

DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER

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DOWNERS GROVE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 24, 1915

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FREAK WRECK AT WESTERN SPRINGS

Freight Car Jumps Track in Front of Missouri Limited in "Hoodoo" Cut.

In a peculiar accident at Western Springs, at just the same spot where Nos. 2 and 8 had a rear end collision two years ago, and in which fourteen persons lost their lives, Monday evening more than a score of persons were injured, three seriously. Just as No. 55, the crack Missouri Limited of the "Q" (going west at a speed estimated to be fifty miles an hour) and on the center track, was passing a freight on the south track, eastbound, the freight buckled and threw two cars loaded with shelled corn directly in front of the passenger engine. There was scarcely an instant for the engineer to apply the brakes.

The engine was shunted off the tracks and the awful force of the slide forced the center and north tracks clear up onto a six-foot embankment and twenty-five feet from where they were spiked to the ties. The rails were bent as if a giant hand



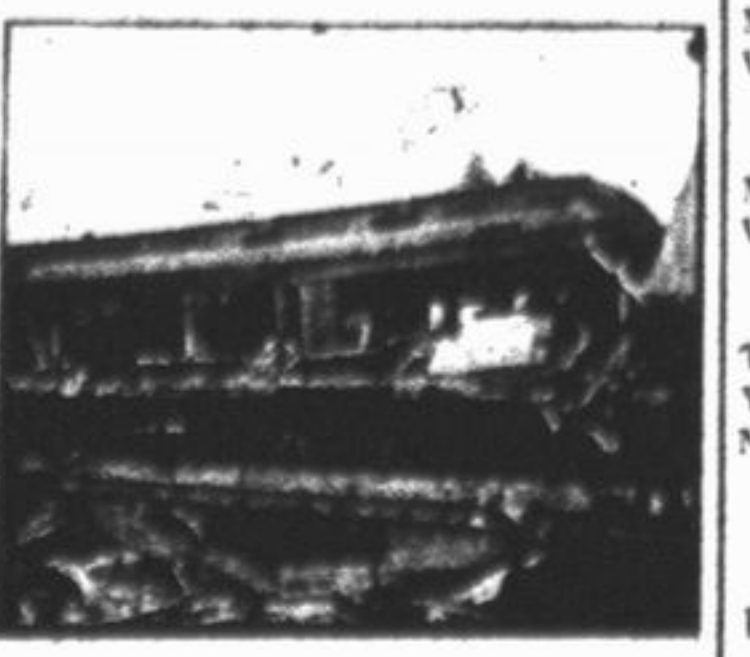
Photographed for The Reporter by B. J. Peckin

had tried to see the odd shapes he could make.

The third car, a combination smoking and baggage car, was side-swiped on the left side and hardly a board remained to tell where the side of the car had been. Trucks rolled through the partition from the baggage end and demolished seats and injured passengers. One man, W. W. Eastin, of Kearney, Neb., was pinned under one of the trucks and both his legs were broken. He also sustained other minor bruises and injuries.

Officials and those familiar with wrecks say that if the first car, a mail, had not been of the modern all-steel construction, the wreck would have been much worse and many lives would have been lost. As it was, one looking over the scene of the accident and seeing the debris scattered over all three tracks wondered how they escaped with their lives.

The fireman of the flyer, Henry Fox, of Galesburg, was probably injured the worst, being caught under the fire box of the engine when it rolled into the embankment. He sustained a fractured skull, wounds about the head and was severely burned by steam and hot water. Doctors say he has a good chance of recovery if no infection sets in. Fox was pulled from the wreck by P. A. Hamilton, of Aurora, an engineer who was pulling a local freight and was just pulling out of La Grange for the east when the accident occurred. His heroism should not go unrewarded. He told this story to a reporter from The Reporter soon after the accident.



Photographed for The Reporter by S. J. Peckin

"I was waiting at La Grange for the freight to get into the clear so I could pull my train out and head for Chicago when I heard the sound of the collision; very shortly after another explosion sounded when the boiler burst. I uncoupled from the train and ran down to the wreck thinking I could be of assistance. When I arrived the rescuers were around the engine trying to locate Fox the fireman. Keeffe, the engineer, had already been pulled from under the wreckage. I crawled under the front end of the overturned locomotive and crawled back. The heat and steam were terrible. Finally I looked ahead and saw a pair of shoes sticking up. I called and heard a moan. Looking around for some implement with which to dig all I found was a piece of six-inch board about two feet long and with this as a shovel I managed to get most of the dirt and wreckage off of Fox. I pulled him out by the ankles to the front of the engine where the doctors took him in charge. He must have been injured frightfully but was very game and did not complain when it was necessary to handle him a little roughly to extricate him from the debris."

At one place about the center of the wreckage not a tie or a rail was left in place across all three tracks and the scene of demolition could have been labeled "Have created by

the big guns in the European war." Shelled corn, baled hay, and miller seed besides all the wreckage, rails and ties were mixed up in one mass—or should we say mess.

Two wrecking outfits attacked the debris, one from each end, and in a surprisingly short time had the south track cleared and trains, though late, were running.

G. S. Collier of Camp Point, Ill., formerly a resident of Naperville, a mail clerk on the train, stopped in to visit with Ed Frank upon his discharge from the Hinsdale Sanitarium Wednesday. He was cut on the nose and chin, and considers himself lucky to escape with these minor cuts as he was in the mail car which rested at an angle of 45 degrees after the collision. He told Mr. Frank that this is the third wreck he has been in and has been lucky in all of them.

A great number of Downers Grove people went to the scene of the accident Monday night to view the wreck. Automobile owners had no trouble in filling their cars to capacity going down.

VOTERS DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Large Majority of a Representative Vote Cast For the New Form of Village Management.

Citizens of the village by a majority of 124 out of 510 votes cast decided last Saturday in favor of the commission form of government to take the place of the present system with its president and six members of the board.

The commission form has been tried in a number of places similar to this village and has proved effective and satisfactory and in spite of the misgivings of some of those who opposed the innovation there is no reason why it should not be successful in Downers Grove. It has many points in its favor such as the centralization of authority and the definite fixing of responsibility on the officers elected by people.

The added power given the officials makes it all the more necessary that capable men, willing and able to devote sufficient time to the village affairs be selected for the commission-erships. That being done no one need fear that Downers Grove will not go ahead and become the ideal suburban village of the Chicago district.

It is likely that the new form of government will not go into immediate effect as the law has been construed to permit present office holders to finish their terms. Should the president and board members decide to continue in office the first commissioners would be elected in April, 1917.

A good vote was polled on the proposition and as usual the north precinct cast a larger vote than the south. The women on the north side polled 106 votes, fifty-four votes more than were polled by the south side women and almost as many as the men.

Following is a detailed vote of the two precincts:

North Side Precinct.	
Total Votes 255.	
Men, yes	121
Women, yes	63
Men, no	184
Women, no	58
Total	101

South Side Precinct.	
Total Votes 225.	
Men, yes	109
Women, yes	24
Men, no	133
Women, no	42
Total	199

Total vote cast	510
Yes	317
No	193
Majority	124

DOWNERS GROVE A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE.

If any resident of Downers Grove is ashamed of the town in which he lives, of course he will not be pleased to see the installation of a big electric sign advertising to all the world that DOWNERS GROVE IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE.

If, however, he agrees with the great majority of our citizens that the village is one of the best home towns in the country, he will not object to seeing that fact proclaimed in twenty-inch letters so that all may see. As a matter of fact, most men are proud of themselves, of their families and of their home town, and in season and out of season impress their pride on those with whom they come in contact.

Pride, a proper pride, is back of the present plan to span Main street with an electric sign bearing the words, "DOWNERS GROVE — A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE."

LIBRARY BUILDING ALMOST COMPLETED.

The new library building is almost completed. It is expected that the contractors will be finished by Saturday, September 25th. Moving from the old to the new building will be done the first part of next week and the library trustees report that the formal opening of the new library will probably be Saturday night, October

2nd. However, definite announcement of the day of opening will be made next week.

The library trustees wish to express their thanks to Mr. J. B. Huling for the gift of a number of books which are a valuable addition to the non-fiction books in the library. The books presented by Mr. Huling are 30 volumes "Library of the World's Best Literature," 10 volumes "Library of Original Sources," and 11 volumes "The Children's Library of Work and Play."

The library trustees wish to express their thanks and appreciation for a recent and very acceptable gift of a lot of 116 books of fiction presented to the library by a resident of Lincoln avenue.

FAREWELL SERVICE FOR REV. R. W. BABCOCK.

In accordance with the custom which has been observed in the churches of Downers Grove when a minister leaves us for a new field of labor, there will be held in the Baptist church next Sunday evening a union service in honor of Rev. R. W. Babcock, who is soon to begin his pastorate in Moline, Ill.

Mr. Babcock has been pastor of the Baptist church in this place for six years and in that time has not only made many friends for himself, but has accomplished things of real and lasting value to the community.

It is expected that a congregation that will tax the capacity of the church will gather to join with the ministers of the various churches in this expression of appreciation and high esteem in honor of Mr. Babcock as he closes his work among us.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BREAKS ALL RECORDS.

Large Number of Local High School Graduates Enter College.

This year's enrollment in the grade and high schools of Downers Grove broke all previous records. This not only indicates the growth of Downers Grove, but shows that a master hand is at the head of the local school system. In Professor Butler, Downers Grove has the ideal head of a school and the pupils show this in their application to the work and the results they get. The high school is now in a position where it "won't take a back seat for any town along the 'Q' or even for township highs."

Following is the enrollment in the different grades:	
High School	145
8th Grades	60
7th Grades	56
6th Grades	70
5th Grades	76
4th Grades	75
3rd Grades	70
2nd Grades	72
1st Grades	71
Total	695

Graduates Enter College.

Perhaps there is not a town in the state the size of Downers Grove that can count as many young men and women going to higher schools of learning as is found in this community. The following young people who have recently graduated from our high schools are enrolled in the following schools:

Stewart Burns, Dartmouth College; Kathryn Heckman, Hillsdale College; William Waples, Michigan Agricultural College; William Nelson, Yale University; Ruth A. Hughes, Madison University; Mayme Nadelhoffer, Oberlin College; Carleton Nadelhoffer, Oberlin College; Ardona Uthorn, North Western University; Walter Predenhagen, North Western University; Malvin I. Butler, University of Illinois; Jay M. Allison, University of Illinois; Hillard Whitney, University of Illinois; Thomas Kidwell, University of Illinois; Leon Stanley, University of Illinois; Roy A. Burt, University of Chicago; Edwin Curtis, University of Chicago; Arno Uthorn, University of Chicago; Ethelyn Smart, University of Illinois; Ada Smart, University of Illinois; Chaucy Smart, University of Illinois; Nellie Smart, University of Illinois; Grace Peterson, National Kindergarten School; Benjah Klein, Iowa College; Earl Prince, Madison University.

This will give one some idea of the educational sentiment that can be created by a good high school in the community.

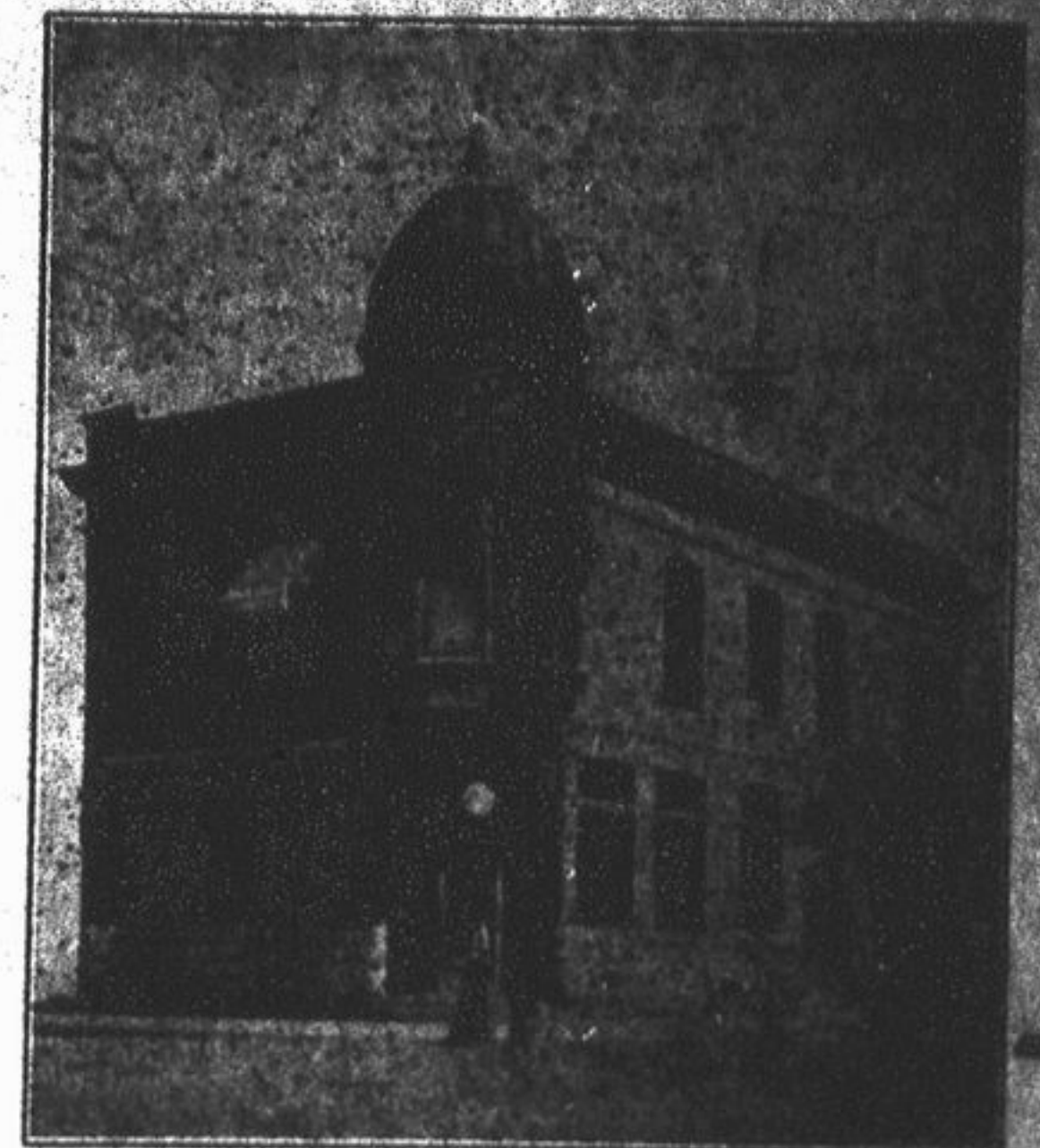
RUESCH CUSTODIAN OF BILLIONS OF BUGS.

Ruesch's Drug Store has been made the distributing station for the diphtheria antitoxin and typhoid vaccine which is distributed free to poor families by the State Board of Health. Heretofore when doctors wished to obtain some of this for the use of their patients they were compelled to go to Wheaton to get it. Mr. Ruesch also has furnished him by the State a 1 per cent solution of silver nitrate which is to be used on babies' eyes at birth as a preventive of blindness.

The State furnished Mr. Ruesch with twenty-four packages of killed typhoid bacilli—the vaccine—each package contains the enormous total of 2,500,000,000 killed bacilli, making a grand total of 80,000,000,000 bugs in his care. Billions of bugs is right.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TO MEET MONDAY

The Young Men's Athletic association will meet at the South Side school building on Monday evening, September 27th. A large attendance of members is desired.



GOOD SERVICE
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GOOD WILL

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It can be used in any furnace, range, stove or grate suitable for coal and does not burn out fire pots or grates. It is smokeless, sootless, clean and healthful—leaves no ashes to sift. It is cheaper than hard coal and goes farther.

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