

Locomotives

Collide in

Newton Yards

June 27, 1942

Switching Engine Was Backing on Siding When East Bound Train Came Around a Curve Saturday

Brakeman C. E. Purvette of Palestine received a sprained ankle and two engines and two refrigerator cars were extensively damaged Saturday morning about 6:00 o'clock, when an east bound freight train in charge of Engineer Agee of Palestine crashed into the rear of a backing engine in charge of Engineer DePoister, also of Palestine. The accident occurred on a siding in the East Newton yards.

Engineer DePoister had left his freight train standing on the main track and was backing on the siding just north of it to pick up several cars he was ordered to add to his train, when the other train pulled around a curve and crashed into the water tank of his engine. Wreckage was scattered along the track for a distance of nearly a hundred yards.

View Obscured

It was reported that Engineer DePoister said that his view was somewhat obscured by fog, and the first he knew that the other train was near was when he saw the engine beginning to round the curve. He applied the brakes and reversed, and was just beginning to pick up speed again when the other engine crashed into the rear of his water tank.

The two refrigerator cars were in the middle of the train, one being loaded with strawberry jam. The two engines were pulled to Mattoon and probably taken from there to shops at Chicago for repair and the cars were taken to the Palestine shops.

The east bound passenger train was delayed until nearly noon while the tracks were being cleared.