

Bloomer Cut



Bloomer Cut
Completed 1865

The Bloomer Cut is a landmark segment of the Transcontinental Railroad that is one of the few still in use today by west bound trains. The Cut is 800 feet long and about 63 feet deep. The ridge that the tracks run through is made up of boulders imbed in clay making a concrete-like consistency. Tools of the time, picks and axes, were of little use in the Cut and massive amounts of black blasting powder were used.

The name Bloomer has never been historical sourced. Perhaps the name of a family that lived in the area, one 1943 newspaper article suggested that two young girls of the farm family that lived near the Cut came into town to shop wearing “bloomers’ and the name is derived from that.

The other mystery that surrounds the Cut is whether or not the work was done mostly by Chinese workers. The payroll records of the time are unclear and newspaper accounts are vague. We do know that Chinese workers were on the payroll shortly after the work on the Cut was done.

The Placer May/June 2011, exploreapaheritage.com, sierranevadageotourism.org, Placer Herald 20 Nov. 1943.
Photos courtesy of Placer County Museums