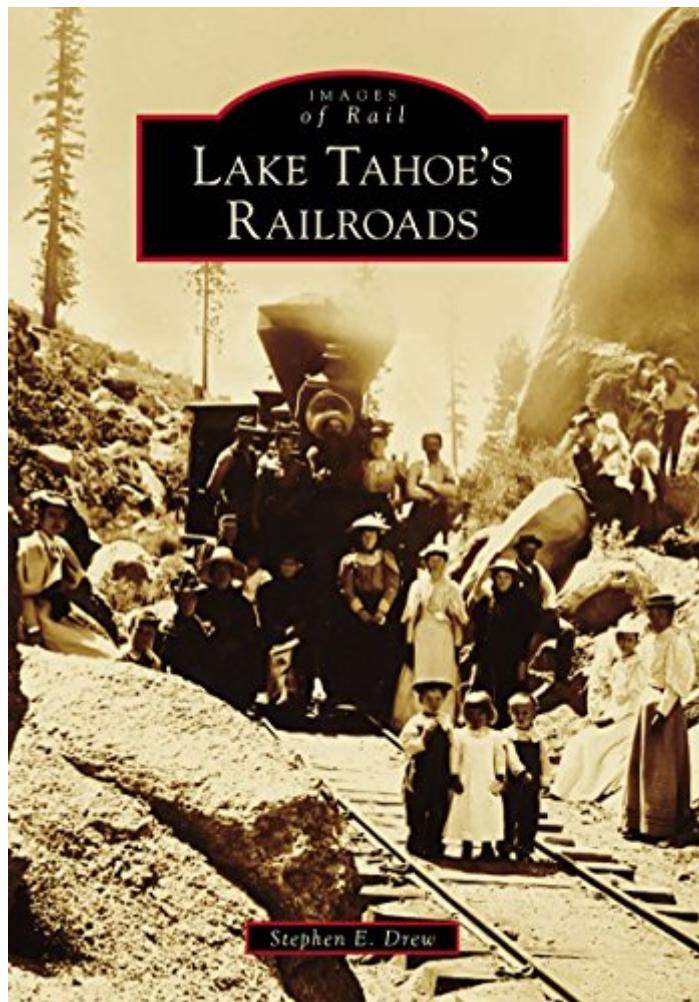


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Lake Tahoe's Railroads (Images Of Rail)



Synopsis

Lake Tahoe is the majestic mountain lake that spans the boundary line of California and Nevada. The lake's clarity and scenic beauty are legendary. In the 1870s, the Nevada Comstock Lode created an insatiable appetite for Lake Tahoe's virgin pine forests. The timbers would shore up underground mining and build communities approaching 40,000 inhabitants. Railroads on three shores delivered the logs lakeside, where they were towed by steam-powered tugs to sawmills, to lumber flumes, and again by rail to their final destinations. As the mines and giant lake pines subsided, railroads pushed farther north after 1898 into new timber stands in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River basins. Other rail lines were sold, barged across the lake, and repurposed for the burgeoning new industry of tourism. For the next 40 years, railroads marketed Lake Tahoe as their unique scenic destination.

Book Information

File Size: 35083 KB

Print Length: 128 pages

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing (September 12, 2016)

Publication Date: September 12, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01L7XUWLU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #648,374 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #57 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads #88 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Transportation > Railroads #186 in Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Railroad Travel

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