

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



Streetcar CURRENTS



May 2014

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota



Bill the Motorman Says:

- *With the cool & wet spring we sure can use more riders. Tell your friends and neighbors to come and ride our historic streetcars at ESL and CHSL.*
- *Want to learn more about our historic streetcars? Visit our website: TrolleyRide.org*
- *Our shop can always use an extra volunteer or two. Our track and overhead wire gang can also use some extra help. Please consider volunteering to do some of the "behind the scenes" work.*

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Masthead. This photo shows Duluth No. 265 and TCRT No. 1300 in front of the Isaacs carbarn ready for the 2013 season to begin. So far, the 2014 season has started off like the 2013 season—cool and wet. Let's hope for better weather this spring. *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*

Our 2014 Season has Begun

Bill Arends—General Supt.

As I sit down to write my column this month, I'm excited that the start of the operating season is just around the corner. Well actually the start of the season has already begun. On Thursday afternoon April 17th, Mike Mayer and I operated TCRT No. 1300 for the first scheduled charter of the season. In spite of the cool 40 degree weather, with some piles of snow still on the platform from the snowfall the night before, over 30 excited adults and children got to kick off our 43rd season of operation.

Officially our operating season begins at ESL on Thursday, May 1, and at CHSL on Saturday, May 3. Also on Saturday, May 3, two charters have been scheduled, one of which is at 4:00 PM requiring two car operation. Because of the extensive work done on Duluth No. 265 this winter, more pressure has fallen on the shoulders of the maintenance/restoration crew at the George K. Isaacs Carbarn to meet this deadline.

The 30-plus years of operation of No. 265 at CHSL were starting to take their toll: faded, chipped paint; rotted wood; all those things caused by bright sunlight and moisture. So the process of re-restoration began last November. All the windows on the front, rear and the pole side of the car were taken out so deteriorating wood could be sanded, repainted or replaced as needed. A very time-consuming process because much of the wood on the front and rear needed to be soaked to conform to the curvature of the car. In addition all the seats need to be removed and repainted.

With the beginning of the season rapidly approaching the carbarn crews notched up to full series on their "work controller." On a recent Tuesday, **Dennis Stephens**, **Jim Willmore**, **John Prestholdt**, **Russ Isbrandt**, **Walt Strobel** and **Phil Settergren** were busy the entire morning on No. 265. Jim, Dennis and John returned in the afternoon and were joined by **Karl Jones** who were busy reassembling the car when I arrived about 6:00 PM. They were soon joined by **Ben Franske** and **Joel Schuweiler** who continued to work into the evening. While not yet totally ready to go, No. 265 is looking good and getting close to being ready for operation.

The late melting of the snow this spring also pushed back the re-certification of Foremen and Operators. But again volunteers stepped up to get it done. Thanks to **Chris Heck** and **Bruce Gustafson** for the time they spent getting the scheduling for re-certification done, and thanks to **Dave Higgins**, **Rod Eaton** and **Bruce Gustafson** at CHSL and **Todd Bender** at ESL for conducting the re-certification sessions.

But that is not all that needed to be worked into a very tight schedule before the operating season began. With a new point-of-sale system installed (a/k/a the cash register) it became necessary for additional training on the new system. **Charles**



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MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



The Minnesota Streetcar Museum is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization with the mission to preserve and communicate to the public the experience of Minnesota's electric street and inter-urban railway history. To accomplish this mission the Museum operates historic streetcars at two demonstration railways.

Como-Harriet Streetcar Line
Excelsior Streetcar Line

For more information on our Museum, our collection of historic streetcars and our demonstration railways, visit our website:

www.TrolleyRide.org

The museum's business address and telephone number is:

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Streetcar CURRENTS May 2014

Jim Vaitkunas—Editor

Bill Graham—Distribution

Streetcar CURRENTS is a newsletter published for the members and friends of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum.

Deadline for submitting items for the next issue of the Streetcar CURRENTS is May 20, 2014.

Please send items to the editor Jim Vaitkunas at the following address:

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Apple Valley, MN 55124-9481

You can send input or enquiries by e-mail to: jvaitkunas@msn.com



From the Front Platform—Thoughts on Our Museum

Dave French — Board Chair

Hi Everyone! At the March Board of Directors meeting our merchandise manager, **Charles Barthold**, gave a presentation about our new system for accepting credit cards at Lake Harriet. He was asked if there are any plans for new MSM t-shirts such as a shirt commemorating the restoration of Winona 10. There is a precedent for this because when PCC car No. 322's restoration was finished in 2000, a shirt was produced for it. This interests me because a significant portion of my t-shirt wardrobe is made up of MSM t-shirts and I have purchased more than one of every design we have produced. Charles said there are no definite plans as yet for new shirts, and new MSM Director **Holly Wetzel** suggested that perhaps we could recruit a volunteer with graphic design skills to help us design new t-shirts. So, if you have such skills and can use computer technology to produce your design so that it may easily be sent to a screen printer, please contact me at drfcd152@aol.com or call 651-728-2837. T-shirts are a "big seller" at the CHSL depot and as a Station Agent I have sold many, especially children's sizes which are often purchased as gifts for young trolley fans. I myself have a tie-dye shirt from the Illinois Railway Museum which I have just about worn out, so I would love a tie-dye MSM shirt (though I may be the ONLY one). Here's your chance to show off your skills and help MSM!

Speaking of the new credit card system, I received training on the new cash register and I predict that this will be a very popular improvement for everyone who operates at CHSL. I can be a little intimidated by new technology but believe me, this new touch screen register is much easier! Just being able to see the entire transaction on the screen as you make entries and being able to correct entries or delete the whole transaction and start over is a big plus. I still cannot get over how easy it is to change the paper roll in the receipt printer. Those of you who changed the roll in our previous two cash registers know how challenging that seemingly simple process could be. Like any new system, there are sure to be some "bugs" to be worked out once regular operations start in May, so please be patient and start learning on your first shift. As one of the cash register trainers, I look forward to hearing your feedback on the new machine, both your likes and dislikes.

When I write thank-you letters to donors who contributed to our Annual Appeal, I sometimes come across other miscellaneous correspondence sent to MSM through the mail. We received the following note in December along with a donation.

"My family and I came on the last day possible to ride the trolley and see Santa. We did not bring cash or check, credit cards only. You were kind enough to let us, two adults and two kids, ride on the promise we would mail our payment. Thank you!! My 4 year old was fighting back tears when she heard she would not be able to ride. That would have been the saddest car ride home. Thank you for your generosity. We hope the extra money is helpful for the MN Streetcar Museum. We'll see you again next summer with cash of course.

Merry Christmas-The Bullock Family"



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Dupont Truck for Winona No. 10 is Delivered!

On Wednesday, May 7th the single truck that will go under Winona No. 10, along with two GE air compressors, were delivered to the Excelsior carbarn. Photos of the unloading of the truck are below. The crew that helped unload the truck and air compressors included Ken Albrecht, Howie Melco, Scott Heiderich, Scott Ingram, Art Ruder, Steve Mages, Todd Bender, Tom Magruder and Dick Zawacki. After the truck and two air compressors were unloaded, the pair of Baldwin trucks that will go under a suburban car being restored by a group in Hershey, Pennsylvania were loaded and they headed back east to Pennsylvania. All in all a good day's work and thanks to all who helped with this important project. *(All photos by Todd Bender unless noted)*



Left. The Dupont truck is unwrapped. Right. The truck is then winched down the tilt-bed trailer's ramp *(Jan Albrecht photo)*



Left. TCRT No. 1239 towed the truck to the barn. *(Jan Albrecht photo)* Right. Then it was manpower that got the truck into the carbarn.



Left. Two air compressors roll down the track. Right. The truck is in the Excelsior shop safe and sound waiting for Winona No. 10 to be set on it.

What's Happening?

May 23	Start of Daily operations at CHSL
May 26	Memorial Day "Early Bird" service at CHSL starts at 9:00 AM. ESL operates 10 AM to 4 PM.
June 4	Start of Wednesday afternoon service at CHSL (1 PM to 4 PM)
June 10	Story Time Trolley at ESL
June 13, 14 & 15	Special Musical on the Trolley at CHSL starts at 9:00 PM
June 19	PJ Party trolley at CHSL

**MSM News & Views — News of our Museum's Administration and Membership***Jim Vaitkunas — MSM Corporate Secretary and Superintendent of Operations*

New members. We would like to give a hearty welcome to the following new MSM Members: Greg and Carol Schuweiler; Tom Vogt; Erv Spevacek; Jerry Petersen; and, Tom Johnson. Tom Vogt, Tom Johnson, Erv and Jerry are currently enrolled in our Operator Training Program. Welcome to the MSM Family, folks.

MSM's 2013-2014 Annual Appeal. Our 2013-2014 Annual Appeal is finally winding down. However, we still received many donations over the last few weeks for which we are very grateful.

General Fund. Tom Boies, Dave French, Russell Hofstead, Brian Krynski, Clark Hoffman, John Stewart, Sue & Jim Willmore, Bettye & Earl Anderson, Bob Woodburn, Don Nielsen, John DeWitt, and Jim Otto.

Isaacs Carbam Expansion Fund. Darrell Arndt, Bernie Braun, Mary Ann Corbey, Patrick Desbonnet, Gary Gustafson, Clark Hoffman, Jim Harrison, John Heinel, June & John Schuman, and John Reinan. ☺

Goodbye Eastside Station

Built in 1891 by The Minneapolis Street Railway, Eastside Station was used as a car operating station until TCRT Streetcar service was discontinued in June, 1954. Located on 1st Avenue, N.E. between University Avenue N.E. and 4th Avenue, N.E., Eastside Station was the last operating station for TCRT. The building was later sold for commercial use and is now completely gone. *(Jim Vaitkunas photos)*

(From the Front Platform Continued from page 2)

Well, if the Bullocks were riding at CHSL, they won't have to bring cash this year. But more importantly, every time I read that note I start fighting back tears just like that little girl because this is nothing unusual! I have seen our volunteers do something extra for our customers thousands of times over the last 17 years, and nearly every time it has made a friend for MSM who will come back and ride again. So I say "thank you" to everyone who goes the "extra mile" to bring a little happiness into the world of our passengers. I'll see you on the car! ☺

(Our 2014 Season has Begun Continued from page 1)

Barthold has been spending many hours in the depot training Foremen, Operators and Station Agents how to use the system. It's really very easy but I greatly encourage anyone who has not yet received any training on it to contact either Charles or me to schedule a little "hands-on" training before going live behind the counter.

So spring has sprung. A lot of work has been done. A lot of re-certification completed. A lot of instruction has been given. The Operating Rules and Regulations book has been updated. All we need now is to get the slots on the schedule filled with Foremen, Operators and Station Agents. It's show time! See you out on the line. ☺

WANTED: Help with our next T-Shirt

MSM is looking for a volunteer with graphic design skills to work on new t-shirt designs to sell at the Linden Hills station and through our website. If you can help, please contact Dave French at (651) 728,2837 or drfcd152@aol.com.