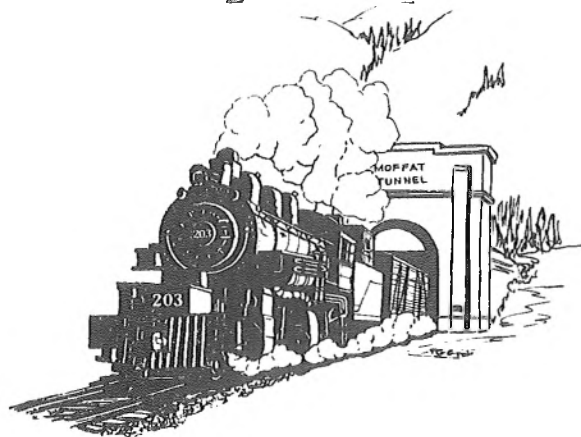


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P. O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201
March, 1979 No. 234

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 March 13, 1979
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 building's south entrance.

PROGRAM NOTES:

Colorado railfans are familiar with three kinds of articulated steam locomotives—the South Park's Mason-Bogies, the Rio Grande's and Union Pacific's Mallets, and Shays operated by lumber lines. They embraced but 11 out of a total of some 60 varieties of articulateds utilized by North American railroads over a period of almost 150 years. The first one was built in 1832, the last in 1953, and a few are still being used by tourist railroads.

Bob LeMassena has written an extensive book about articulated locomotives (which will be published by Sundance this year), and he has discovered a lot of fascinating stories about these unusual locomotives. For example: he tells us that Canada beat the USA by a few days in building the first single-expansion Mallet; Mexico at one time had more Fairlies in service than the total Mallets on USA railroads; and three USA companies (Lima, Climax, and Heisler) built almost all the geared-articulateds on earth.

He'll tell us all about them, and illustrate his talk with many photos and slides at the March meeting. Be sure not to miss it!!

* * * *

Potpourri Night at the February get-together once again provided the unexpected, as was expected. A wide variety of subjects included rail scenes in Britain and Yugoslavia, rotary snowplow action this winter on the Union Pacific's Coalmont branch, ex-GW No. 75 steaming to Orchard, Colorado with its train for Centennial filming, a photo history of the Rio Grande's Ski train over the last few years showing it back when six diesels and 18 cars comprised a regular consist, trains on the Rock Island, old views of the San Luis Valley Southern, sort of a "News-reel Looneytoon" of Fred Ferlits and the doings of his Amalgamated Brotherhood of Merry Men, and other selections.

We thank all who participated in the evenings showing and for sharing their railroading experiences with us.

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THE UNION PACIFIC has tentatively approved the date of August 4 for the club's 1979 8444 excursion. The locomotive is presently awaiting necessary required inspections before final approval can be granted for its operations this year.

* * * *

OUR VERY BEST WISHES to George Champion who just celebrated his 95th birthday! George worked on the South Park line (he rode the last rotary snowplow run through the Alpine Tunnel) and the Moffat Road and is a fountain of information when the topic of conversation is about those fascinating lines.

* * * *

THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN has filed for a fare increase on the Durango-Silverton narrow-gauge run with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. They would like the cost of the round trip to go from \$12.00 to \$18.00 for an adult; kids: \$7.25 to \$8.00 (hows THAT for inflation!!). The railroad would also like to discontinue dropping off and picking up backpackers in the wilderness area along the route. The PUC has decided to hold hearings on these requests in Durango on April 11.

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RAILROAD MAGAZINE has been combined with RAILFAN MAGAZINE and will publish the first combined issue to be dated May, 1979. Carstens Publications, RAILROAD'S new owners, state that the new R & R will be printed on slick paper and continue to work with RAILROAD'S past subscribers, advertisers and other customers through their address at P.O. Box 700, Newton, New Jersey, 07860. RAILROAD subscribers will have their subscriptions extended to the number of issues due them.

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A TOUR of the right of way of the San Luis Valley Southern will take place on Saturday, April 7th. The group will depart from the Blanca depot at 8:30 A.M. and proceed south over Rattlesnake Trestle and on to San Acacio, Mesita, Jarosa, Costillia, New Mexico and the Sanchez Reservoir. There may even be a ride on the shortline's D-500. The tour is sponsored by the San Luis Valley Historical Society at no cost. It is a "bring your own lunch and vehicle" affair.

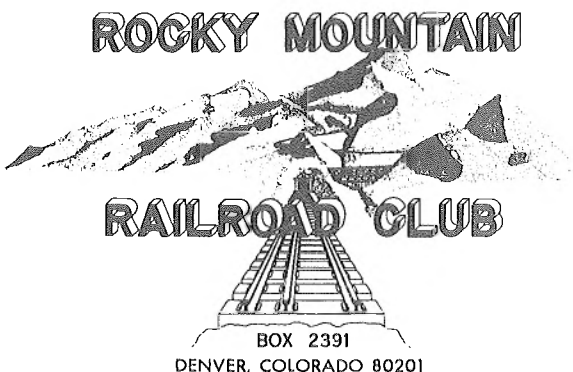
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