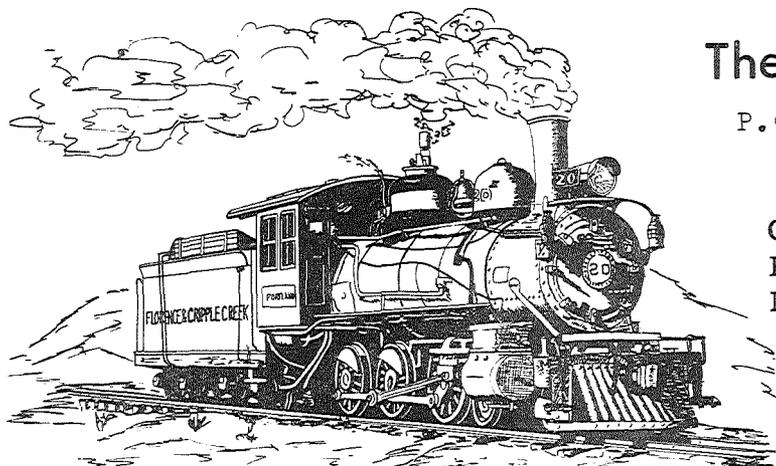


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

May 1967

No. 92

CURRENT NEWS AND HISTORICAL NOTES OF  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROADING PUBLISHED  
MONTHLY FOR ITS MEMBERS BY THE ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

Temporary Editor - Ed Schneider

MEETING NOTICE: Date ..... Wednesday, May 10, 1967  
Time ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Place .... Western Federal Savings Bldg., (Lower level  
meeting room), 17th and California Sts.,  
Denver.

PROGRAM NOTES: Our program will be two films produced by the Union  
Pacific - "Last of the Giants" and "Meet Uncle Pete".  
These are both sound films and promise a very interest-  
ing program.

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GREAT WESTERN Great Western 90, the 2-10-0 type locomotive which pulled  
#90 SOLD several Rocky Mountain Railroad Club excursions in past  
years, has been sold to the Strasburg Railroad. Recently  
offered to the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club at a price in the vicinity of  
\$20,000, the engine was turned down by the Board of Directors as being  
excessively expensive. As many of our members know, the Strasburg is a  
134-year old common carrier in Pennsylvania. Passenger service is oper-  
ated over its 4½ mile line between East Strasburg and Paradise, Pennsyl-  
vania, on a daily basis during summer months and with less frequency at  
other times of the year. The 90 joins a couple of smaller engines on this  
railroad in the Keystone State, and we wish her many years of successful  
operation. Built in 1924, she was an unusual wheel arrangement for Colo-  
rado, and was used regularly during the fall "campaigns" during sugar beet  
harvest time. The arrival of diesels in the early 1950's reduced her use-  
fulness to the railroad, although she was used on excursions and in stand-  
by service as late as 1962.

\* \* \* \* \*

DIESELS LIKE Club member W. B. Groome, of the Union Pacific Railroad,  
POLICE CARS? was pictured recently in Denver newspapers in connection  
with the installation of revolving, flashing yellow  
lights atop the cabs of Union Pacific passenger diesels, for safety reasons.  
Similar to the flashing lights used on the roofs of many police cars, the  
brilliant yellow flashes can be seen for long distances and will help warn  
motorists of the approach of high-speed trains at grade crossings.

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MOST RAILROADS KEPT A recent issue of "Railway Age" comments on the  
RUNNING IN THE SNOW usefulness of rapid-transit lines and commuter  
railroads in the Chicago area during the heavy  
snows which virtually isolated the city last winter. While the performance

of railroads and the elevated-surface lines of the Chicago Transit Authority was not perfect, they did generally keep going when no other forms of transportation were able to move. They also returned to normal service before other forms of transportation came close to it, and took care of their own battle against the weather at no cost to the taxpayer.

\* \* \* \* \*

WHY NOT WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN? We would like to suggest that all members write to their congressmen protesting the removal of railway postoffice service from passenger trains. Congress has been groping for some way to save railroad passenger service; yet the Post Office has been terminating railroad mail contract.

\* \* \* \* \*

U.P. EXCURSION TRAIN "RUNS OUT OF GAS" According to the April 24, 1967 issue of the Denver Post, a N.R.H.S. special train pulled by Union Pacific steam locomotive 8444, returning to Denver from Julesburg, Colorado ran out of fuel oil 16 miles from Denver Union Station. This unfortunate occurrence blocked the U.P. main line for about an hour, holding up both the Portland Rose and the City of St. Louis. The Portland Rose, headed out of Denver, finally pushed the excursion train backward and into a siding at Brighton, allowing the two streamliners to pass. The U.P. sent 3 diesel units from Denver to rescue the stranded excursion train, which finally reached Denver about 9:45 p.m.; 3 hours and 15 minutes late.

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MORE ON THE RIO GRANDE & SAN JUAN RY. Recent information from the Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico in Mexico City has been received as the result of an inquiry regarding the delay in the scheduled appearance of the narrow gauge cars as announced by the R.G. & S.J. Ry. After a thorough search of railroad records, a N de M official has stated that he has been unable to find any record of the sale of narrow gauge coaches to an American. He states that 3 of the 770-779 series "Primera" class steel coaches are still in service, and the rest have been retired. News from the Alamosa-Durango-Silverton "battlefront" states that the two factions, pro-Hinman and for abandonment vs. those who want the D.& R.G.W. to continue operations, are still at loggerheads after additional meetings.

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UNION PACIFIC EXCURSION IN JUNE Much interest has been shown in our June 3rd and 4th excursion to Rawlins, Wyoming, behind steam locomotive U.P. 8444. This two-day excursion will include numerous photo stops in both directions. All meals and between-meal snacks, both days, are included in the price of your ticket. Drop the Club a post card if you want additional brochures. Everyone is welcome on this trip -- come along and bring a friend. Since the operation of steam-powered excursion trains becomes increasingly difficult each year, it seems certain that one of these will be our last. Remember what happened to our 3-day excursion over the narrow gauge! We ask your assistance in reaching our guarantee of 280 full fares.

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IN MEMORIAM Club member, James R. Wachob, died April 3, 1967, following a long illness.

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SHOP IN SWAP Personal ads are accepted from members for items to be listed for sale or trade or wanted. We cannot enter into correspondence concerning an item, nor will we appraise items to be offered for sale. Send your listings to the Editor by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

For Sale - RAILROAD MAGAZINES, 1936 through 1959. TRAINS MAGAZINES, 1947 through 1966. Forced to sell this collection and prefer selling to rail fan. Every year complete with some duplications in Railroad Magazines. Trains Magazines in perfect condition. Six issued of Railroad Magazine with back covers missing, all others perfect. \$75. or best offer over that amount takes all years. Roger Gillis, 7226 Mariposa St., Denver, Colo. 80221. Phone 429-4544.

Wanted - Original old photographs, mounted on cardboard and stereoptican view cards of early culture of Colorado and of western areas; anything west of the Mississippi River.

Trade - Colorado post-cards for Colorado post-cards before 1910.

Trade - Locomotive Encyclopedia 1930 for Colorado stereoptican view cards or mounted photographs of any early day cultures of the State; also for Colorado Railroad Passes.

David Digerness, 4953 Perry St., Denver, Colorado 80212.

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HIGH JINKS One dark night, as a freight waited for a meet at a siding in the country, the conductor came out of the caboose and found his student brakeman sitting on top of the cupola, with his lighted lantern standing on the ground.

"Now, listen," said the conductor to the student brakie, "You should always keep your lantern with you. Here, I'll toss it up to you."

Up ahead on the engine, the engineer looked back just in time to see the graceful curve as the lighted lantern rose to the top of the caboose.

"What do you know about that!" he said to his fireman. "That new student just stood flat-footed on the ground and jumped up on top of the cupola!"

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Ed Schneider, President

R. A. Cordill, Secretary

Tom Gray, Vice President

Ane O. Clint, Treasurer