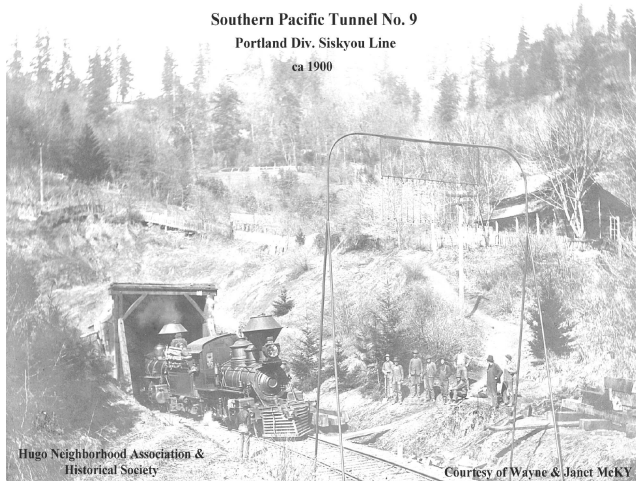


Tunnel No. 9 Completed 1883

1872 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. Some of the most difficult construction work was encountered as the right-of-way entered north of Josephine County. Tunnels and towering wooden trestles were required in the mountains and canyons as the rails stretched to Grants Pass from the north.

Southern Pacific Tunnel No. 9
Portland Div. Siskiyou Line
ca 1900

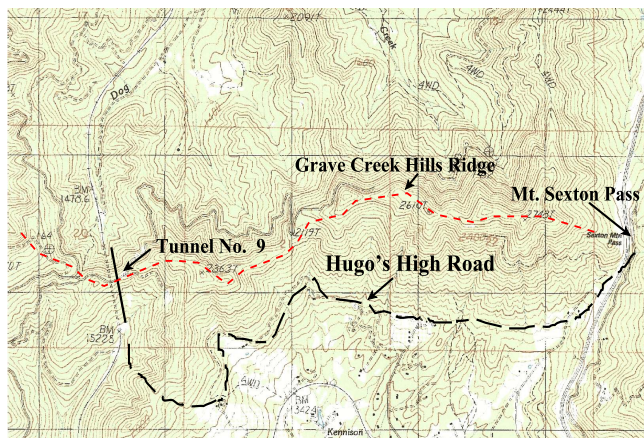


**Photo 2. Steam Engine Coming Out Of
Tunnel No. 9: ca., 1900**

1881 - 1883 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 4th. The tunnel measured 2,112 feet in length through the Grave Creek Hills north of Hugo.

Tunnel No. 9 Town: 1881 - 1913

Tunnel No. 9 was being constructed from its north and south (Hugo side) from 1881 - 1883. Hugo's High Road Committee believes there was a four-mile road built during this time by the railroad from the Applegate Trail near Mt. Sexton Pass to supply the railroad at the south entrance to Tunnel No. 9. This road was north of Hugo high on the south slope of the Grave Creek Hills. Through their oral histories Hugo old-timers, Orville Dingler and Mary Ritchie, have both referred to a Tunnel No. 9 road.



Hugo High Road Supplying Railroad: 1881 - 1883

Tunnel No. 9 Town The railroad had a significant presence at the south end of Tunnel No. 9 from 1881 - 1913 for the purpose of building and maintaining the tunnel. It is estimated that a half-dozen homes were located there, including the Hugo Section House which was not relocated to Hugo until 1913. There was also travel on a wagon road between Tunnel No. 9 Town and Leland on the north side of the Tunnel.

Railroad Workers & A Few Settlers

1906 W. L. Chapio, who has been working on the railroad at Tunnel 9, left last week for Drain, Ore. *Rogue River Courier*. March 16, 1906. [Hugo](#)

- W. E. Sanders and wife have moved back on their farm from Tunnel 9 and are again living "at home." *Rogue River Courier*. March 16, 1906. [Hugo](#)
- Mr. Culp of Leland visited at Tunnel 9 Monday. *Rogue River Courier*. March 30, 1906. [Hugo](#)

1901 Albert Osborn's Hugo Homestead On May 8, 1901 Albert H. Osborn was issued a homestead certificate for 160 acres in Hugo, Oregon (Patent No. 5091).¹⁻² The Osborn homestead was an important tract from 1881 through the early 1910s as the central location of the railroad in building and maintaining Tunnel No. 9.

1910 -1913 Orville Dingler testified that an apple orchard was located near the tunnel on Leo Potter's place. The Potters had arrived in the area just after the Dinglers and lived quite close to them near the tunnel. The orchard also had pear and plum trees and one nectarine tree.³ It is likely that the Potter place had been the Osborn homestead. The Dingler family lived in the Southern Oregon Railroad's Section house at south Tunnel No. 9 (Photo 1) from 1910 - 1913.³

Want 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. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov/>). Internet.
2. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.
3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2004. *Orville Dingler's Hugo Memories: 1910 - 1920*. 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.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
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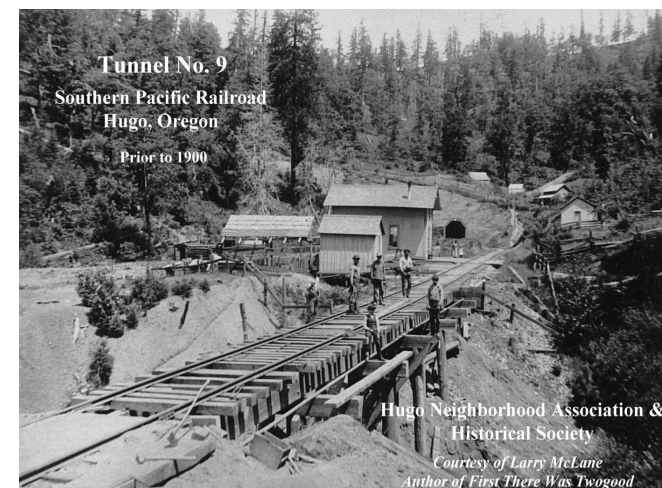
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Tunnel No. 9 Town



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**Photo 1. Tunnel No. 9 and Section House:
ca., Before 1900**

December 31, 2007

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**