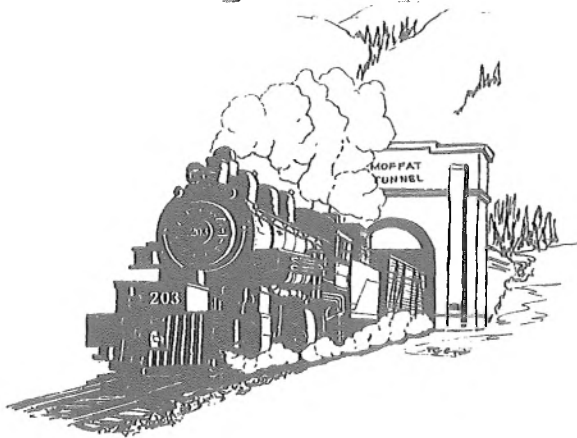


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

December, 1975

No. 195

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

Editor - - - Darrell T. Arndt

MEETING NOTICE: Date . . . . Tuesday, December 9, 1975  
Time . . . . 7:45 P. M.  
Place . . . . Southeast wing of Christ Episcopal Church, 2900 So.  
University at Bates; offstreet parking at rear (east)  
of meeting hall

PROGRAM NOTES: The December program will be entitled "OM-75."

Last February saw a Narrow Gauge Epic recreated for the pleasure of rail-buffs, young and old alike. The morning was frigid, cold and dark with ominous clouds hanging over the Chama, New Mexico yards. As bundled figures walked down from the main street of Chama to the station and yard area, their eyes instantly picked up the form of a hulking grey monster, shrouded in blankets of smoke and steam, with only a single beam of light from the front giving any definite form to the beast. Directly behind it came C&TS engine No. 487, two work cars, and a crummy.

It was almost time for departure and the faithful scrambled to find that perfect position from which to view and photograph this epic event of by-gone days. Then came a loud rumble and a foreboding clanking noise. The ground trembled as the ex-Rio Grande Rotary snowplow "OM" came alive and began her journey toward the awaiting snows east of Chama and up to Cumbres.

Join Darrell Arndt, Olie Larsen, and Jim Trowbridge at the December meeting, for a short 30-minute program of movies, slides, and sound recordings depicting "OM-75--the opening of the line from Chama toward Cumbres."

A SOMEWHAT SHORTER than usual program will be presented at the December meeting to allow time for several other activities to be taken care of. The first item of business will be the election of club officers and directors for the coming year. Members are encouraged to attend and help select the "administration" for 1976. At the meeting, Neal Miller will give to those present, his annual Christmas photo gift. This year it will be a picture of a narrow gauge steam powered freight in action. Following the program on last year's rotary snowplow operation on the C&TS, everyone is invited to stay after and enjoy some "eats" and beverages, compliments of the club president and his wife, Olie and Ruth Larsen. There will be plenty of time to chat and visit with friends and acquaintances. Be sure not to miss this last meeting of 1975!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING'S PROGRAM, Norman White took us on an interesting tour of a portion of Europe's vast rail passenger network. Many different rail operations

were seen, including numerous types and classes of equipment. We saw trains ranging from short locals to the famous Orient Express, from standard gauge express trains to the mountain climbing rack railways. To top off the scenes were appealing views of European trains in the breathtakingly scenic countryside that many of the routes go through. Our thanks to Norman for sharing his experiences of a great trip with us!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PRESIDENT'S YEAR END MESSAGE

The year for the Club has passed, and many things have been accomplished through all committees. It has been a fantastic term as Club president, and having such dedicated people who do everything in a good-hearted manner makes it all worth the effort of the Club to proceed and progress for the greater future ahead.

The officers of the Club, along with myself, extend very best wishes for the coming holiday season.

Eldin Larsen

\* \* \* \* \*

THE EDITOR would like to thank all who supplied news, photos and other information for the newsletter during this past year. Due to space limitations, there was not room to use everything that was received, but all news is greatly appreciated. A special note of thanks is also due to those who, each month, contribute their time to get the newsletter out, most especially Bob Griswold, Olie Larsen, Carl Carlson, Ruth Avis, Jim Trowbridge and Bill Van Patten. Also to Ane Clint, who printed the newsletter each month until this Spring, completing over 15 years straight, at the chore.

\* \* \* \* \*

PLEASE NOTE that this newsletter is being mailed 10 days prior to the December meeting and election as required by the Club's by-laws.

\* \* \* \* \*

DUES HAVE BEEN coming in at a steady rate with many members enclosing a couple of extra dollars for a chance at the DSP&P and RGS story books. Early mailing of dues helps the treasurer greatly in his bookwork. \$4.00 per year.

\* \* \* \* \*

ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE of the Rail Report, is an update to the 1974 membership roster. A hearty "welcome aboard" is extended to all new members.

\* \* \* \* \*

BEST WISHES are extended to our Club President, Eldin Larsen, on his recent retirement. Olie has chalked up 44 years with Public Service Company of Colorado. His position as Superintendent of Transmission Lines required his presence in all parts of the state, his transportation including such diverse methods as auto, truck, plane, helicopter, snowcat, showshoes, foot and probably some other ways that most of us have never even heard of or wouldn't believe. His high standing with the company was quite evident when 400 of his fellow employees, from the President on down, attended his retirement party. Anyone who knows Olie, however, knows he won't be sitting around twiddling his thumbs very much.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN DENVER'S UNION STATION will be placed by Amtrak personnel on their own time this holiday season. The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club will again be instrumental in obtaining a tree for the center of the main waiting room. Everyone is encouraged to stop in and see the fruits of this 100% volunteer

effort. Decorations and the tree should be up by mid-December.

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THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD has tabulated some interesting figures on their 1975 operating season. Total patronage for the summer was 24,770. The average number of passengers on regular trains was 419, with the largest number in one day being 616. 5,500 locomotive miles were logged in all service. On two Saturdays, October 4 and 11, a second train was operated to handle overflow crowds. Consist was two 3000 series boxcars converted to passenger service, Tahoe, Trout Creek, and Pacific open excursion car and caboose 0503. Motive power was furnished by Diesel-Electric Locomotive No. 19. The second train operated round trip from Cumbres Pass to Sublette, following the regularly scheduled train.

The Railroad also reports that all of the freight cars which were sold for scrap by the D&RGW in the late 1960's and which have been in storage in the Chama area south of the railroad wye, have been removed ..... photographers for the National Geographic spent some time in the area gathering pictures of the C&TS in preparation for a story called "The Outlaw Trail." Text is to be written by Robert Redford, and will appear in mid-1976.

C&TS employees once again have decided to volunteer their efforts during the fall, to make repairs and arrangements necessary for the operation of ROTARY SNOWPLOW OM this winter. Operation will be for one day only, Sunday, February 15, 1976. Inquiries should be sent to Agent, C&TS RR, Box 789, Chama, New Mexico 87520. Brochures have not yet been prepared and answers to inquiries will not be in the mail until in December.

The C&TS operating schedule for the 1976 season has been announced as Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, from June 12 to October 10.

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THE RIO GRANDE'S SILVERTON BRANCH saw the last train operate on September 28. This year's passenger count totaled 113,785 people ... the ski train to Winter Park from Denver will be operated again this year, every Saturday starting January 3 to about April 10, depending on snow conditions.

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THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAIN COLLECTOR'S CLUB will hold their fall model railroad show at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Avenue, on Sunday, December 14, 1975. On display will be model trains of all makes, styles, ages, and gauges, with some operating. Many items will be for sale by individuals. Old time movies will be shown and refreshments will be available. Admission to the show, which is open to the public, is \$1.00 per adult at the door, 50¢ per child, under 5 free. Hours - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Further info can be obtained from Tony Seminara at 333-4421.

\* \* \* \* \*

ONE OF THE WEST'S foremost book dealers and authority on rare books recently disposed of his store and collection and retired from the field. Fred Rosenstock has decided to work with another one of his interests instead, and will delve into the field of art and paintings. Fred was a strong supporter of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club's book publications and his purchase of a quantity of Mac Poor's "Denver, South Park and Pacific" when it was first being published, assisted the club in financing the new venture. We certainly wish him the very best in his new endeavor.

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STEAM ENTHUSIASTS should mark Friday and Saturday, January 2 and 3, on their calendar so as not to miss a two part evening television program to be telecast on the ABC TV network. The world premiere of "Eleanor and Franklin" will be broadcast and will depict the lives of the Roosevelts. Included in the program, will be sequences showing numerous campaign trains and the Roosevelt funeral train. The rail scenes were filmed on the Southern Railway using Engine 4501 owned by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in Chattanooga, and passenger cars owned by the museum and Southern Railway. Sounds like a "must" to see.

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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 any correspondence, nor will we appraise items:

FOR SALE: Clean copy of "Colorado Midland" by Morris Cafky. \$90.00.  
Mrs. Clifford Blaney, P.O. Box 166, Jefferson, Colorado 80456

FOR SALE: Several 1920 to mid-1930 railroad passes on Rio Grande Southern, Denver & Salt Lake, Colorado and Wyoming and San Luis Central Railroads. \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00.  
Francis Rizzari, 1716 Viewpoint Road, Lakewood, Colorado 80215

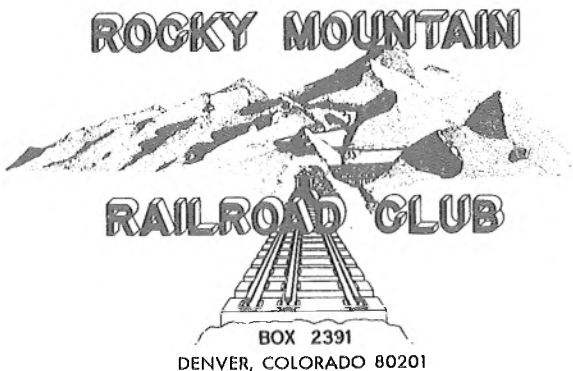
WANTED: UP Locos Vol. 1 by Kratville & Ranks  
Railroads in the Woods by Labbe & Goe  
Railroad Magazine, January, 1954  
Moody's Transportation Manual, 1973  
Silverton Railway Stock Certificate  
Silverton Northern Stock Certificate  
Good color slides (will be returned) of Ralph McAllister's 2-8-8-4, and both Cripple Creek & Victor Mallets. Sharp, oblique views showing complete engine.  
Robert A. LeMassena, 1795 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80226

ELDIN LARSEN, President

BILL GORDON, Secretary

JAMES TROWBRIDGE, Vice-President

CARL E. C. CARLSON, Treasurer



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