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Steam Era Remnants Through the Lens of Ivan Ergish

Ivan Ergish is a well known name among Northwest logging enthusiasts.

He lived in Winchester and Lewiston, Idaho for many years, and shot thousands of photographs covering nearly a half-century of railroad logging in that region.

Ivan's favorite targets were the Craig Mountain Lumber Co. and Camas Prairie Railroads, but Ivan also spent some time on the WI&M and in the PFI facilities near Bovill and Headquarters, Idaho. We are fortunate that a number of these photos have recently been made available to the WI&M HPG!



On one of Ivan Ergish's earlier visits to the WI&M, he managed to shoot the Potlatcher railcar at Princeton in June, 1949. Motorman Al Cowger steps aboard Train #3 on its last westbound stop before Potlatch. From there, the train will continue on to Palouse to deliver the mail and any passengers bound for Spokane.

Ivan Ergish photo, courtesy Oso Publishing

One of Ivan's friends and students was John Henderson, a member of the HPG for many years. When Ivan died in 1997 (see John's mini biography of Ivan on page 5), his photo collection moved into John's hands, and John delivered them to David Rygmyr of Oso Publications before his own passing in March, 2007. A year or so earlier, John bequeathed his personal collection of Milwaukee-era WI&M photos to

the HPG, which have been used many times since to illustrate articles in WPQ.

While John was still alive, I had a chance to visit him and see many of Ivan's WI&M photos. Since that day, I have hoped I would have another chance to see them. To that end, I contacted Dave Rygmyr earlier this year to ask what his plans were for Ivan's collec-

The non-profit WI&M Ry. History Preservation Group, Inc has been organized for railroad historians, enthusiasts, and modelers interested in gathering and sharing information on the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway, from its origins in 1905 through it's operations of today.