

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 116

Cal Poly

January 2003

ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

Happy 2003! For those of you unable to attend the New Year's Eve festivities at Swanton--What a sight to see. The steam lingering among the trees along Scotts Creek, the soulful sound of the steam whistle echoing off the hills, and the chug, **chug**, chug of the locomotive pulling a train consist of eight cars. Over 200 heat seeking New Years revelors gathered around the large bonfire waiting for the next train ride. The Swanton Pacific Railroad's 23rd News Years celebration was a roaring success. At eleven fifteen the last train run for 2002 left the station. Then fifteen minutes after midnight the first train for 2003 left the station. The day's activities started the day before with Pete McFall taking the lead with decorating the Cal Barn for the potluck dinner by installing all the lights and mirrored disco ball. Dick Toulson, and crew of Carol and Mary Ann followed up with embellishing the ceiling rafters with all sorts of balloons, blowers and other shiny "stuff" to fill in the empty spots. They also installed plastic tarp windows to keep the wind, cold and rain out. The more we prepared for rain the more likely it won't come was the motto of the day. Pete continued with other lighting projects by putting lights on top of and around the SP "belt logo" down towards the meadow area, as well as getting the semi-fore next to the roundhouse working. The rest of the crews were busily getting other things in order for the nights event by checking the track, removing debris, downed limbs from previous storms, mowing the lawn, preparing the engines, & removing the electric fence put up to keep the wild pigs out. The elves that worked so diligently to help make all this possible for a successful event were Bob Wilkinson, Dennis

Johnson, Bill McNab, Andy McLean, Dick Toulson, "Edski", Geoff Tobin, Ken Fischer, Richard Mehr, Marty Campbell, Aaron Theisen, and Matt Cunningham. My hat is off to all of you that helped me out in getting Swanton ready for the run. As the closing hour for 2002 drew closer, Ken Fischer was gaining experience as our fireman—though this time not behind the steam engine. Instead, he was busily getting the bonfire, down at the fire pit organized, so that all our guests would be kept warm and dry during the course of the evening. He tended to this task all afternoon and long past midnight. We would also like to thank Ken McCrary for once again providing his well renowned hot mulled cider to all.

A side track to the night's activities brought us two new volunteers. One, being an outstanding clam chowder chef {hope you got to taste his delicious soup}—Jack Roberts, and the other, Larry Rowsen, a young man that actually rode the Overfaiw RailRoad in 1915 when he was only one year old! It should also be noted that this event is so popular that we draw our volunteers from afar—Ken Fischer came all the way from Washington, while Bill, Molly, and Linda Engelman drove 36 hours to attend the event from Colorado.

The Dec. work weekend, held earlier in the month, concentrated on getting ready for New Year's Eve. Heavy downpours of several inches of rain, kept all our volunteer efforts pretty much on indoor activities. Edski, Ftiz, and Richard worked in the carbarn on the passenger car. Mark Cooper, daughter Janiece, and new young member Clinton Barr worked on sandblasting, painting and organizing parts for the 1500. While Randy, Pete, Dennis, Andy, and Bob Wilkinson worked on the turntable lights. Matt, Aaron, and Eric hauled firewood most of the day.

We had our election of officers, the slate was accepted, and the total count, absentee and directly submitted were approximately 50% of our active volunteers. This puts us right in there with our national average for elections, however, we were minus any hanging "chads"-so no recounts! After a very wet, yet productive volunteer day Bob Wilkinson and crew (Martie Way, Arlene Watkinson, & Dennis Johnson) hosted a very festive and delicious Christmas dinner for all present. [Martha and Mary Ann especially want to thank them all for this very special treat.] However, just before getting ready to sit down to a very nice dinner at around 5:30 Geoff arrived on the grounds with an industrial turret lathe. Because of the continual rains we wanted to get it offloaded and into "dry-dock". This proved to be quite a feat, but two hours later the mission was finally accomplished, thanks to the team efforts of Fitz, Frank Smith, Andy, Dennis, Eric, Aaron, Matt, Bob, Geoff, & Bob Wilkinson. Obviously a good appetite had been worked up by all for the long awaited for dinner.



Lathe moving crew

Down Behind the Railway

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

My Fellow Swantoons:

Drifting down to the end of the year with shorter days, the Sun down low in the sky, thoughts about next to the potbelly stove. A perfect time to make plans amidst the bustle of holiday festivities.

But first, a little Society business. Per the elections, Andy McLean, Randy Jones, Pete McFall, and I are your new officers. While we are unopposed in our candidacy we appreciate your support to the Society.

Again I wish to stress that we officers, and those whose names you continuously see in the newsletter, do not comprise a cliché. We are the fortunate few that are able and willing to give our time to the railroad. There is no requirement you attend every workday but we, and you as Swantoons, dearly need your hands. Do you have a lathe or mill at home? We have machine work to be done. Did you build a forge? We have forge work.

If you can do it, we have it to be done.

And speaking of folks who work away from the railroad, our thanks to Linda Engelman, our outgoing Secretary, for all her efforts over the past two years in office and her, Bill, and Molly's devotion over the years. A commute from Colorado is beyond the call of duty. Thanks Linda.

While you're relaxing by the fire here some things to be done

Track

- San Vicente junction switch
- old tie replacement
- super elevation where needed
- construct siding to Maint. of Way bldg.

Engines

- 1913 - Boiler
 - cutout for wash plugs
 - send out for rework
 - mill brake valves
 - clean and inspect frame
- 1500 clean, paint, and assemble parts

ROLLING STOCK

- Complete ballast car and trucks
- KeyStone Car - car in carbarn
 - Clean and prep metal eye
 - Install brakes on trucks
 - Install brake foundation
- Spray and watering car
 - build on drop frame - need to build two trucks.
- Install airline quick connects on all flat cars and motorcar.
- Move train air angle cock handles from under seats on passenger cars.
- Make and replace journal box covers.
- Make and install top lift castings.

MISC. EQUIPMENT

- Forklift - fix starter and clutch.
- Yellow boom truck - tune up (4 mh)
 - Fix power steering, windows, doors, and mirrors.
- White boom truck
 - Connect throttle cable
 - Replace window
 - Adjust doors

This is only a partial list. Come on over to the railway. We've something for you and we'll have fun.

My, and Pat's, best wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year.



Turn table light

Observation Car

From our members

Ramblings from the Secretary

As we go into the New Year and proceed on with our projects we would like to document the progress. If you have taken pictures and have a compact flash card in your camera, we can download your pictures to Ed's laptop before you leave the ranch, see us for the full details.

If you have ANY changes in your address, name, etc. please forward to pmcfall@prodigy.net so that we can update our records, or be sure to indicate changes on your renewal applications when you send in your 2003 membership. Which, by the way, are due anytime now.

Facilities & Grounds

We all need to help with our garbage. Please do not put heavy or sharp items in the garbage cans. Someone must be able to pick up and transport the bags. All heavy items should be placed in the garbage trailer.

REMINDER: BEFORE LEAVING SWANTON'S PREMISES, PLEASE, BE SURE TO FILL OUT & SIGN THE WORK LOG FOR HOURS YOU WORKED. THE WORK LOG IS IN THE MACHINE SHOP NEXT TO THE PHONE.



New Year Eves dinner

Redhouse Reservations:

I 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:

Rick Mugele	LaGrange
Lawrence Rawson	Felton
Jack Roberts	Soquel

On behalf of the entire organization, we welcome each of you into our "train family" & 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 & vice versa.

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

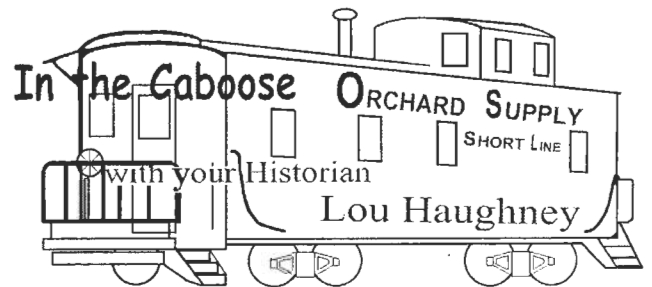
Mary Ann Carnegie

Jan. 11/12 First Work weekend of 2003
 Feb. 8/9 Work Weekend
 March 8/9 Work Weekend
 April 13 Al Smith Day Run

A huge thank you goes to all of you that helped out to make the New Year's Eve Event so, so successful. Nothing but compliments were heard for the event and we know that is all due to each of your efforts and friendly greetings to all who attended. We know 2003 will be busy year full of fun filled events. Ed and I certainly look forward to sharing them with all of you. The 2003 calendar is still being fine tuned, but we would hope that if any of you have suggestions for workdays, things to do, or places to go, etc. that you will bring them forward so that the entire society can work on making them successful &/or to do something different. Dinners & work days are always open for new suggestions.

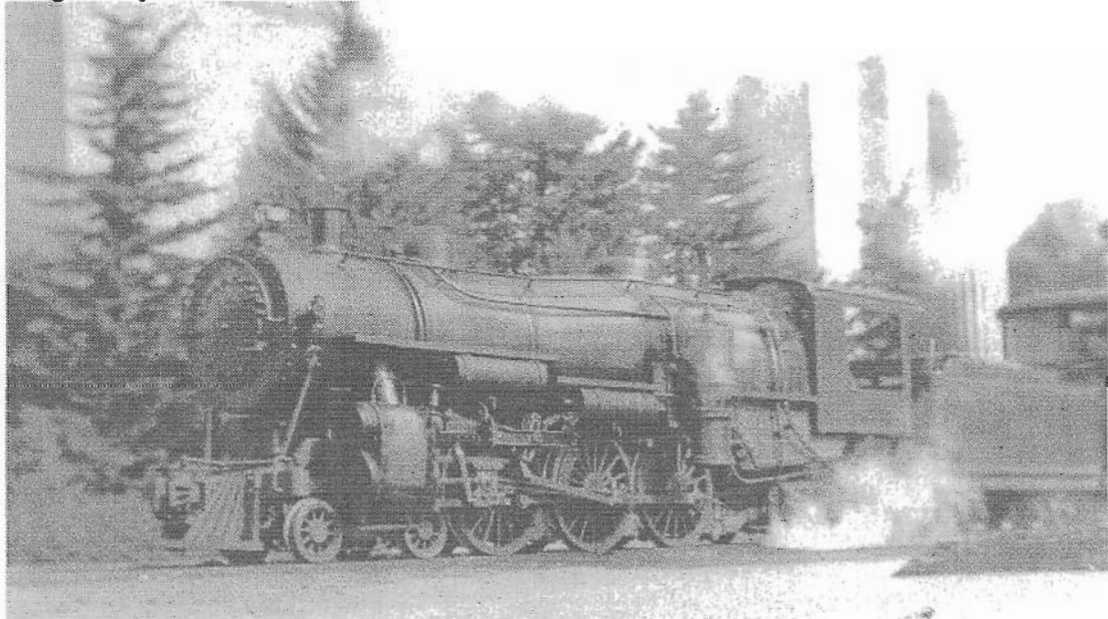
The next big event of the year will be our annual Al Smith Day. This will be the on the 2nd work weekend of the month, Sun. April 13. This is not really that far off and much preparation will have to be done to get ready after all the winter rains, cold etc. If you have guests you would like to invite,

please get their names and addresses to me ASAP so that they will be included in on the mailing list.



REQUEST FOR THE NEWSLETTER OF MARCH 1998

If you have the SPRS Newsletter for March 1998, please send it or a copy to Lou Haughney at 884 Cordilleras Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070-3732. If you send the original, I will copy it and return your copy. I have misplaced my copy. Thanks, Lou.



A MacDermot locomotive and cars on the "ready" track at the Overfair Railway's yard at the Panama Pacific International Exposition. . The locomotive's number is illegible on the original print. . Photo is from the archives of the Swanton Pacific Railroad Society