

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

It's been another exciting year here at the Historical Museum as we continue to preserve our community's rich history and build a sense of civic pride for all Montanans. Our latest project involves a unique piece of Western Montana History. For thirty years, locals and tourists alike have marveled at our Willamette Locomotive. Unfortunately, the harsh winters and blazing summers have battered the engine and taken off a bit of its shine.

Will you give today to help restore and protect our beloved Willamette Locomotive?

In 1989, Engine #7, a rare steam locomotive was donated to the Historical Museum by Champion International. Throughout #7's existence at the Fort, the Willamette Locomotive has had many admirers and has been the subject of countless photographs

What Engine #7 has not experienced is someone with the knowledge and passion to restore this almost 100-yr-old steam engine to its better days. That changed in 2018, when retired railroad executive and train restoration expert, **Larry Ingold**, approached the Historical Museum.

From the very beginning we knew the right man had come at the right time.

Beginning this past spring, Larry organized work groups to assess the locomotive and form a plan for its restoration. In addition, Larry put on his sleuthing shoes and unearthed a vast array of history about this special engine. He has found so much he says, *"I think I may write a book on our Willamette. She is a lot more special then we know. But I'm finding it out!"*

Why is Missoula's Engine #7 Unique?

- **Oldest known surviving Willamette Locomotive in the Nation.**
- Spent its life in our mountains and valleys, never traveling more than 80 miles from Missoula.
- Hollywood Movie Star when it played a leading role in the 1954 *Timber Jack!*
- Only Willamette originally built to burn coal as a fuel.
- The **ONLY** locomotive left from Western Lumber Co.
- One of two surviving locomotives from Anaconda Lumber Co. and the only one in Montana.
- This Engine represents a once bustling industry that shaped Missoula and Western Montana.

Through the process of evaluating the locomotive, we understand the first step in this process is to build a structure to protect our Willamette. Once this structure is complete, we can **move forward with a full restoration!**



"The steam engine on the railroad, changed everything. From the development of cities in the west, to telegraph and phone lines, and gave the rise to standardized time zones. They carried food and fresh produce and helped transport the injured to hospitals, all at unprecedented speeds for the times." In short, they developed America, and are now a lasting part of our history. -- Larry Ingold

Ways YOU can Save our Willamette.

Adopt Part of Engine #7:

\$60 each = BUY A BOILER TUBE (190 TOTAL)

\$700 = ADOPT THE STEAM GAUGE

\$750 each = PURCHASE A CAB DOOR (2 TOTAL)

\$6,000 = RESTORE THE STACK

Build the Engine #7 Display Shed:

\$60 = All those nuts and bolts!

\$70 = Posts and Poles (lots of them)

\$100 each = Concrete Piers (6 total)

\$700 = Metal roofing materials

\$1,000 = Display lighting and electrical

\$6,000 = Frame the Shed!

Do you have a Skidster, a high-lift, or what about a crane? We welcome in-kind support and volunteers.

Cover the Cost of Restoration Materials:

\$25 = Sandpaper

\$50 = Grease & Oil

\$75 = Gallon of Locomotive Paint

\$100+ = Steel for Fabricating Parts

The Willamette Locomotive reminds us of a bygone era in Montana's History. The whistle-stops that built this country are alive in the history of Engine #7. As we continue to grow and change as a community and state, it's crucial to preserve and remember our past and to know where we've come from.

Preserving the Historical Museum's Engine #7 is keeping our history alive and assuring that future generations will come to understand why this place is so special. ***We hope you will continue to generously support your museum.***

Please consider a gift to return this vital part of Montana's history to its former glory. Thank you, for keeping Missoula County's history alive!



Support the Save the Willamette Project!

Make a gift at fortmissoulamuseum.org/save-the-train or by sending a check to HMFM at 3400 Captin Rawn Way, Missoula, MT 59804