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NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, May 16th, in Room 208, Union Station, Portland, at 8:00 P.M. As usual we will have an interesting program including the business part of it.

TWEETSIE

The equipment consists of a locomotive and tender, and three coaches, this being the last remaining part of the equipment formerly operated over the narrow gauge line of the Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad between Johnson City, Tenn., and Boone, N. C. Part of the track was washed away by the flood in 1940, and the train was later sold to a group of railroad collectors in Virginia, who operated it as the Shenandoah Central. Their operation was not successful and they sold the train to Gene Autry, who planned to ship it to California for use in the movies; however, a group of persons with vision purchased the train from him before it left Virginia, and shipped it back to Hickory, N. C., where it is in the Southern Railway shops and should be just like new when they get through with it.

Two miles of track is being constructed, which will make a complete loop around a mountain located about halfway between Blowing Rock and Boone, N. C. The main station will be on the highway between those two towns. Also, the new location is within whistle-sound of its old roadbed which has now been made into a highway. The development will eventually include an old-time village and many acres of forest-land for picnic grounds, hiking trails, and so forth. The Southern Railway has been helping the project considerably. At present their architects are designing a typical old-time station to be built adjacent to the highway. There will be one tunnel and two trestles, the larger of which is a three-deck affair approximately 50 feet high and 200 feet long. The other trestle is about 20 feet high and crosses a mountain stream just above a small waterfall.

Fifty years ago your editor made a trip through this scenic wonderland of Western North Carolina. The opportunity came while serving as a locomotive fireman for the Southern Railway between Spencer, N. C., and Monroe, Va.

RAILFAN EXCURSION, PORTLAND AND BEND, MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30TH

Sponsored jointly by the Pacific Northwest Electric Railway Assn., and the Willamette Valley Electric Railway Assn., the diesel powered train will leave Portland Union Station at 7:00 A.M., Vancouver at 7:20 A.M., and Wishram not before 9:45 A.M., via SP&S and Oregon Trunk Railways through the scenic non-highway Deschutes Canyon, arriving Bend about 2:45 P.M. - Return trip due to arrive Portland by 11:00 P.M. - Open door baggage car for refreshments and picture fans.

Fares, including tax: \$10.00 if ticket is purchased before midnight, May 10th; \$11.00 thereafter, except \$12.00 if purchased on day of departure. Phone BELmont 2-0400 for information. Mail checks or money orders to Bend Excursion, 2743 S. E. 38th Ave., Portland 2, Ore.