

Dec. 7, 1984

Dear Mr. Stafford,

I hope you won't chalk me off as a GD nuisance!

Several old maps have come my way the last few days, railroad maps, and they don't explain something I hoped they might. The bridge at Riparia across the Snake River.

According to the records you gave me, that bridge was built by NP in 1884. There doesn't seem to be any reason for doing that unless the line from Eureka up to Pleasant View was anticipated to continue north, crossing the Snake at Riparia. NP also had its line from Snake River Junction up to Riparia, but that doesn't make sense either. The bridge was built (it seems to me) too many years before the "war" between NP and UP, but was it somehow involved in that? NP had secured property along the southern bank of the Snake from there east to Lewiston. Would Snake River Junction to Lewiston have been anticipated at one time?

A lot of questions; some surmises too, but it would be interesting to know the planning of those days and what came out of it all.

Do you happen to know?

The maps I have are 1) a NP map with no date, but about 1899 to 1908; 2) a Rand McNally railroad map of Wash. dated 1922 and, just came today 3) a Dep't of Public Works, Washington map of common carriers, dated 1928! A good find.

Thanks a lot if you can help,

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

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