

# last stop



Harold Borovec and his beloved beauty, No. 15.

## Full Steam Ahead

Harold Borovec and his locomotive are still going strong

story and photograph by  
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As we all know, long-lasting relationships are hard to come by these days, so when we hear of one that has lasted more than 75 years, we sit up and take notice.

The relationship of which I speak is between Harold Borovec, an engineer with the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad, and his much-beloved steam locomotive No. 15.

Borovec first met this spirited 1916 Baldwin 2-8-2 locomotive when he was a small child riding his bike around the rail yards of Chehalis, Wash. "It was love at first sight," says Borovec. And ever since, he has been an integral part of that locomotive's

life, from its early logging days to its rebirth as a tourist train traveling through the beautiful Chehalis River Valley.

As Borovec approaches his 85th birthday and his locomotive's 96th, neither shows any signs of letting up. Great news for those of us who love riding the rails behind a classic steam locomotive with a seasoned veteran at the controls.

*The Ride: The railroad operates from Memorial Day weekend to the last weekend in September, with special trips offered throughout the year. [www.steamtrainride.com](http://www.steamtrainride.com), (360) 748-9593. **■***