

## **Naptha Cars Burn All Night**

# **College Park Derailment Fire Causes Damage of \$100,000**

Traffic on the Baltimore and Ohio was restored at 3:30 p. m. yesterday, 17 hours after 21 freight cars were derailed near College Park, Md., setting off an all-night fire visible for miles.

The blaze, touched off by two carloads of naphtha, finally burned out shortly before noon yesterday.

A score of Prince Georges County fire companies fought the blaze throughout the night.

B&O officials said eight of the derailed cars were destroyed or damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$100,000.

The train crew of five escaped injury. The only person reported hurt was Earl Edwards, of the Boulevard Heights Fire Department, who was taken to Leland Memorial Hospital for treatment of a cut over an eye.

### **Caused by Sill Break**

William J. Murphey, superintendent of the Baltimore Division of B. & O., said the derailment occurred when the center sill of the thirty-seventh freight car broke.

The heavy metal underframe dug into the track, flinging the car into the air and piling up 20 others alongside a marsh at Lakeland rd., known as Muirkirk Crossing, in the small Lakeland community. Fire broke out immediately. The flames were visible for miles.

The flames and a false report that one of the derailed cars contained explosives alarmed residents and firemen. Hundreds of spectators added to the confusion.

All available Maryland State police and Prince Georges

County policemen were sent to Lakeland to handle the crowds. County police brought three cars equipped with loud speaker systems to warn of possible danger.

Some families living near the tracks did not return to their homes until 7 a. m. yesterday.

B. & O. trains were rerouted on the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks while the blocked line was being repaired.

Throughout the day, dozens of laborers and crews aboard three wrecking trains from Washington, Baltimore and Brunswick, Md., worked to clear the tracks of wreckage and replace about 250 feet of uprooted rails on each of the main line tracks.

### **Rips Communications**

Other workmen repaired B&O's telegraph and telephone system. The wreck tore down the rail company's communication lines along the tracks.

The 97-car train originated in Jersey City and was bound for the Potomac Yards in Alexandria with a cargo of naphtha and merchandise including ale, beer, rock salt, soda and high-quality printing paper.

An official said two of the derailed cars were empty.

After the wreck, the engine and 36 cars continued on to Riverdale. The undamaged rear section of the train was towed back to Baltimore yesterday.

All available county policemen, in addition to several State and railway policemen, remained on duty yesterday, keeping an eye on hundreds of spectators who viewed the jumble of cars and the wrecking operations.