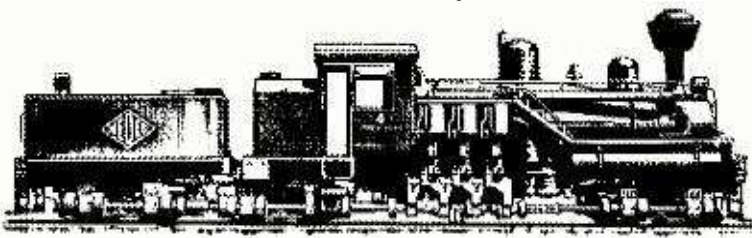


The Manifest



December, 2011

Official Publication of the Southern
Oregon Chapter of the National Railway
Historical Society

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Medford, Oregon 97501

CONTRIBUTING IN THIS ISSUE: Bill Miller, Larry Tuttle

If you have not done so already, please contact me via email, adobney@gmail.com or phone, 541-582-0605 and indicate your newsletter delivery preference: email PDF format, or hardcopy via snail mail. I am also using this information to update our membership records. Thanks.....Allen.

The Writing's on the Wall:

By BILL MILLER

In the pecking order of traveling souls, railroad hoboes were sure they were the kings of the road. Independent and unwilling to stay in one place for very long, these men, and a few women, would rather sleep in a swaying boxcar than in the warmest bed in town. No one knows why these restless folk called themselves hoboes, but long before 1891, when the word first appeared in a national magazine, hobo campfires along railroad tracks were lighting up the night. "They are a strange species of human kind," wrote one Oregon reporter in 1889, "and are indigenous to America."



Early on, romanticized as "Western gypsies weary from the day's work of counting the ties," hoboes soon were seen as the root cause of all trouble in a town. "The petty burglaries and attempted holdups have become too numerous of late," said a Mail Tribune reporter in 1910, "and the 11:20 train last night was a real hobo special." When arrested and brought to court, these men usually gave their real names, but on the rails, they rode with a nickname.

Hoboes began marking their passage through the Rogue Valley not long after the Southern Pacific Railroad completed its line over the

Siskiyou Mountains into California in 1887. As many travelers do, they pulled out a knife and carved their name in wood. The most convenient wood in Ashland was the railroad's section tool house, a shed that before it was rescued by the Southern Oregon Chapter of National Railway Historical Society, sat along the rails in the southern portion of the Ashland Yard near North Mountain Avenue.

When volunteers moved the shed to the Medford Railroad Park in 1996 and began its restoration, they discovered more than a century of hoboes had left their mark on the shed's walls. Most of the carvings were on the eastern wall, which faced away from the depot because no one was likely to see the deed being done.



Although the building could have been built in 1887, there were too names to be sure. The earliest confirmed signature found was from 1893, "Jim Slick, 8-13-93." "The Rocksie Kid" left his mark in 1899, but nearby the "3 CCC Kid" signed without a date and may well have been an ex-"Bush Marine" from Roosevelt's Conservation Corps of the 1930s. There's a "Sac. Kid," a "Frisco Kid" and, if you can forgive his spelling, the "Milwakee Kid."

"Carrie Nation" seems to be the only woman's name on the walls, but because there are more than 200 carvings, it's hard to be sure. If a Carrie Nation was here in February 1911, we can confidently say she wasn't the hatchet-wielding anti-saloon activist. More likely, someone was commemorating the real Carrie Nation, who was sick at the time, local newspapers reported, and would die just four months later.

NEW MISSION & 2012 GOALS:

Over the past month Larry Tuttle has led a project with our board and membership to update and approve a new mission statement and 2012 goals for our organization:

Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society Mission

To preserve and interpret Southern Oregon railroad history and historical artifacts for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations through a museum and operating equipment.

Strategic Plan -- 2012 and Beyond

Southern Oregon Chapter/National Railway Historical Society, Medford, Oregon

- **Excursion Railroad -- Build and operate a steam powered excursion railroad in Jackson County, Oregon using locomotives and other equipment once used in Southern Oregon.**
 - **In the year 2012:**
 - Continue to explore opportunities for short and long term location
 - Ongoing development of community support
 - Develop and implement a training program for train crews
 - **In the following years:**
 - Acquire and develop a facility area of 5 acres or more, adjacent to live rail
 - Build 3 or more miles of track
 - Construct a two stall engine house
 - Equip a machine shop
 - Erect a car shop building
 - Acquire and equip additional passenger cars for operation
 - Build a restoration shop
 - Build a depot
 - Construct crew quarters

- **Locomotive & Car Restoration -- Equipment which is on display now and/or to be restored for use on the excursion railroad and interpretive display at the Medford Railroad Park**
 - **In the year 2012:**
 - Complete the boiler rebuild of our Willamette Locomotive, the Medco 4:
 - Develop and procure funding for the remaining work
 - Continue work on sub-assemblies
 - Repair Dining Car Roof
 - **In the following years**
 - Inventory and catalog Baldwin parts
 - Refurbish one of our roller bearing equipped cars for excursion train service
 - Restore OC&E caboose
 - Restore GN caboose
 - Paint ex-military box cars
 - Small tool purchase (maintenance and construction)
 - Acquire (go get) Sumpter motor car
 - Build or acquire a second motor car trailer
 - Rebuild S-2 motor car
 - Repair CN motor car

- **Park Presence and Development -- Maintain and improve our contributions to the public experience at the Medford Railroad Park**
 - **In the year 2012:**
 - Develop displays and library Mack Walch Museum and Archives Building
 - Move existing park fence back to enlarge our working area
 - Extend Motor Car track
 - Develop blacksmith shop display
 - Continue improvements to area, notably interpretive signs

- **Park Presence and Development (continued)**
 - **In the following years:**
 - Increase trackage
 - Turnouts
 - Storage and work tracks
 - Motor car track

- Cleanup and organize area and equipment
 - Improve grounds
- **Museum and Archives -- Interpretive displays of historic documents and smaller items from Southern Oregon's and Northern California's railroad history**
 - **In the year 2012:**
 - Appoint Museum Curator
 - Finish cataloging archival materials
- **Large Static Displays -- Equipment and buildings on display to the public**
 - **In the year 2012:**
 - Complete remaining details on Flanger
 - Clean up and repair passenger waiting bench
 - Retrieve Woodville depot doors and lumber
 - **In the following years:**
 - Erect Wig wag crossing signal
 - Reassemble Woodville depot
 - Finish remaining details on 1107 caboose
- **Organizational Issues**
 - **In the year 2012:**
 - Recruit and train docents for staffing of our exhibits at the Railroad Park.
 - Recruit and train staffing for the concession stand.
 - Continue fund raising
 - Ongoing web site updates
 - Develop members' and other interested parties' email list
 - Increase active membership
 - **In the following years:**
 - Continue to develop community support
 - Dispose of (sell/trade) surplus property
 - Investigate for acquisition: Local equipment
 - Signal parts – Inventory -- keep and organize or dispose
 - Develop a complete inventory of our acquisitions, including value and location.

GROUND BREAKING:

On October 11th, 2011 the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the NRHS held a ground breaking ceremony to start the construction of their new Oregon Rail Heritage Center in Portland, Oregon that will house both SP 4449 and SP&S 400. To the right & below are artist's concepts of the new facility now under construction:





MEMBERSHIP MEETING ENTERTAINMENT:

I am also now responsible for scheduling entertainment for our monthly membership meetings. If you have railroad slides or videos that you would like to present, please email me at (adobney@gmail.com) or call me at 541-582-0605 with the details and I will put you on the schedule.

NEED FUTURE ARTICLES:

If you are working on an article for the newsletter and need information from other members, send me a short summary of your needs. I will publish those needs in the newsletter. Also I am in need of railroad photos taken in the Rogue Valley. Main line, short lines, locomotives, trains, cars, & facilities from any era are welcome. I would like to start publishing such photos in the newsletter with a short description or story. Contact me at adobney@gmail.com or 541-582-0605. Thanks.....Allen

BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Southern Oregon Chapter – National Railway Historical Society
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Minutes of October 25, 2011

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President E. Don Pettit
2. Roll Call: E. Don Pettit, Larry Tuttle, Jerry Hellinga, John Powell and two other members were present. Ric Walch was absent
3. Consent of the Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of the September 27, 2011 Minutes. Larry Tuttle distributed the minutes of the September 27, 2011 Board Meeting. Jerry Hellinga moved to accept the minutes as read. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report: Jerry Hellinga presented the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by consensus.
6. Committee Reports: Larry Tuttle reported that the minutes for the past six years have been assembled in a binder and will be in the Chapter's office in the Museum and that the Chapter's web site update is well underway. Allen Dobney is working on rendering back issues of the Manifest into a format which can be put on the web site. Upcoming Chapter events include the election for the Board of Directors at the December 13 meeting; there will be no Board meeting in December.
7. Old Business:
 - a. Raising Money for Medco 4: Jerry Hellinga reported about \$96,000 in the Medco 4 fund. He'll be applying to the Oregon Heritage Commission by Friday, October 28 and Trains Magazine by Monday, October 31. Regarding his challenge to raise an additional \$500 from 25 members: while less than 25 members rose to the challenge, \$640 was raised, Jerry considers that the challenge was met and presented the Chapter with his check for \$5,000. An additional \$17,000 is still needed to for the boiler work.
 - b. Nominations for 2012 Officers: The 2011 officers have agreed to run again; no other members have as yet expressed an interest in running for the Board.
8. New Business
 - a. Review/Revise Mission Statement: Larry Tuttle talked about the need to revise the Chapter's Mission Statement in order to make it more concise and reflect the mission of the Chapter without excess verbiage. Discussion centered on the three main things the Chapter does: presence at the Railroad Park, historic equipment restoration and the eventual operation of a tourist railroad with this equipment. Larry and will work up a revised Mission Statement and invited any other Chapter member to contribute their version of a revised Mission Statement as well. They will be presented to the membership for a consideration at the November 8 Membership meeting.
 - b. Update Strategic Plan: Larry Tuttle distributed copies of the Chapter's Strategic Plan which was adopted in 2009 and is in need of updating. Each point of the Strategic Plan was considered with a number of points dropped because they had been completed, some were modified, others were dropped since they were unrealistic and new points added to reflect new goals. The revised Strategic Plan will be distributed to the Membership and discussed, modified and voted upon at the November 8 Membership meeting.
9. Good of the Order: Larry Tuttle suggested that we place the membership application online. Jerry Hellinga reported on a program whereby the Southern Oregon Historical Society provides technical assistance through classes on museum practices. They will be held on Monday's from 10:00 through Noon at the SOHS Library (old Penny's Building in downtown Medford); more information online. Allen Dobney reported that his wife visited the Railroad Park recently and commented that it's hard to find things as there's a lack of uniform and complete signage. "Road Signs" were suggested as a remedy.
10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Larry Tuttle, Secretary

Next General Meeting: November 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Next Regular Board Meeting: November 22, 2011 at 7:00 PM

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

December 13, 2011, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: NRHS membership meeting. Elections for our 2012 officers will be held. Allen Dobney will present a slide show on the Union Pacific from Portland to Omaha from 1968 to 1974.

January 10, 2012, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: Annual NRHS membership meeting. Installation of officers, Jetty Hellinga will present the annual report. Special entertainment is being planned, look for details in the January Manifest.

January 24, 2012, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: NRHS Board Meeting.

NOTABLE NON-CHAPTER EVENTS:

November & December, 2011 weekends Mt. Hood Railroad Polar Express, Hood River, OR.
http://www.mthoodrr.com/Polar_Express/polar_mt_hood.html

May 5, 2012 - PNR-PCR NMRA Convention plans a day at the RR park. For more information go to: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/>

June 27 – July 1, 2012 - The N-scale Convention, also in Medford, Red Lion, will be asking for a day at the park during this week. For more information go to:
<http://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/>

July 7-11, 2012 - Great Northern Historical Society 2012 Convention will be in Klamath Falls. For more information, email: ask@gnrhs.org

If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, (adobney@gmail.com), or call, (541-582-0605), with the details.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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