
Hugo's Early Settlers

1916 Dillen Was Hugo School Director¹ Hugo, Ore., Mar. 8. – School Director Chas. L. Dillen was instantly killed yesterday afternoon, and his son-in-law, George Barrett, was seriously injured in an auto collision with a southbound Southern Pacific freight train at a road crossing about two hundred yards north of the station at Hugo (at location of the Southern Pacific Railroad's Hugo Section House (see photographs).

The railroad at this point runs virtually north and south. Approaching the crossing from the west the front seat of the auto was occupied by Mr. Dillen and Mr. Barrett the latter acting as driver.

In the rear seat until a few moments before the collision, were Mrs. Dillen and Mrs. Barrett. West of the track, and within thirty yards of it, the auto stopped, the ladies alighted and the car started ahead. The freight engine was then about 75 yards north of the crossing and was moving perhaps ten miles an hour.



Hugo Train Accident Site: 1916

Seeing his danger, Mr. Barrett set the brakes, and for a moment the wheels skidded, but withing a yard began again to revolve and the machine started forward with accelerated speed. The locomotive engineer blew a number of short blasts of the whistle, and Mr. Barrett, having lost control of the brakes attempted to turn to the left. He was too late for the right fore-wheel of the auto mounted the west rail of the track just as the pilot of the engine reached that point.

Charles Dillen, Hugo Settler Family: 1914 - 1916

At the moment of collision Mr. Dillen either jumped or was thrown from the machine. He was caught in the wreckage and dragged with it until the engine was brought to a standstill, about a hundred feet south of the crossing. His head and the upper part of his body were terribly mangled. Subsequently the body was taken to Grants Pass by L. B. Hall, who will prepare it for burial.

Mr. Barrett, caught within the body of the auto, was extricated by Mr. Martin, a neighboring resident, who ran to the wreck a moment after the accident occurred.

On examination of Mr. Barrett by Dr. Loughridge and Dr. Stricker – who arrived from Grants Pass by auto an hour later – it was found that one of his arms was lacerated and perhaps broken. A few cuts and scratches appeared on his head, and his right leg was bruised. The chief injury, however, was caused by shock. He had been an invalid for months, suffering from nervous prostration.

Formerly engaged in the drug business at Rupert, Idaho, Mr. Barrett's ill health compelled him to seek rest. He purchased the auto in Portland a month or more ago, and with his wife motored to Hugo for a visit with her parents.

Mr. Dillen was about 65 years of age. He was a member of the school board for this district, an active official of the local grange, and a Knight of Pythias.

In search of health for himself and wife, about four years ago he moved from Idaho to Hugo and built a house on land adjoining the farm of his brother-in-law, J. M. McKy. In his earlier life Mr. Dillen was a court official and business man in Kansas.

His living relatives are his widow and three daughters, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Shoemaker of Portland and Mrs. Carruthers of Spokane.

Train Victim

Hold Inquiry Thursday – F. L. Burkhalter, superintendent of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, with his staff, stopped off here this afternoon, their private car being set off from No. 15. They will hold a board of inquiry tomorrow investigating into the causes of the accident at Hugo yesterday.²

Funeral Held Today – The funeral services over the remains of C. L. Dillon, who was killed at Hugo Tuesday when a special freight train struck the auto in which he was riding, was held in this city, from Hall's chapel, this afternoon. A large delegation of citizens from Hugo came to attend the obsequies.³

Board Of Inquiry Reports – The board of inquiry that investigated the accident at Hugo, where C. L. Dillen was killed when train No. 2591 struck the automobile in which he was riding, reported its finding last night. The board was composed of Fred Hanssen, trainmaster, E. Stroud, road foreman of engineers, D. C. Harris, roadmaster; T. B. Cornell of Grants Pass, and H. I. Wilson of Glendale. The board held that the driver of the automobile was "entirely responsible for the accident by reason of failure to exercise reasonable caution in undertaking to negotiate the crossing."⁴

Auto Victim At Hospital – G. W. Barrett, injured in the automobile wreck at Hugo last week, was brought to Grants Pass yesterday and is at the Good Samaritan hospital, with prospects of recovery after a few weeks. Mr. Barrett has injuries about the back, arms and leg.⁵

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

1. *Rogue River Courier*. March 8, 1916. [Dillen Was Hugo School Director](#).
2. *Rogue River Courier*. March 8, 1916. [Hold Inquiry Thursday](#) – .
3. *Rogue River Courier*. March 10, 1916. [Funeral Held Today](#) – .
4. *Rogue River Courier*. March 10, 1916. [Board Of Inquiry Reports](#) – .
5. *Rogue River Courier*. March 14, 1916. [Auto Victim At Hospital](#)– .

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.

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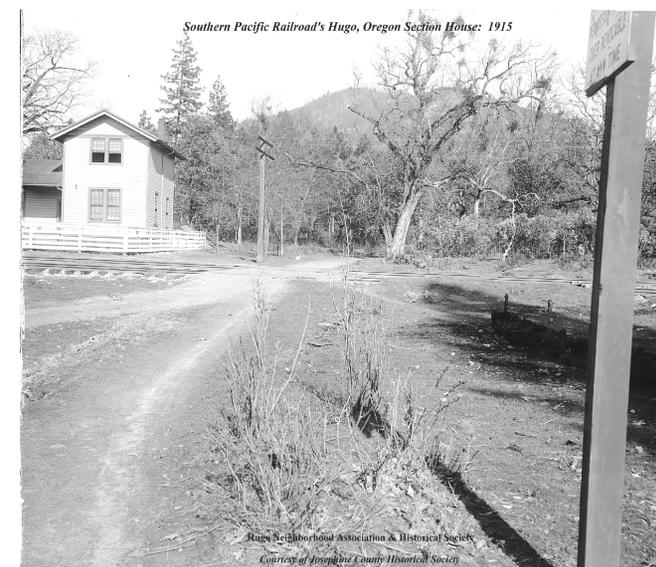
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DILLEN: HUGO'S EARLY SETTLER – Train Victim



Southern Pacific Railroad's Hugo, Oregon Section House: 1915
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
Courtesy of Josephine County Historical Society

**Train Accident On Southern Pacific Railroad At
Hugo Section House: 1916**

January 8, 2008

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**