

Blob Tops - Oregon & California Railroad

The *Hugo Neighborhood* is starting its history research on insulator lines (e.g., telegraph, postal telegraph, railroad, long-distance and local telephone, power, etc.) with the donations of five insulators from Howard Banks, Norbert Tieman, and Mike Walker.¹

The original insulators from the Oregon & California (O & C) Railroad were CD 126 & CD 127 Brookfield "blob tops".² The first O & C rail was completed to Roseburg from Portland in 1872. The first official train arrived in Grants Pass December 2, 1883, the same year the Grave Creek Tunnel, better known in later years as Tunnel No. 9, was completed. When the railroad was built Western Union moved its wires to the railroad right of way and abandoned the lines through the mountains.



CD 126 Blob Top

1. CD 126 - donated by Howard Banks
CD 133 & CD 145 - donated by Norbert Tieman
CD 154 (two) - donated by Mike Walker
2. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *Oregon & California Railroad*. Brochure No. 6 in Insulator Series. Hugo, OR.
3. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *Postal Telegraph Company*. Brochure No. 7 in Insulator Series. Hugo, OR.
4. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *Crown Jewels of the Wire*. Brochure No. 2 in Insulator Series. Hugo, OR.
5. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *AT&T Long Distance Telephone Lines*. Brochure No. 8 in Insulator Series. Hugo, OR.

CD 133 & CD 145 - Postal Telegraph Company

On February 3, 2006 Norbert Tieman donated two styles of old green insulators to the *Hugo Neighborhood*. They are associated with the Postal Telegraph Company a new telegraph company created in 1881 to compete with Western Union.³ Lines were built through Josephine County around 1886 - 1887. Tieman had previously bought them from Howard Banks, Hugo Road.⁴

CD 133 Brookfield The insulator has the following words embossed on one side of it: "PAT, July 25, 1865, PAT JAN 25 1870, PAT FEB 22 1870." The insulator has a light aqua color and air bubbles. It has the following words embossed on the other side of it: "WBROOK - FIELD, 55 FULTON ST, N.Y."



CD 133 Brookfield



CD 145 Brookfield

CD 145 Brookfield The insulator has the following words embossed on it: "PATD NOV 13th 1883, FEB 12th 1884 & 8, W. BROOK - FIELD, 45 CLIFF ST, N.Y." The insulator has a light aqua color and air bubbles.

CD 154 - AT&T Long Distance Telephone Lines



CD 154 Hemingray

CD No.: 154
Manufacturer: Hemingray
Style Number: 42
Trade Name: Double Petticoat, 24 oz
Size: 3 5/8" W x 4 1/8" H
Weight: 24 oz.
Production Date: 1921 - 1950's
Usage: Telegraph & Telephone

AT&T built long telephone distance lines through Josephine County in the 1920s.⁵ Service continued until the mid to late 1950's when the lines were replaced with buried cable. AT&T replaced the old Hemingray Number 40, widely used from its introduction in 1910, with the Hemingray No. 42."

Insulator Brochure Series This brochure is number eleven of several in the "insulator" series numbered 1 through 11. Most importantly, the insulator series is all about Josephine County, Oregon, insulators.

1. Insulators of Josephine County
2. Crown Jewels Of The Wire
3. Anatomy Of An Insulator
4. Insulator CD Numbers
5. Collins Line
6. Oregon & California Railroad
7. Postal Telegraph Company
8. AT&T Long Distance Telephone Lines
9. Local Phone Service Lines
10. Power Lines
11. *First Insulators of Hugo Neighborhood*

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, as requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Membership dues are \$10.00 annually and due in January. They are used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications, and mailings. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

Hugo Neighborhood
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First Insulators of Hugo Neighborhood



Brochure 11 in Insulator Series



*Hugo Neighborhood's
First Four Types of Insulators*

"The No. 42 (CD 154) is a double petticoat type, with a long, smooth leakage path on the inner petticoat. It sits close to the cross-arm, thus giving the pin protection against rain slash. Its threads are accurately formed for a tight grip on the pin. The wire groove is a modern square type shown in Spec. 1-A-33 of the Association of American Railroads, and is accepted as standard for most telephone construction."

March 28, 2006

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**

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Crown Jewels Of The Wire