Railroad Workers in Seattle

This annotated bibliography covers resources that will help one write a detail paper on Seattle Railroad workers in addition to many railroad workers throughout America during the Later part of the 19th and leading into the 20th century.


In Death Rode the Rails Mark Aldrich explores the evolution of railroad safety in the United States. He describes a variety of incidents and accounts with spectacular train wrecks, the smaller accidents in shops and yards which devastated the lives of workers and their families, and the deaths of thousands of women and children killed while walking on or crossing the street-grade tracks. This book gives a perspective on how the railroad affected people life through poor safety requirements, which company thought were to expensive to justify implementing. This would give a good perspective on the threat the railroad had on it's workers and their family.


Kurt E. Armbruster writes a well organized and impressive historical account on the arrival of train to Seattle. The book covers the growth of its railways, economic struggle, urban aspirations, colorful historic figures. The books also
includes very helpful pictures that displays railroad workers.


This book covers the history of the Black railroad worker. The book focuses on the struggle of all of the black workers in trying to achieve equal rights as workers of the railroad system. It recaps the experience of black locomotive firemen, brakemen, porters, dining car waiters and their fight against racism. This book is a good account of the attitudes of the Black railroad worker during the 19th


The article mainly focuses on the establishment of the first own and operated city ran street-railway system. It goes into depth on the politics that were behind the accusation of the rail system and the advantages of having the system in Seattle. The system was thought to help supply transport for shipyard workers in the greater part of Seattle. In addition in covers the wage increase the rail-road worker received after the city took over the control of the rail road system.

Grande, Walter R.. Northwests Own Railway Spokane Portland and Seattle Railway: The Main Line. Montreal: Grande Pr, 1992. This book gives a outstanding history of the development of the main line from Seattle and Spokane WA. It has helpful pictures of the construction of the tracks and commentary from workers who were a part of connecting the two cities.

Hazardous Business - The Railroads Come to Texas - Page 1 - Texas State Library."
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/exhibits/railroad/beginnings/page1.html>. This website provides great pictures and captures the accounts of the dangers many men faced while building the railroads in Texas. It will be helpful for this paper to take in account the dangers and work condition that railroad workers dealt with.

Houk, Randy. "Railroad Timeline History." Pacific Southwest Railway Museum. 1 Apr. 2008. 2 Mar. 2009 <http://www.sdrm.org/history/timeline/>. This site provides a detailed time-line of important dates for railroad workers and there struggle for better working conditions.


The picture displays he engineer and the locomotive he was assigned too.
The picture gives a good glimpse of the workers during the later part of the 19th century.

Longworth, George. Worker Replacing Timber Trestle with Stone Retaining Wall 1897. Seattle Washington

This picture displays railroad workers replacing old timber structure with a more durable rock wall. One can assume that this sort of work was happening around the general Seattle area.


Mainly the article covers the population growth between Seattle and Vancouver.
It describes the industry that were becoming more established and the workers they attracted. It goes in depth of the increase of the population of Seattle with many people coming to work on the rail-road in addition working in the rail-road yard.


<http://www.trainmuseum.org/default.asp>.

This site has useful resources. It has access to it's library and archives in addition it has valuable photos that would be a good addition to anyone's research paper.


Taylor in this article describes the working condition and living condition of Japanese and African Americans during the late 19th and early part of the 20th century. He describes how the Black rail road porters established a recreation center, ‘The Opening of the Sleeping Car Porters Club, an employment and recreation center for black railroad porters on lower Jackson Street in 1892, symbolized the emerging economic and racial character of the area.” (405) This is helpful in understanding the population in which were working the rail road system and the economic gains of this population

Road, mid-century the thriving jazz scene in the city's Skid. "History of Seattle - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 13 Dec.


Ronda, James P., and Carlos A. Schwantes. The West the Railroads Made. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008.  This book covers the history of what the railroads brought to the West. The access allowed for many nuances to occur with many cultures coming across the country. It has commentary of railroad workers that could be useful.

Solomon, Brian. Working on the Railroad. Stillwater: Voyageur Press, 2006.  Working on the Railroad" is an explanation of all the jobs that make up railroad operations and how those jobs have evolved over time. Solomon explains the very complex tasks of railroad in a simple way that you can understand.

Wood, Charles; and Dorothy Wood. The Great Northern Railway - a Pictorial Study. Myrtle Creek, OR: Pacific Fast Mail, 1979.  This book is a collection of pictures that were taken during the late 1800's and into the early 1900's of railroad workers. It gives a good profile of who were the faces of the tracks.

Eugene Debs and the American movement, Dir. Renner Wunderlich. Perf. Shubert
Sebree. VHS. Cambridge Documentary Films, 1977. This documentary covers the struggles of railroad workers as they strike against the work condition and the brutal government reaction to the workers' attempts to organize.


1890s. WSRHS Home Page. 24 Feb. 2009 <http://www.wsrhs.org/date1890s.htm>. This site gives great dates of construction of many railroad lines and important labor movements around the railroad system.