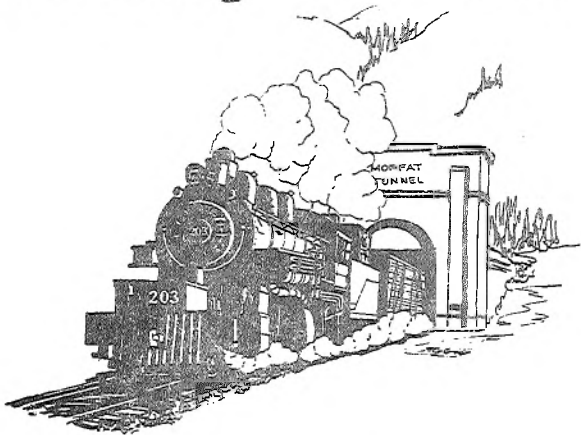


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

JUNE 1974

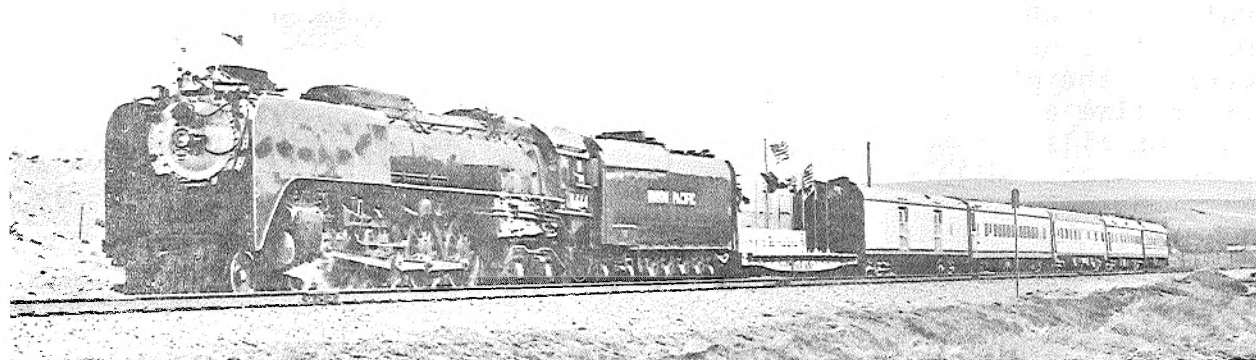
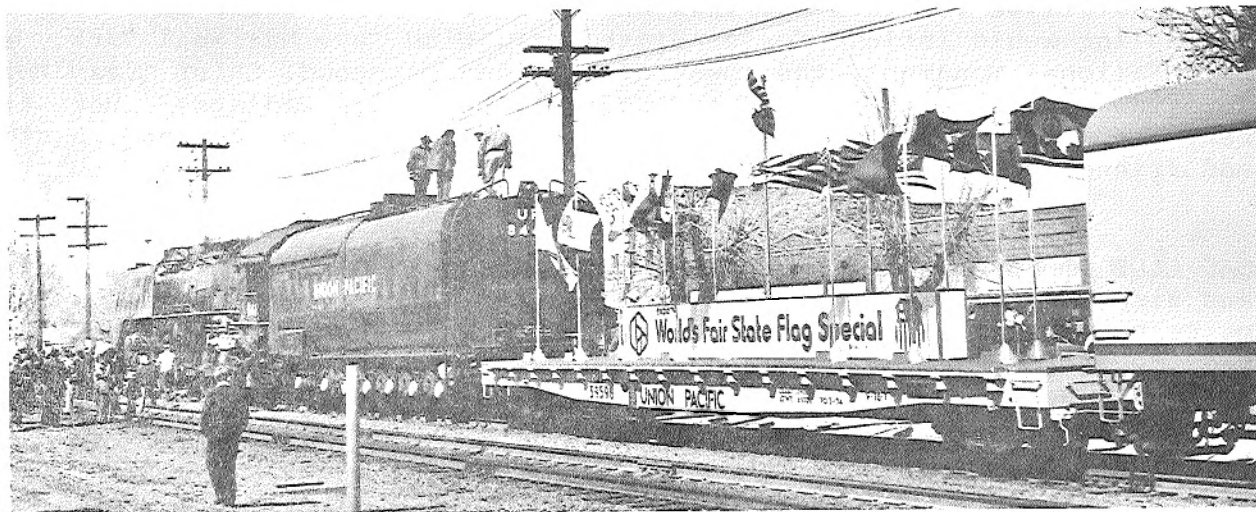
No. 177

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, June 12, 1974
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: The program for the June, 1974 meeting will include Otto Perry 16mm movies covering the Rio Grande Southern, Denver & Salt Lake, Santa Fe, Rio Grande narrow gauge, Milwaukee electrics, Union Pacific Challengers and Big Boys, a Rocky Mountain Railroad Club excursion from Alamosa to Durango and Silverton in 1959, and one of Otto's trips back east, showing various eastern lines. Come down for an evening of pure enjoyment watching these scenes that not to long ago were so common in Rocky Mountain railroading.



THE MAY PROGRAM "Over the Sierra M dres of Mèxico to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans" could not have been presented at a more appropriate time. With the current fuel problem adding to the anxiety of cross country auto travel and the recent fare increases in commercial transportation, Dave Digerness's Mexican travelogue showed one need only look south of the border for a great travel bargain. Low cost, a variety of scenery and superlative railroad engineering combine for a real vacation experience. Dave's comprehensive film coverage of what one trip in Mexico can be like was certainly enjoyed by all, with the exception of one individual who was rumored to be affiliated with the Canadian Travel Bureau.

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UNION PACIFIC'S EXPO 74 special train is shown in the photos on the first page as it headed to Spokane this Spring. Henry R. Griffiths of Boise, Idaho caught the train with his camera at Glenns Ferry, Idaho on April 20, 1974. Hard to overlook is the flat car with the various state flags mounted on its' floor.

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BLACK HILLS RAIL EXCURSION - The Club is pleased to announce that arrangements have been made for a special steam powered passenger train over the BN freight only line between Hill City and Deadwood, South Dakota. The trip will include almost 100 miles of standard gauge steam over a route "blessed" with tunnels, trestles and heavy grades amid dense forests, hills and crystal clear streams. Both open and closed cars will afford all passengers their choice of riding inside or outside all or part of the time. There will be time for a stroll around the old mining town of Deadwood while the engine is serviced and turned on the Armstrong turntable. The fare includes a fine picnic lunch and a ride on the regular run out of Hill City on the Black Hills Central. Other interesting attractions are also found in the same region to satisfy the inquisitive visitors' desires and to make a visit there most rewarding. A sampling would include Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, Jewell Cave National Monument, the towns of Lead and Deadwood, Chief Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore, and to the east the famous Badlands. Here is the real opportunity you have been waiting for to mix steam, scenery, history and friendly company into a real relaxing package. Hope to see you there.

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RAILROAD CLUB TO REPRINT "SOUTH PARK" BOOK - At the last meeting of the officers and directors of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, it was decided to reprint M. C. Poor's famous history, "Denver, South Park & Pacific." This will provide the Club's contribution to the Colorado Centennial in 1976, and will also be a memorial to the late M. C. Poor, a long-time Club member. All the original text will be included, and it is expected that practically all the original pictures will be used, although new plates are to be made of the photographs, and if a few of the originals cannot be located, comparable illustrations will be provided.

While it is planned to reprint the book in 1976, no other Rocky Mountain Railroad Club books are to be reprinted, according to present plans. At present, a price has not been established, and we request that no money be sent to the club for this book until a descriptive brochure is received, at which time a prepublication special price will be announced. The reprint edition will not be numbered, and it is uncertain at this time as to the quantity that will be published.

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OOPS! HOW'D DAT HAPPEN!??? - Due to a malfunction in a "new, experimental stuffing system that is more advanced, complex, sophisticated and envolved than the "old" way, a number of newsletter envelopes were mailed last month complete with everything except....the newsletter. A few were retrieved and mailed

late, others were not. If you did not receive one, please drop an 8¢ penny post card (!) to us and one will be sent. We certainly do hope that it will be a long time before another (expletive deleted) boo boo like this happens again!!!

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THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC has announced additional operating days covering the period May 25th to August the 1st due to the improvement in the gasoline situation. Trips during this period will be operated by diesel (ex-Oahu Railway No. 19, GE 47 tonner) from Cumbres Pass Depot to Sublette and return on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Schedules for the period August 3rd through October 6th will remain as weekend only operated behind steam. Additional operating days will be used if demands warrant it.

Over in Antonito work has begun on a two-stall engine house. Funds for the \$54,000 project came primarily from donations. Completion date is set for this summer.

Filming of a western movie took place in May and in early June on the CATS railroad. "Bite the Bullet" is to be the name of the production, starring such well known actors as Gene Hackman, James Coburn, Candice Bergen and Ben Johnson. The flock will include a race between a horse and the train and called for engine 483 and other rolling stock to be dolled up somewhat in black, gold, red and yellow paint schemes.

Three other major Hollywood productions have also been filmed on the CATS in the past few years; "Showdown" with Dean Martin, "Shootout" with Gregory Peck and "The Good Guys and the Bad Guys" starring Robert Mitchum. The financial compensation and equipment restoration received by the line for these movie productions is a welcome source of additional revenue.

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THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG - The Shay locomotive that arrived in Central City at the end of April is already hard at work pulling trains on the Colorado Central.

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PASSENGERS ON THE HIGH COUNTRY RAILROAD at Heritage Square are again riding behind No. 9, the 0-4-0 Henschell. The engine recently returned to the pike after a winter overhaul. Now the loco sports a brand new 1/2 size scale 5"x5" air pump and a wedge snowplow. A new 17 seat coach complete with pot belly stove is also now in use carrying passengers in comfort behind the steamer. A standby diesel recently acquired is on call, presumably for pusher service if the tonnage gets too heavy. If you live nearby and haven't been over to see this live steam action just a few miles from Denver, shame on you.

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THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION of the National Model Railroad Association will hold their spring convention on June 8 and 9 at Colorado Springs. Clinics, modeling contests, model auction and a trip up Pikes Peak on the Cog road are but a few of the attractions. For details write of contact Fred Bruchman, 1040 S. Decatur, Denver 80219.

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FOUR OLD ICE BUNKER REFRIGERATOR CARS from the San Luis Central Railroad were observed passing through North Platte, Nebraska on the UP recently. Such events are passing from the American rail scene now since the ICC has permitted the discontinuance of all icing facilities for such cars. This action ironically comes when there is a shortage of mechanical refrigerator cars that may reduce the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables to eastern consumers this summer.

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GREAT BRITAIN in 1975 will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of

the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Between June and September of that year many special steam hauled trips and other activities will take place throughout the country and a new National Railway Museum at York will be open. Railroadians of America, Inc., 43 Hillcrest Road, Madison, New Jersey 07940 is trying to determine if there are enough rail fans interested in organizing a special tour of two to three weeks for under \$1,000 to travel to Britain and participate in the events. If you are interested or would like more info write the organization at the above address.

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AMTRAK recently opened a new district sales office in the American National Bank Building in downtown Denver. The new office handles sales and public relations functions in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, and is primarily involved with assisting tour arrangements and group travel business for Amtrak tours, private tours and travel agency business.

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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.

"Copy No. 872 of "The Switzerland Trail of America" by Forrest Crossen for sale to the highest bidder over \$50. Write
E. J. Haley, 4116 Decatur Street, Denver, Colorado 80211.

DAN ABBOTT, 1616 Ulysses St., Golden, Colorado 80401, seeking information on the Argentine Central Railway and associated companies.
WANTED annual passes, timetables, photos, postcards, brochures and pamphlets, etc.

SEEKING any thing related to Texas logging RRs. A copy of McMurtie - Allen, Early Printing in Colo. Topographical Maps showing RRs line on them. Any thing about Pres. T. Roosevelt related to RRs. Bradley's book on AT&SF, Encyclopedia of the New West.
A. Von Blon, Box 6422, Waco, Texas.

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Charles Max, President

Bill Gordon, Secretary

E. J. Haley, Vice-President

Carl E. C. Carlson, Treasurer