

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

SPRING NEWSHEET 1977

SLEEPING IN A recent arrival at Whitehead has been an ex-GS&WR coach, built about 1920, which was converted by CIÉ for use as a dormitory for engine crews. It will now be used for the same purpose by a group of members who regularly stay overnight when working at Whitehead.

FILM UP AGAIN The Belfast Area meetings at St. Jude's Hall, Sunnyside Street, continue until April. The next meeting will be on 24th February, when Derek Henderson will take us for a trip to Londonderry by the NCC line, and back by the GNR aided, of course, by his collection of cine film. On 31st March we will have the opportunity to see several classic British Transport Films including Giants of Steam, Elizabethan Express and Snowdrift at Bleath Gill. The season's final meeting on 28th April will feature a representative from CIÉ who will give a talk on current developments and answer your questions.

MAKING TRACKS Despite the adverse weather, a start has been made on installation of track and a point to link up No.2 carriage road which has been isolated for a time during modifications to the layout. At the same time it is hoped to form a short loop alongside the platform road; this will simplify many shunting movements. Enterprise Ulster are soon to begin some tracklaying work of their own in the reclaimed area to the rear of the shed, into which the existing carriage sidings will be extended. Their work in the new shed continues; the pits are virtually complete and surfacing of the areas between them is now under way. Rebuilding of the shed walls is a further task which will receive EU's attention. Meanwhile our Carriage and Wagon squad have established themselves in the old stables where their equipment is now stored. They hope to obtain some workbenches for the new premises within a matter of weeks.

CONVENIENT COVENANT If you intend to go on most of the 1977 railtours, then this will be of interest to you. The Society can offer an all-inclusive subscription scheme, by which you would pay £40 or so by covenant at the beginning of the year and your tour fares and other expenses would be deducted during the year ... just like a charge account. Meanwhile the Society would benefit to the tune of £22 per year by reclaiming the income tax which you have already paid on the sub. The only person to lose money would be the taxman. If you'd like more details contact John Richardson, enclosing a S.A.E.

KEEPING POSTED The following members have accepted Posts of Special Responsibility:
Paul Newell - Purchasing Officer
Laurence Morrison - Membership Secretary
Mary Friel - Catering Officer, except Sunday teas
Charlie Friel - Photographer
John Friel - Safety Officer
Derek Young - Insurance Adviser
David Humphries - Belfast Area Assistant
John McGuigan - Whitehead Clerk of Works

Perhaps you have some special ability or interest which might be of value to the Society; we're waiting to hear from you.

ANTIQUITIES AFTERNOON The annual Bring and Buy Sale will be held at Whitehead on Saturday, 19th March when the usual array of transport bygones will be offered for sale. A good stock of staffs and some 1880-vintage posters will be among the items and, of course, we ask that you bring your donations for the stock. In view of the increasing

scarcity of quality relics in recent years, this may be your last chance to pick up a genuine bargain.

HIGH FLYERS Contrary to those shown on the Railtour Prospectus and in "Five Foot Three", the FINAL dates for the Portrush Flyer this year will be 23 July, 6 August and 20 August.

PHOTO FINISH The Photographic Competition which formed the basis of the January meeting of the Belfast Area was a great success with 92 slides and 165 prints entered. The judges commented on the high standard of photography by members of a primarily non-photographic society. The winners were:

PRINTS (1) Des Fitzgerald, Armagh; (2) Drew Donaldson, Belfast (RPSI Prize) Irwin Pryce, Belfast

SLIDES (1) Sam Somerville, Carrickfergus; (2) Robin Morton, Belfast (RPSI Prize) Robin Barr, Westmoreland

WINING & DINING Following the resounding success of this year's soiree, John Richardson is hoping to organise a further social event during the spring. While the dining arrangements would be less formal than for the soiree, the evening's entertainment would follow a similar pattern. Further details will follow in due course.

SLIDE SEARCH Members will know that the Society provides illustrated talks to many gatherings of enthusiasts in all parts of the British Isles and in recent years we have been giving talks to "outside" groups such as youth clubs, rotarians and school transport societies. Most of the slides used have been provided by Charlie Friel, but we still need examples from other sources, especially of pre-1969 topics.

Charlie has located slide copying equipment of professional standard in Belfast and can arrange to have duplicates made and to return the originals to you within days (he will also store them in a fireproof locker). The high standard in our recent photographic competition leads us to expect your kind co-operation. The copyright of the slides will remain with you and you will be credited with the picture when used. Please contact Charlie for further details.

Should you wish the Society to provide a talk for an interested group, contact our Publicity Officer, William Coates.

WHITEHEAD WORKLIST Projects currently in hand by the Loco squad include preparation of Nos. BG3, 4 and 171 for boiler examination, machining of axleboxes for No.171, removal of No.4's cylinder bolts and painting of R.H. Smyth. On No.186, the large boiler tubes are being renewed, as are the nuts on the firebox ends of the long stays, while the carriage heating apparatus is being restored. A boiler test pump and a 2cwt hoist are also being constructed.

INSURANCE Just a reminder to members that they are recommended to obtain Personal Liability Insurance to cover them when at Whitehead, etc.

TOURS Enclosed with these circulars is our preliminary Railtour Prospectus for 1977. It is now the time of year for you to draw the attention of your friends to the Portrush Flyer (and especially those of your friends who are able to place large party bookings).

SITUATION VACANT We're still without a sales organiser since our failure to appoint a Commercial Officer at the AGM. Unless we can appoint someone to this job before the summer, we may expect an inevitable drop in the Society's income for the coming year, forcing severe curtailment of our activities. Meanwhile, it is essential that members give us their support, both by joining the Sales squad and by giving us their custom.

DON'T The Belfast Area meetings on 24th February, 31st March and 28th April;
FORGET the Bring and Buy Sale at Whitehead on 19th March; get your church or
your works social club to start planning a trip on the Portrush Flyer
now.

MOST We need more hands for the hundred and one jobs needing done at
IMPORTANT Whitehead and with the Sales squad NOW.

PAY Another way by which the Society will be improving its finances ... if you
UP don't pay your sub by 31st March we won't send you any more circulars!