

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

SPRING NEWS SHEET, 1970

Locomotives Members may know that since 171 was put back into service last year we have been relying on a borrowed lubricator from No 74 "Dunluce Castle" in the Transport Museum. The period of loan was extended several times owing to difficulty in obtaining a replacement. Eventually after prolonged searching we obtained one from the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in exchange for a vacuum ejector, needed to equip a saddle tank for passenger work. The exchange was effected during a visit to Keighley by three members in December.

Our thanks go to Mr Thomson of the Ulster Folk Museum for his understanding help and officials of the K&WVR.

In preparation for their annual boiler inspection all wash-out plugs, inspection doors, dome covers, safety valves and boiler cladding have been removed and the boilers washed out. The preliminary report of the boiler inspector has been favourable.

Work has been progressing on removing the taper, ovality and scratches from 186's left driving crankpin. This has been undertaken voluntarily by Raymond Hall and Jimmy Moffat of Harland & Wolff.

The Loco Officer wishes to record his thanks to all those who have toiled long hours, working in wet pits, cleaning sooty smokeboxes, removing clinker from fireboxes and wrestling with stiff wash-out plugs. In particular John Lockett, Robin Morton, Derek Henderson, Joe Cassells, Bob Edwards and Larry Crawford deserve special mention.

Annual General Meeting After the usual reports R.C. Edwards made, and P. Newell seconded, a proposal to hold future AGMs in November. This is devised to enable the newly-elected Railtour Sub-Committee to complete their plans and negotiations timely for publication in the cross-Channel enthusiasts' magazines. Hitherto the officer and sub-committee responsible for this, the most important part of the Society's activities, both financially and railwaywise, have had to follow plans laid down by their predecessors. The motion having been passed, the Treasurer was authorised to close his accounts on 31st October. Subscriptions will continue to fall due on 1st January. HAVE YOU PAID YOURS YET?

In the course of his remarks Roy Grayson mentioned the sudden death of Col C.S. Kidd. Our Secretary has written to his family conveying our sympathy.

The Officers for 1970 are as follows:

Chairman - R. Grayson, Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Secretary - R.C. Edwards, Helen's Lay, County Down

Treasurer - J. Richardson, Carrickfergus, County Antrim

Assistant Secretary - W.T. Scott, Belfast 8

Locomotives - I.C. Pryce, Belfast 4 and J.H. McGuigan, Belfast 15

Railtours - E.H. Gilmore, Belfast 5

Publicity C.P. Friel, Portadown, County Armagh

Magazine - A Donaldson, Belfast 9

Site - A.H.J. Glendinning, Markethill, County Armagh

Dublin Rep - S.J. Carse, Dublin 6

Fund Raiser - G. Hamilton, Glengormley, Newtownabbey, County Antrim

After the elections, Lord O'Neill, from the chair, opened the question of decline in membership. Most of the preferred solutions concerned the subscription, the basic alternatives being:

1. Increase subscription, with reduced rate for non-wage earners. Juniors unaltered. Associate membership, with reduced privileges, for "fringe enthusiasts".

2. Leave the membership subscription unaltered and appeal strongly for donations, towards specific projects, to accompany the subscription,

The Magazine and the question of news about the Society was also raised. This has already produced a letter to the Editor and the topic will be fully dealt with in No 9 of Five Foot Three. A special General Meeting will be held in due course to discuss the question of raising the subscription.

Publications Presumably people join the RPSI because of an interest in the steam locomotive. Those, therefore, who do not already possess one would be well advised to procure a copy of "Steam over Belfast Lough" by our member R.M. Arnold, price 21s. Copies are usually on sale at William Mullan's of Donegall Place, Belfast 1 or may be obtained direct from the author at Edward Road, Whitehead, County Antrim. This challenging work, packed tight with valuable unpublished information, will receive a detailed review in the next issue of Five Foot Three.

The latest edition of "Steam Alive" (Ian Allan) contains much well-written material, chiefly on RPSI Railtours. You can help the Society's funds by ordering your copy from the Treasurer (see list of officers). An excellent colour photo of 171 by John Stuart graced the cover of the mid-January issue of "Model Engineer".

Site The resleepering of the shed turnout mentioned in the Autumn News Sheet has now been completed. The job was a difficult one as the old chairs used meant that the crossing timbers had to be drilled afresh to accept the coach bolts.

A water pump has been obtained from the GPO together with a supply of 2" collapsible delivery pipe and suction pipe; during experiments a straight lift of 21 feet was achieved. The equipment will be used on Railtours where a proper supply is not available or in working order.

The Open Day this year will be on Saturday, 27th June. Members are asked to come down to the site both before and on the day itself; there is quite a lot to be done beforehand while on the day there will be things like car parking, crowd control and, of course, the gate to be attended to. Volunteers, or anyone with ideas for money-raising at Open Day, are asked to contact the Site Officer (see list of officers) or any member of the sub-committee, Sullivan Boomer, John Richardson or Tony Ragg or just come down to Whitehead on any Saturday afternoon - it's still only 3s 6d return by rail on production of a current membership card. Attractions already "booked" include two of our engines in steam hauling passengers, Macha Film Studios' film show of past RPSI Railtours, a working O gauge model railway with dozens of nostalgigenic Irish types at work and Lord O'Neill's veteran and vintage cars while "hopefuls" include traction engines and a Super Sentinel steam lorry, an exhibition line from the Ulster Model Railway Society in 4mm scale and a passenger carrying model railway worked by the freelance steam loco "Midge".

Dublin Area Macha Film Studios will present their 1970 Irish steam film show in the IRRS-árus, Drumcondra, Dublin on Friday 6th March at 8 pm. The programme will include film of the Brian Boru Railtour and a look at some past Jeep workings, including "Up Tourist Train" and "Port to Port".

Publicity The Publicity Officer would like members to let him have good quality half-plate photographs of Society locos in action on Railtours.

Why not advertise the Society with a docked compliment slip, which includes the block of 171, stuck to your car windscreen?

Incidentally, if you know of anyone who would like to know about our Tours or if you would like to hand out some publicity material about them, the Publicity Officer will make some literature available on receipt of an s.a.e.

Tour Dates The "Decies" Railtour will now run on 25/26th April and the "Sarsfield" Railtour on 19/20th September. The dates of the "Royal Meath" and "Colmcille" Railtours are unaltered at 23rd May and 17th October respectively. Please note these dates in your diary.

Appeals R Burdon of York generously presented a clock which has been conveyed to Inspector Gannon and J.D. FitzGerald of Armagh has kindly loaned a Dundalk Works plate to be copied for 171.