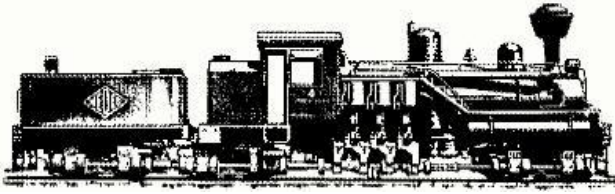


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The Manifest



The New Year is upon us and our railroad park season is just around the corner. I know that Nancy has already started with the planting, thank you very much Nancy and Rick for all your assistance in helping maintain the grounds.

We have several items on the agenda that need to be accomplished at the park, new roof on the concession stand among them. I believe that will take place as soon as the rain stops (although this is Oregon ☺)

Just a reminder, if you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as you can. Thank you.

HOBO TRIP TO ST. LOUIS

I grew up on the last block of South Main Street in Waurika, Oklahoma. One of my dearest friends lived 3 doors from us. His name was David Sullivan. He was raised at his grandparents, named Cutler, and used their name until he was about 18 years old. We called him "Skinny Cutler." One year, in the late 1930s, Skinny came back from visiting his aunt in St Louis, Missouri. He told me many stories about St Louis, and great things that he had seen and how well his aunt and uncle had treated him. As time went on, he persuaded me to go with him to St Louis. So, one summer, we caught a freight train and headed that way.

First stop was El Reno, Oklahoma and we rode into town sitting in the door of an empty boxcar with our feet dangling out in the breeze because we were young and dumb about the "rules of the road. We got off the train and found out which track the St Louis train would depart. Soon, a train came chugging along on that track heading out of town. We didn't have much time to check it out and we caught the first tank car in a line of about 6 tankers. We were standing on the platform that runs around the tanker, and we passed by a little building with a guy standing in front of it. When he saw us he motioned very emphatically for us to get off the train. We both knew what he meant, but we waved at him and grinned because we were on the train and we thought he would not be able to get us off. I kept looking back at him until he came towards the train and I could not see him anymore. I held on to the pipe that ran around the car and leaned way out and looked back and I saw he was getting on the train about two tank cars back of us. I told Skinny that we better get off and we moved around to the other side of the train. It had not picked up much speed yet and we were able to get off on the other side. When I got a little ways away from the train, I squatted down and looked back underneath the cars as the train went by. Soon, I saw the railroad man on the other side on the ground and he saw me. He had a pistol in his hand and it was pointed toward me. It was only a revolver, but it looked like a cannon! He took aim and fired at me. I couldn't hear the gun because of the noise of the train, but I saw the fire and smoke come out of the barrel right towards me. It scared the hell out of me! I took off running in the same direction as the train was moving and caught the train about 5 cars away. Ran the fastest 100-yard dash that I had ever ran in my life. He was probably shooting blanks to scare us, and he certainly did that. Skinny caught the train also, and he was almost as frightened as I. We rode those tank cars, standing up holding on to that pipe, all the way to Kansas City. When we arrived in Kansas City, many hours later, we were very tired, hungry and thirsty. We found a water faucet and drank our fill of water. Then, we found a little grocery

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store just outside the railroad yards. We had a couple of bucks, so we got a can of pork n' beans and a one-pound box of soda crackers. We had a can opener. So, we took the crackers out of the box, opened and flattened it and dumped the beans on top of the box.. We ate the beans, picking them up with the crackers and our fingers. We had found out which track the St Louis train departed on, and, sure enough, a train came chugging out of the yards on that track and it was picking up speed. We both wolfed down the rest of the crackers and beans and started running to catch the train. I could always outrun Skinny, so I was a little ahead of him. I managed to catch the first car of a line of flat cars carrying farm equipment. As I got up on the car, I looked back down the train and Skinny was running as hard as he could go about 2 cars back from me, and the train continued to pick up speed. Just then the train went into a left curve and soon I could no longer see back any further than the next car on the train. The track finally straightened out, and I could see back on the 7 or 8 flatcars, but there was no sign of Skinny. The line of flatcars was hauling farm equipment, mostly combines. I walked back on the cars looking for him. There must have been about 8 flatcars and I could not find him on any one of them. I retraced my route back to the first car, still looking, and fearing the worst, that Skinny had been unable to catch the train.

It soon started getting dark, so I got inside one of the combines, out of the wind, and tried to get comfortable. It was then that I realized what a predicament I was in. Here I was speeding through the night, alone, on a freight train, bound for St Louis. I had no idea what Skinny's aunt's name or address was in St Louis. I had no idea when or if I would ever see Skinny again. I would have to get off in St Louis and catch a train back home.

When it started to get daylight, I stood up and leaned out the opening in the combine and looked back at the cars behind me. As it got lighter, I thought I saw something in a combine about 2 cars back. Soon I could discern that it was Skinny looking out an

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opening and looking for me. Boy, what a relief! We got together and rode on into St Louis.

We spent a week or so with the Aunt and Uncle, and they really treated us like royalty. The uncle worked in a shoe factory. Skinny's aunt managed to give us money to go to the Highlands Amusement Park and ride some rides that I had never even seen before. She also managed to get us tickets to a Vaudeville show downtown and we got to see Betty Hutton's sister on stage. It was a wonderful show. Skinny also took me to one store that had an "electric eye" that would open the door for you. I walked up to that door to open it, and it opened before I could reach it. I almost fell down. First time I had ever seen an automatic door opener and I was impressed. I think that was one of the main reasons Skinny wanted me to go to St Louis.

The trip home was uneventful, but we were glad to get back from our hobo trip. And, to this day, I still do not know Skinny's Aunt's name or her address. I sometimes wonder how I managed to survive my young and dumb days. Just lucky, I guess, or the good Lord was watching over me.

Vic Seeberger

**Minutes Southern Oregon Chapter—NRHS
Members' Regular Meeting, February 11, 2014**

1. Membership Meeting Call to Order: President Bruce Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
2. Roll Call: Eleven members present.
3. Old Business: None
4. New Business: None
5. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Bruce Kelly, President

****Next General Meeting: March 11, 2014, 7:00****

**Minutes Southern Oregon Chapter—NRHS
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 11, 2014**

1. Board Meeting Call to Order – President Bruce Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM
2. Roll Call: Bruce Kelly, Ric Walch, Jerry Hellinga, and E. Don Pettit were present. 7 other members were also present.
3. Consent of the Agenda: Jerry Hellinga moved to consent to the Agenda. Ric Walch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Approval of January 14, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – tabled to March meeting, as they were not printed for meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ric Walsh moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Tony Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously
6. Standing Committees & Projects:
 - a. Medco 4 Restoration – Jerry Hellinga said the Medco 4 boiler did not pass the hydrostatic test, because he found 4 more stay bolts leaking. Jerry will contact the boiler company to make the repairs.
 - b. Concession Stand – Chris Manley has suggestive the stand carrying other souvenirs (I.E., post cards, magnets and engineer hats). Chris will report back on the details at the next meeting.
 - c. Newsletter – The February Newsletter will go out as soon as Chris Manley receives the February minutes. Chris asks members for articles and photos for future newsletters.
 - d. Web Site Updates – No report
 - e. Butte Falls Tourist RR Opportunity – Ric Walch reported no responses yet from follow-up letters. Ric is

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meeting with the Jackson County Commissioner to enlist his support for the tourist line.

f. Track Extension Project – The roadbed has been graded. A few ties have been donated and delivered. Ric Walsh is going to contact the owners of properties adjacent to CORP, who removed the switches to spurs and said properties.

g. Sale of surplus / Duplicate Material – No report

h. Railroad Park – No meeting as of yet. Park fence is being moved forward to front of park restrooms to corner of RVMRC building. This will create a picnic area and park access to Model Railroad building. It will also prevent the travelers from using the rear of the restrooms to do their business when the restrooms are closed during the off-season.

7. Old Business: Friends of The Park is moving forwarded. Jerry Hellinga checked the insurance policy to see if volunteers are covered. They are, as long as they do not cause an accident harming another volunteer and further into the document it states they are still covered by our insurance. Jerry will talk to our agent to get a clearer picture on volunteer insurance coverage. Further discussion felt that volunteers could not work on restoration projects or operate equipment. Chris Manley (with Larry Tuttle's help) will create a document to address volunteers and provide a liability release form.

8. New Business:

a. Dan Wilkinson informed us that the Southern Oregon Historical Society has ask that we come up with a presentation with a railroad theme: Southern Oregon in the 1960's. The exhibit would on view by the public on the April 2014 at the Sunday Public Runs. Alice Mullaly has been selected to lead this project.

b. Jerry Hellinga made a motion to move all our money accounts from America West Bank to Rogue Federal Credit Union this includes our safety deposit box. E. Don Pettit seconded.

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Discussion that followed was that America West bank was going to begin charging for the safety deposit box that we were getting for free. Since most of our transactions were being done with Rogue Federal it was decided to move everything to the credit union. The CDs would be moved when matured in July. The motion passed unanimously

9. Good of the Order:

- a. Jerry Hellinga reported that the grant submitted to the Native American Tribe was rejected. The reason was that requests for money greatly exceeded money available. They asked that we submit again next year.
- b. Allen Dobney has donated a 50" plasma flat screen TV to be used in the meeting room.

10. Adjournment: Jerry Hellinga moved to adjourn; Ric Walch seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Bruce Kelly, President

****Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday March 11, 2014 at 7:00****

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

If you have any videos, or other items you would like to share with us for our entertainment portion of the meeting, please email me at (c-manley@charter.net) or call me at 541-890-7639 with the details and I will put you on the schedule.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

As always, we need articles for the newsletter. If you have something you would like to see included in an upcoming newsletter, please send your submission to c-manley@charter.net or call 541-890 -7639. Thanks, Chris

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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, (541-890-7639), with the details.

PLEASE BE SURE TO GET YOUR dues PAID ASAP. THANK YOU

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