

A WILD CAR

Creates Consternation in the Union Depot

(The Columbus Dispatch, September 12, 1884)

About two o'clock this afternoon passenger car No. 7 of the Ohio Central Railroad, "got away" from the yard men while being shifted about the yard some distance east of the Union depot. The brakes got out of order from some cause, and the brakeman on the platform was unable to turn them on sufficiently strong to stop the car as it was running down grade, having been given considerable impetus by the yard engine used to shift it to the desired point.

The brakeman, seeing that he would not be able to stop the car, and that it must pass through the depot, began yelling at the top of his voice to clear the track. He kept his post, as the car swept on through the depot at an estimated speed of about eighteen miles an hour and kept on shouting to the people to get out of the way, as he could not stop the car. The appearance of this flying coach create great excitement in the depot, and the people gave it a wide berth as it swept by the track nearest the offices and waiting rooms in the south side. This track diverges northwest as it leaves the depot, and crossed High street north of Exchange. The coach swept along this track sending consternation among pedestrians and people in vehicles at the crossing, but fortunately no one was hurt. The coach ran west and was turned by a switchman on to the C.H.V. & T. track, and was finally brought to a standstill near the bridge over the river by persistent tugging at the brakes by the man on board.

This is the third occurrence of this kind in this city within a few months, and illustrates one of the gravest dangers of the High street crossing as it exists today. These accidents are not the result of carelessness as a rule; they can neither be foreseen nor prevented, and the only way to prevent possible loss of life is to remove the danger.