



September 1994

Tacoma's Plan for Mountain Train Getting on Track

Article by Art Popham, from Tacoma paper, July 21, 1994.
Provided by Keith Rydman & Fred Dorsett

Tacoma's Train to the Mountain is about to round several treacherous bends - bends that once threatened to derail the project.

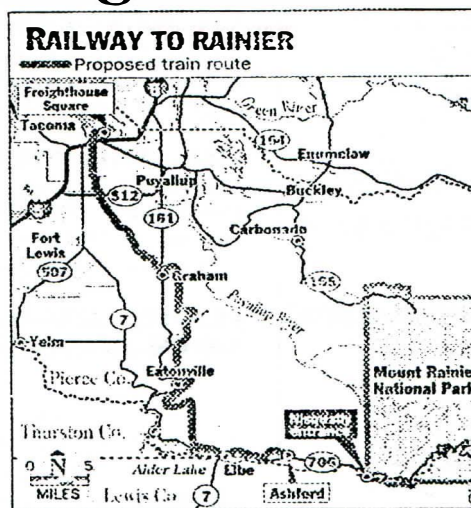
As part of a proposed public-private partnership that includes The Boeing Co., the City of Tacoma is on the verge of acquiring the Chehalis Western Railroad from Weyerhaeuser Co. for \$3.25 million.

The deal, if approved by the City Council and the Port of Tacoma commissioners, will clear some major obstructions to the city's long-sought passenger train to Mount Rainier.

It also will allow the city to operate common-carrier freight service to the port's growing Frederickson industrial area, which will help underwrite the excursion train. Common-carrier service is non-private service governed by Interstate Commerce Commission regulations.

As an added bonus, common-carrier status will qualify the city to apply for federal and state rail funds, which would defray the estimated \$6 million cost of repairing sections of badly decayed track. Dollars are available to repair only non-private freight track - but no one stops you from running a Train to the Mountain over the same rails.

The city will operate the railroad as the Tacoma Eastern Railway co., a name that dates back to the 1890s.



"Now, we have a complete link," said Nancy Forster, assistant to the city manager and the city's Train to the Mountain point person. "We really couldn't have done it without our partners."

Those partners include the port, which will join with the city to provide one-third of the purchase price. The Boeing Co., along with Tukwila developer M.A. Segale, will kick in another one-third of the price. The Rail Division of the State Department of Transportation will put in the final third, Forster says.

Boeing will benefit from economical common-carrier freight service to its Frederickson plant. Segale, whose previously announced bid to buy the Chehalis Western from Weyerhaeuser fell through, will buy the railroad's 90-acre former repair and maintenance facility in Thurston County. He also preserves the capability of moving gravel from one of his companies by rail.

Map from Tacoma newspaper showing route of new Mt. Rainier train. Route is bold, jagged line from Tacoma Southeast to Ashford, near Nisqually entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park.

The amount of rail repair money for which Tacoma can apply will be based on a cars-per-year-per-mile formula. The more freight Tacoma Eastern hauls, the greater its freight revenue and potential track repair money.

Forster says the city already has talked with "roughly five or six potential customers, some possibly substantial users of the line." Boeing is a modest user on that list.

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The TRAINMASTER

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For more information, contact the Membership Chairperson at the above address.

DEADLINES

The deadline for each issue of The Trainmaster is the 20th of the previous month. Submissions may be made on floppy disk, in Wordperfect, MS Word, or ASCII formats.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or hold material at his discretion.

-Jim

CHAPTER TIME TABLE No. 384

REGULAR RUNS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Thursday, September 8, 7:00 P.M., at Room 208, Union Station. Enter through the main entrance, turn right two times, past the magazine stand, first door on left at hallway to Wilfs.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, September 16, 7:30 P.M., at St. David's Episcopal Church at 2800 S.E. Harrison. The business meeting will start promptly at 7:30, with the newsreel and program following after a short break. Refreshments will be available; please bring some money to feed the "kitty" so the kitty can continue to feed you. The program is listed below.

WEEKLY NO-HOST LUNCHEON every Saturday, 12:00 Noon, at the Semaphore Restaurant at S.E. 17th & S.E. Holgate Blvd. Our group is in the back. Come on down!

ROLLING STOCK WORK SESSIONS every Wednesday and Saturday, at the Chapter's tracks in Brooklyn Yard. Working hours are 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 or 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, 10 A.M. to late afternoon on Saturday. There's a lot of work of all kinds to be done. Contact Richard Gray (452-8936) to see what you can do.

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES WORK SESSION: Thursday, September 8, 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. & Saturday, September 17, 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon at Room 1 & 1A, Union Station. Help is needed to get things organized and catalogued. Contact Jim Loomis (253-3926) or Bob Weaver (654-4274) for more information-or just show up! There's a lot of work to do.

CHAPTER LIBRARY OPEN HOURS Saturday, September 17 & 24, 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. at Room 1, Union Station.

EXTRA BOARD

Chehalis-Centralia Bus/Train Trip, September 17, 1994. Contact Bob Terkelsen (399-1882) for details. Departure will be from Lloyd Center.

1994 Tillamook Saitair Excursion, October 29 & 30, 1994. Departs from Banks at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, returns from Tillamook Sunday, with arrival at Banks approx. 5:00 P.M.

Model Railroad Swap Meet & Show, October 1 & 2, at the Jackman-Long Building, Oregon State Fairgrounds, 2330 17th Street N.E., Salem, OR, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. both days. Call Bill Geisler, chairman, at (503) 362-0582 for more information. See advertisement in this issue for directions and admission information.

SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

Program begins after business meeting

Presented by Gery Beckley, U.P. Engineer

Operation Lifesaver

NOTICE: Programs are needed for future meetings. Anyone who is willing to present a program (slides, film, etc.) at a Chapter meeting, please contact the President.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Summary of Minutes Board of Directors Meeting AUGUST 11, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Terkelsen at 7:08 P.M.

Treasurer's Report: Oregon Rail Museum papers have been received, and the bill paid.

National Director's Report: Gerald Schuler reported.

Vice President's Report: Marilyn Edgar is out of town.

President's Report: Bob Terkelsen said his report will be in "Old Business."

Finance: No meeting was held due to vacations.

Rolling Stock: Work on the cars for our future move was reported.

Excursions: The Port of Tillamook trip brochures are out, and the orders are coming in. Ads are being planned. There was discussion about how to capitalize on the advertising. **Short trips:** The Chehalis-Centralia train trip brochures are ready for printing. Maxine Rodabaugh volunteered to have them printed and will put labels on and mail them. This will be mostly a member activity on September 24.

Library: The library needs volunteers. Jim Loomis, Chair, will be out of town for two weeks.

Museum: The Property Acquisition Task Force will meet on Tuesday, August 16. No action is expected until more information is received and digested.

Activities: Darel Mack reported that the annual picnic details will be in the September issue of The Trainmaster. The train will be running. Darel plans to get an attendance count of our members at the August membership meeting and has the count from other groups invited already. The committee for our 40th anniversary celebration has not met yet.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Bylaws: Janet Larson is still working on them.

Concessions: Nita White reported that the Brooks sale was successful financially. \$395 was collected in the three days there. About twelve tee-shirts were sold, along with other items.

Trainmaster: Jim Loomis will do the September issue, starting upon his return from vacation. **Editor's note:** I will be busy preparing for spinal surgery in October, so I am unable to commit myself beyond this issue.--*Jim*

Rail Sensations: Gerald Schuler reported that there is nothing to report since the organization has not met since last report.

Program: We have programs now through November. Rocky Regula has offered a second slide show and auction for November.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaws: Maxine Rodabaugh said that Janet Larson will have them done soon. Membership under Sara Ackerman will have a new member directory soon also. It is planned to charge one dollar for the directory and bylaws, to cover printing costs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Appointments: President Terkelsen asked for Nominating Committee member suggestions.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:04 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joyce E. Reese,
Secretary*

Summary of Minutes of Chapter Meeting August 19, 1994

Meeting was called to order by President Terkelsen at 8:09 P.M. He welcomed everyone to the August Chapter meeting. Lee Groth, guest, was introduced. Sara Ackerman reported attendance at 25 members and 1 guest.

Minutes: Members were reminded to read the minutes on the back bulletin board, and please let the secretary know of any errors.

Treasurer's Report: Maxine Rodabaugh reported on the accounts. \$281 worth of tee-shirts and caps were sold at the Model Railroad Convention tours. Lots of our members were involved

in this convention.

National Director's Report: No report, as Gerald Schuler was not present.

Vice President's Report: No report since Marilyn Edgar is out of town.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance: No meeting was held this month since the chairperson was out of town.

Rolling Stock: Members have been cleaning in the yards and they opened up the cars for the Model Railroad Convention tour. Our diesel engines at the UP yards can be moved. Ralph Jack has been appointed coordinator for the yards by President Terkelsen.

Library: No report since Jim Loomis is still on vacation.

Activities: The picnic, September 17, will have cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and we bring potluck salads and desserts. The live steam group will be running equipment for us. Two other groups, one the Yaquina Chapter, will be there also.

Museum: President Terkelsen reported about two groups in the chapter involved in acquiring a museum building for us. He said things may soon happen though until now has only been planning. When there is action to report, members will be informed.

Excursions: Irv Ewen and President Terkelsen reported. We have been approached about a wedding party going with us on the Tillamook trip. There are 38 orders already for the trip from the beginning ads. First class seats will be available for \$40 more. Saturday, September 27 will be the trip on the Centralia-Chehalis Railroad. Brochures were just mailed. The one-day trip cost of \$45 includes bus (leaving from Lloyd Center), box lunch, photo run-bys. Request for Bend Circle trip has been submitted to Amtrak.

Concessions: The sales at Brooks Steam-up were \$395 for three days, including a book, tee-shirts, and other odds and ends.

Programs: President Terkelsen reported that Terry Parker is showing his Rose Festival films tonight. October will be lumber company films by Lee Jackson. November will be another slide auction by Rocky Regula.

Rail Sensations: Gerald Schuler reported no meeting was held.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Summary of Minutes Chapter Meeting August 19, 1994

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OLD BUSINESS:

Directory: President Terkelsen reported that Janet Larson is working on the Bylaws and Maxine Rodabaugh is working on a directory. The two will be put together and provided at a small charge.

Moving: President Terkelsen reported that no word has been received, as yet, from the S.P. regarding the move from Brooklyn Yard.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee: President Terkelsen indicated that it is time to appoint a Nominating Committee. Board members not up for re-election are eligible, as well as paid-up regular members.

Tax Exemption: President Terkelsen reported that the Board is looking into a state non-profit personal property tax exemption.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

President Terkelsen reported that the Oregon Model Railroad Club is moving to Brooks. Anyone who wants to see them at Glenwood before they move must go before the end of October. Member William Einzig gave a \$50 donation toward a large screen T.V. and hopes others will contribute so that we can show camcorder films on a larger screen.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Joyce E. Reese,
Secretary

REMINDER:

Members with concerns are welcome to the monthly board meeting, on the first Thursday after the first Friday of the month, in Room 208, Union Station, 7:30 P.M.

Excursion Committee Report

-Irv Ewen, chair

The committee is going at full steam on the Tillamook Saltair Excursion. There are 55 tickets ordered to date. The first class seating is being sold quickly. They are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so if you plan to take this trip in first class, get your orders in now!!!

The trip should contain beautiful fall colors in the coast range, along with the snap of crisp, cool air in the evening and morning. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate enough for us to enjoy the winery visit at Wheeler, as well as a photo run-by (not to mention the frolicking at Rockaway Beach!!!).

Future excursions are still being planned and suggested to Amtrak. More information will be provided when possible.

Library Committee Report

-James Loomis, chair

As I mentioned elsewhere in this issue of The Trainmaster, I will be out of commission for 3 to 6 months, starting October 19. I am having what is called a radical cervical spine fusion performed.

I had hoped to get a copy of the new library policy printed in The Trainmaster by this time, but time has eluded me. If you wish a copy, please write Bob Weaver, in care of Room 1. He will also have a copy posted in Room 1, as well. This new policy has been approved

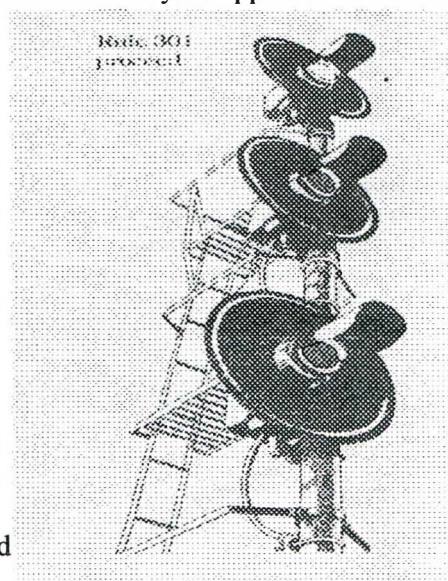
by the Board at the general membership present at the Chapter meeting in June (or was it May???)

Also, if you have any questions involving the library, contact Bob as well. I honestly believe I will be in no condition to go anywhere for quite some time after the surgery, as I most likely will be in a head brace during the recovery time.

Thanks to the members who regularly patronize the library, and to those contributors of material to the library and archives. Together, you are building a fantastic resource library for future generations to utilize in their search of the history of railroading in the great Pacific Northwest!

DON'T FORGET!!!

Chapter picnic at Brooks, Or (North of Salem) on Saturday, September 17, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda provided (nominal fee). Bring salads, desserts, or whatever tantalizes your appetite.



Highlights from the 1994 Board of Directors Meeting

(from Pittsburgh Chapter, August, 1994)

The Society's Board of Directors met on June 24, 1994 in Atlanta, Georgia. A preliminary count was (75) voting directors present with a total meeting attendance of (111). Although only ten weeks had elapsed since the Spring meeting, there were several significant developments. Here is a summary of some of the things that happened.

The first annual report to the members has been assembled for publication in Bulletin #3. It covers our financial results and other accomplishments for the previous fiscal year. Comptroller Bob Heavenrich reported that financial results for the current year also look solid, with income slightly above projections and most spending well within budget.

A Bylaws Committee has been appointed to study the term limits issue discussed in St. Louis. Board members with specific ideas and proposals should send them to C. Alex Rose, General Counsel, 400 West Market Street, Suite 700, Louisville, KY 40202-3358.

The Nominating Committee presented their nominations for elected offices. The Committee's nominations are listed on the reverse of this report. Note that there are currently two candidates for National President. VP-Public Relations Dick Simons has decided to retire from that position, and Secretary Greg Molloy declined renomination in order to run for President. In addition, Regional Vice Presidents Al Howe (Central) and Pete Hasler (Metropolitan) declined to run this year. As always, nominations remain open through September 15.

The 1994 Railway Heritage Grant awards were announced. Bucktail Chapter received \$2,000.00 toward replacing tubes and flues in their Shay locomotive. Connecticut Eastern Chapter received \$1,500.00 toward restoration of a 1906 NYNH&H wood baggage car. Bluewater Michigan Chapter received \$2,000.00 toward their project to restore their dining car "Silver Lake" to its original GTW appearance.

In Convention news:

- Attendance at the 1994 Atlanta Convention was below expectations, with fewer than 1,000 people registered, and ticket sales were below the break-even point for many events. Atlanta Chapter put on a great show despite the low turnout.

- The Board approved a change to the Convention Manual to allow the Society to loan money to host chapters after the convention as well as before. This revision did not in itself authorize any loans, which would be considered in the future on a case-by-case basis.

- Because of the low response rate to the mass mailing of convention brochures, 1995 Lancaster brochures will be mailed only to Members who request them through a return post card to be included in a future Bulletin issue.

- Planning continues for the 1996 Charlotte convention.

- The NCC is still calling for bids for 1997-1999.

In other matters: A charter was presented to representatives of the new Carolina Clinchfield Chapter. There were no major developments on insurance for the libraries, with our staff continuing to work on the inventory and the insurance carrier still digesting the partial inventories already sent in. A travel policy is being developed to standardize practices among people who travel on Society business. Dick Davis demonstrated some work in progress on a series of public service announcements which will promote the Society and its services. Several films and videos have been added to the library collection, as well as a collection of print negatives from member Jim Scribbins.

These are only some of the things that were discussed at the meeting. Complete details will be in the full minutes, which will be mailed out later this summer. In the meantime, you can direct questions to the Secretary, Gregory P. Molloy, 634 Flagstaff Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215-2525.

Tacoma's Train

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"We're already hauling over the tracks through an agreement with Weyerhaeuser," said Boeing spokesman Mike Tull. "Boeing will haul at least one or two cars of aluminum a week in the form of raw materials for wing modules."

The city manager's office has recommended Gray Line of Seattle and Tacoma, owned by Holland America Line-Westours, and Lewis & Clark Railway of Clark County as operators of the passenger and freight service. Lewis & Clark president Ed Berntsen, a 34-year railroad veteran, foresees strong long-term freight income.

"We intend to be running freight this fall and passengers by summer of '97," Berntsen said. "It'll be a challenge to keep freight going the first six months or year, until infrastructure is in place, like loading and unloading spurs. But we already have the potential to haul feed, lumber, veneer, scrap and recycled products and rock products. We'll connect to both Burlington Northern and Union Pacific to go all over the country."

Berntsen says Tacoma Eastern offices already are being opened at Freighthouse Square, which will be the Tacoma passenger terminus. Freighthouse Square owner Keith Stone finally sees the train he's been waiting for pulling into his station.

"This already is our first year in the black, and this train will help the whole Dome District quite a bit more," he said. "I've been waiting eight years for this. When I first bought the building, they told me this train would be coming 'round the bend any day."

"I already was going to build a 500-foot loading platform for the Sonics Express for this fall, and we'll be able to use for the Train to the Mountain, too."

It isn't exactly a bullet train, but Tacoma's Train to the Mountain might now have climbed its steepest grades and, for the first time, truly be gaining speed.

Art Popham has covered the South Sound for 18 years. His column appears Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Call Art at 952-2522 or write to him at 6716 Eastside Drive N.E., No. 24, Tacoma 98422.

CHAPTER PICNIC



Saturday, September 17, 1994
11:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

Brooks Steam Park (North of Salem)

I-5 exit #263, then West 1/4-mile to park

We will be joined by the Willamette Valley Model RR Club and the Yaquina Chapter of the NRHS. Cora Jackson and I will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Cold soda will be available, also. There will be a \$2.00 per person charge if you wish to have these items. Children under 12 will cost \$1.00. Bring pot luck foods such as salads, side dishes, or desserts. We plan to eat at 1:00 P.M.

Train rides, both steam and diesel, will be available, and hot air balloons will also be at the park. Door prize too! So bring the family and plan for a day of fun.

If you have questions, call me at (503) 654-5017 evenings.

Darel Mack,

Activities Chair

REMINDER:

Enjoy a bus trip from Lloyd Center to Centralia, WA, for a trip on the Chehalis-Centralia R.R. on Saturday, September 24. \$45.00 covers the bus, train, and a box lunch. Contact Bob Terkelsen for a brochure or more details. It will be a fun trip behind steam, and we return the same day.

WEST SIDE SLOW ORDER

June 3, 1994

Willamette & Pacific Railroad

From Jim Loomis, editor

Robert Melbo reports the Willamette & Pacific Railroad has been struggling to maintain their West Side rail line up to Federal Railroad Administration Class 2 standards, which allows a maximum 25 mph speed of operation. The recent winter and spring weather, along with heavy tonnage over the line, has resulted in substantial tie deterioration. The condition of the ties, at first, did not appear to be that bad, but as usual, looks can certainly be deceiving.

The FRA went over the line on June 2, and placed the entire 21 miles between Independence and Whiteson into "FRA Excepted Track" category. This translates into a limit of 10 mph on that segment.

The tie gang has been temporarily relocated from the Toledo line to the West Side line to replace many ties, dump ballast, and resurface the line. They will then resume work on the Toledo line. The work should be completed as you read this.

Special Note from the Editor

Regrettably, I must cease my duties as Trainmaster editor at this time. I am undergoing major spinal surgery on October 19, and I must make many preparations for it. I will be off work from 3-6 months.

I intend to finish the trip guide for the Tillamook Saltair Excursion, and process as many ticket orders as possible before that date.

Thank you for the material. I tried to include as much as space would permit. I enjoyed reviewing the material, and I hope you enjoyed reading the articles.

-Sincerely,
James Loomis

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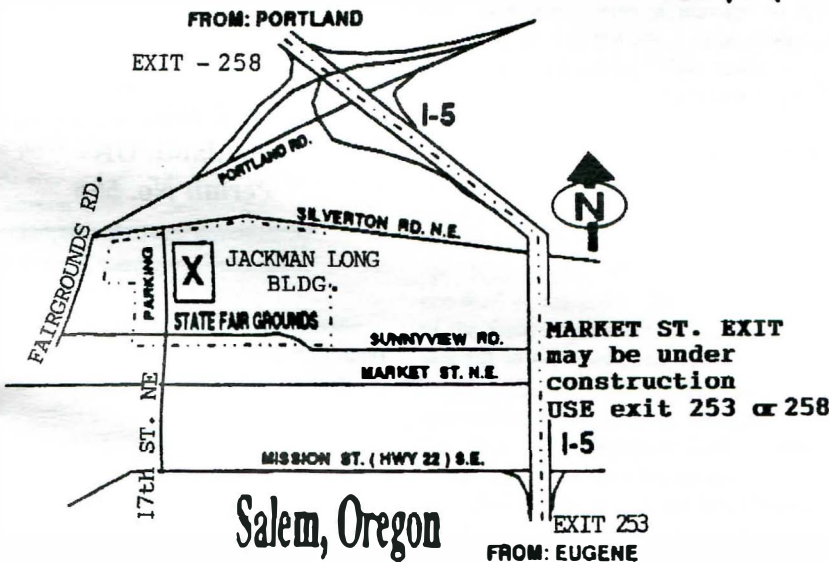
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