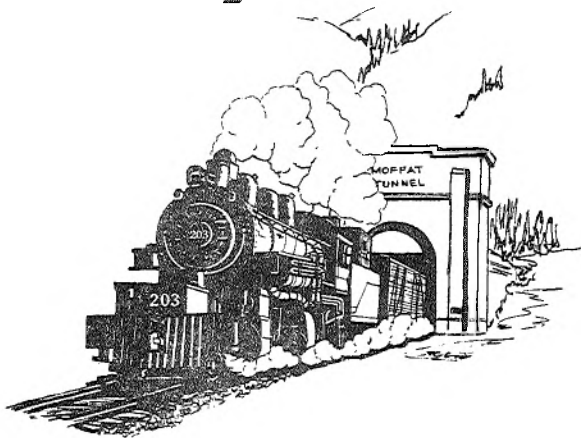


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

FEBRUARY 1970

No. 125

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

Editor - - - Ed Schneider

MEETING NOTICE: Date Wednesday, February 11, 1970
Time 8:00 p.m.
Place Western Federal Savings Bldg., (lower level
meeting room), 17th & California Sts., Denver,
Colorado

PROGRAM NOTES: Our program this month will be presented by member Charles Ryland. His program will be a 35mm slide show of overseas railroad activities entitled, "Lisbon to London by Rail."

DUES! DUES! DUES! Dues are now payable for the calendar year of 1970 -
Colorado residents \$3.00 Out-of-State residents \$2.00.

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DEDICATION! On Sunday, February 15, 1970, at 2 p.m. at the Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 West 44th Ave., Golden, Colorado, a short ceremony will be held in honor of deceased member Bill Soper. At this time, his widow, Gertrude Soper, will officially turn over to the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club Bill's hand-made live steam model of Colorado & Southern Railway locomotive No. 4. This engine will be on display in a glass case at the museum. All members and their friends are invited and we would like to have a good turnout. This will be an excellent opportunity to look over the wonderful displays and the fine collection of motive power and equipment at the museum. Your membership card will admit you to the display area.

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SWISSAIR TOURS. Peter Berger, our Club Member who is Chief Engineer of the narrow-gauge, partly rack-and-pinion, Luzern-Stans-Engleberg railroad in Switzerland, will be host this summer to twelve special railroad tours organized by Swissair. These tours, each of 16 days devoted entirely to Swiss mountain railroads, will commence in late May (when the snow is finally removed from the Swiss equivalent of the RGS) and will continue into October (when the snow closes the line for the winter). Tom Taber, one of America's foremost railfans, helped plan these trips, and (if the descriptive booklet is taken at face-value) they will be the equivalent of Colorado railroading at its very peak. The route will include 28 different lines of every variety, and seven trains will be pulled by steam engines, a great rarity in otherwise all-electric Switzerland. The groups will be small; only 35 persons, due to the limitations of available equipment. Peter says that he will let you run one of his locomotives if you present your RMRRRC membership card. And, Tony Arquish of Swissair's Denver office will send you a beautiful descriptive booklet on request.

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JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS have now been authorized by the Board of Directors, where-by those in the 14-18 age bracket can now become a junior member of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, the dues will amount to \$2.00 a year. The only restrictions on junior members will be that they will not be able to have voting rights and/or hold office in the Club. This will enable many of those under the age of 18 to now be a member of the Club and participate in the many activities and functions.

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FUNDS SOUGHT FOR NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD out of Antonito to Durango. A non-profit corporation has been set up to seek donations from Coloradoans and any other interested parties toward the preservation of the Rio Grande between Antonito and Durango. The goal of the group is to raise \$250,000 to be turned over to the Colorado Railroad Authority for the acquisition of the trackage. The group only has two months to raise the money or give the Rio Grande Railroad a definite committment that they will purchase the line, otherwise after April 1st plans will be made for scrapping operations to begin this summer. The sponsor of this non-profit corporation consists of several State Representatives and donations are requested to be mailed to The Colorado Society for Preservation of the Narrow Gauge, Inc. at P. O. Box 2000, Englewood, Colorado.

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E. R. A. SIEMERS RETIREMENT With the retirement on February 1, 1970 of E. R. A. (Ed) Siemers from the position of General Traffic Agent for the Union Pacific Railroad at Denver the club has lost another genuinely friendly railroad official. In the twenty years he worked with the club arranging through the Omaha office for our special trains he was never known to publicly lose his cool -- and that is quite an accomplishment. He was never too busy or too important to listen to what his customers wanted and went all out to provide what was requested. Not everything he tried to do for us was successful but it was not due to any lack of trying. Trip Chairman Ed Haley has nothing but praise for Mr. Siemers' efforts and accomplishments and wishes there were more railroad officials like him.

Ed's 45 years of service began in the maintenance-of-way department of the Union Pacific in Kansas. He became a part time agent at Delphos, Kansas in 1926 and until 1936 held various clerical positions on the Kansas Division. After one year in Ogden, Utah he came to the Union Pacific's Denver ticket office and has been in the Denver Traffic Department ever since, becoming General Traffic Agent in 1957.

Ed has occasionally accompanied our group on an excursion as a representative of the company. He and his wife Lucille attended the Club's 1969 Annual Dinner at Greeley and we hope that they will both be with us on trips in the future.

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U P LARAMIE EXCURSION You are requested to keep in mind the upcoming Laramie Excursion over the Union Pacific behind steam locomotive No. 8444. This trip will be run on Memorial Day, Saturday, May 30, 1970. Brochures will be mailed out just as soon as all the details are worked out. In the meantime, save your money and keep the date open.

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DEPOT DONATION - SILVERTON The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad has donated its Silverton depot to the San Juan County Historical Society. The deed was presented by Alexis McKinney, director of public relations for the Denver and Rio Grande, to Allen Nossaman, chairman of the San Juan County Historical Society, at a ceremony at the Durango depot. The donation includes the old depot building and the land upon which it stands and some around the building, totaling approximately 6,000 square feet in all.

The society acquisition represents its first outright real estate holding. In his thanks in the Silverton paper, Allen Nossaman states

"We would like to offer our thanks - both for the community and for the San Juan County Historical Society - to the Denver and Rio Grand Western Railroad for the donation of the old depot here to the society.

----- The move will happily allow for painting and preservation of the historic structure, with the society planning to undertake this task as a further Silverton contribution to the beautification of the community's rail entrance, initiated a couple of years ago with the moving of the town dump."

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RAILROAD AT CHURCH!! From The Hutchinson News, Hutchinson, Kansas, December 11, 1969 "The congregation at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. . . is in for a surprise this Sunday. There's a railroad going in on the church grounds.

"Pulling the cars will be a steam locomotive - probably the first to appear in Hutchinson since the last steam switch engine faded away following World War II."

The train is owned by Paul Chitwood, who purchased the 1,000-pound locomotive and its cars - which run on rails 12 inches apart - second-hand from a man in Wichita in 1959. Paul's son, John, operated the locomotive at the Church giving free rides to delighted youngsters. The first day of operation at the Church marked the elder Chitwood's birthday and also coincided with Feast Day the the church.

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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 correspondence concerning an item, nor will we appraise items to be offered for sale. Send your listings to the Editor by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

Offers: Scrapbook: 25ps of clippings of 1876-77 from Denver Tribune; News; Post; Democrat and Ry Age. about Colorado Central, Denver Pacific, Kansas Pacific. Scrapbook believed to belong to Foster Nichols, Auditor, Colorado Central. Von Blon, 1208 Locust, Muskogee, Okla.

For Sale: Disposing of large numbers of size 616 negatives and photos of steam plus 35mm slides of diesels and equipment. State your wants. Lists free. J. A. Pfeifer, 11325 S. W. Timberline Dr., Beaverton, Oregon 97005.

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THOT FOR TODAY It would be an inconvenient rule if nothing could be done until everything can be done. - Winston Churchill

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Jim Ehernberger, President
Stuart Anderson, Vice President

Bill Gordon, Secretary
Ted McKee, Treasurer