

Dan's Determination Rewarded

Fantastic news was posted on February 2nd in the Denver Post Newspaper and Website about the Moffat Road! Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Endangered Places Program has named the Moffat Road as one of six locations to receive such recognition. Along with identifying the top 6 of more than thirty nominees this year, Colorado Preservation, Inc. offers a way to further generate awareness, funding, and intensive technical assistance. The group states "Among the threats to the historic sites are demolition, neglect, natural forces, land value fluctuations and unsympathetic owners."

Year after year, the Rollins Pass Restoration Association's founder and former President, Col. Dan Straight, submitted nominations to Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Endangered Places Program on behalf of the Moffat Road. In 2003, Vice President, Ron Cheyney, submitted the nominating application while Dan and Juanita were travelling. *Dream Keepers* located in the archives on the [Moffat Road Website \(http://www.moffatroad.org/RPRA/RPRA\)](http://www.moffatroad.org/RPRA/RPRA) from 2002-2005 include Dan's comments about his applications and subsequent statements of disappointment. What a joy it would be for him to know we've finally received recognition from the organization.

Colorado Preservation, Inc. has a 13-year record offering assistance and guidance toward stabilization and protection. The program is modeled by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. RPRA is in fine company: In 1998 Colorado Preservation, Inc., like Rollins Pass in 1987, was awarded the Stephen H. Hart award from the Colorado Historical Society. It's nice to know we are in good company! The opportunity to work with Colorado Preservation, Inc. is quite an honor for RPRA.

Fun, Fellowship and Food at Annual Picnic in Rollinsville

The Association had a fine 2011 annual August picnic in Rollinsville. Thanks to Lynn and Mark Slinger for their hospitality. We were joined by members from Dallas, College Station, and New Braunfels, Texas. More than 60 people were in attendance along with two Gilpin County Commissioners: Forrest Whitman and Connie McLain.

We hope those of you with Facebook accounts have seen some of the outstanding photography of the pass by Travis Wright and many others who "like" *The Moffat Road Group*.

Travis has added some fascinating views by looking at the Moffat road and countryside from unique angles. The group was pleased to meet Travis's bride, Kate. The newlyweds were married near the Moffat road on the West Side. One of the

highlights of the day for many at the picnic was having two or three trains go by the picnic site while we ingested a lot of delicious food.

Thanks to Ron Cheyney for bringing his portable grill and cooking some mean hot dogs! Thanks also to Art Wainwright for giving Juanita his copy of "The Switzerland Trail". She will loan it for others to read. Contact her by email at straight2u@msn.com, to make arrangements.



A coal train that has just come through the Moffat Tunnel heads east through Rollinsville on its way to Boulder.



Gilpin County Commissioner Connie McLain and RPRA President Juanita Straight at the Annual Picnic.



Mark Slinger (center) of Rollinsville, discusses the "Hill Route" with Gilpin County Commissioners Forrest Whitman and Connie McLain.

As always, The RPRA asks you, the membership, to write letters to your Senators, the County Commissioners, the Forest Service, and even the President. Your Board is interested in whether you have answers from any of your letters? A few members and interested supporters have notified us of whom they contacted and if there was a response.

Please send us an e-mail at straight2u@msn.com or seckhardt@g.com, a call will also be fine to: 303-750-0004.

If you would like to receive the "Dream Keeper" by email, send your request to straight2u@msn.com. Also make sure you notify us if your email address changes.

Thanks to Dale Hicks for this issue's photographs.

Dick Oldberg's Moffat Road

Last fall, your RPRA Board was treated to a vast and scrumptious luncheon and tour of Dick and Mary Oldberg's amazing "train room". Imagine living among the trees, in the Rocky Mountains above Estes Park. Now, picture stepping into an elevator and traveling down to a huge, 5040-ft. maze-like warehouse, built specifically to house the HO-scale model of the Moffat Road, which replicates traveling from Denver's Utah Junction to Craig, CO. Greeted by the sound of locomotive engines and train whistles, the group was abuzz with ad-

miring comments and questions about Dick's trains and the fantastic facility, which he has been working on since 1996. (He started the project by modeling the entire Moffat Road to HO-scale and then building the "train room" around it.) He is starting on the scenery. The RPRA Board conveys awe and appreciation to Dick and Mary for inviting us into their home for a superior feeding of both imaginations and bodies during our Board Meeting.

-- In Memorium --

It is with regret that we recognize the passing of Kathy Shaver last fall. Ken and Kathy were on a trip in Europe when Kathy left us. Her cheery smile and enthusiasm for life will be missed. We send deepest sympathy to you, Ken, at this difficult time. You were so good for each other.

It was a shock to learn of the untimely January 2012 loss of Doreen Burke, wife of RPRA Secretary, Marvin. Doreen was a wonderful woman who was often the reason for our smiles and laughter. We will miss her gracious and helpful willingness to share her time with us. Our support and thoughts are with you, Marvin.

SAVE THE DATES

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 14, 2012 AT 6:30 - 8:00 PM
MEADOWS BRANCH, BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY
4800 BASELINE ROAD, BOULDER, CO 80303

RPRA ANNUAL PICNIC

WEST SIDE AT RANCH CREEK WYE
SUNDAY AUG. 26, 2012
12:00 NOON

RPRA has a few of Art Wainwright's DVD 'Hell Hill' available. The cost is \$10.00 for members and libraries, \$15.00 for non-members. Order and check may be sent to RPRA, P.O. Box 1082, Longmont, CO 80502.

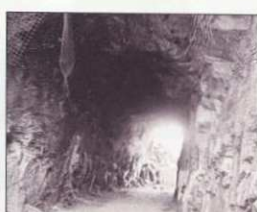
Rollins Pass Restoration Association P.O. Box 1082 Longmont, Colorado 80502-1082



Our Founder, Col. Dan Straight



Needle's Eye Tunnel, East Portal



Needle's Eye Tunnel, Wire Mesh is doing it's job!

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