

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB
P. O. BOX 2391
DENVER, COLORADO 80201

December, 1963

Newsletter No. 52

The December, 1963 meeting of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 1963, in the basement meeting room of the Western Federal Savings skyscraper, 718 - 17th Street, Denver, at 8:00 p.m. Preceding the entertainment portion of the program there will be a short business meeting featuring the annual election of officers, and upon completion of balloting we will be treated to "Energy on the Move" -- the latest motion picture produced by Energy Coal Co., Public Service Co. of Colorado, and the Rio Grande -- showing their joint development of a major new industry on the D&RGW's Craig Branch west of Steamboat Springs. Also included in the program will be an exclusive showing of Eastman Kodak's humorous new movie on the history of amateur photography, entitled, "The Triumph of Lester Snapwell."

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The "Eulogy to the Steam Locomotive," a tape recorded narration presented at the November meeting by Director Ken Crist, was of particular enjoyment to all in attendance. The variety of engine whistle sounds accompanying and illustrating the narration certainly recalled fond memories of far-off trains in the nights of long ago. A pleasing presentation.

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Response to our TRAINS Magazine photo contest was most gratifying, with entries being received not only from the Denver and other Colorado areas, but also from members in numerous other states as well. The local judges have already made their selections from the more than 300 photos submitted, and have forwarded the prints to TRAINS Magazine. We hope it will be possible to report to you the names of the final winners selected by the TRAINS staff in the next issue of the Club's newsletter, in which we plan also to list the names of all entrants whose work was submitted to the Magazine. These latter members each are to receive a copy of the new Historical Map of Colorado Railroads published by Hotchkiss. We hope that all members who gave of their time and effort to enter this contest will find the experience to have been a rewarding one!

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The Nominating Committee, composed of former officers or directors Arl Cuthbert, Gerrit S. Barnes and George A. Trout, has been engaged in checking over names and reviewing qualifications of members to be presented on the slate of nominees for election to officer and board-of-director positions in the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club for the coming year. Special consideration is being given by the Committee to competence, experience, willingness and constructive interest in Club activities of each person; much care is being given to presenting for these important positions a list of nominees in which our active membership can repose full confidence that future affairs of the organization, as well as projects already underway, will be carried on at the same high level of conduct that has brought the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club to its present position of eminence.

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One of our currently traveling Club members is Dr. Albert Bartlett, Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado, who presently is on a teaching fellowship in Sweden. On October 18th Dr. Bartlett, from Stockholm, addressed an interesting note to his friends in the Club, and parts of it are quoted here for your inspection.

"I have now been on trains in Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and East and West Germany. The Swedish Railroad Club has about a mile of narrow gauge track and run a beautiful little old side-tank, tall-stacked locomotive trailing a few cars, on weekends. Steam is still here on this Club road, but almost everything else in Sweden is electric -- and there are three gauges in Sweden. There is a standard and meter gauge, each with its own station, in Stockholm.

"Still plenty of steam in Poland, E. and W. Germany, and Denmark. Rode behind a 4-6-2 in West Germany at 60-70 mph mile after mile in the smoothest ride this side of a jet.

"The Railroad Club here has excursions twice or three times a year, for which they sometimes get a narrow-gauge mallet out on a road up north. Hope to see this before I leave. Best wishes to all."

Far away competition for the Silverton!!

The Colorado mountainsides were especially beautiful this Fall. Here to enjoy the colorful show were close to 800 participants in the CB&Q's "Fall Panoramic Tour" at the end of September. Included in the tour was a motor trip through the spectacular red and gold aspen on Hoosier and Loveland passes, in the Breckenridge area of the famed South Park. Besides the beautiful scenery, some groups had other reasons for excursion into our fair state. One unique trip, sponsored by the Burlington last summer, brought a trainload of people from Texas to escape the summer's heat. The train left 100° temperatures in Fort Worth and traveled to Colorado Springs, where the passengers reveled in the 60° night-time temperature. The group cooled off even further by motoring to the top of Pikes Peak.

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Locomotives of the Denver & Rio Grande have long occupied the interest of a number of Club members, and we are therefore glad to invite your attention to the latest publication of the Colorado Railroad Museum. This is a new 8½"x 11" detailed locomotive roster of steam on the Rio Grande system from 1870 to 1960. Available at a cost of \$2.00, postpaid, from the Museum at P.O. Box 641, Golden, Colorado, this latest statistical history of Rio Grande engines, with specifications and dispositions, is supplemented by a gallery of photos of most classes of D&RGW motive power over the years.

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In view of the favorable reception accorded the new Historical Railroad Map of Colorado, published by Hotchkiss, Inc. in conjunction with the Club, perhaps some background information in connection with this project would be of interest to our members.

As has been noted in previous newsletters, interest in the railroads of Colorado has shown rather remarkable growth during the past number of years. Much of this growing interest appeared to develop after publication of the well-known TRAINS Colorado Railroad Map had ceased, and many inquiries were directed to our organization suggesting that the Club undertake preparation of such a map to replace the one no longer available from TRAINS.

At a meeting in early 1960 the Club's Board of Directors was advised that Hotchkiss owned a very fine base map of the State, prepared originally in 1913 by the old Clason Map Company but never carried through to publication. Hotchkiss was interested in completing this old map and approached the Club with regard to also incorporating some of the copyrighted detail area maps which had been included in such historical works as Denver, South Park & Pacific, Rails Around Gold Hill, and the Pictorial Supplement to the South Park book, all published by our organization in preceding years.

Thus, an excellent opportunity became available for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club to respond, with a product maintaining its traditional high standards, to the growing demand for additional, authentic historical material on Colorado railroads, and the Board of Directors, after thorough consideration, authorized use of the Club's copyrighted detail area maps on a royalty fee basis, to which Hotchkiss agreed. Member Ed Haley, who has been so instrumental in bringing about the physical completion of this project, thus had the advantage, through his long-time employment relationship with Hotchkiss, of their extensive, modern cartographic research and reproduction facilities in carrying on the necessary work.

Until publication was accomplished, of course, it was not known how many, or which of the Club's maps would be found suitable for this project; therefore, a definite understanding as to the amount of the royalty could not be reached. To be devoted solely to the benefit of the Club's treasury, the compensation is now under active negotiation between Hotchkiss and the Club's representatives, and will no doubt be considered by the Board of Directors at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, this new map is proving to be a fascinating subject for study by the many railfans interested in Colorado's railroads.

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In accordance with the Club's By-Laws, this newsletter -- announcing the annual election of officers -- is being mailed ten days prior to the meeting. If, for some reason, you haven't received the Newsletters regularly, please notify us. At the rate membership applications continue to be received, we soon will be mailing out close to 1,000 Newsletters a month, and we may occasionally slip up. If such occurs in your case, be sure to let us know.

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As a reminder -- 1964 is approaching -- and dues for the year may be sent in any time.

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Best wishes to all of you for a Happy Holiday Season. We leave you with this thought for the month: The man who waits for things to "turn up" usually finds the first thing to do so is his toes!

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J. C. Thode, President
R. A. Ronzio, Vice-President

E. R. Lewandowski, Secretary
Ane O. Clint, Treasurer