

Tunnel No. 9

Dinglers¹ Orville Dingler was born November 16, 1904 in Wisner, Idaho. In 1910, his dad, Section Foreman Fred Dingler, moved his family to the Southern Pacific Railroad's Section House at Tunnel No. 9. The Tunnel No. 9/Hugo Section Crew covered the rails from just north of the northern entrance of Tunnel No. 9 almost to Merlin where the rails crossed Jump Off Joe Creek.

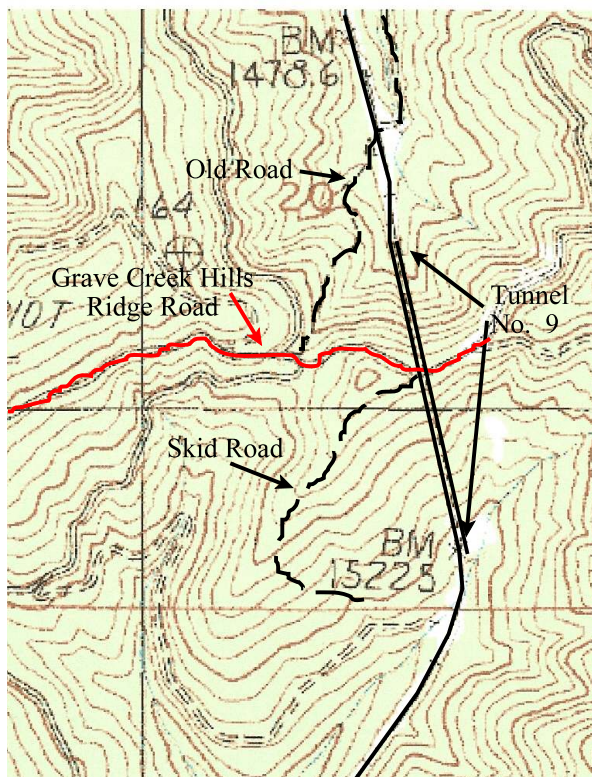
Tunnel # 9 Road¹ Historically there was a road that went up and over the east-west saddle above Tunnel No. 9 to Leland. The road was originally developed when the railroad and tunnel were being built in the late 1870s. At the turn of the century this road went from Dan Peterson's place to Leland. Dan started out as a railroad man, but became a Hugo farmer. Early on the Peterson's would take wagon loads of peaches over the hill road to sell at Leland. However, the road over the tunnel was pretty much grown-up by the time the Dinglers moved to Tunnel No. 9.

Orville got to school by walking from his home at Tunnel No. 9. It was about three miles to school if he followed the railroad tracks all the way. Most of the time Orville would take the short cut over the ridge south from the tunnel and on through the Peterson's ranch and apple orchard to the railroad. Orville liked this short cut as it eliminated almost a mile of walking.

Everything was moved by wagons or train when Orville was a child and young man in Hugo from 1910 - 1920.

Tunnel No. 9 Road: Over The Top

Ritchies² Mary Ellen (Ritchie) Fitzpatrick's folks, Harvey Whitaker and Margaret Mary Ritchie, first came to Hugo in 1910. Her family stayed with the Petersons for awhile until they moved into the Holgate house. Mary Ritchie was born October 30, 1912 in Medford, Oregon. At the time her folks were living on their homestead off the Ahern Road within a mile of downtown Hugo, Oregon.



**Tunnel No. 9 Road Over Grave Creek Hills:
1870s - 1900**

More Information

Tunnel # 9 Road At one time there was a road that went up and over the saddle above the railroad's present Tunnel # 9. The road was built because of the railroad was being built in the late 1870s. This road went from the Peterson's place to Leland, Oregon. The Petersons had quite an orchard. The Peterson's would take wagon loads of peaches to sell. Everything was moved by wagons when Mary Ritchie was a child.²

Several men that worked on the railroad in the 1870s in northern Josephine County liked the area and eventually came back and acquired land. Mr. Pirzer and Mr. Peterson were some of these men.²

The historical Tunnel No. 9 Road - "road that went up and over the east-west saddle above Tunnel No. 9 to Leland" could have been exactly above the tunnel or more likely it followed easier sloped ridges and draws.

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. Hugo Neighborhood. 2001. *Orville Dingler's Hugo Memories: 1910 - 1920*. April 9, 2001, revised July 23, 2001; edited January 21, 2004. Hugo, OR.
2. Interview of Mary Ellen (Ritchie) Fitzpatrick by Mike Walker. 1999. Hugo, OR.
3. USGS. 1998. *Merlin Quadrangle*. 7.5 minute topographic series is base for topo maps.
4. Oral Interview of Mary Ellen (Ritchie) Fitzpatrick by Wayne McKy. 19?? - ??, 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 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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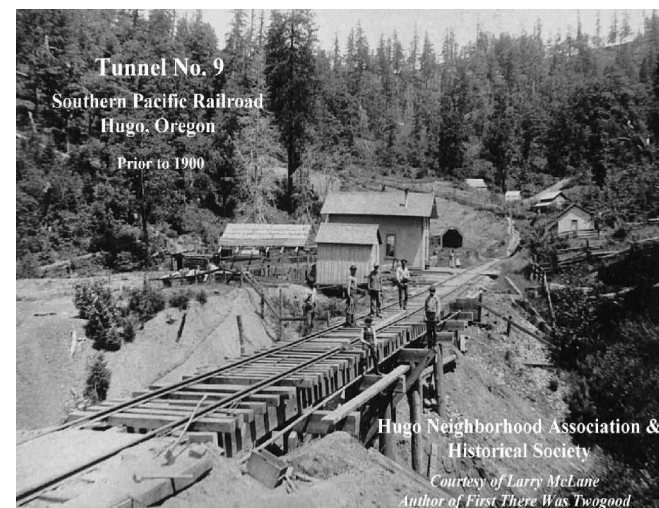
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TUNNEL NO. 9 ROAD: 1870s - ca., 1900

Brochure 9 Of Hugo's Trails
Brochure Series



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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**