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**INTERURBAN RAILROAD RUNS AGAIN IN MEMORY  
AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S AUG. 5 "TUESDAY TALK"**

JULY 25, 2014 -- Our area's interurban railroad service will be remembered in stories and photos at the next Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on August 5 in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m.; admission is free and public attendance is invited.

Titled "Last Stop, Saugatuck-The History of the Interurban", presented by historic-railroad enthusiast and author Norman Krentel, the program revisits the era of local electric rail transportation and its importance to West Michigan communities.

Focusing on the Saugatuck-Holland-Macatawa Park link with maps and photos, Krentel will show where two routes had been located in Saugatuck and why a second route was needed. He also will overview the vast Michigan Railway System, headquartered in Jackson, which once linked our area by electric trains through Grand Rapids to a statewide network extending as far as Detroit, Flint and Bay City.

This Tuesday Talk is sponsored by S/DHS member Judy Oberholtzer.

A native of Lansing, Krentel currently resides in Geneva, IL. Now retired from an engineering position with A.T.&T., he is a longtime active volunteer at the Illinois Railway Museum near Union, IL ([www.irm.org](http://www.irm.org)), largest museum of its kind in the U.S. with some 450 pieces of prototype equipment. His current focus is restoration of Michigan Railway's Car #28, a rare 61-ft. steel interurban car that he believes visited Saugatuck many times. Car #28 had been masquerading as a cottage at Duck Lake (east of Battle Creek) since 1929, he says, and will be returned to running condition.

The Railway Museum, he adds, features a 10-mile round trip interurban railway ride for the public, in addition to steam and diesel locomotives and a large collection of electric trolley and railway cars.

Krentel, with co-author Dave Kindem, also is writing a history of Michigan Railway Company, with some portions still in the research stage.

For more information about the Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2014, visit [www.sdhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sdhistoricalsociety.org).

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Photo from the SDHS archives shows passengers waiting to board an interurban electric train departing downtown Saugatuck's last stop at the Hotel Butler (today's Butler Restaurant).