



Well, like the founding of our school and so many of our WSMS events and traditions...it was parents. It all began with a question at a school meeting one late fall night in 1976: *what can we do to make the Spring Fair better for our kids?*

Someone came up with the idea of creating a trolley ride. An architect parent in the room volunteered to draw up the plans. Marcus Strock (father of Alden), who was known as an avid woodworker when he wasn't busy at his day job as a lawyer at Debevoise and Plimpton, immediately became the focus of attention. "Okay, okay, I'll build it," said Marcus, knowing full well that creating a trolley to accommodate at least ten children would consume the family living room on the nineteenth floor of the Olmsted at Central Park West and 97th Street. Luckily, his wife Gigi not only was willing to help with

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this great idea, she agreed to house the emerging trolley until its maiden voyage down 92nd Street.

The actual building of the trolley was easy compared to getting eight-foot sheets of plywood into the elevator. In fact, Marcus had to custom-cut a few inches off each sheet by hand to make them fit. The other big challenge was finding wheels, until he figured out that the wheels used on freight dollies would do the trick and managed to source them (and this was back in the days before Google). Coats of bright red paint were applied to all the components, the

trolley was assembled, and the wheels were put on—all in the Strocks' living room. Eureka! It worked: all the pieces fit together perfectly, it actually held several adults without sagging, and it moved pretty easily on those wheels.

The Strocks' labor of love has brought delight and wonderment to generations of WSMS children. Our heartfelt gratitude to Marcus and Gigi and to the generations of dedicated parents who continue to make WSMS the amazing place that it is.