



Rollins Pass

By B. Travis Wright, MPS,
and Kate Wright, MBA

Foreword by Jason M. LaBelle, PhD

Images of America

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New Book Explores the History of Rollins Pass

Rollins Pass is the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series. The book is written by local authors B. Travis Wright and Kate Wright, with a foreword by Jason M. LaBelle, and is set to release on May 14, 2018.

The ribbon of dusty road on Rollins Pass has a timeless and beloved history. First known as Boulder Pass, this comparatively low saddle on the Continental Divide in Colorado has been in continuous use for millennia. First utilized as an expansive Native American game drive complex, the pass subsequently functioned as a toll wagon road in the 1860s. At the turn of the 20th century, Rollins Pass became the highest standard-gauge adhesion railroad grade in North America—an achievement still standing today.

However, this overmountain route, known as Corona Pass, was inefficient and dangerous: resolute men tasked with the impossible faced high elevations with even higher risks of injury or death. A safer, permanent route came in 1928 by way of the Moffat Tunnel. The rails of Rollins Pass were then removed, freeing the automobile to tour the historic road. No matter the epoch, the legacy of Rollins Pass abides: a preeminently scenic route to the top of the world.

Highlights from the book

- This is the only book on Rollins Pass to mention and dedicate a full chapter to the 10,000 years of Native American history on the pass.
- The book contains many rare images - in pristine quality - from the personal collection of a railroad engineer, John T. Trezise, who worked on Rollins Pass.
- The foreword is written by archaeologist Jason M. LaBelle, PhD, who studies the Native American presence on the pass and who has concluded that it holds "one of the greatest concentrations of ancient hunting structures documented in North America."