

Swanton-Pacific Railroad Society

December 1, 1993

Happy Holidays!

The last meeting of 1993 is upon us. We wanted to remind you, that the SPRS will be having a workday at Swanton Ranch on **Saturday, Dec. 11 1993**. The Red House will be available for overnights and for those who want to stay and work on Sunday. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet Wednesday night, December 8, at 6:00 p.m. in Shop 7. (The crane is now working)

The year has gone by fast and a lot has happened. The north loop is continuing to expand. The track has been finished that crosses over Little Creek, and approximately 150 feet of track has been laid beyond. A railing for the bridge is being built, using redwood boards from the trees at Swanton. These were milled a few months back on the saw mill located on the ranch. This railing should be completed during the December workday.

Light poles are starting to be placed along the roadways. These poles were built by students at Cal Poly and are being placed around the train compound. A total of 20 light poles have been built and 6 poles have been placed. Hopefully, each month a section of trench will be dug, conduit installed and concrete bases poured. During our August meeting, a 200 amp electrical service was installed down to the caboose. After the final hook up by PGE we should have an adequate electrical supply in the entire meadow area.

Engine #1914 is up and running. This engine had not been running since around 1915. It still has some bugs to be worked out during the next few months. With this engine running it will give us time to start to do preventative maintenance on some of the other engines. Now that these engines are being operated more, we hope to set up a Steam Engineers Operators Handbook. We need someone who has a computer and can type up this manual. We have copies from other railroads, but need to compile ours and have it stored in the computer. This should be done within the next few months so that we can get a "training and check off procedure" for the engineers, fireman or new trainees.

Most of the excess parts, for the rolling stock and tracks, have now been sorted and moved into the metal building. Both, the roundhouse and machine shop, are being cleaned and organized which makes it easier to work, and also to keep track of tools and equipment. A few more rainy work days should have them completed. Some of the rolling stock is starting to be maintained with more to be done. As mentioned in the past, we were fortunate enough to have donated to us another set of three axle trucks, some triple valves and one of the original McDermott freight cars. We believe that this is the only one in existence today. This car was originally planned as part of a freight train, for the Panama-Pacific-International Exposition bearing advertising, promotional messages of many household products. Unfortunately the fair management didn't agree, and refused McDermott permission to operate the freight train. The cars were returned to the McDermott estate where they fell into a state of disrepair. This freight car is currently being stored at the Swanton Railroad until plans for restoration can begin.

The tracks at Swanton are continually being worked on. At each meeting Elmer and the crew have been busy maintaining and improving the track.

There are currently two new cars under construction at Cal Poly. One is a crane car which was started by a student class and is now being overseen by Ed Carnegie. When completed, this crane will appear 1/3 scale in size, run off of hydraulics and have a lifting capacity of 3000 pounds. There will be a video at the Dec. meeting, showing it's progress. The other is a parlor car, being built by members, which will hold a barbecue pit. This "parlor car" will have a three axle setup, instead of the usual two axle. This will be the only car with this setup. Both projects should be completed in early 1994.

Dues for the upcoming year are now being collected. (\$25.00 for regular members and \$15.00 for students). Please make checks payable to Swanton-Pacific Railroad Society (SPRS) and mail as soon as possible, or bring to the December meeting. These dues help cover mailing costs and this year will go towards everyone's own name tag. Currently there are only 21 **paid** members, compared to 64 last year. If you are at all interested in seeing this railroad succeed we need your support. There will be some big changes during 1994 and it will be important for you to be involved. As a reminder, we meet the second Saturday of the month at Swanton and also the second Wednesday evening prior to that weekend, at Cal Poly. Anyone who is interested may join. If you have recently paid your dues we THANK-YOU ! If your address label has a green stripe you are in good standing with us. If no stripe, ... ? We plan on having the dues paid on the first of each year. So it is not too late for you to join. This will be the only letter sent to non-members for the coming year. Don't be left out.

We also wanted to recognize Al Smith. If it were not for his visions, this whole railroad would not be where it is today. It is great that this piece of history can be enjoyed by so many people from all over the world. For the generous donations, and to all of the hard work he has put into this railroad, we say "THANK-YOU", AL!

Don't forget to bring your lunch and any snacks that you might want. This looks like it will be a good day for all that attend. We hope to see you **Saturday, December 11, at 9:00 a.m.** at the round house.

Since this is the last letter of 1993, we would all like to wish you **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**, and hope 1994 will be a prosperous new year.