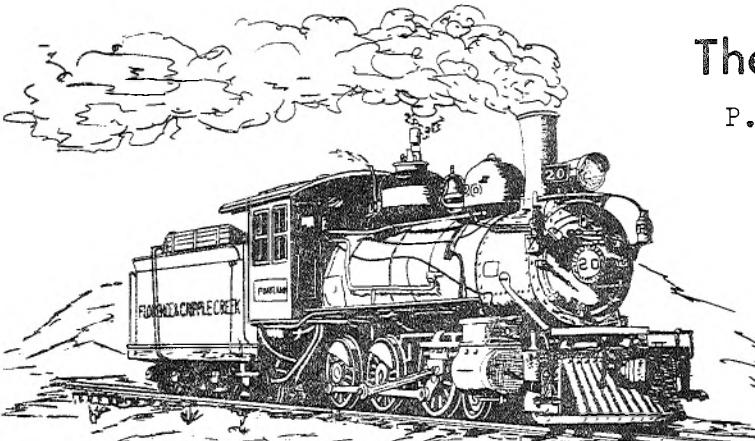


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

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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~~, July 10, 1968

Time 8:00 p.m.

Place Western Federal Savings Bldg., (lower level meeting room), 17th & California Sts., Denver

PROGRAM NOTES: John Warren will present this month's program, "6 Pass Routes Through the Rockies and Why They Were Chosen!" There will be a handout in connection with this program, and you may wish to bring a penlight to see to make reference to the handout during the program.

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WESTERN YESTERDAYS FOREST CROSSEN's newest book, Volume VI of Western Yesterdays, is now available. In reviewing Forest's book, the Daily Camera of Boulder, reported "Volume VI, just published, contains as much variety and as many assorted adventures as the others, but it is the story of one man - Thomas Fitzpatrick, pioneer railroadman. Crossen got the story first-hand from the late Mr. Fitzpatrick years ago, and Fitzpatrick checked the manuscript for accuracy. Except for introductory matter, the story is told in Fitzpatrick's own words, and an exciting story it is."

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ALPINE TUNNEL DAYS Alpine Tunnel Days Celebration will be staged at Pitkin, Colorado on Saturday and Sunday, August 3rd and 4th; an event that commemorates the famous old Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad and the great Alpine Tunnel, first bore through the Continental Divide. A two day schedule of interesting events (all of which are free) will be staged, starting at 10:00 on Saturday morning and continuing through Sunday afternoon.

Pitkin, one time division point on the DSP&P RR and famous old mining town is located 28 miles northeast of Gunnison and 13 miles from the Alpine Tunnel.

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SOLD OUT!!! The 6,000 volume edition of the book, "Colorado Midland" is sold out and those who did not buy a copy will now have to pay collector's item prices from book dealers. The book was sold in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The book was also sold in the following foreign countries: Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Scotland, Venezuela, Columbia, Saigon, Viet-Nam, Finland, Italy and Greece. The three leading states in number of sales were Colorado, California, and Illinois - in that order.

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CRIPPLE CREEK RAILROADING Don't forget! July 12th and 13th, Dinner, Melodrama, and Steam Railroading. If you haven't sent in for your tickets, do so immediately or phone your reservations.

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MIKE BLECHA "With passenger trains fast disappearing from our railroads, this short story is about riding mixed trains on the AT&SF Railway, could be of interest to those who used to like to ride passenger trains.

"No passenger train time table mentions this service and some ticket agents in this area will tell you 'it can't be done'."

"My job had me staying in the hotel in Pritchett, Colorado, where I got acquainted with the crews that operate trains from Dodge City, Kansas to Pritchett, Colorado, which is also a mixed train and can be ridden. It was from these crew members that I got my information on how to make this trip.

"My trip starts from Las Animas, Colorado where I purchased a one-way ticket to Boise City, Oklahoma for \$3.69.

"When #38 comes through Las Animas it is a freight and a ticket holder can't get on, but when the train turns south at Las Animas Junction, which is 2.4 miles east of Las Animas, it becomes a mixed train. Since I bought a ticket in Las Animas the depot agent had to provide me with transportation to the junction. I understand if there was a section foreman or someone else with a motor car available, that would have been my transportation. In my case a taxi was called. I must have traveled five miles to get to a dirt road crossing just south of Las Animas Junction.

"#38 was a few minutes late and when it came with 89 cars the engineer stopped the train so the caboose was on the road crossing for me to get on.

"The trip to Boise City is 113 miles and it took 3½ hours. I rode all of it in the caboose which was new, all steel and very clean. Things inside were put in their places and nothing scattered around - not like the older, crummy caboose. This train operates as a daily.

"I had to spend the night at Boise City. There is a hotel where the train crew stops and where the owner provides taxi service for a small fee.

"The fare on train #174 from Boise City, Oklahoma to Dodge City, Kansas was \$5.10 for a 160 mile ride which took 8½ hours. There is considerable work along this line. At Keyes, Oklahoma there is a junction with the ex-B,M&E RR (Beaver, Mead and Englewood) which is now part of the Katy System. The mixed train from Dodge City to Pritchett (#185 & #186) runs over the same track as #174 from Satanta to Dodge City. A switcher also operates over this part of the line. The coach on #174 that I rode on this part of the trip was about one-half seats and the remainder baggage or freight area. The train stops in Satanta for lunch in a nearby cafe.

"#173 which travels from Dodge City to Boise City, makes three round trips a week, leaving Dodge City on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. #185 which travels to Pritchett, makes three round trips a week, leaving Dodge City on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

"I spent a night in Dodge City in a railroader's hotel near the depot and the next morning I caught the Super Chief #17 and rode to LaJunta, Colorado. That is a beautiful train and a nice ride - 202 miles in 162 minutes and the fare was \$7.24.

"At La Junta I had a three hour lay-over and then caught the Denver Streamliner #201 to Pueblo, Colorado and #200 to Denver, Colorado. The fare was \$5.89."

Sounds like an interesting trip in this era of disappearing passenger trains.

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TRACK-LAYING RECORD???? From two clippings sent to us by Club member John Soule from the Mining Journal (London), Volume 270, No. 6926 P.400, May 17, 1968 and Skillings Mining Review, May 25m 1968 p.17, it is noted "More than four miles of track was laid on the Mt. Newman iron ore railroad in the northwest of Western Australia recently, establishing a new world line-laying record. The Mt. Newman railroad contractor, Morrison-Knudsen-Mannix-Oman, and American-Canadian joint venture, laid, spiked and anchored 4.35 miles of track in 11 hours, 40 minutes. The previous line-laying record was 2.88 miles laid in 11 hours in the United States on the Atchison,

Topeka & Santa Fe R.R. in 1962."

To quote Mr. Soule - "These figures are somewhat at variance with 'Charley Crocker's coolies' laying 10 miles of track in a day for the Central Pacific near Promontory, Utah in 1868 or 1869. See: Popular Mechanic's Railroad Album, Library of Congress No. 53-9420, 1954, p.51 and L. Beebe's 'The Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific Railroads', Library of Congress No. 63-12942, p.139. If possible, it would be interesting to be able to refute this modern record."

We agree.

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SWAP 'N SHOP 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 listing to the Editor by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

For Sale or Trade "A friend and I have come into a collection of passes and have too many for our own use. If any of the members are seeking certain railroads or certain years it is possible we might have something. We will sell or possibly trade for Colorado items. Mostly between 1925 and 1960 but some back to 19th century. There are a good many Rio Grande, Santa Fe, C&S, FW&D, Burlington as well as smaller roads."

T. H. Barber, 1050 Pike View St., Denver, Colorado 80215

Wanted Would like to obtain pix, periodicals, pamphlets, books, maps, about or printed in Muskogee, Okla.; Mart, Waco, Walnut Springs, or Yoakum, Texas. Also, items related to the Southwest States.
A. F. VonBlon, Jr. 1208 Locust, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

For Sale Two books, "Railroads at War" by S. Kip Farrington, Jr. One book has on the fly leaf the following: "For my friend J. C. Turner who knows his railroads and who has performed a great service for the U.S. and the Armed Forces in World War II. With best wishes and the hope you will fish with me sometime. (signed) S. Kip Farrington, Jr. Sept. 25th 1945"
Make offer to
R. Hervey Angier, 402 Channing Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78210

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That for Today Most people spend more time explaining why they have not done something than it would have taken to do it in the first place.

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Ed Schneider, President

R. A. Cordill, Secretary

Tom Gray, Vice President

Ane O. Clint, Treasurer