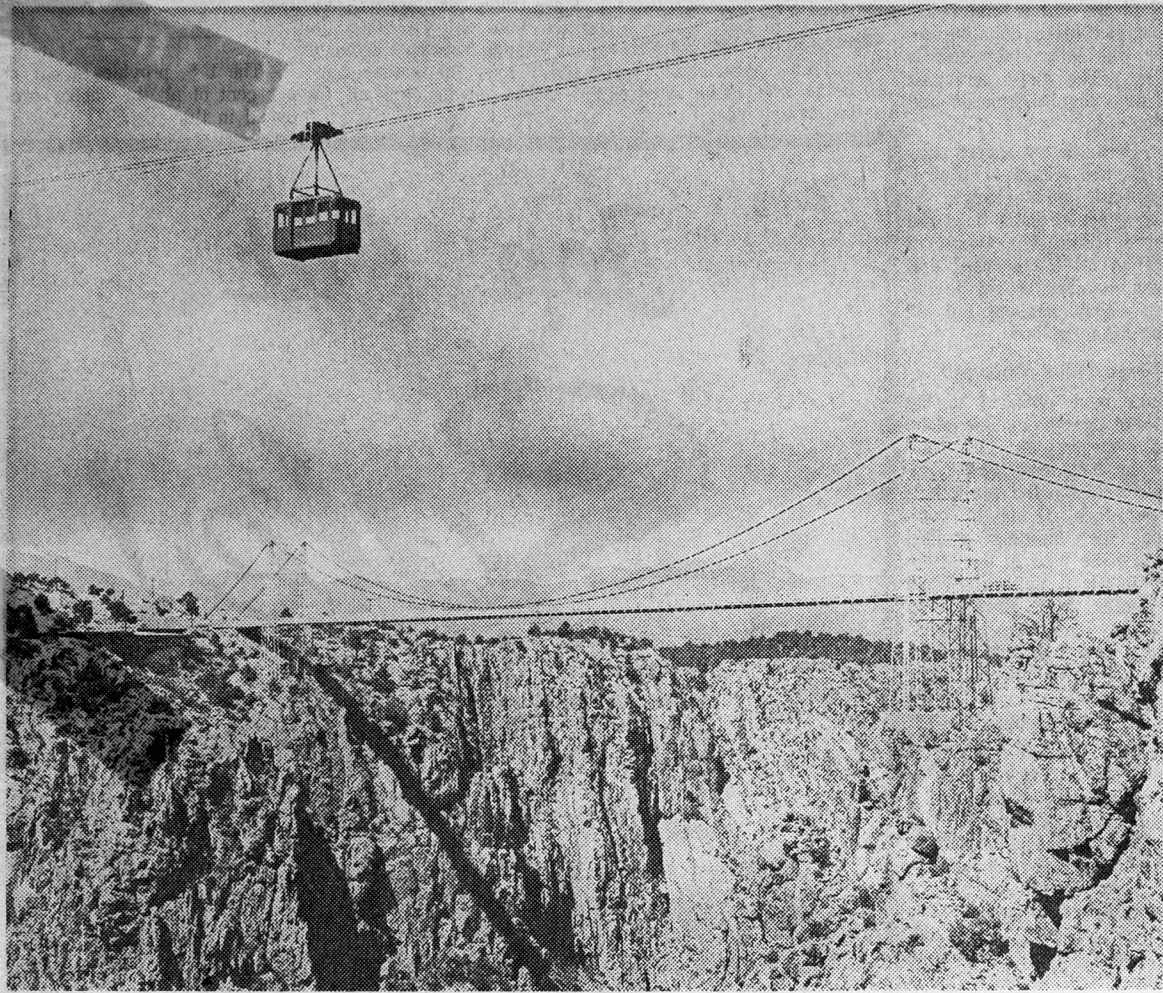


Safety Stressed For Gorge Tramway



GORGE ATTRACTIONS—The new Royal Gorge tram, dangling from cables high above the Royal Gorge, runs parallel to the 40-year-old Royal Gorge suspension bridge. The tramway is the longest and highest aerial tram in the world which is not supported by towers or trusses between terminals. The

bridge, held in place by 300 tons of supporting cables, cost the same amount as the tram when built in 1929. The bridge, the highest suspension bridge in the world, is 1,055 feet above the canyon floor. The 2,200-foot-long tram is 1,178 feet above the Arkansas River.

Safety is the watchword for the Royal Gorge Aerial Tramway which opened this weekend near Canon City.

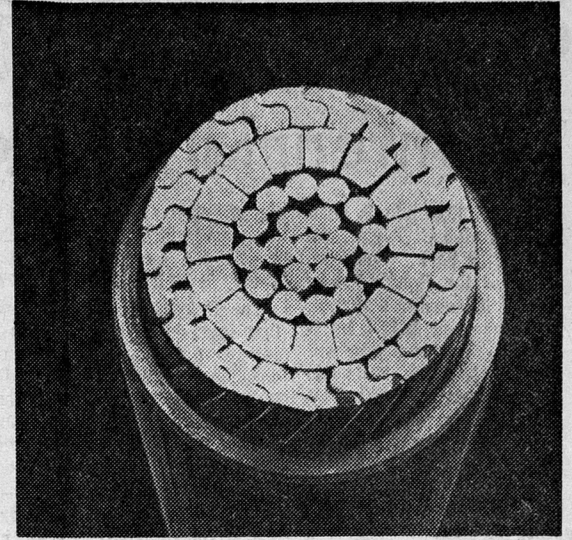
The man-made marvel—extending 2,200 feet from one rim of the canyon to the other—is immediately downstream from the famous Royal Gorge suspension bridge. As the tram makes a five-minute trip over the gorge, passengers have a panoramic view of the vast gorge, nearby bridge and Arkansas River far below. Swallows flit between the reddish-brown granite walls of the canyon hundreds of feet below the tram.

But passengers can relax with the knowledge that three automatic braking systems have been incorporated into the tramway, which cost more than \$350,000. Telephone communications are maintained between the two tram terminals and the tram cabin. A Royal Gorge Co. operator rides the tram with each load of passengers. He locks both sets of doors in the tram before reporting by telephone to the control booth that "Doors are closed, locked and ready to go." Electric switches over each door prevent the tram from being moved before doors are closed properly.

The tramway cabin was built this year by the Heron Engineering Co. of Denver, general contractor for the over-all project. Steel erection, cable stringing and machinery installation was done by the Rocky Mountain Bridge Co. of Pueblo. Track cables were fabricated by U.S. Steel Corp. and all other cables, structural steel and terminal reinforcing bars are from the CF&I Steel Corp.'s Pueblo Plant.

Work on the Royal Gorge Aerial Tramway began last November and was completed earlier this month.

In reference to the opening of the tram, Gov. John A. Love noted: "The new Aerial Tram at the Royal Gorge is certainly a welcome addition to tourism facilities which beckon visitors to scenic Colorado."



STRONG CABLE—This cross section view shows the locked coil steel cables — 1 3/8 inches in diameter — which hold the aerial tram. Each of two track cables will hold more than 100 tons — 20 times the loaded cabin's weight.

Text by Robert Overton

Photographs by W. H. Hawkins

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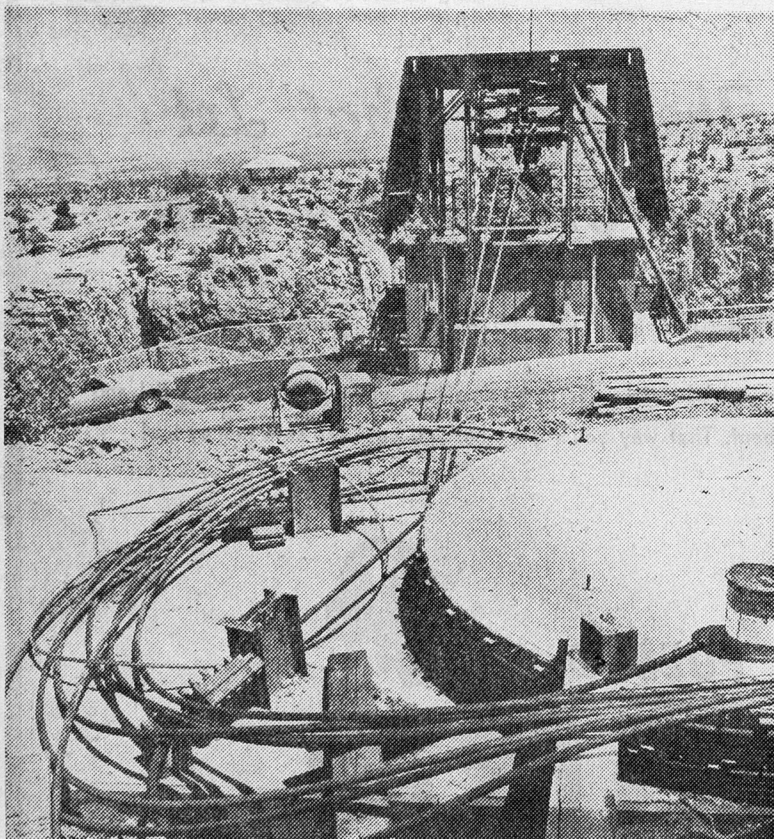
TAKEOFF POINT—Passengers at the tramway loading platform watch the tram, which is painted bright red, approach the north rim of the Royal Gorge. The terminal on the south rim is 119 feet higher than the north rim terminal.

load of sightseers is returning from a trip across the gorge — nearly 1,200 feet above the Arkansas River. The terminal on the south rim is 119 feet higher than the north rim terminal.

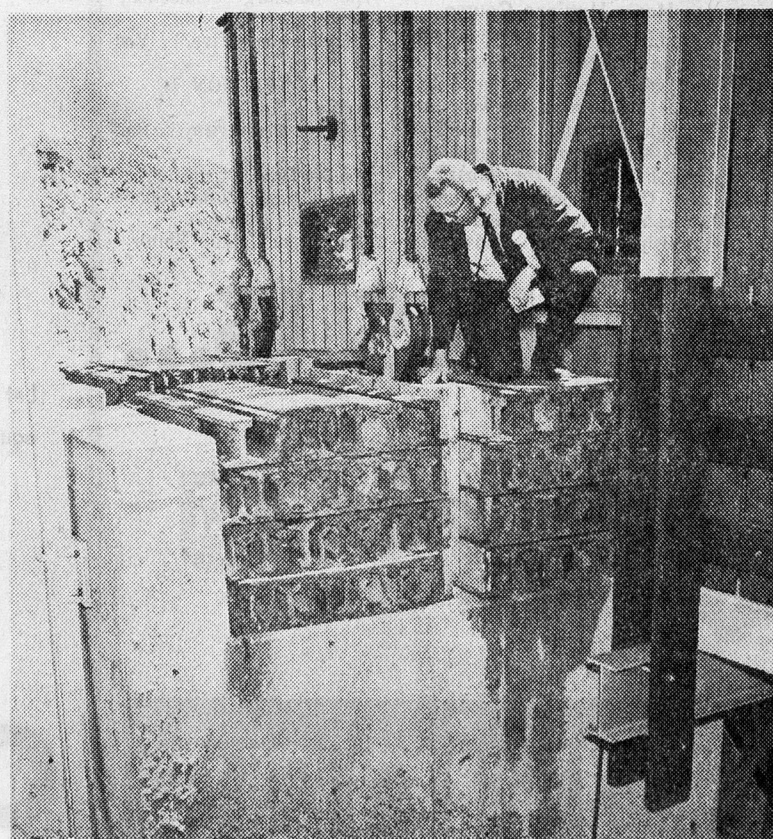


OPERATION CENTER—Ray Matz of Canon City looks out of the control room over the top of the aerial tram, which carries up to 35 persons at a time over the yawning abyss of the Royal Gorge. Matz

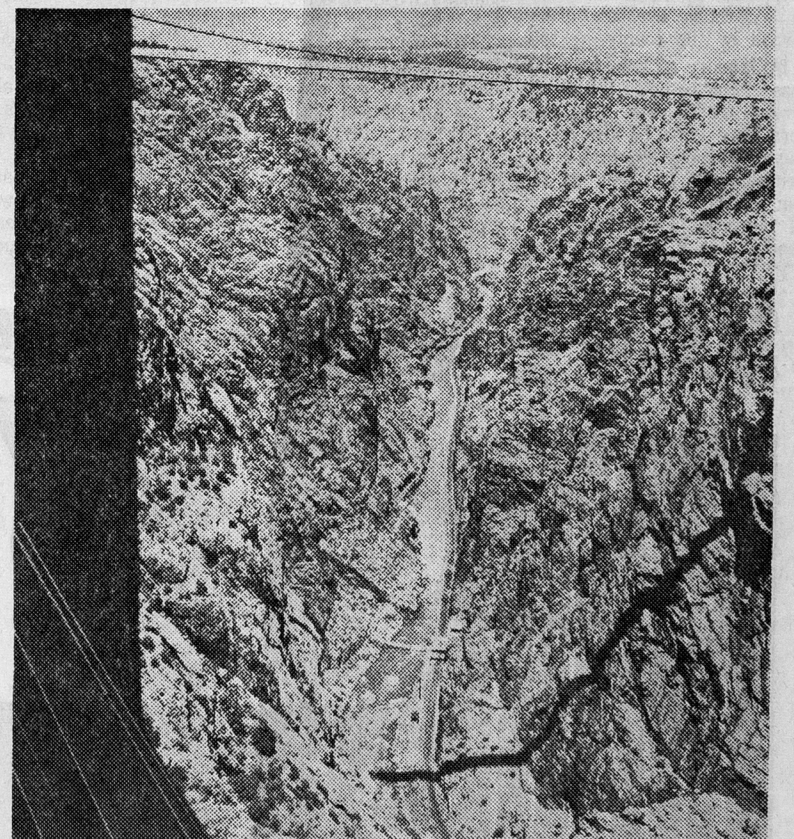
normally operates the Royal Gorge's inclined railway, the world's steepest, which runs passengers down a 45-degree track to the bottom of the Royal Gorge.



ANCHOR—More than 75 tons of buried concrete and steel anchor the tramway's twin cables on the south rim of the Royal Gorge. Cables are wound tightly around a reinforced concrete pillar, the top of which shows in the right foreground. Excess loops of loose cable lie to one side. The south terminal is nearby.



COUNTERWEIGHT—Doyle Dombaugh, a Canon City school teacher who works for the Royal Gorge Co. during the summer, checks the 60-ton counterweight behind the tram's main terminal. The giant weight, composed of reinforced concrete topped by layers of railroad rails, moves up and down to compensate for weight of the loaded tram.



AWESOME VIEW—Nearly 1,200 feet over the Royal Gorge, sightseers riding the new aerial tram get a bird's-eye view of the Royal Gorge suspension bridge and the spectacular chasm. The Arkansas River has gouged the ageless wonder of nature. The black streak is a midday shadow cast by the bridge.