

Milwaukee's Streetcar Legacy

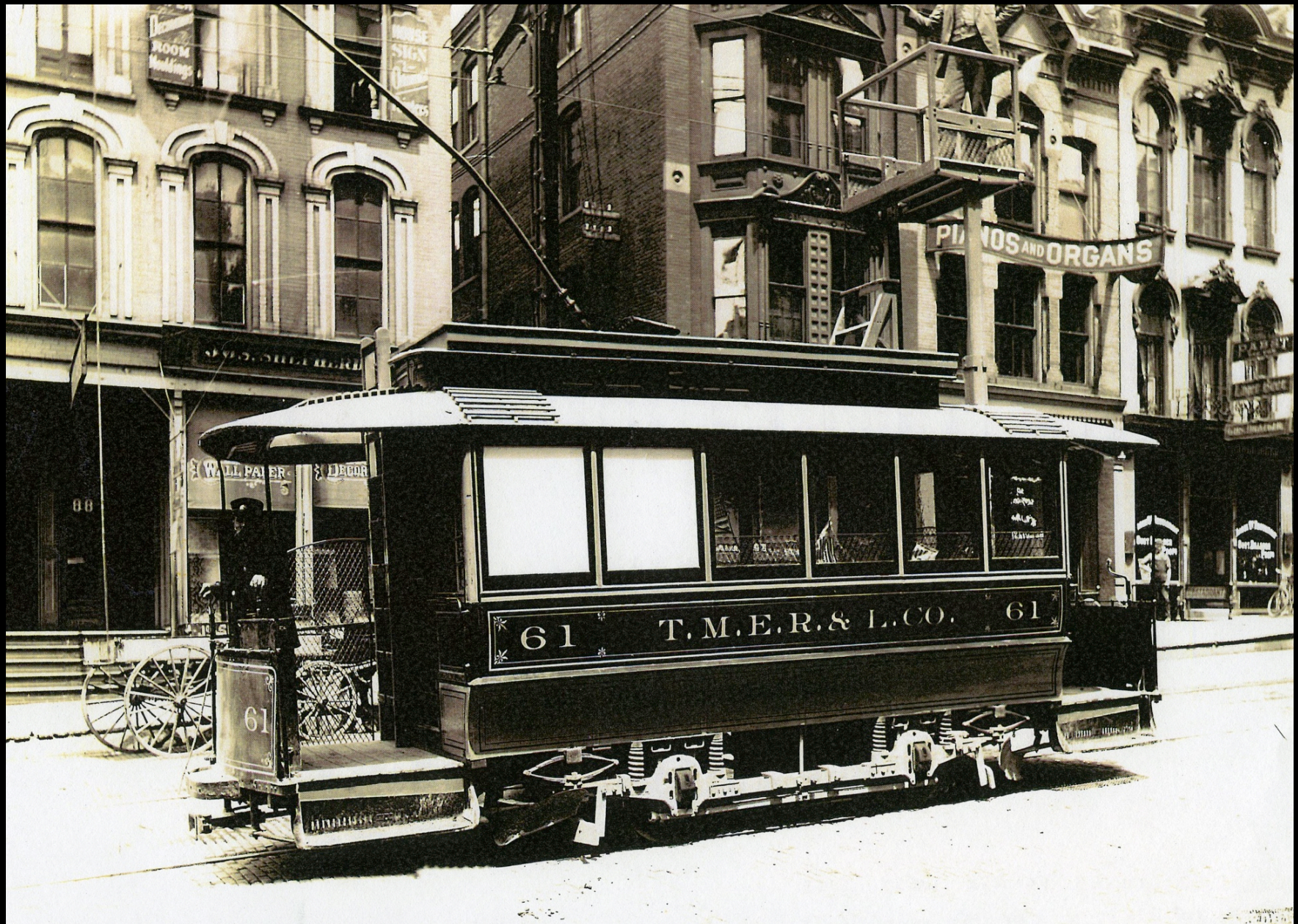
East Side, Downtown, and beyond

Historic Water Tower Neighborhood
Marcia Coles Community Room
November 7, 2018

Kevin P. Keefe

Milwaukee streetcar timeline

- May 3, 1860, first horsecar on River & Lakeshore Ry.
 - 1875, West Side Ry. begins operations
 - 1896, several lines consolidate as TMER&L Co.
- 1930, TM becomes Milwaukee Electric Ry. & Transport Co.
 - 1938, merger into Wisconsin Electric
 - March 28, 1948, Milwaukee Northern ceases service
 - September 2, 1950, 10 killed in Speedrail crash
 - June 30, 1951, Speedrail's last run to Hales Corners
 - January 21, 1953, streetcar service ends on Oakland Avenue
- March 2, 1958, all service ends with last run on Wells Street



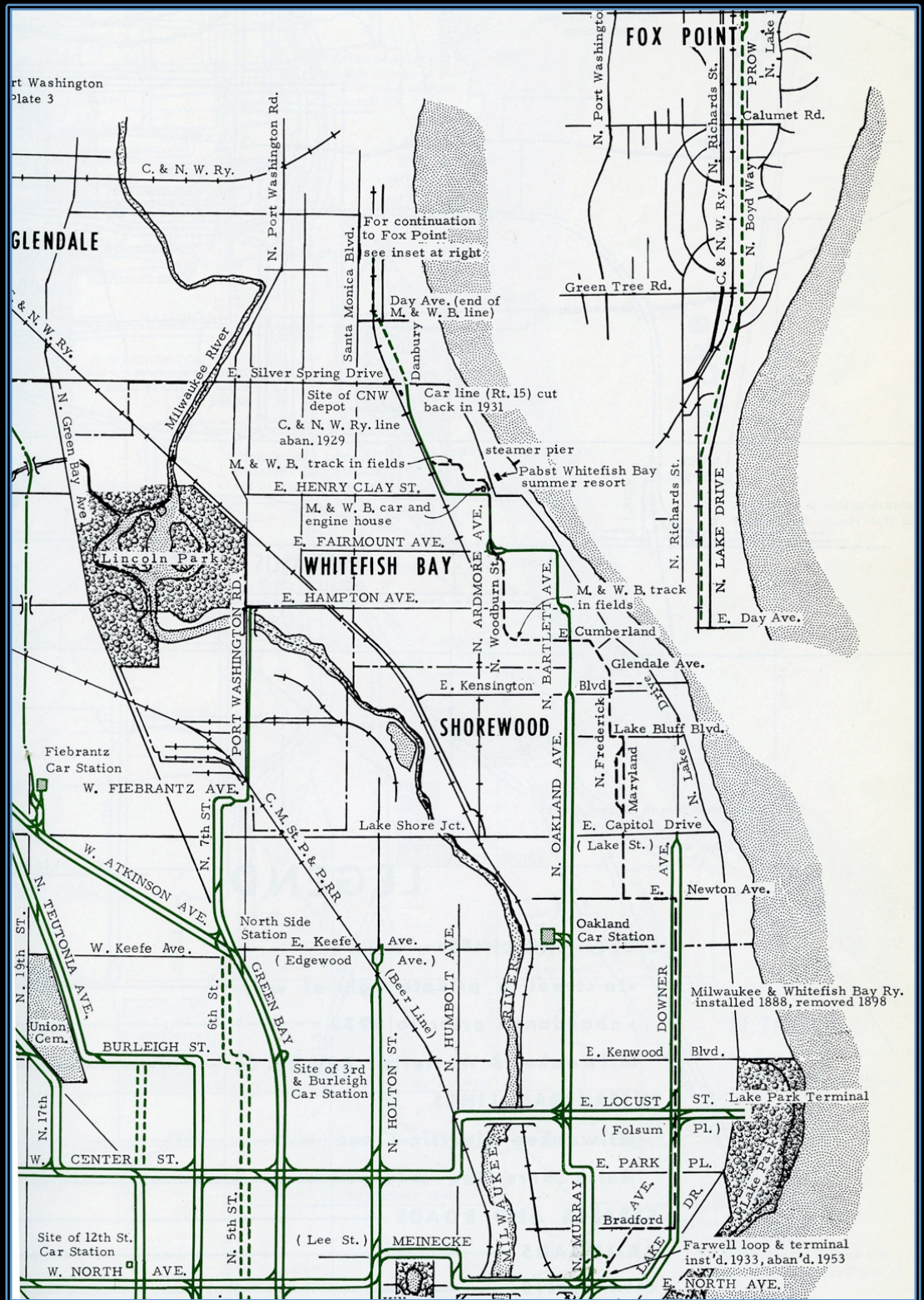
Former West Side Car No 1., believed to be the first electric car to run in Milwaukee on April 3, 1890.

Milwaukee County Historical Society



Streetcars and everything else, Sixth and Clybourn, in 1927.

Don Ross collection



Streetcar and interurban lines, plus steam railroads, on Milwaukee's East Side and in North Shore suburbs.

The TM in our midst



TM's Cold Spring
Shops as they look
today, on West
Highland Blvd.
Kevin P. Keefe photos





Substation at
the corner of
36th Street
and Wells.

*Kevin P. Keefe
photos*





Substation, 3120 W.
Burnham.

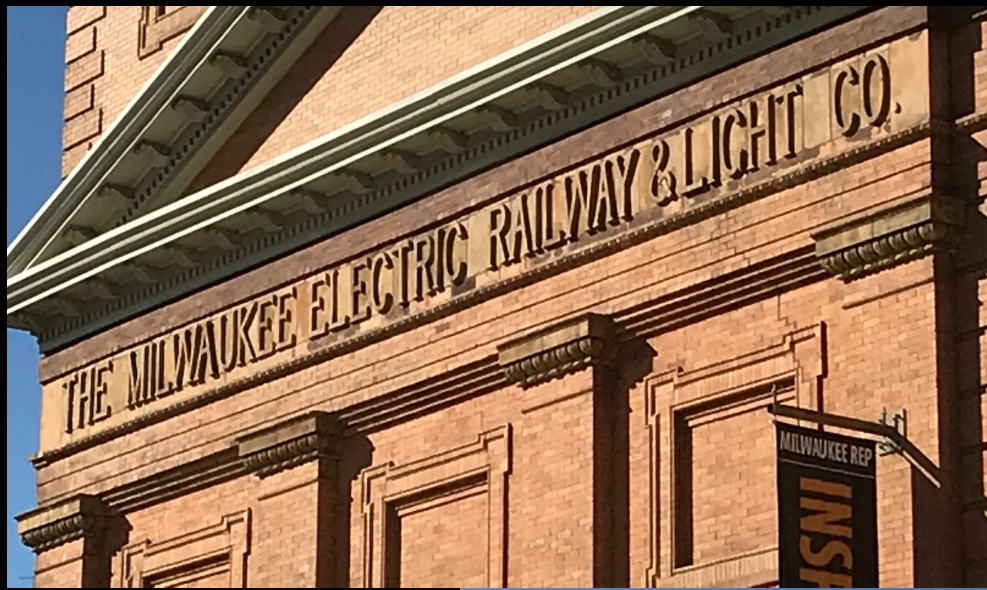
Kevin P. Keefe photos



Public Service Building, at 231 W. Michigan Street.

Kevin P. Keefe photos





TMER&L power plant, Wells Street at the Milwaukee River.
Kevin P. Keefe photos



Downtown and elsewhere

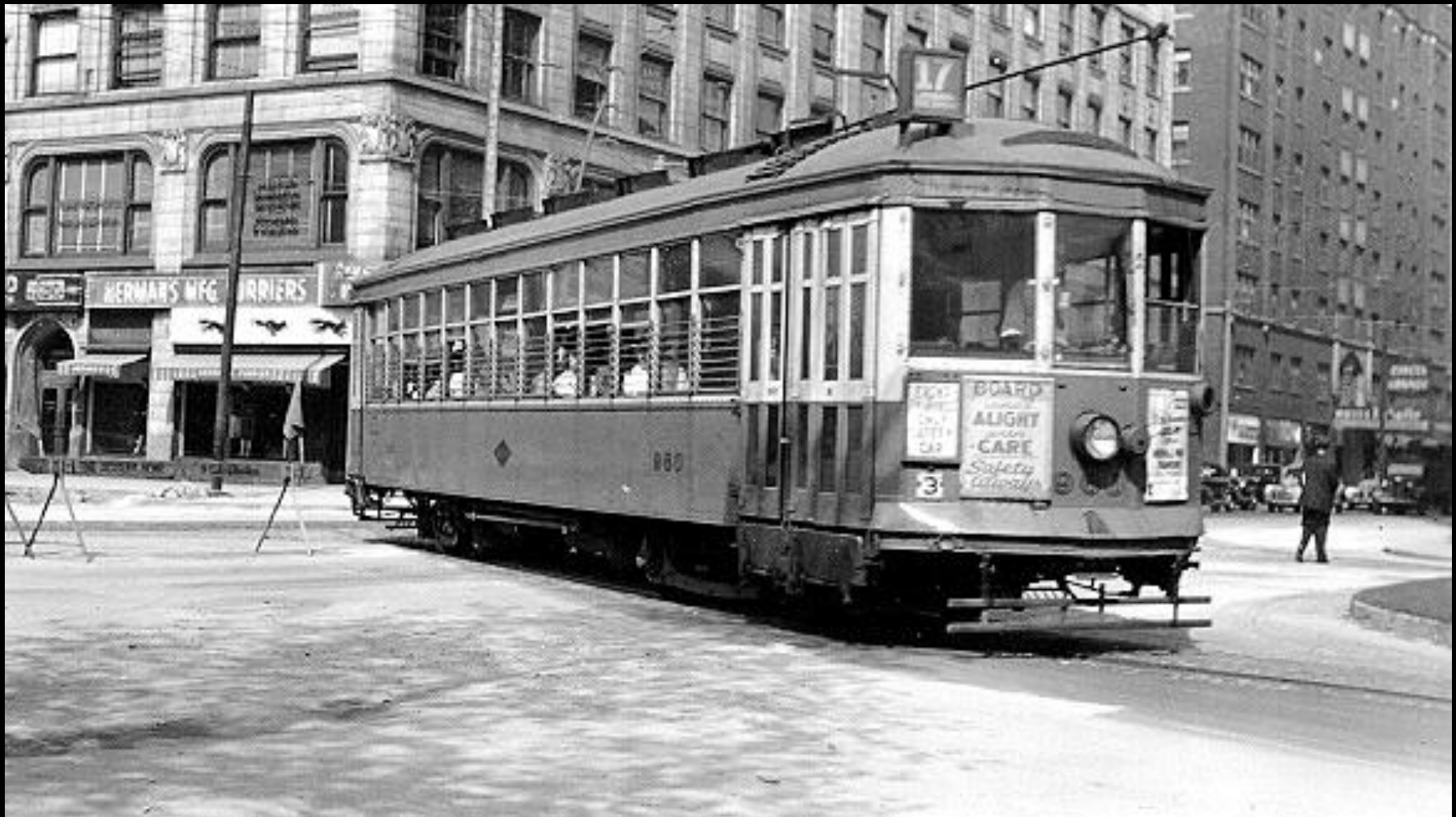


View looking east from Third and Grand, early 1900s.
Milwaukee County Historical Society



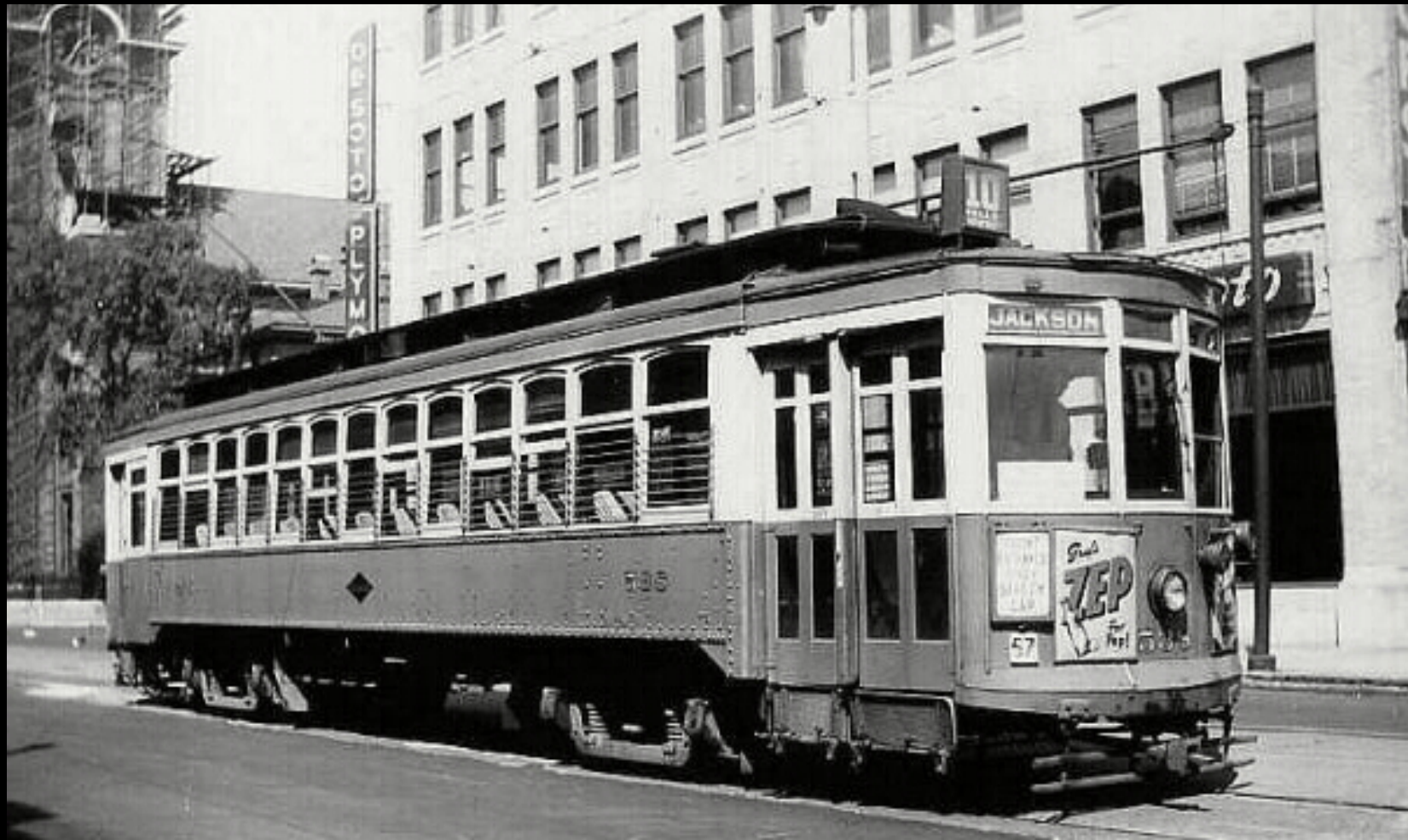
Corner of Third and Grand Avenue during a January
1910 snowstorm.

Milwaukee County Historical Society



Streetcar at intersection of Plankinton, Wells, and Second.

Don Ross collection



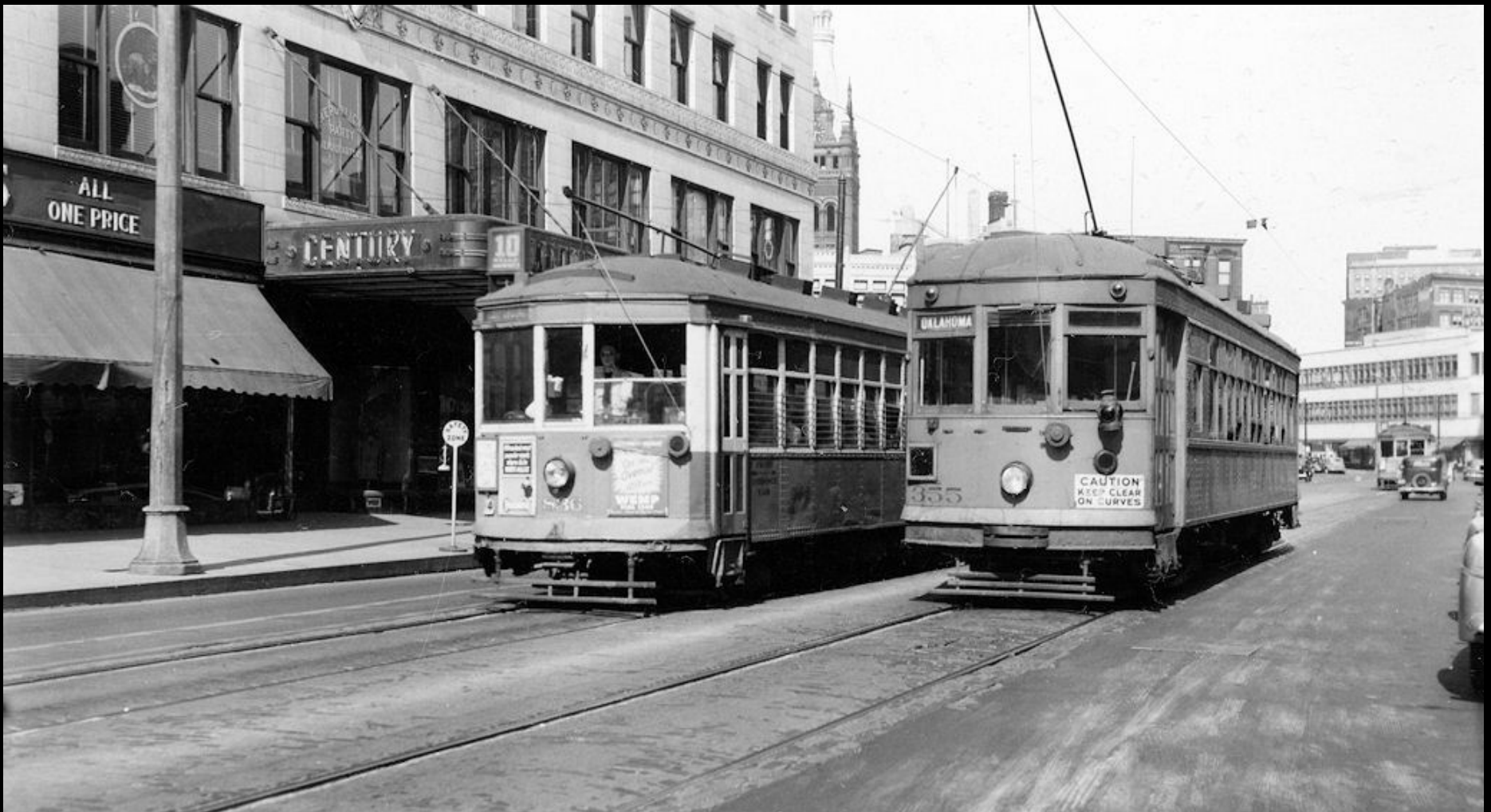
Car 538 at Jackson and Wells, August 15, 1948.

Don Ross photo



Car 876 at Third and Wisconsin Avenue, early 1950s.

Don Ross collection



Car 836 meets Chicago & Milwaukee Electric interurban car at
Third and Wells, July 1948.

Don Ross collection



A car passes Public Service Building on Third Street, July 1948.

Don Ross photo



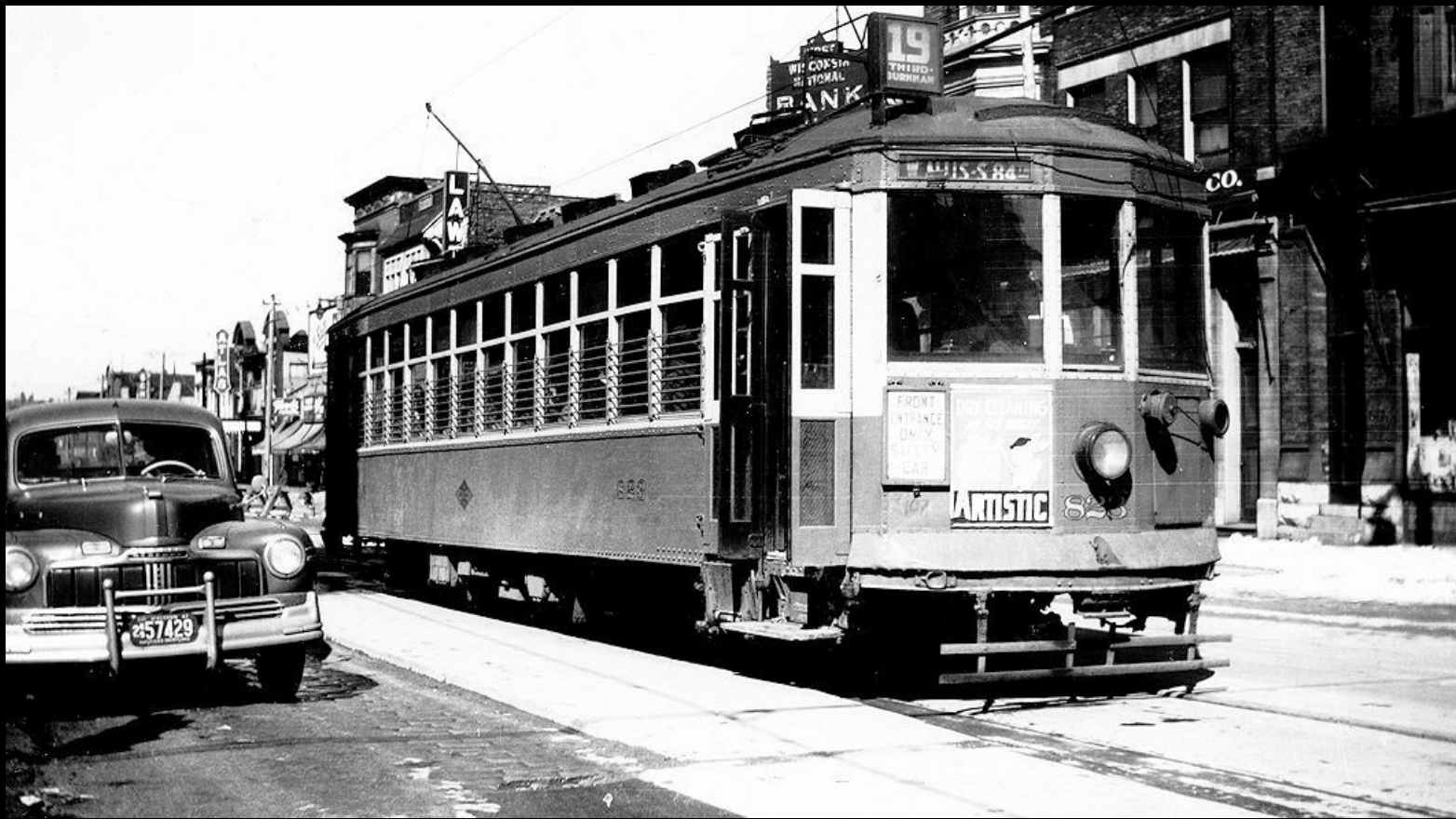
Car 975 at Chicago & North Western station, foot of Wisconsin Avenue, March 1951.

Joseph Chesen photo; Don Ross collection



Car 899 on Second Street near Florida, passing beneath Milwaukee Road freight train, 1948.

Don Ross Group collection



Car 823 at Third Street and North, March 1948.

Don Ross photo



Car 634 at Seventh and Atkinson, October 1947.

Don Ross photo



Car 714 on Fond du Lac at Locust, October 1948.

Don Ross collection



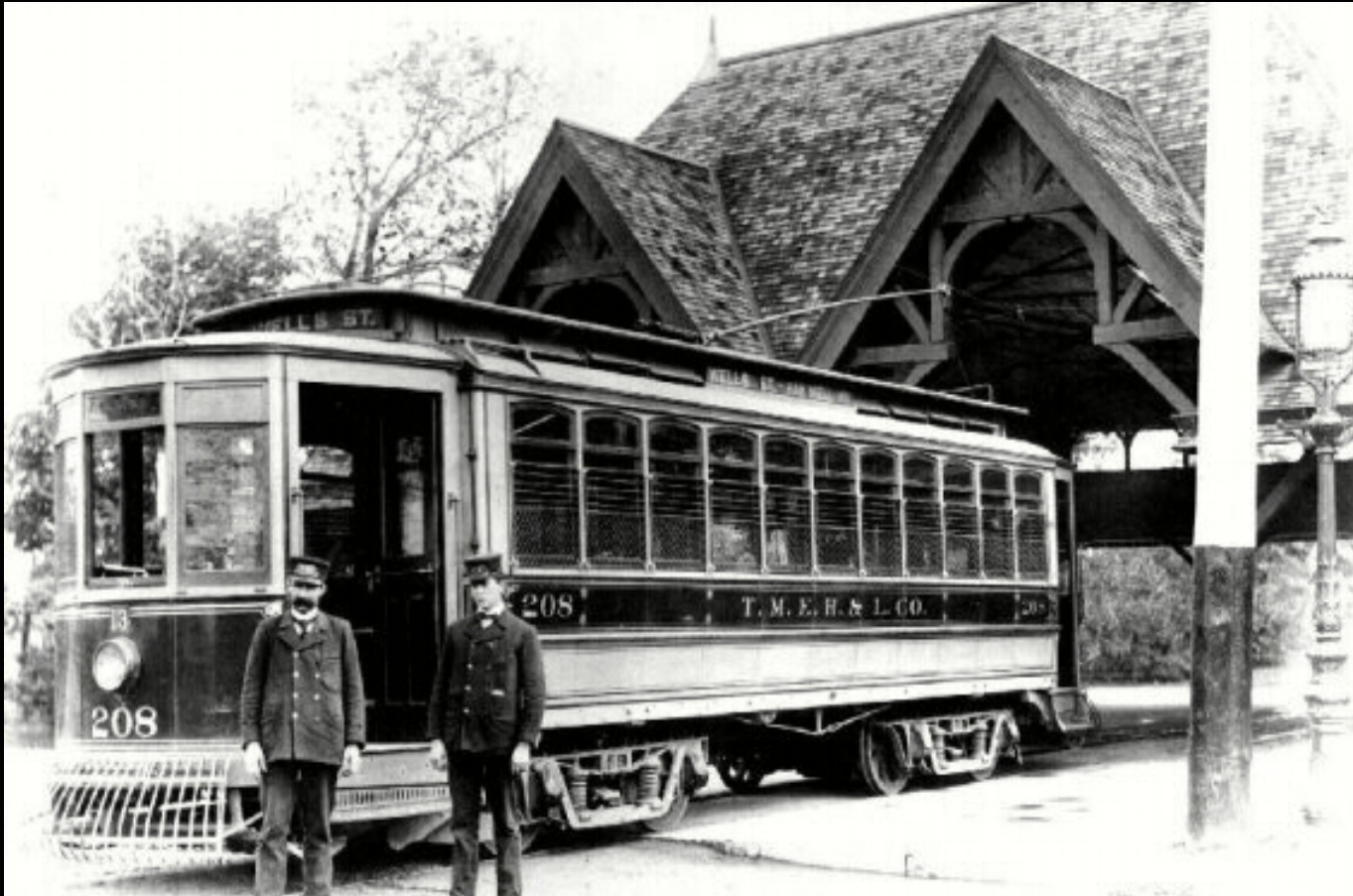
Car 882 at Green Bay and Keefe Avenue, October 1947.

Don Ross photo

Eastside and North Shore

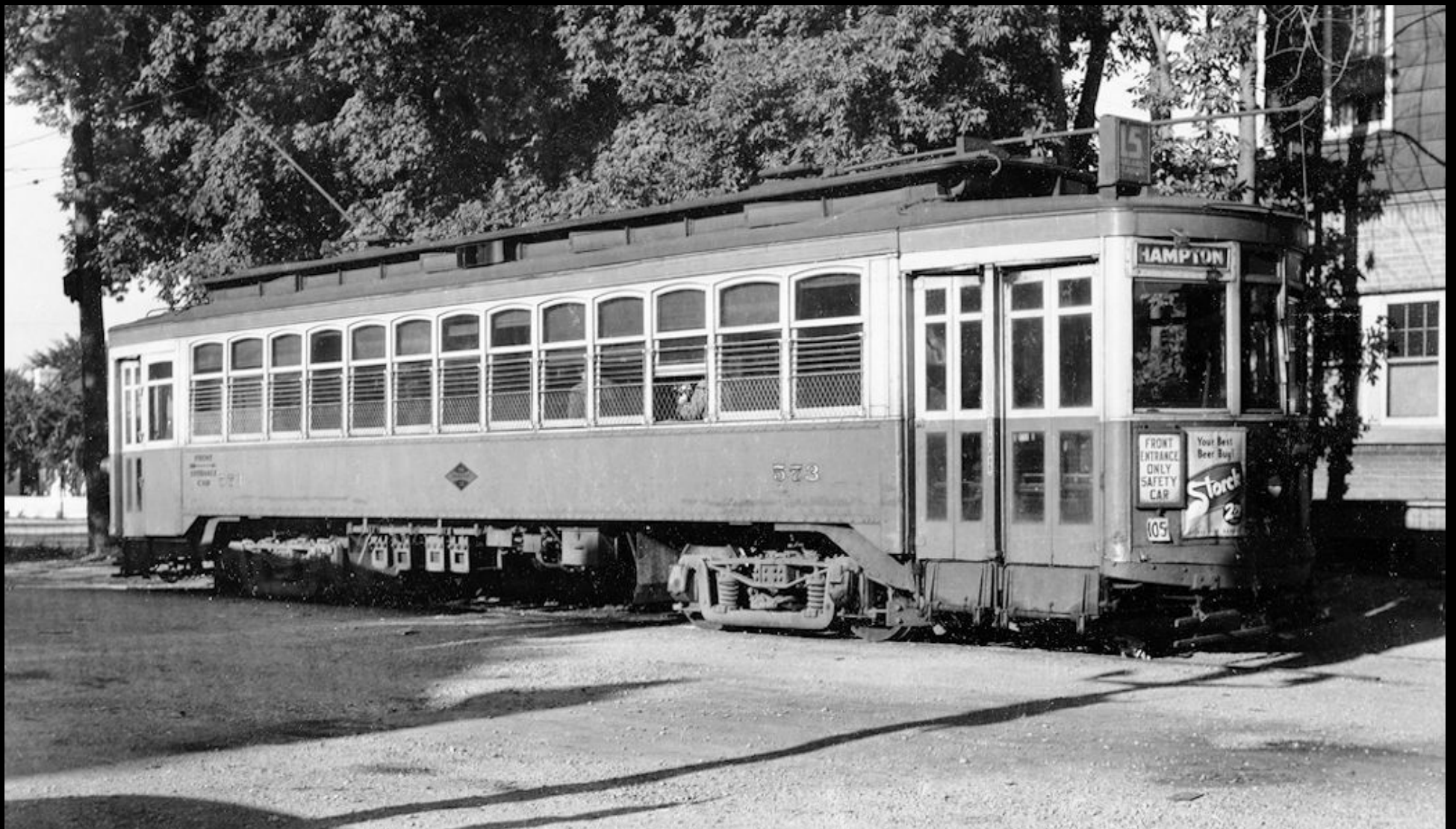


Trolley station and turnaround at Lake Park, foot of Locust.



Lake Park streetcar station in 1901.

Don Ross collection



Car 573 at Lake Drive and Silver Spring, July 1948.

Don Ross collection



Car 850 at Whitefish Bay, end of the line, June 1953.

Mark D. Meyer photo; Don Ross collection



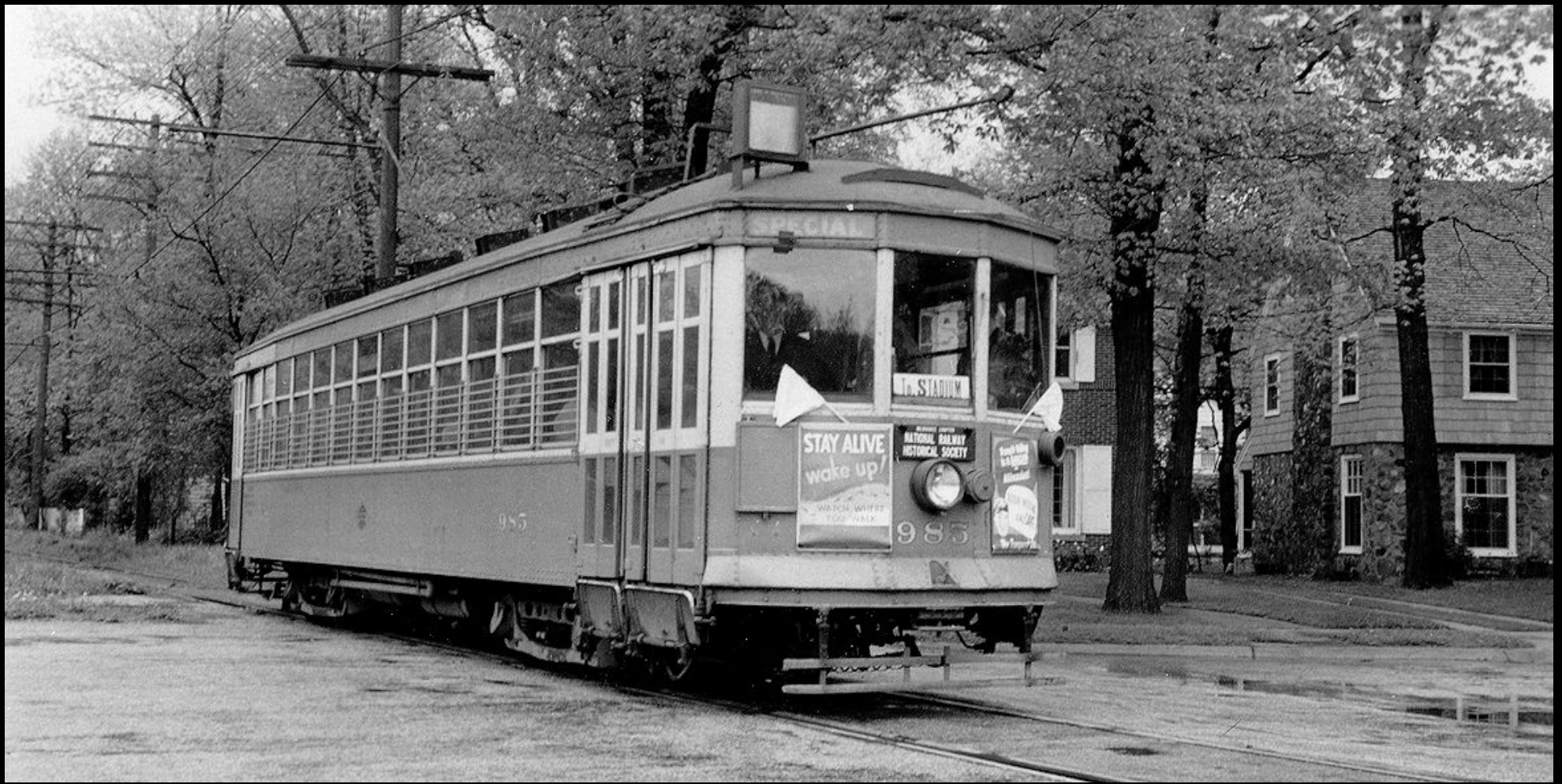
In Whitefish Bay, a car approaches Silver Spring stop
along Marlborough, November 1952.

Bob Eichelberg photo; Don Ross collection



The same view today along Marlborough.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



Car 985 stops at Lexington and Marlborough, May 24, 1953.

Don Ross collection



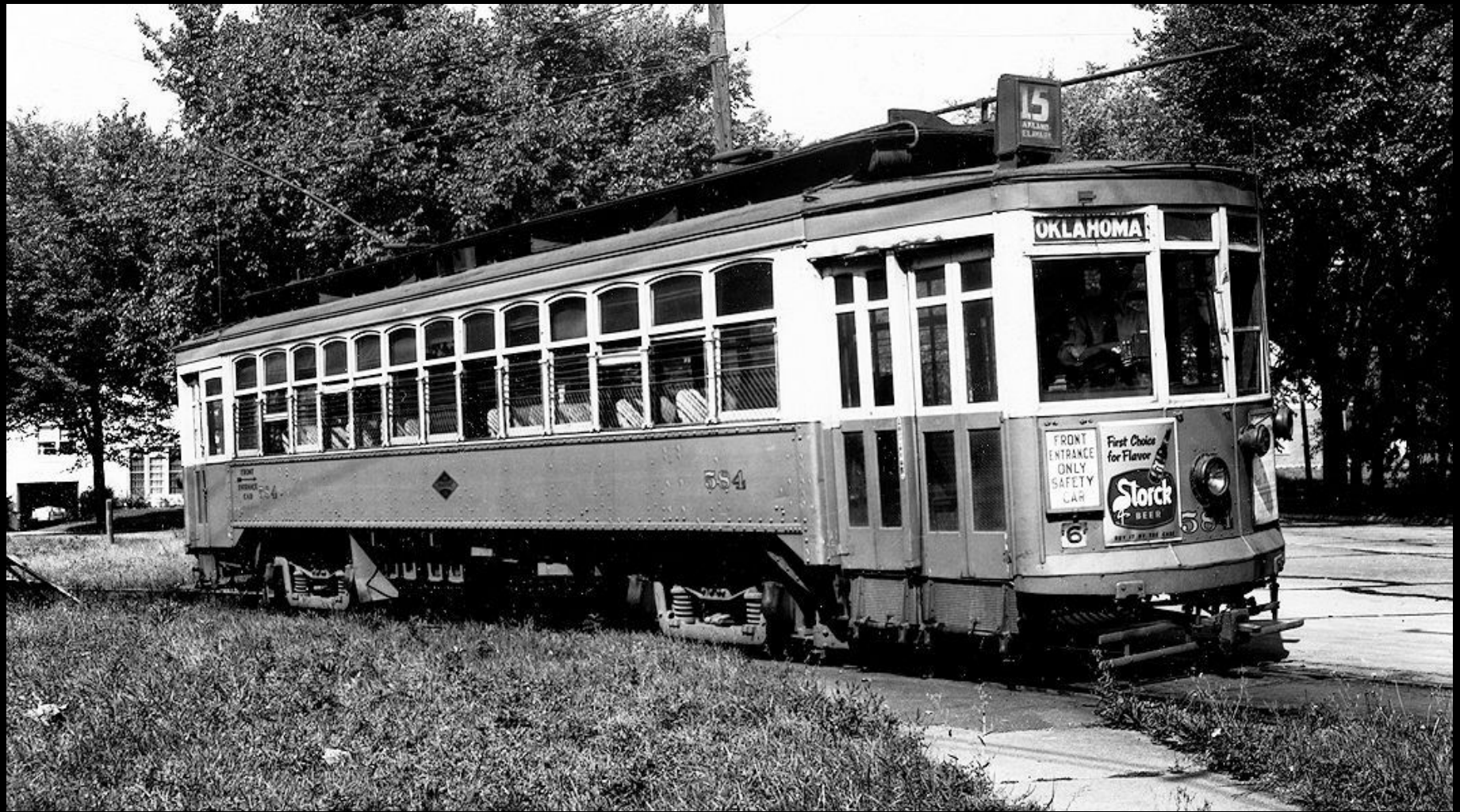
Another view at the Lexington/Marlborough stop.

Frank Butts photo; Don Ross collection



Today at Lexington/Marlborough, with Whitefish Bay village hall.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



Car 684 at Bartlett and Oakland in Shorewood, the shortcut to Hampton Avenue, September 1948.

Don Ross collection



Same location today, Bartlett at Oakland.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



A streetcar fan excursion at Hampton and Oakland, May 1949.

Don Ross photo



The Oakland/Hampston “shortcut” today.

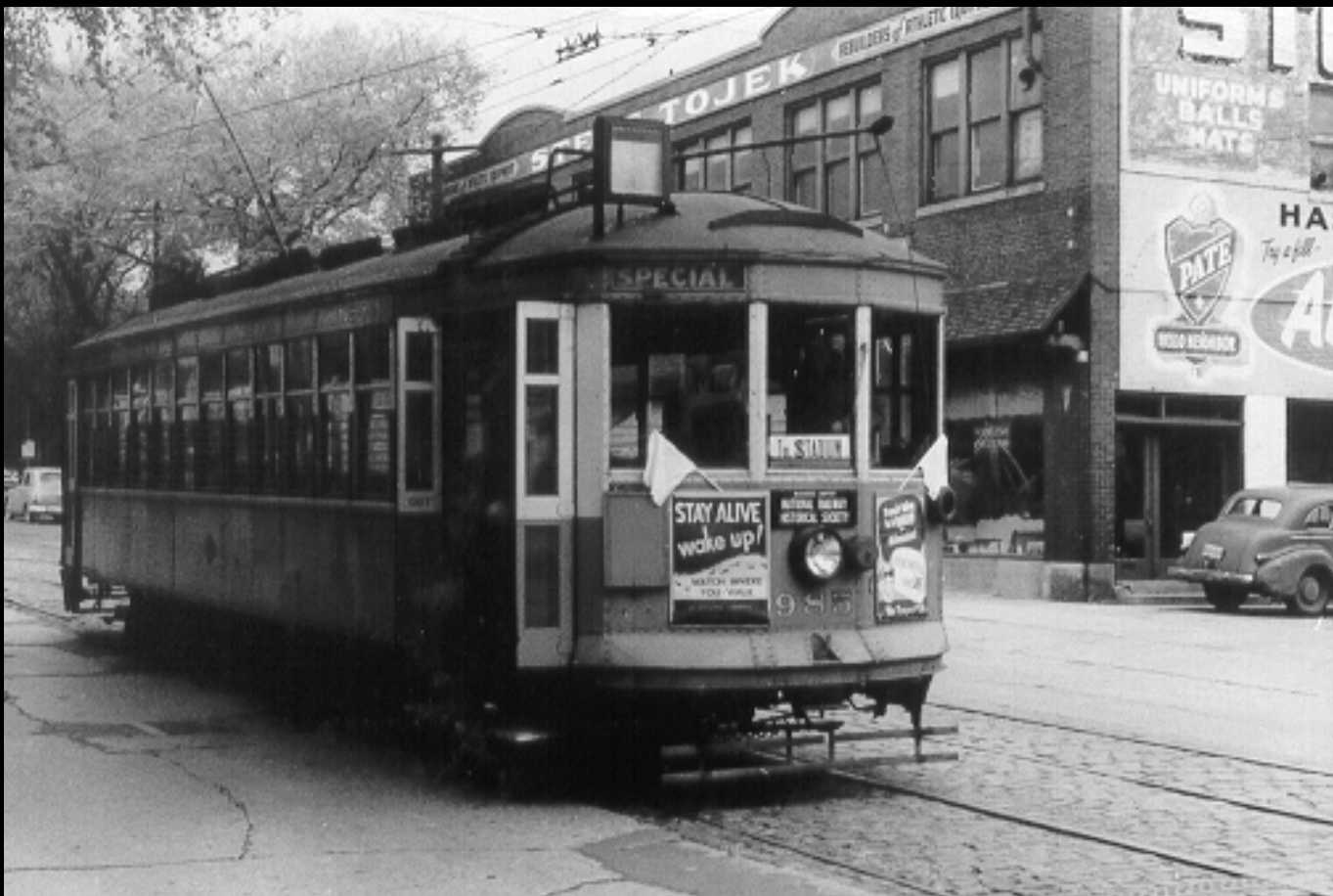
Kevin P. Keefe photo



Milwaukee Electric Ry & Transport Co 2 cars meeting on Oakwood Ave, Shorewood, WI, by Frank Butts

Don Ross Collection

Cars meeting on Oakland, perhaps in Shorewood. Or not.
Frank Butts photo; Don Ross collection



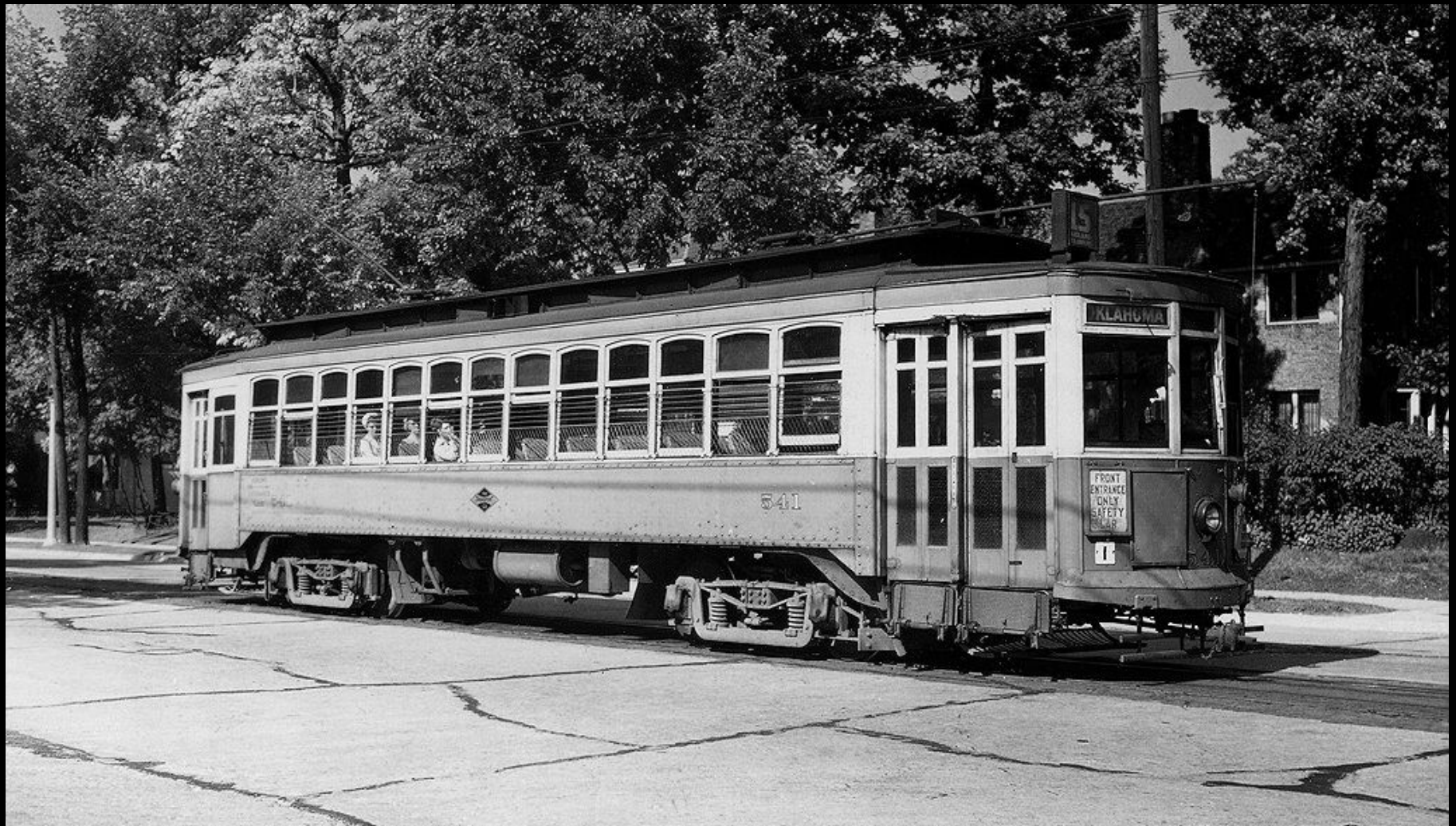
Car 985 at Oakland car station in May 1953 on
a trolley fan excursion.

Bob Eichelberg photo; Don Ross collection



The same view today, Oakland Avenue at Edgewood.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



Another view near Oakland and Edgewood, car 541 in 1948.

Don Ross collection



Car station at Oakland and Edgewood, January 1932.

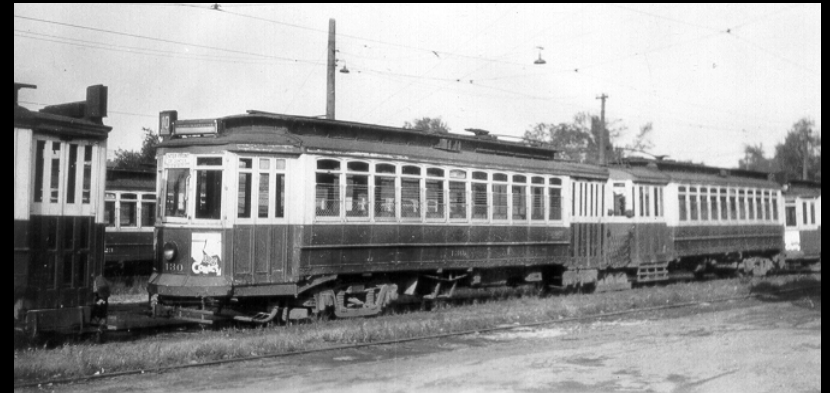
Irwin C. Scroggins photo; Milwaukee County Historical Society



Trainmen's building, substation at Oakland Avenue, April 1929.
Irwin C. Scroggins photo; Milwaukee County Historical Society

Various streetcars
parked at Oakland
car station at
Edgewood.

*All photos: Don Ross
collection*





Streetcar inside car shed on Murray, north of North, May 1953.

Don Ross collection



Site of the Murray Avenue car shed as it looks today.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



A car pulls out of the car shed on Murray to head south to North Avenue.

Don Ross collection

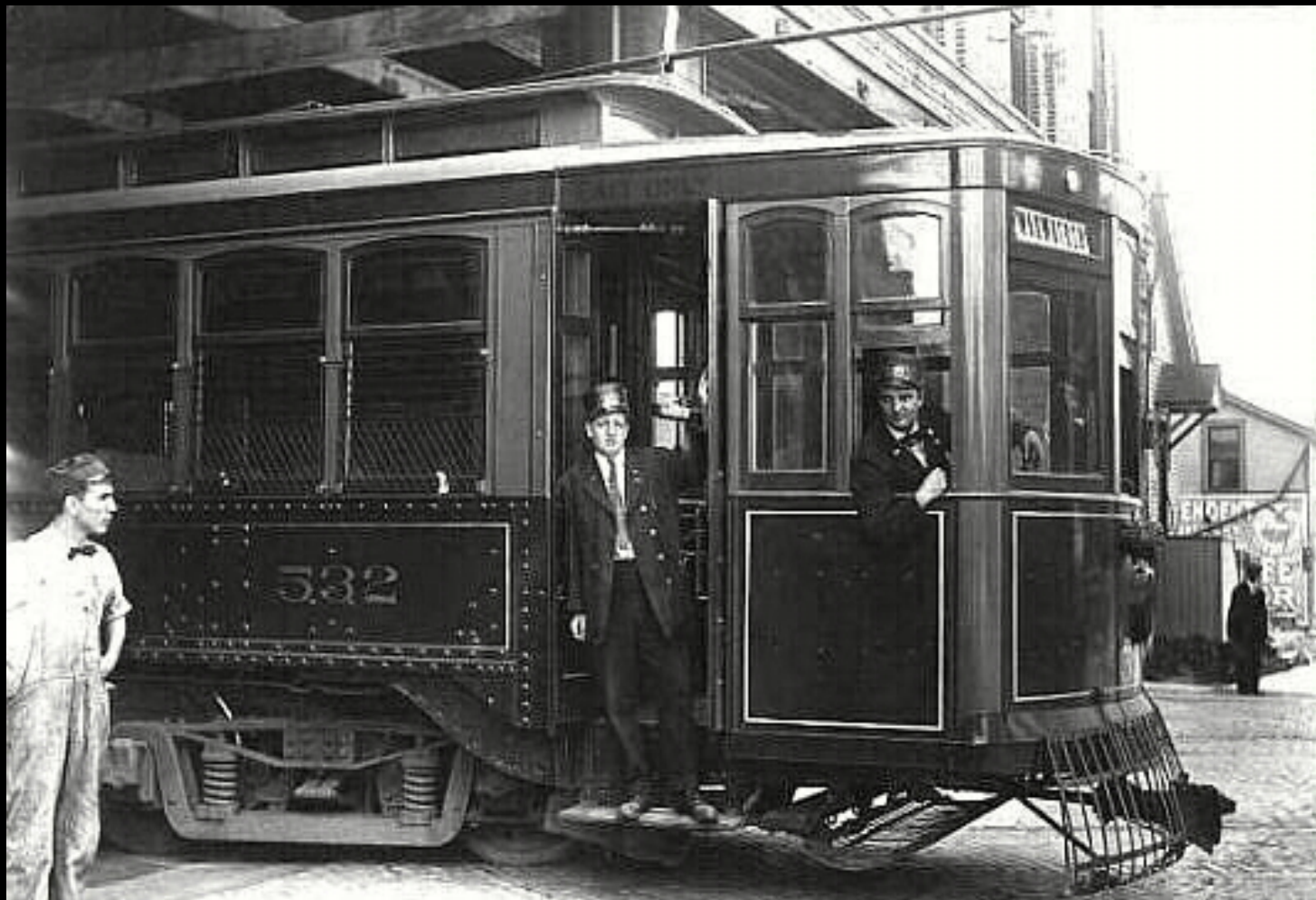


Car 909 crosses North Avenue off Murray at Farwell.

Don Ross collection



The same view of the Farwell and North intersection today.
Kevin P. Keefe photo



A pre-World War I view of the Farwell car station just south of the Farwell and North intersection.

Ken Josephson collection



TMER&L fire drill at the Farwell car station, now the site of the Oriental Theater, which opened in 1927.

Don Ross collection

Nearby interurban service



Kenosha Motor Coach Lines car headed southbound at Hampton Avenue, March 1948.

Don Ross collection



KMCL car northbound at Hampton station, March 1948.

Don Ross photo



The same view today: Interurban and elevated station gone.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



Kenosha Motor Coach car northbound at Silver Spring, March 1948.

Don Ross photo



The view today: right of way still in a cut, Silver Spring bridge filled in.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



Kenosha Motor Coach Lines car on the Cedarburg/Port Washington route south of Silver Spring, March 1948.

Don Ross collection



Car 940 heads south on Broadway near Wisconsin, April 1949.

Don Ross photo



Nearly 70 years later, same location, The Hop makes its debut.

Kevin P. Keefe photo



With thanks...

Milwaukee County Historical Society

Don Ross Collection

Kalmbach Media library

Otto Dobnick

Jeff Bentoff