

Fairmont Motor

- as told by Charlie Spikes
to Paul Finnegan



We have in our collection a number of Fairmont equipment artifacts including speeders, a 1943 weed burner and the subject of this article - a Fairmont motor with double wheels and pulley.

The story goes that when the museum manager came to open the museum one day, the Fairmont motor was sitting at the front gate. No note or information was with it or ever developed. The manager put it in a boxcar.

Recently I got it out of the boxcar and started to work on it and see if I could get it running. Bob Sims stepped in to help by doing some computer research and contacting other museums for information about the motor.

It uses a model-T battery and magneto. The wiring on it is very simple. Hank Stiles showed me how to get the timing right and what parts of the fuel system need to be cleaned.

Using engine-starting fluid (ether), I was able to get it started and it ran for about ten seconds. I understand that it will run on regular gas with 2-cycle oil mixed in. (Per information from the West Coast Railroad group in Virginia City, the proper mix is 6 oz./gal.)



Fairmont motor with double wheels and pulley at the WPRM

- photo by Bob Sims

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