

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

SPRING NEWS SHEET 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 bygoners 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        The Photographic Competition which formed the basis of the January  
FINISH       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 &     Following the resounding success of this year's soiree, John  
DINING       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        Members will know that the Society provides illustrated talks to many  
SEARCH       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   Projects currently in hand by the Loco squad include preparation of  
WORKLIST    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    We're still without a sales organiser since our failure to appoint a  
VACANT       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!