

Rocky Mountain RAIL REPORT



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

MEETING SCHEDULE:

December 13, 1988 -- 7:30 p.m.

Southeast wing of Christ Episcopal Church, 2950 South University at Bates. Off-street parking at rear (east) of meeting hall. Please use the building's south entrance.

Jim Trowbridge..... Editor
Les Grenz..... Associate Editor
John Dillavou..... President
Rich Dais..... Vice President
Bill Gordon..... Secretary
Elbert E. Bidwell..... Treasurer

Send all items for publication to: Rocky Mountain Rail Report, c/o Jim Trowbridge, Editor, 502 South Cody Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80226.

COPY DEADLINE -- ALL copy for publication is due no later than the 10th of the month prior to month of publication.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club may be obtained by sending \$19.00 (\$15.00 annual dues plus enrollment fee of \$4.00) to: ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB, P. O. Box 2391, Denver, Colorado 80201. After April of each year, new members may join for a payment of \$4.00 enrollment fee plus \$1.25 for each month remaining in the calendar year. Dues for the next year are solicited in December of the current year.

December, 1988..... No. 351
Club Telephone..... (303) 431-4354
P. O. Box 2391..... Denver, Colorado 80201

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

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

Please refer address changes, new memberships, lost newsletters, etc. to:

Tom Lawry, Membership Chairman
c/o Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
P. O. Box 2391
Denver, Colorado 80201

DECEMBER 13 PROGRAM

Erwin Chaim has arranged for two outstanding programs at the December meeting to go along with ELECTIONS and refreshments:

Program No. 1. Toccata for Toy Trains. A fun-type production with tinplate trains made to take us on an imaginary trip as set to a fast-paced musical score.

Program No. 2. The Railroder. The last film made by Buster Keaton which brings back the creative comedy genius reminiscent of "The General". Keaton commandeers a speeder and travels across Canada from one ocean to the other while living, eating and sleeping aboard his speeder.

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Rocky Mountain Rail Report is published monthly by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club at 223 Union Station, 17th and Wynkoop Sts., Denver, Colorado 80202 for \$12.00 per year which is deducted from member's dues. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Denver, Colorado. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Rocky Mountain Rail Report, Box 2391, Denver, Colorado 80201.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Due to a scheduling conflict, our program had to be changed at the November meeting. Erwin Chaim and Bobbie Chaim came through for us and presented a spectacular program entitled Colorado Concerto--Past and Present.

This multi-media program included some outstanding photography and music depicting Denver--its buildings and parks, Special trains out of Denver including the 8444 and the 4449 Freedom Train Engine, Rocky Mountain National Park, and, sunsets to moonrises.

Erwin and Bobbie received a exceptional round of applause which was well deserved. Our thanks to both of them for this truly fine program on a last minute notice!

PRESERVATION FUND AND BOOK DRAWING

Winners of prizes at the November meeting are as follows:

Dick Ross / Railroading the Modern Way
Bill Perrin / The North Arkansas Line
Sherm Conners / Susquehanna
Everett Rowe / UP Lantern
Stu Anderson / End of Track
Darrell Taylor / Six Timetables
John Dillavou / Photo Scapebook: Last run of the Midland Terminal RR
Wally Porter / Set of 20 Postcards
John Holzman / Railroading Around the World
Gary Ellison (NY) / Last of the Great Stations
Mat Anderson / Talylynn Railroading: Misc. items

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership chairman has been out of town and unable to supply a listing for this month. We will catch up in the December issue of the Rail Report.

1989 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A tentative schedule of trips and events has been proposed for 1989 and we present that list as follows:

Mar. 18	Rio Grande Ski Train
Apr. 22, 23	Glenwood Springs/California Zephyr Trip
May 13	Work Day at the Colorado RR Museum on Club Equipment
May 20	Alternate Work Day
June 17	UP 3985 Excursion
June 18	Wyoming-Colorado Excursion
July 1-12	Trans Canada Excursion
July 22	Ft. Collins Trolley Trip
Aug. 12	Argentine Central Hike
Sept. 2,3 & 4	St. Louis Excursion/ Nat'l Museum of Transport
Sept. 22, 23 & 24	<u>Cedar Rapids</u> Private Car Trip to Salt Lake City
Oct. 7, 8	North Platte, NE/UP Facilities
Oct. 14	Annual Banquet
Dec. 12	Elections

While some items or dates may change, we believe that this will probably be the actual schedule of events. You may want to mark your calendars right-a-way!

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We are always happy to receive information about railroading in the Rocky Mountain region and, very often, as space permits, use other regional data. We encourage our members to participate in the newsletter. Should you have something you wish to share with fellow members, please send it to the attention of the editor, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL REPORT, 502 South Cody St., Lakewood, Colorado 80226.

ELECTIONS

Joe Niklas, Sid White and Joe Priselac, the Club's nominating committee, present the following slate of officers and board members for the membership's consideration at the annual meeting and election to be held on December 13, 1988:

FOR PRESIDENT: John Dillavou. John is currently serving as the Club's president and has been a Club member since 1962. He has also served on the board of directors and has been co-chairman of the Preservation committee.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT: Carl Carlson. Carl has been a Club member since 1955 and was president in 1972. He has also served on the board of directors and has been the Club's treasurer.

FOR SECRETARY: Bill Gordon. Bill is the Club's current secretary, having served the Club well in that capacity for the past eighteen years. Bill has been active on Club trips, equipment maintenance and many other Club activities and was the Club's president in 1957 and 1958.

FOR TREASURER: Bert Bidwell. Bert is the Club's current treasurer, having been first elected to that position in December, 1985. Bert is a retired partner of Arthur Young & Co., Certified Public Accountant, and, one of those rare Colorado natives.

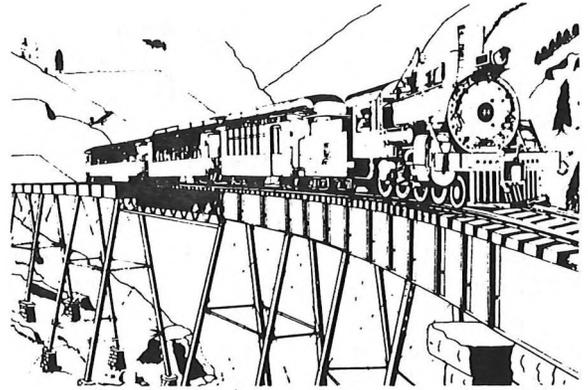
FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Three to be elected for a two-year term):

Tom Lawry. Tom has been a Club member since 1981 and has previously served on the board of directors. Tom was the Club's first Book Raffle chairman and is presently Membership chairman.

Bill Gould. Bill has been a member since 1978. He is chairman of the Club's Equipment committee and has been very actively involved in work on #25. Bill has previously served on the board of directors.

Bob Griswold. Bob has been a member since 1956. He is one of the Club's distinguished railroad authors and historians, so, naturally, he is chairman of the Publications

committee. His Club activities have been extensive!



GEORGETOWN AND THE LOOP—50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK AUTOGRAPH PARTY

Club members, Bill and Sue Knous, will be hosting a "Georgetown and the Loop" autograph party at their new Railroad Memories store in Georgetown on Saturday, December 10th from 2 to 5 p.m. This will be the second Saturday of the famous Georgetown Christmas Mart. The new address is 1200 Alpine Street, not far from the old Georgetown depot--now the Alpine Inn.

If you have not already purchased your copy of "Georgetown and the Loop," this would be a great occasion to get your autographed copy and have fun at this great Christmas festival. Of course, you will enjoy visiting Bill and Sue's new spacious store.
(Bob Griswold)

TRIM THE TREE AT D.U.T.

The traditional Trim-the-Tree gathering at Denver Union Station will take place on the evening of Saturday, December 10. Starting around 6:30 p.m., we will place decorations around the depot including small, lighted trees on the benches of the main waiting room. Sponsored by the Intermountain Chapter of the NRHS with the assistance of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, the project adds a festive atmosphere to the venerable building during the holiday season. Refreshments will be served. Why not stop by; it's always a fun get-together!
(Darrell Arndt)

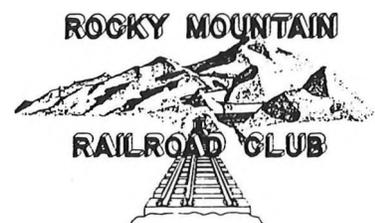
MOVING FORWARD

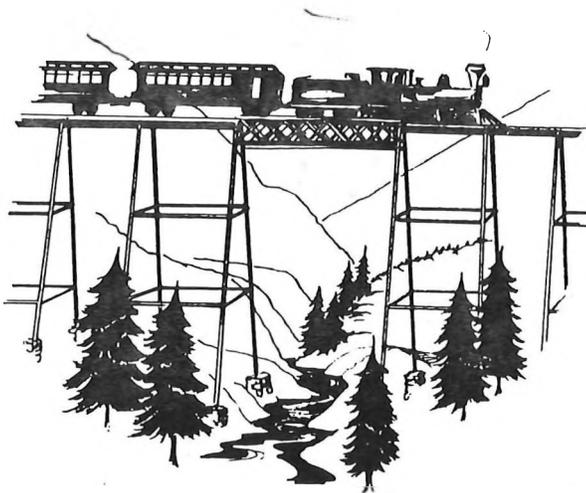
On June 29, 1947, the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club sponsored its first electric excursion over the rails of the Denver and Intermountain Railroad between Denver and Golden. Thus began a "love affair" by the Club for local traction operations in the twilight years of their existence that saw numerous excursions over both the standard and narrow gauge electric lines radiating west from Denver. In 1950, in a move that took a combination of vision and dedication, the Club bought D&IM Interurban Car No. 25, paying \$150.00 for the car and \$75.00 for the motors. The car would be used in numerous excursions until that sad Sunday of March 15, 1953, when No. 25 was operated for the last time. The wires came down the day after this one-way excursion to the Duval-Davidson Lumber Yard in Golden and so ended not only a colorful era of electric traction in the west, but the operation of No. 25. Storing the car was no easy task, and after enduring tough times in storage at both the limber yard and at the School Mines, the car was eventually placed on static display at the newly formed Colorado Railroad Museum.

Aware of the numerous and immeasurable benefits that could be derived from restoring this priceless artifact to operation, a small but dedicated group of RMRRC members have joined together to renovate the car for use and search for a location where it may run. As indicated in last month's issue of the Rocky Mountain Rail Report, the Club's Board of Directors have demonstrated their support with an allocation of funds to get this project "off the ground". This is only the beginning, but a good beginning. In addition to the support of the Club and a committee of its volunteers, we have been most fortunate to receive generous donations from a number of local companies in respect to such items as window glass, woodworking, metal stripping, painting, electrical supplies, traction motor repair, wheel turning, and disassembly and moving of truck components for work. In upcoming issues of the Rail Report, we will elaborate on, and acknowledge their contributions. We are also fortunate in that the car is intact and only a few parts will have to be located or fabricated!

As you can imagine, our work is just beginning, and we could use more help. Your help! Why not consider involving yourself in this most worthwhile and educational preservation project? Technical knowledge is an asset, but not a prerequisite for lending a hand. Simple projects like stripping wood and metal, disassembly of parts, picking up materials, painting, and assisting others are important contributions that can be made. We could also use the short term loan of some equipment, perhaps for just one day, such as a trailer for moving large parts, a transmission jack, electrical testing equipment, portable lights, scaffolding, and some tools. An accomplished welder serving on a "standby basis" would be welcomed. An individual who is talented in woodworking, particularly finishing work, would be a great asset. We are in need of a diesel engine and generator for a power supply. Fundraising will need to be addressed. Or perhaps you have something to contribute that has not been mentioned here!!! Our working hours are primarily on the weekends with research and material gathering done at anytime. You can make your own hours, whether they are every weekend or just once a month. Soon, the car will be moved into a heated building in Lakewood where we will be able to concentrate our efforts in a more efficient and productive manner, during this winter, regardless of the weather.

Many challenges confront us in this endeavor, but we feel this is a very viable project for a group such as ours that is not in the "museum business". Its success will help insure the preservation of not only the No. 25, but the Club's other pieces of equipment on display at the Colorado Railroad Museum. Give us a call, won't you! Contact Project Chairman Dave Waltrip at 499-0470, Darrell Arndt at 572-7868 or Equipment Chairman Bill Gould at 666-9809. Thank You. (Darrell Arndt)





THE SEABEES DAY AT THE GEORGETOWN LOOP

Sunday, September 4, 1988, was Seabees Recognition Day at the Georgetown Loop to pay tribute to the vital role Reserve Naval Construction Battalion 15 played in rebuilding the famed narrow gauge railroad between Silver Plume and Georgetown. The occasion was the unveiling of a plaque near the Everett Mine Tunnel honoring the Seabees who spent many weeks rebuilding the first bridges and track on the rebuilt railroad.

The day was "All Navy" with scores of seabees in their dress whites for the colorful celebration. The Navy color guard added to the impressive ceremony hosted by the Colorado Historical Society and led by President Barbara Sudler, Chairman Bruce Rockwell and Governor Roy Romer. Rear Admiral David O. Short led the contingent of naval personnel.

Of special interest to the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club was the acceptance speech by Captain Robert L. Ferriter in which he recognized the accurate portrayal of the Seabees in rebuilding the railroad as found in Chapter 13 of the Club's book, Georgetown and the Loop. As a result of the publicity, the Navy gave to the book, the modest supply at the Silver Plume depot was quickly exhausted. This meant a very quick reorder to replenish the supply, and that too was quickly depleted. (P.R.Griswold)

AMERICANS MAY BUY LAST CHINESE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

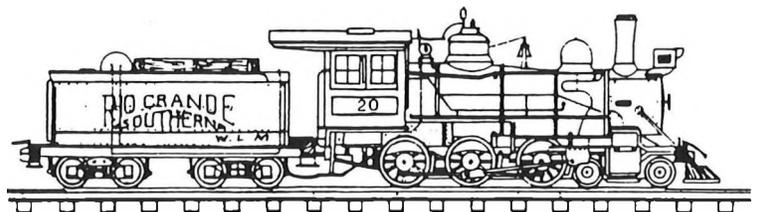
The Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad and the city of Boone have plans to apply for a \$200,000 Community Economic Betterment Grant to buy the last steam engine built in the world.

The engine will be built in a plant in Datong, China, in December before the plant converts to manufacturing diesel locomotives. The company will deliver the \$394,000 engine to Chicago next spring.

Half of the \$200,000 grant will be paid back over a 10-year period, while the other half would be forgiven. (Wed., 8/31/88 BOONE TODAY via Member Dick Ross)

CORRECTION: RE COLORADO LIVE STEAMERS

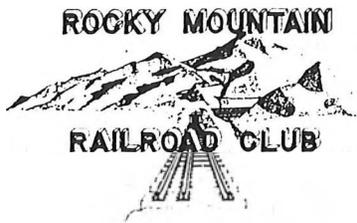
In the top photograph on page 9 of the September Rail Report, we mistakenly identified our engineer as Ken Scheer. Actually, the engine belongs to Ken Scheer, but the engineer is Steven Rontti.



NO. 20 RESTORATION PROJECT AND RAFFLE DRAWING

It's over! The drawing for the HO_{n3} brass model engine of RGS No. 20 (Sunset Models) was made at the September meeting. Our winner is Matt Hutson of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Congratulations, Matt!!!

It was announced at the meeting that \$712 had been received in chances; that Caboose Hobbies had given the engine (retailing around \$250) to the Club for \$75.00 nominal cost; leaving \$637.00 for the 20's restoration fund. Our thanks to Erwin Chaim who lettered the engine to match RGS No. 20 and to all who participated.



**"SILVER RAILS AND GOLDEN MEMORIES"
IRV AUGUST CINEMATOGRAPHY ON
RMRRRC EXCURSIONS, CIRCA 1952 to 1962**

**"SILVER RAILS AND GOLDEN MEMORIES"
50th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PROGRAM
ON VIDEO**

A reminder that a special arrangement has been made with WB Video Productions to provide RMRRRC members with a reduced cost for the outstanding new video of Irv August photography depicting Club trips between 1952 to 1962. This is in connection with the 50th Anniversary celebration and will be offered through the end of 1988.

The 50th Anniversary year is almost over! We wish to remind you of the Ron Ruhoff video of the 50th Anniversary Banquet Program. Ron has made this program available to Club members at a very reasonable price, donating his profit of \$10.00 per tape sold to the Club's equipment fund for preservation and restoration of the Club's historic equipment on display at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden. The tape features commentary (actually recorded at the banquet) and photographic insights of 50 years of railroad excursions by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club. Available on either VHS or BETA formats, this 60-minute, multi-media, slide presentation is priced at only \$24.50 with postage paid!!!

The regular retail price of this tape is \$54.95. Club members may obtain copies through the Club for only \$43.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. An order coupon is included for your convenience.

ORDER FORM

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MEMBERSHIP NO. _____

Please send _____ copies of WB Video's "Silver Rails & Golden Memories". I enclose

\$ _____ in check or MO.

Make checks payable to:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
P. O. Box 2391
Denver, Colorado 80201

Colorado residents please add \$3.00 sales tax or a total of \$48.00. Thank You.

Tapes may be ordered directly from:

Ron Ruhoff
P. O. Box 1361
Evergreen, Colorado 80439

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I enclose \$ _____ in check or money order for _____ Video Tapes. Please send VHS [] / BETA [] format.

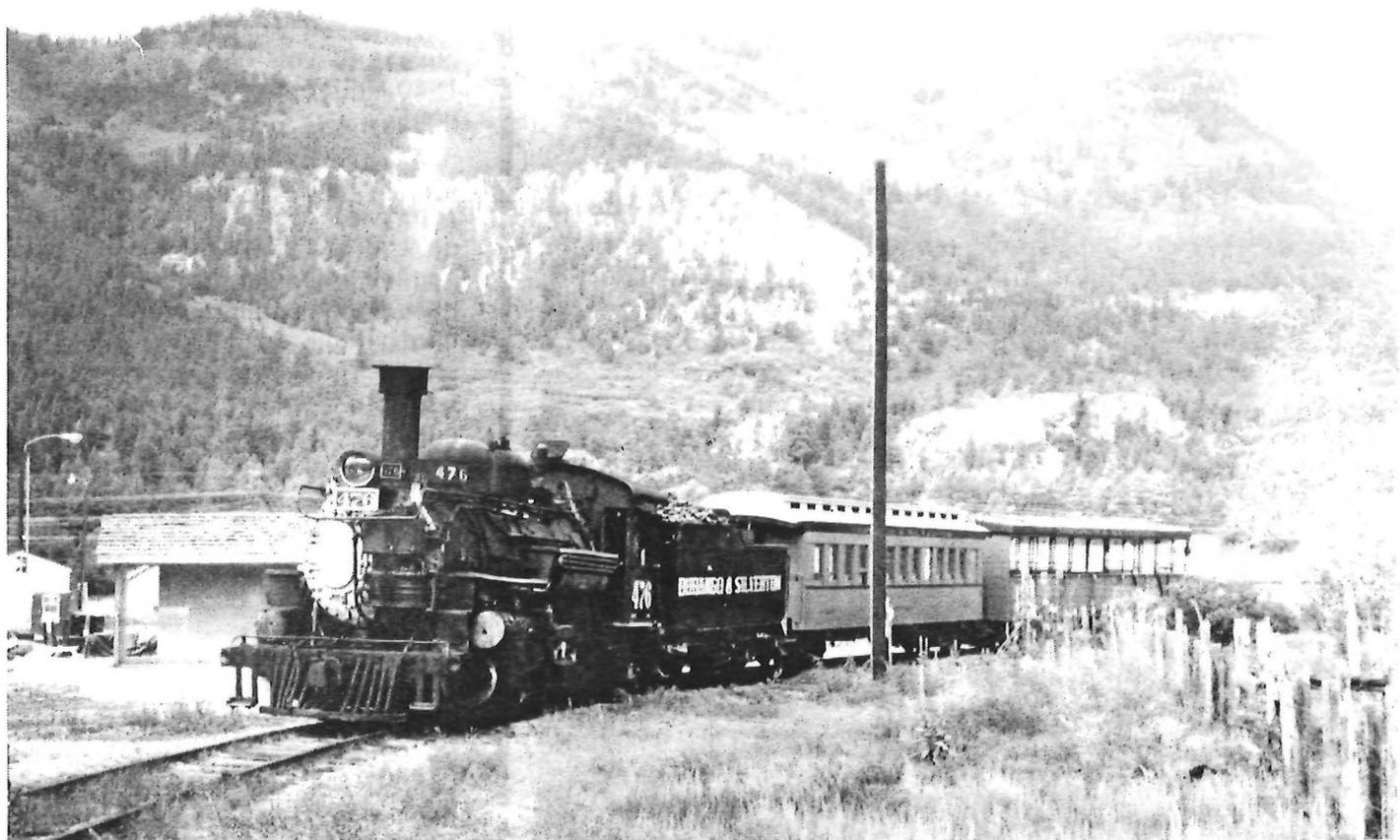
SWAP 'N SHOP

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 them.

WANTED: One copy of Denver South Park & Pacific, 1949 edition by M. C. Poor, in excellent condition and in original box if possible. *Please state price.* ALSO WANTED: One copy of Rails Around Gold Hill, 1955 edition by Morris Cafky, in excellent condition and in original box if possible. Write: M.P. Hipskind, 1100 Tassie Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231. *Please stste price.*

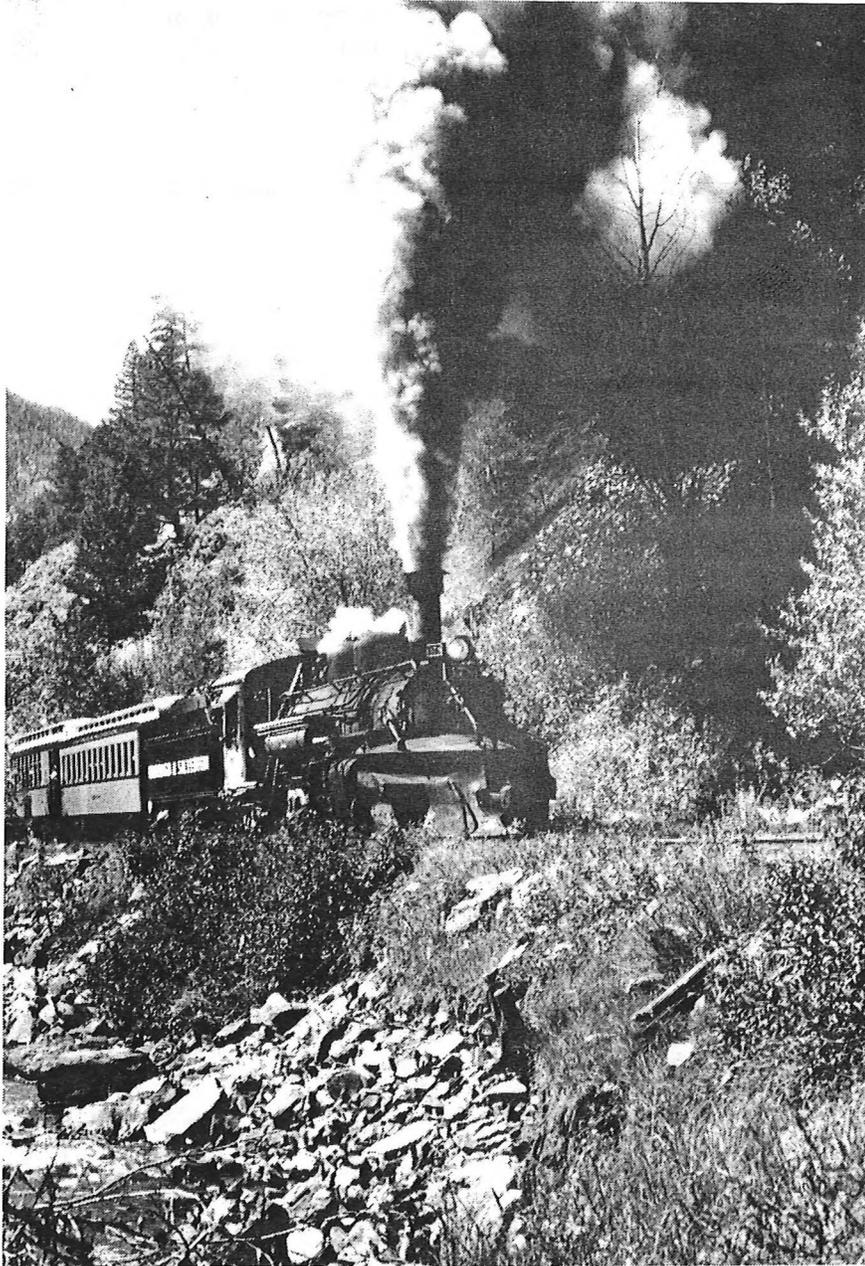
REPORT ON THE OPEN HOUSE AT THE COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM

Reports from members who attended the Open House at the Colorado Railroad Museum on October 8th give good reviews. Besides the equipment being open for inspection, the Museum served refreshments and showed off refurbished K-37, No. 491. All-in-all, the day was pleasant and a good time was had by all. We wish to extend our thanks to the Museum for our invitation to visit and enjoy the day!



"Railbus" #476 awaits the passing of the regular Silverton Train on the Rockwood Wye. This happened quite often this year as the Animas Canyon RR had quite a bit a trouble keeping the diesel railbus going. A completely reworked railbus will be available this coming year and will undoubtedly give better service. We're sure that passengers having to ride behind steam this year were not disappointed. (Earl Knoob Photograph)

Cumbres Toltec & Scenic Railroad



The #478 charges up the Animas Canyon on September 24, 1988 during a photo runby on Club member Ed Gerlit's 6th Annual Animas Cañon Express (Jim Trowbridge Photo)

The narrow gauge saw a number of fine excursions take place this year. Besides the outstanding RMRR back-to-back excursions, other Club members had outstanding trips.

Ed Gerlits had his usual outstanding private train on the Silverton with about 150 passengers aboard. If you would be interested in next year's excursion, you can contact Ed at 1540 Routt St., Lakewood, CO 80215.

Jim Trowbridge's San Juan Express was also a high success on the C&TS. Twenty-four passengers enjoyed two days of a private freight train with 40 photo runbys. If you are interested in this type of trip, you can contact Jim at 502 So. Cody St., Lakewood, CO 80226.

We thought you might enjoy seeing some action photographs of these two excursions as well as our favorite Silverton Railbus, #476.

The narrow gauge is alive and very well. We encourage you to continue to support the C&TS, D&SNG, Georgetown Loop, Victor and Cripple Creek, High Country, Blackhawk & Central City, and, the Colorado RR Museum.





The 1988 San Juan Express makes its way up the grade at MP 289.00 on the second day of the excursion, September 4, 1988. The first day saw the freight travel from Chama to Antonito, while day two saw the return to Chama. This year, the engine was painted back to "Rio Grande" by Club member Earl Knoob who is also the engineer in the photograph. Passengers came from California to New Jersey; Canada to Texas; and, Australia. (Jim Trowbridge Photo)

OTTO PERRY'S "RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN"

As announced in the November newsletter, Sunday River Productions has come out with the long awaited Video of Otto Perry's 16mm footage of the Rio Grande Southern. This outstanding film from the Club's archives is being offered at a 20% discount to Club members until December 31, 1988.

The Rio Grande Southern, often referred to as the most spectacular piece of railroad-ing in North America, was torn up in 1951. Otto Perry liked to call it his favorite narrow gauge railroad and for more than 10 years he tracked it across three of America's highest railroad passes, photographing it in all its splendor. This video, made primarily from Otto's 16mm

color films, is an extraordinary record of a most extraordinary railroad.

Narrated by men and women who worked for, rode on, and whose families were a part of the RGS with commentary by people responsible for preserving these pictures and what little remains of the RGS today. More than 400 scenes, most of them run-pasts. Approximately 2 hours. All sound. Most in color with a little black and white. Regular Price \$69.95.

MEMBERSHIP PRICE: \$55.96, postpaid.

(Limit: One per Member. Offer expires December 31, 1988)

**TO ORDER: (Specify VHS or BETA II)
Send your Name, Address, RMRC**

Membership Number and payment to:

SUNDAY RIVER PRODUCTIONS
P. O. Box 565
Concord, MA 01742
(Mass. members add 5% Sales Tax)

or:

Call 800-334-0854, Op. 423 for VISA or
MasterCard orders.

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50th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PROGRAM
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Colorado residents please add \$3.00 sales
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