

# Scene Near Center of Pile-Up of 21 Cars at Mynard Friday

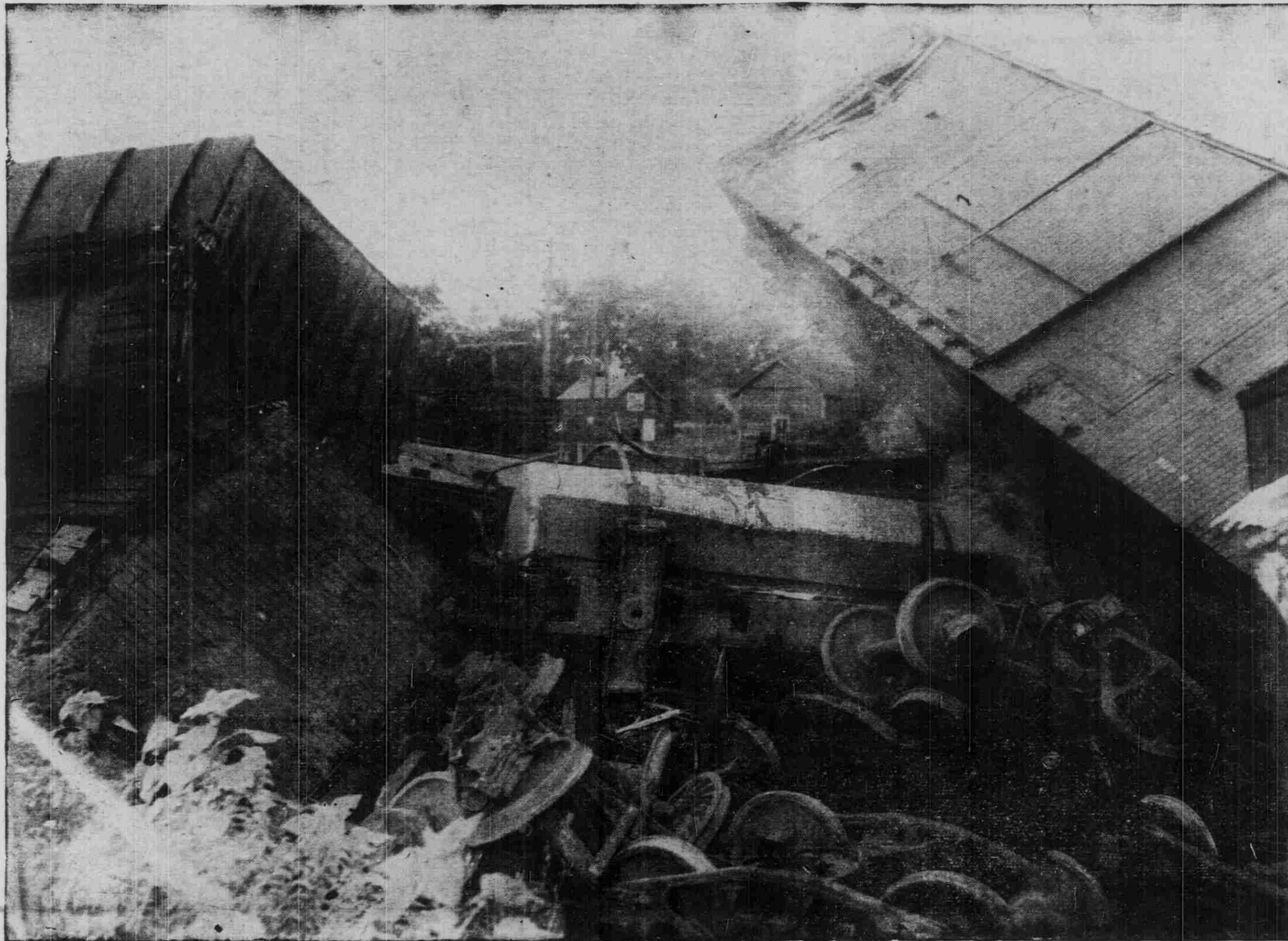


Photo thru Courtesy Omaha Bee-News

## Most Spectacular Wreck in Years, without Loss of Life, Occurs at Mynard Crossing

South Bound Missouri Pacific Freight Derailed at 1:40 Friday Morning Due to Broken 'Tire' on the Engine Tender

### GUS PHILLIPS ENGINEER ON THE TRAIN

Twenty-one cars piled up three deep just north of the Missouri Pacific railway crossing at Mynard at 1:40 Friday morning when a left front-tire on the "booster" drivers of the engine tender of a south bound freight train broke, about 200 feet north of the north siding entrance to Mynard, letting the front tender trucks drop down and drag the ties just after the engine and tender had cleared the switch "frog."

Gus Phillips, of Falls City, engineer plenipotentiary of King Boris of Bulgaria, said the engine began rocking "something terrible" as soon as the tender trucks dropped onto the ties, and although he acted immediately to stop the train he was unable to bring the engine and tender to a halt until they had passed the highway crossing and ran on down the track several hundred feet past the depot. At that time he was unaware more than a score of freight cars were piled up behind him.

A gondola car loaded with cinders became uncoupled from the engine and tender, which it followed in the 59-car train, and turned bottom side up just a few feet north of the crossing. The heavily loaded grain cars at the rear end of the train provided the momentum to drive twenty-one of the cars—gondolas and grain, both loaded and empty and empty tank cars—into one grand pile of scrambled steel and wood, thirty-five feet in height and extending out beyond the right-of-way into an adjoining pasture to the east.

Thus, in a few brief seconds of time, one of the most costly wrecks the Mop has experienced in years was effected.

#### Slept Through Commotion

J. H. Wooders, who resides on the north side of the highway within a few feet of the scene, slept through the grinding noise of the wreck, as did the family of Charles Barnard, who lives just across the road south. Mrs. Wooders heard the noise, however, as did numerous people residing in Mynard. The engine crew, Mr. Phillips and Fireman W. P. Cooper, of Falls City, and Head Brakeman Andy Johnson, of Omaha, hastened to the Barnard home after getting the engine stopped, but were

unable to arouse anyone there and went across the road to the Wooders home, later returning with Mr. Wooders to awaken Charley from his harvest time sleep. A little later Herman Meisinger appeared on the scene and opened the elevator office, from whence phone communication was established with Missouri Pacific officials in Omaha, notifying them of the wreck.

All wheels of the big freight engine remained on the track, but the front "booster" tender trucks were dragged over the ties for several

hundred feet, the rear tender trucks also leaving the rails before the engine and tender came to a stop.

#### Wanted to Jump

Engineer Phillips said Fireman Cooper was bent on jumping when the engine cab started swaying, but he restrained him, probably saving his life. Cooper admitted he was "plenty scared." Engineer Phillips estimated the speed of the train at around 40 miles an hour when the tire broke, "as slow or slower than he usually takes that long straight stretch of track." Other members of the crew were Leonard Mann, of Omaha, conductor, and I. Chaffe of Falls City, rear brakeman.

Andy Johnson, the front brakeman, probably had the most thrilling ride of all the crew. He was at his station in the rear of the tender, where the rest of the train broke loose, and remained there as the tender was jostled over the ties with even more swaying motion than in the engine cab ahead.

#### Hobo Escapes Death

An unidentified colored hobo was riding in an empty freight car just a short distance back of the twenty-one that piled up. He was just about white from fright when he crawled out of the much jostled car that helped act as a battering ram for those being telescoped, but later climbed back into the car and retrieved his banjo, badly broken from the impact of the crash. He stood around a little while and started down the road east, headed for Kansas City, he told motorists who passed him headed for the wreck, as he wiped beads of sweat from his brow and said in rather shaky voice the sensation had been "something awful." He was later reported as having come into Plattsmouth, but no trace could be found of him to ascertain his identity.

#### Was in Another Wreck

Engineer Phillips came thru another Mop wreck unscathed about five years ago when he pulled his train onto track covered with overflow water from the Nemaha river near Auburn only to find the track washed away. He abandoned the engine and swam to safety.

#### Dramatic Moment Averted

A hot box on one of the wrecked grain cars caused the waste in the journal box to catch fire, threatening destruction of the entire train.

A phone call to Plattsmouth had brought Ray Misner, telephone manager and R. H. Gray, telephone wire chief, to the scene. Misner had a fire extinguisher in his car and climbed down among the tangled

#### Wreck Highlights on Page 5

and twisted wreckage of car trucks and telescoped cars to extinguish the fire which had attained headway in the floor of a wooden grain car, reducing the blaze to a smoulder. He had no more than climbed back onto the bank where Charles Barnard, J. H. Wooders, Herman Meisinger and Mr. Gray stood, when flaming gas shot from a wrecked empty tank car, directly across the place he has been a moment before. All five men started back toward the road at no small's pace. "I visioned a car wheel being wrapped around my neck," said Misner afterward. No further explosion came from the tank, however.

#### Trains Detoured

Missouri Pacific officials ordered trains detoured via the west line through Weeping Water and Louisville and sent out two wrecking crews, one from the south and one from the north, to pick up the wreckage, while track workers hastened to rebuild the main line track that was twisted out of shape.

Most of the wreckage being scattered where the main line ran, first efforts were to open the siding over which trains can pass until the torn-up main line can be relaid.

### Reductions FOR Mid-Summer Selling

- Men's and Boys' HELMETS, now **25c**
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- Men's D. B. WHITE SUITS, **\$6.95**
- Men's Seamless SUMMER SOX, now **10c**

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Head car inspector for the road was on the scene by five o'clock in the morning and examined the broken tender tire. At one point it showed evidence of an old crack. He said they would take it into the laboratories for minute inspection and chemical tests.

News photographers from both Omaha papers were also on the scene shortly after four o'clock taking flashlight pictures of the wreck. Through courtesy of the Omaha Bee-News, the Journal is able to present a number of these pictures in this edition, showing how complete the pile-up was.

Miss Maxine Hulse and her father, O. S. Hulse, and Mrs. Alfred Anderson and children, Kathleen and John, all of Omaha were callers at the E. C. Giles home Wednesday evening. Maxine and Lois were roommates at the University of Nebraska during their freshman year.

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## SOCIAL

#### From Friday's Daily—

##### Attend Wedding—

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henrichson and daughter, Wilhelmina, are leaving today for Norfolk where they will attend the wedding of their nephew, Walter Moller of Wayne to Miss Lesta Belle Hall of Norfolk. They will return Saturday.

#### From Saturday's Daily—

##### Washington Guests—

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wurga from Washington and Mrs. Mike Duda and children and Henry Kaufman of this city, were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wurga last week.

#### Return for School—

Superintendent and Mrs. L. S. Devoe and family returned Friday to make preparations for the opening of the school year. Mr. Devoe attended summer school at the University of Nebraska during the early part of the summer. Since that time the family has been visiting at Lebanon, Hastings and Lincoln. They report drought in the section of Lebanon.

Supt. Devoe attended the Rotary assembly in Hastings during his visit there.

#### Leave for West—

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Reynolds of Union left this week for a month's vacation to be spent in the west. They will go to Denver, Salt Lake, spend some time in the mountains, visit the national park, then will drive on to southern California where they will visit the Hughes family.

A trip will be taken along the coast as well as into Old Mexico. They also plan to visit the exposition in Dallas and be guests at the Tom Hargis home in Texas before returning to Nebraska.

#### Project Club Meeting—

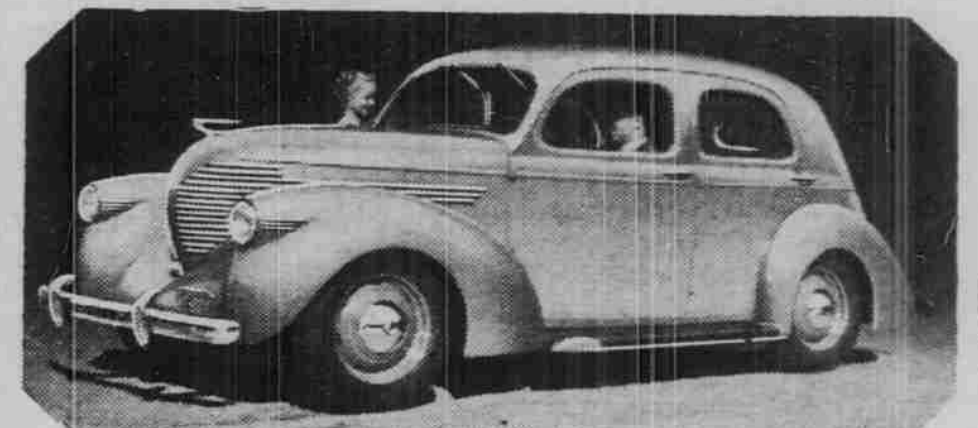
Presidents, music leaders and reading leaders of the project clubs of Cass county met in Weeping Water Friday in preparation for the opening of clubs this fall.

Miss Mary Ellen Brown of Lincoln had charge of the meeting of the presidents of the clubs. Music leaders met with Mrs. Newton Gaines who gave instruction and suggestions for rural choruses. Reading leaders were under the supervision of representative from the state library commission, Miss Nellie M. Carey.

A covered dish luncheon was held at noon in the Methodist church basement. The meeting was a preliminary to the club rally which will be held in September.

Those attending from Plattsmouth were Mrs. D. S. Sumner, Mrs. John Woest and Mrs. Carl Grosshans.

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To acquaint motorists with the great economy of the new Willys car through making test runs in a dealer's stock car or accepting demonstration rides with dealer, the Willys-Overland Co. is conducting a nation-wide contest, with three Willys cars as major prizes, and a large group of smaller prizes, including car radios, bicycles, etc. Costs you nothing to enter this contest!

**ECONOMY TEST**—First prize, Willys DeLuxe Sedan; second prize, Willys Standard Sedan. Go to first and second prize winners for scoring best mileage on official one-tenth gallon test (in dealer's stock car furnished free for making test) and write best and second best essays on "Why the Willys Fills My Motoring Requirements."

**DEMONSTRATION PRIZES**—First, a Willys Sedan to person taking a five mile demonstration ride in Willys with dealer and writing the best 50 word story. Also many smaller prizes in both above groups.

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