

SPOT NEWS

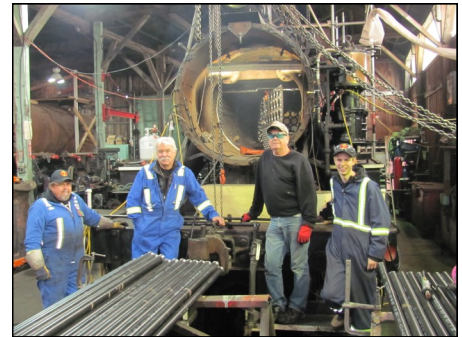
WESTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

Newstand price—\$3.99

Issue 72



October 2019



"No. 7" Boiler Project Update
See P. 2

90 YEARS OF STEAM
"No. 7" was built in the shops of the "Baldwin Locomotive Works" in August, 1929.

The Steam donkey was built by in Seattle by "Washington Iron Works" on September 1, 1929.

Photo: D. Hooper



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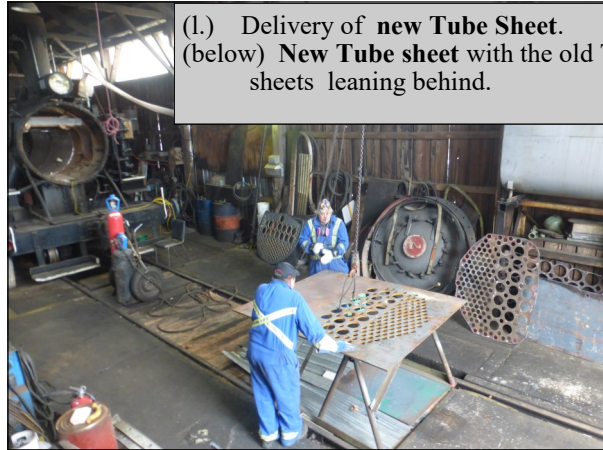
“No. 7” BOILER REPAIR PROJECT - New Tube Sheets

The Boiler Inspector gave the approval for the Project to go ahead so, work resumed in the summer. Using the old Tube Sheets as templates, new Tube Sheets were cut out by high-pressure water jets in Nanaimo. The Boilermakers took over from there, cutting the sheets to size, then grinding them thoroughly in preparation for welding into the barrel of the boiler.

(l. to r.)
B. Dobrensky,
S. Courtney,
B. Pennington
T. Thompson
Photos: D. Hooper



(l.) Delivery of **new Tube Sheet**.
(below) **New Tube sheet** with the old Tube sheets leaning behind.



(above) **Grinding** the surface of the Tube Sheets.
Michael Roxburgh & Barry Dobrensky.
(Below)
Jim Isenor (“Kodiak NDT”) inspects the progress with Michael Roxburgh.



(above) **“Bender”** at work.
Bevelling the edge of the Tube Sheet.

(Below) **Pete Geddes** supervises the unloading of the 5” superheater flues for the boiler.



ACTION AT THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE



Volunteers at the I.H.C. had a very busy summer, hosting visiting groups, taking part in Shows and events in other Island communities, completing two restoration projects– the 1960 “Baby Euclid” and the 1973 “Hayes HD” rock truck and taking part in two Parades. Six children’s groups were hosted and I.H.S. members played a significant role in the “Soapbox Races” on July 20. Members took vintage machinery / trucks to Shows in Comox, Sayward, Duncan and Nanaimo.

“FINISHING TOUCHES”

Tracy Golden and “Dutch” de Rooy came to

“Camp Roots” kids with I.H.S. guys.

(Below) Day Care kids at work.

(Below) Ted Maurice took the model “Challenger” to Duncan. Lane Boyd showed small engines to several kids’ groups.



touch up the Baby “Euclid” and the 1973 “Hayes HD” rock truck with lettering and decals, making them look great for the big Truck Show.



(l.) “Dutch” and Tracy both worked the same day. Dutch is applying a “Euclid” decal while Tracy letters the door of the “Hayes” rock truck.

(r.) Les Stevens bolts on the exhaust pipe of the “Euclid”.

(Below, right) Tracy lettered the doors of both trucks with the “WVIHHS” name.... freehand!

Photos: D. Hooper



(r.) “Dutch” applies the decals to the just-finished hood of the “Euclid”. Then, Les bolted it into place and attached the exhaust pipe.



I.H.S. VOLUNTEERS AT WORK



(l.) Replacing planks at Rigging Shed (McLean Mill)

(r.) Norm Groves with Day care fans.

(Below) **Soapbox Races**
I.H.S. members were out in force with set-up, take-down and providing "Pit Crew" services.

(l.) Randy Catto & Cliff West provide emergency repairs after a crash..

(r.) John Mee & Les Stevens



Photos: D. Hooper



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(l.) **Ken Rutherford** set up a railway track at the Truck Show for kids to operate.

(r.) **Ray Barron** at the Truck Show with model "disconnect trucks" and "skeleton car" that he built.



INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CHRISTMAS 'STOCKING STUFFERS'

There will be a Gift Shop at the Industrial Heritage Centre on Saturdays in December for last-minute 'Stocking Stuffers' - Trucks, Trains, Steam logging T-shirts, hats, pins.

Also, "Alberni Trucks" and "Industrial Heritage" calendars and possibly, special cards.

Some T-shirts available:

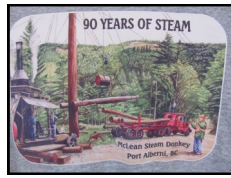
"Challenger" truck

"90 Years—Steam donkey

I.H.S. 2-sided shirt—"Hayes" and "No. 7"



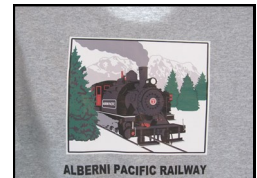
The "Gift the Station open pm, Nov. the Quay Light-Model



Shop" at tion will from 5-8 29, for "Harbour Christmas up". Train



be



room will be open; music by Barry Miller and others, hot chocolate. Come on out!

Check for updates on the 'Facebook' page of the "Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society".

"No. 7" BOILER REPAIR—Progress Report (*cont'd. from p. 2.*)

Once the Tube sheets were ground and bevelled, they were ready to be welded into place at either end of the boiler... but, that requires a Welder with a specialized 'ticket'. Brent Graham welded the Firebox Tube sheet into place and began work on the second sheet, before he was called away to another job.

** The Boilermakers—retired and active members of the "Boilermakers' Union Local 359" - are **donating** their time and skills to this Boiler restoration job. This is the third time that they have restored antique boilers for the I.H.S. and the City. Previously, they rebuilt the boiler for the "Farquhar" steam traction engine and, in 2014, the boiler of the Steam Donkey at the McLean Mill.



(above) **Wrestling a Tube Sheet** into the Boiler
 (left) Rocky checks the fit of the Tube Sheet.
 (Below) **Brent Graham** prepares to weld another pass on the Tube Sheet next to the Fire Box.



(Below) The front Tube Sheet is hung ready to be welded while Brent was finishing welding the Tube Sheet at the other end of the Boiler.

(Below right) **New Boiler Tubes arrive!** Boilermakers Brent Pennington, Barry Dobrensky and Michael Roxburgh pose by the new tubes, in front of the "Number 7".

Photos: D. Hooper



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LOGGING CREW NEWS

There were no steam logging demonstrations this summer at the McLean Mill Logging site. The Donkey boiler required it's 5-year inspection/re-certification; the Steam Engineer needed one of the new "Antique Boiler Operator Permits", etc., etc. and it did not happen. So, the Logging Crew did what West Coast loggers do: "Get 'er done" some other way.



Crew for Aug. 29 demonstration
Photos: Ron Brandner.

On August 29, the Crew operated the only "Air Donkey" in captivity and did a logging demonstration for the visiting Swedish Forestry tour group, using a big compressor! They subsequently did demonstrations for the "National Forests Day" event for District Grade Fives on September 25 – 400 spectators and at the "McLean Mill September Event" - on air. They hope to have the steam matter



sorted out for 2020.

The Steam Donkey celebrated it's 90th Birthday (with Sven Josefson) during the Swedish visit, with a fine cake. (Sven & Donna James)



Bert Simpson—Head Loader



(Above) Les Stevens—Oiler
Joe Netzer —Donkey Puncher
Photo: Ron Brandner
(Below) Tony Super—the Second Loader.



6 Removing the Smoke Stack Photo: D. Hooper



LOGGER SPORTS

The Editor acknowledges the help of Al Boyko, Fern LaRoche & Jack James with the following article. "Island Timber" by R. Mackie and "Vital Voices: Alberni Valley Loggers" were both good sources of info.

At the recent annual "Logger Sports" event at the Alberni Valley Fall Fair, three generations of Boykos were involved—organizing, competing, recording, timing, 'go-fering" - and Al Boyko, at 84 years old, MC'ed the whole Show. It is a family affair. Al quoted a saying (or made it up) that, "The family that saws together, stays together."

A life-long logger, Al came into the Logger Sports world quite naturally. His bunk-house room-mate at Franklin River Camp "B" in 1953 was Danny Sailor, a tree climber. Danny was training for the big competition at Albany, Oregon. This was the top Logger Sports competition in the Pacific Northwest at that time and Danny intended to win.

He got some of the young loggers to join him in his training after work, as the days grew longer in the spring. While training himself, he taught them to climb, as well as to throw axes. In July, Danny went to the big Show and won the Championship. Al said that it was Danny that got him interested and that taught him the importance of staying fit and training for your events.



MC at work
- Al Boyko-

Logger sports have been around since the beginning of the logging industry on the Coast. With axes and crosscut saws the main tools, there were large crews of highly-skilled and fit young men working in a competitive environment and living in isolated camps and communities. Without the distractions and activities of City life, athletics and sports, including logger sports, were a popular way to fill in time when the days grew longer and the work day was done.

There have been many different events included in Logger Sports over the years. These included many of the skills used in old-time logging, such as:
 Bucking Axe-throwing Log chopping Choker setting Log birling Splicing Tree-climbing Springboard chop
 Standing block chop Obstacle pole bucking Making a "Molly Hogan"



Photos: D. Hooper

Springboard Chop Event

With the advent of the power saw after the Second War, chain saw events were added to the Competitions, then "Hot saw" events, with souped-up saws. The mechanization of the industry in the past forty years has eliminated virtually all of the old, manual skills ... and most of the original workforce.

Back in the day when women were considered 'the weaker sex", there were only a few events for them and children. Bucking was one of their few logging skill events. Then, there was Nail-driving and sometimes "Tug o' Wars" for teams of women,



Women "Double Bucking"

—Page sponsored by
(Cont. p. 8)

"Probyn Log" -

as well as men and children. Pie-eating contests were sometimes included for the kids. "Jack & Jill" (a man and a woman) sawing events were, and still are, popular. Nowadays, women participate in many of the same events as the men, but against other women and they are as serious competitors as the men.

In the early 1970's, Al Boyko and Jack James, with the support of "M&B", set up the "Alberni Logger Sports Association". "M&B" supported the venture and supplied the land for the "Timber Bowl", near the old Sproat Lake Division Shops, as the venue for the events.

Another local logger who got interested in Logger Sports at the same time as Al was Fern LaRochelle. "The Bull" (nickname) competed and partnered with Al Boyko at many events, all over the Pacific Northwest. He remembers heading to the big event in Albany with Al. At the last minute, they decided to enter the 'Double bucking' competition... but they had no saw. They borrowed one from a fellow who happened to be an expert saw-filer. He told them that they had a good chance of winning with that saw but that they would have to share the prize with him. They won and they did. Al said that he learned an important lesson about the importance of your tools... and of saw-filing.

(Al is still in demand as a saw-filer for logger sports competitors.)

Fern remembers when Logger Sports were one of the big attractions at the PNE and the highlight of the Logger Sports Season. Not only were there Championships on the line, there were daily exhibitions of logging skills... and it paid well. Presenting exhibitions was another part of the Logger Sports world. Al Boyko and his

family have travelled to Finland, to Japan, Australia and other countries, demonstrating and competing....and "MC'ing".

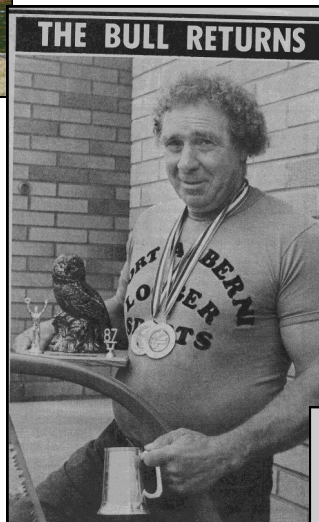
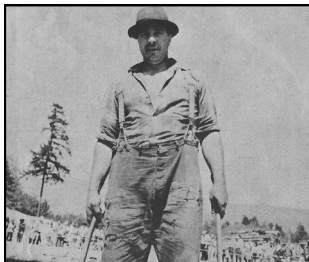


Jean Boyko demonstrating axe throwing.

Jack James & Al Boyko



LOG BIRLING—Father & son duel
Kenji Boyko vs Mike Boyko (r.)
(Below)
Fern used to dress up as an 'old time logger' for the competitions.



Fern in his prime (Check out the hair!!) He is seen here on his return from the PNE Logger Sports, where he won the Swede Saw Bucking World title for the second year in a row, and other awards.



Fern LaRochelle in 2019 with mementoes and trophies.

More photos from the Antique Trucks & Machinery Show



Cliff West washes "Kingsley Trucking" "Volvo" before the Show.

(Below)

Mike Hobson — miniature steam engine display.



Ross Stevens' - Unloading his 1929 "Hayes-Anderson" log truck. This was the "Poster Girl" for the Show, at ninety years.

(Below) "Next-Gen Truckers" in the Sandbox.



(l) Manning the Concession
Dave Ronalds, Dave Warrender, Jeremy Boyd.

(below left) **Al Mason** with model of the "Mars Rustler" that operates on Alberni Inlet.

(below) **"Ottawa Drag Saw"**
Pete Geddes and apprentice operated the Drag Saw. Joe Krizek observes from the side.

Photos: D. Hooper



2019 ANTIQUE TRUCKS & MACHINERY SHOW

This is the biggest Event on the annual calendar of the I.H.S. and, once again, it was well-attended by the public. There was plenty of activity on the site, as well as plenty to see. There were more than 75 vintage vehicles and other exhibits in and around the



"HAYES" ROW

Industrial Heritage Centre. The "Boat Basin" was once again a centre of attraction and the "Tami" steam train was a hit with the children (and parents!) Lou Desbiens & friends moved a lot of dirt with their

radio-controlled models, to the delight of children of all ages. [See photo below.] More than 1500 visitors attended the Show.



(above) The "Mason Basin" - model boats
(below) R/C operators—D. Newman (r.)



Photos:
R. Brandner
D. Hooper

(Above) The restored 1926 "Federal" was the "Mayor's Choice" for 2019. Mayor Minions is seen here presenting Pete Geddes with the plaque. (r.) Steve Alder opens the throttle on "Tami".

