

*Michael*

## *Swanton-Pacific Railroad Society*

All Aboard!!

The Swanton Pacific Railroad Society wants to remind you that they will be having it's monthly workday at Swanton Ranch on **Saturday, March 11, 1995**. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet **Wednesday, March 8** at 6:00 p. m. in Lab #7 at Cal Poly.

Our February workday was very productive for the railroad. Probably the most noticeable accomplishment was that the motorcar was put back into service. Geoff Tobin and Andrew Martin spent most of the day putting the axles back under it. These were the axles that were repaired back at Cal Poly last month. It wouldn't had normally taken all day, but I understand that after they had them all installed they had to keep removing them and turn them end for end. Three times, I think. Practice makes perfect, so if we ever need to remove an axle Andrew and Geoff are the guys. Hey, talk about learning from experience, Ask Elmer and Cosmo. Seems that as soon as the motor car was finished, they took off down the track for a trial run. They made it just past the station when it just died. I'll bet they will check how much gas is in it before they take it out next time. I even seem to recall a full 5 gallon gas can sitting right next to the motor car. We probably need to start thinking about a prestart procedure. While all of this was going on, a few members were painting all of the new tools that are to be used in the roundhouse. All of these tools are now marked National Blue. Looks like we finally have a start on getting some good tools to work with. Randy and his crew were using the tools before the paint was even dry. They were working on the trucks of the diesel locomotive. That was another all day project. In fact they finished putting one of the trucks back together in the evening using portable lights. That's dedication! John Tomlin was busy all day taking off the throttle valve and burner from the 1914 so they can be repaired back at San Luis Obispo. They'll be ready by March so John can spend all that day putting them back on the 1914.

The track crew was busy getting the site ready for the new caboose. Looks like it should be moved into place during the March workday. A load of ballast placed among the ties is about all that's needed. This crew also surveyed the track just up from the Scott Creek bridge. Plans call for some bridge work and during that time the track will be straighten out a little to better align with the bridge. It was decided to wait on this project until later after all of the runs during the upcoming year are over.

During lunch Lou Haughney showed us some photos and news article that he has found relating to Louis McDermot, the builder of the locomotives. He has been busy searching the libraries archives for all kind of exciting information. He also brought an invitation to a party, **celebrating the 80th year since the Panama-Pacific-International Exposition** opened. It was on February 20th at the Sheraton Hotel in San Francisco. A few members were planning on attending. Hopefully some good contacts were made of people who might know some history about our rolling stock. We'll let you know what went on in the next letter.

After lunch a couple of members followed Bob Nichols down to his work where they picked up a load of form wood that will be used in the concrete work during the next few months. We are planning on building catch basins for the fuel tanks and also rebuild the barbecue area, so this wood will come in handy. They also had a chance to swing by Al Smiths house in Los Gatos where they picked up some shelving material that will be used in the car barn.

That evening, after a long day of work, most of the work crew adjourned up to Al's house on the hill for dinner. Ed Carnegie was celebrating his birthday that day so it was a good excuse for celebrating. A big thanks to Mary Ann for putting it all together. She had bought and prepared most of the food ahead of time and had it at the house ready to

warm up. That evening the ladies had all of the dinner fixed and when we all arrived all we had to was walk in and sit down to a great spaghetti dinner.

Sunday morning about 10 people gathered for the first of a series of training meetings for people who are to operate the engines and rolling stock of the railroad. Vince Cipolla, who is an experienced engineer, is putting on the class. Vince conducts these training programs for other railroads and has agreed to help us out also. He will come up from Pasadena each weekend and at no charge. The main emphasis of the first meeting was of safety. We all will become more involved with the safety aspect of the railroad. Probably the two main points that effect the membership is that at each run there will be a team of people in charge of operations. There will be assigned engineers, fireman, conductors, brakemen, etc. for each run. These people will be in charge and we will report to them. The other area of concern is about what they call a "blue flag". Nothing is to be operated or moved if it has a blue flag on it. At our upcoming meetings we will explain more about blue flags and safety as it effects you.

The last piece of news is about **Al Smith Day** on Saturday, April 8. Please tell all of your railroad friends about this fun day. Anyone who is interested in trains is invited. This day is in memory of Al Smith so we hope you can attend for some good times and lots of train talk. We are asking that you return the enclosed form so we can get an idea of a count. Don't worry about the money now, we will collect it at the barbecue. If you would like to help out with the barbecue contact Jim @ (805) 756-2432, or let him know at the March meeting.

A few announcements:

1. After the workday on Saturday we are all planning on having dinner in Santa Cruz at the usual Mexican restaurant. Everyone is invited and we encourage you to attend. It will be a good chance to relax and get caught up on what everyone has been doing this past month. The meals are large proportions and the cost is pretty low.

2. Vera McLean sent along some information. She says that Georgia Pacific wants to plant over 50 million trees this year. If you call, they will send you a free seedling in which we hope you will then bring to the ranch for planting. What a great way to help our environment. You can receive your free seedling by calling 1-800-522-2359 ext. 1016.

3. A gentleman in Exeter has a fully restored Fairmont motorcar (speeder) for sale. It looks and runs great. If interested talk to Jim Matheny and he can pass more information on to you.

We are looking forward to seeing you Saturday @ 9:00 A. M.

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*Jim Matheny*

**All Aboard!**

Come Join us for the Second Annual  
Al Smith Day  
A fun filled Saturday  
To remember our friend

Saturday, April 8, 1995

Train Rides	10:00 - 12:00
BBQ Lunch	served from 12:00-2:00*
Train Rides	12:30 - 4:00

\* A casual Western style meal will be served: soft drinks provided.  
To cover the cost of the BBQ and Train rides Adults \$12.00  
Children \$6.00

**RSVP:**

Yes, I would love to attend: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

No, I am not able to attend: \_\_\_\_\_