

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 95

Cal Poly

April 2001

On Track

With your director, Ed Carnegie



Ed and Mary Ann just came back from a well earned vacation – They went right back to Swanton Ranch to work on the railroad and get ready for Al smith Days.

Ed will have a complete report in next months newsletter.

Down Behind the Railway

With your president, air monkey, and carbarnist;

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Al Smith Day is soon upon us. Marty has the 1912 ready to steam up and Randy is putting finishing touches on the 1914.

We have weed and track work to be done at the wye, cabeese to clean, railcars to build as well as routine maintenance and the joy of spring cleaning. This is our first attempt at a workweek - - so come on over when you can, I'm sure we'll have a grand time. I plan on being at Swanton most of the week April 1st thru the 8th.

I normally don't include solicitations for other groups in our newsletter, however Mr. Westler is a member of our Society and we all have an interest in railway history so I'm including a note received from Richard Silver, of Rail Passenger Association of California (RailPAC). California - Nevada Railroad Historical Society

For over 65 year the California - Nevada Railroad Historical Society has be around promoting rail fan trip, preservation of local passenger rail history and providing information about passenger rail history in California.

Unfortunately, like so many worthwhile groups, they are having a mid life crisis and need the help of bay area passenger rail supporters and fans. For only \$10 a year you can become a member of this worthwhile group and insure that their efforts.

As a member of the California - Nevada Railroad Historical Society, you will receive a monthly newsletter, notices of special events and rail riding events and notices of meeting that generally include programs dealing with passenger rail history.

For 10 bucks how can you go wrong??? You can't....Please take a minute to write out your check for \$10, made payable to the California- Nevada Railroad Historical Society and send it to their President, Dudley Westler, 105 Manor Dr, Piedmont, CA 94611 By joining you'll be doing something good for rail advocacy and yourself.

Richard L. Silver, Executive Director

RV SPACE

And there is still time to get your opinion in regarding the use of RV spaces at Swanton. Don't be bashful now, speak up.

Looking forward to seeing you the first week of April.

Safety Simon Says:

If in doubt – Ask

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

Notes from

THE RADIO GUY

By Bill Engelman

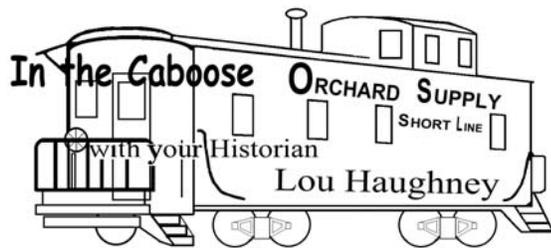
In the last two episodes, we were following our progress as Molly and I tracked down the radio interference we experienced on the frequencies we use at the SPRR, using our clues "Encyclopedia Brown" style. We knew that the whole coast from the lighthouse at Pigeon Point, down past Santa Cruz was covered by the powerful unlicensed "mystery repeater". We knew a golf course was involved, but after visiting every known golf course within 50 miles of Davenport, we still had not found the culprit. Our first big break came when we got our next clue. While monitoring the frequency from far away in Scott's Valley, we heard a reference to a highway intersection near Carmel. Although none of our maps showed any golf course or subdivision in that specific area, we concentrated our efforts there. Eventually we hit pay dirt when someone asked over the air for the phone number for the "sales office". Of course I immediately called the number that was given, and a few days later I received a beautiful color glossy brochure of an exclusive, very private, very expensive land

development for the super rich that does indeed, have a very private golf course! The subdivision, which will remain nameless in this article, is a beautiful 22,000 acre Rancho and former cattle ranch that is now being subdivided for "estate home sites", most of the view lots selling for well over a million dollars apiece. This spectacular piece of land was previously undeveloped save for "the Hacienda", a residence built during the 1920's by a wealthy movie star and previous owner. The well funded radio repeater and antenna system was installed high on a ridge on the property, and the "effective radiated power" of the unlicensed installation far exceeded allowable limits, causing interference with our system at the Swanton Pacific Railroad. As a result of our efforts, the developers had to take steps to scale back their radio system, comply with frequency coordination efforts, move to another frequency, obtain a license, and comply with the necessary FCC rules and regulations.

It was a lot of work, but Molly and I had finally solved the mystery. This is but one example of the many hours of volunteer effort that our members put in on behalf of the organization, but it is all part of the operation and maintenance of the SPRR.



Ed and the "One that did not get away" what's left of the tree that fell in the Meadow.



Lou is taking care family things this month and will be back with us in May. In the meantime here are some happening's of 1914 – 1915 when our Overfair Pacific's were earning their keep in San Francisco.

Panama Canal opens August 15, 1914 . Ten years after construction started

On October 16, 1914, a ceremonial gold-plated spike was driven into a tie to mark the completion of the OverFair Railway.

The Exposition ran from February to December.

Kellogg's 40% Bran Flakes are introduced by the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Co.

Popular songs: "Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag" by Welsh-born London composer Felix Powell and his brother George Asaf ; "I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier" by Al Piantadosi, lyrics by Alfred Bryan; "Paper Doll" by Johnny Black; "There's a Broken Heart for Every Light on Broadway" by Fred Fisher, lyrics by Howard Johnson; "M-O-T-H-E-R, a Word that Means the World to Me" by Theodore Morse, lyrics by Howard Johnson; "Nola" by New York Tin Pan Alley pianist-composer Felix Arndt, 26.

Films: D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* with Lillian Gish, Mae Marsh, Henry B. Walthall has such cinematic innovations as the close-up, pan, flashback, and use of a moving camera. Also: Cecil B. DeMille's *The Cheat* with Fannie Ward, Sessue Hayakawa; Frank

Powell's *A Fool There Was* with Theda Bara (Theodosia Goodman) who is billed as "the vamp" ("Kiss me, my fool").

Charlie Chaplin develops his tramp character while directing his second comedy

The Boston Red Sox win the World Series by defeating the Philadelphia Phillies 4 games to 1.

Transportation,: The Fruehauf tractor trailer has its beginnings at Detroit where local blacksmith-wagon maker August Fruehauf, 47, and his associate Otto Neumann create the first trailer for the Model T Ford for Frederick M. Sibley, Jr., who wants to transport a boat. Fruehauf Trailer Co. will become the world's largest maker of tractor trailers pulled by sawed-off trucks (tractors) to compete with railroads.



New ties at the MP4





Removing the landslide across tracks and putting in a removable track section so that the next winters rains won't hinder operations.

