

Fun Daze was attended by 14 NSFVA members. On Saturday we were joined for the tire setting and chuck wagon dinner by many locals including Janet Harvig, world class cello player and her husband Barry Chandler who provided the BBQ at the Proctor Saloon (under restoration) on Thursday night.

While the group was small, all agreed that the purpose of the weekend to just have fun, be with each other and see some interesting vehicles was successful. We were well fed and most housed at the ranch or nearby. Our president assured us that the bundle and hay forks had not been near the manure pile recently.

Several guests commented that they had never seen a half missionary boiling kettle before.



At the Polson Flathead Museum we were able to examine closely the historic "Allard Stage" which is on display there. Many identifying characteristics would lead us to believe it is a M.P. Henderson Mud Wagon.



Is the tag original? It seems to be either cast or stamped into the plate and to have the patina that would suggest it is original. As the wagon was rolled at some time in its career, and the front boot mostly replaced, top supports sistered with steel strap and the thoroughbraces either repaired or built quite differently from the typical Henderson look bring some suspicion. There were also extensive non-conforming repairs to the thoroughbraces.



Well maybe there were. This photo on the left shows the joinery of the thoroughbraces. There is no turnbuckle. The thoroughbraces appear to have no splices. Comments?

The Allard Stage compares favorably with a photo of a known Henderson Mudwagon from David Sneed's collection.



There were some comments that the boot iron work did not look right. It is very comparable to that of the known Henderson.



The repairs done to the iron work at the box seem to conform to one of the original Hendersons displayed by David Sneed.

Some members considered that it might have been built/rebuilt/modified by coach makers from Boise.

The wagon was clearly first identified as belonging to the Ravalli to Polson Line but has been overwritten with Gilmore and Saulsbury painting. This was probably done by an overly enthusiastic owner. I have an appointment to dig more deeply into the owner's trail of the vehicle.

Please jump in on the discussion of this interesting vehicle.

We hope to have more such events in the future - Virginia City, Harlan Olson's High Country Horsedrawn, Remington Museum in Cardston, Alberta were all mentioned as possible locations. Your board will be making plans, I am sure.

Please email me any photos you have as we do not have any of the BBQ at the Proctor Saloon and we need more closeups and better angles of the chuck wagon dinner and the tire setting.

Rawhide was able to identify with certainty my sheep camp as having come from the Hagenbarth Ranch from which he had also obtained several camps over the years. Members were helpful also in discussing restoration/conservation techniques.

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