

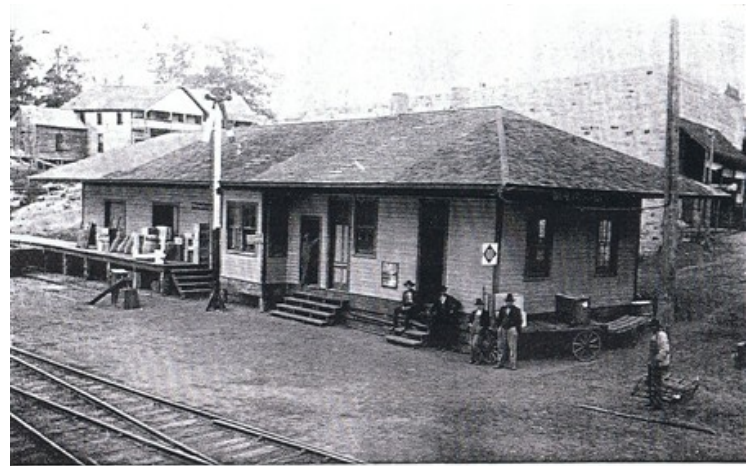
The Depot

The first train arrived in Calico Rock on August 24, 1903. There was no train depot. **E.N. “Nick” Rand** built this building to store freight from the railroad in 1903.



The train depot served the Calico Rock **c. 1905-1967**.

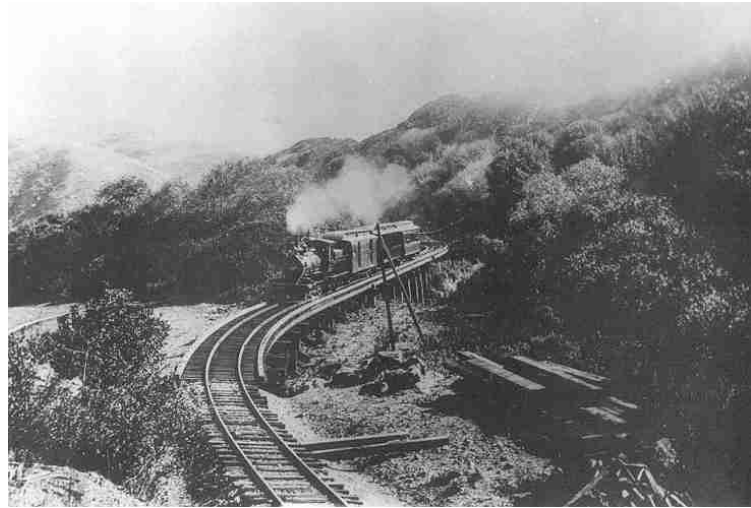
Albert Smith was hired as an “extra man” during World War I and became the Ticket Agent and Telegrapher in 1922. In 1944, **Jesse Crosser** became the Agent. He remained in that position until the depot was demolished in the 1960s.



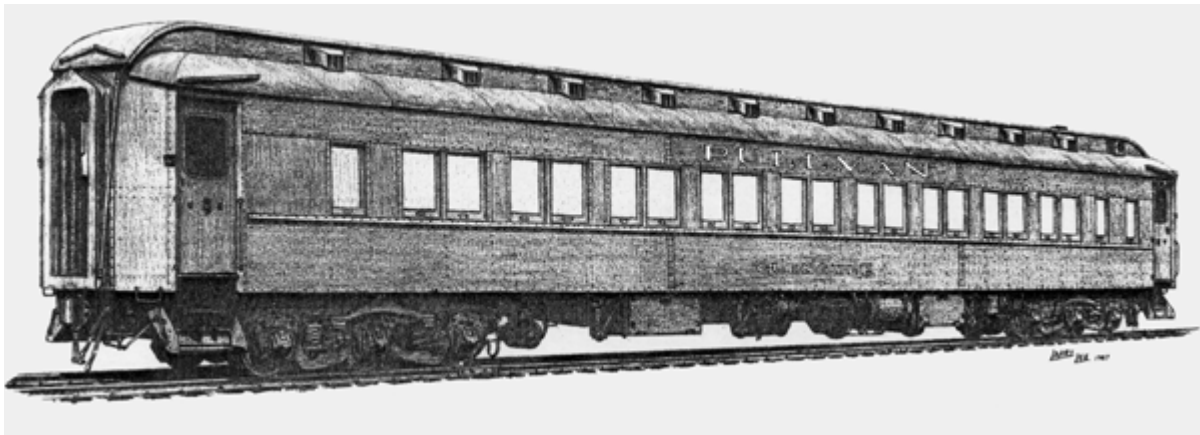
The Calico Rock railroad station about 1916

Train Travel

Luxury train travel was far from luxurious. But, it did make life easier. In 1906, a person could board the train at **Calico Rock** at 10:52 a.m. It pulled into **Cotter** at 12:25 p.m.



The train returned from Cotter at 4:41 p.m. It took just **28 minutes** to travel between Calico Rock and Norfolk.



In later years, **Pullman** and dining cars were added to make the trip more comfortable. Carrying **freight** was always, however, the primary purpose of the line.

When the railroad opened, most folks called it the Iron Mountain. By 1917, the name was officially changed to **Missouri-Pacific**.

Fire of 1923

On April 7, 1923, a spark from a locomotive pulling a load of cattle up from the bottoms sprayed onto the roof of the Garner Warehouse. The fire reportedly destroyed **21 buildings** and caused over **\$125,000** in damage. The railroad paid for all the damages.



After the Fire of 1923

There was no city water system at the time. The **bucket brigade** saved the town.

During the fire, merchants and helpful neighbors carried all the merchandise from the stores into the center of the street. While the bucket brigade fought the fire, **looters** raided the piles in the streets.

When the smoke cleared, five buildings remained—the **Yeatman-Gray Grocery Company**, **State Bank of Calico Rock**, **Evans Brothers Drug Store**, and **R.H. Wayland and Sons Hardware Company**.

Railroad Special Events

1915	Land Bulletin No. 1 (land for sale)
Sept 1918	U.S. Liberty Bonds Train
July 1925	Better Health Train
Fall 1925	Cotton, Orchards, Dairy, and Tobacco Train
August 1926	Grapes & Vineyards Tour
August 1929	Dairy Train
October 1929	Cannery Train (produced 2,000 cans a day)



As a special service to the community, **cotton prices** were telegraphed to the station agents, including Calico Rock.

Buyers paid a **monthly fee** to access the price quotes.