



Streamliners – California Zephyr

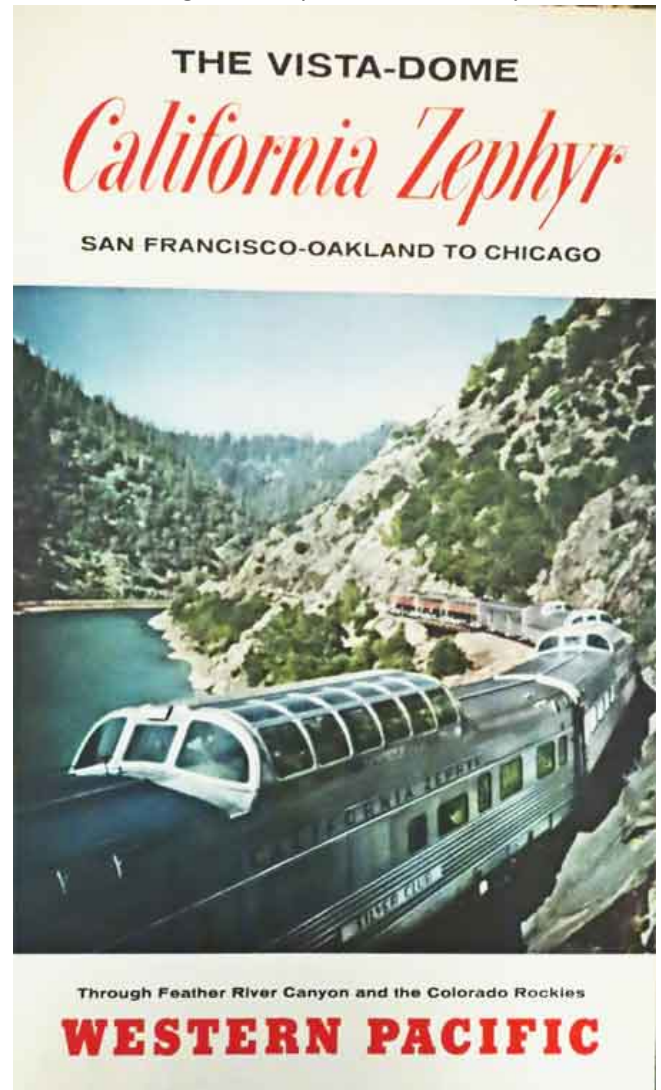


Social change and the economy had a major impact on railroads in America. The so-called 'Golden Age' of railroads in the United States was between the 1880s and World War I. The Great Depression and the growth and use of personal automobiles caused many small railroad companies to fail. By the mid-1930s, 25% of America's railroad line-miles were in receivership or bankruptcy. This was a signal for the larger lines to develop a new marketing scheme to attract people back to the railroad. The answer was the streamliner train. <american-rails.com>

"Union Pacific's *M-10000* kicked things off following its delivery on February 25, 1934. It was unlike anything the public had ever seen. Its sleek appearance carrying no boxy features was entirely contrary to standard trains of the day which were drab, colorless, and generally uninspiring."

There were many streamliners. Some of the most notable ones were the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad's ***Super Chief***; Pennsylvania Railroad's ***Broadway Limited***, ***20th Century Limited***; Baltimore & Ohio's ***Capitol Limited***; Union Pacific's ***City of Los Angeles***; Great Northern's ***Empire Builder***; and the Milwaukee Road's ***Hiawatha***. <american-rails.com>

This photo program highlights another notable at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Pacific streamliner train and the **California Zephyr** car. It traveled through some spectacular scenery on its route.



Western Pacific 'California Zephyr'



Built in 1948 by The Budd Company, the California Zephyr was a train that ran from Chicago, Illinois to Oakland, California between 1949 and 1970. The route covered 2,525 miles each trip, and averaged 2 ½ days to complete. The train traveled at an average speed of 45 mph.

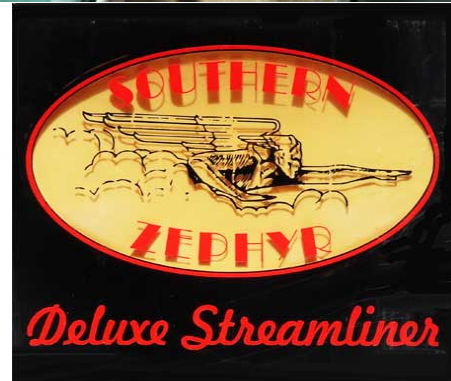
The 'silver string' or cars that you see is representative of the California Zephyr's original look. All cars carried a 'Silver' name, referencing their stainless steel construction.



Let's Go Onboard the California Zephyr

The California Zephyr, "Silver Crescent" is one of the finest examples of the "Streamliner Era." Built in 1948, it had the most modern systems and controls; stainless steel body and frame; 8-wheel disc brakes; anti-slide braking system; on-board brake indicators; demand/load electrical system; micro-switch-controlled vestibule step lights; air conditioning; carbon dioxide monitoring; multi-channel music & public address sound system; and more. Builder: Budd, Philadelphia, PA, Dec. 1948.





Source: <https://www.goldcoastrailroadmuseum.org/our-railcars> and <https://www.american-rails.com/streamliners.html>.

7-part series on the [Gold Coast Railroad is at acuri.net-florida](http://acuri.net-florida)

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Railroad Streamliners-California Zephyr