

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 162

Cal Poly

Mar. 2007

ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

When I arrived Thursday noon, Randy, Fitz and Richard were working on the electrical distribution panel in the caboose that services College Park. This is part of the upgrade required by the county. They have done a first rate professional job. In the afternoon, Fitz and I met with the ranch's personnel in a general meeting for open communications and discussion on future projects. Further in the newsletter you will see an article submitted by the ranch to bring everyone up-to-date on what is taking place on the ranch side.

On Friday, Richard and Pete, helped on the task of making switch points. This is a project where we can take advantage of our plainer, which is an old piece of equipment originally driven by an over-head pulley system and in many cases was powered by a steam engine. A metal plainer is a machine where the table moves, and the tool is stationary. The plainer has a travel of approximately five feet, which gives us the ability to produce the tapers that are necessary for the switch points. Later in the day Edski arrived and continued his activity of cutting up aluminum for our forge operations. Bob arrived early enough for lunch where all of us could dine outside to enjoy the good weather. Rick and Geoff, as usual, arrived in time for a delicious shrimp pené dinner prepared by Chef Edski.

Saturday our full crew of volunteers arrived to work on various projects. Bob, Stan, Robert, Kyle all worked with Edski in the car-barn doing various tasks as well as re-decking the keystone cars. Rick and Scott painted truck parts for the cars; Marty stayed busy with cleaning and painting the cab of the 1914 to have ready for Al Smith Day; Fitz and Randy concentrated on the electrical sub-panel in the caboose; Geoff and Bruce worked in the machine shop; Lou pruned and tidied up the roses, as well as catalogued some more of the historical information; Pete and I went down the track and worked on the switch in the train field. Martha, Carol and Amy did some gardening and then were busily preparing a turkey dinner for all that evening with all the trimmings. We were really spoiled with all their fixings—but I especially appreciated this spoiling since Mary Ann was not in attendance this past month.

Sunday morning we had our quarterly board meeting, which was very productive. That afternoon, Bill, Pete, Colin, Kyle and I returned to the train field to continue work on the switch. Colin, a NRM forestry student, measured water levels in the train field to investigate the possibility of a well on the site for Christmas and pumpkin irrigation.

This month, most efforts will concentrate on finishing up existing projects and getting ready for the opening of our train ride season with Al Smith Day—more on this under publicity.

NEW SOCIETY SUPPORTERS are:

David Campen Palo Alto,

On behalf of the entire organization, we welcome 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.



Planner working switch point

Swanton Pacific Ranch News

1. Cattle arrived on the Ranch the weekend of February 2nd and 3rd. We have 547 head of cattle in



Gordon Claassen and students unloading stocker

the stocker program this year. That is an increase of almost fifty head. Gordon Claassen, Livestock Manager, has been hard at work on developing new springs to accommodate larger herds. We have eighteen students involved in the program. A few of the stocker enterprise students will be here every weekend for the remainder of the winter and spring quarter to assist and learn about managing the herd.



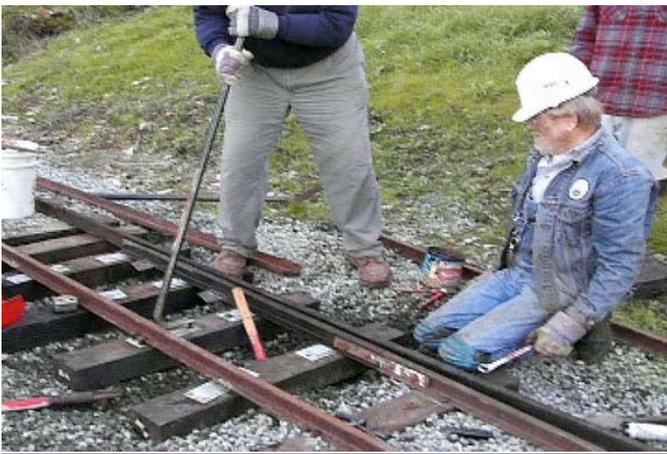
Some of the stockers

2. Winter is here and finally the rains are coming. The students involved in the Little Creek suspended sediment study are kicking into high gear for their busy season. They will be collecting samples from the flumes on Little Creek, getting a data line to all the stations in order to be able to remotely download sampling data, and plans are in the works for more sampling stations.

3. The Queseria Restoration Project continues with more planting weekends coming up. Students will spend a few weekends each month at the ranch to continue in the effort to restore native vegetation along the riparian corridor.

4. Also in the works is pruning and planting in the organic apple orchard. We have purchased 60 new apple seedlings to replace trees that have been lost since the orchard was first planted. One of our 2006 summer interns is returning to continue in the efforts to improve the orchard. He will also be starting a cover crop this year to help control weeds.

5. The facility improvements continue to move forward. The first phase of the communications and water project is completed. We are pleased to have direct or wireless capabilities at all of the main facilities, as well as phone extensions that work the same way as campus phones. Everyone has been very pleased with the painting and new carpeting and flooring in the Red House. The offices at the Green House have also been spruced up considerably. The next building on the list is the Staub House. It has received new flooring and carpeting and we have begun prep work for painting as well.



Pete and Bill working on switch

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

Mar. 10-11 work weekend

April 14 prepare for Al Smith Day run

April 15 AL SMITH DAY RUN

Only a month away and lots to do to get ready for our 14th annual Al Smith Day run. Invitations have been sent off to the printers to get distributed and we will be anticipating, come rain or shine, a fun-loving eventful day with rail fans coming from all around to take part in this spectacular event. The ranch will be displaying its various aspects of projects, walking tours, roping of claves, etc. The railroad will provide their infamous Santa Maria style BBQ, along with the informative trains rides narrated by Pete McFall while on board taking in the sites and sounds. As of right now we will also be having a car club coming to participate

and display for our guest enjoyment their well maintained classic cars. As chair of events—I will more than likely be tapping many of you on the shoulder to help out with all the tasks to make this a most successful event. The usual list will include welcoming all, helping to show our guests where to park, serving, cooking, ticket taker, registration, selling of merchandise, station master, general other hosting duties, tours of facilities and then our not to be forgotten task of EVERYONE helping with getting things cleaned up and back in place before departing. As always quoted—“Many hands, make the tasks easier.” This month we will spent much of our time sprucing things up, taking inventory of what we have on hand or not for the event. For the Al Smith Day I would also remind our volunteers that true to tradition of what Al liked after every meal was a little something sweet to top it off. This is the one time we ask our volunteers to bake a dessert to bring in honor of Al to share with our guests for the dessert—so if you desire to bake a cake, cookies or whatever bring out your Sarah Lee or Pillsbury doughboy qualities to share with all.

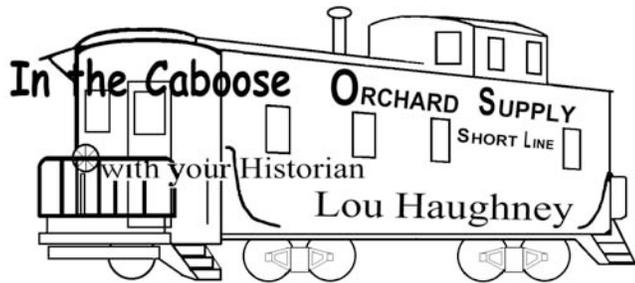
Included in the newsletter is an invitation for the event. We encourage you to copy this and distribute to as many of your friends and in-laws as you desire. We always enjoy sharing this special gift from Al with as many as possible.



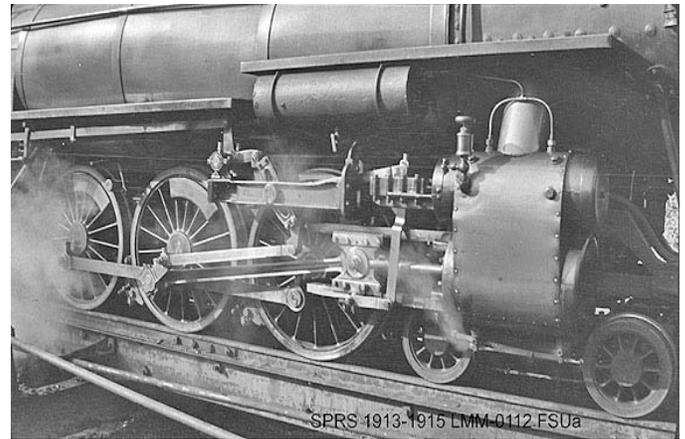
Motor Car making first pass through new switch

PLEASE: anyone staying overnight for work weekends, call or e-mail reservations in ASAP.

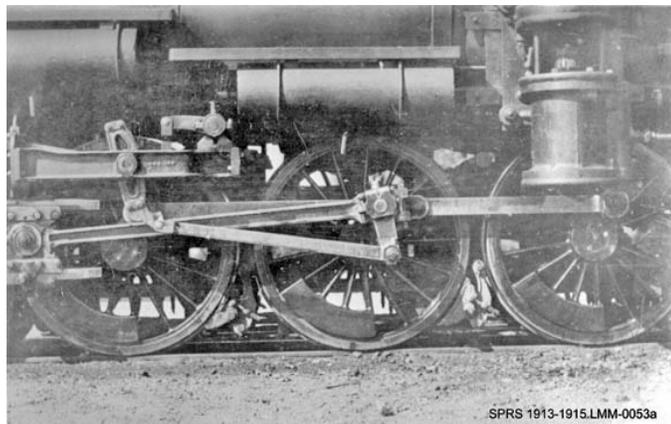
Facilities are limited & we want to make sure we can accommodate alle. Call (805) 995-3659 or e-mail ecarnegi@calpoly.edu. This helps in successfully planning our Sat. night dinner.



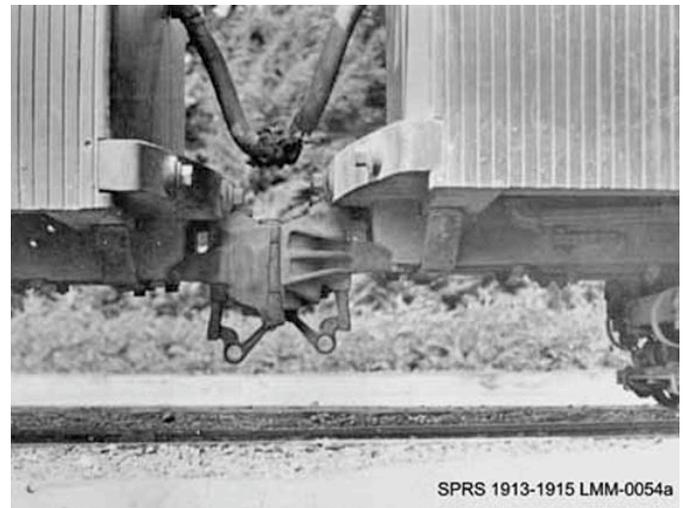
Here are close-up pictures of the running gear, trucks, couplers etc. on the Overfair equipment. These photos were found in Al Smith's albums and files. I will appreciate suggestions from the SPRS locomotive experts for captions and descriptive paragraphs. With your cooperation, then we will have technically correct information for our archives.



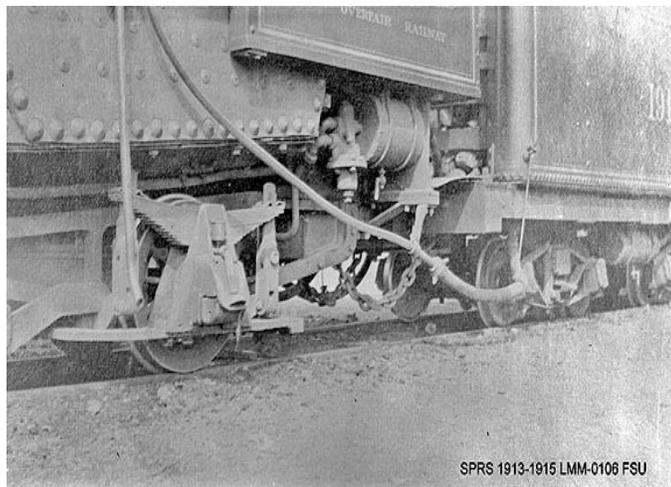
Locomotive, showing cylinder and driving rods on turn table in 1915



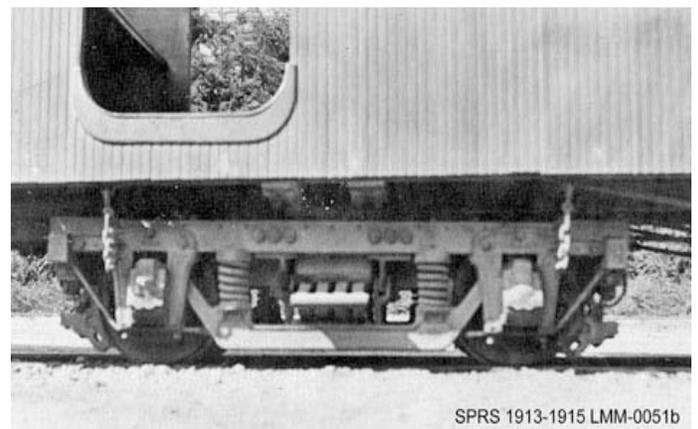
Locomotive ??? drivers as used in 1915, note the large air compressor mounted on the side of the locomotive.



Passenger cars couplers. Couplers are 1/2 scale while the car are 1/3 scale.



Locomotive trailing truck and tender, note the coal in tender.



Passenger truck on the original Overfair cars