# The

March 2002



# Trainmaster

The Official Publication of the Pacific Northwest Chapter, National Railway Historical Society Portland, Oregon





Logging railroads have historically been very difficult to operate due to their steep grades, sharp curves, and cheaply laid track. The 15% grade pictured here was near Black Rock, Oregon. Photo by Glen Stevens, from the Ben Maxwell collection, Salem Public Library. The historic photo archives of the Salem Public Library are on the world wide web at http://photos.salemhistory.org/

## **Chapter Timetable # 475**

Membership Meetings: March 15. April 19. St. Mark's Lutheran Church.5415 S.E. Powell Blvd.7:30 PM PLEASE ARRIVE AT OR BEFORE 7:30 AT OUR MEETINGS If you arrive after 7:30 the parking lot door will be locked. You will need use the basement door on the West side of the building.

### **March Meeting Program:**

Tom Smith will present a program on American Locomotive Company's Diesel Locomotive Survivors.

**Board of Directors Meetings:** March 7, April 11, Room 208, Portland Union Station, 7:30 PM

<u>Lending Library:</u> 1 to 4 pm March 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, check-out of materials subject to **new loan agreement**.

## **Non-Chapter Events:**

**PLEASE NOTE** the **Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club Swap Meet** on March 9 will be at the Jackson Armory, 6225 N.E. Cornfoot Road. This is not the location named in last month's *Trainmaster*. Admission is \$3.00, and it will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**Ex-Southern Pacific 4449** will operate an excursion from Portland to Bend and return on March 23, 24 *The Future of Northwest Passenger Rail, Taking Action Now*, will be presented by the National Association of Railroad Passengers, WashARP, MTWYarp, and AORTA on March 23 at the Embassy Suites at 319 S.W. Pine. Exhibits open to the public at 10:30 am. Admission is \$25, which includes dinner. Menu choices for dinner will be Pot Roast, Lasagna, or Vegetarian. Speakers will be **Mr. William Greenwood, former COO Burlington Northern Railroad**, and **The Honorable Brent Coles, Mayor of Boise**. Idaho. For more information, see the web site for the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates at http://www.trainweb.com/aorta or contact Dan Block at dwblock@earthlink.net or 503-796-7630.

#### President's Update, By Arlen L. Sheldrake

Enclosed with this issue of *The Trainmaster* is a copy of our revised **Member Interest Survey**. Your Chapter Board is asking that each member complete and return the survey by April 1<sup>st</sup>. As I indicated in my letter included in the membership renewal notice, this is a watershed year and we must have your help if we are to be successful. Of special need are the areas of Museum Development and Rolling Stock. We will only develop a museum and stop the deterioration of our rolling stock if we have a significant increase in the number of active volunteers. Every member can and should be doing something!

2002 Dues are due! Don't forget to renew your Chapter and NRHS membership and if you can slip in a tax-deductible donation. Renewals must be received before April 1st to stay on the membership roll.

Is your Directory information correct? The Chapter Board has determined that the **Chapter Directory** will be re-issued late this spring. It isn't too early to make sure that the Chapter has your correct address and email address. Please submit any changes/updates to Membership Services.

Coming in your April *Trainmaster* will be a two-page **Brief History** of the Chapter. Here is your chance to learn about the many, many Chapter accomplishments over our 46-year history and for you long-time members a chance to jog some fun memories.

Many thanks to member **Joe Harper** for his donation of 4 beautiful Orchard Supply Hardware 2002 calendars. OSH has been producing calendars with railroad pictures for 70 years and they have 30 stores throughout Northern California. And how about that neat centerfold! The calendars were auctioned off to 4 lucky attendees at our January 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting raising \$28.00.

Nice to see that **Northwest Rail Museum** and the **Friends of 4449** are running a March 23-24 Columbia-Deschutes excursion to Bend. More information: <a href="www.northwestrailmuseum.com">www.northwestrailmuseum.com</a>. Due to insurance costs this may be the last 4449 romp for a while.

Have you reserved **September 14<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar for the Chapter sponsored POTB excursion? Excursion co-chairs Janet Larson and Al Hall promise to have a <u>special</u> one-day event for members and the public over this absolutely gorgeous Coast Range railroad.

Car #55: A heavyweight baggage car built as a 12-section 1 drawing room sleeper in 1920 by Pullman for use in pool service. Originally a SP&S heavyweight tourist Pullman, then converted by SP&S in 1947 into a baggage car. The Chapter purchased the car in 1985 for \$2,200. The canvas/plywood roof is in very bad shape. A plastic tarp seems to be keeping the water out. Three-axle and friction bearing. Installment #3 of this continuing description of our rolling stock.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> the **Antique Powerland Museum Association** hosted a Railroad Summit inviting those involved in the preservation of railroad history to help determine the potential role that APMA can play. Representing the Chapter at this meeting were Al Hall, George Hickok, and Arlen Sheldrake. One of the many attendees was William Bain, National Director, Yaquina Pacific Railroad Historical Society. Good to see that our 1977 & 1978 President is still active in railroad history. See separate article for more information.

Thanks to **George Mickelson**, **Pete Rodabaugh**, and **George Hickok** for getting the 6200 coach ready and ensuring operation during our first lease of the year on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. And yes, I will testify that stainless steel is easy to wash except when it is fluted. Morse Brothers did a relatively short push-pull run out of Linnton over Cornelius Pass to Helvetia for just under 60 of their staff members. The PNWR crew was George Lavacot, engineer and Rob Sinclair (in a tie!), conductor, a couple of well-known names in the Oregon railroad history preservation world.

Sure is good to see PNWR railing many logs from Rainier to Dillard and Riddle located on CORP (Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad). Just what we need is fewer log trucks on I-5!

And speaking of trucks, the Oregonian's lead article February 3<sup>rd</sup> painted a dismal picture of the condition of our **highway bridges** in Oregon. Something like \$2.8 billion is needed to get them back into good condition. While disputed by the trucking industry, experts blame the deterioration on Oregon allowing trucks weighing 105,500 pounds versus the Federal standard of 80,000 to bang away on the bridges while not enforcing overweight limits or truck speed. Does this give you an idea for another letter, maybe to the Governor and Transportation Commission?

Rain, snow, or sleet (as well as absences) don't stop the presses, thanks to **Judy Hall** for stepping in and getting the January and February *Trainmasters* published during Glenn Laubaugh's trip to Brazil.

The March 2002 issue of TRAINS has an article "Our Plan for Amtrak, A Prescription for Passenger Train Success". This article by Bob Johnston is definitely worth a read and if you are so inclined I have received permission from the TRAINS Editor Mark Hemphill for Chapter members to copy it and send it to your elected officials. The clock is ticking toward the October decision deadline!

The Oregon Department of Transportation Commission in November adopted the 2001 Oregon Rail Plan. The draft can be viewed: www.odot.state.or.us/rail. Printed copies, only minor changes from the draft, of the Plan should be available from ODOT in March. This plan covers both freight and passenger services providing solid information on current services and projected future needs.

## RAILWAY SUMMIT, By Arlen L. Sheldrake

On February 9<sup>th</sup> Antique Powerland Museum Association hosted a Railway Summit for organizations interested in helping APMA figure out what if any role they should take with railroad history at their expanding facility at Brooks (just north of Salem). Approximately 30 people attended the 5-hour meeting. Attendees representing various organizations ranged from the City of Woodburn to Astoria Railroad Preservation Association to Yaquina Pacific Railroad Historical Society to Northwest Rail Museum, OR&N 197, Friends of 4449, a private car owner and Oregon Steam Heritage Foundation. Representing the Chapter were Al Hall, George Hickok, and Arlen Sheldrake.

The session concluded with a determination that the group would like APMA to continue to lead the effort to include railroad history as part of the exhibits at Antique Powerland. A definite priority is the development of a facility to properly house and maintain library archival type materials. All groups are currently struggling with properly maintaining and cataloging these materials and the volume continues to grow at an accelerating rate.

As previously determined by the early 2001 membership visioning process, the Chapter is strongly supporting these joint efforts.

Stay tuned for more information as this effort continues.

#### **Donations for January and February**

A special thanks is due to those members that Robert have included donations with their membership Warschauer, Thomas Wilson, Raymond Yost, renewals. This money is very helpful to the chapter James Day, James Eddy, Richard Engeman, Steven in its continuing efforts to preserve railroad history. Giurlani, Vivian Grail, Wayne Halling, James The following members have donated funds in this Heuer, Nellie Hjaltalin, Oliver LaFreniere, Anthony fashion:

Douglas Bingham, Curtis Diers, William Einzig, John Foster, Jerry Franklin, Jeffrey Hansen, Stanley Couch Street basement rent from 2001. Huber, Don Hunter, Kenneth Johnsen, Jerold Johnson, Halisey Kennedy, Stephen Miller, Kenneth railroad calendars and the sales raised \$26 for us.

Moore, William Ray, Jack Rubeck, Robert Russell, Stafford. Gene Thompson, Marquis, Chuck McGaffey

In addition to these, Janet Larson has donated the

Member Joe Harper also donated 4 beautiful

# Mailbag

#### **Pullman Porter Information Sought**

I am a longtime reporter at the Boston Globe, off now writing books. My current project, for Henry Holt Publishers, is a book on the Pullman porters and the role they played in everything from black trade unions to the Civil Rights Movement.

I am bothering you now because I am traveling the country, talking to porters who still are alive and scouring library collections for any material on the Pullman sleeper cars and the men who worked on them.

Do you happen to know of any porters living anywhere in the country, or have any suggestions of individuals or groups who might help me look?

Any notion of any library collections that might have material relating to the porters?

Thanks very much,

Larry Tye, 617-491-8709

(more info on my web site: www.larrytye.com)

## Casey Jones Fellowship and Railroad Shrine?

I am the president of the Water Valley Casey Jones Railroad Museum board of directors. Our curator has been listing articles found in the Illinois Central Magazine and he recently discovered a reference to your organization.

In the Sept. 55 and the Nov. 55 issues were articles about the Casey Jones Fellowship which was sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Chapter. The articles were about the induction of "Polecat" McMillan and C. J. Keenan (a former editor of your

publication I see).

award that you could share with us?

The reason I ask is that along with wanting to gather as much information about things related to Casey, we also would like to honor railroad historian Bruce Gurner (my uncle), who has been researching Jones since the 1950's. Bruce was called the foremost authority on Casey Jones by both Trains and Railfan magazines.

appeared in the April 2000 issue of Trains. His story is also on our website at...

http://www.watervalley.net/users/caseyjones/tales.htm

Bruce (who is 82) is currently in the hospital and his doctors are not giving him a lot of hope. His brightest moments are when he is talking about railroading.

We were wondering if the fellowship might still be open to nominations and the possibility that we might attempt to get the honor bestowed on Bruce.

this...

American Railroad Shrine

One of the most stirring events in the romance of railroads will take place within a few days when the most celebrated of all 10-wheelers, "Old 382", will come down from the Cumberland mountains over the "Dixie Route" to its lasting resting place at the American Railroad Shrine in Jackson, Tennessee. "Old 382" carried Casey Jones to his death the morning of April 30, 1900, at Vaughan, Mississippi. The shrine, to be dedicated on April 30, will enthrone "Old 382" and also Casey's old home.

I was wondering if there is any more info about this? There is a ten-wheeler at Jackson, Tennessee, that was once a "mountain" engine. It is not the real 382 and isn't even a Rogers engine. However, it would be interesting to know more about this event. Thanks you for any consideration.

Regards, Jack Gurner

#### Continued Excursion Appreciation

As I have been catching up on mail I thought I would share that attached cards. I got a very nice Christmas card from two of the people who were on the Homecoming excursion that were in our car. They have their own museum in Springville, TN. I

thought I would share this information in case Do you have any additional information about this anyone was traveling that way and wanted to go see

Joe Wright @ ADW Exhibit Services, Inc.

#### PNWC/NRHS **General Meeting Minutes** February 15, 2002

CTO: 7:40 p.m. by President Arlen Sheldrake Pledge of Allegiance: Arlen led the Chapter in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Welcome members and guests: Please sign in on the One of the articles in which Bruce is mentioned register. Al Hall introduced guest Tony Roberts who will present tonight's program.

#### Officer's Reports:

**Secretary:** There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the Trainmaster. Kerrigan Gray moved and Ted Ahlberg seconded that the minutes be approved as published. The motion passed.

**Treasurer:** Rick Banton reported that the Chapter is still struggling financially and that money had been moved into the checking account from the Columbia Funds in order to cover up coming bills.

**President:** Arlen greeted the membership and thanked On a second matter, I was reading your back them for attending. He also welcomed back Trainmaster issues and in the very first issue [ 1954 ] I found editor, Glenn Laubaugh from his trip to Brazil. Arlen thanked Judy Hall for getting the Jan. and Feb. Trainmaster together. Judy said she wanted to apologize for the typing errors in the Feb. Trainmaster.

From the Board of Directors meeting:

-The Board reviewed and finalized the Member Interest Survey which will be included in the March Trainmaster. All members are encouraged to fill out this form and return it as quickly as possible. [ See next two pages for survey ]

-An agreement with the Beaverton Department, called the Beaverton Trespass Agreement was signed by the Chapter giving the Beaverton Police Department authorization to cite trespassers found near the Chapter owned rolling stock. This agreement avoids the 3:00 a.m. phone call from the police when a trespasser is caught.

-A two-page summary of the 46-year Chapter history will be included with the April Trainmaster. Arlen asked if anyone knew why we were named the Pacific Northwest Chapter? The answer is because this chapter was the first chapter organized west of the Mississippi River.

-The Board approved the expenditure of \$100 dues for membership in the Oregon Steam Heritage Foundation as a member organization.

# **MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY**

Volunteers such as you perform all the many important tasks needed for the Pacific Northwest Chapter National Railway Historical Society to be effective. Please take a moment to note the areas where you are interested in continuing or becoming involved. Please return by <u>April 1, 2002</u>. **Thank you!** 

Please return this survey to: Secretary, PNWC-NRHS Union Station Room 1 800 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Portland OR 97209-3794

March, 2002

In which of the following areas would you b	e interested in working? (see back)	for descriptions)
Excursion planning/car hosting	Publications	Nominations
Finance	Rolling Stock	Trainmaster
Archives	Concessions	Fund raising
Lending Library	Member activities	
Museum development	Meeting Programs	
Membership & Hospitality	Trainmaster articles	
From time to time help is needed for specific Mechanical Electrical		
Photography Financing	TypingAccounting	Social
The Chapter is always looking for membersh do you have program ideas?		ou provide a program or
Describe your areas of specific railroad inter		
Other comments:		
Name:	Phone:	
Address:		
City/State/Zip:		

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following brief descriptions will give you an idea on what is involved to help you make your choices:

**Excursion Planning/Car Hosting:** The Chapter works to provide at least one charter train trip to the public each year. Functions include: budget development, marketing, ticket sales, on-board car hosting, cleaning, and mailings.

**Finance:** This Committee helps plan the yearly Chapter budget and raise needed funds for special projects.

Fund Raising: Develop and implement fund raising ideas for our facility development.

**Archives:** The Chapter owns an extensive collection of historical materials that need to be both cataloged and preserved. Help is also provided to people researching specific northwest railroad topics.

**Lending Library:** The Chapter owns a collection of books and videos that are available to members for checkout. Cataloging the collection, monitoring checkouts, and incorporating new donations are among the activities of this Committee.

**Museum Development:** Initial activities are to develop a public interpretive information for our display of the Flanger and Jordan Spreader at the Antique Powerland Museum.

**Publications:** Help put our monthly *Trainmaster* publication together including word processing, folding, labeling, taping, and mailing. Help with excursion Trip Guide development.

**Rolling Stock:** Work with upgrading and maintaining our 12 pieces of rail equipment. Functions vary from the highly skilled work with running gear to cleaning and waste disposal.

**Concessions:** Obtain and sell Chapter items at various railroad events in the greater Portland area and during Excursions.

**Member Activities:** Help plan and organize railroad related activities for Chapter members and their guests such as the Annual Banquet and trips to area attractions such as Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad.

**Membership & Hospitality:** Help with maintaining our membership records, welcome guests/new members at meetings, and organize meeting snacks.

**Meeting Programs:** Assist the Vice-President in finding interesting programs for our monthly membership meetings.

**Nominations:** Work with others to develop a slate of Officers and Directors for annual election.

**Trainmaster:** Assist with the monthly editing of our newsletter.

**Trainmaster Articles:** Members are encouraged to write and submit articles describing some historical topic or recent trip. Develop a monthly column on area railroad events or some other topic. By sharing your information, all members benefit.

#### Meeting Minutes Continue Here and on the Next Page

- -Board member, George Hickok is eligible for an eight-week sabbatical from his job and may be absent during that time.
- -On Feb. 9, the Antique Powerland Museum Association hosted a railroad summit for rail related groups in the area and as far away as

Yaquina Bay and Astoria. It seems that one of the first priorities is to establish an historical archive.

-The Chapter leased the Mt. Hood to the Morse Brothers on Feb. 2 for a trip from Linnton over the Cornelius Pass. It was a push-pull with diesel locomotives and also included the "Better Idea" baggage car. George Lavicote was the engineer and Rob Sinclair the conductor.

#### **Committees Reporting:**

**Concessions:** The Chapter is looking for someone to give to others including elected officials. chair the Concessions Committee.

Membership: members have renewed and of these about 6-8 are new members. If you have not renewed your membership, please be aware that March 31 is the cut-off date for renewals.

**Excursion:** Al Hall asked the members to mark down Sat., Sept. 14 on the calendar for the Chapter's one-day excursion over the POTB railroad. Details are still being worked out. It will be a fun trip for everyone so plan on being there.

work he finds it necessary to resign the Activities Chair. The Chapter banquet date will be pushed out to the end of April. The dinner this year will be banquet style. Since members have expressed interest in both sit-down and banquet style dinners, he suggests that we alternate the style each year. He is doing his best to keep the ticket price under \$25 but it is getting very difficult to do this and still have it in a classy place.

Library: Lending Library: Irv Ewen said that the committee has been wrestling over better control of the materials that can be checked out. The committee presented a new application for checking-out materials, to the Board, which they approved. Members wanting to check out materials from the library will be required to read and sign this application. There is no charge for this application. A change was made to the materialsoverdue fine; it was increased from \$1 to \$5 per item, per month to encourage members to return library materials in a timely manner. Non-members are not permitted to check out library materials but may use them in the library including using the television to view videos. There are now two library committees, Lending Library and Archive Library.

#### For the Good of the Order:

-The Friends of the 4449 will operate an excursion to Bend on March 23-24 with the ex-SP 4449 steam engine.

-Thomas the Tank Engine will be operating on the Mt. Hood Railroad in June.

-The Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA) is hosting the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), 2002 Regional meeting on Sat. March 23 at the Embassy Suites-Historic Multnomah Hotel. More information found on website: www.trainweb.com/aorta.

-The March Issue of Trains Magazine had a good article about Amtrak. Arlen has obtained permission from Trains for our members to reproduce the article to

-The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Maxine Rodabaugh said that 168 has adopted a rail plan for passenger and freight lines. It can be found on the ODOT website in the rail section. It can be downloaded but be forewarned that it consists of about 200 pages.

> Programs: For tonight's program, Tony Roberts will talk about England's Royal Air Force Railroad and the role it played during WWII to supply fuel and bombs to the air force. The March program will be from member, Tom Smith about "Alco Diesel Survivors."

Motion to adjourn: Adjourned at 8:20. Please feed the Activities: Ron McCoy said that due to constraints at refreshment "kitty" so that we enjoy the refreshments provided by Ted and Cora Ahlberg. Respectfully submitted by Judy Hall, Secretary

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letter of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. It is published monthly for the benefit of its members. Articles which appear in the Trainmaster do not express the official position of the organization on any subject unless specifically noted as such. Material from the Trainmaster may be reprinted in other publications provided credit is given as to the source. Please address contributions, correspondence. and exchange copies of newsletters to:

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Please be sure to inform the membership chair at Membership Services, PNWC-NRHS, P.O. Box 2384, Portland, OR 97208-2384 of any changes in the status of your address.

#### Membership

Regular: \$32/year, Joint: \$40/year **Trainmaster Contributions:** by 20<sup>th</sup> of previous month **Committee Chairs** 

Activities: Vacant

Meeting Programs: See Vice President

Concessions: Vacant

**Excursions:** Al Hall 503.699.5042

Janet Larson 503, 253,7436

**Car Host:** Darel Mack 503. 723.3345

Finance: See Vice President

Library: Vacant

Membership: Maxine Rodabaugh, 503. 253.4241

Museum: Glenn Laubaugh. 503. 655.5466

Public Relations: Gerald Schuler. 503. 285.7941 Memorial Funds: Gerald Schuler, 503.285.7941 Rolling Stock: vacant, contact Arlen Sheldrake

**Chief Mechanical Officer:** 

Peter Rodabaugh. 503. 771.8545

Car Rental Agent: Bob Jackson, 503, 231,4808

Safety: Judy Hall, 503, 699,5042

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**President:** Arlen Sheldrake ('01, '02.) 503.223.7006

Vice President: David Van Sickle ('02)

503.297.3807

**Treasurer:** Rick Banton ('00-'02) 503. 642.7366 **Secretary:** Judy Hall ('01, '02) 503. 699.5042

National Director: Gerald Schuler 503. 285.7491

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**Dean Petshow** (01,02,03) 503. 359.9453 George Hickok (01,02,03) 503. 649.5762 Chuck Bukowsky (02,03,04) 503. 284-7277

**Darel Mack** (02, 03, 04) 503.723-3345 **Ted Ahlberg** (00,01,02) 503. 579.2131

Chuck McGaffey (00,01,02) 503. 223.2227

NRHS Regional Vice President:

Richard Carlson, 503. 292.0975

ITS YOUR CHAPTER, AND ITS PROBABLY GOING TO BE A BUSY YEAR. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP OUT WITH EXCURSIONS, WORK AT BROOKS, EQUIPMENT REPAIR, AND NEEDED POSITIONS.

Please note correspondence containing address changes on the exterior of the envelope for fastest processing.

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