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(Folk-lore & Legend)

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Kasson, Minn., Dec. 27 (1933) - James Finnegan, of "Offag'in, onag'in, awayag'in, Finnegan" fame, has been transferred from the Pine Island railroad station, from where his famous telegram threw his name around the world. Finnegan, who was employed at Pine Island many years, leaves that station to take charge at Traverse, the Pine Island station having been discontinued.

Years ago, Finnegan's superiors objected strenously to the lengthy telegrams he forwarded, giving details of wrecks along the line. One day the engine of a train got off the track and Finnegan had a chance to put his instructions into effect. His wire report to headquarters read:

"Offag'in, onag'in, gonag'in. FFinnegan."

This story has traveled all over the world as a classic example of a railroad man's willingness to obey orders.

(From the Austin Daily Herald, Dec. 27, 1933, plo)

(Also Pine Island Record, Dec. 28, 1933, pl)
(The local paper also stated Mr. and Mrs. Finnegan had moved to St. Peter and daily drove to Traverse for work)

Finnegan's railroad originally (at Pine Island) was the Rochester and Northern Railroad from 1878 to 1881, when it became the Winona and St. Peter railroad, then becoming in 1900 the Chicago Northwestern until 1933 when the tracks at Pine Island were taken up.