



JASON GRIFFITH GIVES DIRECTIONS TO YOUNGSTERS WORKING TO SPRUCE UP OLD TRAIN

'Vandals' Repair Train

5-31-82
Youngsters Undertaking Task as Scout Project

By SUNNY WEATHERS

Neighbors around Armstrong Park get a little nervous when they see a group of teen-agers climbing over the old locomotive, banging away with hammers and scraping off paint.

The police have been called out three times in the past month to investigate the "vandalism" of the engine.

But, if neighbors would look a little closer they would soon see that Jason Griffith & Co. aren't damaging the city landmark, they're just sprucing her up a bit.

Jason, 15, decided to paint the locomotive as his Eagle Scout project.

"I figured I could just paint it," he said. At that rate, with

several helpers from his scout troupe, Jason figured the project would take about three months.

Then, he went to see Gary Anderson, director of the Parks and Recreation Department. More than a coat of paint would

be needed if the project was to be a good one, Jason learned. There were dangerous parts to be hammered down and others to be removed. Rust had to be scraped off and hand sealed. A primer coat would have to be applied and two coats of paint would have to dry before varnishing could begin.

Part of the Eagle Scout designation comes from demonstrating an ability to plan a project, supervise the work, and carry it through to completion, Nancy Griffith, Jason's mother, said.

Jason asked several members from his Scout troupe to help him. His brother, Brent (also working on his Eagle Scout badge), Paul Barnes,



BOY SCOUT JASON GRIFFITH

Scouts Work to Beautify Train

From Page 1

Jared Smith and Lee Schoemaker have turned out at 5 a.m. about six mornings now to help Jason with the work. Once school's out, the boys will be able to work several mornings each week. The work will give them credit toward different merit designations. And, when each of them begins his Eagle project, Jason will help.

From 5:30 to about 8:30 a.m., the boys scramble around the old locomotive, scraping and painting and trying to get ready to put down a primer coat. By 9 a.m. it's too hot to work on the iron engine.

Mrs. Griffith drives the workers to the park and waits for them while they work.

Jason said Coy Payne, assistant principal at Chandler Junior High, had helped get the project set up with Anderson. Once it was decided that Jason would paint the locomotive, he and Anderson went over it and made a check-list of

items needing work.

Some welding and riveting will be done by city maintenance crews, who are helping with the parts of the project that require more technical know-how than the boys have.

The Fire Department even got into the act, letting Jason use a fire truck to hose down the train.

So, the city is furnishing the paint and some equipment, and Jason's crew is furnishing the elbow grease. The boys were hot and dirty by 8:30 this morning, but looked satisfied with their work. They talked excitedly about the task before them and what the results would be.

"It will really look nice when we get it all decorated up," Jason said.

Jason directed his helpers through the last few steps before calling it quits for the day. Steel wire brushes flew and sneakers clamored in and through the old engine.

They hope the work will be completed before the end of summer.