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4-891

ADDRESS ONLY
THE ALASKA RAILROAD

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
THE ALASKA RAILROAD

HEALY, ALASKA
AUG. 14/1946.

MR. G. W. COLWELL,
CHIEF ENGR.,
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

IN REGARDS TO THE ACCIDENT OF AUG. 5TH AT HEALY, JOHN SZWABAWSKI THE CAT DRIVER WAS NOZING BETWEEN THE LEGS OF THE WYE. HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE SECTION FOREMAN MR. SPANERO ABOUT 2:00 P M THAT A TRAIN WAS DUE IN ABOUT 20 MINS. OR HALF AN HOUR, AND TO BE ON THE WATCH FOR IT AND NOT TO FOWL THE MAIN LINE.

PASSENGER EXTRA 557 CAME ALONG THIS POINT ABOUT 2:30. APPARENTLY THE CAT WAS BACKING UP ON AN ANGLE AND THE NOZER FRAME HIT THE AUTOMATIC LUBRICATOR ON ENG 557 AS IT WAS PASSING THIS POINT. ENGINEER BEBEE APPLIED EMERGENCY AIR COMING TO A STOP AT ONCE. LUBRICATOR ON ENGINE WAS DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR. NO DAMAGE AT ALL TO THE CAT. CAT DRIVER CLAIMED HE COULD NOT SEE THE ONCOMING TRAIN UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE. THIS MAN WAS DISMISSED FROM THE DUTIES OF CAT DRIVER AND NOZER MAN AS HE HAD MISREPRESENTED HIMSELF. HE HAD BEEN SENT TO CLEAR FROM ANCHORAGE ABOUT JULY 31ST. AS AN OILER FOR THE DRAGLINE, WE ALREADY HAD AN OILER THERE, I WAS IN NEED OF A MAN AT HEALY, WHO COULD HANDLE A NOZER, SINCE HE ASSURED ME HE COULD HANDLE A NOZER, I SENT HIM TO HEALY AUG 3RD ON THE WORK TRAIN, AND HE REPORTED TO SECTION FOREMAN SPANERO AS A CAT DRIVER.

J. P. McNavish
J. P. MCNAVISH,
ROADMASTER

Anchorage, Alaska
August 6, 1946

MR. J. P. JOHNSON
MR. A. W. COLWELL

Reference is made to AM No. 81, dated August 5, 1946, in which Train No. 4, Engine 557, struck bulldozer which was standing between legs of tye just north of Healy breaking left lubricator on Engine 557, delaying train 50 minutes.

Will you arrange to make a complete investigation of this accident and advise what disciplinary action is meted out to the man responsible for leaving the bulldozer in a non-clearance position.

J. P. Johnson
General Manager