

# *The Manifest*

June 2014



## NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Where has the time gone! July, I cannot believe it. We had a good month last month, lots of fun during our run days, and a couple of workdays where a lot was accomplished on the tract extension for the motor car, as well as all of the other chores that our members take care of each week. Larry and I served up lunch for our work crew, as well as a few members from the model club and the garden railroad club on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We had fun doing it and will do it again.



We also had some more good news for our area this last month. Please see the Mail Tribune article and picture below. This engine was owned by Dave Wilkinson, our own Dan Wilkinson's brother.

**Train Engine Set to End 123-year Trip  
by  
Tony Boom  
For the Mail Tribune**



JACKSONVILLE — A locomotive that pulled the first train into town in 1891 is coming home to be displayed permanently on tracks set in the original railroad right of way below the old high school at Bigham Knoll. Mel and Brooke Ashland, owners of the Bigham Knoll site, purchased H.K. Potter Company locomotive No. 1236 and will donate it to the Jacksonville Heritage Society. A crane is scheduled to lift the 10-ton unit off a trailer and set it on rails this morning.

"It's been a long time coming. We had sort of given up on it and actually put grapes in that area," said Brooke Ashland. The grapes came out to make way for rails.

The Ashlands brought the engine to town on a flatbed in June 2009 as part of the city's 150th anniversary parade. Purchase discussion had been going on for six years with owner Dave Wilkinson of Fillmore, Calif., and when another serious buyer

emerged, Wilkinson contacted the Ashlands to see if they wanted to make a deal. The purchase price was not disclosed.

"He really wanted us to have it," Ashland said. "He really thought it should be in Jacksonville." The engine left Southern California headed for Southern Oregon on Wednesday. Workers have installed two rails that were donated by a Medford railroad club for the display. Railroad ties were located Thursday after it appeared there were none available locally, said Ashland.

A rare wood burning unit, the locomotive served for about three years on the route but was replaced by a more powerful unit to help trains get up grades between Jacksonville and Medford. Rogue Valley Railroad Company had been created to link the town with Medford after the main railroad line bypassed Jacksonville. Operations ceased in 1925. The locomotive, built in 1890 in Pittsburgh, has been used in movies, as have others Wilkinson has at his Fillmore and Western Railway. After leaving Jacksonville, it served at several sites in Oregon and was salvaged following a 1913 fire. In 1946 it was purchased and moved to Fillmore.

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

**Next General and Board of Directors Meeting July 8, 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**) 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

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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](mailto:c-manley@charter.net)), or call, (541-890-7639), with the details.*

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**NOTE: On a personal note, I have a manual mill, which was Stretch's, I will get some pictures, but if anyone knows anyone that might want it please let me know. I am asking \$2,200, but will consider other offers Thanks Chris**

