THE TRAINMASTER

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Walt Grande, Editor

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Portland, Oregon Portland, Oregon

JUNE MEETING

President E. Lewis Pardee of the National Railway Historical Society has advised George Burton that his itinerary has been set back a couple of weeks and that he will be in Portland on July 7th. We will therefore schedule our June meeting for the usual day, June 18th at 8:00 pm in room 208 of the Union Station, with our July meeting to be held on July 7th at the time of Mr. Pardee's visit. For our June meeting we will have some movies taken by Paul Class who has just returned from a tour of duty in Korea. He will show movies on railroading in the Orient. In addition, we will have a business meeting.

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On July 18th and 19th, the Oregon Pacific and Eastern Railway will run four trips over their line in connection with the Cottage Grove Centennial celebration. They will use their steam locomotive, a 2-6-2 tank type locomotive, for motive power. The train will consist of coaches and flat cars. The train will leave from Cottage Grove at 8:30 and 11:00 am each day. A stage will connect with the 8:30 am trip for a tour of the gold mines at Bohemia. However, children will not be permitted to tour the mine. Fare is only \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. They expect to handle 400 passengers on each trip and they have already received a number of applications for tickets. The OP&E has offered to give our group a special tour of operations, if we should desire. It is suggested that you get your tickets as soon as possible.

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Work continues on the steam locomotive for the Zoo Railroad, with George Burton expecting to have it steaming for the first time this weekend. If everything works out the engine will be moved to the centennial site very shortly thereafter. The locomotive has passed its state boiler inspection except for a couple minor changes. About the only major item to be finished is the cab. George advises that if you come out to the roundhouse expect to be put to work—otherwise, do not come at all, as they don't have time for visitors.

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As previously mentioned, a trip over the Mt. Hood Railway is being planned for July 4th. The trip is being sponsored by the Upper Valley Boosters Club of Parkdale, Oregon and Dr. Charles J. Ritchey is in charge. We understand that ads will be placed in the Portland papers giving full details as soon as worked out.

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Jeff Keenan has arranged for a booth at the Oregon Centennial Exposition for the National Railway Hall of Fame. Efforts to secure the Coach of Fame were not successful. Be sure to visit the booth when you visit the Centennial grounds.

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Simpson Logging Co. donated a shay locomotive, their #7, to the city of Shelton, Wn. as part of the Mason County Forest Festival on May 22d. The locomotive is on display in Shelton's Brewer Park. This event underscores the fact that this is the 75th year of railroading in Mason County, Washington. We also understand that Simpson has put out a pamphlet on their logging railroads.

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Your editor recently visited the operation of the International Paper Co. at Chelathie Prairie, Wn. (about 40 miles northeast of Vancouver) and found everything at a standstill, although the papers have announced a large expansion program at that point. No. 12, a 2-6-6-2 tank type locomotive is spotted outside but it is between a repair shop and a water tank, so it's pretty hard to get any pictures except straight head-on. It is rumored that International Paper Co. is attempting to purchase the entire Yacolt branch of the Northern Pacific running their own trains into Vancouver. Whether they would use #12 is not known because they may bring in some diesels from their other operations. When Harbor Plywood ran the line, they had about ten miles of trackage from Chelathie Prairie to Yacolt, where the log trains were delivered to the NP for handling. The roadbed is still in good condition and parallels the highway between Amboy and Yacolt part of the way.

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The Champoeg (now called the Peace River), one of the luxurious observation cars operating on the Oregon Electric in a bygone era, has been returned to Oregon through the efforts of the Willamette Valley Electric Railway Assn. and is now at the Guilds Lake yard along with their other equipment. This equipment will someday be moved to the museum at the Oaks. After passenger service was discontinued on the OE, the car was sold to the Pacific Great Eastern Ry in Canada where it was used for many years. It is in rather poor condition at the present time, but it is hoped that the car can be restored to its original condition.

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An application for membership has been received from Mr. Bob Chamberlain of Seattle, Washington. Bob was on the Oregon Electric trip and also belongs to several other railroad fan clubs in Portland.

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The trip over the Oregon Electric Railway resulted in a net profit of \$336.05, which divided evenly would be approximately \$168 for each group. Your trip committee will recommend at the next meeting that we turn over part of our proceeds to WVERA for their museum project.

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It is reported that NPT 16, a 0-6-0 switcher, which has been stored in the NPT Guilds Lake Yard, is scheduled to go to the scrap dealers shortly. The NPT has already given a large amount of time and money to the Zoo Railroad and their management has turned down the donation of this locomotive to the museum.

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This and That The current issue of the SP Bulletin contains an interesting article, together with a number of old photographs, on the driving of the Gold Spike 90 years ago at Promontory, Utah UP has about 10 steam locomotives in serviceable condition for duty in Wyoming this summer if needed. They have been scrapping quite a few of their steam locomotives stored at Cheyenne-last summer they had almost 100 of them at Cheyenne Santa Fe is scrapping most of their remaining steam locomotives, with only 9 scheduled to be retained George Abdill is preparing another book called PACIFIC SLOPE RAILROADS, to be released in September by Superior Publishing Co. of Seattle Medford Corp. at Medford, Oregon is supposed to have donated one of their Willamette shays to the City of Medford Work continues on the improvement project at Albina Yard of the Union Pacific. The new freight house is almost completed and the remaining half of their roundhouse has been demolished Al Haij has copies of Pacific Railway Journals' books on the WP and the PE for sale Portland Traction Co. has started pulling down the wire on their Oregon City and Gresham lines Negotiations regarding the sale of the PTCO were finally mentioned in one of the Portland papers, although no definite sale has been announced.