

## O & C Railroad: 1883

The first Oregon & California (O & C) rail was completed to Roseburg from Portland in 1872.<sup>1</sup> 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 (WU) moved its wires to the railroad right-

of-way and abandoned the lines through the mountains. Generally, the telegraph lines, poles, and wire was salvaged by WU. Those salvage efforts help account for the difficulty in finding original telegraph insulators from the Collins line.

The square poles/redwood poles date from 1910 - 1912 when they were put up. If you go to the roof of

Tunnel No. 9 (top of Grave Creek Hills) you will find the original poles on the ground in the brush of the north slope.



*CD 126 Brookfield*

The line on the railroad right-of-way we see today was the signal line. It was probably built in the 1920s. The line on the other side of the tracks was the telegraph line (later telegraph and telephone line). The Western Union telegraph line on the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way started out in 1883 using CD 126 & CD 127 Brookfield “blob tops”.

*Tunnel No. 9: 1883*



## Western Union Moved To Railroad

As the railroad upgraded the line they used all kinds of insulators. The Southern Pacific Railroad bought insulators from the McLoughlin Company in San Diego (1920s - 1930s), Maydwell Company in southern California - they bought out the McLoughlin Company (1930s - 1940s), Hemingray in Indiana (the whole period), Brookfield (1860s - 1920s), and California (1912 - 1916). There were different companies during different periods that sold insulators.

The railroad’s upgrades or changes resulted in a large variety of insulators being used. It is suspected that at some point the railroad ordered insulators with stars from General Electric. They were widespread and used everywhere.

The telegraph line along the railroad tracks has used a variety of wire: galvanized wire, copper wire, and copper-clad iron wire.



*Tunnel No. 9*

## CD 126 & CD 127 Brookfield “Blob Tops”

### CD 127

The CD 127 was an early Brookfield insulator probably made in the mid-1880s and was one of the original insulators used along the railroad in southern Oregon. They are not particularly rare in the aqua color as they were made in the millions.



*Hugo’s Railroad  
CD 126 Blob Top*

### Insulator Brochure Series

This brochure is number six of several in the “insulator” series numbered 1 through 11. Most importantly, the insulator series is all about Josephine County, Oregon, insulators. The series will be continued with adventures in the field.

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

1. Hugo Neighborhood. September 3, 2003. *Tunnel No. 9: 1883*. Hugo, OR.

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## 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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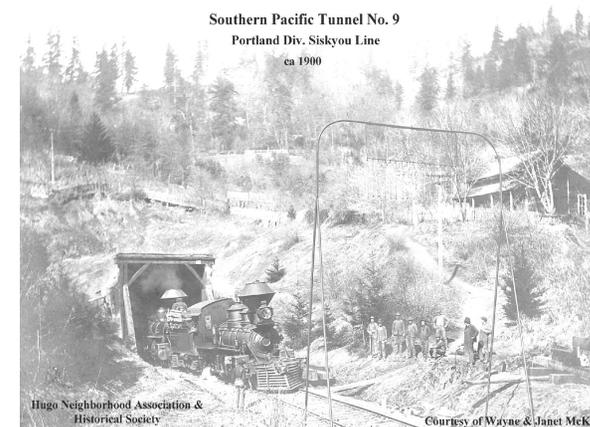
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## Oregon & California Railroad



Brochure 6 in Insulator Series



*Tunnel No. 9*  
Courtesy of Wayne & Janet McKY

**March 19, 2006**

by

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**

&

**Crown Jewels Of The Wire**