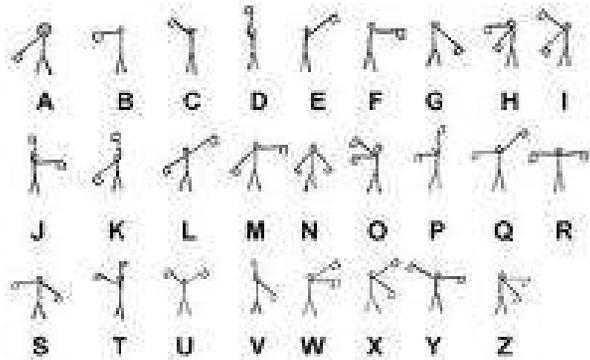
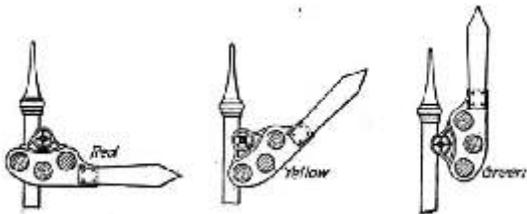


## Semaphores

**Southern Pacific Semaphore** Semaphore flags are well known to sailors; there are 26 flags of the Semaphore alphabet.



Semaphore, from Ancient Greek (sign), and (bearing, bearer), can refer to railway semaphore signals for railway traffic control.



The word semaphore derives from the Greek meaning "to bear a sign." Each blade represents a man with a flag. STOP is signaled with arms outstretched and PROCEED by arms dropping to the side.

## Southern Pacific Railroad

**The semaphore arm** consists of two parts: A wooden or metal arm (or "blade") which pivots at different angles, and a spectacle holding colored lenses which move in front of a lamp in order to provide indications at night. Red was quickly chosen as the best color for semaphore arms as it was clearly visible against most backgrounds. To enhance the visibility of the arm, a marking of contrasting color, such as a stripe or spot, is usually applied.



*O & C Train*

**O & C Railroad** The first rail out of Portland was laid in 1869 and by December 1872 it was completed to Roseburg. Construction stopped there and no further work was done for more than eight years. Construction of the O & C Railroad was resumed from Roseburg in 1881. 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 July 4. The tunnel measured 2,112 feet in length through the Grave Creek Hills north of Hugo.

**Southern Pacific Railroad** acquired control in 1884 and the "last spike" or final ceremony in that railroad was driven at Ashland, Oregon in December 17, 1887 connecting Oregon and California.

## More Information

**Semaphore** One of the earliest forms of fixed railway signal is the semaphore. These signals display their different indications to train drivers by changing the angle of inclination of a pivoted 'arm'. Semaphore signals were patented in the early 1840s by Joseph James Stevens, and soon became the most widely-used form of mechanical signal.



*Semaphore In Downtown Hugo Along Southern Pacific Railroad: c.a., 1900 - 1910s*

**East & West** East side of railroad was the telegraph line (double cross-arms - 20 or 30 lines). West side was the signal line (one cross-arm). Block signals. All held down with electricity.

**More information** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's land use, and/or history projects.

## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the *Hugo Neighborhood*. We are a nonprofit charitable and educational association composed of a voluntary group of citizens interested in both the land use and history of the Hugo area, which is located in Josephine County, Oregon.

### Land Use & History

Its land use mission is to promote the social welfare of the citizens of the area by working to educate, preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors.

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.

Send us your email address if you want to know what we are doing; email does not cost us money, just time and effort.

*Hugo Neighborhood*  
Email: [hugo@jeffnet.org](mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org)  
Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>

Edited by Blake & Jacque Hardwock & Mike Walker

### HNA&HS Officers

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

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

Hal Anthony, Outreach Chair  
3995 Russell Road  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Jacqueline Hardwick, Treasurer  
885 Red Mountain Drive  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

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



**Wolf Creek Semaphore**

*The Semaphore in this picture came from Wolf Creek, Oregon where it had been in operation on the Southern Pacific's Siskiyou line. The chain driven control mechanism is visible through the a clear plexiglass cover and operates the blades.*

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## Semiphores of the Southern Pacific Railroad



*Semaphores In Downtown Hugo Along Southern Pacific Railroad: c.a., 1900 - 1910s*

**May 4, 2004**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society**