

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 102

Cal Poly

November 2001

ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

Since our last newsletter we had two more runs, as well as a work day. Many hands contributed to make Cal Poly Day a very successful event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for jumping in and signing up for various tasks, as this made it a pleasant day for all. I would like to extend a special thanks to Wally Mark, LaDonna Seeley and all the Swanton Ranch employees for all that they did; ranch tours, cleanup, and dog demonstrations. We were honored to have Michael Barr, from the College of Agriculture; Judy Nussbaum, from the Alumni Association, Frank Mumford, Executive Director of the Foundation, Bruce McPherson from Senator McShane's Office, and over 40 Cal Poly Alumni--many of whom had graduated over 50 years ago. Even though the crowd this year was not as large as in the past, we still had a good turnout and all expenses were covered. The people who did attend had a very good time, and the weather could not have been better. We ran two steam engines, and later in the day ran a double header with a photo op. at Windy Point.

Prior to the event many of our volunteers came to help with cleanup and preparation on Friday and/or Saturday. The Mc Nab family sponsored a nice lasagne feast on Saturday night up at Al's house for approximately 18-20. Geoff had an abundance of apples from his home orchard and brought some great homemade applesauce.

The following Saturday, we hosted the annual RMC/Lonestar Concrete Plant's Company Picnic. Though the weather had become a bit cooler, a good crowd participated. We ran one engine with seven cars. We were able to keep up with the crowd, and had a day of smooth operations. All of us especially enjoyed the great bbq meal that they fed us. Our next run now won't be until New Year's Eve so we will have a little breather.

In conjunction with the RMC Event, the Pratkans family celebrated Tony's 11th birthday. It was this event that christened our new decks between the cabooses. The site makes for a great gathering spot. After the RMC/Lonestar

event, the SPRR members had our own run with Tony Pratkanis, as engineer of the 502.

The following day, being Sunday, and having a fairly large work party still on the grounds, President Fitz decided it would be a good time to put in the utility ditch between the roundhouse and the cabooses. So off to work we all went, and by mid-afternoon, a deep ditch was dug, three pipelines were laid, and the ditch was filled back in and compacted.

The next weekend was our regularly scheduled work weekend--for many of us this was the fourth weekend in a row for scheduled events. For that I really do want to thank all of you for your dedication to "come on" weekly to Swanton to participate and to make all these events either prior to, during and after so successful.

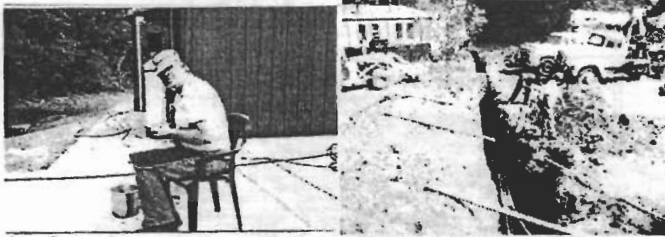
While I concentrated on cabinet work in the cabooses, the rest of our crew hooked up electrical boxes and ran wire through the conduits that were installed last week. Others worked on detailing stencils, painting, and other jobs on the grounds. All of which are constantly improving the facilities.

As we are writing the newsletter, Fitz and Andy are hosting approximately 25 pre-schoolers for an introduction to trains with a train ride, and picnic.

For the next work weekend, we hope many of you will be able to attend to cast your vote. A ballot is enclosed. If you are unable to attend the work day, then please mail in your ballot as soon as possible. A concerted effort this coming work weekend will be spent on trying to complete the first caboose. This is so that we can make it available for living quarters to our members for the first of the year.

As a point of concern: Over the last year the number of dogs around the railroad has steadily increased. Also, during this time, the coyotes and other wild animals have been moving closer to College Park. Therefore, we are suggesting that any time you proceed away from College Park or walk around at night that you keep your dogs on a leash and out of harm's way.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a very safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.



Goef cutting up

The big ditch

New memberships received over the last month were as follows:

Cliff Roepke

Burlingame

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 better know you and vice versa.

REMINDER:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SWANTON PREMISES, PLEASE, BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE WORK LOG FOR THE HOURS THAT YOU WORKED. THE WORK LOG IS KEPT IN THE MACHINE SHOP NEXT TO THE PHONE and SIGN IT.

This is the best record we have to keep track of your volunteer hours. Please list only the hours that you worked, as we must pay workers compensation for time you list.

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.

Calendar of events

Year 2001

Mary Ann Carnegie

Upcoming events: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nov.10-12 work weekend--also Veteran's Day Weekend so we gain an extra day to work and have fun here at Swanton. Great chance to button things up before the rainy season starts.

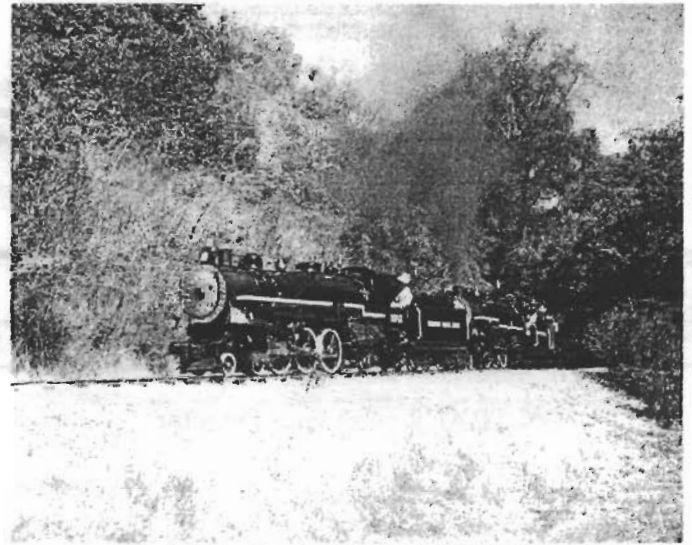
Dec. 8-9 work weekend

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Run

NEW YEAR'S EVE RUN

As every New Year's Eve comes and goes on Dec. 31 Swanton Pacific will once again hold its traditional train rides of out with the old and in with the new. The question is would you like to have a potluck, dinner, or what get together prior to the run?? Let us know what you would like to do so that we can make appropriate plans. Your feedback will be vital in

making decisions. Call [(805) 995-3659], talk [yada yada yada], or email [ecarnegi@calpoly.edu]. Thanks!



Double header coming from Windy Point

With your president, air monkey, and carbarnist;
 Reynold "Fitz" FitzPatrick
 RGBFitz@aol.com
 650.737.9584

My Fellow Swantoons.

Next workday, Saturday November 10th, we will elect the First and Third Vice Presidents and the Treasurer in accordance with the bylaws. Ballots will be counted at the General Meeting which will be held Noonish on Saturday. If you cannot attend the meeting please return your ballots so they arrive at Cal Poly before Thursday, November 8th.

Geoff Tobin and Ed Carnegie, as incumbents, agreed to run for their offices as First VP and Treasurer respectively and Dick Toulson graciously accepted nomination for Third VP.

Our poor old workhorse, or is it a goat, of a motor car needs to have its engine replaced. If any of you are up for that project come on down and we'll schedule it in. I'd like to get it repaired before it breaks down entirely.

There is not much happening in the "Patch an'a Promise' car shop as it is a woodworking shop until the Gadis cabooses are finished. The Exercise and Fitness club is hand digging a trench between the Machine shop and the Roundhouse for communication conduit and air. All hands are welcome to join in the fun.

Only two workdays remaining this year and our annual New Year's run. Quite a change from the summer with so many runs and projects going on. If you schedule your vacation before the end of the year you may wish to set aside a few days in the first week of April next year as we will be having another workweek to spruce up before Al Smith Day.

I look forward to seeing you next workday. And if I don't - you and yours have a good Thanksgiving.

Fitz



THE CAL BARN, PART 3

This part will contain excerpts from the *Blue and Gold* yearbooks published by the students at the University of California at Berkeley. Most of the editions in the early 1900's contained articles by the students describing their courses and activities in their Junior year at UCB. The Civil Engineering sections usually contained an account of the students' experiences at their Summer Surveying School Camp. Bob Parkinson researched all the editions of the *Blue and Gold* from 1899 to the 1930's. The following selections tell of the Camp's various locations from 1899 to 1908, when the Camp moved to the junction of Little Creek and Scott Creek, near Swanton. The "Cal Barn" at the entrance to the SPRS's railroad yard was the dining and the assembly hall for the Camp. After the move to Swanton, the students wrote euphoric and humorous stories of their days at the Camp. Bob Parkinson copied many of those tales. Excerpts from his notes are given below. Please note carefully his caution about interpreting the dates of the articles; that is, the year in which the yearbook was published is not the same as the year of the camp which is being described by the student writer. (LCH)

EXCERPTS from the BLUE and GOLD YEARBOOKS of
UC Berkeley
concerning the Summer School of Surveying Camps

Compiled by Bob Parkinson, SPRS member,
from the Archives of the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley

The student yearbook of the University of California, Berkeley, started in 1875. There can be confusion about the "year" mentioned. The Academic year ends in May. The "year" of the B&G is the second and final semester of the Academic year. The B&G is the record of the previous academic year. Thus, B&G 1917 is a "record of the College year nineteen fifteen-sixteen". The freshmen at the Camp are there in the summer between their Freshman and Sophomore semesters. Some B&G articles below give the calendar year of the camp, two years before the B&G issue date. The B&G was prepared by members of the then Junior Class in the preceding academic year..

When and where the Summer School of Surveying (SSS) of the College of Civil Engineering (C of CE) began, I (Bob Parkinson) do not know. It may have started in the later 1890's, or earlier. The earliest B&G I have checked was B&G 1899. As earlier issues did not concern Swanton, and possibly no other site in the Santa Cruz County area, I have not checked them.

B&G 1899 No mention.

B&G 1900 pp. 167-174. "Field notes from Calistoga Summer School of Surveying". This has six illustrations of men in groups or individually, and one of tents. This is a humorous account of the students, but no mention of the camp or its location.

1901 "Personal Mention from the Summer Schools - Menlo-Summer 1899" {in *Menlo Park on the San Francisco Peninsula?*} 2 pages, 2 illus. 6 weeks. Humorous comments on various persons. Some mention of surveying.

1902 "Plain Tales from the Hills. Being an account of the Deeds and Misdeeds of the Members of Mr. Hunt's Valiant Band of Engineers in the Land of the Calistogans during the Month of July 1900". 6 pages, 9 illus. Humorous. Does mention surveying. {This suggests the Camp was conducted again in Calistoga.}

1903. An illustration, "At Summer School". No text. No location. Shows the camp to be in a woods.

1904. Summer School. "The Summer Session of the University is an integral part of the University's work. Systematic instruction is given in a large proportion of all departments. . . . Most of the work is done at the University, but the Summer School in Surveying is at some other region in the State, last year near Pacific Grove."

1905. Civil Engineering. "The relation of practical information to theory is emphasized, and the vacation of students is utilized by summer schools of surveying."

1906. "The Summer School of Surveying", 7 pages, 12 illustrations. Says this camp was for students of Civil Engineering and Mining. It mentions mapping of coast line. It also mentions "little town of Coast--and Santa Cruz beyond". 2 illus. of the coast and one of the campsite in the hills. {Where was the town of Coast? ... Near the mouth of Liddell Creek about 2 miles south of Davenport.(LCH)}

1907. This is the only copy. It was compiled from pages salvaged from the printery or bindery damaged in SF earthquake and fire. "The Summer School of Surveying". 3 pages. This refers to "mouth of a canyon on the bank of Liddell Creek, about eleven and one half miles north of Santa Cruz, on the Coast road." It also states, "the final object (Of the class) is the making of a complete topographical map of Arroyo de Laguna, a ranch of about twenty-five hundred acres". {The latter is the old land grant bordering on the south side of the Agua Puerca Y Las Trancas grant, which

comprises, for its greatest part, the present Swanton Pacific Ranch. (LCH)

1908. Nothing on this subject. It does have an interesting account of the University Cadets on patrol duty in a neighborhood in S.F. during the 1906 fire, and the high praise they earned.

1909. "The Tale of Camp California" by Harvey Hull (or Hall) '08. 6 pages, 8 illus., 3 of which show site or some background, and one of A beach.

{According to the reports of the Dean of the College of Engineering, the Summer Camp was established at Swanton in the summer of 1908 with improvements made in 1909 and 1910. (See article in the Oct. 2001 newsletter). So the reports in the Blue and Gold of 1910 and thereafter refer to the Swanton site although the 1910 and the 1911 issues are not explicit in defining the location. (LCH)}

1910. College of Civil Engineering. "Much of the time is devoted to practical work, which is carried on in the well equipped laboratories and the summer class in the Santa Cruz Mountains." Also "Summer Surveying Class", 3 pages, 5 illus., one of which shows part of a barn. Two show part of a hilly background. Mention of the wind "blowing a gale". One Sunday afternoon the faculty took a walk in Bonnie Doon Canyon.

1911. "C of CE....An essential part of its work consists of the practical training which is afforded by the Summer Camp in SC Mountains." p. 34 pp. 162-164 SSS illus., line of men outside a barn. illus., group of men by line of tents. Illus. man getting haircut in front of tent. Refers to May 13, got off coach of Ocean Shore RR. Two months; breakfast at 5:30. Dense thickets of live oak. 60 mph gale on pinnacles. About 120 campers.

1912. pp. 114-116. illus., a surveyor. illus., office bldg. with flag pole, and a small bldg. illus., scene in woods. illus., students line in front of one of two bldgs. illus., 4 students.

"CAMP CALIFORNIA. The 1910 SSS was launched with an added vigor. The new site, with its newer improvements, nestling in a little valley among the brush-clad hills, held something of interest for us all. There were new trails to be broken and new places to be explored--not simply the old places where the boys had been for years before us, as was the base at the old camp, but brand new ones. Even the more staid and sober Juniors evinced a lively interest in things, and as for the Faculty, they were by far the most pleased of all.

"Given a hundred and twenty-five good fellows, in an environment such as the camp afforded, and there is bound to be something doing. Scarcely were the blankets dumped from the creaking old Ocean Shore baggage car and spread in the tents for the first night, before pranks were being played and games started with a zest that would predict nothing but good fellowship in the future. We were rudely interrupted at this juncture by the gong at the cook-house, and we attacked our first camp meal with a willus.

"How good that 'gow' did taste, and how fast it went, while staccato orders to 'Slip the grease!', 'Shoot the sand, spuds, or ships!', or 'Come across with some cow for my mud!' were all that could be heard above the din of rattling pans and crunching teeth', and if any one said 'Thank you', he was immediately and duly 'crowned'. After the sage pudding had come, and been variously remarked upon, we were assembled around the Instrument Room by Professor Sears (in charge) and given the 'dope' on many things, when lo! we found order where there had been chaos, and we were an organized summer camp.

"The daily routine soon became a matter of course to us all. At 5 a.m. Bob and his bugle were up and doing, and there was little time left for rest. A speedy manipulation of clothes and boots, scurrying for the wash basins, a dash of cold water, and the man that arrived at the breakfast table in time to get a pan of hot mush to warm his hands on, was considered more than lucky. Then came the assignment of problems for the day, and we were off. Some of us set out for the ocean, two miles, away, carrying baskets full of cold lunch, and hearts full of envy for the lucky parties that 'drew' work near camp and would have 'hot grub' at noon. They used to kick up first-class wind storms down there by the ocean pretty regularly. Accurate transit work of any kind was almost out of the question. One of the boys 'allowed it would rattle the eye-teeth out of a hippopotamus', and he was a conservative fellow---one who seldom exaggerated.

"At 11, we were more than ready for any thing the cook had passed out to us, and after eating we went back to work 'til 2:30 or 3. The rest of the afternoon was spent in the surf, in the swimming pool in Scott Creek, or just 'lying around', waiting for dinner at 5. The dinner was followed by horseshoes, shot-putting, broad-jumping, and later by a bonfire and selections from the 'Summer Camp Quartette', until the glowing embers of the fire disclosed only a small circle of 'night owls', who shortly disbanded, and another day was done. The Sunday trips to Santa Cruz, the Fourth of July celebration, and how some of the boys missed the train; the exciting rides in the old, cogless handcar; the trips to the logging camp and the Big Basin country; how we 'nicked' the farmers for straw to sleep on, and the Swanton yards for redwood posts (at 30 cents each) for our fires; how the boys left work on pleasure at the cry of 'All out!' to return the wave of some red-sweatered and charming young (we give them the benefit of the doubt---they were seen at a distance) lady; when the [sound?] of a "Klaxon's" horn warned us that an auto would soon whiz along the road above camp; the big drift-wood fires on the beach, and the 'still hunts' for camp in the dense fog; and many other incidents, even to the hard grind with the instrument and map, make the memory of these two months dear to every one of us, and will be discussed again and again as we get together by twos and threes, to talk over the good times we had at New Camp."

(To be continued in future issues.)