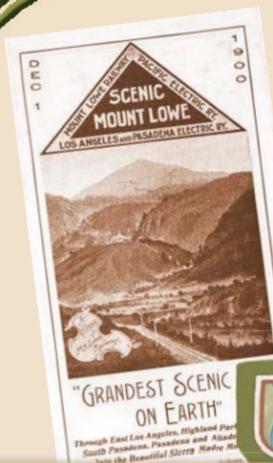


Mount Lowe

Scenic Railway

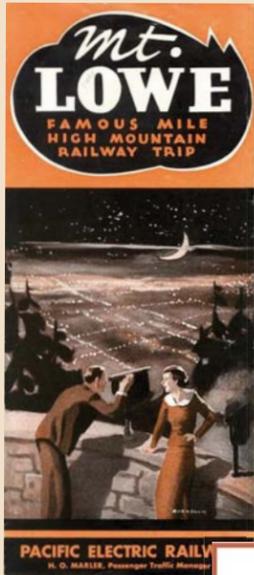
(1893-1936)

Mt. Lowe Scenic Railway was considered an engineering wonder and southern California's most popular tourist attraction during its heyday, carrying a total of 3.1 million visitors.



Postcard of the Circular Bridge, circa 1900s.

Inspiration Point brochure, circa 1920s.



Civil War hero, pioneer balloonist, famous inventor were but a few of Professor Lowe's earlier accomplishments.



Alpine Tavern postcard and above brochure, circa 1900s.

Destination point of the vertical railway, the Echo Mountain Hotel was one feature of the "White City" which spread out on the summit of Echo Mountain.



Postcard of the vertical railway on Mt. Echo, circa 1900s.

8th Wonder of the World

The brainchild of Thaddeus Sobieski Lowe, Mt. Lowe Scenic Railway was one of the most ambitious railways of its era. Designed and built with engineer, David J. MacPherson, it earned the title of "the eighth wonder of the world" according to promotional literature of the day.

The mountaintop railway complex included a breathtaking vertical railway trip up Mt Echo and a trolley ride ending at the Alpine Tavern on Mt Lowe. Hotels, a zoo, dance hall, tennis courts, grand pavillion, miniature golf, an observatory, and its own power plant were attractions along the way.

For those with vivid imaginations, it is possible to stand among the foundations of the mountain railway and picture oneself a part of Professor Lowe's dream-come-true.

The iron rails, the buildings, the holiday crowds are gone, but the scars on the mountain remain as slowly fading legacies to man's creative talents.

Trails of the Angeles
John W. Robinson

