

Dec. 14, 1984

Dear Mr. Stafford,

I must say that sleuthing is one heck of a lot of fun, especially when one has the kind of help you are giving me! Again, I say thanks for all this.

But want to add something: if the Xeroxing, postage, etc. are out of your pocket I want to reimburse you for this. If it is BN's expense and part of a continuing job you have with them, that is a different matter, I guess. Would you be good enough to let me know on this?

I'm using the same mailer you sent all the material to me in to send back a couple of photo copies of some old maps that came into my possession. I'm keeping the best prints of these but what I'm sending is still readable, and maybe it could enlighten you a bit. I'm hoping so.

One of them, the Rand McNally map was published in 1922 while the other has no date on it. This latter is in the possession of one Jim Jacks, an ex-Craig Mountain RR. employee now living in Craigmont, Ida. It was not in good condition and the situation when I had to photograph it (with a 35mm camera) was not the best either. I'd guess its date is between 1899 and 1908.

In both these maps the tracks of the OWR&N Co. are shown coming up from Walla Walla, crossing the Snake at Riparia and continuing north. The later Rand McNally map shows in addition, the OWRR&N Co.'s tracks also coming from the south at Attalia. I found Ainsworth Jct. on still another map and it is southeast of Pasco right at the mouth of the Snake as it enters the Columbia. I see nowhere on any map the OWRR&N Co. rails coming from Ainsworth Jct. That railroad, as far as I can tell from the maps I have went along the south side of the Columbia at the Pasco area while Ainsworth Jct. is on the north side.

Also, on no map I have (earliest is the 1899-1908 one) is there any track shown east of Riparia, on the south side of the Snake and going to Lewiston. It was my understanding that NP purchased right-of-way but never built as the "railroad war" came along and NP and UP decided to form the CP. UP's tracks already were along the north side of the river to Lewiston.

I don't know; maybe I'm all screwed up on this, but that's what I make of it. If you know differently it would be interesting to find out.

Anyway, with your help, this business seems to be clearing up, and I'm glad of that!

Sincerely,

Hal Riegger,  
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