



#### MSM HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL CLASSIC AUTO RALLY AT LAKE HARRIET

*Article by Dave Irey, Event Coordinator -- Photos by Jim Vaitkunas*

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, MSM hosted the second annual Lake Harriet classic automobile rally at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. Once again we had a great afternoon with some great old autos and super weather. We had over sixty automobiles of all types on display, including a beautifully restored 1950 Chevrolet manufactured with right-hand drive for use in Australia. **Ralph Schultz** brought along his band organ installed in a trailer. It was set up behind the Linden Hills station and played beautiful music all afternoon. The band organ drew a lot of attention and positive comments from our visitors. Many thanks to Ralph.

Several people deserve a **BIG THANK YOU** for their behind the scenes work that resulted in a very successful special event. These people include **Bill Arends** and **Bud Goldstein** for pounding the pavement and knocking on doors to get the permission from our neighbors along Queen Avenue to block-off the street for the afternoon. Without their efforts we could not have held the event. **Jim Willmore** made the signs and **Charles Barthold** produced the souvenir buttons. **Jim Vaitkunas** printed the tickets that allowed the auto show participants to ride our streetcars gratis.

The streetcar operating crews were magnificent with flawless operations of two cars, TCRT No. 1300 and PCC No. 322. Foreman was **Mike Helde** with **Kathy Helde** and **Eric Neumann** staffing the station. Car operators were **Chris Heck**, **Blair Dollery**, **Russ Isbrandt** and **Ed McGlynn**. Over the course of the afternoon over 470 people rode the two operating streetcars. **Jackie Irey** and **Heidi Johson** worked the car show registration table in period costume and **James Johnson**, aged 13, helped by stopping the traffic at the 42nd Street crossing when required. And there were many hours of behind the scenes work that went into making this event the total success that it was.

The Museum and the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line received some good publicity and exposure from this event with write-ups in both major daily newspapers, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* and the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* as well as several local weeklies. Life Touch Television filmed the event and the event will be featured later on in the year.

All in all, it was a great and fun event that went very smooth. Again, a **THANK YOU** to all who helped.



(Above) Our official greeters for the classic car rally were **Jackie Irey** and **Heidi Johnson**. Here you see these lovely ladies helping a couple of our visitors get oriented on what to do and where to go. Our greeters also gave folks who drove their classic auto to the event a ticket for a free trolley ride and a souvenir button.

(Above) Queen Avenue looking north from 42nd Street has bumper-to-bumper classic autos for at least 400 feet up the street. This end of Queen Avenue contained mostly older vintage autos. Across 42nd Street newer autos from the 1940s to 1960s were on display.



(Above left) The band organ was very popular and a fascinating piece of machinery.  
 (Above right) PCC No. 322 is crossing 42nd Street headed towards the Linden Hills Station platform. The young fellow guarding the crossing is James Johnson, Dave Ireys's grandson.



(Top left) South Queen Avenue had a lineup of vintage autos from the 1940s to the 1960s. There was even a Ford Edsel in the group.  
 (Top right) And here's more vintage automobiles with visitors admiring the classics.  
 (Bottom Left) TCRT No. 1300 is on the mainline headed south (away from the photographer) towards the 42nd Street crossing. No. 322 has finished loading at the station platform and will soon close the doors and head north with a good load of passengers.  
 (Bottom Right) The Museum's "mother car," TCRT No. 1300 is just arriving at the Linden Hills station's platform. In 2009, this streetcar is 101 years old and still going strong, surely a tribute to the craftsmanship of the workers at the TCRT Snelling Shops who built No. 1300 in 1908.