



RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Souvenir Brochure to commemorate the official launch of Dublin and South Eastern Railway Locomotive No.461 Tuesday April 16, 1991

Host

Dr. Garret FitzGerald T.D.

Vice-President of the Railway Preservation Society of
Ireland

Guest of Honour

Her Excellency Mrs. Mary Robinson, President of Ireland.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 10:00 Registration of guests at Pearse Station, Westland Row, Dublin.
- 10:15 Arrival of Her Excellency The President.
- 10:30 Official launch by Her Excellency The President.
- 10:45 Depart by RPSI vintage train to Dun Laoghaire.
- 11:15 Reception at Restaurant na Mara.
- 12:30 Return by RPSI vintage train to Pearse Station.
- 13:00 Finish.

A HISTORY OF THE LOCOMOTIVE

Locomotive No.461 was one of a pair built by Beyer Peacock in 1922 for the Dublin & South Eastern Railway (DSER). Originally the engines were numbered 15 and 16 but when, in 1925, the DSER was absorbed into the nationalised Great Southern Railway (GSR) the two locomotives were renumbered 461 and 462. The new numbering was unaffected when the GSR in turn became a part of Córas Iompair Éireann in 1945.

Between 1923 and 1955 the two engines worked opposite each other on the heavy goods trains between Dublin and Wexford. During the day 461 was normally based in Wexford and often worked the local trains to Rosslare Harbour.

In April 1963 steam was all but eliminated on CIÉ. Fortunately 461 was identified for preservation and was moved to Inchicore Works. In 1977 the locomotive was offered to the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland and was moved to the new surroundings of the Society's base at Mullingar. As Mullingar did not have the necessary facilities to carry out major restoration work the locomotive was again to move - this time to the Society's other base at Whitehead, County Antrim, which has been equipped to handle such a large scale engineering undertaking.

Since 1984 work on 461 has progressed at a steady pace to the point where she is now ready to come into traffic for the RPSI's 1991 season.

THE SOCIETY

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland was formed in 1964.

The Society's objective is to preserve for future generations the enjoyment of steam railways. To this end it has restored both steam locomotives and historic coaches to working order. Thanks to the continued co-operation of Iarnród Éireann and Northern Ireland Railways the Society's vintage steam trains (typical of the period 1920 to 1950) may be seen in operation regularly throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

The Society is based at both Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and Whitehead, Co. Antrim. The RPSI cherishes the unique bonds of friendship it has engendered between its members. It is a totally voluntary organisation and is recognised as a charity in both the Republic and in Northern Ireland.

The main event in the RPSI's annual calendar is the International Railtour - a weekend of steam from Dublin to one of the terminus stations on the Iarnród Éireann network and back the next day. Enthusiasts from the UK, Europe and as far afield as the USA and Australia have come to Ireland for the event. Together with our one-day excursions which originate from both Dublin and Belfast our trains carry in excess of 5,000 passengers annually.

RPSI trains have been widely used in the making of feature film for both the big screen and for television. Worthy of comment are "The First Great Train Robbery", "The Irish RM", "Remington Steele", "Troubles", "Echoes" and "The Real Charlotte".

Membership of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland is open to all. At present the number of members totals about 1,000. While the majority come from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland the Society enjoys support from Great Britain, Germany and the USA.

The Society is managed by a Council. The current members are:

President: The Rt Hon. The Lord O'Neill

Vice President: Dr. Garret FitzGerald T.D.

Vice President: The Rt. Hon The Lord Dunleath

Chairman: Sullivan Boomer

Secretary: Paul McCann

Treasurer: John Beaumont

Henry Beaumont

Barry Carse

Thomas Charters

Peter Emmett

Joseph Fitzpatrick

Ernie Gilmore

Brian Hill

Mark Hodge

David Humphries

Dermot Mackie

Leslie McAllister

Michael McMahon

Aiden McDonnell

Nelson Poots

Jeremy Saulters

Peter Scott

Sam Somerville

The Society wishes to thank:

The National Heritage Council who contributed generously to the restoration of No.461.

Both Iarnród Éireann and Northern Ireland Railways for their continued co-operation thus enabling the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland to operate over their respective networks.

Curust Industries, Brown Thomas & Co. Ltd and the Flower Bowl Rathgar for their generous support towards our carriage restoration effort for to-day's train.

The Society's Locomotive Maintenance Officer, Peter Scott and the small band of volunteers who have worked so hard over the past few years on the restoration project.

Our working members in Dublin and Belfast, Mullingar and Whitehead - too numerous to mention by name - who in one way or another have contributed to this day.

Cover Photo: Sunday 18th November 1990, Locomotive No.461 pulls out of Whitehead Station on one of the early running-in trips.

Charles P. Friel Official Photographer to the RPSI