

Attempt to Wreck a Pan-Handle Train

(The Daily Dispatch and Daily Ohio Statesman, Columbus, Ohio, January 6, 1874)

The New York Express train, which left for Cincinnati last evening, and which was due there at 11:55 last night, did not arrive until about 2 o'clock this morning.

The Enquirer says: "From a passenger who came down on it from Columbus we learn the reasons of the delay, and also of a diabolical attempt to wreck the train some twenty miles this side of Columbus.

At the point named a track-walker discovered a tie securely fastened in a perpendicular position on the track in the middle of a fourteen-foot trestle. It was so placed that a most terrible slaughter was inevitable if the discovery fortunately had not been made just when it was – a few moments before the train rounded the curve by which it approaches the trestle.

This danger passed; the troubles of the train were not over. Half way down the engine was observed to froth a great deal, and on stopping and examining the tender was found to have been soaped, a huge cake of soap being found in it.

A fresh start was made with fresh water, but the locomotive gave out as it reached Columbia, and water had to be forced through the boiler for nearly three hours before the journey could be resumed.

The passengers among whom were a large number of delegates to the Constitutional Convention were glad enough, however, to get in with their lives."