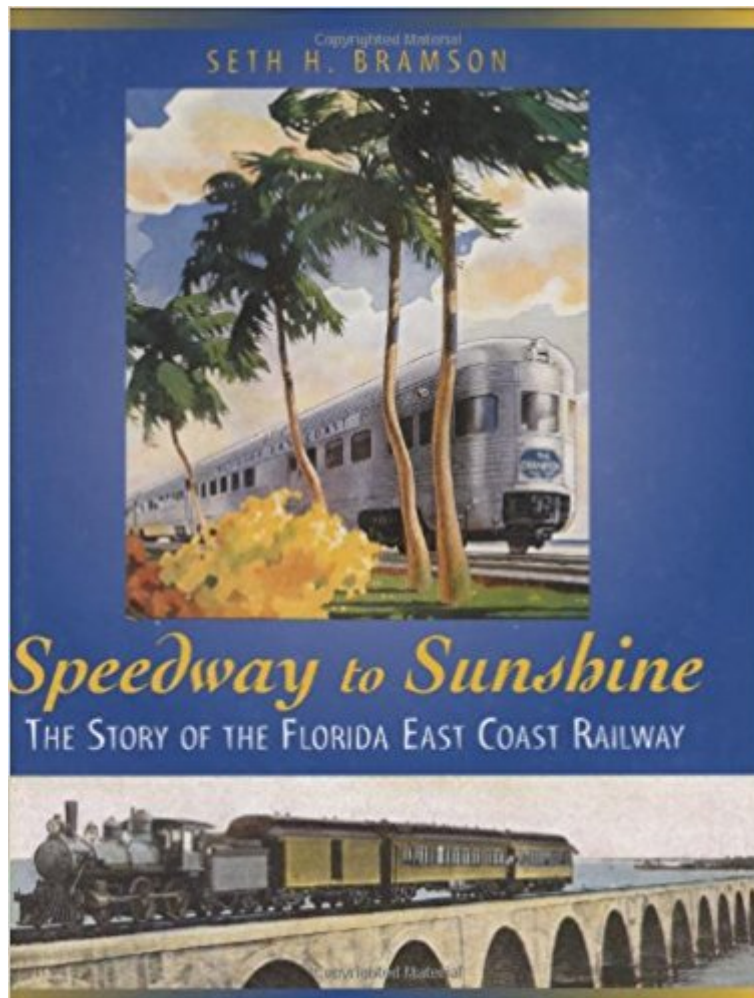




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Speedway To Sunshine: The Story Of The Florida East Coast Railway



Synopsis

Speedway to Sunshine is the history of one of America's most exciting railroad lines, the Florida East Coast (FEC). It details how the FEC began and how it survived booms, busts, bankruptcy, sabotage, and hurricanes to become one of America's most admired rail lines. Illustrated with 400 photographs, this fascinating book chronicles the FEC's unrivaled rail-blazing events, from its inception, through the construction and destruction of the famous Key West Extension, to the line's post-war metamorphosis. There are extensive appendices on train names, schedules, passenger agents, locomotive rosters, mail service, freight equipment, passenger equipment, intrastate connections, and track layout.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Interesting and colorful... an outstanding collection of images accompanies the 16 chapters of text... a great opportunity to relive the FEC's golden era. (David J. Mrozek Michigan Railfan) More than 400 archival and contemporary photographs... an exciting tale of the influence and importance of the iron rails. (S Gaugian) Entertaining and authoritative... exceptionally well-researched... filled with photographic documentation... Bramson is an engaging storyteller, and a presence whose enthusiasm for his subject is palpable throughout the book. (Mary O'Dea E-Streams) The definitive history of the [Florida East Coast Railway], composed by an employee as a labor of love... packed with photos. (Alexander D. Mitchell IV Railfan and Railroad)

Speedway to Sunshine is the first and only complete history of the fabled Florida East Coast

Railway. It's predecessors go back to 1885, and it's creator, of course, was the legendary Henry M. Flagler. In this 352 page book, the story is told from the very beginning -- going back to the earliest predecessor -- to late 2001. Even for those who are not railroad buffs but have an interest in Florida's long and glorious history, the photos alone make the book worthwhile. With over 400 photos -- many published for the first time, Speedway to Sunshine is, indeed THE story of the FEC and the men and women who, through more than 120 years, have made this great and still in existence railway the single finest, most respected, and most imitated railroad in America.

The "FEC Railroad" has a long history of many innovative improvements in how they operated as a railroad and how the train crews functioned. Over the years this has continued to keep the "FEC Railroad of Florida" as one of the most successful and profitable in North America and there workers are the most satisfied. The "FEC" enjoys an excellent on time delivery rating for all trains delivering and picking up new loads. Looking at all the different rail lines across the USA I noticed the "FEC" enjoyed on average a 15-25 mph higher over all track speed than other carriers. This fact is largely due to the better condition and maintenance of "FEC" Track by it's crews. Lastly the ongoing efforts of the "FEC Railroad" play a major role in our Nation's economy.

The book, seller, and delivery were just fine. The text and pictures are more centered on the FEC in the southern part of FLA with not a lot of discussion or pictures with the northern part of FLA and Jacksonville and Bowden Yards. A lot of historical info Miamians into the FEC might appreciate.

The definitive history of the FEC, from the man who is the Official Historian. His insights, knowledge and photos, many from his open collection, make this a fantastic hard cover, coffee table or history book.

Great production. Anyone who has an interest in Florida's development at the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th century will find a plethora of photos and stories not to be found from any other source. Henry Morrison Flagler's profound contribution to transforming a wilderness into the most desired vacation destination in America unfolds page by page. Fascinating. Spellbinding.

Great history & photos of the FEC!

Great history of Florida and its ascent .Seth writes well and keeps you interested.

always good to know a lot about the history of where you live. Written very well. Author knows his stuff and expresses it very well.

Very well written by the foremost historian of the Florida East Coast Railway. Well known speaker and historian on south Florida.

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