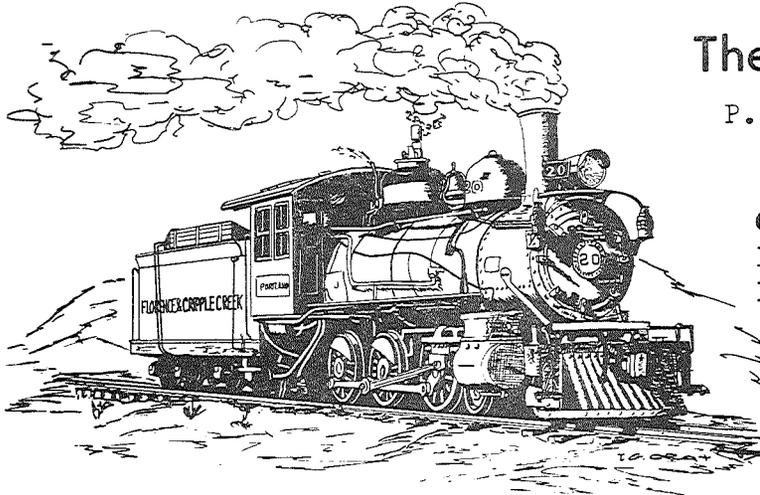


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

AUGUST 1968 No. 108
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, August 14, 1968
Time 8:00 p.m.
Place Western Federal Savings Bldg., (lower level
meeting room), 17th & California Sts.,
Denver

PROGRAM NOTES: Truman Young will present the program this month, and his
program is entitled "A TRIP ON THE ASPEN & WESTERN", or
"MT. SOPRIS SCENIC LINE".

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CLUB ROSTER Publication of the Club Roster this year has been delayed owing
to some unanticipated problems. Work is progressing on it, and
we hope to mail the Roster to all members soon. We apologize for the delay
and appreciate your patience.

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MORE ON TRACK- Another comment from one of our members re our comments on the
LAYING RECORD track-laying record in the last newsletter "If you will read
P106 of Elmer Davis' "The First 5 Years of the Railroad Era in
Colorado", you will find a record of 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of track laid between 5 AM and
2:53 PM on the Kansas Pacific on 15 Aug. 1870. And, of even greater signifi-
cance, the joining of these rails at Comanche (now Strasburg) signified the
completion of coast-to-coast track, a very little-known fact. (The CP-UP
union at Promontory in 1869 marked the completion of the "Pacific Railway"
between the Missouri River at Omaha and the Sacramento River at Sacramento.
The bridge between Council Bluffs and Omaha was not completed until 1872!)"
(from R. A. LeMassena)

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LIVE STEAM Harry Root was honored by a visit of TV cameramen in late June,
and the result of their efforts was shown on "SCOPE" on 30 June.
NOTES Some of the shots were quite spectacular, especially those taken
from on board the train as it circled Harry's track in his backyard. If you
haven't visited Harry's layout, by all means do so; it is a real thrill to
see his two 4-8-4's running and smoking just like the full size ones.

Gerry Cutschall is well along on his 1"-scale model of a D&RGW 1700. If you
want to see a beautiful example of running-gear and machinery, visit Gerry
sometime at 45 S. Zephyr, Denver. Gerry is looking for dimensional data on
Rio Grande steam whistles. Who has some information?

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NARROW GAUGE A meeting was scheduled recently in Chama, New Mexico, to begin the attempt to literally save the life of the narrow gauge lines the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad seeks to abandon between Alamosa, Durango and Farmington. Since all arguments are closed for the ICC's consideration on the Rio Grande's petition for abandonment, the purpose of the meeting was to begin the task of deciding what the best course of action will be once the ICC decision is handed down, and as such, could be the most significant yet in the history of the fight to save the lines.

NOTES New Mexico has taken the initiative in this latest effort. The meeting was sponsored by the Chama Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Rio Arriba Electric Cooperative, and New Mexico's governor David Cargo has thrown the weight of his administration behind efforts to keep the road intact. There have been several good suggestions to date. Some favor joint operation of the line by Colorado and New Mexico. Others favor seeking national monument status. And many others.

The quest for the most feasible approach to insuring that the rails stay down and stay in use is an important one to the area, and certainly of great interest to all railroad buffs. ***

One of the highlights of this year's Southwest Days at Fort Lewis College in Durango was to have been a debate between the Denver and Rio Grande and a Durangoan or two on the narrow gauge railroad abandonment picture. The theme of the celebration this year is "Early Railroads," and the college thought the debate would be a natural. The railroad, however, decided it would rather not debate. ***

An old railroad conductor, R. E. Daniels of Apache Junction, Arizona, realized his dream of riding "The Silverton" narrow gauge of the Denver and Rio Grande 'if it was the last thing he did.' Against his doctor's advice, Mr. Daniels in July rode the train. He suffered a heart attack on the train and was treated at Silverton, then rushed to Durango. During the drive to Durango, Daniels would keep admiring the scenery and said "I'm glad I've done it. It was well worth the trip." He recovered in Durango.

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UP 8444 IN On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28 and 29, 1968, the Union Pacific Steam Engine No. 8444 will pull the train of an excursion from IDAHO Boise to Huntington and return. Each day the train, consisting of 18 passenger cars and three baggage cars, will leave from Boise at 9:30 a.m. and will arrive in Huntington about two hours later, final arrival back in Boise at 4:10 p.m. Box lunches available in Huntington. This will be the last time Engine No. 8444 will be in Boise. Anyone interested in the trip should write the Boise Y.M.C.A.

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AIRLINE From the Washington Post, July 21, 1968: "A reservations clerk employed by a major airline advises her customer: 'I'm sorry, sir, SPEED?? but if you really need to get to New York, take the train from Washington. Our flights are running four hours behind scheduel.' The passenger followed the airline's Advice."

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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 correspondence concerning an item, nor will we appraise items to be offered for sale. Send your listing to the Editor by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

WANTED: Annual passes issued to Jacob Newman Free, known as (J.N. The Philosopher,) (passes were issued this way). He was known as the immortal J.N who was from Wyandot County, Ohio. A. F. Von Blon. 1208 Locust, Muskogee, Okla.

FOR SALE: Official Railway Guides: Oct. '42 - \$10. Dec. '47 - \$8.
Bob Anderson. 821 Seventh St., West Des Moines, Iowa 50265.

WANTED: Pix, plans of CS&CCD Locos.
Bob Anderson. 821 Seventh St., West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

FOR SALE: One of the last pieces of R.P.O. memory! A genuine Wabash
postal car windscreen. About 9" x 12" intended to be bolted
to outside of car at eye level, permitting the postal
messenger to see ahead. Includes glass and brand new. Best
offer takes.
F. Bauer, 440 Meadowlane Rd., Dearborn, Mich. 48124

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THOT FOR THE DAY The great thing in this world is not so much where we
stand as in what direction we are moving. - Oliver
Wendell Holmes.

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Ed Schneider, President

R. A. Cordill, Secretary

Tom Gray, Vice President

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