

NEW BOOK INTRODUCED AT CONVENTION!!

THE RUSTY DUSTY: Great Northern Railway's Wenatchee-Oroville Branch

This new book, a comprehensive look at the Great Northern's expansion strategy west of Devil's Lake, ND under the brilliant leadership of James J. Hill, is set against the historic and geographic conditions of the time and especially in the state of Washington. It includes construction and operational detail, with numerous route maps and photographs that capture the history of this significant line, which promoted and supported the economic rise of a tree fruit industry that literally feeds the nation.

Written by GNRHS members and former Great Northern Railway employees John Langlot and Mac McCulloch, *The Rusty Dusty* will be introduced at the 2016 GNRHS Convention in Spokane. The authors' combined experience with Great Northern span more than 45 years and make them uniquely qualified to examine and interpret the Great Northern's remarkable history in eastern Washington.

Organized into thirteen chapters and three appendices, the book is intended for general readers interested in exploring the fascinating history of how GN's westward expansion into a region of significant geographic challenges substantially influenced the history and economy of the Pacific Northwest. It is also written to withstand the scrutiny of those "insiders" who worked for the Great Northern and experienced and understand its operations.

The first four chapters of *The Rusty Dusty* lay the historical and geographical groundwork for the W-O line. The next two describe the construction of the line and the economy of the territory it served. The bulk of the book (five chapters) examines traffic and operations of the W-O under the ownership of the Great Northern, including Wenatchee, Appleyard, ice supply and operations, and the threatened construction of the Wenatchee Southern Railway. Chapter 12 discusses the 1960's line relocations due to the construction of Rocky Reach and Wells dams, while Chapter 13 brings the history of the line up to date.

The geographic scope generally extends from the Canadian Continental Divide and Whitefish, MT on the east, to Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, BC on the west, with emphasis on the territory between Wenatchee and Oroville. The book explores the relationship of the W-O to subjects and issues not often included in railroad books. Among these examples are: the geology and geography of the territory it serves, specifically eastern Washington, freight rates and economic regulation, irrigation to support fruit orchards, refrigerator cars and the Western Fruit Express, and more broadly, the local economy of the area served by the railroad.

The book also goes behind the scenes to describe what it was like to work on the Wenatchee-Oroville branch. The authors were fortunate to have access to material from long time W-O conductor Orval Dungan, as well as the living memories of co-author John Langlot who worked the W-O as a brakeman in the 1960's.

This hard cover book constitutes about 400 pages and will include 70 maps and 98 photographs. An extensive bibliography and index provides the reader with useful references.

This book is priced at \$60 and is available for pre-order on your Convention Registration Form