

## TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

# To go anywhere, you had to take the ol' Red Rocket

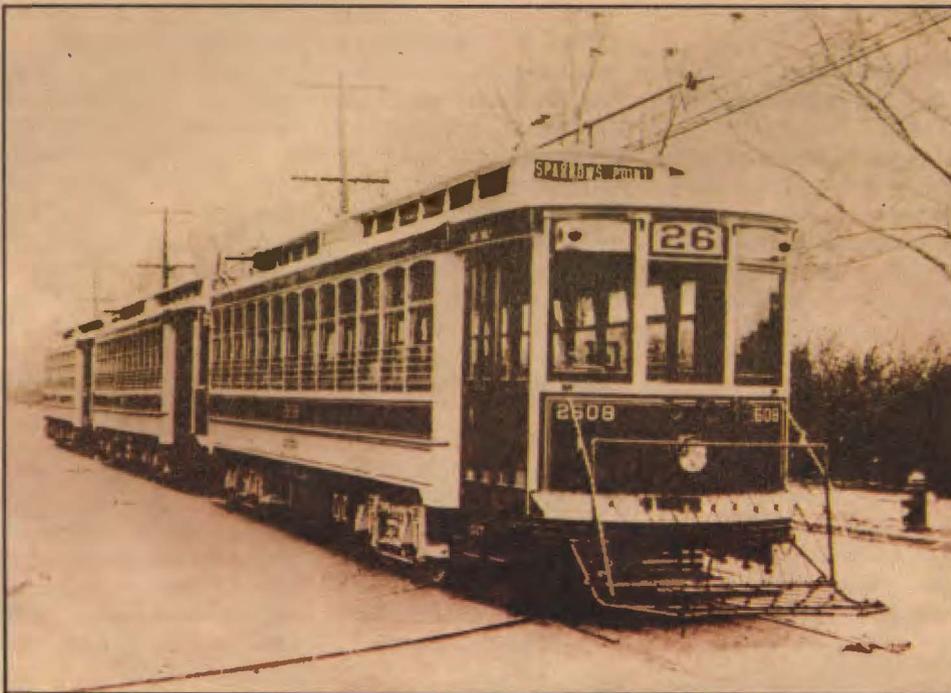
**No. 26 streetcar ran from Dundalk into city, park**

■ *Doris Kuhar, an aide to Baltimore County Councilman John Olszewski Sr., was born in St. Helena and lived there for a few years before moving to Belclare Road right across from what then was called Logan Field.*

by Doris M. Kuhar

It seems my childhood is caught up with many memories of our mode of transportation — the No. 26 streetcar affectionately called the “Red Rocket.” Back in those days, not too many moms drove cars. Our means of getting around was that good old reliable Red Rocket.

The streetcar took us everywhere. Mom would take my sisters and me to Highlandtown for shopping via the streetcar, and



**The No. 26 streetcar took passengers to old Bay Shore Park and other “magical” places.**  
photo courtesy Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society

sometimes we transferred to the bus and went downtown to the big stores on Howard Street. This was a real treat, especially at Christmastime. Every Sunday found us on that

streetcar going to church and then back home again.

The most exciting time came every week or so when we could board the Red Rocket and head toward Sparrows Point to

visit relatives in the old company town. Over Bear Creek we would go, swaying back and forth over the bridge.

As a little girl I would look out of the window

**I would look out of the window down at the water and think about the possibilities of the streetcar falling over into the creek.**

down at the water and think about the possibilities of the streetcar falling over into the creek — a bit frightening, but exciting all the same.

I guess the best of all were the trips to old Bay Shore Park. The Red Rocket would take us from home at the stop on Dundalk Avenue all the way into the park.

What an extraordinary experience, a magical ride into the most wonderful seashore park. To visit the

old restored car barn at North Point State Park (formerly Bay Shore) is to stir the most poignant and warm memories of an idealized childhood.

When the line went out of business and they closed the tracks along Dundalk Avenue, it was a sad closing of a chapter in our Dundalk history and my childhood. I could never understand why it was discontinued.

I continue to live in Dundalk and carry with me all the great memories — like the ol' Red Rocket.

■ **We're looking for more Turning Back the Clock articles, reminiscences of the old days in Dundalk and Edgemere. It's a big help if you include a good photo that can be printed too. Send your submission (no more than 750 words, please) via regular mail or e-mail as noted on page 8. Please call ahead (410-288-6060) to let us know what you'll be sending.**