



# *The* Milepost

January 2017  
Volume 37  
Issue #1



## ***Christmas Candy-Cog Engine At The Broadmoor***

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 13th, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Sand Creek Police Station, 4125 Center Park Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy Boulevards).**

## INFORMATION

*The Milepost* is published monthly and is the official journal of the Pikes Peak Division, of the Rocky Mountain Region, of the National Model Railroad Association. Our meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month at the Sand Creek Police Station, 4125 Center Park Drive (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 7:00 PM. Please come to one of our meetings. We'd love to meet you. All scales are welcome. Besides our monthly meeting, we have swap meets, train shows, and other model railroad activities.

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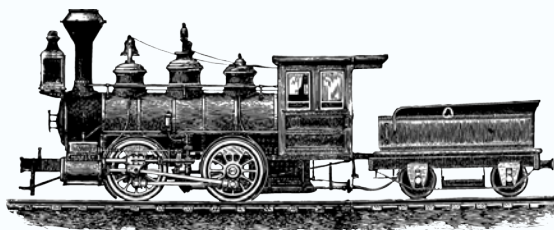
**Cover Photograph:** A Christmas candy-cog steam engine at the main hotel building, on the second floor, at the Broadmoor, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Photograph was snapped on Sunday, December 25th, 2016, by Michael Murdock.

## UPCOMING PROGRAM

At the next meeting, on Friday, January 13th, 2017, Irv Johnson will have a presentation titled, "Ride the Goose #5 from Silverton to the wye at Elk Park and back, see Eureka & Palisades #4 running out of Durango, and observe several special trains and other equipment".

## ... OBITUARY ...

Irv Johnson wrote, the PPD club has lost another friend and former member. Norm and Luana (Lu) are both gone. They were members in the 1990's and early 2000's. Norm died in Arizona in 2011, and Lu died this past December 4th, 2016, from acute, aggressive leukemia, which was diagnosed on November 23rd, 2016. They were avid railroaders — Lu's father worked for the Colorado Midland and the Midland Terminal. Their model railroad was in their Crystal Hills, Manitou Springs house. They rode/chased many trains with Irv and Joyce Johnson.



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# DECEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

## December 9th, 2016 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Pikes Peak Division of the National Model Railroaders Association (Christmas Party)

The meeting was brought to order by Superintendent Wade Mountz at 7:00 PM. There were 34 people in attendance. No new visitors.

Gary Meyers, from the NMRA-RMR, presented awards. John Campbell was awarded two plaques (given to the new superintendent, Joe Costa). Mike Maline received a Golden Spike award. Rob Allen received three awards for structures he built. The next RMR event will be a Durango and Silverton trip. Gary reviewed the schedule for that.

With Wade Mountz (outgoing superintendent) and Charles Marchbanks (outgoing assistant superintendent) stepping down from their positions, elections were held for these two positions. After elections, Charalee Topinka was elected as the new assistant superintendent, and Joe Costa was elected as the new superintendent. Rob Allen is staying on as secretary, and Frank Pareso is staying on as treasurer.

Jack Sousa led the ladies and the model railroader gift exchanges. Frank Pareso led the division gift exchange. There was a lot of trading and visiting done afterwards.

Meeting adjourned at around 9:00 PM.



Joe Costa, the new superintendent of the Pikes Peak Division of the NMRA.



Charalee Topinka, the new assistant superintendent of the Pikes Peak Division of the NMRA.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

*By Joe Costa, Superintendent of PPD-NMRA*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing crew of Wade Mountz, Superintendent, and Charles Marchbanks, Assistant Superintendent, and Dennis Snyder, Membership and Contest Chairman. They did a fantastic job. I'm very grateful that Rob Allen, Frank Pareso, Michael Murdock, Jack Sousa, John Emmot and Kristin Phillips are staying on in their current roles. Seriously, I had no idea how heavy a load the outgoing crew was carrying until I loaded all those boxes into the car.

I really enjoyed the Christmas party. Frank was a great Santa as always and Jack was a great Scrooge. The supporting elves brought great goodies. But the hard work of those with no formal titles who participate in our events, shows, contests and layout tours, present our programs, contribute to the newsletter are the engines that inspire us and keep us going.

One thing I am very interested in is finding out how many of us are thinking about going to the Durango event next summer. Kristin and I really enjoyed participating in the Cumbres and Toltec Caboose Ride this October. One thing we definitely have in Colorado is lots of cool tourist railroads.

With the change in guard, it's probably a good time to think about coming up with a new brochure and maybe a Facebook page. If anyone has a high res picture of a model, train car, or layout scene they are really proud of we'd like to include it.

## GERMAN WONDERLAND

*Posted By Bob Haggart*

Remember the two brothers, in Germany who had a wonderful model railway that was something to see? This is an update for their German Wonderland. Enjoy. There have been little clips about this place for the past few years, it is still not finished but is growing to that conclusion as they will soon run out of space. A short review, it was started by two brothers as a place to show their hobby, it started growing by leaps & bounds. Soon they were joined by other 'Model Railroad Clubs' and other craftsmen. Some were electricians, model makers, carpenters, and computer programmers. Their wives would stop by to see what they were doing and usually bring them a lunch. One thing led to another. Three of the ladies had worked at a bakery, several visitors would ask if they had a snack bar. The idea was planted; some of the carpenters came and built a nice restaurant area for the bakery and a kitchen too. If the fresh coffee smell didn't get you then the bakery definitely would. This was about five years ago. One of the breweries came and furnished all of the tables and chairs, serving counter and, etc. Their latest finished area is the airport. Planes look like they are flying and landing. Here is a link to a video of their layout:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACkmg3Y64\\_s&](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACkmg3Y64_s&)

This official video about Miniature Wunderland Hamburg, the largest model railway in the world, and one of the most successful tourist attractions in Germany. On the 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> large layout, far more than a thousand trains, air crafts, cars and ships move about. A wonder of the world in miniature. Please, find more information on <http://www.miniatur-wunderland.com>.

# MODULAR MUSINGS

By John Emmot, Chairman of Module Group

We are at the beginning of a new year. I hope the fortunes of the Pikes Peak Division remain strong and positive. Our thanks go to Joe and Charalee as they take up the task of guiding and maintaining the group. We should also remember Frank and Rob for continuing in their positions for another year. Our appreciation also goes to Wade and Charles for their work and commitment for the past several years and through the Convention. Last year saw the initiation of some activities to further the programs of the NMRA such as the contest emphasis on the Achievement Program and encouraging members to submit their work for judging and recognition. We have seen the presence of several new members from the community at meetings. Let us do our part to engage them in the activities of the PPD and foster their continuation with us.

We had a great Christmas party in December. Gary Meyers, RMR achievement chairman, was here to present NMRA awards to Mike Maline and Rob Allen. Congratulations to both. The membership exchange provided some good gifts, but not a lot of secondary 'claiming' with a couple of exceptions. As usual, Frank outdid himself with the raffle gifts. And I noticed several 'after party exchanges'. There was plenty of party food and hors d'oeuvres. There was even enough to share with our hosts at the Police Station. Thanks to Frank and Jack for their part making it all happen and thanks to all who participated in the making of a wonderful evening.

As most of you are aware by now, the January TECO show was cancelled after a mix-up in dates with the Expo Center and the unlikelihood to recover with an earlier show date. The next TECO is firmly scheduled for 29th and 30th of April 2017, at the Expo Center on North Nevada, in Colorado Springs. Mark your calendars for that one and plan to be there. I'm not sure what the dates of the PPD Spring show may be. It could come before the TECO show. There is time to plan for them both.

Time to wrap this up. I am late and Mike may already have laid out the newsletter. See ya all 'round the roundhouse.



Mike Maline receiving an award from Gary Meyers.



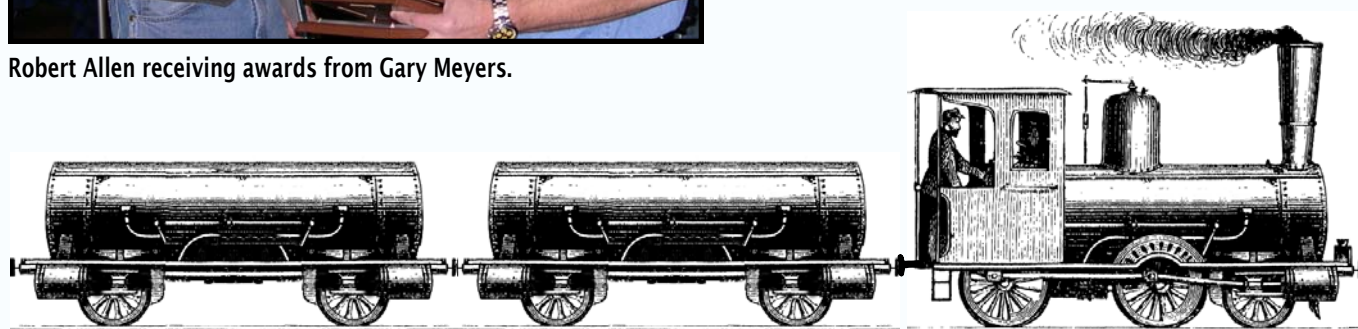
Jack opens up a large print gift.



Robert Allen receiving awards from Gary Meyers.



PPD Christmas party cake.







# Joe's Railroad Notes

By Joe Costa

## Choo-Choo Mailbox

Kristin needed to replace her hail damaged mailbox so she decided to order a choo-choo mailbox online. After FedEx delivered the box, we opened it to discover that it was just a black mailbox. Then we opened up the door of the mailbox and saw the wooden components wrapped in newspaper. She didn't realize when we opened the box that this was a kit. Garden scale, I guess.



While assembling the mailbox kit, we naturally ended up with one wood screw extra and one machine screw missing — sounds like a normal kit. We were able to fix that with a trip over to Ace Hardware. I remember fondly, as a young man, going to Dooley's Hardware Store in Long Beach — they carried Lionel trains.

We braved the cold and the snow and swapped out the old mailbox with the new. Does assembling a mailbox engine kit count towards a NMRA achievement award?

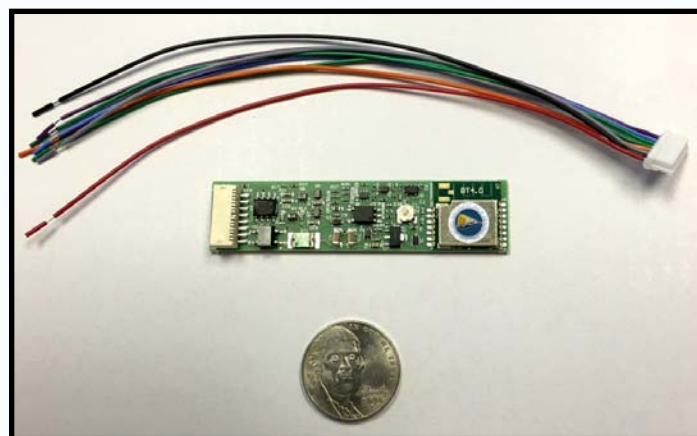


## Monocacy Trains Bluetooth Board

These folks have created a Bluetooth board along the lines of BlueRail Trains who partnered with Bachmann. Except it's half the size of their board, a little over half the price and can be installed even in N gauge locos. It too runs with a free app on iOS or Android devices. There is no onboard sound but sound will play on the handheld device.

Apparently, their app is incompatible with the Bachmann Blue Rail Bluetooth card. Hmmm, why am I not surprised. Actually, someone

is trying to set up a Bluetooth standard for interoperability. They claim they can attach without soldering to a standard DCC ready connector with an adapter cable or you can solder individual wires off their harness. I'll check it out when it arrives. If it works as advertised, I may mention them in an upcoming presentation.



In early December, I ordered a bluetooth decoder from Monocacy trains back east and it's on the way. It's competitive with the BlueRail Trains board that Bachmann uses with E-Z App.

When running the Monocacy app, it hangs when there's Bachmann E-Z app trains on the layout. Oops. I've sent them an e-mail with a few questions. Never did hear anything from MRC.

Originally, for my presentation, I was going to have a slide on MRC and their DCC system and JMRI connectivity, but I found their stuff more confusing than enlightening. They have zero marketing on their Loco Genie offerings — although maybe that will change at year end with their fourth generation release of direct radio.

Here is a table I found on the different systems:

Feature	E-ZApp	MRC Freedom One	Loco Genie Black Remote	Loco Genie White Remote
Works on DC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remote works on DCC	Yes	No	No	Yes
Loco Accessible by DCC System	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multi Loco Support	Yes	No	No	No
Decoder available	Yes (BlueRail Trains)	Yes**	No	Yes
Locos Available	Bachmann RS3, FT, GP35, 2-6-0	IHC F3-A	Model Power DDT, 0-4-0	Mantua GP20
Onboard Sound	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Battery	N/A	A23**	A23	AAA
Radio	Bluetooth 4.0	Proprietary	Proprietary	Proprietary
Range in Feet	100	12	50	90

## Adding A Bluetooth Game Controller To A Smart Phone Running A Train

I saw a YouTube video of the BlueRail Train folks running a Bluetooth game controller running the E-Z app on a smart phone running a Bachmann engine at a show. They were using a \$40 MadCatz controller. I am going to test this out on a \$8 controller. I guess the logic is, do you really want a kid running trains on your \$500 smart phone or a \$40 game controller?



Continued on the next page...



*Continued from the previous page...*

### LionChief Wireless System And Other Notes

In doing my research on wireless train control, I came across Lionel's LionChief wireless system. Then today, when I went to clean any obsolete TECO cards and posters at Custom Railway Supply, I saw Lionel has the Polar Express train set with this system. The controller for this system is large, rugged, and kid proof. Now, unlike the Bachmann and MRC systems I talked about, it's a proprietary system.

I have been working with Shaun O'Brien at Monocacy Trains "beta testing" their Bluetooth system. I'm driving him nuts but I think he appreciates it.

I also visited the north Hobbytown, and Kristin and I will visit Discount and the south Hobbytown for our TECO cleanup operation.

### Trains At The Broadmoor

Kristin and I recently visited The Broadmoor. Here are some photographs of the gingerbread cog engine they had.



Outside the Broadmoor there is a display of the Manitou & Pikes Peak Cog Railroad steam engine #5.



Next to the Cog engine, they had a HO-scale model of the Broadmoor's Cloud Camp.



## HO-SCALE CAMERA CAR

*By Michael D. Weidner*

One of the latest items from Micromark — a HO-scale camera car. Not exactly a giveaway, but hey, there's free shipping involved.

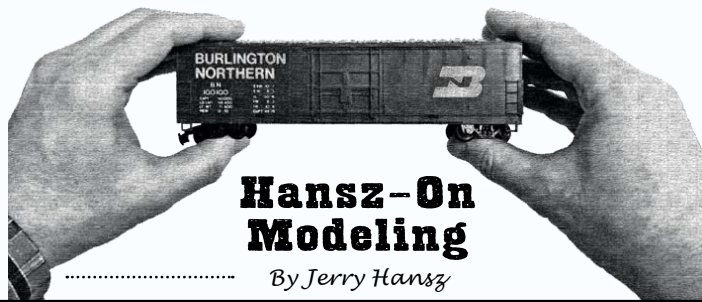


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## Hansz-On Modeling

By Jerry Hansz

### Modifying 2016 Convention Cars

I picked up four cars for the Rocky Mountain Region 2016 convention. Two of them did not have the convention decals. The cars were  $5\frac{3}{8}$ " long and weighed 2.6 ounces. NMRA weights should be between  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. The cars had truck-mounted couplers similar to McHenry couplers. Some couplers were low, and the cars didn't track well.

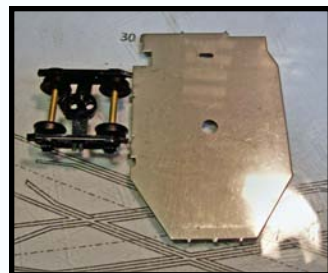


I decided to install body mounted Kadee couplers and weight the cars to the NMRA standard. I didn't have any appropriate weights, so a search of hardware produced bolts and nuts that weighed exactly 1.0 ounce. Super!

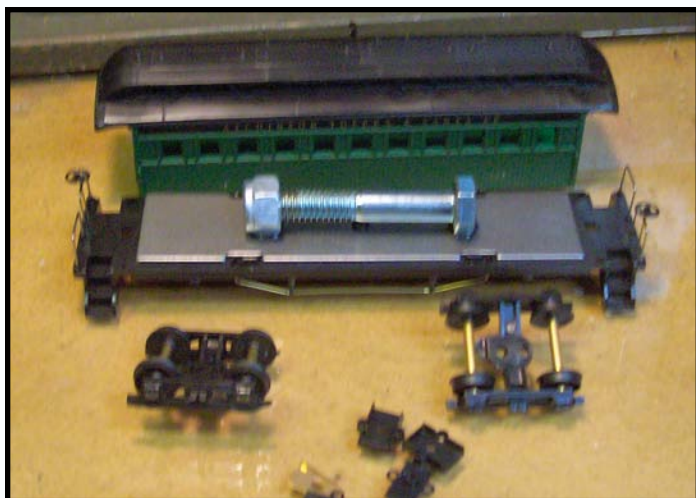


One ounce weight candidate.

The cars were disassembled. The truck mounted couplers were removed and the wheels were checked for correct gauge.



The weights were secured to the existing weights with "super glue".



One car with weights, modified trucks, and Kadee coupler boxes.



All the cars prepped.

After the weight glue was dry, the Kadee coupler pockets were added. Additional plastic was needed under the coupler pockets. Kadee #5 couplers were mounted and secured with black plastic 5-56 screws. Coupler height was correct.

The snap-in trucks were a problem. The spring ends on one combine truck broke and I had to fill the truck mounting hole, drill for a screw, and substitute a truck from the scrap box. Other trucks were flaky, and will probably have to be replaced.

Never-the-less the four cars were reassembled, and 2-6-0 #9441 pulled the train on the Santa Fe Central.



The old time passenger train parked at Hays.



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The January 21-22, 2017 TECO show has been cancelled. Please see John Emmot's "Modular Musings" column, on page #4, for more information.

The next TECO show will be April 29th and 30th, 2017.

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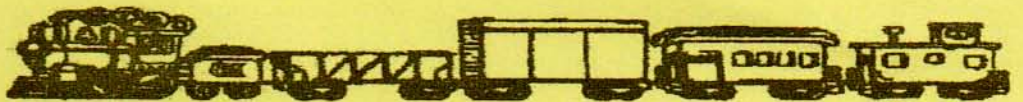
~~HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS \* SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
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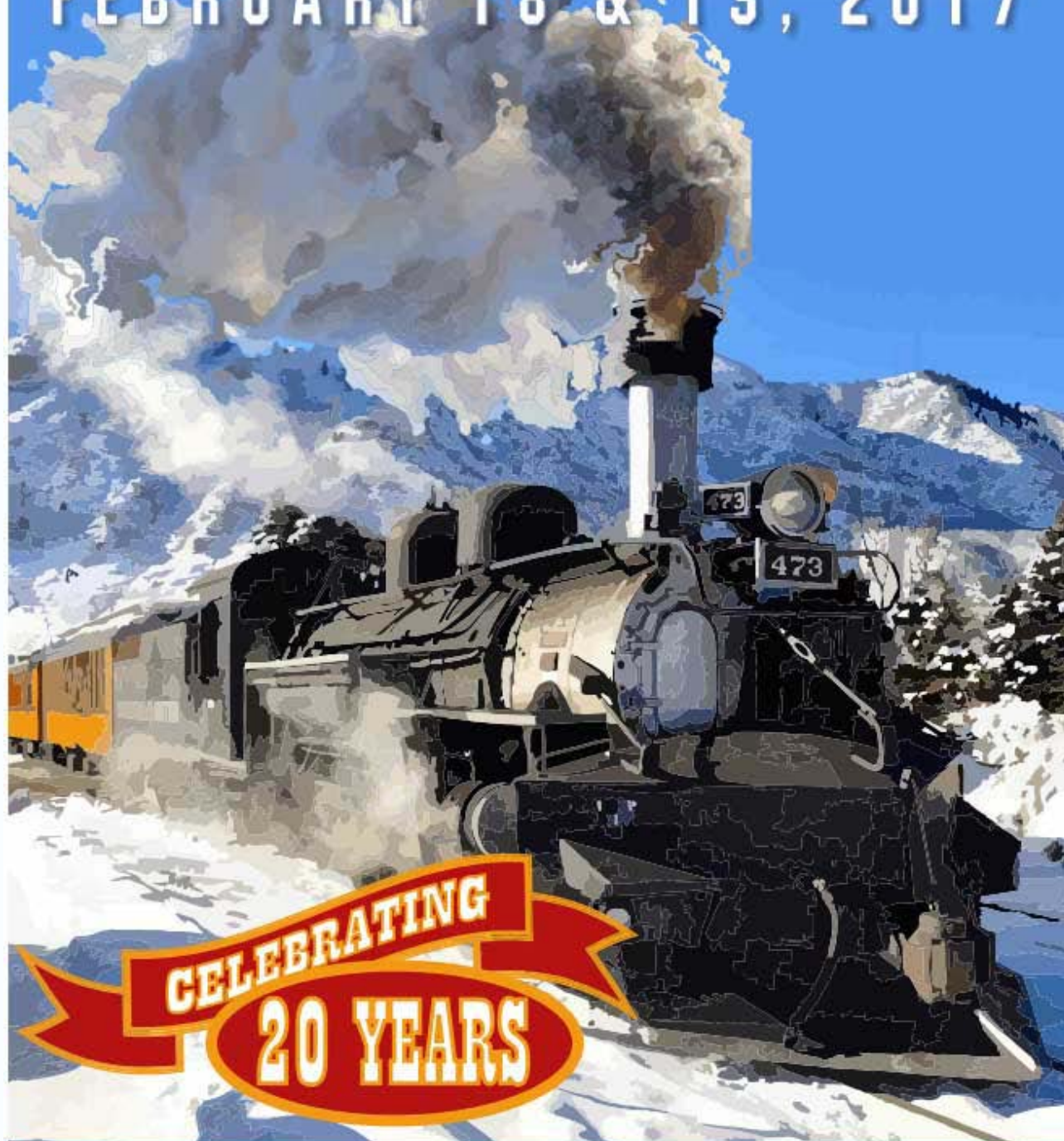




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