



Vol 15

THE MAIN LINE



No 4

*The Monthly Bulletin
of the New England Electric Railway Historical Society Libraries*

June 2023



A Great Fourth Of July Holiday And All The Best To Our Friends And
Neighbors North Of The Border For A Happy Canada Day On July First.



Goings On at Seashore —

Happy Birthday Seashore!

The museum was founded on July 5, 1939 - 84 years ago - with eight members and an investment of \$150.00.

Seashore Trolley Museum's 1924 New Orleans Trolley #966 has returned to service on the Lowell National Historic Park's street railway system, as of Saturday June 24th / Sunday June 25th, and will operate for each Saturday / Sunday and Monday holiday through the Summer/Fall season.

NOTE CHANGED DATE - NOW JULY 7 AT 9AM - FOR JULY LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING!



Upcoming Events:

Note that some events sell out so check for more info, online ticket sales etc at <https://trolleymuseum.org/events/>.

Saturday, July 1: Canada Day. Admission is free for Canadian citizens.

Wednesday, July 5: Seashore Turns 84! The first 100 guests will receive a sweet treat to help us celebrate our 84th birthday.

Wednesday, July 5: Ice Cream Night! Proceeds benefit The Center, a nonprofit that provides activities and supports seniors living in the Kennebunks.

Saturday, July 8: Next Generation Day. Families become a part of the magic as they become Assistant Trolley Conductors for the day. Special tours of the campus and the SOAC cars will be offered. This is going to be a great event for the young railfan; you won't want to miss it!

Saturday, July 8: Corn Hole Tournament. To register, download the "Scoreholio" app on your mobile device and search for "Seashore Trolley Museum." There are two tournaments to choose from—competitive or social. Registration is \$60/team for competitive and social is \$20/person. 80% goes in the pot for the top 3 winners and 20% goes to Seashore. Vendors Iconic Cornhole and Catalyst for Change.

Sunday, July 9: Moxie Day at Seashore. Free samples of Moxie and Diet Moxie included with admission!

Wednesday, July 12: Ice Cream Night! Proceeds benefit the Arundel Conservation Trust.

Saturday, July 15: Crazy Hat Day! Wear a crazy hat and get free admission. Regular hats worn on usual days don't meet the definition of crazy (even if it is a NY Giants hat).

Wednesday, July 19: Ice Cream Night! Proceeds Benefit Habitat for Humanity York County.

Saturday/Sunday July 22 & 23: Daniel Tiger Visits Seashore! Hooray, he's coming back!

Wednesday, July 27: Ice Cream Night! Proceeds Benefit the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust.

Saturday/Sunday July 29 & 30: First Responder Days. To show our appreciation, first responders' admission is free this weekend. Grab your ticket at the door to get the discount.

For further additional event information and ongoing information throughout the year be sure to check: <https://trolleymuseum.org/events/> .



Advance FYI for 2024-

Friday-Sunday March 1-3, 2024:

Seashore Trolley Museum will be hosting Northeast Association of Trolley Organization's Winterfest.



Do You Recognize ?

Last Month's do You Recognize -

We are in New England again with this interesting little railway. The Waterville, Fairfield, and Oakland was one of its state's last six electric railways which, from 1911 to 1937, connected Waterville with the neighboring namesake of Fairfield and Oakland. Owned by the state's major power company, it was the first of three traction properties of that corporation.



In this image from a colorized postcard is the street railway's #1, a 14-bench open built by Stephenson in 1902 and purchased second-hand in 1903. This scene is by the railroad station in the square at Oakland.

Formed through a consolidation of the Waterville and Fairfield Railroad, which started as a horse car line in 1888, and a street railway company, the Waterville and Oakland Street Railway, which began operation in 1903, it was primarily a passenger carrier throughout its existence, although

for a number of years it did provide terminal facilities for the freight and express service operated by a connecting street railway company. Only slightly over ten miles long, this railway connected its namesake city and towns over a modern first-rate system from 1911 through 1937. Our line and two adjacent lines comprised a group of lines that made up the eastern end of a continuous electric railway route of some 400 miles from New York City across the northeast.



Car #11 - 12-bench open - Briggs (1900)

As of 1893, the equipment of the originally horse car line consisted of three motor cars, five trailers and the two barges. A 20-ft box was added in 1894.



Carbarn in Oakland (1906)
Messalonskee Hall

By 1896, the equipment included:

Box cars equipped for electric power 3

Open cars equipped for electric power 4

Open trailers 4

Total passenger cars 11

Work cars 1

Snow plows 1

Carts and Snow sleds 1

Barges 2

The road was 4.36 miles in length, plus .073 mile of sidings and turnouts, for a total of 4.443 miles of track.

By 1902 the line included four closed and five open cars and one snow plow, mostly the passenger equipment was a product of the Briggs Carriage



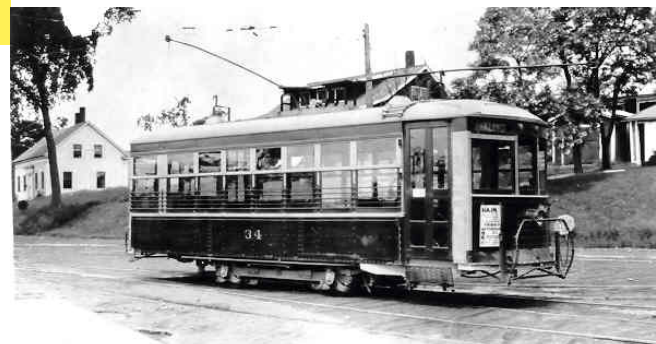
No. #60, 31 ft. safety car - JG Brill (1922) acquired 1931 passing No. 50, 33 ft. closed car - Kuhlman (1918) in Waterville



Line car No. #33- Company Shops (1924)

Company. Two 25-ft box acquired from the Boston Elevated in 1900 had been built as sample cars for the Elevated by Briggs c 1899.

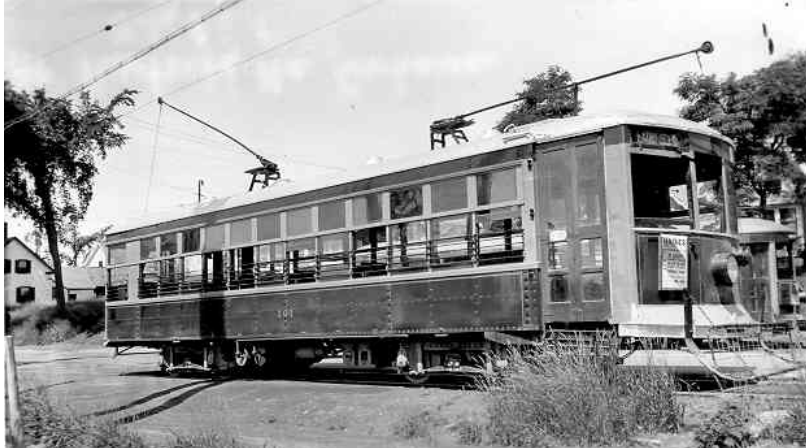
The second half of the 1911 consolidation that formed our line also acquired Briggs products in the form of four 25-ft Duplexes in 1903. This line's first equipment also included two used 14 bench Stephenson double-truck opens.



Car No. #34, Birney - Watson (1919)

Service commenced on July 2, 1903 over a main line of 5.4 miles in length, with a total of .35 mile of sidings and turnouts.

Half-hourly service was instituted at the start and the railway was an immediate success. A large fairgrounds was located railway providing additional traffic during the fall. By 1907, the line had eight open, four-convertible cars, one work car, and one snow plow.



No. #101 - 31 ft. safety car - Wason (1922)

Consolidation of the lines had been authorized as early as 1909 but it was not until 1911, when the power company became involved, that the merger actually took place. The power company control of both

companies on Sept. 5, 1911 and on Nov. 1, it took over the power business of the old horsecar line. The final formalities took place on Nov. 20 and the name was changed to its final form. As of Dec. 1, 1911, the line owned 10.5 miles of route plus .45 mile of sidings and turnouts for a



Car No. # 56, 33 ft. closed - Wason (1920)

total of 10.95 track miles.



Carhouse in Fairfield - 1935

In 1917 major labor unrest struck the line. In September 1917, during the peak fall activity of the fairgrounds conductors and motormen went on strike to force the line to sign a union contract. The company used automobiles to provide transportation to the fairgrounds and a minimal trolley service was operated using linemen and other non-

striking railway employees. New employees were hired to break the strike. The strike ended in mid-September with the striking employees out of work.

Modernization of the passenger fleet began in 1918 with the arrival of two double-truck steel closed cars from G. C. Kuhlman. Two similar cars from Wason,



41 ft. double cab motor flat No. # 1 - company shops (former 14 bench open)



Plow No. 6 - (1901)

were acquired in 1922, one being new and the other second-hand (built in 1920) from an adjacent company also owned by our line's parent power company. Three single-truck Birneys from Wason were also added to the fleet. A fourth Wason Birney was purchased second-hand in 1926 from the same jointly owned company as the earlier (b.

1920) Wason. When in 1931 the decision was made to abandon that line three more double-truck safety cars were acquired from that line along with another double-truck safety car was purchased from a southern Massachusetts railway.

With the beginning of 1937 the company's rolling stock consisted of eight double-truck safety cars, three single-truck Birneys, two double-truck work cars, three snow plows, and one single truck sand car. In that year, faced with increasing motor vehicle competition, the power company decided to exit the trolley business. A petition to abandon was filed in mid-summer and granted at the beginning of September with



#30, built by Brill, after conversion to a sand car from a second-hand closed car obtained from an adjacent railway in 1927. The car is at the carhouse located in Oakland.

October 11 as the last day of trolley service. The following day a motorbus company began city service in the area and 19 years later (1956) the same local firm with the same president was operating 12 buses over 16 route-miles. In 1976 a community action program began serving the area and has to the present time.

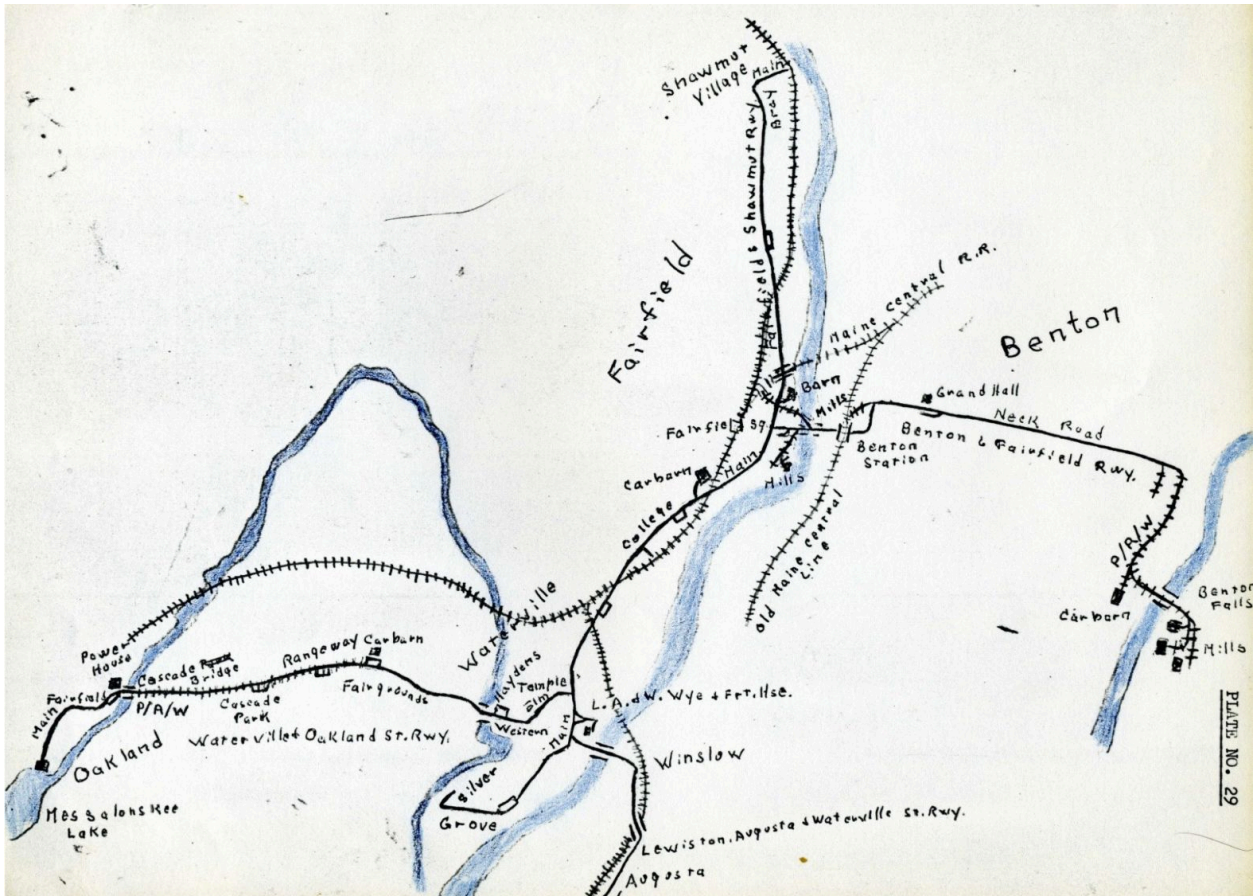


Plate 29 from The Illustrated Atlas of Maine's Street & Electric Railways
(Kennebunkport: New England Electric Railway Historical Society, 2014)



This Month's do You Recognize -

Our line of interest this month is a relatively small road constructed to serve a burgeoning, if small, resort city described as resembling a Swiss village.

Beginning in 1883 the city had been served by a branch line from a major regional steam road. The street car line opened as a mule car line c. 1891. The somewhat isolated location of the community nestled in a heavily forested group of mountains aided the early prosperity of both the steam road and the trolleys. Serious incursions by the motor coaches and private motor cars didn't begin until a good paved road connected

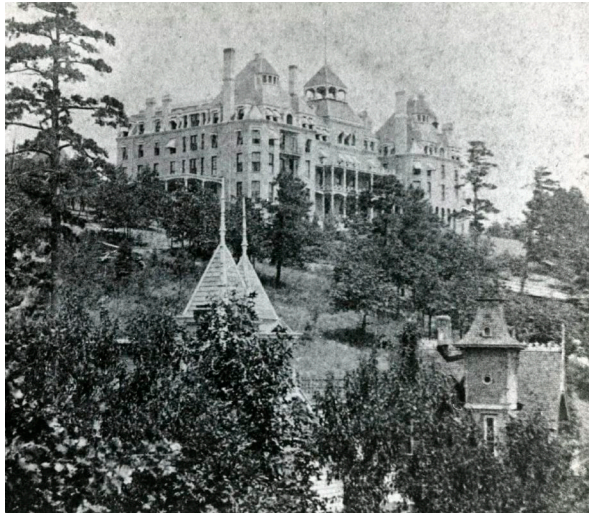


Early Open Mule Car - St.Louis Car? -
c 1895

to the city in 1920. In the Victorian era and up to the First World War the area grew in popularity especially for the purported health-giving qualities of its mineral springs, believed to have medicinal qualities. It was estimated that, at its peak, summer populations grew to around 10,000. The year-round population in 1890 was about 3,700 compared with today's 2,200.



The community - 1895



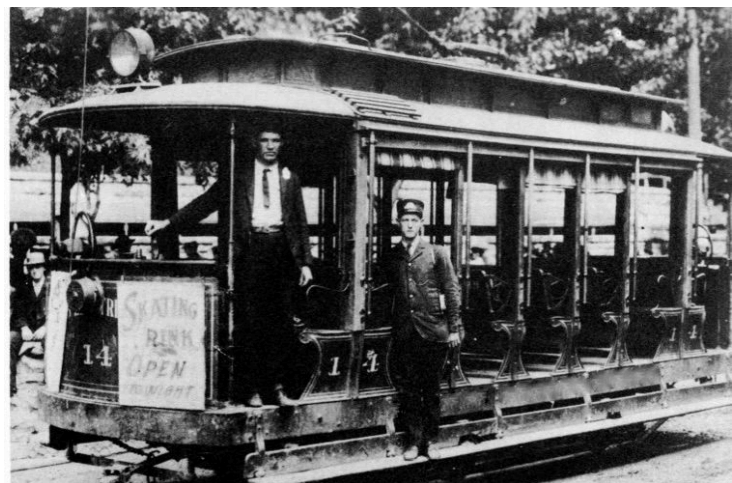
The palatial hotel on the hill - Built 1886

The trolley line opened with mule-power and the route was electrified c. 1898. The line was all single track with three passing turnouts. The line effectively reached its full length at electrification, some three and one-half miles, almost double the mule system. One of the oddest statistics concerning the system is that while a trip from one endpoint to the other was three and one-half miles, the two endpoints were about one-half mile

from each other! One endpoint being at the base of a quite steep hill and the other at the top serving a grand hotel, requiring an indirect route to achieve a sufficiently low grade.

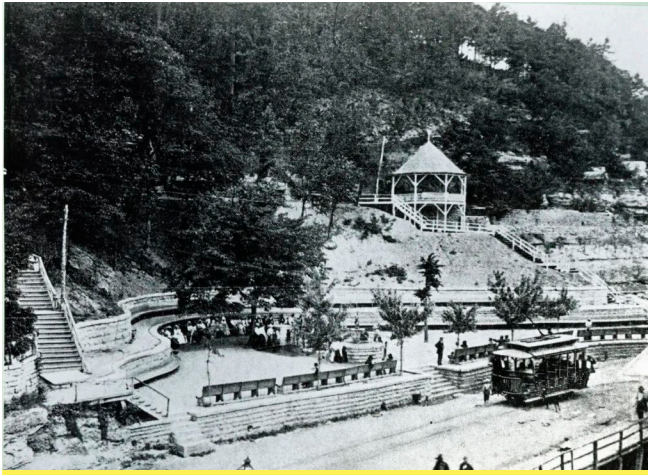
The fleet was also somewhat interesting although data is a little sparse and slightly questionable in the details. Between its opening and the cessation of service in 1923 the system seemingly

possessed a total fleet of 12 cars. The only new cars the line ever purchased were two open cars acquired from the St. Louis Car Company in 1904. Other than these two cars all of the line's equipment were supposedly ten second-hand horse (mule) cars acquired from Houston and subsequently electrified with second-hand electrical gear from Detroit. One



8-Bench Open Car No. #14 - St. Louis Car Co. (1904)
One of the only two new cars acquired by the line

car was a flat car that doubled to haul sightseeing groups on partying excursions for the various hotels. The entire fleet was equipped as single-truck, double ended, two-motor cars. There were five one-man closed cars and six two-man open-cars plus the flat.



An early electric (1890s) at a park located at one of the many mineral springs in the community

In the terms of sparse and questionable data impacting the above roster is a slight problem in that the St. Louis data I have indicates an incorrect state for the trolley line but seem to reflect the cars in every other way. Another

slight hiccup is that the ten Houston mule cars were noted as acquired in 1895/96 - this appears likely as this is when Houston was electrified. This presents a problem as our line was noted as starting c. 1891. Of course the 1891 start date may actually be the date the corporation was formed rather than the start of operations and both dates may be only from someone's memory.

A parting hint: Near the end of her life a woman who had a significant impact on the liquor industry in the United States, both physically and legislatively, lived in this community.



Library Committee



Library Committee

The Library Committee will hold a committee meeting on July 7, 2023 (9AM - 12PM) with a workshop following (12PM to 2PM). **[FRIDAY THE 7TH!]**

The Library Committee will hold a workshop in August, currently scheduled for August 12, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 1PM.- **THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE** - Cataloguing continued along with cleanup. Cleanup chores include general cleaning in the library, as well as sorting and organizing recently received materials. As the weather warms this spring a cleanup in the containers will also be done.

The Library Committee's meetings on Saturdays are held on a bimonthly basis on the odd months followed by a workshop with standalone workshops from 10AM -2PM on the even months. Updated information will be forthcoming as available. (SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO SUMMER WEATHER AND TRAFFIC CONCERNS).

The Wednesday Evening Workshops are still cancelled - hopefully resumption in the future. There is also discussion of possible additional workshops.

For further information/questions concerning the Library please contact Karen Dooks (781-799-5868).

By Karen Dooks, Chair

Currently scheduled meeting dates for 2023 with business meeting followed by workshop: July 7; September 9, and November 11

Scheduled workshop dates for 2023: August 12; October 14; and December 9

Links:

More than 1000 of the images are accessible online = https://digitalmaine.com/trolley_images/



Seashore Library On-Line Resources -

A library resources page originally developed by Amber Tatnall dealing with useful and interesting resource material including, among other things, links to some three decades of the Street Railway Journal and the Electric Railway Journal on line is located at on line resources:

<https://virtual.yccc.edu/c.php?g=238406&p=3225494&preview=7b52901d1f51db2b76cb2a141ca8589c>

or this handy tinyurl works as well: <http://tinyurl.com/zwhndoe> The Library continues to upload material to the various sections of DigitalMaine - The DigitalMaine Repository is a partnership of the Maine State Library, Maine State Archives and community institutions around the state.

The uploads to the new documents area are quite fascinating as they allow you to literally leaf through the documents.

https://digitalmaine.com/trolley_museum/
https://digitalmaine.com/trolley_blueprints/
https://digitalmaine.com/trolley_images/
https://digitalmaine.com/trolley_documents/

Please remember when sending donations for the library to note that it is for Library Development – Fund 951.



The Main Line - **Availability** If you are not on our direct distribution list and would like to be, please drop a note to TheMainLine@ramsdell.com.

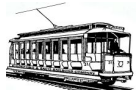
Regards,

Ed Ramsdell, Editor

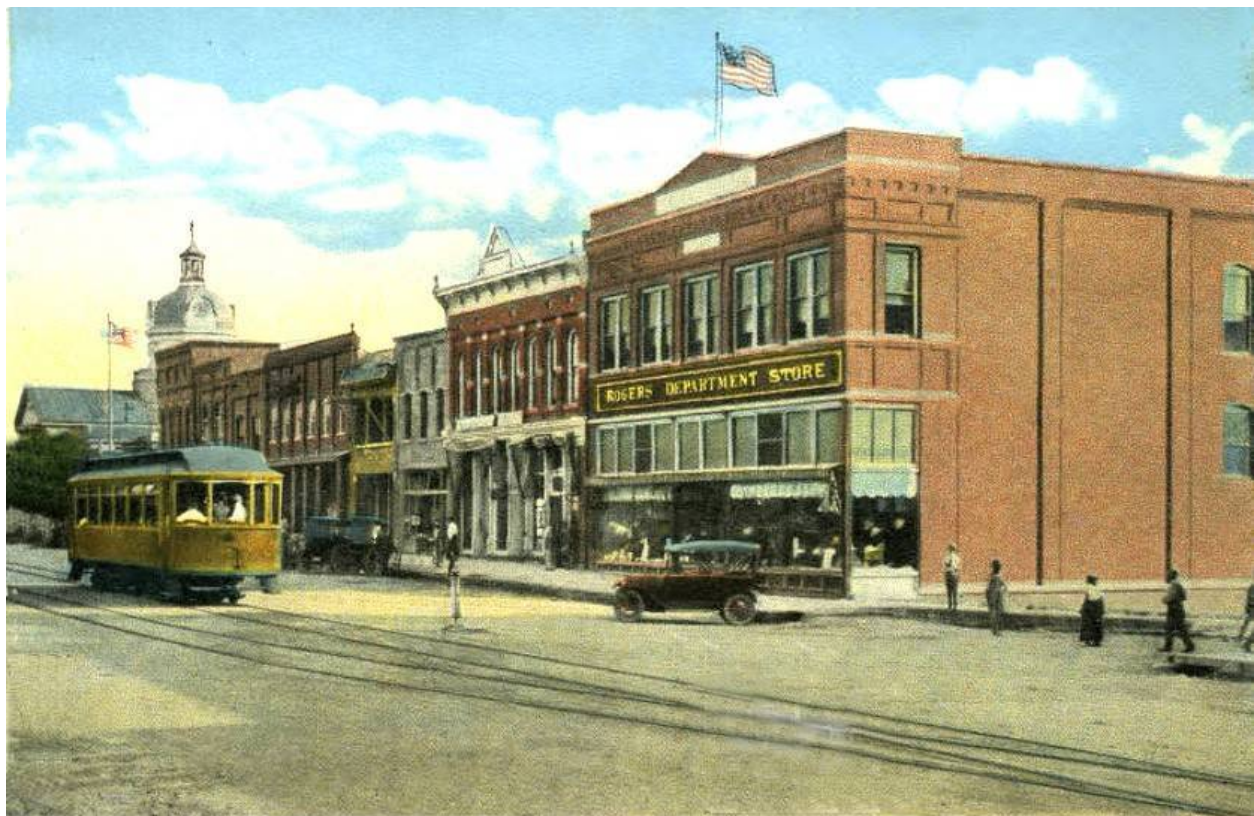
The Main Line

TheMainLine@ramsdell.com

<http://www.trolley museum.org>



Transit Postcards (AL) -



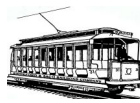
VIEW OF BUSINESS SECTION, COURT STREET, FLORENCE, ALA.

(location as above)



Mobile -





JULY

Museum						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 Dino Trolley! (Sold Out)	26	27	28 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	29 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	30 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	1 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Canada Day at Seashore!
2 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	3	4	5 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Seashore Turns 84! Ice Cream Night! 5:30PM-7:30PM	6 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	7 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	8 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Corn Hole Tournament Next Generation Day
9 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Moxie Day 2023 at Seashore	10	11	12 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Ice Cream Night! 5:30PM-7:30PM	13 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	14 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	15 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Crazy Hat Day!
16 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	17	18	19 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)	20 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time	21 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time	22 Daniel Tiger Visits Seashore
23 Daniel Tiger Visits Seashore	24	25	26 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)	27 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time	28 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time	29 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) First Responder Appreciation Weekend at Seashore
30 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) First Responder Appreciation Weekend at Seashore	31	1	2 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)	3 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time	4 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Free Story Time	5 Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM) Boston Day at Seashore!

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)			Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)
First Responder Appreciation Weekend at Seashore			Free Story Time	Free Story Time	Free Story Time	Boston Day at Seashore!
			Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)			Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Dino Trolley
			Free Story Time	Free Story Time	Free Story Time	
			Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Dino Trolley			Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Members Day and Open House at Seashore
			Free Story Time	Free Story Time	Free Story Time	
			Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)			Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)
			Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)			Pirate Day!
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)			Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)	Open Today! (9:30AM-4:30PM)
Ham Radio Day			Ice Cream Night! (5:30PM-7:30PM)			Model Railroad Layout Days



HAM RADIO DAY

With the York County Amateur Radio Club

Sunday August 27 | 9:30AM-4:30PM



To purchase tickets visit trolley museum.org/events

