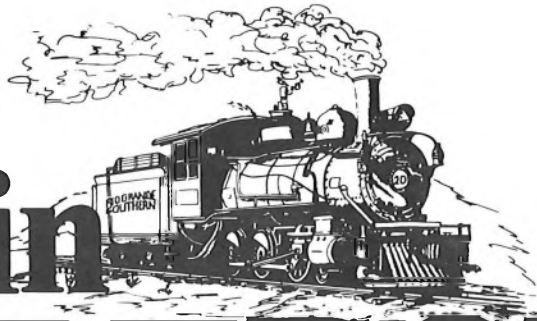


# Rocky Mountain RAIL REPORT



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

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## MEETING SCHEDULE:

June 13, 1989 -- 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  
Carl Carlson..... 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.

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## 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.

June, 1989..... No. 357  
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.

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## 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

## JUNE 13 PROGRAM

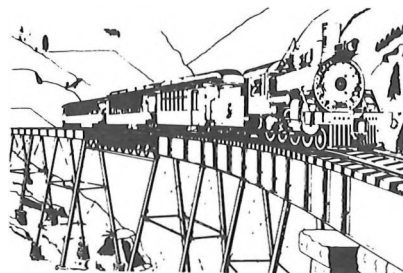
"Special Trains on the San Juan Extension"

Mat Anderson and Jim Trowbridge will present a slide program showing special trains on the narrow gauge over the past few years. Freight and other operations will be seen at many locations not easily reached by the average photographer. We will also see some unintentional maneuvers such as rerailling derailed engines, etc.

Plan on joining us for an interesting and fun night.

## PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Rocky Mountain Rail Report (ISSN 1041-9233) is published by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club at 212 Union Station, 17th and Wynkoop Streets, Denver, Colorado 80201 for \$12.00 per year which is deducted from member's dues. Second class postage paid at Denver, Colorado. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Rocky Mountain Rail Report, Box 2391, Denver, Colorado 80201.



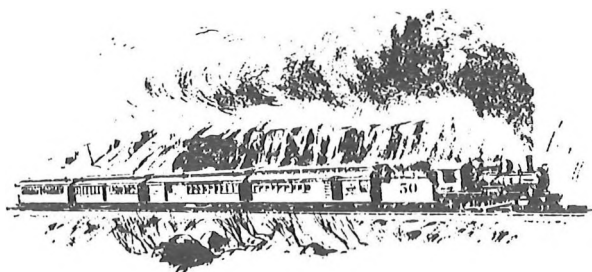
## GEORGETOWN AND THE LOOP—50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK

The 1989 printing of "Georgetown and the Loop" has arrived. Our records indicate that several of our members delayed too long to obtain a copy last year, and now that the new printing has arrived, this is the time to purchase your copy. The new printing is slightly different with photos of Colorado & Southern #9 which is now on the tracks of the Georgetown Loop Railroad. If plans materialize with sufficient funds, #9 and three passenger cars will be reconditioned by the Colorado Historical Society so that they can be operated on the Georgetown Loop Railroad. At present, all four pieces of rolling stock are in poor condition. In the new printing, some of the photographs have been upgraded.

The price of the new printing of "Georgetown and the Loop" is \$29.95 plus shipping (and tax for Colorado Residents)

## MAY PROGRAM

It was good to revisit our old friend, the timeless Rio Grande Zephyr. We did this via a multi-media program presented by Erwin and Bobbie Chaim. Besides reliving the Club's many trips aboard the train, we were able to see many old friends that have departed from our midst as well as many friends and children in much younger times! Our thanks to Erwin and Bobbie for a fun evening.



## ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$29.95 plus \$2.75 shipping and [ ] \$2.15 sales tax for a Colorado Resident.

Order From:

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

(Bob Griswold)

## 1989 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| June 13   | Reg. Monthly Meeting                    |
| June 17   | UP 3985 Excursion                       |
| June 18   | Wyoming-Colorado Excursion              |
| July 1-12 | Trans-Canada Excursion                  |
| July 11   | Reg. Monthly Meeting                    |
| July 22   | Ft. Collins Trolley Trip/Picnic         |
| Aug. 8    | Reg. Monthly Meeting                    |
| Aug. 12   | Argentine Central Hike                  |
| Sept. 2-4 | St. Louis, MO Rail Exhibits & Excursion |
| Sept. 12  | Reg. Monthly Meeting                    |
| Oct. 7-8  | North Platte, NE/ UP Rail Facilities    |
| Oct. 14   | Annual Banquet                          |
| Nov. 14   | Reg. Monthly Meeting                    |
| Dec. 12   | Elections & Reg. Monthly Meeting        |

**UNION PACIFIC**



**3985 EXCURSION**



**WYOMING-COLORADO RAILROAD EXCURSION**

Flyers were sent out with the March, 1989 newsletter and will continue to be available at Club meetings until the trip is sold out. With only 270 seats available, we encourage members to secure their reservations early.

This year's excursion will begin in Cheyenne and travel to Laramie, spending amply time on Sherman Hill to experience outstanding photo runbys.

The trip will be held on Saturday, June 17, 1989. The cost is \$165.00 per person and includes a box lunch aboard the train. There are no children's fares. The Club will make no refunds nor cancel reservations after May 19, 1989. Prior to that date, a \$10 service charge will be made on each cancellation to help defray handling costs.

Please fill in the coupon provided and send it with your check or money order to:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB  
P. O. Box 2391  
Denver, Colorado 80201

The Club has made available an opportunity to enjoy a weekend of railroading with the UP 3985 excursion on Saturday, June 17th and the Wyoming-Colorado Railroad trip on Sunday, June 18, 1989.

Departing Laramie, this all day, 92-mile trip, will feature the adventure of traveling over one of North America's highest standard gauge railroads in classic streamlined passenger equipment.

All tickets for this one-day excursion are \$65.00. This includes one-way rail passage, light continental breakfast aboard the train, barbecue lunch at Fox Park, and return chartered bus trip to Laramie. There are no children's fares. Tickets must be ordered as soon as possible from the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club on the accompanying order blank. It is strongly recommended that all passengers who are planning to be on the Union Pacific 3985 trip on Saturday and who also desire to ride on the Wyoming-Colorado Railroad excursion on Sunday, should get both trip reservations in immediately. Seating is limited!

ORDER FORM--UP 3985

ORDER FORM--WYO-CO

A check or money order for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$165.00 each is enclosed. This same fare is applicable for children.

A check or money order for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$65.00 each is enclosed. This same fare is applicable for children.

(Please Print or Type) Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print or Type) Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State)

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(Zip) ( ) (Phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip) ( ) (Phone)

## FT. COLLINS TROLLEY EXCURSION

## ORDER FORM

### Fort Collins Trolley and Family Picnic

Be sure to join us on Saturday, July 22, 1989, when the Club charts the Fort Collins Trolley between 10:00 a.m. and noon. Your Single or Family Pass will allow you unlimited rides!

A "bring-your-own-food" picnic in City Park will follow the charter. This is designed as a family outing and we are sure you won't want to miss this event.

Passes are priced at \$2.50 for singles and \$5.00 for families. Please let us know if you need transportation to and from Fort Collins.

Enclosed, please find a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with \$2.50 for a single or \$5.00 for a family pass.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (     ) \_\_\_\_\_



*Club members, Alan Betts, Frank Wilson and Hugh H. Wilson, Sr. can be proud of their efforts to help the Comanche Creek Museum to refurbish ex-Rock Island/UP caboose No. 2452. The caboose is located in Strasburg. On this day, our group painted the interior of the car. The Club extends its thanks to these people for their participation in the Club's continuing effort to aid restoration and preservation projects on historic railroad equipment in the Rocky Mountain Region.*

*(Frank Wilson Photograph)*



**PRESERVATION UPDATE**

*On April 22, 1989, Club members, Hugh H. Wilson, Alan Betts and Frank Wilson (Hugh's son), spent the day in Strasburg painting the interior of the old Rock Island/ Union Pacific caboose, given to the Comanche Creek Museum several years back. It took a great deal of effort on their part to get work done in the one day. The caboose is now just about completely restored both inside and out and will be dedicated on Sunday afternoon, May 28, 1989, at 2:00 P.M. If you are looking for a good day's outing, we recommend that you visit this fine historical museum in Strasburg. (Hugh H. Wilson, Sr.) (Frank Wilson Photograph)*

*[Pictured above, from left to right, is Emma Michell, curator, Comanche Creek Museum, Hugh H. Wilson, Sr., and, Alan Betts]*

**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: 39 copies of CTC BOARD from October, 1978 to Decmeber, 1981 in binder. \$33, postage included. John Dillavou, 1270 So. Grape St., Denver, CO 80222. (303) 756-7965.

WANTED: Information on Great Northern, Bainville-Opheim, Montana branch. (continued)  
 FOR SALE: Payne, Three Railroads to Mineral Wells, Texas. Paper bound, 22-pages. \$5.50. A. F. von blon, 1699 Ewing, Waco, Texas 76706.

WANTED: UP/BN/CB&Q/D&RGW/ATSF color slides, 1940's-1970's or color negatives, Timetables-- Public, Lanterns, and, passenger tickets. Lloyd E. Neal, Jr., 10 Morrison Place, West Somerville, MA 02144.

**NOTICE**

**CANCELLED**

The Club's trip aboard the private car CEDAR RAPIDS, scheduled in September, has been cancelled due to an uncertain availability of the car at that time. Should an opportunity arise at a later date for chartering this unique car, the Club will explore the feasibility of a trip. (Darrell Arndt)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I joined the Club in 1962, I was living in Pueblo. It was an early morning drive over to Alamosa where I took my first Club trip over Memorial Day weekend. The three-day trip from Alamosa to Durango and Silverton was my only one of these trips. I should have taken more. What jogged my memory was a caboose photo of a freight we met on that trip which shows up along with an article by Adolf Hungry Wolf in the June issue of Trains magazine. I remember this crew because while we were on the siding, and as they passed, they threw out to us all of their train orders which we grabbed up with passion. I have no idea what that trip cost back then, but, it was cheap by today's standards.

One trip on our own was with my wife and sons (then aged 5 and 3) on the Rio Grande. We boarded the Yampa Valley Mail with its PA unit, mail car, coach and a Vista Dome observation. We left about 9:30 a.m., arrived in Winter Park at 11:30 or so, where a van from the lodge awaited us. We traveled to the lodge with others from the train to a meal of roast beef, baked potato, green beans, roll, salad, beverage and dessert. We took our time eating and re-boarded the van back to the shelter by the tracks to await the eastbound Yampa Valley. We arrived in Denver around 4:30 p.m. It was a mid-week trip in the winter, so the train was not full. It was an enjoyable trip with good food. I paid half price for my 5 year-old; the 3 year-old was free. We paid \$5.95 adult fare which included the trip and the meal. What a bargain! I think a lot about that trip these days.

Another memorable Club trip was the 1969 Annual Banquet. We had the Union Pacific's 8444 with eight or so cars. We left Denver in the afternoon and had four photo runbys, of all places, on the Dent Branch. That branch was then out in the middle of nowhere. Today, there are all kinds of subdivisions built up around it. After tetting on the mail line at LaSalle, we went on to Evans, unloaded and walked 2-3 blocks over to the Ramada Inn to have dinner and a fine slide program on the railroads around Central City. No banquet or meeting is ever done in a short time and there were well

over 300 people on that trip. We were to reboard the train at 9:30 p.m. with a Denver Union Station arrival at 10:45 or so. We got out late, were herded quickly to the train and boarded, leaving by 10:30 p.m. Most of the road crossings are a mile apart on the section line grids. It seemed that we were moving rather rapidly. We clocked the train most of the time at 96 to 98 mph. That deep-throated whistle blew almost constantly for those road crossings. We roared into Union Station at exactly 11:30. I recall that the whole trip and banquet cost about \$20.00.

I have to extend my thanks to all those people who planned and executed these trips over our 51 years as a Club. In past days, you could make arrangements for almost any trip for any place at any time. Today, we are struggling to get our Members to ride any of our trips. The costs are much higher today. In many cases, we try to include a meal and extras like coffee and donuts or pop, print up flyers, and provide a crew that works its tail off to make the trip a pleasant for all. In most cases, these extras are insignificant in cost compared to what we have to pay to "rent" a train from the railroads. We often need over 200 people riding the specials in order to just break even on our costs. If we had more passenger cars on a trip like the UP 3985, we could cut the cost of the trip in half and have much less trouble filling the train, but this equipment is no longer available. We have to take what we can get sometimes, whether any of us like it or not, appreciating and taking advantage of what we do have.

(John Dillavou)

## PRESERVATION FUND AND BOOK DRAWING

Our thanks to the many, many members who participate each month in the Preservation Fund Book Drawing. The profits go towards the preservation and restoration of many railroad projects in the Rocky Mountain Region. One such project is mentioned in this issue of the Rail Report concerning the painting of the ex-Rock Island/UP caboose at the Comanche Creek Museum in Strasburg, Colorado. While Club members merely supplied labor on this project, many other projects require funds for such



things as paint and accessories, materials such as wood, metal, etc. or various other items to restore a piece of equipment or a structure back to good shape.

In reading the winners and their prizes, you will note how many prizes are given away each month. In order to keep up with past give-aways and continue to promote funds for the restoration and preservation of railroad history, we solicit donations of such items as railroad books, posters, pamphlets, timetables, maps, etc. as prizes. Should you have anything along this line that you might wish to donate, please contact Roger Callender at his home address: 2573 So. Williams St., Denver, Colorado 80210 or at (303) 722-4733.

Prizes and winners at the April meeting are as follows:

Gary Ellison (NY) / The White Plume  
Ed Haley / Locomotive Quarterly  
Erwin Chaim / Modular Model Railroading  
Brian Gould / Crookedest Railroad in the World  
John Dillavou / Railroad--Trains & Train People in American Culture  
Dave Schumodis / American Steam  
Erma Morison / Rio Grande Belt Buckle  
Don Webster / Door Knocker (Spike & Plaque)  
Neal Miller / Railroads of North America  
Bob Fryml / UP Poster  
Jeff Rothlisberger / Amtrak Poster  
Wayne Gailus / Pen & Ink Sketch of Loco.

## **UPDATE ON THE DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD**

The following information was contained in a news release from Amos Cordova, Vice President/Traffic Manager of the D&SNG RR. It was received just prior to the May 6th opening of the railroad's 1989 season:

The cinder block portion of the old roundhouse which was the Welding Shop was re-roofed and converted into a temporary machine shop. Some machines were purchased from as far away as Boston, Massachusetts to California and are still being sought.

Fortunately, the weather has been with us, and work has been progressing nicely on the locomotives in our open-air facility.

The most heartening news to both the railroad and Durango residents alike was on Thursday, April 13th when, after a couple days of testing in the yards, K-28 #476 steamed out of town with a shake-down train of eight empty coaches. Amid the enthusiastic cheers of local residents, the freshly painted locomotive chugged under an impromptu archway created by two local fire department ladder trucks. Durango Fire Chief Mike Dunaway commented, "I'd much rather see this kind of smoke than the kind we had on February 10th!" The test of the 476 was a huge success, once again proving the expertise and ability of our employees.

The week of April 17th was quite a busy one as the 481 has a successful Hydro and lagging and cabwork was started. Work on the 480 is nearly complete and we expect these two locomotives to be ready simultaneously.

K-37 No. 497 is ready to run with the arrival this week of its new tender, which had been ordered before the fire. This engine was fired up on Friday, April 28 and is expected to be tested on Monday, May 1st.

Engine 478 has had its annual and the side rods put back on and tender hooked up. Hydro is expected to be completed shortly. Firing and testing will be done the week of May 1st.

Engine 473 has been receiving sheet metal work on the cab. This engine will remain a low priority for awhile.

Currently, plans for the new roundhouse are in the hands of an architect and construction is expected to begin sometime mid-June.

We will operate 2 sections on May 6, probably using Engine 497 and 476 with 10 cars on each train.

All the locomotives will be newly painted, the yellow coaches scrubbed down and quite a lot of trackwork has been done through the Animas Valley. (Amos Cordova, 4/29/89)

## **THE DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD RIDES AGAIN!**

Saturday, May 6th saw the first train of the season leave Durango on the 45-mile

trip to Silverton with engine #476 on the headend. The D&SNG Railroad sold about 900 tickets for opening day, enough to run two trains. And, the company has more than 45,000 reservations for the season, which is about 20 percent above normal. The train brings in nearly 200,000 tourists per year and last year generated nearly \$25 million in Durango alone. Up the tracks, in Silverton, population 500, the train generated about 75 percent of the town's \$8 million income.

With the dry weather, a fifty-acre fire was started up the canyon, but controlled and put out without much trouble. Other than this event, everything went very well and all are breathing easier.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### QUESTIONABLE NEWS COVERAGE NEGLECTS TO CREDIT RMRR

The 9:30 p.m. News Program of Denver Channel 2 of April 30th, and, the Denver Post News Story on May 1st both neglected to credit the Club for the restoration and ownership of the the Denver & Interurban Car No. 25. In spite of having a written statement of facts, both news media managed to give credit to Rail Heritage. With all the monies and volunteer labor being put into the #25, it is irksome to see such poor reporting, but, such is life!

### "DINNER IN THE DINER" DISPLAY AT THE GOLDEN DAR PIONEER MUSEUM

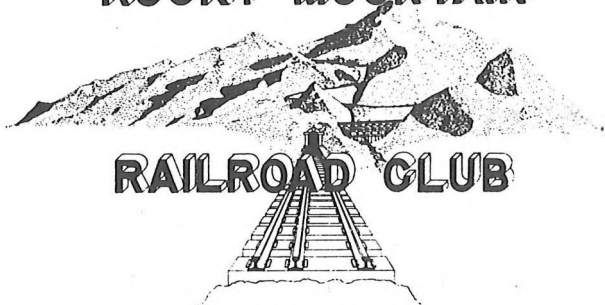
Transportation china from railroad dining car to trolley restaurants will be on display at the Golden DAR Pioneer Museum, 911 10th St., Golden, through May and June. Hours: noon to 4:00 p.m.

### "TRAILS WEST, 1869-1929" HISTORY SERIES TO BE PRESENTED AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The American West Program is produced each summer by the History Department at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. A few programs of interest are listed here:

- June 19 / "Passenger Trains West: Routes To, Through and Around Colorado." Al Dunton. 7:30 p.m. Clark Bldg., Rm A-104.
  - June 20 / "Otto Mears and Early Colorado Railroad Development." Bob Richardson. 7:30 p.m. Clark Bldg., Rm A-104.
  - June 22 / "White Desert" 7:30 p.m. Lory Student Center Theater.
  - June 6 / Wayne Sundberg. "When the Trolley came to Ft. Collins. 7:30 p.m. \*\*\*
  - June 27 / "From Trails to Rails" Duane Smith. 7:30 p.m. \*\*\*
  - Aug. 1 / "Fred Harvey, the Railroads and Native American Culture." Carol Naille. 7:30 p.m. \*\*\*
- \*\*\*Natural Resources Bldg., Rm 113.

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN



BOX 2391

DENVER, COLORADO 80201

## SECOND CLASS