

THE MANIFEST

November 2016



Greetings!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Halloween, and are enjoying our fall weather (personally, I prefer summer☺). As most of you probably are aware, Measure 15-164 did not pass. This is extremely disappointing, but it is what it is.

Our December meeting will include nominations and election of board members. In our November meeting Bruce, Chris, Jerry, all expressed a desire to run again for their respective positions and E. Don was a maybe. Ric was not present, but he may wish to also, I am unsure on that one.

Our annual railroad show is just a little less than 2 weeks away. If you have not signed up for a job, please do so. As of our November meeting I believe there were 12 job spots open. The show should prove to be interesting and exciting, as we are going to have it in our new venue, at the Jackson County Expo. I am looking forward to it. Hope to see many of you there and again if you can please sign up for a job at the show.

We all know the story of Tunnel 13, but I recently saw it on the history channel and it amused me. So I decided to write up my own article on this robbery. Hope you enjoy.

OREGON'S GREATEST TRAIN ROBBERY THAT WASN'T

On Oct. 11, 1923, on a mountainside south of Ashland, 23-year-old twins, Ray and Roy DeAutremont, and their little

brother, Hugh (none of which were the brightest crayons in the box) put their plan into the works to rob a train.

Long story short, the DeAutremont brothers came from a large family and had lived in several western states. However, in the summer of 1922 ended up in Oregon (lucky us). They were penniless and not too thrilled, apparently, with the prospect of actually going out and getting a job and earning an honest living. Therefore, what's left, oh yes we will become criminals.

Now robbing trains did not occur to them at first, banks, that was the ticket. The twins decided to rob a bank in Yaacolt, WA. As the story goes, they were across the street from the bank getting ready to make their move, when a large car pulled up in front of the bank and blocked their view of the bank. Oh, but things were about to get worse, as they watched several men exit the vehicle, enter the bank, rob the bank, and speed off down the road, leaving the brothers in shock and still broke. In Cannon Beach, they cased a candy store, perhaps they decided to start small and work their way up. Alas, our two hapless crooks fell asleep in a ditch nearby, leaving the elderly owner to lock up as usual and go about his way.

At some point after this, the twins were joined by little brother Hugh. The three of them decided that robbing a train would be much more lucrative than either banks or candy stores (now remember I said I did not believe they were the brightest crayons in the box). They went to work in the woods, (working for a living!) saved their money ready themselves for their greatest robbery yet, which would not have been hard considering their track record. By the end of summer 1923, they were ready.

The set their sights on the Southern Pacific Train No. 13 from Seattle to San Francisco, known as the "Gold Special" because it often carried gold bullion and large sums of cash. They chose the SP Tunnel 13 high in the Siskiyou Mountains to make their move.

Now, much to their delight, I'm sure, the first part of their scheme came off as planned. The twins, Ray and Roy jumped aboard the train as it went up the hill to the north end of the tunnel. After reading up on these guys, I find it amazing that they figured out the train might be going slower uphill!, but I digress. Once aboard, confronted the engineer and fireman with pistols in hand, ordering them to halt the train, just as the

locomotive was exiting the south end of the tunnel, where little brother, Hugh, stood waiting armed with his shotgun.

The twins fastened a suitcase full of dynamite to the mail car door, which was directly behind the engine tender, and just inside the tunnel. With great anticipation, I'm sure, they retreated to their preset detonator spot, and Roy hit the plunger.

Now like I said, not the brightest crayons in the box. They apparently had no idea how much dynamite they would need, or considered the fact that it was directly behind the tender and still inside the tunnel. Well, it blew the car into bits, set the contents on fire and ripped the poor mail clerk to shreds.

Clark Williams, a reporter for The Oregonian, later observed that the mail car "had been reduced to kindling." The blast blew out the windows of the passenger cars in the half-mile-long tunnel, filling them with acrid smoke.

Apparently, our three bumbling crooks did not do their research into what the train was actually carrying that day. They were under the impression there was at least \$40,000.00 aboard the train, a lot of money in 1923. They was not, and even if there had been, it would have most likely been destroyed.

Now, up until now these three were simply three idiots trying to make a quick buck. However, in their panic, they shoot and kill the engineer, fireman and brakeman before fleeing into the woods. Remember, the blast has already killed the clerk. Now they are still three bumbling fools, but they have added murder to their repertoire.

Some nearby rail construction crews heard the blast and rushed to help. They found the four dead men and quickly summoned for help. Soon lawmen and vigilantes of every shape, color and size were on the hunt for the brothers. They did manage to become famous, as they appeared in the headlines in papers across the nation.

Somehow, I'm still amazed how, because up until now they had not shown a lot of intelligence, they managed to hide out in the forest and eventually make their way to California, where they went their separate ways. The hunt for these three became known as the most massive manhunt in U.S. History. It was said that some 9 million wanted posters appeared all over the world, yet they managed to avoid capture for nearly

4 years! Goes to show you that even bumbling idiots can get lucky once in a while.

Hugh had joined the Army under an alias and was apprehended in the Philippines. Ray and Roy were arrested in Steubenville, Ohio, where they were of all things, working for a living.

They were all three returned to Jackson County tried and sentenced to life in the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Hugh was paroled in 1958, moved to San Francisco and died of stomach cancer less than a year later.

Roy suffered from schizophrenia and was transferred to the Oregon State Hospital. He was released in 1983 and died in 1984.

Ray was paroled in 1961, lived in Eugene and died in 1984.

There you have it folks,

OREGON'S GREATEST TRAIN ROBBERY THAT WASN'T

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 10/11/16

- Called to Order 7:25 p.m.
- No minutes due to no meeting last month
- Treasurer's Report accepted as is.
- Reports
 - Medco 4 – Jerry has the air pump almost completed and he has been in contact with the machinist up north, who has volunteered to help. He has not had the time as of yet, but we are hoping he will soon.
 - Newsletter – No new updates.
 - Butte Falls – It is moving forward, putting together a proposal for an easement to

present to Weyerhaeuser. Both the city and county are on board with the idea.

- Old Business

- None

- New Business

Two new members were voted in, Earl Weiberg and J.R. Donovan, both locals and regulars at the railroad park.

- Good of the Order

- We are awaiting word on the grant, which Alice graciously put together for us, to the Cultural Coalition for monies to help with the repair and painting of the CB&Q.

In addition, a local chapter of the Eagle Scouts has expressed an interest in helping us with that project; Ric and Dan are looking into that prospect.

- We need to get the wigwag in place. Ric is going to handle getting it painted, etc. so it will look nice when we open in April to the public.
- In addition, Ric and Tony are looking into a switch stand that they may purchase and donate to the park.

- Meeting adjourned 815 p.m.

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

At this point, I am uncertain as to the show that will be shown at our December meeting; however, I am certain Allan will have something interesting for us.

If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, me at chrismanleysteam@gmail.com/ call, (541-291-1705), with the details.

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