



# “New Yorkers Loved the Buses”

**H**awaiian Cliff Slater says it was great that General Motors ripped out most of the trams on Manhattan over 1935/36. After all, “New York-ers loved the buses.” But *NY Times* letters read otherwise:

*Recent articles on the Madison Avenue buses failed to mention their most serious and dangerous fault—the unbelievably foul fumes which they emit. (WH Crossman, April 2, 1935)*

*Buses may be a trifle faster than trolleys, but give me the latter any time. Cleaner air, less jolting and swaying, more room. (HG, April 6, 1935)*

*...the chief objection in buses is the awful fumes they exude. (JW, April 7, 1936)*

*Stroll along our avenues and breathe in the oil fumes coming from the exhaust of the buses. For that reason I prefer the old-fashioned trolley cars. (Ed Grant, April 7, 1936)*

*..the real solution [was] obtained by the American Transit Association, which decided that mass transit for large cities should be by trolley...(Norman Rinke, July 6, 1936)*

*As for the First and Second Avenue buses, these on a warm day have no more ventilation than the Black Hole of Calcutta. (L. Carter, June 17, 1936)*

*I find traveling on the new buses very unsatisfactory. The fumes from the gasoline seem to pervade the entire atmosphere. (Joseph Levi, June 17, 1936)*



An NYC Third Ave. Railway tram.