

THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 2003

1. With current world events and concerns about economic conditions it has been a quiet period for action on the Rollins Pass Road. Lots of snow has fallen on the "Hill" in fact some areas of the state are a bit above normal. At the Rollinsville Country Store, it was reported over eight (8) feet of snow fell. People got around on snowshoes, skis, and snowmobiles. The store was the center of activity. They were fortunate to have food and supplies on hand. Nederland lost power for three days. Water conditions are much better than the last few years. But it will be years to recover the water storage capacity. Cities and towns are still setting water restrictions, and the Forest Service is concerned about fires. After last year with such devastation, much planning is being done to prepare for another possible disastrous fire season. It is snowing at Winter Park as I prepare this report. They predict three feet.

2. I have received phone calls from preservationists. The Colorado legislature in balancing the budget and at the same time trying to boost the economy is considering a proposed Tourist Fund of \$10 million. To finance this expenditure, the Legislature is considering taking half of the funds from gambling to finance the Tourist Industry. The approval of gambling in Blackhawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek was passed by the Colorado Voters contingent on profits from gambling being used only for Historic Preservation. The Tourist Industry has been affected by the downturn in the economy and has vigorously lobbied for funding from the legislature. An amendment to the gambling bill would have to be approved by the voters for any transfer of funds to take place. Colorado Preservation and the Historical Society are greatly concerned with the possible loss of funds. This could be a big item during Colorado's next election.

3. CONGRADULATIONS! The RPRA 20th Annual Meeting will be held: This is our 20th anniversary. We were incorporated in 1983.

Where: Boulder Public Library - MEADOWS BRANCH, 4800 Baseline Road, Boulder, Colorado.

When: May 19, 2003

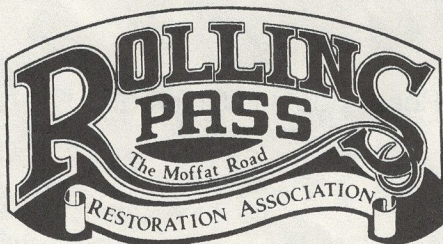
Time: 6:30 to 9:00PM.

(Directions: Baseline is a main East-West cross road in South Boulder. Foothills Parkway runs North-South in eastern Boulder. Turn west from the intersection of Baseline Road and Foothills Parkway two blocks to Mohawk (Traffic light); turn left (south) to the second street, turn left around the shopping center, and follow the road to the Meadows Branch Library. There's plenty of parking. As you enter we meet in the room on the right.)

PROGRAM: Ken C. Shaver, editor, "Corona Telegraph" the publication of Denver and Salt Lake Historical Society. The DSLHS was formed to research and preserve the history of our favorite railroad, and to share information. Their primary mission is to find and present unpublished material. Lots of research of old Newspapers, Colorado Historic Society archives and the Colorado Railroad Museum Library. The publication, "Corona Telegraph" and its presentation of facts about the railroad is impressive. Ken is a longtime member of RPRA. We also have a video of the 1996 Trestle fire.

Dan Straight
President

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