



THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 2003

1. Nita and I trailed over to Idlewild Campground on Friday August 22nd and I delivered 600 Tour guides to Winter Park, and Fraser Visitor Centers and the Grand County Historic Society. That night we found trains really use the Moffat Tunnel. There was a continual rumble as they passed our campsite all night long. Saturday morning we went up the pass. As we walked over the Arrow Townsite a wrecker passed headed up the pass. We followed later and the road below Loop Trestle was blocked. Above and just below the trestle we could see a pickup (photo) being pulled up over the remains of Tunnel 33. A young man had overestimated the capability of his Chevrolet Z-71, 4X4 and tried to bypass the trestle. For visitor safety, the Forest Service had blocked the access to the trestle (photos). Evidently the



young man had gained access to the loop and followed it around. There are two deteriorated short trestles he had to cross before arriving at the northwest end of the Loop or Riflesight Notch Trestle. Finding the new blocks he tried to bypass the trestle. It's fortunate the filling in of Tunnel 33 was complete his vehicle might have fallen into the old tunnel. To end this story the U.S. Forest Service and Grand County Sheriff arrived to present him a fine of \$500.00. I have no idea what the wrecking service charged him. We went on to Corona for lunch and then 4-wheeled over the Wagon Road to visit the Needles Eye tunnel. No rocks have fallen in the main tunnel. The approaches and overhang should be cleared and rocks released from the mesh.



2. The Picnic at Ranch Creek Wye was "GREAT". We had 44 attend and of course many from the west side. Fred and Jerry Bauer came from Dearborn, Michigan; Clyde Brehm from California, this time with a daughter



Jessica from Oregon. They rode AMTRAC into Denver then rented a car. Bob Frahm from Wichita, Kansas brought his bugle and we were blessed with his renditions of church music. Those songs went well with the peacefulness of the area. Dr. Al Glassburn attended, accompanied by his son and family. We shared lots of food (Nita's beans lasted for quite awhile but some had 3 or 4 helpings). Fred Bauer, Paul Gilbert and Dwight Miller shared stories about the pass. It was good to see Paul Gilbert. Paul served with Colorado Game and Fish



when the road was just a 4X4 grade and then upgraded to a rural mountain road. Lots of history was discussed. Lottery winners were: Todd Holzwarth a T-shirt; Jack Reed a

Cap; Vicki Glassburn an Original Forest Service Tour Guide; and Jim Bente a present day Tour Guide. There was lots of Traffic on the road with some cars stopping to inquire about RPPRA. We had \$40.00 contributed from Virginia and N. Carolina visitors.

3. Colorado Preservation phoned to state that our "Saving Places" nomination was being reviewed and was complete. An inspection trip is scheduled to both sides of the pass. Last year snow prevented inspection trips, so moving the application period forward a month was good. The U.S. Forest Service nomination supported our position. The main thrust of the Forest Service position is: "over use by visitors; and lack of funds for adequate maintenance and supervision. With Boulder, Gilpin and Grand Counties supporting restoration it is hoped a meeting to discuss and determine an approach so restoration can be discussed.



Dan Straight
President



P.O. Box 1082
Longmont, Colorado 80502-1082

