



# Streetcar CURRENTS



December 2006

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota

## Let's Take Stock: The 2006 Season at a Glance

- The Ghost trolleys at CHSL and ESL were another BIG success
- The 2006 season just concluded was safe and accident free
- We did not have to cancel any shift because of a lack of a full crew
- Wednesday afternoon ops at CHSL were very successful
- Many thanks to each of you for volunteering this season and see you next year!

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**Masthead Photo:** Duluth Street Railway No. 265 was all dressed up this time last year for our 1st Holly Trolley. We're not running it this year but we may in 2007. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)

## "I Love Vampires!"

**G**host Trolley, A *Streetcar Named Expire*, played to over 2,100 riders and rave reviews. "Better than last year," according to three twelve-year old boys. "Really fun," a little girl in a Princess Leia costume told me. "Well worth the four dollars," said a woman to her husband. "Don't stop! Don't open the door!," screamed streetcars full of excited passengers.

Mild weather over the weekend and good newspaper and television coverage contributed to the event's success. But the real thanks goes to the dozens of Museum member volunteers (and several of their friends).

**F**irst, thanks to our Mechanical Department and all the Saturday and Tuesday crews who got car No. 1300 back together in time for Halloween. And thanks to **Maryellen Digre-Mueller, Mark and Karen Digre**, and the rest of the car cleaning crew, for getting both No. 1300 and No. 265 ready for their close-ups.

**Scott Heiderich** and "Electric" **Mike Miller** once again supervised the setup of our tent and hung the tent lighting. Scott also hung the exterior station lighting and helped out in many other ways. **Keith Lindberg, Russ Isbrandt** and **Dick Stoner** installed the new electric heat in the station which was much appreciated by all and will take the chill off of early spring and late fall operations.

**Karl Jones** decorated the station, and **John Kennedy** decorated both streetcars. All our guests appreciate their creative and whimsical approach to haunting. Speaking of haunting, this year's "Boo Crew" did an outstanding job, while literally standing out in the cold, dark nights. The ghosts and poltergeists were played exuberantly by **Marcia Sanoden** and **Michelle Manke**, with assistance from their friends, **Sharon Thompson, Mary Parker**, and **Reed Ronning**. Their puppeteering performances provided the payoff to our story and delighted our captive audience.



Here's the 2007 ghost trolley "Boo Crew" Top left is Sharon Thompson and bottom left is Mary Parker. Top right is Michelle Manke and bottom right is Marcia Sanoden. Boo Crewmember not shown is Reed Ronning. (This photo and the two on page 3 are by Rod Eaton)

**Dave French** created another memorable role as "Mitch", who introduced the story of "Stanley", the Museum volunteer who vanished on a night "just like tonight." Each of Dave's many performances drew laughs and applause. Entering each streetcar beneath the Berry Bridge, **Mike Helde** was delightfully frightful as Stanley's ghost, returning to help passengers fend of the spirits at the end of the line. He had everyone aboard--children and adults--woo-woosing "like a streetcar whistle" to scare the "ghosts and poltergeists" away.

(Continued on page 3)

## 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](http://www.trolleyride.org)

The museum's business address and telephone number is:

P.O. Box 14467, University Station  
 Minneapolis, MN 55414-0467  
 952-922-1096

**Streetcar CURRENTS**  
 December 2006

**Streetcar CURRENTS** is a periodic newsletter for the members and friends of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum.

Deadline for submitting items for the next issue of the **Streetcar CURRENTS** is January 20, 2007.

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

155 Chaparral Dr.,  
 Apple Valley, MN 55124-9774

You can send input or inquiries by e-mail to: [jvaitkunas@msn.com](mailto:jvaitkunas@msn.com)

**BILL THE  
 MOTORMAN**
**It Must be in the Blood.**


You know, there were quite a number of father-son and brother-brother platform men working out of the various TCRT stations back in my day. I reckon that working on streetcars jest ran in the blood in some families. (We weren't that familiar with genes back then!) Well, I hear tell that you folks have an Operator volunteer who is carrying on in the tradition of her family by operating your historic streetcars at your Excelsior Streetcar Line. I'm told her name is Ann Elise Ware and her granddaddy and great-granddaddy worked for the company. I think I remember them. They were good platform men. Here's a short biography on Ann Elise and her ancestors and a photos of Ann Elise and her granddaddy and great-granddaddy. Keep up the family tradition, Ann Elise.

Ann Elise Ware's family connection to TCRT history.

My paternal great grandfather, (Len Ware's father): George Brown Ware. Born July 18<sup>th</sup> 1870 in England. Died February 17<sup>th</sup> 1944. His father was a horseman in England and George Brown came to the US around or before 1892 (according to the documents of intent to become a citizen). (He became a citizen in 1898.) He came to the U.S. to deliver a team of horses from London to Rochester, Minnesota and he stayed. According to the story, he started work as driver with the horse cars and stayed on as motorman through the electrification of the streetcar system in Minneapolis. He was a motorman with the TCRT Co. until he died.

My paternal grandfather: George Leonard "Len" Ware. Born August 8<sup>th</sup> 1902. Died June 1<sup>st</sup> 1969. On his birth certificate his father's occupation is listed as "Motorman." Len attended the University of Minnesota Law School between 1923 -1926 and passed the Minnesota State Bar in 1926. While a law student (perhaps also during his undergraduate years, 1920-1923), Len Ware was a conductor with the TCRT company. The story my dad tells is that Grandpa Len was kicked out of his parents' house during law school because the study of law was white collar and his parents thought he wasn't proud of his working class background. After he achieved his goal, his parents were proud of their son for his determination.

Ann Elise Ware: I grew up just outside Excelsior, went to Excelsior Elementary and then Minnetonka High school. I never knew my great grandfather or my even grandfather. Joining the MSM, becoming an operator at the ESL and beginning to learn about TCRT history have been really meaningful ways of knowing them indirectly.



Left: Here is a photo of George B. Ware taken in 1892.

Right: This is George L. "Len" Ware in his TCRT Conductor's uniform taken while he was attending the UofM.

Far Right: Here's a photo of Ann Elise Ware taken in front of Duluth Street Railway No. 78. Ann Elise's great-grandfather probably operated cars for TCRT that were similar to our No. 78. (All photos from the Ware family archives)



(GHOST TROLLEY Continued from page 1)

**Karl Jones, Jerry Olsen, and Keith Anderson** (twice) were Lead Foreman for the operating crews. Everyone on the crews did terrific work; several volunteered for two, three, and even all four nights. Many wore costumes and make up, adding to the general fun and spookiness of the event. As she spotted Karl's "Count" stalking the platform, one little girl cried out, "Oh, look! I *love* vampires!"

**W**e made several small operational changes this year, and I think most proved beneficial. And with the event still fresh in our minds, now is a good time to make suggestions for next year's Ghost Trolley. Every idea and comment is welcome; please give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

**G**host Trolley raised just under \$7,000 this year, a significant percentage (*almost 15%—Ed*) of our annual farebox revenue. It's a lot of work, generously shared by many of our members. I think everyone who participates as a volunteer has as much fun as those who attend as riders. Ghost Trolley has become an annual event for many families—it's an important part of their Halloween. We received many wonderful comments and thanks from guests, who clearly appreciate what our Museum does—for preservation, for education, and for fun.

Rod Eaton — General Superintendent



Above: Dave French played Mitch with regular crewmember Kathy Kullberg as his willing accomplice.

Below: Mike Helde was lurking under the Berry Bridge. **Wow!**



## MSM News Update

Louis Hoffman — Senior Superintendent

**N**ew Memberships and Donations. We welcome new members **Avis and Russ Lindquist** of Minnetonka. This membership brings the total of new members to 225.

We also thank the following members and friends for their donations, totaling \$1,620 to the General Fund and \$300 to the Car barn Security Fund. These are in memory of the late **Harold Dalland**, a longtime member and volunteer and one of the last of our members to have been employed by Twin City Lines: **Earl and Bettye Anderson, Carl Barthelemy, Patty Brophy, Kent and Sheri Debelick, Mark Digre and Maryellen Digre-Mueller, Dave French, Bud Goldstein and Angela Frerichs, Roy and Pat Harvey,**

**Kathy Haws, Scott and Kathy Heiderich, Karl Jones, Jerry and Muriel Olsen, John Prestholdt, Arnold and Lois Rholl, Debra Thompson, and Jim and Sue Willmore.** Harold's family sent the donations to us with the following note: "We would like to thank everyone associated with The Minnesota Streetcar Museum for their kind thoughts, prayers, and best wishes during his ill health. Also, thanks to everyone for their expressions of sympathy and support at his passing. The Family of Harold Dalland."

In addition, we've received a donation to the General Fund from **Judge James and Deanna Rogers** and to the Car barn Security Fund from **Cliff Scholes.**

## Come Join Us at Our Annual MSM Holiday Drop-in.

WE LL BE HOLDING OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY DROP-IN AT THE GEORGE ISAACS CARBARN ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH STARTING AT 7:00 PM. ALL ARE INVITED TO COME AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP, HOT CIDER AND OTHER GOODIES. PLEASE BRING A TREAT TO SHARE AND SOME CANNED GOODS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD SHELVES.

## Shop Update

John Prestholdt — Shop Foreman

First we all need to thank the Tuesday crew along with those who have worked on Saturdays to get TCRT No. 1300 ready for the Ghost Trolley. Along with the usual Tuesday guys, **Chris Heck, Dennis Stevens, Bill Arends, Carl Barthelemy**, and others I may have missed, did a great job in restoring the sides of the car then cleaning out 11 months of dirt and grime, doing all the checking, lubricating and every thing else required to get our “Mother Car” ready to operate.

PCC No. 322 is now in the maintenance barn so we can do some long overdue cleaning and lubricating of the moving parts and electrical contacts on the car. We also have looked for, and found, some leaks in the roof. These are being re-sealed to prevent further rusting. This should be completed by early December and we will then bring in Duluth No. 265 for similar maintenance. We will also be pulling out several wooden seat parts for stripping and refinishing.

After we have finished work on No. 265 next in the shop will be TCRT No. 1300 back into the maintenance barn to dismantle and repair the front platform area of the car. Hopefully we will have the car ready for operation for most of our 2007 operating season, the car’s 99th year of service.



Men at work! Here we see (from top to bottom) Russ Isbrandt, Keith Lindberg and Dick Stoner installing the electric baseboard heater in the Linden Hills station. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)



Where are those pesky leaks? Jim Willmore is on the roof of PCC No. 322 and he is ably assisted by Neil Howes on the ladder as they go about the task of finding and repairing a few leaks on No. 322’s roof. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)

## EXCELSIOR GHOST TROLLEY A Howling SUCCESS



Capacity Crowds! Passengers board and alight from the rear platform of No. 1239 which did slow things down somewhat. But the people didn’t mind (Jim Douglas photo)

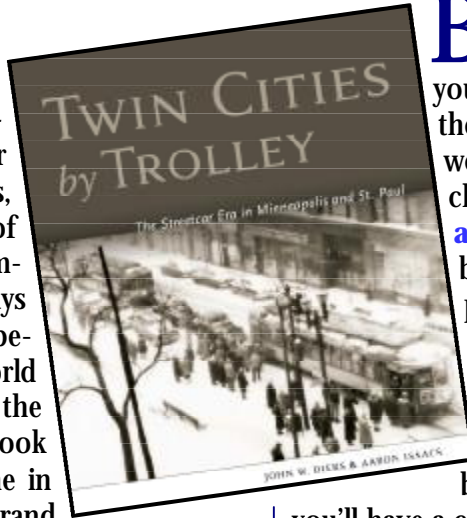


Watch out—or he’ll get YOU! Here is just one of the several scary creatures that haunted the Excelsior ghost trolley this year. Outside the ghost trolley passed by a graveyard during it’s run. (Jim Douglas photo)

**Twin City Lines Book Coming in 2007** Charles Barthold—Manager

Special Pre-Publication Offer – Order by December 31, 2006

Reserve your copy of *Twin Cities by Trolley* today. With over 400 photographs and 70 maps, *Twin Cities by Trolley* tells the story of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company system from its earliest days through its heyday in the years before and immediately after World War I to its ultimate surrender to the automobile in the 1950s. The book chronicles the history of every line in the system, takes the reader on a grand tour of its shops and stations (carhouses), and explores every detail of its organization and operations. Written by MSM members **John Diers** and **Aaron Isaacs**, it is being published by The University of Minnesota Press in the spring of 2007.



By ordering through the Museum you not only help support our efforts but you will receive free shipping, not only of the book, but on any items (shown on our website [www.trolleyride.org](http://www.trolleyride.org)) that are purchased on the same order form. **That's a \$5.00 savings right there!** Also, all books ordered through this pre-publication offer will be autographed by both authors. Finally, our price includes sales tax. **That's at least another \$2.50 saved.** And, you save time because you won't have to hunt for the book at a bookstore. By ordering now you know

you'll have a copy sent to your door. There is no limit to the number of books you can order, however to receive the free shipping and author's autographs, all orders must be postmarked by December 31, 2006. Please use the special pre-publication order form that you recently got in the mail (if you didn't get one in the mail call **Charles Barthold** at 612-529-3428). Books will be shipped once they are autographed in the spring of 2007. Any other items shown on our website ordered at the same time will be shipped as quickly as possible.

Here are a couple of comments from those who have read the galley proofs of what will surely become an instant classic.

"An excellent companion to Russ Olson's *Electric Railways of Minnesota*."

"If you have Russ Olson's *Electric Railways of Minnesota* on your bookshelf, your library won't be complete without this book."

**Excelsior Year End Report**

Bob Johnson — ESL Superintendent

The year 2007 saw the return of TCRT No. 1239 to revenue service. This was most helpful in accommodating a large number of people who rode the Ghost Trolley. We have received positive comments from our regular riders, and from our museum partner, the Excelsior and Lake Minnetonka Historical Society. Our most successful daily run still is Thursday, when the farmers market, our streetcar line, and the Historical Society museum is open. Each of the organizations benefits from each of our customer bases.

We have representatives who maintain contact with civic organizations in and around Excelsior. Contact is maintained with the Excelsior Business Group and the local Chamber of Commerce. We hope these contacts will help us uncover more opportunities to increase ridership in Excelsior.

Revenue summary

The year 2007 showed a small revenue growth. The below figures do not include income expected in December. This revenue growth is promising in the charter and special run business which is running at approximately 30 percent of total income.

	2004	2005	2006
Paid riders	4632	5385	4706
Free Riders	1098	948	805
Total riders	5723	6333	5511
Cash fares	\$ 5972	\$ 6558	\$ 5607
Merchandise	90	44	108
Donations	417	382	617
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 6479</b>	<b>\$ 7284</b>	<b>\$ 7586</b>

(Continued on page 6)

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

December 9

MSM Board Meeting—9:00 AM—Linden Hills Recreation Center

December 13

MSM Annual Christmas party—7:00PM to 9:00 PM—Isaacs carbarn, Lake Harriet

**Operations Notes**

Jim Vaitkunas—Operations Chief

When you read this issue of the *Streetcar CURRENTS* our 2006 operating season will have come to a successful close. Many, many thanks to each and every one of our volunteers who operated our streetcars and staffed the station during this 35th season at Lake Harriet and 7th season at Excelsior. You folks are truly the bedrock of our Museum because without your dedication we would not be able to collect the revenue necessary to sustain our Museum. Remember that operations means revenue. My Motorman's hat is off to all of you!

I would be remiss if I didn't offer special thanks to our faithful crew callers: **Mark Digre**; **Jim Otto**; **Marv Krafve**; and, **Jerry Olsen**. These guys are the heart and soul of our Operations Department because they are the guys who make the phone calls to fill our busy schedules and get people for our charters. Thanks, guys!

*(Excelsior Year End Report Continued from page 5)***The Sprinkler System**

The end of November marked the end of the physical installation of the sprinkler system. The Pipes and supporting hardware are in place and power is now available for the system to function, but some final work needs to be done.

The sprinkler system is now ready for installation of the sensors and low voltage lines that will permit the monitoring of the system by the alarm company around the clock. Sensors will monitor key components of the sprinkler system so that we are notified as quickly as possible in the event there is a fire. The alarm system will also monitor the system to detect any maintenance related items so that the health of the sprinkler system is properly maintained.

The vendors and the Eden Prairie Fire Department will conduct some testing of the system before it goes on line. This includes tuning and adjustment of system components for optimum performance. All tests except one should be done in December, and another test will be done in the spring.

**The Ghost Trolley**

The Excelsior Ghost Trolley is a joint project of MSM-ESL and the Excelsior and Lake Minnetonka Historical Society. **Bruce Kobs** took the lead on decorating the trolleys for this year and produced a very well decorated pair of cars. DSR No. 78 occupied track two of the yard as a static display. The car contained ghostly passengers and a very tough looking motorman or more accurately, motor-skeleton. TCRT No. 1239, also decorated by **Bruce Kobs**, was kept busy during the evening moving passengers. Both nights went into extra runs after the official shift ending in order to accommodate passengers waiting for a ride.

The ghost trolley was very successful. The Excel-

sior Historical Society installs displays along the trail next to the track, and furnishes volunteers to collect money. Other Historical Society members dressed in costume ride on the car to enhance the Halloween experience. Thanks to **Bruce Kobs**, **Marv Krafve**, **Clyde Stephens**, **Anne Elise Ware**, **Marsh Ginthner** and **Teresa Babler** for a great job in making the ghost trolley a success. A couple of photos on page 4 will hopefully give you a flavor of this year's ESL ghost trolley.

**Restoration**

Work continues on Winona 10. Most of the removable parts in the interior have been removed and refinished. The interior has some wood that is not easily removable which will be finished in place.

We have collected some parts for the truck that will be under Winona 10. The recent delivery of the traction motors along with axles and wheels rounds out some of the major portions of the truck fabrication. The original truck was a St. Louis Car Company truck, known as a model 46 truck. We have been fortunate in locating drawings for several versions of the truck that should help us to fabricate a replica. This work should start soon after the first of the year.



Sprinkler System  
Control Center

Here a photo of the nerve center of the sprinkler system now installed in the Excelsior carbarn. This maze of valves, gauges and levers is the heart of the system. The mind-boggling array of "stuff" already has been given the nickname "Christmas Tree" by the guys out at Excelsior, and they have threatened to put tinsel and lights on the "tree" this year.

*(Jim Vaitkunas photo)*