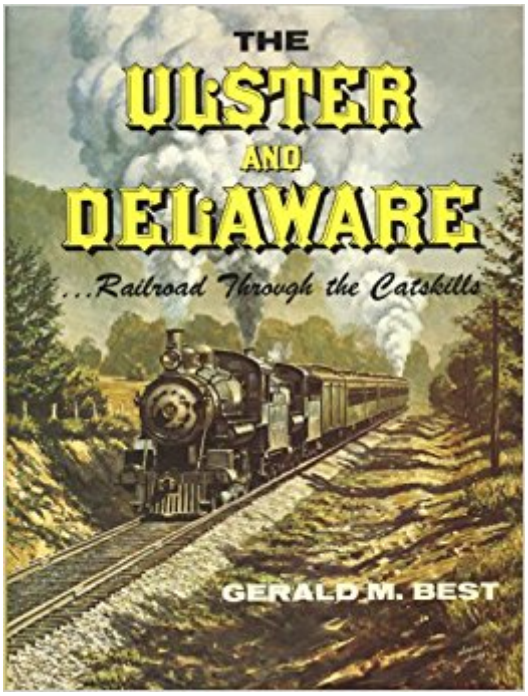
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The Ulster And Delaware: Railroad Through The Catskills



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Synopsis

The Ulster and Delaware...Railroad Through the Catskills presents the complete story of all the railroads of the Catskill region and describes the great hotels the railroads served. In pictures and text it tells about the railroads' construction, early operation, the famous passenger trains, and the steam locomotives. Included are descriptions of the Catskills, the sights along the line, special trains, the rolling stock, freight service, and the workings of the unique Otis Elevating Railway. The author relates many unusual personal experiences and happenings about the Cornells, the Coykendalls, the railroads and the hotels. This is an intensely human story of struggle and triumph in the New York tradition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a boy in Port Jervis, New York, the author developed a keen interest in railroads and the history of his home state. He first saw the Catskill Mountains from the train window while going from Port Jervis to Kingston with his father who was tracing the Decker family history and Samuel Decker Coykendall offered him help. Best came away with a lasting impression of a dignified, gracious man and little did he realize that half a century later he would research the story of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad, of which Coykendall was then president. Gerald M. Best is a name well known among historians, especially in railroad circles. His writings about the steam locomotive and railroad history have appeared in many journals, his locomotive photographs grace the pages of numerous books. Those who have read his six books will find the same authentic and careful research in The Ulster &

Delaware...Railroad Through the Catskills.

Gerald M. Best was a very prolific author of books in the railfan genre. Most of his works were about Western railroads and he recieved several awards from the National Railroad Historical Society.The Ulster & Delaware: Railroad Through The Catskills, about a once prosperous shortline in upstate New York, is one of Best's better known books and deservedly so. It is written in a very pleasant style that carries the reader easily through all of the company's corporate shennanigans in the latter 19th Century Gilded Age of Robber Barons. Many railroad histories become deadly boring tomes on this subject but Best carries it off with aplomb. A chapter is devoted to the many, some great, old boarding hotels in the Catskill Mountain vacation country and is presented with a nostolgic charm befitting a long passe genteel lifestyle. This region was NOT part of the Borst Belt of Sullivan County. It is the area where the legendary Rip Van Winkle roamed (and slept).The only weakness of this book is that it is old. Having been published nearly two generations ago by an author of the old school of railfans, it covers steam locomotives in great detail, but refers to their replacement simply as "diesels". Except for a couple of photos, this subject is not touched at all.Physically this is a very attractive book with good photo reproduction and typography as is expected from the publisher, Golden West Books.

THIS BOOK IS GREAT FOR SEVERAL REASONS: 1-IT HAS GREAT VINTAGE PHOTOS OF THE OLD STEAM TRAINS AND THE STATIONS,RIGHT OF WAYS, AND PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON THIS HISTORIC RAILROAD. 2- IT IS THE ONLY BOOK OUT THERE THAT THOROUGHLY DETAILS THE HISTORY OF ULSTER AND DELAWARE FOR RAIL FANS OF ALL AGES. 3- IT IS A HARDCOVER BOOK AND SHOULD LAST FOR GENERATIONS. 4-IT DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS RAILROAD TO ACCESSING THE GREAT HISTORIC MOUNTAIN HOUSES IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS OF NEW YORK. SEVERAL MOUNTAINS HOUSES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND FORGOTTEN SO IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE THEIR GRANDEUR IN THESE VINTAGE PHOTOS.THE BOOK IS OF GREAT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND SHOULD PROVIDE ENJOYMENT FOR ANYONE WHO LOVES HISTORY AND STEAM OPERATED TRAINS. I LIVE IN THE AREA OF NY WHERE THIS TRAIN WAS. THE TRACKS ARE STILL IN PLACE FROM 1866!! THEY PASS RIGHT BY MY HOUSE. CURRENTLY THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN RAILROAD IS RESTORING THE LINE FOR TOURIST PASSENGER SERVICE. THERE IS A WEEKEND EXCURSION RIDE FROM PHOENICIA TO COLDBROOK. ON ANOTHER SECTION OF THE RAIL THERE THERE IS A WEEKEND TOURIST EXCURSION

FROM ARKVILLE NY TO ROXBURY DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. AND RECENTLY IN 2009 TO PRESENT THERE IS A NEW SECTION REOPENED IN THE CITY OF KINGSTON THAT IS GIVING RIDES FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER. WHAT A TREAT!!COME VISIT THE CATSKILLS MOUNTAINS IN KINGSTON, PHOENICIA, OR ARKVILLE AND BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR A RIDE ON THIS HISTORIC RAILROAD!IF INTERESTED YOU CAN VISIT. [...]

This book should be of great interest not only for someone who grew up in the Catskill Mountain region of New York State and has fond memories of the area, but also for anyone who wants to learn more about that relatively short period of time (the 1870s to 1920s) when railroads were the dominant mode of transportation for both passengers and freight within the US. In addition, the book provides a good picture of what life was like around the turn of the 20th century for vacationers from NYC who sailed up the Hudson on the Day Liners to Kingston or Catskill for their train ride into the mountains to one of the big old resort hotels. An excellent read plus plenty of great photographs.

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