

# THE MANIFEST

## November 2017



Greetings All:

Hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving, and is having a super Merry Christmas season. Here we are at the end of the year almost. Our train show went off well, not as lucrative as we would have liked, but it was a great show nonetheless. Thank you everyone who helped with the show.

Our last meeting is this Tuesday, December 12, 2017, we will be electing officers from the nominees and any new nominees that should be presented.

Here are some of the pictures Tony Johnson took this year at the show. As pic's take up lots of space, I won't put too many up at once.





Motor Car Ken has taken charge of rebuilding, with help from Jim Van Delden and others I am sure.





Greeting visitors and selling tickets and guiding them where to go next is our lovely Marjorie Johnson.

We also have a short story about a Christmas Train in Eastern Oregon. Thank you very much Darcy White Kochanowsky for giving us permission to reprint this wonderful story. Hope you enjoy seeing it again.

**THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN**  
**By**  
**DARCY WHITE KOCHANOWSKY**

I spent a good portion of my childhood in rural Eastern Oregon living in a small mobile home set on 40 acres of sagebrush and tumbleweeds. The closest town was 20 miles away and you had to turn off the paved road onto gravel to get to our place.

We had a small barn, a small flower garden and a fish pond by the front gate. But the most significant thing I recall was the railroad tracks about one hundred yards from the driveway gate. The Union Pacific ran a train on those tracks, passing by every day at about 4:00 p.m.

After school, we had just enough time to get a snack before we started to hear the rumble of the train. Every

day, my two sisters and I would run outside and wave at the engineer, and then patiently wait for the caboose to see someone step out and wave back.

A few weeks into our ritual, on a sunny spring afternoon, something magical happened. As the caboose approached, we saw someone on the back looking toward us. The man leaned forward a little bit and threw a package to us! It was as magical as if Santa Claus himself had just dropped a gift from his sleigh.

It was bundle of cloth wrapped several times with string, and we grabbed it up off the dirt and gravel and ran into the house. My mother got out the scissors to clip the string, and beneath the layers of colored fabric there was a whole bag full of candy!

Our hearts were forever bonded with the men on that UP train. They didn't always throw candy, and they didn't throw something to us every day, but it didn't matter. Rain or snow -- my sisters and I never missed an opportunity to run out the gate to wave at the train.

At Christmas time, we returned home very late from spending the holiday with relatives in the Willamette Valley. We watched from the car as my mother made her way up the porch steps to turn on the light. Then, she stopped and turned to look at us. "Well, will you look at that?" she said.

Hanging on the door knob of our little trailer was a big stuffed teddy bear all decked out in Union Pacific attire. Our "friends" had to have stopped at our house to put that on our door. We were amazed at the possibility that the train had stopped just for us!

The next day we couldn't wait to rush out to wave at the train, taking our teddy bear with us so they would know that we were back and that we loved our gift. We watched

down the track and saw the light from the train approaching. We first waved at the engineer and then counted the cars as they went by, waiting for the caboose. It seemed to us that the train was slowing. Surely it was our imagination, but could it be? Would they stop again?

The train slowed to a crawl. My mother must have been watching out the kitchen window because she came out with a package in her arms. As the caboose came into view, the train stopped -- right in front of our little place.

We ran to the train and the man on the caboose waved us to come on up. We climbed aboard and thanked the men that had given us such a heartwarming gift. My mother came up the steps with her package and we were bewildered when she handed the gift over. How did our mother know the train would stop? How was she able to afford a gift for the train men?

As the caboose man opened the gift, we saw that my mother had diligently saved every scrap of cloth that had been tied around every bundle of candy so generously tossed from the train. From those scraps of cloth she had sewn seat cushions for the men on the train who had to ride so long and so far each day.

We learned that day just how much that train and the kindness of strangers had meant to my mother and how thankful she was for the men who had brightened the lives of her little girls who lived in the country.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes of October 10, 2017**

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7: 31 PM by President Bruce Kelly
2. Roll Call: Bruce Kelly, Allen Dobney, Jerry Hellinga, Ric Walsh, and 9 other members were present. Chris Manley was absent.
3. Consent of the Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of May minutes: Allen moved to approve the September minutes, Jerry Seconded. The motion passed.
5. Treasurer's Report: Jerry Hellinga presented the Treasurer's Report. Allen Dobney moved to accept the treasurer's report. Ric Walsh seconded. Motion passed.
6. Committee Reports:
  - a. Medco 4: Jerry Hellinga No update.
  - b. Burger Shack: No update.
  - c. Newsletter: No update.
  - d. Website: No Update.
  - e. Butte Falls: The mayor of Butte Falls has sent a letter to Weyerhaeuser to set up a meeting in Seattle to gain approval for a right-of-way.

- f. Excess Sales: Allen Dobney reported that we are just over \$2600.00 of proceeds from slide & other item sales.
- g. RR Park: Bruce reported that there the city is continuing to clean up the homeless camp behind RR park. On last Sunday's run day we had an incident with a homeless person with a knife. The police were called and the person was arrested. With the stepped up police presence the number of homeless in the are seems to be dropping.

7. Old Business:

- a. The RR Park committee formation is progressing and our Society needs to approve the charter they have developed. Allen Moved to approve the charter, Jerry seconded. The motion passed.

8. New Business

- a. none

9. Good of the Order:

- a. Jerry Hellinga reported that we need several of our members to step up and take a lead role in getting several maintenance projects done. The projects include: Cleaning up walnuts and leaves from around the engine house, repair a gate near the engine house, prime & paint the new post next to the wig wag.

10. Adjournment: Jerry Hellinga moved to adjourn; Allen Dobney seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

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Allen Dobney, Acting Secretary

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The entertainment for the **December 12, 2017** meeting will be a slide show called "Milwaukee Road Volume 2", presented by Allen Dobney.

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

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