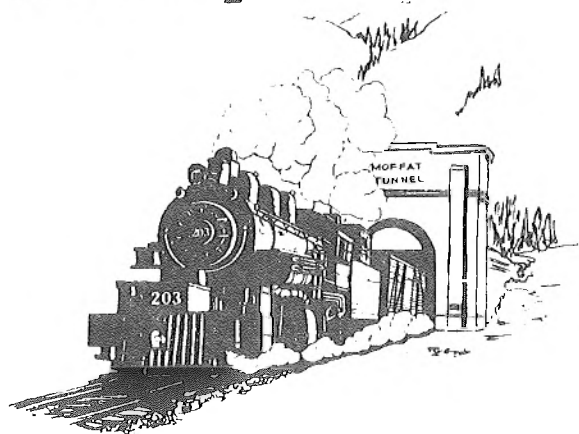


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391      Denver, Colorado 80201  
November 1978      No. 300

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, November 14, 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. Note!! Please use the south entrance,  
accessible from the parking lot. The west entrance  
will no longer be open.

### PROGRAM NOTES:

For the November meeting, Keith Kirby will present a program that could aptly be titled "What I Did on my Summer Vacation." As Keith describes it, however, it wasn't your usual run of the mill type of vacation. He was a member of a delegation of teachers from Denver that was allowed to tour Asia, including mainland China. Since only between 10,000 to 15,000 Americans were permitted to visit the Peoples Republic of China this year, Keith was quite fortunate to be a participant. During his tour of China, he was able to observe the rail system on several occasions. Practically all of the mainline freights are still hauled by beautifully maintained steam locomotives. In addition, he plans to show other vehicles observed in China, ranging from one-cylinder tractors to luxurious Red Flag limousines. As part of the tour, he also visited Japan, and will have pictures of various Japanese trains, including the famous Bullet Train. Very little publicized information has ever been available on the Chinese rail system. Keith's presentation will be a unique view of a country and rail system relatively unknown to the western world.

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A FINE TURNOUT attended the Annual Banquet on October 14. Many swell door prizes were handed out after dinner, including books, pamphlets, calendars, and other railroading. The motion picture, "TICKET TO TOMAHAWK," was a thoroughly entertaining film. Many scenes were easy to recognize, filming having been done on the Durango-Silverton branch, with much footage shot in the town of Silverton and adjacent areas. The No. 20 looked like a locomotive from another planet in its Hollywood attire. (The 1979 Sundance calendar has an excellent color photo of the engine in its make up). Dan Dailey was a pleasure to watch in his role. Ironically and unfortunately, he passed away in California only a few days after the banquet, at the age of 62.

A note of thanks is due all those who contributed door prizes. Hope this

is everyone: Dan Abbott, George Champion, Ed Gerlits, Bob LeMassena, and Jack Thode, all brought items. Duane Sole let his fingers wander effortlessly and effectively over the keyboard and provided tasteful tunes on the piano during dinner.

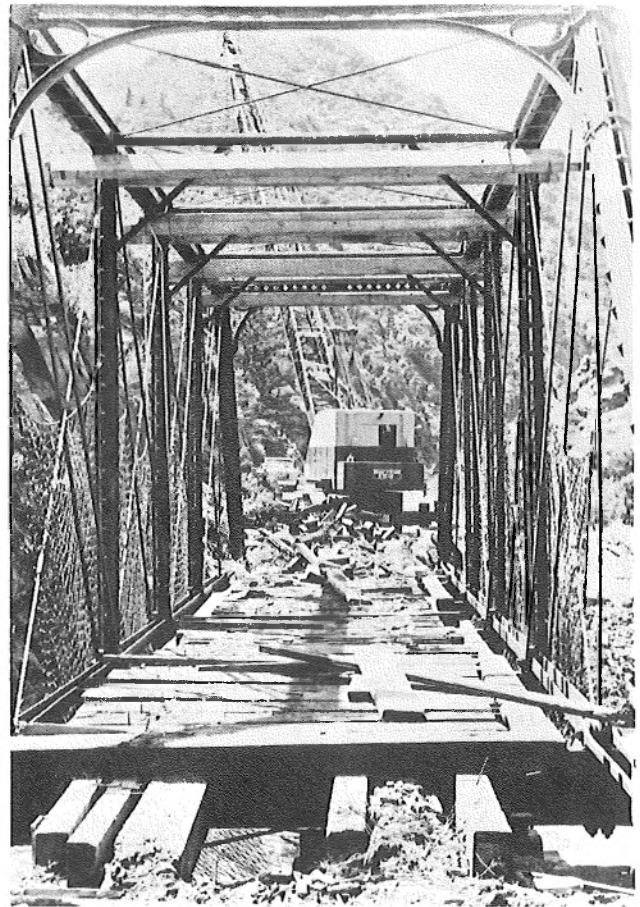
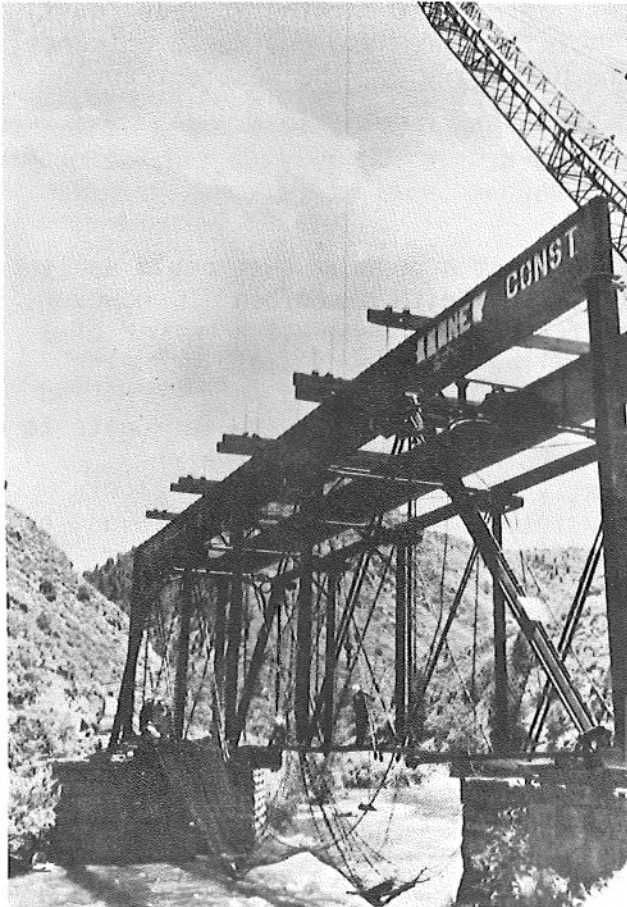
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THE MANITOU & PIKES PEAK RAILWAY SPECIAL on October 21, was a most pleasant trip. Skies were overcast, a result of a storm front moving into the region, but visibility was restricted only at the very summit. Several photo runs were executed on the way to the top, and Mother Nature was kind enough to wait until we made it back to the bottom before turning on the spigot. Dinner was then enjoyed at Giuseppe's by many in the group, before heading home.

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ON THE DRAWING BOARD is a two-day club trip on the Rio Grande Zephyr to Glenwood Springs next February. Further details will be in the December newsletter.

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THIS WAS THE SCENE in the Platte Canyon this summer, when crews began to dismantle the Mill Gulch Bridge (or as it is now often referred to, the Keystone Bridge). The Denver Water Department is in the process of widening the narrow gauge roadbed farther into the canyon, to permit access by heavy construction equipment, so the bridge had to be replaced. The large girders at the top were used to support the structure as it was carefully taken apart. They were then lowered onto the abutments to become the main supports for the new bridge. The old bridge is now in storage,

and is to be given to the Forest Service, who has indicated it will be used near the Keystone Ski Area. The 10-mile long Platte Canyon was the only major canyon in the foothills near Denver, that had been available for hiking, biking, fishing, etc., with no competition from the automobile. It was closed to all public access this summer, and it may be years before it is open again. This bridge was a highlight on the club's Platte Canyon Bunion Pounder walk/ride trip last year.

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ACCOMPANYING THIS NEWSLETTER is a dues notice for 1979. Along with the notice, there is room to show any corrections that may be necessary, and a section inviting your comments on club activities. The book drawing for this year will be on "MIXED TRAIN DAILY," by Lucius Beebe, and "COLORADO MIDLAND," by Morris Cafky. Chances are \$1.00 each book. If you wish to participate, please include the extra amount with the dues payment, and the completed drawing stub. Support of the drawing is appreciated, of course, as the proceeds do go into the equipment fund.

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SANTA CLAUS WILL ARRIVE AT THE COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM on Saturday, November 25, behind the newly restored narrow gauge Engine No. 318. Museum volunteers have put a lot of work into the locomotive in the past few years. Prior to last May, the engine had not operated since its final run on the Montrose-Ouray line in 1953. On the 25th, the engine will operate through the afternoon and will run on Sunday, also, weather permitting. Several activities are being planned, and a number of local authors will be on hand to autograph books. Contact the museum for further details near the middle of the month. This could be a good time to solve some of those gift giving problems that occasionally arise about this time of the year!

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WE WERE SADDENED to hear of the death of a long-time member, Herbert O'Hanlon, who passed away on October 7 at his home after a long illness. Herb was an instructor at Hinkley High School in Aurora, and belonged to various organizations, including the Ghost Town Club of Colorado. He was president of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club in 1952. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

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SHARE A RIDE? - Member Merle Anderson would like to get in touch with anyone interested in sharing a ride to the monthly meetings from the Harvey Park or Bear Valley area. Merle drives very little, but would share gasoline expenses. Address is: 2954 S. Raleigh St., Denver, 80236. Phone: 935-0669.

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AFTER MANY YEARS of contending with the elements, the narrow gauge display in Boulder's Central Park is sorely in need of some attention in the way of paint. This year, the city decided to have the locomotive No. 30 painted, but the coach and caboose were left untouched. So the Boulder Historical Society has taken it upon itself to try and get the coach painted before bad weather sets in. It is in need of assistance, however, in the form of either time or money. Mike Rowe is the coordinator on the project, and will set up a work day in November, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who could spare just a little time on a yet-to-be-determined Saturday or Sunday to help get the job done. When a date is set, he will then notify those interested. Paint will be provided,

of course, and plans are to return the coach to a Pullman green color. Mike can be reached during the day, at the Boulder Historical Society, 449-3464, or at home in the evenings at 442-2164. The more who can help, the quicker it will go on this worthwhile project.

THE HISTORIC PARAMOUNT THEATER in downtown Denver, was severely damaged by an arson caused fire on October 20. The screen, curtain, sound and electrical systems were destroyed with smoke damage throughout. Fortunately, the organs escaped serious damage. Efforts have been under way on projects and programs that would preserve the old movie house. The Intermountain Chapter, NRHS hopes to sponsor the showing of "White Desert," again at the theater next February 22.

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NARROW GAUGE ENTHUSIASTS who like keeping abreast of happenings on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway, will probably find a story in the November issue of RAILFAN magazine of interest. The well-illustrated article, written by Clovis Butterworth, gives a concise overview of the current status of the C&TS.

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ON THE MOVE - Ex-Great Western Steam Engine No. 75, left Denver under steam on October 30, for Johnstown, Colorado, where it will be used in the filming of the motion picture, "NO KNIFE," a story set in the 1870's about a rabbi who decides to head west. Gene Wilder is the star. The movie company built two passenger cars of the era to be used with the engine. In December, the No. 75 is set to make its third return to Orchard, Colorado for more filming of the Centennial TV series.

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A CIRCUS TRAIN of the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, was in town for nearly two weeks in early October, during their visit to Denver. The consist of over 30 cars was parked adjacent to the BN's main line, near the old stockyards. NYC fans would get misty-eyed seeing the round end observation car, "Hickory Creek," although its rather drab, off white paint scheme isn't near as eyepleasing as the original livery was.

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THE 8444 PERFORMED WELL for the Intermountain Chapter's excursion to Laramie on October 7. Good weather allowed for some great picture taking and the UP handled the special in a punctual manner.

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COMPLETED - The Rail Dynamics Laboratory at the DOT Test Track near Pueblo, has been completed and was dedicated on October 25, by the Secretary of Transportation. The apparatus can reproduce the vibrations and movements encountered by rail equipment during service, but under controlled laboratory conditions.

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JAMES R. TROWBRIDGE, President

BILL GORDON, Secretary

ED GERLITS, Vice-President

ARDIE SCHOENINGER, Treasurer