
Oregon & California (O&C) Railroad: 1872 - 1883

1866 Railroad Grant Congress granted lands to the O&C Railroad to help finance construction of a railroad from Portland, Oregon to the California border. Railroad construction started in 1869, and by 1872 it was completed to Roseburg where it stopped until it was resumed in 1881. Trains arrived in Grants Pass in 1883, the same year that Tunnel No. 9, was completed.¹⁻²



South Tunnel No. 9 Road Wayne McKy, Chair, Hugo Neighborhood, and Mike Walker, Education Chair, Hugo Neighborhood, believe there was a four-mile road built ca., 1872 - 1883 by the O&C Railroad from the Applegate Trail near Mt. Sexton Pass to the railroad at the south entrance to Tunnel No. 9. This road was north of Hugo high on the south slope of the Grave Creek Hills. The old Applegate Trail/Stage Road became the Pacific Highway in 1913.

Old-Timers Through their oral histories Hugo old-timers, Orville Dingle and Mary Ritchie, have both referred to a Tunnel No. 9 road.³⁻⁴

Hypothesis A hypothesis is that Tunnel No. 9 was constructed from both its north and south ends at the same time in advance of the railhead, because for complex and difficult projects you could have two crews working at the same time. The construction effort needed a supply route to the south tunnel entrance. For better year around capability, the road needed to be at a high elevation away from winter wetlands and the need for bridges.

Hugo's High Road

Chinese Laborers provided much of the back breaking toil to make the cuts for the O&C as it inched southward through the Umpqua Mountains to the Rogue River Valley.⁷ Most Chinese who came to this country for work on the railroad would be buried in their homeland. Individuals who were buried in temporary graves were regularly disinterred and the remains shipped back to the native villages.

High Road Early maps, present roads, and existing physical traces, found by the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, support the hypothesis that the High Road existed. It is speculated that Chinese railroad workers probably built Hugo's High Road. Early homesteading and cash entries occurred on lands the High Road passed through: Caroline Sexton 1870; Gross 1891; Triplett 1892; and Charles Sexton 1893.⁵⁻⁶ Homesteaders would typically be on the land for a minimum of 5 to 10 years proving up the property before they received their patent.

Interim Interment Site Local anecdotal information is that the O&C Railroad had first used the land that would become the PVC cemetery as an interim interment site for railroad workers, especially Chinese. For example, old-timer Ruth Refna Crow Sackett had passed on stories from her childhood of seeing wooden stakes in the low flat land in the western portion of the PVC, and having speculated they had been Chinese grave markers.⁸ While Larry McLane was researching his book, *First There Was Twogood*, a couple of old-timers had informed him that they remembered some tombstones and many wooden stakes in the western portion of the PVC.⁹

Formal Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association (PVCA): 1899

1890s PVC Association¹⁻² The PVCA was formally formed by 11 founders on May 30, 1896. One of its records document that the association was informally operating on the railroad land as early as May 30, 1892 a decade after the railroad arrived. It is speculated the cemetery started in the 1870s - 1880s as an informal railroad cemetery even though the PVCA did not receive a deed from the railroad to the PVC land until 1899.

Want more information?
Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's history and land use.



Hugo's High Road

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1. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, & Rogue Advocates. 2007. *O & C Railroad*. Hugo, OR.
 2. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, & Rogue Advocates. 2007. *Applegate Trail & Pleasant Valley Cemetery*. Hugo, OR.
 3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2004. *Orville Dingle's Hugo Memories: 1910 - 1920*. Hugo, OR.
 4. Hugo Neighborhood. 1999. *Mary Ellen (Ritchie) Fitzpatrick's Hugo Memories*. Hugo, OR.
 5. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet
 6. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.
 7. Oregon Blue Book. 2007. *Oregon History: Chinese-Americans*. Web.
 8. Sharp, Fred & Nancy. 2007. December 10, 2007 Interview. By Mike Walker on Ruth Refna Crow Sackett's memories.
 9. Telephone interview Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., March 23, 2007 when Larry McLane shared with Mike Walker some information on the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

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 of 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 to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

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

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

Edited by Jean Boling, Karen Rose,
Wayne McKy, & Mike Walker

HNA&HS Officers

Wayne McKy, Chair
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Mike Walker, Education Chair
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Web Master

Karen Rose, Web Master
575 Red Mountain Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Josephine County Historical Society

Jean Boling, Historic Sites Chair
214 NW Booth Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Not Quality Controlled, Nor Edited

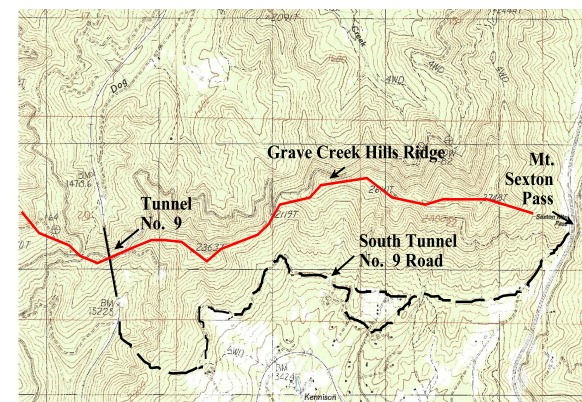
HUGO'S HIGH ROAD

Very Draft

Brochure 60 in Hugo's Pioneers
Brochure Series



*Part of the 1.5 mile Applegate Trail nomination to
Federal Register of Historic Places*



South Tunnel No. 9 Road

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
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Josephine County Historical Society
Rogue Advocates**