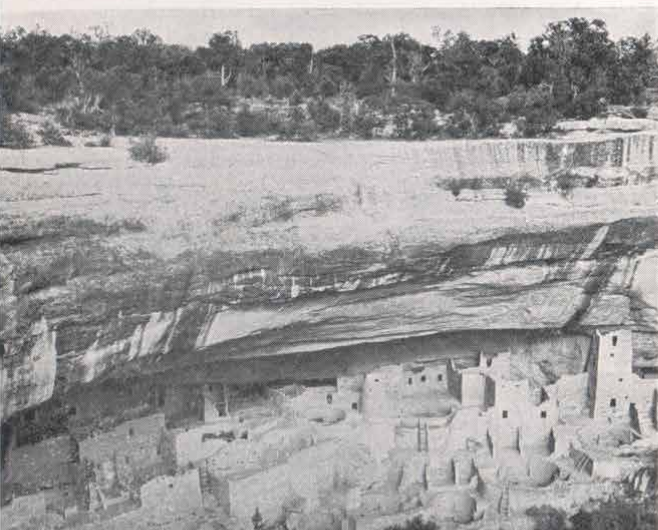


MYSTERIOUS MESA VERDE An Alluring Antiquity

Mesa Verde National Park, 59 miles west of Durango, encloses the largest and best-preserved group of prehistoric ruins in the United States. The thrill of discovery is yours when you poke around in these haunted dwellings that once housed one of the oldest civilizations in North America.

The Mesa Verde (Green Table) is so named for the dense pinon and cedar forests that carpet its top. It's a high-walled mesa trenched far back from the Mancos River by a series of abrupt canyons. In these

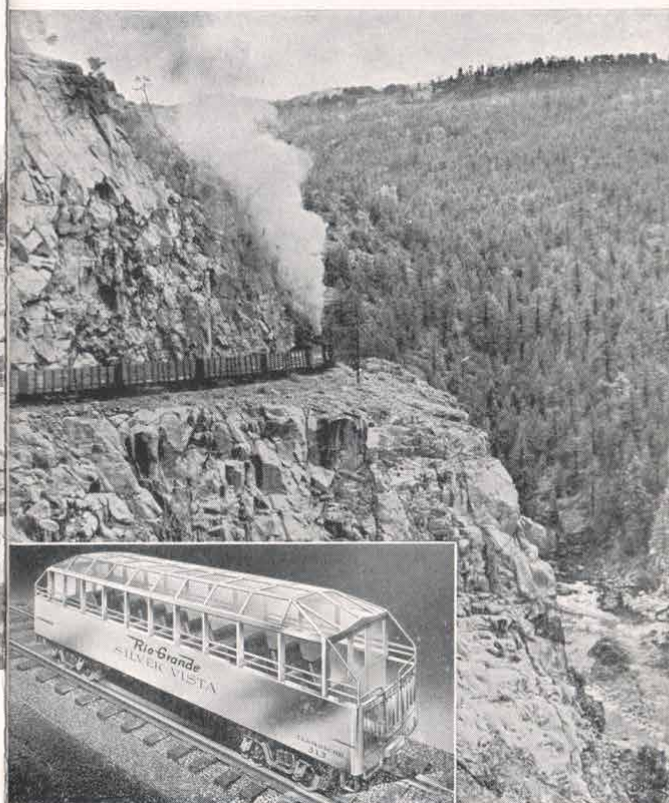


CLIFF PALACE—Mesa Verde National Park

canyons the ancient cliff-dwellers' deserted towers and towns nestle under the high table-rock that overhangs the walls.

You will find Mesa Verde National Park both educational and fascinating; well worth a three- or four-day visit. Excellent accommodations are provided at Spruce Tree Lodge, or the nearby public camp-ground, in the heart of the Park. Your appreciation of the ruins and their antiquity will be heightened if you first visit the art exhibit and museum at park headquarters. There you get a clear picture of the life and culture of the people who developed this remarkable stone-age civilization a thousand years ago.

A Travel Adventure RIDE RIO GRANDE'S Novel Narrow Gauge



SILVER VISTA CAR

ANIMAS CANYON

Through SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO'S SILVER SAN JUAN

*Durango-Silverton
via the "Silverton"*

A TRAVEL ADVENTURE *Ride Rio Grande's* NOVEL NARROW GAUGE



THE SAN JUAN—Luxury Narrow Gauge Train

Through SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO'S SILVER SAN JUAN

*Alamosa-Durango
via the "San Juan"*



CONVENTIONAL PRELUDE TO A UNIQUE ADVENTURE • An after-dinner departure from Denver, or late evening departure from Pueblo, and before-breakfast arrival in Alamosa, Colorado, is provided by the Denver & Rio Grande Western on a standard gauge train equipped with standard sleeping cars. This is the conventional prelude to a unique railroading adventure. Alamosa is the eastern terminal of the "San Juan," a modern narrow gauge passenger train.

LAST OF A ROMANTIC, BY-GONE BREED • The "San Juan" is the last and finest of a small and sturdy breed that was once king on the high iron. Today it is the only narrow gauge passenger train in the United States that operates on a daily schedule and carries luxury equipment. The "San Juan" is steam-heated and vestibuled; equipped with 110-volt electrical outlets for radios, electric shavers, etc., carries well appointed parlor-observation cars; offers dinette service; has coaches fitted with upholstered, deep-cushion, reclining chairs that swing to any position.

THREE RAILS INSTEAD OF TWO • If you're a conventional railroad traveler, the first thing you'll notice on arrival in Alamosa is that the tracks in the yards have three rails instead of two. Alamosa is a junction point between a portion of the Denver & Rio Grande Western's 1,920 miles of standard gauge main track and its 607 miles of narrow gauge main track. Equipment of either gauge can operate on the three-rail track.

"AH WILDERNESS..." • Between Alamosa and Durango the "San Juan" traverses an awesome wilderness. For miles at a time the only vestige of human activity is the train itself and the narrow ribbons of track. The jaded spirit of the city dweller revives to marvel at abysmal ravines torn by frothy rivers and verdant highland meadows punctuated by jagged peaks of incredible heights and configuration.

On Your **TRANSCONTINENTAL** Trip—
Ride Either of Rio Grande's Scenic Main Lines.

THE EXPOSITION FLYER—Chicago to San Francisco,
via Denver and Salt Lake City—the Colorado River
Scenic Short Cut.

THE ROYAL GORGE—St. Louis to San Francisco, via
Pueblo and Salt Lake City—The Royal Gorge Route.

TOLTEC GORGE • Singular among travel oddities is the skirting of famous Toltec Gorge, where the "San Juan" hugs the granite rim on a six-foot shelf hewn in the face of the precipice.

CUMBRES PASS • At slightly over ten-thousand feet the "San Juan" clammers through Cumbres Pass. Up here the world of people and things seems far away indeed. Not even the ever-moaning winds or the fiery little train can make an impression on the incredible solitude of this primitive, lofty landscape.

CROSSROADS—SAN JUAN BASIN • Metropolis of southwestern Colorado's San Juan River basin is Durango, a thriving commercial and transportation hub. Here you will find all the comforts and conveniences of urban life in an incomparable natural setting.

To the north and east tower the jagged fourteen-thousand-foot ramparts that mark the Continental Divide. To the south and west descend the fertile slopes and valleys that stretch away to the San Juan river.

Durango is the trade center of an outdoor paradise where you can enjoy a brief holiday, a long vacation, or an entire lifetime.

FOREST PRIMEVAL • A few miles from Durango are the San Juan and Montezuma National Forests. Combined they total more than 2¼-million acres of God-graced alpine splendor. Enormous needles of rock pierce the clouds fourteen thousand feet above sea level. From lofty ledge to towering crag leap agile mountain sheep. Between the peaks in breath-taking valleys the panther stalks his prey; the bear tramples the wild berries; deer and elk flee from the slightest sound; wild turkeys thunder into flight on powerful wings.

In perpetual banks of snow are born the icy torrents that burst into space to form dazzling waterfalls; that roar through granite gorges and glide over lush meadows lying under a blanket of wildflowers. Rainbow trout break the surface and disappear again in a silver flash. Sapphire lakes mirror emerald evergreens. Dainty white aspens shiver in the sunlight.

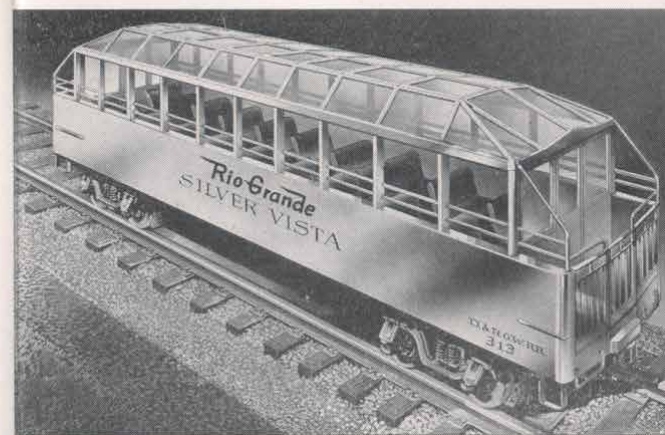
This is the forest primeval.

By federal decree all of this wondrous wilderness was set aside for your enjoyment. You hit the trail either on foot or on horseback with a pack outfit—the only two practicable means of transportation.

RIO DE LAS ANIMAS • Separating these two vast National Forests is the Animas River that rises high on the Continental Divide above Silverton and flows through Durango on the way to its confluence with the San Juan river at Farmington, New Mexico.

QUEEN OF THE CANYONS • The Rio Grande's narrow gauge "Silverton," featuring the "Silver Vista" car, parallels this scenic stream along the forty-five tortuous miles that separate Durango and Silverton. Top billing on this panoramic show that you'll never forget is el Canyon del Rio de las Animas, one of the most spectacular gorges traversed by a railroad anywhere on the North American continent. Its beauty defies adequate description; but men have tried.

In 1885, Ernest Ingersoll, eminent author-traveler of that era, in a chapter entitled "The Queen of the Canyons," wrote "... a sharp outward curve is rounded, and what a vision greets our astonished eyes! The most magnificent of all the canyons of the Rockies! The mountain presents a red granite front, perpendicular for nearly a thousand feet, and midway between top and bottom has been chiseled from the solid rock a long balcony or shelf, just wide enough for the track. From far below comes to our ears the roar of driven waters, and with bated breath we gaze fearfully over the



edge, so perilously near, down, down to where a bright green torrent urges its impatient way between walls whose jetty hue no sunray relieves. Overhead the beeling precipice towers ominously, as if about to crush the pygmies who had dared to invade its storm-swept breast. In its shadow all is silent, weird and awful.

"The opposite side of the canyon, scarcely the toss of a pebble away, rises almost vertically, a smooth, unscalable wall, that gleams like brightly polished bronze . . . In the loftier heights beyond, the verdure-clad mountains are seen rising into shapely cones and coquetting with the fleecy clouds. Such were the elements of the sublime view in the Canyon of the Rio de las Animas . . ."

That was written sixty years ago. Needless to say, Animas Canyon hasn't changed a bit; nor is it likely to change much in the next sixty centuries.

Your narrow gauge trip from Durango to Silverton will be something you'll talk about for the rest of your life.

SHADES OF THE SILVER SEVENTIES • Set in a grassy bowl surrounded by towering mineral mountains, Silverton is a quiet alpine hamlet; seat of San Juan County; center of the vast San Juan mining district. Gone is the seething vigor that animated Silverton in the "seventies." Those were "Bonanza!" days when the flood of silver that poured from the encircling crags boomed Silverton to pre-eminence in Colorado's fabulous mining history.

As you browse through the shops and cafes, here and there you'll come across a relic of erstwhile grandeur. A handsomely carved hardwood chair; a massive mahogany bar backed by beautiful old mirrors; a faded oil painting in a splendid frame ornate with gilt and gingerbread: the occasional reminders that Silverton was once the queen city of a precious metallic empire.

For information on fares, schedules, etc.,
See your local ticket agent, or write:

H. I. Scofield, Passenger Traffic Manager
Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad
101 Rio Grande Bldg.
Denver 2, Colorado