

THE RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MARCH 1980 NEWS-SHEET

THE 1980 VINTAGE: Another date for your 1980 steam diary. This year Whitehead Steam & Vintage Transport Gala is being planned for Saturday 5 July, neatly bridging the gap between the South Kerry Railtour and the "Portrush Flyer" season. The usual crowd-pulling mix of steam train rides, vintage traction engines, buses and tractors is planned along with the regular popular displays of model railways, working scale models, etc. And there are several novelty surprise items planned. So keep the day free.

BOUQUET FROM 'DOWN UNDER': Some members may have noticed a pleasing reference to the RPSI in the letters page of the March 1980 edition of Railway Magazine, Mr. Donald Potts, the Tour Officer of the Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, in a letter about 1980 steam arrangements in the British Isles comments that "One bright spot for the visitors from 'Down Under' is that the active Railway Preservation Society of Ireland as early as last June sprang into action to sponsor a two-day rail tour May 17/18, 1980, for the benefit of the Australians who will be interested to sample steam on the 'Five Foot Three' in Ireland, the same gauge as Victoria." It will be a pleasure to have enthusiasts from so far afield participating on one of our tours.

MAPPED OUT: A late item of news from the sales department, too late for inclusion in the sales sheet, Dyeline prints of a composition by J.C. Gilham depicting the complete Dublin Tramway System are available to members at £1.20 + 20p P&P from Irish Steam. This excellent reference work shows the track and depot layouts of the whole system including the Dublin & Blessington Tramway and other outlying areas.

SNOW JOKE: While most people were caught unawares last weekend by the sudden out-of-season snow falls, members working at Whitehead were quickly into action with the JCB clearing snow, not only from the site, but from neighbouring houses as well.

STAMP-EDE: The special RPSI sponsored first-day covers for the special Liverpool & Manchester Railway commemorative 12p stamps have been selling like hot cakes. The covers, which include B&NCR as well as NIR cancellations are being marketed through the stamp shop in Skipper Street, Belfast.

BRAKE TIME: Having received its new roof, North Atlantic Brake 91 has been taken out of No.5 Shed Road and replaced by BUT Brake 231 (UTA 562). The BUT requires reroofing and substantial structural repairs.

RUNNING ROUND: The first of a series of important track alterations is now taking place at Whitehead. A crossover is being lifted from the former spoil-loading sidings at Magheramorne and this will be re-laid at Whitehead over the next few weeks to form the smaller of what will eventually be two run-round loops. This is most labour-intensive work and extra helpers will be welcome, Work will be going on at weekends and through the Easter holidays.