
Railroad Signals Man Saves Hugo Insulators

In 1955 36-year old Claude Dunivin¹ went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad (RR). His first day was at Merlin, Oregon. He worked for the RR for 25 years. Claude became a Lead Signal Man (i.e., Foreman for the Signal Gang) responsible for all signals and the signal line along the RR's right-of-way (ROW).

1978 Dunivin purchased his five acre Hugo property. It was not developed and was a jungle of brush and fallen trees. That same year the railroad cut all the communication poles off near the ground along the RR ROW. Claude cut up some of these poles between Hugo and Merlin, Oregon and took them to his Hugo property, including the 10-foot long, 10 insulator pin cross arms, and their attached insulators.

1979 He built his home on his Hugo lot and started building a fence around the five acre property. Most of the fencing is made from the cross-arms. Claude also acquired hundreds of insulators at the same time and they are on colorful display all over the property. Under Claude's caring hands the place became sorta like a park with a pond, fruit trees (i.e., apple, peach, plum, hazel nut, English walnut, black walnut, assorted varieties of Persimmon, Quince and three varieties of cherries), and open land beneath the limbs of large incense cedar and Douglas-fir trees.

1981 Claude retired from being a railroad man to Dunivin's Retreat in Hugo, Oregon. In 2004 Claude's wife, Geraldine, passed. Widower Dunivin married Widow Eula (Nations) Snell. They had known each other for a long time as the Dunivin and Snell families had went to church together.

Frommer's Local Railroad Insulators

Frommer's Acquired Railroad Memorabilia Jim Frommer's best friend, Cliff Boger, had moved to Hitching Post Road over 30 years ago in 1977 and Jim has been visiting Hugo every since. In September 2005 he was the best man for his buddy in Hugo and he discovered Dunivin's was up for sale.



Fence Insulator Display

He had known about the property for a long time from when the fruit trees were small. Jim bought the place December 2005 thinking he was going to move to Hugo some day. He rented it out for about five years.

General Description Of Insulators The dominant insulator at Dunivin's Retreat is the Hemingray "Double Petticoat" No. 42. AT&T built telegraph and telephone lines through Josephine County in the 1920s. Service continued until the mid to late 1950's when the lines were replaced with buried cable. AT&T replaced the old Hemingray Number 40, widely used from its introduction in 1910, with the Hemingray No. 42 from 1921 until the 1950's.

Dunivin's Retreat

Specific Insulators At Frommers Hemingray #40 and 42, some have May 2 1893 embossed; Spiral Groove" Brookfield CD 147 October 8 1907 embossed; H.C.Co (Hemingray), Star and Mcloughlin from San Diego; odd ceramic or maybe porcelain insulators.

2010 Jim Frommer and Karen Berg became permanent neighbors in 2010. They love the place and are here to stay. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming.



Insulator Line & Insulator Ties

Insulator Brochure Series This brochure is number thirteen of several in the "insulator" series.² Most importantly, the insulator series is all about Josephine County, Oregon, insulators. The series will be continued with adventures in the field.

1. Hugo Neighborhood. April 3, 2010. *Interview: Claude Dunivin Southern Pacific Railroad Signalman, Merlin, Oregon.* By Mike Walker, Education Chair. Hugo, OR.
2. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *Crown Jewels of the Wire.* Hugo, OR.

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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Jim Frommer, Landowner & Neighbor
Hugo Neighborhood



1893 Hemingray

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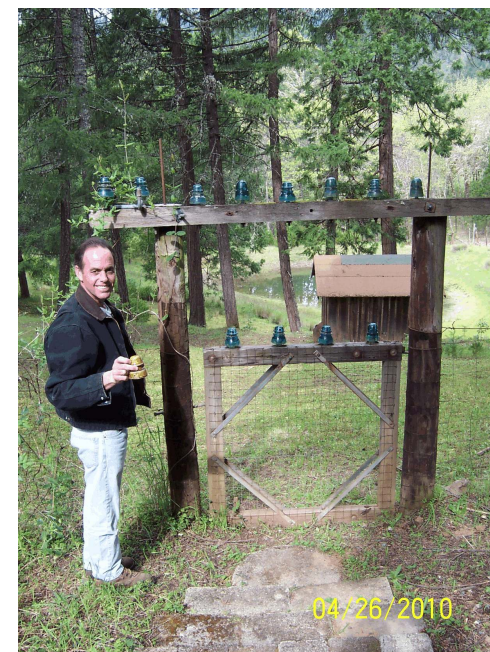
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Dunivin Railroad
Insulators



Brochure 13 in Insulator Series



Jim Frommer at Insulator Display

May 7, 2010

by

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**