

Newsman Takes Trip on Eastern Oregon's New Railroad

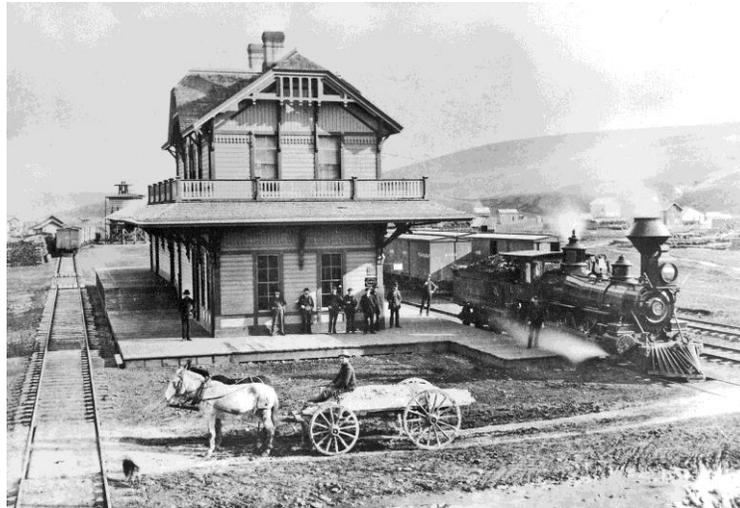
(Reprinted from *Baker City Reveille*, December 12, 1884. The author was a staff reporter.)

On last Monday's 12 p.m. train we left this city for Huntington for business connected with this paper.

After leaving this city the road turns up Sutton Creek Canyon and continues in that direction until the summit between this city and Burnt River is reached. Here the brakes are changed on the train and we commence going down grade until we reach Huntington, a distance of 40 miles.

At New York Ranch about 12 miles from this city, we pass the west-bound train and shortly arrive at Durkee or the Old Express Ranch. Here we strike Burnt River and never leave it during our entire journey.

After rounding a curve some 2 or 3 miles north of Weatherby Station, we commence crossing Burnt River, and some of the bridges are unusually high and dangerous. Two cows were standing on the track not 30 feet from the bridge as the train rounded the curve.



Baker City Depot

The engineer, of course, did not see them in time to stop the train. A quick, sharp blast from the whistle, a little jar, and the train stopped with the engine on dry land with the trucks of the locomotive off the track.

On close examination a cow was found—we say close examination; this is true, there was hardly a grease spot left of her—and a closer inspection revealed the fact that the wheels of the trucks had cut off the spikes and left the cars on the bridge in a dangerous predicament. Engineer Moon and conductor Moore understand their business and in a short time the engine was on the track again and the section hands were soon on the ground making the necessary repairs.

After passing Weatherby Station the train entered
TUNNEL No. 6

800-feet long and well made. Some placer mines are to be seen on either side of the road almost the entire distance of Bunrt River, although the people seem to be turning their attempts to raising fruit and so forth.

At 3:03 we arrive at the new town of Huntington having lost just 25 minutes in killing the cow. We found Huntington to be quite a town. Mr. Fifer is the leading merchant inasmuch as he carries the largest stock and does the most business. He deserves the patronage he is receiving.

Gary Dielman
Baker City, OR
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