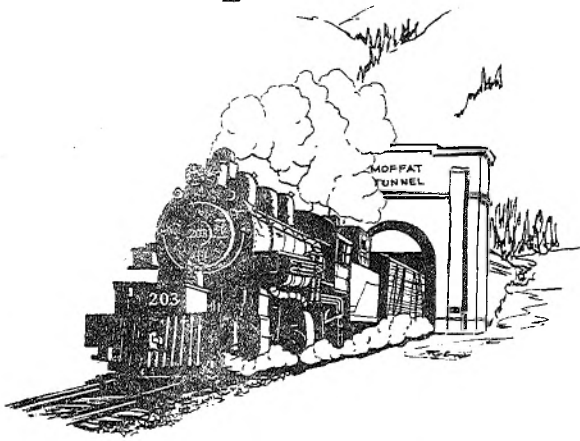


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

APRIL 1971

No. 139

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

EDITOR - - - - - BRUCE BLACK

MEETING NOTICE: DATE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1971
TIME 8:00 P.M.
PLACE CITY & COUNTY BLDG., COURTROOM 100. BUILDING IS LOCATED ACROSS
THE STREET FROM THE U. S. MINT. ENTRANCE IS 1400 CHEROKEE ST.

PROGRAM NOTES: NEAL MILLER WILL SHOW A 16MM MOVIE ENTITLED "THE GENERAL". A SECOND MOVIE WILL
BE SHOWN ENTITLED "LEAP FROM THE WATER TOWER" WITH SANTA FE STEAM POWER BEING
THE ATTRACTION.

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U P 8444 MADE A FINE RUN TO LARAMIE, WYOMING ON MARCH 28, 1971 UNDER BRIGHT SUNNY SKIES AS FAR
AS DALE, WYOMING. THE LIGHT CHANGED TO BRIGHT OVERCAST FOR MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF THE
TRIP WITH SOME INTERMITTENT BRIGHT SUNSHINE. EXCELLENT LIGHT FOR THE MORNING PHOTO RUNBYS
WAS ENJOYED BY ALL. THE LOCOMOTIVE HAD TO BACK UP FROM LARAMIE TO SHERMAN TO USE THE WYE
THERE. TURNING WAS COMPLETE ABOUT 6:00 P.M. AND THE TRAIN RAN BACK TO DENVER WITH NO FUR-
THER PHOTO STOPS AS ALL AVAILABLE LIGHT HAD GONE. ALL IN ALL THE TRIP WAS VERY GOOD IN
HAVING SUCH GOOD WEATHER AND SUNLIGHT FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. THE COLD WYOMING WIND WAS ON
HAND AS USUAL TO GREET THOSE HARDY SOULS WHO VENTURED OUTSIDE FOR PICTURES BUT ASIDE FROM
THE WIND, THE TRIP CAME OFF VERY WELL.

THE DENVER POST COVERED THE 8444 VERY NICELY ON THEIR BACK PAGE OF THE TUE. 30 MARCH 1971
ISSUE. WITH THE ADVENT OF RAILPAX THIS PAST TRIP MAY WELL BE THE FINAL FANTRIP FOR 8444.
WE CERTAINLY HOPE NOT.

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U P INTENDS TO HALT ALL PASSENGER SERVICE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1971. THIS INCLUDES EVERYTHING IN-
CLUDING MIXED TRAINS. IN LIGHT OF THIS ACTION SENATOR RONCALIO OF WYOMING IS TO APPROACH
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY VOLPE TO DETERMINE IF SOME SORT OF PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE CAN-
NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THE CITIZENS OF WYOMING, WHO OTHERWISE WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT ONE
SINGLE PASSENGER TRAIN IN THE ENTIRE STATE.

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SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE LINE REPAIRS WERE 80% COMPLETE AS OF AN ARTICLE DATED 7 FEB. 1971.
SEASONAL OPERATION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN 29 MAY 1971, AND RUN THROUGH 3 OCT 1971.

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THE PASSING OF CHARTER MEMBER EMIL MATTHIESEN, 91, OF BOULDER, COLO. IS SADLY NOTED. MR.
MATTHIESEN WAS ONCE A RAILROAD ENGINEER OUT OF HOISINGTON, KANSAS AND WAS ALSO QUITE
REGULAR IN ATTENDING CLUB MEETINGS.

FRED JUKES, 93, OF BELLINGHAM, WASH. ALSO PASSED AWAY ON 2 JAN. 1971. MR. JUKES WAS FAMOUS FOR

HIS "TURN OF THE CENTURY" PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXCELLENT QUALITY OF STEAM LOCOMOTIVES. HE WAS BEST KNOWN IN THIS AREA FOR HIS FINE D&RGW NARROW GAUGE STILL AND ACTION VIEWS IN THE 1908-1910 PERIOD. HIS RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION WAS PURCHASED SOME YEARS AGO BY LUCIUS BEEBE AND CHARLES CLEGG.

BENJAMIN A. SNOW, 65, A FORMER CLUB DIRECTOR AND LONG TIME MEMBER, DIED APRIL 2ND IN ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL AFTER SUFFERING A HEART ATTACK. BEN HAD RETIRED LAST AUGUST AS SUPERINTENDENT OF POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION FOR EBASCO AND HAD ENGINEERED INSTALLATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE CO. IN DENVER. HE HAD ALSO SERVED EBASCO IN KOREA AND GREECE. HE WILL BE MISSED BY HIS MANY FRIENDS IN THE CLUB AS IT WAS A RARE THING FOR BEN TO MISS A CLUB TRIP. MANY OF US HAD TALKED TO BEN ON THE UP EXCURSION MARCH 28, 1971.

ALTHO WE DO HAVE AN OBITUARY AT HAND, WE ALSO NOTE THE PASSING OF VETERAN CLUB MEMBER RECENTLY, CHARLES A. C. SEEMANN, AN ENTHUSIASTIC RAILFAN AND CLUB MEMBER.

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VANDALISM IS A FAST GROWING FINANCIAL PROBLEM FOR MANY RAILROADS. IN 1969 ALONE, VANDALISM COST THE PENN-CENTRAL \$3.3 MILLION. FEW OFFENDERS ARE CAUGHT AND WHEN THEY ARE, THE COURTS TEND TO BE LENIENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASES INVOLVING JUVENILES.

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THE COLORADO STATE BUTTON SOCIETY EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO ALL RAILROAD CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND THE COLORADO STATE BUTTON SOCIETY'S THIRD ANNUAL SHOW AND EXHIBIT AT THE RADIANT CHAPTER BUILDING, 225 ACOMA ST., DENVER, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 10 AM TO 9 PM AND SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 10 AM TO 5 PM. ADMISSION \$.50.

THERE WILL BE RAILROAD ITEMS ON DISPLAY. ANY MEMBER INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING THEIR RAILROAD ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. EDWARD KIDNEIGH, 733-3270 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. THERE WILL BE A LARGE, LOCKED GLASS CASE FOR THE RAILROAD DISPLAY. THE SOCIETY SINCERELY HOPES MANY MEMBERS WILL DISPLAY, AND THAT ALL MEMBERS WILL ATTEND THE SHOW AND EXHIBIT.

THERE WILL BE A PROGRAM AT 2 PM AND 7:30 PM SATURDAY AND AT 2 PM SUNDAY ON "WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN AND OTHER COLLECTIBLE POLITICAL ITEMS", BY MACGRAW, PROMINENT LOBBYIST AND COLORADO STATE LEGISLATOR.

MR. SIDNEY WHITE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB WILL HAVE A PORTION OF HIS EXTENSIVE RAILROAD BUTTON COLLECTION ON DISPLAY. THE EXHIBIT WILL INCLUDE RAILROAD UNIFORM BUTTONS, CAP BADGES, ETC.

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UINTAH RAILWAY, BY HENRY E. BENDER, JR. HOWELL-NORTH BOOKS, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, 1970.
(AS REVIEWED BY MAC C. POOR.)

AMONG THE NUMEROUS RAILROAD HISTORY BOOKS THAT ARE CONTINUALLY MAKING THEIR APPEARANCE, THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST IN QUITE AWHILE.

"UINTAH RAILWAY" IS THE HISTORY OF A RATHER UNUSUAL NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD THAT OPERATED IN COLORADO AND UTAH. THE UINTAH RAILWAY BEGAN AT MACK, COLORADO, 19 MILES WEST OF GRAND JUNCTION AND WOUND ITS WAY NORTHWEST SOME 62.8 MILES THROUGH SOME OF THE WILDEST AND DESOLATE COUNTRY IMAGINABLE, TO REACH WATSON, UTAH. ALTHOUGH THE UINTAH FURNISHED PASSENGER ACCOMMODATIONS, THE LINE WAS PRINCIPALLY BUILT TO HAUL OUT THE UNUSUAL MINERAL CALLED GILSONITE, A GLOSSY BLACK ASPHALTUM FOUND NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

THE OPERATION OF THE LINE WAS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT ACCOUNT OF THE FANTASTIC GRADE CLIMBING BAXTER PASS WHICH INCLUDED 5 CONTINUOUS MILES OF UNRELENTING 7.5% GRADE. AS USUAL, THE LITTLE ROAD EXPERIENCED ITS SHARE OF WRECKS, FIRES, DERAILMENTS, BLIZZARDS, FLOODS, ETC.

IT IS A HANDSOME, WELL ILLUSTRATED (290 PHOTOGRAPHS) AND COMPARATIVELY INEXPENSIVE BOOK. IT IS PRINTED ON SLICK PAPER AND THE EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS ARE "GRADE A". WELL ORGANIZED, CAREFULLY EDITED AND WELL PRINTED WITH PLENTY OF SCALE DRAWINGS OF ROLLING STOCK,

CHARTS, MAPS, AN EXCELLENT INDEX, ETC. THE BOOK CLEARLY INDICATES THAT CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH WENT INTO ITS PREPARATION. IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED WHICH IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE SERIOUS STUDENT OF RAILROAD HISTORY. MR. BENDER COVERS BOTH THE CORPORATE AND HISTORICAL FACTS OF THE ROAD.

WITH THE UINTAH IT WAS THE SAME OLD STORY - AFTER 34 YEARS OF OPERATION, THE RAILROAD WAS FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS BY TRUCKS RUNNING ON TAX-SUPPORTED HI-WAYS. THE ONLY COMPLAINT I COULD FIND WITH THE BOOK WAS THAT THE PRINTER MUST HAVE USED COPIOUS QUANTITIES OF COD LIVER OIL IN HIS PRINTING INK - THE BOOK HAS A DISTINCT FISHY ODOR. NEVER-THE-LESS, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO ANY ONE INTERESTED IN COLORADO RAILROAD HISTORY.

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CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIS RAILWAYS' SOURCE OF OPERATING REVENUE IS STILL IN GRAVE DOUBTS. BOTH STATES ARE RELUCTANT TO LEGISLATE OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE LINE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED ITSELF AS A SOURCE OF MONEY, BECAUSE THE RAILROAD IS TO BE USED AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION.

THE STATES PROCLAIM THAT THEY NEVER INTENDED TO OPERATE THE RAILROAD; BUT ACTED TO PRESERVE THE LINE ONLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A QUALIFIED PRIVATE FIRM COULD LEASE THE PROPERTY AND OPERATE THE RAILROAD FOR THE STATES.

IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE STATES WILL ACT TOGETHER PROMPTLY TO ACQUIRE A QUALIFIED LESSEE OR LEGISLATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO OPERATE THE LINE. THE PROPERTY IS TOO VALUABLE TO BE ALLOWED TO SIT IDLE.

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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.

E. H. STEFFY, 2023 YALE AV., CAMP HILL, PA 17011 WANTS TO KNOW THE FATE OR FINAL DISPOSITION OF P.C. OLD #6706, A PARTIALLY DISMANTLED FAIRBANKS-MORSE DIESEL ENROUTE FROM COLUMBUS, OHIO TO STRIEGEL SUPPLY CO. - BALTIMORE, MD.

F. B. RIZZARI, 1718 VIEWPOINT RD., DENVER, COLO. 80215 TRADES - BANCROFTS - "HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA" - AND - "WASHINGTON" - FOR BANCROFTS - "HISTORY OF COLORADO". WANTS "GHOST TOWNS OF TEXAS".

JOHN COLLINS, USFS, FEDERAL BLDG., MISSOULA, MONT. 59801, WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN A SET OF PLANS FOR AN SP 4-8-8-2 CAB FORWARD.

W. B. HOFFMAN, 130-A WEST UNION, FULLERTON, CALIF. 92632 SELLS COPY No. 1868 OF "RAILS AROUND GOLD HILL" FOR \$175.00. 2750 COPIES WERE PUBLISHED.

BRUCE BLACK, 3235 E. EUCLID AV., BOULDER, COLO. 80303 WILL BUY R&LHS BULLETIN No. 54, WITH A HISTORY & ROSTER OF THE WISCONSIN CENTRAL RY.

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THOT FOR THE DAY: SOMETIMES IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO DISCOVER WHAT ONE CANNOT DO THAN WHAT ONE CAN DO.

- LIN YU-TANG

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WILSON RUID, PRESIDENT
CHARLES MAX, VICE PRESIDENT

BILL GORDON, SECRETARY
ARL CUTHBERT, TREASURER