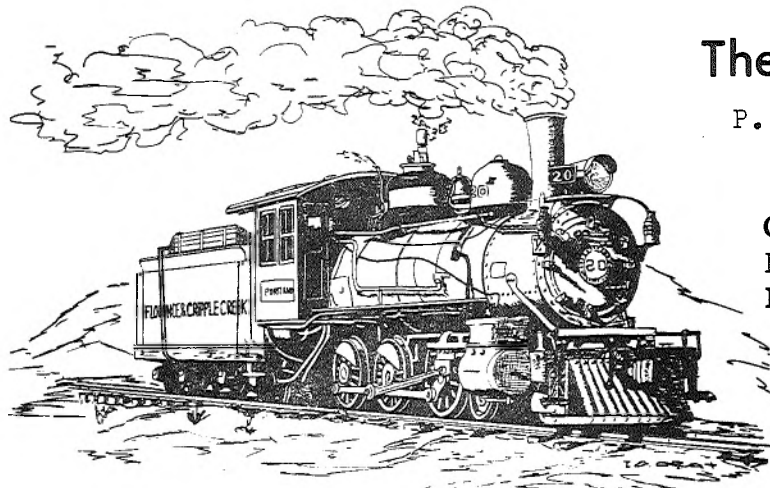


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 - Denver, Colorado 80201

JANUARY 1968

No. 101

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

TEMPORARY EDITOR -- ED SCHNEIDER

MEETING NOTICE: DATE . . . . . WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 1968  
TIME . . . . . 8:00 P.M.  
PLACE . . . . . WESTERN FEDERAL SAVINGS BLDG., (LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM),  
17TH AND CALIFORNIA STS., DENVER

PROGRAM NOTES: OUR PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED BY HERB O'HANLON. HERB'S PROGRAM IS ENTITLED  
"NOSTALGIA UNLIMITED", WILL INCLUDE "REMNANTS OF STEAM AND ELECTRIC TRANSIT;  
ALSO CANALS PRIOR TO 1850".

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ELECTION THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATED THE 1967 OFFICERS FOR RE-ELECTION TO THEIR  
RESPECTIVE OFFICES FOR 1968. MEMBERS ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE GIVEN THE OPPOR-  
RESULTS TUNITY TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR, AND WRITE-IN SPACES WERE PROVIDED ON THE  
BALLOTS. FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE OF FLOOR NOMINATIONS, A MOTION WAS MADE AND PASSED, DECLARING  
THE OFFICERS ELECTED. THREE DIRECTORS WERE ELECTED TO REPLACE THOSE WHOSE TERMS EXPIRED IN  
DECEMBER. NAMED TO SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS ON THE BOARD: STUART ANDERSON, ED HALEY, AND BRYANT  
MCFADDEN.

\* \* \* \* \*

1968 POCKET CALENDARS THE CLUB'S 1968 POCKET CALENDARS ARE ENCLOSED, THIS ONE BEARING A PHOTO  
OF RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN "GALLOPING GOOSE" No. 4 ON LIZARD HEAD PASS,  
ENCLOSED COLORADO IN JULY OF 1946. THIS PICTURE, BY DICK KINDIG, WAS TAKEN ON A  
CLUB EXCURSION.

\* \* \* \* \*

DUES ARE NOW DUE A CHECK IN THE MAIL NOW WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR 1968 MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUB.  
WHY NOT SEND IT OFF RIGHT NOW WHILE YOU'RE THINKING OF IT. AGAIN THIS YEAR,  
WE ARE ABLE TO HOLD OUR DUES SCHEDULE AT THE SAME LEVEL FOR THIS YEAR: \$3.00 FOR COLORADO RESI-  
DENTS, AND ONLY \$2.00 FOR OUT-OF-STATE MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SENT YOURS IN, WE'LL  
BE LOOKING FOR A CHECK SOON.

\* \* \* \* \*

ANNUAL OUR ANNUAL DINNER WAS HELD DECEMBER 9, 1967 AT THE HYATT HOUSE, IN DENVER. IT WAS A  
MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING. THE DRAWING FOR "RAILS AROUND GOLD HILL" WAS WON BY MR. CHARLES  
DINNER RENFRO. DICK KINDIG DONATED A COPY OF "RAILS TO THE HIGH COUNTRY", AND THE DRAWING  
FOR THIS BOOK WAS WON BY MR. HORACE SMITH. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THOSE ATTENDING THE DINNER WERE FROM  
THE DENVER AREA, WE HAD MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDING FROM COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO AND FROM  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING. THE PERSON WHO HAD COME THE GREATEST DISTANCE TO ATTEND, HOWEVER, WAS MR. W.  
M. MOEDINGER, OF LANCASTER, PA., WHO GAVE US A REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF THE EX-G.W. 90 WHICH IS  
NOW IN PENNSYLVANIA.

\* \* \* \* \*

SNOW ON THE SANTA FE DEEP SNOWS TIED UP THE SANTA FE MAIN LINE BETWEEN WILLIAMS JUNCTION AND WINSLOW, ARIZONA, THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17TH, RESULTING IN A FEW UNUSUAL OPERATIONS. SANTA FE CONDUCTOR RONALD WELCH, WHO IS A CLUB MEMBER, ADVISES US THAT THERE WERE 82 INCHES OF SNOW AT FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, REQUIRING THE USE OF A ROTARY SNOWPLOW. THE PLOW, WHICH WAS PAINTED ROYAL BLUE AND YELLOW SIMILAR TO SANTA FE FREIGHT UNITS, WAS BROUGHT OVER FROM LAJUNTA, COLORADO, AND THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IT HAD BEEN USED IN SNOW-FIGHTING SERVICE.

SOME MINOR DERAILMENTS IN THE BLOCKADED AREA ADDED TO THE TROUBLES OF OPENING THE LINE, AND IN ADDITION PARTS OF THE MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS CEASED TO OPERATE. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WERE USED IN THE EMERGENCY AREAS.

A FEW PASSENGER TRAINS WERE DETOURED VIA TUCSON AND YUMA OVER THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC, AND TWO TRAINS IN EACH DIRECTION WENT THROUGH DENVER. ON DECEMBER 20TH, THE WESTBOUND "SUPER CHIEF" AND "EL CAPITAN" LEFT DENVER OVER THE UNION PACIFIC AS EXTRAS 27L AND 45C, DEPARTING FROM THE UNION DEPOT AT 3:12 P.M. AND 4:02 P.M., RESPECTIVELY. THEIR EASTBOUND COUNTERPARTS ARRIVED EARLY IN THE MORNING ON THE 21ST, HAVING COME OVER THE U.P. FROM BARSTOW. EXTRA 45 ARRIVED AT 5:35 A.M., AND EXTRA 29L PULLED IN TEN MINUTES LATER, AND THEY WERE SOON ON THE WAY TO LA JUNTA OVER THEIR OWN TRACKS. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, NO FREIGHT TRAINS WERE DETOURED; THEY WERE HELD IN GALLUP AND BELEN YARDS OR AT SIDINGS ALONG THE LINE UNTIL TRAFFIC BEGAN MOVING AT A NORMAL PACE.

ANOTHER STRANGER ON U.P. TRACKS WAS D&RGW EXTRA 5761, WHICH RAN FROM DENVER TO SALT LAKE CITY ON DECEMBER 22ND, WHEN THE WESTBOUND "CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR" WAS DETOURED BECAUSE OF A FREIGHT TRAIN WRECK IN WESTERN COLORADO. THE EASTBOUND ZEPHYR WAS NOT DETOURED.

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LIVE STEAM MILT FICK IS BEGINNING TO DRAW UP PLANS FOR A 1"-SCALE LIVE-STEAM MOFFAT ROAD 2-6-6-0 MALLET AND IS LOOKING FOR DRAWINGS OF THE ORIGINAL ENGINES. IF ANY MEMBER HAS ANY SUCH INFORMATION HE MAY CONTACT MILT AT HIS HOME.

HARRY ROOT, WHO BUILDS A NEW LIVE-STEAMER EACH YEAR, IS NOW WELL ALONG ON A 1"-SCALE MODEL OF UP 844. THE CHASSIS AND MACHINERY ARE JUST ABOUT COMPLETE AT THIS DATE.

JOHN HILL HAS COMPLETED A NEW 1"-SCALE TRACK LAYOUT IN HIS BACKYARD AT 480 GARLAND IN LAKEWOOD. WHENEVER IT QUITS SNOWING, JOHN WILL TRY IT OUT.

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RARE BOOK WE NOTE WITH SOME AMUSEMENT AN ADVERTISEMENT IN A PUBLICATION CALLED "THE ANTIQUE TRADER", IN WHICH A SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA, DEALER OFFERS A MINT COPY OF CAFKY'S "COLORADO MIDLAND" FOR \$85.00. IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE A COPY OF THIS FINE BOOK, IT IS STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB, 2561 SOUTH COOK ST., DENVER, COLO., 80210, FOR A MERE \$14.00 A COPY. AT LAST COUNT, THERE WERE SOME 400 COPIES STILL AVAILABLE, SO THERE IS STILL TIME TO SECURE ONE AT THE REGULAR LIST PRICE. IN THE SAME LIST, CAFKY'S "RAILS AROUND GOLD HILL" ALSO APPEARS TO BE OVERPRICED, WITH A \$150.00 TAG ON THIS ONE; WHILE THEY ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUB, THIS IS CERTAINLY MORE THAN MOST DEALERS CHARGE FOR A COPY.

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RIO GRANDE NARROW GAUGE SOME MEMBERS HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF THE D&RGW NARROW GAUGE LINE BETWEEN ANTONITO AND DURANGO, AND BETWEEN CARBON JUNCTION AND FARMINGTON. ACCORDING TO "THE CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN EXPRESS," PUBLISHED AT COLTON, CALIFORNIA BY THE CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN RAILROAD MUSEUM, THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO GROUPS WHO PLAN TO FIGHT THE ABANDONMENT. ONE IS "THE COLORADO-NEW MEXICO BETTER TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE," WHICH OPPOSES REMOVAL OF THE LINES PARTLY ON THE BASIS THAT THEY NEED BETTER FREIGHT SERVICE. ANOTHER IS THE "RIO GRANDE & SAN JUAN RAILWAY," ORGANIZED BY THOMAS T. HINMAN, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN OUR NEWSLETTER LAST APRIL. THIS ORGANIZATION INTENDS TO REFILE THEIR APPLICATION WITH THE I.C.C., IN AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE TRACK AND TRACKAGE RIGHTS NECESSARY TO OPERATE SUMMER PASSENGER TRAINS BETWEEN ALAMOSA AND CHAMA. THEY PLAN TO PURCHASE THREE OR FOUR OF THE BEST REMAINING 480 AND 490 SERIES ENGINES FOR PASSENGER OPERATIONS WITH CARS PURCHASED IN MEXICO AND REBUILT WITH NEW SEATS AND INTERIOR FITTINGS. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SITUATION AT PRESENT.

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