



Official “Golden Spike”photo by photographer A.J. Russell, May 10, 1869. The coal burning Union Pacific locomotive No. 119 on the right, and the Southern Pacific wood-burning locomotive Jupiter on the left.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

Iron Highway Anniversary

By BRIAN D. RATTY
For Seaside Signal

Not so long ago, if you needed to travel from the East Coast to the Pacific, you had only two choices: by land or by sea. Each would be expensive and require an arduous journey of almost a year. If you just sent a message, via stagecoach or Pony Express, your letter could take months to be delivered, if it ever arrived safely. America was the tale of one country divided by a wide wilderness almost the size of Australia. Prior to entering politics, railroad attorney Abraham Lincoln had a dream of linking up the East and West with a transcontinental iron highway. He also envisioned telegraph wires (the Indians called them “singing” wires) that could establish instant communications from coast to coast. These shiny ribbons of rail would also provide for new towns, farms, industry and much more. Sadly, it wasn’t until after the Civil War, and the President’s tragic assassination, that his vision would be realized. It could be said that Abraham Lincoln was one of the many fathers of our Industrial Revolution, and that he and

his dreams beckoned America into her Gilded Age. May 10 will mark the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad. The construction of the iron highway was, at the time, the biggest engineering project ever completed by mankind. The Union Pacific Railroad started the rail line in Omaha, Nebraska, and six years later linked up with the Southern Pacific Railroad, from Sacramento, California, at Promontory Summit, Utah. When finished, the tracks and telegraph lines were over nineteen hundred miles long, and many newspapers called the road the Eighth Wonder of the World. The driving of the Golden Spike, on May 10th, 1869, symbolized the joining of America, from east to west and north to south. This marvelous engineering feat, constructed by an all-volunteer for wages labor force, would not be overshadowed until the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914. Promontory Summit wasn’t much, just a barren piece of wasteland. But it was here that the two roads came together. The UP pulled its locomotive No.119 to the very end of their tracks while the SP

nudged its locomotive Jupiter into position just in front of it. The promise of the Transcontinental Railroad was quite simple: the iron road would replace the slower and more dangerous wagon trains, Pony Express, and stagecoach lines that crossed the country by land, and the equally difficult sea journey around the southern tip of South America. After the golden spike ceremonies, it would take twenty more years before the Canadian Pacific railroad spanned the northern part of the continent, twenty-five years more before the Russians completed the Trans-Siberian Railroad (using two hundred thousand Chinese and two hundred thousand convicts to build the line), and another 28 years before Astoria, Oregon, would be linked up with rail service in May, 1898. Today, thanks to cell phone technology, we enjoy almost instant communications from around the world, without giving it a second thought. So, on this 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad, you might give Abraham Lincoln a nod, as he was a man of great vision and hope.

A safari for dogs, all in a morning’s walk



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That dogs have powerful noses is a well-known fact. The term “sniffari” is endearingly used by some dog lovers to describe the safari-like sniffing excursions that healthy dogs enjoy so much. And it is easy to understand why, when you know that dogs have about 300 million olfactory receptor cells — humans have only about 5 million, which may explain our tendency to hold our noses skyward. Dogs perceive the distinct odor profiles of innumerable things and beings, including the unseen. They perceive the scents of someone or something coming or having been and how they feel or felt. As dogs explore their environments, they perceive the distinct profiles of and in every tree — not only the tree itself but every bird in it and each’s location — of every person and pet in each passing car, and of all the soils, groundcovers, insects and other creatures, and all their leavings on the terrain along the paths where you walk your dogs. Celebrate your Sniffarati at dog-walking time. They worked hard to get where they are, to the point in evolution where they provide you with live-in friendship, comfort, affection, joy. Are they not among the biggest stars of our lives? Whether they chose their place here, or whether we chose it for them is no longer the point. The question now is, What is our role in their lives? To quote Robert Frost, arguably America’s most renowned poet: “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.” When it comes to leash walks with our dogs, the two roads are, in essence, provide or deny. That is, our choices are to provide them the time they need, and for which they yearn, to sniff — a natural behavior that is

both necessary and enriching for them — or to deny them that natural behavior and by denying it, break at least one of the most basic rules of animal care outlined in the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare. What is not natural for dogs is to be made to march next to us at our plodding human speed, attached to us by a leash/collar, especially one that is sometimes yanked or tightened or worse if they should attempt any natural behavior or any behavior at all that is outside the lines of the pre-determined march we expect. That comment may surprise you, coming from a dog trainer. After all, I do indeed train dogs to walk politely on leash near their owners. But here’s the thing that makes all the difference: I want the dogs I train to get to sniff to their heart’s content; I want a leash walk to be a Sniffari — a sniff mission, not an exercise mission. Yes, they will know how to loose leash walk and will do so if cued to do so, but the difference is that loose leash walking is a skill I recommend used when truly needed, not as a compulsion “just because I say so.” Some people use sniffing as an occasional reward for dogs who obediently march like soldiers through a good portion of their walks, when in reality, off-site exploration — sniffing — should be the main point of the dog walk. Humans do not walk fast enough for dogs to get aerobic exercise from leash walks anyway, and frankly, it seems a bit cruel to make dogs ignore all the olfactory stimuli surrounding them even if we did manage to move fast enough to exercise them that way. Dogs don’t care about buns of steel, so exactly what would be their motivation to forego the birthright that is the secret world of scent delights near infinitely perceptible to them? If you say it’s “pleasing their masters,” I invite you to peruse my blog while awaiting the next column. And please do feel free to send an email if you’d like to converse. Rain Jordan, CBCC-KA, KPA CTP, is a certified canine behavior and training professional. Visit her at www.expertcanine.com.

Finding a creative source of funding



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Several weeks ago a colleague forwarded me an interesting article and I haven’t been able to stop thinking of it since. The headline of the article read, “WEED BUILT THIS: Posh \$30M rec center paid for with pot-tax money coming in May with eye popping features,” and was from the Sentinel an Aurora, Colorado, based newspaper. Colorado, like Oregon, is one of the eight states (and Washington, D.C.) that has legalized marijuana and, as such, is collecting tax on the sale of marijuana. Under the 2014 Oregon Ballot Measure 91, the state collects a 17% tax on recreational marijuana with cities and counties being able to add an additional 3%. Now, this article is not an intention to enter the debate about the political, health or other facets of this legislature. However, the reason why this article and this topic is so compelling to me, is what the city of Aurora was able to do with their tax revenues from marijuana. Cities, counties, special districts and other municipal organizations throughout our state and country are challenged continuously with budget strain. Elected officials and government employees are faced with difficult decisions about which programs, facilities and services to invest in. Ask any elected official, if they need more money to get more good work done and the resounding answer would be. “Yes!” Aurora, Colorado features a population nearly 10 times that in all of Clatsop County so the comparison of there to here is not necessarily apples to apples. But I was shocked, pleasantly shocked, that at least one government agency, has decided to invest a good chunk of their marijuana tax, for recreation! What a novel concept: provide an amazing amenity that also improves quality of life, property value and community health through funds that previously may not have been available! The rec center in Aurora is 60,000 square feet and features fitness and community space but the crown jewel, as described in the article is the pool and water slide which features an indoor/out-



This rec center in Aurora, Colorado, was built using cannabis revenues.

door component and the first indoor wave pool in the entire state of Colorado. It was reported that the State of Oregon distributed \$85 million over the course of the first 18 months after ballot measure 91 took effect. That money was distributed to the following channels, as laid out in the measure: Common School Fund, mental health, alcoholism and drug services, state police, cities for enforcement of the measure, counties for enforcement of the measure and the Oregon Health Authority for alcohol and drug abuse prevention. None would argue that those are not worthwhile causes and they certainly seem like logical avenues. Perhaps that is why I was so shocked to hear of the Aurora project. When the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District approached our residents to request approval of a bond for expanding our indoor facilities, it was done after an exhaustive review to identify funding streams in other areas. Those options, unfortunately are limited. While our permanent tax rate is set and provides for the bulk of our operating budget, future growth, or even the idea of future growth is limited without a successful bond or some other act of divine intervention. The marijuana tax, at least for the states that have approved it, is funding that can open a door to accomplish a project that may have seemed that it never would get done. I applaud the city of Aurora for using some of their tax funds for this inspired purpose. With or without legal marijuana, people need places to recreate, to exercise and to be healthy.



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Welcome Eric J. Anderson as the New Owner of Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries

I'd like you to join me in welcoming Eric J. Anderson, who is the new owner of both Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries. Eric is no stranger to the area or to the Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries and has been part of the family for years. Some may recall that Eric was one of the funeral directors involved in the 2016 funeral services for fallen Seaside Police Officer, Jason Goodding, when he was tragically killed in the line of duty. Eric moved back to Oregon from Park Rapids, MN and has been a managing the Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries since last spring.

Eric was born and raised in Fosston, Minnesota the youngest of seven children. Being 100% Norwegian, Eric is very familiar with our local Scandinavian heritage. Eric attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota before graduating from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's Science Degree in Mortuary Science. Soon after graduating from college, Eric moved to Eugene, OR and worked in the funeral business 18 years.

Eric is the proud father of three children, Drew, Isabella and Olivia. Eric enjoys the outdoors, golfing, fishing, hunting and camping. Eric's experience with midwestern traditions and west coast experience is a great addition to the community. Hughes-Ransom will always remain a family centered business and continues to offer the same great service you've come to expect.

~ The Hughes-Ransom Family



A family's Love is forever