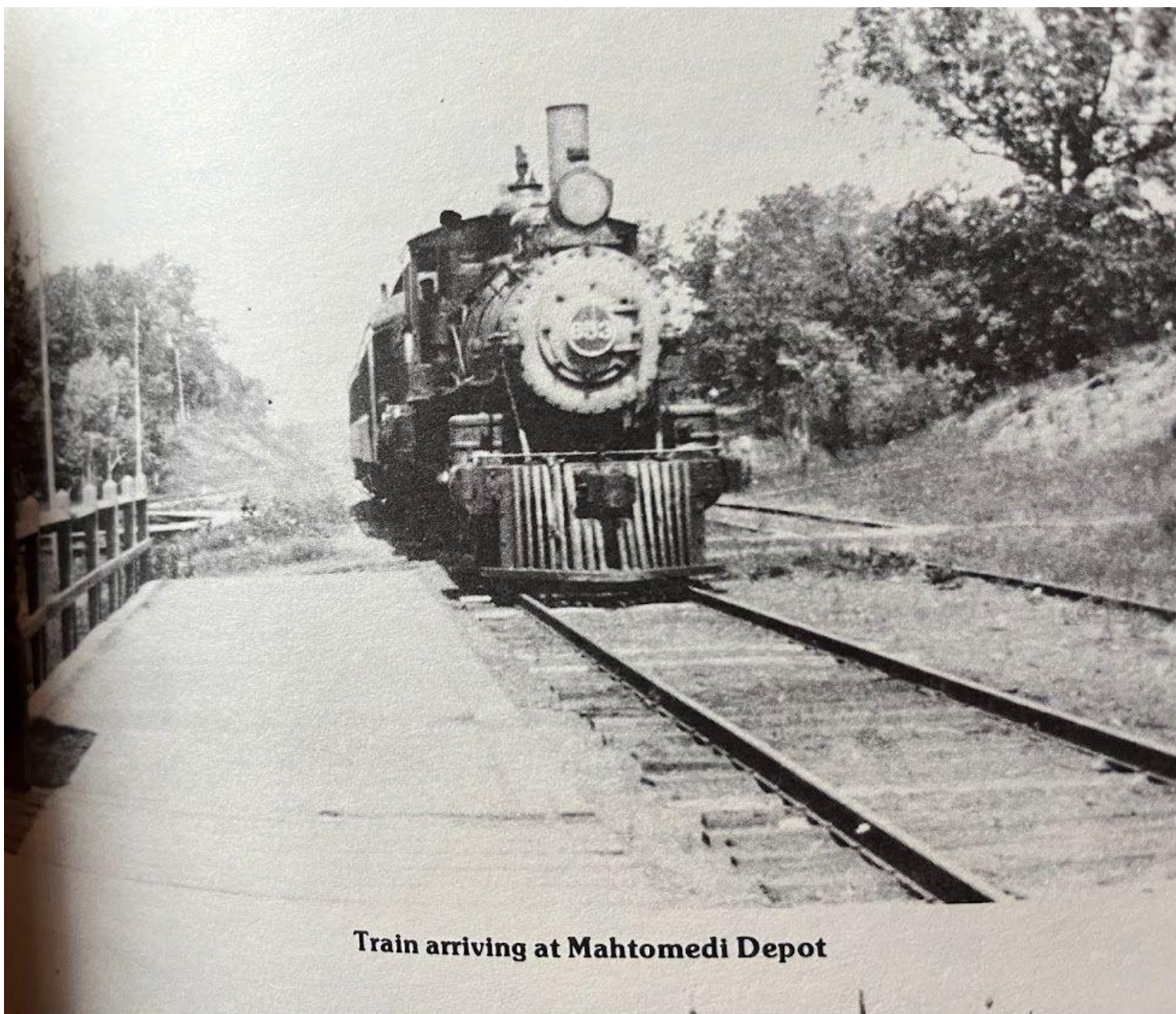


NORTHERN PACIFIC MAHTOMEDI DEPOT

Railroads were a key part of moving goods and people around the area in the late 1800's since there were very few roads and just horse drawn vehicles.

The Stillwater and St. Paul Railroad along the N shore of White Bear Lake and through Dellwood and Mahtomedi was built in 1874. There were stops at White Bear Beach, Dellwood, Peninsula, Echo Street, Mahtomedi (here in Streetcar Park) , then on to Stillwater.

Because of lack of roads and vehicles in the 1890's the Mahtomedi depot here was a busy place with several trains a day. Passenger and freight trains (mainly lumber from Stillwater, but also goods for the general store here) were the main means of transportation. This part of town was also the hub of Mahtomedi with the "one horse" general store E.T Warner's. The current Rose Street (on the W side of Streetcar Park) was named Central Avenue until the 1950's. There was a turntable here to turn locomotives; the concrete base of it can be seen about 20 feet SW of the covered bridge.



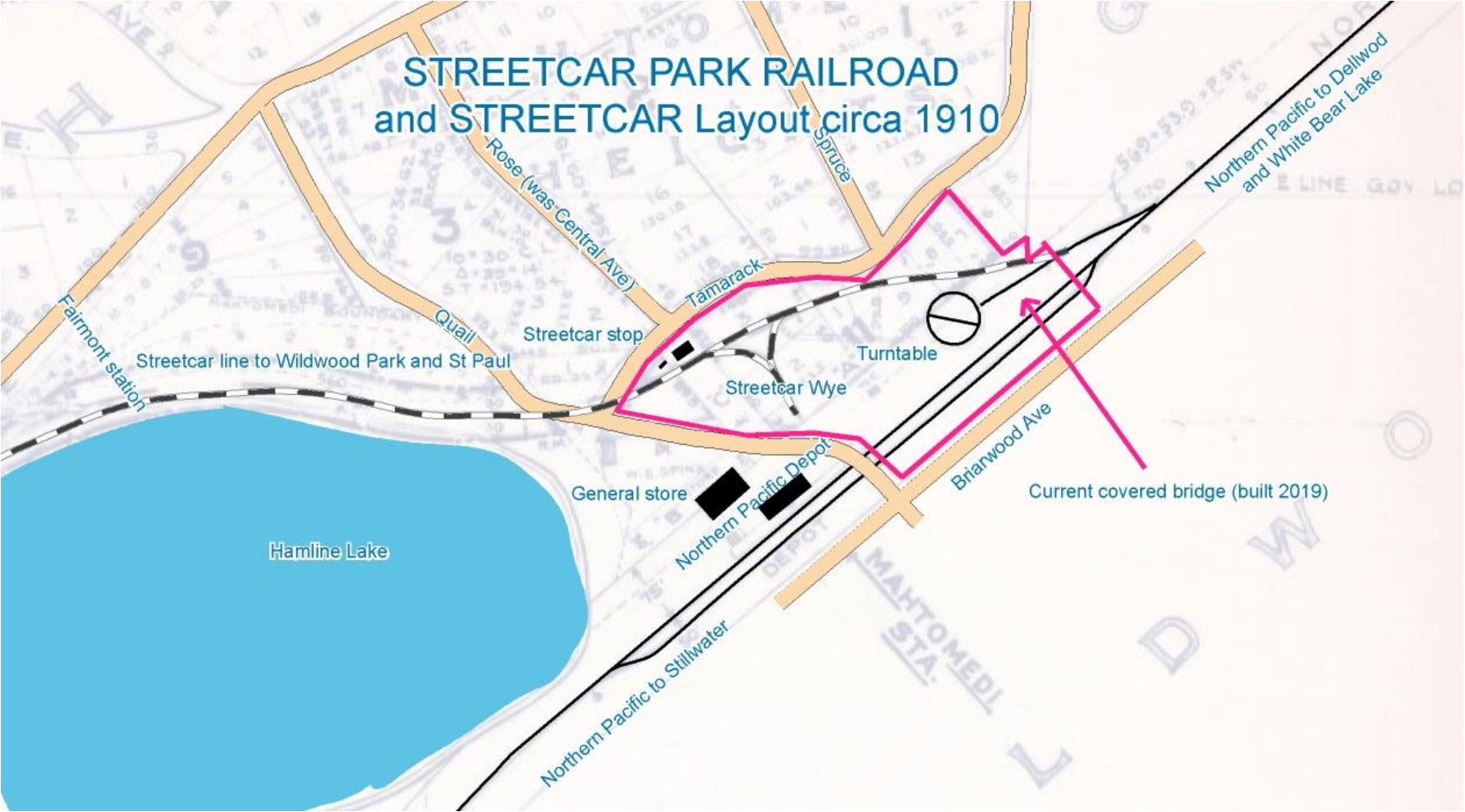
Train arriving at Mahtomedi Depot

This locomotive is heading S and is standing right on the crossing of Quail Street. The turntable is just visible to the left of the train which is standing at the current picnic area.



Picture: looking S along Briarwood shows the depot and the general store with Quail street in the foreground

This was the general layout of the area after the street car line arrived in 1899.



In 1982 the Stillwater Branch was abandoned, and much of the right-of-way between White Bear Lake and Duluth Junction was sold off. Here at Streetcar park you can walk along the old tracks from the East end of the covered bridge S across Quail and along Briarwood Avenue. You can also walk along the old tracks from N end of Briarwood to Echo.