

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - 1944

06/01/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

The funeral of Thomas Cuddy Reasbeck, a well known Ottawa locomotive engineer, who died of injuries as a result of an accident on December 30, took place at 1.30 p.m. in Vankleek Hill. Services ere held at St. John's Anglican Church, conducted by Rev. Mr. De Catanzaro. Mr. Reasbeck was a prominent member of Dalhousie Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and a Masonic service was held on Sunday evening at Vankleek Hill by St. John's Lodge, A.F. and A.M.

The high esteem in which Mr. Reasbeck was held was shown in the many floral tributes, including a cross from Dalhousie Lodge and a basket from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. The pallbearers were Messrs. M.T. Ashe, W.H. Taylor, E. Calcutt, W. Vogan, K. McDonald and D. McRae. Mr. Reasbeck, 56 years of age, was the son of the late W. Reasbeck and Christina Lunan. He was born at Plantagenet, and entered the service of the former grand Trunk Railway in May 1913.

The chief mourners were jis widow, seven brothers, Daniel of Escanaba, Mich.; Charles of Hull; William of Timmins; James of Espanola; Kenneth of Noranda; Robert of Toronto; Edward of Hudson Heights, and one sister, Mrs. T.A. Standing of Ottawa.

10/01/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Laurier Avenue bridge*

The Laurier avenue bridge, closed since the weekend of August 7, was reopened to traffic at 8 o'clock this morning. The eastern approach of the span has been reconstructed, the floor slabs have been replaced and the steel pillars encased in cement. Cost of the repairs, borne by the C.N.R was reported to be \$60,000.

26/02/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Kingston (CN)* *Cardinal*

Toronto-Montreal Express Smashes Into Freight

MONTREAL, Feb. 26. (BUP A locomotive engineer was killed beneath his toppled engine and the fireman and two express messengers slightly injured when a rare, split-second coincidence fouled the Montreal-bound Canadian National No.18 passenger train as it passed a 95-car westbound freight at 3.55 o'clock this morning one and a half miles east of Cardinal, Ont. No passengers were injured.

At the moment No. 18 passed, 25 cars in the middle of the freight jumped the rails and fouled the eastbound track, Canadian National offices here announced. Killed Under Engine;.

The passenger locomotive plowed into them and toppled on its side. The engineer, William Eccles. of Montreal, was killed beneath his engine. The injured fireman is W. Houle, of Verdun, Que. Names of the express messengers were not available here.

Seven express cars and two day coaches of No. 18 were derailed but stayed upright. The remainder of the coaches, at the rear of the train, were hauled back into Brockville by a relief train sent from there, and are due to arrive in Montreal at 1.30 p.m., today. No. 18 left Toronto at 9.30 p.m. Friday and was due in Montreal at 6.30 a.m.

Two sleeping car sections of Canadian National No. 16 passenger train leaving Toronto at 11 p.m. were rerouted at Brockville and are due in Montreal at 2.30 : and 3 p.m. today.

Cause of the derailment was being investigated. The derailed cars began at the 50th car from the locomotive.

Cardinal reported that the wreck tore down telegraph wires.

26/02/1944 *Ottawa Citizen* *Kingston (CN)* *Cardinal*

Montreal. William Eccles of Montreal, engineer on an eastbound express and passenger train, was killed today when his train collided with derailed cars of a westbound freight train 1 1/2 miles east of Cardinal, Ont., Canadian National Railway officials announced here.

The 95-car freight train was just abreast of the eastbound train on double tracking when about 25 cars were derailed. The eastbound train collided with the cars. A fireman, W. Houle, of Verdun, Que., was "slightly injured," but there were no passengers hurt, railway officials said.

Seven express cars and two coaches on the eastbound express and passenger train were derailed when it collided with the freight cars. Cause of the freight car derailment was not known, officials said, and an investigation will be conducted.

A relief train pulled the coaches to Brockville and they were re-routed to Montreal.

28/03/1944 *Ottawa Citizen* *Thurso and Nation Valley* *Thurso*

Court Martial is told of Drinking, dancing party with Germans

Eight German prisoners of war, two members of the Veterans Guard of Canada whose duty it was to guard them, and four Buckingham girls had a gay time drinking beer and dancing at a Thurso hotel on the night of March 15, according to evidence given at today's session of the court martial where the two guards are on trial for alleged dereliction of duty.

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Singer works project some 45 miles north of Thurso.

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Duhamel, a station on the privately-owned railway line of the Singer company running from Thurso to the camp and some 37 miles north of Thurso, and gave movement orders to bring the eight prisoners to Buckingham for dental treatment.

He was expecting a detachment of 14 war prisoners from Maniwai that morning, and thus there would be a movement of prisoners both ways on the railline. The prisoners under Corporal Lee, Private Skinner and another private and a civilian guard travelled to Thurso on the Kalamazoo, a motor truck with flanged wheels which rides on the rails.

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Witness stated that one of the prisoners told him that three of them had had major extractions at the dentist and could not go back to work, especially in the open Kalamazoo, and suggested that they be left at the hotel overnight.

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Under cross-examination of Capt. Brown, Seheult said the prisoners and the guards eat their meals together in the same mess at the camp.

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10/04/1944 *Ottawa Citizen* *Thurso and Nation Valley* *Thurso*

Sentences Passed On Two Guards Of Nazis At Thurso

Cpl. William Lee of Montreal has been convicted of three charges and Pte. Nelson Skinner of Granby, Que., of five charges heard at district courts-martial arising from irregularity while escorting prisoner of war at Buckingham and Thurso, Que., Defence Headquarters announced Saturday.

The court ordered Lee reduced to the ranks and sentenced to nine months' detention while Skinner was sentenced to one year's detention, the announcement said. Lee had been acquitted of three charges at the courts-martial, held at Buckingham two weeks ago, while Skinner was acquitted on one charge. They faced six charges each.

Both men are members of Company 12 of the Veterans Guard of Canada.

The announcement said Lee was found guilty of drunkenness; disobedience of standing orders by permitting prisoners of war to fraternize with the public; and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline by permitting prisoners to consume intoxicating liquor in a public place.

Skinner was found guilty of permitting prisoners to fraternize in public with civilians; without reasonable cause, leaving six prisoners in the custody of a civilian; carrying out his duties in an improper manner by permitting prisoners to proceed in a truck unaccompanied by a regular guard; while acting as escort permitting prisoners to fraternize with civilians and permitting prisoners of war to consume intoxicating liquors in a public place.

Tram Jumps Track Strikes Automobile Traffic Delayed

When its rear wheels jumped the track as it turned off of Dalhousie street shortly after 8 o'clock last night, an Ottawa Electric street car swung crosswise on St. Patrick street, damaging a parked car and tying up traffic for about half an hour.

Driving the street car north on Dalhousie street, Operator Henri Deslaurier, of 163 McGillivray street, told police he had stopped at the corner of St. Patrick and was turning on that street-when the accident occurred. The rear wheels of the car left the tracks on the turn, causing the rear end of the car to swing to the north side of St. Patrick street, blocking the entire width of the street.

In swinging, the front right corner of the street car struck the left front fender of an automobile belonging to E. Chartrand, of 316 Daly avenue, which was parked about 25 feet from the corner on St. Patrick. Damage to the automobile was estimated at \$35.

The street car was loaded with passengers but as it was travelling slow at the time of the mishap no one was injured. O.E.R. officials said they were unable to determine any reason for the derailment. By means of buses the company was able to maintain schedules until the car was returned to the rails by a wrecking crew.

Constable H. Maloney investigated.

26/04/1944 *Ottawa Citizen**Smiths Falls**Smiths Falls*

Mrs. William Tate, Elgin, Ont., was killed instantly and three persons were seriously injured at about six o'clock this evening when the car in which they were riding was struck by an Ottawa bound C.N.R. train at a level crossing on the south west outskirts of Smiths Falls.

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13/06/1944 *Ottawa Citizen**Chalk River**Blakeney*

District farmer Killed by Train.

James F. Timmins, 73, well known Pakenham township farmer, was instantly killed here this afternoon, when struck by an eastbound C.P.R. freight train.

Apparently the farmer was walking on the track, which faces his farm, when killed.

The accident occurred about five miles from Almonte near the village of Blakeney.

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26/06/1944 *Ottawa Citizen**Montreal and Ottawa**Pendleton*

Pendleton Station Destroyed by Fire

PENDLETON, June 25 (Special) Left to burn itself out by residents who were unable to get water to the scene, the C.P.R. station here, was destroyed tonight by fire of unknown [sic] origin which began shortly after 9.30 o'clock. Valued at between \$4,000 and \$5,000, the station was located about a mile and a quarter from the village.

27/06/1944 *Ottawa Journal**Smiths Falls**Richmond*

Fast Freight Kills Richmond Farmer Father of Twelve

RICHMOND, Ont., June 26. (Special) Failing to hear the warning whistle of an approaching train, Michael J. Watters, 47-year-old Richmond farmer, father of 12 children, was instantly killed about 8.40 tonight when the automobile he was driving was struck by a fast westbound C.N. R. freight train at the railway crossing at Richmond station, one mile south of here.

The impact of the collision flung the automobile against the railway sign post, some 60 feet away, killing Watters, the sole occupant and smashing the car.

Dr. C. D. Wallace, county coroner, was called and later announced that an inquest would be held. The date was not decided.

Watters was returning to his home at Twin Elm from Richmond, a distance of two-and-one-half miles and was driving south along the highway when he came to the crossing and failed to hear the warning blasts from the train whistle. The engineer stated he blew the whistle several times in a vain attempt to arouse the attention of Watters. There were no other witnesses. The train was a mixed freight travelling from Ottawa to Belleville.

The body was removed to the George Stewart Funeral Parlors, pending funeral arrangements. Sgt. E. V. McNeill and Constables T. H. Trimble and J. McBain, of the Ontario Provincial Police from Ottawa investigated.

Watters was a life-long farmer of this district and well-known in the community. He is survived by his wife, the former Mildred Foley, of Stittsville, and 12 children including two daughters residing in Ottawa. He was a member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Fallowfield..

27/06/1944 *Ottawa Citizen**Smiths Falls**Richmond*

Hurled 70 Feet, M. J. Watters Dies

RICHMOND, June 26 (Special) Hurlled more than 70 feet into a telephone pole at the side of the track, when his automobile was struck by an eastbound train at the C.N.R. level crossing 500 feet west of Richmond station, Michael J. Watters, well known resident of the district, was instantly killed a few minutes after 8.30 this evening. According to witnesses who had been speaking to the unfortunate man previous to the accident, he had left town to return to his home on the outskirts of the village.

Dr. C. D. Wallace, county coroner, adjourned the inquest opened last night until next week. The train which struck Mr. Watters' car, was a passenger train bound for Ottawa. It had signalled its approach to the station several hundred feet before arriving at the crossing according to railway officials.

In addition to his wife, the former Mildred Foley of Stittsville, Mr. Watters is survived by 12 children.

The body is resting at the parlors of the George M. Stewart home, Richmond, until completion of funeral arrangements.

Early Days Of Street Railway Recalled by Old Time Table

A time table of the Cornwall Electric Street Railway Co., Ltd., issued December 24, 1896, which was recently brought into the office of the Daily Standard-Freeholder, will recall to older Cornwall citizens the schedule which trams of that day followed.

One of the most interesting features of the old time table is that the street cars on Pitt street ran between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. to any part of the town to suit passengers.

At all times between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., cars were scheduled to leave the Post Office on Second and Pitt streets every 15 minutes. Street cars in Cornwall now keep a 10-minute service at most stops in the city.

Then, as now, the trams met all trains at the Grand Trunk Railway station (present C.N.R. depot) and the company advertised that "close" connections for the trains could be made at the Post Office corner.

Evidence that the Street Railway made an earnest endeavor to serve the public to the limit of its equipment is to be found in the schedule which states: "At morning, noon and night cars will run in connection with the mills as may be most convenient to passengers; also, on special occasions cars will be run to suit the convenience of any large party."

Further appeal to the public was made in the final paragraph which advertised "a comfortable waiting room....at the office on Second street, where the public will be welcomed at all times."

"Rules and Regulations for the supply of incandescent[sic] light by the Stormont Electric Light and Power Company of Cornwall" which were issued in the 1880's show that the company was doing its best to acquaint the public with the use of electricity.

Ordinary Wiring .

Rules read "This Company will do all ordinary wiring at its own expense; but all concealed work and all extra appliances, such as electroleves, brackets, switches and shades will be at the expense of subscribers.

"This Company will furnish the first outfit of lamps to the subscribers free of charge, and will guarantee average life to be not less than 800 hours, for 16, 25 and 50 candle-power lamps and 1200 hours for 100 and 150 candle-power lamps." However, the Company did not renew lamps "carelessly broken."

Of interest are the commercial rates of that time which sold electricity to consumers on the basis of the hour at which lights would be turned off for the night.

Special rates could be obtained if the lights would be turned off at 8.30 p.m. or any hour thereafter. The Company retained the right to turn the power off at the house of a consumer if the lights were used later than the hour contracted for.

The regulations stated that the company "shall at all reasonable times, by its authorized agent, have free access to the premises in which light is used, to determine if it is being carried, distributed and used in the proper manner, and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations."

Then, as now, the company reserved the right to turn off the power if the light bill was not paid promptly

11/08/1944 *Ottawa Citizen* *Prescott* *Ottawa West*

Engine 2858 in Doghouse. Hauls only Local Now.

Times are tough for C.P.R. engine No. 2858. She's been demoted.

For quite a long while now, the big 2858 ran on the Vancouver train, No. 7, thundering in here every couple of nights or so on either the first or second section. Today she crawled in on the Montreal local. There was gloom among the insiders down at the depot today, to see 2858 arrive at the front end of the Montreal local No. 503.

It was learned too that 2858 recently was in Quebec. Perhaps this was a pro-Godbout locomotive, and has been sent to the dog house instead of the roundhouse with Duplessis' victory. In any event, this afternoon, No. 2858 will go back to Montreal on the 4.10 local, a terrific come-down from a career of pulling Nos. 7 and 8.

12/08/1944 *Ottawa Citizen* *Hull Electric* *Aylmer*

Some 150 Aylmer ratepayers protested against a request by the Hull Electric Company to dismantle westbound tracks through the town.

04/11/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Hull Electric* *Interprovincial Bridge*

Derailed Hull Tram Ties Up Traffic

When a Hull Electric street car jumped the tracks near the Hull end of the Interprovincial Bridge, at 12.40 this morning, street car service from Hull was tied up for some time. Two passengers on the car, S. Lusignan, of Ferland street and Rene Pilot 6 Duquesne street Hull, were slightly shaken up. For a time the street car was at right angles to the street.

The derailment occurred in front of Baillot's garage on Youville street, the rear of the tram swinging over in the direction of the garage, breaking the power pole and coming to a stop near the gasoline pumps. Operator of the car was Dominic Souliere, 30 Centre street, Aylmer.

Constable Simoneau of Hull police Investigated.

15/11/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Ottawa Electric* *Sparks and Bank*

Derailment Fails To Disturb Sleeper

One passenger appeared quite oblivious to the whole situation when the street car on which he was a passenger was derailed at the corner of Sparks and Bank streets shortly before seven o'clock last evening. Traffic was tied up for fifteen minutes when a southbound Britannia street car spilt the switch while turning the corner and its rear truck tried to follow the northbound tracks The street cars were quickly re routed by Queen street and passengers on the derailed car .were transferred all transferred -- all but one. Sprawled in a seat one man slumbered while a wrecking crew pulled the car back on the track and was still asleep when it set out on its normal course again

01/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Brockville* *Smiths Falls*

Train Wrecks Truck at Smiths Falls

The heavy snowstorm yesterday was blamed for several accidents, the major, one coming when Arol McMullen, Newbliss, and L. Edwards, Smiths Falls, narrowly escaped death or injury when the former's truck was struck by a Smiths Falls-bound passenger train coming from Brockville at the Chalmers street crossing.

The truck was virtually demolished, but both McMullen; and Edwards escaped unscathed. Police said the truck skidded on to the tracks as McMullen applied the brakes. The train was in charge of Engineer M. O'Connell, and Conductor R. Macklin, of Ottawa.

01/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Kingston (CN)* *Brovville*

Brockville Man Injured by Train

BROCKVILLE, Dec. 1. (Special) Anthony Simon 55, of 150 Perth street, Brockville; surfered serious injuries at 12 30 p.m. today when he was struck by the Montreal-Toronto pool train on a level crossing. Visibility on the crossing was poor, because of the heavy snowstorm.

02/12/1944 *Ottawa Citizen* *Montreal and Ottawa* *Bourget*

2 Ottawa Men, One Eastview Resident, Dead

Three Ottawa plasterers were instantly killed at 9.35 a.m. today when their automobile was struck by the first section of the Montreal-Ottawa C.P.R. train at the Bourget station level crossing.

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This was the second fatal level crossin accident to occur at Bourget within a week. Isidore Leduc, 63-year-old farmer was killed in similar circumstances last Wednesday morning.

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It took ten men to release the automobile from the locomotive. The bodies of the three en were placed in a baggage car and the train backed up to the station.

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14/12/1944 *Ottawa Citizen*

Hull Electric

To replace the Hull Railway Co.

"The day the war is over if I am still the mayor of the city of Hull I will see that the Hull Electric Street Railway Company moves away from the city and is replaced by another firm," said Mayor Raymond Brunet last evening at an election meeting held in Romanuk's hall. The mayor said he would either call on the Ottawa Electric Company to service the city or request Quebec Provincial Transport Commission to establish a bus service throughout the city.

21/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal*

Alexandria

Casselman

Freight Cars Go Off Track Near Casselman

5 O'clock Edition Service.

Two cars of an eastbound C.N. R. freight train went off the track near Casselman, 31 miles east of Ottawa, about 2.30 this afternoon, blocking traffic on the line. Railway officials said no member of the train crew was injured, but one of the cars had caught fire. It was not expected the traffic delay would be serious.

22/12/1944 *Glengarry News*

Alexandria

Casselman

Freights In Collision At Casselman

Traffic on the Montreal-Ottawa Division of the CNR was disrupted yesterday, when two freight trains were in a rear end collision at Casselman. It is reported no members of the train crew were injured though members of a work gang riding in the caboose of the first train had to jump to safety.

22/12/1944 *Ottawa Citizen*

Alexandria

Casselman

No one hurt in C.N.R. collision near Casselman.

The caboose and two cars of a C.N.R. freight train were destroyed by fire about 2.18 p.m. yesterday after a second freight train had crashed into them. The accident occurred on a bridge located about a quarter of a mile west of Casselman, Ont. No one was injured in the collision. Casselman is located about 31 miles southwest of Ottawa. Traffic on the main C.N.R. line was disrupted due to the accident.

According to witnesses, the one freight train had stopped near the bridge. The second freight plowed into the rear three cars of it, badly wrecking them and setting them on fire. The engine of the second freight was said to be slightly damaged. Both trains were east bound.

None derailed.

None of the cars on either train was derailed. C.N.R. officials last night could give no immediate cause for the accident. They stated an immediate investigation would be made. Late last night men were still working to clear the main line. It was stated normal traffic would be resumed about midnight.

23/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal*

Renfrew

Arnprior

Engine, Tender Box Cars Derailed At Arnprior

The engine, tender and three box cars of an eastbound Canadian National Railways freight train were derailed as they were entering the Arnprior yard at 5.20 p.m. Friday.

The derailment occurred when the engine overran an automatic derailing device at a switch and jumped the tracks. The device is designed to prevent a train from running through the switch if another train is ahead on the same track.

R. Hayes, superintendent of the C.N.R. at Ottawa, said no serious damage was caused by the incident and no great delay caused in passenger train service. An auxiliary train, equipped with a crane, was sent to Arnprior from Ottawa to place the derailed locomotive and cars back on the tracks. Last night traffic was running as usual, apart from delays by heavy holiday traffic.

23/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal*

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29/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal*

Hull Electric

Aylmer

Derailed Snowsweeper Blocks Aylmer Line

Hull Electric cars from Aylmer were delayed 45 minutes last evening when a snowsweeper left the track on the outskirts of Aylmer about 5.30. The derailment resulted from the car missing an automatic switch. Cars were re-routed from Deschenes to pick up passengers at the Hull Electric terminal in Ottawa who were bound for their homes in Aylmer. The traffic schedule was resumed at 6.15 p.m.

29/12/1944 *Ottawa Journal*

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