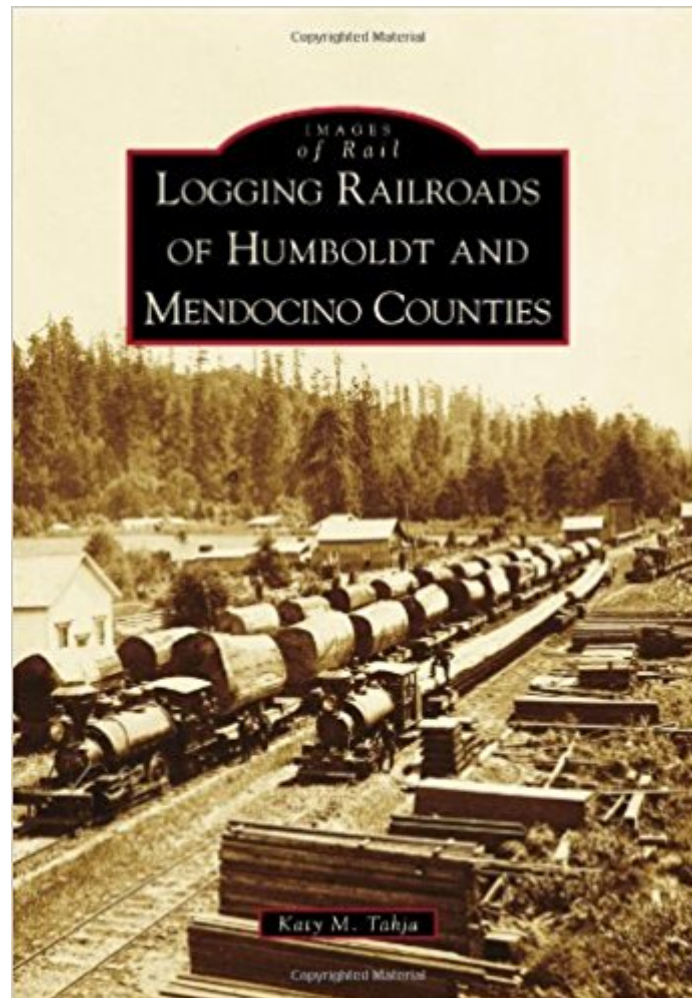




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Logging Railroads Of Humboldt And Mendocino Counties (Images Of Rail)



Synopsis

Locomotive steam whistles echo no more in the forests of the north California coast. A century ago, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties had more than 40 railroads bringing logs out of the forest to mills at the water's edge. Only one single railroad ever connected to the outside world, and it too is gone. One railroad survives as the Skunk Train in Mendocino County, and it carries tourists today instead of lumber. Redwood and tan oak bark were the two products moved by rail, and very little else was hauled other than lumberjacks and an occasional picnic excursion for loggers' families. Economic depressions and the advent of trucking saw railroads vanish like a puff of steam from the landscape.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Historian and author Katy M. Tahja searched universities, historical societies, museums, and private collections for photographs conveying the determination and ingenuity railroaders had in constructing railways in unlikely places to haul huge logs. Early Mendocino Coast and Humboldt State University are Tahja's earlier books for Arcadia Publishing, and she wrote *Rails Across the Noyo* for the Skunk Train. With her husband, she has traveled more than 20,000 miles across the United States and Canada by rail.

I hate reviews that start out by saying, "I just got this thing and I just love it. It is so

bright and shiny, sitting in the package. So I waited until I had finished reading this book before I did my review of it. Steam locomotives have always fascinated me. This is the third book on logging railroads that I have purchased from . The first was about geared locomotives in West Virginia which was very interesting. Once I finished that book, I wanted to check out how steam engines were used for logging on the West Coast, so I ordered two books about logging on the West Coast. After placing the order I worried that there would be a lot of duplication of photos in the two books and perhaps I should have only purchased one of the two. So far I have not noticed much duplication of photography. This book is a new and still in publication, and has only about 120 pages with two photos per page. I have given this book four stars, because as the author states in the introduction, "Geared locomotives... were popular." Yet of the approximate 100 photos of locomotives in the book only about 15 are of the geared type, the rest of the locomotive photos are rod type engines. I happen to have a fascination for the geared type locomotives and was a little disappointed that there are not more photos of this type of engine in the book. The author does a good job of telling the history of logging in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties and has chosen excellent photos to illustrate her story. Even though I enjoy seeing photos of this portion of our history it is sad to see the way man just about destroyed all of the old growth forest in America and if it were not for a few men with vision there would not be any old Redwood trees standing today for us to enjoy.

Nostalgic photos

The photos and text were invaluable to me to design and build the model RR I am working on. A well written book with the details of information a person likes to know: for example, the author explains the reasons behind many of the practices peculiar to a logging railroad design and construction materials. Very helpful! And a pleasure to read, topped only by the selection of photographs.

Fantastic history of the railroads, although my super railroad geeky husband (for whom this was a gift) found some inaccuracies in photo captions. Otherwise great information ahead of our trip to Humboldt County :)

The socks met all my expectations and they are very comfortable

If you are a rail fan this book is great. Interesting stories of the history of the many small rail operations working in a forest of giant redwoods.

This book is packed with outstanding photos of logging railroads and the challenges confronted in building these railroads including the bridges and wharfs to bring the products to market.

Great series of books!

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