

Railroad buffs inspect Shay, find engine in good shape

Seven members of the Pacific Railroad Preservation Association of Portland visited Vernonia on January 11 to inspect the Shay locomotive according to restoration committee member Rob Wilson.

The visitors undertook a thorough examination of "old 102" and found her to be in sound mechanical condition, though needing extensive restoration. P.R.P.A. member Roger Hancock indicated that the local committee

should begin by replacing the rotted ties and getting the locomotive on a good foundation. This, he thought, would require moving the engine forward on temporary rails while laying a new track bed. With enough "gandy dancer" volunteers, he estimated that could be done in one day.

Hancock assured the local buffs that the P.R.P.A. would be interested in the Shay's preservation and are willing to offer technical advice if needed.

Rob Wilson reported that the Shay Park committee will meet again at the City Library on February 3, at 7:30 p.m. Interested persons are encouraged to attend. The project includes safeguarding all of the relics in the park, including a shelter against the weather.

The committee is soliciting donations of materials, manpower and money. Contributions may be made at City Hall, he said.



Dry rot has nearly destroyed the wood components of the Shay engine, in the beam displayed here by Tim Enyart, and in the ties that should be supporting the rails.

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Liz Koch, 429-1641
for
information.

