

MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



Streetcar CURRENTS



October 2015

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota



Bill the Motorman Says:

- *Have you enjoyed our Halloween special events in past years? They're not just for non-Museum members, you know.*
- *We need help with our up-coming special events. Family members are always welcome!*

Streetcar CURRENTS

Winter Publication Schedule

With this issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS** we'll revert to our winter publication schedule. See the notice on page 4 for details on the schedule.

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Masthead. No, the destination sign on No. 1775 at the 56th street end of the BRYANT-JOHNSON line doesn't mean it's going to Chicago's LOOP. This is a rush-hour car destined to "loop" around some city blocks in downtown Minneapolis and go back out on Bryant Avenue. No. 1775 and our No. 1300 made the famous last TCRT passenger run on June 19, 1954. (MSM photo archives)

Fifty-three Interesting Days

Bill Arends—General Supt.

Imagine picking 53 days out of one of our "Operating Seasons" and taking a closer look at them. Any 53 days may be interesting. That's a period of about 40% of our operating season. There's always a lot going on once the streetcars start running in May. Why pick 53 days? Who even remembers "53 days" out of any season?

All "53 day periods" are not the same. During the period I selected, our Como-Harriet Line had 9,848 revenue passengers. There were 235 charter passengers. The Murder Mystery played before 219 passengers. Another 101 happy kids, moms, dads, grandpas and grandmas enjoyed the stories read on the PJ Trolley. The car barn addition went from a concrete slab to a fully enclosed building. And one of our long time volunteers was seriously injured.

As most of you know, **Jerry Olsen** was seriously injured while readying the streetcar for a charter on Friday, July 24th. He sustained multiple injuries to his hands, clavicle, ribs and pelvis. Injuries that began a miraculous 53 day journey.

On the Wednesday following the accident, I went to the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in Minneapolis to visit Jerry. Knowing his love of TCRT No. 1300, I started my trip downtown by boarding the streetcar at our Linden Hills Station. At the north end of the line I caught Metro Transit #6 bus to 5th Street and Hennepin Avenue, where I transferred to the LRT Blue Line, which dropped me off only blocks from HCMC. At HCMC I asked the receptionist directions to Jerry's room. She said "He's a very popular patient. He must have a lot of friends."

After a couple of missed turns, I found Jerry's room. Wanting to be there, but not wanting to be there, I walked into this room to be greeted by Jerry, with a smile on his face, saying "Bill, it's good to see you." It was immediately evident that, while there was damage to his body, there was no damage to his spirit.

Jerry's recovery so amazed the medical team that after 8 days he was transferred from HCMC to Presbyterian Homes in Bloomington. Astounding is the only word I can think of to describe the person I saw the first time I visited him at Presbyterian Homes. He told me that when people say he is lucky, he just smiles and says, "No I'm blessed."

On day 36 of Jerry's recovery, along with Board Vice-Chair **Dave French**, I had the pleasure of visiting Jerry. Again I was amazed at how well he was recovering. During a very nice visit, where 3 old trolley guys discuss even older streetcars, Dave pinned Jerry's new "Bronze" name badge on him for his 20 years of volunteer service with our Museum.

My last visit with Jerry at Presbyterian Homes was on day 50. He was meeting with a physical therapist when I arrived, which give me a chance to visit with his wife

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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 interurban 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 are:

P.O. Box 16509
Minneapolis, MN 55416-0509
952-922-1096

Streetcar **CURRENTS** October—2015

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 edition of the **Streetcar CURRENTS** is November 20, 2015.

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

13326 Huntington Lane
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

Aaron Isaacs — MSM Board Chair

Carbarn nearing completion. We're getting close to the end of carbarn construction. Here is a summary of progress since the last *Streetcar Currents*: the sheetrock is hung; painting is complete; the second overhead door connecting the shop annex and speeder shed is installed; and, the other two internal doors have been hung. The very large underground cistern to handle roof runoff is in the ground, along with a new pipe to bring the runoff from the existing roof to the cistern. The timber retaining wall to shore up the slope at the northeast corner of the building is complete. The office drop ceiling is in place. Thanks to **Karl Jones'** coordination, most of the piping for the extension of the sprinkler system is in. The boiler for the in-floor heat has been installed.

Glen Sandness ordered a dumpster for the construction debris. We used that opportunity to hold Throwaway Day on September 4th. We cleaned all sorts of junk out of the carbarn and filled the dumpster. My thanks to **Bill Arends**, **Karl Jones**, **Jim Otto** and **John Prestholdt** for helping.

What's left to do? By the time you read this the electrician should have completed wiring the building and the sprinkler system extension should be hooked up. That leaves only final grading, pouring the concrete apron in front of the addition, hanging the new gutters on the north and west sides of the existing carbarn, and landscaping. The latter will include grass planting, erosion control mats and new trees.

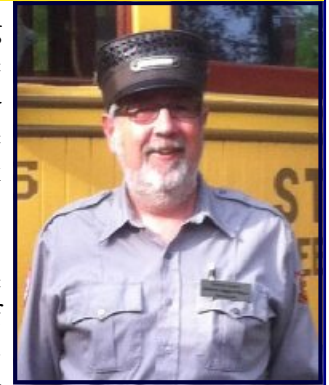
Two additional expenses were added to the project. A pallet jack has been purchased to move heavy objects like machine tools around the carbarn. **Dennis Stephens** and **Jim Willmore** will be setting up the shop and the big lathe has already been moved. A new bathroom water heater is being purchased to solve an electrical load problem.

Once all the construction items are complete, we can begin moving in. Thanks to an excellent suggestion by **Dennis Stephens** and **Elizabeth Hauck**, we will be able to buy the shelving, file cabinets and computer desk from the University of Minnesota Reuse Center for rock bottom prices. Also, **Jim Harrison** has donated a 5-drawer file cabinet and **Bill Graham** arranged the donation of a 4-drawer file cabinet from St. Stephens School in Minneapolis. **Ben Franske** has purchased a computer for the office and I'm donating

a printer/scanner. The move into the building should be mostly completed by November 1st.

MSM to host ATRRM Fall 2017 conference. MSM is a member of the Association of Tourist Railroads & Railway Museums (ATRMR), the trade organization for the rail preservation industry (yes, it's an industry). Furthermore, **Jim Vaitkunas** sits on ATRMR's Board of Directors and I am ATRMR's magazine editor. After careful deliberation, the MSM Board agreed to host the 2017 Fall Conference, which will be held Oct. 3-7, 2017.

These conferences are a great opportunity to meet and learn from your peers in railway preservation. There will be seminars on a wide variety of topics, covering all aspects of running a museum. We'll visit the Minnesota Transportation Museum, and the attendees will ride both of our streetcar lines, as well as the streetcar steamboat *Minnehaha*. Organizing and coordinating the conference will take a lot of work, but it's an opportunity to show what a great museum we have. If we do this right, it should produce a nice cash surplus. As plans come together, we'll be looking for volunteers to take on a variety of tasks. Stay tuned for future updates. 🌀



Isaacs Car barn Addition Progress

Continuing with our coverage of the work on the George Isaacs car barn addition, here are some more photos showing the progress.

1—The building's exterior is finished and the large cistern is under the area to the left of the track in the center of the photo.

2—This retaining wall and outflow area was built to prevent overflow from the rainwater cistern from eroding the hillside leading to Lake Harriet.

3—The sprinkler system piping has been extended into the addition. This is the shop ceiling.

4—The large cistern needed two access points to it that required manhole covers. We had two good ones in stock that we had obtained years ago: one marked for the Minneapolis Street Railway; and, the other for the Saint Paul City Railway. They are now put to good use.

5—This is the Museum shop, administrative and archive office with the drop-ceiling installed. Furniture is starting to come in.



Jim Vaitkunas photo



Aaron Isaacs photo



Aaron Isaacs photo



Jim Vaitkunas photo



Jim Vaitkunas photo

What's Happening?

October 10 & 11	Farmer Ken's Pumpkin Patch trolley at CHSL
October 10	Last day of Saturday regular scheduled service at ESL
October 23 & 24	CHSL HALLOWEEN GHOST TROLLEY —6 PM to 9 PM
October 23 & 24	ESL Halloween Trolley—6 PM to 9 PM
October 24	CHSL's TRANSYLVANIA TROLLEY —12:30 PM to 4:30 PM
October 25	ESL & CHSL's Trick 'R Trolley—CHSL 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM & 3:30 PM—ESL 1:30 PM & 2:30 PM
October 25	CHSL's Ghost Trolley LATE SHOW THE PRISONER & OTHER STORIES at 8:00 & 9:00 PM—for adults only!
October 27	Last Day of Tuesday regular scheduled service at ESL
Oct 31 & Nov 1	Last weekend of regular scheduled service at CHSL
Nov 27, 28 & 29	ESL's Santa Trolley in conjunction with Excelsior's Christkindlsmarkt —daily times are: 11/27—10 AM to 7 PM 11/28—10 AM to 7 PM 11/29—11 AM to 4 PM
Nov 28 & 29 —Dec 5 & 6	CHSL's Holly Trolley featuring SANTA CLAUS —12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
December 5	WINTERNÄTT trolley at CHSL—6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**MSM News & Views — News of our Museum's Administration and Membership**

Jim Vaitkunas — MSM Corporate Secretary & Assistant Ops Chief

Donations. We offer a **BIG THANKS** to the following members and friends who have donated to MSM since the last report in July: Glen Bottoms, Mark Digre, Bernard Rossbach, Martin Van Horn, Robert R Johnson and Loren Martin. We also want to recognize the generous donation to the Winona No. 10 restoration project from the Twentieth Century Electric Railway Foundation, which has been very supportive of our preservation work. And a very special thank you to Mike (Electric) Miller for his very generous donation of materials for Winona No. 10's restoration. ☺

MSM's ACTIVITIES

Karen & Jim Kertzman staff the ticket booth for Excelsior's Apple Day festivities. (Todd Bender photo)



Our annual family picnic at CHSL was a rousing success. Thanks to all who attended this event. Special thanks goes to master chef **Scott Heiderich** (shown on the far left with the red ball cap on) who did an outstanding job organizing the event and doing the grilling. Thanks you also to **Rick Krenske** who helped set-up the area and doing other things that contributed to the picnic's success. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)

(Fifty-three Interesting Days Continued from page 1)

Muriel. When I asked when Jerry would be going home, she just smiled and said "I'll let Jerry tell you." I knew it was good news.

When I walked into the room, as always Jerry greeted me with a "Jerry" smile and said "Let me show you something." He stood up, and we walked down the hall. Not only did we walk down the hall, he walked backwards and sideways. Then he said, "I'm going home on Tuesday."

I didn't think of it at the time, but I wish I had said: "I'll see you on the line." ☺

Streetcar **CURRENTS Winter Publication Schedule**

With this issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS**, we will revert to our winter publication schedule. After this [October 2015] issue, you'll be receiving the **Streetcar CURRENTS** every other month until May 2016. Publication dates for these issues will be on or about: December 1st; February 1st; and, April 1st. If you don't receive your issue on or shortly after those dates please contact me at: jvaitkunas@msn.com