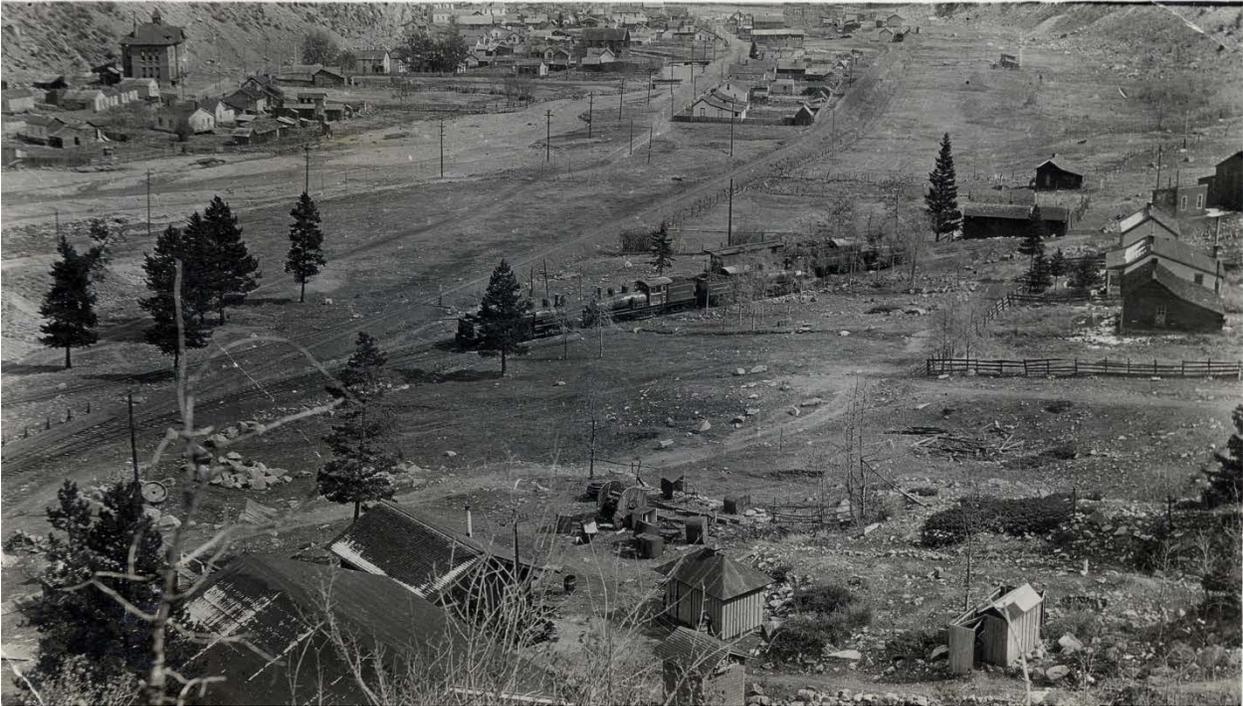


Site 2: Sunrise Peak Aerial Tramway



The west end of Silver Plume, where the Colorado & Southern Railway connected with the Argentine Central Railway; the lower terminal of the Sunrise Peak Aerial Railway is visible in the lower left corner of this photo. Photo courtesy: Christine A. Bradley Collection

Near this spot, the Argentine Central trains departed from the Colorado & Southern pavilion, winding its way up Leavenworth Mountain, carrying freight traffic and tourists nearly 16 miles toward the summit of Mt. McClellan.

In addition to riding the “Georgetown Loop” and the Argentine Central, sightseers could take a thrilling ride on an aerial tramway up to the summit of Sunrise Peak. Constructed between 1906-1907 by the Colorado Mines and Aerial Tramway Company, the contrivance consisted of a total of 36 cars or buckets, capable of carrying four passengers each, suspended from two-wheeled trolleys traveling on 1 ½ inch cables. The cables were supported on fixed towers varying in height from twenty to sixty feet. At a speed of about 350 feet per minute, tourists could take a ride “to the sky in a bucket” and back down to Silver Plume within an hour and at the cost of \$1.

An article in the September 20, 1908 *Rocky Mountain News* described the tramway as “safer than a boat or a train.” To insure safety, tests were conducted by running the tramway at full speed with 800 pounds of rock loaded each car.

However, much like the Argentine Central, the tramway had its share of setbacks. It operated off-and-on from 1907 until the end of the summer of 1917, when the aerial tramway was sold for scrap. One of the few remaining towers of the tramway, located at the crest of Mt. McClellan, is only visible remnant that can be seen from Silver Plume.



The lower terminal and ticket office of the Sunrise Peak Aerial Railway. Photo courtesy: Verona Chappel Zimmerman Collection

ABOVE THE CLOUDS
AERIAL RAILWAY
ONLY ONE IN AMERICA

INTO THE SNOW
AERIAL RAILWAY
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WORLD'S GRANDEST SCENIC TRIP WORLD'S GRANDEST SCENIC TRIP

The image is a vintage advertisement for an aerial tramway. It features a central photograph of a cabin, numbered 28, suspended from cables and carrying several passengers. The cabin is positioned against a backdrop of rugged, snow-covered mountains. The advertisement is framed by a decorative border with floral motifs at the corners. The top half of the ad is split into two sections: the left side is titled 'ABOVE THE CLOUDS' and the right side is titled 'INTO THE SNOW'. Both sections prominently display 'AERIAL RAILWAY' in a stylized font, followed by the slogan 'ONLY ONE IN AMERICA'. At the bottom, the phrase 'WORLD'S GRANDEST SCENIC TRIP' is repeated on both sides.

A brochure promoting the aerial tramway as the 'World's Grandest Scenic Trip'