
The Official Newsletter of the

Peninsular Railway & Lumbermen's Museum
& **Simpson Railroad**

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Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen's Museum is a registered nonprofit 501(c) 3 Organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich railroad and logging history of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

Breaking news

Rayonier #23 offered to the PRLM

Your help is needed

Rayonier #23 is an 18 ton 0-4-0 Gas Mechanical Plymouth Model HL locomotive, construction number 5559. It powered by a 6 cylinder Climax R6U motor rated at 194 HP @ 1200 RPM with a Cubic inch displacement of 1187. Rayonier used it to switch their shops at Railroad Camp & Crane Creek over its life. It was saved by the Northwest Railway Museum in the mid 1980's. It currently resides in Issaquah Washington as part of the Issaquah Depot museum. They heard of our efforts and offered it to the PRLM. Being from a logging operation that operated on Olympic Peninsula, which had ties to Simpson, it is a natural fit in our mission to preserve logging and railroad heritage from the Olympic Peninsula. We had to say yes. Our current plans are to restore it to operating condition as Rayonier #23, an engine rebuild had already been started.

So how can you help

We just need help with moving expenses. Our estimates are roughly \$3,000 to move it to our facility outside Shelton Washington. Please go to simpsonrailroad.org and donate thru Paypal. A Paypal donation button is located on our front page. All donations thru the end of January will go towards its moving and restoration expenses.



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Fall and winter Operating Specials end year on the Simpson Railroad

The Simpson Railroad ended 2021 on a high note much like we did last year. First The Pumpkin Pickers special, then Old Saint Nick stopped by for the Simpson Santa Special to chat with the kids. With these two events gaining in popularity, PRLM volunteers concentrated on our area grounds to better host our visitors with more room and be near our museum equipment. With the more room we were able to set up a railroad tie maze, have an expanded pumpkin patch and set up a small event tent for reading of ghost stories for our Pumpkin Pickers Special. With last years popularity and feedback from our visitors, and those who missed it, we expanded the event to operate on two days instead of one with expanded activities. The trains operated on October 23rd & 24th with homebuilt speeder 5-4 and trailer car Stillwater. Even though the weather did not cooperate the event was still as much a success as last years. Many visitors liked the areas open nature with its not too crowded feel and being around the “old Railroad Equipment” gave it a unique experience. *Continued page 3*

Right: The turntable pumpkin patch. In the background engine 900 and caboose 201 watch over the days activities. They both are eagerly waiting the day they can bring visitors from downtown Shelton out to enjoy these events.



Fall and Winter Operating Specials end year on the Simpson Railroad

The Simpson Santa special ended the year much like it did last year. Over two weekends the Jolly Old Elf and Mrs. Claus stopped by and spent time chatting with the kids and enjoying our festive atmosphere. This year every kid got a special Simpson Railroad wrist band to remind them of their visit. Once again the weather did not cooperate with rain on all four days and even a few occasional periods of hail and snow! But that did not deter visitors. Many have already made it all three of our Santa Special events, and is now a family tradition. With a bonfire and hot cocoa to keep everyone warm the weather taken in stride. An improvement to trailer car Stillwater, which was much appreciated, was clear plastic in the windows which made a huge difference in keeping the rain and wind out. The purchase a second event tent it gave Santa a special space to go along with a space to read Christmas stories in. Next year watch for even more improvements as we continue to grow and work towards our initial goal of regular train operation from downtown Shelton.

Right: Santa and Mrs. Claus are surrounded by Christmas trees while they chat with kids about all their wished for the holidays.



Archival Project Update

When the PRLM moved the “Simpson Railroad” from its long time home in the roundhouse located on mill property out to the dry sort yard more than equipment was moved. The remaining railroad records in several filing cabinets in the roundhouse were also kept. Those records are as important as a locomotive or a speeder to preserve. They tell the story of the how, what & why the railroad operated and provide a connection to the railroads real history. But being in dry, but not ideal storage those records needed to be taken care of: properly cataloged and archived for the future. It’s a huge task. Fortunately member Pete Panos stepped up to the challenge. Over several months he took many boxes, and scanned and catalogued them, as reported in the March newsletter.

After dissuasions with the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archives, located in Burien Washington, our railroad records will be safely housed in their facility until we have one of our own. The PNRA is also a not for profit 501(C)3 who's mission is to provide a permanent institution for the preservation of railroad records from the greater Pacific Northwest area. Well what is more “northwest” than a logging railroad that dates back to the 1890’s. Many thanks goes to the PNRA for providing a world-class archive for our martial.

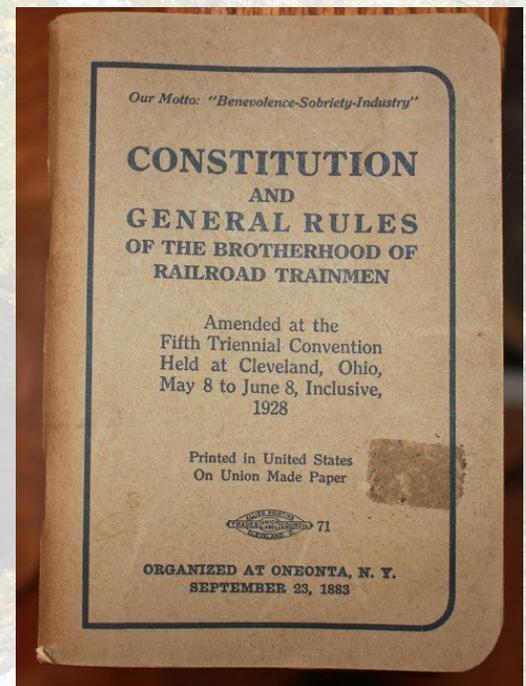
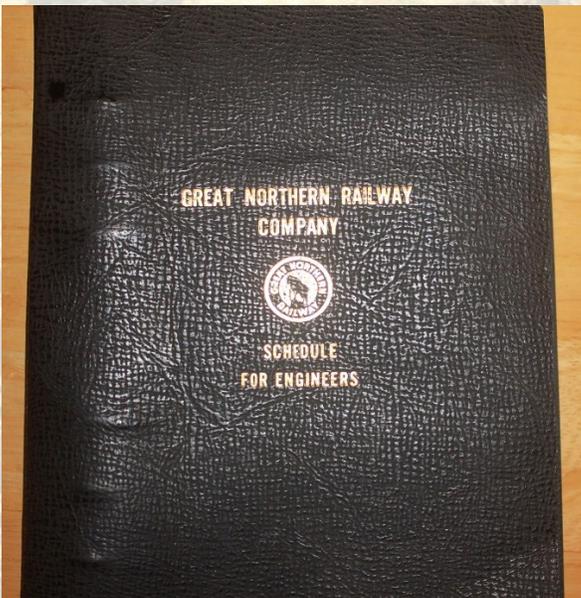
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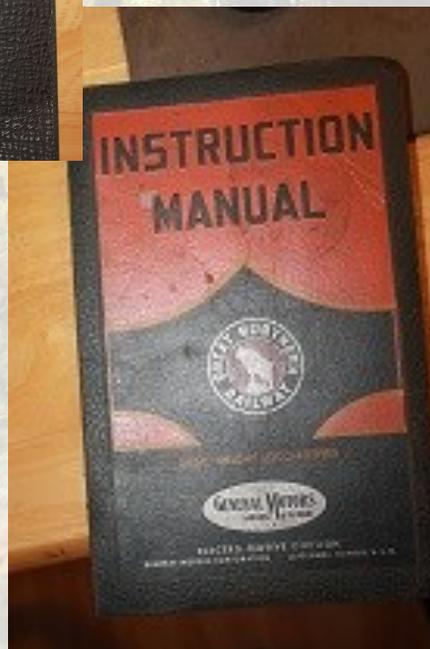
*Preserving the heritage of
the classic railroads that
have shaped our region
since the 1880s, then
making that information
available to everyone
over the internet.*

Donation

Speaking of archives, the PRLM recently received a donation from the Vanderpool family from the Mason County area. Rene Vanderpool was a Great Northern locomotive engineer and union leader who worked out of Interbay. He had many items from days as an engineer, including train delay reports, brake & locomotive manuals. Also a bit unique was correspondence from the BLE union to government officials about the proposed merger dated back to the late 1960's. We would like to thank the Vanderpool family for recognizing that these items needed to be saved and preserved, and for donating them to us. .



Just a few items from the Vanderpool collection



2022 operating schedule

Here is the dates the Simpson Railroad has or the upcoming 2022 operating season. As with any developing museum dates, details can be changed, added, or canceled any time. Please refer to simpsonrailroad.org for detailed information. These events generally are officially posted for the public 30 days prior to the date.

April 9th/10th -Easter Bunny Special

Take a ride over to the Easter egg grounds to meet the Easter Bunny and hunt for Easter eggs

June 18th/19th - Father's Day Rides & Horn honk

Ride aboard caboose 201. For an extra fare treat dad to a ride in the locomotive cab! Even more: railroad horn collectors can have them mounted on the locomotive so everyone can hear each unique horn's sound.

August 13th

Summer time event to be announced. keep the date open for a day of fun!

October: 22th/23th - Pumpkin Picker's Special

Take a ride over to the Pumpkin patch & pick out a pumpkin to take home

Dec 3th/4th, 10th/11th - Simpson Santa Special

Take a ride on the railroad to visit Santa. Watch for even more fun and festivities as Santa returns in 2022!

Volunteers needed

The PRLM & the Simpson Railroad continue to grow. With that growth is the need for more volunteers. Volunteers don't need to have any special mechanical or railroad skills, but while those are definitely appreciated, so many things need to be done, we can use everyone's help. Volunteers perform all that is needed to run a railroad here on the nonprofit Simpson Railroad. Work parties are typically held on weekend afternoons and other times as needed. Drop us an email thru our web page or message from on our Facebook page listed below. Take a look at some of the activities and see if you could help on a project. Or if you have a skill or interested in something not listed please let us know.

Train shows: The Puyallup is coming up January 22nd/23rd & the Greys Harbor train show February 12th/13th.

Putting up our new building: Almost like an old fashion barn raising our 20 x30 all steel building is about to go up. Many hands will make this project go very quickly.

Diesel power plant swap: Our 50 ton crane Detroit Diesel power plant needs to be swapped out for a new one that is ready to go in.

Coach 1212: Car body welding, interior, and mechanical work is still needed.

On going: Brush clearing & grounds maintenance, track work & repairs, publicity & marketing, grant writing & community involvement are all continuing as help becomes available. Many visitors have noticed the improvements we've made since last year, but with your help, we could do so much more!

Historic photo for December

This photo from August of 1971 it show maintenances crews working on the deck of the famous Vance Creek bridge. Imagine working 374 feet above the creek below on an over 800 foot long trestle. This steel-arch type bridge was built in 1929 by Simpson to reach camp Govey and surrounding timerlands. Still standing, it is strictly off limits to trespassing visitors and thrill-seekers.



Photo gallery

Scenes from our pumpkin pickers, and Simpson Santa specials



Please help preserve a part of Shelton's heritage by considering a donation or membership to the PRLM at [peninsularrailway.org /Donate](http://peninsularrailway.org/Donate) or membership Paypal enabled

Or send it to the following with the form below to: **Peninsular Railway and Lumberman's Museum**
P.O. Box 1333, Shelton Washington 98584

Membership \$25 per year

Donation

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

All donations are tax deductible Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen's Museum is a registered non-profit 501(c)3 Organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich railroad and logging history of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

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Officers:

President Josh Kaivo (360)-589-9201

Vice President: Cory Wheeler: (253)-389-1608

Treasurer: Kevin Kesterson

Secretary Les Bagley (360)-908-1734

Other Board Members:

Peter Replinger (360)-426-8386

Mike Huntzinger

Dale Campbell: (253) -224-8834

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Dale Campbell

Distribution/Editor :

Historic photos and information: Pete Replinger

For submission/email address: contact@simpsonrailroad.org

Submission and publication policy: Submissions should be concentrated on logging and railroading on and around the Olympic Peninsula and PRLM activities and information in particular. All submissions should be positive in nature and reflect the values of the PRLM and the community's for which we serve. We reserve the right to withhold any submitted articles which do not meet these requirements or are deemed inappropriate for this publication.