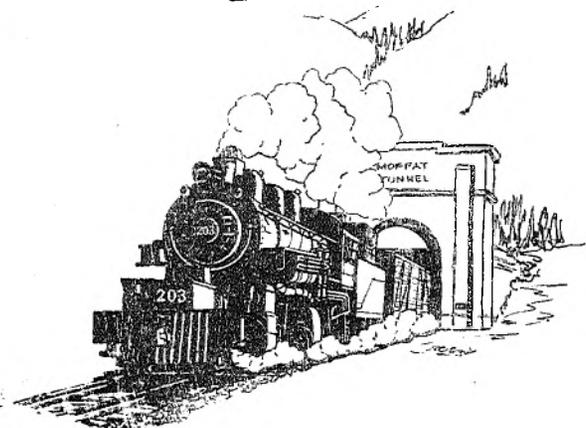


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

MAY 1973

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

Editor - - - Darrell Arndt

THE MAY MEETING will be held in conjunction with the Club's 35th Anniversary dinner on Saturday, May 12, 1973, 6:30 p.m., at the Denver Inn, 3203 Quebec St., Denver. Happy Hour will begin at 5:30 (cash bar) followed by a prime rib dinner complete with all the fixings. After a short meeting, Ed Haley and Dick Kindig will present the program, taking us on a trip back through 35 years of memorable Rocky Mountain Railroad Club trips.

An ample supply of smelling slats will be available for use by the lucky winners of the great door prizes to be given away. Anyone holding a ticket to the meeting will be entitled to a chance on a complimentary copy of Morris Cafky's "Rails Around Gold Hill", Hol Wagner's "The Colorado Road", or the "Pictorail Supplement to the Denver, South Park & Pacific", numbered 1,000, by Kindig, Haley & Poor. Also to be given away are five slices of Denver, South Park & Pacific 35 pound rail from the Pitkin area, stamped "St. Louis Steel 1883".

Cutoff date for ordering the dinner tickets, which are \$6.50 per person, is May 10th. Anyone who wants to make arrangements for a ticket may contact the club treasurer, Carl Carlson, at 985-0975. (NOTE! NO meeting will be held Wednesday, May 9th.)

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TICKETS ARE still available for the Union Pacific excursion behind 8444 on May 27th, round trip \$25.00, children 11 and under - \$20.00. Trip will be by way of the Dent Branch northbound, via the main line upon return with numerous photo runs enroute. A dome lounge car will also be in the consist for your convenience. Don't wait and be disappointed, as a number were last year after the last ticket was gone. The ONLY way to go between Denver and Laramie!!! (Pardon us, Amtrak)

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DUES - There are still a few delinquent dues outstanding for 1973. Send your \$3.00 to the club's post office box 2391, Denver 80201.

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MEMBERS OF THE RMRRRC will be saddened to hear of the passing of Mac Poor, one of Colorado's foremost railroad historians, and the author of one of the most famous railroad histories ever published, "DENVER, SOUTH PARK & PACIFIC" (1949). He dies Tuesday, April 17, 1973 at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, after a short illness.

Mr. Poor was a long time member of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, and was well liked by all those who knew him, either personally, or as a fellow railfan and history buff. He was also a member of the Denver Posse of the Westerners, the Colorado Consistory A & A S R, the Union Lodge #1 of the Odd Fellows, and was active in the Highlands Methodist Church.

Born in Caledonia, Washington County, Missouri, on June 28, 1901, Mr. Poor lived in Chicago for many years, retiring in Texas in 1950, and moving to Denver in 1952.

His interest in the South Park Railroad began with visits to Colorado in the early 1930's. In 1938, he began gathering material for a complete history of the famous branch of the Colorado & Southern Railway. Ten years of devoted work went into the compilation and preparation of this material and his book was published by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club in 1949. It has since become one of the most sought after railroad books in the World.

In 1959, he co-authored "PICTORIAL SUPPLEMENT TO DENVER, SOUTH PARK & PACIFIC", and had previously written short histories of the Denver, Boulder & Western Railroad and the Argentine Central Railway.

He was buried in Bonham, Texas. Mr. Poor is survived by his wife, Cleta, and a brother, George L. Poor of Sunnyvale, California. A Mac Poor Memorial Fund has been established at the Highlands United Methodist Church, West 32nd Avenue and Osceola St., Denver, Colorado 80212.

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COLORADO WAS VISITED in March by a rather unique assemblage of rail equipment known as the "Artrain". Currently on an eight month tour of the west, it affords those people in the smaller towns along the route, the opportunity to see on display, actual works of art works of both ancient and modern times. Through short slide presentations in various parts of the train, the visitor is given a brief history of art, telling how it and man have influence each other in the past, and what part it presently plays in his daily life.

The train consists of three old, heavy-weight coaches with windows filled in, and interiors modified into different rooms. Through the use of ingenious lighting and photo projection arrangements, the theme of the exhibit is passed on to the visitor. A Navy power car contains maintenance facilities, and a generator for supplying power to the train if a local source is not available, in an emergency, and while the train is in transit. A caboose and baggage car are for the use of the personnel accompanying the rolling museum.

The Artrain was conceived by the Michigan Council of the Arts and is sponsored by the various art councils of the states in which it visits. It was parked at the Greeley Depot for one week, where waiting lines of up to an hour were not uncommon. A special train from Denver to Greeley was run by the Union Pacific, to allow a group of state legislators to see how such a display brings cultural and educational benefits to the region and why such projects should deserve some state backing.

After its stay at Greeley, the train went to Craig and Fruita, and then to Utah for the month of April. It will visit Idaho in May, Montana in June, Wyoming in July and Nevada in August.

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JACKSON C. THODE has been promoted to Chief Budget Officer in the Management Planning and Control Department at the D&RGW Headquarters in Denver. Mr. Thode is a respected authority on the history of the Rio Grande and other Colorado railroads, with several publications to his credit. "A Century of Passenger Trains" which was sent to all RMRR members last Fall, was written by him. The Club has a few copies of that book left, at \$2.50 each. It gives a history of Rio Grande passenger service from the first run to the present.

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!!! A BILL HAS BEEN defeated in the Colorado House recently, that would have allowed the Rio Grande to exchange eight acres of land in downtown Durango for 73 acres of land near Denver. The D&RGW wants room to expand its rail yards here, and the State Highway Dept. needs the land in Durango for a proposed expressway interchange. The House defeated the bill because of the environmental effect on Denver residents near the rail yards, and because of some question as to whether the Denver tract was appraised properly.

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COLORADO WAS the scene of a "runaway" passenger train in the early part of April. The train lost it's brakes near Winter Park and ran wild for about 60 miles down the mainline in Boulder Canyon, across the front range and through Arvada, ending up in Denver Union Station, four days later. That's about how long it took for the filming to be done for the action sequences of an ABC Movie of the Week "The Runaway".

Four Rio Grande ski train coaches, heater car, and two freight units were lettered Sierra Pacific for the filming. A third freight unit was repainted in silver and red. The portions filmed in Arvada and Denver involved the participation of the local police and fire departments, and numerous "extras". The movie, starring Van Johnson, Vera Mills and Ben Murphy, will be aired sometime around next September. Although such a mishap is next to impossible with today's safety rules and equipment, the movie should still be something to watch for and see.

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ENOS JONES, known as "Jonesy" to many who rode the narrow gauge trips on the Rio Grande, retired this past March in Alamosa. Mr. Jones was a railroad policeman in Alamosa, and rode every narrow gauge excursion run from there by the Rocky Mountain Club.

The first run of the Silverton this season will be Memorial Day. Advance reservations indicate that this year will be even better than 1972, when 105,626 rode the train. Hopefully, the snowpack in that part of the state, which is around 250% above normal, will not decide to melt all at once. This could create serious problems in the San Juan region.

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THE LAST RUN of the Rio Grande Ski Train to Winter Park for the '73 season was made on the 14th of April. There had been some talk of discontinuing the train, however, the Eskimo Ski Club has announced that it will run again next year. The nine car train is usually filled to capacity, a majority of the passengers being in the High School age group.

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EX-TELEGRAPHERS MAY be interested in joining the Toledo Morse Telegraph Club, based in Toledo, Ohio. The not-for-profit organization is dedicated to the preservation of the art and artifacts of telegraphy, both land line Morse and wireless code. Dues are \$3.00 a year for the club, which publishes a quarterly eight-page press printed BRASS POUNDERS GOSSIP free to all members. Those who are interested in further information should sit down in front of their key and send a wire off to Harwell E. West, Public Relations, Brass Pounders Gossip, Box 152, Orland Park, Illinois 60462. Or if your wet cells are dry, or vice-versa, you may write to him at the same address. He'd be glad to hear from you.

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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 any correspondence, nor will we appraise items.

LILLIAN STEWART, 1107 Pennsylvania St., Denver, Colo. 80203 offers for sale

(Mint Condition)	Switzerland Trail of America	\$175.00
	Rails Around Gold Hill	\$175.00
	DSP&P Pictorial Supplement	\$150.00
	Colorado Midland	\$150.00
	The Gilpin Tram (Hollenbeck)	\$ 50.00
	Three Little Lines (Josie Crum)	\$ 35.00
	Case of Train #3 (Ridgeway)	\$ 15.00

E. B. MUTH, 3371 W. 36th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80211
offers for sale a copy of Colorado Midland, by Cafky.
This book is in new condition and Mr. Muth is asking \$100 for
it - shipped prepaid parcel post, insured, anywhere in the
United States.

FESTUS VON BLON, Box 6422, Waco, Texas - has WELLS FARGO & CO. Express,
sign 14" x 14", RR annual passes and a copy of Moral and Dogma
\$5.00. Wants Texas Ranger, Texas Cotton Palace or Dr. Peper items.
Also a copy of JIM CUMMINS book, that was printed in Denver.
Any thing related to the history of the various counties of the
southwest.

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Charles Max, President

Bill Gordon, Secretary

E. J. Haley, Vice-President

Carl E. C. Carlson, Treasurer