

## SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 172

Cal Poly

Feb. 2008

### **ON TRACK with your Director**

Ed Carnegie:

Are we all surviving the rains? How high's the water Andy? With January and February always being the months with the heaviest rains, Andy reports that as of Jan. 25, Swanton has had 20.4 inches of rain thus far for its rainy season (Oct. 15-current). He also reports that a few trees are down, but will be able to cut through it all for a track inspection prior to our next workday. Also, there is a clearance of over ten feet from the creek's surface to the bottom of the bridge. The highest water level I have ever seen at our new bridge we had just a little over three feet of clearance. However, according to tree ring studies, the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the wettest century on record; the 21<sup>st</sup> century is being predicted to be a dry century—who knows? However, with this report from Andy, there is no doubt that the track crew will have plenty of jobs to do on the Feb. workday, rain or shine.

With favorable weather, we will commence work on College Station. Roofing will come off and additional fasteners will be installed as required. Indoor projects will also be bountiful if unfavorable weather conditions prevail. So either way there is always plenty to do for all, and we hope that you will be able to come up, down, or on-over to partake in all the fun. Now, for a brief rewind on what took place back on January's work weekend.

Though cold, damp, and windy, approximately 25 of Swanton's volunteers braved the elements. Martha took charge of de-wreathing and removing many of the festive decorations around the facilities. Pete, Stan and I poured the last required post foundation for the station. Prior to lunch, our

President called a special meeting was held regarding the 1913 boiler. Tasks were assigned to various volunteers to help move the project ahead.

Lunchtime at SPRR showed its very own matinee. It was the premier showing of New Year's Eve 2007/2008 at Swanton. Admission was free, but requests were necessary for all that wanted to have a copy of the CD. Approximately 20 CD's were burned and distributed, but others wishing a copy should contact me so that I can "produce" more to distribute. Lead photographer-Richard Mehr; Assistant photographer-Bob Wilkinson; Editor-Ed Carnegie. Oscars are coming!

During some of the recent high winds, it had been noticed that the semaphores were moving. Upon closer inspection, rust was occurring at the bases, so after lunch on Saturday, it was decided to take the double semi-fore down, cut nine ft. from its length, which will make it more in proportion to SPRR's scale, and consequently reduce the wind load on the base. Another team of volunteers worked on installing and testing a new working logic board for controlling the signal lights. The next step, on this project, will be to develop block detectors. So, if any of you understand metal detectors or block detectors please come forward and help us out with this project.

On the following Tuesday, Randy and Pete volunteered to come over and provided a special run for the new Cal Poly Executive Director, Bonnie Murphy and other guests present. This provided a nice opportunity for them to see the ranch and railroad.

Look forward to seeing many of you in February and March, as we all prepare to get ready for our 15<sup>th</sup> Al Smith Day.



Removing bolts from base of semaphore

### Down Behind the Railway

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

My Fellow Swantoons:

Aquarius is the 11<sup>th</sup> sign of the Zodiac, the Water bearer, and this year he is definitely bringing water to Swanton and environs.

We have several members who have birthdays this time of the year, myself included, and consider ourselves to be in the 'aquarium.'

Some of the characteristics of those born under the sign are; objective, individualistic, inventive, friendly, energetic, tolerant, and benevolent.

However, a friendly astrologer pointed out that we're all wet. So much for astrology.

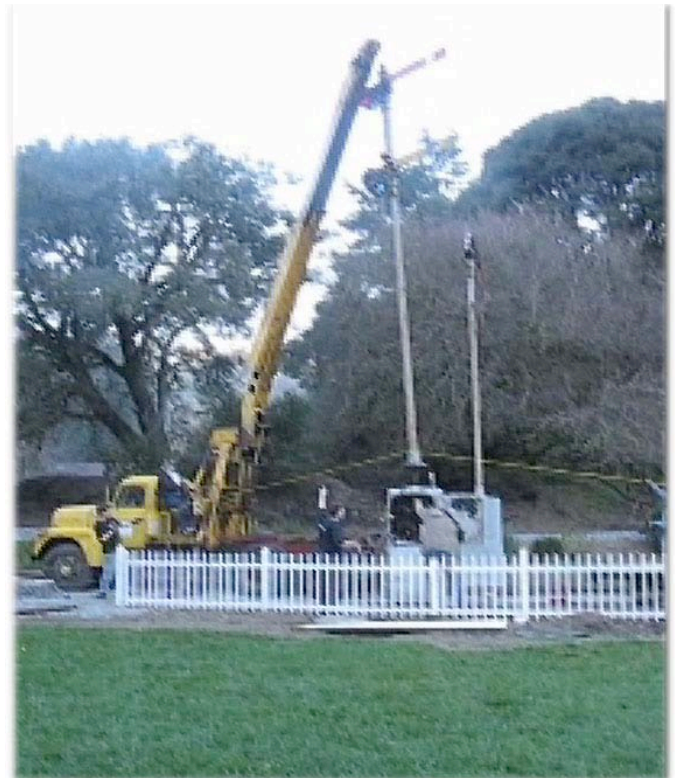
Inclement weather is no hindrance to several ongoing projects as they are inside work including; EdSki's Keystone car restoration, Keystone truck rebuild, Geoff and Bruce are rearranging furniture in the machine shop, Modification of the winch to move loco's and cars without having to use the motor car, Making panels for historical displays, Finish work in the Cal barn and, as usual, Housekeeping.

Should the weather prove to be nice and sunny there is always;

Re-roofing the Station,  
 Installing the awning on the OSH caboose,  
 Trim painting on the Cal barn  
 Track maintenance, and  
 Inspecting and repairing storm damage.

Much to do, come on over –we'll have fun.

Fitz



Removing semaphore from base



Forklift engine ready to go back together

### UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

Feb.	09/10	work weekend
Mar.	08/09	work weekend
April	12	getting ready for Al Smith Day Run
April	13	Al Smith Day Run

Reminder again to all that for Saturday work-day dinners we continue to work on getting individuals, or teams, to sign up in advance. By advance, we hope more than one or two days, or

even hours prior to dining and serving. Currently, Feb., Mar., April, May 10, and June 14 have been spoken for. Dinner dates still salivating for chefs are May 24, June 14, July 12 or 26, Aug. 9 or 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. So the opportunities to bless us with your culinary delights are getting fewer with each passing month. Please pick a date ASAP. We really do want to give everyone a chance. [call or email me with your selected Saturday]. Meals can be as simple or as complex as you would like them. All we ask is that you provide receipts for your expenses. Everyone partaking in the dining is charged \$5.00 for the provided meal.

January's meal was attended by ten hungry souls that devoured the "No-Peek Hobo Stew". Four-pounds of broccoli, ten-pounds of spuds, sixteen-pounds of stew meat, two-pitchers of lemonade, five-pounds of spinach lettuce, along with ice cream and cake, were all licked clean. There were no left-overs. The February dinner is being planned by Amy, so everyone please RSVP so that planning and shopping can be more accurately done. Reminder too, Pete is putting together a SPRR cookbook. A first preview edition has been reviewed, but more selections are needed. Our Saturday night critics are easily pleased, but do have a taste for excellent food selection for recipe publication. Many of you have said you would submit your tried and true recipes, so just reminding all current and future Swanton chefs to "publish or perish" [?]. Saying goes that no one has ever left hungry from Swanton.

The coming months will work up great appetites as we all prepare to host our annual 15<sup>th</sup> Al Smith Day. The dinner on Saturday night, prior to Al Smith Day Run on Sunday will be a private birthday bash for all us volunteers to celebrate. Mark your calendars, and also be sure to start getting those addresses of friends and railroads fans to me so that we can get an invite send off for all to reserve the date.

***PLEASE: anyone staying overnight for work weekends, call or e-mail reservations in ASAP. Call (805) 995-3659 or e-mail [ecarnegi@calpoly.edu](mailto:ecarnegi@calpoly.edu). Facilities are limited & we want to make sure we can accommodate all. This also helps in successfully planning our Sat. night dinner.***

## ***2008 Membership is now due***

[form available on cover sheet]



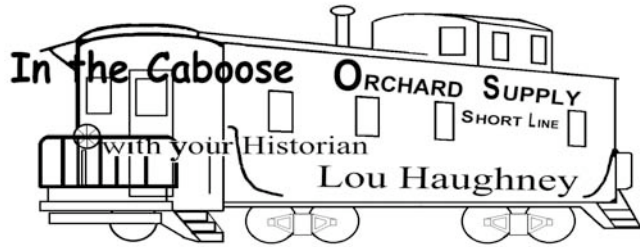
Martha putting away Christmas decorations



Meeting on the 1913 boiler



Saturday lunch crew



### PUZZLE OF THE MISSING BOILER JACKET

The lack of the boiler jacket on the 1913 locomotive has been frequently mentioned in these articles as well as in Frederic Shaw's and Harre Demoro's articles about MacDermot's operations at the Oakland Zoo in 1941 to 1945. No explanation for that irregularity has yet been found. Now, when one examines closely the batch of 100 snapshot photos of that period found in Al Smith's collections, one finds a photo that shows a fragmented portion of an outer covering. Compare the three accompanying pictures. The first two show the left and the right sides of the locomotive. In the third photo, there is definitely a partial, jagged, metal cover over the insulation lining.

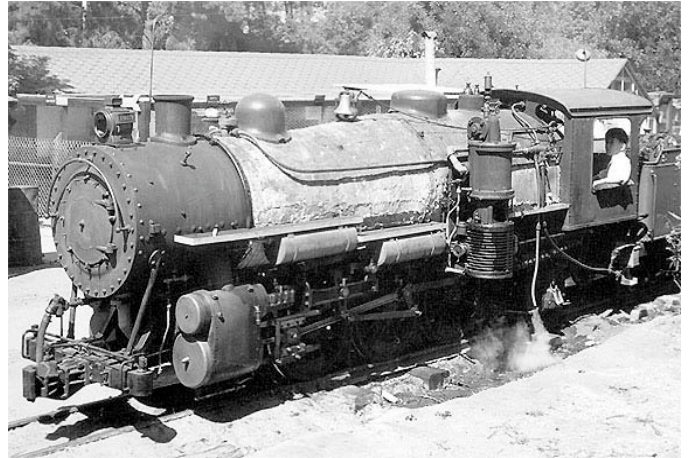
Can anyone explain this? So far, this is the only photo to show that partial cover.

Thanks to Chris Taylor for bringing these photos to our notice by his digitizing and cataloging this group of pictures which had been included in the many, many packets of photos saved by Al Smith and stored in a drawer in the OSH caboose.



Overfair Railway locomotive 1913 at Oakland Zoo, 1941-1944 View of right side, note missing

jacket over the boiler. Unidentified young man inspecting the cab



Overfair Railway locomotive 1913 at the Oakland Zoo, 1941-1945. View of left side: note the missing boiler jacket, the missing front truck, and the full-scale sized air compressor. Unidentified young lad in the cab



Overfair Railway locomotive 1913 at the Oakland Zoo, 1941-1945. Left side view: Note that this photo shows a partial jacket or covering on the boiler, as evidenced by the shadow of a jagged edge just below the horizontal pipe and above the boy's head. Left background: MacDermot's dog in front of the monkeys' cage.