

The Bulletin



Electric Railroaders' Association, Incorporated

Vol. 64, No. 3

March, 2021

The Bulletin

Published by the
Electric Railroaders'
Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3323
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

For general inquiries,
or *Bulletin* submissions,
contact us at
[https://erausa.org/
contact](https://erausa.org/contact)

Editorial Staff:

Jeff Erlitz
*Editor-in-Chief and
International Editor*

Ron Yee
*Tri-State and North
American News Editor*

David Ross
Production Manager

Copyright © 2021 ERA

This Month's Cover Photo:

Boston Elevated Railway
Main Line at Dudley Street
station, c. 1904.
Unknown photographer,
Detroit Publishing Company
collection, Library of Con-
gress

In This Issue: The Genesis of Dashing Dan... Page 3

GARY GRAHL, 1935-2021 by Randy Glucksman

Member Gary Grahl (ERA #2823) passed away on February 5, 2021, after being hospitalized for several weeks. Gary was born in the Bronx on October 28, 1935 and attended some of the same schools that I did, Public School 28 and Junior High School 117. Despite our age difference, we had some of the same teachers. Gary graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School and the City College of



Gary Grahl at TTC Leslie Car House on a Toronto Transportation Society trip.

Andrew Grahl photograph

New York, where he earned his Bachelor and Master's degrees. Gary made his career as a New York City junior and intermediate school teacher and was very well thought of by his co-workers and students. I learned this by attending some of his field trips and speaking with other attendees.

Gary and I first met in the early Spring of 1965 when I appeared before a then-required ERA Interview Committee prior to being accepted as ERA member #3213. He was one member of this committee, which also included Roger Arcara, Allan Hannock and Hal Spielman, all men that I would later count as friends. After the interview when I returned home, I mentioned Gary's name to my parents who confirmed, "of course we know him and his family." My father had

owned a five-and-ten-cent store in the Mt. Hope section of the Bronx during the 1940s and 1950s where we and Gary's family lived. My Dad was a stamp collector and also sold stamps in his store. Gary was a customer and told me that he still had those stamps. On occasion he kidded that he knew my parents longer than I did. That was true. Gary enjoyed telling me interesting stories about my Dad and their conversa-

tions, which I did not know.

Gary had been a close friend since that time, later attending each other's family life cycle events, the joyous ones and also the sad ones. We were groomsmen at each other's weddings and spoke on the phone frequently. Of course, we also railfanned.

Many members do not know that Gary was also a vexillologist, a person who studies flags. In fact, along with his friend the late Whitney Smith, he co-founded the North American Vexillological Association, and designed flags for several countries. They also co-wrote several books about the history of flags.

For all the years that I knew Gary, he has been a member of a choir and an active

(Continued on page 2)