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Today's Reciprocal Image - 29 October 2024

1 message

David Critchley <filanddavid183@yahoo.com.au>

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An original negative in my collection. Photographer unknown.

Ballarat, Sebastapol c1938. Ballarat four-wheel tram No. 11 stands at the Sebastapol terminus ready to depart its for its next journey to the city. No. 11 was one of 20 similar "California Combination" trams built by Meadowbank Manufacturing Co. Sydney for the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust (P&MTT) in Melbourne where it was allocated fleet No. 65. On formation of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (M&MTB) in 1919-20, it retained the fleet number 65 and was grouped with these similar cars as the M&MTB 'J' Class. In 1923, the tram was involved in a serious level crossing accident when it collided with Victoria Railways steam locomotive F 182 at Deepdene. The collision destroyed one side of the saloon and caused considerable damage to the open seating. The tram was subsequently repaired and returned to service.

In 1928, No. 65 was purchased by the Melbourne Electric Supply Co. Ltd. and transported to Geelong where it became MESCo No. 28. At some time it was converted into a one man car in the 'Geelong style'. The SECV took over operation of the Geelong system in 1930 and then consolidated its fleets in Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo. As a result, Geelong 28 was transferred to Ballarat in 1935 where it was renumbered 11. It was also modified to 'Ballarat style' with waist level panels in drop ends and closeable doors in each corner on the tramcar.

The interior of the tram was 'modernised' in 1958; this consisted of painting the internal ceiling with "Colorflek" and the rest of the interior with colours of Winter Green and Parisian tan. On closure of the Ballarat tramways, No 11 was assigned to the Daylesford Historical Museum but without motors. Here it languished until 1977 when it was acquired by the Ballarat Tramway Museum and moved to the depot in 1979. It was moved to off site storage in 2001 awaiting restoration.

It is interesting to note that Ballarat 11 (now preserved in Ballarat) and Ballarat 12 (now preserved by the Sydney Tramway Museum) share very similar histories. Ballarat 12 was part of the same order from Meadowbank Manufacturing, being numbered 71 in the P&MTT fleet. It became M&MTB J Class 71 and was sold to Geelong at the same time as 65. It became Geelong 27 and was transferred with Geelong 28 to Ballarat in 1935, becoming Ballarat 12. Thus Ballarat 12 would have looked almost exactly this same as 11 in this image in the late 1930s.

Many thanks to Warren Doubleday for identifying the location in the photo and for assisting with the description.

David Critchley



Ballarat c1939 Sebastapol No 11 exMEL.jpg
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