

The narrow gauge North Pacific Coast Railroad passed along the edge of our property, which had been settled by my grandfather about 1910. By the time I came along only the roadbed was left, but the pictures and the stories remain, and sometimes a sound on the wind. ~ ~ Vince Pedroia

Horseshoe Bend

So if you see Grandpa Banks sittin' in old Howard's Station
In one hand his coffee cup, in the other hand his cane
Don't worry, he'll find his way home soon enough
He's just waitin' 'till he hears the train

Oh, the rails and the ties were taken up long ago
But Grandpa thinks he can still hear the sound
"Do you hear it?" he asks, "Do ya? I think I do
And I think she's comin' around"

You see, to make the grade up to Howard's Station
The narrow gauge had to come around Horseshoe Bend
She hauled a few tourists, some redwood lumber and some mail
Between Cazadero and Sausalito at the other end

And she blew her whistle at the Brown's Canyon trestle
Warnin' any kids playin' daredevil on the bridge
And you could hear the whistle up on the summit
And all the way to the top of the cherry ridge

And Grandpa would unhitch his mules
And walk 'em to the brow of the hill
The smoke and the rumble of the train on the Bend
I can hear him tellin' about it still

But they lost interest or money after a time
And the next day the last train they'd send
And Grandpa was there on the side of that hill
Watchin' the last train come around Horseshoe Bend

And the kids was skinny dippin' in the swimmin' hole
And they ran to Fox Point, up the little hill
And holdin' their bath towels up in front of 'em
The engineer gave 'em a whistle, for the Bank's kids one last thrill

So if you see me sittin' in old Howard's Station
Under the awning, out of the rain
Don't worry, I'll find my way home soon enough
I'm just waitin' 'til I hear the train

Oh, the rails and ties were taken up long ago
But I think I can still hear the sound
"Do you hear it?" I'm askin', "Do ya? I think I do
And I'm sure she's comin' around"