

Velocipedes & Speeders

The earliest three-wheel velocipedes and four-wheel track cars were either powered by hand cranking or pedaling, the motion being transmitted to the wheels by chains and gears (see Tunnel No. 9 Section Crew Photo). By the 1950s the velocipede had evolved into the modern motor car when Fairmont began offering a two-cylinder, four-stroke engine (see cover page).



**Tunnel No. 9 Section Crew
On Speeder and Track Car: Hugo, OR**

These motorcars, otherwise known as railcars, speeders, jiggers, or putt-putts were used in the fifties and sixties on virtually every rail line in the U.S., including the Southern Pacific Railroad in the Rogue River Valley. Their purpose was to transport personnel and equipment for track inspections and maintenance of way purposes. The maximum speed of most motorcars was and is between 20 to 40 mph.

Southwest Railcar Limited's Speeder Run: April 30, 2004

Did you ever wonder what happened to the speeders? Not surprisingly, the overwhelming majority were scrapped, but a few thousand of these vehicles are still around today in running condition and in regular use by different motorcar clubs. Speeders are unique; so little effort to have so much fun.

On April 30, 2004 SWRC Ltd sponsored a one way 131-mile rail speeder run from Medford to Roseburg, Oregon and back again May 2 on the Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad.

Medford - Railroad Mile Post 441.8
Roseburg - Railroad Mile Post 572.6



**SWRC Ltd Speeder Trip: Starting Lineup
Medford, OR**

Fifty folks on 25 speeders made the northern run coordinated by Tom Phair, SWRC Ltd, 530-713-9582, tomphair@comcast.net. It was a clickity-clack all day rail buster mightily enjoyed by all on a beautiful Spring day.

More Information

Speeders were part of Hugo's Southern Pacific Railroad history from the time of the velocipede to the modern motor car until they were replaced by the Hy-Rail pick up truck in the 1970s. Mike Walker, Secretary, *Hugo Neighborhood*, was graciously invited by Earl Failla, an avid Southern Pacific Railroad and speeder enthusiast to enjoy his club's April 30 speeder run. All Mike had to say was "Wow!"

Earl F. Failla
Collector of Western Railroad Artifacts
P.O. Box 70, Merlin, OR 97532, 541-471-1405



Potty Speeder, Hugo, OR

More Information Contact SWRC Ltd or NARCO for more information about the joy of speeding.

! Southwest Railcar Limited - SWRC Ltd
"The Welcome Aboard Motorcar Club"
P.O. Box 664, Alamo, CA 94507

! North American Railcar Operators Association
P.O. Box 802, Lock Haven, PA 1774

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 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.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually and used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them our Treasurer. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Hugo Neighborhood Association
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>
Edited by 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

Speeder
Run



Speeder Earl Failla

April 30 & May 2, 2004

by

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**