

THE MANIFEST

June-July 2022



Greetings!

As many of you may know I have been gone for two months taking care of some family matters. I want to thank Allen Dobney, Jerry Hellinga, Larry Tuttle, and everyone else that helped out in my absence.

I was so glad to see some of you on this last run day, June 24, and I hope to see more of you on our next run day in August. We are in need of as many volunteers as we can get, so if you can spend even a couple of hours with us on our run days, as well as other times, but right now I am speaking about the run days, please let me or any of the officers know.

In addition, we can always use new members, so please encourage your extended family, friends, neighbors, friends of friends, etc. to join. Invite them out for a day to see our park, ride a train, eat a burger, etc. Membership is only \$15 per year (\$20 for family), and can be done on our website, <https://soc-nrhs.org/>

While I was gone, I had the opportunity to visit Fort Missoula in Missoula, Montana and I would like to share some of my photographs from that visit, which include the Williamette Engine No. 7.

Fort Missoula
May 20222

A brief history of Fort Missoula:

The fort was established in 1877 as a permanent military outpost in response to the fear of conflict with the Montana Indian Tribes in the area, such as the Nex Pearce, by the local residents and settlers coming to homestead.

Fort Missoula does not have walls, and it never did, (except for a time during WWII when it was a detention center) it was an “open fort.”

In 1904 there was an effort made to remodel the fort and a million dollars was appropriated and a more modern complex of concrete buildings with red roofs was constructed from 1908-1914, to include officers' quarters and a hospital.

It served as a training center for the Student Army Training Corps in WWI but was nearly abandoned by 1921.

It did get a reprieve in 1933 when it was designated the Northwest Regional Headquarters for the Civilian Conservation Corps. The fort continued to serve as training, administration, and supply center for many CCC camps in Montana, Northern Idaho, Glacier National Park, and Yellowstone National Park until 1942.

In 1975 the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula was established. The museum covers 32 acres and contains over 20 structures, as well as a collection of nearly 50,000 artifacts.

Unfortunately, the museum was closed on the day I was there, so I was not able to go inside and see any of the artifacts kept inside the museum itself; however, I plan to do that in the near future on one of my trips back to my home state of Montana.

Williamette
Engine No. 7

***** Information regarding the No. 7 and the Shay locomotives was gotten from the fortmissoulamuseum.org website.*****

This engine was built by Bingham Williamette Co. Portland, Oregon in 1923. The Western Lumber Company of Milltown, Montana first used it and then later it was sold to the Anaconda Copper and Mining Company.

The No. 7 is a Shay locomotive, which was one of the most common geared steam locomotives of its time. The Shay locomotives were constructed from the patents of Ephraim Shay, a Michigan schoolteacher/inventor. In the 1860s he started logging and it was in this endeavor that he wanted to find a better way of transporting logs to the mill. At the time, transportation of the logs was via snow sleds. In 1875 he built a tramway, and two years later invented the Shay locomotive.

While the majority of Shay engines burned oil rather than wood and coal because oil produced less sparks and therefore did not pose as great of a risk of starting the forest on fire, the No. 7 was the only coal-fired Williamette locomotive created.

The No. 7 retired in 1948 but was brought back out of retirement in 1955 for the movie "Timberjack". Champion International owned the Shay and housed across from its mill in Bonner, MT until 1989, when they donated it to the Museum.

There is a more detailed account on the website for Fort Missoula.

The preservation project for the No. 7 is in Phase 2. For now it is under a roof only, not in a building as you can see. You can find out more about the No. 7, ways to help, etc. at <https://fortmissoulamuseum.org>.





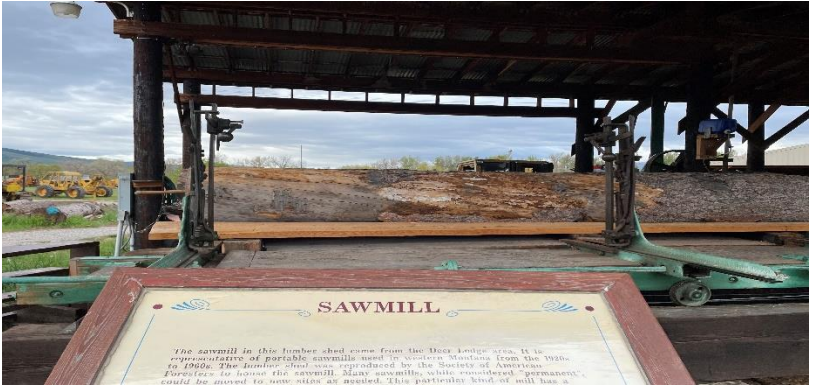
More pictures from Fort Missoula



1910 Water Wagon



Sawmill



The sawmill in this lumber shed came from the Deer Lodge area. It is representative of portable sawmills used in western Montana from the 1860s to 1960s. The lumber shed was reproduced by the Society of American Foresters to house the sawmill. Many sawmills, while considered "permanent", could be moved to new sites as needed. This particular kind of mill has a





This lookout was probably manufactured in Columbia Falls, MT. It is called Sliderock because it was on top of the Sliderock Mountain, which is about 40 miles east of Missoula. In 1983 it was dismantled and moved to Fort Missoula.



Just for fun a pic of an old outhouse, brought back fond memories of my grandparent's farm.

Non-commissioned officer quarters



This is the Drummond Depot. The town of Drummond is about 60 miles southeast of Missoula. The depot was moved to the Fort in 1982.



Tipi burner. I remember seeing many of these all over Missoula Valley over the years. They were used by the sawmills to burn waste from the milling operations. However, the Clean Air Act, as well as the new technology of turning wood waste into pressed wood ended the use of the Tipi burner in the 1970s. This one was donated to the Fort in 2004.



Schoolhouse

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The Anaconda Copper Mining Company library car was an early version of a bookmobile for loggers in camps in Missoula County from 1921 to the late 1950's.

There are many more buildings, and artifacts to be explored at the Fort. If you ever get to Missoula, Montana be sure to check it out.

Our next meeting is **August 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** in the model railroad building at south end of parking lot at the Railroad Park.

Our volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are **PRICELESS**

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