



C&TS DISPATCH

VOLUME 38
SUMMER

NO. 2
2025



COLORADO
NEW MEXICO

A PAPER TRAIL THROUGH THE SAN JUANS: BROCHURES, FLIERS, MAPS, CARDS AND BOOKLETS TELL THE STORIES OF THE C&TS AND THE FRIENDS, 1969-2025

PLUS: OPENING DAY, 2025
WORK SESSIONS A & B
PROGRESS ON EXPRESS CAR 163
LOOKING AHEAD TO SESSIONS E, F & G

LOBATO TRESTLE

CHAMA, NM





C&TS DISPATCH

*Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec
Scenic Railroad, Inc.*

William Lock, Founder-1988

Vol. 38, No.2 ☞ Summer, 2025

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C&TS DISPATCH

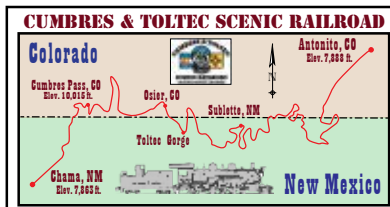
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The C&TS Dispatch is published four times each year by The Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Inc., a New Mexico nonprofit corporation. The Friends is the official museum arm for the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, a sixty-four mile-long Railroad and museum of railroad history and technology, operating between Antonito, Colorado, and Chama, New Mexico. The Railroad is owned jointly by the States of Colorado and New Mexico. As the museum arm, the Friends is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the Railroad. The Friends is an Affiliate Member of the Heritage Rail Alliance (HRA). All contributions are fully tax deductible and will be gratefully accepted. For information, please write us in Albuquerque at the **Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc., 4421 McLeod Rd. NE, Suite F, Albuquerque, NM, 87109**, or call us at (505) 880-1311.



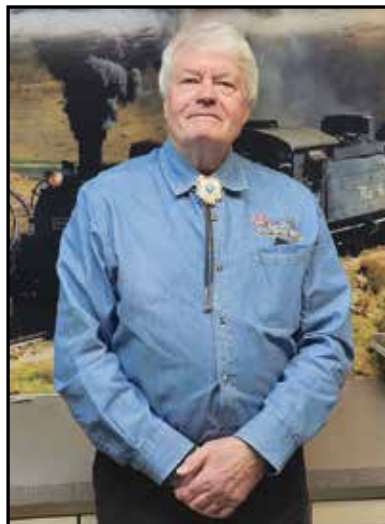
Denver & Rio Grande Railway: 1880-1886
Denver & Rio Grande Railroad: 1886-1921
Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad: 1921-1970
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad: 1970-today

**The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is both a
National Historic Landmark and a
State Registered Historic Site.**

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The View from the Cab



The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad's 2025 season opened on Saturday, May 31st, 2025 with a warm welcome to all our Friends members, volunteer docents, work session participants and guests, followed by a train ride out of Chama. We have a lot on our platter for the 2025 season. Here's just a sample of our offerings:

As always, the Friends have a large series of work sessions planned in both the Chama and Antonito yards, as well as in Cumbres, Sublette, Osier, and the Colorado Springs CRF. You can follow our volunteer projects through the Friends website, the *Dispatch Extra* and the schedules published in the quarterly *C&TS Dispatch* and social media.

This year the Friends will have three charter trains based out of Chama. We hope you didn't miss the Members' BBQ dinner and train ride that took place on June 20th.

Our Moonlight and Wine Train, featuring New Mexico wines, steams on August 2nd and a two-day Photo Charter is scheduled October 26th and 27th. Log onto the Friends website to make reservations. There will also be a special K-36 100th Anniversary event, Wednesday through Friday, August 13th through 15th, including a Behind-the-Scenes History Tour of the normally off-limits historic coaling tipple and workshop facilities.

The Friends have several new publications available for 2025, including a eight-page Complementary Issue of our *Dispatch* magazine and a pocket-sized Brochure. Both highlight the many aspects of our Friends historical restoration and volunteer work. Both will be available to passengers and visitors.

For all our members that love to watch our online web cams at the Chama yards, we are pleased to announce that the system is being rebuilt and includes a new camera. It should be completed shortly!

As always, the Friends organization is deeply committed to the historic preservation of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, and all of the supporting rolling stock and buildings. This important work would not be possible without your support and kind donations,

Thank you,

Rick Marsden

*President, Friends of the
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad*



On the cover:

Owning and operating a railroad is one thing. Promoting its excursions, events, donations, safety and excitement is something else altogether. Over the years, the Railroad and the Friends have published colorful materials to promote and explain their combined mission. Much of that material is in the Friends Library collection and presented here.



Friends of the C&TS: TELEGRAPH

Opening Day, 2025

The 2025 season opened on May 31...almost. At Chama, there was a decent turnout of passengers and celebrants. K-36 No. 484 did the honors pulling the first train out to Osier and back. The Osier turns ran daily that first week except one day when the train was canceled due to a mechanical problem.



As always, the Opening Day events in Antonito began with a blessing from the local clergy. However, a plan to use the Railroad's new Diesel 114 for the opening train had to be abandoned when a test run the day before was unsuccessful. The locomotive suffered an equipment failure on the way back from Osier.



Fortunately, crews worked on 168 on Saturday and it was available for the Sunday departure. Due to its size and tractive effort, it was limited to pulling the three premium cars as far as Osier and back. 168 has worked most days but the train was canceled a couple of times due to mechanical issues.

Current Locomotive Status, June 19, 2025

- 484 was out of service for one day due to a "not serious" mechanical problem. It's now back in regular duty.
- 487 is being reassembled after new cylinder liners were fitted. Almost ready for test runs. Hopefully ready for work soon.
- 488 is being worked on in Chama with issues with spring rigging. It is still several days away from being ready.
- 489's drivers have been sent away for turning.
- 463's drivers have been dropped, the old tires removed, and the wheels sent away for turning. New tires waiting in Chama for their return.
- 168 didn't run for one day, issues with valve timing, now repaired
- 315 still needs boiler work
- 114 (Diesel) has electronic issues, currently undergoing diagnosis.

DON'T WAIT! JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE C&TS!



2025 is going to be a great year for the Railroad and the Friends!

If you love trains, history and volunteer activities, JOIN US as we help preserve the "Living History" of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. For \$40 a year, you become a member of the Friends and receive the quarterly *C&TS Dispatch*, train ride discounts, invitations to special events and the opportunity to participate in restoration projects, along with the satisfaction of supporting and investing in the historic cultural heritage that is the Cumbres & Toltec!

Only \$40 per year for a basic Membership! Call for Family and Foreign memberships.

To join, send us this application (or a facsimile):

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed,
or


[circle one] for \$ _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Email _____

Mail to:

**Friends of the C&TSRR, Inc.
4421 McLeod Road NE, Suite F
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-880-1311**

www.friendsofcumbrestoltec.org

**Already a Member?
Give this to a friend!**

Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. All contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. IRS# 85-036487

Wanted: Chair of the Friends Safety Committee



The Friends are looking for a **Safety Officer** to administer the Friends Safety Program. As Safety Officer and Chair of the Safety Committee, he or she will work with the C&TS Railroad Safety Officer to ensure a safe environment for Friends volunteers and direct safety programs at work sessions. He or she must have experience in the safety field or has been involved in safety in the private sector such, as an *Operation Lifesaver* volunteer providing safety training for the general public. The person must also have good communication skills in order to explain safety issues to volunteers, especially when working around railroad operations.

The **Friends Safety Committee** serves as a focal point for the development of plans, policies and procedures designed to enhance the effectiveness of safety as it relates to the Friends' mission. The Committee's goal is to promote the Friends Safety Program by techniques, developments, effective safety practices and standards. There are five members on the Committee with a Safety Officer and alternate. The Friends Safety Committee convenes once a year at the fall meeting and deals with issues relating to safety throughout the year. We try to broadcast the meeting over the web (via *Teams* or *Zoom*) for those who cannot attend in person.

For more information, contact: **John Engs**, jengs@cumbrestoltec.org

Work Session Schedule, 2025 (as of 6/29/2025)

Listed below is the schedule for Sessions A-D. E-G will be posted in a later issue. **Please note that the project schedule is often quite fluid and may change throughout the season without notice.** The most current schedule is posted on the Friends website at www.friendsofcumbrestoltec.org or the QR code to the right.



To view the full description of a project, click on its Project Number.

Support Services Projects						
Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/26 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
0200	Chama restoration session Site Leader.	D. Stewart + none	D. Stewart + none			
0201	Antonito CRF restoration session Site Leader.	D. Atkinson + none	D. Atkinson + none	TL NEEDED + none	TL NEEDED + none	J. Engs + none
0210	Work Session Check-in for Chama	J. Davenport + none	J. Davenport + none			
0211	Work Session Check-in Antonito CRF			M. J. Smith + none	M. J. Smith + none	M. J. Smith + none
0222	Friends merchandise sales - registration location.	J. Davenport + none	J. Davenport + none	M. J. Smith + none	M. J. Smith + none	M. J. Smith + none
0230	Food Preparation - Chama lunches and snacks.	R. Marsden (Asst. M. Marsden) + 1	R. Marsden (Asst. M. Marsden) + 1			
0231	Food Preparation - Antonito CRF Lunches.	L. Aldrich + 1	L. Aldrich + 1	M. Barlen + 2	M. Barlen + 2	J. E. Mitchell + 1
0240	Tool Car Operation - Chama	C. McMullen (Asst. J. Davenport) + none	C. McMullen (Asst. J. Davenport) + none			
0241	Bolt Car Operation - Chama	R. Brigham + 1	TL NEEDED + none			
0245	Tool & Bolt Operation - Antonito CRF.	TL NEEDED + none	TL NEEDED + none	M. Smith + none	M. Smith + none	M. Smith + 1
0246	Paint Car Operation - Chama	F. Higgins + 1	F. Higgins + 1			
0248	Lettering Coordinator - Stencil Car	S. Jorgensen + none	S. Jorgensen + none	S. Jorgensen + none	S. Jorgensen + none	
0250	Carpentry Shop Operation - Chama	C. McMullen + 2	C. McMullen + 2			
0260	Work Session Preparation at Chama					
0262	Work Session Close at Chama		T. Stewart + 2			
0264	Hauling & Vehicle Operation	B. Reib + 1	B. Reib + 1	B. Reib + 1	B. Reib + 1	B. Reib + 1
0310	Safety Coordinator for Chama yard	J. Engs (Asst. D. Stewart) + none	J. Engs (Asst. D. Stewart) + none			
0262	Project Chronicing - Chama	M. Mee + 2	M. Mee + 2			
0263	Project Chronicing - Antonito CRF	M. Mee + 1	M. Mee + 1	M. Mee + 1	M. Mee + 1	TL NEEDED + 1
0281	Inspection of AED Defibrillators.	J. Engs + none				

Projects in Antonito, CO

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/26 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
0311	Safety Coordinator for Antonito CRF	D. Atkinson + none	D. Atkinson + none	J. Engs + none	J. Engs + none	J. Engs + none
0201	Landscaping Antonito Yard and Friends Ed Lowrance CRF / CSF complex			TL NEEDED + 1	TL NEEDED + 1	TL NEEDED + 1
0222	Car Painting Antonito CRF and AN based painting	F. Higgins + none	F. Higgins + none			
0232	Car Lettering Antonito CRF			S. Jorgensen (Asst. F. Pitroff) + 1	S. Jorgensen + 2	

Projects in Antonito, CO

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
0741	Caboose Annual Maintenance and Roof Repair					
0779	Mechanical Maintenance - Antonito CRF			S. Kepner + 3	I. Kelly + 3	
1286	Restore UTLX Tank Car 11050 original GRAMPS car	C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + 1		C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + 1	C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + 1	C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + 1
1332	Restore GRAMPS Tank Car 11056 to operational condition	C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + none		C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + none	C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + none	C. Trunk (Asst. R. Wonag) + none
1354	Maintain and Repair MW02 to operational condition				J. McGee + 1	J. McGee + 1
1360	Addition Of a covered structure on west end of Antonito CRF. 2024, add a concrete pad with track on north side of covered structure.			S. Oltmanns + 2	S. Oltmanns + 4	
1369	SHPO - Repair Telegraphphone booths, wood structures at key locations along the right-of-way.		D. Atkinson + 1	D. Atkinson + 2	D. Atkinson + 2	
1389	Rebuild Box Car 3263 for use as Friends Stencil Car.	S. McCollough + 3	S. McCollough + 3		S. McCollough + 3	S. Jorgensen + 3
1390	Railway Post Office Car 54 - Repair windows and windowills then strip old paint and prime, repaint and re-letter	D. Atkinson + 2	D. Atkinson + 2			D. Atkinson + 2
1410	Reconditioning of existing trucks and wheel sets for cars and the fabrication of necessary parts	I. Kelly + 1	I. Kelly + 1	I. Kelly + 1		I. Kelly + 1

Projects in Lava, NM

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
1331	SHPO - Secure LPH - 2022 Design, build and install steel shutters for door and window openings.			S. Meeks (Asst. R.M. Lloyd) + 2	S. Meeks (Asst. R.M. Lloyd) + 1	

Projects in Sublette, NM

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
1343	SHPO - Repair Shingle Bunk House (SBH) exterior				B. Conry + none	
1344	SHPO - Repair Log Bunk House (LBH)				B. Conry + none	
1285	SHPO - Maintain and repair deteriorated Sublette Section House (SSH) structure and exterior. Please see NOTE for a health and safety recommendation.				B. Conry + 4	

Projects in Osier, CO

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
1408	SHPO - Make general repairs to exterior of Osier Depot, windows, trim, soffits, batons and siding.	C. Wender (Asst. D. Schmidt) + 1	C. Wender (Asst. D. Schmidt) + 1			

Projects in Cumbres, CO

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
1005	SHPO - Reconstruction of Car Inspector's House (Note: No lunches available in E or F sessions in 2025).	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + 1	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + 3	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + 4	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + 4	
1365	Construct Walking Trails - Cumbres Section Town and Historic signage, joint project with Scouts BSA.	J. Engs (Asst. T. Stewart) + none	J. Engs (Asst. T. Stewart) + none			
1398	Develop Master Plan for Cumbres Section Town MPC	R. Young (Asst. J. Engs) + none	R. Young (Asst. J. Engs) + none			
1402	Repair Cumbres Speeder Sheds #1 and #2	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + none	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + none	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + none	J. Pierce (Asst. V. Behr) + none	
1403	SHPO - Replace Roof on Cumbres Section House - Contract					

Projects in Chama, NM

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
0700	Landscaping Chama - Yard and Gardens	L. Schoen + 2	TL NEEDED + 1			
0720	Car Painting - Chama Based	F. Higgins + 10	F. Higgins + 10			
0726	QUICK FIX TEAM- Handles multiple projects that are generally small in size taking no more than 3-days or less to complete.	J. Lauffer + 5				
0730	Car Lettering - Chama Based (Note: Lunches not available in session E in 2025.)		S. Jorgensen + 2	S. Jorgensen (Asst. F. Pittuff) + 1		
0780	Mechanical Maintenance - Chama Based	M. Wissler + 4	M. Wissler + 3			
1017	SHPO - Stabilization and Repair of Coal Tipple (2025 - Advise contractor for installation of lightning protection system).	TL NEEDED + none	TL NEEDED + none			
1186	Cosmetic Restoration Engine 483 and Tender for Static Display	R. Schoen + 5				
1307	Install Sign Garden in lower garden area below the stairs on the west embankment in the Chama Yard.	J. Fensil (Asst. R. Lively) + 2				
1312	Reconstruct High Side Gondola 1000	M. Hagemann + 1				
1378	Rebuild boxcar 3566 as a Hollywood Movie Boxcar (HMB) for public display	R. Young (Asst. D. Sowell) + 3	R. Young (Asst. D. Sowell) + none			
1379	Rebuild double deck Stock Car 5600 to road-able condition.		B. Lock + 5			
1407	SHPO - Provide maintenance and repair for Log Bunkhouse, a railroad historic structure.		R. Young (Asst. D. Sowell) + 3			
1409	Replace rolled roofing on Chama Flammable Storage building and Los Pinos Office building with new two part rolled roofing.	T. Roder + 2				

Projects in Chama, NM

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
1411	Configure boxcar 3566 as a cinematic history exhibit. The exhibit will focus on the numerous films that were filmed on the C&TS.	J. Ferrell (Asst. R. Lively) + 1				

Projects Along the Right-of-Way

Proj Num	Project Description	Session C 6/16 - 6/20	Session D 6/23 - 6/27	Session E 7/28 - 8/1	Session F 8/4 - 8/8	Session G 9/22 - 9/26
0719	Removal of plant material along the Right of Way (ROW) that may impair SAFE and efficient Railroad operations. The ROW extends from the Yard Limit in Chama to the Yard Limit in Antonito.		P. Davenport (Asst. A. Green) + 5			
0740	Wood Preservative Treatment - Along the Line and Rail Yards		F. Higgins + 1			
0750	Maintain All Railroad Signage Along the 64-Mile Long Track	M. Mahoney (Asst. P. Davenport) + 4				L. Marquess (Asst. P. Davenport) + 2
0770	Project Discovery - Identification of New Projects Along the Line	J. Engs (Asst. D. Atkinson) + none	J. Engs (Asst. D. Atkinson) + none	J. Engs + none	J. Engs + none	J. Engs + none

Projects in Chama

Proj Num	Project Description	Session SS1 5/2 - 5/4
	Registration Deadline	4/28
0209	Chama restoration session Site Leader.	B. Lock + none
0210	Work Session Check-in for Chama	B. Lock + none
0210	Safety Coordinator for Chama yard	B. Lock + none
1379	Rebuild double deck Stock Car 6600 to road-able condition.	B. Lock + 4

Projects in Cumbres

Proj Num	Project Description	Session SS2 6/9 - 6/13
0221	Exterior Contract Painting of Los Pinos Office and Cumbres Car Inspector's House.	J. Engs + none

Projects in Antonito CRF

Proj Num	Project Description	Session SS3 6/9 - 6/13
0201	Antonito CRF restoration session Site Leader.	I. Kelly + none
0211	Safety Coordinator for Antonito CRF	I. Kelly + none
1390	Railway Post Office Car 54 - Repair windows and windowsills then strip old paint and prime, repaint and re-letter	I. Kelly + 5

Projects in Sublette

Proj Num	Project Description	Session SS4 7/1 - 7/31
1344	SHPO - Repair Log Bark House (LBH)	J. Engs + none

Projects in Chama - Antonito

Proj Num	Project Description	Session I 5/25 - 10/20
0400	Docents Program on the C&TSRR	T. Stewart

Projects in Colorado Springs

Proj Num	Project Description	Session COS 1/1 - 12/31
0202	COS Session Work Site Leader	J. Engs (Asst. D. Atkinson) + none
0214	Work Session Check-in Antonito CRF	J. Engs + none
0211	Safety Coordinator for Antonito CRF	J. Engs + none
1150	Manufacture Molds for Door Parts and Cast for Box Cars.	R. Schaefer + none
1126	Maintain COS Site Facilities and Area	D. Atkinson (Asst. J. Engs) + 12
1373	Restoration of D&RG / D&RGW Express Baggage Car # 183	J. Engs + 15

Projects in Any Location on RR		
Proj Num	Project Description	Session H 1/1 - 12/31
0208	Volunteering on the Railroad Property Outside Scheduled or Special Work Sessions	VOL NEEDED + 15
0245	Paint Car Operation - Chama	F. Higgins + none
0270	Equipment Preparation - Chama/Kirtorio	L. Brier + none
0294	Hauling & Vehicle Operation	B. Rob (Asst. L. Brier) + 5
0705	Historic Signage at Osier. Install May - Remove October	T. Stewart + 1
0790	Mowing of Grass (Rider Mower) Chama Yard and Stock Pens	T. Stewart + 1
1005	SHPO - Reconstruction of Car Inspector's House (Note: No lunches available in E or F sessions in 2025.)	J. Pierce + 10
1266	Construction of Friends Storage Building. (Note: Lunches not available in session A in 2025.)	B. Conry + 10
1345	SHPO - Maintain and repair deteriorated Sublette Section House (SSH) structure and exterior. Please see NOTE for a health and safety recommendation.	B. Conry + 10
1368	Develop Master Plan for Cumbres Section Town MPC	R. Young (Asst. J. Engel) + 10
Projects in Any Location on RR		
Proj Num	Project Description	Session J 1/1 - 12/31
1384	Social Media Volunteer Assistance	K. Walser + 5
1395	Education Programs	M. Sellers (Asst. K. Walser) + 25



*The menu will feature bacon-wrapped petit filets,
baked potato, salmon with wild rice, seared green beans,
fresh rolls and assorted desserts.*

Parlor Car—\$215/person - Parlor Car Tickets must be purchased through the Friends Office at 505-880-1311

Premium Car—\$200/person

Deluxe Car—\$180/person

Coach Cars—\$110/person

Purchase Premium, Deluxe and Coach seats on the Friends website, friendsofcumbrestoltec.org

All tickets include the train fare, dinner, snacks, and gratuity. Seating in the Parlor, Premium, and Deluxe cars is limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

**The Wine Train Charter will depart the Chama station
Saturday August 2ND, 2025 at 5:30PM, and return to
Chama at approximately 11:30PM.**

A Paper Trail of C&TS Railroading: 1969-2025

*Back through the years
I go wanderin' once again
Back to the seasons of my youth.*

Dolly Parton

The Coat of Many Colors

Wouldn't we all like to wander back to the "seasons of our youth," at least as far as narrow gauge railroading is concerned? Smoke and steam! Long strings of loaded box cars, cattle cars and tank cars crawling up the pass toward Cumbres!! Getting a ride in the caboose. Or maybe just standing trackside and watching and listening as a train rumbles past.

Thanks to the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, that's exactly what we do. We even think back to when our parents or grandparents did the same in their day.

Most of us weren't around for early days of the C&TS. But thanks to back issues of the *C&TS Dispatch* online and the vast collection of printed materials about both the

Railroad and the Friends that can be found in the Friends Library in Albuquerque, one can go "back through the years" and enjoy the C&TS in those early days between Chama and Antonito.

What follows is but a small part of the Friends Library's collection, a sample of the many events, projects, successes—and a few problems—that represent the Friend's history since the two states purchased the 64-mile line back in 1970, and Bill Lock organized the Friends as a formal, incorporated group of volunteers in 1988.

As members of the Friends of the C&TS, we can all be proud of the time, efforts and dollars we have contributed to the Railroad's survival, restoration and history in New Mexico and Colorado.

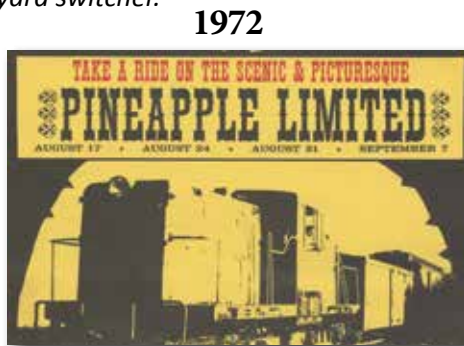
Whether you are a new member of the Friends or a seasoned volunteer, here is a paper trail you can follow that reflects the last fifty-five years of historic narrow gauge railroading on the C&TS. Enjoy! **Chris James ~ Editor**



[FAR LEFT] By 1969, the D&RG was ready to scrap the entire line east of Durango. The public, politicians and railfans had other ideas. In 1970, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad was created with ancient locomotives, deteriorating rolling stock and tumble-down buildings, but an enthusiastic following. The Railroad "will run again (with people.)"

[BELOW] Even in the earliest years of the Cumbres & Toltec, the tickets and timetables looked as professional as any mainline railroad in the early 20th century. Why, one might even expect to see an upper-crust gentleman like Lucius Beebe riding the line through the aspen trees in support of the Santa Fe Opera!

[BELOW] In 1972, the C&TS had only two locomotives in operation, K36s 483 and 484. Special events often used the 1943 "Pineapple," an ex-Navy diesel acquired from Hawai'i. It is still used today as a yard switcher.



The Friends wouldn't exist for another ten years so the Railroad Club of New Mexico and the Narrow Gauge Railroad Association handled the membership.

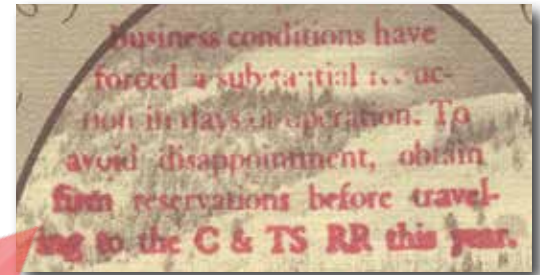
1973



In 1973 the call went out for “Car Attendants,” the precursor of today’s Docents, who handed out literature, watched for safety issues among the passengers, answered questions and reported problems and complaints. Volunteers began offering two “Back to Back Work Sessions” Wednesdays through Fridays in July and August. Later that summer, K-36 487 entered the locomotive roster. This gave the C&TS three operational locomotives. The ICC granted 484 a one year extension on its required inspection. 487 would take up 484’s duties in 1974.

1974 started out well with the first Rotary Plow event on the C&TS. But in June it was announced that Scenic Railways, the Railroads operator, would start using Diesel #19, the “Pineapple” for regular trips. Approval of the Diesel in 1972 was “temporary,” though Scenic Railways thought otherwise. The State Railroad Authority was not happy, as the line was supposed to be steam only. Only twenty steam runs were made during 1974..

1974



The 1973-4 oil embargo occurred at exactly the wrong time for the C&TS. With limited gasoline, tourist traffic dwindled, a difficult situation for the new Railroad”

[ABOVE] Not good news: “Business conditions have forced a substantial reduction in days of operation. To avoid disappointment obtain firm reservations before traveling to the C&TS RR this year.”

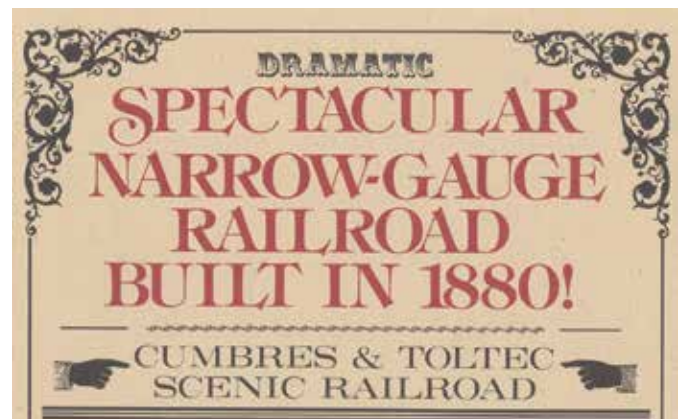
By late season 1974, “a day of excitement” was once again possible as tourists were returning and steam locomotive operation was slowly getting back to normal.

1976



In 1974, the Chama Centennial Commission proposed building a new Chama depot. We can all be thankful that the original depot is still standing as a testament to the history of the Denver & Rio Grande and the Cumbres & Toltec.

1975



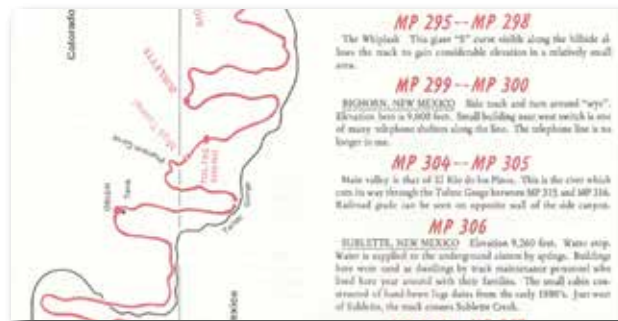
By 1975, animosity was growing between the NGRRA and Scenic Railways, including Car Attendants’ negative opinions about Scenic, the employees, and the Railroad. These continued conflicts spilled over into the 1976 operating season. Over the next few years it would only get worse.

[ABOVE] A 28 minute 16mm, full color movie about the C&TS? Has anyone seen this. It’s not in the Friends’ library. The NGDF says it was on YouTube at sometime in the past. Nope. Does anyone have a copy?

1976



By 1976 and 1977, Scenic Railways decided it had enough of the NGRRA. The Railroad first banned the opinionated Car Attendants and later banned the NGRRA from working anywhere on the Railroad property. Volunteer help was over, at least for now, and willing volunteers would just have to wait.

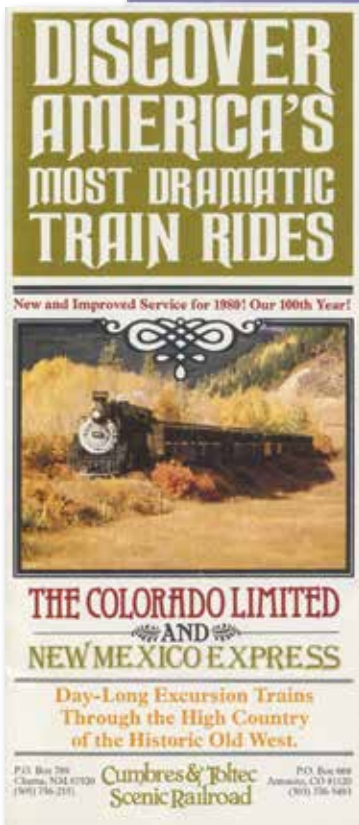
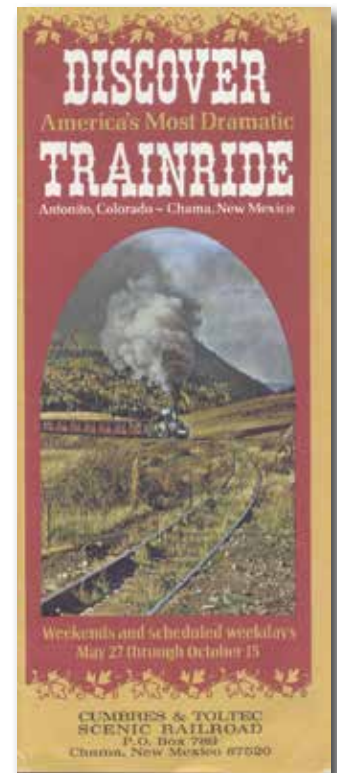


[Left and above] Prior to the first edition of Doris Osterwald's guidebook, **Ticket to Toltec**, the Railroad offered a simple guide with maps and sights along the route. Since its first edition in 1977, **Ticket to Toltec** replaced this simple guide and has since gone through multiple printings. Hundreds of copies have been sold to passengers.

1978

In the days before the World Wide Web, there was the...

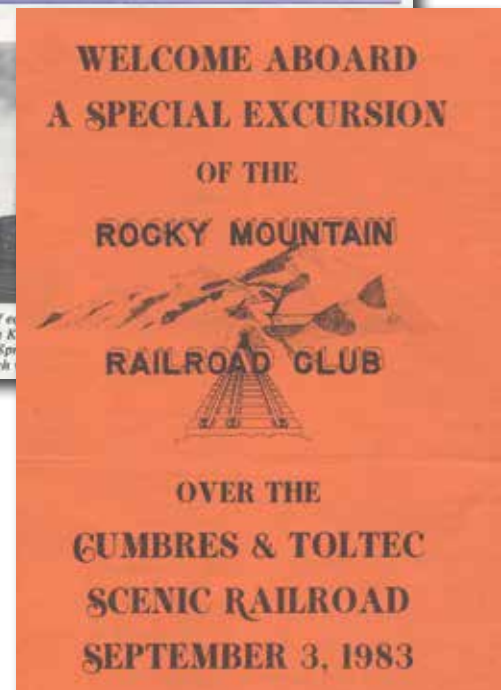
1978



1980



1982

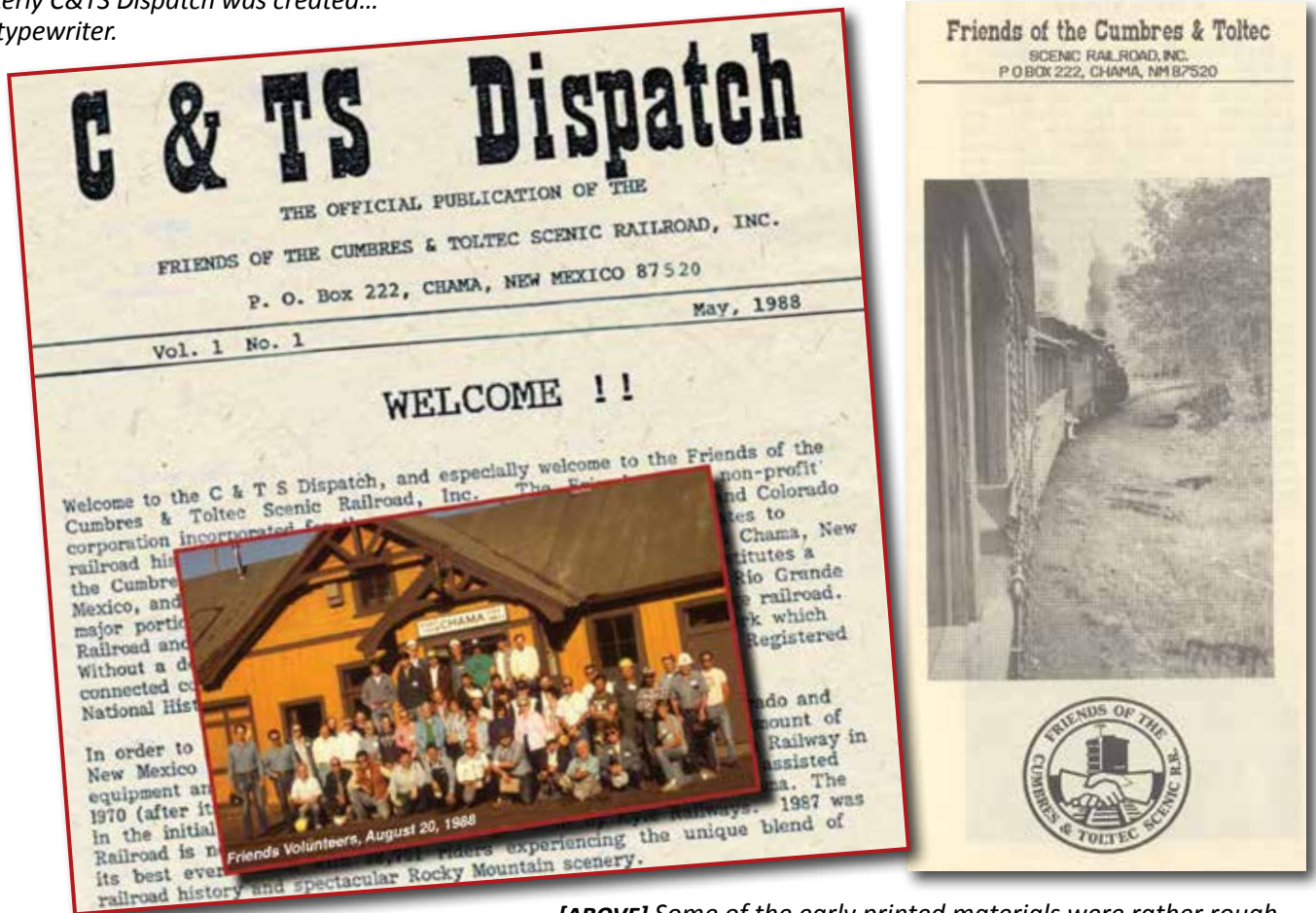


The Rocky Mountain Railroad Club was formed in 1953 and sponsored many trips on the C&TS and elsewhere in Colorado. Alas, the RMRRCC dissolved for lack of membership in 2025.

1988: Welcome to the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.

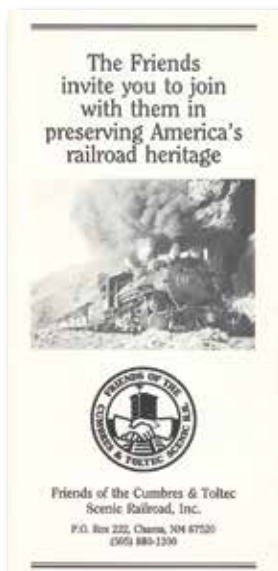
The transformation toward today's Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec began in 1981. The Railroad, no longer operated by Scenic Railways, grudgingly allowed Bill Lock and a few volunteers back onto the property to restore some rolling stock. Over time, more and more volunteers began to arrive. The Railroad took notice and became more accepting to what Bill called the "Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad," an informal band of railfans with hammers and paint brushes.

In 1988, the Friends was incorporated as an official 501(c)3 non-profit organization and has never looked back. As time went on, more members joined up and photographic specials and charter trains began operating over the line and the quarterly C&TS Dispatch was created... on a typewriter.

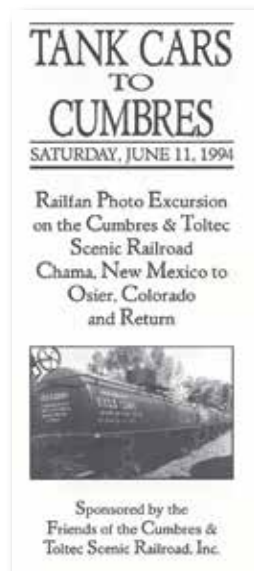


[ABOVE] Some of the early printed materials were rather rough. That didn't last long. Even a volunteer group can look professional.

1989



1994



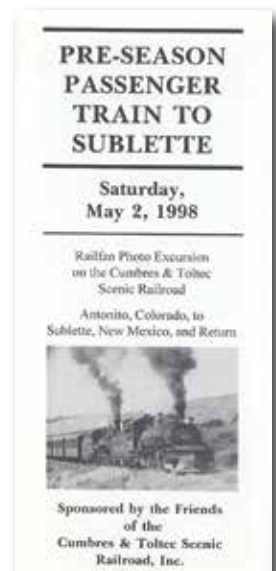
1995



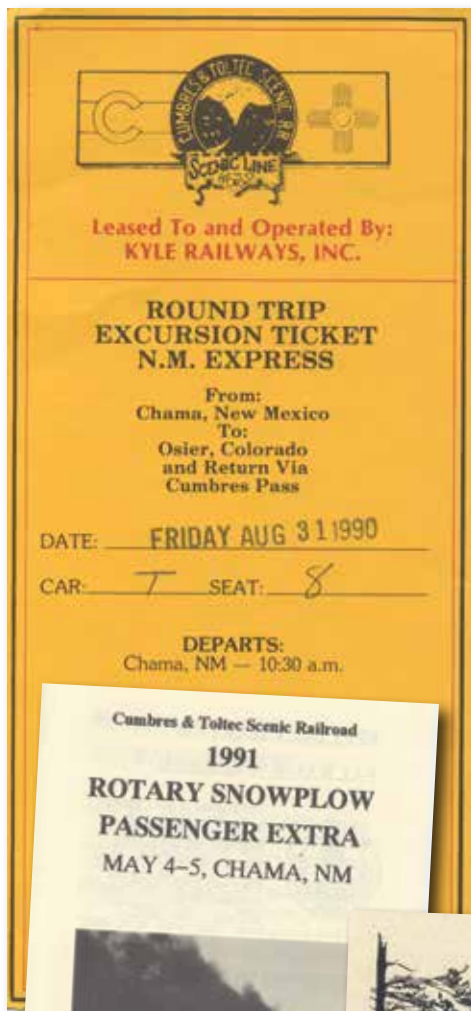
1997



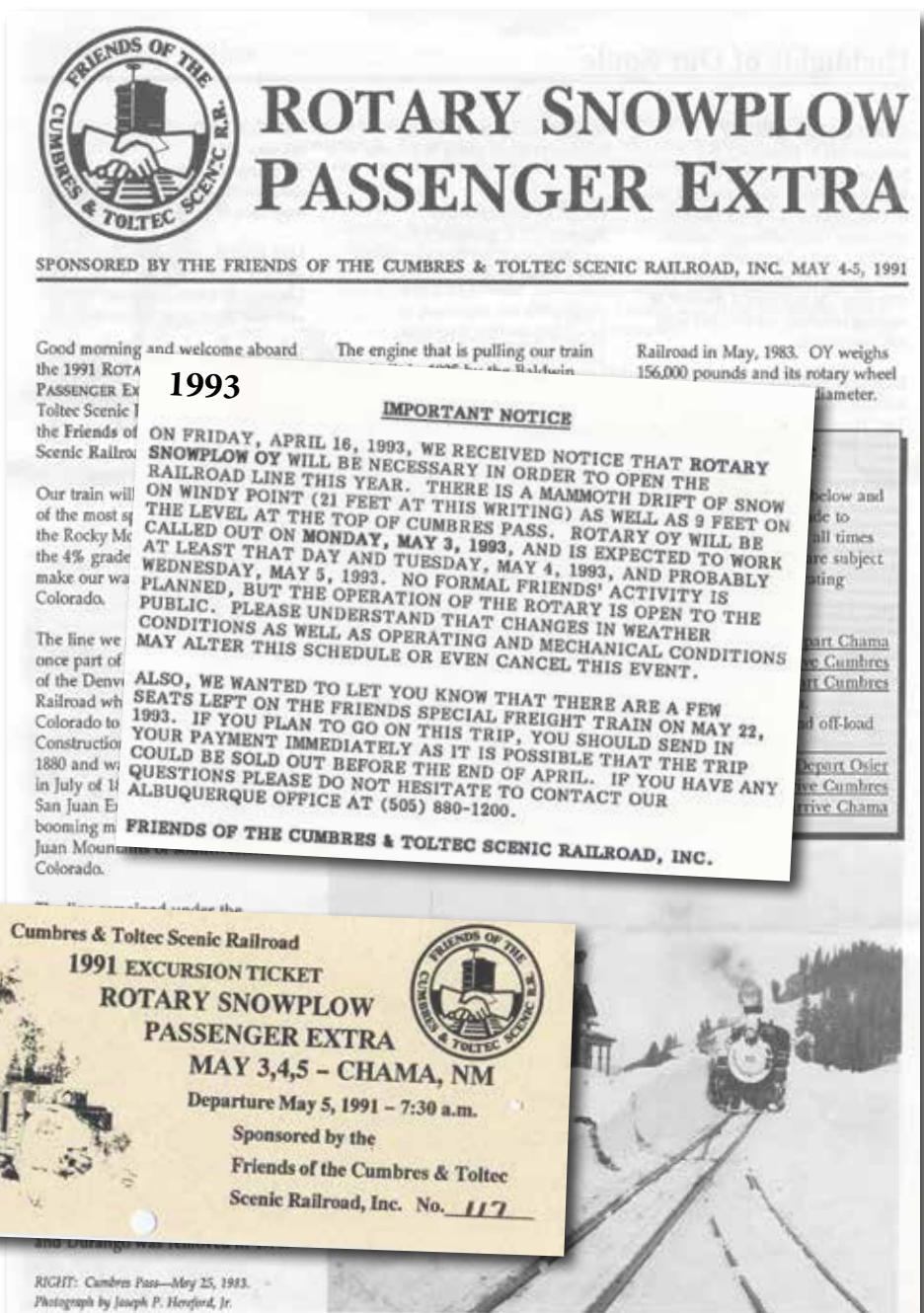
1998



1990



1991



1993



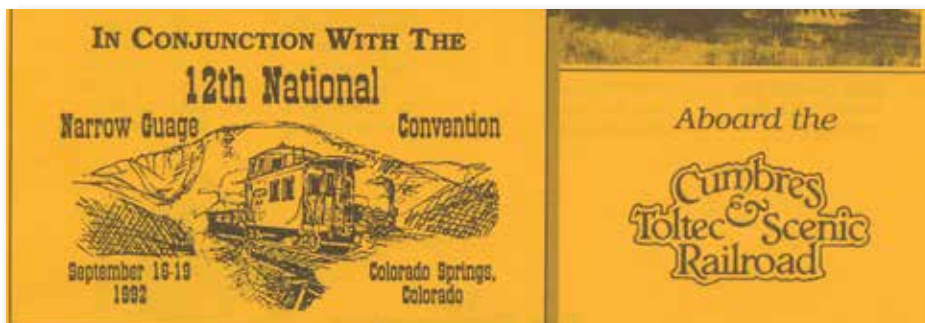
1992

[BELOW] The National Narrow Gauge Convention rotates through different locations each year. This year they are back in Denver and riding on the C&TS again.

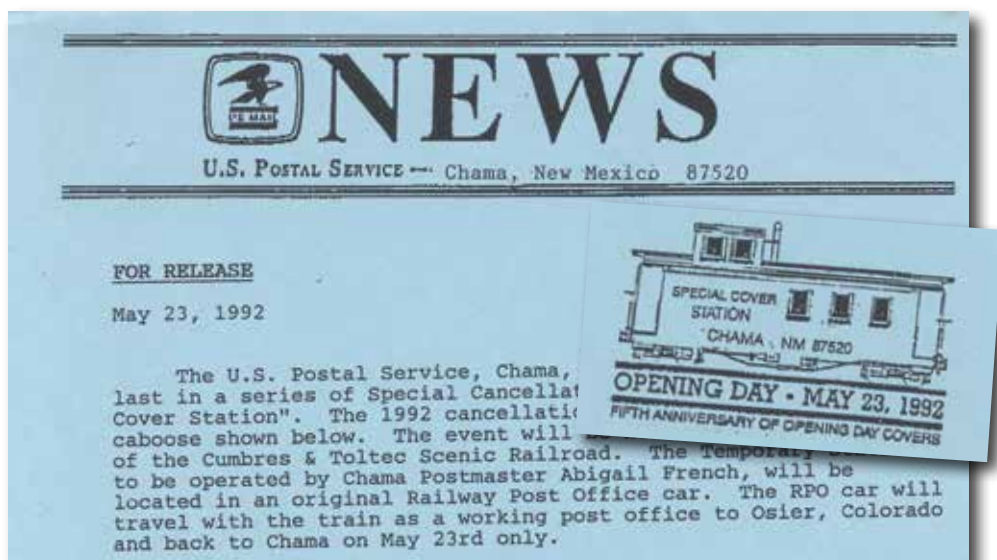
[ABOVE AND LEFT] Some of the most interesting, exciting and historically realistic events on the Railroad in the 1990s were the Friends-sponsored Rotary snowplow events featuring D&RGW Rotaries OM and OY.

The events drew hundreds of photographers and railfans willing to stand in the snow and catch the action.

Following the 1997 event, starring 1927 Rotary OY, the plow was put on display in the Chama Yard and didn't operate again until 2020 when the Railroad and the Friends restored the plow and opened the line to Cumbres.



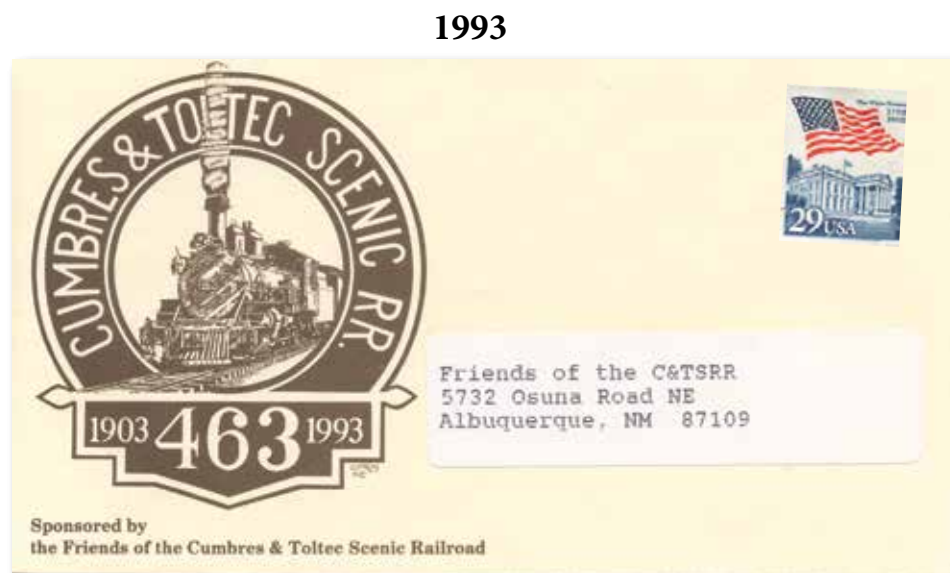
1992



[LEFT] An Opening Day postmark cancellation event took place aboard the RPO car. Mail was carried to Osier with stamped, special-cover envelopes for mailing. First Class postage? 29¢



1993



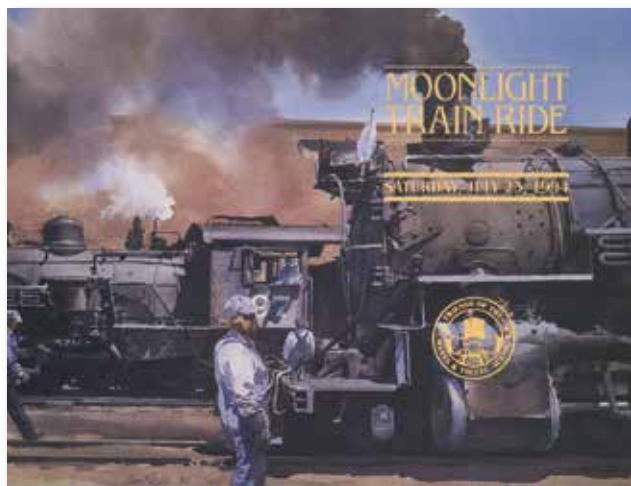
1993

Narrow-Gauge
Steam Railfan
Excursion on the
Cumbres & Toltec
Scenic Railroad
Saturday, May 22, 1993
Chama, New Mexico to
Big Horn Siding
and Return



Sponsored by the
Friends of the Cumbres &
Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.

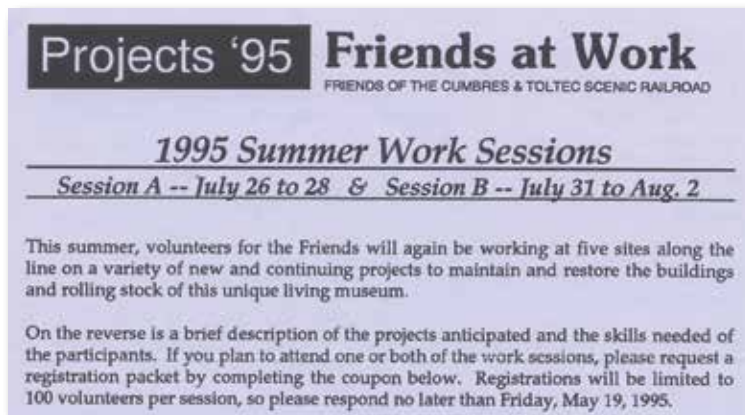
1994



[ABOVE] The Friends Moonlight Train Rides (sometimes with wine!) have always been a popular annual event!

[BELOW] Before FIDO, the work session schedule was sent out to the Friends members by mail. The work sessions were still limited in both number and days. Both would soon change.

1995



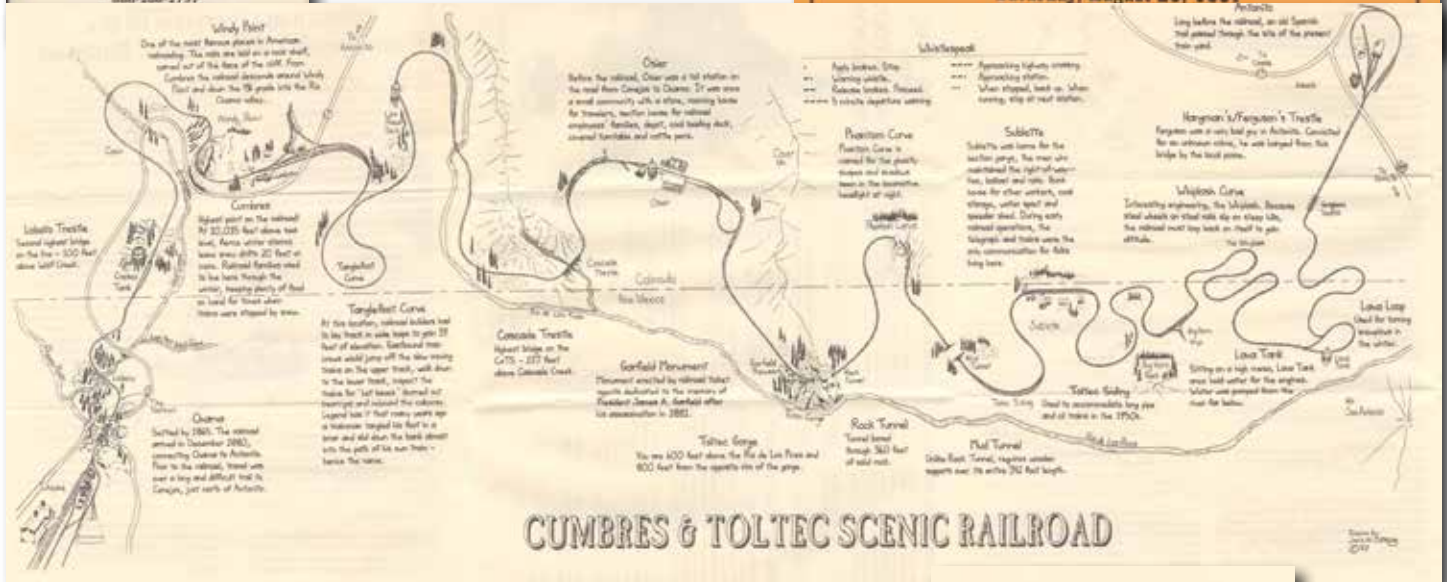
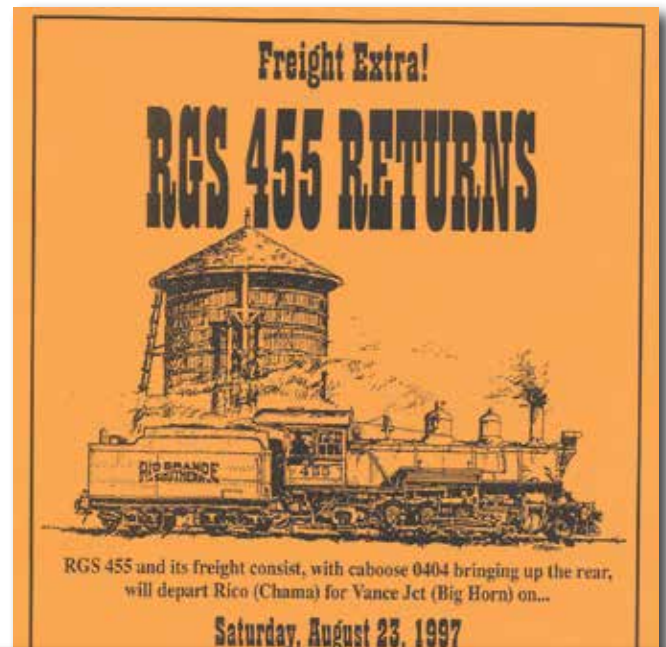
1997



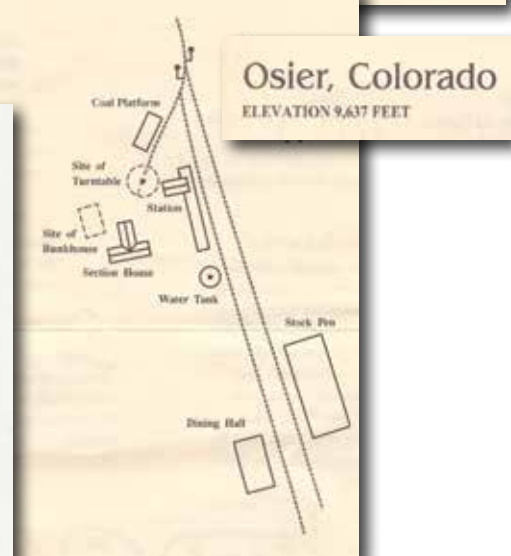
[LEFT AND BELOW] In 1997, artist and Friends member Jack Ostrom created a detailed map of all 64 miles of the Cumbres & Toltec. His work also graced the cover, scenic features, buildings and geography. The map, and the accompanying overview of the history of the Railroad and descriptions of the many structure and views along the route, became a regular handout for the passengers.

Now, twenty-eight years later, the "Trip Map" has gone through innumerable printings and a couple of upgrades, but it is still a staple among the Friends' and Railroad's literature provided by the Docents.

1997



1998



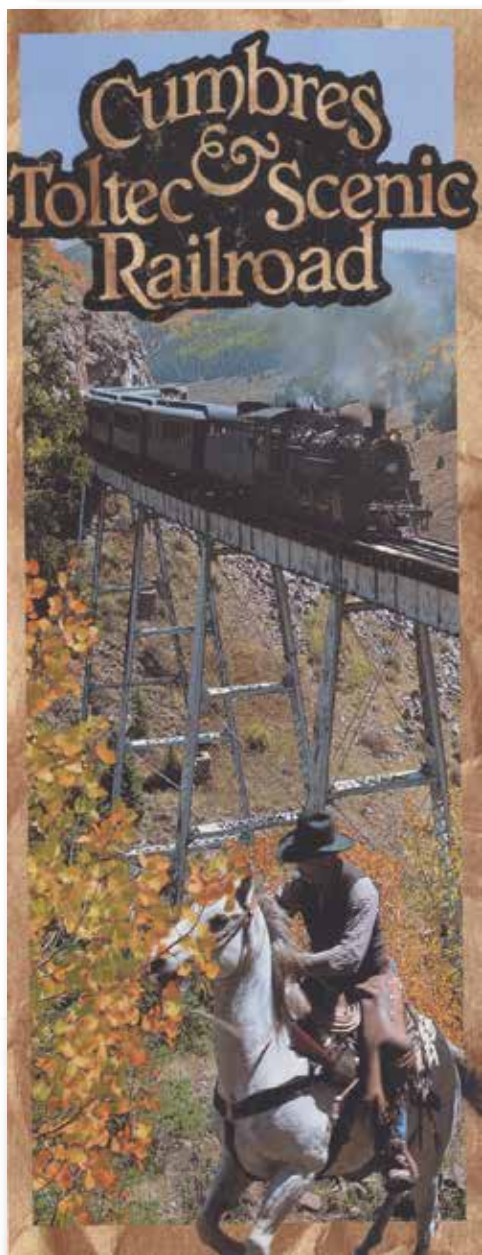
...in preserving America's railroad heritage.

2000

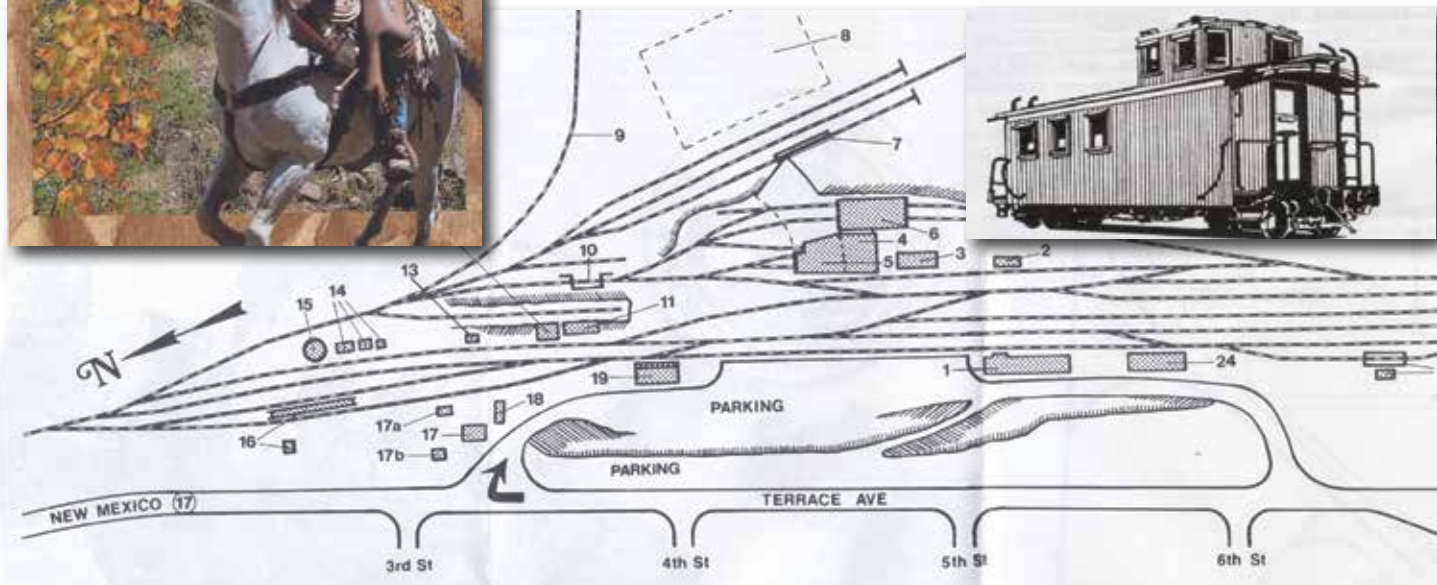
**POST-SEASON
FREIGHT
EXTRA**

Friday & Saturday,
October 20 & 21, 2000

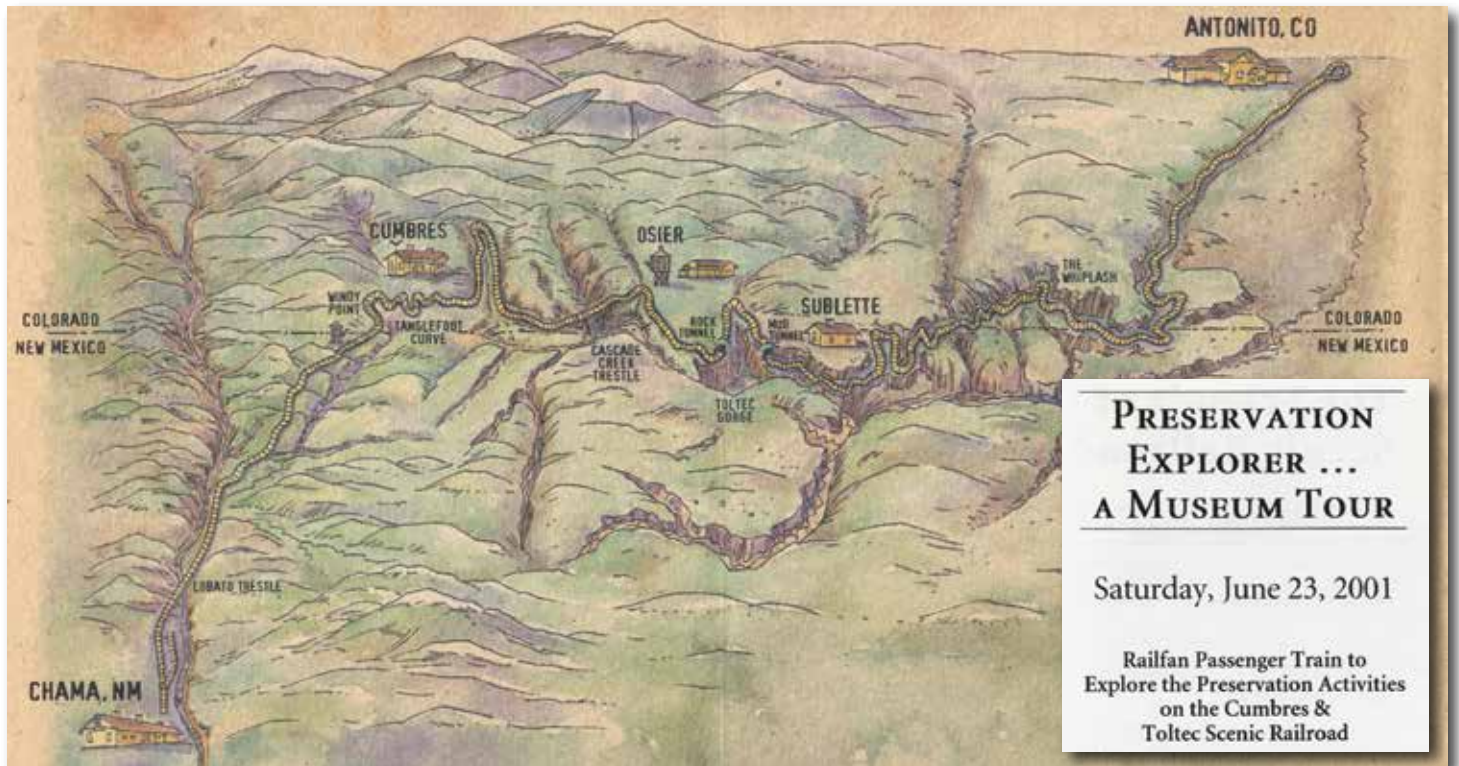
[RIGHT AND BELOW] In 2000-2001, *Los Amigos del Pintoresco de Ferrocarril de Cumbres & Toltec* issued bilingual walking tour brochures of both the Chama and Antonito railroad yards, facilities and equipment. These included maps and numbered illustrations of the buildings, rolling stock, locomotives and facilities. The Spanish version identified the *Estacionés* (Depots), *Las Vagones para Transporte de Ganado* (cattle cars), *El Tanque de Agua* (you can guess that one!) and more.



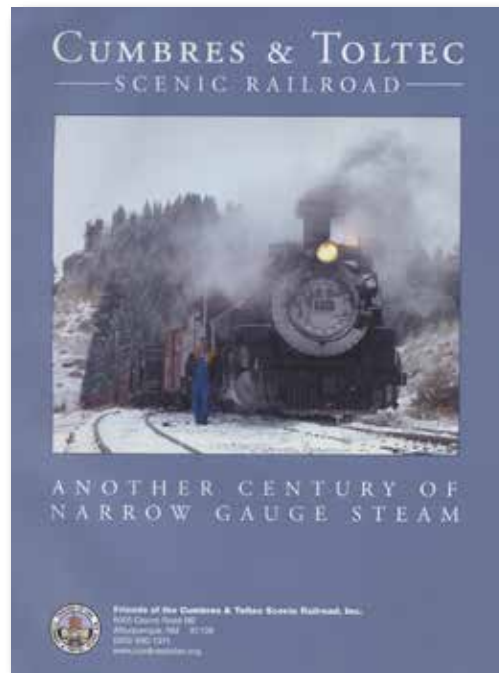
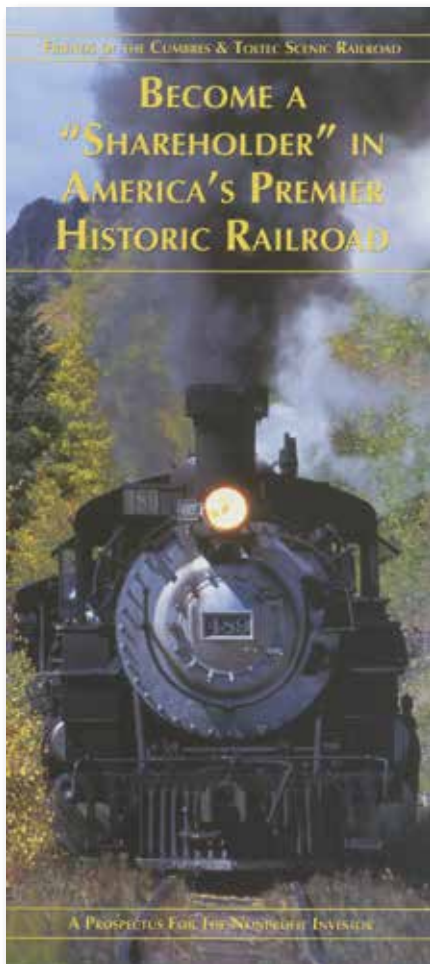
[ARRIBA] "El Pintoresco Ferrocarril Cumbres y Toltec consiste de 64 millas que un tiempo eran parte del Denver and Rio Grande Railway. Ha sido conservado por Colorado y Nueve México como parte del patrimonio de Oeste de los Estados Unidos. Es el mejor ejemplo que existe en el país de una vía estrecha de ferrocarril de vapor que pas por las montañas."



2001



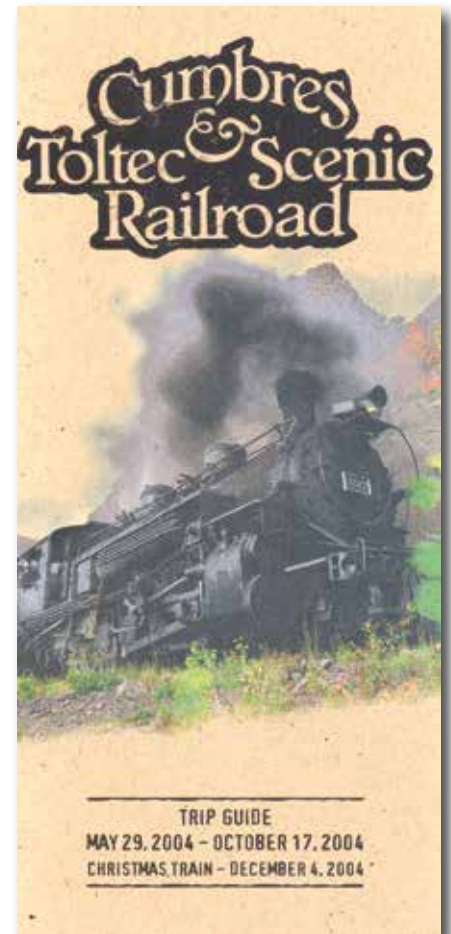
2002



The future of both the Railroad and the Friends of the C&TS relies on more than dues and state funding. "Another Century of Narrow Gauge Steam" offers a opportunity for individuals and organizations to provide grant money to further the operation and restoration of the historic Railroad for "another century" and beyond.

2004

Christmas Train—December 4, 2004



2005

The Purple River
Volunteer Opportunities

Sponsored By: *Friends of the*
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Inc
 6005 OSUNA ROAD NE <-> ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109
 Phone (505) 880-1311 FAX (505) 886-7543
 Web site: <http://www.cumbrestoltec.org/>
 E-mail: friends@cumbrestoltec.org

➤ **DOCENTS - Historic Interpretation Services**

Docents are Friends volunteers who provide historic information to C&TSR guests during their visit to the railroad. These services include greeting guests, answering questions, and conducting tours of the train yard. At least one docent is assigned to ride each scheduled train to provide information to the passengers during their trip. Docents must have public relations skills and be able to answer inquiries concerning the history of the railroad and adjacent communities, local flora and fauna, and the Friends museum activities. Some screening of new applicants is involved.

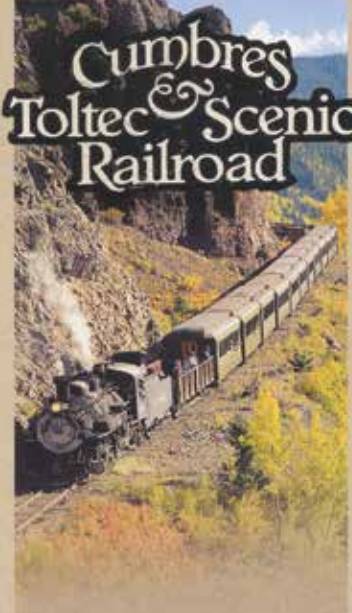
2005 DOCENT WORK DATES
MAY 28 - OCTOBER 16 2005

➤ **WORK SESSION VOLUNTEERS - Restoration & Interpretation**

Each year the Friends host "work sessions" to enable members to perform restoration and interpretation work for the C&TS Railroad. Restoration projects may include maintenance, repair, and major reconstruction of both structures and railroad rolling stock. Interpretation projects include historical site analysis and planning, construction and installation of exhibits, and archaeological documentation. Volunteer support activities such as meal preparation, supply, administration, chronicling and tool management are also included.

2006

**Cumbres
 Toltec & Scenic
 Railroad**



TRIP GUIDE, 2006
 MAY 27 - OCT. 15

125 YEARS

OPERATING 54 MILES BETWEEN CHAMA NM & ANTONIO CO.

**Special Charter
 Moonlight
 Train Ride**



Saturday August 5, 2006

From Chama, New Mexico
 to Osier, Colorado
 and Return


Sponsored by The Friends of the
 Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.

2006

**FRIENDS OF THE
 CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD**

present


**THE RICHARD L. DORMAN COLLECTION
 OF
 NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD
 HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic RR Acquire the
 Richard L. Dorman Photograph Collection**

Date: Apr 12, 2006


On April 3, 2006, the Friends took a major step toward expanding its mission by completing the first stage in acquiring the Richard L. Dorman Narrow Gauge Photograph Collection. The collection, assembled by Mr. Dorman over a period of more than 30 years, consists of approximately 22,000 black and white prints depicting the Denver & Rio Grande Western, Rio Grande Southern, and Colorado & Southern narrow gauge railroads in Colorado and New Mexico. In addition, Mr. Dorman has generously donated several thousand color transparencies of narrow gauge images to the Friends.



Left-to-right: Friends Chapter and Historian Spencer Wilson, Historian Vern Glover, Richard Dorman, and Friends President Tim Rembert.


2007

WORK & SAFETY RULES FOR VOLUNTEERS

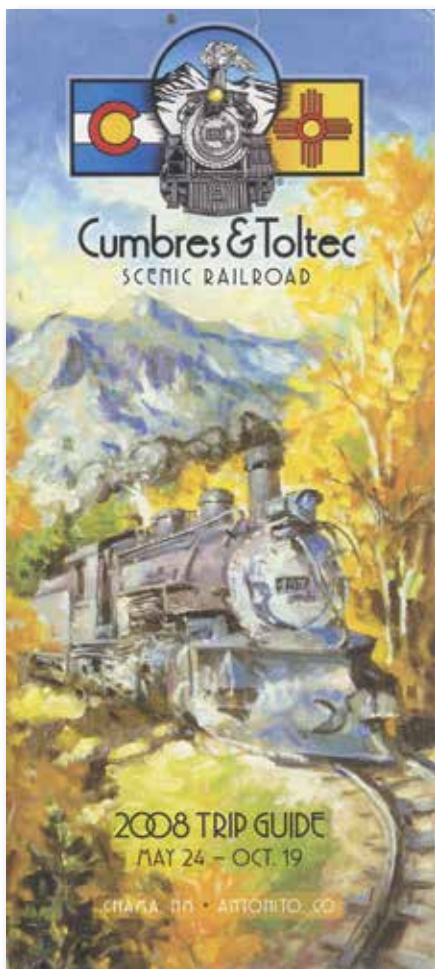


Friends of the C&TSRR Inc. 4421 McLeod Road NE Suite F Albuquerque NM 87109
 (505) 880-1311
<http://www.cumbrestoltec.org>

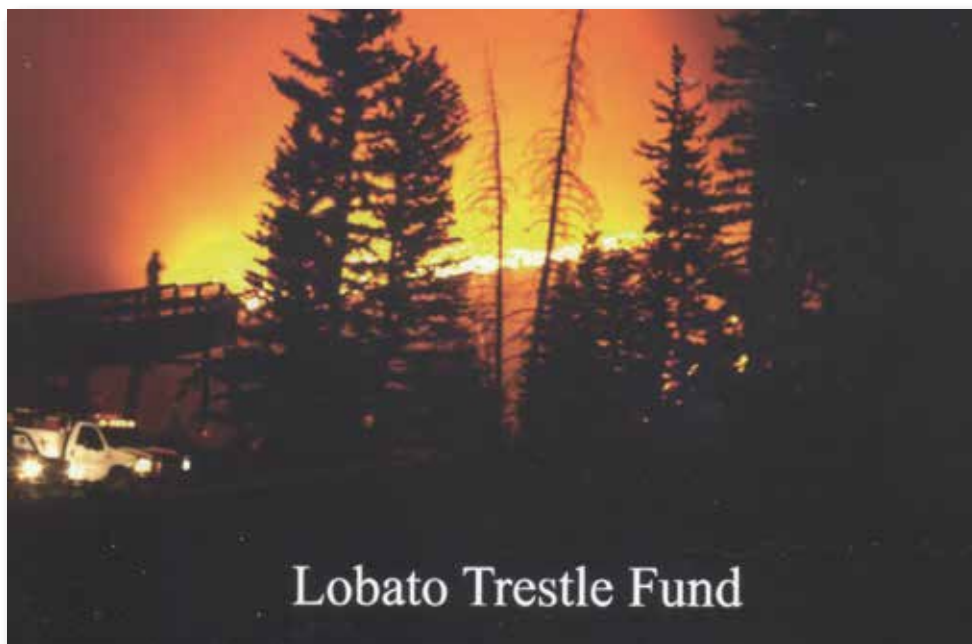
Revised November 1, 2007



2008

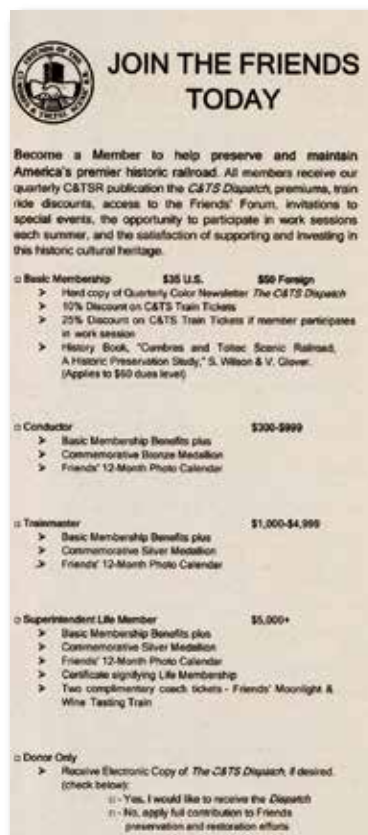
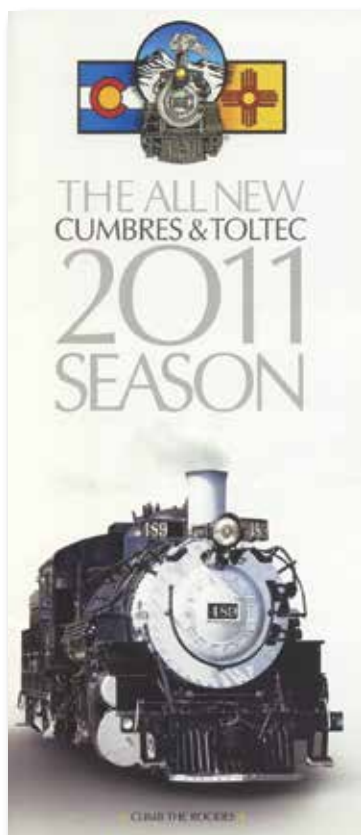


2010



[ABOVE] Unlike back in the early days of railroading, there have been no “catastrophic” events on the C&TS; no head-on collisions, no major runaways, no spectacular derailments. That is until the night of June 23, 2010, when the Lobato Trestle caught fire. It burned through the night and, while only the wooden portion of the trestle burned, the intensity of the fire warped and weakened the girders and deck plates of the trestle. Repair was a herculean effort that cost over \$1 million dollars. Reconstruction took a year but the 1883 bridge was not only re-stored but strengthened, thanks to bi-state funding and generous donations from the Friends. It is once again a historically accurate structure on the Railroad. See the story of the fire and the reconstruction in the Summer, 2020 C&TS Dispatch.

2011



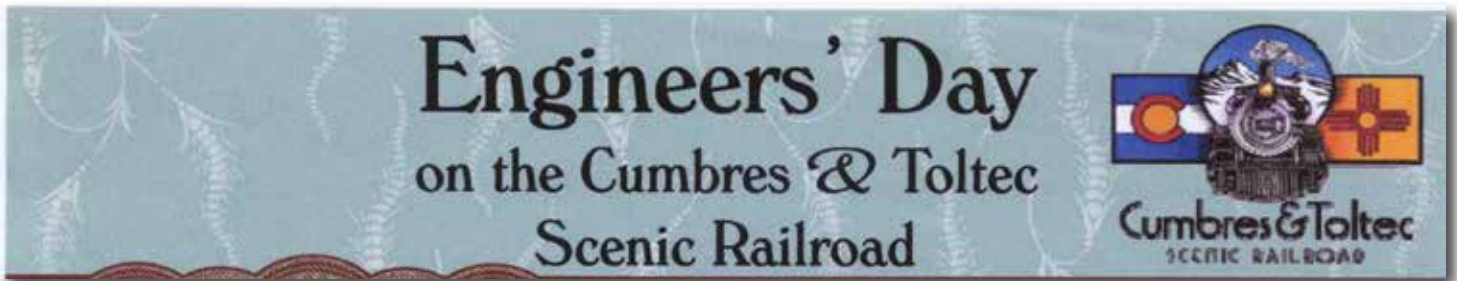
2012



The C&TS may still run on steam but parts of the Friends are becoming very digital!



2013



2013



"Fans of superb historic engineering are invited to ride the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad on Saturday, August 24th, 2013, to celebrate the role of engineering in the development of the railroad and the West. The ride will begin in Chama, New Mexico, with special stops at two spectacular iron bridges of unusual design, the Lobato and Cascade Trestles.

Included: Special engineering lectures at two trestle stops and mid-day lunch at Osier Station with an engineering presentation."

[LEFT] "The long awaited #463 charter ran Monday, May 20th. The day started out "brisk" but no one actually noticed the brisk part because all attention was focused on the 463. The engine looked fantastic! The fresh paint and the great job of lettering on the tender by Jake Vigil had it looking like it was just delivered from the factory."

C&TS Dispatch
Vol. 26 No. 3
Summer, 2013

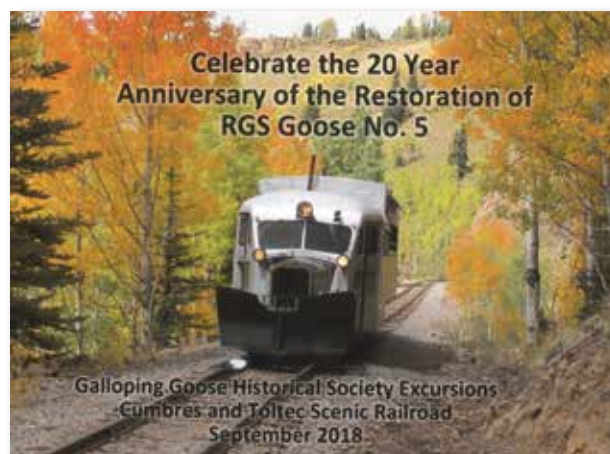
2016



2014

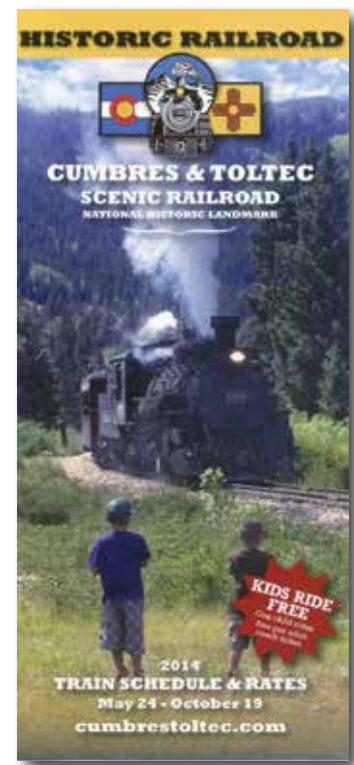


2014



The Galloping Goose may not exactly have run on the original Southwest Extension of the D&RG, but it is an important part of the railroad history of southwestern Colorado. Thanks to the Galloping Goose Historical Society in Dolores, Colorado, the Rio Grande Southern Geese occasionally fly southeast to the C&TS and migrate between Chama to Antonito and back. Honk! Honk!

2019



2020



2021



2022



2023

[LOWER RIGHT]: In cooperation with the Railroad, the Friends have begun an educational program for youngsters on history of the C&TS.

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Junior Engineer Guide



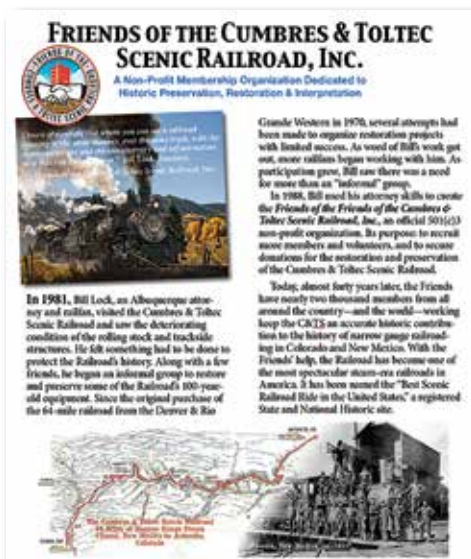
Welcome to the historic San Juan Extension of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad! Built in 1880, this roughly 200-mile line provided additional transportation for mining towns in Western Colorado. However, as automobiles became more widely used, the need for the railroad dwindled. By 1968, the Denver & Rio Grande Western ceased operations on this portion of the line. In 1970, the states of Colorado and New Mexico jointly purchased a 64-mile section of the San Juan Extension. After the purchase, volunteers stepped in and helped the states prepare the new Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad for passengers to enjoy as America's foremost moving museum.

Presented by the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.



The last ten-plus years have not only seen a variety of long-term restoration projects but also continued preservation of C&TS historic resources that may have been "restored" or "preserved" by volunteers in the past; in the environment of the southern Rockies, nothing stays restored forever; rolling stock, structures, and the right-of-way needs constant attention. Thanks to the work of the Friends, it's all still here. **[BELOW]:** Folding eight-panel brochure of the Dispatch, abridged from the larger eight-page "complementary issue" of the usual twenty-to-twenty-four page quarterly Dispatch. **[LOWER RIGHT]**

2025



2025



HISTORIC PRESERVATION ON THE C&TS, 2023

SESSION A (MAY 26-30), SESSION B (JUNE 2-9)

PLUS SPECIAL COLORADO SPRINGS SESSIONS FOR EXPRESS CAR 163

Photos by Sharon McGee (Session A) and Don Atkinson (Sessions A and B). Don and Sharon were the only two photographers working during the A and B Sessions in Antonito and the overall submissions of Team Leader reports for those sessions to FIDO was...um....thin. So this issue's collection of Work Session photos is representative of the sessions, but is not complete.

ANTONITO, COLORADO: ED LOWRANCE CRF

Proj. 0210/0222: Volunteer Sign-in and Merchandise Sales, Sessions A and B



Proj. 0245: Tool Room, Storage and Distribution, Sessions A and B



Proj. 0231: Demonstration, AED Defibrillator and Safety Lecture Sessions A and B



Proj. 0231: Food Prep and Meal Service, Sessions A and B



Proj. 0763: Chronicling and Session Documentation Session A



Proj. 0770: Required Mechanical Maintenance Session A

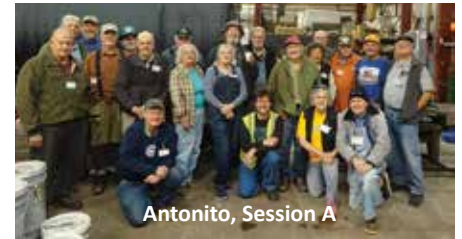


Proj. 1134: MW 02 Speeder Restoration, Session A





**Proj. 1390: Railway Post Office
Car 054 Restoration Session B**



Antonito, Session A

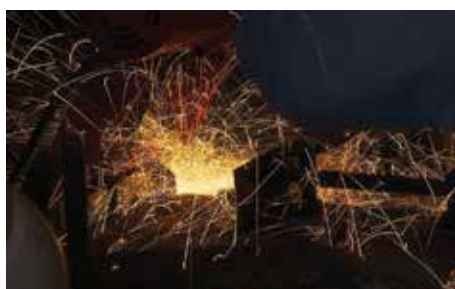
D&RG EXPRESS CAR 163 RESTORATION AT THE COLORADO SPRINGS CRF

Text and photos by Don Atkinson and Glenn Butcher from the March through early June at the Colorado Springs Car Restoration Facility

Spring work on Express 163 continued with the initial demolition of the roof and the metal-clad cover of the clerestory.



Work continued inside with the fabrication and installation of rafters and car-lines (transverse bars wooden or metal bars that extends across the top of the car to support the roof and clerestory.)



The east end roof arch was installed in June. Much of the work will stop during the summer work sessions up at the railroad.



Calendar Clearance Sale!



Here's your chance! Twelve spectacular photos of the 2024 and 2025 C&TS calendars. Yes, your 2025 calendar may still be in use but with the 2024 copy in retirement, those images are ready for framing.

The 2024 edition is available for FREE at the work session

sites in Chama and Antonito.

But wait! There's more! If you neglected to buy the **2025 Calendar** this year, you can still get six months of use out a new copy for the discounted price of only \$8.00 at the work sessions or \$8.00 (plus \$7.50 shipping) if you order a copy from the Friends office.

Both calendars are filled with a dozen 12x12-inch photographs along with two extra photos that accompany every month of the year, all taken by some of the Friends' best photographers.

Pick up both copies!

VICTORIA VERACRUZ
Secrets of the Narrow-Gauge Railroad Queen: A Denver & Rio Grande Western RR Adventure

by Billy Anders

This is the latest book by Billy Anders, a C&TS Docent since 2009 and author of *Murder at Toltec Gorge*. *Victoria Veracruz* follows the life of 15-year-old Victoria who fakes her age as 19 and follows her own path into adulthood as a circus performer, a WWI "Hello Girl" for the troops, a Harvey House waitress and captivates a series of lovers among soldiers and crews and businessmen of the D&RGW in Denver.

As she grew and matured in her lifelong quest for sexual equality, she recounts many of her "Secrets of the Narrow-Gauge Railroad Queen." Billy Anders reveals those "secrets" in *Victoria Veracruz*.

The book is available through Amazon, but better yet, purchase a copy at a C&TS depot gift shop. The author gives all proceeds to the C&TS. *Outskirts Press (2025) \$21.95.*



New Promotional Brochure for the Friends!

The **Friends of the C&TS** is proud to announce a new promotional brochure for the recruitment of new members, volunteers and donors! It will be made available to passengers and visitors, and at participating train shows around the country. The eight-page booklet describes the role of the Friends, a bit of their history, and shows examples of the variety of work sessions available to all volunteer skill levels. Check out this unique live flipbook at:

<https://tinyurl.com/fctsrpromo>

Send this link to your railroad friends so they can discover the Friends too.

Help Wanted for the Friends Historic Photograph Collection

The Friends Historic photo Collection staff is in need of volunteers to process Ernie Robart's many photos of the standard gauge Santa Fe and BNSF lines.

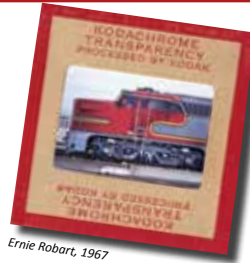
We are looking for people interested in looking at photos, analyzing the content, scanning, and entering the data into our MS Access computer database. We work with 35mm slides and various sizes of negatives and prints that make up the collection.

Work is done in the Friends Albuquerque office during normal business hours, 9AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday. It would be most helpful if four or more hours could be offered each week. A lot can be accomplished in that amount of time.

Although basic railroad knowledge is helpful, it is not essential and can be learned over time, simply by working with the images.

Computer knowledge is not essential as the work is done on computers that are not overly complex and can be learned with a small amount of training from our current volunteers. We use Windows OS as a base so some knowledge of Microsoft Office would be helpful.

If you can assist us, please contact Wes Pfarner at wes.pfarner@comcast.net or Dave Ryerson at deryerson@gmail.com for more information.





"A place where Friends can join with Friends!"

Hearty gourmet breakfast served in time to get to your train, bus or work session!

10% discount for Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec



www.thevictorinchama.com
575-756-2675



Digital Resources



Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.
4421 McLeod Rd. NE, Suite F
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid

Albuquerque, NM
Permit No. 1710



Early Friends Promotional Brochure for a Moonlight Ride Artist unknown