



HALLOWEEN OPERATIONS AT COMO-HARRIET AND EXCELSIOR STREETCAR LINES

The special events operated by both demonstration railways of our Museum in October and November have proved to be good fund raisers. They also bring out the best in our volunteers. By their nature they are more labor intensive than our regularly scheduled operations, especially for the ghost trolley at our Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. At CHSL we run the whole operation ourselves, to include recruiting the talent to play the roles in the skits. In all cases our volunteers always respond to make sure they run right.

This year, CHSL's ghost trolley theme was *Streetcar Zombies* and boy, did we have the zombies! A couple of nights we had more than 15 volunteers (some museum members, some not) dressed like the dead (see the photos). This year we spread CHSL's ghost trolley over three successive Fridays and two Saturdays. As luck would have it, on each of the three Fridays the weather was poor so overall ridership, while respectable at 1,500, was down from previous years. However, the Pumpkin patch trolley was a great success. We carried over 700 passengers who took away most of the pumpkins provided by farmer **Ken Albrecht**.

This year at CHSL we started a new event called **Trick 'R Trolley** which proved to be a huge success, with three full carloads of parents and their children listening to author **Alison McGhee** who read two of her books, *Only a Witch Can Fly* and *A Very Brave Witch*. There were three trips at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30. All were sold out (60 tickets per ride) although the last trip carried almost 70 passengers. Wild Rumpus Book Store in Linden Hills was our partner on this event, part of our new "Stories on a Streetcar" series.

Over on the Excelsior Streetcar Line the 2009 ghost trolley is jointly sponsored by the Museum and the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society and this year's event went off without a hitch.



(Above Left) Dave French was positioned at the William Berry bridge and was the "set-up man" for the subsequent ride to the carbarn where the streetcar zombies were located. Dave's pitch was intended to lead our passengers into a false sense of security—they thought that his tale was it for the ride. Little did they know...

(Above Right) Here's one night's worth of zombies. I count 18 zombies in the photo. We had a great response to our call for volunteers to help with CHSL's 2009 ghost trolley. That's TCRT PCC No. 322 in the background. It's not well suited for this type of operations but it made a good prop for the zombies at the carbarn.

(Left) Here one of our zombies scaring the wits out of some of our passengers riding on the car on the adjacent track.

(All three photos by Mike Helde)



(Left) Here's a sweet young lady just waiting to scare the wits out of our passengers. (Mike Helde photo)
(Right) On another night we had these zombies who did a great job entertaining our passengers. (Rod Eaton photo)



(Above left) And in case you were asking yourself, does Farmer Ken really exist? Yes, he does and here he is, our own **Ken Albrecht**. (Rod Eaton photo)
(Above right) Decisions, decisions! (Rod Eaton photo)
(Right) Here's one of our hardest working volunteers, **Paula Herzog** (in the blue vest) helping a youngster with a stick-on tattoo. On the right of the photo in the dark blue cap is **Angela Frerichs** who was also doing the tattoos and face painting. This proved very popular with the youngsters. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)



Our Trick 'R Trolley event at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line was a rousing success. All three trips were sold out and then some. Here's children's books author **Allison McGhee** reading to the kids. All the moms and dads agreed that this was a great event for our Museum. (Rod Eaton photos)

EXCELSIOR STREETCAR LINE GHOST TROLLEY



The Excelsior ghost trolley had a series of scenes/skits along the half-mile line. Here are three well made-up people in the "graveyard" across from the carbarn. (Teresa Babler photo)



At the east end of the Excelsior Streetcar Line was a small table selling body parts, black cats and other Halloween paraphernalia. Eye of newt, anyone? (Teresa Babler photo)



Here's one night's stalwart crew for ESL's ghost trolley: (left to right) **Clyde Stephens, Teresa Babler, Bob Johnson, Marv Krafve** and **Denn Evans**. (Denn Evans photo)



Something interesting is going on the left outside of car No. 1239. It can't be too scary judging from the smiles on the passengers' faces. (Denn Evans photo)