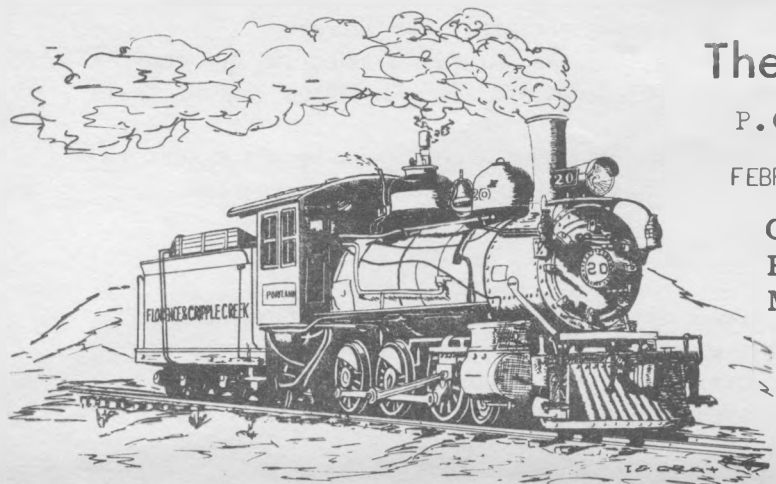


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

FEBRUARY 1969

No. 114

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

EDITOR - ED SCHNEIDER

MEETING NOTICE: DATE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1969
TIME 8:00 P.M.
PLACE WESTERN FEDERAL SAVINGS BLDG., (LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM), 17TH
& CALIFORNIA STS., DENVER

PROGRAM NOTES: OUR PROGRAM THIS MONTH, "BUILDING COLORADO'S NEWEST NARROW-GAUGE RAILWAY", WILL BE PRESENTED BY MR. DALE F. BAIRD AND BYRON F. EWING, OF EAGLE ENGINEERING COMPANY. MESSRS. BAIRD AND EWING WILL SHOW SLIDES OF THE NARROW-GAUGE RAILROAD BEING BUILT BETWEEN BLACKHAWK AND CENTRAL CITY.

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"GRASS BETWEEN THE TIES" IS THE TITLE OF AN EDITORIAL THAT APPEARED IN THE SILVERTON STANDARD ON JANUARY 10, 1969, WRITTEN BY ALLEN NOSSAMAN. "THE MONTH OF JANUARY SHOULD BE A DECISIVE ONE FOR THOSE WHO FEEL THE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD WHICH LINKS ALAMOSA, DURANGO AND FARMINGTON, AND WHICH CONNECTS THE SILVERTON BRANCH WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD BY RAIL SHOULD BE RETAINED. THREE THINGS SHOULD HAPPEN IN JANUARY:

'ONE OF THEM IS A STUDY, COMMISSIONED BY THE FOUR CORNERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF OPERATING THE NARROW GAUGE LINE, DONE BY KIRSCHNER ASSOCIATES OF ALBUQUERQUE.

'A SECOND IS ANOTHER STUDY, ALSO FOR THE FOUR CORNERS COMMISSION, BY JERRY A. FISHER OF MILWAUKEE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF OPERATION OF A STANDARD GAUGE RAILROAD INTO THE AREA. THE FIRST IS A STUDY OF WHAT MIGHT CURRENTLY BE DONE WITH THE EXISTING RAILROAD IF ANYBODY WAS INTERESTED IN OPERATING IT AS SUCH. THE SECOND IS ACTUALLY BANKING AGAINST THE FUTURE, A STUDY OF SOME OF WHAT MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN PROVIDING STANDARD GAUGE RAIL SERVICE INTO THIS AREA. THE FOUR CORNERS COMMISSION HAS FELT IT WANTS TO HAVE SOME ANSWERS IN BOTH THESE AREAS ON HAND AS IT PITCHES IN TO HELP THE REGION SEEK SOME ANSWERS TO ITS TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN GENERAL.

'THE THIRD THING WHICH SHOULD HAPPEN IN JANUARY - HOPEFULLY ABOUT THE TIME THE STUDIES BECOME AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION - IS THE MERGER OF THE TWO MOST REPRESENTATIVE AND MOST CLOSELY ALLIED OF THE GROUPS OPPOSING THE ABANDONMENT OF THE LINE. ALSO HOPEFULLY, THE GROUPS - THE COLORADO-NEW MEXICO CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE RAILROAD (THE ONE WITH THE INITIATIVE) AND THE COLORADO-NEW MEXICO BETTER TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (THE ONE WITH THE INCORPORATION) - CAN DECIDE ON A LESS CUMBERSOME NAME.

'WHEN ALL THREE OF THESE HAPPEN, WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE FOUR CORNERS COMMISSION AND POSSIBLY BOTH STATE GOVERNMENTS; IT WILL THEN BECOME EVEN MORE OBVIOUS THAT THE COMMUNITIES INTERESTED IN STAYING ON A RAILROAD ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T DONE IN THE PAST 20 YEARS. THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ACT LIKE IT!

'THERE IS A NEED FOR A NOTE OF POSITIVENESS IN WHAT BASICALLY ALWAYS COMES TO THE SURFACE AS A FIGHT "AGAINST" ABANDONMENT. SO READY ARE MOST OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA TO BE "AGAINST" SOMETHING THAT WE FORGET WHAT WE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS HOW MOST EFFECTIVELY TO BE "FOR" A RAILROAD WHICH HAS ALWAYS HAD POTENTIAL - AND STILL DOES.

'BUT IT WILL REMAIN IN THE POTENTIAL STAGES UNTIL THE AREA BEGINS ACTING LIKE IT WANTS A RAILROAD FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN TAX REVENUES. THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN HAS NO OBLIGA-

TION TO BUY TEXTBOOKS FOR HALF OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO SIMPLY ON THE BASIS OF A RAILROAD NOBODY WILL USE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE OR TWO MERCHANTS AND SHIPPERS IN EACH OF SEVERAL COMMUNITIES, THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL EFFORT TO USE THE NARROW GAUGE. THE SUBTLE REVOLUTION IN TRANSPORTATION CONVERTED TRAFFIC TO HIGHWAYS AND ALLOWED THE D&RGW TO SUBSTITUTE MOTOR CARRIER SERVICE - ALL TOWARD THE END OF PULLING UP ITS TRACKS. FEW SEEMED TO OBJECT; FEW SEEMED TO NOTICE.

'NOW WE FIND OURSELVES GROPING ABOUT FOR SOME WAY TO SAVE THE RAILROAD CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES. THE SIMPLE LESSON COMES FROM THE ICC DECISION TO PERPETUATE "THE SILVERTON" IN THE LAST DECADE: IT WAS BEING USED.'

'IF THE STUDIES AND THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS INVOLVED IN THE JANUARY COUNTDOWN DO NOT RESULT IN THE USE OF THE EXISTING RAILROAD - THERE WILL BE NO RAIL COMMON CARRIER INTO THE ENTIRE FOUR CORNERS REGION.'

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UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD IS BUILDING, AND EQUIPPING WITH DISPLAYS, A "GOLDEN SPIKE CENTENNIAL EXPO" CAR. THIS CAR TOGETHER WITH TWO STEAM LOCOMOTIVES WHICH ARE REPLICAS OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE ENGINES, A VINTAGE BOX CAR, CRANE CAR, COACH, AND BLACKSMITH CAR, ALL MOUNTED ON FOUR MODERN FLAT CARS, WILL TOUR THE ENTIRE U.P. SYSTEM DURING 1969. THIS CENTENNIAL TRAIN WILL BE AT OGDEN, UTAH DURING THE MAY 10TH CELEBRATION.

UNION PACIFIC WILL OPERATE A SPECIAL EXCURSION TRAIN FOR DIGNITARIES BETWEEN SALT LAKE CITY AND OGDEN ON MAY 10, 1969. ON MAY 11TH THROUGH 14TH, A STEAM EXCURSION TRAIN FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL BE OPERATED OVER THE SAME RUN, POWERED BY UNION PACIFIC'S FAMOUS STEAM LOCOMOTIVE, #8444, A 4-8-4 NORTHERN TYPE.

UNION PACIFIC HAS DONATED TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENOUGH 80-YEAR OLD, 56-LB. RAIL AND FITTINGS FOR NEARLY A MILE OF TRACK WHICH HAS BEEN LAID ON THE ORIGINAL ROADBED AT PROMONTORY. THIS WILL BE A PERMANENT PART OF THE MONUMENT.

A NEW CENTENNIAL HISTORY IN PAMPHLET FORM IS BEING PRODUCED BY UNION PACIFIC FOR DISTRIBUTION DURING THE CENTENNIAL YEAR 1969.

ONE OF THE GREAT MOMENTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY - THE DRIVING OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE THAT MARKED COMPLETION OF THE NATION'S FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAIL SYSTEM - WILL BE REENACTED ON MAY 10 AT PROMONTORY, UTAH, AS THE HIGHLIGHT OF A YEAR-LONG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. PROMONTORY HAS LONG SINCE BEEN BY-PASSED BY THE RAILROADS, AND TRACKS IN THE VICINITY WERE TAKEN UP AND USED FOR SCRAP IRON DURING WORLD WAR II. BUT A NEW MILE-LONG SECTION OF OLD-TYPE-RAIL RAIL HAS BEEN RELAID ON THE ORIGINAL ROADBED, AND REPLICAS OF THE HISTORIC ENGINES - THE JUPITER AND No. 119 - WILL STAND NOSE-TO-NOSE ON THESE RAILS DURING THE COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES, JUST AS THE ORIGINALS DID A CENTURY AGO.

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"THEFT OF SERVICE" FROM THE WASHINGTON POST OF JANUARY 18, 1969, DATED FROM NEW YORK, "FOR A SECOND TIME THIS WEEK, CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE J. WOLFE CHASSEN HAS DISMISSED "THEFT OF SERVICE" CHARGES BROUGHT BY THE LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD AGAINST DISSATISFIED COMMUTERS WHO REFUSED TO SHOW THEIR TICKETS TO A CONDUCTOR.

"THE RAILROAD HAS NO RIGHT TO ARREST PASSENGERS WHILE THEY HAVE TICKETS ON THEM," CHASSEN SAID YESTERDAY. "ALL THE RAILROAD CAN DO IS ASK THEM TO LEAVE THE TRAIN AT THE NEXT STATION."

'CHASSEN ACQUITTED JOHN P. CLUFF, 48, AND FRAZIER SHEETS, 53, BOTH OF GARDEN CITY, AFTER A 30-MINUTE TRIAL. THEY SAID THEY REFUSED TO SHOW THEIR COMMUTATION TICKETS AS A PROTEST WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD RESULT IN BETTER SERVICE."

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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 YOU LISTING TO THE EDITOR BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

FOR SALE: CRIPPLE CREEK SHORT LINE: AN 8 FOLD, 14 PICTURE (LITHOGRAPH) FOLDS TO 3 5/8" x 5 1/2". J. L. WALTERS, PRES., F. C. MATHEWS, GPA. GOOD CONDITION, BEST OFFER OR TRADE FOR TTs, KEYS, PASSES, PHOTOS, BOOKS OR PAMPHLETS RELATED TO RRs, TEXAS. PRINTING OR SOUTHWEST.
A. F. VON BLON 1208 LOCUST, MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

FOR SALE: PRE-1874 ST. LOUIS & IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROAD SWITCH LOCK. SOLID BRASS, WITH CHAIN, NO KEY. EXCELLENT CONDITION. \$22.50
H. W. HAWLEY 410 LAUREL ST., LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON 97034

FOR SALE: 1918 POORS MANUAL \$30.00, 1941 LOCO ENCYCLO. \$45.00. 1931 & 1932 MOODYS \$15.00 EA., 1941-43-44, 45, 47, \$12.00 EACH. 1960 AND 63 MOODYS \$9.00 EACH. BOOK RATE MAILING CHARGES INCLUDED. ALL IN EXCELLENT SHAPE.
C. N. LIPPINCOTT 22 E. OAK AVE., MOORESTOWN, N. J. 08057

WANTED: D&RG OR D&RGW KNIFE, FORK AND SPOON.
E. G. WALKER, JR. 13 STANLEY OVAL, WESTFIELD, N. J. 07090

WANTED: BUILDER'S PLATE FROM A RIO GRANDE 3600. WILL SWAP FOR PLATE FROM COLORADO MIDLAND #53.
ROBERT A. LEMASSENA 1795 S. SHERIDAN BLVD., DENVER, COLO. 80226

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DUES! DUES! IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SENT IN YOUR DUES FOR THIS YEAR, PLEASE DO. \$3.00 FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS. \$2.00 FOR OUT-OF-STATE MEMBERS.

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BRAZIL A LETTER HAS BEEN HANDED TO US WHICH WE QUOTE IN ITS ENTIRETY:

AS A BRAZILIAN RAILFAN, I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY TO WRITE TO YOU TO TALK ABOUT STEAM LOCOMOTIVE PHOTOGRAPHS AND ASKING FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

OFTEN I HAVE APRECIATED HANDSOME ONES YOUR COLLECTION THROUGH "TRAINS" MAGAZINE. TOWARD THE MATTER I ALSO OWN VARIOUS COLLECTION OF TRAINS AND LOCOMOTIVE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM BRAZILIAN AND FOREIGN RAILROADS AND BY MY ROLLING INCLINATION IN WHAT CONCERNS THIS PAST-TIME HOBBY, I AM PERFORMING A PHOTOGRAPHIC "ALBUM" ON THE SUBJECT: "RAILWAYS IN BRAZIL AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD" WICH SHOWS PHOTOGRAPHIC ONES OF BRAZILIAN AND FOREIGN RAILROADS THAT I GATHERED TO-DATE.

REGARDING AMERICAN ONES I OWN ONLY A FEW AND THEREAT I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE - IF I MAY - SAMPLES OF THE COUNTLESS COLLECTION YOURS, TO DISPLAY ON THAT EXHIBIT MASSIVE AND HANDSOME SPECIMEN - AMERICAN MADE - WHOSE I ADMIRER FORMERLY IN "TRAINS" MAGAZINE. IF POSSIBLE, I EVENLY WILL BE PLEASED TO SEND YOU PHOTOGRAPHS OF --- TRAINS AND LOCOS OF BRAZILIAN RAILROADS. THE SIZE MY PRINTS ARE ALL 13 X 18CM (5" X 7" M/!.)

THANKING YOU VERY MUCH, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR KINDNESS, AND WISHING YOU ALL PROSPERITY, I WILL BE OVERJOYED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

CORDIALLY YOURS
/s/ MIGUEL SAN GIOVANNI AMBROSIO

MIGUEL SAN GIOVANNI AMBROSIO
RUA IVINHEIMA, 110 (BRAS)
SAO PAULO - 6
(BRASIL)

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THOT FOR THE DAY IT'S NOT THE HOURS THAT YOU PUT IN AN OFFICE - IT'S WHAT YOU PUR IN THE HOURS.

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JIM EHERNBERGER, PRESIDENT

R. A. CORDILL, SECRETARY

CARL E. C. CARLSON, VICE-PRESIDENT

ANE CLINT, TREASURER