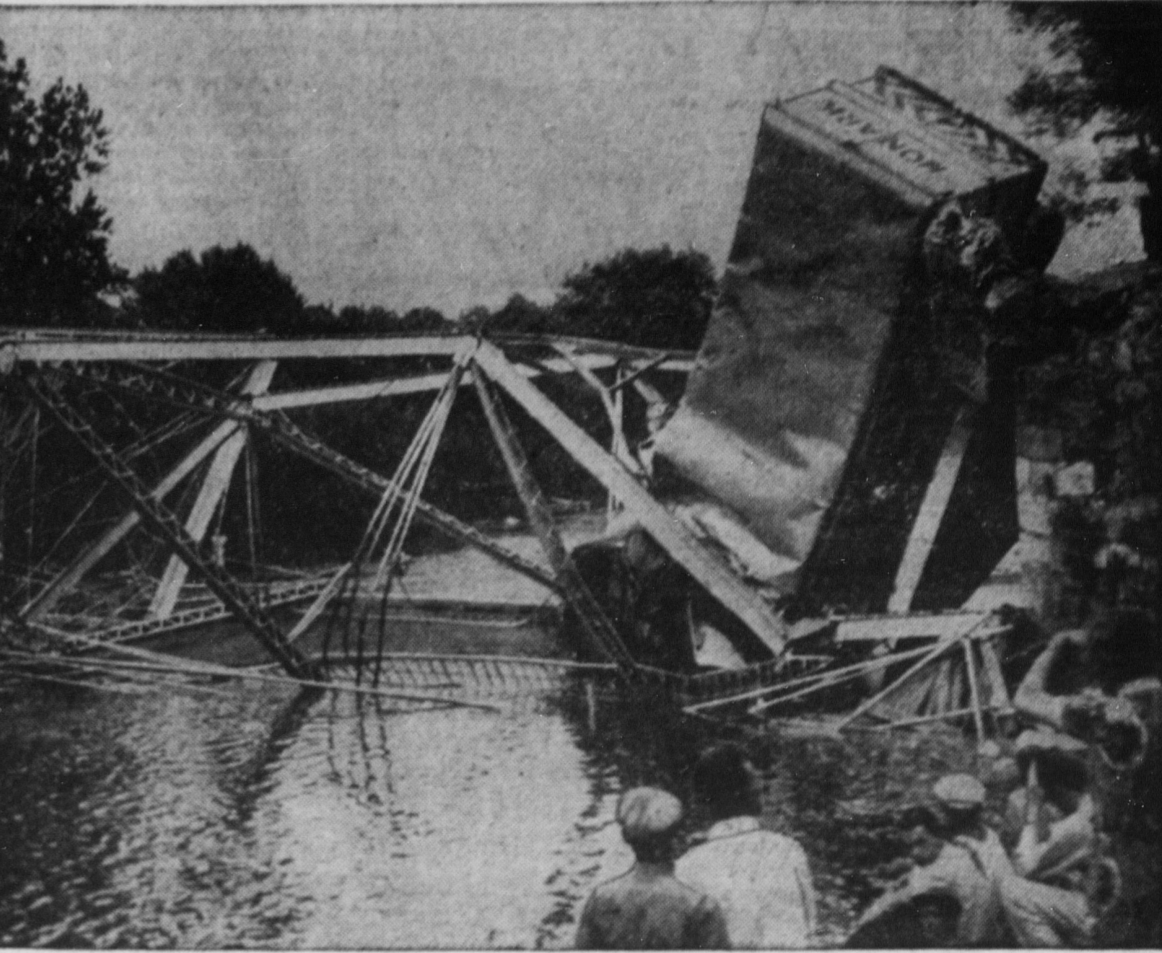
Three persons were injured and two cars badly damaged Monday night about 9:45 o'clock in a collision on Route 220 one-fourth mile west of Mill Hall.

Due to the slippery road following a rain, the car of George Cline of Saxon skidded crossways on the highway. Irvin Albright, of Mill Hall, R. D. failed to see the Cline car until too late to prevent a crash.

Cline, who was enroute to his work at the Lock Haven paper mill, received hospital treatment for injuries to his elbow, shoulder and head. Albright was also treated for lacerations of the hands and face.

Mrs. Albright, the only other occupant of the car in which she and her husband were driving to their home, is a patient in the hospital suffering from lacerations of the face, right leg, and a fracture of the left leg between the knee and the ankle.

SCENE OF BRIDGE TRAGEDY AT ALEXANDRIA



Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Kaufman, of Sunnyside, N. Y., perished, as did their young son, Robert, when the car in which they were riding plunged into the Juniata River, at Alexandria, Pa., after the bridge over which they were crossing collapsed beneath them. A huge trailer truck which had been following the Kaufmans fell on top of their car, became wedged with it, and both vehicles had to be hauled out of the river by a derrick. The driver of the truck, who escaped injury, was released on \$1000 bail after a Huntington county coroner's jury found that his truck "collided with the bridge and caused it to crash." Further details of the accident will be found on page 1, second section, this issue.

Morrisdale Woman Fatally Burned

Clothing Catches Fire From Ignited Can of Gasoline

The old story of using liquid fuel to build a fire claimed another victim Monday in the death of 34-year-old Mrs. Helen Scaife, of Morrisdale, near Philipsburg.

Mrs. Harry Patrychuck, the sister, was at the kitchen stove attempting to build a fire with gasoline. It is said, the gasoline ignited and Mrs. Mary Patrychuck attempted to throw it out of the open door. The burning fluid from the can sprayed the clothing of Mrs. Scaife, standing nearby. According to physicians at the Philipsburg State Hospital, one-third of her body was burned.

Sixteen-year-old John Patrychuck was in the house at the time and helped extinguish the flames of Mrs. Scaife's burning clothing. The unfortunate woman was immediately rushed to the hospital where she died early the next morning.

Deceased was the wife of Samuel Scaife and the mother of two small children. Interment will be made Friday morning in the St. Agnes Catholic church cemetery at Morrisdale.

ROSSMAN CLAN IN FIRST REUNION

The first annual Rossman reunion was held Sunday, July 23, at Reservoir Park, Tyrone, with an added feature being the celebration of the 76th birthday of M. C. Rossman, of Tyrone.

After greetings were over a delightful picnic dinner was served. In the afternoon a program of entertainment was presented and the following officers and committee members were named for the ensuing year: president, H. A. Rossman, Bellefonte; vice president, Rev. Randall Rossman, Altoona; secretary, Mary Rossman, Tyrone; reunion committee for 1940, Clayton Rossman, Tyrone; Percy Bratton, Tyrone, and Richard Markel, Altoona.

Those present at the reunion were: Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Rossman and daughter Pearl, Tyrone; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Rossman, son and daughter, Sheldon and Aileen, of Milesburg; Jay and Mary Belle Rossman, Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Rossman, son Willard and daughter, Madeline, Altoona; Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Rossman and family, Altoona; Mrs. Mary Wanda Rossman and daughter Betty, Towanda; Mr. and Mrs. James Snyder, Tyrone, R. D.; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clements and sons, Bellefonte; Mrs. Tevolla Gates and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Rossman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Bratton and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gurney Rossman and family, Tyrone; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rossman and family, Claysburg; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cupp and daughter, Tyrone; Mrs. Dena Reader and family, Mrs. Walter Reader and daughters, Erma and Ethel, Pine Grove Mills; Anna Fortney and Miriam Fortney, State College; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell and daughter, Pennsylvania Furnace; Mrs. Annie and Margaret Markel, of Ebsburg; Mrs. Sarah Markel and family, State College; Mrs. Ray Baylites, Bud Slagle and Edna Adams, State College; William Snyder, Tyrone; William J. Sager, Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Markel and three nieces, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Markel, Altoona; Mr. and Mrs. James Watson and family, Spring Mills; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Henry and family, Spruce Creek; Joseph Monsel, Pennsylvania Furnace; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ickes, Imier; Betty Ebersole, Tyrone; Daniel Bohn, State College; Verne Peterson, Bellefonte, and Helen Knuft, Altoona.

There were four generations of the family present at the gathering.

Advertising won't do any business any, good unless it is intelligently prepared and wisely placed; brains make advertising profitable.

GHANER FAMILY PICNICS AT PORT MATILDA PARK

A basket picnic was held at Port Matilda Park on Sunday, July 23, by the children of the late W. H. Ghaner, of Scotia.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Johnson and son, State College; Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Williams and two grandchildren, Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ghaner and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Forest Davison and two children, Stormstown; Mr. and Mrs. Miles Wry, of Bald Eagle; Mr. and Mrs.

Roy Ghaner and three children, Loveville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ghaner, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kookken and two children, and Mrs. Maud Filer, Tyrone; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beck and son, Mr. and Mrs. John Ghaner and son, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ghaner and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Barto and four children, of Scotia; Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Ghaner and son, and aunt, Dora Ghaner, of Widdie.

Nearly all those present had remained until evening when a light lunch was served.

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3 NO. 2 1/2 CANS 25c	10 TALL CANS 59c
Evap. MILK	Red Cherries
10 TALL CANS 59c	SOUR FITTED 2 NO. 2 CANS 23c
Waldorf Tissue	2 rolls 9c
Cider VINEGAR	Dill or Sour PICKLES
qt 8c	2 1-qt jars 25c
Jersey Ketchup 3 14-oz. bts.	25c
Marvel Salad Dressing	qt 23c
Bee Brand Spices	can 8c
Palmolive Soap	3 cakes 19c
Fruit Cocktail	2 tall cans 27c
Conc. Super Suds	2 lge. pkgs. 39c
Peanut Butter	2-lb jar 23c
Borras Brand Mustard	qt jar 10c
Old-Tyme Bread	2 for 15c
Weis Quality Peaches	2 big cans 27c
Uctaron Toilet Soap	4 cakes 19c
Cloverdale Beverages	3 lge. bts. 25c
Bananas 4 lb 19c	Peaches 2 lb 15c
Red Plums 2 lbs 19c	Cantaloupes each 10c
Fresh Peas Fcy. Green 1 lb 10c	Lg Lemons Cal. Sunkist dz 30c

QUALITY MEATS

HAMBURG - lb 19c

BACON BRISKETS lb 15c

MOCK CHICKEN LEGS - ea. 5c

SUGAR CURED SLICED BACON - 2 1/2 lb pkgs. 25c

LEAN BOILED HAM - lb 39c

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