

JUNE 1980 NEWS-SHEET

KERRY ON: One of the best two day railtours ever. That was the verdict of many of the 250 passengers who travelled on the South Kerry Railtour on May 17/18. The tour ran over the scenic Mallow - Tralee line in perfect weather with loco 171 "Slieve Gullion" putting in impressive performances. Centenarian J15 184 was also in excellent form when it took charge of the tour train in the Dublin area. The tour attracted participants not only from Ireland and Great Britain but from as far afield as Australia with a large party of enthusiasts from "down-under" providing a film show in the hotel at Tralee on the Saturday night.

GETTING ALL STEAMED UP: The Society's next major steam event will be the Whitehead Steam-Up on Saturday 5 July. This promises to be a better-than-ever extravaganza of vintage transport and many more attractions, so keep the day free. Full details are included with this circular. Don't forget if you think you might be able to lend a hand with this event to tick the appropriate boxes and send them to John Richardson as soon as possible.

APPEALING LOUGH ERNE: So far the appeal to raise sufficient funds to cover the purchase and restoration by the Society of ex-Sligo Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway 0-6-4T "Lough Erne" (ex-UTA No.27) stands at £2,620 (4 June). Many thanks to all who have donated so generously to this appeal. However, there is still a long way to go if sufficient funds are to be raised to put "Lough Erne" at the head of a train once again. So keep the donations rolling in... No matter how large or small.

RPSI RULES: No, not the latest example of graffiti. At the last AGM several members inquired about viewing the rules and regulations governing the Society's activities. This is just to remind members that the Society's Articles of Association are available for inspection during normal business hours at the Society's registered office.

TRACKING DOWN: Work is proceeding every weekend with putting in the new crossover at the platform at Whitehead. The long carriage sidings which had to be temporarily disconnected from the rest of the site should be reconnected soon.

HEAVY GOODS: Latest arrival on the site at Whitehead is a Leyland articulated lorry tractor unit. This vehicle, which formerly hauled road tankers, will be used for transporting heavy equipment, such as rails, etc., to and from the site at Whitehead.

OFF TO THE SEASIDE: Once again the "Portrush Flyer" season is almost upon us. This year the "Flyer" will operate on three occasions, namely 26 July, 9 August and 23 August. As with last year's "Flyers" the locomotive in charge of the train will be 4-4-0 No.171 "Slieve Gullion". Full details of fares, times, etc., are given in the brochure/booking form, copies of which are included with these circulars. The "Portrush Flyer" is one of the Society's most popular steam ventures and we are hoping to carry record numbers of passengers this year. So make sure you get your booking in early and tell all your friends that it's a great day out. Extra booking forms are available from the Portrush Flyer booking address on the brochure (S.A.E. please) and they may also be obtained from the tarry at Whitehead. Following the success of the Castlerock Extension of the last "Flyer" of each of the last two seasons it is planned to operate Portrush - Castlerock Extensions on each "Flyer" date this year. The return fare from Portrush to Castlerock will be £1.00 (50p for under 16s and over 65s).

OUT-SHOPPED: With the new shop on the Whitehead platform opening on 21 June facilities for visitors to the Sunday Train Rides, which start at 14.00 on 22 June, will be greatly improved. Visitors and members alike will now be able to take time to browse through a comprehensive range of sales items in comfort, whatever the weather. Gone are the days of the flapping sheets of polythene fighting a losing battle to keep sales stock dry on the open platform. As usual the train rides will continue each Sunday during the latter half of June and throughout July and August. The times will be 14.00 to 17.15. Two train rides car stickers are included with this circular. Please help to attract Sunday visitors to our site at Whitehead by displaying one of them on your car and asking someone else to display the other one.

TAKING A BRAKE: Members who travelled on the South Kerry Railtour will have noticed ex-GNR(I) BUT brake coach 114 making its debut on an RPSI tour train. 114 has been put into running order to replace the Society's other BUT brake 231 (562) which has been temporarily withdrawn from service for a major overhaul. 114 has been repainted and the substantial van space used for carrying loco, spares, etc.

ON THE BUSES: Members visiting Whitehead recently may have wondered at the appearance of three buses in recent weeks. No, there is no plan to replace the Sunday Train Rides with a bus along the platform. The buses belong to member Paul Newell and are temporarily visiting the site.

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