



# THE DEPOT TELEGRAPH

June 2016

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Dear Friends of the Kingsburg Depot,

**CLAY SCHOOL CAR SHOW** - Lizzie, the Depot's 1917 Ford Model T Hack participated in the Clay School car show. Many kids had pictures taken in the car, including the young lady in this photo taken by Rod Johnson. Hundreds of kids also honked Lizzie's bulb-style horn and pretended they were driving her down the road. Lizzie cranked right up for the event and drove into the show. After the show she happily chugged into a new garage space close to the Depot, thanks to member Don Workman who is donating the

space. A great thank you also goes to John and Sherri Matic for giving Lizzie a garage space to rest in during the past winter.



**SWEDISH FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES** - Later in May the Depot was open to visitors during the Swedish Festival. Docents dressed in historic costumes guided visitors through the facility, donations were received from the visitors, and some new members joined our ranks. One of the visitors was a locomotive engineer that drives his train past the Depot every day. Visitors had an excellent response to all of the major Depot artifacts that had been restored during March and April. Lizzie was parked out front, the restored Fairbanks Freight House Scale drew lots of admirers, and the telegraph system in the Office was clacking away, welcoming

visitors in actual Morse code messages. Lizzie was also entered in the Swedish Festival Parade, and Larry Esau, president of Friends and the 2016 Kingsburg Citizen of the Year, rode Lizzie in the parade with some of his family on board.



**LEON S. PETERS LEARNING CENTER ACTIVITIES** - During the last week of May more than 500 Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students visited the Depot to participate in the Leon S. Peters Learning Center educational program that creates a living history experience for children. This week of activities was a test of the program that will go into full operation during the 2016-2017 school year beginning in October. 13 adult re-enactors dressed in 1920's costumes recreated 5 days in 1923 so kids could learn about the early history of Kingsburg, the Railroad, the San Joaquin Valley, and San Joaquin Valley agriculture. Always acting as if they were indeed living in 1923 was a challenge for the re-enactors.

They dressed in period clothing and were heard to be discussing such "current events" as prohibition, presidents Harding and Coolidge, the coming of electricity and telephones to Kingsburg, the rise of Radio broadcasting and popular Radio shows of the era, famous Jazz bands, and the popular dances and slang of the day.



Re-enactor Steven Britton teaches use of the scale



Re-enactors Katie Fridlund, Michelle Roman, Bill Bennett



Re-enactor Steve Hofer explains activities in the office



Students observe the telegrapher and ticket agent



Re-enactors Dean Johnson, Shirley Esau, Don Smith, Michelle Roman, Mike Dunn, Steve Hofer, Ron Numerick



Re-enactors Steven Britton, Bill Bennett, Shirley Esau, Larry Esau, Michelle Roman, Don Smith, Mike Dunn, Steve Hofer

**CALENDAR**

June 13, Monday Board meeting 5:30pm  
July 11, Monday No board meeting in July  
September 24, Saturday **KINGSBURG DEPOT GRAND OPENING**

**CONTACT**

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