

581

Anchorage, Alaska
August 24, 1949
File: 581

To: M. H. Harker, Legal Counsel
From: Roy V. Boyd, Acting Supt. of Operations
Subject: ARC Truck Struck by Train, AX-191

am

Reference is made to AX-191 regarding Alaska Road Commission truck struck by Work Extra 557 August 17, 1949 near Happy.

Please investigate this accident and furnish this office with report. Also advise if claim is to be made by the Alaska Road Commission for damage done to their vehicle.

Roy V. Boyd

cc: John E. Manley
glb

August 24, 1949

Col. John R. Noyes
Commissioner of Roads for Alaska
Alaska Road Commission
Department of the Interior
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Col. Noyes:

The following is an excerpt from The Alaska Railroad report of accident No. AX-191 in regard to accident of Alaska Road Commission truck No. 1337, license No. Alaska 1-271-24, which occurred at Mile Post 466:

"View of driver not obstructed at crossing. Engineer blew warning whistle approaching crossing. Driver had side rear view mirror on truck and could have seen train approaching before crossing in front of train. Truck crossed track 30 feet in advance of train. Emergency application of air was applied to train before train struck truck but account short distance to crossing it was too late to avoid accident. Truck was Chevrolet owned by Alaska Road Commission; name of driver Thomas Aiani; number of truck 1337; license number Alaska 1-271-24.

"Witnesses to accident besides train crew are: R. K. Story, employee of ARC who said, "He tried to stop driver of damaged truck", before the accident in the hearing of the train crew. Also, S. E. Brashears, employee of U.S. Government Agriculture Farm at location of accident, M.P. 466, saw accident.

"Truck was hit on driver's side, approximately 1½ feet behind cab on dump body of truck. Damage to truck was left side of dump body bent, also right front axle and wheel bent. Truck was loaded with gravel."

This is being passed on to you for your information and such action as you deem necessary, as you can readily see that it was the fault of the Alaska Road Commission truck's driver, Thomas Aiani.

Yours very truly,

J. P. Johnson
General Manager

to avoid accident. Truck was Chevrolet owned by Alaska Road Commission; name of driver Thomas Aiani; number of truck #1337; license number Alaska 1-271-24.

Witnesses to accident besides train crew are: R.K. Story, employee of ARC who said, "He tried to stop driver of damaged truck" before the accident in the hearing of the train crew. Also, S. E. Brashears; employee of U.S. Govt. Agriculture Farm at location of accident, m.p. 466 saw accident.

Truck was hit on drivers side, approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. behind cab on dump body of truck. Damage to truck was left side of dump body bent, also right front axle and wheel bent. Truck was loaded with gravel.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
THE ALASKA RAILROAD

(AX) TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF ACCIDENT

INSTRUCTIONS—Use Signal "AX" to indicate to Receiving Operator to copy on this blank. The Signal gives precedence over other telegrams. Operators in transmitting will send NUMBERS and ANSWERS only. Answer all questions in blank.

FROM Fairbanks TIME 5:00 P.M. DATE August 17 1949

TO JPU, JEM, RVB, CAB, RAS, IAM, TAM, WHJ, WER, OC, MLH, File

1. (a) Date August 17, 1949 (b) Time 2:30 p.m. (c) Weather Conditions Clear

2. (a) Nearest Station Happy (b) Nearest Milepost 466 (c) Estimated distance and direction from Milepost named .2 so.

3. (a) Train Work Ex. (b) Engine 557 (c) Conductor W. E. Zering (d) Engineer Reekie

4. (a) Kind of Train Work Equip. (b) Direction of Train South (c) Speed of Train 12 mph

5. Cars in Train (a) Loaded 1 (b) Empty 2 (c) Percentage of air brakes operating all (d) Gross Weight of Train in Tons 90

6. Nature of Accident Train struck car on road crossing

7. Cause Driver of truck did not hear whistle and did not look

8. Any persons injured? Extent of injuries; name and residence; address of relations or friends: No

9. What has been done for and disposition made of injured persons: None

10. Is main line obstructed? No 11. Is there a siding by which trains can pass around wreck? --

12. Is assistance needed north or south end of train? No 13. Will temporary track have to be constructed? No

14. What kind and quantity of track, car, bridge, or other material is wanted: None

15. Damage to track: None

16. Damage to engine: None

17. If cars off track, give initials, numbers, and destination. Give estimated damage to each car and contents, and state which, if any, will have to be transferred. (If any cars empty, so designate) Cab. 1039 has b/o step and cut lever on "a" (so. end) west side. Train was backing up with cab and 2 empty flats behind engine going up hill. Truck running in same direction on highway parallel to track. Then crossed over in front of train 30 ft. ahead of train.

18. Is engine off track? No

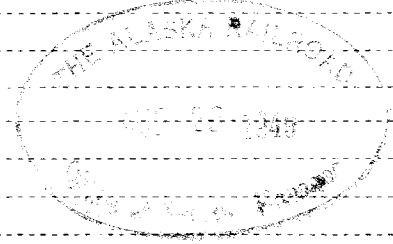
19. How long to clear main track? --

20. Help required? None

21. Curve or straight track? Curve

22. Detention to trains 15" to Work Extra 557

23. Remarks: View of driver not obstructed at crossing. Engineer blew warning whistle approaching crossing. Driver had side rear view mirror on truck and could have seen train approaching before crossing in front of train. Truck crossed track 30 ft. in advance of train. Emergency application of air was applied to train before train struck truck but account short distance to crossing it was too late



(Signature) W. Zering