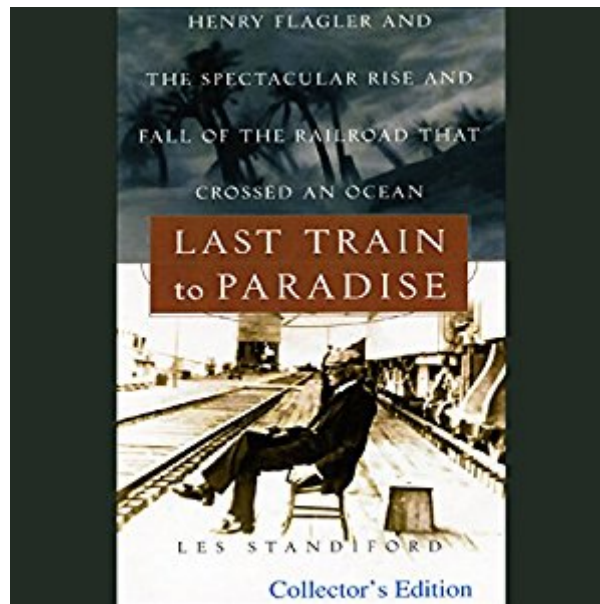


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Last Train To Paradise: Henry Flagler And The Spectacular Rise And Fall Of The Railroad That Crossed An Ocean



Synopsis

An oversized, limited commemorative edition of acclaimed South Florida author Les Standiford's gripping true account of the extraordinary construction and spectacular demise of the Key West extension of Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway, originally published in 2002 and now in its 20th printing. This edition, commemorating the completion of the Over-Sea Railroad, January 22, 1912, includes a linen cloth cover, special heavy stock, silver foil stamping, a double gatefold, a hand-tipped map, and 150 new and vintage photographs and illustrations. Curators and historians at the Library of Congress, the Monroe County Library in Key West, and at the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach assisted Creative Director Petra Mason with image sourcing, as did staff at The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York. Many of the images in this edition have never been published before. A Books & Books Press production in association with Motherland Miami and The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, Florida. 328 pages 10" x 8" 150 illustrations HC ISBN 978-0-9839378-0-7 \$60.00 (Author) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours and 2 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Books on Tape

Audible.com Release Date: December 11, 2003

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00017JIPU

Best Sellers Rank: #50 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Transportation #70

in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Railroads #113 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads

Customer Reviews

Les Standiford has put together a spell-binding tale of the last of the privately financed infrastructure projects undertaken by the larger than life 19th century businessmen. Here Henry Flagler races against his own mortality to complete a railroad from Jacksonville to Key West, with the final run south from Miami requiring herculean engineering, management, and financial resources. Flagler was a partner of John D. Rockefeller in an earlier venture known as Standard Oil who decided in his

70's to pursue a second career in railroading, land development, and luxury hotels in the then desolate country of South Florida and the Keys. Standiford weaves together Flagler, Rockefeller, their arch-rival trust-busting Teddy Roosevelt, WWI bonus armies, and big-game hunting author Ernest Hemingway. While Rockefeller also owned vacation homes in Florida, he and Flagler ultimately had a parting of the ways, with Rockefeller pointedly not attending Flagler's funeral. Flagler had been an early supporter of Roosevelt in his successful bid for the New York governorship after Roosevelt's success in the brief Spanish American war. Later Roosevelt brought antitrust action against Standard Oil and at least in Flagler's mind was behind government resistance to his plan to build a deep water harbor in Miami. Ironically, the US victory in the Spanish American War, together with confirmed plans to build the Panama Canal, were the motivation for Flagler's railroad adventures, as Flagler projected, incorrectly as it turned out, that Miami and Key West would grow in stature as ports. The final thread introduces Hemingway into the mix. The author was already a well-known Key Westerner when the hurricane of Labor Day 1935 ravaged the Keys.

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