

What was life like for Mexican families who lived in Culver City 100 years ago?

[Source: *Forgotten History: The Pacific Electric Labor Camp*, September 2, 2021. Culver City Historical Society](#)

Three generations of a family lived in a work camp of the Pacific Electric railroad in the middle of Culver City - and no one remembers that it even existed. You will be amazed to find out where it was located and what stands there today.

[Source: "Camp Welfare", Viva M. Carr, January 10, 1921, *The Pacific Electric Magazine*](#)

Pacific Electric, the company that created Los Angeles first public transport system known as the Los Angeles Railway or "the red cars", issued a periodic magazine. The magazine promoted the company and also addresses some community concerns such as the emergence of Mexican workers and families in their communities. In an attempt to quell concerns, Pacific Electric established *Americanization* courses for the children and wives of its Mexican workers.

[Source: "Labor Camp and sewage elements", from *Labor Camp Inspection Report to the Commission of Immigration and Housing of California*, January 2, 1916](#)

The pictured section house was highlighted as indicative of "the Mexican labor camp problem" by the Commission of Immigration and Housing in 1916 for its density, clutter, and open garbage and sewage elements.

[Source: "How Company has Aided Mexican Worker", July 10, 1928, *the Pacific Electric Magazine*](#)

Promotional article by the Pacific Electric Railway Company, featuring their "improved" labor camp along Glenarm in the Raymond district of South Pasadena. Section houses, landscaping and paving, an enclosed trash incinerator, and women and children lined alongside the "visiting nurse," are said to be illustrative of the camp's superior "tidiness." | "How Company has Aided Mexican Worker" *The Pacific Electric Magazine* 13 no. 2 (July 10, 1928), 3-4