

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 88

Cal Poly

June 2000

On Track

With your director, Ed Carnegie



Good News!!

The County of Santa Cruz has finally issued a building permit on August 7. Work commenced on August 10, by elevating the track with temporary scaffolds, which allowed for work to take place beneath the track.



By the first work weekend in August materials were ready, the crane was in place, and the first two bents were poured and built. By the end of the weekend the trestle under the first part of the washout was beginning to take form.

A diverse hard working crew consisting of Dennis and Erik Johnson, Bill, Linda and Molly Engelman, Tony, Marlene and Anthony Pratkanis, Butch and Bill Floyd, Pete McFall, Bill McNab, Ken Fisher, Geoff Tobin, Bob Nichols, Mary Ann and I accomplished a great deal of work and we all had a lot of sore muscles during and after the weekend. Dennis & Erik Johnson,

Tony and Marlene Pratkanis and I continued building the trestle on Monday. By the end of that day, fifty-seven 80 pound sacks of ready mix concrete had been placed at the bottom of the first five bents of the trestle.

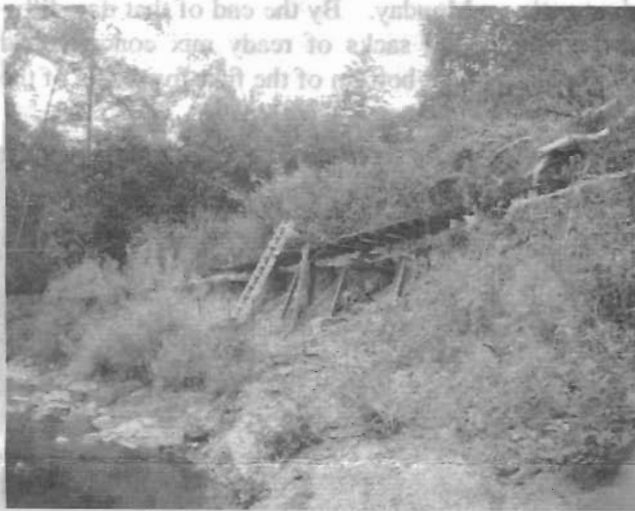


After coming back home to SLO and taking two days of R&R I headed back up to Swanton to continue the RR work. Anthony and Tony assisted



on placing the last few bents from the first washout on Thursday (8/17).

Then on Friday, August 19th, Bob Wilkinson joined Anthony, Tony and me. A weekend crew augmented our work force when Andy, Fitz, Bill and Butch Floyd, and Dennis and Erik Johnson joined in and completed the first truss by noon on Saturday. The crew then moved on down and placed two bents on a very small washout and commenced work on the third washout.



On Monday, August 21st, Fitz and I continued the work on the third washout. This now brought the total number of sacks of concrete mixed and placed at 150 sacks. It has been discussed that with this type of work there is no need to go to any of the local gyms for a workout. What a deal! Join the Swanton Pacific RR organization and drop your health club membership. Your new benefits include lots of fresh air, strengthened muscles you never knew you owned, and all without flattening your wallets.

Between now and October 15, ALL WORK needs to be completed on the washout. I will try to be at Swanton every weekend, along with a few days prior to and a few days after the weekend. If you are able to dedicate some time, please contact me at home (805) 995-3659, or at Swanton, leave a message on the phone in the machine shop (831) 423-8204.

As an added attraction, the Swanton Pacific RR hosted two train rides in between their working shifts. On Monday, August 14th, the Cal Poly Ad-

vanced Planning Group visited and rode the train. Dennis and Erik Johnson were the train crew and I served as the engineer. On Sunday, Aug. 20th, the local Cal Poly Alumni Association hosted new incoming students from the surrounding counties. I presented an introduction to the Swanton Pacific RR and ranch operations. As everyone boarded the train a thorough history lesson of local railroad lore was given by acting Station Master Anthony Pratkanis.

In addition to the track crew, on the Saturday work weekend, the roundhouse crew consisting of Bill Engelman, Ken Fischer, Geoff Tobin and Edski, worked under the supervision of Marty Campbell performing routine maintenance on the 1912.

On Sunday, Bob, Linda and Ashley Nichols delivered a crane truck donated by Tibitts Construction. This "new" crane will replace the older crane that we have had for several years. The new crane is much more flexible, easier to operate, and has a greater reach. It is sort of interesting in that this crane was used to help Al Smith transport Overfair railroad equipment from his home in Los Gatos to Swanton Pacific.

This last weekend, Jim Scott spent the entire Saturday working on the road grader by replacing the radiator, cowling, finding parts and now has this piece of equipment almost ready to start.

The grounds committee and helpers (Martha Nielsen, Butch Floyd, & Mary Ann) busily worked on grounds beautification.

REMINDER:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SWANTON PREMISES PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE WORK LOG KEPT IN THE MACHINE SHOP NEXT TO THE PHONE.

This is the best record we have to keep track of your volunteer hours.

REDHOUSE RESERVATIONS:

The Ranch Director has been working with the Railroad to ensure that we have some space available at the Redhouse for our workdays. However, I do need to know at least one week in advance whether room reservations are needed or not. That way I can better coordinate with Wally Mark to make sure that things move smoothly. If you do not call in to reserve a room you may not have a place to stay.

NEW MEMBERS

New memberships received over the last few months are as follows:

- David Bazyk Fort Plain, NY
- Walter Chesnut Danville
- Clayton Chesnut Fremont
- Poder Hertel Alamo
- Dirck Storm Monroe, CT
- Ronald Trottier Cape Vincent, NY

On behalf of the entire organization we welcome each of you into our "train family" and we certainly look forward to seeing you at some of our next events. Many of our members may not recognize you right away so please introduce yourselves so that we can get to know you better and vice versa.



NAMETAGS

If you are planning on working at Swanton and need a nametag please let me know so that one can be printed up for you. Then you can run with the big dogs - just like Barney!

Safety Simon Says

Don't take the main line in order to make your Dead line



PUBLICITY AND EVENT COORDINATION

Mary Ann Carnegie

Calendar of events

Sept./Oct is filled with several run weekends so mark your calendars.

- Sat-Mon Sept. 2-4 Long work weekend
- Sat/Sun Sept 9-10 Work weekend
- Sat/Sun Sept 16-17 Work weekend
- Saturday Sept. 23 Work day
- Sunday Sept. 24 LAND TRUST RUN
- Saturday Sept. 30 Prep day for Oct. 1
- Sunday October. 1 LONE STAR RUN
- Saturday October 7 prep day for Oct. 8
- Sunday October 8 CAL POLY DAY
- Saturday October 14 Prep day for Oct 15
- Sunday October 15 2472 RUN

This last work weekend everyone was treated to a delicious ITALIAN dinner of regular and vegetarian lasagna, along with salads (green and fruit), garlic bread and great spice cake. All compliments of great chefs Linda Engelman, Martha Neilsen and Vera McLean.

We are continuing to try and offer very informal dinners, but only IF RSVPs are received prior to the workday. If we have no response we will have no meal at the end of a Saturday workday. **SO THE LESSON IS to RSVP!**

The menu and cooks will vary, contributions for the meal will always be accepted. It is not potluck, even though we may have a pot (stew or whatever), as we do not want to rely on luck. We would prefer to plan the meal to better serve all, so if you wish to assist see/call Mary Ann prior to the workday so that plans can be made accordingly. Since Ed and I will be up at Swanton a good majority of the time, you can call at our home (805) 995-3659 or leave a message at Swanton (831)423-8204.

Thanks!

Down Behind the Railway

With your president, air monkey, and
carbarnist;

Reynold 'Fitz' FitzPatrick

RGBFitz@aol.com

Voice: 650.737.9584

Fax: 650.737.9583

Homework?

"The computer ate my homework." Unfortunate, but true. The mailing of "General Safety and Work Rules" didn't go out as planned last month. The good news is it was posted Monday, August 28th and should be in hand by now. We will still have the scheduled review and Q&A Saturday, September 9th, right after lunch on our workday and another review later in the year as courses are completed.

Elections

It's not too late to throw your hat into the creek, step up to the bull, grab the plate by the horns, and mix metaphors with the best. Our recent bylaw changes added two officers to the Executive Board to provide a more comprehensive representation of the membership and we need you to willingly fill those positions. Contact any officer, committee chair, or any of the nominating committee for more information.

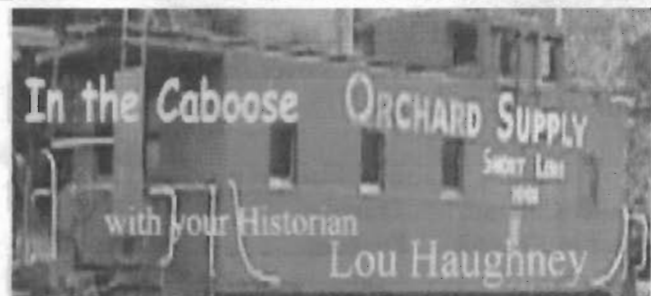
The lazy days of summer are over!

The trestle work at the washout is completed! Steel rail has seen cast iron wheels for the first time in three years right up to the dead fall trees at Cosgrove.

Work on the embankment proceeds apace. The Santa Cruz Land Trust run on September 24th, Lone Star run on October 1st, Cal Poly Day - October 8th, nomination of Officers - October 14th, Halloween at the end of October, election of Officers November 11th. Whew, what a list.

And then there is clearing the right-of-way as far as we can out toward the wye, aligning track, getting the 1913's boiler to Bay City Boiler and Engineering, completing the new ballast car, and general housekeeping.

Come on down, we'll have fun.



Late 1940s.

Removal of Overfair Railway cars from the grounds of the MacDermot estate in West Oakland. A crew of riggers and house movers are loading the cars onto trailers for transport to the Oakland Zoo grounds.



Note the MacDermot mansion in the background. Sixty Overfair passenger cars were scattered around the grounds of the MacDermot estate which had been foreclosed by Alameda County for non payment of taxes.



Photos by Douglas S. Richter, San Mateo.

Our thanks to Bob Parkinson who sent them to SPRS.