

# Boarding the "Balley-Claire"

"Oh, I am delighted. I think Cloudfcroft grand. I shall spend my summers here or know the reason why."

(Miss Retta Corset; September 14, 1899 *Alamogordo News*)

Image courtesy of John White

## A Getaway into the Clouds

Passenger trips began in 1899, delivering people from Alamogordo to the town of Cloudfcroft. Cost of a round trip ticket was three dollars. Seeking relief from the heat, tourists would spend weekends in the serene and cool mountains. The Mexican Canyon Trestle was one of many tall trestles along the route, and although the trip may have been frightening, no passenger was ever hurt.



Image courtesy of Sacramento Mountains Historical Society (SMHS)



Image courtesy of SMHS

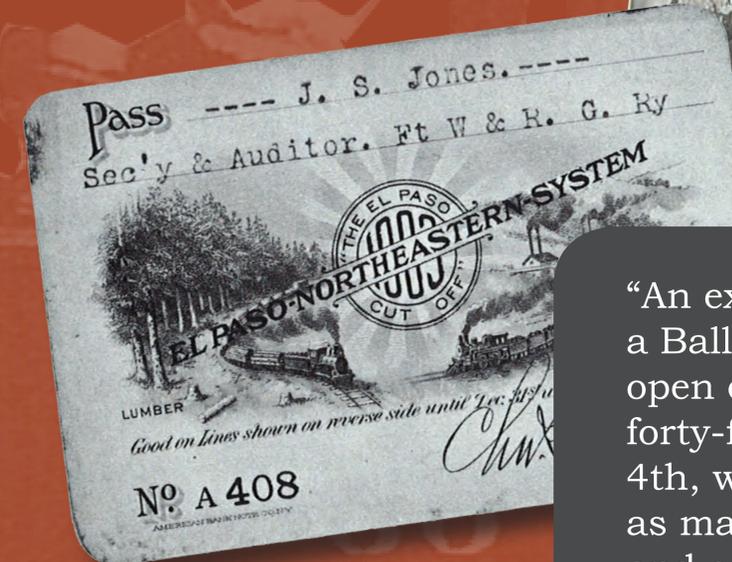


Image courtesy of David F. Myrick



"An excursion car, built in Alamogordo and called a Balley-Claire, was about the size of a boxcar and open on each side. Each car could comfortably hold forty-five passengers but on holidays such as July 4th, when a regular passenger car was often added, as many as six hundred passengers squeezed into and on top of the trains."

(Neal 1966)

"The last train over the picturesque Cloudfcroft branch line of railway is said to be scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, September 12, 1947. No more will the denizens along the way hear the toot of the locomotive"

(Alamogordo News; September 11, 1947)



Image courtesy of Virginia Stanbrough

