ON TRACK with your Director
Ed Carnegie:

Arriving at Swanton on a nice dry and warm Thursday I got to work right away on the motor car and it appears that our engine is equipped for a high altitude cog RR rather than a sea level operation. This will be taken care of at a later date.

Friday, Pete and Edski arrived. While Edski worked on the Keystone Car, Pete and I went down to the Christmas tree field to get it ready for the Saturday tree planting crew. We laid out an additional seven rows of 38 trees each. A big thanks goes to Steve Auten, SPRR Ranch Forrester, who ordered all the tree stock and organized and arranged to get the Cal Poly students to come up and plant.

Bright and early Saturday morning the Cal Poly students, along with Kyle, Pete and I showed up to put together a work train to go down to the field for a good day’s work. By 3PM, all 400 trees had been planted, and hopefully in 2013 they will be ready to sell. Mark your calendar!

Fitz, Andy, and Edski worked in the car-barn straightening, cleaning and building a rack for steel. The Machine shop crew, of Randy, Bruce and later Kyle, worked on the forklift engine, and the locomotive engine’s tubes. While Lou and Chris worked in the OSH caboose organizing display boards, and other historical memorabilia for the upcoming Al Smith Day displays. Mary Ann acted as solo garden crew weeding and whacking away.

Though a small workday force, much was accomplished and especially with it being a few wet drizzly moments. And in anticipation for last minute clean up prior to Al Smith Day, the chipper was attached to the tractor and loaded on the flat car to be used for brush removal along the right away just prior to the day’s runs. Come on over and joy in the fun. There is ALWAYS LOTS to be done before, during and after the event so we hope to see you April 3, 4, or 5th. Reminder: With Al Smith Day on Sunday, April 5 there will be NO scheduled workday on Sunday April 12, which is also EASTER. Enjoy your Easter----Spring has sprung.

Down Behind the Railway
With your President, air monkey, & car-barnist. Reynold ‘Fitz’ FitzPatrick RGBFitz@aol.com 650.737.9584

My Fellow Swantoons:

Spring has sprung with light rain here on the coast and the weeds are growing nicely. The Persians are celebrating their New Year, which began on the vernal equinox and we are celebrating regrowth, resurrection, and birthdays. Buddha was born on April 8th and our own Al on the 6th. This year we will have our Al Smith Day BBQ, with a few hundred of our closest friends, on the first Sunday in April and, as with any party, we need to clean house, decorate, and clean up afterward. Please come on over and lend a hand or two.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is the membership survey I mentioned last month. We look forward to having your response and with the information you provide develop policies that will improve your experience within the Society as well as our overall operations.

Please complete the survey and add any comments that you feel would benefit the Society.

See you Al Smith Day. Fitz
Pete with Cal Poly Christmas Tree Planting crew after a day’s work.

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY
Mary Ann Carnegie

April 05 Al Smith Run Day
April 11/12 Easter Sunday Weekend—thus a bye for regular workday/weekend
May 9 Workday
May 10 Mother’s Day—celebrate with MOM
May 23/24/25 Memorial Day work weekend
June 13/14 work weekend & Father’s Day Special

By the time you get this we will be diligently working to get things in order for Al Smith Day. Assignments for various tasks will be made, but if you volunteer for those you prefer, you definitely will get higher priority to take them on. Usually the biggest item that we need ALL to assist with is the general cleanup after the event so please stay around and help—Remember “many hands, make the task light!”

Come May, we will have the Saturday workday, but most will be going to MOM’s for Mother’s Day on Sunday. May also means we start with our two work weekends per month—the second and fourth Saturdays. May, being the first with two, sees the first work weekend a short one with Mother’s Day and a long one on the fourth with Memorial Day. This will also mean that many more of you will gain additional chances to share your culinary delights. If you missed last month’s scrumptious luck of the Irish meal—you will have to wait a whole year for what has become SPRR’s annual corn-beef/cabbage/soda bread. With summer months and good weather arriving the opportunity for more creative outdoor, Dutch oven, BBQing meals can be plentiful. Just let me know what dates you wish to reserve for your special night.

That’s all for now, but look forward to seeing all of you hopping on over and helping to make Al Smith Day a real success to our few hundred guests coming.

EARLY YEARS AT THE SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD, Part 1

Al Smith left several hundred snapshots about the early years of the Swanton Pacific Railroad. They are put in 6 in. x 9 in. manila envelopes or left in the photo processors’ envelopes. Brief descriptive notes are written on some envelopes; such as, "Flood". Most envelopes, however, have no notes. Dates of the photos are scarce.

Here is a selection of snapshots that show an early Swanton crew working on the 1500 0-6-0T(ank) engine. In these pictures, the 1500's side tanks and the boiler's exterior sheathing had already been removed.

While the date is likely in the Spring of 1984, just after the arrival of the 1500 from southern California. Al and Neil Vodden had attended the Jervis Estate Sale in Los Angeles County in March 1984. Al bought the 1914 and the 1915 Pacific locomotives, and Neil purchased the 1500.
Identification of the persons, locations, and dates of all these snapshots usually requires much conjecture with incomplete evidence. So, please let us know of any corrections and additional details you can provide.

#1500 work engine after arrival at Swanton, Spring 1984

Removing the cab from the 1500 work locomotive, Spring 1984 L to Right, Al Smith, Neil Vodden, Charlie Hoyle

Neil Vodden, Charlie Hoyle, And Al Smith inspecting the 1500 chassis after removal of cab, Spring 1984

#1500 after removal of cab Charlie Hoyle in background. Spring 1984

Intrepid crewman inspecting firebox of #1500 work engine after its arrival at Swanton, Spring 1984

John Greco inspecting boiler exterior shell of #1500 work engine, #1913 engine and work cars behind the #1500, Spring 1984