

THE MANIFEST

March 2016



Greetings!

Wow, where has the time gone!. We have only about a month left before your 2016 season at the park. I hope everyone had a very good holiday season and beginning of the New Year.

Our monthly meeting is coming upon us fast, I must admit I had it in my mind that it was the 15th, then today realized it was the 8th! Guess I'm getting old. Hope to see many of you there. I had some hand problems and have missed a couple meetings due to that, but I will be at the March meeting.

Our story this month comes from one of our members, Kyle Stockman. Kyle works for the California and Western in Fort Bragg and he has sent us some pictures and a short write-up on the rebuilding of the 45. Hope you all enjoy it as much as I did. Thank you Kyle very much.

REBUILDING THE OLD BETSIE CASEWORKER 45 by KYLE STOCKMAN

After a relaxing summer of pulling the 3.5-mile long Pudding Creek Express trains from Fort Bragg to Glen Blair Jct., old 45 was ready for her big 1472 (15 year) overhaul. She was parked in her normal summertime spot just inside the CWR West Inside shop track, and her boiler and tender were both drained of water.

In mid-October 45 shuffled positions with coach 659, which is also undergoing her own rebuild, and she came to rest where she does most winters on the back half of the Cat spur track inside the CWR shop.

45 began her life working as a road engine number 3 for the Owens Oregon Brownlee Olds Lumber Company, later Medco in October of 1924. She was out shopped by Baldwin as C/N 58045 and at that time was just another 70 ton 2-8-2.

She worked for the beginning of her life in and around Medford, OR, and then she was no longer needed and sat unused and forgotten from 1959 until 1964 when she was purchased by Georgia Pacific's California Western Railroad.

From 1964 to summer 1965 she was lovingly restored by the CWR shop crew and went to work on the newly formed Super Skunk passenger trains on 4th of July weekend 1965. She was an instant success and continues to be to this day.

45 had a great beginning on the CWR and according to now CWR trainmaster Jim Baskin, she even served as an emergency switching or rescue engine many, many times in her early days.

In the 1980's 45 was again on the sidelines, as she yet again needed an overhaul. Her future was uncertain until Paramount Pictures decided to film the movie Racing with the Moon in the Mendocino area and wanted to use a steam locomotive in the movie. Old 45 was again brought back to life serving as locomotives 44, and 45 in the movie, she has been in use ever since.

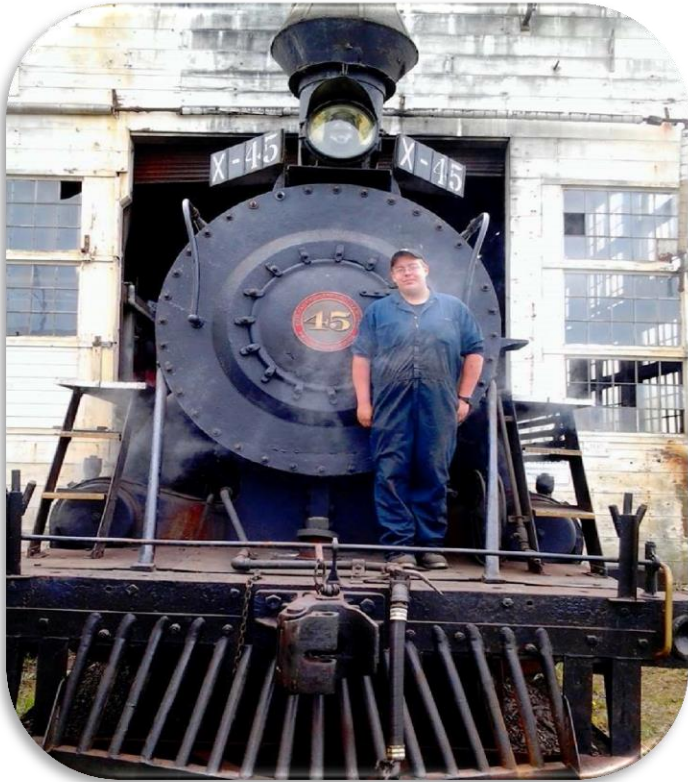
In late October 2015 I began the overwhelming task of tearing apart the locomotive we have all come to call Old

Betsie aka 45. First came the jewelry items such as the bell and dynamo, and her two sand domes. Then the smokebox was removed and all of her 26 super heater tubes removed. Keep in mind that all but a few times was this process done with the help of someone other than myself. As of this writing, we have a grand total of 3 shop employees on the CWR.

November came and I then started removing the exterior skin of the boiler and after a few weeks of on and off work and many choice words later 45 was stripped down to her bare boiler, and was wire wheeled and cleaned. I then put a tarp over her and she's awaiting the go ahead for the welder we use on her to come up and remove her 178 boiler tubes so we can then go inside and clean the scale off the inside of the boiler, and so I can get my crescent wrench. 45 decided she needed more than me last winter. Once that is done we can then re install the brand new tubes and super heaters and she will be as good as new.

I'll keep you posted on her progress and I hope to see and meet more of you in 2016.

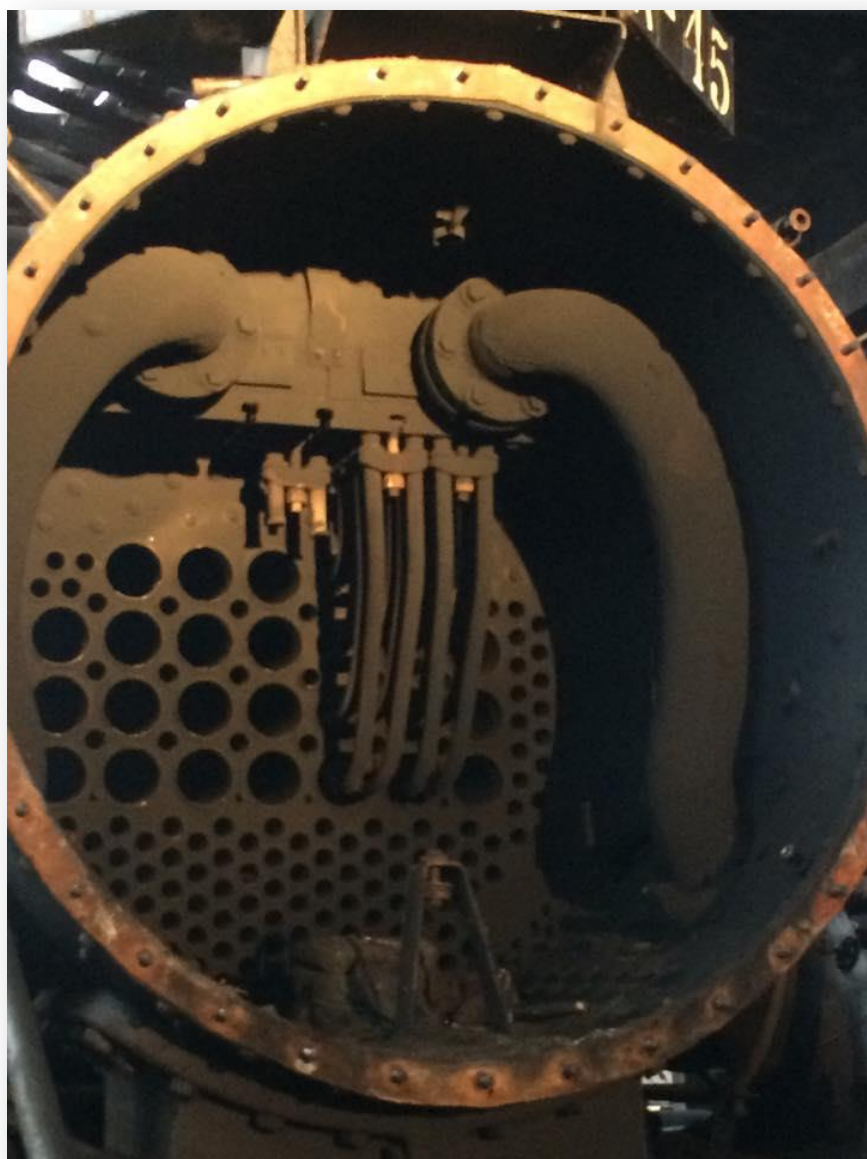






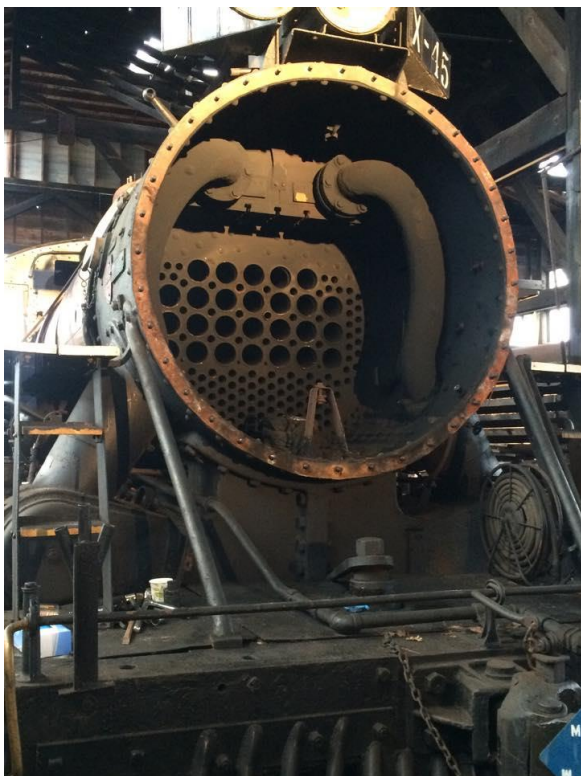




























MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I apologize, but as I was out for surgery, there are no minutes available to enter.

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Allen Dobney will be showing a 20-minute video:
"Southern Pacific in the Willamette Vally plus branches,
Volume 1"

If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, (c-manley@charter.net), or call, (541-291-1705), with the details.

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