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Season of Gifts: Monorail memories, a musical meal and free Coke

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Readers' Page

Boomer cherishes memories of trips downtown to ride monorail

To the Editor:

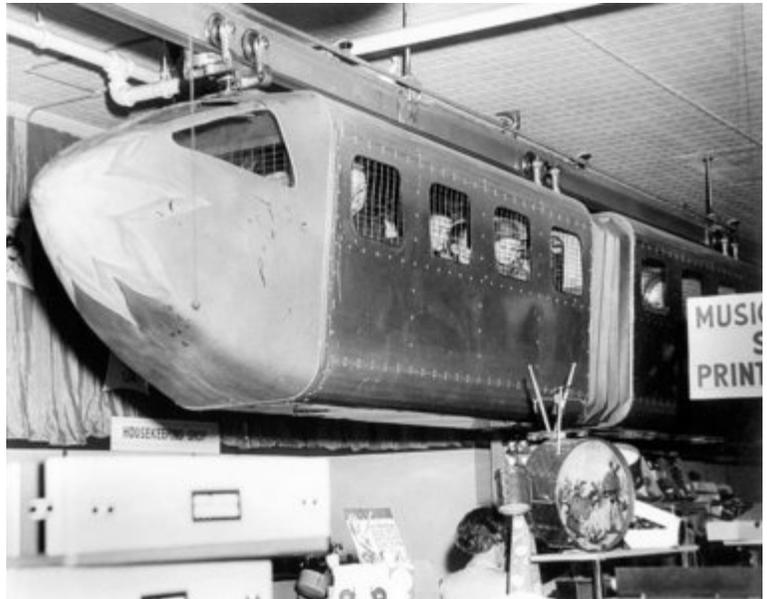
Thank you, Sean Kirst, for the column that evoked one of my most beautiful childhood Christmas memories ... the monorail at E.W. Edwards department store. Anyone who grew up in the '50s in Central New York remembers the excitement of taking a ride on the monorail, looking down at all the people and toys below, and dreaming of what they would later find under the tree. For me it's a memory of being "down city" with my mother and my sister, wearing our matching tweed winter coats and hats (undoubtedly purchased on layaway), shopping for Christmas gifts, and loving our time together. The memory of mother then is a silhouette now, she in her dark winter coat,

scurrying us about from store to store, often in the magic of a snowfall, with an anticipation of a hot-fudge sundae later in Edward's or Dey's tearoom or a movie at the Loew's or Paramount Theater ... and then our ride home on the bus.

Many of us baby boomers must have, no doubt, taken that ride together, as the Speers did, who later married. The monorail now is not just a memory, but a symbol of a not-so-distant past, where Christmas meant one or two special gifts ... no iPods, iPads, smart phones or video games. It was a time of waiting and anticipating those simple gifts under the tree, awaiting the time to be together with extended family, a time of waiting for the true Gift of Christmas.

As I became a young adult, I remember hearing that the monorail was no longer there, that Edwards was closing and for many of us a chapter in our lives closed, as well. Here's to wonderful memories, to loving parents who sacrificed, to a simpler time ... Merry Christmas!

Angela Kitts , East Syracuse



Onondaga Historical Association

Children ride the monorail at E.W. Edwards Department Store in downtown Syracuse circa 1955.

**Baroque concert at Assumption
left listener filled to the brim**

To the Editor:

Assumption Church choir is deserving of special kudos. On a snowy Dec. 5, my biggest decision was which Christmas concert to choose from the vast number of musical offerings in Syracuse that day. My 70-mile round trip to Assumption was richly rewarded. The baroque splendor of Assumption Church was filled with the jubilant sound of choristers and guest soloists, with the accompaniment of organist Glenn Armstrong.

As I set out to return home, I thought I might listen to a disc on my excellent car stereo, but quickly decided to drive in silence. I had already been incomparably filled.

Barry L. Lauten , Blossvale

**Knock at the door brought
surprise delivery from Coke**

To the Editor:

We would like to share the early Christmas Season surprise we received. About 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, our doorbell rang. The weather was very snowy and we were surprised to have a knock at the door. When we opened the door, a representative from Coca-Cola was smiling and delivered a reusable grocery bag of three different eight-packs of Coca-Cola products. We noticed a Coca-Cola truck lit with Christmas lights was winding its way around our development as a team delivered products to all our neighbors.

Thanks to the local Coca-Cola distributor for sharing with its neighbors this time of year. Thanks for putting a smile in this busy season with a treat for all.

Elizabeth and Joe Fallon , Liverpool

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