

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



RAILROAD CLUB

BOX 2391
DENVER, COLORADO
80201

October 1, 1972

E. J. Haley
Chairman, Trip
Committee

1972 OFFICERS

Carl E. C. Carlson
President

Charles Max
Vice President and
Program Chairman

William J. Gordon
Secretary and
Equipment Chairman

Arl Cuthbert
Treasurer

W. L. Van Patten
Assistant Treasurer

1972 DIRECTORS

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Robert Griswold
Noel L. Hover
Eldin C. Larsen
Neal R. Miller
Jackson C. Thode

Fellow Members:

The 1972 excursions have been a financial disaster for the club, accruing a deficit of \$1,558. Our recent Narrow Gauge Holiday attracted 155 passengers for the Cumbres Pass trip and 158 for the Silverton, losing \$2,362. Add to this a loss of \$256 on the Black Hills Central and subtract the \$1,060 profit realized on the Union Pacific excursion.

Our organization has almost 1,000 members (over 600 living in Colorado) and each receives brochures announcing these excursions. In addition, Secretary Bill Gordon faithfully mails out announcements of each trip to almost 800 nonmembers interested in excursions.

The Narrow Gauge Holiday offered double-headed steam power over one of the highest railroad passes in North America and a trip through one of the country's most spectacular canyons. Both reasonably priced trips included photo runbys. If a specialized mailing to almost 1,800 people turns out less than 160 passengers for trips such as these, then something is radically wrong. Many of you have stated that the Hill City to Deadwood trip was one of our finest. Only 178 people showed up for that one; about 20 short of what we needed to break even. If you are not interested enough in steam railroading to ride special trains such as the above, then I don't know what it takes to turn you on. I must consider that perhaps the fault is mine. Therefore, I will no longer accept the responsibility for these losses and will relinquish the position of Trip Chairman at the end of this year. Perhaps the new chairman will come up with something of greater interest for you.

I ran my first trip, an excursion on the Denver & Intermountain, back in 1947 for Charlie Ryland when he was club president. In the ensuing 25 years, I have acted as Trip Chairman except for a couple of presidents who ran their own excursions. I greatly enjoyed the work and I do want to thank those members who consistently bought tickets on every trip I arranged, and especially those who had to come from halfway across the country to make these trips.

Sincerely