



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society NEWS

FALL 2005 - SPECIAL EDITION WITH PICTURE POSTER INSIDE

BCER 1225 REPATRIATED



On September 17, the official ribbon cutting was conducted by (left to right) Motorman Vic Sharman, Councillors Penny Priddy, Marvin Hunt (Acting Mayor), and Judy Villeneuve, Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon, Motorman Frank Horne and Chair, John Sprung



Almost 50 years in the sun and rain of Southern California have had a toll on 1225. It runs, but a lot of work is needed.

The last Interurban Car to operate on the BC Electric Railway system has been repatriated by the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society.

BCER 1225 is a standard interurban car, manufactured by the St. Louis Car Company in 1912. It was operated "pay as you enter" from Vancouver to either Burnaby Lake or Steveston from 1912 to 1958. U. S. rail fans rescued it from destruction. About 90 pieces of rolling stock were scrapped when BC Electric transformed from "Rails to Rubber". 1225 was towed to Perris, California (near San Diego) on its own wheels. The Orange Empire Railway Museum has kept it operational.

The St. Louis design provided wrap-around steel side plating and window screens for safety and a high, arched roof for ventilation. This is the last class 28 car to retain original features such as Watson wheel-guard safety scoops. These are deployed when low sling triggers detect an object on the tracks.

Former FVHRS Director Bill Watson visited Orange Empire in 2002 and

commenced negotiations for obtaining 1225. Ultimately, the Museum Directors decided that, while the interurban car had significant heritage value, it was no longer central to their collection and return to the region where it had operated was appropriate.

The purchase price of about \$300,000 Canadian was raised by FVHRS with very generous support from the City of Surrey and the BC Ministry of Transportation. Councillor Judy Higginbotham is the Society's liaison with Surrey. Presented with a FVHRS hat at the reception ceremony, Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon joked it was the most expensive hat ever received on behalf of the citizens of BC. Fund raising was no mean feat; FVHRS Director Allen Aubert was dauntless in the effort. In August, FVHRS Director Bob Ashton went to Perris where members of Orange Empire helped with preparations for moving. Because of road height limitations, the body of 1225 was lifted off its trucks. Windows were boarded up. A torrential storm, complete with hail and a

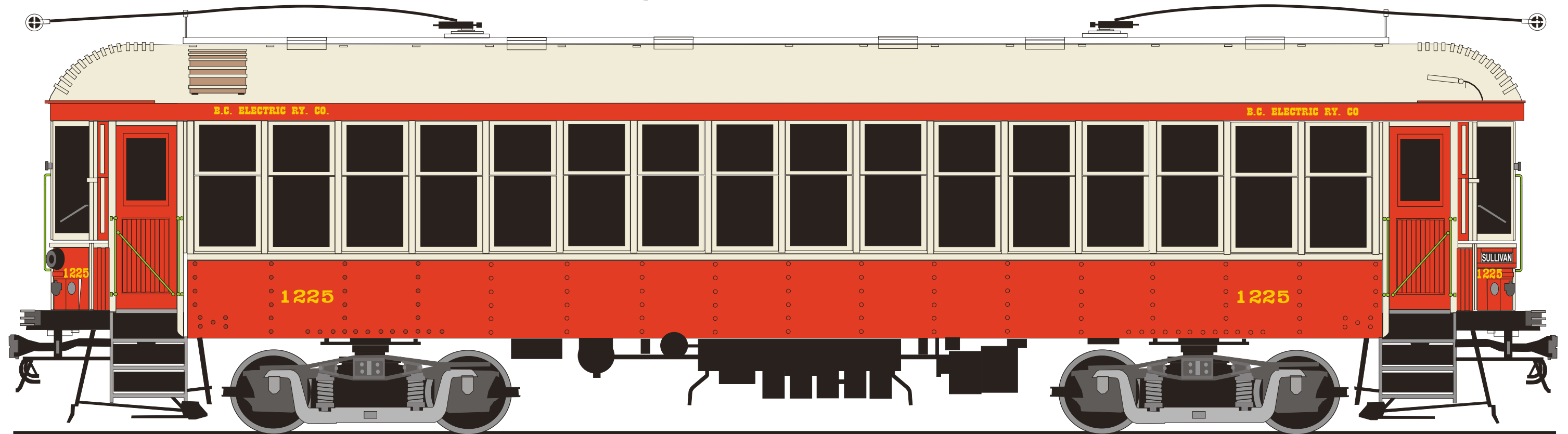
twister that ripped the roof off a near-by building, caused some anxious moments as the move commenced at noon on August 7th. PCC Transport expertly negotiated a specified route northward. Pacific Customs Brokers Ltd. assisted at the Canadian border. "Anything to declare?" "Just 35 tons of Interurban!" The most dramatic event of the whole move was when GWIL Cranes picked the chassis of 1225 off the 90 foot transport, swung it over the fence at the Sullivan Car Barn and set it down on the trucks. A length of rail had been extended by PNR Railworks out of the west bay of the Barn. The car was then jacked inside. Safe at home after 47 years.



Built by: The St. Louis Car Company
Date: 1913
BCER Service to 1958
Vancouver to Steveston & Burnaby Lake



Length Overall: 51 feet
Height Rail to Roof: 13 feet 2 inches
Weight: 70,800 pounds
Seats: 42 rattan + 18 wood



LAST RUN
 Car 1225 arrived at Marpole from Steveston just after 1:00 AM on February 28th, 1958, (left).

This terminated scheduled rail passenger service by the British Columbia Electric Railway

Conductor Lawrence Love in Car 1225 on the last run (right)



Car 1225 was cared for by the Orange Empire Rail Museum in Perris, California (left)

After 47 years and an epic trip, Car 1225 “flies” the last few feet to the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway compound at Sullivan Station, Surrey, British Columbia August, 2005 (right)



BCER Car 1225



1225 RESORATION COMMENCES - INSIDE & OUT



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:
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Business card size ads are welcome at \$20 per placement per issue.

For more information contact:
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Almost 50 years in the sun and rain of Southern California have had a toll on 1225. It runs, but a lot of work is needed before the Society can offer rides to the public. The restoration crew, headed by FVHRS Director Bob Ashton, needs volunteers. Woodworking skills an asset, but there are lots of opportunities for both skilled and unskilled workers. Contact Bob at 604-591-8141 or via e-mail rashton@dccnet.com. The rattan seats are removed for restoration off site. Fittings are carefully inventoried. A list of required parts is being assembled. Finding or manufacturing replacements will be a challenge.

RAVAGED BY RITA

How can our society, safe in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, be affected by a Hurricane coming ashore on the Caribbean coast? It turns out the servers containing www.fvhrs.org are housed near the Texas Gulf Coast. So when havoc hit, down went our web site. Chair John Sprung, who created and maintains the web site, spent some frantic hours trying to find out why we were "off the air". Recovery wasn't trivial. New servers had to be found, there was a lot of competition. And then, in a kind of domino effect, our local provider changed his business plan and we are experiencing another scramble. At one point we had three sites .org, .com & .net. This should stabilize with www.fvhrs.org back in business shortly. Hang in there

PREMIUMS 4 PROMOTION

A substantial contribution by an FVHRS member has provided funds to advance its visibility through *premiums*. Hats, shirts, pins and recordings are currently available, but they're not for sale. Because the seed money was donated, they are provided, in return for donations which equal or exceed their cost. The Premium Fund is thus replenished and any excess is forwarded to our operational budget. The Society also uses Premiums to acknowledge valuable efforts on its behalf.

Music CDs and DVDs by Tillers Folley feature "The Electric Railway Line" now the FVHRS theme song. Order from Director Terry Lyster, 604-859-5391 (an Abbotsford number) or via e-mail tlyster@shaw.ca.

Trams and Streetcars are a stamp collecting topical specialty

