

CHESTER TIMES – July 26, 1910

WAWA STATION IS DESTROYED BY FLAMES – Agent's Residence and Other Buildings Burned This Morning, Entailing Loss Estimated at \$7,000

The Wawa passenger station on the Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington Railroad, Central Division, was destroyed by fire early this morning, along with the agent's residence and the sheltering stations and platforms. The loss is estimated at \$7,000 for the company and \$2,000 for the agent. The company's loss is largely covered by insurance.

The fire started about 12:30 o'clock in the cellar of the station. Agent Charles F. Borhek and his wife had long retired for the night. Mrs. Borhek was awakened by the smoke and she called to her husband and together they left the burning building after donning some clothing. By this time the fire was gaining headway and calls were sent for help. The people of the neighborhood responded and formed a bucket brigade. They succeeded in removing the effects from the ticket office, but a large part of the furniture in the residence part of the house was destroyed by the fire.

Word was sent to the office of the Central Division at Media and Superintendent Smith directed the sending of a fire-fighting brigade to Wawa in automobiles along with chemical extinguishers to fight the flames. The automobiles made the trip in record time. In the party of railroad men were: U.G. Realey, trainmaster, Joseph S. Wallace, master carpenter, and J.C. Smith.

When the railroad firemen in automobiles arrived at Wawa they found the fire well advanced and consuming its way through the large shed which are placed there. They worked valiantly, but were unable to save the building, although a portion of the property in the building was saved.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. The only information which can be gained on this point, owing to the complete destruction is that it started in the cellar of the station.

The trains are running on scheduled time and but little delay has been caused by the fire. The company was ready to get after its train service at once and had a corps of men cleaning up the tracks so that there should be little if any delay. A temporary station will be erected at once and fully equipped, while plans are being made for a permanent one.

Wawa is an important point and large sheltering sheds were erected there because of the fact that it is the junction of the road, trains separating there for West Chester and for the Central Division. Those who attend the Chester Heights camp this week will see the ruins of the Wawa station at the place where they are accustomed to changing cars.

Agent Borhek and his wife were taken to the home of Mrs. John Keating, who extended a kind invitation to entertain them at their home.