

Denver Rail Heritage Society

TURNTABLE

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Walter Weart, Editor



President’s Letter for the Turntable for the 4th Quarter, 2009

Hi Everyone; Members and Friends

Well this has been a pretty darn good year for the DRHS, and its’ primary occupation, the Platte Valley Trolley. This time last year, it was nearly impossible to imagine that 2009 would be a good year for the Trolley, as we all felt like the national/world economy was taking us for a ride in a washing machine. Was our ridership going to crater in 2009? Were we even going to get across Colfax in 2009, due to light rail construction, and with our track to Decatur being torn up? How were we going to staff the trolley, as we were experiencing a very severe shortage of crew-members? However; the gods did see fit to smile on us, as usual. Ridership remained very good, we crossed Colfax all summer, and it appears promising that we will ultimately get our track back to Decatur. Through the dedicated efforts of several of our board members, an amazing recruitment and training effort for new crew-members was launched, refined and maintained throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Through this effort we have become even more aware that no volunteer organization gives to its’ volunteer corps more responsibility, or expects more responsibility from them, then our crew-members working on the PVT. This program will continue.

Other wonderful or otherwise notable accomplishments in 2009 were:

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We received our first cash grant from the Denver Committee of the Scientific and Cultural District (SCFD). This is just huge in it’s implications for the future and direction of our organization. Along with this; we initiated our formal “Lo-Do Walking Tour and Trolley Ride” program for 3rd grade students from select DPS schools. (This has become a great success, and will ramp-up in 2010).

We implemented a new shared revenue trolley ticketing program in partnership with the Denver

Children's Museum. This has been a huge success, and opens important doors for our future.

We finished the total re-build of our north-end wheelset. A momentous effort for a volunteer crew working in the wind and dirt. (If you need conformation of our need for a car-house, live this).

We replaced over 150 ties along our line between 15th St. and Colfax. An important commitment to our long-term future to Keep on Track'n, and to our continuing promise of "Safety First". I would be remiss in not recognizing here the on-going major commitment to our PVT by Railroad Specialties Corp. Dennis Olan, President; for their unfailing technical and financial assistance to the DRHS. (We also have now in storage over 200 railroad ties from the Decatur extension, thanks to the Olan's, our volunteers, and our astute board of directors. The PVT in many ways is operated like a professional business.

We acquired a "River Critter". A small G.E. industrial locomotive, which will ultimately prove to be most useful to our long-term operations along the river.

We continued to grow our charter business, and advertising revenue, despite losing our Sheridan trip.

Your board and it's assigned committees are effectively continuing their efforts towards the long-term growth of the DRHS and the PVT as originally envisioned by original boards of directors and members, and as refined by subsequent boards and members, and the current organization.

We're on-mission, and on-track. Thanks to you all who work with such dedication and support, towards the lofty goals of our Denver Rail Heritage Society. Year in and year out; I never fail to wonder at, and appreciate, the expertise and unflagging dedication of our group. If a railroad truly rolls on the back of its' employees; then the DRHS truly rolls on the backs of our volunteers, members, and friends; our "employees". Happy Holidays to you all; and Thanks for 2009.

Tom Abbott
President

Annual Banquet Date is Set

The Annual Banquet has been set for Thursday, November 19th at White Fence Farms, starting at 6:00 P.M. In addition to the banquet, there will an auction to raise money for DRHS.

Please contact Tom Abbott at TOMISABBTT@aol.com for reservations

Denver Public Schools and the Trolley

By Darrell Arndt
Photos by Darrell Arndt

This fall saw the inauguration of Denver Rail Heritage Society's Elementary School program. -We have established a working relationship with Denver Public Schools. We provided five educational field trips with the trolley. These excursions included a historic walking tour in lower downtown Denver. Last year we provided a two pilot trips from Fairview school in West Denver which went very well, so this year we provided three trips

for Bradley International School located in south Denver, and two trips for Fairview Elementary. Third grade classes are selected because that is the year in which history is a component of the curriculum. Class size was typically about 20 students.

The program has several facets. We give the students a booklet which contains facts about Denver's early history. We provide the teacher with resource materials that they can use with their class. Each class gets a DVD which summarizes the trip. The DRHS provides knowledgeable guides for each class's tour. It is provided at no cost to the Denver Public Schools. The Society covers the cost of transportation and materials from grant funds received from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. The society staff is all volunteer. Keith Kirby, a retired DPS teacher and local history buff, has been doing a great job of pulling this all together.

Coordination is accomplished with Sue Edwards, Director of Community Resources for DPS. Fairview was selected because of its proximity to the south end of our track. This allows the trolley to transport the students to Confluence Park to begin the walking tour.

Bradley International School was selected because it is within walking distance of the Yale RTD light rail station. -This provides access to Union Station where we begin the walking and trolley tour. Avoiding the use of a school bus and using RTD provides more flexibility should the trip have to reschedule due to inclement weather and also reduces the cost by fifty percent.



Prior to the day of the field trip a visit is made to the school for a short pre-trip presentation. A DVD is shown to give the students a preview of the trip. They get to meet our volunteers who will be leading the trip. -They are also instructed on how to prepare for the trip.

An eleven page booklet is provided to each student and the teacher. Crossword puzzle and other quiz materials are given to the teachers to use with the students. Parents are encouraged to come and chaperone the students.



While aboard the Platte Valley Trolley the students hear about history and nature along

the route. Confluence Park has much history relating to the discovery of gold and the founding of Denver.



Other notable structures discussed are the Oxford Hotel, the Denver City Railway Building (home of horsecars, later Hendrie & Bolthoff Manufacturing & Supply Co. - mining equipment and today's use-

residential lofts), the Ice House, the Rockmount Ranch Wear Building, the Chester S. Morey Mercantile Building, the Sugar Building and the Peanut Butter and Jelly Building! (If you want to know what that building is, you will just have to come along on the tour some time!) We also solve the mystery of the second story doors of the Barthelds Seed Company and the LoDo



Lunch in the park

Tattered Cover. The climb over the Millennium Bridge allows "inspection" of freight trains and an occasional toot from an

engine as the kids line the bridge waving to the locomotives.

Student provided sack lunches are enjoyed west of Union Station in Riverfront Park. We eat in the crater of a man made "volcano-like" hill.

The students from Bradley experienced a total walk of about four miles during their outing which undoubtedly results in an early bedtime that evening.

We have received many positive comments from the students, teachers, and parents about these trips. It is very difficult and expensive for teachers to take field trips these days. One teacher informed us that while she had taught about the beginnings of Denver with her students, the field trip really brought the experience alive for them.

Keith Kirby, with assistance from Darrell Arndt, has put together the foundation of the program. Society volunteers include Liz Cohan, Bill Lester and Don Hulse. Others are welcome to join in to help with next year's program. It is a very satisfying experience and another example of the society's partnering with our neighbors and the community as the Platte Valley Trolley progresses into the 21st Century networking with generations of all ages.

The Trolley Gets A SCFD Grant

On September 28, Tom Abbott received a letter from Jane Potts, Program Administrator for the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District that Denver Rail Heritage Society has been awarded a grant of \$4,454 for 2010.

The culminates over a year of hard work by Tom Abbott, Darrell Arndt, Bob Williams and

your editor with help from many of our members.

Following are Tom's note as he expresses our thoughts very well.

“Congratulations! To all of you who worked so hard creating the grant application, and also to everyone who worked so hard to provide necessary data, complete regulatory and financial requirements, other behind-the-scenes tasks. Not the least of which is just operating and maintaining the trolley.

A truly great effort on everyone's part.”

The Board will be developing ways to use the grant which are consistent with SCFD's guidelines.

Recognition by SCFD and the award of this grant really helps DRHS advance to the next level and creates a much greater awareness of our value to the community.

The Trolley on Channel 4

Photos by Darrell Arndt

Thanks to the efforts of Mike Nolan and others, the Trolley had a starring role on CBS Channel 4 on July 10 in a segment on the very popular Colorado Getaways program. Doug Whitehead, Senior Producer CBS4 Denver worked closely with us and the final result showed the professionalism of both the Channel 4 crew and the Trolley crew.



Doug Whitehead sits for minute while filming Colorado Getaways about the Trolley.

The narration and photography showed our operation in such a way that we had very noticeable increase in ridership. We also received many favorable comments from a wide variety of people, polishing our image even more.



Bruce Vincent, Doug Whitehead and Wally Weart pose for the camera.

Tom Abbott helps put this in perspective and in the context of our television exposure explains that if anyone wonders why: we wear uniforms; we do our history narrative interpretive talk; we work on our track; we accent safety, we are looking for "inter-actors", not just trolley drivers and our volunteers stay motivated and working year after year they only need watch the Colorado Getaways to know why.



Darrell Arndt helped Doug scout locations that showed off our route and our Trolley.



Doug sets up another shot while the crew pretends they aren't going to be on TV.



Doug interviews some of our passengers who can down for a fun filled ride.



Look at the gear that Doug has to carry and he made it look easy, the sign of a professional.

If you haven't seen this marvelous program, here is the link to show:
<http://cbs4denver.com/video/?id=59440@kcnc.dayport.com>

October Meeting Notice

The Denver Rail Heritage Society will hold its quarterly public membership meeting at the REI Sporting Goods Store near 15th Street and the Platte River on Thursday, October 15 at 7:15 P.M. Please park in the underground garage. The public is welcome and refreshments will be served.

The program will be presented by Bob Westgate who will talk about Car 122, "Rosie", McKinney Avenue Transit Authority's (MATA) Centenarian as well as the history and current MATA Operations including their car fleet, an operator's perspective and their future. Car 122, "Rosie", was built in 1906 by J. G. Brill of Philadelphia in kit form and assembled by the Oporto tramway system. Following retirement in 1978, car 122 came to the United States along with many other single-truck streetcars. It appeared in San Francisco's 1983 Historic Trolley Festival, when it was

purchased by MATA as its first streetcar. It is sponsored by Rosewood Properties; hence the nickname "Rosie".

Bob Westgate was born and raised in San Francisco where his interest in streetcars and rail operations started. He was often chastised by his teachers for spending more time observing streetcar operations on Ocean Avenue than on his studies! This interest was heightened by time spent each summer in the U.K., where Bob lived near Darlington, where George Stephenson, widely touted as the "father of railways", invented the first steam locomotive engine for railways as well as built the world's first public railway: the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825. Bob joined the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority in Dallas as a volunteer motorman in 2003 and continues to volunteer there on a regular basis, including training prospective new conductors and motormen.

Bob moved to Denver earlier this year and works for Frontier Airlines as Senior Director of Planning & Scheduling. He is looking forward to spending more time volunteering on the Platte Valley Trolley next year.

Changes near Decatur



As Darrell Arndt's picture shows, the scene has changed at Decatur St. where the track

used to drop down to the river and head north. Supports for the future light rail bridge over the relocated Lakewood Gulch Creek can be seen in the dirt. The ground will be eventually dug out for the new stream bed when the top deck is added.

Dan Carroll's Trolley Talk

Well Autumn seems to be arriving sooner than some have expected and the Trolley is still going as strong as ever.

So, without further delay, here are the July/August, 2009 results:

July, 2009

FRIDAY, JULY 3-Wally Weart/Bruce Vincent/Wayne Lyle/Penny Watson, 191 passengers

SATURDAY, JULY 4-Bob Davis/Tom Abbott/Frank Weed/June Roller/Bruce Vincent/LaDona Vincent/Isabel Abbott/Steve Hearn/Darrell Arndt, 177 passengers,

SUNDAY, JULY 5-Tom Radinsky/Joe Crea/June Roller/Keith Dameron/Erwin Chaim/Darrell Arndt/Isabel Abbott/Chuck Mackey, 188 passengers

TUESDAY, JULY 7-Robert Williams/Frank Weed/Chuck Mackey, 437 passengers

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8-Bruce Vincent/Robert Williams, 66 passengers,

FRIDAY, JULY 10-Penny Watson/Jay Richard/Karen Reedy (trainee)/Don Hulse, 140 passengers

SATURDAY, JULY 11-Tom Peyton/Keith Dameron/Bob Davis/Isabel Abbott/June Roller/Miriam Goetzke/Tom Abbott, 304 passengers

SUNDAY, JULY 12-Tom Abbott/June Roller/Dan Carroll/Tom Radinsky/Isabel Abbott/Randy Slinn (trainee)/Norb Byczek,

211 passenger,
FRIDAY, JULY 17-Bruce Vincent/Penny
Watson/Frank Fuller/Jay Richard, 186
passengers
SATURDAY, JULY 18-Steve Hearn/John
Peterson/Bob Davis/Gene McCullough, 201
passengers
SUNDAY, JULY 19-Tom Abbott/Wally
Weart/Isabel Abbott/Susie Weart/Don Awalt
(trainee)/Kathy Awalt (trainee)/Dan
Carroll/Grant Aslin (trainee)/Joe Crea, 239
passengers
MONDAY, JULY 20-Tom Radinsky/Norb
Byczek/Keith Dameron, 134 passengers,
FRIDAY, JULY 24-Penny Watson/Bruce
Vincent/Jay Richard/John Peterson/Karen
Reedy, 142 passengers
SATURDAY, JULY 25-Bob Davis/Robert
Williams/Don Hulse/Isabel Abbott/Florin
Alexandrescu, 204 passengers
SUNDAY, JULY 26-Tom Abbott/Gene
McCullough/Norb Byczek/Isabel Abbott/June
Roller/Ginny G?, 238 passengers
MONDAY, JULY 27-Keith Dameron/Liz
Cohan/Wayne Lyle, 175 passengers,
FRIDAY, JULY 31-Bruce Vincent/Frank
Fuller (trainee)/Penny Watson/John Hansell
(trainee)/Karen Reedy (trainee)/Keith
Dameron, 257 passengers,\

2367 Total Riverfront Passengers,
54 Aquarium Adult, 3 Aquarium Senior, 36
Aquarium Child, 93 Total Aquarium
Passengers,

400 Children's Museum Full, 209 Children's
Museum Reduced, 609 Total Children's
Museum Passengers

No CityWild passengers or revenue

15 Groups Adult, 87 Groups Child, 102 Total
Groups Passengers,

4 Complimentary Adult, 318 Complimentary
Child, 322 Total Complimentary Passengers

3493 Grand Total Passengers

AUGUST, 2009

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1-Tom Abbott/Terry
Lammers/Bob Davis/Bob Williams/Isabel
Abbott/Darrell Arndt/Randy Slinn/Moe
Newman, 244 passengers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2-Tom Peyton/David
Landes (trainee)/Bob Westgate/Tom
Radinsky/Joe Crea/Bronwyn Westgate/Alan
Byrn?, 148 passengers

MONDAY, AUGUST 3-Keith Dameron/Liz
Cohan, 115 passengers

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4-Keith Dameron/Kaia
Dameron/Robert Williams/Frank Weed/Liz
Cohan/Paula Cohan, 482 passengers,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7-Bruce Vincent/Frank
Fuller (trainee)/Jay Richard/Bill Lester/Tom
Abbott/Reef Abbott, 30 passengers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8-Tom Abbott/Jay
Richard/Bruce Vincent/Terry Lammers/Isabel
Abbott/Moe, 277 passengers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9-Tim Turley/Joe
Crea/Karen Awalt/Don Awalt/Tom
Peyton/Tom Abbott/John Hansell, 247
passengers

MONDAY, AUGUST 10-Liz Cohan/Keith
Dameron/Paula Cohan, 61 passengers

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14-Bruce Vincent/Karen
Reedy (trainee)/John Peterson (trainee)/Bill
Lester, 133 passengers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15-Tom
Abbott/Isabel Abbott/Alan Byrn/June
Roller/Wally Weart/Bill Lester/Terry
Lammers/Bob Williams, 295 passengers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16-Tom Abbott/Tom
Peyton/Don Awalt/Karen Awalt/Norb
Byczek/Isabel Abbott/June Roller/Gene

McCullough, 233 passengers
MONDAY, AUGUST 17-Keith Dameron/Liz Cohan, 149 passengers
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20-Jay Richard/Charlie McCandless/Bruce Vincent, 31 passengers
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21-Bruce Vincent/Karen Reedy (trainee)/John Peterson (trainee)/Bill Lester/Penny Watson/Jay Richard, 127 passengers
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22-Tom Abbott/Art Dahlin/Bob Davis/Isabel Abbott/June Roller/Keith Dameron, 159 passengers
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23-Bruce Vincent/Dave Landes (trainee)/Tim Turley/Tom Abbott/Tom Radinsky/Wally Weart/Susie Weart, 148 passengers
MONDAY, AUGUST 24-Norb Byczek/Liz Cohan, 31 passengers
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26-Robert Williams, 24 passengers
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28-Bruce Vincent/Penny Watson/Bill Lester/Jay Richard, 70 passengers,
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29-John Peterson (trainee)/Bruce Vincent/Alan Byrn/Gene McCullough/Rosann McCullough/Bob Davis/Terry Lammers/June Roller, 181 passengers,

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30-Karen Reedy/Bruce Vincent/June Sturm-Roller/David Landes/Bill Lester/Tom Radinsky/Robert Williams/Isabel Abbott/Cyndi Trombly/Tom Abbott/Tom Peyton/Tim Turley/Chuck Mackey/Keith Dameron, 383 passengers,

1676 Riverfront Full,414 Riverfront Reduced,
2090 Total Riverfront Passengers

37 Aquarium Adult, 1 Aquarium Senior, 22
Aquarium Child, 60 Total Aquarium
Passengers

379 Children's Museum Full,166 Children's
Museum Reduced, 545 Total Children's
Museum Passengers

No CityWild passengers or revenue

96 Groups Adult, 49 Groups Child, 145 Total
Groups Passengers

456 Complimentary Child, 456 Total
Complimentary Passengers

192 Broncos Take-Downs, 31 Proto's Pizza,
49 One-Ways, 272 Total Broncos Passengers,

3568 Grand Total Passengers

Daily Trip Reports

Please PRINT your names when signing in/out on the Daily Trip Reports. It becomes difficult to read someone's signature and I want to make sure the proper person gets the proper volunteer hours credits they deserve. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Well, that's all for this edition of the Trolley Talk. As always, THANK YOU ONE AND ALL for your continued support in helping to keep our rail heritage alive and in motion!

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