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THE TRAINMASTER

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



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pacific northwest chapter

THE TRAINMASTER

Number 171

February 1974

PNW CHAPTER TIMETABLE

- Friday REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING (3rd Friday of each month)
- 15 February The February meeting of PNW Chapter, NRHS will be held in the Safety Assembly Room of Burlington Northern which is located about two blocks north of the intersection of N W 11th Avenue at Hoyt Street. The room is in the long building on the right, almost under the Lovejoy Street ramp to the Broadway bridge. (If lost, telephone 221-1300, extension 325 for more detailed instructions.)
- 8 PM
- Cora Jackson will arrange for refreshments to be served between the business session and the program. The "kitty" will welcome contributions to help defray expenses.
- Program theme for this month, as announced by Walt Grande, will be Portland streetcars and interurbans. Members are offered the opportunity to bring and show some of their favorite slides (or movies) on this subject. Please telephone Walt at 246-3254 so he can co-ordinate an interesting program. Already scheduled for showing are some movies by member Alfred Haij. Also movies taken by Ray Rodgers, a deceased member of our chapter.
- Saturday FIELD TRIP (Portland area)
- 16 February The group will assemble at Yaw's Raleigh West Restaurant in the Raleighwood Shopping Center, 6443 S W Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy (telephone 297-1536 for directions if needed) for lunch.
- 12:01 PM
- A 1 PM departure is planned to view some of the old interurban rights-of-way in this area (OE and SP). John Holloway will be trip leader. Let John know if you are planning to join the group ('phone 246-7551).

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

"PNW Chapter Timetable", cont'd

Friday REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

15 March Unless otherwise indicated, the March meeting will also be held
8 PM in Burlington Northern's Safety Assembly Room. Refreshments
will be available during the intermission between the business
session and the program. March program theme will be the Great
Northern Railroad.

Every With the exception of Saturday the 16th of February (Field Trip)
Saturday this weekly gathering is held at Yaw's Top Notch Restaurant in
12:01 PM the Hollywood District (2001 N E 40th Avenue). The railroad
bunch for lunch dines at a large table reserved for them at the
rear of the seating area on the west side of the building.

Schedule your Saturday shopping trip to include lunch with the
group. Reservations are not required to attend this unofficial
function of PNW Chapter, NRHS.

WORD CONTEST

(Supply the missing words)

Union Pacific's # 17 was called the _____

Oregon Electric's observation car was the _____

Southern Pacific's # 20 was called the _____

Oregon Trunk's longest bridge is the _____ BRIDGE.

Mount Hood Railroad's slogan was the " _____ "

Early Mount Hood Railroad President was Mr _____

West portal of 1st Cascade tunnel was at _____

SP&S tunnel # 11 is 0.6 mile east of _____ WASHINGTON.

Reed Johnson is general manager of the _____ RAILROAD.

SP&S # 105 ran on _____ only.

Answers will be found on page 7

E M BERNTSEN TO LEAVE PNW CHAPTER



Edward Michael Berntsen

Ed was transferred to Portland after the Burlington Northern merger which took place on March 3, 1970. He began his assignment here as a Traveling Car Service Agent with the Regional Transportation Department of BN. In a relatively short time he has risen to the position of Acting Manager of Trains and Terminals.

Ed will soon leave Portland to assume a new role with BN at their Pacific Northwest Transportation Office located in the King Street Station at Seattle, Washington. The transfer will also include a promotion to Assistant Manager of Road-Terminal Operations.

During his short stay here in Portland he has managed to rustle up enough energy, not only to spend countless hours for the betterment of our Chapter, but also to take on a few extra assignments. He has served as advisor to the BN-sponsored Explorer Post, acted as a go-between in arranging excursions on the Oregon, Pacific and Eastern Railroad, and also traveled around the western United States for the National Office of NRHS serving as Western Regional Vice-president.

"EMB to leave PNW Chapter", cont'd

Railroading had an influence on Ed's life at a very early age. On the way to the hospital on December 1, 1942 to celebrate his arrival, Ed's parents' car was held up at a railroad crossing by a stopped freight train. When it became apparent that the stork might win the race to the hospital, the crew cut the train to let them through.

Ed and his sister grew up in the family home that was part of the Berntsen Homestead since the turn of the century in the Cromwell (Gig Harbor) area of Puget Sound. He attended Penninsula High School in Gig Harbor, graduating in 1961.

He first started his working career as a telegrapher with the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1960 while still attending high school. He resigned from NP to take additional schooling which included coursework at Green River Community College at Auburn, Washington and later at Lower Columbia Community College at Longview. He also took a course in telegraphy and station accounting at Clover Park Vocational School in Tacoma.

In 1963 he returned to Northern Pacific at Tacoma as a telegrapher, dispatcher, and traveling car service agent where he remained until his transfer to Portland. His rapid rise in the ranks of BN can probably be summed up by the remarks of a fellow employee who noted: "Ed has always put his duty to the Company above his interest in railroading", also, "He is highly thought of by the people he works for".

Although Ed has never served PNW Chapter as an elected officer, he has distinguished himself as a "speech writer and giver" as well as an "Oregon-izer". He has been instrumental in the continuing success of "Railcon", a yearly gathering of railfan groups in the Pacific Northwest. At "Railcon '73" he doubled in brass by master-of-ceremony-ing the banquet.

The Trainmaster has also been the beneficiary of his many talents. Ed has contributed numerous stories and items of interest which might otherwise have escaped our attention. One notable example was the feature article in the December 1972 issue (Number 160) entitled "Emperor of the North Pole" which gave a behind-the-scenes account of the filming of the movie by 20th Century Fox on location at Cottage Grove, Oregon on the OP&E.

Ed has even promoted our Society in the public eye in the form of a traveling billboard with his custom Oregon vehicle license plates which read (as you might guess) "NRHS"!

PNW Chapter members and The Trainmaster staff wish Ed "Lotsa Luck" in his new job.

Al Gordy

PS to Tacoma Chapter: You may have to re-arrange your meeting schedule again to allow time for his famous oratories.

PNW CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year in the life of the Pacific Northwest Chapter, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce your new officers and outline some of our plans for 1974.

Walter Grande, Vice-president, has as his main duty the organization and planning of the programs that follow each month's business meeting. He has developed a series of themes for each meeting and will be calling on all Chapter members to participate in their presentation. This year Walt has the added responsibility of serving as Chapter Historian.

Chuck Storz, Secretary, will continue in this capacity, applying his usual efficient talents to recording the Chapter meeting minutes and group correspondence.



1974 CHAPTER OFFICERS - From left to right, standing: Cora Jackson, Director at large; John D Holloway, Chapter director; Charles W Storz, Jr, Secretary; Irving G Ewen, Director at large. Seated: James J Gilmore, Treasurer; Roger W Sackett, President; and Walter R Grande, Vice-president.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

"PNW Chapter President's Message", cont'd

Jim Gilmore, Treasurer, moves into the position I have held for the past five years. All dues payments should be forwarded to Jim during 1974. He will be keeping the Chapter's books and trying to limit expenses.

Rounding out your new Executive Committee are Cora Jackson and Irv Ewen, both Directors-at-large; and John Holloway the National Chapter Director.

In the past there have been several appointments made by Chapter Presidents to direct semi-permanent chapter functions. I have chosen to take a different approach this year and will appoint Ad Hoc committees for specific tasks and events. Upon completion of these activities the committees will be disbanded rather than carry on for the whole year. It is my belief that we will obtain more involvement by more chapter members. A specific task should hold more interest for those appointed to the responsibility.

Because of the associated ongoing requirements I have made two permanent appointments: Irv Ewen as Editor of "The Trainmaster" (our official publication); and Al Zimmerman as Chapter Librarian.

As all of you no doubt have noticed, the possibilities for Chapter activities have been sharply reduced since the advent of Amtrak. We miss the various trips of old, both from an interest standpoint, and as a source of Chapter income. In spite of this, I am sure that we can find some worthwhile activities in 1974 to suit the many varied interests present in PNW Chapter, NRHS.

In this light your Chapter Executive Committee will be working to provide (in addition to the regular monthly meetings) the following rail-oriented happenings:

1. Outings or visitations to areas of railfan interest. This could include visits to active installations or searches for abandoned rights-of-way. A different Chairman will handle each outing and we will consider chartering buses for certain events.
2. Chapter-sponsored trips via rail that are of interest to the general public will offer an opportunity to add to the treasury. This of course means obtaining additional space on existing Amtrak trains, coupled with suitable transportation and things to do at the destination.
3. Trips via rail for the convenience of PNW Chapter members such as blocking space on an Amtrak train for members traveling to a National NRHS Convention or similar railfan event (such as "RAILCON") are being considered.
4. Trips via rail will be utilized in the performance of a community relations project. This involves Chapter members to plan and operate a trip for another organization. An example would be the

"PNW Chapter President's Message", cont'd

1973 trip PNW Chapter undertook with the Portland Recreation Department to provide a train riding experience for mentally retarded persons.

5. Work parties that are well planned and announced in advance round out our list of activities. These efforts can be directed toward Chapter requirements or they can be of a community relations nature, a function I feel we should be particularly dedicated to.

The foregoing is simply an outline for the guidance of the Executive Committee. To put these plans in action will require the aid of all Chapter members, both as participants and as suggestors of specific activities.

What do you want to see PNW Chapter doing in 1974? What do you as an individual want to be able to do? Let us hear from you!

Roger W Sackett

MEMORABILIA WANTED

PNW Chapter Historian Walt Grande has announced the starting of a scrap book documenting activities of the Chapter since its founding in 1955. Anyone having photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs, or the like which pertain to any of our activities (such as fan trips, work projects like the "Peggy" restoration, et cetera) are asked to contact Walt ('phone 246-3254).

AMTRAK NEWS

Amtrak has announced that the "Hiawatha" from Chicago to Seattle via the old Northern Pacific mainline to Spokane; thence via Wenatchee will be operated on a daily basis this summer as an experiment.

WORD CONTEST ANSWERS

(see page 2 for questions)

PORTLAND ROSE, CHAMPOEG, KLAMATH, CELILO, APPLE BELT LINE, ECCLES,
TYE, LYLE, CITY OF PRINEVILLE, SATURDAY.

prepared by Ken Dethman

PNW CHAPTER NRHS

Summary of Minutes, Regular Meeting, 18 January 1974

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Sackett at 8 PM in the Burlington Northern safety instruction meeting room.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

Ed Berntsen reported that the Central Coast Chapter, NRHS is well along with plans for the 1974 NRHS national convention which will, according to custom, be held during the Labor Day weekend. This year the event will take place in San Francisco, California. The possibility of a charter rail trip to Rio Vista Junction during the convention is being investigated. The fuel shortage is not expected to cause any problems for the convention.

Ed Berntsen announced that he is being transferred to Seattle effective February 15, 1974.

President Sackett announced that he plans to appoint project committee chairmen rather than use the standing committee system. For example, a project chairman will be appointed for each outing, trip for community relations, or rail trip for members.

Along these lines, President Sackett announced a field trip for Saturday the 23rd of February (NOTE: Trip has been rescheduled for Saturday the 16th of February for the convenience of out-of-town members who will be in Portland for the regular meeting on Friday the 15th. Editor). Object will be to trace the rights-of-way of the Oregon Electric and the Southern Pacific Red Electrics in the Multnomah area. John Holloway and Jim Gilmore will be co-chairmen for the trip. Details to be announced at the meeting on February 15th.

Roger Sackett reported that the Chapter has written to Amtrak offering the Chapter-owned sleeper-lounge car Mt Hood for rental and also to Mr Downing of the Burlington Northern to clear such use. No replies have been received.

Chuck Storz reported that the SP&S motive power book will be published even though a possibly competing book on the SP&S is to be published this spring by another publisher. Publication of the SP&S motive power book is possible by June of this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Program: Walt Grande showed slides of the Rio Grande Southern.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W Storz, Jr
PNW Chapter Secretary