Horse Cars (1862) and Trolley Cars (1941)

WILLIAM REED GORDON
Horse Car
And
Trolley Days
In Rochester
1862-1956

A brief, informal illustrated history of the horse car days of the
Rochester City and Brighton Railroad, from the Civil War until 1890.

The Rochester Railway Company, until 1914, then the New York State
Railways, until the last trolley ran on Rochester streets in April, 1941.

For more history see my fifteenth book in two volumes of "94 Years of
Rochester Railways" coming next with 1,094 pictures, over 600 pages. Now
available is "90 Years of Buffalo Railways"; Keuka Lake Memories; Elmira-
Chemung Valley Trolleys; Trolleys Down the Mohawk Valley of Fonda;
Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad with Schenectady Railways; and Albany-
Hudson Railroad — Third Rail.

Cover — Horse car No. 55 which is today, February 1, 1975 at General Railway Signal
Works — West Ave. in storage for the Rochester Museum of Arts & Sciences. Some photos
from John G. Woodbury; Thomas Kim; Robert O. Waters; Steve Maguire of Railroad
Magazine; Sheldon S. King, author of "Route of Phoebe Show" D.L. & W. Railroad book;
Robert G. French.

WILLIAM REED GORDON
232 Beresford Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610


MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Car 103 has advertising sign on roof.

Car 37 has two stoves. Notice two pipes in roof. The crooked bar inside car has slot for nickel fare to roll down to box for driver.
A two horse car on Mt. Hope Ave. — 1877

Car 310 with venetian blinds and bars across windows. A 4-wheel car with no fender. See car 379 with 8 wheels, etc.
This old timer is a Baldwin 0-4-2 built in 1884, and it operated on the Rochester and Lake Ontario from Bay St. down Portland to Ridge Rd. to Sea Breeze. Steam engine is made like a trolley car to fool horses. A neat cover up job.

Car 72, open end, on Church St. at North Plymouth. High tower on Federal Building. Team and ice wagon on right hides another trolley at State St.
Car 202 at Summerville.
How do you like the motorman with a white cap?

Car 123, open end.
St. Joseph St. is now Joseph Avenue.

Car 303 on University Ave. at Culver Rd. It was a new 4 wheel car. In 1909 it was made longer with 8 wheels. Building is Stromberg Carlson Telephone Co.

Park Ave. car 379 is yellow and has a coal stove for heat. Fender has a guard of ropes. Art Brower, motorman has two rows of buttons; conductor has one row.
This house became a railroad station on W. Main St., Penn. R.R. to Nunda-Olean.

A summer car No. 29, a long 8 wheel yellow car. A bar was across far side so boys and girls wouldn't fall out.
Green & cream car 501 at State St. barns; tower on top of Kodak in background.

Loop at Cobbs Hill, Monroe Ave. at Highland Ave.
Motors, car 1010 and a 1200 type on left. An 860 car on right. St. Paul Street shops.

Stone crusher in Blossom Rd. yards. Gas tank is there today, 1975.
Four submarine 1200 cars on E. Main St. Note Granite building and Sibleys up the hill — 1925.

Looking down Andrews from St. Paul, July, 1925. Man on raised platform is repairing trolley wire. Rings bell on roof when in a hurry.
Laying new rails at State St. car barn. Notice open touring automobiles and, in south, New York Central railroad bridge.

Find two horses in this photo. Man seated between rails is bolting rails together. Powers Building is on corner of W. Main and State St.
Below 8 Lake Ave. carbons - 1914.

Five Corners - State St., Lake Ave., Eyeland and Smith. Car is south bound.

VIEW FROM EASTMAN KODAK WORKS, SHOWING PASSENGER STATION
Car 26 is an open car. Used only in summer time. See striped shade to pull down when it rains. D.M.

Car 705 and trailer 1105.
Interior of 2000 car — used in subway.
Came from Rome; Little Falls, N.Y.
line, 300's.

Interior of car 608. Note controller handle in left front, and wheel on right is hand brake.
Used if air brakes failed.

Car has stove for coal heat. 1200 car has coal stove up front. Conductor sat in center at exit door.
"Hurry up" wagons 2 to 5 at Convention Hall. White trucks, 1917. Must be a cold day. Men have ears covered.

A Trackless Trolley.

This car is at Ave. E and Conkey Ave. Cars ran, 1923-1932, over Driving Pk. Ave. bridge east on Clifford almost to Portland Ave.

Car 630 on No. Plymouth at W. Main, 1939. Grand movie theater and Central Presbyterian Church on Plymouth Ave. S.S. King
New 615 on Lake Ave. Has 4 exit doors.

Rochester - Charlotte and Manitou Beach, Rly.

Car 10 on trestle across Braddock's Bay, 1900. Rochester, Charlotte & Manitou Beach Ry. Cars ran from Lake and Beach Ave. west to Grand View and Crescent Beach, over bay to Manitou.
Ferry "Windsor", steam powered, is crossing Genesee River from Charlotte. Fare 5 cents.

Line repair car and trolley on Beach Ave. at Charlotte. Note wooden sidewalk. 1900.
One of six big cars ran out Lyell Ave. to Lockport and Buffalo.

Car 208 crossing Main St. Tall building on right is Granite Building, Main & St. Paul.
Baggage car at Ontario, N.Y. Stone Power House. A new one is there now, 1975, on north side of Ridge Rd. A gong is on end of car.

Durand-Eastman Park, car 38 in 1911.
Rochester to Geneva car 156.

Line car. See 2 men on roof? 1901 in Sodus, N.Y.

Old bridge on Clifford Ave., now is Empire Blvd., gauntlet track under bridge.
Rochester & Eastern at E. Main Barns. Colors are yellow and cream. 1920.

When your automobile breaks down call a tow truck. See the 0461 towing 1007 into E. Main Barns — 10-16-1940, S.D.M.
Sweeper 28. A 4 wheel sweeper at E. Main barns. A broom is on both ends under canvas. Used to sweep snow off trolley track. Note gong on roof. Motorman pulled a rope to ring it.

Interurban express car 925 of Rochester & Eastern to Pittsford and Geneva.
Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern cars ran out E. Main, University Ave. to Fairport, Newark & Syracuse. "THE ON TIME ROUTE". J.G.W.

Chair car 111, "Palmyra". Clinton Square in Syracuse, 1927.
Erie gas-electric 4071 and trailer ready to leave for Mt. Morris. On the right is Rundel Library across Court St. bridge.

0205 freight motor. Bell is from Rochester and Glen Haven Railroad engine, 1889.

"Elmlawn", a funeral car in Buffalo. Built 1895. Came to Rochester one time, ran to Holy Sepulcher cemetery on Lake Ave.
“Special Cars”

Car A — Chartered for parties and picnics. Has curtains, carpets on the floor, wicker chairs and an ice box furnished by Sibleys store.

Cars B, C, & D were painted white with gold lettering. Ran out Park, Lake, West Avenues, Main Street, etc. Postman collected mail. 1899.
This 4 wheel car holds water, 6000 gallons, to flush the streets as trucks do now. Syracuse had 5 of these. S.D.M.

Can you spell Penitentiary? Car 99 was used only to take prisoners from the Syracuse city jail to the penitentiary at Jamesville. S.D.M.
Car 64, color red and cream, is west bound at Monroe Ave. T.K.

2006 car from the subway has stopped at the railroad crossing on Dewey Ave. Car will turn at Ridge Rd. loop, go south to Emerson St. and into subway.
Crane car 0171 in yards at General Motors loop. R.G.F.

Rowlands loop – 5-10-1956. Cars 60 and 46 are waiting on track used in 1931 by Roch. & Eastern to Geneva. S.D.M.
Crittenden Blvd. — Strong Memorial Hospital; trolley 859 is going east to Mt. Hope Ave. — S.D.M.

A four car special for the Rochester Chamber of Commerce — J.G.W.
L.1. Electric freight motor built at St. Paul Street shops next to the Hawkeye Wks. of Eastman Kodak Co. by N.Y. State Rys. — by T. Kirn

L.2. A gasoline powered freight motor used only at General Motors plant. Made by Plymouth Co. in Ohio — T.K.
ROCHESTER RAILWAY COMPANY AND ROCHESTER AREA INTERURBAN LINES
--1910-1920 ERA--

S.T. City line 1 = STATE STREET CAR HOUSE, 1868-1916
D.T. City line 2 = LAKE AVENUE CAR HOUSE, 1914
Interurban 3 = PORTLAND AVENUE CAR HOUSE, 1882-1916
4 = EAST MAIN CAR HOUSE, 1889-1941
5 = ST. PAUL STREET CAR SHOPS, 1885

NOT TO SCALE

ROBERT J. GUSTAFSON-JANUARY 1975