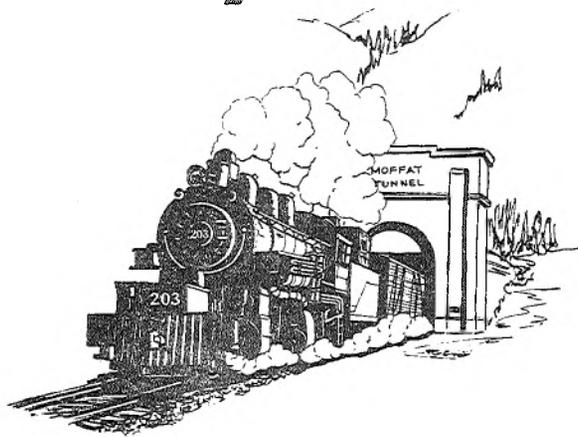


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

August 1969

No. 120

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, August 13, 1969
Time 8:00 p. m.
Place WESTERN FEDERAL SAVINGS BLDG., (lower level
meeting room), 17th & California Sts., Denver

PROGRAM NOTES: We have a double feature for our August program. First, a film called "Imagination 10." It is made by Champion Papers (you also get a souvenir folder) and deals with railroads. The film really lives up to its name "Imagination 10."

For the second feature, club member and past president, William J. Gordon will present a program called "Narrow Gauge Freight."

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LIVE STEAM Several Rocky Mountain Railroad Club members have operating live-steam locomotives, and there are others who are interested in this branch of railroad activity. Until recently there has been no local organization of these live-steamers, but now there is one - Colorado Live Steamers, Inc. with headquarters at 3228 W. Tufts Ave., Englewood, Co. 80110. The group is building a loop almost 700 feet long with about 600 feet of auxiliary track in dual (3/4" and 1" per foot scales) gauge at the Forney Museum of Transportation in Denver (the former Tramway power plant on the Platte River). If you are interested in this group, write to Kent Bolerjack at the above address.

RMRR Club members Milton Fick is well along on his Moffat Mallet; Gerry Cutshall has finished his Rio Grande 1700; and Harry Root is track-testing his Rio Grande 4-6-6-4. And, as you know from the July Rocky Mountain Rail Report, the Club itself has just acquired its third live-steam locomotive model.

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RAILFAN TRIP Swissair has set up a continuous schedule of two-week railfan excursions in Switzerland which have been running since April. After an intermission during July and August, they will resume in September. The trip begins in Zurich, Switzerland, on a Monday, and ends in Geneva on a Friday. Every variety of railroad activity is included: electric, steam, standard-gauge, narrow-gauge, rack lines, suspended cable-cars, street cars, and even a lake steamer. You can take this trip on your own (Call Swissair in Denver), or you can join a group under the guidance of Ed Siemers of the Union Pacific Denver office, leaving Denver on September 18th. (Call Ed or Woodruff World Travel in Denver.) If you enjoyed Colorado's railroads, Switzerland will provide a very acceptable equivalent.

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A LETTER was received recently from A. F. Von Blon Jr., 1208 Locust, Muskogee, Oklahoma - "Some days ago I came into possession of a copy of the Yoakum Weekly Times, Thursday, August 18th, 1927, which had an article that had been extracted from Shiner (Texas) Gazette.

'Quote: A letter reaching her family Monday from Mrs. C. B. Welhausen, told of a very narrow escape her tourist train encountered in Royal Gorge near Pueblo, when one of the largest landslides ever recorded descended on the train from the mountains above, striking the engine, knocking it from the tracks and derailling several coaches. They were tied up 15 hours and to make matters worse a severe thunder and rain storm came up. Many of the passengers were almost panic stricken. The train was a special of 13 pullmans. Cold and frost had been encountered.'

Do you think any of your readers can supply any information to the above everyday event, in railroading?

73,
/s/ A. F. Von Blon Jr.

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FROM AROUND THE STATE:

Alamosa: The Depot from the Narrow Gauge Motel has been given to the Chamber of Commerce and has been moved to Cole Park, where it will serve as a Visitor's Bureau. Cole Park is in the Northeast corner of town, near the Rio Grande River and is where Engine 169 and the coach are also setting. The latter have received a new coat of paint.

Rio Grande and San Juan Railroad Coach 900 sets on a siding, just a block west of the Walsh Hotel, in a spot where it is easy to photograph, but there is one electric line pole in the way.

Telluride: The Rio Grande Southern Galloping Goose and other old objects that sat in a vacant lot on Main Street have been moved to make way for a new bank that is building a new building in that vacant lot. A new place for the Goose is to be found, but at present it is in an alley.

Rifle: The Chamber of Commerce has a DRG&W coach for an information center.

Silverton: From the Silverton Standard, July 11, 1969 - Silverton had an overnight visitor in Engine No. 478 Wednesday evening after difficulties with that narrow gauge locomotive presented a full day of activity for railroad crews. The crews maneuvered two full passenger trains and a work train around the bare-bones Silverton yards in order to get the two passenger sections back to Durango after 478, which had hauled the first passenger section in, broke a spring hanger, which could not be fixed without assistance from Durango. No. 473 pulled the second passenger section, and functioned according to schedule, but passengers on the first section experienced an unusual twist when No. 476, which had pulled the work train in after noon to spot empties and pick up loaded slag cars for work in the canyon, had to be switched off its train and onto the first section. That all left 478, crippled but under steam, standing next to the Arcade all night, loaded slag cars still untouched on the Shenandoah siding, and the empties and caboose spotted on the mainline section of the turning wye. A roundhouse crew was on hand from Durango Thursday morning to make the repairs. Replacement parts were not available in Durango and were brought over from the main narrow gauge shops in Alamosa on Wednesday evening. Working against the arrival of the first passenger train Thursday, the crew completed repairs at 11:30 and 478 was moved down into the yards to clear the mainline track by switching the entire work train onto the Shenandoah siding.

The passenger total, meanwhile, remains well ahead of last year's for rail arrivals in Silverton. Through Thursday of this week, 27,798 person had taken the train up the canyon this year, according to the conductor's count maintained at the Standard. Last year by the same date, the total for that date was 26,093, and in 1967 it stood at 23,746.

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CRIPPLE CREEK Some forty members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club had a most enjoyable weekend of steam at Cripple Creek. WEEKEND OF STEAM The food and the entertainment were excellent, and all had a great time on the Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad, both riding and operating the Engine. Unfortunately with the apparent lack of interest and participation of our local members, we will be unable to again go to the expense of making similar arrangements in the future. We are presently considering a fall get-together where we will offer our members and their friends another opportunity to ride the railroad only on an all day event.

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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.

Wanted: Would like to buy copies of 8 or super 8 movies taken on photo stops of May 30 trip to Laramie and return.
Everett D. Tobin, 2306 Prospect Avenue, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507.

Wanted: Steam whistle from locomotive, preferably in working condition (whistle, that is!).
Jim Grisenti, 2627 S. Lowell Blvd., Denver, Co. 80219.
Phone 934-3407 or office, 343-2696.

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THOT FOR THE DAY Borrow trouble for yourself, if that's your nature, but don't lend it to your neighbors. Rudyard Kipling.

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J. L. Ehernberger, President
Carl E. C. Carlson, Vice President

R. A. Cordill, Secretary
Ane O. Clint, Treasurer