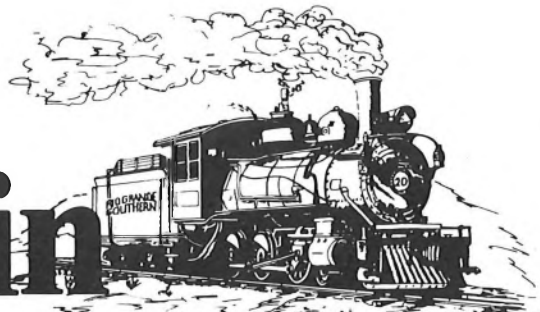


Rocky Mountain RAIL REPORT



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

MEETING SCHEDULE:

October 11, 1986 -- 7:30 p.m.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Sheraton Graystone Castle, I-25 and 120th Avenue.

Jim Trowbridge..... Editor
Les Grenz..... Associate Editor
Keith Kirby..... President
Erwin Chaim..... 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 15th 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. Membership covers the immediate family unit.

October, 1986..... No. 325
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 AND HELP

Chuck & Chicky Morison, Co-Chairmen,
Membership Committee
3550 South Kendall, #8-301
Denver, Colorado 80235 (303) 980-6698

OCTOBER 11 PROGRAM

The October program will be part of the Club's Annual Banquet. Alan Greene has arranged this year's banquet and entertainment which includes the motion picture, The Titfield Thunderbolt.

Our evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Fare is \$16.00 per person. Tickets must be ordered in advance by mail or by calling Mat Anderson at 722-9460 after October 6th. Mat's mailing address is: 1117 South Clayton St., Denver, Colorado 80210. Make your checks out to: the ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB.

The order form provided on page 2 can be used in ordering your tickets.

TICKET ORDER

ANNUAL BANQUET

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

NUMBER ATTENDING @ \$16.00 each _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your order, please.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

As has been noted in the two previous Rail Report issues, your editor was involved in two excursions on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad and the 6th National Narrow Gauge Convention, so, the October issue of the newsletter was put together the first of September and the monthly meeting had not occurred yet. A review of the program will be included in the November issue.

NEW MEMBERS

The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club wishes to enthusiastically welcome the following new members:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Stephen Dean | Lynwood, WA |
| Thomas M. Murray | USAF Academy, CO |
| Russell A. Stuska | Arvada, CO |

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.

FOR SALE: "Rails Around Gold Hill," unnumbered and unsigned. Charles Renfro, 5085 Quitman St., Denver, CO 80212. (303) 455-5167.

THE GOLDEN SPIKE 1986 STYLE

At 10:00 a.m., on August 20, 1986, the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society celebrated its Golden Spike ceremony. August 20th was chosen because it was Fort Collins' 122nd birthday. The trolley, its line and the car barn were the society's birthday gift to the city. The master of ceremonies was Dr. Jim Stitzel, a former C.S.U. professor. He gave an overview of how, over the last twenty years, the desire to preserve Car 21 has evolved into the unique living history project it is today. In his remarks, Dr. Stitzel mentioned former Mayor Charles Bowling who obtained the use of the old car barn so restoration work could begin. RMRR Club member, Al Dunton, was also mentioned for the over 200 slide shows he presented during 1981-82 as he handled public relations for the project.

Former mayor, Charles Bowling also spoke to those gathered, recalling that when the society made their proposal to him, it was the first time someone has said that they wanted to do something for the city and that they wanted no money to do it! He then gave an apology for the problems the society has encountered and stated that the majority of people in Fort Collins support the trolley. He stated, "On behalf of the majority of the people, thank you so much."

Dr. Stitzel then recalled some important dates in the restoration of the trolley and its line. On March 17, 1981, a contract between the society and the city was signed. In August of 1982, work was begun on the car barn, and on August 21, 1983, Car 21 rode on a flatbed trailer to the new car barn.

Larry Scott, from the First Interstate Bank and the President of the local Chamber of Commerce stated, "The joys of the future are reflections of the past." He stated that the trolley was making a significant contribution to Fort Collins and he complimented the society on a job well done.

Dr. Stitzel continued to tell the restoration story. Sixty-two trees along the right-of-way needed to be moved. He pointed out the four trees on the Sherwood-Meldrum

block on W. Mountain Avenue where the ceremony was taking place that had been moved. They are all alive and well. Then on December 28, 1984, the trolley ran for the first time. The following day, the city council rode the trolley.

At this point in the ceremony, the crowd of over 200 people were entertained by "Custom Sound", a ladies Barbarshop Quartet. The final selection, "The Trolley Song", was a real crowd pleaser.



The "Custom Sound" gives a "ringing" performance of the "Trolley Song." (Keith Kirby)

At that point, Dr. Stitzel gave some impressive statistics. A 400-foot long block of track contains sixteen one-ton loads of dirt, fifteen one-ton loads of gravel, track panels made with sixty pound rail, spiked on ties spaced every two feet. All of this is finally covered with sod, and, eighteen feet overhead the wire is

strung. Dr. Stitzel reiterated that all of this was done with no city funding and there were no plans to ask for any.

Roger Smith then presented the Dedication. Mr. Smith has been involved with the project since 1977. He stated that many cities are restoring trolley lines, but Fort Collins is the only line done as a gift. He said he doesn't think the project is completed. It can be finished to the Old Downtown. Mr. Smith told how contributions came from people in all walks of life and then read a few of the letters from contributors. The trolley, he stated, is of educational, cultural, and historical use for Fort Collins.

At that point, a beautifully restored 1929 Model A Ford pickup burst on the scene, driven by Captain Renovator. In the passenger seat was Mayor Kelly Ohlson, taste-



"Captain Renovator" delivers Fort Collins' Mayor, Kelly Ohlson, to the Golden Spike Ceremony. (Keith Kirby)



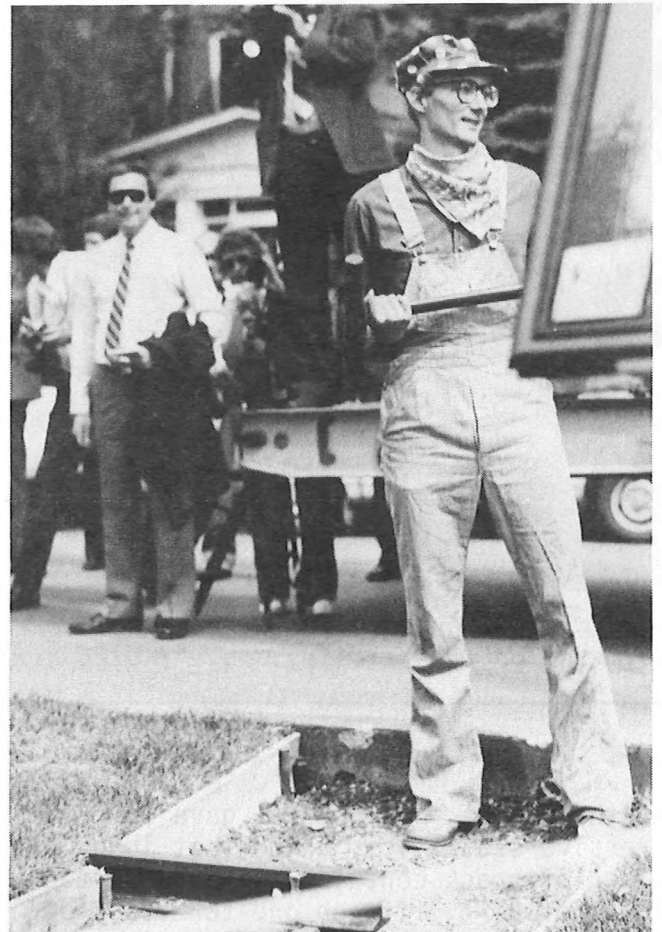
*Fort Collins Mayor, Kelly Ohlson, accepts the trolley from President Roger Smith.
(Keith Kirby)*

fully dressed in railroad-style bib overalls, railroad hat, and red handkerchief. Mayor Ohlson accepted the trolley on behalf of the city. He recalled the first time he saw the trolley. It was all in pieces, and he thought that there was little chance it would ever run. But, the mayor said that the society met many challenges, both monetary and political, and made the dream come true. The Mayor then accepted the trolley on behalf of the city as a bridge from the past. He stated, "It is greatly appreciated."



Mr. Smith said that the project contained \$1.5-million worth of track, a car barn worth \$40,000, and Car 21, worth \$200,000. All this at no cost to the city!

It was then time for Dennis Barton of the society's track department to begin driving the next to the last spike. Then, with Mr. Barton's help, Mayor Ohlson started driving the golden spike. Blows were also delivered by Carol Tunner, the lady who, in 1976, took the idea of restoring the car to the Junior Women's Club, and, by doing so, in a very sense, began the whole project. Blows were also delivered by Roger Smith, former society presidents Mark Basset and Joan Seegmiller, to name a few. Car 21 was rolled up and the crown was invited to board it for a look. Everyone was then invited to the lawn of the Avery House for coffee, punch and cake. The cakes were appropriately adorned with pictures of trolleys made of icing.



*Fort Collins Mayor, Kelly Ohlson, prepares to strike the 1st blow on the Golden Spike.
(Keith Kirby)*

The Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society is to be commended. While others only talk preservation, they have restored and run their trolley. While others complain about the cost of government projects, they have presented to the city of Fort Collins, a gift worth nearly \$1.7-million. Truly, this is historic preservation at its best! Congratulations, on a job well done!
(Keith Kirby)



Mayor Kelly Ohlson demonstrates his excellent taste in wardrobe. (Keith Kirby)

The real star of the celebration, Car 21 receives a standing ovation as it approaches track's end. (Keith Kirby)

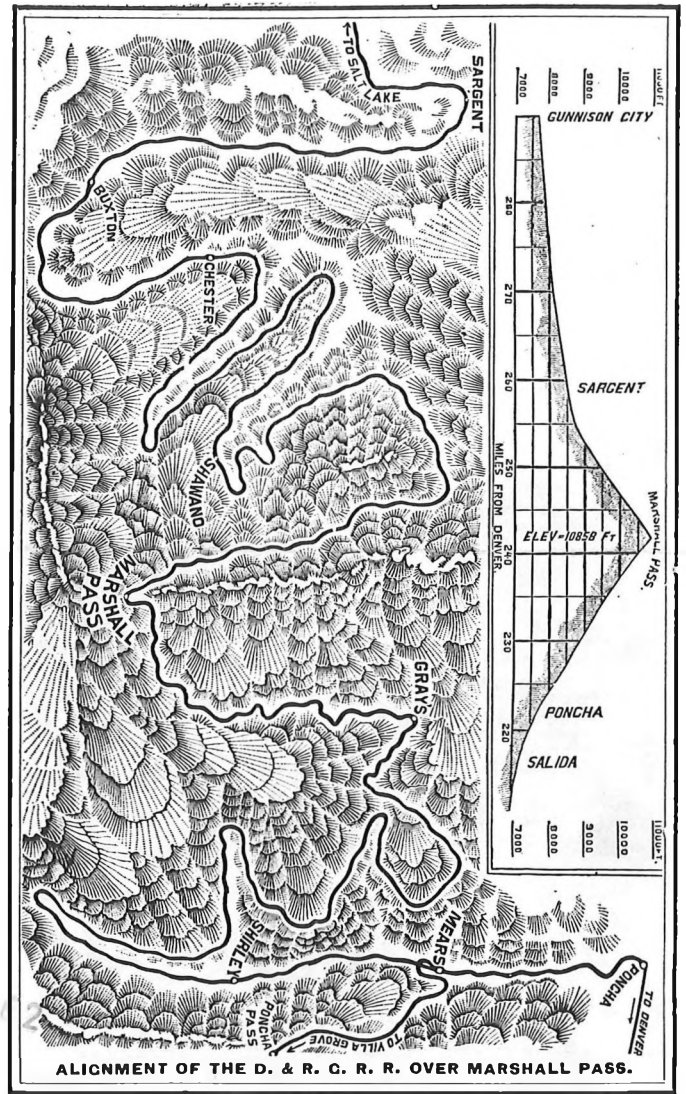


Longtime volunteer, Carol Tunner, takes her turn at driving the golden spike. (Keith Kirby)





A volunteer serves a piece of "Trolley" cake by the gazebo at the Avery House.
(Keith Kirby)



ROCKY MOUNTAIN



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