



Museum Collection: Caboose 201

The Simpson Railroad is proud to have a caboose with ties to the logging and lumber industry for its entire life in the state of Washington. Historically significant the Simpson caboose #201 was ordered by the Chehalis Western Railroad (Weyerhaeuser) with purchase order #CW072271 as Chehalis Western #597, along with sisters 598 & 599, on June 20 1981 from Paccar. It was built by Paccar's subsidiary International Car at their Kenton Ohio plant for \$80850.00 each for a sum total for the three of \$254,677.50 including tax. These three cabooses were the last produced by Paccar with ours being 3rd to last caboose built by Paccar. Once completed the three cabooses were released from the plant at Kenton Ohio on September 28 1981 for shipment. Chehalis Western #597 arrived on October 9 1981 after being routed on Conrail to Chicago then BN to The Chehalis Western. This 30' foot caboose weighs in at 57,400 lbs. and was built to standard wide vision spec IC-3161. After serving its time on the Chehalis Western Simpson bought the caboose for use on its railroad in Shelton after the Chehalis Western shut down in July 1992. Having spent approximately 11 years in active service for the C.W. the 201 has spent nearly 25 of its 37 years of active logging service life on the Simpson. Once on Simpson property it was repainted in the Simpson red with white end stripes. The 201 has seen a light work load after its arrival which has contributed to its overall excellent condition. Slated to be used on excursion trains and special events it will be repainted into the Red with white end stripes as shown when time and resources permit. The last round trip it served as a caboose for a logging railroad, and possibly the last use of any caboose for a logging Railroad in the U.S., was a round trip to the sort yard which occurred on June 9 2015 just prior to shutting down the Railroad. Accompanied by engines 900 and 1201 it was sent to retrieve log cars from the sort yard. It served as host to a number of Officials who wanted to mark the occasion with that one last ride.