

"Street Automobile Line," Newspaper Article, September 29, 1905

STREET AUTOMOBILE LINE

*To be Formed by Colored Men of Nashville - Refuse to Ride in Jim Crow Cars.
Will Draw No Color Line - Now Have Wagon Line Which Pays - "God Only Knows What We Have to
suffer here" says Parrish*

New York, Sept. 15. - R.H. Boyd, President of the Penny Savings bank of Nashville, Tenn. has purchased in this city four automobiles for use on a new street automobile line for Negroes in that city.

Rev. C.N. Parrish of Louisville, Ky., a Negro educator and a stockholder in the new company said:

"A law granting the conductors of the street railways power of police to remove passengers from any seat in the car and to arrest whoever refuses was passed several months ago. It is worded to apply to both, to the blacks and whites, but it is really enforced only against us and since it was passed several Negroes have been arrested for refusing to obey the conductors. As a result the receipts in fares have fallen off \$500 a week since the law was passed. The Negroes immediately organized a company of their own and began by using wagons. They found that they owned among themselves 70 vehicles they could use for the purpose.

The enterprise has prospered, and yesterday I went with Mr. Boyd to purchase four large steam automobiles that will be run in place of cars. The purpose of the company is to give the Negroes of Nashville equal rights with the whites as passengers.

"Only God and ourselves know what we have to submit to sometimes. It is not our purpose to exclude the whites, and as automobiles are something of a novelty in Nashville we expect that the whites will patronize our company."