

UNION PACIFIC 4-6-2, #3206, SPOKANE FAIRGROUNDS  
PROPERTY OF INLAND EMPIRE RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 10, 1984

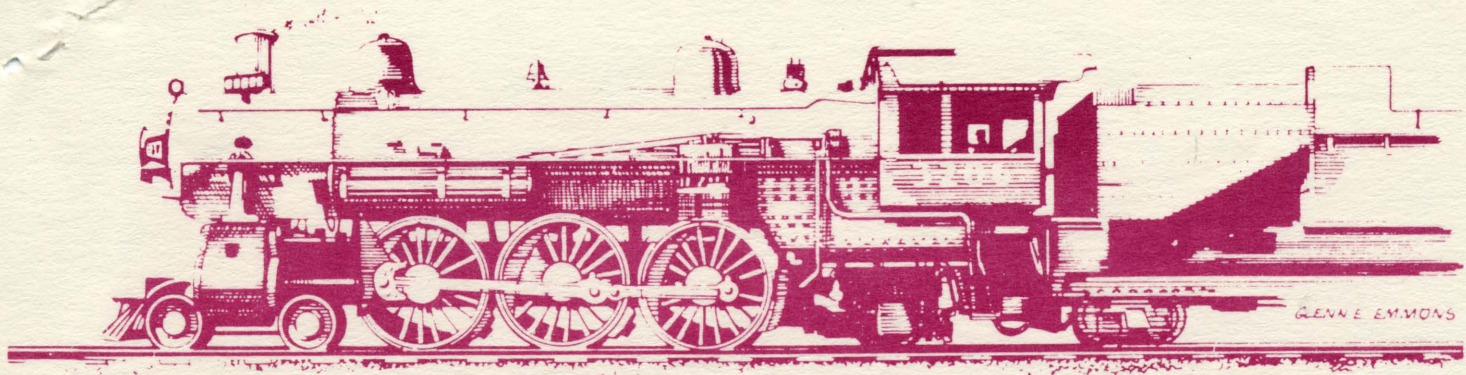
Hi;

Late but still kicking. First I had assession in the hospital, now Larry is home after his visit with the ladies in white uniforms. He has a bad cold, otherwise I think he is coming along.

Attached is some material Scott Grimmett, S. 16 Moen, Greenacres, Wa 99016 loaned to Phil Slocum and I. He agreed to let us mail it to you. You may have already seen this story but we wanted you to see it because it might be useful in your Camas Prairie project. Scott dredged the story out of the University of Idaho library.

As for the Nez Perce #4 (NP #684), the men and women working for the NP were told the rebuilt engine was to be kept here in our area as a public relations number, and they were all in love with the little engine. It was their baby, they suggested to the NP that they wanted the NP to help them get the engine out of the weeds and they would restore the 684 for the good times they could have showing it off and the NP did promise to help and NP did promise the local NP employees it would stay here as their mascot. A new man took over the RR presidency and promptly gave the engine away. He didn't live up to the agreement. He didn't even tell them about the deal. He just ordered their engine to Fargo. Bingo-just like that. Even today the employees get hot when they are reminded of their engine.





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Those Northern Pacific people were intensely loyal to their employer. They always had to go farther, they had to go faster, to keep up and they had to climb higher than the other roads, and darned if they didn't do all those things and love doing it. The NP was the first out west and they were proud of their road. You have to meet and talk with the old NP folks to understand their fierce loyalty to NP. You won't find anything like it among Great Northern or Union Pacific people.

I will keep looking around.

I do have a set of Poloroid pictures taken by Al Bennett, the engineer who worked the train east out of Spokane when #684 went east. The color and overall cast of the pictures is typical Poloroid, not the best by far.

Sincerely,

Wayward Riker

I believe Ron Nixon is in the  
Missoula Hospital. From the last  
letter from him I surmise he has  
cancer. No confirmation of that though.  
R. I.