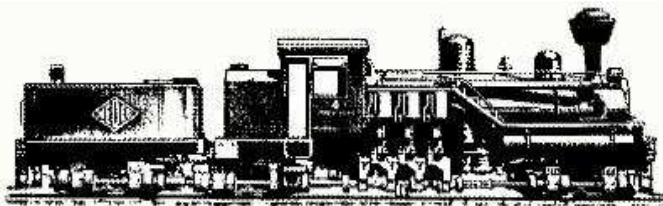


The Manifest



March, 2013

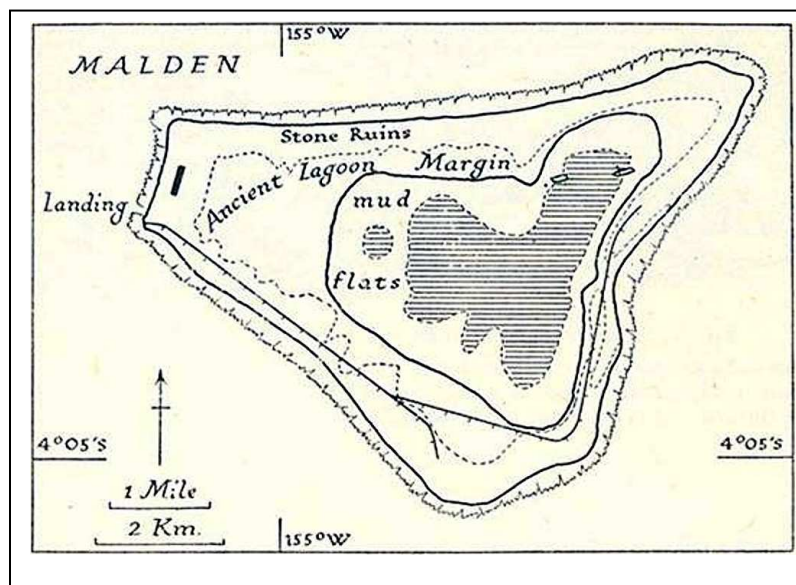
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A RAILROAD FULL OF HOT AIR AND GUANO

By: Ric Walch

Sail powered railroads were actually quite common in coastal regions or areas that prevailing winds and modest grades were prevalent. Malden Island located in the Central Pacific Ocean was a good example of a wind powered railroad. Malden was claimed by the U.S. Guano Company under the [Guano Islands Act](#) of 1856, which authorized citizens to take possession of uninhabited islands under the authority of the United States for the purpose of removing guano. Before the American company could begin their operations, however, the island was occupied by an [Australian](#) company under British license. This company and its successors exploited the island continuously from the 1860s through 1927.



The lagoon is shown as it was in 1924; the shaded area represents its extent at low water and the black line the extent at high water, when the mud flats were covered. An ancient lagoon margin is shown by an outer broken line. The tramway was abandoned in 1927, as also was the settlement, shown to the north-east of the landing. The stone ruins are ancient Polynesian structures; most common in the area indicated, they also occur on the north-west side, between the tramway and the beach. Based on: K. P. Emory, *Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin*, no. 123, p. 25 (Honolulu, 1934); & E. H. Bryan Jr., *American Polynesia*, p. 151 (Honolulu, 1941).

The guano diggers constructed a unique railroad on Malden Island, with cars powered by large sails. Laborers pushed empty carts from the loading area up the tramway to the digging pits, where they were then loaded with guano. At the end of the day, the sails were unfurled, and the train cars whisked back to the settlement by the prevailing southeastern winds. While cars were known to jump the tracks more than once during these excursions, the system seems to have worked fairly well. Railroad handcars were also used.

This tramway remained in use on Malden as late as 1924, and its roadbed and tracks still exists on the island today. If you open Google earth to Malden Island you can still see the tracks and some of the infrastructure of the old guano operation. The railroad extends about halfway around the island but at one time the plan was to completely circle the island as the grades and roadbed were completed. During the mining operation reports indicated that in the heavy nesting areas the guano was in excess of 2 feet deep, that's a lot of guano. The supply was never completely exhausted but other more easily obtained sources became available and operations ceased around 1927.



The tracks were never taken up and still remain on the island, clear a little brush and it looks like we could give it a try.



One of the side dump guano cars minus the wheels and sail, the sails were square rigged and quite large and by first hand account allowed for an "exciting" ride back to the processing plant at the end of the day.

Butte Falls Scenic Railroad Project Update

By: Allen Dobney



chapter to develop and finalize an operating agreement.

Since the completion of the survey last December we have recently started making some good progress on the Butte Falls Scenic Railroad project. In January we formed a joint project team consisting of members from our chapter and residents of the Butte Falls community. On February 13th we held our first meeting and planned a presentation to be given to the City Council on February 19th. The February 19th meeting went very well with a workshop meeting scheduled for March with the mayor, city council and our

The following list of books for our Chapter library were donated in February by Don & Jackie Titus of White City, OR.

- The American Heritage History of Railroads in America, by Oliver Jensen (1975)
- Yonder Comes The Train: The Story of the Iron Horse and Some of the Roads It Traveled, by Lance Phillips (1963)
- The American Heritage History of Railroads in America, by Oliver Jensen (1975)
- Railways Revisited: A Guide to Little-Known Railways of Austria and Germany, by Bernard C. Winn (1987)
- Nevada County Narrow Gauge, by Gerald M. Best (1965)
- Lines West: A Pictorial History of the Great Northern Railway (1967), by Charles R. Wood
- Northern Pacific, The: Main Street of the Northwest - A Pictorial History, by Charles R. Wood (1968)
- Stations West: The Story of the Oregon Railways, by Edwin D. Culp (1972)
- Railways, by Howard Loxton (1968)
- Trains to the Russian River, by Fred A. Stindt (May 1984 -signed copy)
- The Last Spike: The Great Railway 1881-1885 (1971)
- Boomer: Railroad Memoirs, by Linda Niemann (1990)
- The Big Four, by Oscar Lewis
- Concise Illustrated Book of Steam Trains, Edited by D. Avery (1989)
- Single Track to Jacksonville: Rogue Valley RR, by Bert & Margie Webber (1990)
- This Was Railroading, by George Abdill (1968)
- The Giants Ladder, by Harold A. Boner (1962)
- The Siskiyou Line, The, by Bert and Margie Webber (1997)
- The Big Book of Real Trains, by Elizabeth Cameron (1974)
- Railroads 100 Years Ago, by Skip Whitson (1st Printing - June 1977)
- The Railroaders, by the Editors of Time-Life Books (1973)
- Illustrated Encyclopedia of North American Locomotives, by Hollingsworth (1984)
- Rails West, by George B. Abdill (1960)

MINUTES
Southern Oregon Chapter – National Railway Historical Society
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
February 12, 2013, 7:00 PM

1. Board Meeting Call to Order: President Allen Dobney called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call: Allen Dobney, Jerry Hellinga, Larry Tuttle, John Powell and 4 other members were present. Ric Walch was absent.
3. Consent of the Agenda: Larry Tuttle moved to consent to the agenda. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. Approval of January 8, 2013 Membership Meeting & Board Minutes: Jerry Hellinga moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 Membership and Board meetings. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer's Report: Jerry Hellinga presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. John Powell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Jerry Hellinga seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. Standing Committees & Projects:
 - a. Medco 4 Restoration: Jerry Hellinga. No update
 - b. Concession Stand: Allen Dobney & Larry Tuttle will be working on fixing the leaky roof after the weather gets warm enough.
 - c. Newsletter: Allen Dobney reported that he needs articles for the March newsletter. Please get your article submissions to Allen by February 20, 2013.
 - d. Park Committee: Ric Walch No meeting
 - e. Membership: Allen Dobney No update.
 - f. Web Site Updates: Larry Tuttle reported that a donations tab has been added to the website.
 - g. Museum Bookcase Cabinet Doors: Larry Tuttle said that the doors are done and ready to install.
 - h. Butte Falls Tourist RR Opportunity: Allen Dobney provided information on:
 - Cross functional team formed, includes 3 members from Butte Falls and 3 members from our board.
 - This new team plans to meet on February 13, 2013 to plan the discussion with the Mayor and City council scheduled for February 19, 2013.
 - i. Fence move & Track extension Project: Ken Hill & Co. plan to move the fence in early 2013.

- j. Sale of surplus / Duplicate Material: Larry Tuttle and Allen Dobney reported that:
 - We now have donation capabilities set up through Ebay. Allen has a book up on ebay with 100% of the proceeds going to the chapter to test out this process. More information on how to use this system will be in the March newsletter.
 - We closed our first auction and it looks like the funds did not move to our account properly. Allen will be looking into this.

7. Old Business

- a. Facebook for the chapter: Larry Tuttle reported that this is on hold until we increase our level of ongoing activities to report.
- b. Bank account changes completed: Jerry Hellinga said that the bank account changes approved at the January Board meeting have been implemented.

8. New Business: None

9. Good of the Order: Larry Tuttle passed around a custom wall calendar which he had had made. He suggested that the Chapter may want to produce one for 2014, sell it to members for at a modest profit and to the public for a bit more to support the Medco 4 rebuild. Cost should be \$8.00 or less. If we decide to do these, each year can feature a theme of historical railroading in and around the Rogue Valley.

10. Adjournment: Jerry Hellinga moved to adjourn the meeting. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular Membership & Board Meeting: March 12, 2013, 7:00 PM

Larry Tuttle, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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; adobney@gmail.com or call 541-582-0605. Thanks.....Allen

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Newsletter & Entertainment	Allen Dobney	adobney@gmail.com	541-582-0605
Webmaster	Larry Tuttle	larry@alpharail.net	541-660-0989

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

March 12, 2013, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: NRHS membership / board meeting. Entertainment: **"Ben Holladay and His Oregon & California Railroad"** In this illustrated lecture, railroad historian Larry Mullaly, describes the fabulously wealthy stagecoach and shipping magnate, Ben Holladay. Based on recently discovered documents in the National Archives, the talk tells how the man known as the "Prince of the Plains," co-opted the Oregon legislature, and began an aggressive building program south from Salem toward California in 1870. Aided by Chinese labor, millions of dollars in German bond sales, and hopes of a fortune to be made in land sales, Holladay's Oregon and California Railroad reached Roseburg two year's later. The result was a critical link in a line that if completed could have radically changed the history of Southern Oregon.

Larry Mullaly, a Central Point resident, has written extensively on western railroad topics and is a member of our chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

April 9, 2013, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: NRHS membership / board meeting. **THE CRIME OF THE d'AUTREMONT BROTHERS** by Tom Olsen is a one-hour documentary detailing the "last great American train robbery." On October 11, 1923, Ray, Roy, and Hugh d'Autremont held up Train #13, of the Southern Pacific Railroad just outside of Ashland, Oregon. Four trainmen were murdered. The brothers were found nearly four years later and sentenced to life in prison. The story is told by their lawyer, Noreen McGraw, who fought for their parole, and a documentary filmmaker, Jerry Schneider, who made a 1973 documentary for the 50th anniversary of the crime.

Tom Olsen, Jr., has been making documentaries for 10 years. His other films include KILLINGSWORTH and POLITICS OF SAND. He is a graduate of Chapman University's MFA film program. Tom teaches film at PCC and Warner Pacific University, and serves as the Multimedia Production Specialist at the University of Western States. THE CRIME OF THE d'AUTREMONT BROTHERS premiered at the 39th Northwest Filmmakers Festival, and was a recipient of a 2012 Oregon Film Award.

April 14, 2013, 11:00AM to 3:00PM @ Railroad Park: It is our first run day of the 2013 season. Please come over and help support our activities. This is one our largest fundraisers of the year. If you would like more information contact Dan Wilkinson 541-479-1210 or whetstone@budget.net.

April 28, 2013, 11:00AM to 3:00PM @ Railroad Park: It is our second run day of the 2013 season. Please come over and help support our activities. This is one our largest fundraisers of the year. If you would like more information contact Dan Wilkinson 541-479-1210 or whetstone@budget.net.

UPCOMING NON-CHAPTER EVENTS

April 13-14, 2013, Eugene, OR

25th Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Swap Meet & Train Show, 796 W. 13th Avenue, Lane Events Center (Lane County Fairgrounds). Adults \$6 each, children 8 years and younger free if accompanied by an adult, optional early bird special Saturday only at 9:00 a.m. \$10 per person admission good for both days, Show hours Sat. 10 am to 5 pm, Sun. 10 am to 3 pm., vendor tables available (8 feet long by 30 inches wide with red linen tablecloth) at \$25.00 per table, price good for both days. This is one of the largest swap meets between San Francisco, CA, and the Canadian border featuring over vendors from 9 different states, 250 plus tables filling 22,000 square feet of space. There are operating layouts in a variety of scales, speeder display, historical societies present representing Northwest Railroads of the past, train videos for the public, hourly door prizes for the public, operation lifesaver trailer display with educational literature, building fund raiser for prizes, FREE PARKING, and all kinds of trains, parts, memorabilia. For more information please contact co-chairs, Lee Temple, 541-954-4917 or ttandt@ram-mail.com or Diane Temple at 541-225-7394 or LDTemple@ram-mail.com

May 4-5, Rickreall, OR

Rickreall Grange Model Train Swap Meet & Show Sat/Sun 10am-3pm 280 Main str. {Hwy 99W} Rickreall, Or. 97338. Sat. Admission \$5.00-\$1.00 off with can food; Sun. Admission free with can food item! Vendor Tables 6'=20.00 8'=25.00 Vendor move-in Fri. 1pm-7pm or Sat. 7am. Breakfast & lunch specials Make checks payable to: Tom Pryor Mail to: 2085 S. Pacific Hwy. West, Dallas, Or. 97338 Operating Model Railroad! Two Rooms of Vendors! Come join The Fun! Info:- Tom 503-606-0398 pry626@onlinenw.com

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.
