

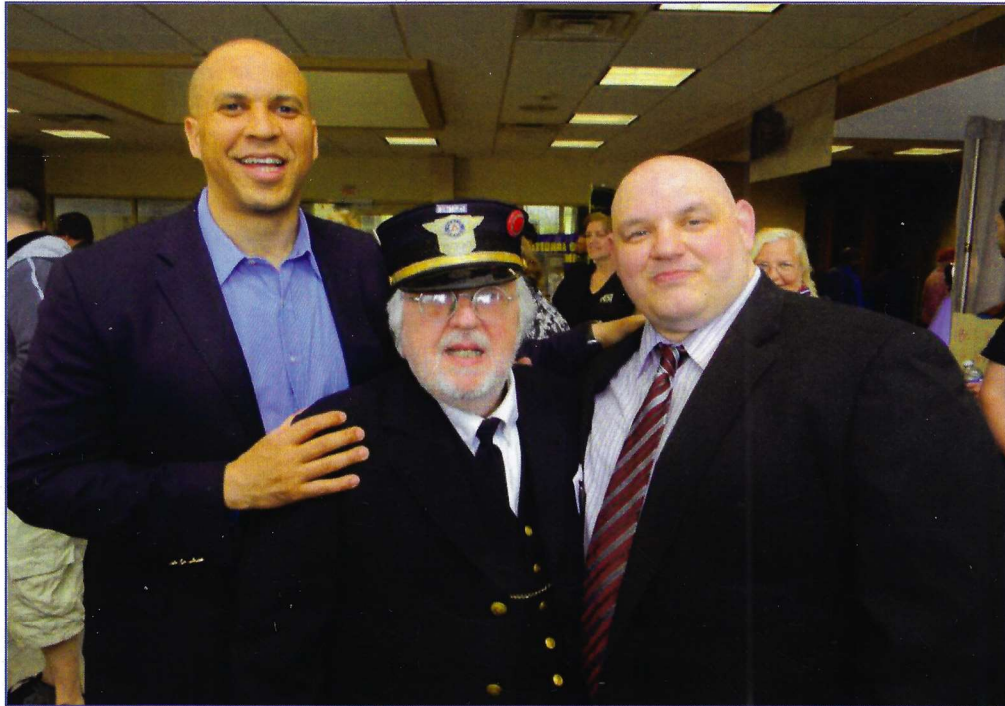
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United States Senator (D-NJ) Cory A. Booker took time from his extremely busy schedule to visit the participants at Rahway Day. Mayor of Rahway the Honorable Samson Steinman joined the Senator in bookending Founder and Trustee Tony Hall. The senator further discussed with Tony the latter's interest in developing the Graw Yard site for the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Center. While cautioning that this might be chiefly a state issue, the Senator promised to do "what he could" to further the project.

*Photo by Eric Miles,
3 May 2014*



RAHWAY DAY FESTIVAL 2014

By Tony Hall

Unlike the cold and rainy day of our debut appearance at the first annual Rahway Festival in May 2012, May 3rd this year dawned clear and mild. The intensive planning and the gallant dedication of Chamber of Commerce volunteers were everywhere evident. Everyone with whom we spoke reported "no problems" in setting up their stations. We of NJERHS enjoyed the support and cooperation of the Rahway Library staff in particular. Our display was stored securely in the library basement on Friday evening, the only day that Bob Hooper's vehicle was available to transport our exhibit materials. They also stored same Saturday evening until Monday when Bob was able to perform the pickup.

Ira Deutsch and I arrived at the library lobby at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 3rd, and with the help of library Senior Maintainer Gary Jack we were set up and ready to greet

visitors by 10:00 a.m. The weather further encouraged a gratifying turnout. Many people visited our table, observed the Rahway trolley performing its figure eight route and accepted printed material in the form of fliers, membership applications and postcards. Countless children rang the trolley bell to the delight of all within earshot.

At about 11:00 a.m., Senator Booker made his appearance. He approached our table and expressed interest in our display. We of course presented him with a prepared packet of information regarding the Graw Yard Heritage Park site, which he graciously accepted and expressed interest in examining. Subsequent phone calls to his office corroborated his interest in helping further the project. (Continued on p. 2)

**North Jersey E.R.H.S.
Box 1770
Rahway, NJ 07065**

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Monthly meetings of the North Jersey ERHS are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1731 Church Street (corner of W. Grand Avenue) in Rahway on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. During periods of bad weather, consult the website to confirm the meeting schedule.

All photos in this issue are by Tony Hall unless otherwise attributed.



President Bob Hooper presents a scale model of PSRy 8008 to Father Patrick Wilhelm in grateful recognition of the good father's generous support of our many projects.
Photo by Joe Beim, 26 September 2013.

Rahway Day (Continued from p. 1)

Shortly after our brief conversation with the Senator, I heard the unmistakable roar of R.F.D.'s 1919 American LaFrance pumper thundering to life. I was surprised to see this great historic object moving under its own power, returning to fire headquarters a short distance away. Rahway firefighters deserve high praise for maintaining this gargantuan relic in fully serviceable condition!

Around 2:30 p.m., the hubbub began to diminish and the crowd started to disperse. Hats off to the Chamber, the library staff, and all the volunteers and participants whose mutual interest made the third annual Rahway Day a rousing success!

Letters to the Editor

February 25, 2014

I thought *Life* magazine was only a distant memory, until I read *Trolley Lines*, Vol 10, No 4, Fall 2013. The photos were truly outstanding, (particularly to those of us whose mobility is challenged). You should be very proud of the legacy you, Frank (and the others) have put together. Well done!

Regards,

Tom Gormanly

++++
May 20, 2014

Your presentation at the Caldwell Public Library on April 9 was fantastic!

W. J. Nikel

++++
February 14, 2014

Re: Trolley Lines, Vol 10, No 4, Fall 2013, pg. 12, center, column 1: While the following statement is dramatic, I seriously doubt that the "balance of the once vast fleet was lined up at Greenville Depot in Jersey City and put to the torch in open air adjacent to schools, stores, churches and homes." All the photos that I have seen show cars either in their entirety or being cut into thirds and trucked to Passaic Wharf (or Federal Scrapyard?) for burning. It would have been unsafe or unacceptable to burn cars in built-up neighborhoods.

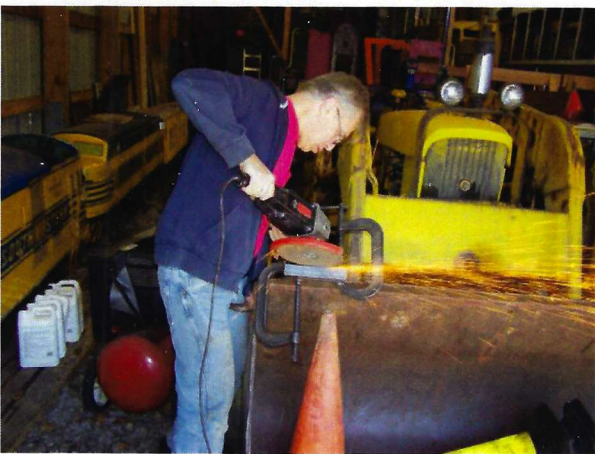
William J. McKelvey

The editor responds: "When myth and fact disagree, print the myth." This from John Ford, arguably Hollywood's, if not the world's, greatest film director. I refer all readers to his masterpiece: "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance." (1962).

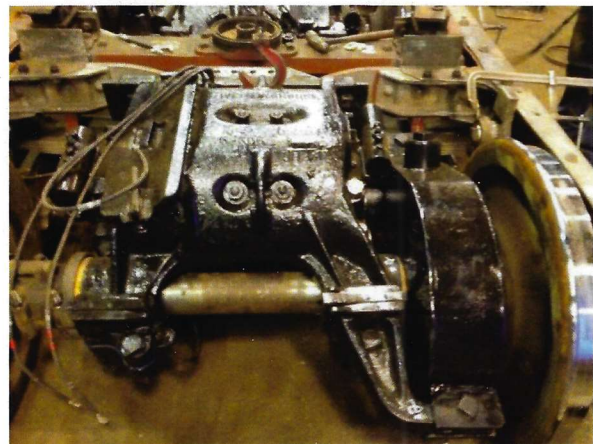
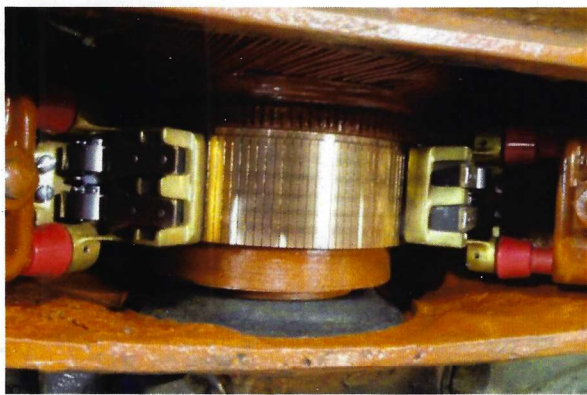
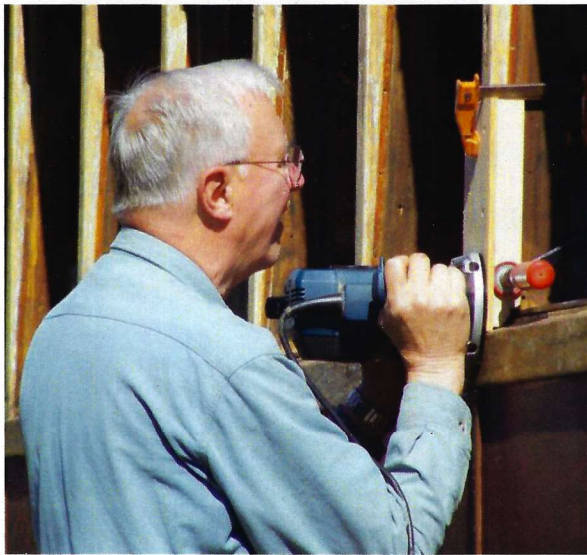
After a long winter's hibernation, we spring into a vigorous new round of activities for 2014.



UL: The Jersey Central Chapter NRHS once again produced their annual Mother Seton H.S. show in Clark on the first Sunday in March, affording NJERHS yet another opportunity to advance book and photo sales and solicit new members, yielding the highest return yet. Holding down our table were Ira Deutsch (l) and Bob Hooper, without, for the first time in many years, the invaluable presence of our late friend, Frank Miklos. *Tony Hall photo, 2 March 2014.* UR: East bonnet of 2651 is removed for further work. MR: Detail of the stiffening and strengthening modifications made to the bonnet. ML, LL, LR: Hank Kaminski fashions a template to be used in routing the recession into which the newly fabricated strengthening bars will be fitted. *All other photos by Bob Hooper, 2 February 2014.*

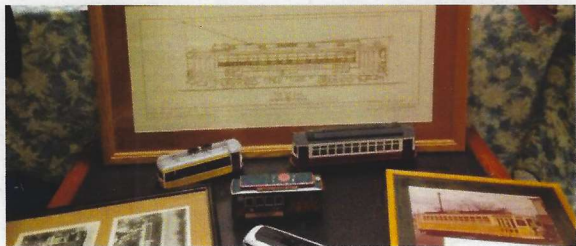


UL: Temporary retaining planks are clamped to the bonnet so that it will maintain its proper curvature during its replacement atop the east end platform. UR: Pressure is exerted across the back of the bonnet so that the curvature will remain correct. ML: Jim Tomczyk makes final adjustments to one of the stiffening bars he will fit into the bonnet base. MR: Hank makes fine cuts to the recession into which the stiffening plate will be fitted. LL, LR: All stiffening bars having been fitted to the bonnet base, the temporary retaining planks are finally clamped into position, assuring the curvature of the bonnet will remain constant and correct during the reinstallation to come. *All photos by Bob Hooper, April 2014.*



UL, UR ML: Hank begins the painstaking production and fitting to the car of wood inserts where window posts have suffered rot. *Photos by Rob Hooper, 7 May 2014.* MR: A long way from home, BNSF # 4967 GE Dash 9-44CW hustles a payload homeward bound. *Photo by Rob Hooper, 7 May 2014.* LL: Pure gold to a trolley fan's eye, the cleaned and polished interior of one of our traction motors, newly refurbished at Lyons Industries. LR: One of the C-50-P trucks from 5221 gleams completed in proud perfection at Lyons Industries. *Bottom photos courtesy of Lyons Industries, 6 May 2014.*

NJERHS appeared at the Caldwell Library in a commemoration of the 29 Bloomfield Avenue trolley service abandoned 60 years ago.

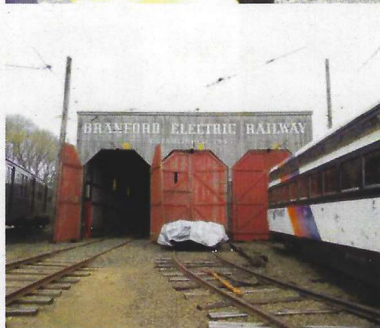


UL: NJERHS displayed numerous books, pictures, scale models and artifacts from the trolley era on a table prominently deployed at the front of the room. *Photo by Gary Kazin.* UR: Part of our presentation was a PowerPoint projection of the 29 trolley in various locations and time periods, narrated by Tony Hall. ML: The event was well publicized as the hall filled to overflowing before the proceedings began. Conspicuous in the crowd was the Amazing Kreskin, famed mentalist. LR: The Amazing Kreskin patiently awaited the show to begin, while knowing in his mind in advance all that would transpire during that evening. *Photo by Gary Kazin.* LL: From Left to Right: Dr. Tom Keen, Prof. of Business, Caldwell College; Tony Hall; Bob Markman & Janet Markman; Susan Gartland - former Mayor of Caldwell and Co-president of Caldwell Library Foundation; Barbara Hauck-Mah, Director, Caldwell Public Library; and Nancy Caplan, President, Caldwell Library Board. Bob and Janet would present a scale model of PSRy # 2698 to the library for permanent display, as shown in the upper right photo. *Photo by S. M. Kent.* All photos pages 6 and 7 by Bill Keigher, unless otherwise noted, 9 April 2014.



UL: The superb illuminated scale model of PSRy # 2698, scratch built by Jean Deschenes III, was purchased by Bob and Janet Markman and donated on this occasion to the Caldwell Public Library for permanent display there. UR: In his presentation remarks, Bob Markman extolled the skill of the recently deceased Mr. Deschenes (1932 – 2013) and displayed a recent photograph of the builder. ML: Tony joins Bob and Janet to make a few remarks about the long gone 29 Bloomfield trolley line. MR: Bob and Janet display a certificate of appreciation presented to them by the library staff. LL: In addition, Bob's name was placed on a plaque among those of previously honored benefactors to the library. LR: A fine framed copy of the widely known drawing by Dick Miller of PSRY # 2735 signed for the 29 Bloomfield line was awarded to Bob and Janet.

Members' Day at BERA, 26 April 2014 dawned cold and rainy, typical railfan weather.



The faithful brethren (and sistren?) who braved the foul weather on Members' Day were rewarded with many heartwarming old sights as well as an array of exciting new ones. New Jersey's representation in the Collection has been growing recently, as the views on this page demonstrate. Space limitations prevent comment on each image, except to note NJERHS members Jack May (top center) and Andrew Burger (top right). Second row, Ex-NJT PCC # 25 is one of the most recent arrivals and is scheduled for restoration in the near future. To those of us of a certain age, the recently restored H&M black car (third row, left to right) defined trans-Hudson rapid transit service for numerous decades. The ex-Public Service trailer # 4584 was rescued from use as an office at Miehle's sheet metal works on Rt. 22E in Springfield, where it had served for many decades. Restoration work is in progress. The ex-TTC sweeper, while not technically a New Jersey car, is similar to the one held by NJERHS in secure storage out of state. BR: A mouthwatering hot lunch was served up by the BERA volunteers.



Gloomy weather could not dull, nor rain diminish, the brilliant rainbow of traction liveries, representing such far-flung cities as: TL: Atlanta, TM: Johnstown, TR: New Orleans, UL: NYC (Third Avenue Rwy), TM & TR: New Haven (Connecticut Co., "Yale Bowl" open bench car, wisely kept indoors on this rainy day), UR: Connecticut Co. parlor car dresses up an otherwise drab car barn, LL: Bronx, NYC (Union Railway), LM: Brooklyn, NYC pioneer PCC, LR: Philadelphia (twin Red Arrow St. Louis), BL: NYC (classic IRT Low-V subway car), BM: NYC (timeless IND R1-9 subway car), BR: NYC (standard SIRT rapid transit car).

Continued on p. 10 ...



TL: Tony has boarded a classic Brooklyn El gate car to survey its condition. TM: As seen from the platform, time and the elements have not been kind to this vital relic. TR: A band of BERA volunteers takes a well-earned lunch break. It is folks like this who will transform the El car on the top left to its twin in the upper left. UM: Gypsy Rose Lee, at the peak of her career, could not entice a trolley fan more effectively than the strip-tease being performed here by this SEPTA St. Louis car in “Gulf Oil” livery. UR: Providence used this elaborate tool car to remedy emergencies on their system. LL: “Get that pole off my roof!” You can’t make a streetcar out of an R1-9 without incurring its wrath. LM: Same car’s interior displays the restorative expertise of the Branford shop crews. LR: Track to Tomorrow: new switch shows the way to the New Museum seen behind red box car. BL: Conductor C.K. Leverett welcomes visiting members aboard. BM: Scene from car platform, the New Museum is rapidly taking shape on the high ground beyond the red box car. BR: Sign says it all.

NJERHS's first appearance at the NJ History Fair, 10 May 2014



On a bright Saturday morning in the spring, Bill Keigher and Tony journeyed to the tenth annual NJ History Fair at Washington's Crossing State Park. We had neglected to bring a table and chairs, but were able to obtain them at the last minute from highly helpful park personnel.

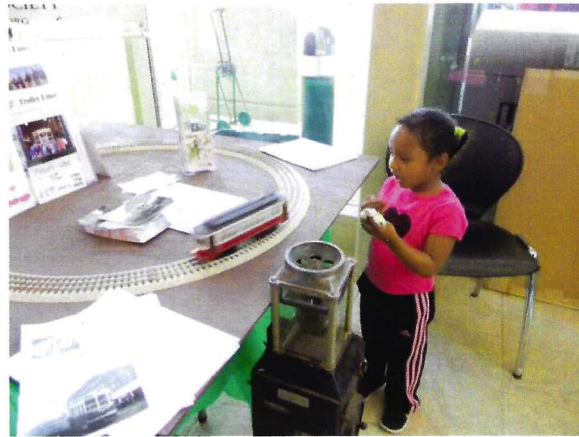
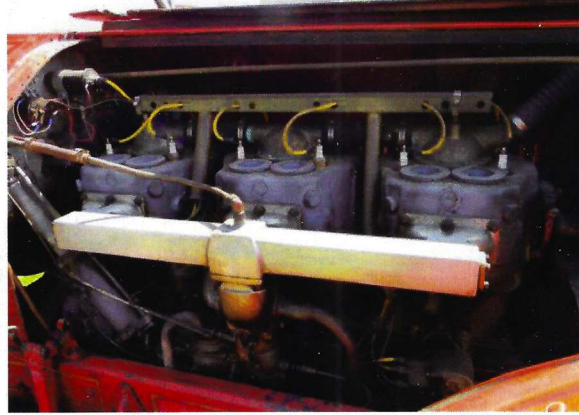
As this was our first year there, it was a learning experience, and when we do this again next year, we'll make sure we do it right. We'll bring the NJERHS tent, a table and chairs, more material for display and sale, the layout for Tony's trolleys and the fare register. As it turned out, Bill was holding an umbrella for most of the day to shield against the brilliant sun.

But despite these seeming problems, we had a great time, met a lot of excellent contacts, recruited several new members, including one enthusiastic former Amtrak employee. We sold a copy of "Streetcars of New Jersey" and gave away many membership flyers and the postcards that George had made up.

The skies turned from clear and balmy to cloudy and cool, the winds picked up, and we heard rumbles of nearby thunder, so we packed up at about 3 PM and left just before the cloudburst. Overall it was a very good day, and we hope to do even better next year.

Top row: Like "A Raisin in the Sun," Bill and Tony endure exposure to the rays of "Ol' Sol." We can only hope that their dreams do not dry up as in the play by Lorraine Hansbury. UL: An enthusiastic crowd of fairgoers ebbed and flowed past our table. LL: In the distant background, a game of baseball was underway between Hoboken and Elizabeth, played under 1869 rules and gear. Hoboken won. BL: Revolutionary War re-enactors break camp for the day, moving on to another victory at Princeton, turning the tide of the Revolution.

Participation in the third annual Rahway Day Festival, 3 May 2014, exceeded expectations.



UL: A magnet for the attention of every child present (including your editor) was RFD's antique fire fighting apparatus. UR: The flat head inline six cylinder power plant for the apparatus is arranged with separate cylinder heads, a common practice of the era. ML: Ira Deutsch and Tony greet visitors to the NJERHS table. Mounted on our trolley bell box is our vintage Johnson fare box, typical of those used in the past on both buses and trolleys. MR: One of many young potential trolley fans appears mesmerized by the passing model trolley car. LL: Author and City Historian Alex Shipley holds forth at the Merchants' and Drovers' Tavern Museum Association table. The scale model of the Tavern is replete with interior detail. LR: Even as the crowd began to disperse, the Library plaza accommodated an appreciable throng.