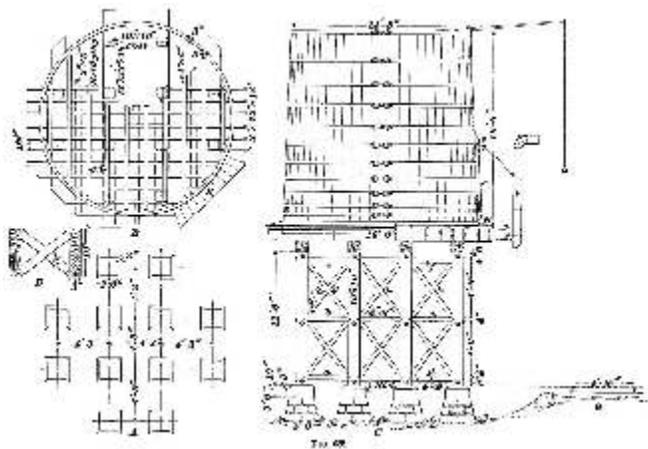


Hugo's Railroad Water Tanks

1815 Water stations are points along a railroad where the engines stop to take in water. Their distance apart depended mainly upon the amount of the traffic, but somewhat upon the grades. On roads with a light traffic, water stations at intervals of 15 miles meet every requirement, while roads with a heavy traffic and frequent trains may required them at every 5 or 6 miles. They usually consisted of large wooden tubs placed upon a strong framework, supported by heavy pillars which rested upon a foundation of masonry. The tubs were generally circular in form.¹



Railroad water tanks in 1815 held from 20,000 to 40,000 gallons. A common size was 16 ft. in diameter and 16 ft. in height, holding about 21,000 gallons. All tanks holding above 200 barrels were made from 3-inch stuff. This thickness is some what reduced by planing. The bottom of the tank should be from 10 to 12 ft. above the tops of the rails.¹

Southern Pacific Railroad

A **steam locomotive** is a locomotive that produces its power through a steam engine. The term locomotive refers to any self-propelled vehicle. When the term is used on its own, it commonly refers to a railway locomotive. Its purpose is to haul a train for freight wagons or passenger coaches along a railway track.



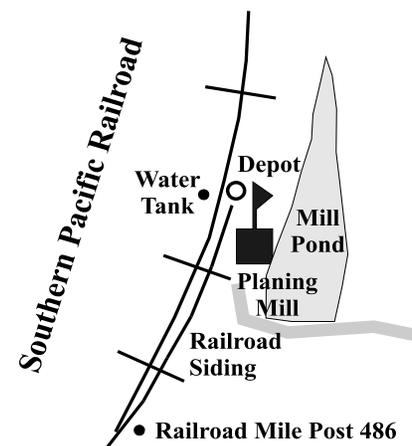
The locomotive is usually fueled by coal, wood or oil. This fuel is burned to produce steam in a boiler, which drives the steam engine. In later years both fuel and water supplies were carried with the locomotive, either on the locomotive itself or in wagons pulled behind.

1910 Tunnel No. 9 Water Tank A rustic 20-foot diameter wooden water tank was a local feature along the railroad about a half-mile south of Tunnel No. 9. It was located by a creek that was the tank's source of water. The tank had a spout which was used by the steam driven trains when they got low on water. On the outside of the tank there was a wooden ladder up to the top of the tank. One time some kids, including 5-year old Orville, went up the ladder to the roof of the tank. Orville was the son of the Hugo Section Foreman. One of the kids took off his shirt and another took off his shoes, and eventually they were all stark naked. Giggling like a bunch of girls they climbed down a ladder fixed inside the tank to swim in the 15 feet of water there. Orville was the first one to get his feet wet. He told his dad about their swimming adventure and his dad said, "*I don't want to every hear about you going near that tank anymore. What would you have done if the spout had been opened to put water into a train?*"²

Steam Railroad Locomotive

1910s Three Pines Water Tank Eddie Kolkow had reported that there was still a railroad water tank at Three Pines when his family moved to Hugo from Little Lake, California in 1924. The site of the tank can still be observed as a cutout in the bank across from where the Three Pines Depot had been and the end of the railroad siding.

Railroad Yard



Three Pines Water Tank Location

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.

1. The Colliery Engineer Company. 1897, 1898, 1899. *A Text Book on Civil Engineering*.
2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. January 21, 2004. *Orville Dingler's Hugo Memories: 1910 - 1920*. By Mike Walker. Hugo, OR.

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

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

Edited by Karen Rose & Mike Walker



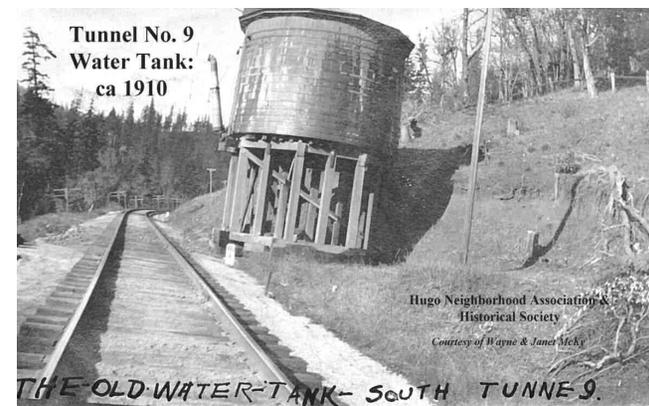
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Hugo's Railroad Water Tanks



Tunnel No. 9 Water Tank

May 23, 2011

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society

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