## Transfer to the PACIFIC ELECTRIC

## By Wilson Bryant

The self-proclaimed largest electric interurban railroad in the world, at its peak the Pacific Electric Railway operated over 700 miles of trackage in a system that spread out in all directions from Los Angeles, CA. Organized independently by Southern Pacific Railroad president Henry Huntington in 1901, the Pacific Electric gained control of several existing trolley lines, and then embarked on an ambitious program of construction that created a vast network of suburban and interurban routes.

In 1911, the Southern Pacific obtained majority ownership in the company's stock, and the various subsidiaries were consolidated into the Pacific Electric Railway. A line to San Bernardino was constructed and a modernization program was implemented, making the PE one of the most extensive and well-run interurban operations in the nation. Freight service was also offered, in connection with owner Southern Pacific, and over 1000 passenger trains per day departed from the Los Angeles hub.

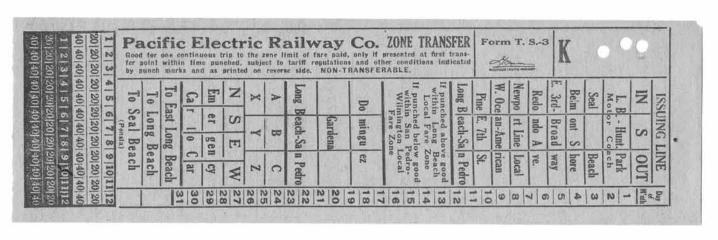
Like many other trolley lines, the depression had a negative impact on the revenues of the Pacific Electric. However, service levels remained high throughout the 1930's, and it was not until the early 1940's that cars began to cease running on lighter density lines. After a brief resurgence of traffic during World War II, many routes were sold to bus lines, and in 1957, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority was formed to assume all remaining operations. The last passenger train ran on April 8, 1961 on the Long Beach Line.

For several years, the Pacific Electric Railway continued to operate freight trains for its parent Southern Pacific, using diesels as motive power. The company was finally merged into the SP on August 13, 1965. Today, some former Pacific Electric lines remain in service on Southern Pacific successor Union Pacific, but the days of interurban electric cars scooting past on a seven minute headway are only a memory. Small pieces of memorabilia, such as timetables and transfer tickets are all that remain. In the following pages, enjoy a brief trip back to the days when you could still transfer to the Pacific Electric Railway.

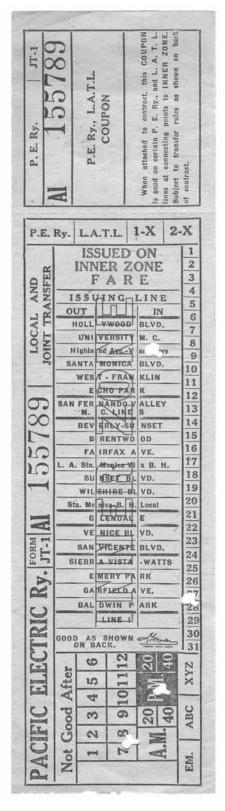


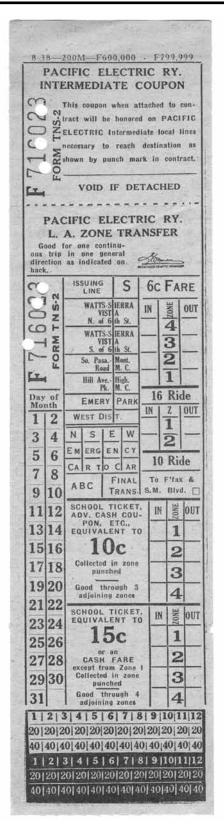


Above, a 1944 timetable from the Pasadena Short Line and Oak Knoll Lines, which operated until 1950 & 1951. At left is a 1950 transfer from the Los Angeles Transit Lines, which was absorbed by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority in 1958. Below is a transfer for service on the Newport extension of the Long Beach Line, on which service ended by 1950. All from the author's collection.



Below is a transfer for local service on the Hollywood and Glendale lines, for transfer between the PE and LATL. At right is an interzone transfer between stops on the Northern and Southern districts, which includes provisions for the collection of school and reduced fare tickets. Author's collection.





At right, the Venice Short Line was a popular alternative route to the Santa Monica Air Line from 1902 until 1950. 1944 timetable from the author's collection. At upper right is a Pacific Electric Railway switch lock, courtesy of Railroad Memories Auctions.

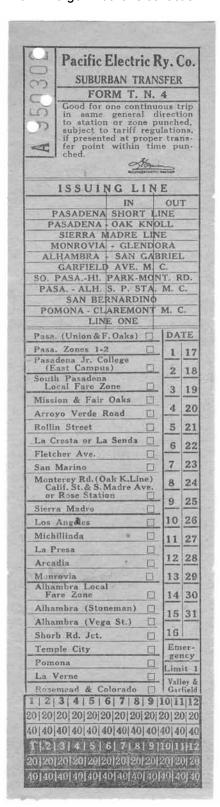
Key, Lock & Lantern Page 11 [3573]





Continued on Page 12

Below is a transfer for the various lines of the Northern District, including the 60 mile interurban route to San Bernardino. At right is a transfer from the lines of the Western District, which was formerly part of the Los Angeles Pacific electric system prior to the 1911 merger. Author's collection.



| K                   |         | - 60              | P. E.                    | RY.                        | LINE              | ZS_                                  |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8-W-6               | 0       | N AND             | Transfer                 | ТО                         | Transfer<br>Point | TO                                   |
| 15                  |         | RBA               | LOS AN                   | ELES                       | Windwar           | Ave.                                 |
| E                   | 3       | BU                | Echo Pk. 8               |                            | Lincoln           | Blvd.                                |
| Fo<br>C             |         | SC                | Glendale                 | THE PERSON NAMED IN        | Bergan            | eont                                 |
| 7                   | 2       | 40                | HOLLYV                   |                            | Venice 1          | I. S.                                |
|                     |         | ric               | Zone 3                   |                            | Playa De          | Rey                                  |
| AN .                | UL      | ist               | VI. & Hol                | ywood                      | Cuiver            | Jet.                                 |
| EB A                | UG      | Q                 | Vt. & S. I               | -                          | Redondo           | SCOTT STATE OF                       |
| MAR S               | EP      | Srn               | Vine & H<br>Hi'land &    | CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF | Coyole            | Ave.                                 |
| MAIN 6              | 732.1   | ste               | LaBrea &                 |                            | Universi          | _                                    |
| PR (                | CT      | We                | LaBrea-S.                | 1010710                    | North Hol         | _                                    |
| MAYN                | ov      | 1                 | Crescen                  |                            | Van Ow            | Name and Address of the Owner, where |
| UN I                | EE      | 1                 | West Ho<br>Doheny        | A Comment                  | Whitsett          | -                                    |
| UN I                | LU      | Z                 | BEVERLY                  |                            | Firmame           | -                                    |
| 1                   | 2       | V                 | Carolwoo                 | d Dr.                      | Amestoy           |                                      |
| 3                   | 4       | MF                | Canyon &                 |                            | Reseda 8          | -                                    |
|                     | 6       | Ö                 | Canyon&                  | 1000000                    | Ferr              | 130                                  |
| 201                 | 8       | C                 | Viney                    | -                          | Circle            | Drive                                |
|                     |         | 1 X               | Fox Film                 | SA CONTRACTOR              | VAN N             | UYS                                  |
| 9                   | 0       | X                 | Westwood                 | Blvd.                      | N. Sherm          | an Way                               |
|                     | 2       | E                 | LOS ANG                  |                            | Lanari            | St.                                  |
| $\lfloor 3 \rfloor$ | 4       | A                 | Bundy                    |                            | Broads            | HOOL                                 |
| 15]                 | 16      | B                 | UNIVE                    | SITY                       | Plumi             | 1                                    |
| 171                 | 8       | IIC               | Westw'd                  | Wilsh.                     | S, E. M           | Adamen .                             |
| 195                 | 20      | TB                | Cambr                    | dge                        | SAN FER           | NANDO                                |
|                     | 22      | C                 | 26th St.,                | Brent.                     | Han               | na                                   |
|                     |         |                   | BROADW                   |                            | Haskell           | Ave.                                 |
|                     | 24      | H                 | SANTA N<br>OCEAN<br>VENI | PARK                       | White 0:          | k Ave.                               |
|                     | 26      | 1                 | Limit                    | No. 1                      | Res               | eda                                  |
|                     | 28      | 15                | Emerg                    | -                          | Map               | leton                                |
| 29                  | 30      | V                 | 6                        | 1                          | De Soto           | -                                    |
| 311                 |         | P.                |                          |                            | CANOGA            |                                      |
| L. A.               | MC      | TOR               | GOACH-                   | WILSHI                     | RE LI             | ME                                   |
| FROM                |         | Transfer<br>Point | TO                       | FRON                       | Transfe<br>Point  | 10                                   |
| 17.1                |         |                   |                          |                            | re & Canyon Dr.   |                                      |
|                     | -       | _                 | ean-S.M.<br>Ishire       | LaBrea                     | Ave. at W         | ilkhire.                             |
| -                   | -       | -                 | Vicente                  | _                          | S ANGELE          |                                      |
|                     |         |                   |                          |                            | e & Canyo         | n Dr.                                |
| _                   | -       |                   | CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON | -                          | & SM or H         | -                                    |
| U.O. S. Lines       | 10 1000 |                   | M Blvd.                  |                            | M or H            |                                      |
|                     |         |                   |                          |                            | 9 10              |                                      |
| EAST OF LIVE        |         |                   | -                        | The second second          | 20 20             | -                                    |
|                     |         |                   |                          |                            | 0 40 40           |                                      |
|                     |         |                   |                          |                            | 9   10            |                                      |
| DO D                | IE      | 0 2               | 0120120                  | 20120                      | #20[20]           | 20120                                |

At right, timetable for service on the San Bernardino Line, cut back to Covina in 1941. Author's collection. Above right, Pacific Electric Railway Adlake lantern, photo courtesy of Railroad Memories Auctions.

Key, Lock & Lantern Page 12 [3574]



