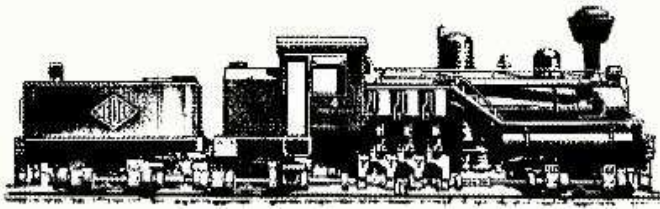


The Manifest



May, 2013

**Official Publication of the Southern Oregon
Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 622
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Solving A Mystery By Tony Johnson

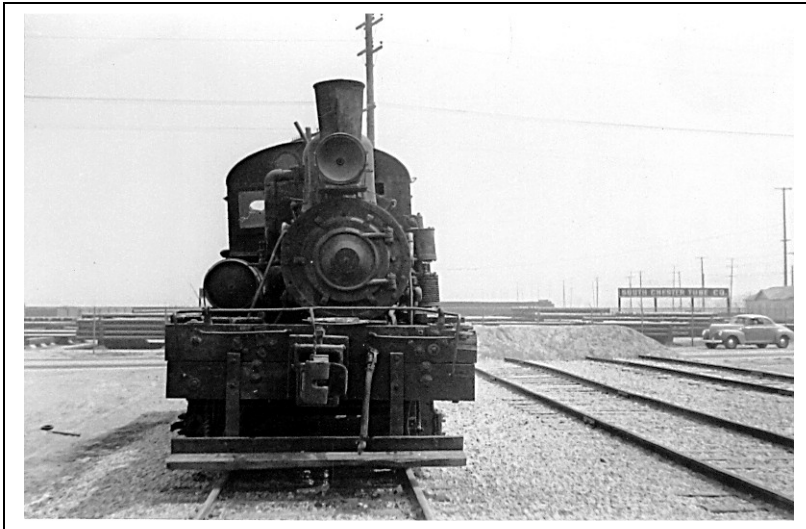
As a railroad historian, whenever I can, I enjoy help solved a mystery regarding railroad history, photographs, documents, and so on. As I write this I am again looking at the 1,350+ photographs from the George Majors Collection that was donated to this chapter over ten years ago. Back then, way before we seriously believed we would have our own museum at the Railroad Park, I inventoried each photograph into a database and later stored them in my self-storage unit. With us now having a museum with a climate-controlled archive room, I could again go through the collection.



The majority of the photographs do not have the subject, dates, locations, or the photographer's name on them. The majority of the images I have identified as to subject matter and locations, but there are some that offer no clues at all, such as the photographs this article is about.

Listed among my "unknown category" listing are eight photographs of a tiny, two-truck Shay steam

locomotive, parked by itself at the end of a track somewhere. All the images are only of fair quality, but good enough to enlarge on my computer to look for clues. Nowhere on this locomotive could I find lettering, or even a locomotive number. However, in the background in one photo is a large sign reading "South Chester Tube Company".



With the Internet and many railfan groups to turn to for help, I posted this request of mine to Trainorders.com. You'll notice I posted my initial request on 2/19/2013 at 11:22 A.M. In less than sixty minutes I received my first reply. Notice how one reply sometimes opens new paths to the same subject.

Date: 02/19/13 11:22 Shay identity needed Author: TonyJ

I am in the process of cataloging 1300+ photos from a collection donated to our NRHS chapter about ten years ago. Among a group of logging locomotives is a series of 8 photos of a small two-truck Shay with slotted couplers for link & pin operations. The photos are of fair quality, and after considerable observation I cannot find any identifiable lettering or numbers.

The Shay is parked at the end of track on a fairly clean area. A sign in the background reads "South Chester Tube Company". I'm guessing the Shay was saved from preservation. One photo shows a pipe-smoking gentleman standing next to the Shay. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Date: 02/19/13 12:15 Re: Shay identity needed Author: steaminfo

South Chester Tube Company was formed in 1899 as a specialty pipe manufacturer for the burgeoning Pennsylvania oil industry. It was renamed to "Southco" in 1945, so it is likely, both from the auto in the photo and from the dress of the man in the photo that these shots were taken sometime during the war years, or shortly after. According to one source, the sign on the building (in Chester, PA) wasn't removed until the early 1950s. I hope this helps.

Date: 02/19/13 12:25 Re: Shay identity needed Author: AdamPhillips

From their website: <http://www.southco.com/about/history.aspx>

South Chester Tube Co. was founded in Delaware County, PA (between Eddystone and the Reading's Stony Creek Yard), to supply the tube/pipe needs of the PA oil industry. In 1945, they formed Southco, Inc. and began manufacturing specialty fasteners in Essington, PA. In 1955, they acquired Lion Fastener Co. Honeoye Falls, NY.

I will lay my bet with the original Chester location in Townsend Yard. Other businesses in the area were Ugite Sales Corp., W.H. Gibbs & Son, Philadelphia Electric, Pittsburgh Coal & Iron, and Chester Terminal & Warehousing Co. I couldn't say but she could have belonged to any one of them. Hope this helps.

Date: 02/19/13 16:10 Re: Shay identity needed Author: LarryDoyle

They must have bought this 2nd or 3rd hand. Michael Koch ("Titan of the Timber") does not index either corporate name for this firm as owning a Shay. Perhaps it's one of the lost Shays. Further, the Baldwin [Locomotive Works] plant is only a mile or so away in Chester (Eddystone).

Date: 02/19/13 14:38 Re: Shay identity needed Author: MarkMeoff

Never seen a "mailbox" style whistle on a locomotive before.

I wrote back, "Speaking for myself I had never heard of the 'mailbox' whistle before." My good friend and SOC-NRHS benefactor Tom Moungovan sent the following reply a few hours later.

Hi Tony:

I can't help with an ID on that Shay but can add to the comment on the "mailbox" whistle. They were cast in several sizes by an outfit named Barnes. They were a bit more popular in Mexico than in the states. An 0-6-0 that I rode on a shortline in 1969 had one. Can you please send me a scan so I can see it? Thanks. - Tom

Date: 02/20/13 12:11 Re: Shay identity needed Author: west

The tank and cab are distinctive, and looked familiar. This photo has been around:
http://www.gearedsteam.com/shay/images/clifford_c_bong_n_co_1.jpg. I think this is the Shay: c/n # 1685 C. C. Bong Construction Co.

see: <http://www.shaylocomotives.com/data/lima2399/sn-1685.htm> for the history.

As to the South Chester Tube Co. sign, is it possible they had a yard in Dominguez, CA since that is an oil producing area. Or maybe they were supplying pipe to a pipeline and the sign is at a temporary construction yard? It seems doubtful to me that this locomotive would have been shipped from California to Pennsylvania in 1945 or later, but maybe it was a sale that fell through?

The tracks look new. Perhaps this is an new or expanded refinery or supply depot built during WW2. Maybe C. C. Bong was one of the contractors for, thus the need for the pipe? — Don

Note from me: I clicked on the Shay Locomotive web site (a site I've used often) and discovered this Shay has had many owners.

Owners:

Built 4/20/1906 for the Finkbine Lumber Co. #12, Wiggins, MS
(3-18-1926) Finkbine-Guild Lumber Co. #52, Fort Bragg, CA
(3-18-1927) Converted to oil burner
(9-4-1928) Southern Redwood Corp. #52, Rockport, CA
(2-1933) Cottoneva Lumber Co. #52, Rockport, CA
(2-1938) Rockport Redwood Co. #52, Rockport, CA
(7-18-1942) Clifford C. Bong & Co. #1, Lathrop
Clifford C. Bong & Co. #1, Dominguez, CA
Disposition: Scrapped 1945

Date: 02/20/13 17:43 Re: Shay identity needed Author: TonyJ

My friend Tom Moungovan also believes it is the same Shay from the information you found. Tom wrote,

“Hi Tony:

“I did some searching this morning on the geared locomotive site and found:

Clifford C. Bong Construction #1

Lima #1685 built 4-20-06 standard gauge 10" by 10" cylinders 28" drivers 33 tons

Scrapped around 1945

“[I] could not come up with a photo, but as I said earlier, I had one years ago and appear to have misfiled it. It had the same type of whistle on her and that plus being a 2T Shay is certainly a coincidence. You just do not see many of these mounted on locomotives in the states. — Tom

“PS: I just now spoke with Doug Richter on the phone about the Bong Shay and he certainly does remember it. If you can send him a scanned print in the mail, he will try to see if it's the same locomotive, OK?”

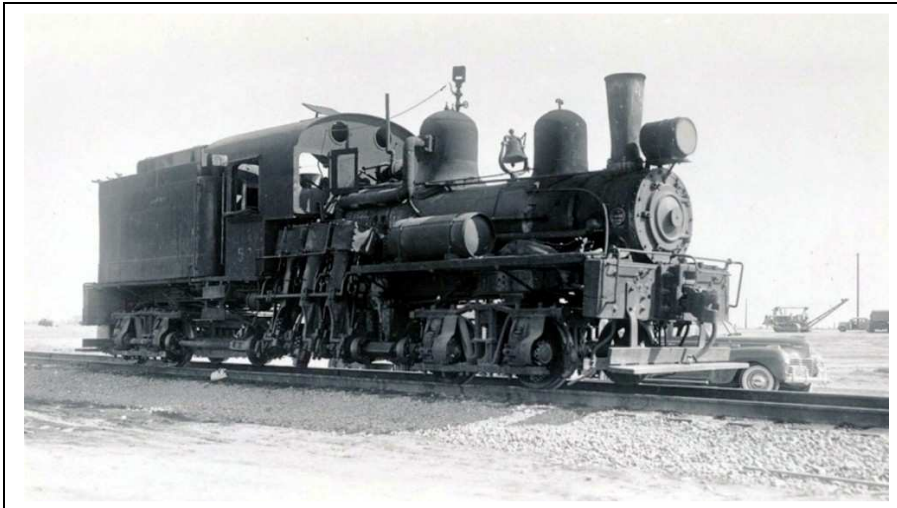
Date: 02/21/13 06:56 Re: Shay identity needed Author: LoggerHogger

Don is right. This is the C.C. Bong Shay in California. I have the same set of prints and a few more. The engine was photographed by someone who took lots of detail photos, probably for modeling purposes. — Martin

Date: 02/21/13 15:24 Re: Shay identity needed Author: JimBaker

Clifford Bong was a member of the Southern California Chapter R&LHS and did a lot of the heavy lifting for their Pomona Fairgrounds display in the old days (1950s). I have a photo which has run on the web here of what looks like the same Shay labeled as at Dolores, California. This would coincide with the Dominguez Yard a few posts back.

I believe he bought SP 2448 the ex-Donner Fire Engine, which rolled over on its side during one of the Earthquakes in his yard on San Fernando Road in LA. — Jim Baker



Date: 02/21/13 16:17 Re: Shay identity needed Author: west

Hi Guys,
I finally had a chance to look through my "files". Here's a photograph labeled on the back: C. C. Bong Construction Co. # 52; taken at Lathrop, CA on August 24, 1942. Photo by Doug Richter.

Note the location of the photograph appears to be the

same as the other photos. Knowing Doug Richter's passion for accuracy, I have no doubt that the info he wrote is correct.

If that's true then by date and location could this be construction at Sharpe Army Depot near Lathrop [CA] which was opened in 1941. That would account for the clean and new appearing track. In the background is a side boom bulldozer which would be the type of equipment used in pipe laying. That might be a connection with the South Chester Tube Company sign in the other picture. Could South Chester Tube Company and C. C. Bong both have been contractors for the base? Or was South Chester Tube Company supplying pipe for military projects in the Pacific theatre; the pipe being stored at Sharpe awaiting shipping overseas?

My understanding is that Sharpe was a supply depot during WW2, later became a Transportation Corps depot. It is located in between the SP and WP mainlines just north of SP's Lathrop wye.

C. C. Bong was also the purchaser of Virginia & Truckee 2-6-0 #20, "Tahoe" in August 1942. Although the V&T had retired it in 1926, it was used during WW2 by C.C. Bong at El Monte, CA. This locomotive was sold in 1968 to the Pennsylvania State RR Museum in Strasburg, PA, where it is now displayed.

I seem to recall seeing a roster that listed C. C. Bong in Decoto, CA (Fremont) for another locomotive too. — Don

Date: 02/21/13 19:09 Re: Shay identity needed Author: [west](#)

The date on your photos must be later than Doug's 1942 photo which still shows traces of its number on the cab, which the other batch doesn't. — Don

From: [west](#) To: [TonyJ](#) 02/21/13 19:06

Say hello to Doug Richter and Tom Mounovan for me. I haven't seen either in a while. Doug is one of my big influences in being precise in documentation. That's why you'll notice that I put a lot of question marks in statements that I don't know to be true.

Much gratitude is due to you and those who take the time to catalog photos for museums and

libraries - specially the attempts to ID the mystery photos. I love going through the unknown photo files when I can at such institutions. Have found some neat stuff in some places where no one knew what they were!

The best was finding Lake Tahoe Ry and Columbia & Puget Sound narrow gauge pictures in Pennsylvania. The worst is finding very erroneous descriptions and no willingness to review/change even with offers of proof to be provided.

Keep posting the mysteries! Thanks!
Don Marenzi , Newark, CA

And so there you are. We have gone from not knowing hardly a think about the locomotive in our photographs, to correcting identifying when it was built, the locomotive's history, who owned it when the photographs were taken, and when and where the photos were taken.

It feels good to be able to help solve this mystery. I have many, many more left to do.

Butte Falls Scenic Railroad Project Update

By: Ric Walch & Allen Dobney



On April 20th the Chapter received a memo of understanding & endorsement from Fred Phillips the Mayor of the Town of Butte Falls. The Chapter will be reviewing & discussing this memo at our May Chapter meeting. On April 26th the project team met at the Landing in Butte Falls to develop preliminary options for the construction of the railroad facilities in the Town of Butte Falls. Further review and discussions with the appropriate land owners is needed to firm up these options.



The April 26th meeting at Butte Falls with the team working on preliminary plans. From left to right Connie Erwin, Ric Walch John Powell, Jerry Hellinga, Joyce Hailicka, Don Pettit, & Allen Dobney, (hiding behind the camera).

Fence Move at RR Park
By: Ken Hill

As many of you know we are planning on extending the motor car track around behind the engine house. To accomplish this extension the fence behind the engine house must be moved closer to the bike path.



On Saturday, April 20th a high energy crew led by Ken Hill dug the holes and installed the needed new fence posts in the ground. Helping Ken in the move were Jerry Hellinga, Richard Houston, Ric Walch and Dan Wilkinson.

May 17 thru 19 Ken and his team will be completing the fence move by installing the

fencing to the new posts. Work will start at 10:00AM on Friday the 17th of May. We need your help, please come by and be sure to bring a pair of work gloves. If you need further information contact Ken at 541-955-7464.

MINUTES
Southern Oregon Chapter – National Railway Historical Society
Membership Meeting
April 9, 2013, 7:00PM

1. Membership Meeting called to order by president Allen Dobney at 7:00PM
2. New members voted in: Chris Manley & Scott DeVries. Jerry Hellinga Moved, John Powell Seconded the motion to accept both new members. The motion passed unanimously.
3. John Powell moved to adjourn to the entertainment at 7:03PM, Jerry Hellinga seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES
Southern Oregon Chapter – National Railway Historical Society
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
April 9, 2013, 8:00 PM

1. Board Meeting Call to Order: President Allen Dobney called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM
2. Roll Call: Allen Dobney, Jerry Hellinga, Ric Walch, John Powell and nine other members were present. Larry Tuttle was absent.
3. Consent of the Agenda: Jerry Hellinga moved to consent to the agenda. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Approval of March 12, 2013 Membership Meeting & Board Minutes. Jerry Hellinga moved to accept the Minutes from the February 12, 2013 Membership and Board meetings as presented. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer's Report: Jerry Hellinga presented the Treasurer's Report for April, 2013. John Powell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ric Walch seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. Standing Committees & Projects:
 - a. Medco 4 Restoration – Jerry Hellinga
 - i. No update
 - b. Concession Stand – Ric Walch
 - i. 2013 prices were approved
 - ii. Clean up of concession stand planned for Saturday, April 6th and continued on Monday, April 8th.
 - c. Newsletter – Allen Dobney
 - i. Need articles for the May issue and beyond. **(Larry, April 20th)**
 - d. Park Committee – Ric Walch
 - i. No meeting
 - e. Web Site Updates – Larry Tuttle
 - i. Need to get PayPal direct donation button on the website
 - ii. Larry & Allen to get together to share responsibilities.
 - f. Butte Falls Tourist RR Opportunity – Ric Walch / Allen Dobney
 - i. Had our workshop session with the Mayor and town council on March 14th.
 - ii. The mayor, Fred Phillips took the action to draft a letter of understanding and get approved at the April town council meeting.
 - iii. Planning a site meeting in Butte Falls for April 26th to investigate the railroad routing in more detail.
 - g. Fence move & Track extension Project – Ken Hill
 - i. Fence move planned for Early, 2013.
 - h. Sale of surplus / Duplicate Material – Allen Dobney
 - i. Funds transfer is now working for auctions.
 - ii. Will start placing more excess items up for auction in April.
7. Old Business
 - a. Taking credit cards at the concession stand – Larry Tuttle – no update
8. New Business:
 - a. none
9. Good of the Order
 - a. Ken Hill discussed the fence move. It was agreed to do the new fence posts on Saturday April 20th. We will start at 10:00AM. Ken and Ric will make sure we have the appropriate materials in place. Allen will send out an email to all the local members to solicit help on the 20th later this week.
 - b. Jerry Hellinga will pick up 2 tarps and attaching bungies for the picnic area next to the concession stand.
 - c. Jerry Hellinga reported that he is getting a video from Tom Mougovan on logging railroads on Vancouver Island. Jerry plans on presenting this video at the June Chapter meeting.
10. Jerry Hellinga moved to adjourn, John Powell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Next regular Membership & Board Meeting: May 14, 2013, 7:00PM.

Dan Wilkinson, Acting 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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Vice President	Ric Walch	engmgr@medfab.com	541-772-6255
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National Advisor	John Powell	rebel_780@hotmail.com	541-601-9256

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Concession Stand	Ric Walch	ric.walch@medfab.com	541-770-1154
Newsletter & Entertainment	Allen Dobney	adobney@gmail.com	541-582-0605
Webmaster	Larry Tuttle	larry@alpharail.net	541-660-0989

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

May 12, 2013, 11:00AM to 3:00PM @ Railroad Park: Railroad Park open house. Please come over and help support our activities. If you would like more information contact Dan Wilkinson 541-479-1210 or whetstone@budget.net.

May 14, 2013, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: NRHS membership / board meeting. Allen Dobney will be presenting a slide show on the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge in the Owens Valley.

May 26, 2013, 11:00AM to 3:00PM @ Railroad Park: Railroad Park open house. Please come over and help support our activities. If you would like more information contact Dan Wilkinson 541-479-1210 or whetstone@budget.net.

June 9, 2013, 11:00AM to 3:00PM @ Railroad Park: Railroad Park open house. Please come over and help support our activities. If you would like more information contact Dan Wilkinson 541-479-1210 or whetstone@budget.net.

June 11, 2013, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse: NRHS membership / board meeting. Jerry Hellinga will be presenting a video; "Rails Through the Big Woods" by Elwood White. This film presentation covers steam logging operations on Vancouver Island in 1956 that includes Forest Products, B.C. Forest Products, Comox Lumber, MacMillan Bloedel, Canadian Collieries, plus a rare look at a diesel shay. Tom Moungovan met El through the late Harry Wright of Hillcrest Lumber, where they viewed El's 8mm films. Later, Tom was able to acquire several reels of El's work and had them digitized and converted to DVD format. Elwood passed away in April of 2011 at the age of 93.

June 23, 2013, 11:00AM to 3:00PM @ Railroad Park: Railroad Park open house. Please come over and help support our activities. If you would like more information contact Dan Wilkinson 541-479-1210 or whetstone@budget.net.

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.
