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In This Issue:
**Westchester
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Company
...Page 2**

INTERESTING EXHIBITS IN THE TRANSIT MUSEUM

The New York Transit Museum reopened to the public on September 16, 2003 after being closed for two years for extensive renovations. It is the largest museum in the United States devoted to urban transportation history.

The highlight of the museum is the vintage collection of 16 subway and elevated cars, which were refurbished by NYC Transit's Division of Car Equipment. These cars are in mint condition. Visitors may walk through the cars, sit in the rattan seats (in the older cars), and enjoy the surroundings. They may visit a working signal tower, located at the end of the platform.

Checking the Internet, we found details of other exhibits:

ON THE STREETS: NEW YORK'S TROLLEYS AND BUSES — This exhibit presents a history of surface transportation from the early 1880s through the 21st century. In the center is a simulated traffic intersection, complete with traffic lights coordinated with walk/don't walk signs, parking meters, and fire hydrants. Visitors will enjoy seeing a new wheelchair-accessible twelve-seat bus, a refurbished 1960s bus cab, and a child-sized trolley. Exhibition sidebars credit the two men who perfected electric traction. Frank Julian Sprague (1857-1934, ERA member #1) designed and operated the first streetcar system in Richmond, Virginia in 1887-88. Granville T. Woods (1856-1910) was an African-American inventor who patented more than 60 devices that helped develop telegraphs, telephones, and electric trains. The third rail, which was successfully demonstrated in Coney Island in 1892, was probably his most important invention.

The new Dr. George T.F. Rahilly Trolley and

Bus Study Center features over 50 detailed models of Brooklyn trolley and work cars.

A new exhibit on fare collection features the first paper ticket choppers used in 1904, turnstiles that accepted coins and tokens, and the *MetroCard* turnstile currently in operation, as well as a fifty-year history of the token.

ELEVATED CITY: A HISTORY OF THE EL'S IN NEW YORK was first shown in the Museum's Grand Central Terminal Gallery Annex in June, 2002. It was adapted and reinstalled in the Museum's mezzanine level. Photos show New York City's first mass transportation lines from their construction until they ceased operations.

STEEL, STONE, AND BACKBONE: BUILDING NEW YORK'S SUBWAYS 1900-1925, the Museum's popular exhibit, has been completely refurbished. Pictures taken over 100 years ago show the building of New York's first subway line, various tunneling methods, and the people who built it.

NEW YORK'S FORGOTTEN SUBSTATIONS: THE POWER BEHIND THE SUBWAY is an exhibition of the photographs showing the original substations that once housed rotary converters which converted alternating current to direct current to drive the subway cars.

MOVING THE MILLIONS, a new exhibit on the platform level, uses historical photographs, diagrams, cartoons, period maps, and newspaper clippings to demonstrate the magnitude and complexity of New York's rapid transit system.

The station in which the Transit Museum is located has an interesting history. When the IND Fulton Street Line was opened on April 9, 1936, a two-car HH shuttle was single-tracked on the southbound track between

(Continued on page 3)