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The Sunday News

2-TON TIRE ROLLS OFF TRAIN

It just kept rolling along – a two-ton tire that broke loose from the bed of a flat car traveling east on an Erie-Lackawanna freight train – until it smashed into the west wall of the Volunteer Ambulance Corps Building. According to the police report, on Thursday about 5:30 a.m. the huge tire and wheel designed for use on an earth mover, traveled a distance of 42 feet from the railroad tracks before it struck the ground adjacent to the east pedestrian walkway in Harding Plaza, bounced another 32 feet in a south-easterly direction, striking and completely uprooting a Public Service light pole. The aluminum pole was knocked 14 feet from its base.

The runaway tire continued then for 200 feet across the Glen Rock municipal parking lot, crashing into the west wall of the Corps Building and came to rest in the shrubbery there. Considerable damage was caused to the building, which was not occupied at the time of the incident.

Corpsman Louis E. Guthiel said yesterday that the Corps is looking for a contractor and awaiting insurance survey reports.

“The problem is that contractors are so busy now with spring building,” Guthiel explained. There are no cost estimates yet on the damage to the building, but it is felt that repair work will have to begin with the steel and wooden framework, before the replacement of bricks. Large cracks were made in the wall structure which was left with a gaping hole at the point of impact with the tire.

Inside, considerable damage was done to an office used by the Corps captain.

Ptls. Armand Pace and Herman Drenth discovered the mishap while on routine patrol Thursday at 5:38 a.m.