



Harvey Laner & Ralph Cantos | June 16, 2023

Our June Zoom program, **Ralph Cantos' 1966 Eastern Traction Odyssey**, takes us on a most memorable eastern traction adventure as it existed over 56 years ago. The mid-1960s was a transitional time with several transit operations moving from private to public ownership. A Laner Rail Videos production, Ralph's historic 16mm film was edited and transferred to video by Harvey Laner and will be narrated by both men.

Native Southern California railfan Ralph Cantos made his first tour of the eastern U.S. and Toronto in September 1966. For three weeks, armed with a vintage 16mm movie camera and lots of film, he rode and filmed rail transit in and around Chicago, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Newark, and Boston. Properties visited include:

- **Chicago:** CTA Ls, Illinois Central electric commuter trains, and the South Shore Line
- **Toronto:** Subway and streetcars; CP and CN RDCs
- **Pittsburgh:** PCC streetcars
- **Philadelphia:** PCC streetcars, Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Co. including former CNS&M Electro-liners, and the Reading Company electric operations
- Additional footage includes Newark City Subway PCCs, Pennsylvania Railroad Northeast Corridor GG-1s and

commuter trains, Erie-Lackawanna electric commuter operations, Boston PCCs, NYNH&H, and B&M RDCs.

Video producer **Harvey Laner** grew up in Chicago. Soon after his family moved to Los Angeles in 1953, Harvey joined the Southern California Division of the ERA (SC/ERA). He was also one of 14 founding members of the Orange Empire Traction Company in Perris, Calif., today's Southern California Railway Museum, and was a speaker at the ERA's 2022 Annual Convention in San Diego.

Ralph Cantos is a Los Angeles-based transit enthusiast. The Pacific Electric Railway Historical Society is home to the Ralph Cantos Collection of transit photography, and he has also amassed a significant private collection of vintage model buses. Ralph was a longtime friend to the late John Pappas, former ERA first vice president and frequent *Headlights* contributor.

How to Join Our Zoom Meeting

A Zoom registration button will be posted on erausa.org a few days before the meeting. We will send you a personalized link to join the meeting. You may sign in at 7:15 p.m. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. If you have a problem signing in, contact **Bob Newhouser** at bnnyc1955@aol.com, or on the night of the meeting, text or call Bob at [917-482-4235](tel:917-482-4235).

