BROOKVILLE Celebrates Restoration of West Penn Railways Car No. 832 with Pennsylvania Trolley Museum

BROOKVILLE attended a ceremony in Washington, Pa., on Friday, Oct. 5, 2019, to celebrate the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum’s (PTM) restoration of West Penn Railways Car No. 832.

The streetcar was manufactured by Cincinnati Car Company and originally operated for West Penn Railways from 1930 through 1952 before being acquired by PTM. After receiving a grant from PennDOT and through the support of individual donors, the streetcar was restored to like-new condition by the PTM volunteers and commercial manufacturers.

BROOKVILLE’s contributions include a complete restoration of the carbody, truck restoration, replacing original wiring and pneumatic piping, and a complete refinishing, which were completed in 2010 and 2011 prior to shipment back to PTM. PTM’s volunteers and consultants then reintegrated other major systems, interior appointments, and fabricated components that were unobtainable due to the age of the car.

For more information on Car No. 832 and other trolleys and streetcars in the PTM collection and upcoming events, visit pa-trolley.org. Thanks to Edward H. Lybarger, Dennis F. Cramer and Bruce P. Wells for their documentation of the streetcar’s restoration in their book “Allegheny Valley Trolleys,” published by Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, Inc. The book can purchased at the museum and through online retailers.
This year was one of hard work and progress for the BROOKVILLE team, as we continued and commenced deliveries for existing programs and progressed design, engineering and manufacturing phases for other key programs that will deliver in 2020 and beyond.

In 2019, key deliveries for major projects included the delivery of two more PCC streetcars to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), as part of a 16-unit overhaul. We also began deliveries of propulsion and truck upgrade kits for Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to aid them in extending the service life of their existing PCC vehicle fleet. In mining, we continued rebuild programs for our customers in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, in addition to securing orders for new equipment, which we look forward to delivering in 2020.

This year we also continued design and manufacturing activities for three major Liberty NXT Streetcar programs, including for the City of Tempe, Sound Transit (Tacoma Link LRV), and Portland Streetcar. The Liberty NXT is the next evolution of our Liberty Streetcar design. The Liberty Streetcar debuted in Dallas in 2015 and is now operating in Detroit, Oklahoma City, and Milwaukee. Some highlights of the NXT design include adjustable coupler and anticlimber heights for better interoperability with existing LRV fleets, an energy absorbing bumper, and a bolt-together frame that meets ASME RT-1 and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements.

Also in 2019, we began manufacturing of the pilot locomotive in an order of nine for the Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC). These locomotives will operate along the border of Labrador and Northern Quebec, serving as a rail link between an iron ore mine and mainline rail service. The system they will serve is unique in that it is powered by an electrified overhead contact system and will be fully autonomous.

Another new development for our team has been the design and manufacturing of two incline railway vehicles for Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority’s Lookout Mountain Incline Railway. These cars are designed to be placed at an angle on the 72.7 percent grade and feature panoramic glass windows on the sides and roof to provide passengers with a beautiful view above Chattanooga beginning in 2020.

In addition to new equipment, we have made an active effort to continue serving our customers long-term with maintenance contracts to aid in supporting Liberty Streetcar fleets for QLINE Detroit and The Hop Streetcar in Milwaukee. As the OEM, we are aiming to add value from a vehicle maintenance and support position in the cities that operate the Liberty platform and feel this could add future value for other clients as new systems continue to come online in the near future.

As we look ahead to 2020, we are committed to continuing to deliver products and services to our customers with the highest level of quality and customer service. We anticipate the celebration of major milestone achievements while continuing to work on improving our internal processes and efficiencies and to uncovering new ways we can add value for our current and existing customers.

As President, I could not be more proud of the ingenuity and skilled craftsmanship that the BROOKVILLE team brings to work for our customers every day. As a team, we are grateful for the opportunities in front of us and remain committed to providing our customers with custom, unique and innovative solutions that are designed to their specific needs in every industry we serve, coupled together with unparalleled long-term service and support.
BROOKVILLE progressed manufacturing for three major transit programs in 2019, including a 16-car progressive PCC streetcar overhaul for San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), truck and propulsion upgrade kits for Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority’s (MBTA) existing fleet of streetcar vehicles, and two incline railway vehicles for Chattanooga Area Regional Transit Authority’s Lookout Mountain Incline Railway.

The SFMTA program, which began in 2014, saw the shipment of three vehicles in calendar year 2019, including two single-enders and one double-ender. Single-enders have one operator control stand and are designed for operation on a rail loop, while double-enders feature operator stands at both ends of the vehicle – ideal for rail lines. The current contract includes the rebuild of thirteen single-ender PCC streetcars and three double-enders.

The SFMTA car numbers for 2019 deliveries are 1057 and 1058 (single-enders) and 1015 (double-ender). SFMTA’s fleet features liveries, or paint schemes, in tribute to historical streetcar systems across the United States. Car No. 1057 features a Cincinnati livery, No. 1058 features a Chicago Transit Authority colors from the 1950s, and No. 1015 features the colors of the Illinois Terminal Railway, which connected St. Louis, Mo., to Granite City, Ill., across the Mississippi River. All three of the PCC streetcar vehicles were originally manufactured by St. Louis Car Co. in 1948.

BROOKVILLE has delivered 14 of the PCC streetcars on order and is continuing the restoration of two additional double-enders for SFMTA in 2020.

The MBTA streetcar truck and propulsion kits include upgraded electronics and propulsion systems for MBTA’s existing PCC streetcar fleet. The systems are designed and manufactured by BROOKVILLE and will be integrated by MBTA. MBTA ordered eight vehicle kits – seven of which have shipped as of February 2020.

The third project is the design and build of two incline rail vehicles for CARTA’s Lookout Mountain Incline Railway. The two cars will be powered by the railway’s two 100-horsepower winches along the 1-mile system and replace the previous trolley-style railway cars. As of February, the cars are undergoing final assembly activities and are scheduled to ship in early 2020.

The CARTA project provided unique opportunity for BROOKVILLE to showcase its unique range of skills, including the shaping of curved corner pieces for the vehicle frame. To accomplish this, BROOKVILLE used an English wheel and power hammer to form the half-dome pieces. These two tools are rarely used in today’s commercial fabrication environment, but BROOKVILLE’s highly skilled and vastly experienced fabricators maintain these skillsets for unique, customized applications.

Below Left: Shaping corner pieces using a power hammer. Right: Integrating the corner piece into the vehicle frame. Below Right: The integrated piece on the vehicle frame.
Decade Awards

In April 2019, BROOKVILLE held a recognition ceremony and issued a bonus for employees celebrating their tenth and twentieth years of service at BROOKVILLE.

Pictured from Left to Right: Joel McNeil (10 years), James Rominski (10 years), Larry Saver (20 years), Andy Cable (20 years), Pat Kaschalk (10 years), Sheila Hockman (20 years), Jeff Bowers (20 years), Valerie Kercheval (10 years), Eli Schmader (20 years), Brett Siar (10 years), Ron Rodgers (10 years)
BROOKVILLE Discusses Liberty Streetcar Design Evolutions at Rail~Volution 2019

BROOKVILLE Director of Sales Michael White spoke about design evolutions currently underway for BROOKVILLE’s Liberty NXT Streetcar – the successor to BROOKVILLE’s flagship modern streetcar design in a Consultant's Corner presentation at Rail~Volution in Vancouver, Canada.

The annual conference is hosted by a US or Canadian city every year with a strong presence of rail transit and is attended by transit agency, city government professionals and transit activists.

BROOKVILLE Wins Seven Seals Award

In April 2019, BROOKVILLE received the Seven Seals Award from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), which was presented “in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports the ESGR mission.” BROOKVILLE Director of Human Resources Erin McKillip and President Rick Graham accepted the award.

Careers

BROOKVILLE is currently seeking qualified applicants for a broad range of open positions.

Click to learn more and apply!