

## Local

# Darby celebrates trolley with fun, plenty of rides

■ OcTrolleyFest brings families, train lovers and music fans to Darby for fun-filled, fall day.

By **VICKY THOMAS**

*Times Correspondent*

**DARBY BOROUGH** — Residents, officials and local history buffs celebrated the third

annual OcTrolleyFest Saturday, an all day event recognizing the extensive history of one of the oldest surviving transit lines.

Events took place all around the borough and residents traveled to different places by hopping on the restored 1947 PCC Streamline trolley that looped the festival.

The day kicked off with a morning ceremony at Old Swedes Mill,

Pennsylvania's first water-powered mill, and included a fair on Main Street, speeches at Darby Library, autographs from the Negro Baseball League players from the Philly Stars team and visits to the Darby Fire Company.

John Haigis, president of the Darby Historical Commission and member of the OcTrolleyFest committee, said it's important for Darby's extensive history to be remembered.

"I'm a believer in community development based on assets. This community has transportation heritage, amazing history and caring people," said Haigis.

Scott Maits, historian and caretaker of the Old Swedes Mill, also said remembering Darby's past is important for the borough's future.

"We're using history to bring hope and recognition to a distressed area," said Maits. "History is a means of making people take notice that this is a good area."

Despite forecasts for gloomy weather, those who attended the fair on Main Street enjoyed live music, food, raffles and mini-train rides under a perfectly sunny sky.



*Times staff / ROBERT J. GURECKI*

**Aldan's Buddy Borders was a hit with the younger set as he took everyone for a fun and informational train ride at OcTrolleyFest.**

"The weather turned out to be really nice, so we were lucky," said Ridley resident Carl Crabtree. "We're really learning a lot about local history, which is really cool."

Darby resident Melodie Holmes said she also enjoyed learning about the borough's history.

"I went on the trolley and it was really interesting to see what it was like and how old it looked," said the 18-year-old. "I'm glad they had this, it's good for the community and interesting to see

how far Darby has come."

Holmes' sister, Leah Holmes, said she enjoyed the trolley ride.

"It was fun," said the 12-year-old. "It's nice to interact with everyone like this."

Borough Council President Janice Davis said she was pleased with the way the festival turned out.

"I really enjoyed this day. I don't think it could have been done better," said Davis. "Darby definitely has history."



*Times staff / ROBERT J. GURECKI*

**John McIlhenny of Glen Mills, right, Jack Weber of New Jersey, Elizabeth Weber and Isabel Mussetter of Philadelphia celebrate.**