

The Streamliner

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FPT AWARDS MORE GRANTS

By Harry Donahue

Photos by Harry Donahue and Bill Monaghan

Over the past winter, the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys awarded grants to trolleys in four different museums. Continuing our current effort to raise funding, a grant of \$1,000.00 was given for ex-PTC Brill car #8042 at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. The grant is being delayed by FPT until the late summer. At this time, the annual Washington County Matching Grant program will commence, thus allowing the grant amount to be matched. If you would like to help increase the amount of the grant, please use the attached donation form for 8042. Help to get this wonderful old Brill Peter Witt car back in service at PTM.

A grant of \$500.00 was awarded on behalf of Red Arrow "St. Louie" #23 now at the Newtown



Square Rail Museum on West Chester Pike in Newtown Square. Although Car #23 will be a static display and not actually operate, FPT made an exception in the case in giving this grant because another \$500.00 grant was given



to Brilliner #8 now at Shore Line Trolley Museum (Branford, Connecticut). There are several Red Arrow cars at Branford, but #8 is probably closest to operating condition.

And finally, another \$500.00 was awarded to the seat renewal project for Philadelphia Transportation Company's PCC #2743 at the Rockhill Trolley Museum. All the refurbished seats have been returned to the car and are awaiting installation. This last grant will help pay the final bills on the project. We sincerely thank all who have contributed to #2743. *(Pictures of the car's impressive interior and exterior, taken by Bill Monaghan, are on page six and seven.)*

WE REALLY GET AROUND!

By Roger DuPuis

While FPT's focus is and always will be on Philadelphia trolleys, our volunteers and friends also share their personal time with other museums that work to preserve our traction



AND THE CREW IS (LEFT TO RIGHT): That's Mike Lawson, Andrew and Matt Nawn, George Rich, John Eichelberger and Roger DuPuis in front of Birney car #236. *(Bill Monaghan photo.)*



TWO KINDS OF HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION: An authentic Amish buggy passes by Birney #236 in front of Mannheim Historical Society's restored railroad station. *(Bill Monaghan photo.)*

heritage, with a focus on cars connected with Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

The Manheim Historical Society in Lancaster County, Pa., operates a restored 1926 Birney car that was built by Brill in Philadelphia, and operated for Lancaster's Conestoga Traction Company until 1947. The car is housed in a small purpose-built barn and runs along a short stretch of track next to the society's restored 1881 railroad station in the Borough of Manheim.

Birney #236 was rescued by the society in 1990 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. While its line isn't long and the traffic isn't heavy, the 91-year-old trolley does need some care and fine-tuning from time to time. FPT founding member Matt Nawn has lent the society his expertise in recent years.

On May 13, Matt and several other friends visited the society's Car barn to perform some work on #236 prior to the start of the 2017 season. Together with Matt were Andrew Nawn, Bill Monaghan, Mike Lawson, George Rich and Roger DuPuis, John Eichelberger, of the society, was on hand with a rain canopy, tools and supplies this damp Saturday, while Kate Eichelberger made sure everyone had a warm meal inside the beautifully restored station building.



Manheim Historical Society
 South Charlotte Street
 Manheim, Pennsylvania
 At the Manheim Railroad Station

**I HAD A RIDE ON
 THE MANHEIM TROLLEY CAR No. 236**

This rare Birney Safety Car was built in Philadelphia by the J.G. Brill Company, about 1926. Originally a Lancaster city trolley, it ran between Penn Square and the PA Railroad Station and also Rocky Springs Park. It was retired in 1947, and found a new home in Manheim in 1990, where it was restored to its present condition.

The car's controllers, motors, brake valves, breaker boxes and doors all received some attention, with the inside windows getting a good cleaning.

The trolley operates from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. on Sundays; weather permitting, between June and September. For those who would like to come out for a visit, Matt will be operating on June 10 and Roger on June 11, during Manheim Heritage Days.

#2743: WE'RE GETTING THERE!

By Roger DuPuis

Work on restoring the interior of PTC #2743 to its 1960s appearance continues, with some significant advances in recent weeks.

All of the car's seats have now been reupholstered, and volunteers are in the process of re-installing them. The overall appearance is truly gratifying, but two of the most amazing sights are at the front and the back. In the rear of the car, the rear bench seat has been reupholstered in three sections, with the middle cushion easily removable to allow access to a back-up controller, which has yet to be installed. In the front of the car, meanwhile, volunteer Mike Lawson has installed the redone operator's seat cushions on a cleaned-up frame which works—and looks—much more like the original models

than the heavy old seat frame which had been inside the car since its final days of service in Philadelphia.

Mike's skills and enthusiasm have come as a welcome breath of fresh air as we move toward the final stages of the interior work. His attention to detail really shows through on the primed and repainted cab heaters and other floorboard details. Mike also reinstalled the Pennsylvania PUC notice plate, which, was recently donated to FPT by Chuck Kumpas, and offered some helpful tips about how to clean and polish it. He also removed the Plexiglas panel behind the operator's seat, another 1980s addition. Work is underway to replace the original cloth operator's curtain which hangs in that space

**FROM THE ERNIE MOZER
 COLLECTION**

By Harry Donahue

Since Brilliner #8 at the Shoreline Trolley Museum in Branford, Connecticut was the recipient of a recent FPT grant, we thought we would share photos from the Ernie Mozer (EAM) Collection of the three remaining Brilliners: # 5 at Pennsylvania Trolley Museum; #8 at Shore Line Trolley Museum; and #9 at Electric City Trolley Museum. As you have already noticed, the picture of #8 is on the front page.



INBOUND TRIP: Here is #9 inbound at Sproul Road on the Media Line.
 (From the Ernie Mozer Collection.)



IN THE YARD: Here is #8, in maroon and cream livery at the Llanerch facility. (From the Ernie Mozer Collection.)

As mentioned in a previous *Streamliner*, Ernie Mozer (1919-2003) started with the Philadelphia Transportation Company in 1942 and retired from the South Eastern Philadelphia Transportation Authority in 1984. He worked out

of the Callowhill and Woodland Depots and ran every type of trolley in the city. His last few years on the job were spent as a cashier on the Market-Frankford Elevated. He was a great story teller and always had time for “rookie” rail fans. Ernie is pictured below left, taken in 1987 at Penn’s Landing.

ANOTHER GREAT FANTRIP

By Harry Donahue
Photos by Bill Monaghan

Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys (FPT) sponsored a PCC II charter in conjunction with the East Penn Traction Meet on Sunday, May 21, 2017. The charter covered sections of Routes #11, #13, #34 and #36 using PCC II #2321 (ex PCC #2738). Bill Monaghan had digital signs programmed to display the trolley routes of the 1950s, which had once used PCC cars, e.g. Routes #12, #37 and #70.

We had many new faces on this trip, some coming from as far away as Michigan, Chicago, Cincinnati and Washington DC. Since the PCC IIs are not permitted in the subway, the trip came back into Elmwood Depot and we switched to K-car #9046 for a quick round trip on Route #36 into the subway so that our first time visitors could get a look at that important part of the SEPTA system.

FPT would like to sincerely express its thanks for SEPTA Supervisors Ed Springer and Mike Shepherd for their assistance in setting up this very successful charter. We had 42 passengers on the cars.



ON A QUIET STREET ON A SUNDAY: Car #2321 at 49th Street and Warrington Avenue.



THE CHARTERED CARS: Cars #9046 and #2321 waiting at Elmwood Depot for their charter assignments.



WHAT TROLLEY LINE IS IT? Car #9046 stops outbound by the 22nd Street Station on the Subway Surface Line. A sharp eye would note that the #37 line had not run through the subway since 1955.



AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE: Car #9046 pauses at the Juniper Street station on the #36 subway-surface line. There is a convenient connection to the Market-Frankford elevated line from, just steps away.



PARKSIDE: Car #2321 rolls past Clark's Park on Chester Avenue.



LOOPING AROUND: Car #2321 rests at the Eastwick Loop. Cars proceeded further south at one time. The Loop is very near the Eastwick Regional Rail Station.

LEST WE FORGET

- Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys sincerely thanks you for your support during the past year. You will notice a dues renewal form at the end of *The Streamliner*. Since the membership year closes on June 30, 2017, it's dues renewal time! Why not take the time **now** to print out the form and return it to the FPT address on page eight with your payment?
- Matt Nawn needs your help in looking for window cranks that were once used on PCC cars. They look a lot like the ones used in automobiles that were contemporary with PCC cars. If you have a few you'd like to donate, or know where to find them, let Matt know via FPT's e-mail address. Thanks!

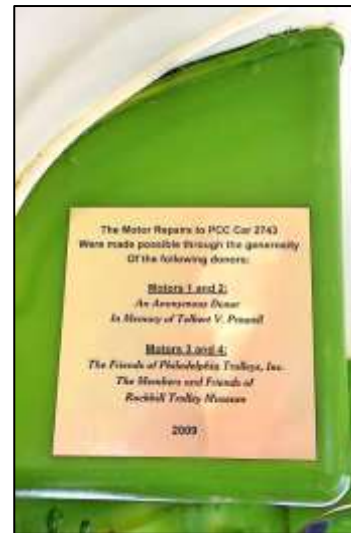


FPT QUARTET MANS EAST PENN TRACTION CLUB MEET

In the spring of odd numbered years, the East Penn Traction Club sponsors the largest trolley-only model meet in the country. A meet was held at Allentown Fairgrounds on May 18, 19 and 20, 2017. The meet draws the premier modelers and manufacturers from all over the country for a weekend of viewing models, layouts, films, photos, slides, model contests, and how-to clinics on subjects, ranging from hanging trolley wire to modeling subway cars. The theme for the meet was *Deck Roof Trolleys*. There were several judged model contests including one for the meet theme, best operating module, etc. In addition, the latest in trolley kits, parts, bodies, etc., were offered for sale as is prototype data such as photos and books.

FPT members Harry Donahue, Bill Monaghan, George Rich, pictured left to right above, and Roger DuPuis, who took the picture, manned a table at the meet. Their presence aided in spreading the work of the organization. As mentioned previously, the May 21st charter was planned in concurrence with the club meet.

Here's a little-known fact about the gentlemen above. Harry, Bill and George all attended Most Blessed Sacrament elementary school, which was located at 56th Street and Chester Avenue. MBS school was once thought to be the largest Catholic elementary school in the United States. While the Church is closed (and abandoned), the school is being refurbished to welcome students once again. BTW, the #13 trolley line passes right by the Church. Thanks, guys, for your help.





MEMBERS DAY AT ROCKHILL

Baltimore Streetcar Museum and FTP member, Charlie Plantholt snapped the excellent picture below of Philadelphia & Western's Brill Bullet Car



#205 during Members Day at Rockhill Trolley Museum's Altoff Siding on May 20, 2017. While several of these cars exist, this is the only one



that still operates on its own power. In the picture bottom left, Rockhill Trolley Museum arranged a photo line-up of its former Philadelphia & Western and Red Arrow Lines collection of historic vehicles. All of these vehicles are presently operable, except for P&W "Strafford" Car #162. The cars are seen at the museum's Car Barn Two. From left to right, the vehicles are Plow #10, Freight Motor #402, "Bullet" #205, "Strafford" Car #162 and Liberty Liner #803-804, "Independence Hall." Special thanks go to Steven Goehring from Rockhill Trolley Museum for setting up this rare opportunity. The picture was taken by Bill Monaghan.

FRIENDS OF NEWARK TROLLEYS OR FRIENDS OF PCC CARS?

By Matt Nawn, FPT Founding Member

No, the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys has not morphed into a new organization nor led to a spinoff focused on cars from other cities. However, some of FPT's more technically capable volunteers who provide assistance to former Philadelphia cars often provide technical assistance to non-Philadelphia cars as well at various museums, especially PCC cars, including cars formerly operated in Newark, New Jersey.

FPT members Jerry Evans, Bill Monaghan, George Rich, and Matt Nawn, as well as Rockhill Trolley Museum member Steven Goehring, have been providing assistance to Branford Electric Railway Association at several times since Spring 2016 in support of making former NJ Transit PCC Car #25 operable again. The car had been out of service for several years prior to the end of all NJ Transit PCC car operation in 2001 and presented a considerable challenge to the crew commonly referred to as "PCC Guys."



The Streamliner is published by the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation.

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FPT's new public website is:

www.friendsofphiladelphiatrolleys.org.

FPT also can also be found on Facebook:

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The Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys encourage you to visit and support trolley museums dedicated to the preservation of Philadelphia's trolley heritage, including the following:

Baltimore Streetcar Museum

www.baltimorestreetcar.org

Electric City Trolley Museum Association

www.ectma.org

New York Museum of Transportation

www.nymtmuseum.org

Pennsylvania Trolley Museum

www.pa-trolley.org

Rockhill Trolley Museum

www.rockhilltrolley.org

Seashore Trolley Museum

www.trolleyuseum.org

Shore Line Trolley Museum

www.shorelinetrolley.org

Have an article, suggestion or compliment you'd like to submit for the newsletter? Contact us via the e-mail address listed above.



Major items performed on the car included significant work on the car's pedals and associated linkages, replacement of the KM motor controller, replacement of some control resistors, repairs to the backup controller, replacement and adjustment of the Accelerating and Braking Relay (ABR), and a comprehensive inspection and servicing.

Most recently, Jerry and Matt, along with Branford President Emeritus Bill Wall, worked nearly 24 hours straight to make NJT #25 operable for Branford's Members' Day on April 29, 2017. The marathon work session was a success and the car was available for guest operation during the event. Additional fine-tuning of the car's control system remains to be completed and the museum plans to cosmetically restore the car in the near future to enable it to join the operating fleet.

The "PCC Guys" plan to resume work on NJT #26 at Baltimore Streetcar Museum this summer, along with maintenance work on FPT-supported car #2168 as well as ongoing work on #2743. 2017 could be a very good year for fans of PCC cars!





Contribute to 8042's Restoration Campaign!



✂ Please cut along the line below and return the bottom portion with your donation.

Yes! I would like to help with car 8042's restoration campaign.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

GREAT NEWS! Your donation will be matched by Washington County, Pennsylvania. As the final grant will be awarded at the end of summer, please send in your contribution by August 15, 2017. Please make your check payable to FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS, INC. Please be sure to mark on your check that your donation is for car 8042. Thank you for your generosity.

Mail to: Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys, Inc
P.O. Box 33397
Philadelphia, PA 19142

FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS, INC.
P.O. BOX 33397
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19142-0397
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM



HELP PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA'S TROLLEY HERITAGE

Check one: New Member (Welcome!) Renewal (Thanks for Renewing!)

Name: _____ Member #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ †

Telephone: _____

I hereby apply for the class of Annual Membership in the FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS, INC. as indicated below and enclose the appropriate dues:

Please check one:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (under 18) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired (over 60) | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life member | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation | \$ _____ |
| Total Enclosed: | \$ _____ |

Please make check payable to **Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys, Inc.**

This form and your dues should be sent to **P.O. Box 33397, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19142.**

Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys Inc. (FPT) is a non-profit corporation, as defined by Section 501 (3)(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Since June 2005, the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys has donated \$155,000.00 towards the preservation of Philadelphia Trolleys in five museums.

The membership year runs from July 1 to the following June 30. The Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys thanks you for your support!

†Your e-mail address is needed for you to receive *The Streamliner*, the FPT's newsletter. *FPT does not sell or share e-mail addresses.*