

Montevallo Historical Press

Publishers and Booksellers • Local and Regional History

Press Release

Firm Republishes History Of Northwestern Ohio's Electric Trolley Line

**Interurban Railway Operated Between Toledo and Marblehead from 1905 to 1939,
Closed Down in 1958 – Book Available For Sale For First Time in 33 Years**

Montevallo, Alabama – September 22, 1997 – Montevallo Historical Press, Inc., a publishing company owned by Marblehead, Ohio native Dean K. Fick, announced today the availability of a new printing of *The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway*, the 1964 book about the popular electric trolley line that served northwestern Ohio from 1905 to 1958.

The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway (TPC&L) was an important method of transportation in a time when good roads were scarce and few people owned an automobile. It served the towns of Toledo, Curtice, Clay Center, Genoa, Elmore, Oak Harbor, Port Clinton, Lakeside, and Marblehead. Passengers could also meet connecting boats at Marblehead or Bay Point for transportation to the Lake Erie Islands, Cedar Point, and Sandusky.

The TPC&L operated under four different names during its life. After its 1905 opening, it was purchased in 1912 from the original owners by General Gas and Electric and became known as The Northwestern Ohio Railway and Power Company. In 1924, Cities Service Corporation bought the line and operated it as The Ohio Public Service Company. The Toledo–Clay Center trackage ran as The Toledo & Eastern Railroad from 1945 to 1958.

George W. Hilton's book tells the rail line's complete story. It contains over 70 pictures, maps, and drawings, and is written in a friendly style that remains contemporary. The book includes background information about the many promoters who tried—and failed—to build an electric railroad to the Marblehead Peninsula and features a detailed listing of the line's equipment, as well as reproductions of tickets, passes, and other fascinating company documents. Anyone who likes railroads or history will find the book very appealing.

Author George W. Hilton is professor emeritus of Economics at the University of California at Los Angeles. He has written many popular books about railroads and boats. Some of the best known of these are *The Electric Interurban Railways in America* (co-written with John F. Due), *American Narrow Gauge Railroads*, and *Eastland: Legacy of the Titanic*. He is now working on a book about Lake Michigan passenger steamers.

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Montevallo Historical Press, Inc., was founded by railroad enthusiast Dean K. Fick. The company will release similar titles in the near future as part of its effort to make outstanding historical works available at affordable prices.

Copies of *The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway* may be purchased at various merchants in northwestern Ohio or directly from the publisher. Internet users can learn more about the book and railway at Montevallo Historical Press's World Wide Web site: www.mhpress.com.

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