

1958

HOWARD-WESSON CO.
WORCESTER 2, MASS.

Re: Dunedin Cable Car Ceremonies

Kennebunkport, Maine, U.S.A., Feb. 17 --- This Atlantic Coast resort town today welcomed a distinguished visitor from New Zealand that is taking up permanent residence at the Trolley Museum here.

Seldom has this town, known for its famous visitors, welcomed a more distinguished guest than the famous Dunedin cable car that left the South Pacific Island country Nov. 2, 1957 after completing its last run seven months earlier.

Landing in Boston on Jan. 9 after its 9,000 mile journey on the New Zealand freighter "Whangaroa", the cable car was a guest of the Massachusetts Transit Authority at its Sullivan Square car barns before it went to the Sportsmen's Show in Boston's Mechanics Building, January 26.

Some 150,000 people saw the cable car at the show between Feb. 1 and 9, and thousands of others saw it on television, read about it in the newspapers or heard of it on the radio.

It was at the Sportsmen's Show in the International Booth, where the car was on display, that Sir Leslie Munro, New Zealand Ambassador, presented the car to the people of the United States in custody of the local museum on Monday, Feb. 3.

The presentation ceremonies were the climax of a busy weekend schedule for Sir Leslie, Lady Munro and the New Zealand embassy staff. On Sunday, Feb. 2, Sir Leslie and Lady Munro toured Boston and the famous Peabody Museum at Harvard University in Cambridge as guests of the Trolley group.

On Sunday evening Sir Leslie warned the members of the New Century Club that the United Nations' General Assembly was the one best hope to control the atomic missile age. His speech before the group of distinguished judges, lawyers, doctors and other professional men was widely quoted in the press.

Governor Foster Furcolo of Massachusetts opened the Monday, Feb. 2, festivities with a breakfast for Sir Leslie, the British and Canadian Consuls, representatives of Maine's Gov. Edmund S. Muskie, and officers of the Trolley Museum, headed by the Rev. Alexander van Cortlandt Hamilton, chairman of the board.

Following breakfast, Gov. Furcolo welcomed Sir Leslie to the Massachusetts State House where he visited state legislative leaders, held a press reception and toured the golden-domed capital building.

An informal State luncheon featuring distinguished representatives of the British Commonwealth nations, the U.S. armed forces, and New England business, was given by the Trolley Museum at noon, Monday.

A marine-navy color guard, Scots bagpipers and a kilty-clad hostess welcomed Sir Leslie, Lady Munro, Mrs. Foster Furcolo, Lt. Gov. Murphy, Maine's A. Edward Langlois and Rev. Hamilton to the head table.

Toasts to Queen Elizabeth and President Eisenhower were followed by brief remarks noting the international good-will expressed symbolically by the gift of the cable car.

Following luncheon, the presentation ceremonies saw Sir Leslie welcomed by Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Murphy. Sir Leslie in his presentation speech thanked the Americans for the reception given the New Zealand party and gave Mr. Langlois, representing Gov. Muskie, the original cable hook from the car. Mr. Langlois, in turn, handed the hook to Rev. Hamilton who accepted the custody of the cable car for

the Trolley Museum here.

One of the most stirring moments of Sir Leslie's visit occurred at the Massachusetts State House after the presentation ceremonies and tour of the Maine booth at the Boston show.

In a joint assembly of the Senate and House of Representatives, the General Court of Massachusetts welcomed Sir Leslie in a rising ovation as the color guard and bagpipers led the official party to the rostrum. Sir Leslie's speech on New Zealand and the work of the United States was interrupted several times by applause from the assembly legislators.

Yesterday, the Dunedin cable car made a quiet journey by trailer truck to the museum where, with 63 other famous old street cars, it will be on permanent display for the thousands of tourist travel visitors.

In the museum building, a permanent New Zealand display will tell the history of the cable car and show memorabilia of the South Pacific Country.