

ORAL HISTORY 2016-02
PT. 1-2



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Lecture Invitation

Tanana-Yukon Historical Society <tyhs@alaska.net>

Thu, Jan 14, 2016 at 7:19 AM

The Tanana Yukon Historical Society
presents

The 4th program of the 2015-2016 Season

Wednesday, 20 January 2016
7 p.m.

Tanana Valley Railroad Museum

"Engine No. 557 Restoration Show"

Presenter: Pat Durand

Many of us like trains. Some of us love old trains. And a few give thousands of hours of their lives to the restoration of really old and abandoned trains. The decades of work on Fairbanks' own Tanana Valley Railroad Engine No. 1 is a good example of this dedication and just plain hard work.

Tonight's illustrated presentation is about another project, that to revive the Alaska Railroad's Engine No. 557. She is one of a very few surviving steam locomotives originally built for the US Army's Transportation Corps in 1942-44. Serving Alaska until shortly after Statehood, she was sold for scrap and shipped to Washington State in 1965. There, she was rescued from oblivion, waiting for the group of Alaskan volunteers now officially known as the Engine 557 Restoration Company, based in Wasilla, to bring her home.

Pat Durand is the same age as the locomotive, 72. Growing up in Anchorage and Whittier, he was never very far from the Alaska Railroad tracks and his stepfather, William T. Stewart, was a locomotive engineer. History of all of Alaska's railroads has been Pat's life long study.

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Please note change of location. Parking is available next to the TVRR Museum

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For more information about this and other lectures sponsored by the Tanana Yukon Historical Society, please call 488-3383, or e-mail tyhs@alaska.net

All TYHS events are free and open to the public.

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or "friend" us on Facebook: Tanana-Yukon Historical Society