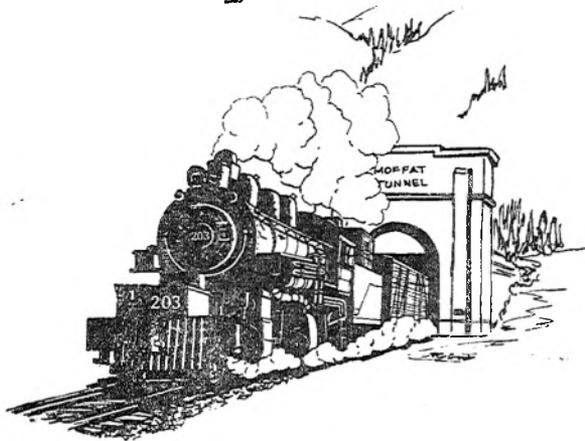


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

DECEMBER 1973

NO. 171

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

MEETING NOTICE: Date Wednesday, December 12, 1973
Time 7:45 p.m.
Place Southeast wing of Christ Episcopal Church,
2900 S. University at Bates: offstreet parking
at rear (east) of meeting hall.

PROGRAM NOTES: December's program will be

A DUKE'S MIXTURE OF 120 SLIDES

Bill Gordon, who has been a member of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club since 1949, but who has attended most of the Club's meetings and events with his father as far back as 1938, will show us a potpourri of his big 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, square color slides. Bill's presentation will include the cable cars of San Francisco and the trolleys of Mexico City and Vera Cruz. From his Colorado collection he will show slides of the Great Western, Colorado and Southern and the Denver & Rio Grande Western. Come to the meeting and see Bill's excellent photographic work.

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Through slides and synchronized sound recordings, visitors at the November meeting were given an interesting portrayal of a trip on the Canadian Pacific's transcontinental CANADIAN. From the kitchen to the cab, we saw the daily activities performed by the crews, and the experiences of the passengers as they rode in grand style across the continent. The relatively level geography of the east eventually changed into the spectacular majesty of the Canadian Rockies as the train moved west. A comprehensive presentation of other numerous freight and passenger operations on different railroads across Canada were also shown. Our northern neighbors obviously have a lot to offer to the traveler and the energetic railfan. Our thanks to Bob Schmidt of Illinois for an enjoyable evening, and for bringing this program all the way from the Land of Lincoln for our viewing.

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ANNUAL ELECTION - The by-laws of the club provides that the annual business meeting and election of officers for the succeeding year will be held at the December meeting. All members in good standing are urged to attend and vote for the candidates of their choice. NOTE!!! According to the by-laws this Rail Report is being mailed ten days prior to this important meeting.

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WINTER STEAM FROM DENVER - The Club is pleased to announce that a January trip with the 8444 has been arranged with the Union Pacific Railroad from Denver to Laramie, Wyoming. (It will even bring you back!!). This may be the only chance to ride behind the engine for some time, as it will be put on display at a fair in the Northwest through most of next year. Sunday, January 20th is the day, following the Stock Show Special by one week.

Here is an unusual opportunity to give your loved one or friend a unique Christmas gift he or she will never forget, a day long ride behind one of the last mainline steam locomotives still in operation. This is, as always, a good chance to "get away from it all", to relax, shoot a few pictures, or

just visit with good friends. Make your New Year's resolution early and send for your tickets right away. Fare is \$25.00 for adults, \$20.00 for children. A descriptive trip notice is included with this newsletter.

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AS 1973 COMES TO A CLOSE, your club President, Charles Max, along with the Officers, Directors, and Committee members would like to take this opportunity to wish you a most happy and joyful Christmas and the very best for the coming New Year. Thank you for your support this past year. As always, your ideas and suggestions for an even better Club in the future are welcomed and appreciated. Only by full participation can we best meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Your Editor would like to extend a special thanks to several people who we seldom hear of, but without whose time and able assistance the Rail Report could not be possible.

Ane Clint, long time member and past treasurer for a number of years, is responsible for putting the final text into print, and for the folding of the letters. Ane, who always seems to be busier than the proverbial one-armed paper hanger, somehow manages to find the time to contribute her invaluable services when needed. She also is the Secretary for the Colorado Railroad Historical Foundation at the Colorado Railroad Museum.

William Van Patten operates the automatic letter stuffing machine, the kind that has ten fingers, two hands, two arms, etc. He also insures the envelopes are arranged by addresses in such a manner that makes life easier for the post office. If you should happen to see a gentleman walking down the street with his arms out in front, making unconscious motions that resemble inserting letters into envelopes, it'll probably be Van the day after the Rail Report has been sent out.

Last, but definitely not least, is Bob Griswold who maintains the files of nearly 1,000 addresses. It is surprising the number of moves made within the membership each year. There is, however, a hidden advantage in this duty, in that if his newsletter is sent to the wrong place, he doesn't have far to go to complain.

A note of thanks is also extended to all those individuals who contributed news and information for the newsletter. Your participation and help are greatly appreciated by the editor, as well as the officers and members.

A word of gratitude is especially due our friends who presented the programs at the meetings this year. The wide variety of railroad subjects, the different styles of photography, and the varied techniques of presentation make each meeting an event to look forward to. The attendance each month attests to the fine programs that have been given.

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WHERE MEN WALKED WITH SNOWSHOES OR PERISCOPES.. - The next time you think digging out your driveway after a winter storm is tough, take a look at the photos of what D&RGW crews had to deal with on the Antonito-Chama line. They weren't making snowmen when these shots were taken. The first photo taken in January 1952 by John B. Norwood shows a rotary snowplow in action between Osier and Los Pinos. The other scene is of Engines No. 483 and 480 separated by a Jordan Spreader at Cumbres. Ernest Peyton recorded the event on March 26, 1949.

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THE RIO GRANDE ran a special passenger train to Castle Rock at the end of October, where a new development for light industry is being planned. The site of the \$300 million project is just north of the town on over 300 acres. Aboard the two coaches and buffet car were various business, government and civic officials.

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FILLED UP - If you plan on leaving Denver by rail over a route served by Amtrak during the coming holidays, it will have to be in a freight car if you haven't already bought your tickets. Joseph Vranich, Passenger Service Supervisor for Amtrak at Union Station, states that all coach and sleeping car accommodations out of Denver, with a few possible obscure exceptions, have been sold out from the 17th of December through the 1st of the year. Partially due to the energy crisis, many people are taking a second look at rail travel, and Amtrak is finding itself scrambling for extra equipment, especially on the East coast. Some interesting developments may be ahead for the rail passenger situation.

For an added insight and review of this picture, the Colorado Association of

Railroad Passenger (CARP) is sponsoring a meeting on Wednesday, December 5th, to discuss the need for expanding Amtrak passenger service to Colorado. CARP Chairman, Dr. Jerome Alpiner, states that the meeting is in response to the need for Colorado to maintain mobility during the fuel shortage, and that CARP will examine methods to increase Amtrak passenger service to the state. Dr. Alpiner mentions that Governor Vanderhoof has indicated that 25% of Colorado's economy is based on tourist travel. If travel by automobile becomes difficult, that shouldn't mean that travel to Colorado should be difficult. Through expansion of the Amtrak passenger network, travelers could be carried to our state without excessive use of fuel and without significantly contributing to air pollution.

The meeting is to begin with an address entitled "Amtrak Trains - A way to Save the Environment and Promote Tourism." given by Joseph Vranich of Amtrak. The address will outline the ability of passenger trains to solve three problems: excessive use of fuel resources, poor land utilization inherent in additional highway construction, and the worsening air pollution situation. Mr. Vranich has served as Senior Economic Analyst in Amtrak's Marketing Research Dept. and was previously executive director of the National Association of Railroad Passengers, both in Washington, D.C. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Epiphany Lutheran Church, 790 S. Corona (corner of Ohio and S. Corona), December 5th.

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STICK WITH IT - Along with the metal name badges mentioned here a few months ago, the Club has available to its' members attractive, vinyl stickers imprinted with the Club's emblem. Color is blue on a white reflectorized background. These durable 3 x 4 inch stickers can be affixed to a prominent location on your car bumper, window, camera bag, front door, your wife's purse, etc. just about anywhere. Price is only 50¢ each (\$1.00 for name badge). Please specify whether you would prefer a regular sticker, or the type for placing behind glass. The latter kind has the adhesive side on the front. Orders may be sent to the Club's P.O. box.

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THE PLUG HASN'T BEEN PULLED yet on the Milwaukee Road electrics. Shortly after the last newsletter was in the mail, Bruce Black reported that a few electrics were back in service, at least the Little Joe's and some switchers. Our thanks to Bruce for keeping us posted on the status and impending demise of another colorful era in western railroad history.

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A ROTARY SNOWPLOW is being constructed by the Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway for use in "spring Cleaning" on the line. Their General Electric Diesel No. 10 is being scrapped, and its' underframe used for the plow. The new plow will be able to do ten times the work now done by the hydraulic dump wedge snowplow. This info from the "Midland Rails", Colorado Springs Chapter, NRHS.

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THE D&RGW SKI TRAIN to Winter Park is scheduled to begin December 29th. Sure hope they don't have any more "runaways" like THAT ONE last year.

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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.

MARKER; certified to have been one of the two market lamps appropriated from final run of "ROCKY MOUNTAIN ROCKET". Best offer.
L. R. ORTON, 2724 Concord, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80907

WANTED: RAILS TO THE HIGH COUNTRY by Lind. RAIL CLASSICS magazine Volume 2, Number 1 IRON HORSES OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL by Worley Robert A. LE MASSENA, 1795 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, Colo. 80226

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Charles Max, President
E. J. Haley, Vice-President

Bill Gordon, Secretary
Carl E. C. Carlson, Treasurer

