

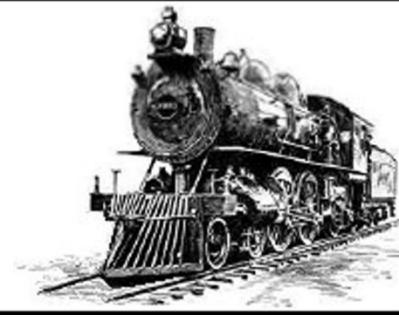


Maricopa Live Steamers

STACK TALK

MAY, 2020

The official newsletter of the Adobe Mountain Railroad in Phoenix, Arizona.
Operated by the Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Heritage Preservation Society.



President's Page

I hope you are all doing well and in good health. May is here, and we are still at battle with the Covid 19 virus pandemic. As of this writing, we continue to be in self-isolation. This is also true at MLS Train Park! State mandates are still in place prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people, and everyone must stay at least 6 feet apart. This rule is in effect until further notice. Please follow these guidelines. Also closed are Hurricane Harbor (the water park across the street), Victory Lane Baseball fields, Radio Control Fields, and the Racetracks until further notice.

ONLY members / immediate family can be at the park during the pandemic. NO parties or gatherings of any type can take place at the MLS Park during this time. Please follow this mandate put out by the State of AZ and the Maricopa County Parks. Just a reminder that ALL events at the MLS Park are cancelled until further notice. This includes no public runs, and the Club House is also closed except to use the restroom. We have not disinfected the Club House nor the outdoor picnic areas. Therefore, if you do need to go into the Club House, please use best practices and WASH your hands when you enter and when you leave.

All meetings have been cancelled, such as the Board meetings and General meetings, until further notice. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a Board member.

Since our weather has reached above 90 degrees now, we need everyone to maintain adequate hydration. Please always keep a water container with you. Also, with the hotter weather, please remember to keep an eye out for Rattlesnakes!! They are out!!!

We do have some projects on-going at the Park at this time. These projects have been funded through private donations. No club money has been used. As you may know, Club spending has been put on hold during this time. We are only maintaining the Utilities.

In addition, we have been working on the MLS Club budgets. We need to come up with a better plan to keep the Club solvent. I would like to give Bob a shout out! for the tremendous job he has done keeping the records up-to-date. Hopefully, our new computer system will be an efficient time saver. Also, since the Park is closed and no extra money is coming in now, we need to find other ways to fund the Park. When the Park first opened 20 years ago, the cost to fund the Park was low. There was no power, no water, no Club House and very little track to maintain, which made the cost very low. Now 20 years later, just look around and see how we have grown. It is remarkable! Unfortunately, growth brings on greater expenses, such as higher power and water costs, Club track and equipment maintenance, and increased insurance costs and park fees. As we look at our Budget, we may need to consider adding some fees to offset the income lost due to our current mandates from the Government.

Lastly, the weeds around the MLS Club property have grown and have become a Fire Risk! We are looking at closing some of the branch lines, so please check the Route Board to see which lines are open and which are closed before you leave Adobe Station. If anyone decides to try to clear the weeds, please use caution if you are using a motorized weed cutter. Have a phone and fire fighting water container with you just in case a spark should happen. We also have a dozen or so cargo containers that have overgrown weeds. Please take responsibility and clear the weeds from around your containers. If these are not removed by the end of May, weed removal fees will be charged.

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2020, you will receive a letter from the MLS Board.

Please stay safe and healthy during this Pandemic!

– Pete



MAY CALENDAR

SORRY FOLKS,

For members' health and safety, until further notice, all social activities at the Park have been cancelled.



This little rattler came out of the weeds next to Terry Liesegang's container and scared the "you know what" out of him. Remember that snakes are out and moving around in the morning and just before sunset. This one was only about 10 months old, so there are more young ones around.

Watch where you step!!!

Pete Pennarts
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Mick Janzen
Secretary

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Bill Cobb Dave Griner Terry Liesegang
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Dakota Clemens
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Holiday Lights
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**John Bergt
Timothy Freeman**
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Ken Giordano
Stack Talk Editor

Send emails / photos to:
[MLSnewsroom
@Gmail.com](mailto:MLSnewsroom@gmail.com)



CLOSURE -- Serpentine is closed from Ajo junction to the south end at Waylost due to Phoenix's sewer relining project under way now until further notice. There are steel plates across the track to protect it from the city's machinery.



From the Desk of: Bruno Platzer – Engineer
Subject: Diesel Engine **FOR SALE**

Here are pictures of the diesel that I have for sale.
I have all loose parts: snow plow and hand rails.

Asking \$12,500. Email platzerbruno@aol.com.

Thank you.

Bruno (c) 702-371-6397



TRACKING TRACKSIDE PROGRESS 2020

LAST MONTH

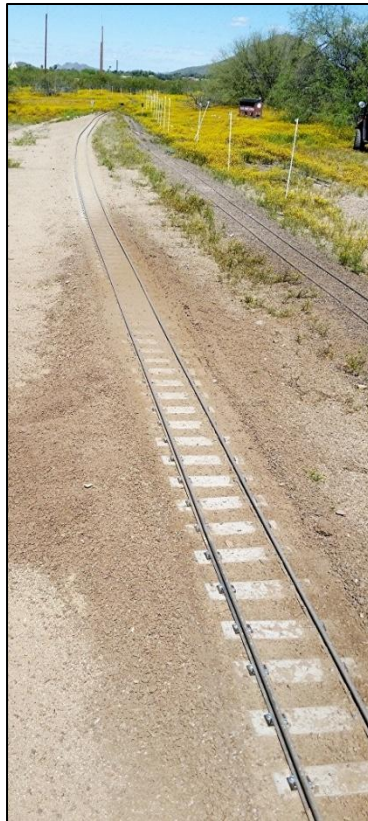


MARTIN'S FERRY

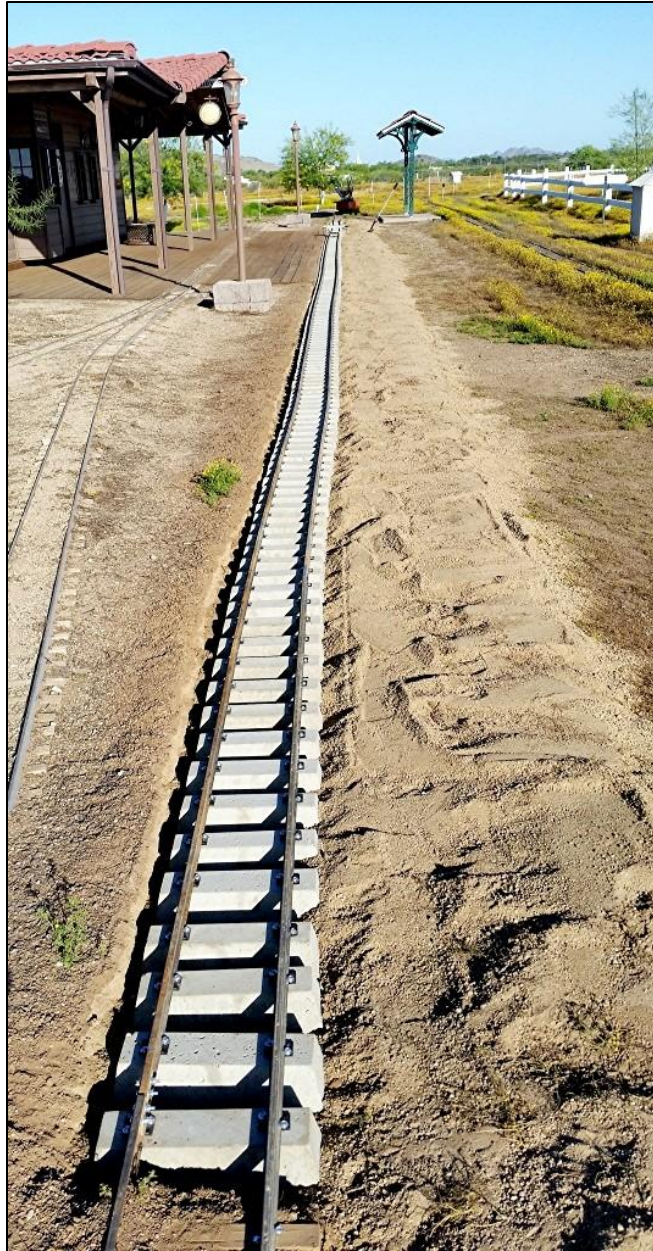
story and photos by Joe Schnyder

THIS MONTH is a picture of Martin's Ferry looking westward. The Eastbound main has concrete ties and steel rail installed between switches. This should be good for many years, since the wood ties were removed and 3500 PSI concrete ties installed. We are doing quite a few of the straight track sections that have the old wood ties and small track screws from 2004 when it was installed. The westbound main was rehabbed two years ago with new wood ties and a new steel switch serving the industries there.

THIS MONTH



TRACKING TRACKSIDE PROGRESS 2020



CONCRETE TIES (*left*)

story and photo by Joe Schnyder

Werner Station –

These concrete ties are installed, but not filled in or aligned yet. This is what they look like before we do the finish work of leveling, aligning, filling in with ballast and tamping and watering to hold the surface.

PLASTIC TIES (*right*)

story and photo by Joe Schnyder

Arntchoo –

Here is the inbound Arntchoo from mile post MP 311 to MP 308 that is being relaid in plastic ties due to weak tie conditions. These ties have been in service since 2003 and this route gets the station-bound traffic from East Werner. It will take 22 panels of 20 feet each of plastic ties. The spacing of these is just a little bit different than wood and concrete ties, as we are trying to get a little more distance out of the amount of product that we have. This should last for many years and through many train movements over them. We will be adding concrete ties to the joints in this plastic section to give more support under the joints, without using wood 4x4s, which are susceptible to termite damage.



TRACKING TRACKSIDE PROGRESS 2020



RERAILER

story and photo by Joe Schnyder

Here is a rerailer modeled after the ones used by HO trains on their layouts. Dave Kulman and Joe Schnyder installed it on the outbound Arntchoo track just past Harnish Valley and before you get to Arntchoo yard. After installation, we derailed my car and ran at it, and it flawlessly rerailed my car with me on it. It works well for heavy and light cars. This was made and installed at no cost to the club for anything. Unfortunately, it shorts out the track's signal circuits, so we cannot put them where there are signals, so they will only be installed in non-signal territory.

Maricopa County Parks: Adobe Dam Regional Park

A fire ban has been initiated to limit the possibility of starting a brush fire, which could cause serious damage to the park. The fire ban includes the use of campfires, fire pits, charcoal grills.

Smoking in Maricopa County parks is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or at developed recreation sites such as parking lots, picnic ramadas or campsites. Individuals who smoke in the designated areas are asked to ensure that all materials are **FULLY EXTINGUISHED** prior to leaving the area. Violation of this park rule, Rule 113, may result in a citation. However, it is still acceptable to use **gas/propane grills** in designated areas such as: ramada areas, semi-developed, and developed camping sites. A date to lift the fire ban has not been identified and will be determined by the amount of rain Maricopa County receives during the monsoon season. Thank you for your cooperation.



NO BURN DAYS at MLS

---- NO ----

COAL or DIESEL FUELED atomizers or BBQS!

NO FIRE OF ANY KIND

Until Further Notice

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ...
THE FIRE BAN IS ON!

STEAM LOCOMOTIVES BOILERS

THROTTLES and SUPERHEATERS II

by Dave Griner



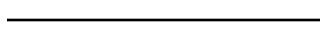
Hello again. It's been a long month that seemed as if it would never end, but, here we are once more. Best wishes for the health and safety of you, your family and friends.

We'll have a short discussion on front-end throttles. We spoke of the throttle valve in the dome, but there was another type known as front-end throttles. As can be expected, the valve mechanism was located in the smoke box, hence "front-end".

Front-end throttles provided the superheater elements with steam at all times. A dome throttle only supplied steam when the locomotive was operating, so, when stopped or drifting, there was no cooling effect for the units. This aspect resulted in a shorter life due to overheating.

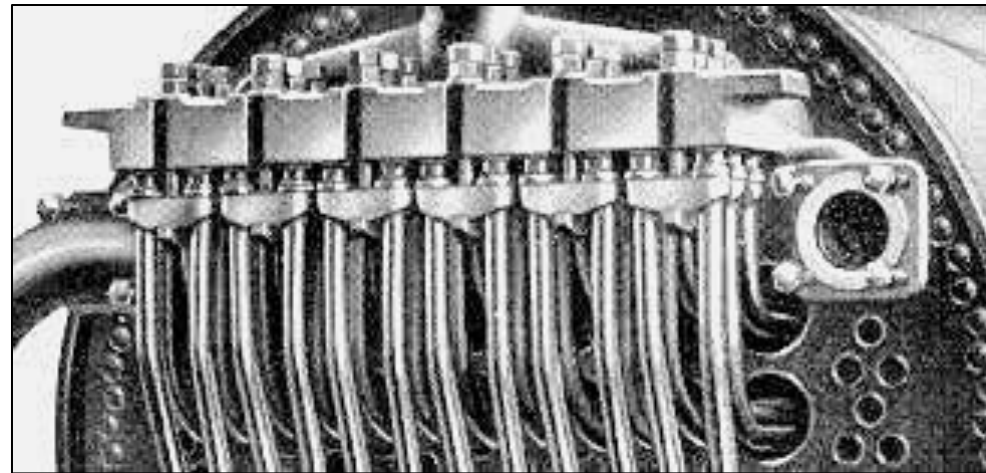
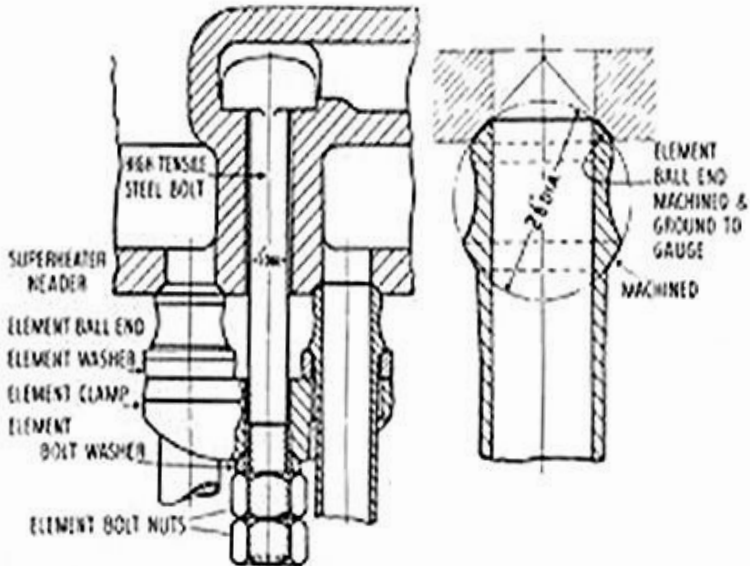
There were several advantages to having the throttle valve located in the smoke box. First, there was always steam in the elements to keep them relatively cooler. Second, there was no lag time when the throttle was opened, as there was with a dome throttle. Third, several of the appliances can be supplied with superheated steam, e.g. air compressors.

The Elesco type was much more prevalent and provided seats for each element as part of the complete casting. This made things less bulky where space was already at a premium.

See the next page for an example of an Elesco header with the throttle valves . . . 

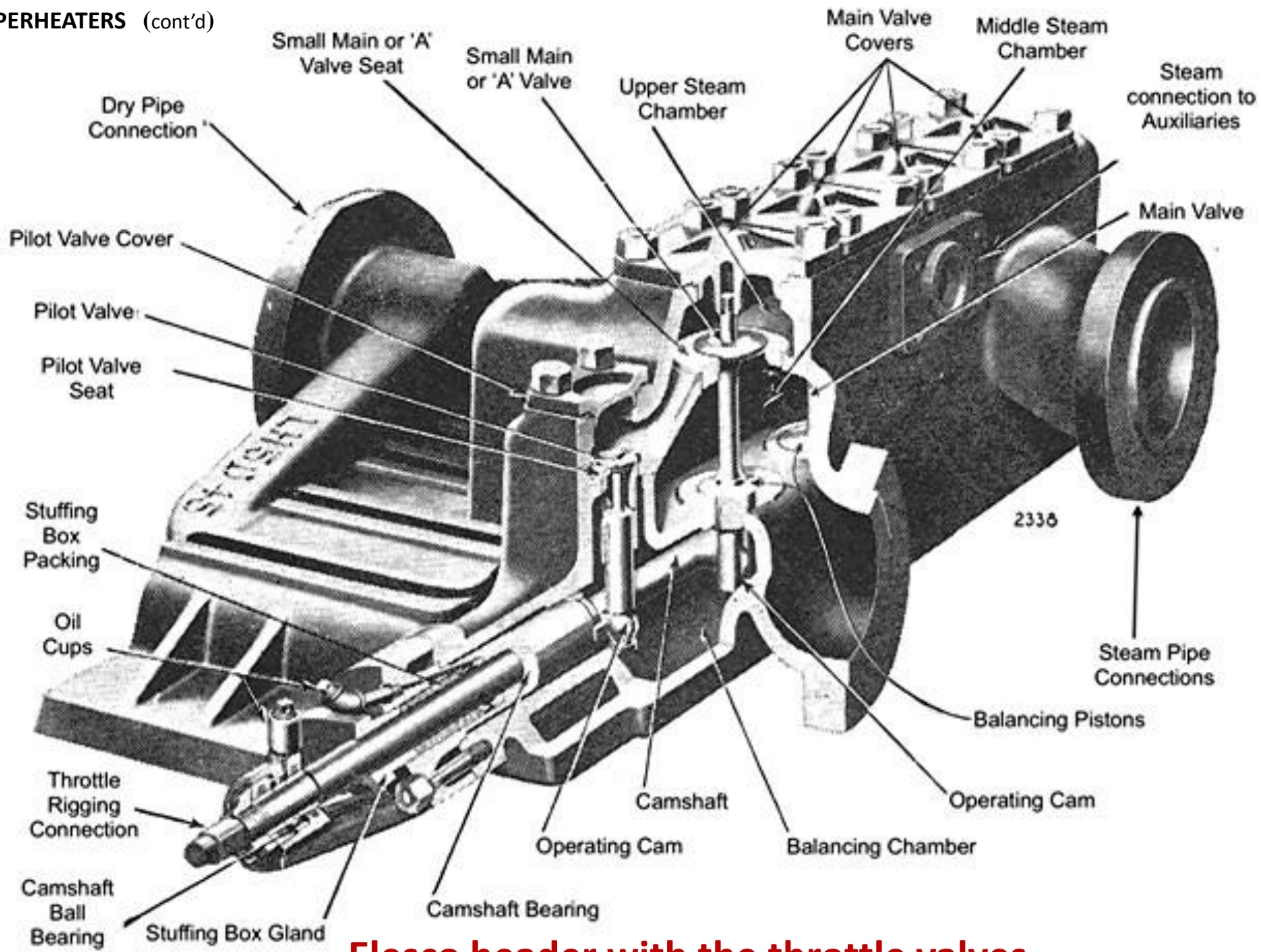
And this is how the elements are attached to the header.

Typically, these bolts are made of a grade of steel that endures the temperatures found in the smoke box. The better grade is less prone to loss of strength in service.



(continued next page)

SUPERHEATERS (cont'd)



Elesco header with the throttle valves

(continued next page)

SUPERHEATERS (cont'd)

And here is a Chambers throttle.

Not all of the front-end throttles were of the poppet variety. The Chambers front-end throttle is very similar in design to the steam dome type, but designed to bolt directly to the superheater header. The elements are connected to the header in a similar manner as the Elesco.

The Elesco had better response to throttle position, offering more precision to the admission of steam to the cylinders, hence making it more responsive to changing loads. However, the Chambers had less moving parts and less valve seats to keep tight.

Well, that does it for this time . . .
hope all continues well for everyone . . .
. . . take care,

Dave

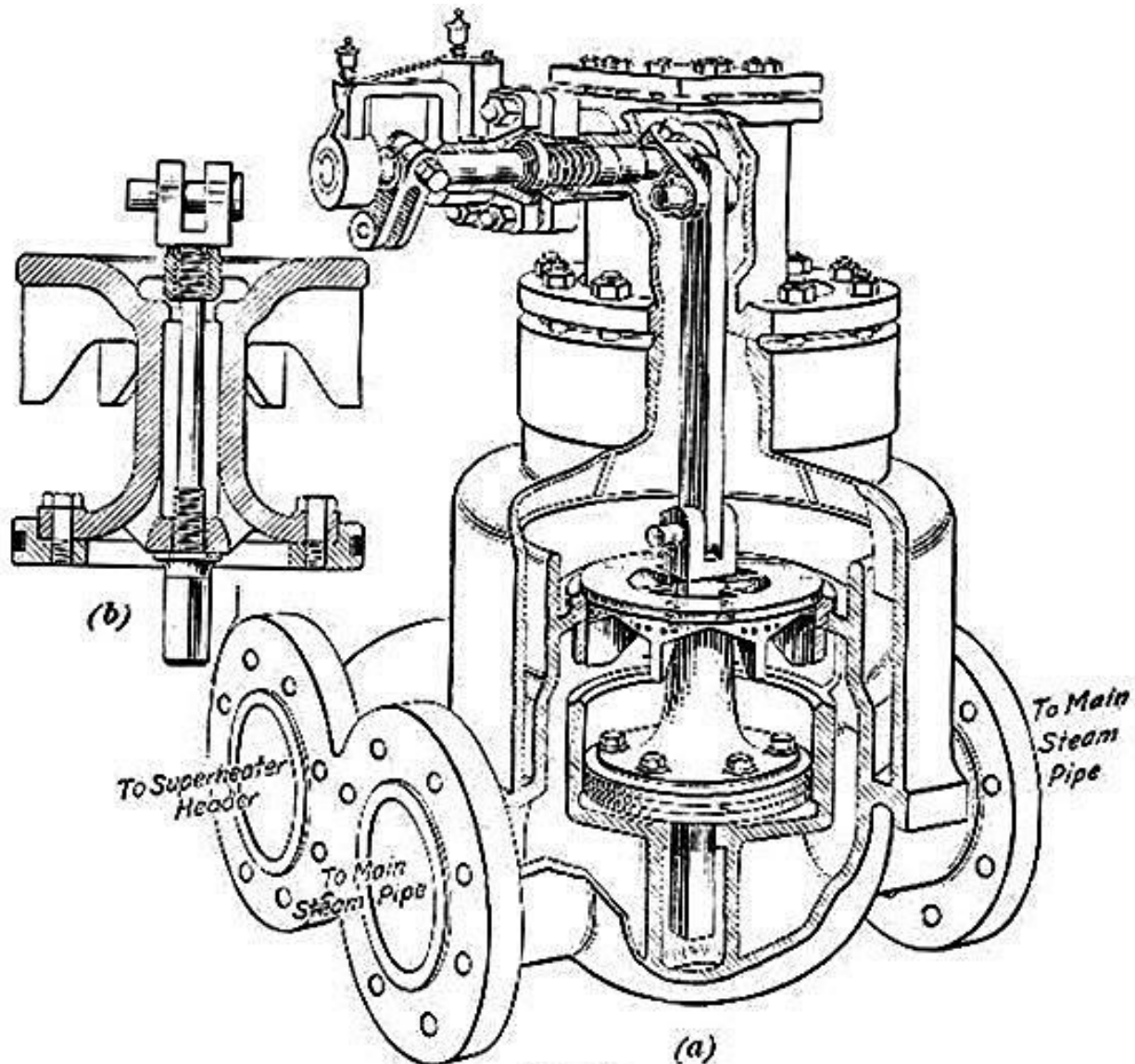


FIG. 50

Do you know someone who loves building things? [Fuego Cloud](#) (click here for catalog)

Mechanical, wooden models are great gifts for that special someone in your life who is a natural tinkerer. Put one of these models in front of them and watch their eyes light up at the challenge ahead. You'll get the joy of watching them build a new model for everyone to enjoy.

Order yours here: bit.ly/mechanical-train-track-tender

Watch 30 sec. video: <https://www.facebook.com/fuegocloud/videos/1728081557322966/>



Afternoon at the Park

Photos by Hank Gallo

“Hey, Dad.
Look what I found laying over there in the weeds.
Where do you want me to put it?”



THEY'RE BACK!!!



“Hey, Dad. Where does this go?
Yes, more stairs! Life is good.”

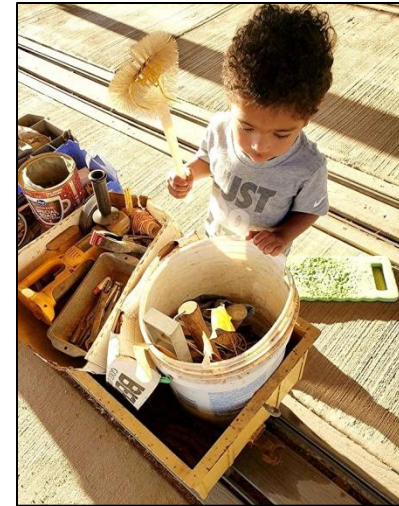
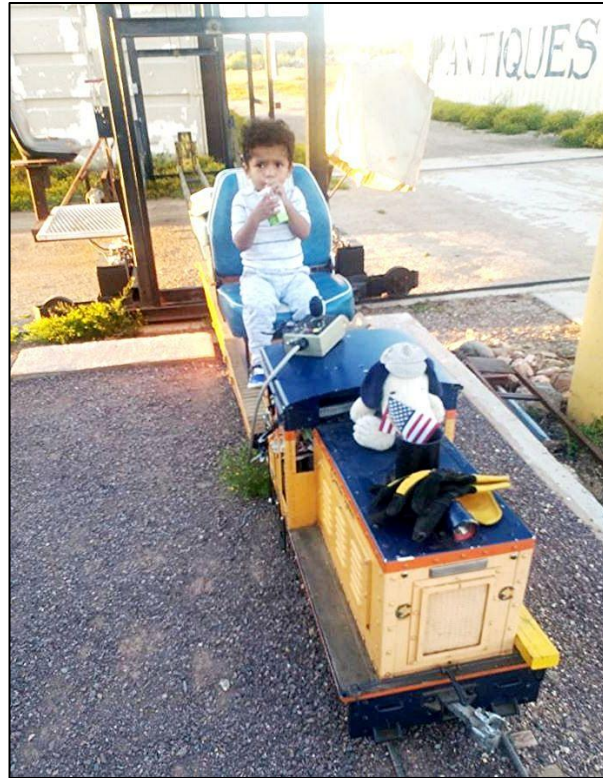


Evenings at the Park

Stories and Photos by Hank Gallo

Za'vion was asking to visit the train park again. Such a nice evening, so let's go! Decided to take the dinner train out of Adobe City. While the train was moving out onto the main line, Z couldn't wait to start eating. – 4/15

Za'vion was asking for a train ride again, and even though it's quiet at the park, we can still have some fun. A clean train is a happy train, so he is hard at work dusting off the train. He's also using his "key" to fix the train. – 4/4



I had asked Mr. Gibbs, first Mate of the Black Pearl from Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean*, to do this year's Public Safety Video for our park, but he was unable to do so due to legal restraints. Even so, he sent a personal message to Jr. Engineer Trainer Za'vion.

PLEASE CLICK: <https://www.cameo.com/v/yolzuXv0s>



Another Evening at the Park

Stories and Photos by Hank Gallo

The Beatty family arrived for a train ride. They took loco SF 411 out for a run to keep the battery charged and the wheels rotated. **THANK YOU** for helping me.

Beautiful night, but very quiet in the park without all of our friends. Hang in there. We will be back to "normal" soon. We'll see you then!



Union Pacific article explains why some grocery stores are well stocked and others are not:
<https://www.up.com/.../grocery-store-roller-coaster-4-13-20.h...>

A train enthusiast from Hamburg sent us this 11 min. video to share with you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QqkVOSOQ1A&feature=youtu.be>



Za'vion said "puppies," and I had to zoom in to see the Coyotes.

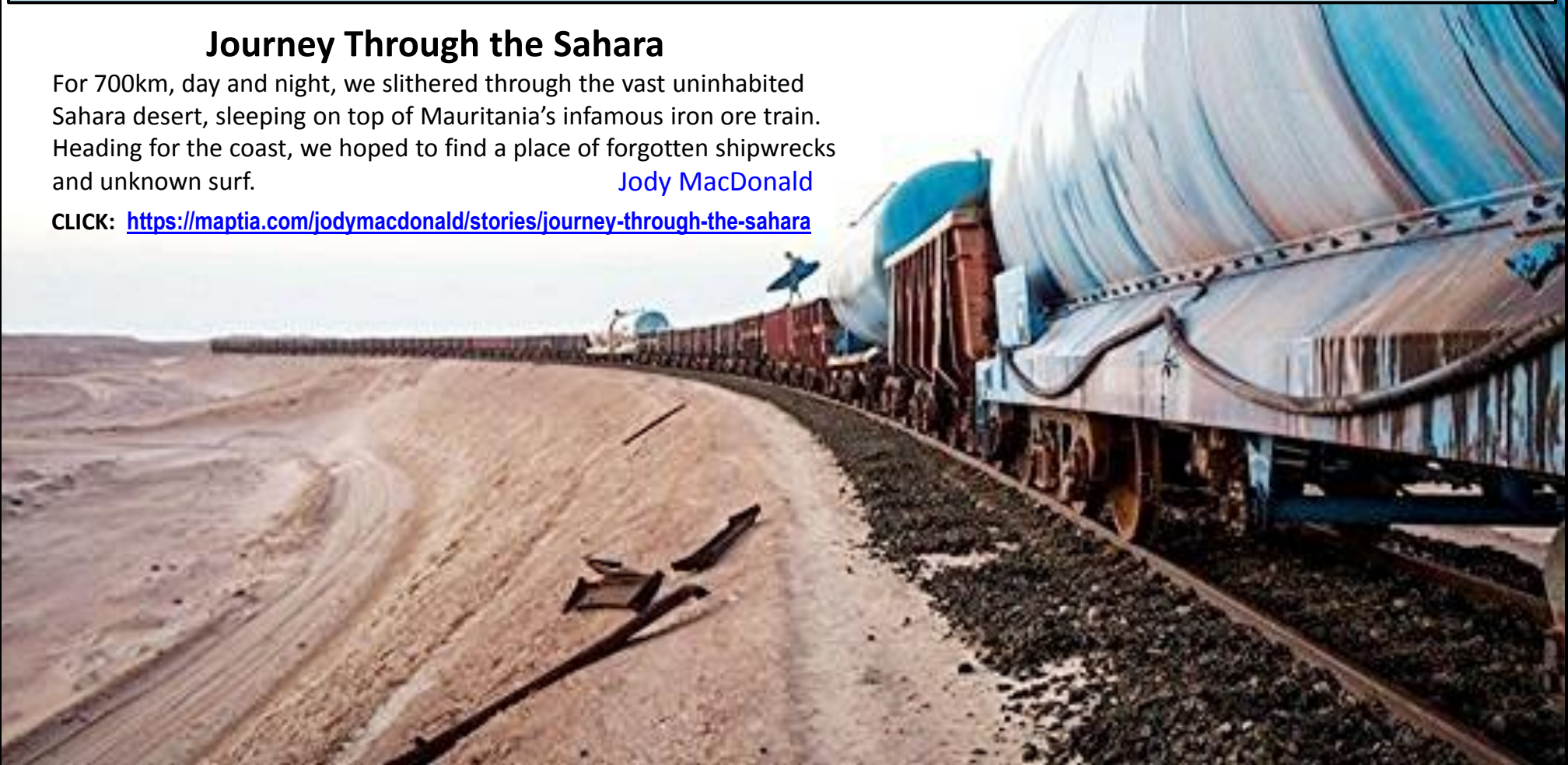


Journey Through the Sahara

For 700km, day and night, we slithered through the vast uninhabited Sahara desert, sleeping on top of Mauritania's infamous iron ore train. Heading for the coast, we hoped to find a place of forgotten shipwrecks and unknown surf.

Jody MacDonald

CLICK: <https://maptia.com/jodymacdonald/stories/journey-through-the-sahara>



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