

Swanton-Pacific Railroad Society

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no use for april ??

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, May 13, 1995**. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet **Wednesday, May 10** at 6:00 p. m. in Lab #7 at Cal Poly.

The past few months have not been too productive for the railroad as far as workdays go, but we are having fun. The March workday was a wash out, literally. That was the weekend that California had those tremendous rain storms. Here in San Luis and Cal Poly, we had water 2-3 feet deep, running down the streets and through buildings. We hear that the ranch survived pretty well, it was just getting there that was the problem. Most of the major highways were closed. We hope all of you faired well through that storm.

The April weekend was our second annual Al Smith Day. This day was in memory of Al Smith. Friends and **family of Al**, along with people who are interested in trains were in attendance. We figured about 110 people were served at the barbecue. The biggest problem was that it started to sprinkle just about the time we all sat down to eat, so we didn't get to say much in behave of our friend, Al. All during the day I continually heard his name mentioned, so I know he was in our thoughts. Next year we are planning to set aside some actual time for some memories. During this weekend we handed out engraved, personalized name tags to all of our paid-up members. These tags will be at our May workday, so if you have not had a chance to pick up yours, this would be a good time to stop by.

The last weekend of April was Cal Poly Student Day. About 45 students who are interested in finding out more about the ranch came up for a visit and tour. They all got to take a train ride and tour the ranch. In exchange they spent most of their time after touring, planting flowers around the red house and car barn. It rained most of that day so they didn't get everything planted that they wanted to but the ranch definitely looked better when they left.

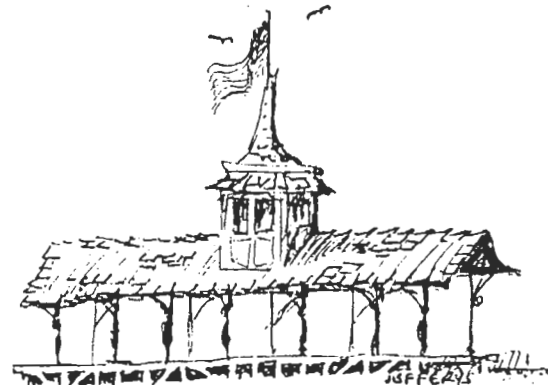
The big news of the month is that the Swanton Pacific Railroad Society has purchased the No. 1500 switcher from the Billy Jones Railroad, in Los Gatos!! We are starting the process to pick it up and hopefully it will be at the ranch by the June workday. For you not familiar with the 1500, it is the first engine designed and built by Louis MacDermott. It is an 0-6-0T switching engine that was used in the construction of the line at the Exposition grounds. The boiler has been removed and is currently up at S. San Francisco ready to be retubed. **This engine needs a lot of work to get it operational and if you would like to get involved in a project, this might just be the one.**

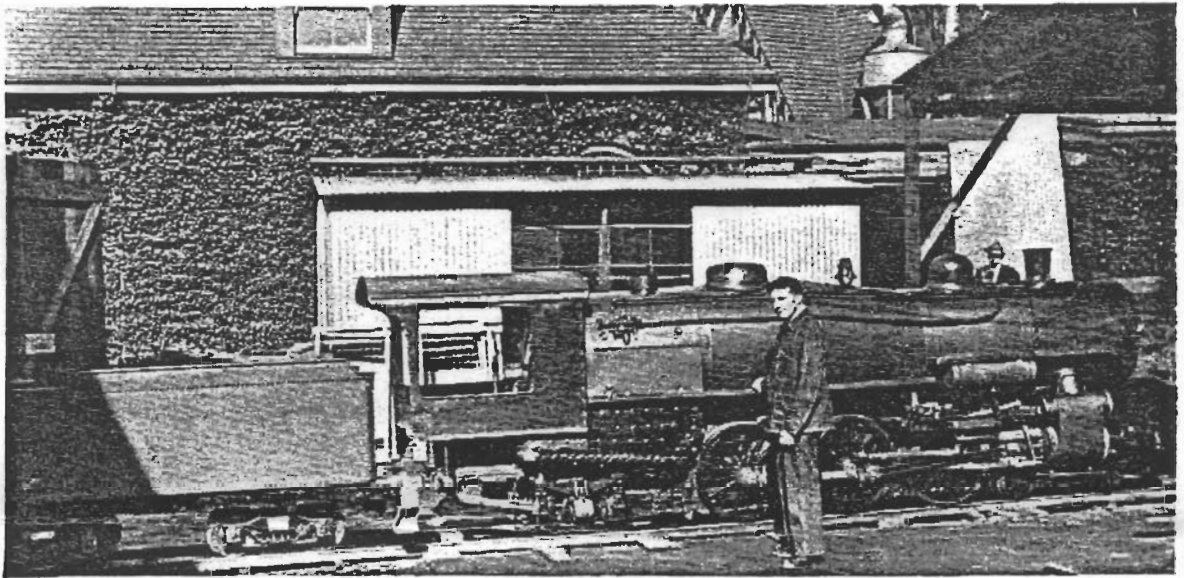
The executive board is going to meet Sat. @ 1:00 for it's bi-annual meeting. If you have a concern or idea that you would like discussed be sure to let one of the members know. Remember this railroad is run by a group of people, you, the society

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

Dates to remember:

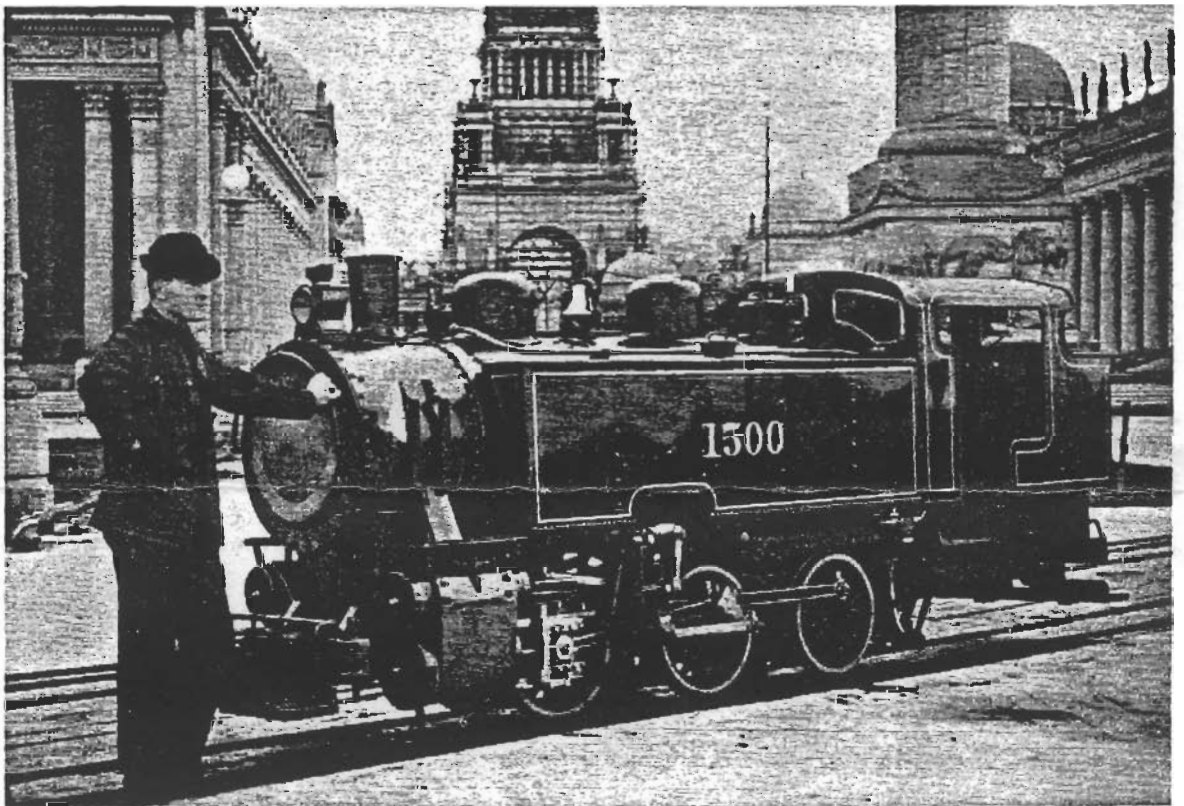
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| May 12 | Fri. | Engine training class 6-9 P. M. |
| May 13 | Sat. | Workday |
| May 14 | Sun. | Mothers day |
| June 3 | Sat. | Cal Poly Railroad days |
| June 10 | Sat. | Workday |
| July 8 | Sat. | Workday |
| July 8 | Sat. | Santa Cruz Railroad Group |
| July 29 | Sat. | Golden Spike Retires of San Jose |
| Aug. 12 | Sat. | Workday |





Author's Collection

Mac's favorite, the No. 1913. This photo shows MacDermot just after the locomotive was completed. In the background may be seen a portion of the machine shop and to the right the deckle-edged little building where all Mac's brain work took place, on his Oakland home grounds.



Robt. H. McFarland

Louis M. MacDermot standing by the handsome 19" gauge switch engine he designed and built at his Oakland home. This was the first of the five he built for use on his Overfair Railway and was utilized in building the tracks on the Exposition grounds, where the photo was made.