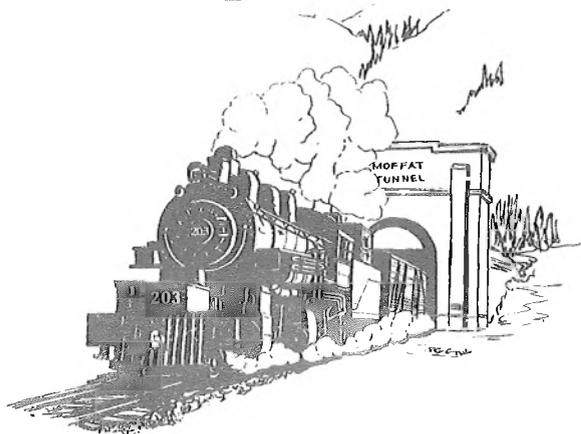


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391      Denver, Colorado 80201

August, 1978      No. 227

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, August 8, 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.

### PROGRAM NOTES:

JIM . . . AND HIS CAMERA

For our August get-together, prepare yourself for the unexpected when we find out what 22 years of traveling with Jim Ehernberger's camera during the days of steam was like. Railroads in countries half-way around the world will be visited including Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and South Africa. In addition, unique scenes along our American railroads will be shown, highlighted with New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado views. Mostly steam will be shown, but to soothe the nerves of diesel fans, there will be some rare and unusual diesel trains as well. Come along for an evening of entertainment with Jim and his fine collection of 35mm slides!

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It was 1955, and the twilight of the narrow gauge was upon Colorado. The remaining mileage was being drastically reduced and if photographic coverage was to be made of the remnants of the once extensive system, it would have to be done quickly. Among those who took a last look at the slim gauge rails of the D&RGW was Stan McGuire. Mr. McGuire made a "circle trip" of the Rio Grande, filming in 16mm color what he encountered. At the July meeting, we saw the results of his journey as Mr. McGuire was kind enough to loan his films to Michael Rowe, who gave the presentation. Accompanied by music arranged by Bill Eberle, the films began with a few scenes in Montrose and then went east to Gunnison where the railroad facilities and some rolling stock, including a rotary plow were awaiting dismantlement. At Salida, the shops and dual gauge yards were still in use, and the Monarch Branch was served by narrow gauge. A train of such length that it had to be broken into several sections at the foot of the pass, was followed as it worked its way up the switchbacks to the limestone quarry. After a look around the Alamosa yards, there was some fine footage of a long narrow gauge freight as it headed south to Antonito and on to Chama. Switching in the Chama yards was shown, plus lots of activity in the Cumbres Pass area before moving on to Durango and the Silverton line.

A tip of the conductor's hat and a hearty thanks goes to Stan McGuire of Campbell, California, for his efforts in providing the films from such a distance and to Michael Rowe and Bill Eberle for presenting them.

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#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB DAY AT THE GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING AREA -

Whether you wish to use your feet or your seat, Saturday, August 26 will be THE day to visit the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining Area, when the club will hike a portion of the Argentine Central Railroad bed and ride the rails of the Georgetown, Breckenridge and Leadville Railway.

We have made special arrangements for an all-day unlimited ride ticket on the GB&L. A full freight consist will be used, with the train departing Silver Plume on the hour from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and on the half-hour from the platform at the lower end of track. If all goes well, there will be steam powered double heading on several of the afternoon runs, with photo runs on the 4:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. trips. Your \$5.00 ticket (regular one-ride fare is \$3.50) or \$2.50 child's ticket (ages 5-15 inclusive) will provide the holder with unlimited rides throughout the day. The railroad is now 2½ miles long, and has been extended almost to the abutment of the high bridge. The train does stop to let off and pick up passengers who desire to tour the Lebanon Mine, which just opened this year. \$1.00 tickets for this tour may be obtained at the railroad's ticket offices or at the mine.

The other portion of the day's activities will consist of a hike from Silver Plume over the old roadbed of the Argentine Central Railway. When the railroad was constructed, the Argentine Central was the highest adhesion railroad in the U.S., climbing 16 miles to the top of Mt. McClellan (over 13,000 feet) on 6 percent grades and numerous switchbacks. Built in 1905 for freight and tourist service, the line gained national fame but nevertheless, survived only until 1918. Our walk will leave Silver Plume, about 1/3 mile west of the Silver Plume depot on the south side of I-70, at 9:00 A.M. Leading the group, will be Dan Abbott, Argentine Central enthusiast and author of the book STAIRWAY TO THE STARS. The hike is about a four-mile round trip over a roadbed that is in remarkably good condition, with no cross-country up-hill type hiking involved. Although the railroad has been gone for almost 60 years, an occasional spike or trace of a tie can still be found, several interesting mine loading structures still stand, and stone walls and a "terraced" 15-foot-high stone retaining wall in excellent condition can be seen. Good walking shoes are recommended, of course, and a pair of binoculars might even come in handy on this leisurely hike. It will take about two hours to reach Pavilion Point, our destination high above Georgetown. There, hot foot and cold drinks will await our arrival as Ranniger's Roadbed Commissary will be in full operation next to the old stone chimney, and the last remnant of the Pavilion that was once situated there. After hearing and observing the train operating in the valley, one-thousand feet below, and engaging Jim's delectable Ballestburgers and accompaniments, everyone will then head back downgrade for an afternoon of riding the GB&L. A charge of \$3.00 per person for the hike will provide for a handout and map of the Argentine Central, as well as the hot lunch. We ask that you order your tickets in advance, or pick them up at the August meeting, so Ranniger's Roadbed Commissary can plan ahead and that we will have ample handouts. Railroad tickets (\$5.00 adult, \$2.50 child 5-15) need not be ordered in advance, but should be purchased at Silver Plume depot on August 26. Just mention that you would like a ticket for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Day.

We think this should be a real fun time, so come on up and take the walk, ride the train, or both. Bring the whole family. Friends and guests are

welcome, of course. Any questions, call Darrell Arndt at 321-2723, till 11:00 P.M.

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DON'T FORGET THE UTAH TRIP!!! - Some space is still available on the club's Utah Fall Spectabular. Over 1,100 miles of Amtrak and the Rio Grande Zephyr, plus a visit to Promontory Point and steam on the Wasatch Mountain Railway. Only \$137.00 per person (two to a room basis). A GREAT way to end the summer!

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THE ICC HELD HEARINGS IN DENVER on July 6, inviting public response to the DOT proposal to discontinue the San Francisco Zephyr. The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, represented by Carl Carlson, participated in the hearings and presented numerous reasons why the Chicago-San Francisco train should be retained as an integral part of Amtrak's national system. In spite of rather late publicity on the hearings, there was a respectable turnout of groups defending the SFZ. Of the more vocal opponents to Amtrak, were the bus companies.

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THE SWITZERLAND TRAIL OF AMERICA TO BE REPRINTED - Forest Crossen has announced that the SWITZERLAND TRAIL OF AMERICA is going to be reprinted and available before the end of the year. Originally published in a limited edition of 4,000 copies in 1962, the book has become a much sought-after volume. The book is about the narrow gauge railroad that was built west from Boulder in the 1880's to the locales of Ward and Eldora. The 400-page reprint will have an additional chapter on Bill Tipps, the railroad's senior engineer. The book is being published by Robinson Press of Ft. Collins, price, \$37.50. It should be available around November 1. For a descriptive folder, write Robinson Press, Inc., 1137 Riverside, Ft. Collins, Colorado.

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THE WHITE PASS & YUKON will consider restoring steam Locomotive No. 73, a Baldwin 2-8-2 (1947) for passenger excursion service if enough interest is shown, reports Tim Whiting who just recently returned from a visit to Skagway-Whitehorse narrow gauge line. The engine was retired in June, 1964, and is now on display at Lake Bennett. If you would like to express your feelings along this line, write to C. Peter Reynolds, Manager, Passenger Sales, Vance Building, P.O. Box 2147, Seattle, Washington 98111.

\* \* \* \* \*

AN OLD FRIEND, Micky Hansen, passed away on July 15, at the age of 80. He retired from the C&S in 1965, and was responsible for the operation of GW Engine No. 51 on the club's trips out of Denver and also of the No. 638 on its journey to Trinidad. Micky seemed to know all there was to the operation of a steam engine and was always warm and helpful, ready to assist when needed. He is survived by his wife, Lula and a daughter.

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A REUNION OF OLD STREETCAR MEN IS PLANNED for August 27, from 8:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. at 1325 S. Colorado Blvd., reports Jim Kunkle. Program material is needed for this function, and Jim is looking for any movies of Denver's transit lines or that of other Colorado towns that can be copied and used for

this reunion and future reunions. Any footage in any size is needed, B&W or color. Contact Jim at P.O. Box 2984, Denver, Colorado 80201, or call 893-5498. He indicates that the reunion will be open to the general public as well, with various exhibits and programs.

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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.

WANTED: I am looking for photos of Rock Springs concrete coal chute (about 1944 to 1959) that was east of the depot and of photos of the roundhouse area west of #430 viaduct, especially of the ash hoist to be used for historical research.  
ROBERT ODLAND, 810 W. 9, Scott City, Kansas 67871

FOR SALE: COLORADO MIDLAND with dust jacket, just like new. \$175.00.  
ROBERT BROWN, 3100 S. Lowell, Denver, Colorado 80236

WANTED: February, 1947 OFFICIAL GUIDE.  
KEVIN E. CORWIN, 7645 Irving St., Westminster, Colorado 80030  
Phone: 427-2567

FOR SALE: Limited Edition No. 575. DENVER SOUTH PARK & PACIFIC by M. C. Poor. \$150.00. Excellent condition.  
WILLIAM P. BAKER, 6031 South Detroit St., Littleton, Colo. 80121

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**



**RAILROAD CLUB**

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