

Car 25 Shop Journal

Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society News

Chapter 3, May 2010

www.fortnet.org/trolley/car25/



Revised Car 25 Restoration Tasks

1. Shop improvements. DONE.
2. Inventory all parts and identify needed repairs or replacements. DONE.
3. Inspect underframe. DONE.
4. Rebuild mechanical systems.
5. Install new flooring.
6. Rebuild and install electrical systems.
7. Repair windows and other woodwork.
8. Repair truck components and rebuild the truck with new axles and wheels.
9. Install truck and test motor controls.
10. Complete interior and exterior fit-and-finish details.

We've re-arranged our tasks above to show work progress. Here's an update since the last journal chapter:

Task 4 - Rebuild Mechanical Systems

Reid Jacob, John Cooney, Paul Snyder and **Bill Kepner** have replaced much of the old piping. After that's done, they'll install refurbished components and pressure-test the system. Some details:

- Air tanks – Replacement tanks have been received thanks to a generous contribution from a local donor.
- K-1 valve – Cleaned and inspected by **Sean Jackson** in the D&SNG car shop. Al is ordering new gaskets and will do the remaining COTS (cleaning/oiling/testing/stenciling)
- Brake cylinder – Tests ok. Al will do COTS.
- Air compressor – Only needs oil and testing.
- Brake valves and cut-off valve – Need COTS.
- Check valves – Need replacing.
- Deadman and foot-valves – Have been inspected; still need COTS.

These components also need attention:

- Sand boxes (missing) – New, smaller boxes have been designed and are being created by **Andy Conrak**.
- Sand traps (two missing) – **Roger Smith** is investigating either having new traps cast at a local foundry or fabricating them locally.
- Destination boxes – Finish interior and exterior doors, make and install new rollers, replace the roller mechanisms and add latches inside and out.
- Air gauges missing – We need two dual-needle flange-mount gauges certified for railroad use.
- Missing emergency steps to the roof on each side of the car need replacing. Fortunately, **Roger Smith** has one original step and has some replacement parts cast for the car 21 restoration which he can finish and install.

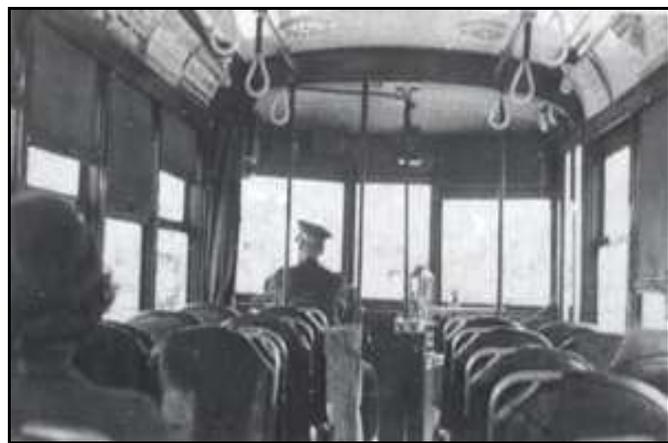
Task 5 – Install New Flooring

After mechanical systems have been installed and tested, we'll replace some damaged angle-iron floor purlins and install new sub-floor and finished flooring. Then we can begin replacing electrical conduits and boxes under the new floor.

Task 6 - Rebuild Electrical Systems

Charlie Rock, Al Jackson and **Fred Snyder** are refurbishing electrical components and planning to begin rewiring the car once the floor is in. Items we need and tasks include:

- Develop a complete wiring diagram.
- New transit cabling and fittings to completely rewire the car; some items are now in the shop.
- Circuit breakers – Refurbished (Al).
- Lightning arrestor – Refurbished (Al).
- Choke coil – Damaged; needs replacing (Al)
- Compressor regulator – Being rebuilt (Charlie). Needs new gaskets and switch contacts.
- Controllers – One is partially rebuilt while the other is completely disassembled.
- Twenty light fixtures need rebuilding.
- Switches – We need to refurbish the headlight switch and find replacement snap-switches for lights and compressor.
- Heaters – Knife switches, fuse box and heaters need refurbishing (Charlie).
- Buzzers – Button mounts are being replaced (Fred).



*Interior of Car25 (date and location unknown).
Photo courtesy the Fort Collins Museum.*

Task 7 - Repair Windows & Other Woodwork

After Charlie, **Brad March** and Al removed all side windows for repairs and painting, we found plenty of work to keep us busy:

- Side windows need hardware refitted, some components replaced, exteriors prepped and painted and interiors refinished.
- End windows must be refinished and painted, then fitted permanently and center windows fitted to open as on Car 21.
- Destination boxes need door stops and catches, replacement rollers, replacement roller mechanisms, and refitted outer windows.
- Exterior end-moldings need rework.
- Some interior woodwork needs refitting or replacement with properly finished wood species prior to remounting controls.

Roger Smith, Bob Browning and Fred Snyder are the window rebuilders.

Task 8 - Rebuild the Power Truck

We have lots to do before test-fitting the truck components together:

- Wheelsets – Dimensional drawing done and drive gears cleaned by **Reid Jacob**. We're looking for a shop to machine new axles, mount new wheels and gears, and machine the wheels to streetcar specs. Cost estimate is \$15,000-25,000.
- Motors – In great shape and ready to test.
- Brake hangers – Need re-enforcing due to previous wear apparently caused by operating the car without brake shoes.
- Journal boxes – The new boxes need some machining and test-fitting with the side frames. We'll probably have to add wear-shims to the side frames to accommodate the new boxes.



Car 25 on a cloudy day in the late 1940's on Howes St. approaching Mountain Ave.

Joining the Team!

We still need volunteers with skills in plumbing, electrical, painting, construction and mechanical areas. If you're interested but haven't contacted us, please call **Carol Tunner**, 970-484-3957 or email us: fcmsr@netzero.com

If you've already told us that you want to help restore Car 25, you'll continue getting this journal via email or our newsletter. We'll also be

contacting you as projects are started to see if you're available to help. If you have questions or wish to be removed from our list, email us.

If you cannot help us physically, please consider a donation to help restore Car 25. See the form in the attached newsletter. Mark your check "Car 25 restoration." **Thank You!**



Car 25 arrived early on a Saturday morning in May 2008 from Charlotte, NC via I-80 and I-25.

Shop Open on Saturday Mornings

The Car 25 shop will be open on Saturday mornings, 9 AM -> Noon for you to view our project and meet the team. The Howes St. barn is at the corner of North Howes and Cherry Sts.



The Howes St. carbarn in the 1940s, showing streetcar bays and a Birney car in bay 2. Our shop is now in the back of bay 1.

Car 25 Restoration Team

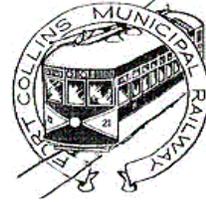
Mechanical: Reid Jacob, Roger Smith, John Cooney, Paul Snyder, Andy Conrak, Sean Jackson, Bailey Floyd, Bill Kepner, Brad March
 Electrical: Al Jackson, Charlie Rock
 Woodworking: Roger Smith, Fred Snyder, Bob Browning
 Shop Foremen: Al Jackson, Reid Jacob
 Project Manager: Craig Stith, 498-0286
 Volunteer recruiter: Carol Tunner, 484-3957

Trolley Fare

Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society News

Volume 30, Number 1, May 2010

www.fortnet.org/trolley/



Spring Fix-up and Clean-up

Volunteers outdid themselves this spring repairing mechanical problems, cleaning up Car 21, and prepping the rails for another season under the wire.

Roger Mitchell replaced brake shoes, lubed all 'round and maintenance on the running gear. **Roger Smith** recruited **Charlie Rock, Reid Jacob** and **Al Jackson** from the Car 25 shop to help locate and repair a problem with the brake system that plagued operation last season. Brakes are now working better than ever!

While the car was being prepared, **Bob Browning** and **Al Jackson** used MW02 to clean the line in time for motorman certifications in late April. **Bob Browning** also re-stained and refinished the windows and trim on each end of the car. And just in time, local girl-scout troops 72290 Cadets and 71245 Juniors, arranged by **Millie Kneeland** and lead by **Kristi Nay**, thoroughly cleaned the car on the first day of operation (see photos in this issue).



Girl scouts cleaning and polishing Car 21 at the W. Mountain Ave. barn prior to the first public runs on May 1. Photos by Deb Stith.

Congratulations to Us!

by Carol Tunner

The Fort Collins Municipal Railway (FCMR) is what the City called its streetcar operation from 1919, when they bought it, to 1951 when it went out of business. It is what we have called our trolley operation since we started for regular passenger service in June, 1985. But what is this FCMR "Society" business?

A rag-tag group of 60 people met in the back shop of the Howes St. Car Barn in January 1980 and vowed to follow a mission of restoring Car 21 to operation on a stretch of reconstructed track on W. Mountain Avenue. We stood around in a big circle and each of us described

why we wanted to get involved in this effort. Then without any idea of what I was getting into, I sent my \$5 and a hand filled-out incorporation form to the Colorado Secretary of State. On February 4, 1980 the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society, Inc. was incorporated with the State of Colorado to restore and operate Birney Streetcar 21. Now we're celebrating the Society's 30th anniversary! All I can say looking back 30 years, is "it's a good thing we didn't know we couldn't do it!"

Welcome New Members!

We welcome these new members to our Society:

Associates:

Duncan Allen, FC

Families:

Matt Albertson*, Jeanne Berger*, Bill Betts*, Dan Carlson*, Larry Edwards, FC, Millie Kneeland*, Neil Sherrod*, Jim Thake*, Dave Williams*, James Zdunek*

Sponsors:

Alan Cram*

* New conductor trainees.

We also appreciate the members below who've renewed membership, many also donating to restoring Car 25. Your generous support ensures that Car 21 will keep running and the restoration stays on track.

Thank You!

Associates:

Charles Ballard
Ruth Besel
Derry & Lois Eynon
Bailey Floyd*
Donald B. Gholson
Ronald W. Hastie
Nicholas Hughes
Angie Joseph*
Denise Lederer
Grace Meyer
Stuart Palmer
Frank Reese
Charlie Rock
Tom Rueb*
Ed Slattery*
Zackery Stith
Donald Woeber
Peter Zimmermann

Robert Beavers*
Mike Dwyer
Norman Fitzpatrick*
Wallace Fluckey
Richard Harrison
Don & Barbara Holmgren
Arthur Jones
Mary Krbec*
Clyde Maxey
George & Dorothy Mock
Marian Pike
Charlotte Rehnberg
Mike Rowe*
L. Wilson Ruid
Grace Stith
Simon Turner*
Charles Young

Families:

Scott & Katherine Abott
Tom* & Eileen Boardman
Jeff* and Connie Cleverley
Wayne & Matt* Cook
Tom* & Shirley Dandy
James & Eva Erdmann

William* & Gloria Archibald
Larry Bolt
Jack Coman*
Michael* & Joan Cox
James & Marleigh Ellis
Robert Gomora*

Bill & Jean Griswold
 James Heaton
 Sean* & Danette Jackson
 Greg Koch*
 Philip* & Joan Leathery
 Roger Mitchell*
 Craig* & Debbie Stith*
 Wayne Sundberg*
 Jon Vermouth
 Paul, Lisa & Evan West*
 Evan & Kelly Zweifel*

Ed Hanson*
 Bob Hutchison*
 Reid Jacob
 Duane Leach*
 Sherlee Miller
 Kirk* & Martha Petty
 Ken* & Robin Stitzel
 Robert Thain
 Gayle* & Sally Watkinson
 Sumith Wickramasingh

Sponsors:

Robert & Dorothy Adel
 Darrell Arndt
 Richard & Sally Brewster
 Brent Carmack
 Herb Danneman
 Eleanor Diehl
 Len* & Susan Epstein
 Nancy J. Fischer
 Stan Griffith
 James Hayes
 Mike & Sheryl Highsmith
 David Hodge & Mary
 Jonathan* & Gale Hole
 Al* & Phyl Jackson
 Harold* & Mary Kelly
 Douglas A. Long
 Brad March
 Robert & Eunice Miller
 Robert O'Rourke
 Bill Shattuck*
 H. P. Thode
 John Waples*
 Gayle* & Sally Watkinson
 Frank & Joanne Yockey*

Richard Andrews
 Gary Boughton*
 Robert* & Susan Browning
 Matt & Judith Carney
 Raymond DeGroot
 Frank E. Drobny
 William & Linda Ezell
 Robert P. Godwin
 David & Barbara Hawes
 Truman & Vera Hefner
 Thomas & Amy Hirn
 Sue Rowen
 Don & Barbara Holmgren
 Anna 'Chris' Johnson*
 George A. Kennedy
 Robert Mahar
 Lex Medlin
 Mary Murphy
 Clifford Scholes
 Doreen Sing
 Kathlene Waller
 Ronald Wartinbee
 Douglas Yadon

Benefactors:

Les & Janet Batman
 Richard* & Margaret Erickson
 Adam Thomas*
 J. William Vigrass
 David & Susan Couch
 Jim Koehler
 Jan M. Trenary
 Margaret Watts

* Current or former Car 21 crewmembers.

History of the FCMR in Posters

Katie Howell of the Fort Collins Museum recently created a set of handsome posters chronicling the history of the FCMR and FCMRS. They're now in our office to help inform visitors in the Howes St. barn. Each poster explains a segment of Fort Collins streetcar history, beginning with the D&I Woerber cars and ending with the return of Car 25. Stop by and view them on a Saturday morning while you're visiting Car 25.

Email or Snail-mail?

Some members are already getting a color PDF copy of **Trolley Fare** via email. Beginning with this issue, all FCMRS officers and directors will also be getting email copies to reduce print and mail costs. If you'd prefer to get our newsletter in color the day it goes to the printer rather than waiting for a black & white snail-mailed copy, please email your editor: fcMrs@netzero.com

Pioneer of Year Award

by Carol Tunner

Congratulations to our own **Wayne Sundberg** for being named "Pioneer of the Year" by the Fort Collins Pioneer Association this spring. Wayne is unofficially known as "Mr. Fort Collins History." To the FCMRS he was a founding member in 1980, the first conductor on that December 29, 1984 trial run for City Council, a conductor for all 25 of our seasons, a former Board member, and our Publicity Chairman. We are proud to have him on our crew.



Parents even joined in to help clean windows prior to enjoying an excursion down the line in reward for making Car 21 shine again. Photos by Deb Stith.

In Memoriam

by Carol Tunner

We are very sorry to have to report the passing of three of our long-term crew members this year; all will be missed.

- First, motorman **Bob Hanley** left us. Bob traveled from Denver for many years to drive the trolley and frequently ran a double shift for the day. He volunteered hundreds of hours for us to get matching grants for our trolley from his employer, Qwest. He also came up month-after-month faithfully for many years as a Board Member.
- Next, **Jim Deluhery** passed away. His health had kept him off the car last year, but he served long and well as a conductor for many years before that. He was always bright, cheerful, and dependable.
- Finally we recently lost **Walter Royal ("Roy") Jones Jr.**, Minister Emeritus at Foothills Unitarian

Church. Roy was a conductor for many years before “retiring” some years ago. He was an institution in this community and a train buff with a “train basement”.

Want More FCMR?

You can now view pictures of us and see what our riders and fans are saying about us in *Facebook*. Point your browser to:



www.facebook.com/fortcollins.trolley



Car 25 motorman caught sitting down on the job. Note the book of transfers sitting on the fare box and the kerosene heater on the floor.

Correction to the last Trolley Fare

Apologies go to Bob Hutchison’s family for spelling their last name wrong and referring to Kathie by another name.

For Sale

Original reprint article from the *Pacific Railway Journal*, 1957, on the Fort Collins Municipal Railway, by Peyton and Moorman, 15 pages and lots of photos. Rare and out of print, but I already have one, and this one I got believing someone in the FCMRS would want it, for the absurd price of \$5. First come first served. Roger Smith 970-493-2662.



Girl Scouts scrubbing the inside of Car 21 on May 1st.

Trolley Fare is published periodically for members and friends of the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society.

FCMRS Staff

- President: Craig Stith, 498-0286
- Vice-president: Roger Mitchell, 207-9295
- Secretary: Carol Tunner, 484-3957
- Treasurer: John Beckett, 482-0130

Directors

- Brent Carmack, 416-2702
- Brad March, 482-4322
- Moose Shattuck, 472-1071
- (open position)

Departments

- Advertising on car 21: John Beckett
- Car 21 maintenance: Roger Smith, Roger Mitchell
- Car 25 project: Craig Stith
- Crew scheduling: Craig Stith, Gary Thomas
- Charters: Gary Thomas, 482-7125
- Conductor & depot-agent training: Carol Tunner
- Maintenance of way: Al Jackson, Art Mitchell, Roger Smith
- Membership: Al Jackson
- Motormen training: Roger Smith, Bob Browning
- Public Relations, Wayne Sundberg
- Souvenirs: Deb Stith
- Trolley Fare** & website: Al Jackson, fcmrs@netzero.com

Have you renewed dues or donating to Car 25 restoration?

Please renew my membership for 2010 (check one):

Associate, \$10/yr Family, \$15/yr Sponsor, \$25/yr Benefactor, \$100/yr Lifetime, \$500 \$ _____

Please accept my donation to help restore Car 25:

Presidential level* (above \$5000) General Manager level* (\$1001 - \$5000)

Motorman level* (\$501 - \$1000) Conductor level* (\$251 - \$500)

Gandy Dancer level (\$10 - \$250) * Includes a centennial photo or print. \$ _____

Mail this completed form along with your check or money order made out to: **FCMRS**.

If your mailing address has changed, please note changes on the mailing label and return it with this form. **Thank You!**

Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society
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The May 1st clean-up gang poses for a picture after a job well done. The first crew that day were Conductor Ken Stitzel (far left) and Motorman Kirk Petty (far right). Photo by Deb Stith.