

## SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 148

Cal Poly

Nov. 2005

### ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

With four successful events, my sincere gratitude goes out to all volunteers that made the events at the end of Sept. and first of October a roaring success. Since our last newsletter, Grand Scales Quarterly held their bi-annual convention at Hillcrest Farms in Reedly, CA. Mary Ann and I took our fifth wheel there and spent three-days as tourists in beautiful down town Reedly, and the surrounding area attending the convention. I presented the first talk of the convention, where I elaborated on Swanton's wash-out in 2000. The purpose of my presentation was to show how a group of volunteers can work together as a team and successfully accomplish a large project in a short period of time.

I went into the details leading up to the construction and of the great team spirit developed by our volunteers. The convention's participants were quite impressed not only with the uniqueness of the project, but with the dedication and teamwork of the volunteers, and that the only access to the site was via the railroad. That is, EVERYTHING was transported by rail; the crane was used as pile driver, as well as placed all the logs. It is very seldom that Grand Scale equipment is used for large scale projects. We left the convention early to participate in Swanton's Land Trust event. Again, this event was a great success. They said they fed over 500 "pic-nic-ers". Various forms of entertainment was provided by bands, vocal groups, other musical ensembles, singers, antique cars, and most importantly train rides! Fitz and Anthony teamed up as Station-Masters for the day, and were very successful in monitoring crowd control. However, as the crowds grew during the course of the day it became quite apparent that a more efficient exit strategy needs to be implemented. This is a project we will be working on.

With Cal Poly Day being the week prior to Land Trust, much of the prep work was already accomplished. Even so, we still had about 16 volunteers on Friday, with

the bulk of the effort going into finishing touches on rolling stock to make sure we had the maximum number of cars available. Our one and only original MacDermott car was brought out of storage, checked out and put into service. A thorough inspection of all the cars revealed that one of the wheel sets on the six wheel truck on the Chief's Car had different diameter wheels on the same axle resulting in a rough ride. Being able to bring the cars on the work rack and go over them, simplifies the inspection process.

For a real treat, two of our chef engineers, Marty Campbell and Geoff Tobin volunteered to provide a gourmet dinner of Italiano spaghetti, garlicky/garlic bread and salad. Needless to say a good time was had by all, and everything and everybody was in top-notch condition for the run the next day.

After spending two days at home we were "on-the-road-again" to Swanton for the October work weekend. Even though the numbers were low, accomplishments on various projects was high. Doors were installed in the Cal Barn; ventilation fans were installed in the loft doors; Fitz installed a loft hoist; great progress was made on the electrical system, and the Cal Barn project is nearing completion. The Chinese crawler debuted down the road, our great trappers caught a gopher, and are grounds people manicured the greens. October saw the end to another busy, yet very successful train season. We are now back on track with the one work weekend a month. Though our mailing address for the last few months seemed to have been P.O. Box 101, but with all the assistance and support from all our dedicated volunteers we always look forward to coming to Swanton to see and work with our friends.

***REMINDER:*** Anyone wanting to have an article/photo printed in the SPRR newsletter should have copy sent to [ecarnegi@calpoly.edu](mailto:ecarnegi@calpoly.edu) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



**Train crew for Santa Cruz Land Trust**

### **Down Behind the Railway**

With your President, air monkey, & car-barnist.

Reynold 'Fitz' FitzPatrick

RGBFitz@aol.com 650.737.9584

My Fellow Swantoons:

We are over celebrating Samhain, (which is pronounced *sow win'*, nothing like you would expect from the spelling), or summers-end, Halloween, and November Eve with the exception of some who are, in the words of G. Wilson,"... here for the party!"

Our next General Meeting of the membership will be Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 noonish. The first order of business will be election of officers.

Candidates for office, duly nominated at our October 15 General Meeting, are:

First Vice-President: Geoff Tobin  
(incumbent)

Second Vice-President: Bob Wilkinson

Treasurer: Ed Carnegie

There is still some work to do on the Cal Barn. We'd like to have the windows installed before the New Year's Run and celebration.

The 1913 and 1500 still have parts to be cleaned and painted – inside work for those rainy days.

Dwight, we have the keystone car loaded on a trailer and as soon as we can find a means of hauling it to you we make arrangements to have it cleaned, primed, and painted. This has been a years long project with rebuilding work still to be done. This car has been the practice run for the other two clerestory railcars and with luck they will be restored much quicker.

**THINGS TO DO, THINGS TO LEARN. COME ON  
DOWN, WE'LL HAVE FUN. FITZ**

Positions for SPRR photographer & organizer. are still open. We MUST have someone out there interested in taking photos of workday projects, to have a pictorial history of what takes place at Swanton. Wages or rewards are seeing them published in the newsletter. Contact me ASAP.



**Santa Cruz Land Trust Picnic**

### UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

Nov.	11/12/13	Veterans Day work weekend
Dec.	10/11	work weekend/wreath making
Dec.	31	New Year's Eve potluck/train Rides

We have just been informed that Martie Way and Bob Wilkinson are planning Sat. night's meal for the upcoming the November work weekend. So for all of you that may be coming and staying for dinner it would be wise to call or email your rsvp in to them so that they can plan accordingly.

For the Dec. work weekend, we will again offer our wreath making class for all that are interested. Like last year, your wreaths will be made from Swanton redwoods &/or bay wood trees. We discovered several of you had a real artistic talent and a wide variety of wreaths were created for friends, to give as gifts, to grace your homes, and even to decorate some of Swanton's engines, as well as the roundhouse. So if you, or even your

friends are interested in participating, let us know so that we can make arrangements to have adequate supplies on hand. There will be a minimal cost of \$5.00 to cover for some of the decorative supplies needed to enhance the wreaths.

Now, for a brief update on New Year's Eve. We will be having our usual potluck dinner around 8:00PM. Seems the later we eat, the sooner the New Year comes—many of us seem to have a hard time staying up that late. And, yes, we have a theme. With all the activity & improvements taking place in the Cal Barn—Pete suggested the theme of "Barn-Raising" [I did say BARN RAISING] to end the old year & ring in the new. So a barn raising theme it will be. If any of you have further suggestions, ideas, etc. on decorating please step up, your assistance is always appreciated. Stay tuned!

**REMINDER: anyone wanting to stay overnight for work weekends should call or email reservations in ASAP.** Facilities are limited & we want to make sure we can accommodate everyone. Call (805) 995-3659 or e-mail [ecarnegi@calpoly.edu](mailto:ecarnegi@calpoly.edu). It also helps immensely in trying to successfully plan for how many people are staying for a Sat. night dinner!



**Double header with 1912 and 1914**

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

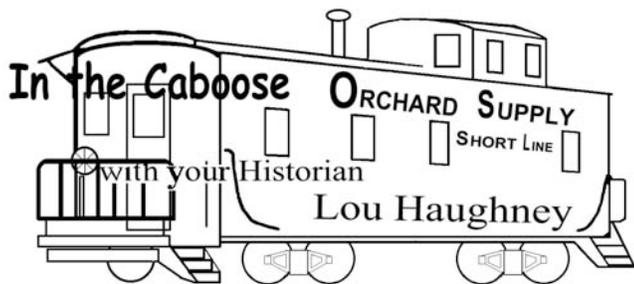
Steve Montgomery

Royal Oaks

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. Also be sure to introduce yourself to both Pete McFall, Secretary to obtain your membership book with bylaws, etc. & then to Bob Wilkinson so that he can make up your very own "gold", laminated nametag with all pertinent information.

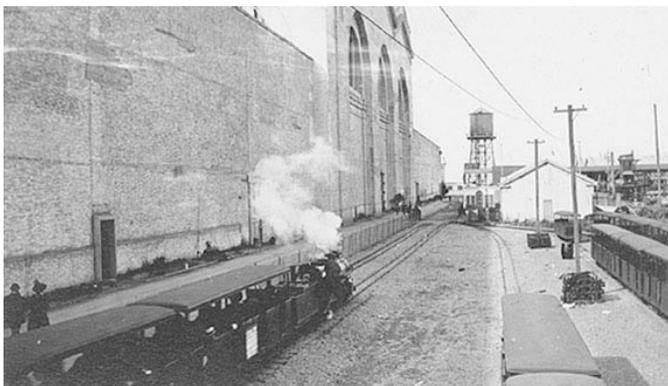
has just passed beyond the yard's control tower. At the far end of this view, the tracks turn to the left (west) to run about 2 miles along the shore of the San Francisco Bay. Just in front of the engine, we see the two sets of tracks for the mainline. Immediately to the left of the tracks is a fence, typical of the type seen in the pictures shown earlier of the passenger loading stations. The presence of a fence seems reasonable as there appears to be a walking path between the tracks and the Machinery Palace. Is the water tower in the middle background for the Railway's locomotives, or is it for the Exposition's water system?

SPRS Archive No. 1913-1915 LMM-0021, from the Al Smith collection.

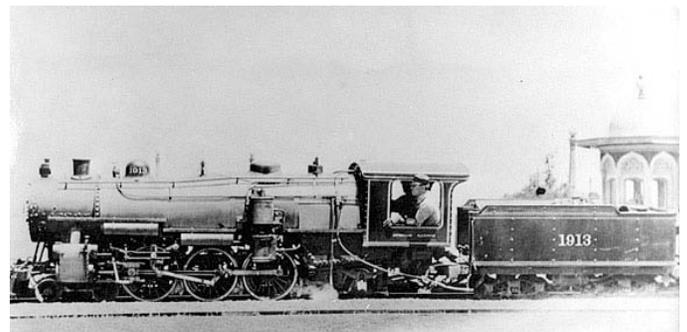


#### ACTIVITY IN THE OVERFAIR RAILWAY'S MAIN YARD, continued

Scenes from Daily Operations of the Overfair Railway at the Panama Pacific International Exposition (1)



An Overfair Railway train is heading out from the main yard for the day's runs at the Panama Pacific International Exposition. On the left is the back wall of the Machinery Palace; on the right are the storage tracks for the passenger cars. The train



This is a good profile view of the Overfair Railway's locomotive No. 1913 running at the Panama Pacific International Exposition. Two persons seem to be in the engine's cab.; or, is the silhouette beside the engineer who is leaning out of the left side just his shadow? This is the first photo in our collections to suggest that there may have been two persons for the engine crew. All the other photos examined so far show only one engine crew man. If there were only one, then when did he shovel more coal into the firebox? The only landmark in this scene is the small, unidentified structure on the right.

SPRS Archive No. 1913-1915 LMM-0019, from the Al Smith collection.