



16

17

23

17

24

25

3

10

9

8

1

2

4

7

6

5

12

21

22

9

East end of GN's wires

Appleyard in Wenatchee, Wash., in 1947

About halfway between Seattle and Spokane on the former Great Northern main line sits the Columbia River valley town of Wenatchee, Wash., first reached by GN in 1893 and today boasting 30,000 people. This is apple-growing country, and when GN opened its new, longer electrification—a 1920 plan of President Ralph Budd—east from Skykomish 73 miles to Wenatchee in fall 1928, GN named its 50-acre terminal 2½ miles south of town Appleyard. The facility was finished in late 1922. This electrification was part of GN's project to build its third, 7.79-mile-long, Cascade Tunnel, which was dedicated January 12, 1929. This 1947 morning company photo from a bluff shows a freight arriving from Spokane behind FT diesels and another up toward the town, departing behind electric motors. A close look seems to reveal two steam engines, one whose tender sticks out from a roundhouse stall and another, in steam, up by the yard office. GN quit electric operation in 1956. Today, Amtrak's *Empire Builder* still stops in town, and BNSF changes crews here and uses 13 yard tracks for local business and to stage stack and vehicle trains. However, all the old terminal buildings are gone, many—already not in use—destroyed in an August 6, 1974, Burlington Northern tank-car explosion that killed two people, made a crater, and did \$10 million in damage.

Photo: GN. Research: William R. Edgar, Robert L. Edgar, Cordell Newby, Phil Gjevre, Jerry Hilton, Great Northern Rwy. Historical Society

- 1 Roundhouse, 24 stalls, with 100-foot turntable
- 2 Electric locomotive shop, 4 tracks, built 1925-28
- 3 Water towers, oil tank (behind left water tower)
- 4 Maintenance-of-way equipment tracks
- 5 Caboose tracks • 6 Freight-car repair tracks
- 7 Company storehouse
- 8 Crew hotel (privately operated)
- 9 Passenger main (top, to Seattle; bottom, Spokane)
- 10 Coal-chute site/sand area • 11 Yard office
- 12 Classification tracks
- 13 Reefer heater house • 14 Track scale
- 15 Columbia River
- 16 Squilchuck Creek (flows beneath yard)
- 17 Powerhouse (or boiler house)
- 18 Columbia Ice & Cold Storage Co. • 19 Ice house
- 20 Ice unloading track • 21 Icing platform
- 22 Malaga-Alcoa Highway (Wenatchee Ave.)
- 23 Slaughterhouse complex (non-railroad)
- 24 Section-crew quarters • 25 Machine shop
- 26 Downtown Wenatchee