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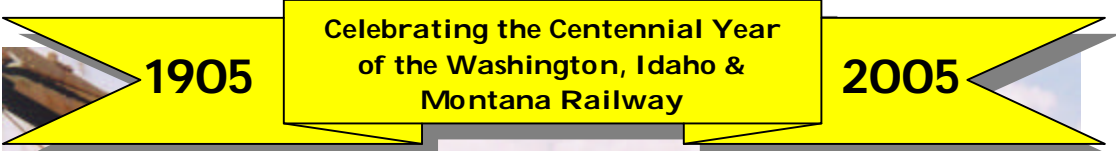
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Mission Statement of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway History Preservation Group:

"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.



This rusting Marion Loader rests alongside the road in Elk River, Idaho. A sign, placed alongside the loader, explains the important role played by equipment like this in harvesting, hauling and cutting timber. Tom Burg photo

Elk River Relics

The chopping of axes, the chuff of steam engines, and the whine of mill machinery have long ceased to echo from the hills surrounding Elk River, Idaho. But in many ways, Elk River resembles its old self more closely than other nearby towns once dominated by Potlatch Lumber Company sawmills. Many relics from the glory days still stand today, reminding residents and visitors of Elk River's short but colorful history.

That history began nearly a century ago when directors of the Potlatch Lumber Company realized that al-

though their new mill at Potlatch was the largest lumber mill in the world, it still wasn't big enough!

In purchasing the rights to log thousands of acres of prime timberland, Bill Deary and the directors of the Potlatch Lumber Co. faced a dilemma of their own making. The State of Idaho owned the land in question and sold the timber rights, but the legislature stood firm that any logging be complete within twenty years. When the Potlatch officers began adding up the total acreage and expected timber yield, they estimated that their mill at Potlatch,