



# THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 2002



Aerial View of Yankee Doodle Lake and Steep Hill.  
Photo by Dan Straight.

1. Our Rollins Pass has experienced two tragic mishaps this winter. Two snowboarders ventured out on the west boundary of the Eldora Ski Area and climbed to the ridge above Yankee Doodle Lake. The steep hill offered a great challenge but an avalanche of snow carried them down and into the lake (Photo). One was freed of the snow, and in the water, ice, and snow searched in vain for the other. He then, while wet and freezing, had the strength to climb and hike six miles out to get help. Search and Rescuers returned to the lake. After extensive searching by flashlights they finally located the body late at night.

The second mishap occurred on the west side near Corona Lake. Six snowmobilers were long overdue. Don Neumann as head of a Search and Rescue team led an effort on snowmobiles to locate them. In the dark and blizzard whiteout conditions they located the missing men below the hill at Corona Lake. Don placed on man suffering from severe hypothermia on the back of his snowmobile, and started leading the way out. With almost no visibility Don got caught in an avalanche shoot and lost control of the snowmobile, and two men started sliding down the mountain. The passenger fell off at about two hundred feet and Don continued down another eight hundred feet. Hitting the bottom, the snowmobile flipped up and over, came crashing down, and crushed Don's thigh. Don sent the team out with the man suffering from hypothermia and remained suffering pain over six hours at night in the severe cold and storm until they returned with a snowmobile and stretcher. His thigh was broken in six places and a rod was inserted to set the bones. Don credited his survival to "The BIG MAN upstairs." Jennifer, Don's wife, is a nurse and provided emergency treatment on his return and during the ambulance trip to Denver. I visited them in a Denver hospital. Don was as positive as ever, while Jennifer shook her head. He was released in four days and is taking therapy. Our best wishes to you, Don! I know Jennifer will keep you under control and on the mending process.

2. I attended three days of presentations of Colorado Preservation on "Saving Places." During a discussion at the conclusion I stated our organization was involved in saving twenty-eight miles of road—not an individual area, site or building. The Conference Coordinator handed me an application to submit a proposal for next year's session, entitled "Preserving Western Heritage." Rollins Pass and the Moffat Road are certainly a basic part of Colorado's heritage. I have contacted the Colorado Railroad museum to join our organization and will seek input from Boulder, Gilpin, Grand, Routt and Moffat Counties for input concerning railroad impact on their existence, growth and heritage. Actually, a review of Dr. Robert Black's book *Island in the Rockies* is a great start.

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3. Our website has been carried under Mines University and is not very accessible. Do we have a person with the knowledge and time to set up a new website and manage it? How expensive would our own website be? Please contact me.

4. Our annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2002: please see notice.

Dan Straight  
President