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NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, June 19th, 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.

ONE-PORTAL TUNNEL TO BE ABANDONED - By Miln Gillespie - Cont'd.

When the Natron cut off was constructed in 1926 it was necessary to provide a facility for turning helper locomotives at the top of the grade. At Cascade Summit the right of way hangs on a narrow shelf - wide enough only to accommodate the tracks and the company houses. Above are towering cliffs - below a steep drop down to the blue waters of Odell Lake - no room for even a short wye. So Southern Pacific engineers tunneled 163 feet straight back in the overhanging mountain and built the wye with the tail extending into this king sized hold in the wall. As long as steam locomotives were operated on the line it was necessary to provide helpers for trains from Oakridge, Oregon, to the top of the grade at Cascade Summit, Oregon. Helpers took a quick dive into the cavern, backed out on the opposite leg of the wye and then headed for the downhill return run to Oakridge. The rails will be removed in the near future, and some time during the coming winter when a blanket of snow eliminates fire danger, a large charge of dynamite will be set off to block the portal, thereby removing the hazard of unauthorized explorers being injured by falling rocks or timbers.

MY NEIGHBORS HOLD TO MOUNTAIN WAYS

The June 1958 issue of The National Geographic Magazine contains a literary gem under the aforementioned caption. Reference thereto in this issue of The Trainmaster takes our readers from the Cascades of Oregon to the Blue Ridge of North Carolina. The article would be no less interesting without relating to the Yancey Railroad, renamed in April 1955 when the Clinchfield Railroad sold its Black Mountain line for twenty-two thousand dollars to a group of Burnsville, North Carolina, citizens.

When the Clinchfield received permission to abandon its Black Mountain line, these Blue Ridge people of North Carolina knew that it meant a loss of half a million dollars a year in lost wages, closed mines and mills. They went about selling shares to schoolteachers, millowners, widows and others. Bill Banks at 33 was appointed President and is probably the youngest railroad president in the United States. He sports a crew haircut and receives no salary.

Just east of Burnsville lives Daniel Boone VI a descendant of the great pioneer, and he is a locomotive fan. During five years of work at night he built a 290-pound reproduction of a pacific type locomotive. It can run on a wood-fired burner.

PROFESSOR SANDHOUSER

It is the quality of life, not its length that counts.

RAILROAD CROSSING SIGN OBSERVED: "Heads up - or toes up."

PARTING THOUGHT: Any government that is big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take everything you've got!