

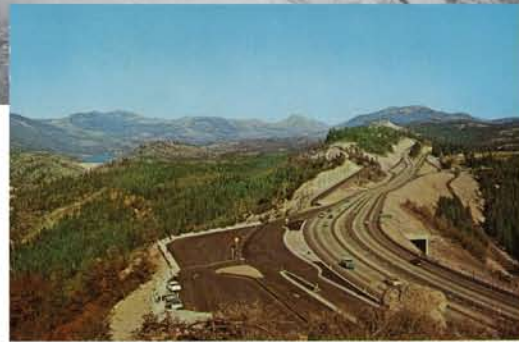


Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

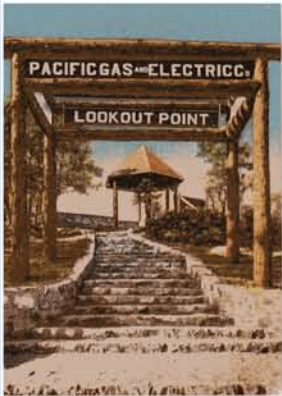
Nyack Lodge

History

What you see as a multi-lane Interstate highway now had already been a well-traveled route when the freeway arrived. Wagon trains came over the rise to the east and dropped into the valley and then traveled along the Bear River. The Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Rd. carried travelers and freight over the Sierra, supplying the mines of the Comstock in Nevada and the transcontinental railroad's building. The first transcontinental highway (right top), the Lincoln Highway, came next in 1913, followed by the Victory Highway and then State Highway 40.



Emigrant Gap, or Nyack, where you are standing, was a good stop and has seen many rest stops. P. G. & E. built a lookout point (left) where the current scenic overlook is so people could watch Spaulding Dam being built (the lake is at the right of the lower picture). T.C. Wohlbruck built a rest stop with guest rooms and refreshments (top picture) to serve travelers on the Lincoln Highway. Then Herstel Jones built the Nyack Lodge (shown below in the 1940's) to serve Highway 40 travelers. The lodge sat where the scenic turnout on I-80 now is (on the left side of the freeway in the above picture). When the freeway arrived part of the lodge had to be dynamited because it was too massive but the rest was cut in three parts and moved up Old Highway 40 to the present Nyack. You are standing in front of the reassembled parts.



All along Old Highway 40 you will find more than thirty of the Donner Summit Historical Society's Scenic Bypass signs just like this one. You can download a brochure or see all of the signs at www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org. You can also stop by the Historical Society in "downtown" Soda Springs at the Soda Springs exit from I-80.

A Good Story

When the Streamliner City of San Francisco was stranded in 12 feet of snow during the winter of 1951-52, it was stuck for six days,

just a few miles east of here. Food and water ran out. There was no heat. Passengers despaired. Dog sleds headed out from Donner Summit. Snow plows cleared Highway 40 to below the stranded train. Snowcats evacuated the passengers to the highway and Stewart Wells, who had just taken over at Nyack Lodge, organized a 40 car rescue convoy to pick up the passengers. They were warmed at Nyack Lodge (right) and then put on a new train.



Things to do right here

exhaustion upon reaching here, but also imagine your elation. Your new life is just days away. You've reached California!

Come in and take a look at the historical artifacts on display in today's Nyack. As you travel east on I-80 look at your speedometer and then gaze at the ridge across the valley. Imagine taking a wagon down it. Imagine covering just a few miles a day. Imagine your

