

THE RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1989

EGGS-TRA GOOD ...

Our Easter Bunny is coming out of hibernation and making tracks for Whitehead this Easter. The RPSI will be operating Easter Bunny train rides on Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (14.00 to 17.00) and we are expecting big crowds. There will be a present from the Easter Bunny for all the children, a complimentary refreshment for the adults, and a steam train ride for all the family. So, spread the word, make up a group and give this event your support. And as you will see from the enclosed circular, this is your chance to get involved by volunteering for the Easter roster. Please lend a hand on at least one of the three days.

SUMMIT GOOD? ...

Deposits are coming in thick and fast for the Mount Brandon two-day tour to Tralee in May - so send in your cheque for £10 if you don't want to get left behind. We were approaching the 250 mark at the time of writing with interest being shown in Germany, France, Australia and the USA. People who submit deposits should get the full booking form within the next two to three weeks.

MILLENNIUM PLUS ONE ...

Following the success of last year's steam excursions, plans are being made for a programme of day-trips from Dublin in 1989. Full details and booking forms will be sent to members next time round. But here are the outline plans so that you can mark them in your diary:

June 3 - The Cooley, Dublin - Dundalk and back, with a local trip from Dundalk to Drogheda. Also a possible Steam Enterprise from Belfast to Dublin to link in with a day of steam activity on the GN.

June 24 - The Sea Breeze, Dublin to Wexford, with a local trip from Wexford to Rosslare. The Dublin - Wexford trip is part

of a weekend package for GB-based enthusiasts, but some seats may be available for local enthusiasts at short notice. GB participants should contact Gerry Feeney Travel Ltd., Ilford, Essex, for full details. All-in fares such as £69.50 from London and £54 from Liverpool are on offer, using the Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire ferry.

July 15 - The Shannon, Dublin to Carrick-on-Shannon, with a local trip to Sligo, picking up at Boyle and Ballymote.

August 12 - The Sea Breeze, Dublin to Wexford with a local trip from Wexford to Rosslare. This time the Sea Breeze is aimed at the home market.

September 9 - Three Maynooth Shuttles.

Confirmation of dates, schedules and fares will be given to the membership as soon as possible.

AGM TIME ...

Don't forget to attend the RPSI AGM at Belfast Boat Club on Friday 3 March (20.00). We are hoping to have some further information on the important question of insurance.

A VINTAGE YEAR ...

And don't forget the final Belfast area meeting of the season which is being held at St. Jude's Church Hall, Ravenhill Road, Belfast, at 19.30 on Wednesday 8 March. Joe Cassells will be presenting a slide show featuring all the action from the RPSI in 1988, one of our busiest years ever.

IRISH SLIDES ...

In a recent news-letter we mentioned two suppliers of high quality Irish railway slides. Two updates:

Colour-Rail's full catalogue (colour illustrated) with sample costs £3.50. Alternatively, a specially produced Irish Colour-Rail list, with order form is available from Charles Friel (please

enclose a 9" x 4" stamped addressed envelope).

Keith Pirt will shortly be bringing out an additional list with 45 more Irish titles.

MARKET DAY ...

Members living in the South-East of England are advised that a Transport Collectors' Market is being held in London on Saturday 18 March between 11.00 and 15.00. The venue is the Church Hall, Regent Square United Reformed Church, Wakefield Street, London WC1, which is close to St. Pancras. Lots of railway items on sale. Admission up to 13.00 is 40p and after 13.00 it is free

HEY HO, HEY HO ...

It's off to work we go - both at Whitehead and Mullingar, for we have to get the locos and coaches ready for this year's operating season. And most important, we're short of bodies to do the work. So, if you can possibly help, then troop down to your nearest site any Saturday or Sunday and lend a hand.

A SUMMER JOB? ...

With this news-letter you've received a copy of the 1989 summer operating programme, and as you'll know it takes a lot of help to keep everything ship-shape. We're looking for people to take on sales duties, train cleaning and some other supporting jobs - and if you're prepared to help by organising a team to do some of the jobs, we want to hear from you. To join the roster why not write now to Whitehead Railway Project, and they'll pass on your name to the Operations Committee in Dublin or Belfast. So let's keep this year's train looking good and running well!

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS ...

Member Richard Heinersdorf from Vienna has asked us to organise photographs for a book on Steam in Ireland, so Ernie Gilmore is looking for high quality black and white photos for publication. If you have some good shots, preferably from company days let Ernie know. (We'll accept photos of preserved steam as well, of course.) Write to Whitehead Railway Project, enclosing, if possible, prints of your best pictures. And don't worry about printing your negatives specially - if we're going to use your photos we'll be in touch to arrange anything that is needed.

AND OUR TODAYS ...

Don't forget our' Publicity Officer is always on the lookout for photos to use in advertising, so if you've got anything that Michael McMahon can use to publicise our trips, write and let him know. The address - yes, you've got it - Whitehead Railway Project. And remember that our Editor is also always on the lookout for pictures for Five Foot Three, so let him know if you've got anything for him to publish.

POST RESTANTE ...

Yes, you've now realised - send your mail to Whitehead Railway Project. Of course, if dealing direct with someone on Council you can still write to them at home, but for most mail we suggest, to make things easier, all official correspondence goes to Whitehead. Apart from the odd house move that's happened (or is going to), it means your letter, photo or enquiry can be passed straight away to the right person for action - so the Society runs more efficiently and you get a quicker answer. We hope the experiment will make for a better service all round.

GOING LOCO ...

Work at Whitehead on the loco Fleet is really going! No.85 is having her bogie stretcher bolts renewed, while No.4 is having some minor repair work carried out. The retubing of No.171 is proceeding apace, whilst her tender is getting some very necessary plate work welded up. Finally, the Derry engine is also going to need some new tubes later this year, and we may lose her from traffic for a few months.

WITH A BIT OF COACHING...

Complementing the loco work, the coach department are beavering away to get GN diner No.88 ready for the road. The vehicle has been rewired and re-plumbed, the gangway connections completely renewed, and the underframe trusses are presently being renewed. This has given us a chance to clean and examine the auxiliary water tank. The axle bearings are also being re-metalled. Other coaches are also being examined, cleaned and rewired as time and manpower permit. This is going to gain more momentum as we get nearer the operating season.