

HENRY BENSON  
NINA BENSON SEYBOLD

Henry Benson: Potlatch, Deary; b. 1894  
engineer for WI&M Railroad

Nina Benson Seybold: Deary, Palouse; b. 1892

1 hour

minute      page

Side A

- 00 Joe Wells and family. The kids put cow manure over the schoolhouse door as a Halloween prank. Lou's snoose and tobacco. The Wells schoolhouse was also the church.
- 08 Getting by in the early days: making lunches for the railroad crews, and growing food. Norwegians around Deary. Caskets. Ice for Magnuson's meat market.
- 15 Clearing the homestead. Girdling trees. Using scythes and cradles.
- 20 Old man Bjerke had a homemade lock on his granary. He worked with a grubhoe when he was old. Catching trout with Arthur Bjerke on the Little Potlatch.
- 23 Henry almost dies from pneumonia as a boy.
- 25 Giving hides to the Indian bands that passed through. They picked camas between Helmer and Bovill on the meadows. Mineral springs.
- 28 Church social gatherings.
- 29 Firing the little engine on the railroad.

Side B

- 00 Building the Potlatch mill.
- 02 The stations on the railroad run.
- 05 Henry's orders were to kick "bums" off the train, but then he was yelled at for running behind schedule. The bums had spots in Palouse, Potlatch and Bovill to "mulligan up", and slept on the cars; Henry liked them.
- 08 Pile driving with a horse team to build the railroad.
- 09 Converting the engines from slobber stacks to superheaters; this meant the engines needed much less water. Running checks on the engines.

Henry Benson / Nina Benson Seybold

minute	page	
Side B (continued)		
12		An 18 car derailment couosed by a log rolling of at a switch at Vassar. Management from Potlatch views the damage.
16		He refuses to go over Bridge 10 after the sway braces crack; or Bridge 18 after a mud slide, which took six days to fix. Bridge 13 was bad.
20		Engineer and section crews both paid 27¢ an hour around 1920. Unions forced the pay up. The IWWs straightened out the camps.
22		After he enlists during World War I, the Moscow sheriff (Jab Campbell) takes the Deary enlist <del>ers</del> rs to Troy to get drunk on apple cider.
26		Freighting with his father and Joe Wells for Camp 6 with sleighs.

with Sam Schrager

May 15, 1974