2012 marks the 100 year anniversary of the opening of the Mountain Quarries Railroad (MQRR) and Mine. This publication on the history of the rail and mine operation was produced as part of the anniversary celebration and was funded by the Placer County Historical Foundation.

Work on the railroad and limestone mine began in 1910 and it went into operation on March 23, 1912. The Mountain Quarries Company spent a reported $1 million dollars on constructing the mine, putting up the crushing plant and the railroad line. The MQRR was seven miles long and ran from the quarry crashing plant in El Dorado County on the Middle Fork American River to Flint Station on the Southern Pacific main rail line in Auburn. There were 17 wooden trestles and one large concrete bridge on the rail line. The Mountain Quarries operated until July 1941.

A number of events and projects are scheduled for the anniversary year including an art competition, public programs, a history publication, and the return of the last remaining locomotive that operated on the railroad.

The MQRR anniversary celebration was made possible by the support of a number of organizations and an anniversary committee made up of the following people:

- Donna Howell — Placer County Historical Foundation
- Mike Otten — Placer County Historical Society
- Melanie Barton — Placer County Museums Division
- Mike Holmes — Auburn City Council
- John Barnhill — Railroad enthusiast
- Dave Allen — Native Sons of the Golden West
- Rodi Lee — Auburn State Recreation Area
- Kris Payne — El Dorado County Historical Society
- Jerry L. Pozo — Native Sons of the Golden West
- April McDonald-Loomis — City of Auburn
- Eric Peach — Protect the American River Canyon
- Terry Cook — Auburn SRA Canyon Keepers
- Jim LoBue — Auburn SRA Canyon Keepers
- Dan Holsapple — U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Ken Yeo — Railroad enthusiast
Event Schedule
Mt. Quarries Railroad 100 Years

- **Thursday, April 5 at 6pm** – Public Presentation at Placer County Historical Society Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn, CA 95603. Anniversary history publication and other MQRR Anniversary items for sale.

- **Friday, April 20 at 12pm** – Public Presentation at Library noon program. Auburn Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA 95603. Booklet and other MQRR Anniversary items for sale.

- **Tuesday, May 1 at 6pm** – Public Presentation at Canyon Keepers (open to public). Canyon View Community Center, 471 Maidu Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. Booklet and other MQRR Anniversary items for sale.

- **Monday, June 18 at 7pm** – Public Foresthill Historical Society. Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall, 24601 Harrison Street, Foresthill, CA

- **Wednesday, June 20 at 11am/2pm** – Public Presentation at Confluence Festival. Tentative program times are 11am and 2pm. Possible display of Engine 202. Booklet and other MQRR Anniversary items for sale. New American River Canyon book available.


- **Wednesday, August 15 at 7pm** – American River Pizza & Grill, 2966 Highway 49, in Cool, CA

- **Saturday, September 29 at 1pm** – Final event on MQRR Bridge, North Fork American River. Engine 202 on MQRR Bridge. Tentively 1pm. Historic Designation for entire RR may be announced.

- **Saturday, October 6 All day** – Colfax Railroad Days. City of Colfax. Possibly 202 on display.