



Streetcar CURRENTS

SPECIAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT

MAY - 2011



BIG DOINGS AT CHSL'S LINDEN HILLS STATION

As reported in the May issue of the *Streetcar Currents*, the BIG project this spring has been rebuilding the platform at our Museum's Como-Harriet Streetcar Line's Linden Hills station. The other major improvement was to the interior of the Linden Hills station. Photos of that project are on the last page of this photo supplement.

John Prestholdt listed all the people involved in the platform work in his column on page four of the May *Streetcar Currents*, so I won't try to list all these great volunteers here in this photo supplement. However, I want to specially recognize **Ken Albrecht** who was the project Foreman for the platform rebuild project.



(Top Left) The dismantling of the old wood platform has begun. First, the benches were removed and set aside for reuse. We found that the benches aren't in the best of shape but they could be reused, although they do need some repairs and a coat of paint. (*John Prestholdt photo*)

(Above Right) The platform is now being dismantled. This part of the project was taking quite long as the floor boards were in short lengths as you can see. Why were they short you ask? Well that's because we got the wood for an extremely reasonable price because no one else really wanted what was basically scrap wood. The old platform served us well for the five years we used it. (*Dick Zawacki photo*)

(Bottom Left) The floor boards are removed and the supports are next to go. That's **Scott Heiderich** and **John Prestholdt** on the right. You can just barely see all the leaves and trash that had accumulated under the platform. (*Dick Zawacki photo*)

(Bottom Right) **Break time!** It must be around ten o'clock, the standard break time for the Tuesday and Saturday shop crews. The guys are taking a well deserved break from their labors and are sitting on the stacks of just delivered treated lumber which they'll use to construct the new and improved platform. (*Howie Melco photo*)



(Top Left) The new floor support joists are now being installed. Some of the old wood still can be seen in the foreground but this old wood will be removed very soon. The leaves and junk has also been cleaned out using a leaf blower. *(All four photos by Howie Melco)*

(Top Right) Here's a view of the platform foundation looking towards the south. Note that the platform's foundation is made up of railroad ties.

(Bottom Left) The treated wood floor boards are being laid out along the new platform.

(Bottom Right) The nailing crew has begun their work. We used galvanized screw-nails to make sure the boards stay down. Using common nails would mean that some would eventually work their way out of the wood and become a tripping hazard.



The platform is about 95% finished. Some trimming of the boards needs to be done and the benches re-installed. The volunteers who did the work did a superb job. If you see one or more them please give them a big thank you. *(Howie Melco photo)*

Here's the finished platform on May 7th. Benches are in place and everything is ready for the first passengers of the 2011 operating season. What a big improvement! *(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*

INTERIOR OF LINDEN HILLS STATION SEES BIG IMPROVEMENT

It has been quite a while since the interior of the Linden Hills station has been updated and painted. This year you are in for a big treat when you see the interior of the Linden Hills station. Credit for the great work goes to Stationmaster **Eric Neumann**, **Rod Eaton**, **Bill Arends** and **Jonathan Knisely**. The floor has been completely refinished, the walls repainted, the interior of the display cabinets on the walls were repainted and rearranged, and in a great move to improve use of the interior space of the station, the cashier's position and one of the merchandise display cabinets was moved to the northwest corner of the station. This alone is a huge improvement as now passengers purchasing tokens or merchandise won't be blocking the doorway. Others who helped with the project include **Neil Howes**, **Keith Lindberg**, **Charles Barthold** and several others. Thanks, guys!

(All photos taken on May 7, 2011 by Jim Vaitkunas)



Here's **Charles Barthold** (right) giving **Bettye** and **Earl Anderson** some pointers on the new cash register. For those of you who don't know, Earl actually worked for the Twin City Rapid Transit Company in the 1950s as a streetcar Motorman.



This photo shows the northeast corner and most of the east wall of the station's interior.



This photo shows the southwest corner of the station. From the smile on his face and his body language, it appears that **Karl Jones** is pleased with the new interior arrangement. That's **Earl Anderson** coming through the door and **Russ Isbrandt** has his back to us.



Here's a photo of the south wall of the Linden Hills station. The empty display cabinet on the left won't be empty for very long. Museum Historian, **Mike Buck** is preparing a special display that will go inside this cabinet to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Museum.