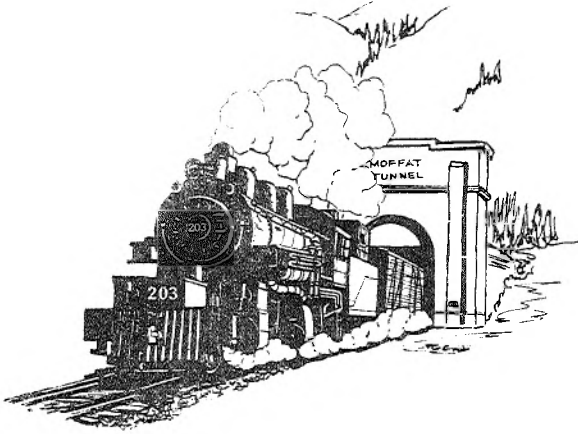


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

JUNE 1970

No. 129

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

EDITOR - - - - BRUCE BLACK

MEETING NOTICE: DATE . . . . . WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1970  
TIME . . . . . 8:00 P.M.  
PLACE . . . . . WESTERN FEDERAL SAVINGS BLDG., (LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM),  
17TH & CALIFORNIA STS., DENVER

PROGRAM NOTES: THE PROGRAM FOR THE JUNE MEETING WILL BE PROVIDED BY MR. KENT BOLERJACK, WHO WILL GIVE AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE.  
  
THE SECOND PART OF THE MEETING WILL BE A 16MM MOVIE ENTITLED "THE END OF AN ERA" SHOWING THE LAST STEAM LOGGING OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE RAYONIER COMPANY.

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NARROW GAUGE TRIP THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD HAS PERMITTED THE CLUB TO RUN A FAN TRIP OVER THE DURANGO-SILVERTON LINE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1970. THE TRAIN WILL BE THE SECOND SECTION OF THE TWO TRAINS THAT RUN TO SILVERTON AND WILL LEAVE DURANGO AT 9:30 A.M. THIS RUN WILL ALSO INCLUDE PHOTO STOPS. FARES ARE ADULTS - \$7.50, CHILDREN - \$5.00

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THE FATE OF THE ABANDONED ANTONITO TO DURANGO AND FARMINGTON NARROW GAUGE LINE IS STILL UNDECIDED. THE COLORADO COMMISSION HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO CLOSE THE DEAL WITH THE RIO GRANDE FOR THE ANTONITO - CHAMA PORTION OF THE LINE. HOWEVER, THE NEW MEXICO COMMISSION WAS UNDECIDED ON ITS PORTION OF THE DEAL AS OF 23 MAY 1970, STATING THAT ONLY \$31,000 WOULD REMAIN FOR REFURBISHING THE EQUIPMENT AND TRACK IF COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO WERE TO CLOSE THE CONTRACT WITH THE RAILROAD. THE NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FELT THAT \$31,000 WAS NOWHERE NEARLY SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE THE EQUIPMENT AND THE LINE AND PAY OPERATING EXPENSES.

MEANWHILE THE RAILROAD IS SOLICITING SCRAP BIDS FOR THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE LINE FROM CHAMA, N. M. WEST TO DURANGO, COLORADO AND FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO. THE RAILROAD STATES THAT IT WILL LOSE MONEY ON THE SCRAP VALUE OF THE REMAINING LINE IF IT WAITS ANY LONGER. AN OPTION ON THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE LINE FROM CHAMA WEST, TENDERED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE RAILROAD. THE COLORADO COMMISSION NOW PLANS TO ASK THE FORD FOUNDATION FOR \$500,000 TO PURCHASE THE REMAINING NARROW GAUGE RIGHT-OF-WAY OUTRIGHT.

\* \* \* \* \*

DENVER PACIFIC'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY WILL BE ON JUNE 24TH. THE FIRST RAILROAD TO ENTER DENVER WAS THE DENVER PACIFIC, CONSTRUCTED FROM CHEYENNE, WYOMING, ON THE UNION PACIFIC MAIN LINE DURING 1869 AND 1870. THE GRADING BEGAN AT DENVER ON MAY 18, 1868, WHILE THE FIRST RAIL WAS LAID AT CHEYENNE ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1869. HEADED SOUTHWARD TOWARD DENVER THE TRACK WAS EXTENDED SLOWLY, REACHING THE NORTHERN LIMITS ON JUNE 19, 1870. THREE DAYS LATER THE DENVER PACIFIC WAS COMPLETED AT J (19TH) STREET BETWEEN WAZEE AND WYNKOOP STREETS. THE FIRST TRAIN ARRIVED FROM

CHEYENNE ON THE 23RD, THOUGH THE LAST-SPIKE AND LAST-RAIL CEREMONIES, TOGETHER WITH THE LAYING OF THE DEPOT'S CORNERSTONE, WERE CELEBRATED ON THE 24TH. ALTHOUGH THE D.P. WAS OWNED BY KANSAS PACIFIC PEOPLE, IT SURVIVED UNTIL 1880 WHEN IT WAS THEN ABSORBED INTO THE UNION PACIFIC.

1970 MARKS A YEAR OF VARIOUS RAILROAD CENTENNIALS IN COLORADO, AND WE HOPE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THESE AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED BY BOB LEMASSENA, WHO IS PREPARING A PUBLICATION ON THE EARLY RAILROADS OF COLORADO.

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PASSENGER TRAIN SCHEDULES IN THE DENVER AREA ARE STILL SOMEWHAT ACCOMODATING, AND THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE REGULAR TRAINS WHILE THEY LAST. IT IS THE REVENUE ON THE REGULAR OPERATIONS THAT TELL THE STORY TO THE I.C.C. WHEN TIME REACHES FOR THE RAILROADS TO ASK FOR THEIR REMOVALS.

IN ALL CASES, EXCEPT FOR THE ZEPHYR, A PERSON CAN MAKE ONE-DAY JAUNTS, WITH DAYLIGHT RIDES AS WELL, IN THREE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, OVER TWO RAILROADS. FOR AN EXAMPLE, THE UNION PACIFIC'S CITY OF KANSAS CITY LEAVES FROM DENVER AT 7:30 A.M. AND IS SWITCHED INTO THE OTHER 'CITIES' TRAIN AT CHEYENNE. IT IS POSSIBLE TO GO ON TO LARAMIE, THEN LAYING OVER BRIEFLY, RETURNING ON THE OPPOSITE TRAIN INTO DENVER AT 7:30 P.M. ALSO, THE UNION PACIFIC TRAIN NUMBER 118 EASTWARD OUT OF DENVER AT 8:00 A.M. OVER THE OLD K.P. TO ABOUT OAKLEY, KANSAS, WHERE YOU CAN WAIT FOR ITS COUNTERPART NUMBER 117, ARRIVING BACK INTO DENVER AT 9:00 P.M. THIS RUN GIVES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY AT 'MIXED TRAIN' RIDING, WHICH IS BECOMING A RARITY IN THIS DAY AND AGE. THE SANTA FE SCHEDULE OUT OF DENVER AT 3:30 P.M. TO LAJUNTA AND RETURNING INTO DENVER AT 12:30 A.M. IS A NICE QUICK TRAIN RIDE FOR THOSE WHO LIKE A LITTLE EVENING RIDE THROWN IN AS WELL.

THE RIO GRANDE'S ZEPHYR (FORMERLY CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR) SCHEDULE OPERATES PERFECTLY FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS A TWO DAY TRIP, WITH A LAY-OVER AT GLENWOOD SPRINGS OR GRAND JUNCTION. THIS SCHEDULE LEAVES FROM DENVER AT 6:30 A.M. ON SATURDAYS AND RETURNS ON ITS EASTWARD TRIP AT 11:00 P.M. ON SUNDAYS EACH AND EVERY WEEK.

ALSO, FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO SPEND A NIGHT SOMEWHERE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO TAKE THE BURLINGTON'S DENVER ZEPHYR TO MCCOOK, LEAVING DENVER AT 3:00 P.M. EVERY DAY, AND RETURNING AT 9:40 A.M. OR EVEN THE UNION PACIFIC'S CITY OF DENVER TOWARD NORTH PLATTE, ON A SIMILAR SCHEDULE.

TRUE, THAT THE TRAIN TRIPS ARE PERHAPS NOT AS MUCH FUN AS A STEAM TRIP, BUT YOU CAN SEE PLENTY OF RAILROADING IN A DAY OVER MOST ANY OF THE MENTIONED TRIPS ----- SUPPORT THE RAILROADS, AND TAKE A TRAIN.

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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 LISTINGS TO THE EDITOR BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

WANTED:        WOULD LIKE TO BUY COPY OF "TIME EXPOSURE" BY WM. H. JACKSON.  
                  DOW HELMERS        1930 GREENWOOD, PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003

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JIM EHERNBERGER, PRESIDENT  
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