

SEPTEMBER 1987 NEWS-SHEET

ENTERPRISE EXCELLENCE What a perfect day Tuesday August 11 turned out to be – everything went like clockwork on the 40th anniversary Enterprise Express run, right down to the celebratory Buck's Fizz! Loco No.85 "Merlin", sister engine of No.83 "Eagle", which hauled the first ever Enterprise, gave of her best and it was a most memorable day. NIR Intercity had hired the RPSI train for the day and had also arranged for loco No.171 "Slieve Gullion" to run ahead of the special light engine, just in case. In the event, 85 ran perfectly and arrived in Dublin one minute inside the 2 hr 15 min schedule – just as happened on the first run in 1947. And don't forget the 1987 train had to wend its way the extra mile round from Belfast Central. The train looked exceptionally spic and span and NIR Intercity's 100 guests, who included railway company top brass from BR and CIÉ, were all highly impressed. The whole day had a special atmosphere and the RPSI members on board all agreed that it was an event which would live long in the memory. And just in case the first non-stop Belfast-Dublin steam run since 1966 was not enough, there was more magic to come on the way home. Loco 171 backed onto the train at Dundalk to double-head with 85 up the Wellington Bank and on through to Belfast Central. Our sincere thanks to NIR Intercity General Manager Mr Denis Grimshaw, the man behind the whole event, who planned the commemorative run with precision and then executed the plan to perfection!

* See the sales list for special souvenir items of the great day!

THE RIGHT NOTE The RPSI's own Steam Enterprise season got off on the right note on Saturday August 22 when we had as our guests on the train the Carrickfergus and Whitehouse Silver Band. No.85 "Merlin" was at the head of the nine-coach train (including the directors' saloon) and she handled the task with ease – even the difficult start up the bank out of Newry station where we were calling southbound for the first time. The Steam Enterprise continues on September 12 and 26 and the 12th trip promises to be something special, coinciding as it does with the Clonsilla shuttle with No.184 (see enclosed circular). This year we have taken to the airwaves and have been advertising the Steam Enterprise on Downtown Radio, the jingle being: "Eat your heart out Casey Jones – why go for the Cannonball Express when you can jump on board the Great Northern Steam Enterprise to Dublin...." The Whitehead Railway Project has been busy answering calls from lots of Downtown listeners. Purists, bite your tongue!

CAPACITY CROWD The Clonsilla shuttle on August 15 (mentioned in the last news-sheet and advised by special circular to Republic of Ireland members) proved to be an outstanding success. It operated to time and all four round trips were very well supported, with some passengers having to be turned away. The venture is being repeated with a carbon-copy operation on September 12, so don't miss it this time. Incidentally,

talking of our activities in the Republic, it should be recorded that the Ennis shuttle operation in June was also a super success with vast crowds supporting the two-day event.

ANY OLD YARNS?

A Canadian gent called Nick Cannon has written to the RPSI, asking us to pass on a request to members in connection with a book he proposes to write. Mr Cannon would like to hear from anyone with "railway stories, true or false" to tell him. He says he would be interested in anything from one-liners to short stories of interest. If you are interested, get in touch with Mr Cannon direct. Incidentally, he promises to donate a percentage of the sales proceeds to the RPSI if you nominate us as your favourite preservation group.

BACK IN THE PICTURE

After a gap of 10 months, the RPSI is back in the movie business. Our last involvement was when 85 visited Dublin to shoot a scene in the Remington Steele series (which has now apparently been shown on RTÉ). This time we're doing the double and members may be interested in the outline plan:

Sunday Sept 13 "Troubles" film. 184 and three RPSI coaches at Greystones Co. Wicklow for day's filming.

Monday Sept 14 ditto

Tues Sept 15 184 and the Mullingar-based five-coach RPSI train travel empty-stock from Dublin Connolly via the D&SER to Rosslare, en route to Carrick-on-Suir for two days of filming for the "Echoes" film. The outline schedule originally proposed is:

	arr.	dep.
Dublin Connolly		10.15
Bray	10.55	11.00
Gorey	13.35	13.50
Enniscorthy	14.40	16.10
Wexford	17.00	17.10
Rosslare Strand		17.30
Rosslare Harbour	17.45	

At the time of writing the schedule has not been finalised - so please check before setting out to photograph the train. It's certainly a historic event - the first steam down the D&SER since 1977.

Wed Sept 16 After lying over at Rosslare Harbour, the train continues to Waterford, leaving Rosslare 10.00 and arriving in Waterford at 11.50.

Thu Sept 17 184 & train leave Waterford 08.30 for day's filming at Carrick-on-Suir. "Echoes" film.

Fri Sept 18 Second day's filming at Carrick-on-Suir.

Still to be decided at the time of writing was how the train would return to Mullingar, but it was expected it

might travel via Limerick, Athenry and Athlone, probably over the weekend of September 19.

"Troubled" coaches, including Rosslare brake 12-wheeled brake 861, were to lie over in Dublin for a further static filming session in November.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Congratulations to member Sean Browne of Castlerea whose bid for No.4's old chimney stack topped the pile. The chimney was delivered to Mullingar and should by now have reached Sean. Thanks to him for his support. Runner-up Ian James of Belfast was given 186's old chimney.

ST JUDE'S CALLING

The Belfast area meetings get off to a new season on Tuesday October 20 when Charles Friel delivers an illustrated talk on the railway age in Enniskillen. The meeting marks the 30th anniversary of the last train from Fermanagh. The meetings, which take place at St Jude's Church Hall, Sunnyside Street, Belfast, start at 7.30 pm:

Tues Oct 20 "Fare Thee Well Enniskillen" - Charles Friel.

Tues Nov 17 "Clogher Valley Centenary" - Roger Weatherup.

Tues Dec 15 Members Film Night. Your top 10 slides or top 10 minutes of cine film.

DIESEL QUIZ

Thanks to the 70 members who responded to the diesel questionnaire. The replies are now being evaluated by the RPSI Council.

SHEER DELIGHT

Plans are in hand for Enterprise Ulster to come to Whitehead in the autumn to erect the shear-legs which are needed for lifting coaches. Watch this space!

FINALLY, FINALLY

Some new blood is being recruited for the RPSI operating grades. Why not join the gang by dropping a line to traffic officer Jeremy Saulters?

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