

Feb. 1, 1984

Mr. Patrick W. Stafford,
Corporate Communications Dep't.,
Burlington Northern RR.,
176 East 5th St.,
St. Paul, Minn. 55101

Dear Partick Stafford,

I very much appreciate the trouble you have gone to on behalf of the Camas Prairie book, on which I am working, to verify Northern Pacific's original routing from Pullman Bet. Washington down through Troy, etc. to Arrow Junction, Idaho. including the old records plus a large US map of BN's routes.

The copies of the old track laying records are particularly interesting to me and valuable because they are the most accurate.

You've helped a lot so far and I wonder if I might ask one more favor at this time of you?

Would it be possible to obtain copies of the track laying records (not the map) that show the tracks as laid from:

Arrow Junction to Lewiston
Spaulding to Grangeville
Arrow to Stites

Orofino to Headquarters

This comprises almost all of the Camas Prairie railroad with the westward tracks to Riparia being an exception, and Union Pacific tracks anyway.

In the information you just sent me the interesting data is the exact dates and the specific mileages the track laying record shows.

Sincerely,

Hal R.

Hal Riegger,
11009 Spenceville Rd.,
Penn Valley, Ca. 95946

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

BURLINGTON NORTHERN RAILROAD

PS. I'd like to add this postscript because since writing the letter I've been checking the dates noted on the "Track Laying Record" of Northern Pacific against several documents I have and note discrepancies between the two. Of course I consider NP's track laying record the "Bible."

One question that intrigues me and I wonder if it is one for which you might have an answer?

Why did NP build to Genesee? It doesn't seem that they thought this would be a way down to Lewiston as Genesee is practically on a 3000 foot cliff down to the Clearwater River, obviously not a route any railroad could take. And Moscow is only 20 or so miles to the north so that if NP was wanting to get into the middle of the agricultural prairie area (in the earlier days) and also down to Lewiston, seems to me they would have gone to Moscow first and forgotten Genesee altogether. Did NP not want to parallel the UP tracks into Moscow, for it did just that about 7 years later.

Building the tracks to Genesee remains a puzzle to me. What about you?