

# *The Manifest*

July 2014



**NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON RAILWAY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Wow, the summer is fading fast, just a great year at the park. I receive comments every run day from visitors on how wonderful they think the park is and how they are amazed that it is ran all by volunteers.

We have such an amazing group of volunteers. I just want to thank all of the volunteers from all five of the clubs. Rick and Nancy, Jerry, Larry, Allen, Bruce, Ken, Leland, Dan, just to name a few.

I want to give Tony Johnson a special thank you for helping us with the lawn, weed control, etc. etc.

Below are some pics, **[Larger ☺]** courtesy of Ken and Donna

Loading pump car



Jerry is on forklift and Ken is securing the speeder cart.



On the way to Grants Pass so Ken can overall and add the seating.



Ken pressure washed, sanded and painted the flooring. He is also going to make new panels to cover the pump control.





Ken cut, sanded and painted, installed boards on brackets Ric made for the benches. Great JOB Ken, it looks fantastic!



## Control Tower Story

### By Vic Seeberger

This incident happened a long time ago. It was around 1960, I think, and Medford was a combined Radio Station and Tower here at the Medford airport. Of course we had to keep both Station and Tower open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We rotated shifts, 8am to 4pm, 4pm to midnight and midnight to 8am. We were there weekdays, weekends and holidays. The show must go on. We usually had 3 or four controllers on duty during the busy day watch, two on the evening watch, and one on the Graveyard shift (from midnight to 8am).

This incident occurred on the evening shift on the day that Senator, John F. Kennedy, and entourage, arrived for an appearance downtown. He was to attend a political meeting. The Secret Service men had arrived early and came up to the tower and briefed us on the Senator's visit. They warned us to be on the lookout for any person, or persons that might be lurking anywhere, especially on top of buildings. They gave us a number to call if anything out of the ordinary happened.

The airplane, with Kennedy aboard, arrived in due time and they had the appropriate speaker's stand and chairs for quite a few people. This was on the tarmac, just below the tower. We had a bird's eye view of the proceedings, but could not hear the speeches. After the speaking was over, a long line of official cars departed for town. We were relieved to see them go, as some traffic had been held up, and we had been scanning the neighborhood as we had been told.

Soon, it started to get dark, and there was only Gene Mars on the Station position, and I, on the Tower side. The Station operator had to make a weather broadcast twice an hour for the pilots. Gene Mars had just stomped on the push-to-talk peddle and started his weather broadcast when something banged into the west side of the tower with a loud THUMP! We were still a bit nervous from the Secret Service visit, and it scared us both. Gene lifted his foot off the mic switch and said, "Go see what that was."

There were 53 steps that came up from the lobby to the tower. (No elevator) Going down about ten steps from the tower level, there was a landing with a door to go down stairs on the left, and a door on the right, that opened to the outside catwalk that went all the way around the tower. That door had a glass window in it. I walked down to that door and peered out the glass window, trying to see what had struck the tower; I couldn't see anything. I inched the door open a few inches and still saw nothing, so I opened the door wider to go out on the catwalk. A cock pheasant jumped up flapping his wings trying to climb the wall and he was almost in my face and scared me badly. I think I came close to having and unscheduled body function. But I shut the door and shakily climbed the few steps back up into the tower. Gene interrupted his broadcast, again, and asked me what I'd found.. I told him it was a cock pheasant. He said, "Go catch it." I told him to go catch it himself, I was too shook up. After he finished the broadcast, he did go catch it, and later, took it home with him. He said he was going to release it in the wilds. I've often wondered if he did. I know I will never forget John F. Kennedy's visit

**Minutes of Last Month's Meeting are not available at this time.**

**Next General and Board of Directors Meeting August 12, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.**

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING ENTERTAINMENT**

Allen Dobney will be doing the program.

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](mailto: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](mailto:c-manley@charter.net)** or call 541-890 -7639. Thanks, Chris

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Bruce Kelly	
<b><u>wilmingtonnorthern@sprynet.com</u></b>		<b>541-237-9991</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	Ric Walch	
<b><u>engmgr@medfab.com</u></b>		<b>541-772-6255</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jerry Hellinga	
<b><u>ghelling@jeffnet.org</u></b>		<b>541-944-2230</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	Larry Tuttle	
<b><u>larry@alpharail.net</u></b>		<b>541-660-0989</b>
<b>National Advisor</b>	E. Don Petit	<b>541-601-4772</b>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Chief Mechanical Officer</b>	Jerry Hellinga	
<b><u>ghelling@jeffnet.org</u></b>		<b>541-944-2230</b>
<b>Concession Stand</b>	Ric Walch	
<b><u>ric.walch@medfab.com</u></b>		<b>541-770-1154</b>
<b>Newsletter &amp; Entertainment</b>	Chris Manley	
<b><u>c-manley@charter.net</u></b>		<b>541-890-7639</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Larry Tuttle	
<b><u>larry@alpharail.net</u></b>		<b>541-660-0989</b>

## 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.*

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P.O. Box 622  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
soc-nrhs.org

