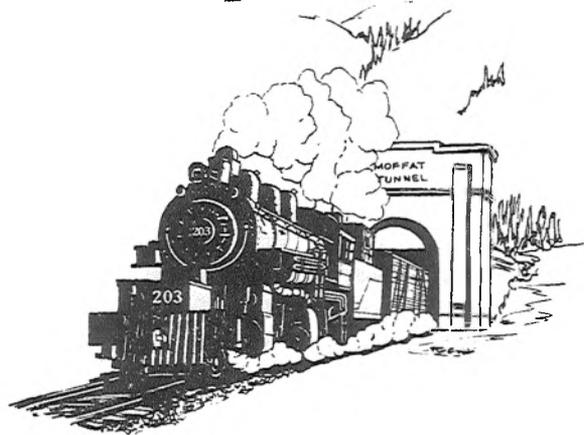


Rocky Mountain Rail Report



The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P.O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201
May, 1979 No. 236

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 . . . WEDNESDAY, May 9, 1979 (Please note temporary change of meeting night!!!)
Time . . . 7:45 P.M.
Place . . . Southeast wing of Christ Episcopal Church, 2900 S. University at Bates. Off-street parking at rear (east) of meeting hall. Please use building's south entrance.

PROGRAM NOTES:

MEXICO . . . BY RAIL AND ROAD

Come join us at the May meeting for a pictorial trip to Mexico with Daryl Tennal and all of his friends who traveled south of the border with 43 Mitchell campers. Leaving Denver in February, 1976, they proceeded to El Paso, Texas, crossed the border to Juarez, and continued on to Chihuahua. From there, the campers were loaded on 70 railroad flat cars for an unforgettable 600 mile trip to Los Mochis. As we will see, anything can happen in Mexico, and it did! Don't miss Daryl's interesting presentation.

* * * * *

The program for the April meeting was a "change of pace" as we experienced a film tour of the heart of a large steel mill of the 1930's. Sam Arnold's films, taken by his father, depicted the operation of a number of electric furnaces of various dimensions designed by his father. Although the film was black and white, it was easy to comprehend the temperatures involved in the process by seeing the white hot carbon electrodes and fire brick linings. The seemingly incredible risk to the workers as they tended the furnaces and poured molds was heightened even more because of the almost total absence of safety equipment and protective clothing. Although Sam described the filming by his father as that of an "amateur," there was nothing amateur about the fine quality camera work, and Sam's knowledge and descriptions of the film and the subject matter also enhanced the program. He also brought films of a vacation his family took in the 30's showing Omaha Union Station, the Grand Canyon, the skyline of San Francisco, and unusual shots of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay suspension bridge under construction.

Following Sam's movies, Carl Carlson showed two old time silent films, the "Great Train Robbery" and "A Girl and Her Trust", both accompanied by Duane Sole on the piano. Many thanks to Sam for the interesting and unusual films, and to Carl and Duane for a taste of what early motion pictures were like.

The book drawing was held at the April meeting, and James Fowler of Englewood won MIXED TRAIN DAILY, while Basil M. Zeigler's name was drawn for COLORADO MIDLAND. Several more names were drawn for booklets commemorating 100 years of the Union Pacific, a copy each going to Jack O'Neale and Jean Hann of Denver, John MacAllister of Santa Fe, N. M., Senia Niemela of Aurora, Colorado, and Heber Waldron of Lincoln, Nebraska. Thanks to all who participated!

* * * * *

NOTE THE MEETING DATE CHANGE FOR MAY! - Due to the church's need of using the hall on our regular meeting night, we will meet the following evening, WEDNESDAY, May 9, this month, only.

* * * * *

STEAM TO STERLING - The club's July 28 excursion over the Union Pacific behind the Grand Lady of the Western Rails, the 8444, will be operated between Denver and Sterling, Colorado (rather than to Laramie, Wyoming). It has been a number of years since this portion of the Denver-Omaha main line has seen regular passenger service, and many more since steam frequented its rails. The trip will provide a new experience for many of us, and refresh memories for others. The fare will be \$42, and a flyer

will be forthcoming.

* * * * *

PLEASE REMEMBER the club's work day at the Colorado Railroad Museum on Saturday, May 5!!! If you can spare a little time, why not stop out and help put a new coat of paint on the club's shop car. Ranniger's Roadbed Commissary will provide a tasty Lunch of Ballastburgers and condiments, so no need to bring a lunch.

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET the Paramount organ concert on Thursday evening, May 17, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society. Bob Castle will "let himself go" at the keyboard of the Wurlitzer, playing a variety of tunes that will include a selection of railroad songs. As described in last month's newsletter, the \$3.00 tickets can be ordered from the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club by mail, and they will be available at the May meeting, also.

* * * * *

JUNE FIELD TRIP - On the drawing board is a trip in June, to the Virginia Dale, Colo. area, where we will explore portions of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern "never used" roadbeds and the Butte Royal Tunnel. Kenneth Jessen will accompany us, and share his knowledge about the railroad that had hoped to make it to Seattle from Denver, but reached Greeley instead. This will be a "bring-your-own-lunch" outing. Further information will be in the June newsletter.

* * * * *

THE GREAT FREIGHT '79, sponsored by the NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE and the Peter Built Loco Works of Chama, New Mexico, will take place on Friday, July 6, at Chama. The idea is to operate an authentic looking freight of the 1930's using appropriate freight cars, caboose, and a K-36 with green boiler and tri-color herald. Payment of the \$20 fee lets you in on the photo stops as the train proceeds from Chama, a souvenir pass, and a pre-train lettering and painting party the evening before the operation. For further information, write: Great Freight, C/O P.B.L., Box 749, Chama, New Mexico 87520.

* * * * *

SALE OF THE SILVERTON seems more imminent every day, from what little information being released by the involved parties indicates. However, operations for 1979 will be handled by the railroad. A heavy runoff from a deep snowpack in the San Juan Mountain area is expected this spring, and there is some concern for the tracks in the canyon. The PUC turned down the railroad's 50% fare increase request, and approved 15.68% instead, which may become \$14 rounded out.. Backpackers will also be allowed to continue riding the train.

* * * * *

COLORADO RAILROADS had their share of problems keeping trains on the tracks for the last month. A derailment on the UP forced the detour of the San Francisco Zephyr over the C&S between Cheyenne and Denver on March 26. On April 9, a southbound D&RGW freight and a northbound movement of two Santa Fe engines and several cars came together near Sedalia, putting a Santa Fe unit and couple of boxcars down an embankment. The next day, two freight cars were set free by children in the Colorado Springs yard, and rolled some 20 miles toward Pueblo before derailing upright. Then on April 14, eight cars of a BN freight knocked out two columns of the Speer Blvd. viaduct in Denver. Fortunately no serious injuries were reported in any of these mishaps.

* * * * *

A NEW CLUB ROSTER is now in the works for 1979-1980.

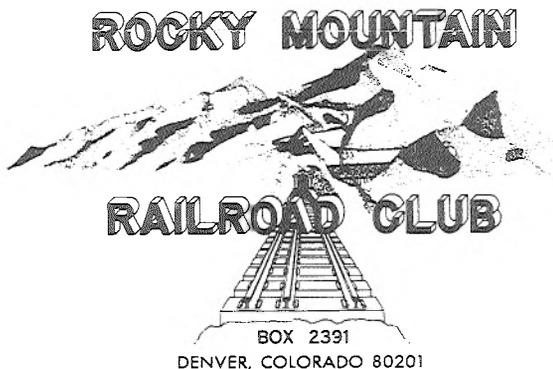
* * * * *

** Frustration is not having anybody to blame but yourself. **

* * * * *

ED GERLITS, President
ERWIN CHAIM, Vice-President

BILL GORDON, Secretary
ARDIE SCHOENINGER, Treasurer



FIRST CLASS MAIL
U. S. Postage
PAID
Denver, Colorado
Permit No. 1873

FIRST CLASS MAIL