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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 it's ownership of today.

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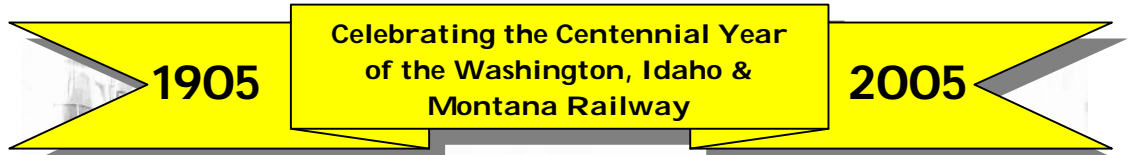
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Mission Statement of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway History Preservation Group:

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"To locate, preserve, and archive all items of a historical nature relating to the history of the WI&MRy; 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 Potlatch, a 12-seat rail bus with baggage and mail compartments, served the Washington, Idaho & Montana Ry. from its delivery in 1937 until the railroad's mail contract was dropped in 1955. This builder's photo of The Potlatch was taken just outside the plant where it was built in Fairmont, Minnesota. Part of the Rippe grain elevator, seen in the background, still stands today.

Photo courtesy Potlatch Corporation Historical Photographs © 1999

### Fairmont Employees Remember:

# The Potlatch

By Thomas E. Burg

In late October of 2004, Don Somers and I traveled to Fairmont, MN to learn more about "The Potlatch" from those who were there when it was built. The Potlatch was built by Fairmont Railway Motors, now a part of Harsco Track Technologies. The Fairmont plant now makes Hy-Rail adapters for trucks/autos and rail grinding units (sometimes up to entire trains) for railroads worldwide. The Fairmont speeder, once its mainstay, has entirely given way to the Hy-Rail vehicle. Lenny Tvedten, executive director of the Martin County Historical Society in Fairmont, arranged for former Fairmont employees Don Milbrandt (Purchasing Manager retiring in 1989), Frank Kasper (retiring as vice-president in 1996) and Bob Moore (retiring in 1985) to meet with us at the museum, and made its resources available for our