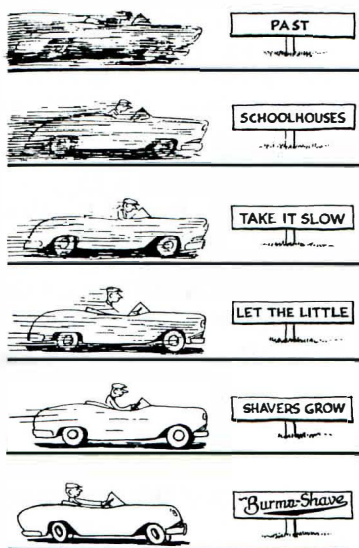




October 1994

Railroads and Burma-Shave

by Richard A. Carlson



RAILROADS AND BURMA-SHAVE by Richard A. Carlson

In January, Allan Odell, 90, creator of the Burma-Shave signs of rhyming jingles that were a fixture of rural America for almost four decades, died at his home in Minnesota.

The first signs were put up in that state near the towns of Red Wing and Albert Lea about 1927. The small wooden signs were spaced one hundred feet apart, each carrying a line of rhyme, the jingles by turn being genial, flippant, cynical or absurd and loaded with puns.

Advertising a brushless shaving cream, they spurred sales and the new advertising medium became a commercial success. At the peak of the advertising campaign, in the early 1950s, there were 7,000 sets of signs in 45 states.

The last of the red signs, with white lettering, were taken down in 1963, victims of the Federal Interstate System of high speed highways and concurrent "anti-outdoor signery" legislation.

But the entertaining rhymes are still fondly remembered by almost all Americans 40 and older, and though gone, the

An example of how Burma-Shave signs gave messages to motorists along the highway, before the Interstate Freeway system rendered them invisible.

-from the book by Frank Rowsome, Jr.

signs are not forgotten. One set remains on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

While the jingles covered the entire gamut of subjects, I thought readers of this publication would particularly enjoy some related to railroading and trains:

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The TRAINMASTER

is the official newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, published monthly for the benefit of its members. Articles which appear in *The Trainmaster* do not express the official National Railway Historical Society position 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:

**Attn. TM Editor
PNWC-NRHS
Room 1, Union Station
Portland, OR 97209-3715
(503) 226-6747**

Editor:

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MEMBERSHIP in the PNWC-NRHS is available as follows:

Regular....\$27/yr.

Joint.....\$32/yr.

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.

CHAPTER TIME TABLE No. 385

REGULAR RUNS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Thursday, October 13, 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, October 21, 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, October 13, 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Room 1 & 1A, Union Station. Help is needed to get things organized and catalogued. Contact Bob Weaver (654-4274) for more information-or just show up! There's a lot of work to do.

CHAPTER LIBRARY OPEN HOURS Saturday, October 22 & 29, 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. at Room 1, Union Station.

EXTRA BOARD

1994 Election of Officers, coming in November.

1994 Tillamook Sillair 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.

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

Program begins after business meeting

Presented by Lee Jackson

Lumber Company Videos

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 September 8, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Terkelsen at 7:49 P.M.

Present: Board: Brent Larson, Darel Mack, Dale Miller, Dick Ordway, Joyce Reese, Maxine Rodabaugh, Gerald Schuler, Roger White, Bob Terkelsen. Guests: John Bartles, Jim Loomis, Richard Parks and Juanita White.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Appointments: Bob Terkelsen read the Bylaws section on appointments. Bob reported that he was having a difficult time catching up with prospects. The only person who has said "Yes" is Chuck Storz. Dick Ordway volunteered for the Board member position on the committee. The Board confirmed appointment of Storz and Ordway. The problems with finding nominating committee members was discussed. It was suggested that Bob ask Committee Chairs for names. New names suggested by those present were: Terry Parker, Tammy Auburg, Alan Viewig and Dave Van Sickle.

Bylaws Printing: Brent Larson offered to help Janet Larson where he could. Maxine Rodabaugh hopes that the membership directory and bylaws can all be printed together in October.

Minutes: New August minutes were distributed which included Dale Miller's notes. The post office was twelve days slow. Under "Rolling Stock," line 7, change 2 baggage carts to cars. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Maxine Rodabaugh reported on the accounts. Two quarters of track rental has been paid. The Excursion account is fluid since money is coming in and going out for the Tillamook trip. A check has arrived for

our 62 shares of Western Pacific stock. We still don't have Pneumatic Tool stock valuation and payment. Maxine suggested using this money to pay off more bonds (20% rather than 10%) in order to reduce interest.

MSC Rodabaugh/Ordway That we redeem 20% of our outstanding bonds as of mid-October.

A part has arrived for car 55 which Maxine needed to know. Maxine commented about our membership in various railroad societies which provide us with good library material. She gave Library Chair Jim Loomis a couple of cards for review. Maxine reported that the insurance for our rolling stock lapsed in May. The Board consensus was that we should renew it, and the papers were given to the president to sign and send. Maxine said that we should send in the Personal Property tax which is due now and pursue an exemption. The Bob Hoffman Memorial is still at \$60. Maxine suggested running a little boxed article in *The Trainmaster* to remind members of the memorial fund.

National Director's Report: Gerald Schuler reported that the NRHS *Bulletin* has not arrived yet, though they should have been mailed by August. Gerald asked why his National meeting report on the Atlanta meeting had not been printed in *The Trainmaster*. Jim Loomis explained that there was room for only one report and the larger view from another chapter was chosen. The next meeting of the National Board promises to be exciting since there are two candidates running for president. Gerald plans to attend.

Vice President's Report: There was no report since Marilyn Edgar is still on vacation.

President's Report: Bob Terkelsen read a thank-you letter from Doug Auburg for the tours we conducted of our rail cars for the NMRA conventioners. Bob has thanked Doyle McCormack for voluntarily opening up the steam engines 4449 and 700 doors and touring the convention people through. Special thanks were

suggested for Frank Weiler for his setting up refreshments in the *Twin Grove* and for wearing his uniform for tours. Recognition of Frank at the Membership Meeting will be handled by Bob.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance: No meeting since the chairman is on vacation.

Rolling Stock: The cars needed returned for our use, namely the 6800 and 6200, were discussed. Richard Parks said we have had the second confirmation that Union Pacific wants our engines off its property though we do not need to do it right now. The engines need a little bearing work before the move though the trucks are not a problem. Richard Parks reported that work on getting the cars ready to move is moving along. A fire in the *Twin Grove's* walls was extinguished mid-week leaving a bad smell behind. Bob Terkelsen reminded to make sure that car doors are locked before leaving. The yard has been spiffed up, but Richard reminded us that we still have seats that cost us a good price sitting up at Concrete which we should bring down. Brent Larson reminded us that we discussed this a couple of months ago and decided that getting ready to move our rolling stock should come first. Dick Ordway asked if we have receipts to retrieve the seats. Dave Duncan, who arranged the seat purchase, will be contacted by Maxine Rodabaugh for this information.

Library: Jim Loomis reported that the next meeting is delayed until the week before his surgery in October.

Activities: Darel Mack reported that food purchases for the picnic are being made and everything else is moving along. He is planning for at least 100 people. Darel has also been exploring place for the chapter's Annual Banquet. It was decided to choose the date of January 28, which is available, and Darel will go ahead and reserve the space. This is one week removed from the January Membership Meeting. Darel is working on the program.

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CHAPTER BUSINESS

Summary of Minutes Board Meeting September 8, 1994

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Museum: Bob Terkelsen reported that Dick Ordway and he had a dinner with Chuck Bukowsky, Dave Van Sickle and Alan Viewig on Aug. 16 to search other avenues for the museum. This committee has been doing lots of work. Bob Hoffman appointed them and they wanted to review their efforts with Bob Terkelsen. The museum property acquisition project task force is on hold.

Excursions: The Tillamook trip first-class seats are almost sold out, but there are lots of coach seats left. The Excursion Committee will meet again on Sept. 30. Dick Ordway reported the ads in the *Columbian* have two more weeks to run. Future Trips: Amtrak has said no to the Bend trip for next May because of equipment shortages. Irv Ewen will write again asking for 300 seats rather than the original 700. In answer to Nita White's question as to why the trip is planned for Mother's Day, it was explained that it is an "off" weekend for transit and hotels so more space is available. A CPR class is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 8. Short Trip: Bob Terkelsen is working on a trip guide for the Chehalis-Centralia trip. Paperwork and money is in for 32 passengers.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Concessions: \$281 worth of caps and shirts were sold at the NMRA convention tours. The shirts are now paid for so the rest of the sales will be profit.

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, 7:00 P.M.

The Trainmaster: Bob Terkelsen will ask Chuck Storz if he will do the issue in October when Jim Loomis is in the hospital. He thanked Jim for all his efforts and good work.

Programs: Bob Terkelsen reported that Gary Beckley has confirmed for his Operation Lifesaver program. Bob will confirm with Lee Jackson and Rocky Regula for the October and November programs shortly. There is no December program yet.

Rail Sensations: Gerald Schuler reported that the next meeting is planned for Sept. 20, but Gerald will not be able to attend.

Membership: National has sent us a prospective member name. Bob Terkelsen has already contacted this person who is in Salem. We are getting new members.

OLD BUSINESS (continued):

Anniversary Event: Bob Terkelsen wants to ask Connie McCready for suggestions, and we do need to set a date. Darel Mack suggested a group trip to Mt. Hood Railroad with a buffet after. March 18 is the anniversary date. We discussed various time possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget for 1995: In 1994 we just continued the previous year's budget. The Finance Committee should begin on this. Maxine Rodabaugh promises a good end of the year report.

Good of the Order: Two items were presented. One concerned the OERHS activities at Brooks. The other concerned whether the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club had been sent a letter in 1992 clarifying that our wig-wag was not on permanent loan. No answer to this question yet.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Joyce E. Reese, Secretary

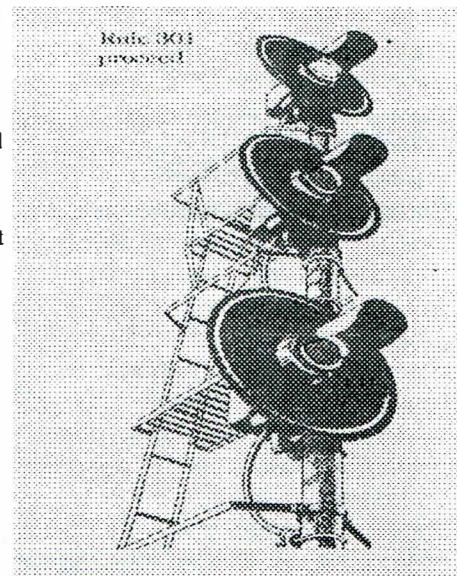
Summary of Minutes Chapter Meeting September 16, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Terkelsen at 9:05 P.M. following the program on "Operation Lifesaver" presented by Gary Beckley, an engineer with Union Pacific. Bob thanked Mr. Beckley and welcomed everyone to the September Membership Meeting. Guests present were Sue Harrison and Vernon Mason. It was announced that Minutes were posted in the rear of the room.

Treasurer's Report: Maxine Rodabaugh reported on the accounts. She announced the Western Pacific stock sale. It is planned to use this money to increase the bond payment to 20% of the bonds.

Vice President's Report: Marilyn Edgar's report concerned a free trip available on Union Pacific's passenger train on Wed., Sept. 21, starting from Albina Yards on Interstate Ave., at 9 A.M. The trip is for the "Operation Lifesaver" program and will terminate in Hood River. Return will be by bus with a lunch stop for a few dollars.

National Director's Report: There was no report. Bob Terkelsen reported on changes in the manner of reporting deceased members in the NRHS in the



Summary of Minutes Chapter Meeting Sept. 16, 1994

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NRHS Bulletin, as well as the excitement being caused by more candidates running for national office.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: There was no report since there had not been a meeting.

Rolling Stock: Help is still needed for work in Brooklyn Yard: building shelves, moving seats into 1220 and moving diesel parts out. Plywood scrap donations (3/4", 16" to 2 ft.) are needed for shelves. Lots of repair jobs are available. Bob Terkelsen read a thank-you letter from NMRA Convention for our tours of rolling stock. Maxine and Carl Rodabaugh were especially thanked. Frank Weiler was thanked for preparing refreshments and for coming dressed in uniform.

Library: No report as Jim Loomis, Chair, was not present. Bob Terkelsen noted that Jim will undergo surgery on Oct. 19.

Activities: Darel Mack made final announcements about the picnic on Sept. 17. Time: 11 A.M. to 6 P.M., with eating at 1 P.M. Directions to the location in Brooks were given, as stated in the Sept. issue of The Trainmaster. The 40th Anniversary of the Pacific Northwest Chapter (charter dated March 16, 1955) celebration was suggested to be held with the annual meeting in April. There were questions and answers about dates. Terry Parker suggested one banquet be held but closer to the actual anniversary date. Darel suggested the event could be on the Hood River Railroad Spring Blossom Special. Marilyn Edgar suggested avoiding the first two weeks in March because of the Swap Meet. We need to set the date so that Gerald Schuler can make speaker arrangements with the NRHS.

Property Acquisition Task Force: Bob Terkelsen and Dick Ordway have met with Chuck Bukowsky, Dave Van Sickle and Alan Viewig, the committee appointed by Bob Hoffman, to learn what

the committee has been doing. No report yet.

Excursions: Bob Terkelsen reported that 36 people have signed up for the Chehalis-Centralia trip on Sept. 24. Irv Ewen said we need 100 coach passengers for the Tillamook trip on Oct. 29-30. The first-class seats are nearly all sold. For the Bend trip on Mother's Day, 1995, the response from Amtrak was "no" because of lack of equipment to handle 700 passengers. Irv has written again asking for 300 passenger seats. Dale Miller, the Tillamook staff chairman, announced CPR training on Oct. 8 at 2 P.M. at the Hollywood Dance and Fitness Studio. There will be a \$12 charge. Dale should be called by members planning to attend. There will be a car host meeting, 6:30 P.M., Oct. 21, preceding the next Membership Meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Concessions: Jim Edgar, chair, thanked Nita and Roger White for their help. Jim has lots of pins available at \$3 each.

The Trainmaster: An editor is needed. No one has been able to reach Kris Lundt to ask for temporary editing. Jim Loomis, temporary editor, will not be available for the October issue. Rich Carlson might take over editing after his retirement. Since we have no temporary editor for ~~October~~, The Trainmaster may be a two-pager.

Programs: In October, Lee Jackson will show logging in the Spruce Div. near Toledo, Oregon, a 1925 film. In November, Rocky Regula will have an auction of railroad memorabilia.

The December program is not settled, but Bob Terkelsen may show films of railroad stations. The December Membership Meeting is Dec. 16.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership and Bylaws: A directory is hopefully coming by October.

Bob Hoffman Memorial: Maxine Rodabaugh talked of donations to the fund which she hopes will come soon.

Rolling Stock Reports: Bob Terkelsen recommended that Rolling Stock start to provide reports. They have not been coming.

Nominating Committee: Bob Terkelsen announced that more members are needed for the committee. So far, Dick Ordway, Chuck Storz and Rich Carlson have been appointed. Since time is running out for getting the work done, Terry Parker and Jim Edgar volunteered to serve.

Move from Brooklyn Yard: Dick Ordway reported attending a meeting at City Hall on Wed., Sept. 14 where notice to move out was given to us and other rail groups by Southern Pacific. The SP attorney said the groups would get letters to be sent the next day. Everything except the roundhouse is to be used for truck storage. The roundhouse itself is to be demolished in about 2-1/2 years. The Board will hold an emergency meeting on Sept. 22 to consider the matter. The next SP meeting will be held Sept. 29 at 6 P.M. Bob Nelbo of Willamette & Pacific Railroad has offered us space in Albany, but the routes there are closed to us right now. We have a lease but the other groups do not. We need to find space. Bob Terkelsen discussed the price of our tender with Doyle McCormack.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

GOOD OF ORDER: Dave Skilton in Salem in the State Historical Preservation Office is inventorying historical things. They will have funds available to help historical groups in a couple of years. There is an interesting article in the current NRHS Bulletin about two statues in Chicago Union Station which represent mythological goddesses that represent train service around the clock. Doyle McCormack has been informed that we want the car 6800 back here from Oakland, Calif. He said he would bring it up with his own car which he needs up here also.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Reese, Secretary*

Railroads & Burma-Shave

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**DRIVE LIKE
A RAILROAD ENGINEER
TAKE IT EASY
WHEN THE ROAD'S
NOT CLEAR
BURMA-SHAVE (1939)**

**GUYS WHOSE EYES
ARE IN
THEIR BACKS
GET HALOS CROSSING
RAILROAD TRACKS
BURMA-SHAVE (1940)**

**REMEMBER THIS
IF YOU'D
BE SPARED
TRAINS DON'T WHISTLE
BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARED
BURMA-SHAVE (1941)**

**TRAINS DON'T WANDER
ALL OVER THE MAP
FOR NO ONE
SITS ON
THE ENGINEER'S LAP
BURMA-SHAVE (1941)**

**APPROACHED
A CROSSING
WITHOUT LOOKING
WHO WILL EAT
HIS WIDOW'S COOKING?
BURMA-SHAVE (1942)**

**HE SAW
THE TRAIN
AND TRIED TO DUCK IT
KICKED FIRST THE GAS
AND THEN THE BUCKET
BURMA-SHAVE (1949)**

**HE TRIED
TO CROSS
AS FAST TRAIN NEARED
DEATH DIDN'T DRAFT HIM
HE VOLUNTEERED
BURMA-SHAVE (1950)**

**TRAIN WRECKS FEW
REASON CLEAR
FIREMAN
NEVER HUGS
ENGINEER
BURMA-SHAVE (1951)**

**TRAIN APPROACHING
WHISTLE SQUEALING
PAUSE!
AVOID THAT
RUNDOWN FEELING!
BURMA-SHAVE (1951)**

**THE HOBO
LETS HIS
WHISKERS SPROUT
IT'S TRAINS - NOT GIRLS
THAT HE TAKES OUT
BURMA-SHAVE (1951)**

Written with thanks to "The Verse by the Side of the Road" by Frank Rowsome, Jr. (The Story of the Burma-Shave Signs and Jingles). First published in 1965, now a Plume Book, published 1990 by Penguin Books USA Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Library Committee Report

-James Loomis, chair

This is the text of the new circulation policy drafted by the Library Committee, and adopted by the Board of Directors, and the general membership.

RAILROAD RESEARCH LIBRARY CIRCULATION RULES

1. All borrowers must register by completing the registration form. Borrowers will notify the library of any address or phone number changes.
2. Chapter members may register for no charge. Non-members must pay yearly fee of \$20 to help defray the cost of operating the library.
3. To check out materials, the borrower will sign his or her name and write phone number on the charge card.
4. Library staff may ask for identification when completing the registration form or checking out materials.
5. No more than five books and three videos can be checked out at a time.
6. The length of loan is one month for videos and two months for books.
7. Materials can be renewed for one additional month, unless another patron has placed a reserve.
8. Overdue materials will be levied a \$2 per month fine. As a courtesy, the borrower will be promptly notified of the overdue by phone or mail.
9. The library will bill borrowers for the replacement cost of material overdue more than two months.
10. Borrowers will lose lending privileges for failure to return materials or pay for lost items. The chapter may seek legal remedies against borrowers who fail to return or pay for lost materials.

NOTE: I will be unavailable for the next month or so. If you need any assistance in understanding the new policy, contact Bob Weaver at (503)654-4274.

-James Loomis

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities: Darel Mack, 654-5017
Meeting Program Coordinator: Bob Terkelsen, 399-1882
Bylaws: Janet Larson, 253-7436
Concessions: Jim Edgar, 236-7271
Excursions: Irv Ewen, 232-2441
Finance: Marilyn Edgar, 236-7271
Library & Historical Foundation: Jim Loomis, 253-3926
Membership: Sara Ackerman, 649-6000
Museum: David Stimac, 656-9392
Public Relations: *Vacant*
Publications: *Vacant*
Rolling Stock: Richard Gray, 452-8936
Chief Mech. Off.: Peter Rodabaugh, 771-8545
Car Rental Agent: Peter Rodabaugh, 771-8545
Ad Hoc Property Development: Al McCready, 281-2415
Ad Hoc "Union Station": Terry Parker, 284-8742
Chapter representative, Portland Rail Equipment Advisory Group: *Vacant*

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Bob Terkelsen, 399-1882
347 Mize Road S.E., Salem, OR 97302-5017
Vice President: Marilyn Edgar, 236-7271
1424 S.E. Rex St., Portland, OR 97202-6057
Secretary: Joyce Reese, (206) 835-2884
P.O. Box 546, Camas, WA 98607-0546
Treasurer: Maxine Rodabaugh, 253-4241
2315 S.E. 104th Dr., Portland, OR 97216-3032
National Director: Gerald Schuler, 285-7941
2034 N. Webster St., Portland, OR 97217-3481
Directors-at-Large:
Brent Larson, 253-7436
9908 S.E. Lincoln St., Portland, OR 97216
Ed Ackerman: 649-6000
24375 S.W. Drake Lane, Hillsboro, OR 97123-7550
Darel Mack: 654-5017
2695 S.E. Pinelane St., Milwaukie, OR 97267
Dick Ordway: (206) 834-2073
2513 N.E. 232nd Ave., Camas, WA 98607-9225
Roger White: 678-2604
12298 Donald Road, Aurora, OR 97002-9703
Dale Miller: 284-4732
5550 N.E. Alberta, Portland, OR 97218-2556

The TRAINMASTER
Pacific Northwest Chapter
National Railway Historical
Society
Room 1, Union Station
800 N.W. 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97209-3715

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