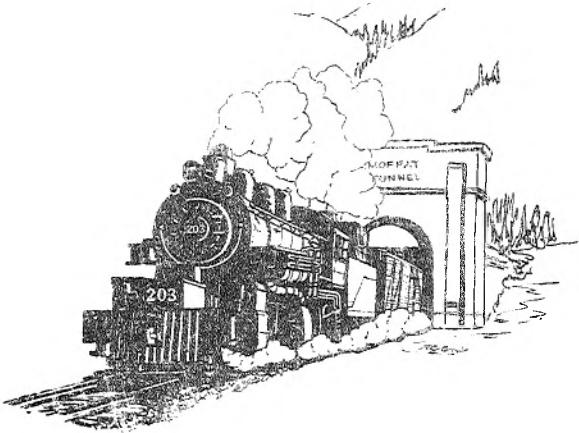


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



# The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391      Denver, Colorado 80201

JUNE 1973

No. 165

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

Editor = - - - Darrell Arndt

**PROGRAM NOTES:** Members and visitors at the June meeting will be treated to approximately 2,000 feet of Otto Perry's 16mm movies. Films will be in both black and white and color, covering periods from as early as 1942 to 1956. There will be much Colorado material consisting of both narrow and standard gauge action. Included will be about 250 ft. of D&IM electric operations. Some midwestern and eastern RR's will also be covered.

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THE 35th ANNIVERSARY Dinner on May 12th was attended by over 250 guests. After the dinner, the drawing for the door prizes was held. The winners were as follows:

Ticket No.	Name	Prize
167	Dan Abbott	Book- "Rails Around Gold Hill"
92	R. A. Ronzio	Book- "Pictorial Sup.-DSP&P"
13	Lillian Stewart	Book- "The Colorado Road"
211	Dorothy Winslow	Rail
212	Charles Eckblad	Rail
107	Jack Campbell	Rail
18	Carl Steele	Rail
-	unknown	Rail
239	Duane Skinner	Picture
223	Vincent Baker	Playing cards
204	Craig Trout	Postcards
175	B. F. Cutler	"
210	Maurice Winslow	"
138	B. Jordan	"
246	Gene Orton	"

The evening was rounded out with a nostalgic slide presentation by Ed Haley and Dick Kindig, recalling the many trips sponsored by the club during the past three and one-half decades. Special thanks is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. C. Carlson for managing the dinner arrangements with the Inn. The result was a very pleasant evening enjoyed by all.

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UNION PACIFIC 8444 - More than 440 ticket holders rode in 12 cars behind Union Pacific's 8444 to Laramie on May 27th. Numerous photo stops kept the shutter bugs busy on both the north and southbound portions of the trip. Many thanks to all those who took the trip, and to the Union Pacific for Making such an enjoyable day behind Class I steam power possible.

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THE COLORADO MIDLAND Chapter of the NRHS is sponsoring a two day round trip on the Rio Grande Zephyr between Denver and Grand Junction on July 7th and 8th. A special Vista-Dome car has been reserved, from which one can enjoy one

of the most interesting and scenic train rides in the country today. In the consist will be the usual excellent dining car facilities and a dome-observation-lounge car on the end. Included in the trip is a ride through the Colorado National Monument while in Grand Jct. Adult fare is \$29.50; husband and wife, or parent and teenager - \$20.50. For further information regarding fare and hotel prices, contact the Colorado Midland Chapter, NRHS P. O. Box 9161, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80909.

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A COMBINATION OF heavy rains and melting snows the first week in May resulted in widespread flooding in the central part of Colorado, as well as other portions of the Rocky Mountain Region. The South Platte River covered most of the C&G rail yards in Denver, sending several feet of water into the roads roundhouse and adjacent facilities. As there was time to prepare for the high water, most equipment was removed from the yards in time. The crest stopped only a few feet short of the UP Big Boy on display with other rail equipment at the Forney Museum, which is located near the river.

Due to the soft roadbeds caused by the downpour, traffic on the Rio Grande's line between Denver and the Moffat Tunnel was restricted for a short period. The eastbound Rio Grande Zephyr from Salt Lake City on the 6th of May, and the westbound run the following morning were routed by way of the Royal Gorge.

A washout on the Union Pacific near Rock River, Wyoming derailed 5 engines and 41 cars of a freight train, and blocked the main line. One train of Amtrak's San Francisco Zephyr used the Moffat Tunnel Route on the D&RGW between Denver and Ogden while the UP line was being cleared.

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THE SILVERTON began the 1973 season on schedule. Although the Dolores River experienced flooding conditions west of Durango, it appears the Animas will not subject the narrow gauge with any major problems this spring. It is not known yet whether this will be another record breaking season for the line. In the event of gasoline shortages this summer, tourist traffic to the region will undoubtedly fall below last year's level.

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MOTHER NATURE'S plumbing malfunction wasn't the only source of heartburn for the Denver area the first week in May. Lightning struck the smokestack on the Tramway Cable building downtown during the same weekend, causing heavy damage. The 110 ft. high brick column was declared unsafe and ordered demolished. However, E. James Judd, co-owner of the building, requested and received permission to have the stack repaired. The \$35,000 repair job will be completed shortly, and the chimney will continue to complement the Cable Building as part of the original structure.

The building was built in 1889 by the Denver City Cable Railway Co. to serve what was then the longest continuous cable system in the world, with some fifteen miles of track. While many buildings were removed in the downtown urban renewal project, the Cable Building was preserved for its historic and architectural qualities. A part of the building currently serves as a restaurant, complete with a tramway car from the old system in which patrons may eat. The Building was recently recognized by the Landmark Preservation Committee as a Denver landmark.

Another "well stacked" structure a few blocks away, and which could be considered by some as a type of landmark to railfan visitors, did not fare so well. The 220 foot smokestack and boiler plant which served the BN roundhouse and adjacent facilities fell to the wrecker's ball. Due to its height, the top 55 ft. had to be cut up with jackhammers by men lowered down inside by a crane. Large black letters on the white stack reading "Burlington Route", clearly identified its owner. The plant was no longer needed by the road.

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WILLIAM VAN PATTEN retired this past May from the Bureau of Reclamation, with over 34 years of Federal Service. He is one of the charter members of the Rocky Mountain RR Club and has served in many official capacities. Mr. Van Patten is currently the Assistant Treasurer.

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D&RGW caboose No. 0589 was added to the Pioneer Museum's narrow gauge display in Gunnison, Colo. this past May, reports William Jones of Gunnison. The addition results in an exhibit consisting of engine 268, a flanger, drop bottom gondola, a boxcar and a caboose. The caboose was donated to the museum by the Rio Grande, and was trucked to the site from Alamosa. There it had been resting with the last few remaining narrow gauge cars on the road. Although not in service for some time, the appearance of the car's interior gave the impression that it had been out on the line recently. Inside were bunks with mattresses, blankets, kitchen utensils, food, papers, and a pot-belly stove full of coal.

Other RR items and various artifacts of western history are on display, ranging from a harp switchstand to a full sized water tower. The museum, which is open from 1 to 5 p.m. daily through Labor Day, is located just off the main highway on the east edge of town. Certainly worth a visit if you are in the area.

Now if the Museum could just start laying track up the Gunnison River valley . . . . . \* \* \* \* \*

A CYCLIST won the second annual "Iron Horse-Bicycle Race" between Durango and Silverton on May 27. Over 70 cycles were entered in the contest. It's not expected that this new form of competition from this type of transportation between the two towns will result in a very great reduction in the patronage of the paralleling narrow gauge line.

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THE UNION PACIFIC Depot (built in 1886) in Cheyenne, Wyoming, along with the Wyoming State Capitol, was designated a registered national historic site earlier this year.

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Please note that the Newsletter Editor's address has been changed - Kindly send news items, swap 'n shop info, etc. to 1376 Columbine St., Apt. 402, Denver, Co. 80206.

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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.

FOR SALE - SILVER PASS issued in 1890 by TPA GOOD for the D&RGW, The Colorado Midland and The Union Pacific Railroad. - \$75.00  
R. A. Ronzio, Box 344, Golden, Colo. 80401 Ph 279-1507

A. VON BLON, Box 6422, Waco, Texas - seeking information related to the water brakes that the D&RG and the C&S planned to use on their motive power in about 1904. Wants Texas Centennial items, Mexican revolution era, fotos of Indians, street scenes of various southwestern towns.

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Charles Max, President

Bill Gordon, Secretary

E. J. Haley, Vice-President

Carl E. C. Carlson, Treasurer