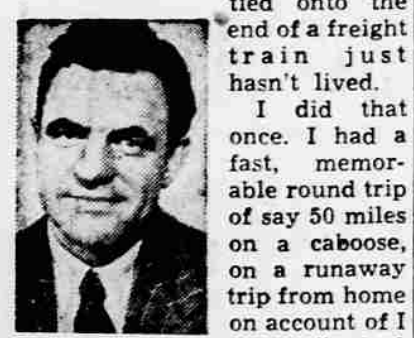


A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington —(U.P.)— Any old timer who hasn't sat around a pot-bellied stove in a caboose tied onto the end of a freight train just hasn't lived.



I did that once. I had a fast, memorable round trip of say 50 miles on a caboose, on a runaway trip from home on account of I had flunked 7th grade arithmetic.

I've looked one up again and the caboose has changed. No longer do caboose stoves have bellies like Jackie Gleason. Caboose are rather refined things now.

Reedsport Local Asked To Show Cause

Portland —(U.P.)— U. S. District Judge Gus J. Solomon yesterday ordered Reedsport local 7-140 of the International Woodworkers of America, CIO, to show cause why an injunction should not be issued to prevent the union's engaging in alleged unfair labor practices in a dispute with Firchau Bros. Logging company.

The National Labor Relations Board charged last month that the union is conducting a secondary boycott by inducing employees of Long-Bell Lumber company not to use, handle or haul any of the products of the logging concern.

The show cause hearing was set for June 3. Judge Solomon also directed the union to file by May 31 an answer to charges made by the NLRB in its petition for an injunction.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day

tions and the like. Anecdotes about the little men who made railroads great.

Whole Chapter
There is a whole chapter on the hind side of the train. This volume, edited by B. A. Botkin and Alvin F. Harlow, tells us that the caboose is known among the railmen by a lot of other names, "some not printable."

It seems the caboose is known in polite railroad society as a crummy, a bedhouse, a doghouse, bouncer, buggy, chariot, glory wagon, go-cart, monkey wagon, palace, parlor, brainbox, zoo, diner, kitchen, and shanty.

Even the word "caboose," itself, is sort of a stepchild, and isn't American at all. According to the railroad experts, it is a conglomeration of a number of tongues. It first appeared as "cambrose" or "camboose" in the logs of French railroaders during the last century. The word caboose first appeared in English literature in 1859 during a lawsuit against the New York and Harlem Railway. In the courtroom, somebody mentioned that "the men had erected a caboose in which to cook their meals." The phrase had nothing to do with the lawsuit, whatever it was about, but the word "caboose" was born.

Cupola Added
It is interesting to learn how the cupola was added to the caboose. According to the rail folks, it happened in the summer of 1863. A conductor named T. B. Watson was assigned to a regular freight run between Cedar Rapids and Clinton, Pa. He was the temporary captain of a rather shabby boxcar, which somehow had come by a circular hole in the roof. Mr. Watson, being something of a comic, approaches the yards at Clinton, stood on a packing case, stuck his head through the hole in the top, lifted his lid and bowed to the other railroaders. There was a two-foot clearance above the roof of his car. He talked the master mechanic into glassing in his observation perch. And there was the first cupola.

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