

## PERSONAL HISTORY RECOLLECTION

I was a fairly young age as a kid when I started playing on SP 2562. My mom took us kids over to Armstrong Park all the time. In 1982, I needed to find a project to earn my Eagle Scout Award. My mother recalls I actually came up with the idea to paint the engine.

I contacted Mr. Coy Payne, both on the Chandler City Council and Vice-Principal at Chandler Junior High School where I was a student, about the idea. Mr. Payne helped work some things out with the city and got me in touch with the Director of Parks and Recreation to coordinate the renovation project.

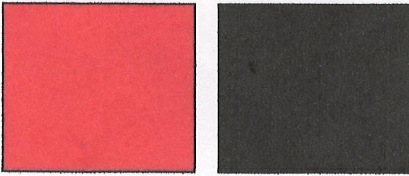
Needless to say, the project ended up being far larger in scope and more complex than I ever originally thought. After inspection, I worked with the Parks Director to determine exactly what work was needed, including removing dirt, sand, sanding heavily rusted areas, and lots of primer before the final coat of paint. The City also provided some needed equipment (paint sprayer) after other borrowed equipment failed to work properly; the city also provided the paint for the engine.

During the time the scout repair crew was prepping and priming the engine, city maintenance staff completed some metal repairs to the engine. One such repair was where the exterior skin of the engine had started to separate toward the front of the boiler (see before picture). The repair fix was a new large metal band placed around the entire boiler. This band was primed and painted with the rest of the engine in the final black coat of paint.

I remember at that time the engine cab was pretty much stripped out of equipment and the firebox was welded shut. The engine was heavily covered in sand....the sand was everywhere....which needed to be washed off before painting. We called in a city fire truck to help wash down the engine. Even after that, there was still sand everywhere; we ended up simply using a garden hose after that. I remember scraping off graffiti and wire brushing off rusted areas. My Grandpa Tom Foutz, a retired machinist from the Miami Copper Mine, came over several times to help on the engine (see picture), but I think he was just more supervising and watching the action.

I remember crawling on, in, and under steam engine 2562; under the engine I discovered an inch thick layer of crusty grease in several areas. Crawling underneath the engine is when I also discovered a small snake that had been captured in a black widow spider's web (see news article). The spider web was just behind one of the engine's driver wheels. A reporter happened to be visiting the train that day and he took a picture; it made the paper.





Coordinating and keeping scout volunteers motivated over many months was difficult. To provide some fun too, I remember having large water balloon fights/wars on the engine with the scouts after we had finished work for the day. Besides, it helped keep the engine clean. Naturally, this was before scheduled painting.

During our work on the engine, the Chandler police were literally called out on us three separate times for vandalism.

I remember many scouts and only one spray paint nozzle....we all wanted to paint the engine.

I noticed in historical and current SP2562 pictures that the front of the boiler is painted silver. In 1982, before the Eagle Scout Project, the front of the boiler was already black in color.

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