



November 2006

THE DREAM KEEPER

1 Winter has arrived and snow has covered the pass. With the winds we've had I imagine there are snowdrifts in all the cuts on the pass. Having just returned from the Craig area I can say the high hills received a lot of snow and it will remain for the winter. Rabbit Ears Pass was a challenge and was finally closed for a time by the Highway Department.

2 The County meeting in Central City on August 21st was well attended and impressive. In addition to Commissioners, each county brought County Attorneys and a Road supervisor or two. Senators Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar each sent a representative; Doug Young represented US Representative Mark Udall; District Ranger Christine Walsh had two other Foresters with her; Ann Vickery represented Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance; Bill Ikler represented the Sierra Club; and RPR A Vice-Pres. Ron Cheyney attended with me. The large room we met in had tables set in a large square and a beautiful old rug covered the floor. Actually it was difficult to hear each speaker. Forest Whitman, Chair. Gilpin County Commissioners welcomed everyone and Chaired the meeting. Ownership of the road was discussed. I have a copy of a QUIT CLAIM DEED mailed to me by Fred Bauer (Over two years ago Fred and I discussed what happened when the railroad was abandoned). It is signed May 1, 1937 and

covers parcels of land in Gilpin County. THE DENVER AND SALT LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY, President Wilson McCarthy, a Secretary, General Counsel and Chief Engineer signed for the railroad.

Whether such a document exists for Boulder and Grand Counties will have to be researched. I will send copies of this document to the Counties and the Forest Service. Fred Bauer and Edward Bolinger must have uncovered this document when they were researching files for their book "The Moffat Road." Other discussions covered fee areas for visitors & use of buses. Of course funding for restoration is the big problem, and liability for the tunnel when restored. The three counties will have to sign an Inter Government Agreement. I imagine the County Lawyers are discussing this. The meeting adjourned with no date and place set for the next meeting.

3 The RPR A Annual Picnic was questionable due to weather. On Saturday, the day before, the weather threatened and rain fell. Actually Juanita and I drove up the Pass to



President Dan Straight and Original R.P.R.A. Vice President Dan Roe

Corona and had 2 inches of snow on our truck. We also 4-wheeled on the Wagon Road to see the airplane that crashed across near Betty Lake. On Sunday we had low clouds but no rain. It was cool up at Ranch Creek Wye. But the rain held off and we had a great time. As people arrived Friendship and Fellowship warmed the day. A big surprise was having Don Roe, our first Vice President from St. Louis attend. It was great to see him. Clyde Brehm and Fredrick Chassett came from Vallego, California. They really assisted everyone. We had 35 attend and the food was great. Lucky drawing winners were; Jack Reed, a T-shirt; Diane Walker, a cap; D. Mills, a Tour Guide; and Grant Walker, an original Forest Service Tour Guide. As the picnic progressed I started to feel sick. Everything seemed to run together. Around 3:30 everything was taken down and loaded up. Juanita drove me home and to the emergency

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Photographs of the
2006 Annual Picnic



ward at the hospital. I spent 8 days while doctors tested and xrays were taken. It was a diagnosed as a blood infection and congestive heart failure. I'm doing great now. In fact Juanita and I took our daughter Su and son-in-law Randy Eckhardt deer hunting. I brought home a 4-point and Juanita shot a 2-point 150 yards up a hill and I climbed up to dress it. We hunted in Irish Canyon in the far northwest part of Colorado.

letter from Jacqueline L. Parks, Acting Forest Supervisor delineating Forest Service requirements to restore and reopen Rollins Pass. The first step is that Commissioners from Boulder, Gilpin, and Grand Counties must unanimously agree that the road must be reopened. Secondly, since the action would take place on National Forest System lands, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process would need to be followed. This process requires public input and comments; defining issues based on public comment; develop alternatives; prepare an environmental

document and provided for public review; analyze public comments and document final decision; then an appeal period. They would anticipate a minimum of 12 to 18 months would be involved. Of course complete funding for the effort must be available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Straight".

Dan Straight
President

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Following the big meeting in Central City we have received a