

**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.”**

**Big Changes In Progress At Sawmill**

Major changes are in progress at the sawmill. On the “engineering” side, work has begun on installation of a permanent wood fired boiler. A larger exhaust pipe to decrease back pressure on the Corliss is already in place.

On the "architectural" side, work is more than 3/4 complete on the permanent enclosure for the engine room. For the last 2 plus years, the engine room has been enclosed when not in use by chain link panels which are bolted to the structure. A more precise description would be the @\$%&\*\*\*##@ blanketly blank chain link panels. While effective, they are heavy, awkward and time consuming to remove and reinstall. Especially at the end of a long day when everyone wants to just sit down with a cold one.

For the last few months two teams of volunteers have been hard at work replacing the chain link panels. One team has completed installation of roll up metal doors to the front and back of the engine room. These can be opened in minutes to allow access to the engine. This operation was led by the team of Jim Head and his son Jake with the assistance of the usual suspects. While working, they constantly repeated the mantra, **"Do not cut the restraining bands until....!"**

The sides of the engine room present additional challenges..... how to look architecturally correct and yet allow maximum visibility at fair time. The team of McCoy and Bishop was engaged on a design/build basis which really means: build, tear out, then design. The right hand wall is now complete and features two 4' by 8' Lexan windows which can be opened during mill operation for ventilation. The wall itself is traditional "board and bat" construction using wood cut at last year's fair. The left wall (on the production side) presents some additional problems and, at press time, is still a work in progress. The goal is to provide maximum visibility for the audience, while working in a very congested area. Current plans include panels without windows that will open and an entrance door in its current location.

So.....come to the fair and see the changes that have been made in the last year.....

See you there – Ken McCoy



## **Amador Community Foundation Grant helps to preserve the sawmill history of Amador County**

Amador County, CA — beginning in the 1800's logging and mining played a key role as the economic engine of Amador County. Maintaining the sawmill and logging history is the goal of a \$500 grant by the **Amador Community Foundation** to the **Amador Sawmill and Mining Association**.

The Amador Community Foundation is a nonprofit, public charity established in 2000. Through the generosity of hundreds of local donors, the Foundation has awarded grants that have helped thousands of people in Amador County. Amador Community Foundation supports projects ranging from A-Pal Human Society, Free Feral Cat Spay and Neuter program to children panning for gold at the Kennedy Mine to new playground equipment at Pioneer Elementary School. They also manage an Emergency Crisis Assistance Fund funded by local residents and used for unexpected, life-altering events in Amador County.

Local individuals and businesses can establish funds or channel their charitable contributions through the Foundation to be used as grants to support numerous local nonprofit groups such as the Amador Sawmill and Mining Association and/or the Kennedy Mine Foundation. You can contact the Amador Community Foundation at 223-2148, [www.amadorcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.amadorcommunityfoundation.org) .

The Amador Sawmill and Mining Association operate the historic Amador Sawmill at the county fairgrounds in Plymouth. The mill is powered by a restored 1904 Nordberg steam engine. [www.amadorsawmill.org](http://www.amadorsawmill.org). The grant from the Amador Community Foundation will be used to help towards the cost of installing a boiler at the sawmill to provide steam to the engine.

The sawmill is operated during the County Fair and on special occasions. This year's Fair is July 30 thru August 2<sup>nd</sup>. [www.amadorcountyfair.com](http://www.amadorcountyfair.com)



**Steve installing redwood trim**



**Engine room roll up door and siding**



**Bill tapping boiler for stay bolts**



**Mike reaming hole to tap size**



**Stay bolt drill guide used to locate hole**



**Tom & Richard peening over the stay bolts**



**Bill and the new 5" exhaust pipe**



**"BRUNO"**

## **From the Millwright's Shop Bill Braun, President**

When we first started mailing out small one page newsletters back around 2002, it was just to thank the sawmill crew for what had been accomplished.

Since that beginning, much has changed, ASMA has become a significant organization in the Amador County community with improvements of the sawmill and the participation in community events in and outside Amador County. A brief timeline may illustrate some of that growth.

**July 1993 Fair** – Bill's Case steam tractor belted to sawmill, volunteers from EDGE&TA help Rolland Matson operate the mill.

**July 1997 Fair** – Rolland retires and turns over operations to the volunteers.

**February 2000** – Volunteers form a non-profit corporation (ASMA) and receive non-profit status with Federal and State tax agencies (paper work begins to build for Cathy)

**2002** – Nordberg Corliss steam engine donated to ASMA by Jerry Virtue & Bill Braun. Restoration work on engine commences.

**April 2004** – ASMA acquires two floating steam pile drivers from the Port of San Francisco. Booklet of adventure available on request. Title: "Pile Butts to Donkey Punchers"

**July 2004** - Steam Logging Donkey exhibited at Amador County Fair. (Former Pile Driver, Port of S.F.)

**2005** – Construction of engine room alongside sawmill begins with pouring of foundations. Restoration of Corliss continues.

**2007** – Corliss steam engine installation completed in new engine room in time for July County Fair. The fairgoers loved it. The sawmill crew received major bragging rights. Logging Donkey provided the steam.

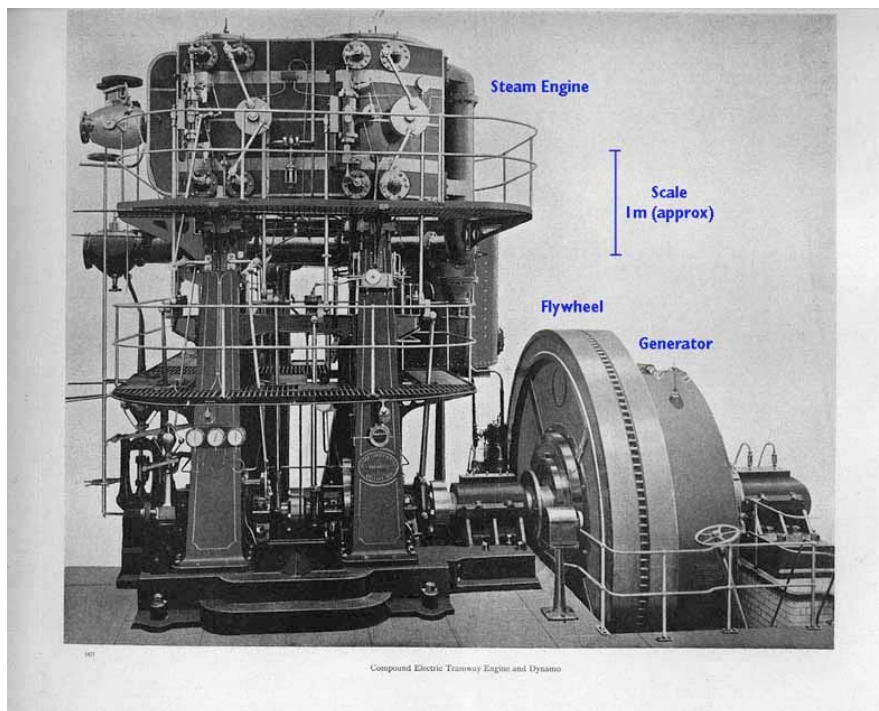
**2008** – Sawmill crew fabricates new sawmill heavy timber trusses for main mill roof and installs new galvanized steel roof. Corliss engine (“BRUNO”) performs during the four day county fair and the public loves the snorting exhaust and whirling flywheel. The whistle on the mill also helped.

Also over these years the volunteers have rebuilt the sawmill works and installed a flat belt line shaft which has made the exhibit better for the public to enjoy and the crew to operate.

Outside the sawmill operation at the fairgrounds, ASMA has participated in events like the 2008 “Best Show On Tracks” historic tractor show in Woodland, CA. The volunteers exhibited the Steam Logging Donkey ground skidding logs which earned ASMA a “Best Educational Display” award. Other shows attended have been in Arnold, and Fiddletown.

I have enjoyed immensely working with the guys and gals of the sawmill volunteers. Thank you all very much for your continuing support of the Historic Amador Sawmill. I look forward to working with each of you again at the old sawmill. *Engine Order, Full Ahead!*

*Bill*



**Corliss valve Compound Tramway Engine and Dynamo (British)**

For the past several years the Association has focused on rebuilding the Corliss engine and operating the #2 steam donkey. The #2 steam donkey was one of two rescued from the two pile drivers the Association received from the Port of San Francisco. Power boilers must be licensed by the State of California and the license is renewed on an annual basis. The license for #2 donkey was still current when we received the boilers but we needed to have the annual inspection done. This was completed just prior to the 2004 Amador County Fair. We have continued to have the boiler inspected on an annual basis. The license is posted at the boiler and it can be examined when we operate it at the 2009 Fair.

Any boiler repair must be done by a certified shop with certified welders. When the work is completed and inspected, the boiler will receive a code stamp. In our case, a repaired boiler receives an "R" stamp. This certifies the repair has been done by a shop certified to do the repair and meets the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for repair of power boilers.

The boiler for #3 was not certified when we received it. This was not a problem at the time since we were busy enough with the Corliss and #2 donkey. The Association recently decided to construct a permanent boiler installation for the Corliss at the fair grounds and leave #2 donkey as a portable demonstration unit. Also, #3 boiler is to be wood fired, since a sawmill has a lot of scrap wood. Boiler #2 will remain oil fired.

Upon examination of the #3 boiler including an ultrasonic inspection of the boiler wall thickness, an area was discovered in the outer boiler wall in the vicinity of the firebox. Apparently, years of salt water exposure caused a thinning of the wall. This required the removal of a one by three foot section of the pressure vessel wall toward the bottom of the boiler just outside the firebox. A certified shop was contacted for repair.

Now, ASMA is very self-sufficient. There are a number of skills available among the volunteers. This has allowed most of the tasks required to rebuild the Corliss and repair #2 donkey. However, when it came time to do the boiler repair on #3 donkey, we had to have the work done by a certified shop. This became an expensive proposition for ASMA.

Our annual expenses are on the order of \$10,000 a year. The boiler repair and re-certification is \$8,000 which does not leave much wiggle room.

So, contributions to this effort are most desired. We cannot continue without significant help from private sources. Remember, we are a 501 (c) (3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for your continued support. But we still need all the help we can get.

**Tom Innes**



**1903 Allis Chalmers Corliss Steam Engine  
Powered the McCloud Lumber Co. Sawmill 1903 - 1979  
McCloud, CA**

**Amador Sawmill & Mining Assoc.**

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