



Streetcar CURRENTS

SPECIAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT August 2004

It's been a busy spring and summer for MTM's Traction Division Volunteers. Most of the major activity has occurred out at Excelsior. Back in April, a big (for us, anyway) track relocation project was accomplished which allowed TCRT "gate car" No. 1239 to easily go thru the carbarn door to the outside. Don't ask why this was a big deal, we're just glad that the work is now done. The track relocation, and completion of work on TCRT "gate car" No. 1239, allowed us to finally move Winona No. 10 into the Museum's restoration shop at Excelsior. This occurred on July 28, 2004.

The restoration work on No. 1239 is pretty much done and the car has been test run on several occasions. We had one false start when an electrical problem surfaced, but that problem has been solved and the car is ready to enter general revenue service soon.



The cars on tracks 1 and 2 had to be moved out to allow the contractor to relocate track 1 inside the ESL carbarn. In this photo taken on April 1, 2004 you see Winona No. 10 outside the carbarn for the first time in perhaps 3 or 4 years. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)



Here's a close-up of Winona No. 10. Note the "traction orange" paint and red stripe on the corner post and the "hourglass" showing thru the rust on the end. The orange body with red stripe was the last paint scheme used on Winona No. 10--the hourglass disappeared in the early 1930s. That's **Ken Albrecht** with his legs sticking out from under No. 10 while **Mike Miller** (standing) adds some encouraging words. (Tom Fairbairn photo)



The other No. 10--With tracks 1 and 2 cleared out for a few days, this gives the photographer a chance to take a quick shot of the body of big interurban Mesaba No. 10. It's a little rough right now but someday the car will run. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)



Overhead Wire work! **Scott Heiderich** and **Mike Miller** are up on the tower car working on the ESL overhead. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)

EXCELSIOR ACTION AND TCRT NO. 1239

A beauty to behold is a joy forever! We're not sure who coined that phrase but it certainly applies to our "gate car" No. 1239. Here are some photos of the car taken in July and August when the car was out on the line for a couple of test runs.



On July 28th, a big switching move was made to shuffle around all the cars at Excelsior except for Mesaba No. 10. In this photo, Duluth Street Railway No. 78 is taking Winona No. 10 from track 2 and in a few minutes will place No. 10 to the left and then push it into the shop portion of the Excelsior carbarn. That's **Jim Willmore** on No. 78's platform.
(Bob Johnson photo)



What could No. 1239 (TCRT 31st Street shops, 1907) on the left, be saying to No. 78 (LaCledé, 1893)? Maybe it's "Move over old timer...now it's my turn!"
Neil Howes is at the front controller of No. 1239 getting ready to blow a fuse or something, I think.
(Bob Johnson photo)



No 1239 was pressed into special service for some ESL visitors on August 4, 2004. Here's a photo of No. 1239 resting at the Old Excelsior Boulevard (east) end of ESL. You simply must see this great restoration job to appreciate it. No. 1239 moves a little slower than our other TCRT "standard" cars, probably because the motors and gears came from the locomotive that TCRT used to switch coal hopper cars at TCRT's main steam power generating plant at St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis.
(Bill Graham photo)



A test run was made in regular service in July with the husband and wife team of **John** and **Kathy Prestholdt** "doing the honors" aboard No. 1239. This photo was taken at the Water Street platform and that's **Kathy** at No. 1239's rear controls. The Motorman controls those rear gates from the front of the car using a handle and connecting rod and they work beautifully thanks to the terrific work by **Ken Albrecht** and several other Traction Division craftsmen.

During this and subsequent test runs, some slight problems were noted mainly related to the front fender (people catcher) and some brake rigging being too close to the ground. These problems have been fixed and we're all looking forward to the dedication ceremony of No. 1239 on Saturday, September 11th, 12:00 Noon at ESL's Water Street platform in Excelsior..

(John Prestholdt photo)



Here's the entire ESL roster on wheels, albeit Winona No. 10 is on the Brill 21-E shop truck. (Bob Johnson photo)



The two bottom photos were taken on July 1st when the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line operated from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM entertaining our visitors from the NRHS annual convention. The gentleman in the red vest in the middle photo of TCRT No. 1300 is our own new Operator, **Russ Isbrandt** who was the bus coordinator for the convention. (Both photos by Wendy Dunham)

