



# THE DEPOT TELEGRAPH

FALL 2015

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[www.KingsburgDepot.org](http://www.KingsburgDepot.org)

## WELCOME!

With this issue The Depot Telegraph resumes quarterly publication of happenings at the Kingsburg Southern Pacific Railroad Depot.

The Depot rehabilitation is nearing completion after 10 years of effort. If you have not taken a peek inside lately, you will be surprised at the beautiful interior. General Contractor CJ Brock has done a wonderful job with the federal grant funded part of the work. At this time more than 1,600 people and many organizations have contributed to the project, including Friends of the Historic Kingsburg Depot (FHKD), community volunteers, service clubs, many businesses, family foundations, sub-contractors, three engineers, two architects, and one federal grant authority.

The Depot is being returned to a historically correct 1923 configuration including artifacts and furnishings. The 1923 theme was chosen because that year the Southern Pacific Railroad Company significantly expanded and improved the Depot, adding several features that make it unique.



Depot in historic colors - first time in 48 years

The Kingsburg Depot is a modified Southern Pacific Common Standard Number 18 design. It's one of 11 of the type that remain of 55 originally built in the 1870s in California and Oregon. The Kingsburg Depot is historically significant because it is the oldest building in Kingsburg (1875), an icon of the downtown that gives it a sense of place, and the only remaining CS18 Depot that has been

returned to a historically accurate configuration in its original location on an active railroad mainline.



Office interior – ticket window at back

The Kingsburg Depot was a center of commerce and community activity for more than 100 years. It was retired from passenger service in 1968 and freight service in 1988. Besides its importance in terms of trade, travel and communications, it was a meeting place and a source of entertainment for people of all ages. Summer band concerts began on the Depot freight dock, and the coming and going of trains, people, and mail were interesting to watch. Many people were fascinated by the operation of the telegraph and the first local telephone. Most people moving to Kingsburg between 1875 and 1940 saw the town for the first time through a train car window, and they entered the City through the doors of the Depot.

Our goal for the Depot is to restore it to a place of activity in the daily lives of people in Kingsburg and the San Joaquin Valley. We will pursue this goal by making it a venue for festival activities and community meetings, and a field trip site with educational programs benefitting students in a 4-county area. To do these things we will need your involvement as a supporting member and member-volunteer. The goal is to have the Depot open to the public late this year.

## **MISS LIZZIE – 1917 FORD DEPOT HACK**



Lizzie adopted the Kingsburg Depot as her new home in April, and she made her public debut in the Swedish Festival Parade in May. She is a 1917 Ford Model T Depot Hack, one of the oldest station wagons in existence. The name “station wagon” originated with these early automobiles equipped to serve passengers at train stations. Lizzie spent many years hibernating in a barn, and it took a lot of cranking to wake her from her long nap. She was donated to FHKD by Bruce and Aimy Wilbur and the Taniguchi Family Farm of Fowler, California, in memory of Kay and Alyce Taniguchi.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We need you! If you are not already a member of Friends of the Depot, please join and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Annual dues are \$25. Please make checks payable to FHKD, include your name, address, email and phone number, and send them to P.O. Box 646, Kingsburg CA 93631. Member dues support all programs operating at the Depot.

## **SHARES CARDS**

Shares Cards are also a steady source of income for the Depot. These cards are honored at any California Savemart, Food Maxx or Lucky store. Each time you present your Shares Card at checkout, the business donates an amount equal to 3% of your purchase to FHKD. To request your cards, please email [president@kingsburgdepot.org](mailto:president@kingsburgdepot.org). Please give some cards to your family and friends.

## **FACEBOOK**

Friends of the Historic Kingsburg Depot is on Facebook, thanks to Jolene Polyack who updates the page regularly. Become a friend on Facebook and keep up with activities at the Depot.

## **CALENDAR**

Wednesday Sep 23	Rotary Club tour
Monday Oct 12	Board meeting 5:30pm
Monday Nov 9	Board meeting 5:30pm
Friday Nov 27	Opening target date
Monday Jan 11	Annual meeting 5:30pm

## **CONTACT**

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