Wheat spilled as Pennsy Freight Train Is Derailed

Twisted Rails, Smashed Cars at Wreck Scene

Six Box cars wrecked At Grandview Crossing; No One Hurt

(Columbus Dispatch – July 13, 1949)

Six box cars of a diesel powered freight train were derailed and wrecked at the Pennsylvania Railroad Grandview Avenue crossing Wednesday morning, spilling about 200,000 bushels of wheat along the right-of-way.

No one was injured in the wreck but two men in a nearby tower narrowly escaped injury when the smashed cars came within 50 feet of the tower.

The 100-car train was en route to New York from St. Louis when a journal bearing on one of the wrecked cars burned out. The car jumped the tracks, pulling the other five with it. The cars were smashed and 300 feet of track was torn up just west of the Grandview crossing, located south of Goodale At.

Carmen Marzello, 22, of 60 E. Lincoln St. a watchman who was in the crossing tower, said:

"I saw the train moving east at a moderate rate of speed when suddenly one of the cars jumped the tracks and the others piled up after it."

In the tower with him was Happy Tracy, a section foreman.

A wrecking crew was called to the scene and crewmen said they would have to break the cars into parts and remove utility wires in order to clear the right-of-way, which is the main line of the Pennsylvania between New York and Chicago.

The crew said they expected to restore service in three hours.

They said they would be working all day to clear the wreckage. They estimated damage to the track alone at \$1200.

The mixed freight had not gone quite half way across the crossing when the accident occurred. The wrecked cars were wood and steel box cars and one of them overturned.

Officials of the railroad said the cars hold about 80,000 bushels of wheat when fully loaded. They said some to the cars were only partially filled and that part of the spilled wheat could be salvaged.

Part of the train was to be taken off and left in Columbus, the railroad said.

Engineer on the diesel was R.L. Meeks of Columbus, and the conductor was H.L. Burd of Columbus.