

**AMADOR SAWMILL AND MINING ASSOCIATION**  
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A 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit Ca. 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.”*

## **CORLISS STEAM ENGINE RUNS !!**

The sounds of the Corliss steam engine huffing and a chuffing, the rumble and hiss of the 1945 Dutton boiler and the whine of the saw blade of the 1900's era sawmill greeted the Amador County Fair goers this July. The Association volunteers worked like beavers finishing the Corliss restoration. The test run inside the shop in June showed up many problem areas that had to be corrected. The biggest problem was the learning curve on how to operate this wonderful machine, both in the shop and under heavy load.



Before the fair opened, the Corliss was trucked to the sawmill and rolled onto its foundation using rollers, a come-along, and brute force. The flywheel was lifted by crane onto its foundation and carefully aligned with the Corliss. Only then could the trusses be placed over the new engine room and the new metal roof finished.



Flywheel belted and ready to run.

Donkey smokestack lifted on.

Freshly cut lumber being stacked.

During the fair we ran 18 logs through the mill starting and stopping for slipping belts, leaks, readjustments and calling for the jacking crew when the engine stopped on dead center.

On July 28, 2007 a re-christening ceremony was held at the fair to celebrate the restoration of the Corliss steam engine. Bill Braun announced to the crowd gathered in the new engine room that the engine will be called “Bruno”, for Bruno Victor Nordberg, the mechanical engineer, inventor and founder of Nordberg Manufacturing Co. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin where our 1904 Corliss engine was built.



Bill Braun christens “Bruno”—note the champagne bottle. ASMA officers Bill Braun, John Tower, Jerry Virtue.

The hard working volunteers involved in the 5 year Corliss restoration project also celebrated the 37<sup>th</sup> year of demonstrating the sawmill at the county fair. Here are but a few of our volunteers at work.



Jim Allen and John Thomas deep in discussion.



Jim Jarrett is our prize fundraiser!



Ken McCoy on the log deck



Jim Headd on the carriage & sawyer John Tower



Brute force works!



Alan Langmuir and Dave Bibby in foreground



2007 sawmill crew on the last day of the fair.

### **Next work projects**

Our next project to start in Nov. is to re-roof the sawmill and expand the roof over the off bearing area to shade the volunteers who stack the lumber as it comes out of the mill and those tending the donkey. The donkey engine low boy trailer and 1967 GMC truck will also go into the shop for needed maintenance and repairs.

### **Donkey travels to Arnold**

This September the donkey/winch boiler was driven to Arnold, Ca. and set up at the annual Arnold Logging Jamboree put on by the Sierra Logging Museum. For two days volunteers Richard Hansen and Bill Braun fired the boiler, blew the whistle and demonstrated the triple drum logging winch. They also connected steam to the museum's locomotive whistle so it could be heard loud and clear.

### **2007 Financial report**

We received \$515 in donations during the fair, thanks primarily to Jim Jarrett with Alan Langmuir providing the Gibson tractor and trailer for their "road trips" through the fairgrounds. So far this year we've received cash donations totaling \$1,095 and sold surplus equipment for \$435. Our current bank balance is \$344. Anticipated expenses for the metal roofing and operating expenses for the sawmill, truck insurance, etc., will exceed our current resources, so we need to raise funds! Ideas, fund raising expertise, and a project leader are all urgently needed. Any new volunteers who can pitch in here?

### **Annual Potluck**

The date for this year's potluck and sawmill workday is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Workday starts at 11:00 and the potluck at 4:00. The mill will be run by the 1954 Hemi industrial V-8 gas engine belted to the line shaft. The lumber produced will be used in the re-roofing of the mill. The main dish for the potluck will be provided so bring anything else. Please call Marianne (916) 687-7350 or Cathy (209) 245-5097 to coordinate selections so we don't end up with just desserts! Old hands and new volunteers are welcome to bring a guest.

### **Comments**

With the addition of the new engine room and the boiler on its own trailer we find ourselves running three different distinct zones or sections. We are divided up between the boiler making 120 lbs. of steam, the engine making 60 HP of torque to the line shaft and the saw blade making lots of sawdust. Each of these zones has an overseer, a fireman, engineer and sawyer. These folks need to communicate between one another. With the roar of the oil fired boiler, the whine of the saw blade going 800 RPM and the engine hissing no one can hear anything. I suggest we set up whistle or bell signals between these areas to send signals. How did they do it in the old days?

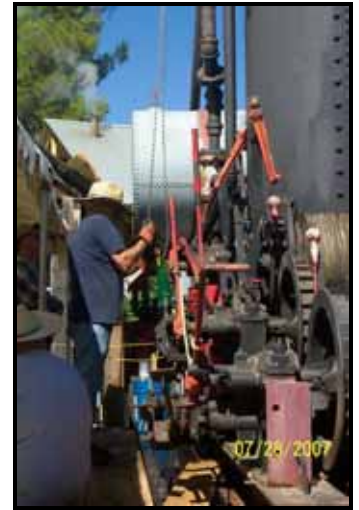
More thoughts about communication: there is always something to do so don't be afraid to call up Bill at (209) 245-5097 to see how you can volunteer any time of the year.



Donkey winch boiler



Big pile of lumber at day's end.



Tom Innes, "donkey puncher"

**Thank you**

A big thank you to Amador Crane Service for donating the crane and labor to move the Corliss flywheel into place and for setting the roof trusses on the roof. The father and son team Jeff and Mason Gregorius worked wonders!

A special thank you also goes to Doug Veerkamp for sending over a loader and his son Matt to help get the Donkey up onto its trailer.

**Welcome New Volunteers:**

John Thomas-Placerville

Ken Blacksmith-Burson

Jeff Saich-El Dorado

Bruce Navratil-Diamond Springs

Lyle Goudie-Plymouth

Alex Sharp-Pine Grove

Tom Saich-Rescue

David Lindquist-Sutter Creek

Fritz Erhardt-Placerville

Jason Somara-Pollock Pines

Chet Chapin-Plymouth

Summer & Jose Tamayo-Sacramento

**Annual Board of Directors Meeting**

The annual Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the historic McFarland Ranch in Galt on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. sawmill volunteers are welcome to attend. EDGE & TA has their gas up there that weekend. Directions: Take Hwy 99 south, take Elm St exit for Galt, proceed straight for 3.8 miles to 8899 Orr Rd. (Elm St becomes Orr Rd.)

**Reporter Alan Langmuir / Editor Cathy Braun**

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