

(1572)

JOSEPH G. SWALLOW  
29 ROSELLE AVENUE  
PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK



*Mr Henninger*

Nov 14/34

Mr H.H.Henline  
Genl Secy. A.I.E.E

Dear sir

I am enclosing a slip I cut from the issue of Nov II of either the N.Y. Times or of the Herald-Tribune I forget which.

It happens that possibly I could give a little side view of the parts I have bracketed

I first engaged in Electrical work in the late Eighties in St Louis under a Mr David Mason, and he was very kind and considerate with me as a Green Horn at the work, we had many talks together. The Conduit system was then being installed in St Louis Street Railroads, and the subject of the Electric use came up. He told me he was the Engineer in the field at Richmond and when near ing the need for a trolley he wrote for word as to when he could be furnished with one, the reply was, not ready, after several requests he got word that in a d ay or so he would recieve one, it did not come, and when in a Black-smiths he saw a small circular saw , rummaged around and found another He got the Smith to grind off the teeth, and dish in each of the saws , and braise them together, a rough job but he used it



For an initial try out . He had word from the shops that he could count on its delivery in two or three days, he replied Not Needed, have just successfully had test---What trolley--- Bring it at once to us here---

Mr Sprague has always had the highest respect and Esteem of the Industry . and I am much pleased that he took the position he did, for he certainly must have developed the Trolley from the rough sample of Mr Mason, but would not claim its origination

I would say in conclusion that I understand Mr Mason died some years ago, being as I am well advanced in age

I felt that I ought to make this statement, in fairness to both of the Gentlemen concerned, if you wish however you may consign it to the waste-basket

Sincerely yours

*Joseph S. Swallow*



*11/22*  
*W.C. - note*  
*M.F. - file Sprague memb.*  
*folder - which we need to have*  
*done in perm. file* *11/19*

November 16, 1934

Mr. Joseph G. Swallow  
29 Roselle Ave.,  
Pleasantville, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

We sincerely appreciate your letter of the 14th giving information regarding the development of the electric trolley. We are, of course, writing a fairly comprehensive biographical sketch of Dr. Sprague for publication in the December issue of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

Very truly yours,

National Secretary

HHH:LMW