

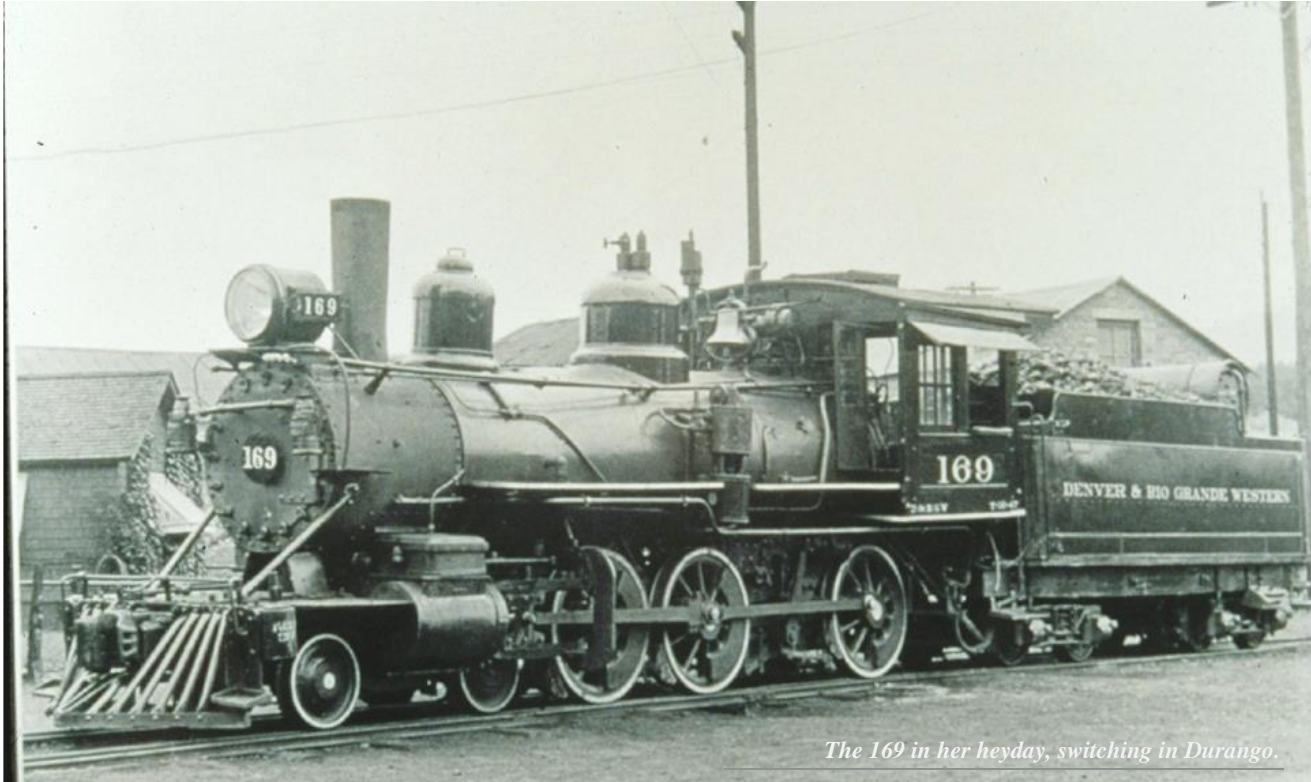


# FRIENDS OF THE 169

## 169 Progress Update

February 2017

*The official newsletter of the Friends of the 169*



*The 169 in her heyday, switching in Durango.*

*Dear Members and Friends of the 169,*

The restoration of a priceless artifact such as the 169 to fully operational condition is a long and arduous process. As you know, there can be no shortcuts: we have modern regulations and insurance concerns to comply with — and what may seem like a mountain of mechanical work.

As we reflect on 2016, we can all take pride in what has been accomplished. There are the tireless hours of work accomplished by volunteers. The donations of material and money by so many we have to thank. The partnerships developed and the research accomplished so far. All of these have a common goal in mind; to bring ever closer that day when we relight the boiler and make steam!

As we look forward to 2017, the excitement gathers, with new avenues of funding, new resources to accomplish the large scale work necessary and a renewed sense of dedication to make this dream come true. What seemed like a day many decades away is now possible in only a few years. How? Step by step in only one direction... Steam Day!

## Fundraising

Thanks to you, we have raised an impressive sum over the years, and more is needed to pay for our next steps in restoration to full steam.



The Friends have received a generous matching grant from the **Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation (NGPF.org)** up to \$5,000.00 on a one-to-one match basis for donations from **new donors**.

Please let your fellow railroad enthusiasts know about this opportunity to double the impact of their gifts. They can donate directly through [FriendsOf169.com](http://FriendsOf169.com), and their donation will be eligible for the matching grant.

The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation agreed to our use of their name in support of the project. The NGPF is 100% behind the restoration of the 169 and encourages other funding sources to join them in helping to fund restoration efforts.



*The Mendenhalls install one of the cab doors.*

### Work on the 169 & Business Car B-1

We would like to thank Tom and Rick Mendenhall of Historic Railway Restoration, Inc., for their donations of replacement cab windows and doors! This is an important step in “drying in” the cab area, providing better protection from weather. This fall, they returned to Alamosa; this time with seat boxes for both the engineer and fireman’s sides.

They also brought some frames for the clearstory windows of B-1! The old frames had rotted to the point where pigeons were getting in. The birds could have caused real damage, but it was mostly a mess that required much cleanup. Our special thanks to Ellen Dodds for taking on that rather unpleasant task!

Tom and Rick also asked if we have a set of drawings for an “original” cab. The locomotive had more than one cab over the course of its working years. We do have some historic drawings to help them stock up on the required types of wood necessary for a restoration of the cab! It was originally built with a combination of Ash and Oak. We look forward to continuing work with them on that aspect of the project. Again, thank you!

## Ellen Dodds: Woman of the Year!

We have received word that Ellen Dodds, one of our longtime volunteers has received recognition as “Woman of the Year” from the Woman Citizens Club of Alamosa, for her dedication and service to the community. Ellen devoted over 2,400 hours of her own time volunteering at the Colorado Welcome Center, the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library, and over 400 hours a year with the Friends of the 169!

## The Boiler

The big questions are always “How much?” and “When?” Previous estimates were rather high; between \$135,000 and \$150,000 for boiler repairs.

However, the boiler is in need of just four small patches.

So, we are actively looking for companies or individuals who hold a Class “R” stamp welding qualification, who might be willing to do the work on a voluntary basis, lowering the cost considerably. We are also looking for contractors willing to x-ray the welds (a requirement) at low or no cost.

## Join Us on a Workday!

Interested in helping us on a workday? In addition to specially designated work weeks (the next one is scheduled for the second week in May), you can join us the first Saturday of each month at the pavilion in Cole Park, Alamosa, CO. Work begins at 10 am. Please wear comfortable work clothes and work gloves.



*Ellen Dodds on a workday at the 169!*



*The 169 shines with Christmas lights*

*Photo by Lee Conner*

## Setting the Record Straight

There has been some misinformation going around, and we would like you to be better informed!

Recently, an online publication stated in error that the 169 project is only a cosmetic restoration. If that were the case, we'd be finished by now! In fact, the 169 is closer to running condition than any other "preserved" locomotive on display in Colorado. This is a restoration to fully operational condition.

As a 501(c)3, the Friends of the 169 is a charitable organization protected by law from misrepresentation. While well-intentioned, one of our members created his own newsletter that contained incorrect information and sent it to select members without review or approval from the Friends Board. In particular, "Bunkin' with B-1" and a holiday visit with Santa Claus never happened, nor can they at this stage, because both expose the project to financial liability.

This alternate newsletter might make you think there are two entities working on the project. Only the Friends of the 169, governed by its board of directors, is authorized by the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce, holds a lien on the project, and pays the bills.

By protecting the physical artifacts of the project, we secure it from loss. By protecting the reputation of the project, we secure its continuation and success.

We thank you for your ongoing support for the 169!

Sincerely Yours,

*The Board of the Friends of the 169*

Rev. Charles W. Proudfoot, President  
Steve Hollenbach, Secretary  
Melody Johnson, Board Member



*In 1939, the 169 was refurbished at Burnham Shops in Denver for the New York World's Fair. Photo by R.H. Kindig, February 22, 1939, from the Colorado Museum Collection, used by permission.*

Jack Damarath, Vice President  
Lee Conner, Treasurer