

# LOCO NEWS

June 2007



Volume 20, No. 6

## Words From the Top

### The President

Our big effort now is to get ready for the SWLS meet. Jason reports members are coming forward to volunteer their help, and we should be ready for a great meet. Those of you who have not signed up, contact Jason as he can always use more help.

With the constant rain and the rider mower still being out of commission, the weeds and grass are out of control. Delbert says all three of the club's weed eaters are functional, the push mower works, and the rider mower will be running this weekend. We can sure use your help in the coming weekends to spruce up the property.

The pond is full with a lot of water flowing over the spillway. We have not seen such an event for several years. In spite of all this water, our track remains in good running condition.

*Truman Hefner*

### The Treasurer

May was another one of those, "I'm sorry you missed it" months. It started with a special day for 50 well-chaperoned and very disciplined Head Start 3-4 year-olds. Their first order of business was, with Brenda's help, to color train pictures in the club house. Then Gene guided them on a "royal" tour of the barn and our facilities. Before Charles' "ugly" safety rules discussion, the kids were given some time to play in the grass section. At last it was time to RIDE. Divided into four sections, away they went!

After a lot of activity during the month, we had a climactic ending event in which I was proud to have participated. Ed Moore, a former Oklahoma state senator, brought his family to the track. And, BOY, what a family! There must have been 40 of them; and he brought them out in his special bus named "Prayer Force One," which is painted with the same paint that Ronald Reagan used for his Air Force One. If you want to see more, you can visit his web site: [www.prayerforceone.com](http://www.prayerforceone.com). This pretty well closed out May with a bang—and a lot of rain.

*Harvey Cannon*

## Superintendent of Track Maintenance

Our efforts are now focused on emergency tie replacement on track that will be replaced at some future date with West Coast rail and trex Ties. We are using wood ties that will last for at least a year until funds will be available for total replacement.

Delbert continues to install kick switches in our yard track area. Those of us who use the yards regularly really appreciate how convenient they are to move switch points.

### Station Stops . . .

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Gene has started installing railroad ties for piers to widen Truman's Trench bridge in order to accommodate three tracks. Peewee siding will be extended approximately sixty feet east with a spur to service Jason's proposed saw mill. The third track will be to the north for the high line extension.

### Donation from Afar . . .

*LOCO members, you've been doing some tremendous work out at the club track and it is looking better and better all the time. My only regret is that I can not be there to help you.*

*However, since I can't be there, I would like to donate this \$1,500 check for the specific purpose of buying the Trex lumber, rail and material to complete the BERGER siding (on the Southeast corner of the new Loop track), and for the new siding to be called BOGARDUS that is currently the dirt mound between the Huth Hollow Bridge and Jasonville.*

*I look forward to the day when you can complete these two sidings and bring the track closer to bi-directional running capability. As you complete the sidings, please take a picture of the member with the siding that is named after them and send it to me.*

*Warmest regards to all and thank you for all that you do for the LOCO organization.*

*Respectfully, Joe Fawcett*

## Along the LOCO RAILS

May is gone, but during that month, several more projects have been finished that make the facilities and track even better. Now the big push is on to get everything as perfect as possible for the annual SWLS meet at LOCO.

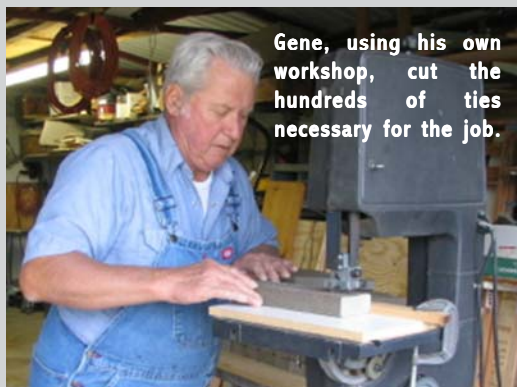
### Electrical Outlets

First on the agenda was the addition of several electrical outlets and charger stands on the posts for the first two tracks in the storage barn. From now on, folks needing to charge their trusty locomotives will not need to string extension cords across the floor. They can plug directly into the box, and the stand will keep charging equipment off the floor. Nice work!



### 4S Bridge

The problem was that the bridge track was no longer adequate for carrying the required loads. The old wooden ties would no longer hold the screws, and repeated heating and cooling had caused them to “walk” out of alignment. In addition, although the rail was in good shape, it was the lighter, older style. As a result, the Oklahoma safety inspectors had mandated the replacement pursuant to their April visit. As always, LOCO members took the challenge head on. With an emergency authorization from the board, the club purchased sufficient TREX material to replace the ties; and using the talents and strengths of each member, the project was finished in just about one week.



two

# TREE TIPPING — A New LOCO Sport By Joe Fawcett

You are sure to have heard of cow tipping—that legendary sport of champions where you sneak up on a sleeping cow in the middle of the night and push it over. Well *Gene, Harvey, and Truman* have now come up with “tree tipping” as a new sport of champions at LOCO. Yep, they were bound and determined to sneak up on some dead/sleeping trees at LOCO and tip them over to get them out of the way. If you are curious, just read on and see what these three have been up to!

Several years of drought were not kind to some of the trees at LOCO. Whether it was stress due to lack of water, age, or insects, several trees just did not “spring” this spring. Adding to the problem was that the onset of rain had loosened the ground making the dead trees a hazard. For these reasons and to make way for some live trees, the crew took a little bit of time during the first and second weeks of May to do a little “tipping.”

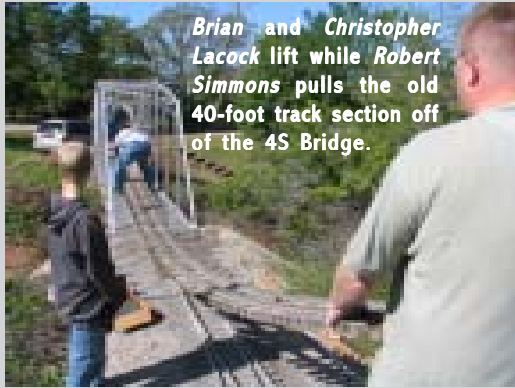
Well, if you know these three, you know that competition is in their blood. First, each selected his own tree to tip. The next thing was to loosen up—very necessary as one matures—by doing a group tackle of a tree near the dam in the Peewee Park area. They began by stripping the limbs off the tree then ripping the trunk and roots from the ground.



**This is what happens when Gene, Harvey, and Truman team up on a tree and start stripping limbs. Frightening, isn't it? A note of caution: Be careful if you allow these guys in your yard for fear that they may go berserk on one of your trees.**

A coin toss gave Truman the first chance to display his tree-tipping strength and prowess. He had selected a tree near Truman's trench and started by getting a good grip on the trunk and, with gloved hands so as not to break a nail, began the delimiting.

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*Brian and Christopher Lacock lift while Robert Simmons pulls the old 40-foot track section off of the 4S Bridge.*



*While Truman and Gene prepared the rail by drilling the ends to accept the rail joiners . . .*

*. . . Brian and Harvey worked together to make new track sections.*



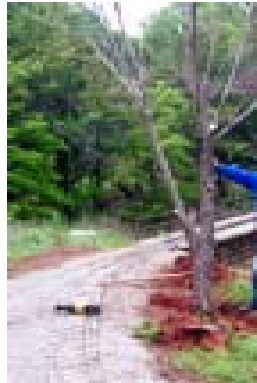
**Truman and Harvey worked to install the new track panels on the bridge. Although the old track came off in one section, it could not be put back that way, and each panel had to be put back down one at a time.**

With the help of all involved, this project took only a couple of days over a one-week span of time. From the pictures, you can see that this is another first-class LOCO project complete



## Truman in ACTION:

First a stretch to limber up, then the more familiar "grunt" position necessary for tipping his tree of choice is taken.



Next, the form of the experienced tree tipper is taken - feet firmly planted, back slightly arched, and muscles flexed.

Finally, with one mighty heave, the tree is brought down; and the pose of conquest is taken over another dead tree on its way to the trash heap.



## Gene in ACTION:

Gene was next up and was not to be outdone. We don't know what it is with these three, but Gene got to pick one of the larger trees; in this case, a near-dead weeping willow. It should be said that the pictures of Gene in action with arm muscles flexing and the neck veins bulging were deemed too extreme for this newsletter. However, he can be seen in his world-renowned pose after the successful tipping. The tree probably never saw him coming!



Gene with what is undoubtedly a new state record for a tree with the most branches tipped over by a single person.

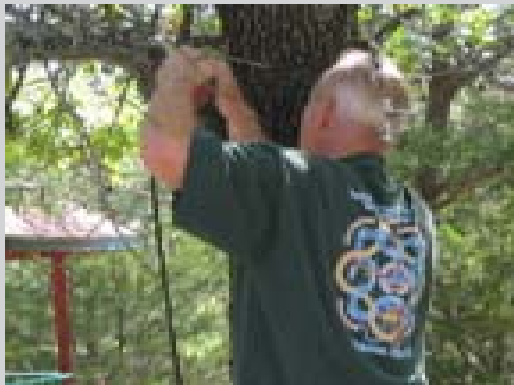
## Lake Fawcett Bridge

Along with the 4S Bridge, the ties over the shorter Lake Fawcett bridge (between the north tunnel entrance and the diamond) required replacement. Brian, Christopher, Jason, and Charles made quick work of the track swap.



## Vegetation Issues

While the track work was going on, others were out and about tackling the vegetation that presented a hazard to passengers and train crews. *Harvey, Art, Gene, and Truman* spent many days cutting, chopping, and removing the offending material. LOCO engineers now have an excellent view of the track, and things are out of the reach of little hands.



four

## Harvey in ACTION:

Harvey "Track Hulkster" Cannon may have been last but was certainly not least. His pick was the dead pine leaning over the track on the southwest corner of the property.



The "Harvey Tip," a move he has made famous in the past couple of years, begins with a power stance—both hands placed shoulder width apart flat on the trunk, feet planted, and muscles bulging and rippling under the tee shirt. Then, back into the job, the tree has no chance.

Harvey assumes his victory form as the tree is successfully brought down and ready for the burn pile. It should be said that, during the process, Harvey's audience stayed a few feet back and just stared in awe.



Well, the results are in. Sugar, being the smart, unbiased judge she is, selected Harvey as the best tree tipper. His form, approach, and follow-through were impeccable and a sight to behold. Thanks to the work of these three, the track has been cleared of several dead trees that will no longer be a hazard to those riding the LOCO rails. Next on the agenda might be to plant some new trees a little further down the embankment so that we can eventually get some shade around Peewee Park.



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# About LOCO

## LOCO NEWS

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Resident — \$100  
Associate — \$25 (optional for anyone living more than 60 miles from the LOCO facility)

# Meet Preparation

In preparation for the SWLS meet, various sections of the track have been tweaked to make things better and more presentable. Our engineer hat's off to all those that have done so much for the club!

A track gang led by *Christopher Lacock* putting the final ballast touches to the No. 2 main through the passenger loading area.



In the meantime, *Gene Berger* and his helper *Isa, John Farquharson's granddaughter*, removed the mimosa tree from the offloading area in back of the house. By doing this, several more camper slots were opened.



# Lake LOCO



Water, water everywhere! Thanks to the abundant spring rains, Lake LOCO, after almost two years of being dry, is once again full to the top. This will be a tremendous sight as trains move across and around the lake. Bring your cameras and take some pictures of your favorite train crossing the bridges.



## Upcoming Events

### June

- 2 - Saturday  
Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.  
Membership Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- 3 - Sunday  
Public (Only) run, 1:00- 4:00 p.m.
- 9 - Saturday  
LOCO Fun Run, all day
- 22-24 - Friday-Sunday  
SWLS meet

### July

- 1 - Sunday  
Public (Only) Run, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- 7 - Saturday  
Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.  
Membership Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- 10 - Tuesday  
ORM Monthly meeting at LOCO
- 14 - Saturday  
LOCO Fun Run, all day

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