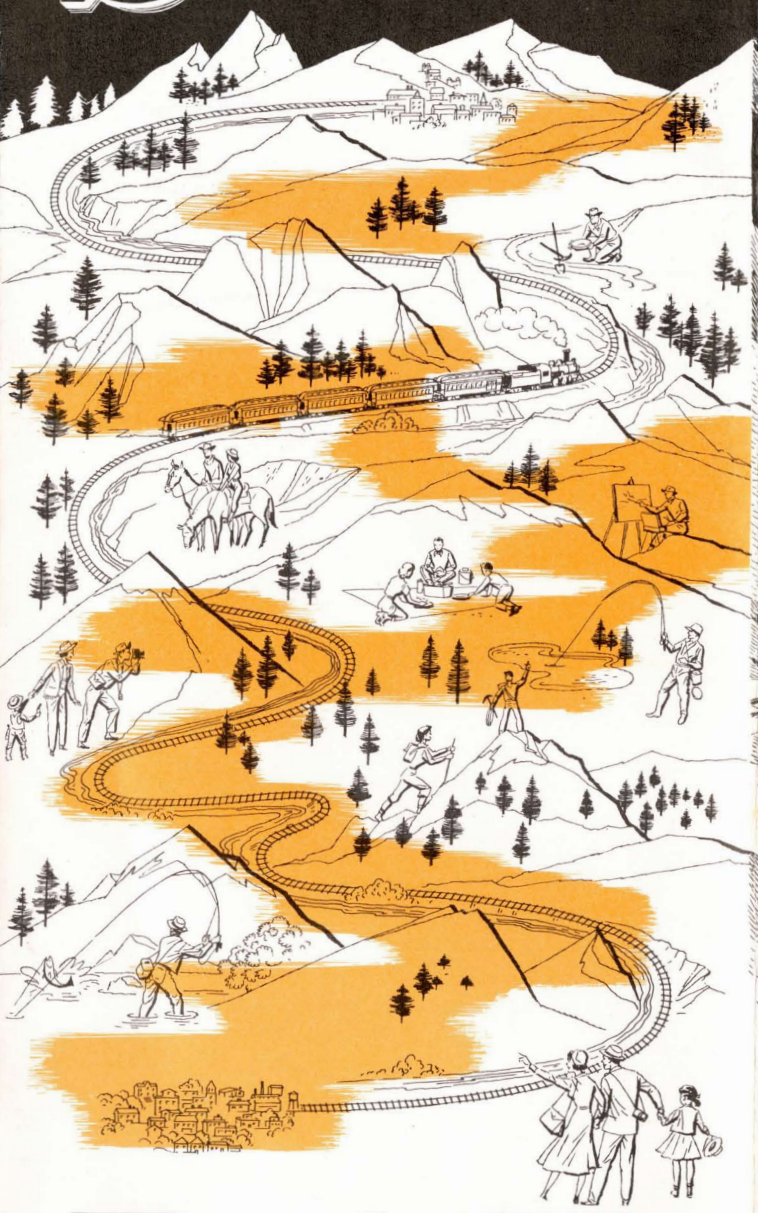
TAKE A TRIP TO YESTERDAY

ON THE

SILVERTON



Rio Grande

DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD

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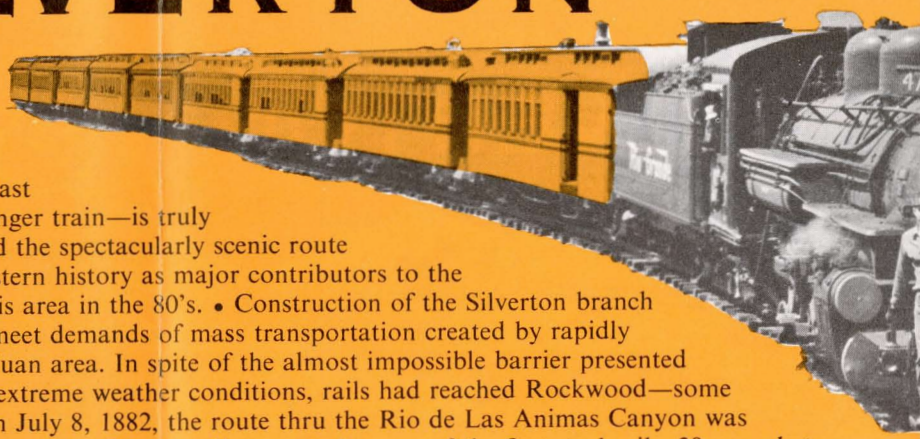


Your trip on the Silverton—America's last regularly scheduled narrow gauge passenger train—is truly a "*journey to yesterday.*" Your train and the spectacularly scenic route it traverses are indelibly stenciled in western history as major contributors to the growth and progress that highlighted this area in the 80's. • Construction of the Silverton branch began October 3, 1881 at Durango, to meet demands of mass transportation created by rapidly developing mining interests of the San Juan area. In spite of the almost impossible barrier presented by the rugged mountain terrain and its extreme weather conditions, rails had reached Rockwood—some 19 miles distant—by December 11th. On July 8, 1882, the route thru the Rio de Las Animas Canyon was complete to Silverton. • Added distinction of the Silverton line came thru use of the first steel rails, 30 pounds to the yard, manufactured by the Colorado Coal and Iron Company, predecessor of today's Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation. The narrow gauge track (3'0" wide), unique in railroading today, was a practical, economical solution to railroad construction in the mountains. RIO GRANDE'S main line between Denver, Pueblo, Salt Lake City and Ogden became standard gauge (4'8½" wide) in 1890, but contribution of the narrow gauge lines will ever remain a glorious chapter in western history. *Route of "The Silverton" along the Rio de Las Animas is a cherished link with the past.* • Whatever the hardships involved, the Silverton fully justified its existence by supplying vital transportation to the rich San Juan district, where mining production exceeded $300,000,000 in little more than 60 years. • The essential role played by this branch is surpassed only by the rugged scenery that lines its right of way. Surely, the Rio de Las Animas Canyon is one of the most spectacular traversed by a railroad anywhere on the North American continent. • The brightly colored coaches in which you travel were the first passenger equipment to serve the Silverton branch . . . the locomotives that pull them are veterans, too, of many years service on this and other Rio Grande narrow gauge lines.

Following is a timetable of your trip between Durango and Silverton. A brief description of points along the way is provided to bring this, your "journey to yesterday" into sharper focus.

THE SILVERTON*

Read Down	Mile Post	Station	Elev.	Read up
Lv. 9:15 a.m.	451.5	DURANGO	6520	Ar. 6:00 p.m.

Durango is the hub of the San Juan Basin, unbelievably rich in natural resources. Ample water supports thriving agriculture. Timber, coal, precious metals, petroleum and natural gas provide a diversified base for the Basin's solid economy.

462.5 HERMOSA 6645

Here the railroad leaves the valley, climbing along the mountain side to bypass a box canyon located above Bakers Bridge (between Mile Posts 465 and 466).

465.0 'El Rancho Encantado' Dude Ranch

Popular resort and frequently headquarters for Hollywood movie companies who find ideal picture locations in the Animas Valley.

469.1 ROCKWOOD 7367

To the left of this old timber camp are the Hermosa Cliffs. Three miles north is Electra Lake, major source of water used in production of electricity for the Durango area. Having bypassed the box canyon, route now winds along rock shelf blasted from 1000-foot cliffs, then drops down to Animas River Valley.

10:50 a.m. 472.3 TACOMA 7316 4:45 p.m.

Western Colorado Power plant generates electricity, using water from Electra Lake.

11:05 a.m. 474.0 "Ah, Wilderness" Guest Ranch 4:15 p.m.

Perfect hide-away resort, accessible only by the narrow gauge "Silverton."

Read Down	Mile Post	Station	Elev.	Read up

475-476

Movie location for filming of Nat Holt's "Denver and Rio Grande," released through Paramount in summer of 1953.

479-483

Famous Needle Mountains, "The Alps of America," majestically dominate the scene.

11:40 a.m. 484.0 NEEDLETON 8141 3:45 p.m.

Once a flourishing mining camp, but now a mecca for hunters, mountain climbers and fishermen.

Snow slide area located between Mile Post 486.1 and Silverton. Route is opened in the spring by engines equipped with wedge plows and by bulldozers hauled to area on flat cars.

12:14 p.m. 490.5 ELK PARK 8883 3:05 p.m.

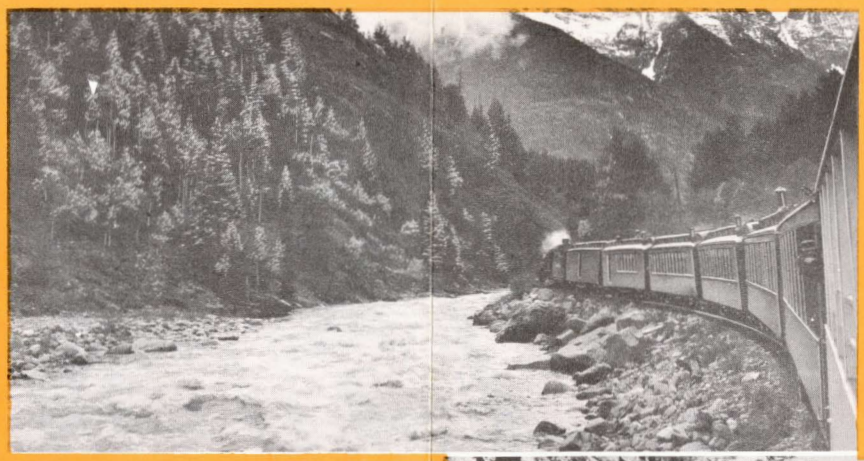
Many beautiful waterfalls line both sides of track in this truly primitive area.

Ar. 12:40 p.m. 496.7 SILVERTON 9300 Lv. 2:40 p.m.

Still an active mining camp, this city has gained modern acclaim as a location for many movie companies and is a favorite stopping place for Colorado visitors.

The Grand Imperial Hotel was built in 1882-3, and for years served as the showplace for the Silver Kings. Passing to new owners in 1951, has been completely restored and thoroughly modernized. Train passengers are invited to visit its fascinating museum without charge.

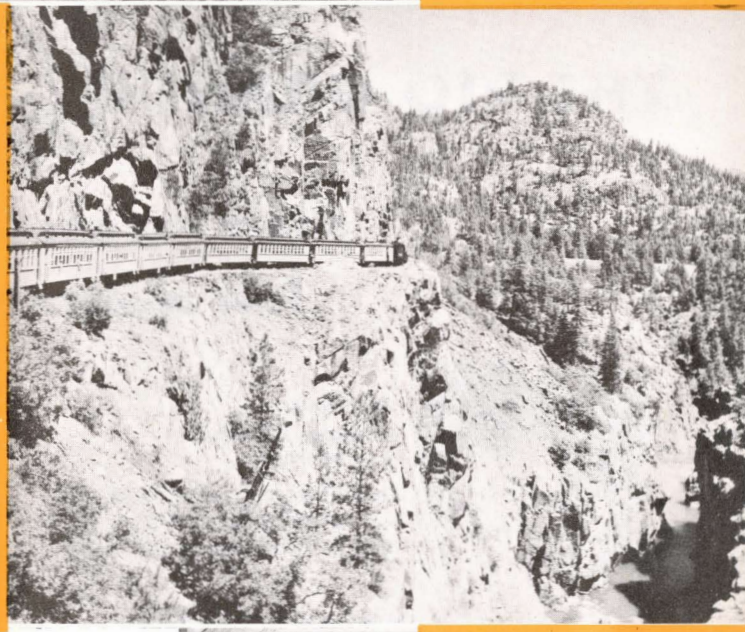
*Intermediate times shown are approximations only . . . the friendly, unhurried Silverton often makes accommodation stops for fishermen, shutter-bugs and other good folks enjoying a pleasant western outing.



Much of the primitive area along the Rio de Las Animas is accessible only by this historic old train. In this spectacular and ruggedly beautiful setting, man and his works are dwarfed by the Infinite.

On a roadbed blasted from solid rock, 500 feet above the churning river which carved this spectacular canyon, the Silverton traverses the "high-line" . . . another scenic high point in the "journey to yesterday."

A sell-out every day of its summer operation, "The Silverton" carries passengers who have come from all parts of the country for a ride on the last regularly scheduled narrow gauge train in America. During the summer season, auto licenses of cars parked at the station include every state in the union, territories of Hawaii, Alaska and several foreign countries.

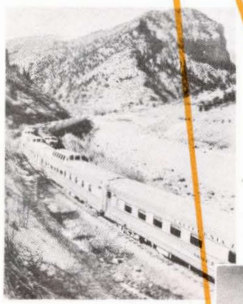


For your Travel Pleasure...

ON THE MAIN LINE

THE RIO GRANDE

offers two scenic routes, four modern Vista-Dome trains

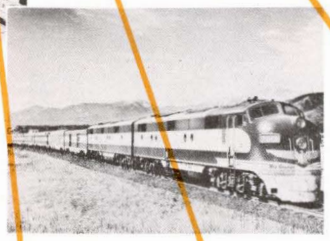


The Vista-Dome
CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR
Moffat Tunnel Route

Daily Chicago-Omaha-Denver-Salt Lake City-San Francisco. (Thru New York-San Francisco Pullman)

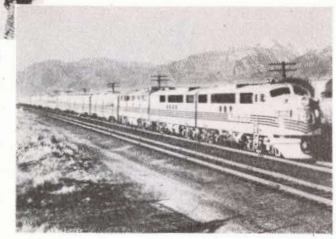
The Vista-Dome
ROYAL GORGE
Royal Gorge Route

Daily Denver-Colorado Springs-Pueblo-Glenwood Springs-Grand Junction-Price-Provo-Salt Lake City.



The Vista-Dome
COLORADO EAGLE
Royal Gorge Route

Daily Denver-Colorado Springs-Pueblo-Wichita-Kansas City-St. Louis.



The PROSPECTOR
Moffat Tunnel Route

Overnight, every night between Denver and Salt Lake City. Vista-Dome between Grand Junction and Salt Lake City.

Stopover privileges at all points . . . rail-auto plan available at principal stations.

FOR EXTRA SAVINGS, ASK ABOUT THE FAMILY FARE PLAN

Rio Grande

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad

H. F. ENO, PASSENGER TRAFFIC MANAGER
RIO GRANDE BLDG., DENVER 2, COLORADO