

Travel Through Time



Photo courtesy North Cascades National Park

Poling a cedar canoe across the river



Photo courtesy North Cascades National Park

Passenger hand ferry



Photo courtesy North Cascades National Park

Crossing on the flat-decked ferry



Photo courtesy Seattle City Light

Old Number 6 leaving Rockport
(Sits today in Newhalem)

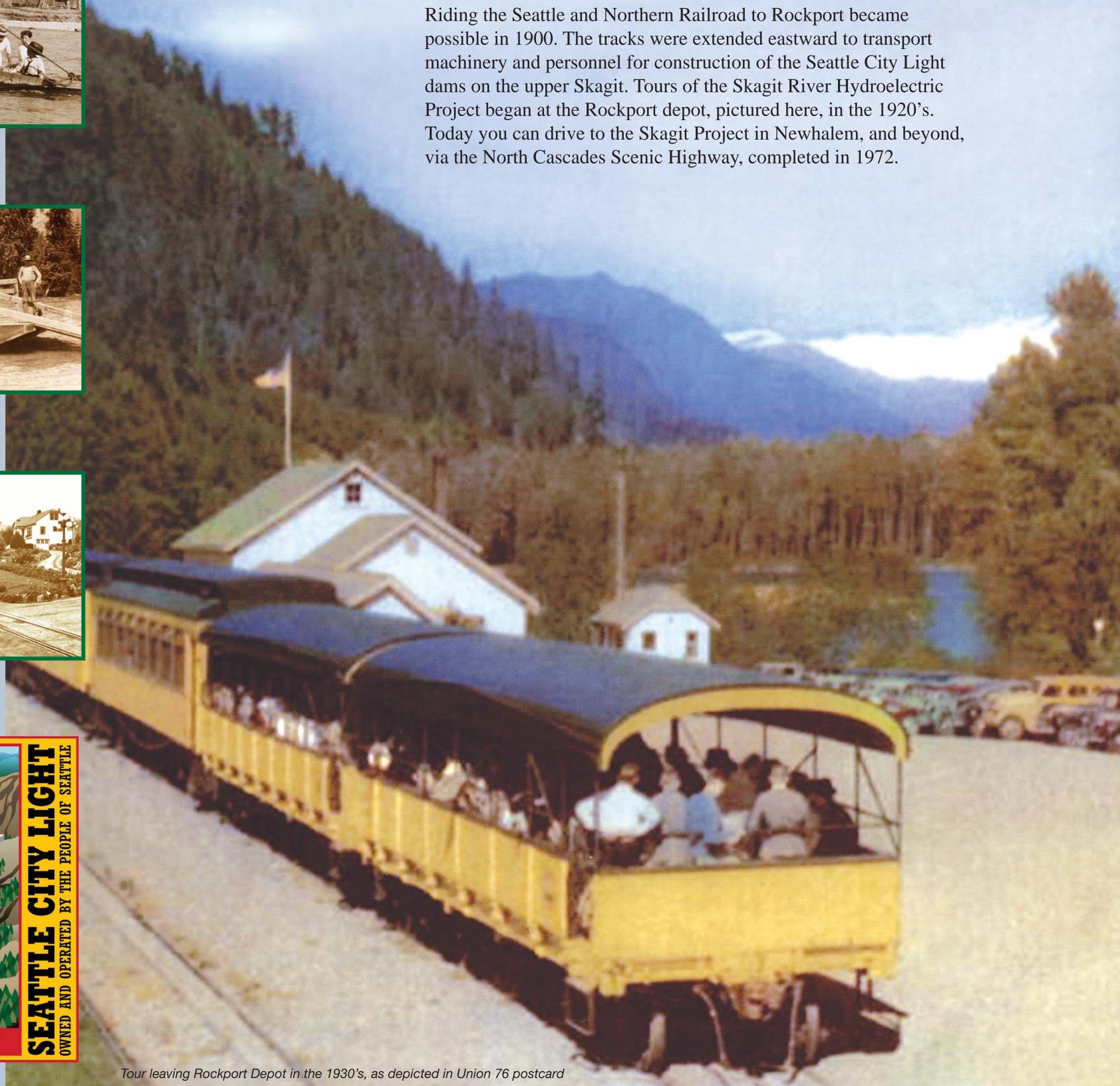


For information on current Skagit Tours call 206-684-3030

From rivers, to rails, to highways, people have followed the course of the Skagit River for thousands of years. Early travelers canoed up and down the river in boats hewn from great cedar trees. The search for gold and fur brought explorers in the mid-1800's. Homesteaders and loggers followed soon after.

Rockport is situated at the confluence of the mighty Sauk and Skagit Rivers. In this rugged, remote area of the North Cascades, the challenge of moving goods and people across the rivers was first met with canoes. These were replaced by hand ferries, pulled across the river by cable. Later, larger flat decked ferries, transported horses and cars. The ferry you see here in the County Park, was in service well into the 20th century, replaced by the bridge in 1961.

Riding the Seattle and Northern Railroad to Rockport became possible in 1900. The tracks were extended eastward to transport machinery and personnel for construction of the Seattle City Light dams on the upper Skagit. Tours of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project began at the Rockport depot, pictured here, in the 1920's. Today you can drive to the Skagit Project in Newhalem, and beyond, via the North Cascades Scenic Highway, completed in 1972.



Tour leaving Rockport Depot in the 1930's, as depicted in Union 76 postcard

SKAGIT WILD & SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest