

THE RAILWAY PRESERATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MAY 1988 NEWS-SHEET

- TWO-DAY TRIUMPH What a magnificent success the Shannon International Railtour turned out to be. And what a fitting way for the RPSI to celebrate 20 years of two-day tours! Everything (well, almost everything) ran like clockwork and we enjoyed a sparkling weekend of sun, scenery, steam - and the odd turn of speed to keep the timers happy! The runpasts were superb, the lineside buses never took a wrong turn and 184 was very much the star of the show photographically, restored to her black livery. No.4 performed excellently, and effortlessly, setting up a couple of new records en route. Once again, No.85 provided a fitting climax to the tour with a super run up the Great Northern main line in the evening sunshine - and a quite outstanding false start out of Portrush on the Monday. In all, we had 350 passengers on board, the bulk of them from Britain, but including contingents from the Channel Islands, the US and, as usual, Berlin. It was most encouraging that the majority of participants chose to stay overnight in Belfast and join the Portrush trip on the Monday. So, despite some last minute changes in cross-channel travel arrangement forced on participants by the seamen's dispute, everything worked out excellently. A sincere vote of thanks to all concerned in the organisation and operation of the event.
- MILLENNIUM MEMO If you haven't got your booking in for the Millennium trains from Dublin - do so without delay. The trains are booking steadily and the first outing, the Cooley on June 4, is already under starter's orders. Why not make that a complete weekend of steam by travelling with No.4 from Dublin on the Saturday and then joining our Sunday afternoon steam run in Belfast on the Sunday afternoon? Anyway, details of the Millennium programme are available from David.
- PORT OF CALL Enclosed you will find your Portrush Flyer leaflet and members' circular, and we would encourage you to get a party together to support the Flyer - now in its 15th season! This year, as you will note, the Flyer is nesting at Belfast Central and each of the trains will depart from there, calling at Lisburn; your attention is also drawn to the Mafeking Express on June 11 on which RPSI members and their friends are invited to book.
- STEAM TRAIN RIDES The Whitehead steam train rides will be having a shorter season than usual - partly to allow site work at Whitehead to proceed and partly because there is so much else happening! This year the train rides will operate on Sunday afternoons throughout the month of July, and if you can help please contact Ernie Gilmore.
- VINTAGE STEAM A fine time was had by all on the "Curtain-raiser" wine and cheese special on April 22 - a fine way to start the main line operating season. The Bangor Belle on April 30 was also well supported but unfortunately NIR experienced some operating problems on the day - the recently computerised signalling system seemed somewhat perplexed by unorthodox movements such as a steam engine wanting to run around its coaches in Bangor.

The train got out of path and ran progressively later, which sadly meant some of our passengers having a lengthy wait. Still, a lot of lessons were learnt. Then, on May 21 the Northern Ireland Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders hired the train for a trip on the Larne line - giving 171 her first spin of the year.

BOTTOM LINE

The following sales items are available from Henry Beaumont, all prices in sterling including post & packing. Poster of No.4, poster of 5 RPSI locos, £1.60 each. 1927 Irish railway map, £2.20.