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The newsletter of the non-profit WI&M Ry HPG. Organized for railroad historians, enthusiasts, and modelers interested in the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway, from its origins in 1905 through its ownership of today.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Editorial / Schedules The Classifieds / Ads | 2 |
| Little House on the WI&M | 3 |
| Obituaries | 3 |
| WI&M Excursion Train: Palouse to Bovill | 4 |
| Milwaukee Road Steel Cabooses Drawings | 5 |
| WI&M Railroad Passes | 6 |
| Jim's Two Cents | 7 |
| Found: Another WI&M Cabooses | 8 |

Mission Statement of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway History Preservation Group:

"To locate, preserve, and archive all items of a historical nature relating to the history of the WI&M Ry; to issue publications on this and related subjects; to encourage public interest in the history of the WI&M and the Potlatch Lumber Company; and, to acquire objects and property appropriate for a museum and/or any of the purposes listed above."

THE WHITE PINE ROUTE QUARTERLY

The Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway
History Preservation Group, Inc.



The last car of a westbound freight crosses Bridge 2 near Kennedy Ford, ID in September 1976. These steel cupola-type cabooses were rare on the Milwaukee Road, but this particular one was common as dirt on the WI&M for many years. Photo: Carl Sonner

The Milwaukee Road's WI&M Caboose

By Carl Sonner

In 1969, the Milwaukee Road assigned one of its cupola type cabooses, number 01603, to the WI&M. It replaced the older WI&M X-5, a wooden caboose of NP design, which was retired at this time. The 01603 was somewhat of an oddity on the Milwaukee Road, where most cabooses were of the bay window type.

I first encountered the 01603 on my first visit to the WI&M in late August 1975. This was a Saturday, so the train was not running. I found the caboose sandwiched between freight cars on the scale track across from the Potlatch depot. The Milwaukee Road herald had been re-

moved from the sides and it had no markings of ownership. On a later trip, I learned that magnetic WI&M heralds had been made locally and were used for a time on the caboose, and also on a highway vehicle. These heralds followed the Milwaukee's tilted rectangle style but were white with black lettering that proclaimed "THE W.I.&M. RAILWAY".

The Milwaukee Road heralds were never returned to the sides of caboose 01603. A WI&M employees gave me one of the heralds at the end of Milwaukee Road operations, and it now resides in my collection of WI&M memorabilia. Perhaps