



August 2007

THE DREAM KEEPER

1 The following is a report from the May Annual Meeting:

The purpose of the annual meeting was to reach a decision as to whether to continue efforts to re-open the Needles Eye Tunnel and access to travel over the Continental Divide. There was a unanimous statement of support to continue with the work that was started by the founder, Dan Straight. The By-Laws were amended to add two members-at-large on the Board, with quarterly meetings scheduled for the Board. It was noted that \$2052.00 has been donated to RPRA in memory of Dan Straight.

Election of Officer's was held:

- Juanita Straight - President
- Ron Cheyney - Vice President
- Randy Eckhardt - Treasurer
- Marvin Burke - Secretary
- Alan Rogers - Consulting Engineer
- Errol Salter - Member at Large
- Gary Edelmaier - Member at Large

2 The President stated she will do her best to fill her deceased husband's shoes but will need a lot of help from the membership. **Areas of specific need:**

- Replace Tour Guide signs as needed
- Help with the yearly picnic
- Attend Commissioners meetings when requested.
- Secure speaker/programs for Annual meeting.
- Organize newspaper articles and history of our organization (Historian)

CALL: 303-772-9475 to volunteer to help your organization with its goals.

3 RPRA would like your input as members of this organization on mailing of the "Dream Keeper." Postage costs keep going up. The organization mails 900 plus copies of the "Dream Keeper" quarterly to members all over the United States. Your membership is our life-blood, so the Board needs to know if there are those of you who would like to receive the "Dream Keeper" by e-mail. If you would prefer an electronic edition of the newsletter, please email RPRA@MoffatRoad.org.

4 The organization regrets the death of Tom Mayer in June, one of our Boulder County Commissioners. The new Commissioner elected is Cindy Domenico, former Boulder County Assessor, who was sworn into office in July. The Board looks forward to working with Cindy.

5 Rollinsville has a new Historical Society (RAHS). They have been given a former schoolhouse and will be moving it down into town. The school will become a small museum and information center. The Historical Society is taking on the maintenance of the Rollins Pass Road on the East side of the pass.

6 John Ryther of the RAHS recently emailed: *I am still working with Gilpin to secure some funding and maintenance for the open portion of the road, and have asked Boulder Road and Bridge to look at replacing some of the regulatory signs on the route. Speeding seems to be a problem on the east side, and I remind everyone this is a recreational area and high speed drivers would be better served on I-70. I request each of you to*

forward this to interested persons and help spread the word about this great opportunity to create a comprehensive multi-use recreation area. I understand that Senator Salazar's office is interested in possibly helping with this project and I am in the process of contacting his staff. As always the more voices of support the various entities hear, the sooner real progress will be achieved.

ANNUAL PICNIC

August 26, 2007 – Dixie Siding

(on the East side) 12:00 noon

"Dixie Siding" is just beyond the turn-off to Jenny Lake (16.9 miles).

Please bring a dish to share.

Hot dogs, drinks, watermelon and a drawing for prizes will be furnished by RPRA.

It has been humbling to receive the many donations in memory of my husband, Dan Straight. Your telephone calls, beautiful cards, prayers, and kind words are greatly appreciated.

As all of you know, he dedicated the last 25 years of his life to the project. His love of the "Hill Route" and the tunnel were evident to everyone. He rarely chatted without somehow getting RPRA into the conversation. Our family took his remains up to the tunnel on July 7th with the hope that he can watch his 'dream' fulfilled.

Thank you – Juanita Straight

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Photo by Su Eckhardt

Left to right:

Gary Edelmaier,
Errol Salter,
Juanita Straight,
Ron Cheyney,
Randy Eckhardt,
and Marvin Burke

Marvin Burke, Secretary

RPRAs membership and Board of Directors welcome Marvin Burke, a Colorado native, and his enthusiasm for trains to the Board. We look forward to sharing his commitment and expertise with us as the new Secretary of the organization.

Marvin's interest in Rollins Pass dates back to an early trip by station wagon over the top. He says, "Which was rather interesting." Marvin and his wife, Dorene, invested in Toyota 4-Wheel Drives with a 1996 and later a 2006 to travel railroad routes and passes. "We do this, because they are there, and we can."

The Burkes enjoy riding trains. Some memorable trips include: dinner trains in Chadron, NE; Santa Fe, NM; the Northern Nevada Rail Road, in Ely, NV; and one in Boone, IA. Other unforgettable train rides were on the Cumbres & Toltec; the La Veta

Pass; the Clarksville in AZ; and "many years ago we rode on the train from Ft. Collins to Encampment, WY and on to Walden, CO." The couple had reservations this year to ride the Galloping Goose, but the engine blew!

Gary Edelmaier, Member at Large

Gary, another Colorado native, makes his home in Berthoud, CO. He and his wife of 31 years, Mary, have one son Christopher (22). Christopher has been attending RPRAs picnics since the age of 4. All three have helped load and unload for every picnic since 1989. Gary has had a love of trains and railroads for most of his life. He has a 50 year old picture in the tunnel entrance in front of his Dad's Willys Jeep station wagon.

A former Electrical Engineer, Gary, is semi-retired, which gives him more time to pursue his love of old railroad grades, books and

postcards of Railroads. Gary is a member of the Denver and Salt Lake Historical Society and the Berthoud Historical Society. He is also a 16 year volunteer with Boy Scouts. We welcome you Gary to the RPRAs board.

Errol Salter, Member at Large

Colorado native and RPRAs Charter Member, Errol Salter, is no stranger to the organization. Many of us have enjoyed his multi-media presentation on David Moffat and the "Hill Route." Errol describes himself as 'not a really a train buff, more of a railroad historian.' He took his first trip up the Moffat Road by jeep in 1970 and the Denver native was flabbergasted. Since that time Errol's passion has been to study and read everything on the 'big guns' of Colorado history.

His membership in RPRAs came through reading about the organization and Dan Straight's work. "I admired Dan for his efforts through the years. If it hadn't been for him none of this would have happened." Errol is committed to seeing the 'dream' come true. Welcome Errol!