

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Spring News Sheet 1967

It has been decided to keep members better informed by issuing a News Sheet in the Spring and Autumn of each year. This is additional to "Five Foot Three", which will continue to appear twice annually, with illustrations and matters of general railway interest in addition to news of the Society.

RAILTOUR

The May Railtour WILL RUN. Present bookings total about 150, so that even if a considerable additional number come in, the Society stands to lose over £100. It is fully realized that opinions differ over this tour; still you are asked to support it - thereby helping the Society's funds - even at this eleventh hour. You will have a chance to air your ideas about Railtours at the General Meeting on 12th May. Please have your booking in before 10th May, as we have insufficient staff to handle a last minute rush.

A.G.M.

Lord O'Neill took the chair and gave an introductory address, followed by reports from the outgoing Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Railtour Organiser. Chief Topics were: publicity value of Meath Railtour; signing of lease for No.171; permission to work at Whitehead and the coming Dál Riada Railtour.

The question of the length of our sojourn at Whitehead was raised, whereupon, Mr J. Coulthard, NIR Managing Director, kindly promised to give us the longest notice he could of any closures. He also undertook to use his good offices with CIÉ with a view to railtours. He has met with some success and we are promised an interview with an Official from CIÉ Operating in the near future.

The proposal was accepted that no steps be taken in connection with Whitehead which would prevent our removal to another site.

Dublin and Portadown areas were formally approved and one representative of each appointed to the Committee. After discussion the office of Assistant (erstwhile Membership) Secretary was revived.

The Committee now consists of eleven members as follows:

L.H. Liddle (Chairman); E.F. Jordan (Honorary Secretary); J. Richardson (Honorary Treasurer); W.T. Scott (Honorary Assistant Secretary/Site Officer); D.J.A. Young and J.S.R. Harcourt (Joint Publicity); D. Henderson; A. Walsh (Locomotive/Dublin Area Representative); J. Glendinning (Portadown Area Representative); A.C. Robb (Railtours); A. Donaldson (Magazine).

After the elections discussion ranged over change of name of the Society, cost of distributing the magazine and special rates for Railwaymen. A General Meeting was promised for the Spring 1967.

WHITEHEAD

Though the lease is not yet signed nor its terms known we have been given informal permission to work and small parties have laboured on most Saturday afternoons.

The entire area has been cleared of undergrowth and the hut at the back repaired and fitted with a lock to serve as a store. Two short lengths of faulty rail were replaced but burning equipment is needed before the job can be finished.

Many sleepers need replacement but after a gang of members had spent a whole afternoon replacing one of them, p.w. work was suspended pending the acquisition of track tools. Member H. Frazer undertook to repair the shed doors and roof for cost of materials, but after £100 of work had been done it was found that re-roofing would cost some £700, compared with an originally estimated £200, because of the state of the trusses. This work also has been suspended till at least the May General Meeting. Lord O'Neill has supplied posts for fencing at cost price (2/9 each).

MOIRA

The National Trust, in a letter to Mr Jordan, expressed interest in our plans for this site and outlined their own. We hope to arrange a meeting with them to discuss the matter.

Mr E.V. Hill, NIR Chief Civil engineer, will supply turnouts at £90 and chaired sleepers at 15/- each plus a nominal charge for transportation and we shall probably purchase a quantity of these.

INSURANCE

D. Young would like to draw your attention to the following:

The Society has effected Public Liability insurance in respect of the site at Whitehead; also engineering policies are required to cover the locomotive boilers. Every member, upon his first visit to the site, will be required to sign an indemnity form to the effect that the Society will not be responsible for any injury howsoever caused. Should, through error, any member be overlooked he must request the form and sign it.

The policy does not cover injury caused by one member to another (i.e. one's personal liability) and the Committee ask every member to make sure he holds a personal liability policy. It is in your interest to do so; your insurance company will be able to supply you with this cover - premium is usually £1.

Also members are advised to make sure that they are covered for personal bodily injury - any insurance company will supply details. In the unfortunate event of injury the policy would supply additional income.

Much as the Society would like to effect a Group Personal Accident Policy in respect of workers at Whitehead, the cost is prohibitive at present.

SO REMEMBER - CHECK THAT YOU HOLD:

- 1) A PERSONAL LIABILITY POLICY and
- 2) A PERSONAL ACCIDENT POLICY

If you have neither form of policy you would be well advised to contact your insurance company and make immediate arrangements. Incidentally, of course, these policies provide vital cover all year round - not only for RPSI activities.

186

Preparation for the Railtour by our Locomotive Sub-Committee continues. Derek Henderson has turned new collars for the coupling rods to replace badly-worn originals and K. Glendinning has prepared the engine for painting. The engine has actually moved under her own steam, thanks to the efforts of Inspector F. Dunlop, who, helped by drivers A. Crawley and D. McAtamney, sat by our engine till she had raised 150 lbs pressure. Fitter R. McDonald has also played an active part in restoring her to good working order and we are deeply appreciative of his help. A full report on her will appear in the next "Five Foot Three".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Railtour organisers have received many letters giving members' views and space will accordingly be set aside in the next Magazine for members' letters. Incidentally, if you write to an officer of the Society about RPSI business and desire a reply, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

I.R.R.S.

On St. Patrick's Day, members S. Boomer, J. Lockett and S. and B. Carse, travelled on the Horse and Jockey - Croom - Silvermines Railtour and were given every imaginable facility for publicity - including access to the train's public address system. The news of No.186's steaming was warmly welcomed and some new members gained. A large number of magazines and pens and pencils inscribed with the name of the RPSI were sold (sales of these in general have brought in a good deal of useful revenue). We offer sincere thanks to the I.R.R.S. for their hospitality.

COLERAINE

A recruiting meeting was held at the home of member R. Currie on 22nd April. Thanks to an energetic publicity drive by Mr Currie, there was a large attendance. The Railway Way of Life was plugged by Mr Currie's museum and by slides shown by Messrs Boomer and Donaldson, who, together with the Honorary Assistant Secretary, spoke of the Society's achievements and answered many searching questions. Models were displayed to show what our engines will look like when restored.

Our best thanks are due to Mr Currie's parents who kindly entertained the whole company to supper. Some half-dozen persons joined the RPSI on the spot.

BELFAST AREA

The inaugural meeting will be held on 6th May.

SIGNALS

If you would like a complete GNR signal for your garden, please contact member J. Glendinning, Crunagh, Glenanne, Co. Armagh.

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1966

Subscriptions as per membership		Treasurer's expenses	£3:12:2
Cards:		Membership Secretary's expenses	8:17:6
177 adults at £1	£177:0:0	Transport of Loco 186	21:1:4
2 adults in advance	2:0:0	Repairs to Guinness Loco	58:9:9
2 junior at 10/-	<u>13:10:0</u>	Rent, Loco 171	40:0:0
Miscellaneous income:		Purchase of 'S' class spares	25:0:0
Sale of Whitehead plans	3:9:0	Gratuity to lorry crew, transport of above	1:0:0
Portadown film show	3:17:0	Loco cleaning materials	2:15:0
Dublin meeting	1:0:0	Transport of Loco Springs	17:6
October film show	4:10:7	Transfer of Locos to Ballymena	17:2:5
Northern Ireland Tourist		Printing, etc.	52:14:5
Board grant	50:0:0	Cost of Whitehead plans	1:17:6
Jules Verne film	100:0:0	British Rail film	1:0:0
Savings Bank interest	15:10:0	Presbyterian Hostel	10:5:0
Profit - "Steaming through a Century"	3:18:6	October Tour expenses	160:6:0
Sales "Last Steam"	4:17:0	<u>Less</u> Tour fees	<u>122:17:8</u>
May Tour fees	657:11:3		37:8:4
<u>Less</u> Expenses	<u>626:15:0</u>	Surplus for the year	122:7:5
		£410:8:4	£410:8:4

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 1966

GENERAL FUNDS		BELFAST SAVINGS BANK	
Balance at 31/12/1965	92:13:7	Balance at 31/12/1966	£1,111:10:2
<u>Add</u> Surplus for year	<u>122:7:5</u>		
"S" CLASS APPEAL FUND			
Balance at 31/12/1965	523:11:8		
Donations received in year	<u>369:17:6</u>	893:9:2	
INSURANCE PREMIUM DUE		3:0:0	
		£1,111:10:2	£1,111:10:2

We have examined the foregoing account with the receipts, record cards and Savings Bank pass book. In our opinion the accounts are correct in accordance therewith.

Norman G. White, Honorary Auditor