

Recollections about the Embudo Station
On the Chili Line Narrow Guage Denver-RioGrande Railroad.

By Antonio Durán (1914-2004)

When they built the narrow guage from Embudo to Antonito, Colorado, my dad (Jose Rafael Durán) went to help build it. The mayordomo was married to a relative of my mother—this is how he got the job. I remember when I took my dad to Embudo to get on the train to go to work in Colorado. There was a wooden bridge there (1930s). But when you got on it, it shook 'til you fell in the water if you weren't careful. That area was called La Nasa, but I never knew why they called it that.

Most Dixon people worked for the railroad. Some would fill the railroad cars with coal at the Embudo Station. The coal came from the mines in Madrid. People in the area could go and buy coal for their homes. The railroad had contracted with the mines for the coal.

The man at the Embudo Station used coal to heat the station. Sometimes they even had to use coal to heat the water in the big water tank so it wouldn't freeze; oftentimes heating it around the clock. They would keep the tank full by pumping water from the river by hand. Up in Embudo Canyon, the river would often freeze.

Typed from the original by Robert Templeton, 2012