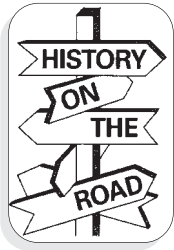


HISTORY ON THE ROAD

THE MT. RAINIER SCENIC RAILROAD



Located in Elbe, Washington, the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad (MRSR) lets you experience the Golden Age of Steam as you chug across spectacular bridges and clickety-clack through lush tall forests. MRSR's goal is to be the world's finest museum of logging locomotives and the best tourist railroad in the United States. It is well on the way to being that as it boasts representative engines from all seven major manufacturers of steam locomotives for the timber industry. Mt. Rainier scenic railroad has a collection that can never be equaled.

The Scenic railroad was established in 1981 but hails its start to when the Western

Forest Industries Museum (WFIM) came into existence in 1960 as it started to build Camp Six at Pt. Defiance State Park in Tacoma, WA. When the WFIM was prevented from expanding their railroad around its Five Mile Drive, the door opened for the MRSR. Weyerhaeuser Company purchased the Tacoma & Eastern Branch from the financially strapped Milwaukee Railroad. This line went from Tacoma to Fredrickson where it forked. One branch headed toward Mt. Rainier through Graham, Eatonville, Elbe, park Junction, Mineral, and terminated in Morton, an area that had provided almost a constant stream of log traffic since its inception. The WFIM was able to secure trackage rights between Elbe and Mineral and the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad was born.

During the one and one half-hour excursions from Elbe to Mineral Lake, about fourteen miles, visitors hear the train whistle at Mt. Rainier and let

off steam by Mineral Lake. And the experience in the natural setting, allows people to enjoy the last examples of what were both visually and audibly fascinating pieces of machinery; ones that made a lasting contribution to the early development of our nation's forests and the timber industry. Every train is pulled by a vintage steam locomotive with tourist and open cars.

Elbe is approximately 40 miles Southeast of Tacoma, and 70 miles South of Seattle. The train station is located on Highway 7, on the main route to Mt. Rainier National Park. Schedules and additional information can be found on the MRSR web site at www.mrsr.com. The Railroad is open on weekends from Memorial Day to July 4th weekend and then daily through Labor Day. It then is opened on weekends through September and then again in December for the "Snowball Express."

For more information the MRSR can be contacted at PO Box 921, Elbe, WA 98330; (360) 569-2351 or (888) STEAM 11. □



The 3-truck Climax #10 (left) crossing the Nisqually River trestle.

Every train is pulled by a vintage steam locomotive with tourist and open cars. This photo (right) shows both the 3-truck Climax #10 and the 3-truck Shay #11. The #10 was the second to last Climax ever built. Completed in 1928 for Hillcrest Lumber Company of Mesachie Lake, BC as their #3, she was later renumbered #10. Retired in 1968, she was stored in Vancouver, BC until arriving at Elbe in 1980. The Shay is a 90-ton 3-truck Pacific Coast Shay built by Lima in 1929 for the Forest Lumber Co of Pine Ridge, OR. It was sold to Pickering in 1941 and retired in 1965 and stored at the Orange Empire Railway Museum at Rio Vista, CA until moved to Elbe in 1981.



PHOTOS BY MARTIN E. HANSON. COURTESY T.L. MURRAY, JR.