



RACER'S DEATH — These dramatic pictures taken from a television film show the death of Orville Maggs, Phoenix, Ariz., jalopy driver when his car flipped after he had won the semi-main event. His body protrudes from top of car in top and center picture.

Air Valve Target Of Wreck Study

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 — A small piece of equipment — only a few inches wide and less than a foot long — continues to be the star in the mystery of Washington's runaway train wreck.

The equipment is an air valve, known among railroaders as an angle cock. There's one at each end of every railroad car.

There were 32 angle cocks on the 16-car train that plunged off the end of the rails and into Washington's Union Station Jan. 15. But only one has come in for much attention at a hearing, now in its fourth day, held by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC).

That's the one at the rear end of the third car of the train.

Testimony has shown that the brakes on the electric locomotive and the first three cars were okay. On the last 13 cars they apparently didn't work at all.

All fingers of suspicion have pointed to the angle cock, and it's fairly well established now that it was the guilty mechanism.

But how did this supposedly foolproof gadget become closed?

William J. Patterson, ICC commissioner, has been interested in the possibility that the train equipment itself may have bumped the handle of the angle cock, causing it to close.

He had planned to wind up the hearing yesterday, but a discussion of this possibility extended the hearing to today.

John F. Swafford, assistant master mechanic for the Washington Terminal Company, testified yesterday he had applied pressure to a coupler carrier.

This, pushed against an angle cock handle which was not locked, had moved the handle 30 degrees, Swafford said.

Closing the angle cock 30 degrees would not shut off the flow of compressed air that works the train's brakes. It takes a 90-degree turn to close the cock completely.

But Patterson said he wanted to study the situation further.

Reporters asked if he thought bumping could have closed the angle cock.

"It's a possibility," Patterson said.

Patterson told reporters yesterday no evidence introduced so far at the ICC hearing indicates any sabotage.

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TUNA	Tuxedo, Grated No. 1/2 Tins	19 ^c
Pineapple Juice	"Sealed-In" 8-oz. cans	5 ^c
Baby Food	Gerber's Doz.	98 ^c
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