

SKIPPER JIM IS

GREAT BOON FOR HEIGHTS WIVES

Pilot of Dinkey, Which Can't Quit, Runs Errands for Them.

Introducing the shortest trolley line in Cuyahoga county, known as the Cleveland Heights dinkey, piloted, managed and fired by genial Skipper Jim Moran and run for the public good.

The 1907 model car, its mile of double track (only one of which is used) and its appurtenances are officially the Washington Boulevard Railway Co., Inc.

"She"—adopting the gender used for the car—is oblivious to schedule. She waits until she has a fair crowd and then goes. A whole history of Cleveland Heights' separate street railway battles can be written right at this point.

The car, which connects with the Euclid Heights line at Coventry road and Washington boulevard, used to be on twenty-minute schedule. As one can walk the entire length of the line in about ten minutes, steady passengers declared an embargo and refused to wait. They said they'd walk and walk they did.

The line, which probably has the smallest overhead of any in the state, fell so low on fares—at 2 cents a head—that something had to be done. The company went to the Heights officials and asked to be relieved of the car line in toto. The Heights officials dug up a dusty franchise and pointed out that it was for twenty-five years and had most of this time to run.

"You'll have to keep on operating until we tell you to quit," they said. "Besides, you're a public institution, and we can't get along without you."

By that they meant that when hard pressed housewives at the eastern end of the line wanted a pound of butter in a hurry they would go to Skipper Jim and give him the money and a plea for a quick purchase at the stores at the other end of the line. When the car came back the butter came with it.

The upshot of it is that the car runs now about at the demand of the steady passengers. Their conveniences come first. If a considerable number of them are returning from a theater party the car waits late for them on request.

The skipper, who lives at the eastern end of his line, is a favorite with the youth of the neighborhood, of both sexes, and the kids frequently save up enough pennies to go riding with him a morning at a time.