

# BRAKES FAIL IN DEATH RUN TEST

## Locomotive Runs Beyond Where Skylark Stood.

## NO BRAKES AT ALL AT END

Engineer Dougherty's Story of How Stamford Wreck Occurred Borne Out in Spectacular Manner—Train Runs 375 Feet Beyond Safety Mark.

Stamford, Conn., June 18.—On the seventh test the air brakes on the big Pacific type engine No. 1338 of the Boston express on the New Haven road failed totally to hold the wheels in a reproduction of the stopping conditions of the fatal run into the yards here last Thursday afternoon. The engine after running with brakes set for 2,206 feet carried the same cars to which it was attached on the day of the wreck for a distance 375 feet farther than the spot where the wooden Pullman chair car Skylark had stood when the same engine bored through it, killing six passengers. Six preliminary tests had been successfully met.

At the end of the day the brakes broke down completely, permitting the locomotive to run away from its cars after being uncoupled from them. The brakes when applied in an effort to stop the runaway engine had no force, and it was found that a pin had dropped out of one of the brake levers. The engine, now a cripple, was towed into the Stamford roundhouse, where a force of repair men was put to work to get it into shape to go back to New Haven under its own steam.

**Fatal Train Used in Test.**  
For the purposes of the post mortem test the engine in which Charles J. Dougherty had drilled through the Skylark was attached to the same cars that had formed the second section of the Boston express when the rear end collision occurred in the Stamford yards. The train crews were the same, except that an experienced engineer and another fireman had charge of the engine cab, and the big locomotive, already known as the "death engine," had been repaired slightly to put it back into running condition.

That repairing, however, had been done under the direction of inspectors for the Interstate commerce commission, who stated that none of it had affected the efficiency of the brakes. The attempt to re-enact with the tragic features the death run of Dougherty's engine was made after officials of the New Haven road testified at the inquest conducted by Coroner Phelan that it was impossible for Dougherty to have applied the brakes as he said he did and yet cause the wreck of the car Skylark.

The run on which the air brakes merely failed without breaking down, the seventh of the day's series of tests, was the first on which an attempt was made to reproduce the conditions Dougherty faced and to apply the air as Dougherty testified that he applied it. The only physical condition differing from that which Dougherty encountered was that a little green flag stood in the path of the train instead of an antiquated wooden Pullman car filled with passengers.

**Brakes Fail Completely.**  
As the heavy express train pulled into the block in which the little green flag waved, its brakes were grinding, yet the locomotive heeded them hardly at all. Eight hundred feet from the place of death the train was bearing down almost at full speed, although the brakes then had been set for more than twice the distance regarded as a "good stop." The express' pace slackened perceptibly as it neared the spot where the Skylark had been smashed, but it still was going at speed enough to suck up clouds of dust from the road bed.

The locomotive passed on and so did four of the cars. When the brakes gave a final crunch and the train came to a standstill the locomotive's bent pilot was at rest 375 feet beyond the spot where the Skylark had stood. The Pullman cars Foxboro and Pristina were standing just where the Skylark had stood. They were the fourth and fifth cars of the test train, and still were filled with a litter of New England newspapers bearing the date June 12, the papers having been left there by passengers who poured out of the train after the wreck.

Until the seventh test, which failed, railroad officials were rather hopeful because of the day's showing. Under many brake applications they had shown that Engine 1,338 could be brought under control and held down to normal running conditions. But when, to the manifest surprise of every railroad man on the train, the brakes suddenly proved useless, many faces were overcast with expressions of chagrin.

### SPANKING SETS TOWN AFIRE.

**Mother Overturns Oil Stove as She Brings Slipper Down.**  
Monticello, N. Y., June 18.—Mrs. B. Wolfe of Ferrdale, near here, tried to spank her son with a slipper and overturned an oil stove, setting fire to her house.  
The blaze spread to adjoining buildings until twelve business structures and three dwellings had been destroyed. The estimated damage from the spanking was \$75,000.



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### PAUPACK.

Paupack, June 18.—Mrs. B. F. Killam is visiting friends and relatives at Scranton.

Mrs. M. Wilbur, of Middletown, N. Y., and Mrs. O. Hopps and daughter, Ruth, are visiting with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Ansley.

Mrs. Bennett spent Thursday in Hawley.

The Ladies' Aid met with Mrs. L. T. Simons on Thursday. All report a good time.

Miss Martha Schwarting spent Saturday and Sunday at her home.

Anna Steinman is convalescing nicely. She is able to go out now.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Kellam expect to attend the exercises at Wyoming Seminary this week. Their daughter, Miss Frances, is a graduate.

Henry, Louise, and Hilda Vetterlein attended the Children's Day exercises at Arlington on Sunday evening.

Gertrude Fowler spent Sunday at her home.

Mr. Hockstein, of Cuba, is visiting with relatives at this place.

Jos. Slocum, wife and daughter, Tillie Pflifer and Isabel Williams took a trip to Honesdale Thursday in Mr. Slocum's auto.

Isaac Sandercock and brother, Ray called at Vetterlein's Friday evening.

### LAKESIDE.

Lakewood, June 19.—The Ladies' Aid Society held dinner in the M. E. church Thursday. A large number was in attendance.

Teachers' examinations were conducted in the High school Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hornbeck and children of Forest City were visitors at L. LaBar's Sunday.

Annie Weed closed her school Friday.

Warren LaBarr spent his senior vacation with his parents at this place. He will graduate from Lafayette

college as an electrical engineer.

Miss Louise Mott of Deposit, N. Y., spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fay Mott.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Niles are visiting relatives in Binghamton, N. Y.

Karl LaBarr is attending commencement week at Lafayette College.

Hazel Warner of Sherman, returned home after attending a term of school at Lakewood.

Children's Day will be observed in the M. E. church Sunday, June 29.

The Lakewood ball team played a game of base ball with Shehawken team Saturday. Score, 8 to 6, in favor of Lakewood.

### DIFFICULTY OVER LINE FENCE FINALLY SETTLED

CHAS. SPEWECK FOUND "NOT GUILTY" OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY.

Costs of Prosecution Placed on Prosecutor, W. B. Crossman, and Spewek Equally — Evidence in Case.

The case of the Commonwealth vs. Charles Spewek charged with assault and battery on the person of William B. Crossman was disposed of early Tuesday morning. The jury was out only a short time and they returned a verdict of "not guilty." The prosecutor and defendant to pay half the costs of the action.

The jury was composed as follows: Enos Marsh, Honesdale; M. H. Harlow, Salem; Calvin Schweighofer, Damascus; George West, Berlin; Frank Scudder, Lebanon; Ernest Ludwig, Hawley; George Beere, Dyberry; Otis Highhouse, Oregon; Geo. Hoffman, Hawley; J. E. Tiffany, Mount Pleasant; Archibald Hines, Preston; Joseph North, Damascus.

Charles P. Spewek and W. B. Crossman live on adjoining farms in Clinton township and the difficulty arose over a line fence that was being built by Mr. Crossman. He alleges that Spewek threatened to strike him with an axe while he was building the fence.

W. B. Crossman was the first witness called. He said that he had lived in Clinton fifteen years and that last April Spewek tried to assault him. Their lands join on two sides. My son-in-law, Thomas Dolph, and myself were building a fence on my land and Spewek came up to us and began pulling off the wires and pulling up the poles. I told him I would have him arrested and he said that was just what he wanted. He raised the axe to his shoulder in a threatening manner and would have struck me if I had not got out of the way.

On cross-examination Attorney C. A. McCarty, for the defendant, tried to show that the whole trouble was over the boundary line between the two farms but the Court stated that the case must stick to assault and battery. The case, he said, ought not to have come to court at all. Thomas Dolph was sworn and testified corroboratively.

For the defense John Spewek was sworn. He said that he had not threatened Crossman but that he had raised the axe to tear down the fence which he alleged was being put on his land. Crossman came up back of me and tried to grab me. I told him that he should keep away or he would get hurt. He swore at me and I swore at him.

Amos Geer, Mort. Lee, Peter Drake and Amos Wilcox, all residents of that section, testified to the defendant's reputation for peace and quietness, and all said that it was good.

All testimony was in by 5:45 Monday afternoon when court adjourned.

### EQUINUNK.

Equinunk, June 19.—Children's day exercises will be held here in the Methodist church Sunday morning at 10:30 a. m. An entertaining program is being prepared by the committee in charge.

Our Sunday school is holding a contest which is creating a great deal of interest among our town people and bringing into our school a large number of children and grown people. The leader, Mrs. C. E. Woodmansee, and Mrs. Earl Lord are working faithfully to make the contest a success. The young men's

class which is taught by the pastor, Rev. F. C. Grennell, has a large attendance.

Hugh McGranagan, of Hancock, who was seriously hurt in a runaway accident here last week, is still in a critical condition with little hopes for recovery.

Mrs. Kate Cleme, of Honesdale, and Chas. Spencer, of Garteem, are visiting their sister, Mrs. J. S. Watson.

Mrs. Anna Hodge has gone to Deposit to spend two months with her daughter, Mrs. Franks.

Wm. Hornbeck and family of Hancock, spent Sunday at the home of J. K. Hornbeck.

Anna Lord, who has been spending the past month with her mother, Mrs. Virgil Beatty, of Downsville, returned to the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Cain Lord, Monday. She was accompanied home by her mother who is visiting here.

Mrs. Herbert Lakin and daughter of Long Eddy, are at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Gile.

J. W. Farley, wife and daughter, Miriam, and Miss Augusta Southwell motored to Montrose Tuesday where they will spend the week with relatives in that vicinity.

Mrs. J. Dietrich and son of Hancock, are visiting at the home of Wm. Crumley.

Louis Woodmansee returned home Wednesday from Pennington Seminary where he has been attending school.

The Equinunk ball team journeyed to Lake Como Tuesday where they crossed bats with the Como nine. Battery for Equinunk, Cuddih and Ponnigan. Score, 17-7 in favor of Equinunk.

The Willing Workers are planning to hold a celebration here the Fourth of July. Dinner and supper will be served on Nelson's lawn. Two games of ball will be played with Lake Como on the grounds here that day.

Ralph Dillon has purchased a new Ford touring car from Mr. Gammell of Honesdale.

Richard and Adelaide Watson attended the Whipple-Spencer wedding at Orson Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Oakley Tyner attended the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. Jacob Welsh at Rileyville Monday.

John Barnes, of Carbondale, and Emory Spencer of Garteem, spent Sunday with relatives here.

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