

THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JULY 2002

1. Colorado is dry and the Rollins Pass area is the same. No snow up there, however wild flowers are growing above timberline. We started up the Pass on June 16th, Father's Day. Nita and I in my pickup followed my son and family in their van. On the Giant's Ladder Dan Jr. pulled to the right to allow some ATV's to go past. A failed bolt and nut was sticking up in the rocks along the road. Evidently a grader set up the trap. Both right tires went immediately flat. Leaving the van on two jacks, we ended up taking the two flats and wheels all the way back to Boulder. The punctures were significant and not repairable. Dan Jr. bought four new tires and mounted two. This took hours. Going back we found the family had made the best of a poor location. Lawn chairs were out and sandwiches eaten. The side of a busy narrow dusty road is not the best picnic spot. There was lots of traffic. Needless to say, fishing and my visit to the Needles Eye Tunnel were postponed. We returned down the pass to eat watermelon along Boulder Creek.

On Saturday June 29th, Nita and I drove up Rollins Pass from the west side. Reaching Corona, we 4-wheeled east over the Wagon Road to the road block. There were lots of flowers above timberline. I walked on to the western end of the Needles Eye Tunnel. Lots of rocks have rolled down the hillside onto the road. There are larger rocks being held by the fencing material over the approaches to the tunnel. I have written the Forest Service to have a qualified engineer evaluate the hazard. No rocks have fallen in the interior of the tunnel. (See photos.)

2. The proposal for presentation of Rollins Pass and the Moffat Road was forwarded to Colorado Preservation for consideration in next year's program "Preserving Western Heritage." I would present the Wagon Road and Denver Northwest and Pacific, then be joined by Ken Shaffer presenting recently-found information in the history of the Denver and Salt Lake Railroad. Dr. Bob Temple would close by presenting impacts of the railroad on Grand, Rout and Moffat counties. We would also offer a tour of the Colorado Railroad Museum.

3. At the May Annual meeting, Mr. Gene King presented the background and goals of the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Association, an impressive organization providing many hours of labor maintaining, improving, restoring and cleaning public lands. The organization also teaches safe and sane 4-wheeling. A big concern is closure of land to vehicles. In discussing the Great Outdoor Colorado grant program it appears our organization will not be able to apply during the present cycle. We are delayed due to the James Peak Wilderness proposal. This bill has passed the US House of Representatives but is waiting for US Senate action.

A motion was made to reelect the present slate of officers. Seconded and approved by unanimous vote. Continuing in office are:

Dan Straight - President
Alan Rogers - Vice President

Ron Cheyney - Secretary
Randy Eckhardt - Treasurer

4. The annual picnic will be on the Eastside at Dixie sliding (just above Jenny Lake turnoff). I have invited the members of the Denver Salt Lake Historic Society to join us. We received a note and membership dues from Mr. Fredrick Bauer, co-author with Bollinger of "The Moffat Road." Fred stated he plans to attend the picnic. What a privilege it will be to meet him. Watch for spikes and bolts along that rocky road!

Dan E. Straight
President

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



Needles Eye Tunnel from West End, June 29, 2002. Mesh has been pulled from hillside by freeze-thaw of snow as it melts then freezes at night. Rocks have fallen, others are held in the mesh above the road.

Interior of Needles Eye Tunnel, June 29, 2002. No rocks have fallen on the tunnel floor. Rockbolting on interior is performing as designed. Four inch mesh was bolted between rockbolts.



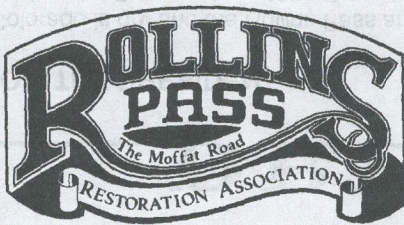
Mesh above road with rocks held to provide safety. These rocks should be released before they exceed strength of mesh.



ANNUAL PICNIC

To be held on the East side
this year on August 25, 2002 • 12 Noon
Dixie Siding near Jenny Lake

Bring your picnic lunch and we will share in fellowship.
Hot dogs, Nita's baked beans, watermelon and sodas will be available.



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

