

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 104

Cal Poly

January 2002

ON TRACK with your Director
Ed Carnegie:

When I think of 2001 the first thing that comes to my mind is 2001 Space Odyssey. This past year though has definitely not been a space odyssey. Most of our thoughts and interests have been very "earth" bound. Our activities for the year were at times demanding, varied, and interesting. The gamut ran from repairs, to maintenance and to new construction. On our work weekends we usually averaged 17 or more volunteers per weekend with an expenditure of over 4,400 volunteer hours. At least that is what were documented in our work logs. I am sure though, that many more hours were spend on various projects, but unfortunately were not recorded. I know that many of our volunteers spend numerous hours writing articles, doing research, and building projects outside of Swanton, that are never recorded on our worklogs. I want to thank all of our many volunteers and their families for their dedicated efforts because without your involvement there would be no need for a Swanton Pacific Railroad Society.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Edski into our Swantonian "retired fellows" group. Edski normally arrives before many are even beginning to stir in the morning, and it was a pleasure to find the roundhouse stoves stoked and warm for us to enjoy as we gathered to work on projects and have our lunch inside.

December found a stout hearted group of volunteers show up to volunteer and concentrate their efforts on the refurbishing of the 1913 and the 1500 [greater details given under the Observation Car column]. While work was going on there, Al

Carlsen, Fitz, and I concentrated on the plumbing requirements for the cabooses. A ditch was dug, bringing water to the site, other odds and ends for plumbing were completed in the first caboose, and provisions were made for a hot water heater. In addition, the sewer system for the cabooses was worked on and this particular project should be completed by the end of the January work weekend.

Andy and Richard were surprised by a trespasser speeding by the machine shop coming from College Park. They had not noticed anyone going down, so being curious, they decided to investigate. They found jeep tracks coming off the "Edgar J. Carnegie Bridge" and followed them to Windy Point, where they had crossed the creek into the train field, spun some doughnuts, up the bank onto the track and proceeded the length of the track back to College Station. At least no damage was done, other than disturbing ballast. Consequently, Andy and Richard decided this was not a good thing, and built a lockable gate across the track at Windy Point. So as a reminder to all, be aware that we now have a locked gate that will be necessary to open when you proceed past Windy Point and please remember to lock again when you return.

We are looking forward to a new year of activities and to the completion of some of our long term projects. Also, the NEW Swanton Pacific brochure has been printed and is available to be used by our volunteers. Contact one of the Officers for distribution.

Many of you will see that the "Observation Car" column has been reactivated in this issue. This is open for all members to express their comments and we encourage your input. Your individual views

add interest to our newsletter, and help inform us of other projects that our volunteers may be participating in.

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.

NEW SOCIETY SUPPORTERS received over the last month were as follows:

Natasha Bettis	Plano, TX
Corine Manroe	San Luis Obispo

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 supporters may not recognize you right away so please introduce yourselves so that we can get to better know you and vice versa.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - upcoming events

Jan. 12/13	Work weekend
Feb. 09/10	Work weekend
Mar 09/10	Work weekend

A calendar for the year has been printed, but two run dates are still being finalized. When they become confirmed this calendar will become available. Till then work weekends continue to begin with second Saturday of every month.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DUE FOR 2002

Just a reminder, 2002 is now here, so it means your contributions for oh-two 'ought two' be submitted ASAP. When you fill out the sponsorship form at the back of the newsletter be sure to sign it, AND that you please include your current email address. We often send messages to all supporters and have found many addresses changed. We want to keep all of you informed.

OBSERVATION CAR

By SPRR Volunteers

The following "observations" have been submitted by our volunteers to help inform all of us of various projects they have worked on to enhance our society.

Linda Engelman thanks volunteer Pete McFall for getting SPRR going on its new brochure. He did the initial layout and got it ready for us to take to the printers. Joe, of Ocean Shore Printing [named after the Ocean Shore Railroad and decorated with railroad memorabilia], in Half Moon Bay, knew Al Smith and "wanted to do something for Al".

Besides giving us a good deal on the brochures -- he also knew the right people to take what we presented and turn it into a professional finished product. Joe knew Al and has been very interested in the SPRR and what we have accomplished since he was down there last. He lives somewhere in the foothills past Sacramento now and can't easily come down to see us at Swanton. However, he took some of the extra brochures that were printed and is passing them out to railroad groups he knows up near Sacramento.

Anthony and Tony Pratkanis report---

The big news is that Edski and Pete McFall passed the first part of the conductor's course (the written portion) and now need to complete the skills component to qualify as conductors.

[Editor's note: if any of you are interested in participating in any of the courses offered by SPRR, please be sure to contact Anthony and Tony or any of our other officers.]

Mark Cooper reports on, A Tale of Two Steamers

It is clear that we are now moving forward to re-assemble our massive collection of locomotive parts

into two real steamers. There are two evolving teams, a 1913 team and a 1500 team. They are both laboring lovingly to restore those engines.

This past work weekend Diane and Kevin Marley, Dick Toulson, and Mac Gaddis] cleaning side rods and other parts for the 1913. Similarly, a new volunteer and soon-to-be supporter Corine Manroe, assisted by Mark Cooper, cleaned the frame on the 1500, and began assembly of the reverser shaft and other parts. All this was ably supervised by none other than J. Randall Jones, Chief Engineer, who proved that he wasn't going to let any of us get by with a sloppy rebuild.

What we may have shaping up here is something akin to the transcontinental railroad race. Who can have the first fire in the boiler, under the close supervision of Randy's quality inspections? Want to join one of the teams and learn about steam engines from the ground up? This ought to be fun!

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

My Fellow Swantoons.

Two thousand and two! How strange it is to start a date with 20 after more than half a century of using 19. Twenty and ought two, which brings to mind ought to.

Ought to set aside a few days at Swanton during the week following April 6, 2002 to get ready for Al Smith Day and the week following August 17 - our summer work-week.

Ought to become a champion on one of the teams working on the 1500 or the 1913 - lots of work to be done; cleaning, inspecting, painting, refurbishing (Did you ever wonder what furbishing was?)

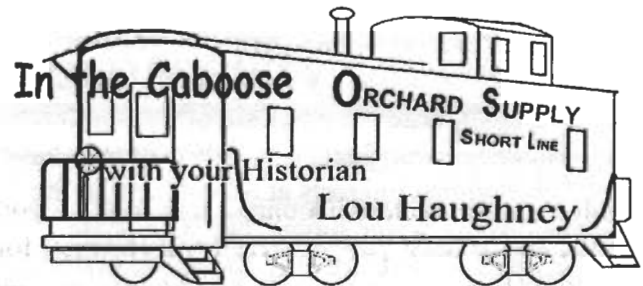
Ought to complete the infrastructure projects that are almost complete. See me, or Ed, on any workday and we'll match a task with your skills.

And then there are the routine maintenance tasks; keeping the track in good condition, cleaning cars, gardening, housekeeping and the like.

Whether your preference is to work alone or on a team we have something for you.

If you haven't attended a workday before come on down, introduce yourself, bring your gloves. Many hands mean lighter work and 1 for one could stand some lightening or, perhaps, lightning.

Come on over, we'll have fun. Fitz



CAL BARN HISTORY , PART 4

This installment about the Cal Barn's history covers the years from 1913 to 1919. Professor Charles Derleth, Jr., head of the Civil Engineering (CE) Department at the University of California, Berkeley, continues his recommendations in the department's annual reports that the site of the Summer School of Surveying (SSS) conducted at Swanton be purchased, not just the 50 (or 80?) acres under lease, but also the surrounding 2000 acres and more of ranch land. Prof. Derleth worries that the first lease on the land will expire in 1919 without the University's having taken any action. The lease was extended for five more years until 1924. Prof. Derleth persisted in his admonitions for purchase with increasing fervor and reasons. He cites the precedence of prestigious, eastern Universities, Harvard and Columbia, which owned land in New England for their Summer Schools of Surveying. Yet, as the second extension of the lease is announced, he begins to mention succeeding sites if the property is not purchased. Possibly he feared that the short term extension of five years forebode a closure of the Swanton camp. Note his comments on relations with neighboring ranchers, the healthy environment at Swanton, and the unfavorable conditions at an urban site, such as the hills behind the Berkeley campus. Also, he asks for recognition of the faculty and staff who have spent many summers at the SSS with little or no recognition. Particularly tantalizing is the mention of a course in railroad surveying for the Junior class students at the camp. Wouldn't discovery of their workbooks be useful to the SPRS? (LCH)

ANNUAL AND BIENNIAL REPORTS OF THE UCB COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, 1906 -1930 FROM THE BANCROFT LIBRARY CU 39 BOX 8 S:1 (STORAGE OFF CAMPUS)

(continued from November 2001 newsletter)
(COMPILED BY SPRS MEMBER ROBERT PARKINSON)

(1913) Aug. 21, 1913 (Derleth to Wheeler) SSS pp. 6-7

We again urge the purchase of the summer school properties near Santa Cruz. We already have substantial financial interests at Scott Creek in the form of buildings, water supply, etc. Our lease expires in 1919. There are only five more available summers. The value of the property and surrounding country is not decreasing.

The University should purchase not merely the headquarters property of 80 acres, but also the surrounding ranches so that we need not trespass. Such ranches could be sublet to a person who acts as Caretaker. We urge this purchase as a most important present need.

Co-operation With Other Departments ... In June 1913 at the SSS Instructor Eddy and Professor Foote and others co-operated with the Military Department and with Officers of the U.S. Government from the Presidio in directing certain of our Junior and Freshman students whereby military maps were made of the vicinity of Santa Cruz. In other words, with the co-operation of Major Nance our SSS has this year offered a course in "Military Topography".

(1914) June 1, 1914 (Derleth to Wheeler) pp. 4-5

We are offering at our SSS a course in Military topography...[There is a] postscript: "SSS. It is urgent that we either consider an extension of lease or purchase the camp property."

Page 6 is a letter dated May 27, 1914, from Derleth to R.P. Merritt [unidentified] sending him a copy of the report, stressing three needs.

"3. Extension of lease or purchase of S.S.S. property. We should build a drawing pavilion and a small hospital and make other permanent improvements. There is indication that surrounding ranch owners may want to prevent our using their land.

"Upon your return from the East I hope you can go to camp with me, at which time I should consider it a privilege to speak to you further."

(1915) (May 20, 1915) Derleth to Wheeler

"Our ten year lease on the SSS properties expires April 1919. Therefore there are only three summer school sessions provided for. This situation has been represented to you yearly during the past five years with recommendation or extension of lease to long term, or better, the purchase of the entire properties."

Letter of Derleth to Merritt dated May 21, 1915.

"3. Long-term extension of the SSS lease, or better, the purchase of the property."

(1916) (May 24) Lease expires in 1919, only two more summer sessions available after 1916.

"It would be a great loss to our department in money, but more particularly in human energy, to be required to establish a new school.. Our experience dictates that a better site is not likely to be found, would be in a position offering many advantages and at a location which would increase the cost to the students. Further we know of no site that offers better health conditions. Civil Engineering Officers cannot afford to take risks with student health."

Academic year 1916-1917 (May 14, 1917)

(Professor Derleth, Dean of the College, is on sabbatical. This report to President Wheeler is by Charles Gilman Hyde, Acting Dean.)

"Department growth and co-operation with other departments... (2) Instruction in surveying at Swanton at a well organized and very efficient SSS annually conducted in two sessions of four weeks each. This school has been developed to meet the needs of students of the engineering colleges. (On account of the peculiar conditions now existing a single session of the school is contemplated this year.

(1918) (May 10, 1918) Derleth to Wheeler

"The SSS property to be purchased. In any case the present lease expires in April 1919 and we regret that delay has been necessary so that a new lease has not yet been agreed to. The extension of lease becomes more urgent and serious every day."