



November 1996

## *SVRY Reaches Sumpter 100 Years Ago*

*by Bob Bergstrom*

*(reprinted from the Sept., 1996 edition of The Stump Dodger)*

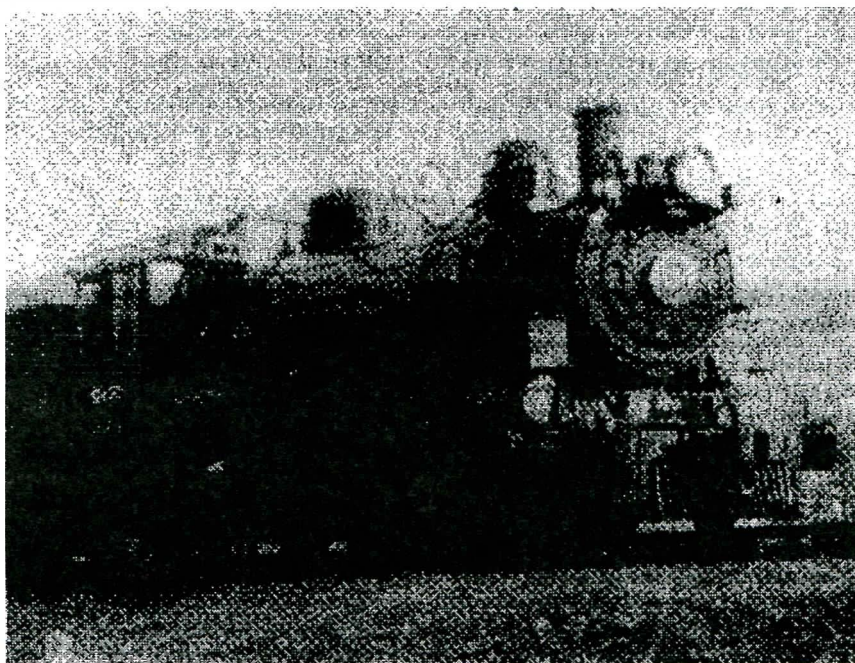
*In October 1896, a century ago and 6 years after its founding, the Sumpter Valley Railway reached its namesake settlement. Located 29.0 rail miles west of Baker City, Sumpter was just the beginnings of a town in those days. Only about 100 people lived there in a scattering of wood buildings.*

*Arrival of the railroad soon transformed Sumpter into a wide-open boom town, growing by leaps and bounds over the next few years to become a thriving small city of perhaps 3,000 people.*

*Here, in the words of newspaper accounts of the time, is a description of the way things were 100 years ago.*

*Baker City Weekly Bedrock Democrat  
December 30, 1895*

The Oregon Lumber Company has just completed a large stone building near [its mill in South Baker]. The general office of the company, including the Sumpter Valley railroad office, will be comfortably located in the new building. A new saw mill, 30 x 100 feet, is being erected for the purpose of sawing material during the winter months when it is not profitable to run the large mill. This company employs an average of 150 men the year round in the mill and different departments connected with the concern.



The Sumpter Valley railway is to be extended from McEwen to Sumpter next year. The railway has already been completed and about one mile of grade built and a townsite at Sumpter has been secured. The distance from McEwen to Sumpter is only six miles and the road will run through a very fine timber belt. Contracts have been let for 15,000,000 [board] feet of logs for 1896.

*Baker City Weekly Bedrock Democrat  
August 3, 1896*

**S.V.R.R. EXTENSION  
Grading Gangs Put to Work  
Yesterday**

The extension of the Sumpter Valley Railroad from McEwen to Sumpter, so long talked of, has now taken on definite shape.

[I]nformation has been received ... that several grading gangs went to work yesterday morning and dirt is flying between McEwen and Sumpter. The distance between these points is about [six] miles. If the work is expedited, only a few weeks will elapse before the terminus of the road will be at Sumpter instead of McEwen as now. This will prove a serious blow to the business interests of McEwen, but we understand those persons who have been engaged in business at McEwen

*(see SVRR on page 5)*

## **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:

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MEMBERSHIP in the PNWC-NRHS is available as follows:

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Joint.....\$38/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/her discretion.*

# CHAPTER TIME TABLE No. 410

## **REGULAR RUNS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** Thursday, November 7 & Thursday, December 12, 7:00 P.M., in 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, November 15 & Friday, December 20, 7:30 P.M., at St. David's Episcopal Church, 2800 S.E. Harrison. The business meeting will start promptly at 7:30, with the newsreel and program following a short break. Refreshments will be available; please bring some money to feed the "kitty," so it can continue to feed us!

**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** are planned to prepare cars for leases. Contact Richard Gray (657-8250), or Peter Rodabaugh (771-8545) for an update.

**LIBRARY/ARCHIVES WORK SESSION:** Thursday, November 7 & Thursday, December 12, 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.

**CHAPTER LIBRARY OPEN HOURS** Saturday, November 16 & 23, & Saturday, December 21, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. at Room 1, Union Station. Call Jim Loomis (253-3926) for appointments, if this is a difficult day and/or time for you.

## **EXTRA BOARD**

**COLUMBIA GORGE MODEL RR CLUB ANNUAL MODEL RAILROAD SHOW:** 4 weekends in November. See page 7 for full details.

**CHAPTER ELECTION of OFFICERS:** Friday, December 20, 1996, at the monthly membership meeting. See page 6 for the final list of candidates for office.

**ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET:** Tentatively scheduled for March, 1997. Further details as they become available, or contact Darel Mack, activities chair, at (503) 654-5017.

**SWAP MEET:** Saturday, March 8, 1997. Further details as they become available, or contact Darel Mack, activities chair, at (503) 654-5017.

**NRHS SPRING 1997 BOARD MEETING:** April 4, 5 & 6, 1997, in Portland, Oregon. Watch this column for planned events, or contact Gerald Schuler, Chapter National Director, at (503) 285-7941.

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### **NOVEMBER 15 MEETING PROGRAM**

*Program begins after business meeting*

## **Rail Program**

To be presented by:

**Richard Parks**

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### **DECEMBER 20 MEETING PROGRAM**

## **A Rail-Related Program**

To be presented by:

**an as-yet unknown speaker**

**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

## PNWC, NRHS BOARD MEETING

October 10, 1996

### SUMMARY of MINUTES

**Call to Order:** President Bob Terkelsen called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. Present were: Terkelsen, Larsen, Schuler, Ordway, Mack, Weiler, White, Hickok, & Rodabaugh. President Terkelsen advised those present that Dan Kuhn of Amtrak will be by later and has asked to address the Board.

**Reading of Minutes:** The minutes of the 9/12/1996 board meeting were approved as distributed. Please contact the Secretary with any additional corrections or additions.

**National Director's Report:** Gerald Schuler reported he will be attending the National Board meeting in West Virginia on November 8-11, and will not be at our November Board meeting. A letter has been sent to National regarding the 25 year membership pins. He will hand-carry the pins that the Chapter will present.

**President's Report:** President Terkelsen reviewed letters written to Mat Monson regarding cost of the COT&S on the *Red River*, and to Bob Melbo of the W&P regarding the success of the W&P employees picnic, and asking about the possibility of trips to raise revenue to pay off our bonds.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Excursion:** Irv Ewen reported on the Spokane trip: 175 paid to date. Not yet at break even. The train will consist of Superliner cars with a lounge car. There will be no photo run-by as such (because of cost), but there will be smoking stops at Wishram, Pasco, and Ephrata. Stationary photos can be taken at these locations. (At this point, Dan Kuhn of Amtrak took the floor and spoke to the Board about successful marketing of future trips, and what actions we might take to sell the remain-

der of this trip so that we can at least breakeven. The Board thanked Dan for taking time from his busy schedule to come to our meeting, and for sharing a number of ideas with us.) The Excursion Committee will review the suggestions that Dan offered, and see if there is anything that we can use in the brief time remaining to sell the rest of this trip.

**Rolling Stock:** George Hickok reported that a survey has been sent to committee members regarding what cars we might dispose of. A committee meeting has been called for Saturday, October 26 in Beaverton. There are trailer tires that need to be repaired. Letters to the Gorge and Brooks have never been completed. We have also not completed an inventory of what materials are stored where.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maxine Rodabaugh reported the account balances.

**Activities:** Darel Mack reported the spaghetti dinner yielded a small amount of revenue.

**Library:** Jim Loomis reported on the status of the air conditioner. We are waiting for the building superintendent to install the new unit.

**Membership:** Maxine Rodabaugh reported we have 271 full, 70 family, & 7 Chapter Only members.

**Trainmaster:** Jim Loomis reported that a new editor will be needed as of 1/97.

**Programs:** Richard Parks will be presenting in October. There will also be a brief Candidates Fair at the October and November meetings so that the membership will have a chance to put faces with the names of the persons who are running for office. Anyone who is running is asked to attend either or both meetings.

**Museum:** Glenn Laubaugh reported that some improvements have been made to our website. There is also the possibility of a display at Union Station of some of our museum materials.

### Spring '97 Board Meeting:

Schuler reported that the Booth will be used at the hotel. Glenn Laubaugh is helping with flyer creation. The meeting will be advertised at the Board Meeting in West Virginia next month. The Tri-Met tunnel tour is looking good as an activity for this meeting. There will be a need for some volunteers to staff the meeting.

**Old Business:** Brent Larsen presented a report from the Nominating Committee. (Because of the dynamic nature of this information, I'm omitting the current list of candidates. See elsewhere in the *Trainmaster* for additional information on who is running. We are late in appointing the Elections committee. The voters pamphlet has to be sent out not later than 11/25. We need to be sure and notify the membership about the Chapter dues increase, which will need to be voted upon at the November meeting. Little progress has been made on the movie screen at the church.

**New Business:** The December meeting data will remain 12/20.

Regarding the Leak in the roof of Room 1A: Maxine Rodabaugh will contact the landlord to see about getting this fixed.

**Good Of The Order:** There is a write-up in Sunset Magazine about the Coast Starlight, and a piece in the National bulletin about the Cab Forward locomotives.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

**Call Board:** Membership meeting Friday, 10/18.

*Respectfully submitted,  
George Hickok*

# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## PNWC, NRHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING October 18, 1996 SUMMARY of MINUTES

**Call to Order:** President Bob Terkelsen called the meeting to order at 8:06 P.M.

**Reading of Minutes:** The minutes of the 9/12/1996 board meeting and 9/20/1996 membership meeting were available for inspection. Please send any corrections or additions to the secretary.

**President's Report:** President Terkelsen reported that the 1997 Convention will be held June 24-30, 1997. Application information will be available soon.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maxine Rodabaugh reported the account balances and the status of current bills due and paid.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Finance Committee:** Ed Ackerman reported that the Rolling Stock committee has submitted a request for security fencing in Beaverton, not to exceed the estimated cost. The Finance committee met and approved the request, and passed the request to the Board for consideration. The Board also has met and approved the request, which will be presented to the membership under New Business.

**Excursion:** Irv Ewen reported on the Spokane trip: We have a total of 214 reservations, including staff. The train will consist of 4 Superliner coaches and a lounge car. Staff are asked to report at 6:00 A.M., Early boarding will start at 6:45 A.M. General boarding at 7:00 A.M., and the train departs at 7:30 A.M.

**Rolling Stock:** Ed Ackerman reported on more break-ins and damage to chapter cars in Beaverton. The *Mt. Hood* has more broken windows, as well as damage to the interior of the car and the carpet. There are also more broken windows on the *6200 & 6800* as well as the *4461*. Member George Hickok has also lost some of his personal tools. At the request of Dennis Murrell, the *Mt. Hood*, *6200*, and *6800* have been moved temporarily to a more secure location. The Rolling Stock committee has located a contractor who is willing to fence the area in Beaverton for a reasonable cost, which is much lower than a previous bid. There are still some details to be worked out in the bid which may change the cost slightly. The

committee has recommended we proceed with installing the fencing as quickly as possible. George Hickok then addressed the meeting, answering a number of questions from the floor regarding the details of the damage that has been done to the cars, and several other issues. A total of six police reports have been filed to date. The rent at the chicken coop is going up. Since we have no other option for storage at this point in time, the feeling of the board is to pay the additional rent.

**Activities:** Darel Mack reported net proceeds from the Spaghetti feed. There are still a number of items available for very good prices. The banquet will be held about March 1, with the Swap Meet scheduled for March 8. The Gorge will also sponsor swap meets on May 31 and November 1.

**Library:** Ralph Johnson reported that the power for the new air conditioner is installed, and we are waiting for the station maintenance folks to install the new unit. The landlord has been contacted regarding the leak in the roof. Library committee will be meeting October 26 at 1:00 P.M. in Room 1.

**Membership:** Ralph Johnson reported we have 33 members and 1 guest signed in. Due to the late start, a number of people present have not yet signed in, and are reminded to please do so at the break.

**Museum:** Glenn Laubaugh reported that our web site continues to do well, and that there is a possibility of a display at Union Station.

**Trainmaster:** Bob Terkelsen reported for Jim Loomis: Jim is having health problems, and a new editor will be needed as of 1/97.

**Concessions:** Marilyn Edgar reported on a number of items that will be offered for sale on the trip. We will be doing a raffle for a G-gauge train set as well. A second raffle for members will also be conducted.

**1997 Spring Board Meeting:** Gerry Schuler reported that a draft of the meeting notice is out for review, and will be sent out in January. Flyers will be distributed at the Fall board meeting in West Virginia next month. Next committee meeting will be October 29.

**Programs:** Tonight we will have Richard Parks with 108 slides. Future programs are needed: contact Bob Terkelsen if interested.

**Old Business:** Brent Larsen reported on the status of the Nominating Committee. President Terkelsen reviewed the by-laws relating to the election process, and then opened the meeting for nominations from the floor for each office. Nominations were closed. (See page 6 for the updated list-editor.) President Terkelsen thanked the committee for a job well done. The committee has done an outstanding job, and their service is very much appreciated. Rich Carlson reported that the PDC intends to re-roof Union Station, and this should resolve our roof leak problems. The materials from the Hoffman Estate will be offered for sale to the membership at the December membership meeting. Proceeds will go to the Hoffman estate.

**New Business:** The following people have been appointed to serve on the Elections Committee: Rich Carlson (chairperson), Clytis Beloit, Sue Ordway, and Glenn Laubaugh. The board has voted to increase Chapter Dues by \$2.00 per year. The rate for Family membership will not increase. In accordance with the By-laws, notice is hereby given that the matter of an increase in Chapter dues will be considered at the November membership meeting. Bob Terkelsen reported on the recommendation from the Finance committee to authorize a set amount for security fencing in Beaverton. The board met briefly following the Finance Committee meeting, and approved the expenditure. MSC Parker/Auburg to approve the expenditure. A suggestion that Jim Loomis be appointed to fill the vacant position of Publications Committee chair was taken under advisement, and will be considered at the next board meeting. Maxine Rodabaugh raised a question regarding what money was to be spent to pay for the fencing. The section of the By-laws regarding emergency expenditures was reviewed. MSC Auburg/Ackerman to declare a state of emergency and to authorize the expenditure from the emergency fund, up to the bid amount for the fencing. Due to the very late hour, and the need for a number of persons present to prepare for the Spokane trip, the meeting was closed, and the program postponed until next month.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
George Hickok

## SVRR

(continued from page 1)

will follow the terminus and locate at Sumpter.

*Baker City Weekly Bedrock Democrat*  
August 31, 1896

### **S.V.R.R. EXTENSION Survey Complete, Grading Being Pushed Ahead**

Mr. J. Barton, superintendent of the Sumpter Valley railroad, was in [Baker City] yesterday from the other end of the line. He informed a DEMOCRAT reporter that the survey is now complete, the line having been run into Sumpter Thursday morning.

The graders and tracklayers have reached a point two and one-half miles this side of Sumpter and it is expected that the iron steed will reach the place about October 1.

The citizens of Sumpter are anxiously awaiting the advent, and the driving of the last spike will be the occasion of great rejoicing.

With the completion of the road, the old mining camp will take on new life and one of the most important pages in the history of Sumpter will have been turned.

*Baker City Weekly Bedrock Democrat*  
October 5, 1896

### **S.V.R.R. CONSTRUCTION The Line Will be Completed to Sumpter About the 10th Inst.**

The completion of the S.V.R.R. extension from McEwen to Sumpter has been delayed owing to a scarcity of ties and it is now given out by the company that trains will not be running to Sumpter until about the 10th [of October].

The completion of the road to the new terminus will be celebrated with proper ceremony by the people of the mountain city, and an invitation will be extended to Baker City people to participate on that occasion. An excursion train will be run from this city, proper notice of which will be given in due time.

*[The Stump Dodger] Editor's note: It appears that the following notice was intended to be run one week earlier than it was. The October 19 edition of the Bedrock Democrat came out on the Monday after the events it announces.*

*Baker City Weekly Bedrock Democrat*  
October 19, 1896  
**S.V.R.R. Excursion**

On Friday, [October 16,] the S.V.R.R. will run an excursion to Sumpter on the occasion of the grand ball to be given at that town by Hon. Thos. McEwen to celebrate the extension of the railroad.

Trains will leave Baker City at 4 p.m. Returning [trains] will leave Sumpter at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. One fare for round trip.

*Baker City Weekly Bedrock Democrat*  
October 19, 1896

### **THE S.V.R.R. EXCURSION A Very Enjoyable Time at the Town of Sumpter**

The S.V.R.R. excursion and ball at Sumpter on Friday evening was an occasion of great enjoyment to all who participated.

About one hundred persons were passengers from this city, and at way points many others were taken on. The towns of Bourne and Granite contributed largely to the numbers in attendance.

The ball was given in the new town hall, just erected by Mr. Thos. McEwen, and it was the scene of the most joyful gathering ever witnessed in the interior.

Mr. McEwen, under whose management the ball was given, added new laurels to his already widely known reputation for hospitality, and the supper given at the McEwen hotel was par excellence.

The railway management, too, come in for their share of encomiums of praise for the kind treatment extended to all the excursionists.

*For more information about the Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration Group, write them at P.O. Box 389, Baker City, OR 97814.*

## 1997 NRHS CONVENTION NEWS

As this issue is going to press, there is quite an unsettling matter that is under consideration regarding next year's NRHS convention due to be held in Salt Lake with Promontory Chapter as host. Apparently, a well-known NRHS member in another chapter filed suit on behalf of the NRHS to oppose the UP/SP merger. According to national bylaws, this was an illegal motion and it may have incurred the strong displeasure of Union Pacific. They may feel that if the NRHS is going to oppose their merger ideas, then why should they help the NRHS. It is not known whether the national officers, such as President Molloy or the individual's Regional Vice-President, have come down on him, as they should have, but if UP decides not to support us next year with the steam trips that have been outlined before, during and after the convention, the convention may have to be scrapped; and it will be due to this inappropriate lawsuit.

*(from the Sept/Oct 1996 issue of The GOLDEN SPIKE; Promontory Chapter)*

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## **WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!!!**

Each of us should know someone who might be interested in membership in the N.R.H.S.

Bring them to a meeting soon!

# PNWC-NRHS 1997 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SLATE of CANDIDATES as of OCTOBER 18, 1996

Committee members: Brent Larson (253-7436), Marilyn Edgar (236-7271), Cora Jackson (774-3802), Nita White (678-2604).

Following is a list of current candidates who have chosen to run for the respective office. After the announcement of these candidates, nominations were accepted from the floor.

<b>President:</b>	George Hickok
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ed Ackerman Bob Terkelsen
<b>Secretary:</b>	Doug Auburg (Nominated from the floor)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marilyn Edgar Janet Larson
<b>National Director:</b>	Gerald Schuler
<b>Director-at-Large:</b> (two positions open)	Bob Jackson Cora Jackson Ken Peters John Willworth John Bartles (Nominated from the floor)

*The election will be held at the December 20th Chapter meeting. If you are unable to attend, submit a request for an absentee ballot from the election committee c/o Room 1, Union Station. Voter's pamphlets will be prepared and distributed shortly. Remember: your vote does count!*

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## *Library Committee Report*

*James Loomis, chair*

The library committee met on Saturday, October 26, in Room 1. One of the first items presented was the resignation, effective January 1, 1997, of Ralph Johnson, our board contact and influential member. He stated that as membership chair, board member, and car host manager for the excursion committee, he could not continue as a member of the library committee as well. It is with regret we accept his resignation, but we do wish him success in his other duties.

The committee welcomes James Day as a member, and hopes he can help boost our activities.

The committee is still cataloguing the massive collection of printed material, under the experienced eye of Bob Weaver. Jim Whaley recently donated, on behalf of a friend, a very old collection of books and papers. The books date as far back as 1896, and are rare, as well as in delicate shape. Because of this, they will not be available for check-out, but will be made available for viewing at the chapter meeting in November. Bob presented the committee with a large binder containing the periodicals listings to date. It is very professional looking, and is very helpful in locating specific periodicals, and where we have gaps in the collection. Anyone who wishes to assist in cataloguing the material is invited to drop a note, or contact Bob or Jim Loomis. Mention should be made that Bud Parks has been very diligent in the effort.

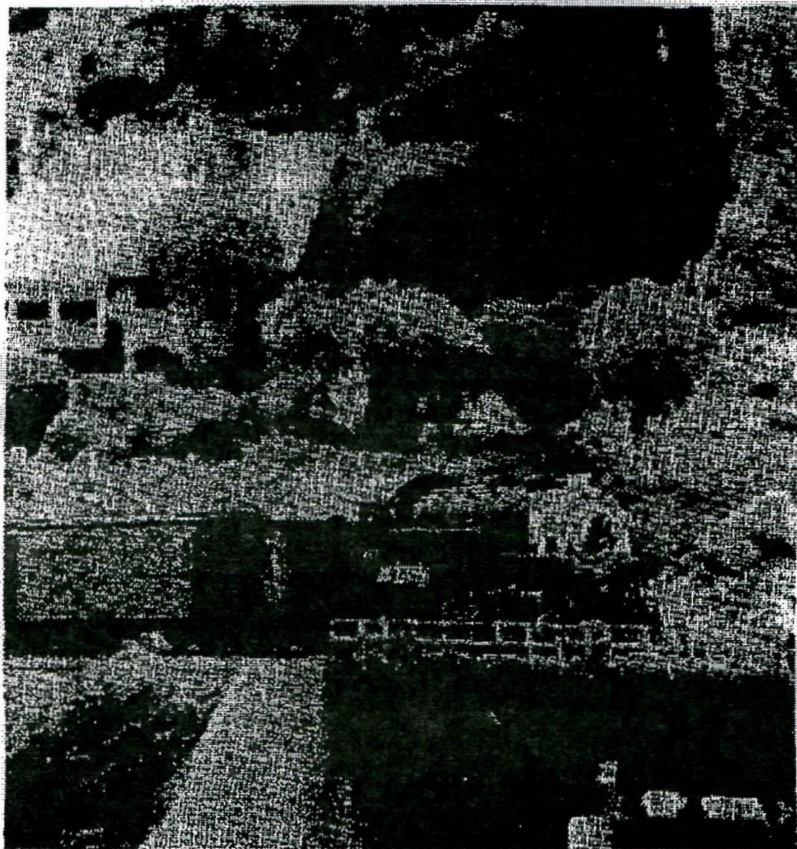
The new air conditioner is still sitting in the shop at Union Station. The building maintenance crew is required to install it, as well as paint it to match the building colors.

There is indeed a small leak in the roof of Room 1A, and it has been brought to the attention of the building superintendent. There is presently no heat in the room, as the radiator leaks, and repairs will require moving a lot of material around.

The next library committee meeting will be Saturday, January 18, 1997, at 1:30 P.M. in Room 1.

The Columbia Gorge Model RR Club  
Presents Its 43rd

# ANNUAL MODEL RAILROAD SHOW



FOUR (4) BIG WEEKENDS -

SATURDAY & SUNDAY -  
NOVEMBER 9-10, 16-17,  
23-24, 30-DEC. 1

HOURS - 10 AM TO 5 PM  
(DOORS CLOSE AT 4:30)

Admission: Adults \$3.50  
Kids 3 to 11 \$1  
(FREE w/can of  
food for SUNSHINE  
Division)

COME SEE OUR OPERATING 60' x  
70' HO SCALE SCENIC LAYOUT OF  
THE FAMOUS COLUMBIA RIVER  
GORGE IN ACTION.

- \* SEE TRAINS MADE UP IN FREIGHT YARDS
- \* SCHEDULED MAINLINE TRAIN OPERATION
- \* SUPERDETAILED LOCOS AND ROLLING STOCK
- \* MODERN STREAMLINERS - COLORFUL OLDTIMERS
- \* UNSURPASSED REALISM IN MINIATURE

2505 N. VANCOUVER AVENUE AT RUSSELL ST.  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
(Just 2 1/2 blocks south of Emanuel Hospital)

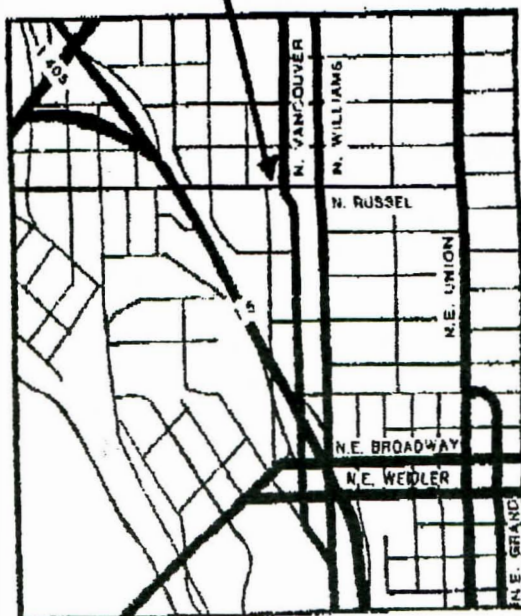
Info: (503) 28-TRAIN (288-7246)

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- #4 - FESSENDEN
- #40 - MOCKS CREST
- #41 - FREMONT



- WE ARE HERE -



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Activities:** Darel Mack, (503) 654-5017  
**Meeting Program Coordinator:** Bob Terkelsen, (503) 399-1882  
**Bylaws:** Janet Larson, (503) 253-7436  
**Concessions:** Marilyn Edgar, (503) 236-7271  
**Excursions:** Irv Ewen, (503) 232-2441  
**Finance:** Ed Ackerman, (503) 649-6000  
**Library & Historical Foundation:** Jim Loomis, (503) 253-3926  
**Membership:** Ralph Johnson, (503) 654-1930  
**Museum:** Glenn Laubaugh, (503) 655-5466  
**Public Relations:** Gerald Schuler, (503) 285-7941  
**Publications:** *Vacant*  
**Rolling Stock:** Richard Gray, (503) 657-8250  
**Chief Mech. Off.:** Peter Rodabaugh,  
(503) 771-8545  
**Car Rental Agent:** Bob Jackson,  
(503) 231-4808  
**Ad Hoc Property Development:** *Vacant*  
**Ad Hoc "Union Station":** Terry Parker,  
(503) 284-8742  
**Chapter representative, Portland Rail Equipment  
Advisory Group:** Frank Weiler,  
(503) 774-3319

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**National Director ('94, '95, '96):** Gerald Schuler,  
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2695 SE Pinelane St., Milwaukie, OR 97267  
**Dick Ordway ('92 thru '97):** (360) 834-2073  
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**Roger White ('94, '95, '96):** (503) 678-2604  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED**

