

Volume 1, 2020

New Mexico Steam Locomotive & Railroad Historical Society's Official Newsletter

AT&SF 2926 NEWS



AT&SF 2926 near the Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal in 1946 from the Jeffrey Moreau photography collection courtesy of the Western Railway Museum Archives and Evan Werkema

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Tool Car NMSX #3939 has arrived.



Photo of #3939 in Los Angeles on June 29th, 1973 courtesy of photographer Ron Hawkins.

After 2 years of work the AT&SF baggage car #3939 (now NMSX #3939) has come to Albuquerque. The car was donated to the NMSL&RHS by Curtis Potter in November of 2017.



It has since been undergoing Amtrak required repairs in Bellevue, Ohio by Mark Majers of Sea Island Passenger Service. The NMSL&RHS has raised more than \$140,000 with a GoFundMe campaign to pay for the work done to date. (Much more money will be needed to finish out the exterior interior of the car and repaint it.)

On March 3, 2020 the #3939 began its journey to Albuquerque on Norfolk Southern hauling it to Chicago, Illinois. From there BNSF moved it to Belen and Albuquerque arriving at the Albuquerque yards on March 20th, 2020, and after insurance issues were worked out Rich Wessler, BNSF Railway Director Passenger Train Operations, and Joe Hart, our local BNSF Trainmaster, generously arranged to have #3939 delivered to the 2926 RIP site on May 5th, 2020.



A little after 10 AM SD40-2 #1712 arrived pushing a decorated caboose and NMSX #3939. These were parked west across 8th Street so the BNSF could do the tool car waltz with the 2926.



The 2926 was pulled off the RIP site for the first time since May 4th, 2002, pushed west to couple with 3939 and moved back into the engine house. The 3939 was pulled west by Lurch and parked by noon. Future work sessions will start with positioning both the 2926 and 3939 for the day's tasks.



(18 years ago on May 4th, 2002 the 2926 was pushed onto the restoration site – next two photos)



Tool Car #3939 Inspection by Jon Clark

On May 30, 2020 Jon Clark, AMTRAK car inspector spent the afternoon at the tool car with CMO Rick Kirby, President Mike Hartshorne, and Board Member and site manager Ron Taylor.



A list was made of work needed to repair and paint the exterior, wire the car and outfit the interior.



Pistons back in – February/March 2020 !



With 2926 in Coronado Park the Saturday work sessions saw cylinder heads (parts tags numbers 52 and 53) came off and pistons pushed forward of the crosshead clamps in April and May of 2000. This job had to be done before Jack Messer's gang moved 2926 June 23-25 in 2000.



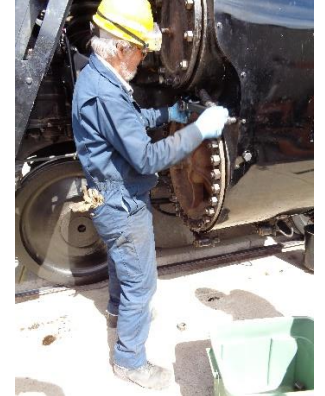
The pistons and rings had been taken out of their cylinders for storage in January of 2009.



The cylinders were polished with a home built, 28 inch, manually advanced, hydraulically driven hone in October 2014.



At the beginning of March, 2020 a prayer circle of volunteers held two sets of 8 ring segment pairs in place until a ring compressor captured them. The fireman side piston was jockeyed into place and inched into the crosshead clamp. The other side was much easier!



Both cylinder heads were cleaned up and installed on March 7th, 2020.

Steam-up and move with pistons?

Friday March 20, 2020 was going to be the big day for the 2926 to move under its own power since 1953. Presuming success a repeat demonstration for friends and dignitaries and the news media would be enjoyed the next day. With the Covid-19 pandemic beginning in the US a March 16, 2020 Public Health Order signed by New Mexico Secretary of Health Kathyleen M. Kunkle limited 'mass gatherings' to less than 100 individuals. But on March 19, 2020 a forbid 'mass gatherings' of 10 or more individuals, further limited nonessential businesses and again advised citizens to stay at home and limit outings to those absolutely necessary for health, safety, or welfare. Operations at the 2926 ceased with that order. (Subsequent orders have forbid gatherings of 5 or more individuals.) Further orders will determine when the NMSL&RHS may get back to work and steam up and move. Watch www.2926.us for announcements.

2020 OPEN HOUSE – SAVE THE DATE – BUT WHO KNOWS IF WE CAN HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE THIS YEAR?
September 26th, 2020 9AM to 5PM

Coming soon: A Love Affair with Big Boys Toys—Restoring the 2926

By Historian John Taylor

The saga of the restoration of the AT&SF 2926 will be available right after our first steam up and move as a photo rich history of the work of the NMSL&RHS volunteers. From moving her out of Coronado Park in June 2000 to the first few steam powered turns of the drivers the book is illustrated with hundreds of photographs. Available at the 2926 Store for \$50 (full color) and \$40 (partial color) plus shipping and handling if needed. Reservations can be made by email to Rick Marsden (hdric@verizon.net).

HELP THE AT&SF 2926

(The NMSL&RHS is a 501(c)(3) non profit – donations are tax deductible)

1. Become a member. \$30/year individual. \$50/year family. \$500 lifetime. See www.2926.us for a membership application.
2. Make a cash, check or PayPal donation of any amount. See www.2926.us for PayPal or mail a check.
3. Use GoFundMe to help with the Tool Car campaign (see the website home page).
4. Use Smith's Community Rewards.
Visit SmithsCommunityRewards.com
Sign on to your Online Account or create an account
Select as your organization (Nonprofit Organization # **JK328**) and click save.
5. Use SmileAmazon.com and select New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Railroad Historical Society as your charity. You can "Change your Charity" in "Your Account" at any time. Remember to use Smile.Amazon.com when you shop.
6. Buy stylish 2926 merchandise at the gift shop at the locomotive.
7. Get a copy of John Taylor's A Love Affair with Big Boys Toys – Restoring the 2926 at the gift shop.
8. Add to your legacy by naming the New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Railroad Historical Society in your will.
9. Use funds from your 401(k) required minimum distribution starting the year in which you turn 70½ years old. (That age has been pushed back to 72 so check with your financial advisor.) Funds transferred directly from that account to the NMSL&RHS avoid income taxes on the donated amount. Stock transfers can be made to Account Number 3VK-683463, DTCC clearing broker number 0443 (again, check with your financial advisor).

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Rick Kirby Chief Mechanical Officer
Jon Spargo, Chief Safety Officer
Ron Taylor, Member

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