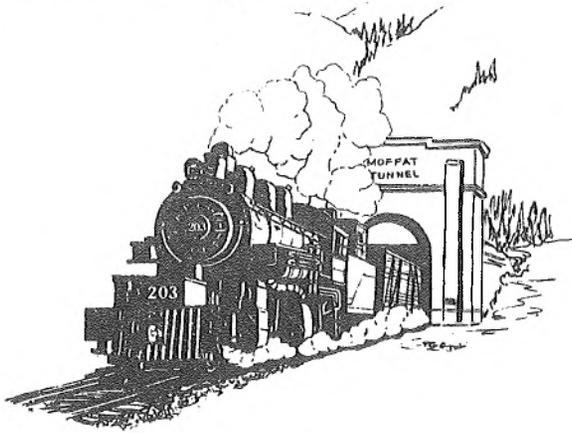


# Rocky Mountain Rail Report



## The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

P. O. Box 2391 Denver, Colorado 80201

October, 1976

No. 205

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

Editor - - - Darrell T. Arndt

- OCTOBER MEETING AND ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 2ND -

We will again return to Henrici's Restaurant at I-70 & Peoria this year for the Club's Annual Banquet for 1976. As described in the announcement included with the September newsletter, a fine dinner followed by a great program is sure to make for an excellent evening. Neal Miller will show some interesting footage from his 16MM film collection in addition to the second feature, acknowledged film classic and comedy, "THE GENERAL," starring Buster Keaton. Presentation of the door prizes will also be made during the evening. Be sure not to miss out on this great get-together.

"Quiver yer liver" hour will begin at the cash bar at 6:00 P.M., with dinner starting at 7:00 P.M. Tickets must be ordered in advance, at \$7.50 each. Should you have any questions or are in need of reservations, call the club's Program Chairman, Jim Trowbridge. Jim can be reached at 986-6224 (before 10:00 P.M., thank you). REMEMBER that there will be no meeting at the regular time (second Tuesday of the month), which would have been October 12.

AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, Al Voight took us on a narrow gauge trip from Alamosa to Silverton and return, aboard the famous three-day excursions that were so popular until the railroad terminated them in the latter '60's. Although the film portrayed one trip, it was made up of sequences shot on a number of Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and Kiwanis Club trips resulting in the viewing of many varied consists and different kinds of equipment and paint schemes. Many familiar places and some faces were seen as the train made its way through the San Juan mountain country. Accenting the film, were shots of the abundant and colorful fall foliage that is so prevalent in the region as the summer's end draws near. Our thanks to Al for his efforts in providing a most entertaining evening.

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ALTHOUGH THREATENING SKIES hovered over Boulder and the front range on Sunday, September the 19th, a couple of hundred people turned out at Ralph McAllister's to view his fantastic little railroad. Motive power included the operation of two diesels and his two fabulous steam locomotives. A variety of rolling stock was used to transport people around the track. Also seen were a number of pieces of rolling stock under construction. A number of out of state visitors were present, including the apparent "long-distance winner", W. D. Short, from Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. Fortunately the skies held their moisture until around five o'clock, allowing everyone to enjoy the operation in relative comfort.

\* \* \* \* \*

TURBINES WESTWARD, by Thos. R. Lee. Available from T. Lee Publications, 2804 Goodrich Circle, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502 at \$14.95 per copy. In this excellent volume, author Lee has covered the history of the Union Pacific's turbine locomotives, with references to turbines used on other railroads, although the U.P. was the principal user of this interesting form of motive power. From the 1939 steam-turbine-electric engines, which are covered almost day to day during their short existence on the U.P., to the giant 8500 HP, gas-turbine-electric locomotives which powered freight trains between Omaha and Ogden during the 1950's and 1960's, this book covers the various classes of turbine locomotives developed by the U.P. Illustrations are of high quality, with at least one view of every turbine operated on the Union Pacific. The text shows evidence of careful research by the author. Diagrams are included to show interior details of different types, and this is undoubtedly the definitive work on the Union Pacific's turbine locomotives.

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IN HIS CONTINUING RESEARCH into the history of the San Luis Southern Railway, Bob Griswold is looking for some particular photos of that little line. He would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have or know the whereabouts of pictures of D&RGW locomotives 641, 657, 633, 964, and 514 in the old numbering system. Also pictures of former employees or other interesting photos would be of great help. Bob's address is 2700 South Kearney Street, Denver, 80222. Tel. 756-7814.

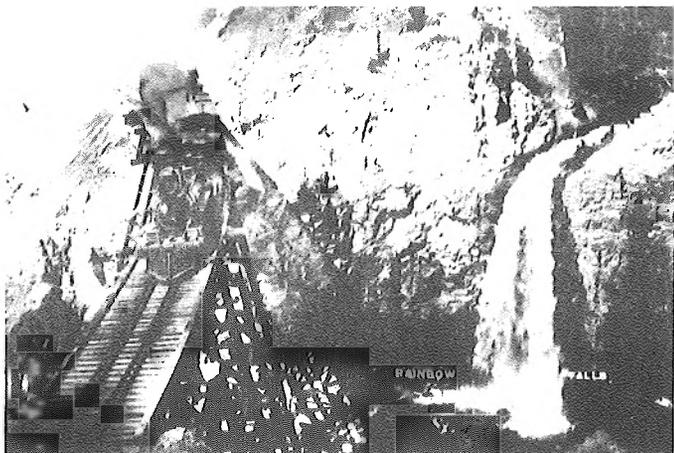
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THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION OF THE NMRA is planning a real "wingding" in Greeley this coming October 15, 16, and 17, that should be of interest to railroad modelers and railroad enthusiasts in general. Included in the agenda at the Greeley Holiday Inn, are talks by editors of a couple of model railroad magazines, slide and film shows, clinics, contests, a banquet, displays and a fantrip ride on Amtrak with a tour of U.P.'s Cheyenne facilities. Convention registration per head of family, is \$9.00, \$6.50 for family members with the price going up \$1.00 after October 1. Fantrip registration should be made by October 1. For further info, contact Eric Lundberg, 222 North 40th Avenue, Greeley, Colorado 80631.

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DOWN ON THE COMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILWAY . . . A new four-color herald has been affixed to passenger cars, locomotives, and buildings along the C&TS. The design combines the state flags of Colorado and New Mexico with a Rio Grande style "Scenic Line" logo. The result is an extremely attractive emblem. If you are out at the Colorado Railroad Museum in the near future, be sure and view one that is on display just inside the front door . . . . Scenic Railway carpenters have constructed a caboose, using Scenic-owned stock car 5635 as a foundation. It has been painted red and includes open end platforms and cupola. The caboose has been numbered 05635, and will see service on the Cumbres Pass-Bighorn round trips . . . A front end loader-backhoe has been obtained for the coaling of locomotives in Chama. The inordinate amount of time required to fill the coal tipple and consideration of employee safety while operating the tipple, prompted the purchase of the machine. The coal tipple is still in service, and is used when the loader-backhoe is out along the 64-mile mainline, engaged in track maintenance activities.

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Denver Public Library Western Collection

E. J. Haley

### RAINBOW FALLS

The picture at the above left has been variously identified and located in publications and collections during the past few years. Rainbow Falls and Twin Falls were the names most often used and Chalk Creek Canyon, west of Buena Vista was apparently, the most popular location. Ed Haley, Dick Kindig, and Phil Ronfor set out on June 1, 1976, to see if they could locate the falls. On June 5, after covering many miles of abandoned narrow gauge grade, they finally stumbled onto the falls and the remains of the trestle, on the Denver & Rio Grande's old Blue River Branch on the Leadville side of Fremont Pass, just 4 miles from the summit via railroad grade (approximately 3 miles via highway).

In the picture at the left, an eastbound Denver & Rio Grande mixed train, consisting of Consolidation No. 262, Box Car No. 4521, and a combination coach-baggage car crosses Bridge No. 284-B, enroute from Leadville to Dillon, shortly after 1900. In the picture at the right, Phil Ronfor and Dick Kindig stand on the trestle's east abutment and admire a full-flowing Rainbow Falls on June 5, 1976.

Once the falls had actually been located, Jack Thode was able to do some interesting research and came up with the following data. Bridge No. 438 was constructed by the D&RG in 1881 at Milepost 286.4, with 11 bents, 12 panels, 192 feet in length and three center bents 62 feet high. It was re-numbered 286-A in 1891. In 1895, the west panel failed, and the length was reduced to 163 feet. In 1901, the bridge was re-numbered 284-B and the milepost revised to 284.8.

In covering the old grade between Leadville and Fremont Pass, the location of another larger trestle was discovered less than a mile west of Rainbow Bridge. This gulch was spanned by Bridge No. 285-A, 288 feet in length and 68 feet above the creek. There are no known photos of this trestle.

\* \* \* \* \*

PACING U.P. 8444 OVER SHERMAN HILL is the title of a recently released 7", 33 1/3 recording of the famous loco, whistling into Greeley, Harriman and Hermosa Tunnel. Also included in this 17 minutes of steam sound, is a segment of pacing right alongside the engine. The record, with a full color album jacket, can be obtained from Pilot to Tender Record Co., c/o L. V. Brown Dist., UP 8444 Recording, Garner, Iowa 50438. Price - \$1.29.

UP 8444  
PACING U.P. 8444  
OVER SHERMAN HILL  
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THE RAIL TRAVELING RINGLING BROTHERS BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS will be in town again this year, from September 29 through October 3.

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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 appraise items.

FOR SALE: Authentic reproductions, OLD style Rio Grande conductors lapel pins "Scenic Line of the World" style. \$4.00.  
G. L. DECKER, 4245 Irving St., Denver, Colorado 80211

FOR SALE: One only, Adlake non-sweating switchyard lamp, burner intact, with 2 red and 2 green lenses. Excellent condition. \$75.00. Also have two Rock Island, one ATSF, and one Pennsylvania HAND LANTERNS. Two of these have been converted to A.C. lamps and two have original Kero burners. Hand lanterns, \$25.00. Ship UPS approximately \$2.50 each.  
E. M. SWAN, 1115 N. W. 41st, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118  
Telephone: (405) 528-1122

FOR SALE: Will sell for \$200 or best offer over that amount, book #517 of SWITZERLAND TRAIL OF AMERICA. Book in A-1 condition, read once and stored in mailing carton.  
ROGER W. GILLIS, 7226 Mariposa Street, Denver, Colorado 80221  
Telephone: 429-4983.

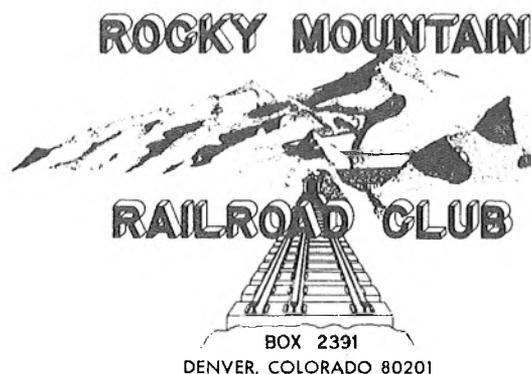
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