

# Railroads, Street Cars, Trains, Trolleys, RG005.11

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2023

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Railroads, Trains, Street Cars, Trolleys, RG005.11

**Dates:** 1880 – Present

**Collection Number:** RG005.11

**Creator/Collector:** La Jolla Historical Society

**Extent:** .5 linear feet

**Repository:** La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

**Abstract:** The Railroads, Street Cars, Trains, and Trolleys Collection is made up of photographs and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. The Collection contains material dedicated to the history of rail and public transportation in La Jolla. In late 1893 it was decided that the San Diego, Old Town, and Pacific Beach Railway would be extended into La Jolla. Articles of incorporation were filed in 1894 for the "San Diego, Pacific Beach and La Jolla Railway Company." The directors were Harry L. Titus, Ralph B. Dabney, Herbert Dabney, C.D. Boyd, and R. Gail Nichols. The first train left San Diego on May 13<sup>th</sup> with Conductor Woodworth, Engineer Boutelle and Trainman Demaree. Street cars and trolleys arrived shortly afterward. This material pertains to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

**Language of Material:** English

**Access:** The Collection is open for research

**Publication Rights:** The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

**Preferred Citation:** Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

**Acquisition Information:** RG005.11

**Biography/Administrative History:** The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also

renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes, sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The Railroads, Street Cars, Trains, and Trolleys Collection is made up of photographs and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. The Collection contains material dedicated to the history of rail and public transportation in La Jolla. In late 1893 it was decided that the San Diego, Old Town, and Pacific Beach Railway would be extended into La Jolla. Articles of incorporation were filed in 1894 for the "San Diego, Pacific Beach and La Jolla Railway Company." The directors were Harry L. Titus, Ralph B. Dabney, Herbert Dabney, C.D. Boyd, and R. Gail Nichols. The first train left San Diego on May 13<sup>th</sup> with Conductor Woodworth, Engineer Boutelle and Trainman Demaree. Street cars and trolleys arrived shortly afterward. This material pertains to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

**Container List Below**

# Container List

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RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Collection  
Box 11 – Railroads | Streetcars | Trains | Trolley

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## Photographs: Steam Locomotives

Photographs (2 duplicates). Depicts crowds boarding a steam engine train. An open-air car houses a great crowd in the foreground.

Photograph. Depicts a stationary steam engine train from about 100 feet away. Some passengers are seen boarding on the far left.

Photograph. Depicts the front of a McKeen motor car stationed at a railyard. An engineer can be seen squatting atop it.

Photograph. Depicts a steam train's engine car (left) in position to push the rest of the train. A few men can be seen standing around. "About 1890."

Photographs (2 duplicates). Depicts a caboose car and several men aboard it and some off it. San Diego & Pacific Beach Railroad lettering can be seen on the car.

Photograph with caption: "Locomotive That Pulled The First Passenger Car Into La Jolla In 1893."

Photograph (2 duplicates). Depicts the front end of a steam engine train and two cars. Two men are seen standing by the engine train. San Diego & Pacific Beach Railroad lettering can be seen on the engine train. "About 1892."

Photograph with caption: "Here is an interesting picture of a former 'local institution,' the old steam engine that used to pull the San Diego-La Jolla 'train' back and forth on a rather irregular schedule." *La Jolla Light*. September 1, 1949. Photo: "circa 1900."

Photograph. Depicts a steam engine train with "L.A. & S.D. R.R.Y" (Los Angeles & La Jolla Railroad Line) written on its side. A few white buildings and a mountain can be seen in the background.

Photograph. Depicts a steam engine train making a left turn. The train has motion blur. A white building can be seen on the right.

Photograph. Depicts the engine and coal cars of a steam engine train stationed beside a water tower. An engineer can be seen standing beside the engine car.

Photograph. Depicts a steam engine train at a train station.

Photograph. Depicts a steam engine train's engine and coal cars, with two engineers standing beside it.

Pair of photographs with captions. 1: Depicts the engine car of a steam engine train inside a large wooden shed. Caption: "No. 2 After Accident In the 'Round House' in La Jolla." 2: Depicts the engine and coal cars of a steam engine train. Caption: "No. 2 As Remodeled."

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Photograph with caption: "Early Days in La Jolla. The little steam car that brought 'trippers' from San Diego to La Jolla."

Photograph with caption: "Wreck on the Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway at La Jolla." "May 14, 1907."

Series of photographs (4) with caption: "Wreck on the La Jolla Railroad near the Bishop's School, May 14, 1907."

Photograph with caption: "The Wreck Of The La Jolla Rail - 1908. AT Five Points, below Old Town, in which Thomas Robertson and T.F. Fitzgerald were killed."

Pair of photographs. Depict a wrecked steam engine train from two different angles. In one photo, two women and a man pose on the wrecked locomotive. "January 16, 1908."

Pair of photographs with caption. Depict cranes and workers along the railroad. Caption: "S.D.E. Ry. scrapping La Jolla Line." "c. 1941."

Pair of photographs. Depict a crowd surrounding an overturned car beside a stopped train, two angles.

Series of photographs (18). Depict multiple angles of a crowd gathered around an overturned car lying beside a stopped train.

Pair of photographs with captions. Top: "Engine identified as the 'Dinkey' originally from the New York Elevated. There were two of the PB/La Jolla Railroad."

Bottom: "House could be an early La Jolla cottage, found in La Jolla portion of an old album." The poster on the side of the house reads - "The Outlook." "Saturday July 30, 1904."

Series of photographs (3). Depict a train wreck involving the engine car and a passenger car.

Photograph. Caption: "Old Engine and 'Toot Martin': The engine of the 'Toad' came from the Elevated Road in New York City and is said to have been shipped here around the Horn."

Pair of photographs. Top: Depicts a steam train's engine car at a station with an engineer posing in the cab.

Bottom: Depicts a steam engine train with steam surrounding its front, possibly ready to depart from its station.

Pair of photographs with captions. Top: Depicts a steam engine train at a station. Caption: "Taken from Flint Lane (between Herschel and Ivanhoe Avenue), just south of Silverado Street. The railroad station appears at the right." "1912 - 1913."

Bottom: "The Old Engine: George Smith at the window." "1912 - 1913."

Photograph (2 duplicates). Depicts a dense crowd gathered around a woman, Miss Emma Harris, as she is ready to drive the last spike in the railroad to La Jolla. Figures such as Mr. and Mrs. Anson P. Mills, Hiram Savage, and others can be seen among the crowd (as identified by included guide). May 15, 1894.

Photograph. Depicts a group of people reenacting the driving of the last spike in the railroad to La Jolla to commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup>

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anniversary. "1944."

Photograph with caption: "The Railroad Depot – 1902. Located in the middle of Prospect Street near Fay Avenue."

Photograph with caption: "The Railroad Depot – 1904. 'Kennebec Lodge' – the Mills' home shows behind the depot."

Pair of photographs with captions. Top: "Train near Genter Street, about 1905."

Bottom: Depicts a group of women "waiting for the train at Silverado and Fay, 1907."

Photograph. Depicts a steam locomotive. An engineer can be seen on the left. "1915."

Series of photographs (5). Top (2 duplicates): Depicts steam train engine car, "The Toad", with engineer "Toot" Martin seen on the right. Middle: Depicts a steam train's engine car with an engineer leaning on the window.

Bottom left: Caption: "Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway, Engine No. 2, taken by Sibley Sennew at the Kettner and B. Streets, San Diego, in August 1915."

Bottom right: Depicts a two-car steam engine train in a very rural La Jolla.

Photograph with caption. Depicts many men "working on Girard St. Digging up the old railroad tracks."

Photograph with caption. Depicts two men standing beside large steam locomotive machinery at "the Round House, South La Jolla, not far from the corner of Rushville Street and Draper Avenue."

Photograph with caption: "Train under way in open territory."

Photograph. Depicts a steam locomotive on rails passing by a tree and barrels.

Photograph. Depicts a steam engine train passing through La Jolla. An early automobile can be seen parked on the far left.

Photograph. Depicts the Railroad Depot at La Jolla from the cab's point of view. "March 17, 1902."

Photograph with caption: "Driving the last spike of the SD/LJ railroad [...]" A man is seen holding the hammer. May 15, 1894.

Photograph with caption: "Why no one was killed is anyone's guess, for that Santa Fe train did a thorough job on the La Jolla cars, back in 1917."

Pair of photographs. Left: Depicts a steam locomotive pushing a train car. A pile of wooden planks can be seen beside the rails.

Right: Depicts a series of train cars stationed in a rural area. Two men can be seen walking alongside the tracks.

## Photographs: Streetcars

Photograph (2 duplicates). Depict a McKeen motor car parked along "Girard St." Lettering on its front reads "La Jolla Pacific Beach,

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Ramona's Home." "About 1914."

Photograph. Depicts a crowd gathered in front of a McKeen motor car, including two women in white (possibly Scripps sisters?). "1908 - 1909."

Pair of photographs.

1: Caption: "1928 aerial photo showing grade and 'Y' wye switch. 10 years after tracks were picked up."

2: Depicts a pile of wooden planks and lumber, presumably the remains of a demolished building. A steam locomotive can be seen in the background.

Pair of photographs with captions: "This two horse-power streetcar is typical of the first transit system opened here July 3, 1886 [...] Soon to be replaced by busses, these 'P. C. C.' type trolleys have served San Diego since 1937."

Photograph (2 duplicates) with caption: "The above is a photo of one of the cars [McKeen motor cars] that furnished transportation from San Diego to La Jolla some forty years ago." April 27, 1944.

Pair of photographs (2 duplicates). Depicts a McKeen motor car at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and C street in San Diego. Lettering on car reads: "La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Ramona's Home." Lettering on the original mounting board reads "Gasoline motor cars of 200 H.P. are used on the La Jolla Line." "About 1906."

Photograph with caption: "1902 - Train Tracks Leading to the Fay & Prospect Terminal [La Jolla Terminal]."

Photograph. Depicts a McKeen motor car full of passengers. Lettering on the buildings in the background read "La Jolla Freight House" and "La Jolla Depot." "1908 - 1909."

Photograph with caption: "Jack Doddridge, engineer, in cab of 'old Red Devil' gas car [McKeen motor car]. He drove it out from Omaha, Nebraska." "1908 - 1909."

Photograph. Depicts a streetcar of the La Jolla Line taking passengers. Some sort of banner can be seen hung up on the streetcar. "August 9, 1909."

Photographs (2 duplicates). Depicts the interior of a McKeen motor car. "1909."

Photograph. Depicts Jack and son, Harry, Doddridge posing in front of what is likely the Red Devil, a McKeen motor car. "1912."

Photograph. Depicts a McKeen motor car and a man walking beside it. The lettering on the streetcar reads "Ramona's Home."

Photograph. Depicts a stationary McKeen motor car. An engineer can be seen leaning on the front window.

Photographs (2 duplicates). Depicts four men and an early automobile at Corcoran Station in La Jolla. "1912."

Photograph. Depicts a crowd posing for a photo in front of a McKeen motor car. Caption: "Jack Doddridge, engineer, in cab of 'old Red Devil'

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gas car." "1908-1909."

Photograph. Depicts the "Red Devil," a McKeen motor car, stationed in front of Hotel Cabrillo. "1908 - 1918."

Photograph with caption (excerpt): "Storage battery car show at San Diego terminal of the La Jolla railroad." "1916."

Photograph with caption. Depicts a streetcar with text on its side reading "La Jolla Line." "1915."

Photograph with caption: "San Diego Elect. Ry Co. Overhead Viaduct Crossing Turquoise Blvd. on La Jolla Line opened for traffic." December 17, 1924.

Pair of photographs with caption. Depicts a small crowd gathered in front of a streetcar. Caption: "The last streetcar to La Jolla - September 16, 1940 - 2:00 AM - La Jolla."

Photograph with caption (excerpt): "It is a picture of the old street-car terminal [La Jolla Terminal], located at the corner of Prospect St. and Fay Ave., which went its way some years ago when buses were installed." *La Jolla Light*. December 20, 1951. Photo: "June 1925."

Photograph with caption (excerpt): "La Jolla Terminal for the San Diego Electric Railroad Company, located at Fay Avenue and Prospect Street." "June 6, 1925."

Photograph with caption: "Remains of streetcar tracks on La Jolla Hermosa [Ave.] east side in front of 5618." "May 1991."

Photograph with caption. Depicts the remains of the streetcar tracks in front of 5618 La Jolla Hermosa Ave. "1992."

Photograph. Depicts the La Jolla Terminal. A sign reading "Keep your dollars at home" can be seen. July 18, 1927.

Photograph. Caption: "San Diego Elect. Ry. Co: Breaking ground for new station at La Jolla, Calif." "December 27, 1924."

Series of photographs (7, contained in large envelope). Depict the construction of the La Jolla Terminal, alongside a photo of the completed interior, and another of a streetcar. "1924 - 1925."

Photograph with caption: "Gasoline car [McKeen motor car] (Red Devil) in front of Cabrillo Hotel on Prospect Ave. 1908 - 1909. Jack Doddridge, engineer on left, Earl Bauersack, conductor on right."

Pair of photographs. 1: Depicts the "Red Devil" McKeen motor car on Prospect Street.

2: Depicts a group of people having a picnic at the La Jolla Cove. "1918."

Photograph. Depicts a gas station and many parked cars in the background. Taken at the corner of Fay Av. and Prospect St. "May 21, 1981."

Pair of photographs with captions. Top: "McKeen Car at Nutmeg St." "1914."

Bottom: "La Jolla Line Trolley C St." "c. 1924."

Series of photographs (3) with captions. All depict electric streetcars.

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Top: "Looking north on Fay at Prospect. July 4, 1924 [...]."

Middle: "Los Angeles & San Diego Railroad car. This railroad owned the LJ Line."

Bottom: "This car did not run to La Jolla on the LJ train tracks or later streetcar line."

## Newspaper Articles

Newspaper article. "Electric Car Service to La Jolla Inaugurated July 1<sup>st</sup>: Many Citizens on Hand at Early Morning Hour to Greet the Arrival of the First Electric Car in La Jolla." *La Jolla Journal*. July 4, 1924.

Newspaper article. "La Jolla to Fete Anniversary of 'Toad's' Spike-Driving Ceremony: First Train Run To Jewel City 50 Years Ago." *San Diego Tribune*, April 18, 1944."

Newspaper article. "Thirty Occupants of Cars Escape Uninjured: Accident Occurs as Outgoing Passenger Reaches Point Near Winder Street, Fireman Burned By Steam." *San Diego Union*. January 17, 1908.

Newspaper article. "San Diego Historical Vignettes: These Subs Sailed On Rails." *San Diego Union*. November 13, 1960.

Newspaper article. "Old Steam-Engined Railway Recalled By Oldtimers in Beach Communities." "October 17, 1956."

Newspaper article. "San Diego 75, 50, 25 Years Ago." *San Diego Union*, March 16, 1970."

Newspaper article. "Roughing It In La Jolla." *San Diego Union*. July 28, 1963.

Newspaper article. "Famous 'Firsts' In San Diego." *San Diego Union*, April 17, 1967."

Newspaper article. "Yesterday and Today." Shows photos of old railroad depot and the same site in 1981. *La Jolla Sun*. October 28, 1981.

Newspaper article. "Yesterday & Today." Shows photos of the railroad depot from some distance up the tracks and the same site in 1981. *La Jolla Light*, April 23, 1981."

Newspaper article. "Yesterday & Today." Shows photos of the Prospect and Fay intersection from 1930's and the same site in 1981. *La Jolla Sun*, May 21, 1981."

Newspaper article. "The Original Streetcars: Once pride of growing city, they are now just a memory." *San Diego Union*. April 12, 1987.

Newspaper article. "And the survey says rail transportation." *La Jolla Light*. "April 25, 1991."

Newspaper article. "Villagers ride able cable." *La Jolla Light*. "May 28, 1998."

Newspaper article. "Tracks of old La Jolla." *La Jolla Village News*. October 13, 1999.

Newspaper article. "High-Speed Rail approves UTC site."

Newspaper article. "From history: Then, as now, mass transit needed"

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to find riders." November 23, 1978.

Newspaper article. "Last railway." "February 22, 1979."

Newspaper article. "From history."

Newspaper article (incomplete). About the opening of the upcoming electric railway system (La Jolla Line) between San Diego and La Jolla.

## Documents and Ephemera

Brochure. "John D. Spreckels & The Impossible Railroad." Promotion for an art installation and a reproduction of a map and schedule brochure of the San Diego and Arizona Railway Line from 1921. *Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego*. 2015.

Photo card. Depicts La Jolla's seven caves and short description of on the back. *San Diego Pacific Beach & La Jolla Railway*.

Postcard. Depicts the La Jolla Terminal. "Circa 1926."

Timetable. "Route 'C' Bus Line." *San Diego Electric Railway Co.* Effective February 20, 1934.

Timetable. "Route 'C' La Jolla Bus Line" and "Route No. 16, La Jolla Car Line." *San Diego Electric Railway Co.* Effective November 1, 1932.

Pamphlet. "Seeing California Via Santa Fe: A Log Of Your Trip, San Francisco - Los Angeles - San Diego." *Santa Fe Railway*.

Timetable. "La Jolla Stage Line." Effective March 15, 1922.

Timetable. "La Jolla Line." *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co.* Corrected to July 1, 1911.

Railway ticket. Issued to a John H. Kennedy. No. 60. *San Diego, Pacific Beach & La Jolla Railroad Co.* Expiry date on December 31, 1895.

Freight bill. From San Diego Station. *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co.* October 7, 1911.

Railway ticket. No. 1351. Good for one ride between San Diego and La Jolla. *San Diego, Pacific Beach & La Jolla Railroad Co.* "November 1, 1901."

Brochure (La Jolla on pgs. 7-9). "San Diego Daily Guide and official Time Tables." Volume XVIII. *Dove & Robinson*. May 1930.

Timetable. "Route 'C' Bus Line." *San Diego Electric Railway Co.* Effective June 21, 1937.

Correspondence (letter, 2 duplicates, and envelope). From "GLG / ES" to Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co. An advocate of J.T. Corcoran objects to the conductors' refusals to call the train station on Genter Street "Corcoran Station." November 9, 1912.

Freight bill. From San Diego Station. *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co.* January 27, 1912.

Freight bill. From La Jolla Station. *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co.* March 12, 1912.

Freight bill. From La Jolla Station. *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co.* April 21, 1914.

Freight bill. From La Jolla Station. *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach*

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*Railway Co.* April 17, 1914.

Booklet. "A Plan For Development of the La Jolla Line's Beach Territory." *Railroad Commission of the State of California*. February 12, 1913 thru January 30, 1913.

Booklet. "General Scheme of California." October 26, 1917.

Advertisement. Advertising tourist trips to La Jolla via the San Diego, Pacific Beach & La Jolla Railway Co. "*San Diego City Directory* (p. 304) 1897."

Timetable. "La Jolla Ry. Winter Timetable." *Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway Co.* Effective March 15, 1911.

Advertisement. "San Diego School of Arts & Crafts." Offers information on said school, based in the former San Carlos Station. Includes picture of building façade. "*La Jolla Magazine*, July 1948."

## History

Map. "La Jolla 1916: Showing location of the LA & SDB [Los Angeles & San Diego Beach] Railroad."

Booklet and website printout (academic article). "Remember Old Number Sixteen? Recollections Of The La Jolla Street Car Line." *Journal of San Diego History*. Fall 1977.

Booklet (academic article). "The High Iron To La Jolla." *San Diego Historical Society*. 1961.

Newsletters (4 duplicates). *San Diego Historical Society Quarterly*. Vol. VII, No. 1. Special Issue: "The High Iron To La Jolla." January 1961.

Academic article (within book). "The Railroad Stations of San Diego County: Then and Now." *Journal of San Diego History*. Spring 1988.

Article. "La Jolla Railroad Stations." History of. "2001."

Academic article (annotated). "La Jolla Zephyr Revisited." *Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Report*. January 2004.

Academic article. "La Jolla Zephyr." *Dispatcher*. September 30.

Article. "Nostalgia Lane." "*La Jolla Journal*, April 4, 1963."

Academic article. "San Diego's Wheels On Steel." *Dispatcher*. June 27, 1958.

Map. "La Jolla, California, 1916." Shows locations of many train stations and depots in 1916.

Page 45 from *La Jolla: Year by Year* by Howard S.F. Randolph. Excerpt describes the history of Jack Doddridge's McKeen motor car in La Jolla. 1946.

Map. "La Jolla, California, 1916." Shows the rails of the San Diego, Pacific Beach & La Jolla Railroad Co. and of the Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railroad as they were in 1916.

Correspondence. From George Silvani to Roderick Pressly (La Jolla Light). Issues corrections to a newspaper article about La Jolla's steam trains and streetcars published by the La Jolla Light. July 8, 1991.

Series of correspondence (email). Between Dick Ruppert and Bruce Semelsberger. Regarding an article documenting the location and

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history of the La Jolla railroad turntable. Last email: August 20, 2007.  
Magazine article (pgs. 12-13 within magazine). "The Abalone Limited."  
*Westways*. April 1959.

Newsletter article. "Palmer Brothers House Movers." *Pacific Beach  
Historical Society Newsletter*. July 1984.