

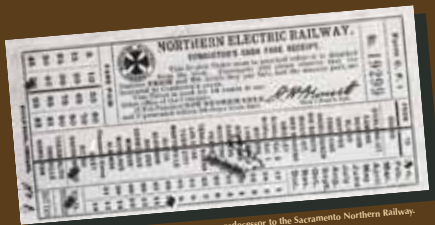
The Railroad History of Shepherd Canyon



A freight train rolls along the steep grade as it passes Havens Station in 1940. Note Shepherd Canyon Road to the right.



A two-car passenger train crosses over Mountain Boulevard. Note Montclair Park to the left, the old Montclair fire station above the train, and the bridge abutments all still here today.



Note: The Northern Electric Railway was a predecessor to the Sacramento Northern Railway.

It is silent now, but long ago, you would hear the shrill scraping of iron wheels along a track as a green interurban electric train would suddenly appear and pass along the very path on which you are standing. From 1912 to 1957, the popular Sacramento Northern carried passengers and freight between Chico and Oakland.

One hundred years ago, these trains were America's answer to rapid transit between major cities. They provided fast, clean, frequent, inexpensive and direct interurban service to weekday commuters and weekend picnickers. The development of many of our nearby Oakland neighborhoods were spawned by the proximity of the interurban lines.

If you would like to ride some of these original interurban trains, you still can at the Western Railway museum in Rio Vista, CA. Visit www.wrm.org for more information.



Combine 1004 emerges out of the Shepherd Canyon tunnel near current day Gunn Road heading towards Montclair in 1937.



The platform at Montclair Station is empty in a quiet moment between trains.



Today, instead of a trestle for trains, we have a bridge for people and bicycles to cross Snake Road.



Research, text, and installation by Daniel Levy, for an Eagle Scout Project.