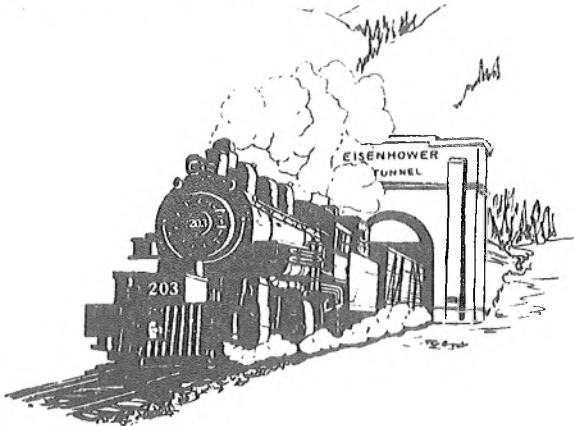


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P. O. Box 2391

Denver, Colorado 80201

May, 1975

No. 188

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

Editor - - - - Darrell T. Arndt

MEETING NOTICE: Date - - - - - Tuesday, May 13, 1975

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 May meeting will be a Potpourri, each individual bringing 20 slides or less to be shown on the Club's stack-loader projector. The slides should be put in order as follows: First slide should be put on the bottom with white or blank side up, second on top of the first, also with white or blank side up, continuing on through all 20 slides in this manner ending up with last slide on top. This way the projector will show the pictures in the correct order. Check through when finished with stacking, to see if all right sides are up. Choose your own subject matter, although if you don't want cabbages, tomatoes, etc. thrown in your direction, it would be beneficial for your slides to pertain in some way to railroading. It would be nice to have a commentary of each slide so we will all know what we are viewing. Don't be bashful - we would like to see everyone join in the fun ..... See you at the meeting.

RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - At the April meeting we enjoyed an excellent program on the DOT's High Speed Ground Test Center near Pueblo. Many people think of a "Buck Rogers" type installation with rocket powered trains and magnetic levitation rail cars of the year 2000 when they do think of the test center, but as the program showed, it is far more than just that. Almost every conceivable type of testing is done at the complex, using both present day and futuristic type equipment. We learned it is also one of the most advanced rail testing facilities in the world.

The program was given by Mr. Thomas M. Taylor, Jr. Presidential Interchange Executive with the FRA, who will shortly be returning to his regular position with the Pullman Company. Mr. Taylor's extensive knowledge of the Test Center was quite apparent as he told us about the different programs at the Center, fielded questions, and narrated the slide and movie portion of the evening. Included in the films was interesting and sometimes shocking footage of actual tank car fires, heat and collision testing of tank cars under controlled conditions, freight car behavior on curves under heavy stress, and the coupling of cars at above normal coupling speeds. One segment portrayed what happens when an automobile is hit broadside by locomotive. Scenes taken with cameras mounted both inside and out of the auto showed very clearly why getting hit by a train can be hazardous to your health.

The day following the meeting, a test was conducted at the Center to determine what happens in a rear end collision to a locomotive and caboose. Engineers are attempting to determine what modifications can be made, particularly with the coupler design, to protect the crews in such a mishap. The test was covered by local TV stations and it showed the engine sustaining relatively minor damage with the caboose taking most of the beating. Another test in the future is scheduled at 30 mph.

We certainly thank Mr. Taylor for a most informative and enjoyable evening.

APPROXIMATELY 140 visitors dropped down to Denver's Union Station for the Club's "Open House" in the Nebraska Zephyr on April 13th. The fine condition of the furnishings in this historic and unusual trainset provided a pleasant atmosphere for looking around or just sitting and talking. Richard McKinley was also kind enough to open his private car parked adjacent to the NZ, for viewing. His built-in fireplace makes the car unique among other privately owned cars in the U.S. The great train dispatcher in the sky provided excellent weather for that particular Sunday afternoon. Only a few days later the weather changed from a sunny mid-sixties to a howling snowstorm in less than 12 hours. We are certainly very grateful to Mr. McKinley for allowing us to inspect the equipment.

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#### COMING ATTRACTIONS !!!

TWO GREAT EVENTS are planned in June that you'll want to be sure are marked on your calendar!

On Sunday, June 15th, the heavenly scent of coal smoke and steam will waft through the air of north Boulder as Ralph McAllister steams up his magnificent 14 1/8" gauge, 3 inch scale railroad for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's members and friends. Several steam locomotives, including his 2-8-8-4 (that's right, 2-8-8-4!), a diesel and various rolling stock and other attractions will be going full blast for our visit. More information will be included in the June newsletter.

On June 28 will be the wonderful ramble on the Black Hills Central Railroad in the rolling country of western South Dakota. Full details are included in the brochure that is with this issue of the Rocky Mountain Rail Report.

and remember ...

In July, Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Day at the Colorado Railroad Museum and in August, a Pikes Peak Cog Railway Special. Dates on these two activities will be announced soon.

In September, of course, you are invited to ride the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's ....

#### UTAH FALL SPECTACULAR - SEP 12, 13, 14

On this three-day adventure (Fri., Sat., & Sun.) we will:

Ride AMTRAK'S San Francisco Zephyr, The Salt Lake, Garfield and Western, the Wasatch Mountain Railway and the Rio Grande Zephyr.

See electrics in action! Enjoy special dinner ride on the HEBER CREEPER! and .... watch the Kennecott Railway on the move!

Tour rate from Denver, \$119.00 per person ...

BROCHURE will follow in the June Newsletter ... Watch for it!

Advance reservations by mail only, with a \$25.00 deposit per person to:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL TOUR  
P.O. Box 15097  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

This trip will be LIMITED to about 100 people, so don't delay, make your reservations now!

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HAVE YOU SENT YOUR DUES IN??? There are still a few members who have not paid theirs for 1975. At the end of June all individuals who are not paid up will be removed from the roster and the mailing list. Dues are \$3.00 per year. Membership cards have been mailed to all who have paid.

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TRAVELERS AND OTHER VISITORS at Denver Union Station will now be able to move easily and clearly visualize rail passenger service in Colorado and the United States with the recent mounting on a wall in the waiting room of U.S. and Colorado maps by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club. The Colorado map shows the major passenger train routes in the state, as well as highways, towns, rivers, and other landmarks. The national map is an Amtrak system map that has been updated by the Club to reflect the latest changes in the Amtrak network.

SCHEDULE CHANGES - A change in the schedule of the San Francisco Zephyr took place with the issuance of new timetables on April 27th. The train now arrives Denver from Chicago at 8:30 A.M., leaves for California at 9:15 A.M., arrives from the West at 4:40 P.M., departs for Chicago at 5:25 P.M. Amtrak advertized the change in local newspapers.

The westbound Rio Grande Zephyr has returned to a 7:30 A.M. departure time from Denver, Eastbound times remain the same ... The last Ski Train to Winter Park operated on March 29. The regular consist was lengthened with the addition of dome car Silver Pony, and Dormitory-Buffet Dome Silver Shop for the use of the Winter Park Recreational Association and their guests.

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THE SILVERTON will begin daily operation on May 24 and run through Sept. 28, this year. A fare increase was recently approved for the scenic line that will require adults to pay \$9.60 for an RT and children, 5 to 11, to pay \$5.85 ... The Intermountain Chapter - NRHS is chartering a special train over the Silverton on June 7, 1975. Consist will include a baggage car, five coaches, and all three private cars. RT rail fare will be \$23.00. A chartered bus from Denver will be available for an additional \$30.00 or a complete package tour from Denver can be obtained starting at \$90.00 per person. Further info can be obtained by writing the Chapter at Box 5181, T.A., Denver, Colorado 80217.

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THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILWAY - Routine work in preparation for the beginning of the season continues on the C&TS. Ex D&RGW #463 owned by the town of Antonito, is in the new engine house there. Volunteers are applying patches to the barrel of the boiler as part of the restoration work necessary to return the engine to service.

Toward the end of March, both the Colorado and New Mexico Railroad authorities approved the spending of \$50,000 on track work. The funds had already been appropriated for capital improvements on the property, so it required legislative action to use the funds for track work. Work will commence as soon as weather permits. Operating days will be on weekends starting on June 14, with additional service on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning in July. Tickets and brochures are now available.

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WEEKEND TRAIN OPERATIONS through Tiny Town, west of Denver, began on the Easter weekend. Daily running over the 14 1/8 gauge track will start around the 15th of May, with steam power handling the work shortly thereafter.

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THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN is now well on its way, attracting almost overwhelming crowds at some stops. The train is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Denver on Sept. 23 for a five day stand. The train can handle 1,300 people an hour, and has been operating 8:00 A.M. to midnight and beyond in order to handle the crowds. It is highly recommended that tickets which are \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children under 18 & adults over 65, be purchased ahead of time. Advance personnel for the Freedom Train will be arriving in Denver next month and when more details become available, we'll mention them here. It should be stressed that at this time the Sept. 23 arrival date is subject to change.

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MOST OF THE RAIL has been removed from the Santa Fe line between Palmer Lake and Colorado Springs. About half the ties are gone, although most track & highway signals are still in.

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A HISTORY OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY is being undertaken by Gary Morgan of Greeley, Colo. He is looking for some hard-to-find photos of some GW rolling stock and would be interested in getting in touch with anyone who has, or knows someone who has shots of GW #1, #2, and #52 in action. Also GW or Denver, Laramie and Northwestern McKeen Cars, GW Fairbanks-Morse four-wheel car (streetcar type), GW caboose #1001, and any general shots of early GW. He would need the photo(s) only long enough to copy, returning it by registered mail. If you can help out, write to Gary at 1219 - 10th St., Greeley, Colorado 80631.

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CRUNCH!! - About 13 cars of a D&RGW freight derailed in Tunnel #26 near Pinecliff on the afternoon of April 17. Two wreck cranes assisted in the cleanup operation.

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THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN finally released its plans for the Platte River Valley in Denver. Some people would rather see the city make a park out of most of the area instead. The issue will be on the May 20 ballot. The BN's plan includes a smaller park; some people are wondering how the city would finance such a park and are concerned about the loss of tax revenues if the BN doesn't build. Also on the ballot is the amendment to require the city to buy and preserve Union Station. The BN agreed to keep the depot, but the track arrangements would make train movements to the depot cumbersome, if not ridiculous. Hopefully, a functional Union Station will come out of all of this.

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PASSENGER SERVICE was restored by Amtrak on April 15th, between Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn. "The Arrowhead" connects with both North Coast Hiawathas. It consists of two or three coaches and makes no stops on the 160 mile run.

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TRIVIA DEPT. - Have you ever noticed the catalog phone number for the Cherry Creek store of Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Denver?? ..... 892-8444

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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:

FOR SALE: Several copies of Grant Locomotive Works Catalog numbered and signed by Ferrell. \$5.00 each. Publishers price was \$14.95.

BOB GRISWOLD - 2700 S. Kearney St., Denver, Colo. 80222

DENVER SOUTH PARK & PACIFIC - by M. C. Poor, 1949. Numbered and autographed copy in excellent condition. Will accept highest bid over \$300.

HISTORY OF THE RAILROADS OF TEXAS, by S. G. Reed. Numbered and autographed copy in excellent condition. Will accept highest bid over \$60.00.

Write EVELYN N. PARISH, 272 West Troy St., Brundidge, Alabama 36010

WANTED: "Argentine Central" by Hallenbeck.

JIM BOWER, Rt. 4, Box 526 D2, Evergreen, Colorado 80439

WANTED: "Colorado's Mountain Railroads," Volumes 2, 4, 5, and 6 by Robert Le Massena. BILL DUNST, 1860 So. Xavier St., Denver, Colo. 80219.

FOR SALE: ORMES, RRs and the Rockies, \$12.00. Henderson, Meals by Fred Harvey, \$4.50. Want switch keys, locks, ticket punches, tts from southwestern railroads. A. F. VON BLON, JR., 1111 Colcord, Waco, Texas.

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