

BOGIEMAN'S GAZETTE

Official Organ of the Carriage and Wagon Department

NOVEMBER 1992

£1,000 and counting. Before going any further I must thank on behalf of the C&W team all those who have contributed to the 1328/255 Appeal so far, including an especial thanks for several substantial individual donations, however **EVERY** contribution helps.

A source not a million miles from the North Pole informs that Santa will be forsaking traditional sleigh and reindeer for the RPSI vintage train although red-nosed reindeer will not be in evidence as platform restrictions at Yorkgate preclude pilot working. Santa's helpers will, however, be basking in the comfortable surroundings of a completely heated train. Jim Bromfield has worked like the proverbial to complete a re-fit of eight coaches since the last issue as well as constructing a new heating system for LMS NCC Dining Car No.87 from scratch. 87's original steam heating was removed during her later days as a railcar diner during which she carried a plaque at each end informing staff that she was "not to run on steam trains".

Work is continuing on GS&WR half-saloon number 1097 which is to run her inaugural train on the first 'Portrush Flyer' of 1993. The saloon accommodation has been fitted with adjustable securing clamps, an access ramp and sanitary facilities to enable wheelchair users to travel on our trains in comfort.

The 1950s CIÉ set, based at Mullingar, will be receiving seven replacement commonwealth bogie sets. This will enable the existing running gear to commence a progressive maintenance schedule. The train will also be supplemented next year by GSR 'Bredin' corridor thirds Nos. 1327, 1328 and 1335 and eventually GSR 'Bredin' open number 1333. Approaches are being made to Irish Rail and Hammond Lane to purchase a pool of spare GSR-pattern bogies which will be overhauled and held in reserve. This year Irish Rail are in the process of finalising their carriage modernisation program and this is our last opportunity to acquire spare parts and some vehicles of historic interest currently in departmental use.

Re-painting of 'North Atlantic' brake No.91 and LMS(NCC) corridor composite No.68 will be

complete by the first 'Santa Special' courtesy of Colin Smith whose enthusiasm with a paint brush knows no bounds, ably assisted by Messrs Henderson and Glass.

Repainting of these vehicles, as well as other work in hand, is the main benefit of the new carriage shed. Work has commenced on installing light and power, and will be completed by the turn of the year. Any budding 'sparks' who can spare a couple of weekends at Whitehead will be made very welcome (and might even get the clean mug).

LMS(NCC) No.255 has made it into the shed where she is being stripped to enable her restoration to begin in earnest. GSR third No.1328 and NCC third No.243 will join her as soon as they return from their extended sabbatical in Magheramorne which was necessary to allow building work to go on at Whitehead. 243 is unique in being the only surviving NCC built coach of her class. What of 238 and 241 I hear you ask? These are actually Midland Railway (England-type) coaches which were slipped in at dead of night after the 1941 blitz on York Road and given the numbers of the dismembered NCC coaches so that no-one would notice. Midland coaches, however, are some twelve inches narrower than NCC ones so the Bogie-man assumes those attempting to board trains in a blackout may well have had their suspicions aroused on finding that the steps had moved...

The blue and cream livery of the GNR(I) is due to make a reappearance on corridor first No.227, open third No.9, dining car No.88 and brake third No.114; the GNR Director's Saloon will be retaining the distinguished mahogany livery. In the long term brake first No.231, open third No.98 and one of the other K15-type coaches will complete a 1950s GNR(I) train. We have a train, we have a Compound courtesy of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, and are quite prepared to wait for someone to reopen Great Victoria Street station. First Class to Dublin, anybody?