

Three Trains Crash, Engine is Overturned

3 Crew Members Injured

(Columbus Evening Dispatch – September 5, 1962)



INJURED – Crewmen from a Pennsylvania Railroad train, which was part of a three-train smashup near the Pennsylvania yards at Nelson Road and Avalon Pl., talk while two of three injured crewmen lie on the ground waiting for first aid.

Three trains crashed near Nelson Rd. and Avalon Pl. Wednesday morning, derailing one diesel engine and several railroad cars and injuring three men.

A Pennsylvania Railroad switch engine pulling 75 gondola cars loaded with crushed stone apparently got out of control on a siding and smashed into a parked engine and caboose, railroad men said. The caboose burst into flames and was shoved into a passing Baltimore & Ohio Railroad train.

THE PARKED DIESEL engine of the Pennsylvania Railroad was knocked off the siding and rolled over as it went down a 30-foot embankment on the north side of the tracks.

The three injured railroaders were in the overturned engine. All were taken to St. Anthony Hospital for X-rays.

They are Thomas Nixon, 40, of 3395 Maize Rd., engineer; William Stoner, 42, of 3535 Schirtzinger Rd., fireman, and Joseph Nobel, 44 of 760 Beechwood Rd.

The crash derailed four of the stone-laden gondola cars. Two freight cars on the westbound B&O train were “tipped,” a railroad spokesman said.

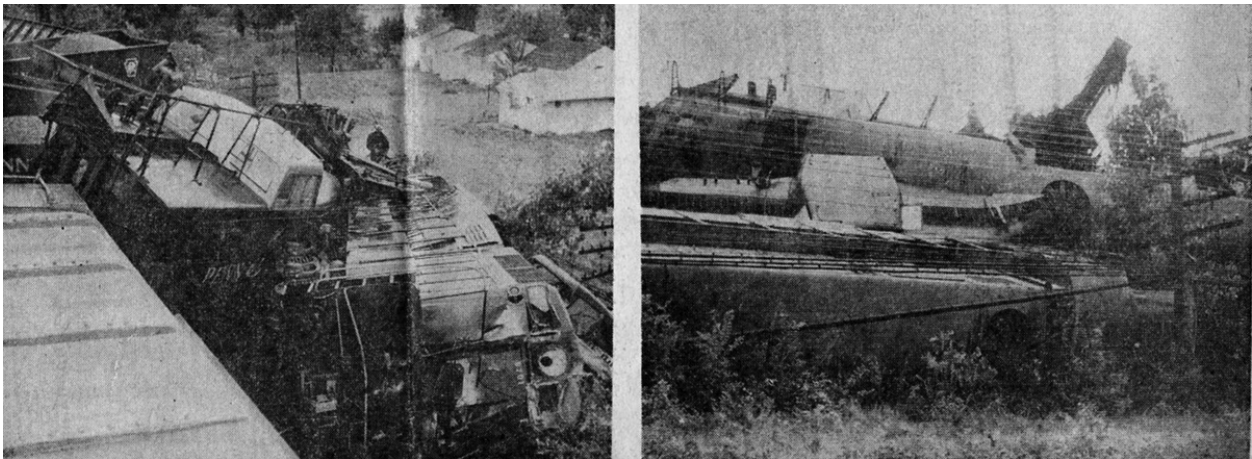
RAILROAD OFFICIALS would not estimate the damage.

The two main westbound tracks at the scene were expected to be tied up for “quite a while,” but two main eastbound tracks remained open.

The switch engine was pulling the gondola cars onto the siding to clear the way for the B&O freight train, a spokesman said.

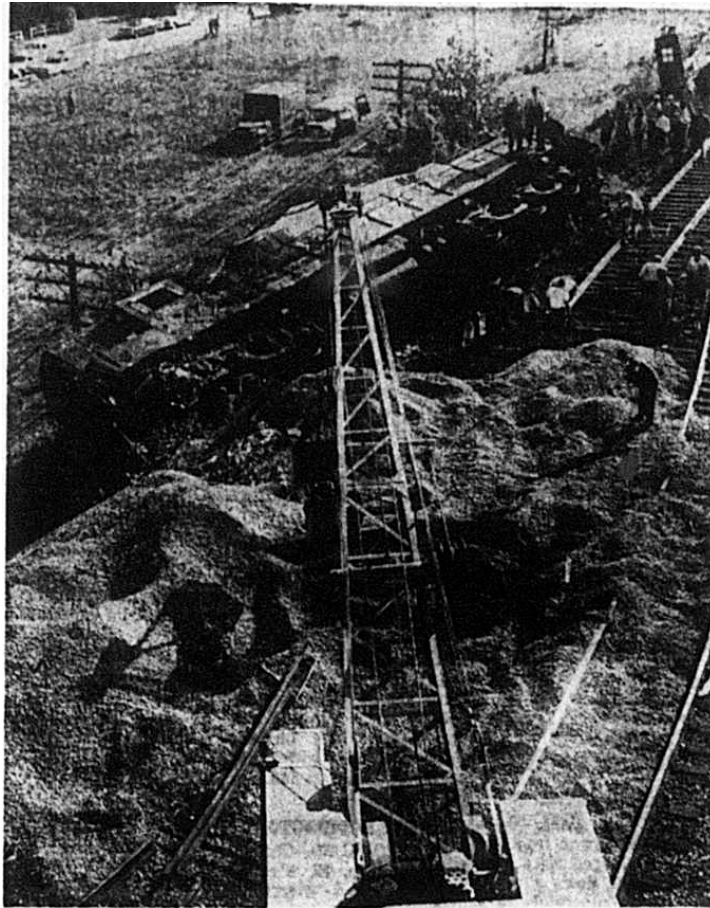
The switch engine attempted to stop before ramming the parked engine and caboose, but apparently could not do so because of the weight of the 75 cars filled with stone, a railroader said.

The fire that erupted in the caboose caused extensive damage to the caboose and scorched nearby cars. The caboose stopped part way over the north embankment.



WRECK SCENE – Part of the entanglement caused by a three-train wreck at Nelson Road and Avalon Pl. is shown from a top a car (left photo). The engines and other units of the two Pennsylvania Railroad trains which smashed on a siding (right photo), rolled down a 30-foot embankment and caught fire – (Dispatch Photos)

Crews Seek to Retrieve 2 Wrecked Locomotives



GRAVEL HALTS WORK – Tons of gravel spilled in a wreck on Columbus' east side Wednesday, must be removed before the crane in the foreground can move in to lift a switch engine back on the tracks. Second engine is further down the 30-foot embankment out of sight. – (Dispatch Photo)

(Columbus Dispatch – September 6, 1962)

Pennsylvania Railroad crews began Thursday to retrieve two diesel locomotives from the foot of an embankment at Nelson Rd. and Avalon Pl. where they landed after a wreck involving three trains Wednesday morning.

David Pergrin, assistant superintendent of transportation for the PRR said the task will take until nightfall.

A Pennsylvania switch engine and four of its stone laden hopper cars and a Baltimore & Ohio freight engine were derailed.

THE ENGINE struck another parked engine and caboose and the caboose was pushed into the passing B&O engine and train.

Pergrin said most of the damage was to the two engines. The caboose caught fire and burned. He said loss will be “considerably less than \$250,000.”

Three injured PRR trainmen – Thomas Nixon, 40, of 3395 Maize Rd., engineer; William Stoner, 42, of 3535 Schirtzinger Rd., fireman, and Joseph Nobel, 44 of 760 Beechwood Rd., flagman – were released after treatment in St. Anthony Hospital.

PERGRIN SAID the wreck was caused when the switch engine and train lost traction on wet rails and smashed into a parked engine and caboose which caught fire and was shoved into the passing B&O freight.

Rail traffic was slowed but not interrupted by the wreck. Two of the five tracks at the site were used while the others were blocked by the wreck and wreck crew equipment.