

THE UNION PACIFIC has tentatively approved the date of August 4 for the club's 1979 8444 excursion. The locomotive is presently awaiting necessary required inspections before final approval can be granted for its operations this year.

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OUR VERY BEST WISHES to George Champion who just celebrated his 95th birthday! George worked on the South Park line (he rode the last rotary snowplow run through the Alpine Tunnel) and the Moffat Road and is a fountain of information when the topic of conversation is about those fascinating lines.

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THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN has filed for a fare increase on the Durango-Silverton narrow-gauge run with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. They would like the cost of the round trip to go from \$12.00 to \$18.00 for an adult; kids: \$7.25 to \$8.00 (hows THAT for inflation!!). The railroad would also like to discontinue dropping off and picking up backpackers in the wilderness area along the route. The PUC has decided to hold hearings on these requests in Durango on April 11.

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RAILROAD MAGAZINE has been combined with RAILFAN MAGAZINE and will publish the first combined issue to be dated May, 1979. Carstens Publications, RAILROAD'S new owners, state that the new R & R will be printed on slick paper and continue to work with RAILROAD'S past subscribers, advertisers and other customers through their address at P.O. Box 700, Newton, New Jersey, 07860. RAILROAD subscribers will have their subscriptions extended to the number of issues due them.

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A TOUR of the right of way of the San Luis Valley Southern will take place on Saturday, April 7th. The group will depart from the Blanca depot at 8:30 A.M. and proceed south over Rattlesnake Trestle and on to San Acacio, Mesita, Jarosa, Costillia, New Mexico and the Sanchez Reservoir. There may even be a ride on the shortline's D-500. The tour is sponsored by the San Luis Valley Historical Society at no cost. It is a "bring your own lunch and vehicle" affair.

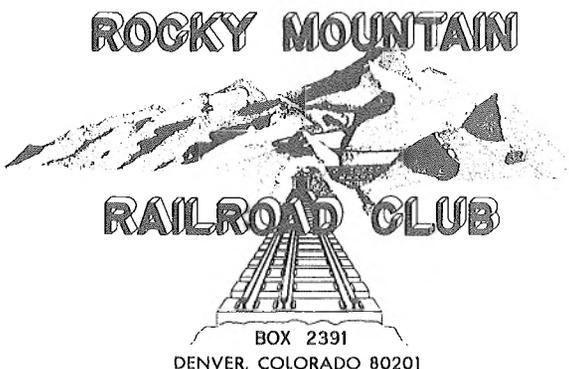
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