# Stewart Park Locomotive

1955 PHOTO FROM "SOUTHERN PACIFIC STEAM SWITCHERS OF THE PACIFIC LINES"
BY GENE DEIMLING

# N11447 photograph

Douglas County Museum

**Description**
REMARKS:The Southern Pacific Locomotive No. 1229 with crew posed in front of the engine. Left to right: Henry Rexford (engineer); Vernon Bentley (engineer); Iggie Dunn (yardman or switchman); Lyman Daris (yardman or switchman); N. Whetstine (yardman or switchman); E.P. Sitton (fireman in cab). The engine is now resting in Stewart Park, Roseburg, Oregon (1982).

**People**
Jackson, Marcia M.

# Polished Veteran Train Engine Gift To Roseburg

A polished veteran of service with the Southern Pacific Railroad next month will become a permanent resident of Roseburg after being retired by the railroad.

The veteran is a steam-powered switch engine no longer in SP service. It will be installed in the city park on Garden Valley Boulevard. The company will turn the engine over to the city April 7 in a formal ceremony at the park.

The engine apparently has been in service for nearly 40 years. L. S. McCarty, an old-time SP engineer, said Saturday that engines of a similar type were in services on Southern Pacific tracks in the early 1920s.

The gift to the city may be even older than that. A plate on the boiler indicates that it was built by Lima Locomotive Co. A number on the plate is "1914," but it isn't clear if that was the year the engine was built.

**Spotted Near Turntable**

The locomotive is spotted now near the turntable in the Roseburg yards after having been moved here this week from Sacramento.

Moving it to the city park will be a major undertaking. The engine weighs about 135,000 pounds and the tender 50,000.

City Manager George Farrell, who said the city made application for it several weeks ago, said Paulson Truck Lines will do the job. The engine will be moved to the Garden Valley crossing, where it and the tender will be loaded on low-boy trailers. They will be towed on Garden Valley Boulevard to the park.

Approval of the Oregon Highway Commission to cross over the overpass at Garden Valley interchange at Highway 99 already has been obtained.

The company polished up the unit for presentation to the city. It sports a new coat of paint.

It's expected that some high company officials will be on hand for the official presentation April 7.

It will be placed at the south end of the golf course, Farrell said. That will become its permanent home.

# American Father Appeals For Return Of Missing Infant

NAHA, Okinawa (AP) — A young American father appealed on Okinawan radio stations again Saturday for the return of his missing

# Interim Group Slated To Hear Highway Problems

A clutter of problems making Oregon highway and road-use laws complex in interpretation will be under discussion here Tuesday in a hearing by the state Legislative Highway Interim Committee.

Douglas County state Rep. Al Flegel, heading the committee, said the hearing will be primarily for the correction of existing legislation. However, he added that opportunity will be given to persons who want to talk on highway improvements.

The committee will be in Roseburg in the courthouse auditorium at 8:30 a.m.

Among the problems on the agenda will be right-of-way and access, overweight regulations;

THE NEWS-REVIEW MARCH 15, 1958

(Continued on Page 2 Col. 1)

# Moving Of SP Locomotive To Park Postponed

The moving of the Southern Pacific Co.'s gift to Roseburg — 135,000 pounds of locomotive and 50,000 pounds of tender — has been postponed for about a week.

Paulson Truck Line, Inc., was to have started moving the locomotive Monday, but City Engineer Kenneth Meng said SP discovered it had left 2,000 gallons of crude oil in the tender. The oil must be removed before the engine and tender can be moved to the new city park.

The weather also may be working against the hauling plans, Meng said. The city has been strengthening the east road entering from Garden Valley Boulevard. Continued rain may make the move difficult, he said explaining that a few days of drying weather will be necessary to put the road in its best shape.

Paulson will use two lowboys to move the locomotive and one to haul the tender. The operation is expected to last several days. The company will use jacks to hoist the engine and tender high enough for the lowboys to slip under.

The transfer will be made down Garden Valley Boulevard from the SP crossing.

THE NEWS-REVIEW
APRIL 5, 1958

# Locomotive Move Big Engineering Task; Roseburg Missed Getting Bigger Engine

One of the most interesting if not the biggest moving jobs in this area is carefully being planned.

The task is to move a steam locomotive and tender from a Southern Pacific spur to a site near the South Umpqua River in Roseburg's Stewart Park. It's not a matter of steaming merrily over to the park —there are no rails.

And there's the rub which nearly cancelled the city's hopes of getting an engine for youngsters to play on in the park. Months of negotiations between City Engineer Ken Meng and S.P officials finally resulted in the company offering an engine to the city for its new park.

The surplus offered locomotive was a 2500 Class job weighing about 190,000 pounds — not counting the tender. Too heavy, cried the Oregon Highway Dept. State officials vetoed a plan to lay tracks over the Garden Valley overpass to allow the engine to be pulled over the hump. Ditto to a plan to circle under the overpass.

Meng was about to give up when Southern Pacific said it had available a 1200 Class locomotive. The gift still is a hefty one, weighing about 138,000 pounds, but the green light was given to hauling it over the highway.

**Job Attracts Paulson**

There was another scramble to find someone with equipment husky enough for the job. A. W. Paulson of Paulson Truck Line was looking for hauling jobs for a new lowboy he had purchased and heard about the city's problem.

Paulson looked the situation over and drew a plan which met with Highway Department approval. This was all the city was waiting for. S.P. was notified a 1200 engine could be handled and soon one was delivered.

It is now parked on a siding at the Douglas County shops while Paulson waits for the road through the park to dry sufficiently after the winter rains. When he decides conditions are favorable, the work starts.

The engine will be taken to a spur at Garden Valley Road and Airport Road. Crews will carefully jack the locomotive up until it is high enough for lowboys to be backed under it.

At least two, and possibly three, lowboys will be used to haul the engine. To avert a possible upset because of the top-heavy load, Paulson may use two lowboys under the front of the engine and one at the rear. If not, two will be used — front and rear.

**Timbers To Support Engine**

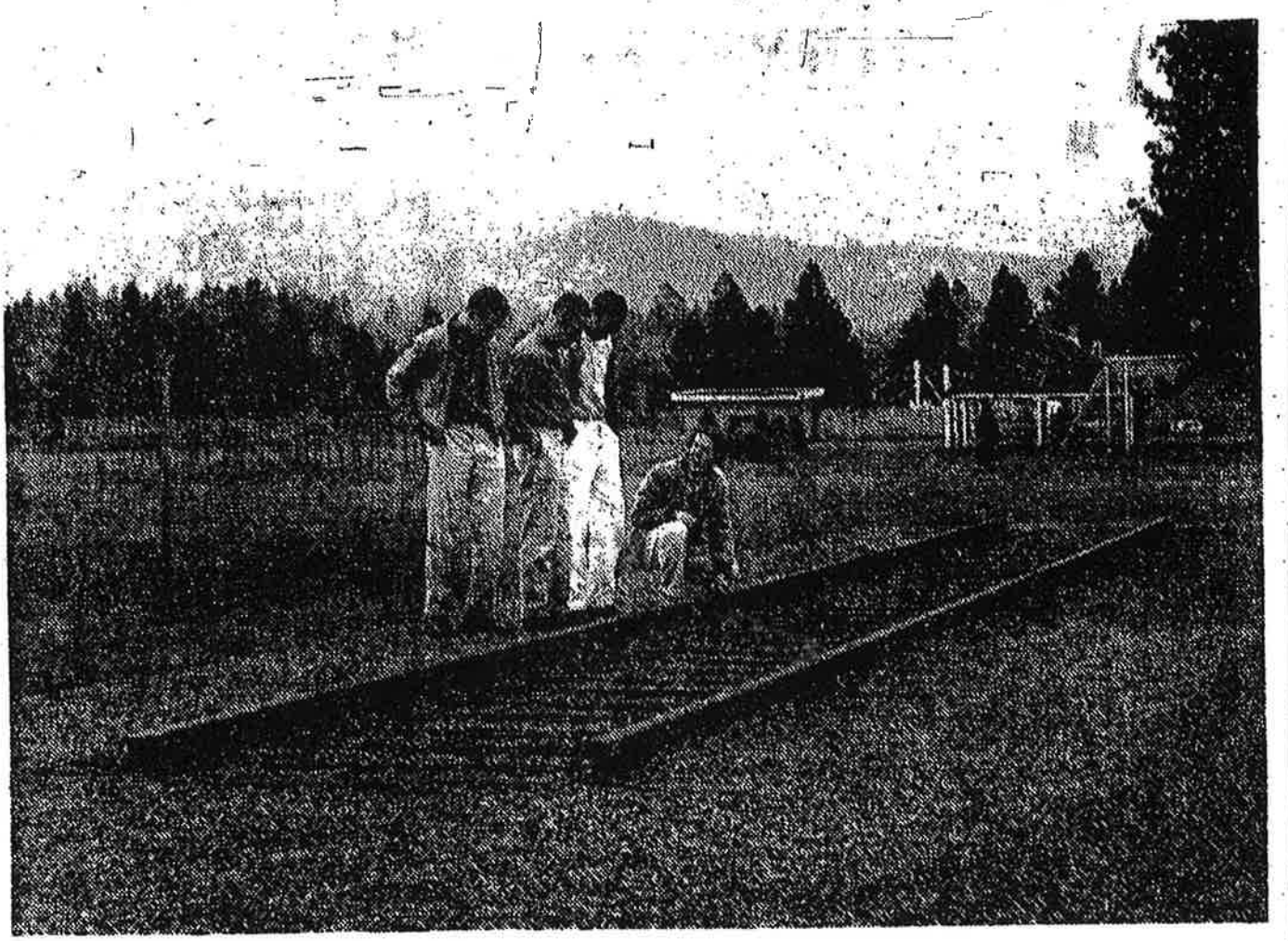
Paulson plans to have two special timbers cut to set the locomotive on while it rides the multi-wheeled lowboys. The timbers, Meng said, will be about six-foot jobs — that's square, not long. The timbers will raise the wheels of the engine above the beds of the lowboys and provide pivot points for the turns to be made in the trip to the park.

At the front of the engine, the lowboy, or lowboys, will proceed in the normal manner. But, at the rear, the driver will back his rig from the railroad spur to the final resting spot for the locomotive. One lowboy will handle the engine's tender.

Meng and Paulson are hopeful it won't be long now before the retired S.P. yard engine makes its last run and becomes a children's plaything as well as a symbol of the steam age.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Engine Being Made Ready



**ROSEBURG'S RAILROAD** — Roseburg High baseball players Ted Kolberg, Don Wells, Ron Beamer and Wayne Bryan inspect the rails which the locomotive will have as its home in Stewart Park. To move the engine and tender from the railroad to the park will be a major engineering problem. (Paul Jenkins)

THE NEWS-REVIEW
APRIL 19, 1958

# Engine Being Made Ready As Attraction For Kids

All the work of having a steam locomotive in the playground of Stewart Park won't be in the moving of the engine and tender.

Getting ready for the move and preparing the locomotive for the expected onslaught of playful youngsters will account for much of the total effort.

The engine must be made safe—for little kids and from the bigger ones.

With this in mind, City Engineer Ken Meng said the park crew will plant lawn around the engine after it is spotted on its last siding. Steps will be built leading to the cab and there will be railings along the steps to keep youngsters from tumbling off as they hurry to take over the controls.

In other safety measures, railings will be placed along catwalks, the stack will be screened, hatches welded shut, rough edges smoothed and glass removed. To foil older kids who might be souvenir minded, the bell will be welded fast. The clapper may be left free so tots can "ring" the bell with a cord leading into the cab.

### Vandal Problem Seen

"We want to have the locomotive something the kids can play on and enjoy, not just look at," says Meng. "On the other hand, we think vandalism will be our biggest problem."

To provide a place to spot the locomotive, 66 feet of track was laid. City crews hauled ballast to the playground site, spread it and spotted creosoted ties. Charles Foree, S.P. section foreman and three of his men donated their labor one Saturday morning to spike the rails and level them.

Meanwhile, city crews beefed up the road from Garden Valley Road into the park with shale. To speed drying of the soggy roadbed, ditches were dug to drain most of the standing water. The locomotive will be trundled over the road when it is deemed dry enough.

Douglas County also has played a role in readying the engine. When it arrived in Roseburg it was found the tender contained a couple of thousand gallons of heavy crude oil. This had to be removed, but presented a problem. It had to be heated with steam to make it fluid enough to drain.

### County Removes Oil

The county came to the rescue because even Southern Pacific no longer had available steam. Conversion to diesel had made such equipment osbolete here. The locomotive was rolled out to the county shops on Diamond Lake Boulevard and spotted on a spur where portable steam units could be attached to the tender. It took about a day, but the oil was removed.

Southern Pacific, which donated the locomotive to the city, did so with but one condition: That it be kept in a decent state of repair. The company has made a plaque to place on the engine and S.P. Officials will formally dedicate it to the city after it has been placed in the park.

City officials who have seen the enthusiasm with which children in other communities have hailed locomotives don't expect youngsters to await formal presentation before taking over. The kids probably will adopt the locomotive as their plaything even before workmen have completed work of making it safe.

Meng and Paulson are hopeful it won't be long now before the retired S.P. yard engine makes its last run and becomes a children's plaything as well as a symbol of the steam age.

# Possible Higher Prices For Cars Forecast By GM

BOSTON (AP)—A General Motors executive predicted today price tags on 1959 model cars will be higher this fall if "labor succeeds in obtaining a bigger wage increase than that provided in its present contract."

GM Vice President Edward T. Ragsdale, general manager of Buick, indicated GM is standing firm on its offer to renew wage provisions in the present contract with the United Auto Workers.

Ragsdale spoke before a meeting of Boston businessmen.

The company has offered to extend for two years a provision in the present contract which gives workers an annual productivity increase of 6 cents an hour.

The average hourly wage in auto plants now is about $2.40.

In his prepared speech, Ragsdale said: "For more than a decade now, business has been caught in a vicious cost-price squeeze. We have been besieged on one side by organized labor—with its persistent and continuing demand for higher wages—and on the other side by the consumer who has become alarmed at the ever-increasing price he must pay for the goods he needs.

"If labor succeeds in obtaining a bigger wage increase than that provided in its present contract, we will be forced to return to the marketplace this fall with a product that has still a higher price tag on it."

Ragsdale voiced belief "there will be a resurgence of our economy this year—barring, of course, a major strike."

### SCIENTIST DIES

WAREHAM, Mass. (AP) — Dr.

# More Glamorous Margaret Shown

LONDON (AP) — A new, more glamorous Princess Margaret burst over British newspaper pages Friday.

"Has there ever been a picture of a princess like this before?" asked the Daily Herald. "So much gloss, so much glamor."

The study by top society photographer Cecil Beaton was released as part of the official sendoff for Margaret's Caribbean tour starting Saturday.

The figure-revealing photograph shows a pensive princess posing sideways against a pillar of her Clarence House residence.

"She is posing in the glamorous Italian back-to-the-pillar style used by such stars as Gina Lollobrigida," the tabloid daily sketch noted, stressing its point with a picture of bosomy La Lollo for comparison.

Daily Mail columnist Bye Perrick showed the photograph with one taken by Beaton to mark Margaret's 24th birthday in 1954. What a difference the four years have wrought, she remarked.

# Greek Freighters Tie Up Awaiting Cargoes

KALAMA, Wash. (AP) — Three Greek freighters are being tied up on the Kalama waterfront awaiting outbound cargoes and several more tieups are expected in the near future.

The International Shipping Co. of Portland acted as agent for Greek ship owners in making moorage arrangements.

Ed Hendrickson of the Port of Kalama said agents told him the ships came to Columbia River ports with cargoes but couldn't get outbound loads. They will remain with skeleton crews until shipping volume increases.

Most of the outbound cargo loaded in this area is lumber, plywood and grain.

# Minor Delays Reported On Highway To Reedsport

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Highway Commission's weekly construction summary:

Columbia River Highway—Minor delays between Tide Creek and Goble.

Old Oregon Trail—Possible delay between 5 and 8 miles east of Huntington.

Umpqua Highway—Minor delays 8 miles east of Reedsport.

Wasco-Heppner Highway—Minor delays from 9.2 miles east of Wasco to John Day River.

1229

RICHFIELD

RICHFIELD
1229

HEAVY HAULING
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Chris' studio of photography

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# Will Stewart Park train stay in Roseburg?

**STACY D. STUMBO**
**March 6, 2003**

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For 45 years, it's been a rite of passage for area children to climb inside Engine No. 1229 in Roseburg's Stewart Park, place their tiny hands on the throttle and imagine miles of rail as far as the eye can see.

Nostalgia played heavily into a Roseburg Parks Commission decision not to recommend the sale of the engine to a California museum Wednesday morning, but it will be up to the city council to decide if it wants to take the offer.

Speaking before the commission, Parks Director Jim Dowd said he knew many in the group had climbed aboard the big black engine as children, or had brought their own youngsters to the park to see a piece of history close up.

Tony Azevedo, curator of the Double T Agriculture Museum in Merced, Calif., approached the city with an offer to purchase the landmark on Feb. 2. The museum is creating an exhibit that would feature a steam engine and four rail cars.

Azevedo said the museum would be willing to offer between $5,000 and $30,000 for the engine, depending on its appraisal.

Dowd said Azevedo is interested in No. 1229 because he believes it was used to move agricultural products through Roseburg before it was retired -- though there is no evidence to prove or disprove this theory.

Click to Enlarge

**Roseburg landmark**
Kurt Cunningham and his grandson, Coby, play on the Stewart Park train Tuesday afternoon. The train may be sold if the buyer agrees to keep it in Roseburg.
**ANDY BRONSON / The News-Review**

According to the book, "A Century of Southern Pacific Locomotives," No. 1229 is one of 10 class S-11 switch engines built in 1914 and 1915 by Lima Locomotive Works in Lima, N.Y. Used to shuttle cars between tracks in California railroad yards, the engine never hauled passengers or freight.

According to Southern Pacific, most of the records on older engines have been discarded, so the full background of Roseburg's No. 1229 may never be known.

A plaque affixed to one of the giant engine's side rails explains Engine No. 1229 was given to the city in March 1958 by Southern Pacific. Casting plates welded to its giant boiler indicate that the Locomotive Superheater Company obtained patents for the design in 1902, but there is no information about when this particular engine

was built.

"The engine will be rebuilt cosmetically and displayed under cover," Azevedo wrote. "It is important that the treasures of the past be preserved for future generations to enjoy."

No. 1229's power was supplied by a Superheater system, making it technically superior to older engines and generating 25 to 30 percent more power.

Azevedo wrote that no matter what, the museum exhibit would pay tribute to the engine's past in Roseburg.

Commissioner Patrick Starnes made the motion opposing the sale, which was resoundingly supported by the rest of the board, which added it shouldn't be sold no matter what value the museum places on it.

In spite of local interest in the engine, the risk of injury to children and liability for the city has made the arrangement uncomfortable for years, Dowd said.

In the 45 years the engine has stood in Stewart Park, there has been only one major injury to a child playing on the structure, which culminated in a costly settlement, he added.

Even 2-foot-tall signs that say, "CAUTION. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK. SUPERVISE ALL CHILDREN," can't prevent accidents from happening.

There have been a handful of modest injuries sustained by locomotive lovers over the years, and as a result the engine has been earmarked for removal in the city's Parks Master Plan.

Commissioner Leila Heislein said she hoped the city would give the engine to the Douglas County Museum of History & Natural History, or the Village Station, provided it pays the cost of removal.

The Village Station is a development in downtown Roseburg built around the former train depot.

"This was an active railroad community," she said. "I just think it would be a shame to take it out of town."

Dowd will investigate whether the museum or the Village Station would be interested in No. 1229.

* You can reach reporter Stacy D. Stumbo at 957-4230 or by e-mail at sstumbo@newsreview.info.

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BACK

ROSEBURG STEWART PARK

This SP 0-6-0 is displayed in Stewart Park. Built by Lima in 1914, #1229 was donated to Roseburg in 1958.

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# Bell stolen from Stewart Park train

**January 4, 2007**

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The 200-pound bell perched atop the historic train at Stewart Park has been stolen, and police want information on the culprits.

Maintenance crews with the Roseburg Parks Division reported the theft of the brass bell to police today. The theft occurred sometime either Wednesday night or early this morning, according to a Roseburg Police Department press release.

The train has been a fixture in the park since 1958.

"It was quite a favorite thing for children to climb up there and ring the bell," said Barbara Taylor, parks program planner.

She said the bell was fully secured to the train and it would have taken a "significant effort" to remove it.

Though a caretaker used to stay in the mobile home nearby, Taylor said the post was eliminated about a year ago when the parks department became a division of public works.

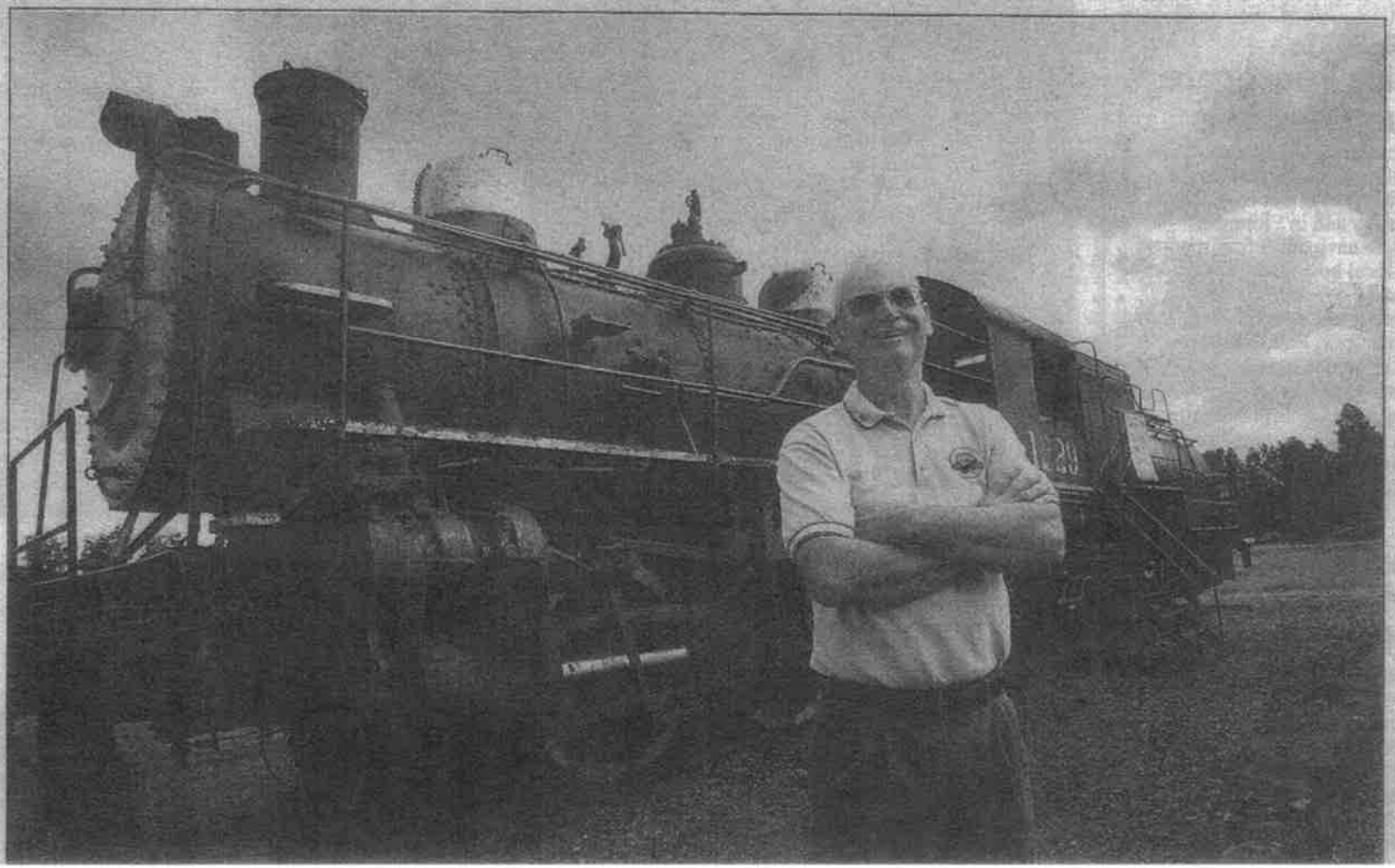
"I think that it may be that someone wants to sell it," she said. "Or it may be a prank. I hope it's returned."

Anyone with information about the theft should contact the police department at 673-6633 during business hours or at 440-4471 after hours.

No. 209 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 www.newsreview.info 35 cents

ROTARY HELPS THE NO. 1229

# Train's a wreck



Rotary Club of Roseburg member Keith Van Atta and fellow Rotarians hope to restore the aging locomotive at Stewart Park in Roseburg.

# Train engine, child's toy for five decades, needs some help

CHRIS GRAY
*The News-Review*

Calvin Davis likes to climb on the train engine at Stewart Park, walking behind the railings that encircle the No. 1229 like a historical jungle gym.

The 4-year-old used to be able to pull a chain like a real engineer, or spin a wheel to pretend-pilot the locomotive over Mount Nebo like the little engine that could.

But the paint is peeling on the No. 1229, and the sides of the cabin are rusting out and pieces keep disappearing from the 90-odd-year-old locomotive.

"Each time I come back, it seems like there's another piece missing," said Calvin's mom, Regina Davis, who noted the missing wheel, pull chain and levers. "Now, it's just kind of a shell."

The brass bell was stolen in January, and Roseburg Police have since produced no leads. The other missing items, less conspicuous, have gone unreported.

"It doesn't surprise me because of the complete access to that train there," said Police Sgt. Aaron Dunbar.

"I would like to see it get fixed up and painted a shiny, shiny black," said Davis, holding her oldest son's hand. "It's something to stimulate their imagination."

The Rotary Club of Roseburg has taken note of the locomotive's plight. A few of its leaders hope to team up with Roseburg's other two rotaries to restore, or at least preserve, the train engine for future generations.

"It's in remarkably good shape for sitting there for 50 years," said Rotarian and rail enthusiast Keith Van Atta. "Along the edge of the cabin, it has some rust damage. ... Our proposal is to clean it up, do some repair work."

The train engine was a gift to the city of Roseburg from Southern Pacific in March 1958. The locomotive, an oil-burning steam engine first used from the 1910s to the 1950s, never actually hauled passengers through Roseburg.

Instead, as a "yardhog" it was used to

Please turn to **TRAIN**, page 10

# Train: City asks for more details on locomotive restoration

Continued from page 1

switch cars in the Los Angeles railyards, according to Van Atta.

"It won't go real fast, but it will pull a lot," Van Atta said.

Van Atta does not know how much the Rotary could do for the train engine, but it would depend on money. At the low end, the locomotive could be power-washed and given a new coat of paint.

If given the funds, he said they could work to restore the missing parts, probably with a resin-material less likely to be sniped by a thief in the night.

"The preservation is more important than restoration, bringing back pieces that are missing," he said.

Roseburg Parks Planner Barbara Taylor said the city was supportive of the Rotary's efforts, but the Parks Commission told the Rotary to draw up some better plans if the Rotarians are going to restore it.

"It's going to need a fair amount of work," Taylor said.

She said the city also hoped the Rotary would improve the train engine's safety by placing a deeper fill-material around the locomotive to cushion falls.

"We'd like to see it preserved for everybody to enjoy," Van Atta said.

JON AUSTRIA/The News-Review

**At left, Roseburg residents** Nicole Vanlandingham and Alyvia Coverdale, 2, look outside the engine room window as Sean Talton, also of Roseburg, climbs down from the top of the engine at Stewart Park Wednesday.

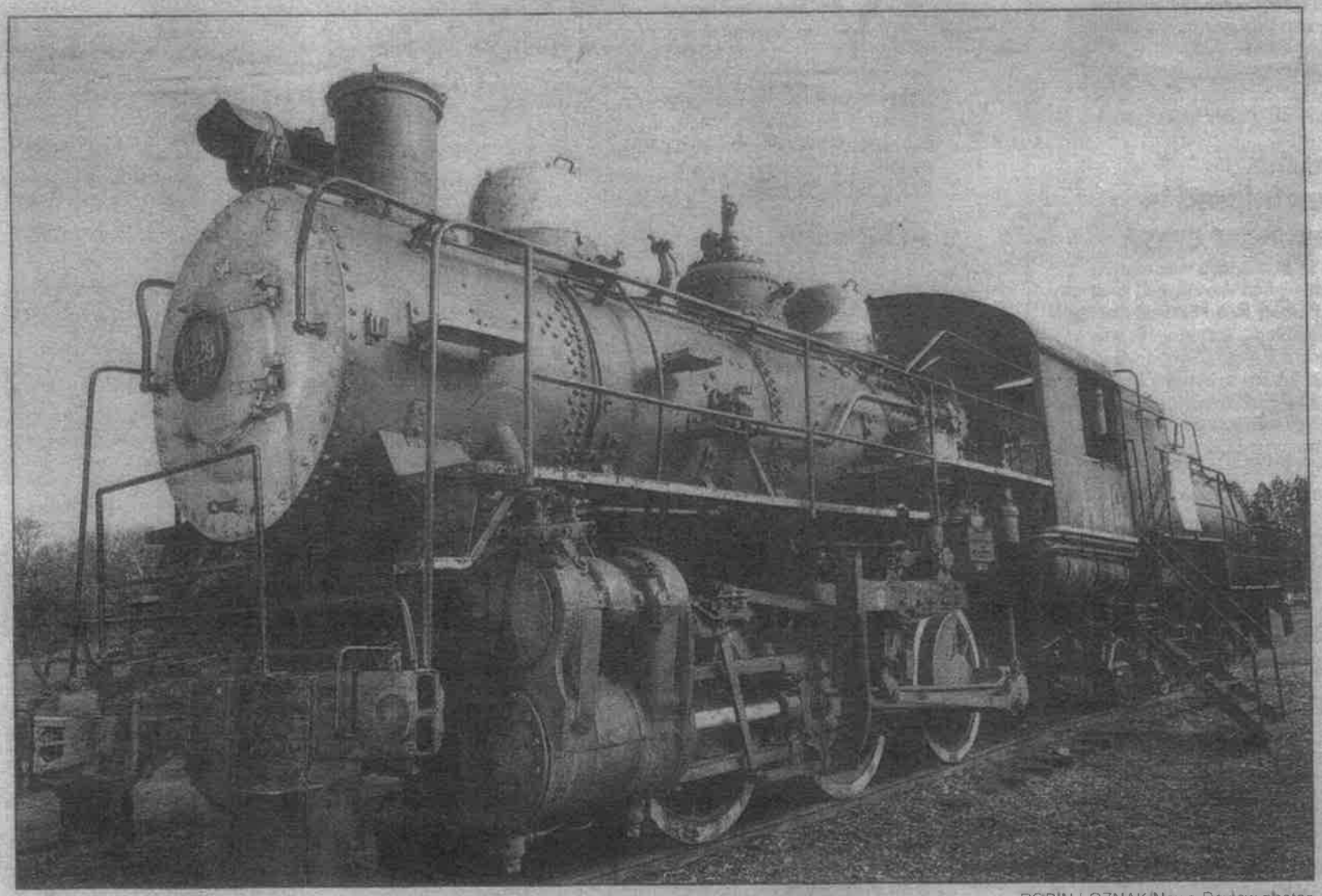
*• You can reach reporter Chris Gray at 957-4218 or by e-mail at cgray@newsreview.info.*



SEPT 10 2007

ROTARY CLUB TO ADOPT STEWART PARK LOCOMOTIVE

# Full steam ahead



ROBIN LOZNAK/News-Review photos

**The aging locomotive** at Stewart Park in Roseburg has been a fixture for generations.

NEWS-REVIEW FEB 23, 2002

**Keith Van Atta**, a member of the Rotary Club of Roseburg, and fellow Rotarians have offered to adopt and restore the aging locomotive at Stewart Park in Roseburg.

# *Rotarians get ready to spruce up the aging park icon, first built in 1914*

**KATHY KORENGEL**
*The News-Review*

Keith Van Atta is a self-professed train nut.

"It's a treat to be the first one in line when the gates come down" at one of the railroad crossings in Roseburg, he said with a grin.

That fascination, as well as his membership in the Rotary Club of Roseburg, led him to coax the community group to adopt the train engine that has been parked in Stewart Park for more than five decades.

The city's Parks and Recreation Commission recently gave its blessing to the club's desire to help spruce up the 1914-vintage steam engine.

"We look at it as a great opportunity to help keep the locomotive in nice condition and get it back to where it looks nice," said Barbara Taylor, the city's parks and recreation program manager.

Van Atta said the Rotary club plans to pressure wash the engine, do minor repairs and repaint it. Most of the work probably won't start until the spring and likely

Turn to **TRAIN**, page 4

# **Train:** 'Generations of kids have played on it'

Continued from page 1

will be complete by the end of the year.

The city will provide materials and club members will provide the labor, Taylor said.

In the short term, the club plans to replace rusting sheet metal in the train's cab and better cover the smokestack and a generator on top of the boiler.

The club sees adopting the train as a "long-term commitment," Van Atta added, "not to just go down there on a Saturday and do a 'photo op' thing."

Long-term repairs might include replacing an original bronze bell, as well as sheet metal that once covered the boiler.

The club has been thinking of adopting the train since about 2004, Van Atta said. And in that time, he has learned a lot about its history.

Much of that knowledge came from talking to Rosie Sansom, the daughter of T.W. Barnard, a former Roseburg trainmaster who persuaded Southern Pacific to donate the locomotive to the city in 1958, Van Atta said.

The locomotive never actually ran through Roseburg. A stock engine, it was used to shuffle cars around in a rail yard in West Oakland, Calif. Van Atta estimates it likely ran until the mid-1950s.

Since the engine was moved here, "generations of kids have played on it," he said. "When we first started thinking about the project, I was surprised at how many people mentioned, 'I played on that train when I was a kid.'"

And the Rotary decided to adopt the train partly to ensure future Roseburgians can say the same, Van Atta said, noting how museums and other entities have occasionally shown an interest in taking the train somewhere else.

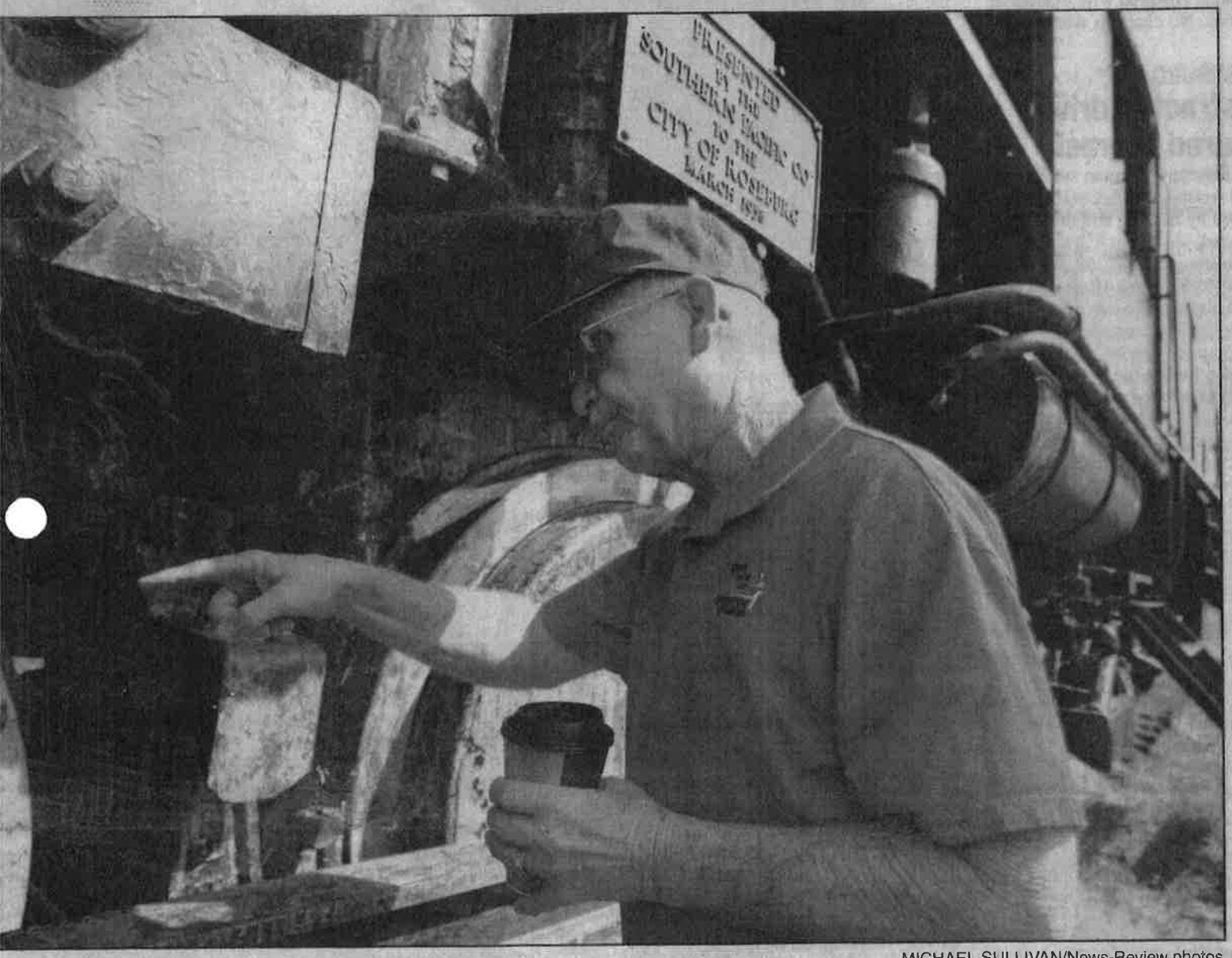
"Because it's been here so long, it's really a part of the community," he said. "And it needs to be taken care of for future generations and so they can see what life was like back then."

*• You can reach reporter Kathy Korengel at 957-4218 or by e-mail at kkorengel@nrtoday.com.*

NEWS-REVIEW FEB 23, 2009

# If trains could talk

## *Eugene train enthusiast believes Roseburg's Stewart Park train and a train from a 1921 silent film are one and the same, while others beg to differ*




MICHAEL SULLIVAN/News-Review photos

**Roseburg Rotary Club** member Keith Van Atta is heading an effort to refurbish the locomotive in Stewart Park. Van Atta doesn't believe the train was the one featured in a 1921 Buster Keaton film.

**INKA BAJANDAS**
*The News-Review*

The film starts with a view across a set of railroad tracks toward a small puff of steam in the distance.

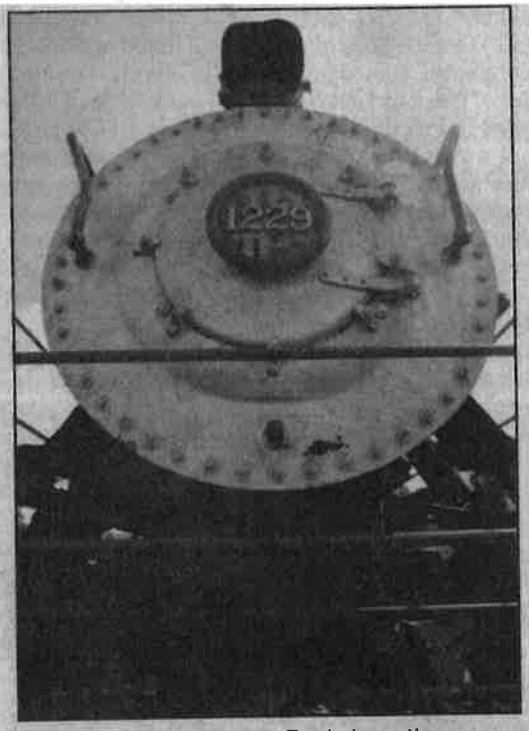
A silent train is charging along the tracks, ll speed ahead. Just before it collides with e camera, the train halts and it's revealed that thin, handsome man wearing suit, tie and hat sitting on the front the engine. The view idens as the man, silent film star Buster eaton, gets up and walks along the front platrm of the locomotive and lights a cigarette efore hopping off and walking away.

At this point in the black and white film, hich debuted in 1921 and was called "The oat," the number plate — 1229 — on the ery front of the train engine is clearly visible.

Roseburg's Stewart Park train, a 1914 class -11 switch engine, on which generations of ids have played since Southern Pacific donatd it to the city in 1958, has the same engine umber.

Eugene resident and train enthusiast Al ollinger stumbled on this similarity after omeone stole a photo he'd taken of the Stewrt Park locomotive's number plate and posted on a blog about a month ago. It was one he ook while visiting the train with his 7-year-old on Kenyon, also a train lover. He said he elieves that the train engine in Stewart Park is he one featured in the silent movie.

But others aren't convinced, including a local train enthusiast and a train expert from the International Buster Keaton Society. The two locomotives, they say, appear to be too different for the Stewart Park train to be the one in the movie.




**The train** in Stewart Park has the same number as a train in a silent film.

After finding out his photo had been stolen from a Web site on which he'd posted it and was used without attribution for a blog post discussing "The Goat," Sollinger was intrigued and looked up the movie online. Initially, he said, he was skeptical.

"At first glance it might look a bit different. It's just been transformed," he said.

Keith Van Atta, a local train enthusiast wh is leading efforts made by the Rotary Club oi Roseburg to restore the locomotive, doesn't agree.

"I'm convinced without a shadow of a doubt that it's not the locomotive in the movie," he said.

First, Van Atta said, the train in the film appears to be a larger road engine with a cow catcher that was used to travel long distances with freight or passengers. The Stewart Park train is a smaller yard engine that never had a cow catcher because it didn't travel far. Yard engines, he said, were much slower and usually confined to shuffling cars around a rail yard. The boilers are also oriented differently, he said. He pointed out that in the movie they're at a 45-degree angle from each other and on the Roseburg engine the boilers are close to being on top of each other.

"It's virtually impossible that would be changed ever," Van Atta said.

Patricia Eliot Tobias, president of the

Turn to **TRAIN**, page 9

International Buster Keaton Society, came to a similar conclusion after she spoke with the society's train expert, David B. Pearson, who runs the silent film Web site silentmovies.org.

"The results are inconclusive, because there are too many details that just don't match up, and they're not the types of details that might have been replaced or changed over time," Tobias wrote in an e-mail.

Van Atta said he also doesn't know of the Roseburg engine ever being in Los Angeles, where the movie was filmed.

As for the similar numbers, Ellen Halteman, a curator at the California State Railroad Museum, said if the two locomotives weren't both from Southern Pacific, then they could both have had the same number.

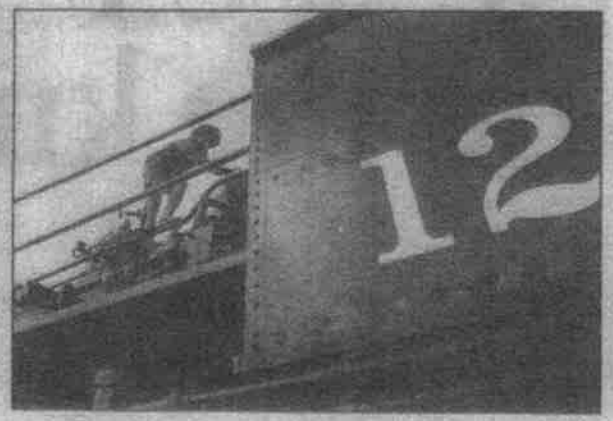
Van Atta said he can see how confusion might arise.

" ... To a lot of people, a locomotive is a locomotive," he said.

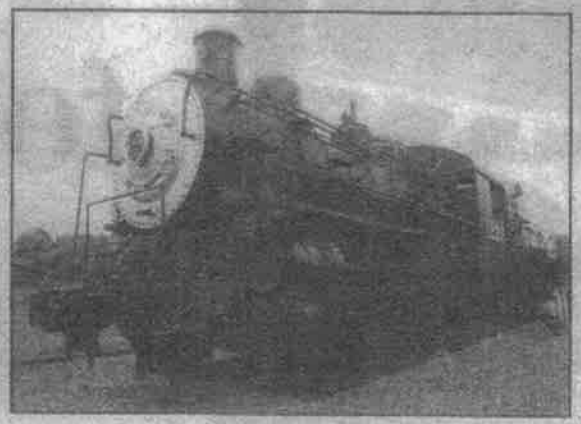
But Sollinger still believes in his silent movie find.

"There's no doubt in my mind ... It's the train," he said.

• *You can reach reporter*




**Seven-year-old Connor Loblein** of Winston plays on the newly refurbished locomotive in Roseburg's Stewart Park.



**The 1914 Southern Pacific** locomotive in Roseburg's Stewart Park is again ready for children who enjoy playing on it.

# On track for fun

*After months of renovation, iconic Stewart Park locomotive ready for play again*

U-R 10-27-10

# LOCOMOTIVE: Volunteers thanked for their efforts

**INKA BAJANDAS**
*The News-Review*

For Connor Lobstein, the train in Stewart Park is a dear, old friend.

"I love it," the 7-year-old Winston resident said as he clambered inside the locomotive Tuesday evening. "I've been playing in it since I was 3. It's like the best train I've ever seen."

It had been nearly a year since Connor and other kids played on the engine situated near the Stewart Park playground. It had been fenced off while being restored by the Roseburg Rotary Club and others. On Tuesday, the fence was down, the train sported a slick coat of deep black paint and the city of Roseburg celebrated the hard work of the volunteers who recently completed the restoration.

Train enthusiast and Rotary member Keith Van Atta persuaded the group to adopt the train last year.

Generations of kids have played on the 1914 class S-11 switch engine since Southern Pacific donated it to the city in 1958, and Van Atta said he wants the train to hold up for even more children to enjoy.

"We're not really done. This is an ongoing project," he said. "So it's not going to cont[illegible] to erode away and rust away and be worthless. We hope that another generation of children enjoys it."

When the Rotary decided to adopt the locomotive, it was

Turn to **LOCOMOTIVE**, page 10

Continued from page 1

deteriorating, city Parks and Recreation Program Manager Barbara Taylor said.

"It was to the point that definitely something needed to be done," she said. "The paint was chipping and the metal rotting away."

Roseburg's Park and Recreation Commission agreed last year to supply materials for repairs if club members donated the labor. Various businesses also contributed materials, equipment and labor.

To complete the restoration, Rotary volunteers and Douglas County Jail inmate crews replaced sections of worn metal and installed new covers on the sand pots and smokestacks to keep water out. The engine was also pressure washed and painted. On Tuesday, City Manager Eric Swanson thanked volunteers.

"It's obviously looking very good thanks to all the workers," he said. "We had a lot of workdays, and we put a lot of Rotarians to work on this project ... (the train) is a much loved feature of Stewart Park."

One of the final touches will be to put in a new bell, Swanson said.

Marcia Jackson and her sister, Rosie Sansom, both of Roseburg, were glad the train that their father, former Roseburg train master Ted Bernard, brought to the city had regained its splendor.

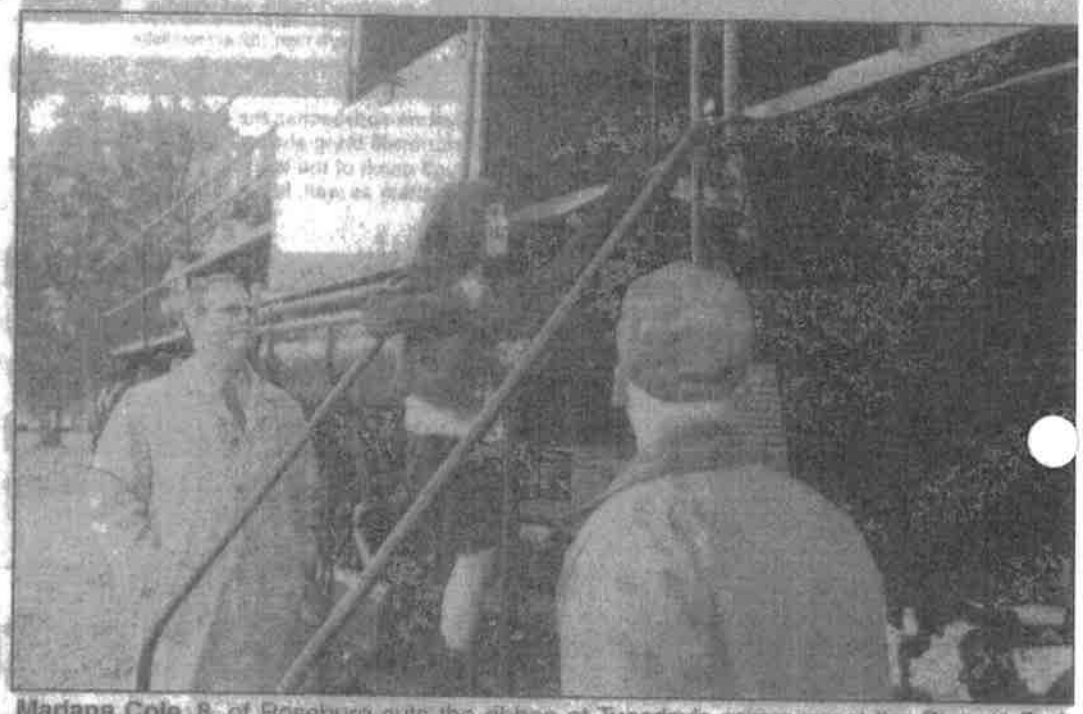
"It's fabulous. It just made me sick to see it all disintegrating," Jackson said.

Sansom said her father would be happy to know the train will last for future generations.

"I'm so excited," Sansom said. "He thought every kid should have the opportunity to sit in the engine and ring the bell."

Also enthusiastic about the train's opening was Mariana Cole, 8, of Roseburg. As she climbed along one side of the locomotive, she said she had missed the train while it was fenced off.

"It's really cool," she said.



**Mariana Cole**, 8, of Roseburg cuts the ribbon at Tuesday's ceremony at the Stewart Park train as Roseburg City Manager Eric Swanson, left, and Keith Van Atta look on.

At Van Atta's insistence, Mariana had the honor of cutting the ribbon at the celebration.

"These are the ones we really did the project for, right here," he said, gesturing to Mariana.

Before retiring to Roseburg, the Stewart Park engine shuffled cars around a rail yard in Tracy, Calif., likely until 1957, Van Atta said. When it was brought to Roseburg, crews removed the engine from the track where it crosses over Garden Valley Boulevard and jacked it onto three flat-bed trucks. The trucks were sandwiched together to accommodate the load and one had to drive in reverse to the park, he said.

When Van Atta heard that other cities were interested in taking the train away from Roseburg, he knew it was time to act.

"I just couldn't see that. The train belongs here," he said. "It needs to be here for at least another 50 years so more kids can enjoy it and adults, too."

*• You can reach reporter Inka Bajandas at 541-957-4202 or by e-mail at ibajandas@nrtoday.com.*

# You're Invited!

Please join us in celebrating the recent renovation of the Stewart Park locomotive.

**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**
**Stewart Park locomotive**
**4:00 pm**

For more information call 541-492-6730

Stewart Park Train Restoration Celebration 10/26/10

Many thanks to all the individuals and groups that helped restore the Stewart Park train to its' former glory. The person that spearheaded the project and kept the ball rolling on it is **Keith Van Atta**. Keith was the driving force behind the project and was instrumental in every aspect throughout the course of the project. Assisting Keith were the members of the Roseburg Rotary Club, Douglas County Sheriff's Dept, and many other community members.

**Volunteers include:**

**Marie Rasmussen**: Purchased a new bell, that will be used to fabricate a bell for the train

**Tim Johannes**, **Randy Boswell**, **Shawn Maddox**: Completed metal repairs

**Milo Anderson** (Oregon Tool & Supply): Donated equipment and tools

**Wayne Dodge** (Handyman Hardware): Donated the paint

**Scott Crowe** and **Mick Crowe** (FCC Furniture): Worked on the cleaning and metal work

**Ryan Beckley** (Beckley Excavation): Donated welding equipment and helped with metal work

**Greg Reitman** (Quality Fence): Donated the security fence throughout the project

**Deputy Loren Hughes** (Do. County Sheriffs Dept): Brought work crews that helped scrape & paint

**And members of the Roseburg Rotary Club, including:**

**Scott Hendy**
**Barrett Rainey**
**Jim & Penny Cole**
**Tom Henderson**
**Rick Sohn**
**David Soder**
**Gary Gries**
**Leonard Pritchett**

The train was built in 1914 and donated to the City of Roseburg in 1958. Since it was donated to the city more than 50 years ago, children of all ages have enjoyed countless hours climbing and exploring on the train, and it is a much-loved feature of Stewart Park.

Thank you to Keith, and everyone else who volunteered, for making our train appealing once again.

# Train Restoration Project 2009—2010

*Before and After*

***Before and After***

***Before and After***

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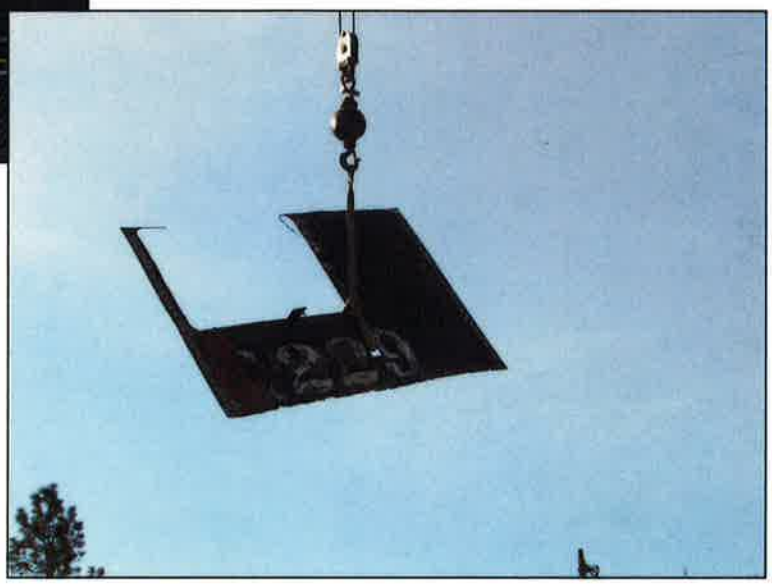
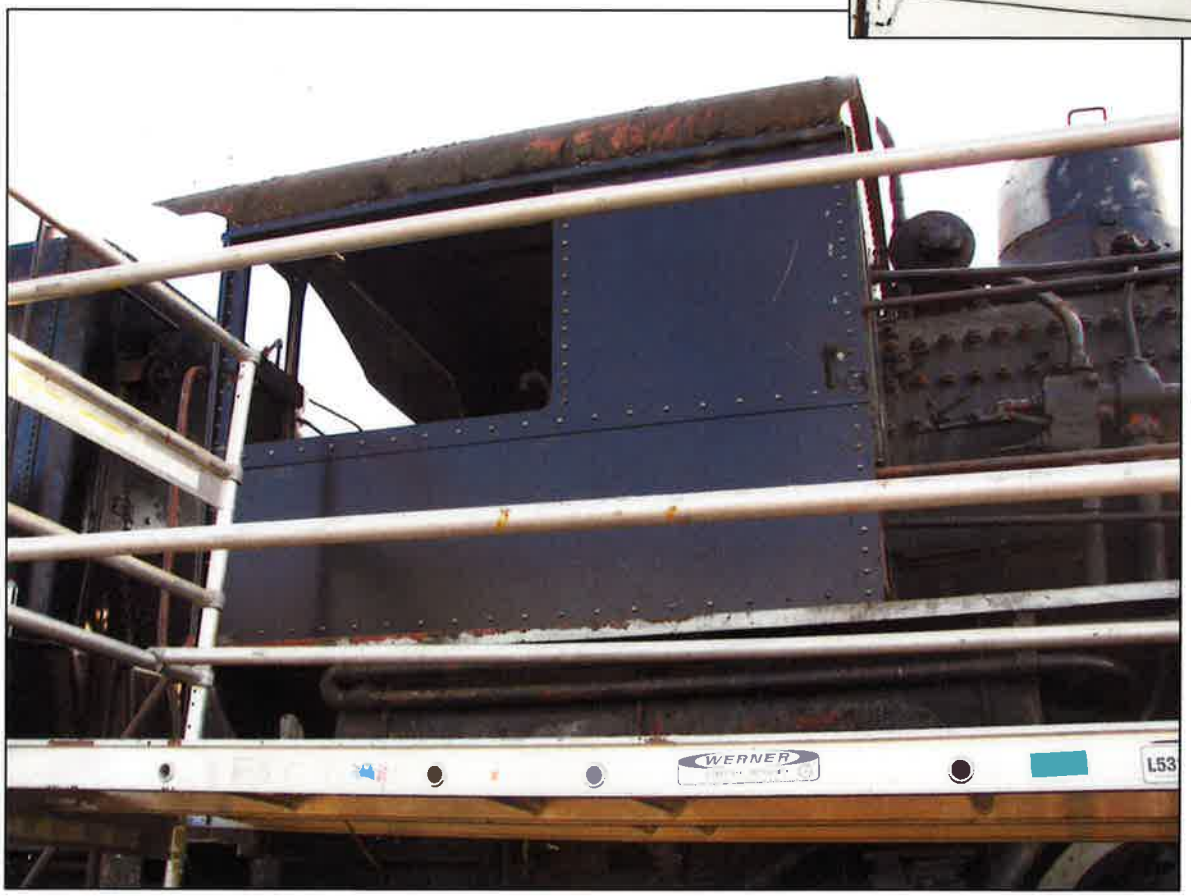
Removing the decayed side for replacement.



Delivery and installation of the new side.



Before & After of old and new interior wall

1229
SOUTHERN PACIFIC

1229

Wording on plaque

# Southern Pacific 1229

## Built in 1914 and Donated in 1958

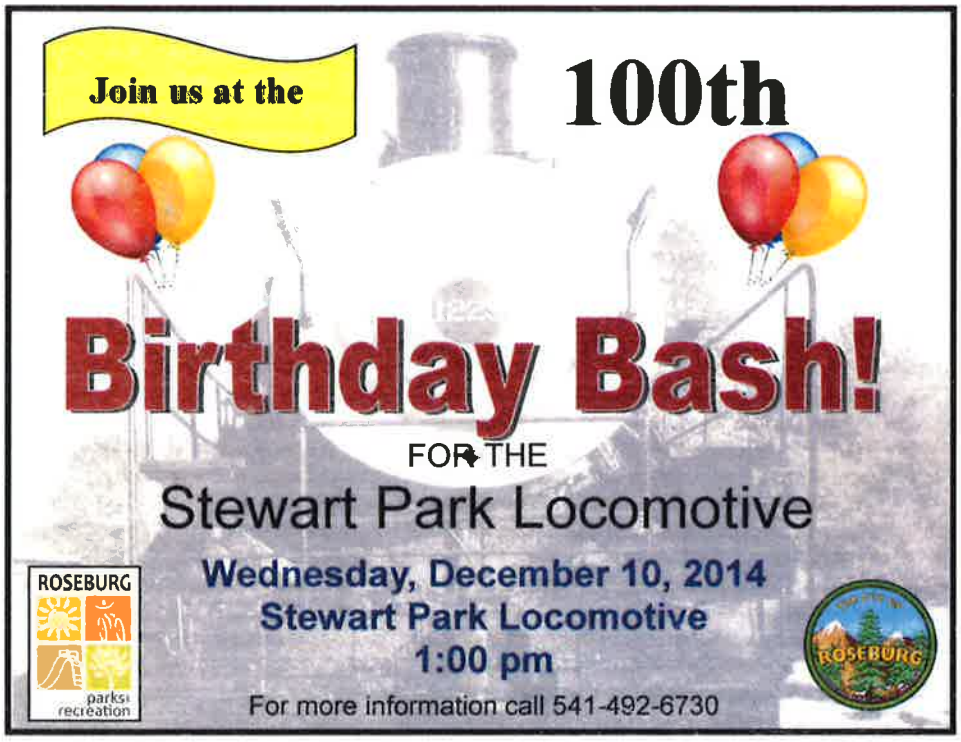
## Refurbished in 2010 by

Keith Van Atta

Roseburg Rotary Club

Do. Co. Sheriff's Dept. Corrections Division

and generous community donors and volunteers


Join us at the
100th
Birthday Bash!
FOR THE
Stewart Park Locomotive
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Stewart Park Locomotive
1:00 pm
For more information call 541-492-6730
ROSEBURG
parks & recreation
ROSEBURG

December 8, 2014

# Stewart Park locomotive to mark 100th birthday

The city of Roseburg is planning a 100th birthday party for its locomotive in Stewart Park.

An event honoring No. 1229 will be at 1 p.m. Dec. 10. City Councilor Bob Cotterell and train enthusiast Keith Van Atta will speak. Refreshments will be provided.

The Southern Pacific Railroad engine was donated to the city in 1958 and has been an attraction at the park since. It was built by the Lima Locomotive Co. in 1914 and spent its working life shuttling cars in California.

Information: 541-492-6730 or visit CityofRoseburg.org.

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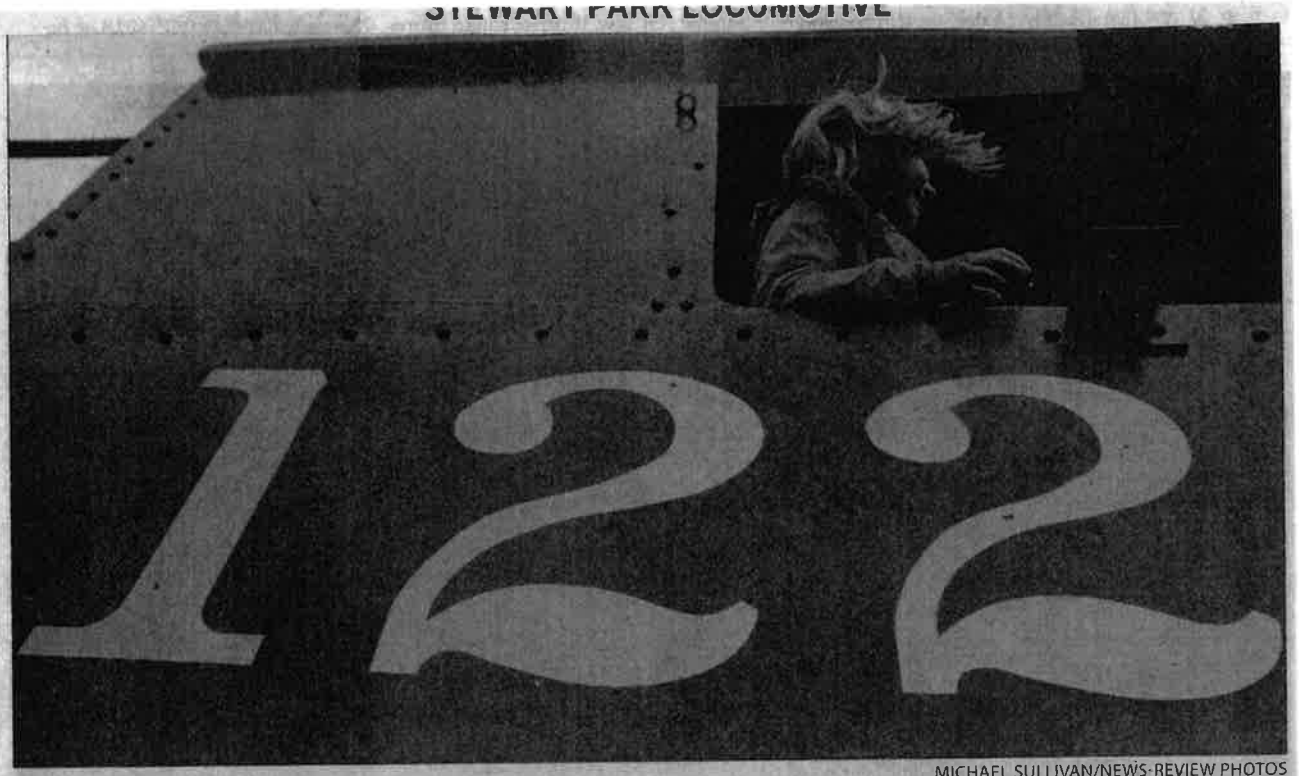



MICHAEL SULLIVAN/NEWS-REVIEW PHOTOS

**Fir Grove Elementary School third-grader Dacoda Christian plays on the locomotive engine in Stewart Park in Roseburg Wednesday.**

# 100 years and *full steam ahead*

*Families turn out to celebrate a century of fun with the Stewart Park locomotive*

**GARRETT ANDREWS**
The News-Review

**Fir Grove Elementary School third graders locate their art work that was part of a 100-year anniversary celebration in Stewart Park in Roseburg Wednesday.**

Some are capped with barbed wire. Some are fenced off. But in Roseburg, people young and old are encouraged to get up there and play around.

A 100th birthday party was held Wednesday in Stewart Park for Southern Pacific No. 1229 — a disused locomotive that's part art installation, part playground and part relic from the past.

Several people spoke during a short program, held in a nearby covered pavilion due to rain. Roseburg City Councilor Bob Cotterell discussed the history of the engine, which was donated to Roseburg in 1957, after 43 years in operation.

The train was built by Lima Locomotive in 1914 in Lima, New York. It's one of 10 S-11 switch engines forged by the company.

It was used by Southern Pacific Railroad at switchyards in California.

"It was never used as a freight locomotive, or a passenger locomotive. It was only used in the switchyard," Cotterell said.

After delivery to Roseburg from Oakland, California, two flatbed trucks were used to move it to Stewart Park. With the engine weighing more than 135,000 pounds (or 67.5

TRAIN A8

# FROM PAGE ONE

## TRAIN

From page A1

tons), some local roads needed to be built up to accommodate such a heavy load, Cotterell said.

The engine has now been stationary at Stewart Park seven years longer than it was in service for Southern Pacific.

"I've been on top of that train with both my children, who are now grown," Cotterell said. "And I've been on top of that train with my four grandchildren."

On Wednesday, the third-grade class from nearby Fir Grove Elementary School — about 46 students in all — walked through the rain to attend the birthday party. Following the program, they enjoyed cake and cookies provided by the city.

Kathrine Sefton, 9, called the locomotive a "beautiful piece of history."

"I've been on the train so many times," she said. "It's really fun to climb."

Kathrine said she likes to play in the engine cab where the conductor sits, but has never been up on top.

"My uncle Robert, he climbed up to the very top one time. I was blown away — like, how do you do that?"

Said 9-year-old Hanna Briggs: "I like that you can just climb on it, and not just look at it."

Keith Van Atta of Roseburg led an effort in 2009-2010 to restore the train. He said it's important that people are able to touch it.

Many historic trains like the one in Sutherlin are fenced off to protect them. Some experts from Portland Van Atta consulted with five years ago told him Roseburg should invest in a fence if it wanted to preserve No. 1229.

"We dismissed that out of hand," Van Atta said.

There are more than 40 Southern Pacific engines displayed in the U.S., according to train enthusiast Bill Gruner of Roseburg, who was at the event.

"It hasn't been vandalized like some of them out there," Gruner said. "This one's in darn good condition."

The train's bell, however, was stolen in 2007 and has never been returned.

Following Wednesday's ceremony, Van Atta sought to clear up a misconception. He said the engine is not the same one silent film star Buster Keaton is seen riding on in a famous scene from the movie "The Goat," despite conjecture on the Internet to the contrary.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN/THE NEWS-REVIEW

**From left, Fir Grove Elementary School third graders Quinn Pennington-Upright, Kathrine Sefton and Hanna Briggs look through an album documenting the history of the locomotive in Stewart Park in Roseburg Wednesday.**

"That is definitely not the same train," Van Atta said. "You can tell just by the way it looks."

Nine-year-old Jet Popham persistently approached a News-Review reporter to comment about the train.

Jet said he wanted to thank "all the people who helped make it a good place for kids to play."

**KPIC 4**

# Iconic Stewart Park attraction celebrates 100th birthday

By *News Staff* | Published: Dec 10, 2014 at 5:03 PM PST (2014-12-11T1:03:36Z) | Last Updated: Dec 10, 2014 at 5:38 PM PST (2014-12-11T1:38:22Z)

PLAY VIDEO (HTTP://WWW.KPIC.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/ICONIC-STEWART-PARK-ATTRACTION-CELEBRATES-100TH-BIRTHDAY-285436271.HTML?TAB=VIDEO&C=Y)

The Stewart Park locomotive engine has been a part of the park since 1958.

PHOTOS (HTTP://WWW.KPIC.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/ICONIC-STEWART-PARK-ATTRACTION-CELEBRATES-100TH-BIRTHDAY-285436271.HTML?TAB=GALLERY&C=Y)

ROSEBURG, Ore. -- If you're a regular visitor to Stewart Park in Roseburg, you've seen the iconic locomotive engine, which has served as a playground attraction since the City of Roseburg acquired it in 1958.

This month marks the engine's 100th birthday, and the city held a celebration at the park to mark the occasion.

The engine was used to shuttle cars between tracks in California railroad yards when it was in operation.

After 43 years of service, the owner donated it to the city and it has been ever since.

"It's really a piece of our history and without those things, without that type of locomotive, we would've never crossed the country the way we do," said local train enthusiast Keith Van Atta.

Around 45 third graders from nearby Fir Grove Elementary School also participated in the celebration.

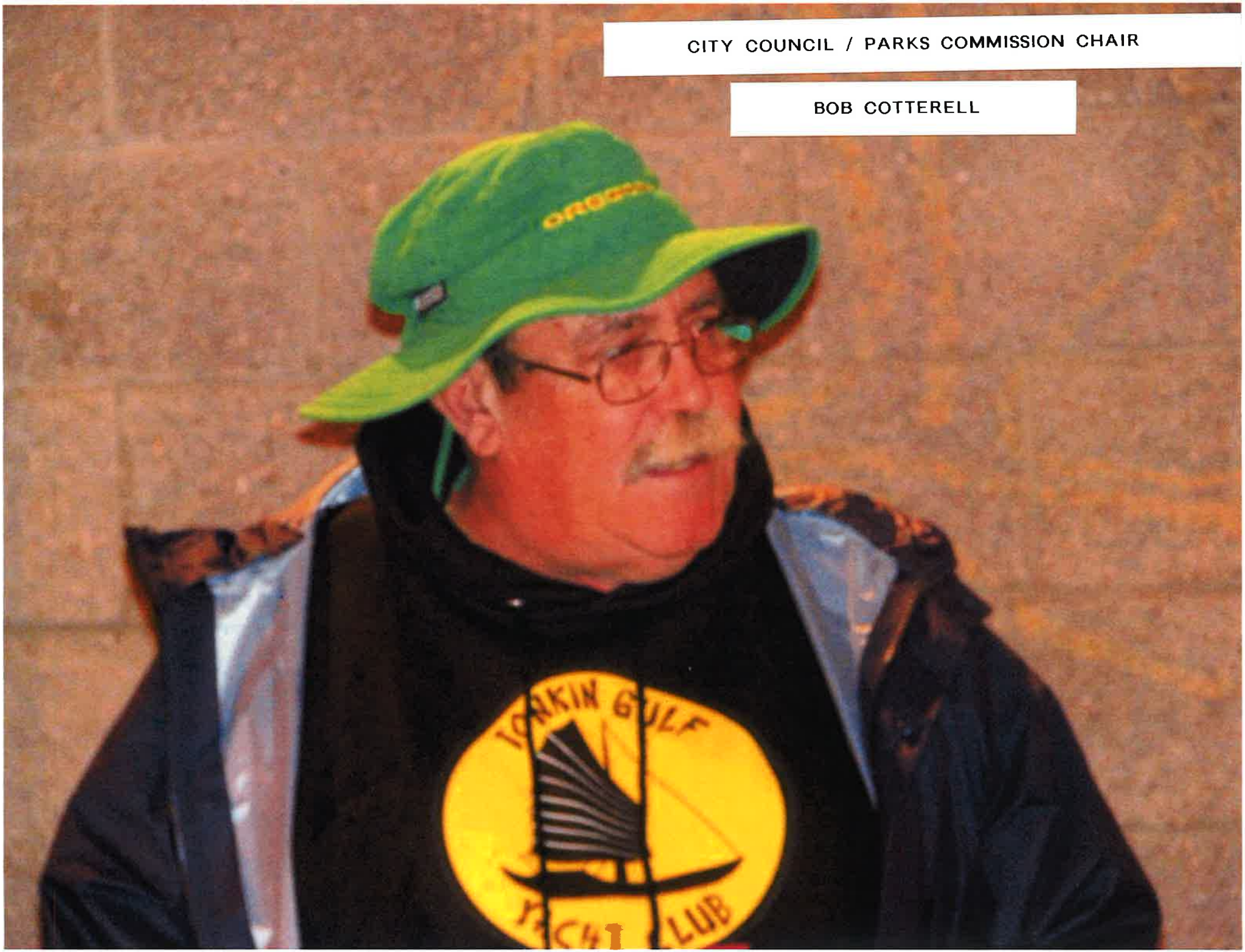
Happy 100th Birthday!
1229

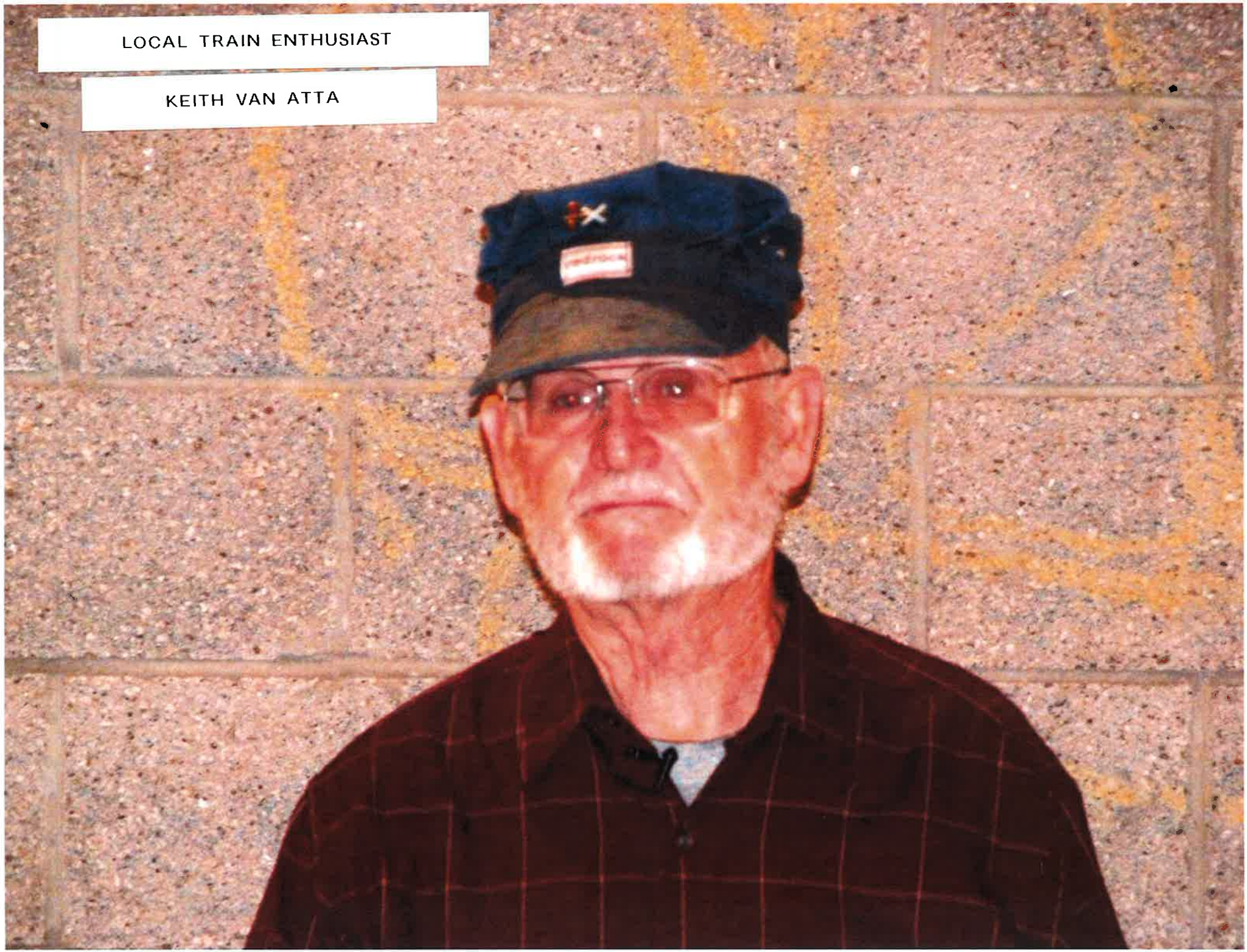
Happy 100th Birthday!
1229

CITY MANAGER
LANCE COLLEY

CITY COUNCIL / PARKS COMMISSION CHAIR

BOB COTTERELL




LOCAL TRAIN ENTHUSIAST
KEITH VAN ATTA

Location

## Southern Pacific RR No. 1229

## Roseburg, OR

Photo Copyright © Dale Brown Click to Enlarge

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wheels:** | 0-6-0 |
| **Builder:** | Lima Locomotive Works |
| **Build Date:** | 12/1914 |
| **Construction No.:** | 1496 |
| **Empty Weight:** | 147,900 |
| **Weight on Drivers:** | 147,900 |
| **Driver Diameter:** | 51 |
| **Tractive Effort:** | 29,720 |
| **Boiler Pressure:** | 190 |
| **Cylinders:** | 19x26 |
| **Fuel:** | Oil |
| **Gauge:** | Standard |

Location: Stewart Park

Status: Display

Views: 526

Ownership Links Notes

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VANDERBILT TENDER

TENDER NO. 7043
CLASS 70-C-9