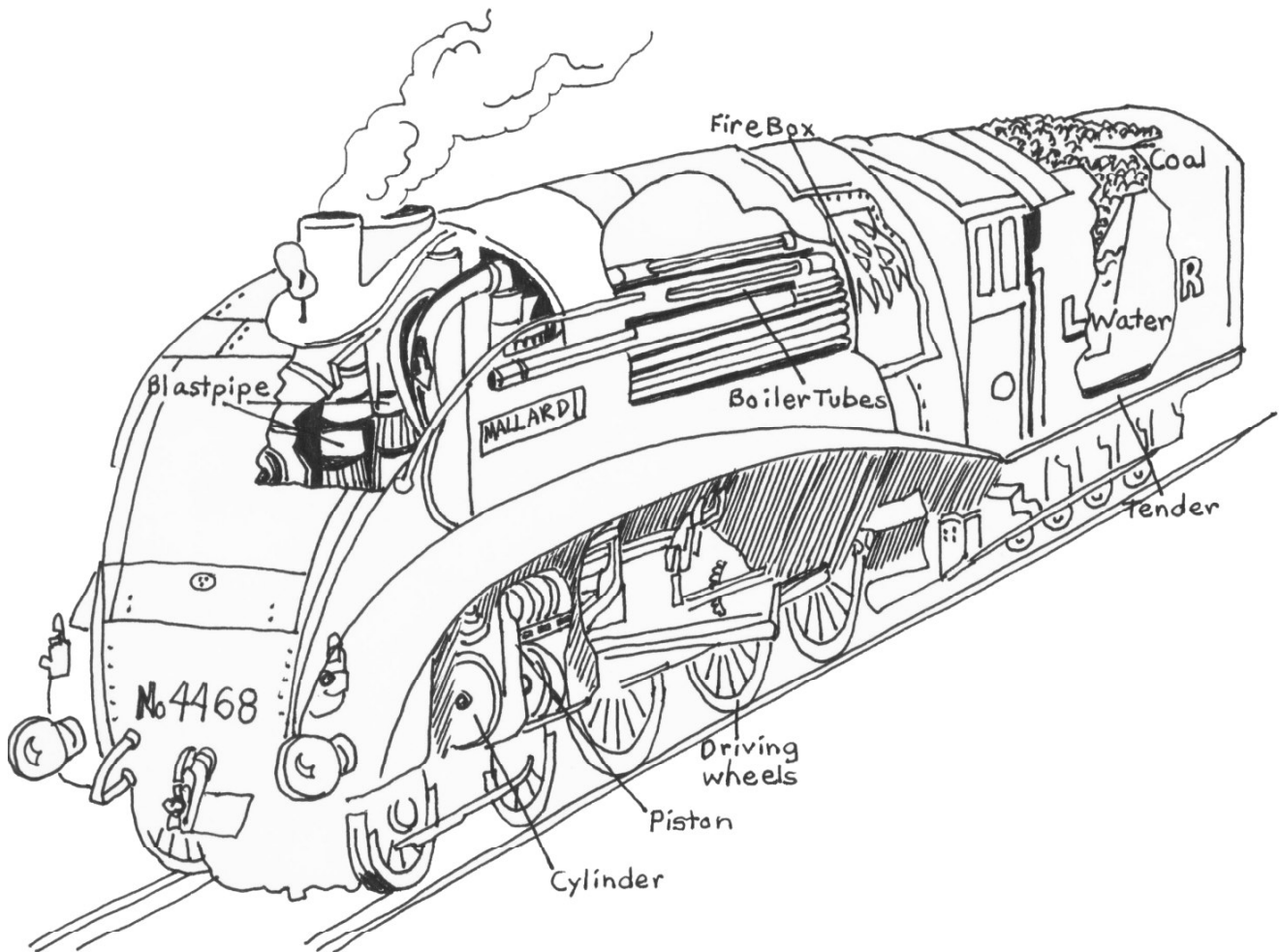


HOW A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

The way a steam locomotive works is quite simple. The fire boils the water into steam. The steam reaches a high pressure. The pressure is then used in the cylinders to move the pistons which drive the wheels around and around. Then the steam goes up through the blastpipe and out of the chimney.

It was the fireman's job to keep a steady fire going in the firebox to heat the water. He had to shovel 40 - 200 pounds of coal into the firebox each hour to keep the engine running.



This picture shows the *Mallard*, the world's fastest steam locomotive. It set the record speed of 126 miles per hour in July, 1938. Today it is kept in the National Railway Museum at York, England.