

# Vacationing Reporter Describes Travel By Narrow Gauge Railway

(Editor's note - The following story was written by Miss Peggyann Hutchinson, reporter and church editor of The Medford Mail Tribune, who is on vacation.)

Durango, Colo. - This is the land of the high mountains. Mountains mean scenery and this is what brings the tourists. The entire town is geared to them, starting with the narrow gauge railroad (Denver and Rio Grande Western) which runs between Durango and Silverton and returns daily to the evening activities with the 1880 flair.

Approximately 400 persons board the bright yellow coaches each morning during the summer to take the all-day trip, by rail through the Las Animas River valley. So far this year nearly 27,000 persons have taken the trip - many are disappointed each morning - reservations have become a must. This is no monorail - black smoke pours from the coal burning steam engine as the train pulls out of the station. The sun shining, the windows of the old cars, vintage of the 1880's and 1890's - are opened wide and as the small train winds its way through the flat farmland the smell of coal smoke enriches the air and soot particles cling to the windowsills, your hair and clothes.

The train travels only 45 miles during the three and one-half hour trip to Silverton, climbing some 2,780 feet to an elevation of 9,300. But timetables are ignored as fishermen, vacationers and the like are dropped off or picked up anywhere along the track.

**Never Late**  
"This train is never late," the conductor retorted to a query if the train was on time. "If it arrives back in Durango the same day, it's on time - a little tardy, perhaps, but not late."

The three-foot width tracks look awfully narrow and one wonders how the cars can stand up with the wheels so close.

The train is a big event in the valley and many rush out to wave as you pass - farmers, tourists, restaurant owners, small children in their pajamas, and employees of the various resorts.

One gradually gets used to the jerking motion of the car, the clackity, thud, of the

wheels and later on sharp curves, the high-pitched singing of the wheel flanges. Curves on this line reach 24 degrees and the grade is two and one-half per cent.

The original line was built by private capital with no governmental subsidies so the right-of-way wasn't any wider than absolutely necessary. At times, the fences on both sides nearly touch the cars.

The rhythm of the wheels slows and the climb begins. At the first rise a deep cut comes into view - it was here that the movie company roofed it over for the tunnel shots in the film, "Around the World in 80 Days."

**Snakes Along**  
"Shove her into second," a fellow passenger comments as the train crawls up the mountain. Here the train snakes its way along a cliff some 700 feet above the river. Here the ends of the ties are a mere six inches from the edge, and as passengers rush to the side overlooking the river, one wonders if the car will tip over.

High up on the other side are cliffs - the tops barely visible from the car. It starts to rain and the thunder rumbles through the narrow canyon echoing and re-echoing.

Out of the gorge the train stops for water, one of the several times during the upward climb.

The scenery is beautiful - the green trees contrasting with the white trunks of the aspens and the bright red cliffs overhead. Here the passengers point out the "perfect" Christmas trees in this primitive area inhabited by only a few guest ranches.

Surrounding Silverton are mines, many clinging to the cliffs so one wonders how the men worked them, much less built the shed and shaft opening.

**Turns Around**  
On the outskirts of Silverton the train backs through a Y, turning the entire train around so passengers keep the same seats for the return in nearly downtown Silverton, the traveler is greeted by a blare of several loudspeakers announcing places to eat. This traveler, along with a number of others, rather annoyed at the "tourist" atmosphere hurried off for the Imperial hotel where a "train special" buffet is ready and waiting. Service is quick and you have more than enough time remaining of the two-hour stop to visit the dozen shops.

Silverton was only a ghost town several years ago until the railroad started its daily run. The Imperial hotel was one of the first remodeled - called the Grand hotel in its heyday, and the curved mahogany back bar with its three huge plate glass mirrors which were shipped from Paris may be viewed as it was in 1882.

The train whistle sounds and from all over town people head for the station. The trip back is quieter, some people doze, the children seem less active, until the narrow gorge. Everyone immediately comes to life and this time, it is your side of the car that is crowded.

ed as passengers strain to see the river 700 feet below.

Quiet again descends in the car and your attention is drawn to a nearby couple gazing over the "big red-wood" trees. The trees turned out to be yellow pine, rather stately in appearance, but not big - (heavens, maybe I've been brainwashed by Oregon). The train pulls into the Durango station at 6 p.m. and you feel that you have returned to a different world.

Both the train trip and a drive by car over Highway 550 are worth the time. The highway called Colorado's Million-Dollar highway goes over Red Mountain pass at 11,018 feet. Two others are Molas divide, 10,910, and Engineer pass, 10,210.

### Higher Ground

The two are completely different since the highway, built after the railroad had appropriated the only available passage through the narrow canyon of the Animas river, had to seek higher ground. The view is spectacular and the paved all-year road is wider, enough for large trucks. It can easily be traveled without apprehension by any careful driver.

After a trip to Silverton by rail the tourist can enjoy an 1880 melodrama at The Diamond Belle in the Strater hotel's, The Diamond Circle theater.

Written up in Life magazine several years back, patrons view the drama from tables on several levels in the cocktail lounge. There is an admission charge so viewers need not order, although soft drinks are also available.

### "Foul Play"

The waiters and waitresses are the actors in the play, "Foul Play." The patrons hiss the villain and cheer the "fair maiden." The villain gets his due, the underdog is cleared of the crime and wins the "fair maiden," with papa's approval. This is all accomplished with much cheering from the audience.

Much credit is due the old-time piano player, Rinaldo Capillupo, (just call me Capie, we were informed here). Informal indeed and the entire evening prior to the performance and between acts is spent by the audience singing to his lively old-time tunes.

The curtain was covered with advertisements. Some were humorous. "If you're shocked, call Nicholas Electric." "If more people ate at the Pizza House we could have a bigger ad."

These are only a few of the sight-seeing opportunities offered the traveler at Durango.

### Take Precautions With Swim Pools

New York - Clearly mark the shallow and deep sections of backyard swimming pools. Run buoy lines across at convenient spots. Keep on hand a rescue device such as a ring buoy with a rope or a length of bamboo pole.

The cautions, from the accident prevention department of the Association of Casualty and Surety companies, aim at curbing tragedies in home swimming pools.

### Summer Events Held By Theta Rho Girls

Omicron chapter of Theta Rho recently held a roller skating party. Club members, advisors, and invited guests joined in this activity as part of the chapter's summer entertainment program.

At a combined picnic and swimming party held in the Upper Applegate area during July, the girls celebrated the fifth birthday of Omicron chapter. Theta Rho is sponsored by the Rebekah lodge.

Rebeksals from the sponsoring lodge who assisted with these events were Mrs. Homer Vinzani, Mrs. Riley Applegate, Mrs. Henry Guss and Mrs. Elton Walker.

### Member Entertains For Past Matrons

Yreka - Mrs. C. J. Van Orsel entertained members of the Past Matrons' association of Stella chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, at her home after the last business meeting. She spoke of her experiences this summer in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Mrs. Floyd Burns, president conducted the business meeting which included the report of the hospital committee.

The September meeting will be in Hornbrook with Mrs. Burns as hostess.

Members and their families met with Mrs. Mertie Lewis in July for the annual picnic.

### Orange Cup

Minted orange cup is good as an appetizer or a dessert. To serve 6, peel and slice 4 medium sized oranges or cut into sections. Mix with 2 1/2 tablespoons of green mint syrup. Spoon into sherbert glasses and garnish with fresh mint.



Mr. and Mrs. Emory S. Parshall of Hornbrook, Calif., observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary during open house held August 19 at their home. The couple was married on August 20, 1912, on Mr. Parshall's birthday anniversary, at Yreka, Calif., and they have lived their entire lives in the northern California area. Mrs. Parshall has been confined to a wheel chair for the past two and one-half years and is pictured above in a walker in which she can move about. The home in which they live and where the open house was held is the one in which Mr. Parshall was born.

## Fiftieth Anniversary Observed at Hornbrook

Hornbrook - The observance of a golden wedding anniversary is not the rare event it used to be. But when the bridegroom observes the occasion in the same house in which he was born, that fact adds a bit more of interest and amazement to this important milestone.

Such was the case when Mr. and Mrs. Emory S. Parshall completed 50 years of married life on August 20. Since Mrs. Parshall has been confined to a wheel chair for the past two and one-half years, the celebration was restricted to a quiet family gathering at the Parshall home on Sunday, August 19.

Hosts for the reunion were Mrs. Parshall's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hart of Sacramento, and her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Simon of Montague.

A money tree was presented to the honored couple by their many friends in Hornbrook, several of whom called on them during the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Parshall were married on her birthday, August 20, 1912, on the lawn at the Methodist parsonage in Yreka, with the Rev. J. C. Gillette performing the ceremony. Mrs. Parshall is the former Miss Eva Alice Simon, born at Scott Bar to pioneer parents, Arthur Simon and the former Alice Nesbitt, both native Californians, who moved to Montague in 1907.

Parents of Mr. Parshall were William Parshall of Parshallville, Mich., and the former Emma California Smith, whose father, William Henry Smith, was born at Rochester, N.Y., and came across the plains over 100 years ago with Kit Carson and company, and was one of the early-day gold-mining pioneers of Siskiyou county. After their wedding ceremony, the newlyweds were serenaded by the entire Montague brass band, in which Mr. Parshall played the slide trombone.

Their honeymoon was spent in San Francisco where they purchased the furniture for the new home Mr. Parshall had built for his bride in Montague, and where he erected the building in which he operated a general merchandise store for several years. The building is now occupied by Lane's Hardware store.

### Son Born

Their only child, a son, Robert, was born in Montague. After selling the store, the Parshalls operated a sheep ranch for a while, and later a dairy on the Robert Rainey ranch in Seiad valley. In November 1938, they returned to Hornbrook to the old family home in which he was born, and in which they have lived ever since.

After ranching here for four years, and while continuing to operate the ranch, he started work for the Fruit Grower's Supply Co. in Hill, where he was employed until his retirement eight years ago. Their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parshall, live in Eastern Oregon and were unable to be here for the occasion.



Among those attending the annual fellowship tea sponsored by the Medford Council of United Church Women were Mrs. Everett Lasher, president of the group, and Mrs. C. Weldon Kline. This year the event, which honored the wives of valley ministers, combined a swimming party with the tea. The tea was held Wednesday at the home of Mrs. George Flanagan on Ehrman way. The purpose of the council is to unite church women in the building of a world Christian community.

### Calendar

Calendar notices and news for the society section of The Mail Tribune must be submitted in writing and deadline by the Sunday edition is 1 p.m. Friday. Deadline for the weekly calendar is the day of publication and for weekly day news is 3 p.m. the day before publication.

### Monday

7:45 p.m. - Natural Foods associates public meeting, Little auditorium, Medford High school.

### Gardeners Cancel Fall Flower Show

Prospect - At the last meeting of Prospect Garden club, members voted not to hold a fall flower show. The next meeting will be September 18.

### Stop Bad Breath

Sweeten Mouth-Donagh 3 Times Faster. Every Mouth tablet whistles you back from breath that affects your appearance, health, and happiness. Donagh 3 Times Faster. No harmful drugs. No irritating ingredients. No sugar. No artificial sweeteners. Donagh 3 Times Faster. No sugar. No artificial sweeteners. Donagh 3 Times Faster.

## Women's News Social Events

### VFW District Meeting Slated at Shady Cove

Shady Cove - Steelhead post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and auxiliary will be the host group for a VFW district meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, September 16. Posts and auxiliaries from Brookings, Grants Pass, Rogue River, Gold Hill, Medford, Ashland, White City and Shady Cove will participate.

A dinner for new members is planned for Friday, September 21, Mrs. Bryan announced.

Other events announced include a box social on Saturday, September 22, a rummage sale, and a bazaar table at the Thanksgiving dinner.

The Past Presidents club is in charge of the project and auxiliary members are invited to assist.

Mrs. Fred Mast reported on a cancer research project. A donation was made during the meeting toward the Medford Salvation Army building.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Kenneth Clair, and Mrs. Mary Perkins.

### District Head Guest of Groups

Jacksonville - William Friend Jr., Grants Pass, district commander of the American Legion, and Mrs. Friend, district auxiliary president, made an official visit to the Centennial Post 100 of the American Legion and auxiliary Friday evening.

The occasion also was past commander's night and charter officers of the post with Lester Watts, charter commander, presiding.

Other guests at the meeting were Mrs. Dorothy Sutter, Medford, Mrs. Betty Fichter, past president of the auxiliary to the Medford post, and Mrs. Walter W. Collins, junior past president of the Medford auxiliary; Mervin McQuarrier, Rogue River, commander of the Grants Pass post, and Mrs. McQuarrier.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

### Lodge Officer To Make Visit

The Westonka tribe of the Redman lodge will entertain the great sachem of California, Wayne Winkler, when he makes his official visit to the lodge Tuesday, August 28 at 8 p.m., in the Redman hall. With him will be other officials of the lodge.

Members of the Pochontas lodge, headed by Mrs. Orval Hayes who holds the office of Sacajawea, will entertain wives of the visiting officers and also will serve refreshments to the group at the close of the meeting.

### Gold Hill PTA Lists Officers

Gold Hill - Mrs. Donald Meister will serve as president of the Gold Hill Parent-Teacher association when meetings are resumed this fall.

Other officers will be Mrs. Rolan Rosecrans, vice-president; Mrs. G. R. Gray, secretary, and Norman Holden, treasurer.

In the last meeting of the 1961-62 academic year Mrs. Roland Washburn, retiring president, was presented a past president's pin. Members of the PTA unit approved a suggestion by Gilbert A. Mack, principal of the Gold Hill schools, that the unit purchase a camera as its project of the year.

During the meeting Mrs. Washburn accepted, on behalf of the PTA, a charter of Pack 41, Cub Scouts. The presentation was made by Lyle McGraw, chairman for Pack 41.

### Dinner Is Held By Yreka Group

Yreka - About 50 members and guests of the Pythian Sisters lodge recently went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orlo Davis in Little Shasta for a potluck dinner and social evening.

Guests from Auburn, Calif., were former member of the Pythian Sisters, the Rev. and Mrs. Hartzel Buckner, who are spending a few weeks with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buckner, Yreka.

The next meeting will be held in the Odd Fellows hall at 8 p.m. September 12.

### Dinner Given

Prospect - Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thurston, Independence, Ore., have been guests of Mrs. Alice Conger, Prospect, recently. Mr. Thurston is a brother of Mrs. Conger.

While here they were also guests of Robert Conger, a nephew, and Mrs. Archie McKillop, a niece. Mr. and Mrs. Everett Shafer gave a dinner for the group.

## Medical Assistants End Session with Ceremony

Miss Loretta Wunderlich, Portland, was installed president of the Oregon State Medical Assistants' association during the final sessions of the annual state convention Saturday night at Rogue Valley Country club.

She succeeds Mrs. Cecille Hammill, Central Point. Others installed were Mrs. Wilda Stewart, Medford, president-elect; Mrs. Margaret Madill, Portland, vice-president; Miss Alice Park, Portland, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Betty Mill, Portland, treasurer; Miss Bernice Ledahl, Eugene, recording secretary. Since Miss Ledahl could not attend, her proxy for the ceremony was Mrs. Lona Plotts, Eugene.

Honored guest and speaker for the banquet meeting Saturday night was Dr. Florian Shasky, Medford, advisor and sponsor of the Jackson County chapter of the state association, host group.

Miss Wunderlich, at the Saturday meeting and a board meeting Sunday morning at Stanley's stated that her primary aim for the year will be to promote the growth of the organization, which is new in Oregon. The state and national associations are working on a program of certification of medical assistants which they believe will raise professional standards.

The state's delegate to a coming meeting of the American Association of Medical Assistants will be Mrs. Hammill. The certification program is expected to occupy much of the convention program, and upon her return she will visit the various state chapters and report in full on the certification plan.

Among the speakers during the convention were Wynne Grier, president of the Medical-Dental-Hospital bureau, a division of the General Credit Service, Inc.; Dr. Brian Stringer, Medford physician and surgeon; Mrs. Bernice Strawn, Corvallis, home economist with the Oregon State Extension service and Dr. Gerald Turner, Arcata, Calif., director of "As You Like It" for the 1962 season of the Oregon Shakespearean festival.

Mr. Grier talked on "How to Sell More Receipts" giving information useful to the assistants who are charged with collections for the doctors. Mrs. Strawn gave information helpful to the assistants who are also homemakers.

Dr. Stringer spoke about "Some Aspects of Government Medical Care," giving both pro and con material on the subject.

A large group of the delegates attended a performance of "As You Like It" at the Shakespearean theater in Ashland Friday night.

### Promenaders Plan Workshop Tuesday

Star Promenaders will hold a workshop Tuesday, August 28 at 8 p.m. in the Roxy Ann Grange hall on Spring street. All Square dancers are invited to attend. Current round dances and the newest square dance calls will be taught by Mr. and Mrs. Byron (Buzz) Dibble during the evening.

Club members are reminded that practice for the clubs' exhibition group, "The Comets," begins at 7 p.m. on this date. Any member wishing to become a part of this group should plan on attending.

Mrs. Eskew has extended the individual projects from October 1 until January 1. Instead of one large fund raising event to raise proceeds for the budget expenses, each member who wishes will participate in the individual projects system of raising funds by doing something on an individual basis. Monies derived from the individual projects will help support the budget.

It was announced that the Woman's Society sub-district fall seminar will be held on Sept. 24 at St. Luke's Methodist church in Medford.

### TIME to let NU-WAY rejuvenate SCHOOL CLOTHES



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