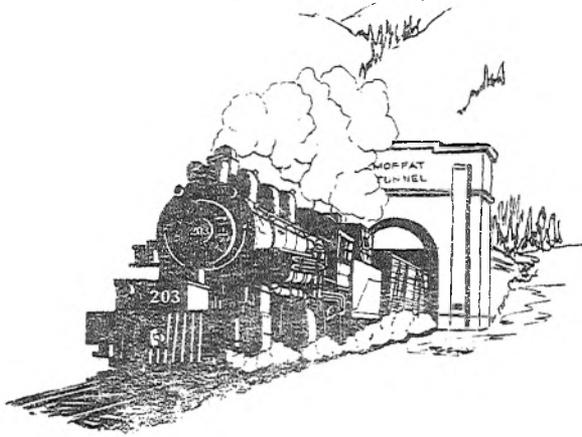


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

OCTOBER 1974

No. 181

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

Editor - - - Darrell T. Arndt

SATURDAY, OCTOBER THE 12th, will be the date of the OCTOBER MEETING and ANNIVERSARY BANQUET as described in the notice included with the September newsletter. Good food, good company, door prizes and what we feel to be an outstanding program promise to make this meeting one to remember. On the menu will be Roast Baron of Beef complete with all the trimmings. A number of fine door prizes are to be given away, including an unnumbered copy of "Pictorial Supplement to the DSP&P" by Kindig, Haley & Poor, a copy of "Colorado Midland" by Morris Cafky, and a copy of "Along an Open Road" by Ed and Sally Kochanek. This latter publication is a 200 page pictorial study of many standard and narrow gauge lines of Colorado as well as a number of other western railroads. There will be even more little prizes for some lucky winners.

Rounding out the evening will be a slide/movie program by Jim Ehernberger and Ed Gerlits of their adventures this past spring trying to railroad in South America, traveling over 28,000 miles through 6 nations. Their expedition encountered an impressive variety of rail operations, most of which would "probably" not be found riding Amtrak. We will see all kinds of railroading, from the sugar plantations of Equador, to over 15,000 feet in the Andes of Peru, from 30" gauge, link and pin operations to modern commuter systems with over 700 trains a day. We'll see Birney streetcars, cog railways, RR's of 7 different gauges, 3 cylinder Pacifics, Alco Diesels, war torn Santiago, ruins at Machu Picchu, the girls on the beach at Copacabana and much more. (Of the girls??!) There is certain to be something for everyones taste. Don't miss out on this swell affair.



Remember, the date is October the 12th, Saturday evening at Stouffers Denver Inn, 3203 Quebec Street, across the street from the main entrance to Stapleton airport and just off the I-70 exit. Fare including tax and tip is \$8.00 per person. Boiler Warming Hour is at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets and further info may be obtained from the treasurer, Carl Carlson via the club's mailing address or by calling him at 985-0976 preferably in the evening. He'd be glad to hear from you,.....before he goes to bed that is. Hope to see you at the Banquet!

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A NEW RAIL ATTRACTION near the Black Canyon of the Gunnison is shown on the front page. Narrow gauge engine No. 278, a box car and caboose are now displayed on the original steel trestle that spans Cimmaron Creek near the Morrow Point Dam. The engine was relocated by the National Park Service from Montrose where it had been on display for a number of years. Actual moving was done this summer by the Bureau of Reclamation who also provided these pictures.

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PLEASE NOTE a new address for the editor: i376 Columbine, Apt. 303, Denver 80206. Swap "N Shop ads, news items, etc. may be sent either direct to me or to the clubs mail box, whichever way the coin lands.

I would also like to thank our President, Charlie Max for doing last months Rail Report while I was out of town. Had a wonderful five weeks. On the move most every day, so impossible to review much of it here. Went home to see my folks and family in Massachusetts, and other friends and relatives east of the Big River. East of Chicago I elected to travel entirely by train, observing such operations as Chicago to Detroit, Chicago-St. Louis on the French Turbo Train, the Floridian, the Piedmont, Southern Crescent, Metroliners, ex-NH Budd RDC cars, the James Whitcomb Riley, and about half a dozen "tourist" lines in the east, midwest and south. Also had the pleasure of observing the Fall meet of the Waushakum Live Steamers at Holliston, Mass., without a doubt one of the top Live Steam Club operations in the country in one inch and three quarter inch scale.

All-in-all Amtrak services were very commendable. Reservation people were prompt and efficient, they even volunteered to make my Southern Railway reservations. Most all of the train crews and Amtrak personnel were outstanding in their courtesy, helpfulness and friendliness. The same can easily be said about the Southern Railway crews. This observation means even more when I think of the abominable mechanical problems encountered on several of the Amtrak trains. This was the only area that seemed to be a critical problem. All equipment was thoroughly clean on the interior, and fairly decent on the outside. Overall, it appears Amtrak is definitely moving ahead. With new equipment and better maintenance, rail travel can certainly be a totally pleasant experience.

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A FEW AMTRAK NOTES - While on the subject of the nations passenger service, it might be mentioned that a dining car reservation policy has been started for evening meals on the San Francisco Zephyr as well as on several other western long haul trains and the Florida trains....The economical "Slumber-coach" service on the Denver-Chicago portion of the SFZ will remain in effect this winter.....And, complementary blankets and pillows are now provided to coach passengers on all long haul trains.

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RINGLING BROTHERS AND BARNUM & BAILEY'S CIRCUS TRAIN arrived in Denver from Portland, Oregon early in the morning of September 25th for a five day visit. Its' consist of 34 cars makes it the longest privately owned train of its' kind in the world according to a circus spokesman. About 300 circus people and 200 animals call it their home for the approximately 48 weeks that they are on tour. After the final performance Sunday night crews loaded equipment and animals on board and the train left for its' next performance in Chicago.

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THE GUNNISON PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY has really been going to town lately in their efforts to expand the railroad display at their museum. William R. Jones of Gunnison reports the society is in need of a new building for more room. They approached the owner of the Sargents depot about obtaining that particular structure for their needs. The owner, Ben Irby, kindly donated it to them.

The museum is now saving money for the expensive project of moving the building to Gunnison and would be most grateful for any contributions made for this effort. Donations are being accepted by the society Treasurer, Mrs. William Redden, 401 North Pine, Gunnison, Colorado 81230. Eventually the depot will be made into a "Western Slope Railroad Museum" with restoration of the dispatchers office and displays in the other rooms. This addition would certainly blend well with Engine 268, the flanger, freight cars, caboose and water tank already on the grounds.

Up at Crested Butte, the Rio Grande Depot has been expertly restored by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clark. It has been donated to the Crested Butte Society, a local community and historical group. The building now houses the town library, and a meeting hall in the old freight house. Thanks to the Clarks, the depot is once again the center of the community as it was for so many years.

The local folk over at Lake City have repainted D&RGW caboose No. 0588 in a very bright red. New lettering was done by hand, retaining the "flying Rio Grande". The caboose had not been painted for many years.

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DRAT!!! Those who were hoping that some other Union Pacific locomotive besides 8444 would eventually be steamed up will probably not welcome the news that two of the steam engines formerly stored in the Cheyenne roundhouse have been assigned to permanent exhibition. "Big Boy" No. 4023 left Cheyenne Sept. 24 for Omaha where it will be put on display, while Challenger No. 3985 is to be exhibited near the depot at Cheyenne, Wyoming. No plans have been announced for the other steam engines held at Cheyenne, but the 4023 and 3985 were in the best mechanical condition of any of the engines stored there.

Union Pacific had also sent their railroad owned E-9 passenger units to BMD in Chicago where they were painted in a red-white-&-blue scheme for the next couple of years. The units, No's 951 and 973B, are not available to Amtrak, and are being used to pull the "Preamble Express", pilot train of the "American Freedom Train".

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ACTIVITY AT THE DOT TEST TRACK continues at an increasing pace with the grounds resembling a "museum" of motive power and rolling stock, such is the variety of equipment presently there for testing. Just arrived are a couple of dated U.S. Army "Trans-Iranian" Alco RSD-1 units numbered 8003 and 8004. Three Metroliner cars are currently undergoing general testing, with a possibility of several more arriving. Due this October is the LRC "concept" train (Light, rapid, comfortable) from Canada. This completely new design in passenger train construction was built by the Montreal Locomotive Works, Alco's Canadian Division. Also to begin soon are freight train collision tests which should be rather exciting.

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SPEAKING OF WRECKS, local news reports made mention of a Rio Grande accident out at Crescent Jct. Utah last month. Two men dies when their train hauling Potash from Moab crashed into some parked freight cars.

Up in Wyoming a wreck train on the UP was heading down the main between Cheyenne and Laramie to clean up the wreckage of a 33 car mishap which took place earlier, when the boom on the crane struck the lower part of the Interstate 80 highway bridge. The bridge now has a restricted highway speed and weight limit on it. Estimated cost for the four to five month repair job to replace eight, 45-foot girders will run around \$300,000.

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FROM DOWN TEXAS WAY Avery Von Blon tells us of an old caboose that has found itself being part of a restaurant in Waco, Texas. The hack is lettered both CB&Q 14333 and FW&D 103 on its' side and will be incorporated as part of a restaurant using the old city water works pumping station. The caboose is supposed to stick through the wall of the building to be used as an entrance.

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A TRAIN.....TO THE FOOTBALL GAME - A local travel agency is planning a special rail trip aboard the SFZ to the Air Force vs Notre Dame football game at South Bend, Indiana on Nov 21-24. Round trip fare is \$132.00, includes Amtrak fare Denver-Chicago & bus to South Bend, two nights in Chicago hotel, reserved seats and game, etc. Reservations must be made by Oct. 15th from Westland Travel Service in Lakewood.

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DID YOU KNOW why steam engines never sit down?????.....Because most of them have a tender behind!!!!!!.....(Wasn't that hilarious?!? - Ahem)

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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: Reasonably priced:

SUPPLEMENT TO DENVER, SOUTH PARK, & PACIFIC \$110
Kindig, Haley, Poor; Ltd. Ed. No. 1331

COLORADO MIDLAND, Morris Cafky, Ltd. Ed. No. 5139 \$ 65
Both the above autographed, well used, but in good condition; dust jackets worn & torn; good reference copies; complete with all maps.

TO THE GREAT OCEAN-Harmon Tupper, First ed. 1965 - 536 pages, \$ 7
very good shape; plastic cover over dust jacket; all about the Trans-Siberian Railway.

RAILS TO THE RISING SUN - Charles S. Small, first ed, 1965 \$ 6
very good shape; plastic cover over dust jacket; covers 'backwoods; RRs of Japan, steam & traction.

BURLINGTON WEST-Richard C. Overton, 1941, 583 pages \$ 8
fair condition, no dust jacket; fascinating, sholarly tome; complete history of the Q to 1941.

THE CREST OF THE CONTINENT-Ernest Ingersoll First Ed, 1885, \$ 45
very rare! Good shape for its age; complete, but a couple of pages loose (repairable). THE work on the life & times in Colorado, primarily along the D&RG narrow gauge; many beautiful woodcut prints.

All books postpaid. Send SSAE for list of other books.

WANTS: RR & Steamship menus, beverage, lists, etc.

AL DUNTON, 1400 Ash Dr., Ft. Collins, Col. 80521

WANTED: Rapido N scale four wheel trailing truck and Con Car Hudson Tender. Please mention price and condition in first letter. Parts need not be new, but should be serviceable or restorable.

DARYL B. RYDER 735 Isabell, Golden, Colorado 80401.

FOR SALE: Original Steam (some Diesel) negatives from our personal collection. We will also be selling other railroad items (time tables, etc.) at a later date. We are also accepting orders for "Along an Open Track", \$16.50 pp at our new address.

EDWARD KOCHANEK P.O. Box 474, Batavia, Ill. 60510

WILL SELL the following books, all in near mint condition with exception of paper jackets: Supplement to Denver South Park & Pacific - Copy #1168 \$125.00 Colorado Midland Copy #2138 \$75.00
EDWARD C. BLISS 2944 Arroyo Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92103.

Charles Max, President
E. J. Haley, Vice-President

Bill Gordon, Secretary
Carl E.C. Carlson, Treas.