

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

December, 1965

It hardly seems possible that another year is rapidly drawing to a close. Just a few short months ago ... so it seems ... I sat down to write you all a year-end greeting for 1964. But 12 months have actually gone by. And they have been exciting, activity-filled months for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, and each of our members -- now numbering more than 1,000.

Let's take a few minutes to review this year of 1965 and briefly recall the most memorable events. Activities started appropriately enough with publication early in the year of our long-awaited history volume, "Colorado Midland." Sales have been at record levels ever since and we, at this writing, are very near the financial break-even point on the book. This milestone will be reached earlier with "Colorado Midland" than with any previous Club publication. We are grateful for your interest and support.

1965 saw the Club embark on five excursions -- a record for recent years. The first trip marked our initial use of Singing Rails, Inc., former Great Western engine #51 for the first steam powered operation to the Moffat Tunnel in nearly 12 years. Memorial Day, of course, saw our annual pilgrimage to Silverton aboard the Rio Grande's wonderful narrow gauge. A dinner trip to Winter Park (we were forced to degenerate to diesel power for this one), a delightful old fashioned picnic excursion to Longmont, and a thrilling high-speed run with UP's 8444 through the Wyoming hills capped the year's activities.

No review of a year's Club activities would be complete without an accounting of -- and a warm vote of appreciation to -- the hard working, unselfish members who made it all possible: Committee chairmen -- Ed Haley (excursions), Bill Gordon (equipment), Bryant McFadden (book circulation), Ed Lewandowski (addressograph); officers -- Herb O'Hanlon (vice president), Dick Kindig (secretary), Ane Clint (treasurer); Board of Directors -- Rollin Cordill, Tom Gray, Neal Miller, Jack Morison, Ed Schneider, Bob Stull. We all owe Herb O'Hanlon an extra "thank you" for the seemingly endless series of delightful and informative meeting programs he produced during the year. And another extra expression of appreciation certainly goes to Jackson Thode for his outstanding service as newsletter editor.

So much for the past. It is always a temptation in a report such as this to dwell too heavily on recent achievements. What about the future? Where are we going? An old saying comes to mind that I think is particularly appropriate for the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club: "Even though you are on the right track, you are bound to be run over if you just stand there."

We as an organization have never been guilty of "just standing there." 1965 was a good year -- a fruitful year. And it was only one of 27 years of continued advancement and achievement for our organization. 1966 will be no different. Those you chose each year to manage Club affairs have a deep obligation to every member to work toward not only continued achievement, but even greater advancement in each succeeding year. Each of you, through your continuing support and participation, greatly aid the Club in maintaining this goal.

And so as another year wanes, may I express my deep gratitude to the officers, directors and committee chairmen who have served so faithfully and well during 1965 ... to all the other members who volunteered their time and energies in the interest of organizational accomplishment and advancement ... and to each of you who by virtue of your membership contributed to our success during the year.

Finally, to all at this joyous time, my warm wishes for a wonderful and merry Christmas, and a most happy, healthful and prosperous 1966.

Ted S. McKee, President