

Brief Chronology OF THE Carson & Colorado Railroad

by George Turner

INCORPORATED MAY 10, 1880, as the Carson & Colorado Railroad Company. H. M. Yerington, President, D. L. Bliss, Vice-President; D. O. Mills and William Sharon, principal stockholders.

FEBRUARY, 1882: Railroad completed into Candelaria, Nevada.

JANUARY, 1883: 200 miles of track completed, from Mound House, Nevada, to Benton, California. Bodie & Benton Railway was preparing to grade an extension to connect to the C&C at Benton.

JULY, 1883: Railroad now extends to Hawley, (Keeler) California. Regular passenger service commenced in August.

AUGUST, 1890: Construction began on 7 1/2 mile long Cottonwood Branch, built into timber area southwest of Hawthorne. Wood was used to fuel locomotives.

FEBRUARY 27, 1892: Carson & Colorado "Railway" Co. incorporated to consolidate three divisions and to refinance previous corporation.

MARCH, 1900: C&C sold to the Southern Pacific Railroad for \$2,750,000. R. J. Laws retained as Superintendent.

JULY, 1904: Narrow gauge Tonopah Railroad completed, connecting to the C&C at Tonopah junction, 9 miles south of Mina, Nevada.

JULY, 1905: Rails from Mound House to Tonopah junction standard-gauged (145 miles). Hawthorne, Nevada (founded by the C&C in 1881) by-passed in this change. Tonopah Railroad followed suit by standard-gauging their road.

MAY 11, 1905: Corporate name officially changed from Carson & Colorado to the Nevada & California Railway.

OCTOBER, 1910: Standard gauge "Jawbone Branch" completed from Mojave to Owenyo, California.

JANUARY, 1912: Nevada& California Railway corporation dissolved and the narrow gauge assumed Southern Pacific designation.

1934: Rails taken up on Candelaria Branch (abandoned in 1905).

1936: Track dismantled from Mound House to Churchill, Nevada.

1943: Rails removed from Mina, Nevada, to Laws, California.

APRIL 29, 1960: After 80 years of operation, the far west's largest narrow gauge was abandoned and the rails subsequently taken up ... The Carson & Colorado-Southern Pacific narrow gauge is now but a memory.

Text excerpt from "*Narrow Gauge Nostalgia*"
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