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Press Release

June 16, 2011

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

# MTA Bridges and Tunnels Launches Oral History Project To Capture Memories Of RFK/Triborough Bridge

### **Public Asked To Share Stories and Photos To Celebrate Bridge's 75th Anniversary**

Calling all New Yorkers: if you watched the Triborough Bridge's steely cables stretch gracefully across the sky, were fascinated when the Harlem River span magically rose into the air for the first time, or attended opening day ceremonies and heard Astoria's own 10-year old Anthony Dominick DeBenedetto, aka Tony Bennett, sing, MTA Bridges and Tunnels would love to hear your story!

B&T, working in conjunction with the Greater Astoria Historical Society, is asking the public's help to capture an oral history surrounding the building and opening day ceremonies at the Robert F. Kennedy (originally named Triborough Bridge) as the bridge gets ready to celebrate its 75th anniversary next month.

"Recalling the past and the important role this bridge has played in the economic development of New York City is a wonderful way of honoring the hard-working people who helped build this unique bridge that links three boroughs," said MTA Bridges and Tunnels President Jim Ferrara. "We hope people will share their memories with us as we get ready to celebrate the bridge's Diamond Jubilee."

The sprawling bridge, which connects Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens, opened to traffic on July 11, 1936, and was the largest public works project of its time. Built at the height of the Great Depression, the creation of the Triborough Bridge put thousands of struggling people to work. It also was New York City's first bridge specifically designed for the automobile. The bridge was renamed in honor of Robert F. Kennedy in 2008.

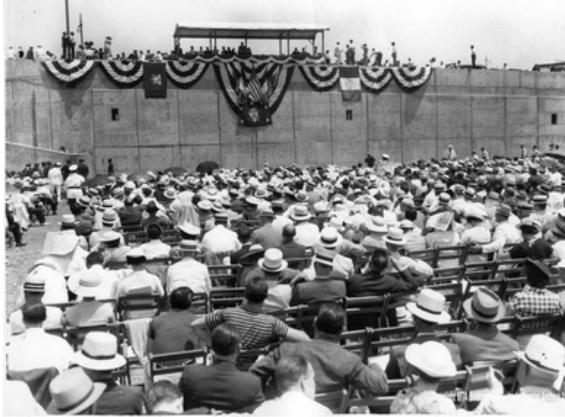
Anyone interested in participating in the oral history project should send an email with a brief description of their memory to [bridgememories@mtabt.org](mailto:bridgememories@mtabt.org) or call 646 252-7420. Please include the best time to contact you and whether you prefer to be contacted by phone or email. Photos are welcome as well.

A copy of the oral histories that are collected will be available to the public at the Greater Astoria Historical Society, which is working in conjunction with Bridges and Tunnels to mark the bridge's 75th anniversary.



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Working on the cables of the Triborough Bridge's suspended span. July, 24, 1935.



Opening day ceremonies for Triborough Bridge, July 11, 1936. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was at the podium. Credit: UPI