



Streetcar CURRENTS



SPECIAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT

AUGUST - 2011

IT STARTED FORTY YEARS AGO!

The date was August 28, 1971. A group of about 30 men and women assembled at the one-car metal building tucked under the Linden Hills Boulevard Bridge on August 28, 1971 to prepare to inaugurate historic streetcar operations on the new Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. At the appointed hour the car travelled down the hill to west 42nd Street, crossed the street and came to a stop. That was end of track at the time. Total length of the line was about one-quarter mile. During a brief ceremony, No. 1300 had a bottle of Lake Harriet water broken over the front towing coupler and the first official run was made with **Judy** and **Frank Sandberg** at the controls. The rest, as the old saying goes, is history.

August 28, 2011 marks the fortieth year of the start of operations on the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. To celebrate this significant milestone in our Museum's history, a special ceremony was held on August 6th at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line's Linden Hills station platform. Emcee for the ceremony was Board Chair, **Dave French**. Featured guests during the brief ceremony were: State Senator **Scott Dibble**; State Representative **Frank Hornstein**; Minneapolis Councilwoman **Meg Tuthill**; **Bob Fine**, Commissioner on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; and, **Stephen Elliott**, Executive Director of the Minnesota Historical Society. The photos below, and on the following pages, show some photos from the early 1970s and on August 6th. All photos were taken by **Mike Buck**, unless otherwise noted.

1970 & 1971



(Above and Above Left) Ya gotta start someplace, eh? Here are two 1970 photos. The top left photo shows the foundation for the first single-car car barn has been finished and it looks like the crew is leveling the earth for the first set of ties to be delivered. In the above photo, ties are being delivered to the newly graded right-of-way. You can't see them very clearly, but those ties look very used. That's west 42nd Street directly in front of the truck.

(Left) First day of operations was on August 28, 1971. No. 1300 looks pretty nice making one of the runs on this momentous day.
(Three photos by Bill Cordes)

AUGUST 6, 2011



This will be a rare photo. We operate three streetcars simultaneously only for very special occasions, and August 6, 2011 was certainly a very special occasion. (Jeff Terry photo from *Trains Magazine NewsWire*)



MSM Board Chair **Dave French** was Master of Ceremony for our August 6th celebration. (Rod Eaton photo)



We were pleased to have several guests say a few words about our 40th anniversary celebration. This photo shows **Stephen Elliott**, the Minnesota Historical Society's Executive Director, speaking to the gathering.



Minnesota Representative **Frank Hornstein** also had some kind words to say to our Museum's members and friends.



Minneapolis Councilwoman **Meg Tuthill** is shown here reading the city proclamation signed by Minneapolis Mayor, R.T. Rybak.



We had a great turn-out for the ceremony. Here we see State Senator **Scott Dibble** saying some words of praise about our Museum and our 40th anniversary of operations at Lake Harriet.



Here are our Members who were there at the beginning in the 1970s, and earlier for a couple of them: (Left to right) **Russ Olson, Keith Lindberg, Jim Harrison, Judy Sandberg, Frank Sandberg, John Diers, Dave Norman, Scott Heiderich and Ray Norton.**



Our refreshment table was handled extremely well by (L to R) **Janet Glockner** with her friend and **Jill Prestholdt.** (Rod Eaton photo)



We also had another special guest present at the ceremony and after, but this one didn't say a word. It was Twin City Lines GM bus No. 1303. We thank the Minnesota Transportation Museum's Classic Bus Division for letting us borrow No. 1303 for the afternoon.

The Group photo. This photo shows a little less than two-thirds of our active MSM volunteers. Unfortunately not all of our over 100 volunteers could attend. **Mike Buck** did an excellent job herding this group of cats for this fine photo.

