

## GETTING FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN ABERDEEN

When Aberdeen was a new town, it was small enough that people could walk from place to place. However as the town grew larger, the *distance* between places also became greater. People needed *transportation* to get from place to place when it was too far to walk.



At first, people used horses to help them get around. They either rode the horses or *hitched* the horses to a wagon or *carriage*. In the winter, the horses could pull a *bobsled*. People coming to Aberdeen on the train could rent horses and wagons at a *livery stable* to use while they were in town.

During the summer, people rode bicycles. There was even a bicycle club.

People in the club would ride together to another town for a picnic and then ride home again. Some people rode bicycles as part of their jobs. Delivery boys would take



written messages called *telegrams* from the telegraph office to the person the message was for.

Sometimes mailmen would use bicycles to travel their mail routes.

People in Aberdeen saw their first car at a special *exhibit* at the Grain Palace in 1897. This car came to Aberdeen on the train. After

seeing this car, people wanted one of their own to drive. In 1900 two brothers who were bankers were the first people in Aberdeen to buy a car. Four years later there were 20 cars in Aberdeen. Women were even driving small electric cars at that time.

The first *mass transportation* for Aberdeen started in 1910 when *streetcars* took people all over town and even as far as Wylie Park. Streetcars were electric so they were connected to wires that ran above the street. The cars were like train cars and traveled on tracks that were put in the streets. There were places



in the streets where two sets of tracks were laid so streetcars going in opposite directions could pass each other. The *fare* to ride the streetcar was 5 cents for adults. Children under five could ride free. Dogs were charged full price unless they rode on their master's lap. The streetcars stopped running in 1923 because more and more people were buying cars.



A city bus company was started after the streetcar company closed. These buses would take children to school each day for 5 cents. Adults could travel most places in town on the bus, and a ticket cost them 10 cents. Buses left the depot on two *routes*, one that went north and one that went south. These buses left every twenty minutes from 7 in the morning until 11:20 at night. Airplanes became popular in Aberdeen in the 1920s. Back

then, not very many people flew unless they owned their own airplane. The first airport was small and was located at the fair grounds. A larger airport was built in the 1930s so bigger planes could use it.

Think about all the places you have to go today. Imagine using a horse drawn carriage or a streetcar to get there.



## WORDS FOR ME TO LEARN

- 1. DISTANCE** (noun) How far it is between one place and another.
- 2. TRANSPORTATION** (noun) Something that takes a person from one place to another like a bicycle, horse, car, or bus.
- 3. HITCHED** (verb) Connected Example: I hitched the horse to the wagon.
- 4. CARRIAGE** (noun) A vehicle pulled by horses that people can ride in.
- 5. BOBSLED** (noun) A horse-drawn sled for one or more persons.
- 6. LIVERY STABLE** (noun) Business that cares for horses while their riders are doing business in a town. Horses and buggies could also be rented at livery stables.
- 7. TELEGRAM** (noun) A message sent electronically in a code of dots and dashes from one telegraph station to another. These messages were instant--similar to today's e-mail.
- 8. EXHIBIT** (noun) An item or group of items put together especially for people to look at. Example: That exhibit is made up of old postcards.
- 9. MASS TRANSPORTATION** (noun) A way for many people to get from one place to another like buses, trains, or airplanes.
- 10. STREETCAR** (noun) A vehicle that runs on tracks buried in the street. A streetcar is powered by overhead electric wires.
- 11. FARE** (noun) The price of a ticket to ride a bus, train, or airplane.
- 12 ROUTES** (noun) The established ways to get from one place to another. Example: There are two routes I take to school. One is on Main Street and the other is on Lincoln Street.



**Patches says:** This is what the cars on the Aberdeen Street Railway looked like. They look like train cars and run on tracks like trains but the tracks are laid down the middle of the street. That's why they are called **streetcars**.

Streetcars were powered by **electricity** and had long poles on the top of the car that connected to electric wires running above the tracks.

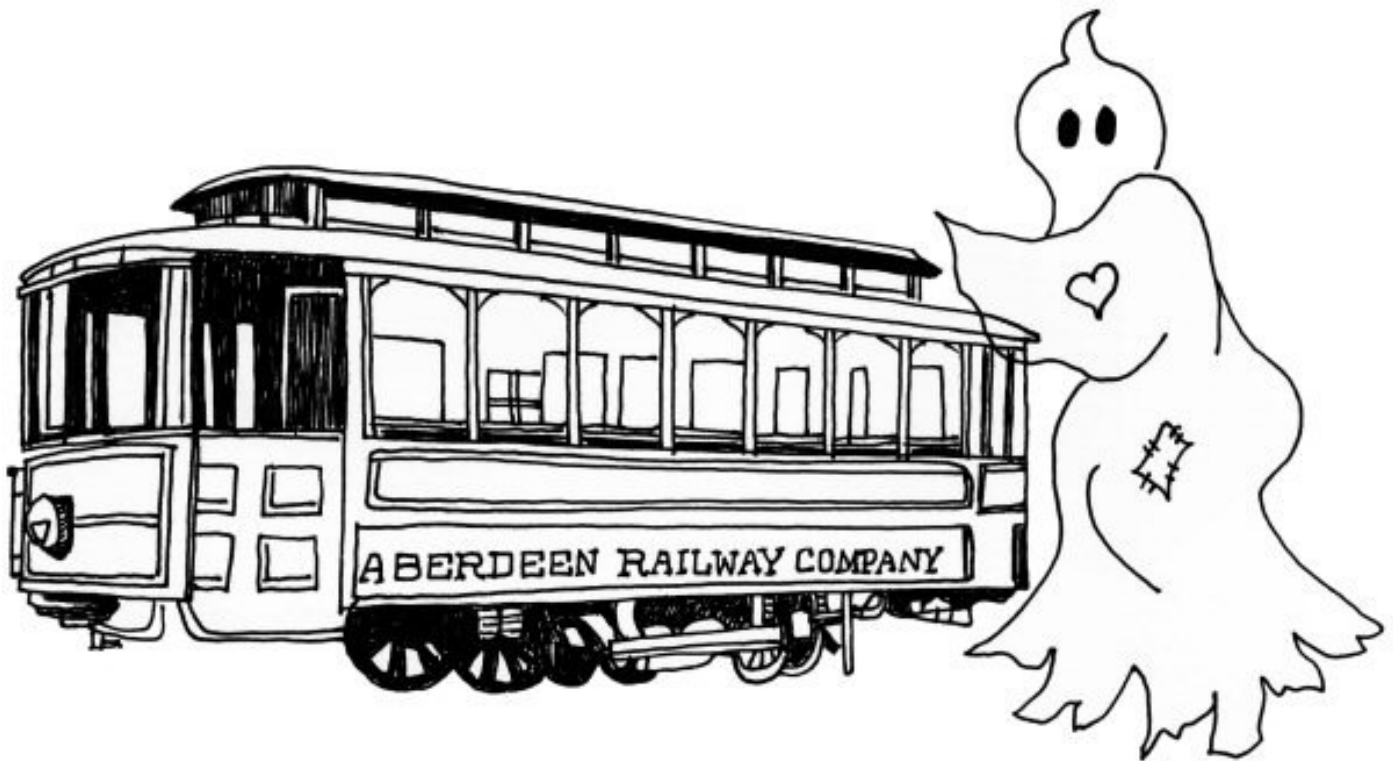
In Aberdeen, streetcars ran for twelve years from **1910 - 1922**.

They would take you all the way to Northern or Wylie Park **for a nickel**. There were many stops along the streetcar route where people could get on or off.

There were also places where two sets of tracks were laid side by side so two streetcars going in opposite directions could pass each other safely.

The **“car barn”** for the streetcars was located in the grassy lot south of Presentation Heights.

When these streetcars were no longer used in Aberdeen, they were sold to another town to be used there.



# Transportation Timeline

**Instructions:** On the line above each date write the type of transportation that became popular in Aberdeen at that time. Choose your answers from the word bank below.

Streetcar

Bicycle

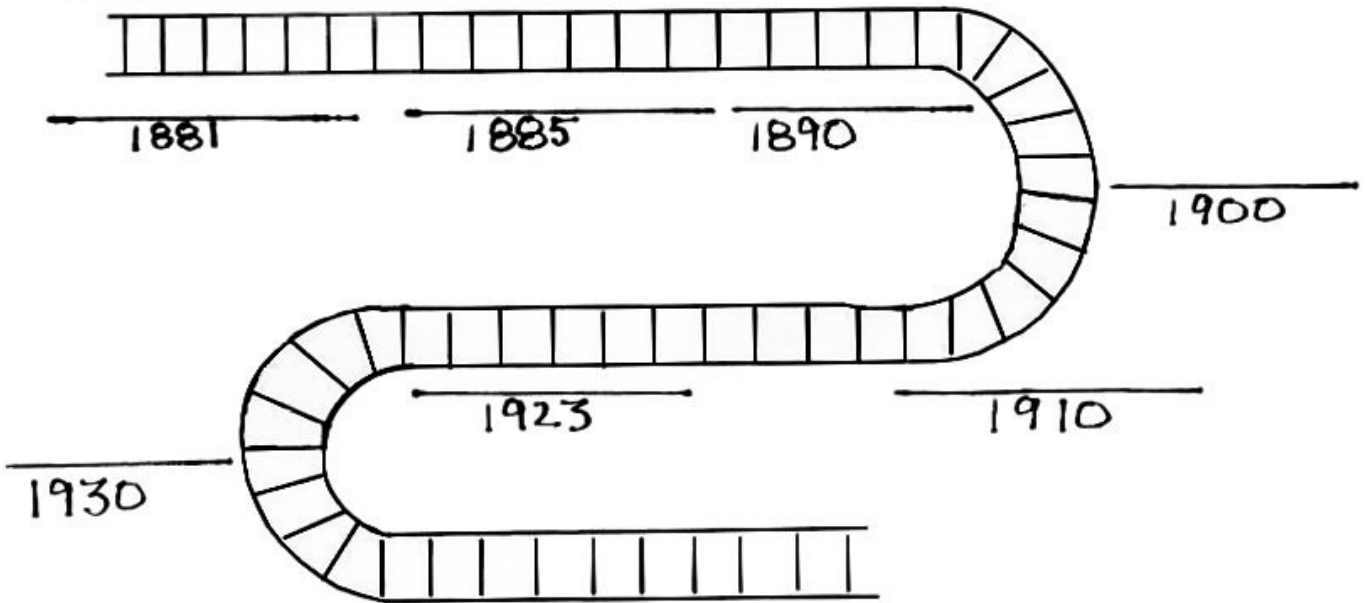
Train

Bus

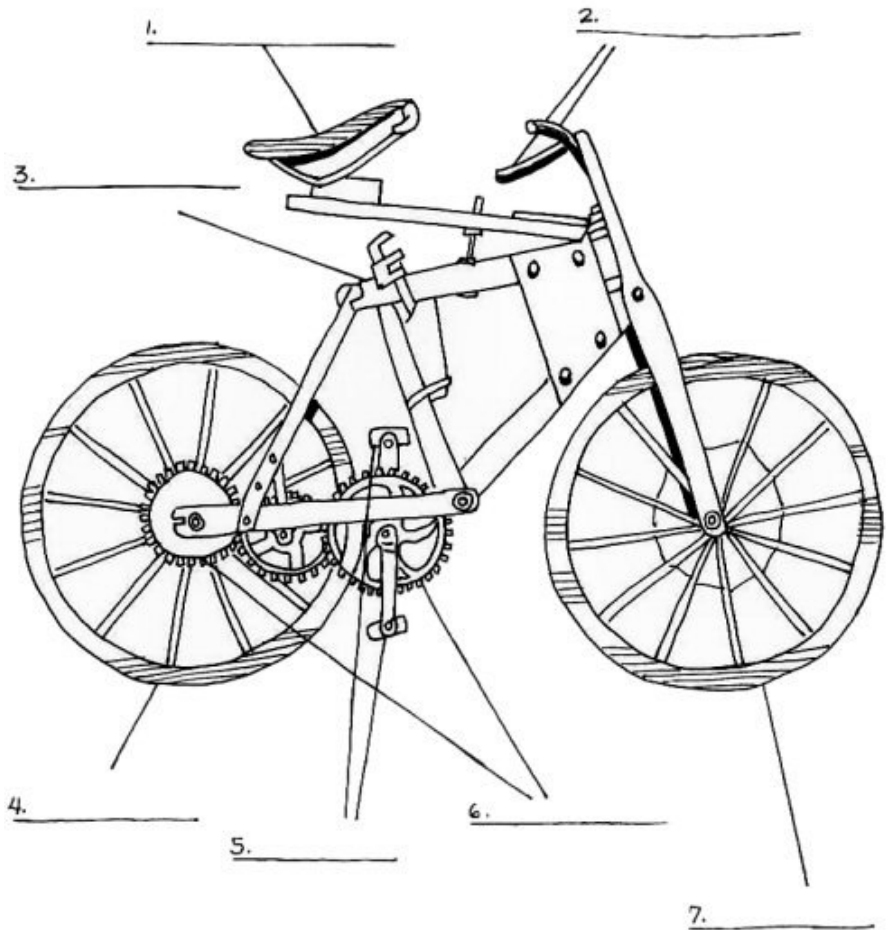
Horsedrawn Carriage

Airplane

Car



## Bicycles of the Past



Here are two bicycles that were popular over 100 years ago.

The **High Wheel Bicycle** (right) was introduced in 1870. The front wheel was very large so a greater distance could be covered in one turn of the pedals. You would buy a bicycle with a wheel as big as your legs would allow. These high wheelers were the first to be called bicycles (which really means two wheels). These bicycles were very popular in the 1880s and were also very expensive.

**The Safety Bicycle** (left) had many features that were better than the high wheelers. The wheels were the same size and the seat was in the center of the wheels. Both these things made these bikes “safer”, thus the name. The bike in the picture has no chain. It is driven by gears instead. Modern bikes look very much like this early safety bicycle which was made popular in the 1890s.

**Activity:** Name the parts of this bicycle using the word bank below.

**Pedals      Handle Bars      Saddle      Gears      Wheel      Frame      Tire**

How is the safety bike like modern bikes? How is it different?