

THE MANIFEST October 2015



Hello everyone, I apologize for the long delay in getting the newsletter out.

It has been a very busy summer, and we are coming down to our last two run days. Our last run day in September was a record for the food stand. Despite the parking situation, we are not doing as badly as we had feared.

This coming month, November, I am going to put a photo timeline of our run season. I have some pictures from the beginning of the season from Ken and Donna, if anyone has any more to share please email them to me or give them to me at the next run day. I will return them (eventually) ☺

Our next meeting on October 13, 2015, our entertainment will be "Murder on the Southern Pacific," a video recently produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting about the 1923 Tunnel 13 train robbery. It includes interviews with several Southern Oregon Historians. Sounds like an enjoyable film, hope many of you can join us for our meeting at 7:00pm, October 6, 2015.

I am adding a story that many of you may have seen, but it has been a while. If you have any articles or stories you want me to add in November, please email the info.

Historic Alaska Railroad Steam Locomotive Arrives in Anchorage

By Ted Land



Steam engine 557, a 69-year-old Alaska Railroad locomotive, rolled into Anchorage for the first time in many years Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012.

“It’s a pretty big moment for Alaska and the railroad,” said David Blazejewski, the Alaska Railroad’s transportation superintendent.

Blazejewski gathered along the Seward Highway with several other railroad fans to see the locomotive make its way from Whittier to Anchorage on a flatbed railcar, towed by a pair of diesel locomotives.

Engine 557 was the last regularly-scheduled steam locomotive to run on the Alaska Railroad, before it was

retired in the 1960's and sent to a museum down in Washington State.

The man who owned 557 passed away recently and some buyers up North decided to jump at the opportunity to bring the machine back to Alaska.

The owners of Lynden Transport purchased the locomotive and donated it to the Alaska Railroad.

As part of the deal, the railroad now has eight years to refurbish the engine and get it back into passenger service or the locomotive goes back to the donors.

“Should be able to do it sooner than that for sure, we'll be shooting for 2013. Whether we make it or not, not positive, but we can do it,” said Chris Aadnesen, the railroad's president and CEO.

Perhaps no one is looking forward to the next ride more than 89-year-old Weaver Franklin, who was among several people to gather at the downtown rail depot to greet 557 upon its arrival.

Franklin was a locomotive engineer and fireman on the Alaska Railroad in the 1940s, who says he used to run engine 557 and others like her.

“I got a lot of memories of that thing, it's quite an experience,” he said.

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, (c-manley@charter.net), or call, (541-291-1705), with the details.

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