C

Changes and improvements have been made during the past week in the depot and terminal facilities of the Northern Pacific Railroad company at Seventeenth Street and Pacific Avenue, and another week will witness such alterations in the two large wooden structures that the cry for a new depot will be hushed, temporarily at least. There was a hustle of activity at the depot yesterday that was unusual in that vicinity and earned the remark from a well-known official of the road that "this now looks like a metropolitan depot."

The improvements being made by the company include a rearrangement of the interior of the depot building and a general renovation of that structure, and the long wooden building which until recently was used as a portion of the car shops. This work has been in progress for a week past, but will not be finished before the end of the month. The offices of Superintendent McCabe and his corps of assistants have been moved from the wharf into the old car shops building. The transfer of the headquarters of the west Cascade and Pacific divisions of the road was completed yesterday. The rooms in the building all face on Pacific Avenue. There are seven apartments in rotation. The one in the northern end of the building will be occupied by Superintendent McCabe. Adjoining this room is the room for his clerks. Across the hallways is the office of Assistant Superintendent Brimson, and in the order named, the rooms occupied as follows: Office of Chief Dispatcher Schroeder and assistant dispatchers; telegraph office for company and general business; office of O. M. Osborne, supervisor of bridges and buildings, and an office for Roadmasters W.T. Payne, William Jones and L. M. Jenney.

The building in which the offices are located will be given several coats of paint until the exterior and interior will look like that of a new structure. The whitewash brush will be freely used in the upper portion of the building which hangs over the offices above a space of twenty-five feet. All the ceiling over the tracks in the train shed will be brightened in the same manner. Electric lights will be introduced both inside and out. From Seventeenth Street of nearly Nineteenth Street a fence will be erected along the tracks. Proper gateways will be provided so as to give easy access to all trains. The depot will also be painted on the outside to match the color of the train shed. Painters and plasterers were at work yesterday on the interior of the depot making that portion of it look as if it were new. The ticket office has been moved to the southern part of the building, and that portion formerly occupied by the ticket office will be used as a room for parcels and light baggage. Several thousand dollars will be spent by the company making the improvements. Both Superintendent McCabe and Assistant Superintendent Brimson said yesterday that when the work has been completed no one will think of asking for a new depot.

Mr. Brimson was engaged yesterday in making preliminary arrangements for a new time schedule, which will go into effect early next month, when an additional overland train will be placed on the road. Changes will probably be made in the time of the running of the trains between this city and Seattle.
Northern Pacific Railroad's Here

- The Daily Ledger, Tacoma, March 14, 1892.

General Superintendent Mellen and Traffic Manager Hannaford in the City.
W.S. Mellen, general manager, and J.M. Hannaford, general traffic manager of the Northern Pacific, left Tacoma for Portland last night. Both stated that their visit had no special significance. Mr. Mellen is on a tour of the lines, having left St. Paul two weeks ago. From Portland he will doubtless go directly home. Regarding good extension, he said that no more would be made this year, and that now all that is being done is to finish what has already been undertaken. Mr. Hannaford

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The Tacoma Historical Society
Founded in 1990 to Preserve and Present
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P.O. Box 1865
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1. Tacoma is the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the greatest of the transcontinental roads.

2. Tacoma is at the head of navigation on Puget Sound, the "Mediterranean of America," whose Port of Entry enters and clears more shipping than any Port of Entry in the United States, except New York and San Francisco.

3. Tacoma will be the shipping port for all the wheat raised in Eastern Washington, and for much of that raised in Oregon.

4. Tacoma ships more lumber and coal than any other port on Puget Sound, and has tributary to it vast deposits of coal—the best in the Pacific Northwest—and is in the heart of the finest timber in the world.

5. Tacoma is destined, from its location, to be the great distributing point for Eastern Washington, Idaho, and a great part of Oregon.

6. Tacoma has never been "boomed," but has steadily grown since 1850, when the population (by census) was 720, to the present time, when the population is about 25,000.

7. Tacoma's climate is excellent, the average temperature in winter being 41 degrees above zero, and in summer about 65 degrees. The summer climate is mild, dry and salubrious; the rain fall is in winter, which is quite as healthful as the summer.

For lots in Tacoma, or information: apply or write to
ISAAC W. ANDERSON,
General Manager Tacoma Land Co.,
N. P. R. R. Hqrs. Bldg, Pacific Ave. and 7th St.,
TACOMA, WASH.
Boston Journalist Put Tacoma On The Map In 1890

George Train, a Boston journalist, helped to put Tacoma on the map of the world. He may be the man who gave this city its haunting nickname of The City of Destiny. In any event his much publicized trip around the world, starting and ending on C Street in downtown Tacoma, took 67 days and led to the book and eventually the movie "Around The World In Eighty Days."

The beginning of Train's trip was reported in the March 18, 1890, Tacoma Ledger, and read as follows:

"The official time keepers stood, watches in hand, awaiting the firing of the 6 o'clock gun by Captain Bixle, on the bluff. Citizens lined both sides of the route to the wharf where the Olympian, groaning with a full head of steam, lay with her nose pointed down the bay. And then the shot rang out. Train leaped from the brass plate into the waiting carriage, the driver lashed his team down C Street to Ninth, down Ninth to Pacific and down Pacific to the wharf, went the traveler on the first lap of his journey while the splinters of the planking flew from the feet of the racing team. Whistles screeched, bells clanged, the crowd shouted and danced, and ran pell-mell in pursuit of the carriage. The old cannon boomed its salute from the hill. Three seconds behind the carriage carrying Train came that of the time keepers. In six minutes all were aboard the steamer."

Wharfinger Keene and Captain Clancy had cast off the lines and in a moment Captain Roberts had the Olympian under way. Des Moines was passed at 6:40, Seattle at 7:36 and at 11:30 the Abyssinia was sighted making her way down from Vancouver. At 1:22 she hove to in the Royal Roads off Victoria. Train and Wall were transferred while Frank Ross made a speech and broke a bottle of wine over the liner's bow. At 1:45 the Abyssinia resumed her journey toward the Pacific."

For the rest of the story read Chapter XLVII, beginning on page 545 Vol. I of Hunt's "History of Tacoma."

A Hard Times House Warming

Mr. and Mrs. Mason will be pleased to see you at their home, corner of Mason avenue and North Forty-third street, next Wednesday evening, November 29th, from seven to eleven-thirty o'clock.

Music, cards, billiards, pool, bowling, dancing, etc., but, owing to these "clonas" times, NO REFRESHMENTS. Come and help demonstrate the fact that feasting is not an absolutely necessary auxiliary for pleasure.

The Egyptian (not Virginia) reel will be danced in memory of Anke Unnofeit, a member of the Royal Family of ancient Egypt, who although a priest will be present in the flesh though not the spirit. Some of his friends will be present in spirit but not in the flesh, but you should be present in both spirit and flesh. The host and hostess recognize and regret their inability to furnish some of the gentlemen all of the spirits their flesh will require.

"Old Dan Tucker" and other classical dances will be led by "Moccasin Tim" and "Rattlesnake Bill" in their inimitable style.

Any guest found with a sober face that evening will be fined five cents, the proceed to go toward helping the Northern Pacific out of the hands of the Receivers.

The house will be especially perfumed for the occasion with sulphurous waters from the Dead Sea or skunk cabbage from the Puyallup Indian Reservation, as a majority of the guests may elect.

Any body found collecting a fee at the entrance or exit will be turned over to the police.

ALLEN C. MASON

"Be glad and your friends are many, be sad and you lose them all."

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men."

Come with the intention of having a good time.

The above was a party invitation mailed or hand-delivered by Allen C. Mason to his friends during hard times in Tacoma in 1892.

Pacific Avenue Street Scene, 1889. Electrical trolleys now ran on steel tracks, but horse drawn carriages were still an important means of transportation.
Calendar Of Events Since THS Was Founded In September 1989

September 1989  Organizational meeting and tour of the Knights of Pythias Bldg.
October 1989  Local authors discussed their works at the Rhodes Post, American Legion Hall.
November 1989  Business meeting at the McCormick Branch, Tacoma Public Library.
December 1989  Curator Lynn Anderson updated the remodeling project at the Washington State Historical Society, King Branch.
January 1990  Business meeting and election held at the King Branch, Tacoma Public Library.
February 1990  Program held on the history of Tacoma’s waterfront and the Longshoremen’s Union. Guest speakers were longshoremen Phil Lelli and “Tiny” Throson and author Dr. Ronald Magden, King Branch.
March 1990  Ron Karnaichi gave a presentation on the history of Old Town, King Branch.
April 1990  Barbara Fox of Fox’s Book Store spoke on 51 years of book selling in Tacoma, King Branch. Participated in the Point Defiance Line celebration held by Pierce Transit and the Proctor District community.
May 1990  Gary Fuller Reese gave a members tour of the newly restored Carnegie Bldg., then spoke on the history of Tacoma’s Afro-American community.
June 1990  Jim Fredrickson shared his knowledge of railroading in Tacoma area, King Branch.
July 1990  Downtown Walking Tours
August 1990  Downtown Walking Tours Picnic at Wright Park and tour of the park.
October 1990  Program on labor history and the production of the book To Live In Dignity. Guest speakers: Ottlie Markholt, author Roy Parent, and Clyde Hupp, Pierce County Central Lab or Council, AFL-CIO, Carnegie Building.
November 1990  Fred Haley spoke on the history of Brown & Haley Candy Co. Rhodes Post, American Legion.
December 1990  Members shared their reflections on Christmas in Tacoma over the years. Gary Fuller Reese spoke on Christmas in Territorial Days, Carnegie Library.
January 1991  Mary Sudar gave a slide presentation on the pioneer artist Abbey Williams Hill, Carnegie Library.
February 1991  Tour of the Masonic Temple at 47 St. Helens Avenue led by Robert Fletcher. Organ music provided by former and Jane Johnson.
July 1991  Tour of Oakland Cemetery led by Fred Steiger.
August 1991  Program on the ASARCO Smelter and the ethnic history of Ruston by labor historian Ottlie Markholt and researcher Robert Guzovich.
September 1991  Tour of the renovated Rialto and Pantages theaters.
October 1991  Paul Raymond presentation on marine history entitled “Sail and Steam on Puget Sound.”
November 1991  Tour of Fort Lewis Military Museum.
December 1991  Tour of Fort Lewis Military Museum.

January 1992  Tacoma Historical Writers Group told the story of their publication, Tacoma Voices from the Past. Archivist Alan Liddle spoke on historic preservation and presented his award-winning slide show, “Witner Tacoma.”
February 1992  Program celebrating the 100th year anniversaries of the Aloha and Nesika study clubs.
May 1992  Bill Allard presented his collection of gasoline station paraphernalia.
June 1992  Tour of Casablanca Edgecliff.
July 1992  Stadium High School tour. And insider’s view conducted by the president of the school.

Other Tacoma Historical Society Projects
Carnegie Library Displays
1991 Pearl Harbor Day, Polly Medlock
1992 Tacoma theaters, Cheryl Wiebe, Joe Heiman, Polly Medlock,
Historic Preservation Month, Polly Medlock
Railroads, Jim Fredrickson
Early Tacoma, Dode Trip
THS Promotional Brochure, Polly Medlock, Nick Peters and Jeane Klaus of Print Plus
Indexing of Three Volumes of Huns “History of Tacoma,” Chairman Polly Medlock, Frank Green and Jean Sienko
Volunteers, Mary Seling (Temporary Computer Chairman), Rebecca Race, Darwyn Burway, Bob Meade, Nina Gosling, Gary Lettring

Wanted – Memorabilia of Old Tacoma.
Call Sally Kappahahn, 572-8172 or Polly Medlock, 752-7722.

Tacoma Historical Society
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