



THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JULY 2005



Looking up toward Needles Eye
and snow up the hill

1. Those heavy winter storms really affected Rollins Pass!! BOY WAS I SURPRISED!! In getting ready for my hip replacement on July 12th I wanted to go up the pass to see the road, Juanita volunteered to drive me. On Thursday, July 7th we drove the road. It is still rocky with a number of holes to avoid! It obviously had not been graded, but it is better the higher you go. Remember the speed limit is 15 miles per hour. At Yankee Doodle Lake the snow had not been cleared in the cut as you proceed up toward Jennie Lake. The Counties originally had an agreement to clear the road the 4th week of June but this had certainly not been done.

The Gilpin County, Grand County and Boulder County Commissioners are planning to take U.S. Rep. Mark Udall and Colorado Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald up to discuss the restoration of the Pass at the end of July or August. Unless a snowplow goes up, they will not make it on the front-range side. Grand County started clearing the west side in June as usual. When they cleared snow on up to "Sunnyside" they found the road had turned to a mud hole and could not get through. There was a culvert under the road but it evidently could not handle the runoff.

"Sunnyside" is a pond at the end of a flowing spring. The pond was used as a water tower for the railroad engines. They have a major repair to accomplish. So, right now you can't drive up either the East or West side.

The responsibility for the clearing of the road was established in 1955 and was affirmed in 1975. Boulder County agreed to clear Cole Creek Canyon in exchange for Gilpin County clearing their section of the pass. This saves having to move road equipment. I have driven the road before July each year since June 1977. Looking up to the grade above the Needles Eye Tunnel it appeared it was still packed with snow. From my observations the road above Forest Lakes will be closed for some time. The railroad had 400 feet of snow shed going into Needles Eye and 900 feet of snow shed coming out of the tunnel. There is a ridge, but a lot of snow will have to melt to even get to the tunnel from the west. The heavy snows of last year have really cut access to the top. In prior years at the end of June, Colorado Wildlife would stock 2000 fish in Yankee Doodle and 2000 fish in Jenny Lakes. As we ate lunch we watched a number of fish being caught in Yankee Doodle Lake.

2. The Annual Meeting was attended by 28 members. Treasurer Randy Eckhardt reported we had \$49,782.13 in our treasury. The presentation comparing old post cards to present day photos by Jack Reed was really great. Jack did quite a job in locating the spots where early 1900's photographers took views of the pass. He even set a number of comparisons to music to complete his show. All attendees were impressed. Jack will be in Arizona "railroading" during our scheduled Annual Picnic so we unfortunately can't have a repeat performance. Yes, the picnic is still going to happen, the snow will melt at the lower elevations like Dixie Siding by August 28th.

3. It was proposed that RPRA members write letters to the counties and their commissioners in support of restoration of the road and tunnel. The following are addresses. Please write them.

Boulder County: Commissioners Tom Meyer, Will Toor, Ben Pearlman; P.O. Box 471, Boulder, CO 80301

Gilpin County: Commissioners Jeanne Nicholson, Al Price, Forest Whitman; P.O. Box 366, Central City, CO 80427

Grand County: Commissioners Duane Daily, Nancy Stewart, James Newberry; P.O. Box 264, Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451

U.S. Rep. Mark Udall, 8601 Turnpike Dr., Suite 206, Westminster CO 80234

Rollins Pass Restoration Association
P.O. Box 1082 • Longmont, Colorado • 80502-1082

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Don't forget to attend our ANNUAL PICNIC

To be held on the East Side
Sunday August 28, 2005 - at 12 Noon

Dixie Siding near Jenny Lake

*Bring your picnic lunch and we will share in fellowship.
Hot dogs, watermelon and sodas will be available.*

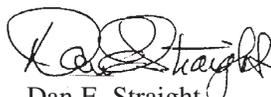
4. Election of Officers: During discussion before the meeting, Allan Rogers decided not to continue as vice-president. Allan will remain on the Board as Consulting Engineer. Ron Cheyney, Secretary for 13 years said he would be honored to step forward as Vice-President. Matt Gaudynski, with Intermountain Railroad Company, Longmont, has volunteered to be Secretary; Randy Eckhardt continues as Treasurer; Dan Straight as President.

5. Colorado State Parks sponsored a grant to Great Outdoors Colorado in partnership with the Continental Divide Trail Association and the Forest Service, and were awarded \$1.2 million to build 73 miles and a world-class trailhead at Berthoud Pass.

6. The RPRRA Annual Picnic will be on the Eastside at Dixie Siding (just above Jennie Lake turnoff) on Sunday, August 28th, 2005 at noon. Please plan to attend.



Snow block at Yankee Doodle Lake


Dan E. Straight
President