

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 155

Cal Poly

July 2006

ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

Our summer is under way, the nights are beautiful, and the stars are bright. This is a wonderful time of the year for Swanton, especially with all the Buckeyes and flowers in bloom, and with the great evenin's to gather 'round the fire for samores, and some good conversation. Mary Ann and I arrived on Thurs. 6/6/06 and found Andy and Vera applying supplemental water to our proverbial dry spots in the lawn. This little extra care sure makes our picnic area look good. We also discovered that Bill McNab had just left, but had taken care of his watering tasks he so loves, and his tending to his new dahlia plantings. Can't wait to see these beauties in full bloom. Friday morning we were joined by Edski, Pete, Richard, Andy, and John (Ernie's father), where work took us all down the track to clean up from the high prevailing winds of the preceding week that brought down several trees, limbs, etc.. Then to everyone's delight Bob arrived JUST in time to BBQ dinner for ever one that evening after all ended a good workout at the Swanton gym.

Saturday additional volunteers, Martha, Fitz, Dick, Stan, Geoff, Amy and Scott, Mark C., Robert, and Matt joined in the fun. Pete took a crew down the track to make sure all was ready for the anticipated Sat. run. A group of approximately 75 forest growers had a meeting in the meadow and were offered a train ride. Crew for the day was myself as engineer on the 502, Pete, Edski, and Robert, as brakeman and/or conductors. The group was treated to two runs prior to lunch. Additional requests were made for runs after lunch and until the cars were finally put away around 5:00PM.

While the train crew hosted our visitors, Fitz forged ahead on his aluminum forge. The garden crew stayed busy all day long weedin', planting and re-seedin'. For the evening everyone was waiting in anticipation for the "alphabet" dinner. As usual there was plenty to eat and with a great variety. Tobin-Terryiaki Chicken; Wilkinson with "Wookie Bobs"; Kennedy-kneugels; Przemielewski-pie and a potato salad; Carnegie-casserole; McFall-macaroni; Ortiz-open green salad. In fact there was so much to eat that for Sunday we did a repeat for lunch for the ten that stayed over. Most of the activities for Sunday were continuing to clean up in and around the grounds, and to spray weeds along the track.

Work continued for the second work weekend with a small, but efficient crew of volunteers. A project for this weekend was to change our back mounted backhoe into a shovel. For those of you who may not understand the difference—a backhoe-pulls soil toward the implement, which in the case of track work is not the best way. You want to keep the soil away from the ballast. A shovel, on the other hand, digs by moving away from the implement, so therefore soil is not brought into the ballast. To accomplish this modification, the bucket had to be modified by removing one of the pivot points and then welding it onto the other end of the bucket. This modification worked fairly well, but will still need some fine tuning. Saturday, Fitz, Richard and crew refined the aluminum forge by casting a lid for the furnace; produced a mechanical means to remove the lid to access the inside of the furnace. It was then test fired under low heat to bake the fire clay and is now ready for another run when more aluminum scrap can be obtained. Pete and Bob watered almost all day Saturday. Then Pete and I

worked with the new shovel on Sunday getting dirt away from the track. With the two work weekends a month it gives us more to report, more time to work on projects, and more time to share in all the fun. We hope all of you will be able to come to either one or both of the weekends as Mary Ann and I always look forward to seeing all of you at Swanton.



Our famous buckeye

Down Behind the Railway

With your President, air monkey, & car-barnist.
Reynold 'Fitz' FitzPatrick
RGBFitz@aol.com 650.737.9584

My Fellow Swantoons:

The solstice passed, marking the beginning of summer and that most important day of celebration – 230 years of independence on the Fourth of July.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

What brave souls, "... opposing with manly firmness his (George III) invasions on the rights of the people", to declare their, and our, independence and risk all in doing so.

And of those Rights; their wisdom in declaring that "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are but three. There are more, see the first ten amendments.

From Founding Fathers to 'down behind the railway' and our foundry seems to be the appropriate segue.

Last workday an industrious band; (Stan, Pete, Andy, EdSki, Rich, Scott, Ernie's dad John, Geoff, Ed, and Randy on sax) built a foundry furnace, crucible, work stand, journal fixture, and some appropriate tools, all for the purpose of pouring aluminum into journal boxes. By the end of the day we had poured four journals, enough for one truck. Only a couple hundred left to go.

The purpose of this endeavor is to replace journal bearings and keys with roller bearings which are better suited to our limited operation and environment. The boxes are filled with aluminum which is then machined to accept roller bearings and oil seals

Each journal box requires about six pounds of aluminum. As the aluminum is constrained by the cast iron journal boxes it does not have to be of a high quality, nor consistent, alloy. To that end, if you have any unloved aluminum pistons, small engines, lawn furniture, and the like taking up valuable space bring it on over to the car barn.

Finally, consider spending some time at the Swanton Summer Camp, the week of August 12th thru the 20th.

Founding fathers

Foundry

August summer camp

Fitz

REMINDER: Anyone wanting to have an article/photo printed in the SPRR newsletter should have copy sent to ecarnegi@calpoly.edu by the 20th of the month.



Richard, Pete and John making frame for forge

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

July 08-09 work weekend-Dutch oven cookers
 July 22 Golden Spikes Run/potluck
 July 23 work weekend/practice runs
 Aug. 12-13 work weekend
 Aug. 25-27 BAGR's weekend event
 Sept. 09-10 work weekend
 Sept. 23 prepare for Land Trust
 Sept. 24 Land Trust Run
 Sept. 30 prepare for Cal Poly Day
 Oct. 01 CAL POLY DAY RUN

“Ollie Ollie Dutch oven-cookers free” — translated means—all Dutch ovens should be coming out for the Sat. night dinner on July 8's work day. Get 'em seasoned and ready for a gourmet delight, great smells in the open arena, and just plain ole fun with some extra iron ingestion to boot. We should be able to stack 'em up and have a very well balanced meal of meat, veggies, bread or starches, and most importantly dessert. Anyone who hasn't tried or experienced a Dutch oven meal will not want to miss out on this. After all if, “It ain't Dutch, it ain't much!” I can say that with some Dutch heritage. Hope all Dutch “oveners” will come on out to sizzle, drizzle or slow cook.

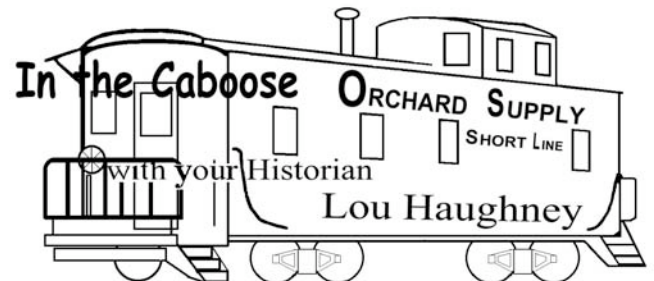
On another note—please note the dates and activities as listed for July through October. Remember too, to get names and addresses of any guests you would like include in the Cal Poly Day event. AND now that it is July—New Year's is only 6 months away and we need a theme for the gala event. After all many of us need to plan for what we will want to wear with shoes/hat & bag to match! Theme suggestions are always welcomed.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE: anyone wanting to stay overnight for work weekends call or e-mail 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.

It also helps in trying to successfully plan for how many people are staying for a Sat. night dinner!



Shovel loading and unloading, merged photo



OVERFAIR RAILWAY'S MAIN YARD AT THE P.P.I.E., part 2



Forest producers meet for BBQ

This set of Overfair Railway photos shows activities in the southern end of the Main Yard. The Panama Canal Building is the large structure with the mural in the background. The blank wall of the right is the back side of the Machinery Palace; and, the Southern Pacific building is in the background between the other two buildings.

In the first picture, the Overfair railway's turntable is the dominant railway feature. This picture shows its construction. Note the three tracks in the scene; one at the far right curves to the west around the corner of the Machinery Palace. The

second track at the middle right goes past the turntable site to the left (east). The third track, at the left side, goes to the turntable. The latter two tracks may be temporary ones.



Photo 1 Overfair railway's turntable

In the second photo, a Pacific locomotive with at least one empty passenger car is heading down the track towards the corner of the Machinery Palace. Where is it going? If that track were to continue farther, it would go along a main Exposition street. However, MacDermot's franchise restricted his trackage to the north side of the Exposition's grounds along the bay front, as all existing maps indicate. Also in the second photo, we see at its left edge part of the work car shown in the first picture. So these two photos may have been taken about the same time, if we presume the turntable was finished before the Exposition was open to the public.



Photo 2 A Pacific locomotive and the Machinery Palace

The third photo was obviously taken later than the first two. The turntable has been completed. A ticket booth is now located where the work cars were parked on the middle track in the first photo; and, there is no indication of that track. Moreover,

a fence separates the turntable and the booth from the walkway in front of the Panama Canal Building. This view shows a track that comes from the left and goes beside the walking path. So, what is the purpose of that track? Is it part of the Overfair Railway, or was it one of the many standard gauge tracks used during the construction phase of the Exposition?



Photo 3 Turntable and ticket booth

Looking at these early photos and comparing them raises many such questions as the above. The scarcity of detailed information about the Overfair Railway's operations leads to much speculation. In particular, the destination of that track leading to the Machinery Palace's corner has puzzled me for some time. Do you have any suggestions as to its purpose?

The fourth photo shows a passenger train departing from the station at the turntable and heading out to pass by the control tower. This train was so crowded that a few passengers are hanging on to the sides of the cars. The photographer was probably standing in the area between the diverging tracks in the first and the second pictures. That puzzling track turning the corner of the Machinery Palace is visible along the building's shadow line.



Photo 4 Passenger train and control tower