

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 160

Cal Poly

Jan. 2007

ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

It is hard to believe that 2007 is almost here. This has been a very productive year. The Cal Barn was trimmed, painted, and the sidewalls insulated and paneled. Come this New Year's Eve you will see the semi-finished product. The next step will be to install some showcases for historical displays and add some window and door trim. A variety of student's projects were incorporated into our operation this year: a Bio-Resource Agricultural Engineering [BRAE] machine design class at Cal Poly, SLO, finished the design and construction of a wheel grinder for the railroad, and an Agribusiness class did a business plan for a Christmas Tree operation at Swanton. Each provided a great opportunity to bring students into our planning and operations. We also produced some novel projects this year such as an aluminum forge for casting truck-bearing boxes, and designing and building a shovel attachment for our track mounted backhoe. A crowd control fence was built around the train station. We purchased a new tractor with a PTO driven wood chipper that will help in brush control along the right-of-way. Then in order to make this equipment even more useful, a flat car, was modified with extensions and ramps built to allow the tractor and equipment to be transported by rail. A small shed was built to assist in the future operations in the train field. We also have a number of continuing projects that will need many years to complete: A new rail car is being built by our young members; the rebuilding of locomotives 1500 & 1913, as well as the keystone passenger cars.

Whew—lots accomplished and still a long list to complete—but all for fun and entertainment!

Again, I want to thank you one and all for your participation and dedication to SPRR. It is through all your efforts that makes this such a worthwhile activity.

We hope you and yours had a very Merry Christmas and for those that are not able to join us for New's Years Eve, we wish all a very Happy New Year, and look forward to sharing good times and friendships in 2007.

Down Behind the Railway

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

Reynold 'Fitz' FitzPatrick

RGBFitz@aol.com 650.737.9584

My Fellow Swantoons:

How else to start by expressing my wishes for a happy New Year?

A hundred years ago the good folks living in "Earthquake Refugee Cottages", or 'shacks' in the Richmond District of San Francisco were beginning to either move out or move one or two shacks to a vacant lot elsewhere in the city. These shacks were designed by San Francisco Park Superintendent John McLaren and built by the Department of Lands and Buildings of the Relief Corporation to house refugees from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. They were about 10 feet by 15 feet with gable ends and constructed of redwood – which is why the redwood trees near Swanton are second growth.

Life was looking up, but not without trials and tribulations, with rebuilding by the City that could.

If we could obtain permission of the County I would like to see a scale version of a 'refugee

camp' near San Vicente Junction, all painted 'park bench green' as were the originals, which could be used as storage for our gardening equipment. I believe it would fit with our century old railway. Just another project on the "to do" list.

And speaking of rebuilding (nice segue that?) the 1913 and 1500 continue to make progress and the Cal-barn has new interior walls.

Next workday, January 13th, 2007 we have some immediate projects:

Randy and Marty will be working on the 1914's back head.

Weather permitting;

Pete would like to set up the billboard.

We need to connect the raw water system to the water treatment equipment – as yet an unassigned job.

Should the weather be inclement there is always general housekeeping and reducing scrap aluminum to ingots.

EdSki is working on the Keystone car decking and Rick is cleaning and painting the car's trucks.

They could use some help.

That's all folks.

Fitz

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.

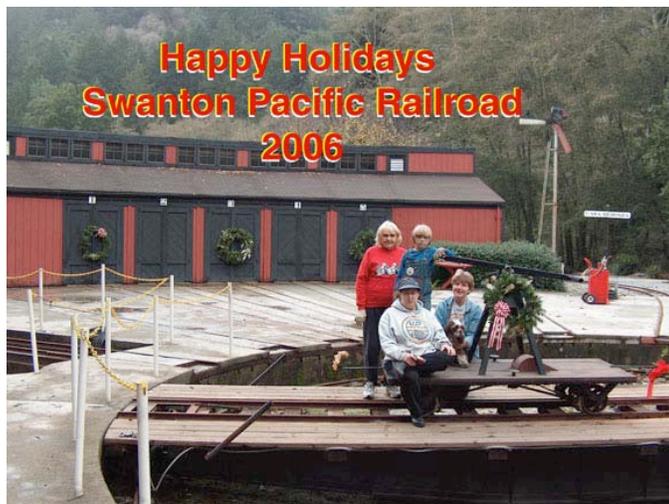


Christmas dinner at Swanton

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

- Dec. 30 getting ready for New Year's Eve Run
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Run/potluck
- Jan. 13-14 work weekend
- Feb. 10-11 work weekend



Some of the results from the wreath makers and Pete's handy work

NEW SOCIETY SUPPORTERS are:

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Rick Coats | Burlingame |
| Bruce Compiano | Boulder Creek |

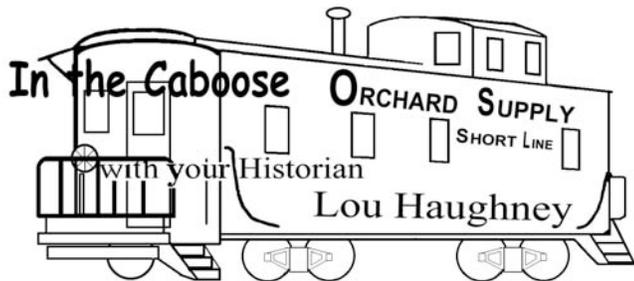
On behalf of the entire organization, we welcome each of you into our "train family" & we certainly look forward to seeing you at some of our next events. Many of our supporters may not recognize you right away so please introduce yourselves so that we can get to better

Well—only 300plus days until Christmas! Start getting ready now to avoid the rush and hassle for 2007! We hope everyone had some safe, sane and enjoyable holidays. Now to get back into the routine of mundane living without the "fairy-tale" land creations within your very own living rooms. The workouts at Swanton provide fun, new opportunities, and good times for all. The new year will provide a calendar of events ranging from our regularly scheduled workdays, and other run day events, but hopefully many new and different kinds of "things" will work themselves into the year for all to enjoy. The fun days, family camp, and other events are being worked on with perhaps a different flair so stay tuned for details, as we know that inquiring minds want to know! Also, if anyone has suggestions, or ideas don't hesitate to bring them forth as nothing ventured is nothing gained. As far as for planning for the Sat. night dinners, for those staying over, we would welcome sign-ups in advance, or numbers to call for reservations, take out. We are willing to try anything—well within

reason, but, but new and different is and would be appreciated.

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.



VISITORS ON LAND TRUST DAY AND CAL POLY DAY

The SPRS's special event days, such as the Land Trust and the Cal Poly Days, always bring friends and visitors who contribute much information and support for our historical records.

Al Smith's nieces and nephews usually have material that they continue to find in Al's papers, keepsakes, and collections. In addition, they are often able to fill in missing information about the early days of building the Swanton Pacific Railroad.

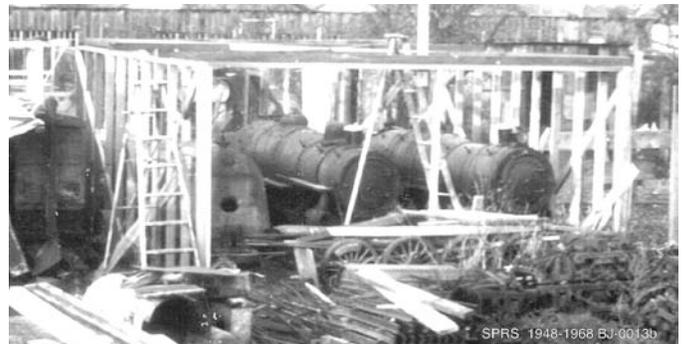
At the last Cal Poly Day in early October, Susie, Al's niece, and her husband Robert England had more papers relating to Al's associations with the California State Railroad Museum. Also, they helped to identify persons who assisted Al in building the Swanton Pacific Railroad in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Guy LaMar, Al's nephew, found some snapshots of MacDermot's Overfair locomotives and cars scattered on a vacant lot. No notes as to date and place were on the backs. Randy Jones identified the site as a vacant lot owned by Billy Jones on the old San Tomas Road in Campbell. We surmise that the pictures show the temporary



Storage of Overfair Railway locomotives in the late 1940's at Billy Jones' lots in the Los Gatos-Campbell area. Note cabs on right and three locomotives in left background.

storage of the Overfair rolling stock after it had been moved by MacDermot and Billy Jones about 1944 or 1945 from the Oakland Zoological Gardens to Billy's lots.



Storage of MacDermot's Overfair Railway equipment in the late 1940's at Billy Jones' lots in the Los Gatos/Campbell area. Close-up of a locomotive shed under construction.

Earlier this year, Guy found a book, *The Boy Scouts at the Panama-Pacific Exposition* (published 1915) by "Lieut. Howard Payson", a prolific writer of serial books for young boys entitled *The Boy Scouts at ...*, etc. (Who remembers the Tom Swift series?) Al, a lifelong Eagle Boy Scout, received the book from a friend, "Woody", who regretted that the adventurous heroes of the story did not indicate whether or not they rode on the Overfair Railway although they seemed to have explored most of the Exposition with their usual perilous mishaps and adventures.

Bernard and Lorraine Bayuk of Portola Valley



Two MacDermot's Overfair locomotives stored on Billy Jones' lots in the Los Gatos/Campbell area, about 1944-1949. Views 1 and 2 are to the right of this view.

brought many recent issues of the journal *Railroad History*, published by The Railroad & Locomotive Historical Society. A few years ago, on one of their regular visits, they had donated a set of earlier issues. These journals contain lengthy articles both of general and specific railroading history, lists of locomotives rosters, and a long informative section of book reviews.

A group from the Fresno State University (FSU) Special Collections Library came on Cal Poly Day to see the Overfair Railway's locomotives because the latter are one of very few surviving features of the Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE). Their interest had been stimulated by the FSU Special Collections Library's recent accession of *The Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs, 1851 - 1940*, which included much PPIE material. The group included Tammy Lau, the Special Collections Librarian, Jean Coffey of the Library staff, Randy Vaughn-Dotta of the FSU Photography Department, and Donald G. Larson, the donor of that collection. While looking through our collection of PPIE photos, Don Larson was able to identify for us many of the buildings in the background of our Overfair Railway pictures.

We reviewed with the FSU visitors our collections; and we described our present task of digitally scanning and archiving our photos. Randy Vaughn-Dotta said the FSU Photography department has special equipment for scanning and enhancing old negatives. So, we let him take a set of sixty-five 3x4 negatives of varying quality that



Overfair Railway train on the short, over-water trestle along the northern bay front at the Panama Pacific International Exposition. (1915) View is looking west at the Golden Gate channel in the background, long before the Golden Gate Bridge was built. Photo was scanned and enhanced by the FSU Photo. Dep't. from an old, original, 3x4 negative in Al Smith's collection.

had been stored casually for more than fifty years. An example of the excellent restoration Randy achieved is shown in one of the attached images.

Finally, another Cal Poly Day visitor gave me website images of steam powered bicycles. Yes, in the 1890's and the early 1900's, small steam engines were built for mounting on bicycles or motorcycles. Both of the latter terms are used in the descriptions. (Unfortunately, I did not note that visitor's name.) For more information on this fascinating connection to our interest in steam engines, check these web sites:

http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/2006/09/steam_bicycles.html?CMP=OTC-0D6B48984890

http://www.antiquemotorcycle.org/TheClub/museum/ex_mus/TheBikes/

Many thanks to all these people for their interest in the Swanton Pacific Railroad and for their of our historical efforts. Keep coming back in 2007.

Note: Thanks also to those who digitally scanned and processed the old, original snapshots and the old negative for the accompanying pictures; namely, Chris Taylor for the equipment storage views and Randy Vaughn-Dotta for the PPIE Overfair Railway trestle view.