

3. Mark Gionet's D&RGW No. 5771



Our return from a brief visit to family outside of Denver, Colorado was delayed this past Christmas, giving us an extra day. We planned a return visit to the excellent Denver Art Museum, but an open afternoon provided a great opportunity to walk the grounds of the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden. I'm a fan of F-units, and immediately gravitated to No. 5771.

As described at the museum and in an informative article in White River Production's *Model Railroad News*, this 1955 built F9A unit lasted in Rio Grande Zephyr passenger service into the 1980s and on other duties through the period of D&RGW's absorption by Union Pacific. The unit was given to the museum 1996, was cosmetically restored and now occupies a prime spot in its extensive full-sized collection. It was a treat to see this locomotive, although excellent models of No. 5771 and accompanying D&RGW streamlined power and passenger cars can also be seen stopping at Pueblo Union Depot on Potomac Division member Charles Bassing's layout. **Mark Gionet**