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THE TRAINMASTER

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Portland, Oregon 97209

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(an Oregon Non-Profit Corporation)



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Articles which appear in "The Trainmaster" do not express the official National Railway Historical Society attitude on any subject unless specifically designated as such.

All exchange news letters should be sent to the Chapter's business address:

Room 1, Union Station
800 N W 6th Avenue
Portland, Oregon - 97209

"The Trainmaster" is sent to all Chapters of the National Railway Historical Society. Copies are addressed to the Chapter Director if no other address is available. Chapters wishing to have "The Trainmaster" sent to another officer or the Chapter editor should write to the circulation manager as listed above.





pacific northwest chapter

THE TRAINMASTER

Number 161 - March 1973

PNW CHAPTER TIMETABLE

Friday
16 March

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting place for the March meeting will be Burlington Northern's Safety Assembly Room. This is located on the east side of N W 11th Avenue extended, north of Hoyt Street (nearly to the Lovejoy Ramp of the Broadway bridge).

Vice-president and Program Chairman Ken Dethman has obtained a movie (on steam) for our viewing pleasure entitled: "Shades of Puffing Billy".

Cora Jackson will, as usual, arrange for tasty tidbits to be accompanied by appropriate beverages for on-site consumption during the intermission between the business meeting and the program.

Friday
20 April

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The April meeting is also scheduled to take place in the BN Safety Assembly Room. Program details to be announced in the April issue of the "TM". Refreshments to be served.

Plan now to attend. The details of the program, published in the current issue of "The Trainmaster", do not always reach the membership in time to serve as a meeting notice.

Every
Saturday

INFORMAL LUNCHEON

This weekly event takes place at Yaw's Top Notch Restaurant which is situated at 2001 N E 40th Ave. Join the "railroad bunch for lunch" at the large table reserved for the group (usually at the rear of the seating area on the west side of the building).

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President John Holloway at 8:20 PM on Friday February 16, 1973 in the Burlington Northern Safety Assembly Room.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as read.

Chapter Treasurer Roger Sackett reported a balance of \$473.75 in the checking account and \$1,266.66 in the savings account.

Ed Berntsen reported that the Portland Parks Department has scheduled the trip for the group of mentally retarded people for March 31 from Portland, Oregon to Kelso, Washington and return. Ed asked for Chapter members to donate their time to assist with the trip. Also, NRHS members will have to buy their own train tickets.

Roger Phillips reported that the trip for February 17th to Seattle via Amtrak with a trolley coach trip around Seattle had to be postponed due to difficulties in arranging the trolley coach charter in Seattle. The trip may be rescheduled for April 21.

Ed Berntsen moved that the Chapter sell "Shay Racing Team" tee shirts to the general public, that the shirts be advertised nationally in "The Trainmaster", and that sales be on a pre-paid basis with a postpaid price. Motion was seconded and passed.

Chapter Mechanical Superintendent Jim Gilmore reported on the Shay locomotive display at the Western Forestry Center. The last of the track was spiked down and ballasted during a Chapter work party held on February 10. Logs are to be placed on the disconnected trucks in the near future. Dedication ceremonies for the display are scheduled for May 2.

Ed Berntsen reported on Railcon '73 (Annual Northwest Railfan's Conference) which is scheduled for May 5 and 6 in Eugene, Oregon. Conference headquarters will be at the Thunderbird Motel in Eugene. Included in the program will be tours of the yards in Eugene, a railroad photography workshop, a sound recording workshop, and a banquet for Saturday. Sunday's feature will be a steam trip on the Oregon, Pacific and Eastern Railroad at Cottage Grove. Registration cost has not been determined yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

---Chuck Storz
Chapter Secretary

Number 161, January 1973

MILWAUKEE ROAD PLANS TO PHASE OUT ELECTRIFICATION

On February 20, 1973 the Milwaukee Road announced that it would phase out its electrified operations in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. There has been much speculation that, due to the developing energy shortage and ecological considerations, the gap between Othello, Washington and Avery, Idaho would be electrified and the electrification generally improved.

The Wall Street Journal for February 21, 1973 said:

"The move comes at a time numerous other U.S. and Canadian railroads are considering switching from diesel to electric operations. However, the economics are different for those roads. For electric operations to be economically feasible, a railroad must have much greater traffic density on its main lines than the Milwaukee Road does. The high-revenue levels are necessary to help cover the high cost of stringing the overhead power wires, called the catenary, and building power sub-stations."

This news was followed on March 9 by an announcement from the Milwaukee Road that it will seek to be included in the Burlington Northern merger.

The Wall Street Journal quoted Milwaukee Chairman William J. Quinn, as saying:

"We have been convinced for some time that the interests of the Milwaukee, its security holders, and employees and the public it serves, require that it be included in a strong transcontinental railroad system."

A condition set down by the ICC in approving the BN merger was that for a period of five years several Western railroads, including the Milwaukee Road, could petition to be included in the merger.

The Trainmaster will present a more complete roundup on the Milwaukee Road electrification situation in the April issue.

GEORGIA-PACIFIC BUYS SKUNK

Georgia-Pacific Corporation, the large Portland-based forest products company has purchased Boise Cascade's Fort Bragg, California timber holdings and mill operations, including the California Western Railway. CW has operated sell-out steam excursions called the "Skunk" trains regularly for several summers. CW also runs diesel-powered trains hauling lumber products from Boise Cascade's Union Lumber Company mill at Fort Bragg 40 miles to the Northwestern Pacific rail connection at Willits, California.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

 NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DUES DUE

PNW Chapter Treasurer Roger Sackett has reported that the following people who were members in 1972 have not as yet paid dues for the current (1973) year. Chapter dues are \$5, National dues are \$4, for a total of \$9. All payments should be mailed to the Treasurer at 11550 S W Cardinal Terrace, Beaverton, Oregon - - 97005. Asterisk following name denotes "Chapter Only" member.

BAIN, William D
 BERISSO, George*
 BILDERBACK, Wayne
 BUIKE, Richard E

FRANKLIN, Pat
 GOLDSBY, Al
 GOWING, Melvin Lee
 HOWER, Lee Frederick

MUNGER, Donald M
 PASCHELKE, Arthur
 ROTHCHILD, Robert K
 THRASH, Richard L*

CERES, Alexander B
 CLARK, John E
 COLLAR, Eddie D
 COPELAND, P Allen

JOHNSON, R Lee
 LAYMAN, George H
 MERRELL, Samuel Laird
 MORRIS, Gary L

TOBEY, Frank W
 ZEHRUNG, Theodore*

RAIL CONVENTIONS SCHEDULED

The seventh annual Pacific Northwest Railfan Conference, RAILCON '73, is set for May 5 and 6 at Eugene and Cottage Grove, Oregon sponsored by Willamette Pacific Chapter, NRHS. Saturday's events include a tour of SP's large Eugene retarder yard and locomotive facilities, a railroad photography clinic with Richard Steinheimer, a sound recording clinic with Don Hunter, head of U of O's Audiovisual Media Center, and a banquet at the Thunderbird Motel in Eugene. Sunday will be spent on the OP&E at Cottage Grove, with a special mixed train using ex-Magma Arizona 2-8-0 No. 5, several freight cars, and the two ex-SP commute coaches still in Pullman-green "OP&E" paint from last summer's filming of 20th Century-Fox's "Emperor of the North Pole." Conference prices are not yet set.

The 1973 NRHS National Convention is set for August 30-September 5 in New Orleans, La., sponsored by New Orleans Chapter. A special train will be operated from Washington, D.C., running with steam from Meridian, Miss., to New Orleans. Other events include Southern and L&N special trains, trolley rides, bayou boat trips and a harbor tour. Details from P. O. Box 4355, New Orleans, LA 70178.

"SHAY RACING TEAM" SHIRTS

The Pacific Northwest Chapter board of directors has decided to make the "SHAY RACING TEAM" shirts available to the general public. Either a short sleeve sweat shirt or a tee shirt or possibly both will be offered. The Chapter sales department would like to hear from those who are interested in purchasing one of the shirts. A large reproduction of a Lima builder's plate will be on the shirts in addition to "SHAY RACING TEAM."