



## The Story of the Steam Engine

The steam engine (formerly called the PC&O) was constructed in 1958 by Fred and Sam Paul of Frankfort, IN with help from railroaders from the Nickle Plate Railroad, which had one of their engine shops there in Frankfort. The boiler is a welded boiler constructed to American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) specifications as well as inspected and approved by the ASME. The boiler was placed on a 1950 truck / bus chasis, and a two cylinder steam powered winch / drum engine built around 1900 - 1905 by American Steam Hoist and Derrick co. was placed below the boiler and mounted to the truck frame.

From the main shaft on the engine, a chain on the engine shaft goes down below the truck frame to a 90 degree "gearbox" which is actually the rear differential from another vehicle. This gearbox now directs the power back to the heavy duty 4 speed transmission. The engine itself is reversible, so I essentially have 4 speeds forward and 4 reverse. There is no clutch, but there is a trick that you do in order to be able to shift gears. The whole thing together is what some people call a "road locomotive". This is not to be confused with the steam powered road locomotives over in Britain or the "showmans" engines.

She is a heavy girl, but small compared to some other road locomotives or steam traction engines out there. She burns coal and / or wood and is inspected and authorized to carry 150# steam. Top speed is approximately 25 mph, which is plenty fast. It does not have power steering, but it does have hydraulic brakes.

How did she come by the name of PC&O and "Paul's Special"? Well, PC&O stands for Paul Coal & Oil which was the company that Fred and Sam Paul had, and "Paul's Special" was a nickname they had and not referring to someone with a first name of "Paul". The engine will be re-painted into basic black with magnetic signs to go on the tender made up for various railroads using their lettering so that when I am operating in Western Maryland RR territory, it will be lettered for the WM. Baltimore & Ohio, same thing and so on. I also will try to have whistles from the respective railroads on the engine so that people can see and hear what steam locomotives from that railroad sounded like.

Both sides of my family have had several members for railroads. I became interested in railroads as well. Steam in particular. I have gone to and worked at antique steam and tractor shows for several years as well as helping work on the engines. Naturally, I wanted one of my own. Several years ago, I collected the parts and pieces to make my own and had it about 60% complete but was unable to finish it. Fast forward to 2008. The PC&O came up for sale in ready to run condition, so I bought it. Now, I am finally able to toot my own whistle!

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