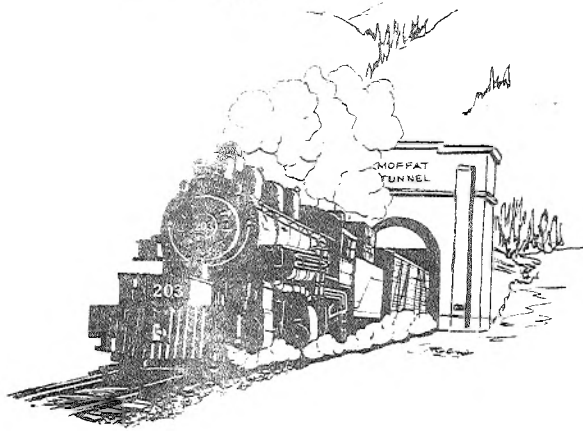


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

October 1970

No. 133

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

Editor - - - Bruce Black

MEETING NOTICE: Date . . . . . Wednesday, October 14, 1970  
Time . . . . . 8:00 p.m.  
Place . . . . . City & County Bldg., Courtroom 100. Building  
located across the street from the U. S. Mint.  
Entrance is 1460 Cherokee St.

PROGRAM NOTES: A 2 part program this month - 1st will be a 35mm slide program  
by Richard Luckin - 223.5 MILES BY RAIL, or a Train Trip to  
St. Louis. 2nd will be two 16mm reels from the Club film  
library - "Last of the Giants" and the latest film contributed  
by Joe Thompson.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLUB DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11, 1970 AT CENTRAL CITY on the Colorado Central  
Narrow Gauge Railway. Providing that the weather co-operates the Rocky  
Mountain Railroad Club will again spend a Fall Sunday riding back and  
forth on the Central City narrow gauge. This will be an unlimited ride  
ticket available at only twice the price of regular fares. Come one,  
come all, it will be a day of lots of steam and fun. Should the weather  
not permit, this trip could be cancelled without notice, as last year  
it required shoveling of snow in order to operate - - - this year the  
railroad advises they will not attempt to "dig" out the line, but normal  
operations should continue on into October anyhow. Come along and bring  
your cameras and recorders!

\* \* \* \* \*

DURANGO-SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE line suffered extensive damage due to flooding  
of the Animas River the evening of September 5, 1970. A total in excess  
of 2 miles was either washed out or covered by earth slides forcing  
cancellation of the Club excursion the following day and all future trips  
during 1970. Damage estimates ran from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 to remove  
the slides, fill in the washouts and regrade the line. The Federal  
Government has since declared Durango and Silverton as disaster areas,  
paving the way for aid. Work to repair the line to operating condition  
could run well into 1971 depending upon the weather. D&RGW is looking for  
a buyer for this line. This is the first excursion train ever operated  
by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club in our 33 years of existence to be  
cancelled. Some 400 were on hand at Durango to take the second section  
of the SILVERTON when just prior to the trip a rain storm set in and caused  
high water. It was no doubt one of the latest floods in the season to have  
been recorded as causing such damage to the line. With regret, the Club  
can only say that it is a very unhappy and unfortunate situation --- We  
will refund each ticket returned to the Treasurer on a full money-back  
guarantee. Anyone holding tickets, please send them in so that we can clear  
this matter up as quickly as possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD had a flurry of activity during the first week in September involving equipment movements from Alamosa, Colo. to Chama, N.M. Ex D&RGW Engine 483 did the honors. High weeds along the line necessitated reduced tonnages due to slippery rails, but the equipment was finally moved to Chama after several trips back to Antonito and several other on-line locations. The narrow gauge rails are being taken up now between Alamosa and Antonito by the D&RGW. Rumor has it that the Chama-Durango-Farmington segment has been sold to a Houston, Texas scrap dealer and that he will use trucks to dismantle the line.

NARROW GAUGE OPERATIONS OVER CUMBRES, were publicized on September 6th, the day we were to go to Silverton, with the 483 arriving at Chama late that day. The first train in nearly two years, with a lot of fan-fare, including several from our group planning to go to Silverton, as well as the Governor of New Mexico, and quite a celebration. Attempts are to be made to move additional equipment over the Pass.

\* \* \* \* \*

25 CAR RINGLING BROTHERS circus train passed over the D&RGW from Pueblo to Salt Lake City about August 20. The run took about 18 hours via the Royal Gorge as compared with 13 hours for the ordinary freight train run. The slower time was required to prevent car swaying and possible injury to the circus animals.

C & S has had increased traffic over its lines from Wendover, Wyo. to Pueblo due to routing of unit ore trains from Guernsey, Wyo. to the mills at Pueblo. The increased traffic may be responsible in part for the appearance of some leased D&RGW F units and some UP U25B's Nos. 625, 635 and 636. C&S power is in a pool with the Burlington Northern now and units of all 3 former roads are commonly seen on the C&S.

Increased traffic westbound is reported on the BN Alliance-Casper-Laurel line due to movement of empties west for the wheat harvest.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOB ODLAND, club member, has a nice scale model layout of UP power; 13 locos were on display in the UP's exposition car for their 100 year anniversary. Anyone interest in many fine scale models of UP power, steam and diesel, are welcome to view Bob's layout at 1600 Riverdale Road, Sioux Falls, S. Dak 57105. Call or write first for an appointment.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.

FOR SALE: railroad materials available on Auction listings, send self-addressed envelope to R. V. Brandenburġ, P. O. Box 4032, Pueblo, Colorado 81003.

WANTED: Annual and Trip passes, W. Q. Collins, 1131 S. Palmetto Ave., Denmark, S. C. 29042.

G. L. Henriouille, 3140 24th St., Sacramento, Cal. 95818 (916) 451-4650, sells 300 West Side and Pickering Lmbr. Co. dispatcher's train sheets-make offer, 43 in. tall S.P. 2-6-0 smokestack-\$100.00, 65 asstd. Loco Gauges - \$50.00 ea., RR signs and Loco Blueprints. SSAE for list. Anyone with a std. gauge 4-8-4 with a good firebox & boiler and reasonable complete, for sale, please contact above person.

Robt. A. LeMassena, 1795 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, Colo. 80226, sells a slide collection of Ghost Towns taken from 1950-1960, and a Funk & Wagnall's unabridged dictionary 5 in. thick for \$5.00.

Bill Martinsen, 1520 Charles St., Norman, Okla. 73069, wants a copy of "Rio Grande Southern" by Crum.

T. E. Wilkins, 2685 Stephens Rd., Boulder, Colo. 80303, (303) 444-4633, has passes for certain railroads including Colo. Midland and D&RGW to trade for certain C&S and other Colo. railroad employee timetables.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jim Ehernberger, President  
Stuart Anderson, Vice President

Bill Gordon, Secretary  
Ted McKee, Treasurer