

# The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill

## Restoration Progress Report 100!

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This month we started working on the sagging beam that is located above the counter in the country store area. Because the beam is exactly above the center line of the counter we had to be inventive about how we raised the beam. The method we used is to have a beam at a right angle under the sagging beam. It would be lifted by two posts, one on either side of the counter. The posts in turn would be lifted by two bottle jacks.

To make sure that none of this could possibly fall all of the parts were bolted and screwed together. A taught string is used to indicate how far we lift the sagging beam every week. We decided not to lift the beam over 1/4" a week to prevent the wood from cracking. As of our last work day we have raised it 3/4"

The drawing has been made of the steel plate that will be installed to reinforce the sagging beam, we are waiting for the quote on its cost. At the rate things are going I expect that this job will be completed at the end of the month, that is just about when we shut down for the year.

We are still working on restoring the same two windows that we started on last month. Since you have to wait until our next work day for the putty or paint to dry, this project is taking a long time.

Hank Mann cleaned out the yearly build up of mud from the turbine pit this month. A nasty job if there ever was one. We are very lucky to have someone who wanted to tackle this job.

Hank would also like to do a profile of the bottom of the mill's tail water pond. The purpose of this measurement is to determine if there are any deep holes in the pond that would present a safety hazard and to make sure that the dam is not being undermined. We hope to do this before the end of the month.

Dick Stoltenburg noticed a serious safety hazard that had developed in the stone steps that lead down to the south boiler room door. At near the top of the steps a missing rock had formed a near perfect wedge shaped foot trap. Anyone that got their foot caught in it ran a risk of breaking an ankle.

Down by the creek Dick found a scrap of the same kind of stone that the steps were made from. After cutting it to



**Hank Mann is screwing the last cross brace to the posts that are being used to lift the sagging beam above.**

shape and it fit into the hole eliminating the hazard.

After Dick completed work on the boiler room steps we inspected the stone steps on the retaining wall north of the mill. Those steps are deteriorating and eventually the stone will need to be reset.

Another job that we did was to replace the dummy steam engine exhaust pipe on the creek side of the mill. Back when the steam engine powered the mill clouds of steam came from this pipe with every stroke of the engine. When we restored the engine we replaced all of the missing exhaust pipe except for the last section. This we left missing since it would have been a tripping hazard for our visitors. Instead we left that section out and simply attached a dummy pipe to the outside of the building to restore its original appearance.

That pipe had begun to fall off the building. We removed it and replaced it with an identical dummy pipe attached in a better way from the inside. It looks much better.

What's next? Once the sagging beam is replaced and our one window finished, our last job of the year will be to clean all the grain out of the mill. This year I plan to remove any of the bagged wheat that we have left from the mill and store it somewhere warm and dry to keep it from molding and being wasted. The machines will be lubricated to prevent rust over the winter and the mill shut down for the season.



At left Hank Mann, Dick Stoltenburg and Clarence Klauer are hoisting the cross beam into place using a come-a-long.

At right the Klauer brothers are replacing the glazing putty on one of the windows that we are restoring.



That's Hank Mann in his element cleaning the mud from the turbine pit.

Dick Stoltenburg is our stone mason. Here he is doing the final fitting of a replacement stone on the boiler room steps.



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