

# Historical Snapshots - Esquimalt Municipal Archives

## An Impressive Sight: BCER Car #123



**Street Car**

This new “observation” car [sightseeing car] began service on the B.C. Electric Railway on 11 July 1909. Built in New Westminster, the car was referred to as a “Montreal” type and was described as having seats arranged in tiers, one rising above the other [as in a theatre] to give patrons an unobstructed view. Passengers would board at the rear of the car and enter the seating from a centre aisle. The designer of the car was a Mr. D.B. Blair.

The BCER constructed a “wye” at the Esquimalt Terminus in order that car #123 and other single ended trolleys could reverse direction.

This car made three 3-hour tours/day with the Takata Japanese gardens and the BCER Gorge Park as a destination.

This photo shows the car heading for Esquimalt, just having cleared the Bay Street/Point Ellice Bridge in the background

For additional information on the B.C.E.R. in Esquimalt see Ewert, Henry. Victoria's Streetcar Era. Victoria, Sono Nis Press, 1992.