



Streetcar CURRENTS

SPECIAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER 31, 2014



HALLOWEEN SPECIAL EVENTS

At CHSL, after an October that gave us nothing but nice, warm, sunny days, Ghost Trolley Friday on October 23rd managed to rain almost continually. Fortunately, the rain stopped briefly between 6 and 9 PM. Even with this short period of mist, only about 131 people ventured out to ride. Saturday's weather returned to warm and sunny so the Ghost Trolley that evening carried over 530 delightfully frightened passengers.

As Professor Sparks, **Dave French** welcomed "Boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages" to his Trolley Circus. Featured acts included Mr. Sneazy (**Bill Arends**) who managed to contaminate everyone on board, a mystical, cynical fortune teller (**Alexandra Howes**), and an evil masked clown with homicidal tendencies (**Mike Helde**). (See photo below—Ed.) They were supported by three students from Minneapolis Southwest High School.

Saturday afternoon's Transylvania Trolley, presided over by Count Karl the Vampire Motorman, attracted over 530 passengers for a ride and a treat. As he does every year, **Karl Jones** stayed in character as the sunshine hating Count.

On Sunday, Trick 'r Trolley returned with three sold out trips with 168 delighted kids and their parents. This Wild Rumpus bookstore partnership continues to be a best seller. Children's author and illustrator **David LaRochelle** enchanted kids sitting on the streetcar floor with his tale *How Martha Saved Her Parents From Green Beans*.

Dave French told a different story to passengers on Sunday evening's Late Show. He served up eerie tales of the strange and supernatural "from the streetcar era." His final story involved the transport of a prisoner from Minneapolis to Stillwater. **Mike Helde** was frightfully convincing as the convict with homicidal tendencies (is there a theme here?). The Late Show made three trips at 8, 9 and 10 PM and 121 passengers enjoyed the ride and show.

All together, we carried over 1,380 riders on our four Halloween events, with fares ranging from two to five dollars. **Dave French** and **Mike Helde** each played two characters, **Karl Jones** one. **Patrick Desbonnet**, **Gary Reins**, and **Greg Taylor** operated in costume and **Rose Arends** was a gypsy woman, then a clown as Station Agent for two events. But **Bill Arends** wore three different outfits over the weekend, establishing a benchmark to which others can aspire.

And thanks to the many others who volunteered for one and, for some, two weekend shifts.



(Left) The Pumpkin Patch was run on October 10th & 11th. Here the pumpkin patch set-up crew poses after their labors: **Steve Simon, Jerry Peterson, Aaron Isaacs, Joel Schuweiler, Bill Arends, Rose Arends, Dennis Stephens, Jim Willmore & John Prestholdt**.

(Bottom Left) We had nice crowds for the pumpkin patch and sold out all our pumpkins.

(Below) Here's the "Boo Crew" for CHSL's ghost trolleys running on October 23rd & 24th. Very nice outfits, eh?

(All photos by Rod Eaton except as noted)



Aaron Isaacs photo





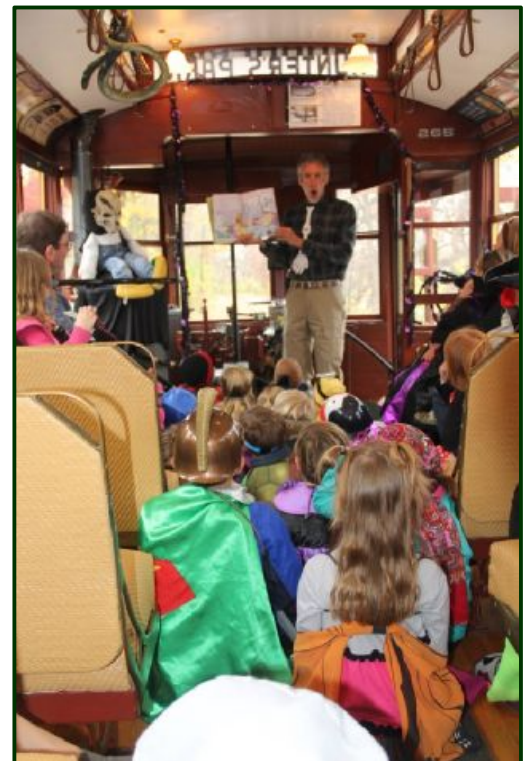
Karl Jones is the Count

(Top Left) **Dave French** as Professor Sparks has only one thing to say: "Bwaahahaha."

(Top Right) **Bill & Rose Arends** make a lovely couple, don't they? Rose, where do you have your hair done?

(Below) Trick r' Trolley was its usual success with **Dave LaRochelle** reading to the youngsters.

(All photos on this page by Rod Eaton)



Mike Helde & Dave French act up during the Late Show



ESL HALLOWEEN WRAP-UP

Halloween operations at our Excelsior Streetcar Line faced the same bad weather problem on Friday, October 23rd as Como-Harriet did. Friday night we had only 206 riders. Saturday's and Sunday's special operations fared much better with 635 passengers for the ghost trolley. Here are some photos showing the outstanding displays and some of the hard working volunteers who made ESL's Halloween spooktacular a success, despite the bad weather on October 23rd. Trick r' Trolley was also an outstanding success at ESL.



No. 1239 ready of the night's revels. (Bill Graham photo)



Elaine Love, Ron Neitzel & Tom Dulebohn (Bill Graham photo)



Minion Tim Crain & Jim Kertzman in the ticket booth (Tim Crain photo)



Interior of No. 1239 (Elaine Love photo)



Elaine Love & Karen Kertzman (Elaine Love photo)



Terror on the Trolley (*Elaine Love photo*)



Nice Halloween display adjacent to the Booseum (*Tim Crain photo*)



Shift Foreman **Denny Morrow** greets a new Conductor during ESL's Trick r' Trolley. (*Jim Kertzman photo*)



How low can you go? (*Tim Crain photo*)



Music was provided by local band aptly named *The Ghostbusters*. (*Tim Crain photo*)