



NORTHERN IRELAND RAILWAYS CO. LTD.
and the
RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

CENTENARY OF STEAM LOCOMOTIVE
J15 CLASS. 0-6-0 No. 186



Picture by Chas. Friel

SPECIAL STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION
Wednesday, 12th September, 1979

Historical Notes

THE ENGINE

The engine for today's Special Excursion, No.186, celebrates its 100th birthday this year. It was built by Sharp Stewart in Manchester in 1879 for the Great Southern and Western Railway in Ireland, is of 0-6-0 wheel arrangement and is a member of class J15, Ireland's most numerous class of steam engine. It is the oldest engine still being turned out for main line trips in the British Isles.

Withdrawn from service by CIÉ in 1964, it was presented to the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland in 1965, since when it has been given a new lease of life by the members of the Railway Preservation Society, being kept at Whitehead, County Antrim, and used for hauling special trains for enthusiasts almost right round the Irish rail system to Rosslare, Waterford, Cork, Tralee, Limerick, Galway, Westport, Sligo, Portrush and Londonderry. Today's trip, however, is the first to Bangor by this loco.

Engine No.186 is currently operated in the livery used during the making of the film "The First Great Train Robbery" when, along with Engine No.184, it starred in a film which featured Sean Connery and Donald Sutherland, amongst others.

THE CREW

No.186 is today crewed by a team of railway company drivers, as indeed it is on all excursions, although these men are normally now at the controls of diesel trains.

COACHES

The coaches for today's train, most of which date from the 1930s, have also been preserved by the Railway Preservation Society and are repainted in the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland livery of maroon.

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Formed in 1964 in order to preserve some of the best examples of Irish Steam Locomotives.

The Society runs a programme of special steam-hauled rail tours each year to many destinations throughout Ireland including the "Portrush Flyer" excursions which operate during July and August. In May 1980 it is hoped to operate a weekend tour to Killarney.

Membership, which entitles members to receive the Society magazine and regular circulars free and reductions on Railway Preservation Society of Ireland rail tours, costs £4 per annum (£2 if under 16 years of age).

Interested? Then please contact the Membership Secretary (stamped addressed envelope please).

SAFETY POINTS FOR TODAY'S EXCURSION

- (1) Do not cross tracks except by bridges.
- (2) For insurance reasons, it is not possible to permit members of the public to stand on the footplate of the steam engine at any time.
- (3) At Bangor it will be necessary for passengers to leave the train briefly whilst carriages are being shunted.

TIMETABLE

BELFAST (Central)	Depart	14:00
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CULTRA	Arrive	14:20
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Visit to Cultra Transport Museum

CULTRA	Depart	16:00
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BANGOR	Arrive	16:20
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BANGOR	Depart	16:45
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BELFAST (Central)	Arrive	17:15
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