



THE DREAM KEEPER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 2002



*Dan Straight presents Honorary Lifetime
Membership Plaque to Fred Bauer
(Ken Shaver Looks on)*

1. The Annual Picnic at Dixie Siding in August was a great success. Clear blue skies but a bit of wind. Nita and I arrived around 10:00 AM and then Brian and Sheri Adams pulled in. We had good help in setting up the Dining Fly, tables, chairs and propane stoves. It was a special pleasure to meet and talk with Fred Bauer and his lovely wife Gerry. Thank you again Ken Shaver, for bringing the Bauers up the hill. Fred signed "Moffat Road" books for attendees and discussed how he and Edward Bollinger had turned a hobby into a book. He was completely involved with our picnic and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Fred was really surprised when I presented him an Honorary Lifetime Membership in RPRA. He later wrote me that he had received many professional honors/awards for his work but none compared to the appreciation he felt on receiving our RPRA Lifetime Membership Plaque. It will be placed in a prominent place in his home.

I loaded and hauled my generator in the truck and played a video including Channel 4, 7, and 9 News clips, and some of my own work covering 1987 rock bolting the needles Eye Tunnel on the TV/VCR for everyone. The food was special, and all of Nita's baked beans disappeared. Dave Corbin donated a copy of the book 'Doc Susie' which was won in a drawing by Mary Edelmaier. Other drawing winners were Ginny May Phillips—original Forest Service Tour Guide: Clyde Brehm (who came AMTRAC)—RPRA cap: Mark Hyams—T-Shirt: We had lots of help taking things down, cleaning the area, and loading my truck. It was with a bit of nostalgia we all said "Good Byes" and headed down hill.

2. I was disappointed to receive a letter from Colorado Preservation, Inc. informing me that due to the great number of proposals for their Western Heritage Educational Sessions next February our "Moffat Road/Rollins Pass Hill Route Legacy" could not be accommodated. Evidently the committee has not heard about the young 21-year old that opened a stationery store in Denver for the Woolworth brothers, and grew to be considered the richest man in Colorado, only to lose his fortune with his dream of a railroad to open and settle western Colorado. (Now you know why we named our newsletter, "THE DREAMKEEPER"). They did however, request me to arrange and escort a group visit to the Colorado Railroad Museum, which has been done.

3. Our nomination of the Moffat Road/Rollins Pass Corridor to be considered on the list of "Colorado's Most Endangered Places" was submitted. I understand another nomination for the route was also submitted. At one time the Forest Service started to prepare a similar nomination but did not meet the deadline.

4. The big news! Congress passed and President Bush signed the "James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area

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Act." On Aug. 26, 2002 I was invited to a celebration at Winter Park's Sunspot Lodge on the Winter Park Ski Area. Congressman Mark Udall recognized many groups and individuals for their work over the years. Our recognition is a paragraph in the bill stating the Rollins Pass road between Colorado State Highway 119 and U.S. Highway 40 will be returned to two-wheel-drive capability by the request of one, either Boulder, Gilpin, or Grand Counties. I was asked by Gilpin County to attend their meeting September 24, 2002 as they voted for and discussed the preparation of a letter requesting the route be restored. My only concern is that Forest Supervisor Mr. James Bedwell during our discussion confused two-wheel-drive with two-lane capability. Stating to me he did not believe the Forest Service could widen the cuts and Needles Eye tunnel to two lanes. I stated it is an historic route and minimum change can be accomplished.

5. Don Neumann, Grand Adventures in Winter Park sent me the photo of the installation and repair of the sign at Corona. RPPRA was joined by the Grand County Historic Association, Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, and Grand Adventures in funding the repainting and restoration of the sign. We thank Don Neumann for contracting the work and of course the installation and repair.



Dan Straight
President



Don Neumann completes installation and repair of sign at Corona. (Top of the World, Rollins Pass)



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