ON TRACK with your Director

Ed Carnegie:

With summer well under way, and having two work weekends a month, we have lots of opportunities to work on projects. Some projects that are in need of finishing would be: working on the interior of Caboose 63; continue development in our block detection system; continue refurbishing the Pennsylvania passenger car; maintenance on the existing, older cabooses; some minor maintenance on track-alignment, leveling, and ballasting; as always general beautification and clean-up.

During June a variety of things were accomplished. In the Christmas tree field we finally decided to hire some professional “weed eradicators” as our amateurs were not able to keep up with the extensive weed growth. The hired personnel [2 people] got rid of all the weeds in less than a full day. Pete concentrated on working out the bugs for track isolation in order to have an operational block detector. This was achieved by early Sunday afternoon. It is located between San Vincente Junction and the Carnegie Bridge. Now that Pete has proved that we can do this, as time permits, we will work on additional blocks to incorporate into our signal system. The Cal Poly information systems crew came up to install a Wi-Fi System in the roundhouse. This will greatly increase the availability to a wireless connection in and around the roundhouse, where much of our activities are centered. See Bob Wilkinson for the “hot-spots”. Bob also donated a computer to SPRR for internet usage. It is located in the roundhouse. Kyle washed the two crane trucks. Geoff and crew chopped down a weed tree behind the roundhouse and trimmed the other one. Fitz, Bruce and Randy worked on car brakes. Lots done, lots still to do, so come on over to Swanton and take your pick of projects to do. We will assist you in many ways to help get your project finished.

Down Behind the Railway

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

My Fellow Swantoons:

Happy Birthday America. We’ll be celebrating with parties, fireworks, ringing of bells, music, and general jubilation.

A curious note regarding the music is the performance of the 1812 Overture. Pyotr Tchaikovsky wrote the piece to celebrate Battle of Borodino which marked Napoleon’s turn of fortune in Russia.

On May 5th, 1891 Tchaikovsky, who was a ‘rock god’ of the time, performed the piece as part of the dedication of Carnegie Hall in New York City. The overture seems to have found resonance in our collective psyche with its sixteen cannon shots and our ‘bombs bursting in air’.

We do enjoy loud celebrations with aerial explosions and ringing bells.

William Penn issued the Charter of Privileges (sic) in 1701. Fifty years later the Pennsylvania Assembly issued an order for the bell and the following year Assembly Speaker Isaac Norris asked the Assembly’s agent in London to buy a bell as follows:

By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State house in the City of Philada 1752// //and Underneath//Proclaim Liberty thro’ all the Land to all the Inhabitants thereof. - Levit. XXV.10

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land
Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof

How well that sounds with, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, ..."

That was known as the State House bell until 1837 when abolitionists used as the frontispiece in an issue of "Liberty"

Curiosity once again, in 1915 the bell traveled to San Francisco for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

The Philadelphia folk were reluctant at first to send the bell, having concerns over its safety. However after numerous national newspaper articles and a petition signed by over 200,000 California school children they agreed to a 10,000 mile trip with many stops along the way.

Pennsylvania west to Washington state, south to San Francisco. Then south again to Los Angles then east back home.

We only have small bells and whistles at Swanton, but we do have our annual Summer Camp featuring, this year, Tobin’s Terrific Tractor Training.

All the usual projects and housekeeping are still in progress.

Come on down. We’ll have fun. Fitz

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY

Mary Ann Carnegie

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 11/12</td>
<td>work weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Golden Spikes Day Run</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>con’t activities and begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>Family Fun Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 8/9</td>
<td>work weekend</td>
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<td>Aug. 22/23</td>
<td>work weekend</td>
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The annual Golden Spikes Run and Picnic Day will soon be here. Martha will be one of the main hostess’. All are requested, as usual, to bring a potluck dish to feed approx. 8, as well as your preferred piece of meat to BBQ yourself. Martha said she will provide hamburgers for the SPRR crew on Sat. July, 25. This event will kick off the start then too of our annual family camp that will run through Aug. 2. I know I have heard that many of you will be attending, but no confirmations of whom, what dates, etc. have been received by me to date to figure who’s cooking, when, what and for how many; not to mention what lodging facilities may or may not be available. With limited facilities during this time we would kindly request that you get your bid in for accommodations asap. Since we will NOT be at the July 11 work weekend due to a grand daughter’s wedding, please email or call us with your plans. We hope that everyone participating will likewise assist with chief cook and bottle washer duties in order to lighten the load on all and to share your culinary delights. We realize we have several items to choose from within the freezer, and it does need to get emptied, but good planning always makes things run smoother.

Then keep in mind that August will be a month of finishing up many tasks, followed by the Land Trust Run, Sept. 27. Come October 11 will be our final event of year with the annual Cal Poly Day. So mark your calendars and save the dates.

Bill’s flowers College Station
On our special event days, the turntable between the Machine Shop and the Roundhouse is a busy site. In mid morning, when the locomotives are ready with full steam, their first move is onto the turntable so that they can be turned around in order to run down to the College Park Station and the mainline. Then, during the subsequent runs, they must periodically return to the Roundhouse/Machine Shop site for refueling at the diesel tank. Thus, the turntable has much action during the run days. It is a favorite "photo-op" site with our visitors.

So, turntables are the subject for this episode of an occasional "Then and Now" article. The Overfair Railway at the P.P.I.E. had turntables at four locations; namely, main yard, the end of the Stockyard spur, the secondary yard, and the end of track, the latter two of which were at the far western end of the Exposition's grounds. We have pictures of only the first two. They appear to be of the same basic design.
Overfair Rwy. Engine 1912 on turntable at Stockyard spur. (SPRS #1913-1915 LMM-0105)

When MacDermot operated the 1913 locomotive at the Oakland Zoological Gardens in 1941-1944, he ran the train on a _ mile loop. So, he didn't use a turntable; nor, did he then have the resources to provide one. He needed only a short siding on which to park the engine.

From 1975 into 1979, Bob Maxfield operated the 1913 locomotive and cars as the Calistoga Steam Railroad on about 2 to 3 miles of track with a large spiral loop over itself at the far end on "Mount Washington". At the Station end, he did have a turntable. Then in the late summer of 1979, he sold all of the Calistoga equipment to Al Smith, the 1912 and the 1913 engines, cars, track, turntable, plans for a roundhouse, etc.


To set up the Overfair/Calistoga equipment as the Swanton Pacific Railroad, Al used an existing shop building on his ranch as the engine barn (now known as our Machine Shop). Randy Jones, who had helped out at the Calistoga location, took the lead in rebuilding the Calistoga turntable in front of that building in late 1979 and early 1980. During the almost 30 years since then, the turntable has undergone heavy service with the Swanton Pacific Railroad's three MacDermot/Overfair Pacific locomotives and the diesel engine. Consequently, it required refurbishing a few years ago. Again, Randy was the lead on that project.

Positioning the 1912 on the turntable prior to starting the runms on Al Smith Day, April 9, 2006, (#SPRS-2006-0409-016)

1912 ready to move down to the College Park Station on Cal Poly Day, Oct. 1 2006. (SPRS-2006-1001-078)

(Acknowledgement: Chris Taylor took the 2006 pictures and processed the earlier photos.)