

SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 176

Cal Poly

June 2008

ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

Summer is finally here and we are well underway of doing those “special” projects. Pete has established a routine of watering the Christmas trees, but could always use some help with simple maintenance i.e., drip system and weeding. The first work weekend in May commenced on the car barn storage renovation. The first task completed was the removal of the doors, walls and a portion of the west end of the structure. This allowed us to attain accurate dimensional information to confirm the final design on the trusses. We also exposed and removed part of the foundation to get a better idea of what we would need to do to complete the perimeter foundation. A very successful workday with lots of things accomplished was fittingly topped off with a gourmet meal provided to all that stayed by our very own culinary chef—Martha Nielsen. A delicious roasted chicken with several trimmings and side dishes was enjoyed by all and finished off with not only a homemade lemon meringue pie, but a strawberry cake, fresh strawberries and strawberry ice cream as well.

The Memorial Day work weekend started on Thursday for some and ended on Tuesday for others. Richard and Fitz did some re-organizing in the round-house, set up an office space, and made room for storage for some of the cars displaced from the car barn project. Friday was spent getting things ready for the demolition of the car-barn. The excitement of demolishing the structure provided such motivation to Fitz and Richard that upon my arrival Saturday morning all sheet metal had already been removed from the north wall. By the end of

the day, most of the roof was removed, the 2x6's and any salvageable wood had had nails removed and was stacked for re-use. The entire perimeter of concrete block had been removed, broken up and hauled off. In addition, many loads of soil were removed to get ready for the new construction. The day was topped off with a typically good Swanton meal. Chefs Martha, Amy and Mary Ann put together various dishes to supplement some of our left over tri-tips from Al Smith Day.

Sunday was not nearly as productive as Saturday—all due to a flat tire and a blown hydraulic hose, but still being able to complete the digging of the foundation ditch on the west end of the building.

Monday, the foundation form was nearly completed on the east wall and 90ft of ditch was dug on the north wall for its foundation. If all continues to go well, the first work weekend in June will hopefully allow us to finish up the foundation forms in order to call for an inspection.

So with a busy summer planned and now having our two work weekends a month it is anticipated that many projects can and will be accomplished in order to move us closer to removing all red tag issues. It is so rewarding to see so many of our volunteers step up and do what is necessary to help in so many many ways to move projects closer to completion. Such as cleaning work areas, removing nails, stacking lumber, organizing files, weeding, removing materials via our railroad cars, cooking and feeding the volunteers, and even offering advice helps. As we always say, “many hands, make light work!” As always, I look forward to sharing the good times at Swanton with many of you.



Steve and Pete setting up the dump car.

Down Behind the Railway

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

Reynold 'Fitz' FitzPatrick

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My Fellow Swantoons:

June of Ought-Eight was a year of next big things; 'Outdoor Life', at 15 cents a copy, printed its first color cover, 'Scientific American' printed the Wright Brothers' report of their '08 flight attaining a speed of 41 miles an hour with two men aboard and 44 miles with just one as determined with a Richard anemometer. The Los Angeles Aero Club announced a flying contest to be held in July or August. They were trying to determine how to qualify flying machine operators as the inspectors were dirigible pilots and had no idea of how to operate an airplane.

Then there was the big boom in Siberia known as the Tunguska Event where knowledgeable folk think a meteor exploded about five miles above the Tunguska River devastating an area about thirty miles across.

Our '08 at Swanton will see the rebuilding of the car shed roof as well as the usual housekeeping. The car shed work will defer some work on other projects such as the Keystone car trucks.

We will have our Summer Training camp the last week in July, (July 26 thru August 3) and this year it will truly be a camp as we will not have the use of the Red house except for the showers. So bring your tent. If you don't have a tent and wish to attend please let an officer know and we will

provide one. As you probably know you do not have to spend the whole week at Swanton.

There will be breakfast and BBQ's, tall tales, training, and fun. Fitz



Rich removing old foundation



Most of the car storage area has been removed and side dumps are loaded and ready to go

NEW SOCIETY SUPPORTER

Machael Cabak

Aptos

Bob Harrell

Salinas

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

June 14/15 work weekend
 June 28/29 work weekend
 July 13/14 work weekend
 July 26 Golden Spikes/family fun RUN day
 July 27 thru August 3 FAMILY FUN CAMP

Summertime is upon us and between holidays, vacations, and just relaxing from regular routines, we do hope to share a few of the twice a month Swanton gym work outs with you and your families. Swanton’s annual Summer Family Fun Camp kicks off with the annual potluck/hamburger feed for SPRR volunteers. Martha and MacGaddis host this event in conjunction with the Golden Spikes coming over to enjoy Swanton for the day. Traditionally this event is where all bring a potluck dish to share. Everyone is also asked to bring whatever type of meat they wish to BBQ themselves. Martha and Mac Gaddis will provide hamburgers to the train crew that day [Sat., July 26] so be sure to confirm your being present with Martha so that she can better prepare.

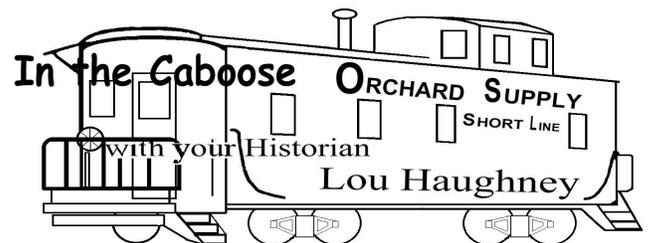
The month of June has Bob Wilkinson in charge of culinary duties for the second work weekend. As last month, with no one signing up for one of the work weekends, we will again defrost some of the left over tri-tip to provide Saturday night’s meal, supplemented with other side dishes. We will also hope, and ask, that those able to participate in the family camp week, to sign up for different nights to provide meals. This will lighten the cooking load for all, and allow for different cooking trends/tastes. Having limited use of facilities we will need to work on creative meal planning—BBQing, Dutch Oven delights, making reservations[?], etc., etc. Let’s try to discuss and organize who might be doing what at the next two work weekends in June and try to confirm who will be staying over when during that week. Also, if there are any special requests or ideas on what to do in the way of entertainment, star gazing, a possible excursion to the Boardwalk, pier dining, telling of camp fire tales, etc. let your wishes be known. Nothing heard is nothing ventured or gained. Look

forward to sharing the good times together this summer.

PLEASE: **anyone staying overnight for work weekends, call or e-mail reservations in ASAP.** Call (805) 995-3659 or e-mail 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
 It is not too late.***

[form available on cover sheet]



THE SIGNBOARDS AT THE STOCKYARD/STADIUMS STATION OF THE OVERFAIR RAILWAY

The signboard atop the ticket booth at the Overfair Railway's Stockyard/Stadiums Station lists six other stations on the P.P.I.E. grounds where "This Train" will stop. All those stations are to the East of this one. "The Zone" station is the eastern most one at the Railway's Main Yard, in front of the Panama Canal Building. This station, the Stockyard/Stadiums Station, is located between the Stockyards and the southeast corner of the extensive Drill, Athletic, and Polo Field with the Grandstands. Thus, this station would have large passenger traffic as the accompanying pictures indicate. One of our maps shows an additional station and a second train yard at the far western end of the 1-2 mile long Grandstands/Fields complex. Since that station is not listed on this signboard, that end-of-the line station must not have had regular passenger service.

**This Train
for
State & Foreign Bldg
California Bldg.
Exhibit Palaces
Yacht Harbor
The Zone
via
The Marina**

A smaller sign attached to the right of this one reads "Fare 10¢".

A faded dark panel attached to the top left reads "Railroad Station".



Overfair Railway train at the Stockyard/Stadiums Station on a quiet day. Conductor in center background waiting for two more passengers to board. Stockyard Exhibit buildings in background under the flag poles. Train station's ticket booth and entrance gate in center. Exit turnstile at right foreground. Three more exits along the fence beyond the ticket booth. Refreshment stand at right on the other side of the fence .

[Compare with 1913-1915 LMM-0135 (CSUF)a]

The marquee on the refreshment stand at the right is clearly "Frankfurters Sandwiches". Above that ledge is a dark sign across the eave of the building's roof; it is a partially

obscure legend with raised, block letters, tentatively deciphered as "ROMESURBOOK INN". The right edge of photo 1913-1915 LMM-0135 cuts off a billboard which advertises the featured menu of the refreshment stand, frankfu[rthers], cof-10¢-[fee], and sandwi[ches]. Most of the refreshment stand and the attached building are not in the field of view for photo 1913-1915 LMM-00140. In that photo, the "Fare 10¢" sign is not present. Was that a "free ride" day?



A busy day for the Overfair Railway at the Stockyard/Stadiums Station. The station's ticket booth is in the center, and a refreshment stand and building are on the right . The Stock Exhibits and the Stock Stadium are in the center and the right background, respectively, under the flag poles. The one-mile trotting track surrounding the Drill, Athletic, and Polo Fields with the Grandstands, is off the photo to left.

These signs were described much earlier but incompletely as to their wording. Recently, the original negatives of these and about 60 other photos were found in Al's scattered "closets". The negatives were scanned in high quality tiff and jpeg formats by Randy Vaughn-Dotta in the Photography Department of the California State University at Fresno, through the courtesy of Tammie Lau, Librarian of the Special Collections Library there. Then, examination of these image files with a newer, higher resolution computer screen revealed much more clearly the lettering on the signs.