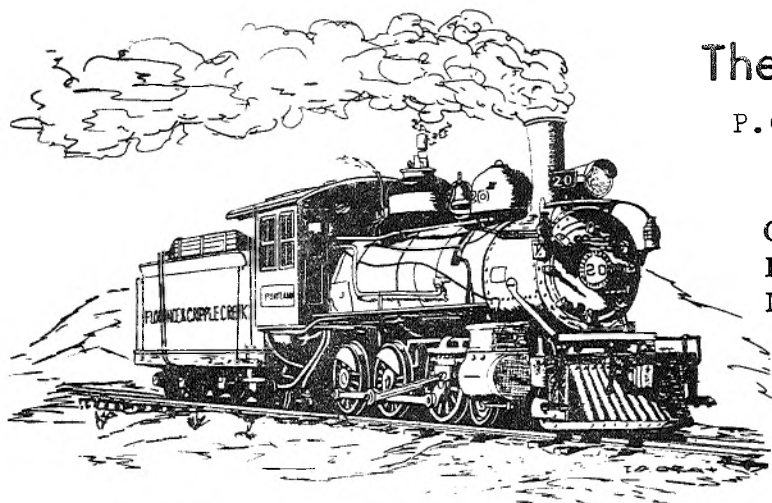


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

MARCH 1969

No. 115

CURRENT NEWS AND HISTORICAL NOTES OF  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROADING PUBLISHED  
MONTHLY FOR ITS MEMBERS BY THE ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

EDITOR - - - ED SCHNEIDER

MEETING NOTICE: DATE . . . . . WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1969  
TIME . . . . . 8:00 P.M.  
PLACE . . . . . WESTERN FEDERAL SAVINGS BLDG., (LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM),  
L7TH & CALIFORNIA STS., DENVER

PROGRAM NOTES: BEYER PATTON WILL PRESENT THE PROGRAM THIS MONTH - SLIDES OF "NARROW GAUGE STEAM RAILROADING IN EQUADOR, COLUMBIA, BOLIVIA, AND BRAZIL." HE WILL ALSO SHOW SOME SLIDES ON THE TRANS-CONTINENTAL PANAMA RAILROAD. THIS PROMISES TO BE A VERY INTERESTING PROGRAM. COME AND BRING A FRIEND.

\* \* \* \* \*

'GOLDEN SPIKE' EXCURSION TRAIN. A STEAM-POWERED "GOLDEN SPIKE CENTENNIAL" EXCURSION TRAIN WILL LEAVE NEW YORK MAY 3 FOR A MEANDERING 15-DAY TRIP TO UTAH AND BACK - TOPPED OFF BY SEEING THE MAY 10 REENACTMENT OF THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD A CENTURY AGO.

THE RE-ENACTMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT PROMONTORY SUMMIT ON THE UTAH DESERT, WHERE A GOLDEN SPIKE WAS DRIVEN ON MAY 10, 1869 TO MARK THE JOINING OF THE UNION PACIFIC FROM THE EAST AND THE CENTRAL (NOW SOUTHERN) PACIFIC FROM THE WEST.

ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT THOMAS GOODFELLOW OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS, THE EXCURSION TRAIN WILL CONSIST OF FIVE COACHES, A TWIN-UNIT DINER, A PARLOR-DOME CAR, AN OBSERVATION CAR AND THREE BAGGAGE CARS. THE LATTER WILL BE EQUIPPED AS DISPLAY CARS ON AMERICAN RAILROADING, GOODFELLOW SAID. EACH NIGHT, HE EXPLAINED, THE EXCURSION TRAIN WILL STOP AT A MAJOR CITY AND BE OPENED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION. PASSENGERS WILL SPEND EACH NIGHT IN HOTELS.

A 1944-MODEL BERKSHIRE-TYPE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE WILL HAUL THE TRAIN FOR MOST OF THE TRIP. BETWEEN KANSAS CITY AND SALT LAKE CITY, HOWEVER, A NEW 6,000 HP CENTENNIAL CLASS DIESEL WILL TAKE OVER.

THE EXCURSION TRAIN, GOODFELLOW REPORTED, WILL BE RUN BY THE HIGH IRON CO., P.O. BOX 200, LEBANON, N. J. 08833 WHICH IS OFFERING PASSAGE AT \$995 PER TICKET, INCLUDING HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS. GOODFELLOW IS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMISSION.

\* \* \* \* \*

SILVERTON FROM THE SILVERTON STANDARD OF JANUARY 30, 1969,  
STANDARD "JERRY A. FISHER, A MILWAUKEE TRANSPORTATION EXPERT, SUBMITTED A STUDY TO THE FOUR CORNERS COMMISSION LATE LAST WEEK INDICATING THE SAN JUAN BASIN MAY HAVE A MODERN RAILROAD IN ITS FUTURE - BUT NOT IN THIS GENERATION.

'FISHER SEES NO FUTURE WHATSOEVER IN THE PRESENT DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN NARROW GAUGE LINE FROM ALAMOSA THROUGH DURANGO TO FARMINGTON, WHICH RUNS INTERMITTENTLY AS FREIGHT JUSTIFIES. IT IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF AN ABANDONMENT PROCEEDING BEFORE THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION. FISHER BELIEVES ULTIMATELY ABANDONMENT OF THE NARROW GAUGE LINE IS INEVITABLE.

'BUT A MODERN STANDARD GAUGE RAILROAD FOR THE SAN JUAN BASIN, WELL, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY, FISHER SAID.

'ONCE THE THREE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN IRRIGATION PROJECTS BEGIN TO MATERIALIZE IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA, THE FIRST LEG OF A MODERN RAILROAD MAY BE FEASIBLE, FISHER SAID IN A WEEKEND INTERVIEW. HE BELIEVES IT WILL TAKE 15-20 YEARS TO MAKE THE FIRST LINK FEASIBLE. IT WOULD RUN FROM GALLUP TO FARMINGTON, AND HAS ALREADY BEEN STUDIED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST, FISHER SAID.

'IN ANOTHER 15-20 YEARS THE SAN JUAN BASIN COUNTRY MAY HAVE GROWN SUFFICIENTLY TO SUPPORT ANOTHER NORTH-SOUTH SEGMENT OF A STANDARD GAUGE RAILROAD, FISHER SAID. IT WOULD RUN, HE SAID, FROM FARMINGTON NORTH VIA EITHER DURANGO OR CORTEZ THROUGH MOAB AND WOULD LIKE UP WITH THE CURRENT RIO GRANDE LINE FROM GRAND JUNCTION TO SALT LAKE CITY IN EASTERN UTAH.

'FISHER'S STUDY WAS BASED ON THE EXPECTATION THAT THE NAVAJO PROJECT IN NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO, THE ANIMAS-LA PLATA AND THE DOLORES PROJECTS IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO WILL SUPPORT A GENERATION HENCE A VIGOROUS AND STABLE LIVESTOCK AND FEED GRAINS INDUSTRY. THIS MIGHT PRODUCE THE TYPE OF HIGH-VALUE, HEAVY VOLUME FREIGHT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO SUPPORT A MODERN RAILROAD. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, THE AREA WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO DEPEND EXCLUSIVELY ON TRUCKS.

'BECAUSE THE AREA IS SO CONSCIOUS OF AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, FISHER SAID IT WAS VERY DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD EVER BECOME A MAJOR MANUFACTURING CENTER. BUT IT WILL HAVE A FEW TYPES OF LIGHT INDUSTRY WHICH MIGHT GENERATE LIMITED AMOUNTS OF HEAVY FREIGHT TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THE AREA, HE SAID. MINING MIGHT DO THE SAME THING, HE ADDED. BUT WITHOUT A LARGE VOLUME OF LIVESTOCK ON THE HOOF MOVING TO MARKET, FISHER SAID, A MODERN RAILROAD FOR THE AREA IS NOT IN THE CARDS.

'AND EVEN WHEN THERE IS A STRONG, STABLE LIVESTOCK ECONOMY IN THE AREA, FISHER ADDED, THE AREA PROBABLY WILL BE THE DRIVING FORCE FOR A RAILROAD, NOT THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY.

"FISHER NOTED THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN A RAILROAD IN NEW MEXICO'S SIDE OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN, BUT MUCH LESS INTEREST ON THE COLORADO SIDE.

'FISHER INDICATED A GENERAL LACK OF COOPERATION FROM MOST OF THE COLORADO SOURCES IN HIS DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPORT.

FROM THE SILVERTON STANDARD OF FEBRUARY 7, 1969, "TO A CASUAL OBSERVER, IT APPEARS THAT ALL DURANGO HAS DONE IN FORFEITING HALF ITS RAILROAD YARD TO A HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE IS SWAP A STOPLIGHT AT SIXTH AND MAIN FOR ONE AT SIXTH AND CAMINO DEL RIO. IN FACT, GOING EAST TO WEST ON U.S. 160, YOU NOW HAVE TWO TRAFFIC LIGHTS INSTEAD OF ONE.

AND AGAIN FROM THE SILVERTON STANDARD OF FEBRUARY 7, 1969, "IT REALLY DIDN'T SEEM TO DISTURB ANYBODY VERY MUCH, BUT AN ERA ENDED IN ASPEN LAST MONTH WHEN THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAN ITS LAST FREIGHT TRAIN IN AND OUT OF THAT COMMUNITY AFTER MORE THAN 81 YEARS OF SERVICE. THE TRAIN CONSISTED OF A DOUBLE DIESEL ENGINE, NO. 3021, AND A CABOOSE PAUSING BRIEFLY AT THE YARDS TO PICK UP TWO REMAINING EMPTY FREIGHT CARS. THE STANDARD GAUGE TRACKS WILL BE PULLED UP THIS SPRING, AND PART OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY WILL BE USED FOR SEWAGE OUTFALL LINES. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF RELATIVITY."

\* \* \* \* \*

GOLDEN SPIKE CELEBRATION FOUR ENGINES FROM THE VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE RAILROAD ARE BEING PREPARED FOR EXHIBITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE UP-SP "GOLDEN SPIKE CENTENNIAL." V&T 12 WILL BECOME CP 60, AND V&T 11 WILL BE PAINTED AS UP 119, FOR THE PROMONTORY, UTAH CELEBRATION. IN ADDITION, V&T 22 WILL ALSO BECOME THE 60, AND V&T 18 WILL BE 119, THESE LATTER TWO TO BE SET UP ON FLAT CARS, ALONG WITH SOME OTHER OLD-TIME ROLLING STOCK, AND SENT ON A TOUR OF THE ENTIRE UNION PACIFIC SYSTEM AFTER THE MAY 10TH CEREMONY IN UTAH. DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, DURING JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST, THERE WILL BE A DAILY RE-ENACTMENT OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE CEREMONY AT PROMONTORY. WE WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES IN UTAH IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

\* \* \* \* \*

UP 8444 EXCURSION AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEMORIAL DAY EXCURSION FROM DENVER TO LARAMIE, WYOMING, ACCOMPANIES THIS ISSUE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL REPORT. AS WE ARE SOMEWHAT LIMITED FOR SEATS ON THIS TRAIN, WE URGE YOU TO READ THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND SEND YOUR ORDER IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

\* \* \* \* \*

SWAP 'N SHOP PERSONAL ADS ARE ACCEPTED FROM MEMBERS FOR ITEMS TO BE LISTED FOR SALE OR TRADE OR WANTED. WE CANNOT ENTER INTO CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING AN ITEM, NOR WILL WE APPRAISE ITEMS TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE. SEND YOUR LISTING TO THE EDITOR BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH

PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

FOR SALE: RAIL PHOTO SERVICE NEWSLETTERS 1959-1965 (EXCEPT 1964 AND SEPT.-DEC. 1963). INCLUDED ARE CATALOG RELEASES AND SUPPLEMENT SHEETS. \$10.00 FOR THE LOT - OR MAKE OFFER. JACK JORDAN 205 JERSEY, DENVER, COLO. 80220. TEL. 333-9193

WANTED: SWITCH KEYS. PLEASE SEND PRICE WANTED WITH FIRST LETTER. MRS. AUSTIN F. KNOFF. 120 YUBA COURT, SAN BRUNO, CALIF. 94066

WANTED: BOOKS, CATALOGS, DIRECTORIES, PAMPHLETS AND SUCH BY ALLHANDS, ALLSOPP, BENEDICT, BOLLINGER, BURTON, CHODE, DARTON, FORMEN, GRAHAM (J.B.), HARLOW, HOMENS, JOSSERAND, KING, LERNED, MAGGARD, NISSEN, ONDERDONK, REED (S.G.), STAR, STIMSON, TUCKER. A. F. VONBLON 1208 LOCUST, MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

FOR SALE OR SWAP: OFFICIAL GUIDE DEC. '47 - \$8.00  
OFFICIAL GUIDE NOV. '49 - \$7.00  
OR WILL SWAP ON LOCOMOTIVE CYCLOPEDIA 1920'S OR EARLY 30'S.  
BOB ANDERSON. 821 SEVENTH ST., WEST DES MOINES, IOWA 50265

\* \* \* \* \*

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY STARTING OUT TO MAKE MONEY IS THE GREATEST MISTAKE IN LIFE. DO WHAT YOU FEEL YOU HAVE A FLAIR FOR DOING, AND IF YOU ARE GOOD ENOUGH AT IT THE MONEY WILL COME. - LORD ROOTES.

\* \* \* \* \*

JIM EHERNBERGER, PRESIDENT  
CARL E. C. CARLSON, VICE-PRESIDENT

R. A. CORDILL, SECRETARY  
ANE CLINT, TREASURER