



NEWS

SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS Fall 2008

FAREWELL TO OUR DEN MOTHER



Retiring City Councillor, Judy Higginbotham receives a tribute from Director Ray Hudson, composer of the Ballad of 1225, and Society Chair, John Sprung, at the recent Volunteers Recognition Dinner

The society benefits from a close relation to the Surrey City council. We are blessed to have as our City liaison for the past 8 years Councilor Judy Higginbotham. This year at our third annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner we were very pleased to present Judy a lifetime membership to the FVHRS as she retires from the civic stage.

From the initial idea in 1996 from Surrey Heritage Commissioner Jim Wallace that there was heritage value in the old BCER line through Surrey, Judy has been a champion of the revitalization of the Interurban rail line and, in particular, the desire to

repatriate the last remaining BCER interurban cars: 1225 and 1304. We're half way there Judy, with 1225 restoration well underway! We hope you will spend more time with us as we hope to see 1304 some day soon.

To further encourage Judy to keep an eye on BCER 1225, the *Circle of Friends* performed a new song, ***The Ballad of 1225***. *Circle of Friends* member and resident composer, FVHRS Director Ray Hudson, dedicated his song to Judy Higginbotham. A copy of the lyrics, signed by the FVHRS Board of Directors, was presented at the debut of the song.

Volunteer: Rene Doyharcabal

My wife Judy and I were out for a drive in our Model A Roadster on a Sunday afternoon, we were driving down 152nd and saw the Open House sign at the car barn. I told Judy that I used to ride those Interurbans when I was a kid, and I said I'd love to go and have a look. She said, great she'd wanted to see one too!

We pulled into that outside parking lot, and I think it was probably Doug Watkins who was at the gate, and when he saw the vehicle, he waved me into the compound where we parked right in front of the little station.

It was an emotional thing for me, seeing this old interurban car, and I got hooked right there. Allen Aubert was right there with an application. That's how it all happened. I was impressed right off the bat with the people I did meet that day. Frank Horn was there, along with Bob Ashton and Allen, and I thought they were a pretty nice bunch of people. So the thought of working in the car along with these people was really appealing.

What kind of background did you have to offer this project?

I've spent about fifteen years in the vintage car hobby, and a lot of the skills I learned during the car renovations, have proven to be very helpful in working on B.C.E.R. 1225. She is simply a much larger version of an antique automobile. The woodworking, metalwork and adaptations are very similar. In both cases, imagination, love of the project and patience are the prime essentials.

Ironically this has nothing to do with what I did for a living. In my other life, I was in the commercial refrigeration and air conditioning contracting business. I always had woodworking as a hobby because when I was going to high school, I had a job after school and on Saturdays, in a little furniture factory on Commercial Drive in Vancouver. The owner was an old English cabinet maker and he taught me all sorts of hands-on woodworking skills. Also, I went to Vancouver Tech and one of the courses there was in woodworking as well. So I developed a real affinity for woodworking from that period of my life.

When you got your hands on 1225, what were the things that surprised you?

One of the things that really surprised and impressed me, was the craftsmanship that was used in building these cars. I thought back to myself, these cars were built in 1912. they didn't have the sophisticated machinery we have now, and yet the fitting, the cabinetry was so beautifully done. So I thought to myself, this is what we've got to aim for, to do at least just as good a job.

I guess the pay-off will come when you can ride the finished car?

As a matter of fact, what I want to do is get at the controls.



3rd Annual Volunteer Dinner Nov 12 2008



Allen Aubert and John Sprung present a lifetime membership to Judy Higgenbotham.



The Circle of Friends, Ray Hudson, Mary-Lou McCausland, Murdoch McSween and Ben Bentley perform the Ballad of 1225.



Salute to Our Volunteers

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Fall 2008



Volunteer Jerry Gosling



Volunteer Robert Ashton



Volunteer Neil McLeod



Volunteer Rene Doyharcabal



Volunteer Roberta Cecile Anaya



Volunteer John Welsh



Volunteer Neil Wilkie



Volunteer Wayne Abbott



Volunteer Stephen Plant



Volunteers Mary-Lou McCausland
& Ben Bently



Volunteer Ray Hudson



Volunteer Murdoch McSween

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Volunteer Tom Thirlwell



Volunteers Peter Holt & Ron Jones



Volunteer Ron Powers



Volunteer Lloyd Knoblauch



Volunteer Roy Mufford



Volunteer Ron Jones



Volunteer Ken Silen



Volunteer Stewart Walker



Volunteer Doug Hunt



Volunteer John Sprung



Volunteers Allen & Elizabeth Aubert



Volunteer Frank Horne

3rd Annual Volunteer Dinner Nov 12 2008



Robert Ashton presents official speeder operator permits to rookie drivers John Sprung and Allen Aubert.



John Sprung presents the Loonie which was placed between the car body and truck on first arriving at the car barn in 2005, to Judy Higgenbotham,



Ray Hudson and John Sprung present the special **Ballad of 1225** lyric sheet, signed by all directors to Judy Higgenbotham.

Volunteer: Roberta Cecile Anaya

How did you come to be a volunteer rebuilding 1225?

I've been involved in heritage work before, but it was with buses and they were being done in the Surrey Depot. I learned about the heritage cars and knew from my past investigations that there were five of them and that 1225 was coming up from California. Ultimately I talked with Allen Aubert on the phone, and he explained the Heritage Railway Society and what the project was. He asked if I could bring any skills that I had to the car barn and go to work.



I am still working, I drive buses in Burnaby for Coast Mountain Bus Company, and my days off are according to my sign-up. I knew that they were working at the car barn on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so I changed my days off to Tuesday and Wednesday so I could come down and help them. That was in March of 2006, and I'm now into my second year. I've learned a lot in doing this work. I have some skills because I used to have an uncle who worked in a machine shop, so I learned how to use some of the tools, drills, sanders, grinders, and I brought that knowledge to the heritage project.

What projects on this restoration do you like doing most?

I think, basically, I enjoy most being part of a team and seeing the result of our work. When I'm doing whatever job Bob Ashton assigns me to do, I look around and see some of the other workers doing the woodwork, or doing the welding, refinishing or the stripping of wood. I get satisfaction from being on the team and seeing the car come together. I was not there when they took the car apart but I am there now to help put the car together.

After you've done that, are you going to want to drive it?

I have every hope of becoming a licensed operator of the rail car. I've got a distance to go because even though I do have an air brake ticket, it's not the same for rail. But I'm hopeful I'll be able to meet the qualifications.

I'd like to ask members of the public to bring their skills to help us with this project. I'd like to see the public more aware of what we do because they need to know that we have a heritage project that they should all be proud of here in British Columbia.



The Ballad of 1225

There are stories told, a century old
Of the Interurban line
That served the Fraser Valley folks
And delivered them on time,
The Electric Railway line, The Interurban line

Manufactured by St. Louis Car
She was brought upon the scene
She was number twelve and twenty-five
In nineteen and thirteen
And so she did her best, Of the growing restless west



Day on day
Twelve twenty-five, would run the line,
Just looking fine
Year on year, She'd run the line.



Well she ran the trail of the steel rail
Across the growing land
She was strong and proud and well endowed
To do the job at hand
And so she did it well, And so she did it well

Then came her fate in fifty-eight
When they wanted her no more
They banished her to rot and rust
Upon a foreign shore
A sad and sorry end, For a true and loyal friend

Chorus

With a hiss and squeal of steel on steel
She glides across my mind
Like a memory from the distant past
She's coming back you'll find
A special paradigm, Of a once and future time

Soon now you can climb aboard
And ride history today
With the motormen both here and gone
Who never lost their way
And brought her back to stay. Listen as they say

One more time
Twelve twenty-five, will run the line,
She's looking fine
One more time, she'll run the line

Words & Music by Ray Hudson (c) 2008



Performed November 12, 2008 by Circle of Friends for Councillor
Judy Higgsbotham ... *thanks for your help and participation!*



Fraser Valley Heritage
Railway Society

NEWS

Published by the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society for
its membership, sponsors and limited public distribution.

The Editorial Board welcomes brief letters and stories
recalling when BCER's interurban trains plied the rails
between New Westminster and Chilliwack.

Send contributions to:
Ray Hudson, Editor, FVHRS News
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Business card size ads are welcome at
\$20 per placement per issue.

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