

# THE MANIFEST

June 2016



Greetings!

Here we are in our 3rd month of our run season already, time flies. Thus far, we have done quite well. The summer season is in full swing now, and **we always need volunteers**. Please let any of the officers listed below if you are interested in volunteering on run days.

We are pleased to welcome a new member, Jerry Toler, who is a retired Amtrak Engineer. Although he lives in Florida, we are hoping he finds his way back here often.

If anyone has any interesting stories they would like put into the newsletter, please send them to me.

Another Story about Railroad Hobos  
By Bill Miller  
For the Mail Tribune

In the pecking order of traveling souls, railroad hoboos 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 hoboos, 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 many names carved on top of other 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.

## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 05/10/2016**

The entertainment for the evening was a presentation by Jerry Hellinga on the history of the Medford Logging Railroad and the Medco #4.

## ❖ **Board of Directors' Meeting**

Called to order at 8:06 P.M.

## ❖ **Minutes**

Read and accepted with Jerry Hellinga making the motion and E. Don Petit second.

## ❖ **Reports**

### ➤ **Treasurer's Report**

Jerry is looking into insurance options, needs to fill-out an application to get an estimate.

Donations are down slightly so far this year.

The report accepted as read, with Chris Manley making the motion and E. Don Petit second.

### ➤ **Medco #4**

Just working on miscellaneous items, waiting on parts order.

### ➤ **Food Stand**

The food stand has acquired a new square chip card reader. The cost was \$49.00, one-time fee and it came with a new regular square reader.

➤ **Newsletter**

The May newsletter mailed via email and USPS and received prior to the meeting.

➤ **Website**

No updates

➤ **Butte Falls**

No Updates

➤ **Motorcar**

Reversed the car and trailer to help even out wear on the wheels.

❖ **Old Business**

Park security was discussed, and members are reminded to be sure to close back gate when entering. Do not need to lock the padlock, but close it so it looks locked. If you are the last one to leave, lock the padlock and flip the dial around after locking it.

The Hornbrook shed was discussed. Dan and Art had looked at it. They were told there is a resident close by that would let them leave parts on his property if they had to while removing it. The roof is gone, boards are there, structure seems sound. Estimated it would take between 1 - 2 days to bring it back, depending on the number of volunteers.

Funding for the restoration was briefly discussed, possible fundraiser needed. Dan will look into it deeper and confirm that it is available. Then, upon confirmation,

a plan can be formed for its possible retrieval and restoration.

### ❖ **New Business**

A new member was voted in, Jerry Toler. Jerry is a retired Amtrak Engineer and considering moving to the area. I will email and/or call him to welcome to the organization and thank him for his support.

Bill Ainsworth suggested setting up a TV/VCR in the flanger was discussed. Dan Wilkinson has a TV to donate and Tony a VCR. Tony also has a video. However, we are short on volunteers now. Perhaps just a video can run.

### ❖ **Good of the Order**

Bruce has executed (signed) and returned the certificate of deposit for 5K for the Wig Wag. We are now simply waiting for it to be removed and delivered.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 p.m., motion made and seconded by Jerry and E. Don respectively.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Allen Dobney will be showing a video on the "Southern Pacific on Willamette Pass from the start of construction through 1949."

*If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, [chrismanleysteam@gmail.com](mailto:chrismanleysteam@gmail.com) or call, (541-291-1705), with the details.*

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