

Way We Were  
David Nicholas, Researcher  
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Before the Rail Trail

For those readers enjoying the series of articles discussing Dick Steinheimer's visit to Park City in February 1953, this is our fifth article. Please read on.

We can only imagine the excitement of a 24 year old northern California photographer riding the Union Pacific from Ogden to Park City for his first (and only) time. Fortunately for us, Dick skillfully captured the moment while sitting in the cupola of the caboose watching the train climb Echo Canyon. He had less than a two hour layover, leaving just barely enough time to travel to Park City for the town shots.

Railroads first entered Park City in 1883. The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) and the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) eventually became the two dominant companies.

The D&RGW climbed Parley's Canyon from Salt Lake City to the station on Park Avenue. The best remaining evidence of the D&RGW in Park City is their freight house at 820 Park Avenue. Currently unused, the D&RGW name remains visible, albeit faded.

Another prime example of the old railroad can be seen while driving up Interstate 80. Just past the golf course on the left hand side one can see remnants of the road bed snaking up Parley's Canyon. For the most part, construction of the interstate obliterated the roadbed. D&RGW retired the line in 1947.

The UP served Park City from 1899 to 1988 journeying 28 miles from Echo into town. Unfortunately, in December of 1988 the UP filed for abandonment, and in January of 1989 they contracted for the removal of the ties and rails. On May 11, 1989 The UP deeded the roadbed to the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation creating the first non-motorized rail trail in Utah.

For those who use the rail trail can you please offer your opinions on the location where Dick shot this photo?

In 1953 rail trails and the designation as a world class skiing destination were in Park City's distant future. Dick was simply enjoying the moment and the anticipation of what awaited him in town.

If you are interested in the availability of Dick's prints please email Shirley Burman at [railwomen@earthlink.net](mailto:railwomen@earthlink.net).



Credit: Richard Steinheimer, courtesy of the S. Burman Collection