



THE TRAINMASTER

JUNE 1968

Number 117

Pacific Northwest Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, P O Box 8853,
Portland, Oregon 97208

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A brief meeting will be held on the Mt. St. Helens in the Union Station before the Oregon Trunk trip departs. Members of the Chapter are invited to visit the train even though not all are going on the trip. If a quorum is present we will vote on the amendment to the Chapter by-laws setting up a board of directors.

Mary Gillespie, widow of our late member, Miln Gillespie, has presented his collection of railroadians to the Chapter. Most of the material in the collection is now stored in Room #1 at the Union Station. Because of the size of Miln's collection it will be some time before all the material can be properly organized.

Open car 598 is receiving a fresh coat of dark red paint. The rainy weather has slowed down work considerably. Most of the exterior painting remains to be done. Members

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – continued)

are urged to turn out Sunday afternoons to help with the painting. The car is stored in the passenger yard just west of the SP&S 9th street roundhouse.

Operating expenses of the Chapter are continuing to rise. We have additional overhead due to the rental of Room #1. Improvement of the Trainmaster is planned. What this all adds up to is the necessity for an increase in the Chapter dues. The Chapter now keeps two dollars and sends four dollars to the national treasury. I propose that our Chapter dues be raised to three dollars a year. Be thinking about the idea and let me know your thoughts, pro and con. The increase will be put to vote in September or October.

CHUCK STORZ
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

CHAPTER CALENDAR

- June 21
22 and 23 No regular Meeting. A brief meeting will be held on the Mt. St. Helens in the Union Station before the Oregon Trunk Mixed trip departs on SP&S #4. We will call the meeting to order between 8:30 & 9:00 PM.
- June 21
22 and 23 Oregon Trunk Mixed Trip. Departs from Portland Union Station on June 21 at 9:45 PM on SP&S #4.
- July 14 Seattle City Light Skagit Tour
- July 27 Picnic and Operation at the Trolley Park, Glenwood, Oregon. No set schedule. Plan to arrive in time for a late afternoon picnic. Trolley operation will continue into the evening.
- Aug 11 Second Annual "Skandia Limited". SP&S and OE to Junction City, Oregon for the Scandinavian Festival. Additional details to be announced.
- Sept 20 Regularly Monthly Meeting. Room 208, Union Station. 8:00 PM.

EXCURSIONS

The High Iron Company, Inc. in cooperation with the Penn Central Company is proud to announce another Historic steam-powered "IRON HORSE RAMBLE" on a full weekend excursion thru the autumnal beauty of Scenic Mohawk Valley from Grand Central Terminal, New York City to Niagara Falls, N.Y. on Saturday, October 13, 1968, returning Sunday, October 13, 1968. 950 MILES ROUND TRIP!!!! Using ex-nickel plate Berkshire type steam locomotive 759 (2-6-4). This locomotive is part of Steam town, U.S.A., collection.

REGIONAL NEWS

A major change has taken place in the servicing of passenger equipment by the Portland Terminal Co. The Guilds Lake Coach Yard has been closed. Only the reversing loop is still in use for trains needing to be turned. Spare SP & UP cars are stored near the Union Station on tracks between 9th street and the Post Office building. A number of spare UP cars have been moved to Ordnance, Oregon for storage.

The Vernonia, South Park & Sunset operated its annual "Shortcake Express" over the SP&S and Oregon Electric on June 1, 1968. The train was powered by EMD passenger A units 801 and 806. Included in the consist were an SP articulated coach, four SP&S lightweight coaches and the Pacific Northwest Chapter's observation car #598. The train, which ran from Portland to Lebanon and Sweet Home, was well filled in spite of a rather wet day.

CHUCK STORZ

The OWR&N treating plant in The Dalles has a new engine. Manufactured in June 1967, the slim gauge GE sports 35916 for a serial number and is a class B50/B50 IGE 763-150/150 HP. The engine is unnumbered, has a light grey body and black undercarriage. It has been in The Dalles for about six months and joins two other engines. Both other engines are Whitcombs, one a diesel acquired in 1950, the other gas powered, acquired in 1936 and currently on the junk track. The 30 inch system serves the J. H. Baxter plant, both of which are part of the Union Pacific family.

Union Pacific, J.H. Baxter, and OWR&N all refer to the same plant and seem to be used interchangeably. One of the Whitcombs had OWR&N lettering, employees retire under Union Pacific, and perhaps coincidentally the J. H. Baxter headquarters in Portland is in the Pittock Block, local office of Union Pacific.

KEN DETHMAN

NATIONAL NEWS

PRESERVATION OF THE RIO GRANDE NARROW GAUGE. A committee, formed in New Mexico and with the support of the governor of New Mexico, is attempting to save the Alamosa-Durango line of the Rio Grande from abandonment. The railroad has indicated a desire to sell the line (including the Silverton Branch), equipment and rolling stock to any proper authority for \$1.00 and will train personnel and offer shop facilities at cost. The Citizens' Committee for Preservation of the Denver & Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railway is attempting to get enough signatures on petitions that the National Park Service will take over the line and operate all 270 miles of it as a national monument, with actual operations being handled by a concessionaire. A copy of the petition is available from the Committee's Secretary, Warner Johnson, Chama, N.M., 87520

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Founded in 1959, until the beginning of 1968 RAILROADING was published irregularly under the title of STEAM LOCOMOTIVE & RAILROAD TRADITION. Now RAILROADING appears every 60 days. It is, among other points, the only magazine that has regular and thorough news coverage of the more than 400 shortline railroads in the U.S. and Canada. It is illustrated and contains no advertising. To subscribe to RAILROADING - one-year subscription (six issues) \$6.00. Send order to RAILROADING, P.O. Box 88 Starrucca, PA 18462.

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