
Railroad Signals Man Saves Hugo Insulators

In 1955 36-year old Claude Dunivin¹ went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad (RR). His first day was at Merlin, Oregon. He worked for the RR for 25 years. Claude became a Lead Signal Man (i.e., Foreman for the Signal Gang) responsible for all signals and the signal line along the RR's right-of-way (ROW).

1978 Dunivin purchased his five acre Hugo property. It was not developed and was a jungle of brush and fallen trees. That same year the railroad cut all the communication poles off near the ground along the RR ROW. Claude cut up some of these poles between Hugo and Merlin, Oregon and took them to his Hugo property, including the 10-foot long, 10 insulator pin cross arms, and their attached insulators.

1979 He built his home on his Hugo lot and started building a fence around the five acre property. Most of the fencing is made from the cross-arms. Claude also acquired hundreds of insulators at the same time and they are on colorful display all over the property. Under Claude's caring hands the place became sorta like a park with a pond, fruit trees (i.e., apple, peach, plum, hazel nut, English walnut, black walnut, assorted varieties of Persimmon, Quince and three varieties of cherries), and open land beneath the limbs of large incense cedar and Douglas-fir trees.

1981 Claude retired from being a railroad man to Dunivin's Retreat in Hugo, Oregon. In 2004 Claude's wife, Geraldine, passed. Widower Dunivin married Widow Eula (Nations) Snell. They had known each other for a long time as the Dunivin and Snell families had went to church together.

Local Railroad Communication Line Insulators: 1978

Dunivin's Retreat Insulators The dominant insulator at Dunivin's Retreat is the Hemingray "Double Petticoat" No. 42. Other insulators include the Hemingray #40 and 42, some have May 2 1893 embossed; "Spiral Groove" Brookfield CD 147 October 8 1907 embossed; H.C.Co (Hemingray), Star and McLoughlin from San Diego; odd ceramic or maybe porcelain insulators (see Frommer insulator brochure³).



Claude's Purple CD 154 Whitall Tatums

Purple CD 154 Whitall Tatum Insulators at Claude's Merlin home have the following embossed on them: "Whitall Tatum Company No. 1, Made in U.S.A., 17" These purple insulators have side wire grooves, one inner skirt, threaded glass, and a double petticoat. These insulators were produced between 1922 and 1938. The CD 154 became the standard for both telephone and telegraph use for many years replacing the CD 152 and later being replaced by the more modern CD 155.

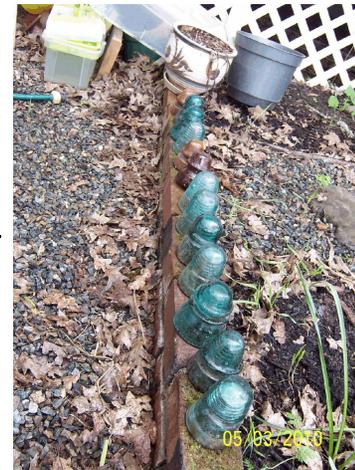
Dunivin's Retreat



Claude's Merlin Porch Insulators

Insulator Brochure Series This brochure is number 15 of several in the "insulator" series.² Most importantly, the insulator series is all about Josephine County, Oregon, insulators. The series will be continued with adventures in the field.

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1. Hugo Neighborhood. April 3, 2010. *Interview: Claude Dunivin Southern Pacific Railroad Signalman, Merlin, Oregon.* By Mike Walker, Education Chair. Hugo, OR.
 2. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *Crown Jewels of the Wire.* Hugo, OR.
 3. Hugo Neighborhood. May 7, 2010. *Dunivin Railroad Insulators.* Hugo, OR.



Outdoor Merlin Insulators

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
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>

Claude Dunivin,
Landowner and Hugo Neighbor from 1978 - 2004,
donated a CD 147 Brookfield Barclay Patent insulator
to the *Hugo Neighborhood* on May 3, 2010.



Hugo CD 147

CD 147 Barclay Patent Brookfield

The CD 147 was made to allow the insulator to be replaced without untwisting the tie wire. Nicknamed the "Spiral Groove" because of the unique spiral-shaped wire groove patented on October 8, 1907. It was found by Claude Dunivin on Hugo's Southern Pacific Railroad communications line in 1978.

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Brochure 15 in Insulator Series: HNA&HS 2010 - 5
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Claude Dunivin's Railroad Insulators



Brochure 15 in Insulator Series



Claude With Two Purple CD 154s

May 11, 2010

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society