Del Monte Train Service

Passengers and Freight, 1880 - 1971

The Del Monte railroad (Southern Pacific) ran from San Francisco to Pacific Grove from 1880 to 1971. It is almost certain that keepers and visitors used the train on a regular basis. Emily Fish may have liked to take the train to San Francisco in the morning, do some shopping/visiting friends and return in the early evening of the same day. Keepers could get on and off the train at the Pacific Grove Depot or at the Asilomar stop (during the summer when retreats were held).

The train became obsolete when the sand plant (to become Spanish Bay) at Lake Majella closed (1960s) and more people could afford cars. In the age of going green, there is a possibility of bringing back rail service to the Monterey area, though not to Pacific Grove. Most of the track is gone and the entire route is now a recreation trail that starts in Marina, through Sand City, past Del Monte beach, through Cannery Row, past the Hopkins Marine Station down to Lovers Point in Pacific Grove. Monarch Pines trailer park was where the rail yard and depot for Pacific Grove were. The path then goes through the golf course, curves around the Olympia West apartments at the edge of the cemetery, and then crosses Lighthouse Ave. You can take a walking path from there all the way to Sunset Dr, passing the Asilomar train stop and info board put up by the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove. Very pleasant walk and highly recommended.

You can follow the entire route on this Google Map set up by the <u>Santa Cruz Trains</u> website. Here is the Pacific Grove route, Asilomar Station and Schedule.

