

Green Pennant Special

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OMNIBUS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. APRIL/MAY 2006

Welcome to another issue of The Green Pennant Special, the official publication of The Omnibus Society of America.

Through this publication we hope to keep our readers informed of events happening in the transit industry in Chicago and other cities in the United States.

Visit the Omnibus Society of America website at "www.osabus.com". At osabus.com we will be posting upcoming fan trips and meetings information, as well as membership information.

Please visit our site when you have a chance and give us your opinions and comments.

• MAY OSA MEETING

The May meeting of the Omnibus Society of America will be held on May 5, 2006, in the Anderson Pavilion of Swedish Covenant Hospital, 2751 W. Winona Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Our program for the evening "*Seattle Trackless Trolleys of the Mid 1970's*" will be a slide presentation presented by Jack Doyle.

The hospital is on California near Foster. Winona is one half-block south of Foster. By public transportation, take the 92 Foster to California. From the Ravenswood Brown Line, take the 93 North California from Kimball, get off after it turns onto California from Foster and walk back south. Or, take the 11 Lincoln from Western; get off at Carmen (One block south of Foster) and walk west on Winona.

There is some parking on California and Winona. The parking structure is on the west side of California just south of Foster.

We are beginning a new feature with this issue of The Green Pennant Special. We will begin publishing photos that the presenter showed to illustrate his presentation at OSA.

The March 2006 meeting was presented by Robert Madison who gave a slide presentation on transit in Vancouver, Canada.

The April meeting was presented by Melvin Bernero who gave a slide presentation on transit in Indiana and Michigan.



Vancouver New Flyer 2101 at Oak Ridge Transit Center



Vancouver MCI Classic B4161 pulling out from Burnaby Transit Centre.



Grand Rapids Gillig 204

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Marquette MI. 2

• CTA CORNER

THINK PINK

On March 30, 2006, the Chicago Transit Board selected pink as the color for its new experimental rail service from more than 500 entries submitted by Chicagoland area students from kindergarten through eighth grade. At its February meeting, board members approved a six-month experimental period for an additional rail route on what is now the 54th/Cermak branch of the Blue Line. Participating students were asked to nominate a color for the new line along with an essay explaining their choice and speaking to the importance of transit service to their community.



Here is a photo supplied by Bruce Moffat of one of the Douglas-Loop training trains photographed westbound at Clinton-Lake station.

Entries were submitted from throughout the region including Carol Stream, Villa Park, Brookfield, Calumet City, Cicero and Roselle.

The new Pink Line will connect the former 54th/Cermak

Blue Line to the Loop via a restored section of track known as the Paulina Connector. Currently the 54th/Cermak branch of the Blue Line serves customers along Cermak Avenue, turns near Paulina and joins the Forest Park branch along the Eisenhower Expressway to travel into the Loop through the Dearborn subway.

Instead of traveling through the subway, the new experimental service will reroute 54th/Cermak trains to the elevated tracks using the recently rehabilitated track near Paulina Street. Trains will continue to travel along Paulina via the new connector tracks and join the Green Line at Lake Street to travel into the Loop in a clockwise direction on the elevated track.

This reroute is designed to provide customers with increased and faster service. Direct service to the Loop elevated also means enhanced connections to the Orange, Brown and Green Lines, Purple Line Express service and Metra. During morning and evening rush hour commutes, customers will have a choice of the current 54th/Cermak Blue Line routing via the Dearborn subway or elevated service via the Paulina Connector.

The new Pink Line service is one of several experimental service enhancements planned for the West Side and West Suburbs based on the results of the CTA's West Side Corridor Study. A total of five new bus routes have been created – three express routes and two local routes – four existing bus routes are being extended and routing and schedule improvements are being made for four additional bus routes. Two current bus routes are being incorporated into other routes. Experimental bus service enhancements will take effect on Sunday, June 18.

In addition to the new Pink Line service, the frequency of service on the Forest Park branch of the Blue Line will increase, especially during weekday off-peak hours and weekends. Customers who board trains on the Forest Park branch between the Medical Center and Forest Park will benefit from increased frequency of service at all times, including weekends, and improved access to CTA and Pace buses along the route.

Rail service to the O'Hare branch of the 54th/Cermak via the Dearborn Street subway will be maintained during AM/PM rush hours. In addition, bus service on the #7 Harrison will provide connections between UIC's east campus and the Illinois Medical District. Enhanced service to O'Hare will still be possible at other times through a free transfer at Clark and Lake.
(www.transitchicago.com 03-30-06)

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Does the Omnibus Society of America have regular meetings?

Yes, the OSA meets regularly from September to June on the first Friday of the month in the Anderson Pavilion of Swedish Covenant Hospital, 2751 W. Winona Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The hospital is on California near Foster.

Programs range from talks and lectures by transit officials to movie, video, power point and slide presentations by members and invited guests.

Who are Omnibus Society of America members.

OSA members consist of both men and women from all age groups and all walks of life. Membership dues are \$25 per calendar year, and entitle members to attend regular meetings, receive meeting and fan trip notices and participate in annual election of officers.

Is there a publication?

Our publication, *Green Pennant Special* is issued 10 months out of the year (no publication in July and August), and is

mailed to paid up members.

The Green Pennant Special runs between two to eight pages and through this publication, we endeavor to keep our readers informed of events happening in the transit industry in Chicago and other cities in the United States.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I enclose payment in U.S. funds for \$25.00

Mail to:

Omnibus Society of America
PO Box A3051
Chicago, IL 60690-3051

Questions? Phone: 708-889-0955

Email: osabus@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.osabus.com

OMNIBUS



SOCIETY



OF AMERICA



Interested in Chicago transit history. Join our organization today.

**The Omnibus Society of America
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www.osabus.com

What is the Omnibus Society of America.

Since its inception in 1961, the OSA has grown to become one of Chicago's most active transportation enthusiast organization.

The Omnibus Society of America has operated over 170 inspection trips of various transit properties throughout the Midwest area.

These trips have ranged from such large systems as Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the smaller systems of Ames, Iowa and Waukegan, Illinois.

Our trips have taken us far north as Marquette, Michigan and as far south as Harrisburg, Illinois, as far west as Omaha, Nebraska, and as far east as Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Equipment on these trips has ranged from long distance highway coaches and touring busses to trackless trolleys and local transit-type vehicles. In fact, on one such inspection trip to Toledo, Ohio, a Ford tri-motor airplane was used as part of the tour.

