Steam Bows Out On MCRR As 'Old 470' Makes Last Run

Gov. Burton M. Cross, center, and Maine Central President E. Spencer Miller, right, oblige autograph seekers before taking over the throttle of "Old 470," from Waterville to Augusta, as the steam train made a last round trip from Portland to Bangor yesterday. Seven hundred took the ride.

Youngest passenger on the trip was Brian Pulia, seven months, who sits quietly in the lap of Mrs. James Pulia, Frockport.

"Old 470" looks sleek and polished as it pulls out of Lewiston for the final time. As the last steam locomotive in use by the Maine Central, it will be mounted on concrete in front of the Waterville station as a memorial to 82 years of steam power on MCRR tracks. (Press Herald and Waterville Sentinel Photos)
Era of Steam Ends on Maine Central

"Old 470" made history here Sunday.
The locomotive, the Maine Central Railroad's last iron horse, stopped here while making a ceremonial round trip from Portland to Bangor before it will become a museum piece.
The trip ended the age of steam power on the railroad.
"Old 470," domes and stack recently finished in jet black that contrasted with numbers and insignia in gold and red, hauled eleven coaches filled with railroad enthusiasts, historians, employees and the just plain curious on her final run.
In Augusta, the train halted 15 minutes and young and old got a final glimpse of a passing era.
Carl W. Hendrick, 63, a lifelong railroad fan, flew all the way from Los Angeles for the occasion.

The passing of steam marked the Maine Central's complete conversion to cheaper diesel power.

At the throttle as 470 puffed out of Union Station for the last time was engineer A. C. Towle of Oakland.
The fireman was P. H. Moores of South Portland, who said he "first fired the hot cat when she was just a baby, in 1917."

Oldest enthusiast making the trip was Mrs. Blanche M. Sawyer, 80, of Portland. Youngest was 7-months-old Brian Pulia, son of Mrs. James Pulia Jr., of Boston.
The colorful old coal burner will be mounted on concrete in front of the Waterville station as a memorial to the steam driven locomotives that hauled Maine Central trains for 92 years.
LOCOMOTIVE No. 420 MAKES HISTORIC LAST STEAM RUN ON MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD, JUNE 13, 1954

Ending the 58-year era of steam power on the Maine Central, No. 420 takes the grade at Dorrin, Maine, with her 12-car train. Over 500 rail fans rode the last trip, Portland to Bangor, Maine, and return.

THE "FLYING YANKEE" EASTBOUND FROM PORTLAND TO BANGOR, MAINE.

One of Maine Central Railroad's modern, diesel powered, reclining seat coach trains.
ALL STEEL BOX CARS OF MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD ARE TYPICAL OF ROAD'S MODERN EQUIPMENT

Cars of this class are 58 feet in length, have a 3,000-ton capacity and feature doors 9 feet wide for easy loading of bulk freight.
SYMBOL FREIGHT TRAIN B-12 EN ROUTE FROM RANGELEY TO RIGBY YARD AT SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

Three powerful diesel-electric locomotive units and 130 cars make up this through freight on the Maine Central Railroad.