

At the office

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Nostalgic for those “Baby Garretts”

A while ago, on browsing through the Autumn issue 2009 of *Village Life*, I chanced upon the picture of NGG16 No113 puffing through the cosmos, and was filled with a huge dose of nostalgia.

During the 1940s my family lived in Port Shepstone where my Dad was employed by Barclays Bank (DC &O). One of my uncles, also in the town, was a fireman with SARAH (South African Railways and Harbours, for the uninitiated!) and worked the narrow-gauge line to Izingolweni and Harding, which used these very locomotives. From that position he was later promoted to Shed Foreman in Sheppie and finally to the Shed at Umzinto.

These narrow-gauge loco's, or “Baby Garretts” as we tended to call them, became his responsibility. Many were the occasions when my brother and I had the chance to stand on the tiny footplate of the loco as it was shunted from the station into the loco shed, to be prepared overnight for the next day's run.

It does one's heart a power of good to see how lovingly these “relics” of our past have been restored and are still being used. I guess my Uncle Ben would be really proud to see the condition No 113 is in today!

Thanks for a lovely magazine. – *Rob Moll, Somerset West*