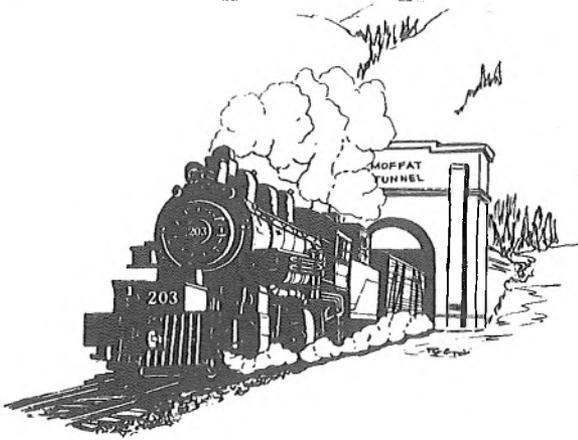


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391
January, 1978

Denver, Colorado 80201
No. 220

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

Editor - - - Darrell T. Arndt

MEETING NOTICE: Date . . . Tuesday, January 10, 1978
Time . . . 7:45 P.M.
Place . . . Southeast wing of Christ Episcopal Church, 2900 So.
University at Bates; off-street parking at rear (east)
of meeting hall. Please use the west doors to enter
the hall while construction is in progress.

PROGRAM NOTES: OTTO PERRY MOVIES

The program for the January meeting will consist of a selection of 16mm movies from the Otto Perry collection, ranging from 1944 to 1963. Included are trains on the Rio Grande Southern, Denver & Rio Grande Western (both narrow and standard gauge), Denver & Salt Lake, Union Pacific, Colorado & Southern, and some of Denver's streetcars and interurbans. As usual, Ed Haley will man the projector, and Dick Kindig will provide the commentary. Come and take a journey back to the days when most trains operated behind steam engines!

In February, we will have Potpourri Night, so start thinking about what you would like to bring. To allow everyone an opportunity to show theirs, not more than 20 slides should be brought for viewing, of course.

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ALL SORTS OF BUSINESS (and pleasure) was transacted at the December meeting. The annual election of officers was of prime importance and resulted in Jim Trowbridge filling the President's position for another year, Ed Gerlits assuming the Vice-President and Program Chairman duties, Ardie Schoeninger becoming Treasurer, and Bill Gordon holding down the Secretary's position. Voted into the Board of Director slots were Carl Carlson, Jim Ranniger and Neil Reich joining the incumbents Ed Haley, Stu Anderson, and Ivan Duff. Outgoing directors who served were Darrell Arndt, Jack Thode and Milton Fick. Carl Carlson read the Treasurer's report for the year, which helped remind us that things do not come cheap now-days. Jim Trowbridge took a moment to thank all who helped with activities in 1977. Jim also presented the outgoing Treasurer and the "Treasurer's Helper," Carl and Mary Carlson, with a humorous "Book of Rules" that were developed by Carl, and guided them while filling the Treasurer's post for the last five years. Neal Miller's Christmas present for this year was a photo of two UP 800's with two passenger cars at Cheyenne in 1955. For the program, Darrell Arndt presented a slide show that gave a "quicky" review of a number of rail operations in Colorado that the present day enthusiast can partake of. Following the program, cake, cookies and refreshments were served.

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THE CLUB HAD A GREAT DAY behind the 8444 on November 26, the engine and cars looking as classy as ever. The Union Pacific people did a fine job all around, in handling the train that day. The weather was excellent, considering the time of year, mostly sunny with pleasant temperatures, but that WIND . . . WOW!! At the second photo run near Speer, it was almost impossible to stand as the train rolled forward, with smoke, dust, tumbleweeds, hats, tickets, and anything else not nailed down, blowing away on the horizontal. That same day, winds of 120 mph were recorded in Boulder, and gusts of 66 mph reported at Cheyenne and 71 mph in Laramie. Too bad there wasn't a recorder on that high fill near Speer. The trip was sold out of course, with passengers representing 28 states, California and Illinois having the greatest representation after Colorado. We also enjoyed the company of the Model A Club of Denver. Several local TV Stations covered part of the trip, with Channel 9 riding along part way to obtain material for a substantial presentation on the evening news. All in all, a dandy way to spend the day !!!

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A REMINDER that dues are \$6.00 this year. The increase from \$4.00 was announced, and explained in the October newsletter. Perhaps a few words in respect to the numbering system of the membership cards would be of benefit for our new and perhaps some older members. Each member of the club has his or her individual number. How high or how low it is depends on the length of membership. New members receive the highest number, of course. When memberships are terminated, numbers are released and everybody "moves up." Because of the amount of time and work involved to process cards under this system, membership cards are not always fired off in the mail right after dues are received . . . While on the subject, the question might arise as to who got their foot in the door first. Well, here on the "top ten," in order starting with No. 1: Forrest Crossen, Walker Edwards, Dick Kindig, Jack Thode, Bill Van Patten, Rollin Cordill, Bryant McFadden, John Maxwell, Ed Haley, and R. G. Anderson.

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THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILWAY'S 1978 WINTER SPECIAL is all set to take place on February 4 and 5. It appears that, in addition to Rotary OM being fired up, Rotary OY, which was moved from Antonito to Chama last October, may be under steam also. Visitors to the C&TS region can expect to see a number of relatively recent improvements to the railroad's physical plant, including a new depot, water tank, balloon loop and paved parking area at Antonito, and a new, two-stall engine house at Chama. Brochures on the weekend activity have been sent out by the railroad - there were some available at the last meeting, and a few will be available at the January meeting.

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THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOFFAT TUNNEL will take place on February 25, 1978. The Rio Grande Zephyr will make a special, brief stop at the East Portal for passengers to witness ceremonies commemorating the opening of the tunnel to train operations on February 26, 1928. The Rio Grande Zephyr is already sold out for that run, which will include special activities aboard, being planned by the Rio Grande, the Intermountain Chapter, NRHS, the Moffat Tunnel Commission and the U.S. Postal Service. Special cacheted commemorative envelopes and a special souvenir card of a limited run are available from the Chapter.

Prior to that weekend, on the evening of February 23, at 7:30 P.M., a special screening of the 1925 silent motion picture classic, "The White Desert" will take place at the Paramount Theater in Denver to coincide with the Moffat Tunnel anniversary. In the winter of 1924-25, Metro-Goldwyn came to Colorado to produce

this feature film, based on the novel by Courtney Ryley. The story involves the struggle to construct a railroad tunnel through the Rockies and filming was done along the D&SL, high on Rollins Pass, and includes scenes of the Moffat Road's snow-fighting equipment in action. According to MGM, the movie has never been released to TV or 16mm film libraries. The Paramount's old theater organ will accompany the showing. All profits from the screening will go to the Colorado Railroad Museum. Tickets and info can be obtained by writing the Intermountain Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 4181, Denver, Colorado 80217. Attention Film Office. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12, and can also be picked up at the Colorado Railroad Museum AFTER FEB. 1ST. Publicity is planned in the local media, so it is advisable to order soon.

AN OFFICIAL AMTRAK WALL CALENDAR will again be available this year for purchase. It is similar in format to previous Amtrak calendars, measuring 24 x 33 inches, with a vertical format with the entire year on display. Another full color painting by Gil Reid is featured, depicting a new bi-level Superliner train, rolling across a trestle and through the mountains of the west. Cost of the calendar is \$3.75, (tax and postage included), and can be ordered by mailing a check to Amtrak Calendar, C/O Western Folder, 850 W. Fullerton Ave., Addison, Illinois 60101.

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OUR BEST WISHES are extended to Ed Haley upon his retirement from Federal service. Ed retired from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at the end of December, after 36 years with the government.

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SEVERAL RAIL TOURS for small groups to Europe are being planned by Neal Murray and his Meridian Travel, Ltd. In April, a tour is being scheduled for England and Scotland, using the English "Britrail" pass and covering most of the outlying points, riding the small combination coaches, as well as the high-speed trains. Another trip, also limited to thirty, will take place in October. In May and September, a trip will be operated to Ireland and Wales. It will be similar to one last September that had a number of club members aboard, and will include one week riding the Irish roads and another on the "Great Little Trains" of Wales. Further info can be obtained from Meridian Travel, Ltd., 8529 W. Colfax Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80215; however, Mr. Murray indicates that a brochure will be mailed to all club members early this month.

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TWO CHRISTMAS TREES were provided by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, for Denver Union Station this season. The trees were erected by station crews and decorated by Amtrak employees with decorations furnished by the Intermountain Chapter of the NRHS.

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THE SNOWFALL SITUATION appears to be improving in parts of Colorado this winter. Last year, in late December, a measuring station at Leadville registered three inches of snow on the ground. This year, same time and same place, the station measured seventy (70) inches!!

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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.

Colin Keefe of Tucson, Arizona would like to get in touch with anyone who is knowledgeable about cabooses or knows of a publication that would have photos and information about the stoves. Colin has a rather large round stove of that type he has obtained and would like to get some idea of when it may have been produced and used. He can be contacted at 1220 N. Venice, Apt. b, Tucson, Arizona 85712.

WANTED: Kratville's GOLDEN RAILS (w/dj), SOUTHERN STEAM POWER (w/dj), and MOTIVE POWER OF THE UNION PACIFIC (Thin 5th ed). Will buy or will trade a beautiful copy of RAILS AROUND GOLD HILL (with dust jacket). JACK PEARSON, P.O. Box 446, Chicago, Illinois 60690. Home phone: (312) 523-8713 (eves.).

WANTED: U.P. MOTIVE LOCOMOTIVES Vol. I, Kratville & Ranks, spiral bound. ROBERT A. LE MASSENA, 1795 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO 80226.

WANTED: Want to buy any negatives on Colorado traction (Streetcars and T. T. Coaches) from any town in Colorado. Only 120, 620, 116, 616 or 122 size negatives wanted. Will pay \$3.00 for each and every one on any subject of properties or cars. Also want photographs of same. JAMES E. KUNKLE, P.O. Box 2984, Denver, Colorado 80201.

FOR SALE: Sundance Publications has several copies of their latest book, COLORADO'S HIGHEST, by George Crouter, which have covers slightly too wide, or not exactly alike in width. These are being offered to club members at a substantial discount from the bookstore price of \$14.95. If you would like one, send \$12.00 (which includes postage and tax) to Bob Le Massena, 1795 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80226, who is taking care of these for Sundance. Do not send your order to Sundance.

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JAMES R. TROWBRIDGE, President

BILL GORDON, Secretary

ED GERLITS, Vice-President

ARDIE SCHOENINGER, Treasurer

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