

THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

AUGUST 2000



Ken Shaver waits for a hot dog.

1. Imagine a Railroad bell ringing up the Moffat Road "Hill Route." Long time member Warren Donahue mounted the 300 pound engine bell on his pick up, his wife Helen pulled the rope ringing the bell as they rounded Yankee Doodle Lake then passed the Jenny Lake exit to Dixie Siding. I would safely bet that it has been 72 years since a railroad bell echoed off those canyon walls. This was quite a send off for a great picnic at Dixie Siding. The wind prevented putting up the dining fly. More than 37 members enjoyed the day with fellowship and food to share. Nita's warm baked beans were a hit as were the hot dogs off the grill. We gathered close to the truck to avoid the wind and keep the stoves going. For a second year Clyde Brehm Jr. and Bryon Baily came AMTRAK into Denver from Vallejo, California then rented a vehicle to drive up the "Hill Route." Pat and Julie Donahue came from Unimville, Ontario, Canada. Quentin and Jane Richerby came from Surrey, British Columbia. Drawing winners were: Clyde

Brehm Jr. – RPRA T-shirt; Bill Boitano – RPRA cap; Ken Shaver – Decal; Pat Donahue – Original Forest Service Tour Guide; and Jane Richerby – Auto Tour Guide. We only had a very brief shower and even with the wind the sun at that elevation was very warm.

2. During a discussion with District Ranger Christine Walsh, she stated: before any restoration and repair on the route could take place the Forest Service would have to study the impact of opening the road over the top and a new environmental assessment prepared; That outside funding for this study effort was not possible as it was an internal Forest Service responsibility, and with declining funds, she indicated it would be at least three years before these studies could be accomplished. The "Rollinsville and Middle Park Wagon Road/Denver, Northwest & Pacific Railway Hill Route Historic District" has been use by vehicles since 1862. The route serves as the southern boundary of Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and is north of the proposed James Peak Wilderness Area. The Forest Service Environmental Evaluation of the James Peak roadless area found the area did not meet wilderness standards or qualifications and recommended it be managed as a special interest area. There has been no indication of any on-going discussions or evaluation of the area. The "Hill Route" is a corridor and on the National Register of Historic Places, it is hoped that any Forest Service evaluation will be announced and have public input. We have worldwide interest of railroaders, four wheelers and outdoors people.

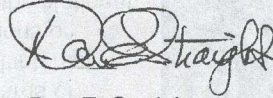


Nita enjoys the bell as Helen Donahue rings it.

Rollins Pass Restoration Association
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3. I am happy to announce the directors authorized the purchase of more T-shirts. We now have sizes of Medium, Large, Extra Large and Extra Extra Large. The cost is \$12.00 per shirt postpaid.

4. I am going to Winter Park August 15th to lead vans up "Corona Pass" as a part of the Grand Autumn Heritage Series about the history of Grand County. This should be fun and interesting.



Dan E. Straight
President



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