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AMADOR SAWMILL AND MINING ASSOCIATION

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A 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit California corporation

“The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be for public purposes: acquiring, restoring, and preserving authentic historic working sawmill and hard rock mining equipment for public education through display and demonstration, together with related activities.”



2006 AMADOR COUNTY FAIR STEAM SAWMILL VOLUNTEERS

Hello fellow sawdust makers! It is time again to update news about the ongoing restoration projects of the Amador Sawmill and Mining Association. The above photo shows some of the sawdust makers on the final day of the fair this year. We ran 22 logs through the mill in front of many happy on-lookers demonstrating how milling was done in the last century. Most museums are just a static display with no sound or smell of what it's like in a real mill, unlike our live demonstration at the four day fair!

The saw was singing and the steam engine was huffing and puffing. We had break downs but had fun solving them in time to run a few more logs through this 100 year old sawmill. Our three youth apprentices (Jake Headd, Frank Tower, and Peter Breshears) learned how our hands-on education program operates to teach basic industrial and technical skills no longer taught in the public school system. Many visitors bemoaned the fact that their children can no longer take shop classes in metal, print, wood, machine and drafting. One of our goals is to pass on the skills it takes to run our historic steam sawmill.



View of future engine room

That's Bill Braun standing on the new concrete foundation for the 1904 Corliss steam engine. Note the post and beam supports for the new engine room walls. Chain link fencing will be bolted to these posts with a roof of corrugated tin. We will still be able to operate the mill with other vintage power plants while the Corliss is being restored and moved into position. Most of the heavier parts will be installed using a crane before the roof goes on.



Dick Hansen (above) is driving a CAT D-7 and skidding the 1945 Steam Donkey engine/3 drum winch. This was taken on the day before the fair opened. I think the set up of all the restored machinery for display is a highlight of volunteering with the Amador Sawmill.

The CAT was loaned by Norm Waters and the lowboy trailer was loaned by Doug Veerkamp. Unfortunately, the lowboy had no winch to pull the donkey up onto the trailer, so the donkey did not make it to the 2006 fair.



Sawdust Problem

Above is Jim Jarrett driving a 1980's style fork lift moving saw dust using the stackable steel box system we use now. Dick Hansen and others have been kicking around a new idea of an old style track and car system to move our mountains of saw dust. Some sort of a railroad to move the dust out by the road shown in the photo. From there we could pick up the bins with the donkey winch and some sort of a gin pole set up and load them onto period trucks and trailers. Perhaps with permission from the EDGE&TA we could set up the donkey winch where it was displayed last year or near where the Corliss engine was on display this year out on the grass. This rail road could be the size used in a mine. In the old days the transfer system at a mill was to a huge teepee burner. Nowadays everything is saved and made into particle board or burned in a co-generation power plant. I can see an old truck like Bill's 51 Ford taking away the dust. Or maybe we just get a period forklift say 1940's or as so to keep our entire display in a past era look. In any event I think we should keep our artifacts displayed within the saw mill area at around 50 years old to show folks how it was done in the past. I am however not talking about the sawmill crew! I think when a visitor takes a photo they would always see something 50 years old or older.

I was asked to attend the October 7th annual meeting of the board of directors of our sawmill association. This meeting was held at the MacFarland Historic Ranch in Galt, Ca. where the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association were having their yearly gas up. Present were the association officers, Bill Braun, Jerry Virtue, and John Tower. Bill outlined the Corliss engine restoration completion timeline. In February the engine should be complete and tested using compressed air in the machine shop. Then we can start to move and assemble it at the sawmill site. After all the pieces are in place Jerry Virtue and his crew will start to roof over the building and set up the fence. Bill will then move his 1910 Case steam tractor to the sawmill site and test the engine running on steam.

John Tower will develop plans for acquiring and rebuilding a trailer for our Steam Donkey so we can easily move this 15 ton portable steam source around. Calaveras Telephone Co. donated a 1967 diesel truck to the Association. Bill Braun is looking into licensing the truck as an historic vehicle to keep license and insurance costs down. John is looking for a 20 to 22 foot low boy trailer to revamp and a 12 to 20 ton winch for the truck and asks for your help in locating one. Donations are needed. Under new business Bill noted that the Amador Fair board now requires a liability waiver that all Association volunteers must sign.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2006 (to date)

To date in 2006, we received \$1,848 cash donations including \$733 collected during the Fair. Equipment donations included woodworking machinery from Burnett & Sons (30" planer, 12" joiner, straight-line rip saw, mortise drill, cut off saw). As previously mentioned a 1967 GMC truck and 2 1957 Fruehauf bottom dump trailers were donated by Calaveras Telephone. Equipment donated by volunteers included a new flat belt (120') and a new laptop computer for newsletter preparation.

Expenses paid from ASMA funds for restorations and engine room foundation concrete totaled \$5,022. The balance of the restoration costs and engine room construction of \$3,830, plus operating expenses, were paid for by a small group of volunteers.

While we continue to grow and improve the sawmill demonstrations, we need to focus on collecting cash donations from a wide public base to fund operations rather than from a small group of benefactors. To remain a tax exempt public charity, at least 34% of our donations over a 4 year period need to be from a broad support base (IRS reg.) To help in this effort we are asking the newsletter recipients to donate \$25 (or more) per year to the support of the Association. This amount will keep the Association in compliance and supply the funds so the historic Sawmill can remain alive and grow.



1967 GMC Diesel

POTLUCK NOV. 4TH 2006, Saturday Join us for our 3rd annual potluck!

From 10:00 am to 3:00pm we will be drilling and bolting up the new fence panels on the sawmill engine room addition and doing some additional repairs on the mill building. Bring your favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert. The main courses will be prepared by CHEF **KENNETH McCOY**, graduate of the esteemed culinary school of Mt. Aukum.

Editor Alan Langmuir signing off

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