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INSIDE THE OC&E

CMRM Passes Major Milepost

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After six years of successful attendance, the Colorado Model Railroad Museum made history on January 22, 2016 when the 100,000th visitor entered our miniature world.

Jeff and Kay Steg and their two-year-old grandson, Henry Haskett, from Ault, Colorado were delighted to learn they were to be honored and rewarded for their choice to visit the museum that day. They arrived at 10:25 that morning, and the OC&E layout operations were halted so that all volunteers present could greet the special guests. Representing the Museum were: Joel Rothman (Board Treasurer), Wayne Hansen (Board Secretary) and Tim McMahon (Board Vice President), with many volunteers, welcomed the visitors and presented them a one year complimentary membership, along with a gift bag from the Museum's gift shop: "Little Shop."

While attracting 100,000 visitors in less than six years is a significant accomplishment, it is more than just a "number." It's really more a reflection of the value of the CMRM to the region and the appeal the museum offers to our guests. We would like to think that each of our 100,000+ guests has left the Museum feeling better than when they walked in.

Most importantly, it's an appropriate opportunity to give some

thought to our mission...."to provide a model railroading experience that educates, inspires, and brings joy to all ages." That's what we do, and why Dave Trussell built the Museum. Jeff and Kay Steg very clearly appreciate the Museum for the special place it is, and for the joy a visit brings to their two-year-old grandson Henry!

Just before the Steg's and Henry entered the Museum, Tim McMahon reported that everyone present, volunteers, staff,

and Board members gathered in the front foyer to greet them with applause and cheers. It was very special!! He didn't think we ever had a moment like that before, but he's confident we will again in the near future.

This highlights all the work, over 200,000 hours of volunteer service, which our volunteers and staff have put into making our Museum the very special place it is. Our staff and volunteers bring the Museum... especially the OC&E to "life."



Two-year-old Henry Haskett (center), with his Grandparents, Jeff and Kay Steg from Ault, Colorado, were the Museum's 100,000 guests.

Immediately after this occurred, Dave Trussell was called in Pennsylvania to let him know of the milestone. Dave commented on how pleased he was that our special guests represented three generations from the local community, and he was delighted that our volunteers participated the way they did.

When the Steg's left that morning, Henry wore his new Engineer's hat and was holding his gift bag. We hold the hope that our Museum and model railroading will become an important part of his life.

That these visitors were local and that we achieved this milestone during the winter underscore the fact that much of our

visitor base is local and it will be important to bring them back. So giving each person who comes in an exceptional experience is essential.

The Museum Board of Directors is working on plans for the future and feels we have an exciting future in front of us.



A group photograph with the Steg's and Henry in the center. In addition to the staff and Board members present, the Friday volunteers included (in no particular order): Brent Milota, Tom Carlson, Carl Lindeen, Tim McMahon, Jon

Myers, Craig Zimmerman, Richard Brown, Wayne Hansen, Robert Meis, Jim Wittenburg, Erik Dinkelman, Jake Reese, Bill Capozella, Brian Milota, Dan Toerpe, and Dutch Cook. Photo by Wayne Hansen

Museum Director Michelle Kempema Promotes CMRM and Colorado Tourism



The National Tour Association held their annual Travel Exchange convention in Atlanta, GA, January 31st - February 4th, 2016. Museum Director Michelle Kempema attended this convention on behalf of Tour Colorado, promoting not only the CMRM but also the entire state of Colorado.

At this convention Michelle met individually with tour operators and planners in the Motor Coach (Tour Bus) industry. The goal is to increase bus tours to the state and to the Northern Colorado region. The State of Colorado Tourism Office also sponsored a booth in the exhibit area of the convention where Michelle greeted attendees and promoted Colorado's tourism attractions.

The most popular type of tour to the state is the "Railroads of Colorado" tour where the motor coach drives the group around the state riding the historic railroads such as the Durango & Silverton Railroad, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.



Michelle Kempema, CMRM Director, is centered in the Colorado Tourism Office booth at the National Tour Association convention in Atlanta. She is pictured with representatives from the Royal Gorge Bridge, Royal Gorge Route Railroad, Durango and Silverton Railroad, and Flying W Ranch.

Exhibit Going Up!

Right after the Museum closed on Saturday, February 6, 2016, volunteers got to work on the Museum's station sign exhibit. The highlight of this display is the original Greeley Freight Station sign that has been carefully restored. The freight station was across the street from the passenger depot and the sign was mounted on the roof as shown on the photograph on the next page. Since it also served as the Colorado and Southern depot, it also included the C&S herald on the right side of the sign.

The other authentic signs displayed represent some of the Union Pacific stations in the area. Everyone knows where Carr and Nunn are, but what about Sherman? Sherman is the station at the top of the hill between Cheyenne and Laramie; at 8015 feet above sea level, it happens to be the highest point on the Transcontinental Railroad.



Right top: Robert Meis devised a way to hang the Freight Station sign over the top of the wall. **Bottom:** Rob Reil and Radford Walker are working to straighten the lone sign. Where is lone? It is (or was) at Milepost 30.3, approximately 21.5 miles south of the Museum. A siding was located there, but it has been removed.

Next page top: The late Bill Graves took this photograph in 1956 or 1957 from the grounds of the Greeley passenger station. It must be winter as the grass is brown, and there's a touch of snow by the rails. By this time, only the UP herald is on the sign that is mounted in an interesting fashion, and sits a couple inches above the peak of the roof. It's probably about 1:30 PM given the shadows on the roof, and the train order signal is set to proceed. There are lots of other little details, such as the red-white-and-blue mailbox on the light post and the blue Studebaker in the parking lot. *From the collection of Rick Inglis.*



Next page bottom: On the morning of April 28, 1989 an eastbound manifest train crests the grade at Sherman, Wyoming. The second unit is the former Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad SD40-2 #627 as the UP had taken over that railroad the previous year. *Photo by Bill Kepner*



On the OC&E

The OC&E Model Railroad is always changing. Some of the new scenes on the layout include the following:



A building Contractor at Dairy is using a road grader to prepare the site for a new building.



The tourists have found Sycan, so the hotel has set up a special attraction; you'll have to come see it for yourself!



Where did Darrel go? The residents of west Lakeview have been complaining that the gates on the busy street don't work right. The railroad dispatched its expert signal maintainer to address the problems.



And with the Broncos in the playoffs this year, the OC&E hosted the Broncos special train. Like the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, this year's team showed that careful planning and execution showed the world how good they were.

Our Volunteers get Published!

Maybe you missed it, but articles from two CMMR volunteers were recently published in the model railroading press. Bill Botkin's article "Weathering Diesels" in the February 2016 *Railroad Model Craftsman* explains some of the techniques he used on the OC&E diesel fleet, while Steve Campbell authored an article "Hauling Coal on the Penn Central", in the March 2016 issue of *Model Railroader Magazine*

January Visitor Counts					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Week 1	294	373	440	632	352
Week 2	302	190	228	201	244
Week 3	310	407	226	313	222
Week 4	537	433	423	363	155
Week 5					261
Totals	1443	1403	1317	1509	1234
YTD	1443	1403	1317	1509	1234

Inside the OC&E

Inside the OC&E is the official newsletter of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. Its purpose is to communicate news and information to museum volunteers and others interested in the museum.

The March issue **PUBLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 1, at 5:00 PM.** Send submissions to **drwg0579@comcast.net.**

Bill Kepner, Editor.
Ed Hurtubis and Bob Owens, Associate Editors

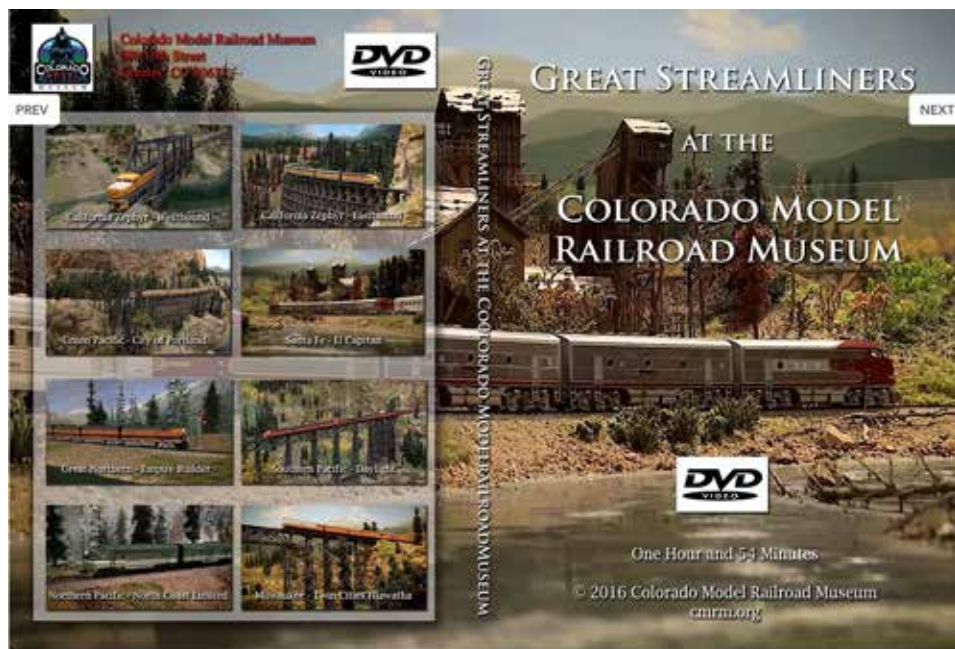
New Museum Video on Sale!

Great Streamliners at the Colorado Model Railroad Museum (DVD or Blu-Ray)

It was the era of great streamliners; named trains whose reputations have survived all these many years in western railroad lore: Santa Fe's *El Capitan*, *The California Zephyr*, Union Pacific's *City of Portland*, Great Norther's *The Empire Builder*, Southern Pacific's *Daylight*, Northern Pacific's *The North Coast Limited*, and Milwaukee Road's *Twin Cities Hiawatha*. It was a time of sumptuous travel experiences. It was the railroad industry's last hurrah in a noble effort to capture a workable share of the traveling public.

Nowhere has the experience of passenger rail travel and all that magnificent scenery been captured in miniature more dramatically than through the lens of video artist Bill Rogers' effort in this extravaganza of name passenger trains sweeping through some of the finest HO scale scenery ever constructed.

Treat yourself to an experience that only the Colorado Model Railroad Museum can provide. Now you can contemplate how it once was: passenger trains strutting their stuff in style. It's almost like being there...



Visit the CMRM Gift Shop in person or on the web at:
<http://cmmr.org/store.html>