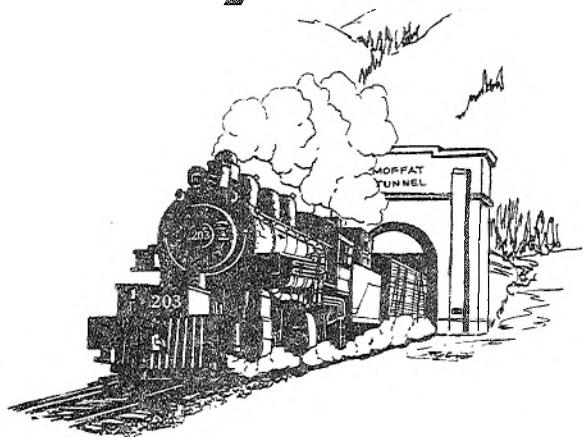


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

FEBRUARY 1974

No. 173

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

Editor - - - - Darrell Arndt

MEETING NOTICE: Date Wednesday, February 13, 1974
Time 7:45 p.m.
Place Southeast wing of Christ Episcopal Church,
2900 S. University at Bates; offstreet parking
at rear (east) of meeting hall.

PROGRAM NOTES: Don Smith, a Director of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, member of the State Historical Society, Maverick Ghost Town Club, Telluride Jeep Club, Racing Marshal and Past President of the Rocky Mountain Sled Dog Club and Past President of the Ghost Town Club will present his spectacular sound and slide show "HOLIDAY IN SWITZERLAND" at the February meeting. These sounds and scenes were recorded in the fall of 1970 during an 18 day railroad tour of Switzerland by 28 people, mostly members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club. A two projector system synchronized with stereo sounds and music is used to bring you along via steam and electric railroad, Cable Rails, Funiculars and steam and diesel powered boats through the indescribable beauty of Switzerlands rugged mountains, lush valleys and crystal clear Alpine lakes.

Don's interesting narration will undoubtedly include some of his usual humorous anecdotes and rib-tickling comments. To make this February get-together even more exciting, and to create a kind of personal challenge for those present, the first person to laugh during Don's presentation will be tarred and feathered. So whether you are at home cleaning china, or working at an anvil factory, drop whatever you are doing, gather up the family and friends, and come down for the evening to see an excellent program you won't soon forget. This program incidently, will be the first projected on the new, big 10-foot by 10-foot luminous screen recently donated to Christ Episcopal Church by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club.

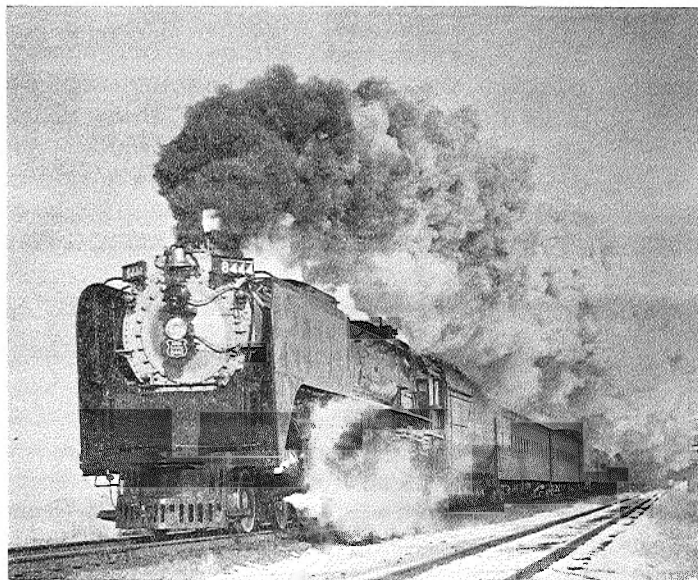
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The January meeting featured the incomparable movies of Otto Perry. Almost every facet of Colorado railroading was covered including narrow gauge and standard gauge on the plains and in the mountains, in black and white and in color, in both the steam and diesel age. Leaving a pleasant visual impression were early color views, particularly of the streamliners.

A little "goody" was also distributed to all present. Each individual received a surplus Rio Grande January 1972, 54 page, stiff covered system employees timetable, courtesy of the D&RGW Railroad.

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SUCCESSFUL EXCURSION - This photo by Richard Kindig of 8444 southbound near Platteville, Colorado with the



Stock Show Special is of a scene similar to those witnessed on the January 20th Laramie excursion during the half dozen photo runbys. Thanks to the fine participation by the Club members and other Colorado and out of state residents, the Union Pacific Railroad, and Mother Nature, the special was filled to capacity. The cooperation and timing of the weather was remarkable. The clear skies of dawn remained throughout the morning and early afternoon, giving way to partly cloudy conditions in the late afternoon. Temperatures and winds were rather mild for the season. The following day a dandy of a snowstorm clobbered the region, creating poor visibility and leaving most highway travel difficult. Many thanks to all who participated. Without your support, trips like this could not take place.

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INSTANT REPLAY!?!? - Well, not really, but it appears that the 8444 will again be in Denver in February. A rail tour of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society will arrive in Cheyenne on Sunday, February 17th, in seven or eight sleeping cars behind Amtrak. From Cheyenne the private cars are to be pulled to Denver by steam via the Dent branch. The Club will have some extra space available for persons interested in riding down from the Wyoming capital. The westbound San Francisco Zephyr arrives Cheyenne from Denver at 12:50 p.m. in time to board the special for a return to Denver. Fare will be approximately \$10.00 on the steam portion. Amtrak fare should be purchased one way only from Denver, and the return fare from the RLHS. Although the club does not have an extra car for people boarding at Cheyenne, there is room for some additional passengers. They have informed us they would be happy to accomodate those interested. Should you prefer to confirm space, contact Fred Stindt, Pacific Coast Chap. R&LHS, 978 Emerald Hill Road, Redwood City, California 94061, or phone 415-366-1594.

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1974 DUES - Don't forget to send in your dues for this year. Still only \$3.00 per person, \$4.00 for new members. Contributions to the equipment fund have been most gratifying, and is greatly appreciated. These donations will be very helpful in enabling the equipment chairman to insure the equipment is properly cared for.

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THE ROSTER COMMITTEE is compiling a new Roster Booklet for distribution to each member. Please check your address on mail received from the club for correctness. If it is in error (i.e. incomplete, wrong zip code, misspelled, etc.) please drop us a card so it can be changed. This will result in the best possible accuracy for the Roster.

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THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC special snowplow run on January 12th was witnessed by an estimated 280 people, about 70 of which rode the train. Consist included the plow, engine No. 487, a gondola, boxcar and caboosse. The unusual operation left Chama about 10:00 am and by early afternoon was about four miles out of town. At that point the coal supply had been reduced to a level where the return to Chama was necessary. The operation was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

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MORE THAN \$4.6 MILLION will be spent by the Burlington Northern in 1974 improving facilities in Colorado. About 3.2 million of this will go toward renovation of the Road's 38th Street yard to accomodate the operation of the C&S operation at the 7th Street yard. Work to be done includes construction of a new yard office and tower, a 2.13 mile double track connection to the C&S yard and 19½ miles of new track in the yard. Total cost is expected to reach \$5.2 million.

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ROCK ISLAND has recently acquired some new diesel locomotives reports B. R. Cutler. The General Electric units are 3,000 hp U-30-C's freshly painted in red and yellow with the road's name in big letters on the side. They are GE's well known XR series, numbered 4580-4599, built in November of 1973. The RI also has SD-40's numbered in the 4700 series.

A WELL KNOWN RAIL PHOTOGRAPHER has died recently Mr. Cutler also informs us. On December 27th H. W. Pontin passed away. For many years he was President of Rail Photo Service.

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CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN and the Burlington Northern are formalizing plans to jointly build and operate a new rail line in Converse and Campbell counties, Wyoming. Dismissing earlier plans for each road to build their own individual lines, the combined venture will result in substantial savings and a faster construction schedule. The 100 mile line will open up low sulphur coal reserves.

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THE BART TRANSIT SYSTEM of the San Francisco-Oakland area is in precarious financial straits. The General Manager has even mentioned the possibility of closing down operation in the first three months of 1975. A strike by Bart employees last summer did little to help the situation. The implications are that Federal and State aid will be necessary to keep the ultra modern line going.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL has placed an order with a Montreal supplier for 300,000 concrete ties. Most of the order is to be used in a 45 mile double tracking of CN's main line between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Others will be used in main-line construction east of Quebec City. Rising world timber prices are cited as a primary reason for the switch. The CN will however continue to order timber ties as long as the price remains competitive with concrete.

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AUTO-TRAIN CORPORATION President Eugene K. Garfield recently stated the company's on-time performance continually remains at about 90%. When a train is more than 90 minutes late, he writes a letter of apology to every passenger and signs each one personally.

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BUCKING FOR PROMOTION!!!??? - We all read about "Someone" putting water in the fuel tanks of Amtrak No. 5 during its' infamous stop at Galesburg, Illinois this past holiday season. That "Someone" according to an Amtrak representative was, of all people, a BN trainmaster who was trying to help out a late train covered in ice and snow.

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THE ENERGY CRISIS and other transportation problems have caused a return to rail travel for many people. How many of us have wondered if the rails would in turn consider returning to the steam concept for power? A Denver newspaper columnist has even made a suggestion that those people having employment problems in the car industry for example, be used to construct new rail equipment and perhaps even steam engines. One railroad has already publicly expressed their opinion on the subject of steam for power. The Norfolk and Western, a most likely candidate for such an approach because of its' proximity to a region of plentiful coal supplies, has rejected the idea for the expected reasons; the engines would not only have to be built, but so would numerous fueling and servicing facilities. So if you have been waiting for the return of steam power to your favorite pike, you had might as well not hold your breath.

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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:

Switzerland Trail - near mint condition \$160.00
A Century plus of Locomotives - 1855-1965, New South Wales RR . 15.00
Evelyn Curro's Americana Calender, 1952 - Old Locomotives
Edition. . 10.00
Central American Holiday, 1960 - Gerald M. Best 15.00
(RR of El Salvador, Mexico, and Guatemala)
Lillian L. Stewart, 1107 Pennsylvania St., Denver, Colo. 80203

FOR SALE: Books about the Union Pacific

Golden Rails Kratville \$ 20.00
Motive Power of the U.P. " 17.50
Big Boy " 6.00
Union Pacific Locomotives Vol. 1)
" " " Vol. 2) 15.00
(Diagrams, Mech. Info, Photo Details)
Smoke Above the Plains }
Smoke Across the Prairies } Ehernberger 6.00 Ea.
Smoke Along the Columbia }
Roster of Union Pacific Power - 1867-1964 5.00
B. F. Cutler, 350 S. Clinton, Denver, Colol. 80231

FOR SALE: BritRail Marker (British Railways) found at Waverly Station,
Edinburgh, Scotland Jul 70 best offer
L. R. Orton, 2724 Concord, Colo. Spgs., Colo. 80907

WANTED: Seeking tts from the SANTA FE narrow gauge rrs or any of the
narrow gauge lines in Texas. Offer: G. A. Lathrop's,
Mystery Rides the Rails or Whispering Rails. \$5 ea Schmidt
Rails Through the Hill Country, an account of the noted
Fredericksburg & Northern RR. This one of the 4 rrs in
Texas with a tunnel. \$3.75
A. Von Blon, Box 6422, Waco, Texas.

FOR SALE:

1. The Gilpin Gold Tram - Ferrell \$ 7.50
2. The Great Iron Trail - Howard 2.00
3. Backwoods Railroads of the West-Steinheimer 14.50
4. Lake Superior Iron Ore Railroads - Dorin 8.00
5. Chicago & North Western Steam Power - Knudsen 7.50
6. (a) The Slim Princess
(b) Narrow Gauge to Silverton
(c) Narrow Gauge to Silverton (Centennial Edition)
all by J. B. Hungerford -
all Three booklets 3.00
7. Fiddle Hill - McCague A Railroad Novel 1.50
8. Nevada County Narrow Gauge - Best 5.75

Please enclose 30¢ for each book to help with the cost of shipping
and handling.

Harry J. Wagner III, E. Centennial Drive, Centennial Lake,
Marlton, New Jersey 08053

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Charles Max, President

Bill Gordon, Secretary

E. J. Haley, Vice-President

Carl E. C. Carlson, Treas.