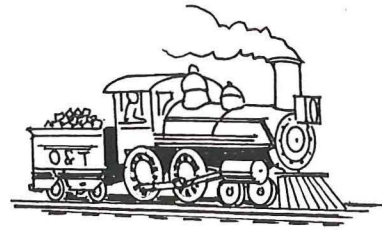
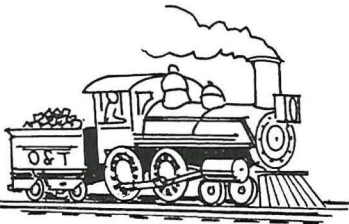


1874- IF YOU WERE THERE...



- 1) Describe the atmosphere in town today (1874) compared with the scene from 1856.
- 2) Compare the importance of train connections in 1874 with 2005. How would Olympia be different if Ira B. Thomas had lived?
- 3) What kind of food do you think the women were preparing for the 300 workers at the noontime feast near Warren's Point?
- 4) Imagine you are walking the new railroad trestle on the westside of the Deschutes Waterway in 1878. Compare what you would see, with a modern day stroll on the Deschutes Parkway.
- 5) What would it be like to be a black woman running the Pacific House in Olympia in the 1860s and '70s?
- 6) Why is the Columbia fire engine the pride and joy of the town?
- 7) Copy an issue of John Murphy's Washington Standard newspaper from 1874 and compare it with an issue of The Olympian today.
- 8) Four hundred people volunteered on the first "Railroad Day." What would it be like if almost one third of Olympia's population volunteered for an entire day now?
- 9) Describe some of the hazards and challenges if you were a logger like Ike Ellis, clearing the eastside of Olympia and parts of Seattle.
- 10) What is "temperance" and "woman's suffrage" and why are these issues important?
- 11) Describe street improvements and changes around the waterfront. Discuss the importance of the telegraph lines.
- 12) Compare the life of Annie Pixley with a modern-day entertainer.
- 13) The newspaper said, "*the position of the schoolhouse was changed to face East.*" How would you go about doing this in pioneer times?



South Bay–Western Jct.
Blt: 1925–1927
Removed: Late 1980s

Tacoma–Olympia
Blt: 1890–1891

Thurston County Railroads

NP Northern Pacific
(Now Burlington Northern)

GN Great Northern
(Now Burlington Northern)

UP Union Pacific

CMStP&P Chicago, Milwaukee,
St. Paul & Pacific
(Now Chehalis Western)

CW Chehalis Western

E. Olympia–Olympia
Blt: 1915

Olympia–Tenino
Blt: 1874–1878
Removed: 1915–1916

Olympia–Grays Harbor
Blt: 1891

Tenino–Tacoma
Blt: 1912–1914

Maytown–Helsing Jct
Blt: 1910–1911
Removed: 1970s

Tenino–Tacoma
Blt: 1873

Tacoma–Chehalis
Blt: 1910–1911

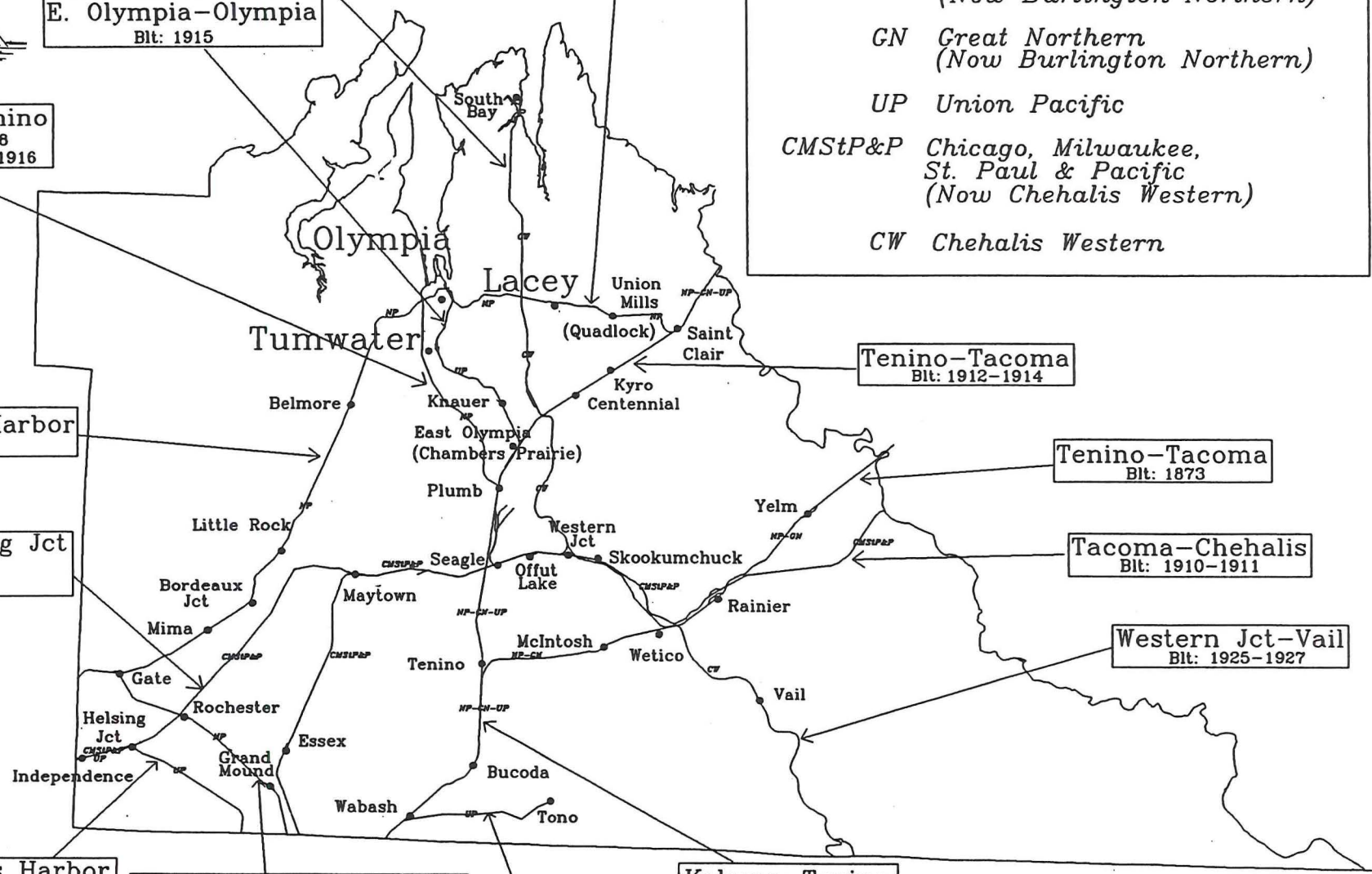
Western Jct–Vail
Blt: 1925–1927

Centralia–Grays Harbor
Blt: 1910
Removed: Late 1980s

Centralia–Grays Harbor
Blt: 1890–1891

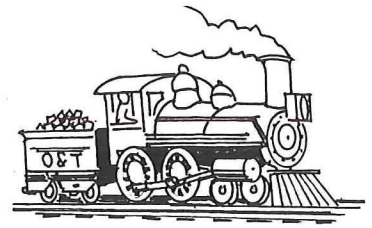
Kalama–Tenino
Blt: 1871–1872

Wabash–Tono
Blt: 1907–1909
Removed: 1955



1874- WHAT ELSE WAS HAPPENING?

(within five years before and after 1874)

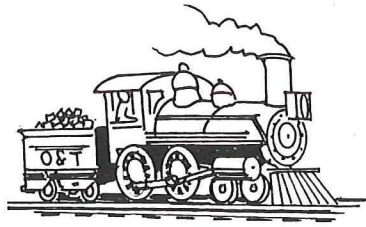


- 1869- Thomas Edison patents his first invention- a vote recorder.
- 1869- U.S. Transcontinental Railroad opens after the ceremonial golden spike is driven into the ground at Promontory Point, Utah.
- 1869- Columbia Hall, Olympia's first town hall, is completed. An ordinance passes forbidding cows on Olympia's streets, unless they are milk cows.
- 1869- NWSA (Nat'l Woman Suffrage Assoc.) formed by Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth C. Stanton
- 1869- (July 24) Secretary of State William Seward speaks at Olympia's Templars Hall on his way to Alaska. (U. S. recently purchased Alaska from Russia.)
- 1869- Suez Canal opens allowing travel between Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean.
- 1869- Legislature of Washington Territory passes community property law.
- 1869- John Wesley Powell leads Colorado River expedition through the Grand Canyon.
- 1870- 15th Amendment gives right to vote to all adults regardless of race, creed or color, but omits women. Pop. of Washington Territory is 23, 955.
- 1870- Hazard Stevens and partner Van Trump first documented climb to summit of Mt. Rainier.
- 1870- Kalama founded. First settlement at Spokane. N. Pacific RR lays first stretch of track.
- 1870- A handful of women vote for the first time in Washington at Grand Mound.
- 1870- German expedition to Turkey successfully finds remains of the ancient city of Troy.
- 1870- McNeil Island Fed. Penitentiary (oldest in nation) founded in Washington Territory.
- 1871- U.S. purchases all Hudson's Bay Company rights to land in the Pacific Northwest.
- 1871- "Dr. Livingston, I presume?" Stanley locates Livingston and explores Lake Tanganyika
- 1871- One of history's worst urban fires occurs in Chicago.
- 1872- Yellowstone Park is established. Montgomery Ward store and catalog founded
- 1872- San Juan Islands awarded to the U. S. Ulysses S. Grant reelected president.
- 1872- (Dec14) South Puget Sound experiences worst earthquake to date.
- 1873- (July 14) Northern Pacific RR announces Tacoma will be the terminus.
- 1873- Tennis is invented. Barbed wire is invented.
- 1873- (Oct 19) Swantown Bridge in Olympia collapses under a herd of cattle.
- 1874- Rejected painters Monet, Renoir and Pissarro stage their own exhibit in Paris.

Apr 7, 1874- VOLUNTEER EFFORT BEGINS ON OLYMPIA-TENINO RAILROAD

- 1874- Completion of 520 ft steel arch Eads Bridge, spanning Mississippi River at St. Louis.
- 1875- African American George Washington founds Centralia.
- 1875- Walla Walla to Walula RR completed, aiding population boom in Walla Walla.
- 1876- Mark Twain publishes Tom Sawyer. Battle of Little Bighorn. Colorado becomes a state.
- 1876- A Chinese School opens on Columbia Street in Olympia.
- 1876- Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone. Rutherford B. Hayes elected president
- 1876- Centennial Expo in Philadelphia. Owen Bush wins 1st place nationwide for wheat exhibit
- 1877- Chief Joseph leads Nez Perce War. Edison invents phonograph.
- 1877- Diaz elected president of Mexico, bringing stability and prosperity to country.
- 1878- (summer) Olympia fire destroys block between Main, Washington, 3rd & 4th Streets
- 1878- Constitutional Convention of Washington Territory meets in Walla Walla, but admittance to statehood refused by Congress.
- 1878- (August) Grand opening of the Olympia-Tenino Railroad Line. Fare: \$1 to Tenino, 50 cents to Bush Prairie. First trip took 353 passengers.
- 1879- Thomas Edison develops the first commercially practical electric lamp.
- 1879- (winter) NW cold spell. Columbia River freezes. Olympia suffers Diphtheria epidemic.

1874



THE MERCER EXPEDITIONS-

The Civil War years took a devastating toll on the male population in America, leaving thousands of women without husbands, and children without fathers. But out West, single pioneer men who had faced great hardship to reach the promised land, realized that the promised land was short on one crucial element...women. In Thurston County in 1860, there were 967 men compared to only 522 women.

A Seattle man named Asa Mercer felt he could help solve the problem by bringing eligible New England women and widows out West to meet some of the surplus bachelors. He advertised free passage by ship to Puget Sound for any widow, with or without children, who would like to settle in the Pacific Northwest and remarry.

Asa succeeded in making two such trips, one in 1864 which brought 10 young women, and a second trip in 1866 which included about 100 women. Almost 80 widows and orphans came to Olympia. Surprisingly, this was a larger number than settled in Asa's hometown of Seattle. Daniel and Ann Elizabeth Bigelow, as well as George Barnes and his wife, were two of the households who invited the women to stay with them. Annie Hartsuck was part of Mercer's Expedition,(1874 bio), and like others, she sailed two oceans, found a partner, and made a new life for herself in the Northwest.

This story has captured the imagination of people ever since, and inspired a television show titled "Here Come The Brides" in the 1960s.

TEMPERANCE

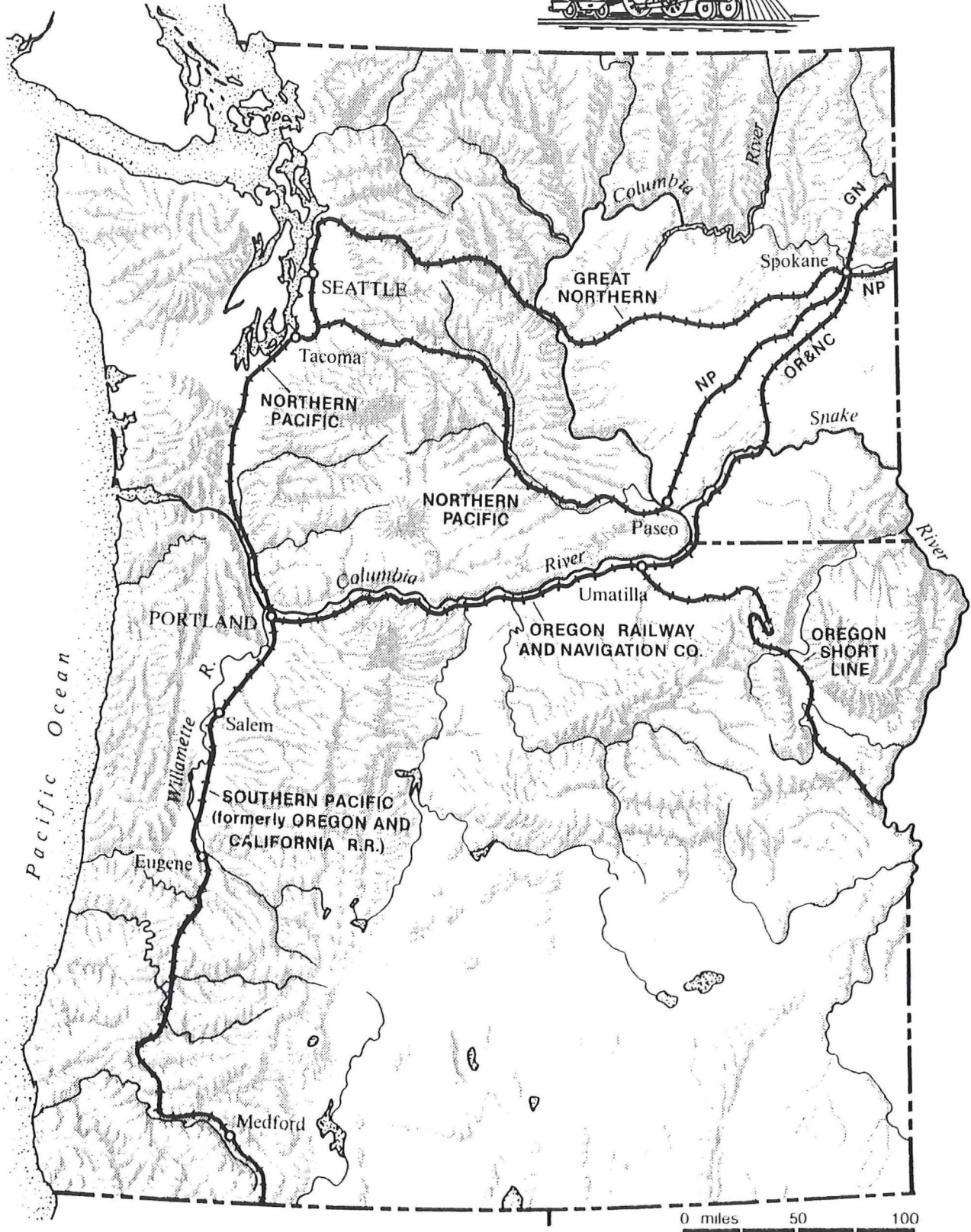
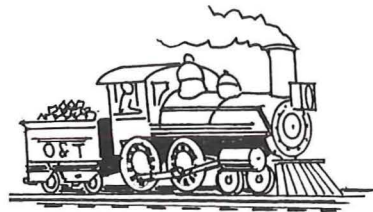
The movement to abolish alcohol use, manufacture and sale began in 1873 with the Women's Temperance Crusade. In Cleveland, Ohio in November, 1874, it became the National Women's Christian Temperance Union (NWCTU).

In 1883, the WCTU met for the first time in Olympia on the second floor of Good Templar's Hall on Fourth and Columbia. Emma Page, (1899 bio), Mary Page and Annie Hartsuck (1874 bio) were leaders in this cause. Olympia hosted conventions for Western Washington on this subject in 1900 and 1910. By 1913, there were two chapters of the WCTU in the capital city. Temperance supporters in Olympia were actively involved in the successful 1914 election that began prohibition in Washington. In December, 1933 the 21st Amendment repealed the 18th, and alcohol was once again legal.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

During the first legislature in Washington Territory, early in 1854, white women lost suffrage by only one vote. (Native American women were not being considered for voting at that time.) Arthur Denny and Daniel Bigelow were leading supporters. Next, in June of 1870, a number of women in south Thurston County successfully voted, becoming the first women in Washington to vote. But at the same time, their friends in Olympia, led by Mary Olney Brown were denied the right. (Mary's group tried to vote at the courthouse building in Olympia which still stands today at Union and Adams.) Next in November of 1883 the Washington Territorial Legislature gave women the right to vote, but the Supreme Court struck down the law in 1888. Woman's suffrage in Washington State was finally passed, once and for all, in 1910, a full ten years before women were granted the vote nationally. This landmark legislation took place in the Old Capitol Building on Sylvester Park.

TWO DECADES LATER...



Major Railroads of the Pacific Northwest, c. 1893

from The American Northwest, A History of Oregon and Washington
by Gordon B. Dodds. Reprinted by permission of Harlan Davidson, Inc. Copyright 1986.