

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

AUTUMN NEWS-SHEET 1977

GOOD
EVENING
ALL

How are you going to survive without railtours until next year? We suggest that you make your way to one of our meetings and see the treats we have in store!

The Dublin Area will be holding a film show on 1st December at the I.R.R.S., Drumcondra, when Liam Mooney will present cine film from his collection. The meeting starts at 8.00p.m.

The Belfast Area will resume its winter meetings on 27th October, when Joe Cassells will present a selection of his slides. Titled "Timer's Delight", it will be mostly about Irish steam since the early sixties.

24th November - Charlie Friel will review a year's progress at Whitehead with film and comment.

26th January - Sullivan Boomer takes the chair for a Quiz between various local railway societies. There will be sound and visual questions and the top teams will go forward to a final, to take place during the March meeting. Some of the participants from last year's photographic competition will also put on a short show.

23rd February - Maurice Gardiner will show his cine films of the Portrush Flyer and the Spoil Trains, supported by films from some other members.

6th April - The Quiz Final, supported by another event, not as yet finalised.

27th April - subject to be announced.

All Belfast Area meetings are held in St. Jude's Church Hall, Sunnyside Street, Belfast, starting at 8.15p.m.

MAN
DATES

That's your Thursday evenings organised for you, now what about your Fridays? The Northern Ireland Area Group of the Isle of Man Steam Railway Supporters' Association have organised a series of Friday evening meetings at which RPSI members will be welcome. Dates and speakers are as follows: 14th October, R. Wilkinson; 11th November, R.B. Beggs; 9th December, L. Knox; 13th January, S. Bracegirdle; 10th March, Flying Scotsman Enterprises.

All meetings will be held at 7.30p.m. in the YMCA, Wellington Place, Belfast.

CURRYING
SUPPORT

Ian Slaughter reports that bookings for the tour to India next February are up to expectations. The party, which will number about 20, will be visiting Bombay, Jaipur, Agra, Varnasi, Lucknow and Calcutta as well as the recently-opened Railway Museum at Delhi and the fascinating Darjeeling Himalaya Railway. If you haven't decided to book yet, why not go to the Ulster Museum on 18th November at 6.30p.m. when Mike Satow will be giving a talk on Indian Railways as part of the Belfast Festival. Mike featured in a recent BBC film about Indian Railways. The next day he will lead a discussion on Railway Preservation at Shane's Castle.

TURNING
OVER A NEW
LEAFLET

Supplies of the present Membership Introduction leaflet being nearly exhausted, we have produced a new one. It includes new photographs and an updated summary of our objects and activities. Copies will be available for distribution within a few weeks; if you would like some to distribute to interested friends, send a large S.A.E. to William Coates.

FIGURE IT OUT To complicate things for we preservationists, many locomotives carried several numbers at various stages of their careers. For the past year we have referred to our D&SER 2-6-0 as "No.15" since this was the original number carried by the engine. The habit did not "take", however, and most members continued to use the number "461" which was used throughout CIÉ days. To simplify matters, we have therefore decided that "461" be the official number.

GENERALLY SPEAKING As winter approaches, thoughts turn once again to the Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on 2nd December. The location will be the same as last year ... the Teachers' Centre, Queen's University. A few new faces amongst the regulars would be very welcome and their contribution to the proceedings would, no doubt, be enlightening. The Centre is near Botanic Station, and we expect the business to be complete comfortably before the last train.

LOCO LOG With another tour season successfully completed, the winter work schedule is getting under way in preparation for next year. Since the last progress report on No 4, the bolts which hold the right-hand cylinder to the frame have been replaced and the spare set of driving wheels have been delivered to Whitehead, having been re-profiled by N.I.R. some time ago. A set of bricks is now being made in preparation for the replacement of the firebrick arch. The overhaul of No.3 "R.H. Smyth" is now complete and the engine has shunted and worked train rides since July without serious trouble. Following the overhaul of No.171's axleboxes and their uneventful running-in, there was some concern about their temperature on the evening preceding the "Boyne Valley" tour. In the event, all turned out well. New valve rings have also been fitted. No.186 has the longest worklist of all - a new ashpan built and fitted, large boiler tubes replaced, nuts replaced on long stays, superheater joints refitted, fusible plugs replaced and steam heating apparatus reinstated. Finally, No.3BG "Guinness" is now awaiting a general overhaul.

THE LAST WALLS Enterprise Ulster should soon complete the walls around the inspection pits, having worked at them steadily all summer. The next major job will be to add a roof, but no contract has yet been placed for this work. Meanwhile at ground level, some tramway rail has been moved to the new shed for eventual use there. Elsewhere, the long-awaited changes to the overhead power wires have permitted excavation to proceed in the area behind the shed. The embankment between our site and the N.I.R. track is also to be partly removed to give room for a new carriage siding. The open part of the stables building has been enclosed with corrugated metal and it is now in use as an additional store for the locomotive department. Sadly the "back room", the walls of which have resounded to many a tall yarn, will have to be demolished in the near future to enable No.1 shed road to be extended for construction of a wheeldrop.

WE STILL LIVE HERE In our last news-sheet we announced that RTÉ would be showing some of the film which was shot during the "Cu na Mara" tour sometime during the autumn. We have just heard that the Series "We Live Here" will be broadcast at 8p.m. on Friday evenings between 4th November and 16th December. The programme on 2nd December is titled "By Land or Water" and will cover railway and canal architecture.

TANKS FOR EVERYTHING To ease the problems of operating the dining car on long tours when watering points are few, an additional water tank has been installed below the floor with a pump to raise its contents to the roof tank when required. The rotary converter has been put into working order at last and has been used throughout the season for providing power at 240v AC to the deep freeze and beer cooler.

ANNUAL JUNKET This year we will be at a new venue, Dobbins Inn Hotel, Carrickfergus. We are keeping the price low ... £4 or less and hope that lots of you will come. Further details will follow. Keep 6th January free.

BOYNE
BROCHURE

Any passenger on the "Boyne Valley" tour who did not receive a copy of the free brochure should send a large S.A.E. to Robin Morton, who may be able to provide a copy.