

THE MANIFEST April 2018



Greetings All:

Wow what a fantastic start to our 2018 season. We had our second highest day in sales in the Burger Shack on the first run day; the second run day was not quite as high, but still great. We are off to a great start.

I have several contributions for articles for the newsletter, so if yours is not here yet, do not despair, it will be in an upcoming edition.

First, as many of you have seen, our wig wag is setup and very popular with the kids who like to push the button and see it work. Following is a picture courtesy of Allen Dobney and a description written by Jerry Hellinga.

“The Magnetic Flagman (commonly known as the wig wag crossing signal) on loan from the Oregon Dept. of Transportation was blasted, repainted with the correct silver paint and reinstalled in front of our museum before the first run-day of the season. Thank you to Ric Walch, Jerry Hellinga, Ken Hill, and Matt Knauss.”



Second, we have some pics from Rick Aubin from 1980 and the tearing down of Ashland Ironworks.



Works being torn down

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

ASHLAND — Huge railroad wheels used to roll out of the dilapidated old building now being torn down at its site along Helman Street.

Forges glowed white hot. Large iron pots poured molten steel into forms. Lathes hummed.

Out of the early day Ashland Iron Works came mining machinery, farming implements and the first furnace to be used in Ashland.

The iron works building is located diagonally across from Parsons' Pine Products. In its place will be constructed either a warehouse or storage sheds, said Fred Roberts, property owner.

Local historians don't know who built the iron works. They estimate the building went up about 1890 "or a little earlier."

Billy Briggs, longtime Ashland lawyer, said the machine shop was phased out about 1930. Briggs handled much of the legal work for the iron works.

"Used to make wheels for railroad cars for many years," Briggs commented. "And then it went into mining machinery. It did a lot of work — a lot of big work — had mammoth lathes. Could make a wheel about five feet in diameter. Made stoves, too. Made a furnace for my father. He had the first furnace in an Ashland home.

"It made machinery for the Ashland mine. My father owned it for 20 years, you know. (The Ashland Mine Road at the north end of

Ashland leads to the mine site.) They made stuff for mines all over northern California and for the Rogue Valley."

The iron works property passed through a series of owners. One of them was Lawrence Coder. He and Ralph R. Hadfield bought the iron works on June 23, 1922, according to documents at the Jackson County Title Company, Medford. Coder's widow, Amelia, lives in the Rogue Valley Manor.

"The most we ever had working there was 15," Mrs. Coder said. "It was a foundry and machine shop. We built farm machinery and mining equipment."

John Billings, longtime Ashland resident, said that in the early 1900s the Ashland area had a number of small foundries. Bill Elhart, local historian and collector of early day Ashland photographs, said the tennis courts in Lithia Park were built originally on the concrete base of the first foundry.

In addition, the Ashland area in the early 1900s had a number of small sawmills which the Ashland Iron Works served, Billings said.

Billings remembers that the iron works made farm implements and repaired farm machinery.

"All you had to do was to give them an idea of what you wanted," he said. "They would make a template or pattern. Then they poured the hot metal in the sand and cooled it down and fit it to specifications."

Historic though it might be, the landmark apparently will pass from existence without any permanent marker to pinpoint its location for future historians.





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**

**Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of April 8, 2018**

1. **Call to Order:** Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Allen Dobney, as Bruce Kelly was out of town.
2. **Roll Call:** Allen Dobney, Jerry Hellinga, Chris Manley and several other members were present.
3. **Minutes** were read by Chris Manley and approved as corrected with a motion by Jerry Hellinga and seconded by Allen Dobney.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** We did very well on our first run day; it was our 2nd highest day at the Burger Shack in sales. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Chris Manley and seconded by Allen Dobney.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. *Medco 4:* Nothing new
 - b. *Burger Shack:* Some painting is left, but most repairs are complete.
 - c. *Newsletter* Nothing new
 - d. *Website:* Nothing new
 - e. *Butte Falls:* No update.
 - f. *Excess Sales:* Taken in over \$2,100.00 so far. Will be putting more up next month, as he has been concentrating on getting a new brochure ready.

- g. *RR Park*: Nothing new.
- h. *CB&Q* New tablet working well, seems to be a big hit with the kids. Ruth is still coming to do painting, weather permitting..

8. **Old Business**: NA

- 9. **New Business** Ken Edwards came to the meeting and submitted an application for membership. He was voted in on a motion by Chris Manley seconded by Allen Dobney.

The annual History Hunt is coming in May, and has been extended to last throughout the summer to allow more time for people to be able to make it to the various Jackson County Historical Society Museums. Visitors will receive two tickets each visit and there will be a drawing for gift baskets. Jerry suggested we donate a T-shirt to the gift basket, which we will do.

In addition, Jerry needs someone to take over attending the monthly Historical Society meetings. I believe that this has already been accomplished and Allen Dobney will take over for Jerry.

- 10. **Good of the Order**: Allen Dobney is working on a new brochure for SoRail. He had a draft copy to circulate at the meeting. It looks great and he should have it completed by next month and ready for print.

We also had someone apparently try to steal the bell off of the flatcar by the CB&Q. It appeared that they had tried to use the rope used to ring the bell to lift it off of the flatcar. Thankfully, they were not successful and all we needed to do was replace the rope.

In addition there is a hole in the fence that needs to be brought to the attention of the City.

The wig wag is up and painting complete. Jerry needs to make some adjustments to the bell, however it looks great.

11. **Adjournment:** Chris Manley moved we adjourn, Jerry Hellinga seconded it, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are in the Model Railroad Building.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Burger Shack

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The entertainment for the **May 8, 2018** meeting will be "*Rio Grande Volume 2*"

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

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