

In 1953, recent veteran and University of California graduate Gordon Crowell was in the middle of a coast to coast trip photographing short line railroads where ever he could find them. At one end of the trip was Berkley, California, and college. At the other end, was Rochester, New York and the beginning of a lifetime of working for General Electric all over the Americas.

Having grown up in Reno beside the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, and being an acquaintance of Lucius Beebe, he had read Mixed Train Daily from the moment that he got a copy of the first edition. After graduation, with 2 months time before reporting for work, he decided to follow in Beebe's steps to photo the same short lines.

Since he planned to take so many photos, he had bought both color and b&w film in bulk. Every night, under the blankets in his hotel room, he would unload and reload the film canisters, and move the exposed film into light proof containers until he could develop the film himself at a later date. In addition, he shot a color wheel photo at each location so that he could always come back and correct the colors at a later date.

Fortunately, he has preserved the negatives of the more than 10,000 photos that he exposed on his trip.