

NARROW GAUGE NEWS

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News Editor:

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'THE VALE OF RHEIDOL RAILWAY', by W.J.K.Davies.

Written in the inimitable style of the Society's Publications' Officer, this little guide-cum-history has more interest and information packed into its 63 pages than many a full length, fully bound tome selling at ten and twelve times the price of this one.

Written on behalf of the Society, contained in its pages are eight chapters and a goodly selection of maps, photographs, plus a scale drawing of a proposed open bogie coach.

Starting with a description of a trip up the line, there is then a short history of it, followed by chapters on locomotives, passenger and goods rolling stock track layouts, main historical dates terminating in a chapter of miscellaneous information.

Congratulations to Keith Davies for producing a delightful little book at such a very reasonable price.

AREA NOTES AND NEWS

LEEDS AREA. A very full and intriguing programme has been mapped out by the enthusiastic planning of Area Agent Ron Redman;

Outside Visits:

- 1) Sunday, Sept. 4th: R.C.T.S. visit to Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Society; members invited to join and make individual arrangements with R.C.T.S.
- 2) Wednesday Sep.21st: Visit to Hudswell, Clarke & Co. Ltd., Jack Lane, LEEDS 10. Party assembles at main gate in Jack Lane at 6.45 p.m. Regret that NO CAMERAS can be allowed inside the works. Also that NUMBERS ARE LIMITED so please contact Ron Redman as soon as possible if wishing to visit these works.
- 3) Sunday, Oct. 9th Visit to NOCTON ESTATE LIGHT RAILWAY, near Lincoln. This 24" gauge line is scheduled to close down in the very near future therefore a special visit has been arranged for this Society with kind permission of the owners: Smiths Potato Crisps Ltd.,

Nominal charge per member will be 2/6 and persons wishing to participate on this trip should contact Ron Redman as soon as possible stating whether or not they require transport. The line is situated 7 miles south of Lincoln, on route B 1188. Terminus of the line, by the grain silo close to the overbridge over the Lincoln-Sleaford line at DUNSTON, where the party will meet at 2.00 p.m.

MEETINGS. Meeting place being Headingley Hill Church Rooms, entry in Cumberland Road.

Friday, Oct.28th, 7.30 p.m. start. 'Vale of Rheidol Railway', being an illustrated talk given by E.G.Cope. NOTE: Can anyone assist here with an 8mm cine projector. Anyone possessing any items of V. of R. interest are asked to bring them along to this meeting.

Friday, Nov.25th. 'Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway', an illustrated talk given by Mr. E. N. Jones.

Sunday, Dec.18th. Combined inter-Society visit to Manchester for the M.M.R.S. Exhibition at the Corn Exchange, Manchester. Further details available at a later date.

LEEDS MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY EXHIBITION on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10th, 11th, 12th November.

At Leeds Corn Exchange. The Leeds Area will be exhibiting a stand, at present being constructed at Pete Brennand's residence, incorporating an English section with a model of Devil's Bridge terminus on V. of R., included, and another section comprising American and Foreign items. Offers of help and/or loan of models etc., to either P.G.Brennand, or E.G.Cope.

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA

MEETINGS. Meeting Place - Keen House, 6-8 Calshott Street, London, N.1. (near Kings Cross Station) at 6.30 p.m., for 7 p.m.

Saturday, 17th September - Members' Evening.

Saturday, 22nd October - Festiniog Railway Society.

Visitors are cordially welcomed to all our meetings.

BIRMINGHAM AREA

Area Agent Ron Heaton has been busy again preparing a varied selection of monthly meetings at the usual venue: Exchange Restaurant, for the coming Autumn and Winter months as follows:

Tuesday, Sept.13th. Informal members' evening, with slides, photographs etc., and a discussion of the season's programme.

Tuesday, Oct.,25th. Ten-minute talks by members on anything of interest in general.

Tuesday, Dec. 6th. A talk by member, Douglas Clayton on a subject still to be decided on.

Tuesday, Jan.,17th, 1961 - Joint meeting with the T.R.P.S. George Barlow to speak on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway.

Tuesday, February 28th. - Talk by David Woodhouse on 'Operation of a Narrow Gauge Railway'.

OUTSIDE VISITS. Ron Heaton is trying to arrange a trip for Society Members in this Area to the Ironstone lines at Kettering or Wellingborough in September or October. Details will be available at a later date, assuming Mr. Heaton has been successful with his enquiries.

HANDBOOKS. In the past the London & S.E. Area has financed our handbooks; due to the preservation of "TOWNSEND HOOK" this will be no longer possible. The Hon.Treasurer would therefore, be pleased to hear from any member prepared to make an Interest-free loan to the Society for this purpose. This matter is extremely urgent as the handbook on Harrogate Gas Works is now ready to be produced. Please write to C. H. John, 23 Crossway, West Ealing, W.13.

RAVENGLASS & ESKDALE RAILWAY.

According to a report in August 'Railway Magazine', this line was to be sold by auction on August 10th. The owners of the line, Keswick Granite Company having failed to sell the railway intact, decided upon this course, to be auctioned at Gosforth, Cumberland. The permanent way will probably be sold for scrap but the two steam and three diesel locos might possibly have a further lease of life elsewhere.

ISLE OF MAN RAILWAY

Notes by E.K.Stretch

The Summer Timetable applicable from July 4th shows little change from last summer. The Port Erin line has 5 Down and 6 Up plus an additional one Down and two Up commencing July 25th. One of the latter is a new working at 3.50 p.m. from Port Erin, calling only at Ballasalla - the first UP express, and first train to omit a Castletown stop for very many years.

On the Peel and Ramsey line, the early morning 'train' from Ramsey is still operated by a bus, as it has been since December. There is one train less than last summer to Ramsey, the totals being

- DOWN: Two trains: Douglas-Peel and Ramsey.
- One train : Douglas-Ramsey only.
- Three trains: Douglas-Peel only (Only 2 after July 25th)
- One train : Kirk Michael-Ramsey.

- UP: One train : Ramsey and Peel-Douglas.
- Two trains: Ramsey-Douglas.
- Two trains: Peel-Douglas.
- One train : Peel-St.John's only.
- One train : Ramsey - Kirk Michael.

Three trains which were 'Ex. Sats' last summer now run every weekday. The only Sunday services are the special trains from Douglas to Braddan for the open-air service.

ST.GERMAINS Station is officially closed and has ceased to appear on the timetable, but it may have become a 'ghost' station like Lezard where

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trains still continue to call if required.

The 4.15 Douglas to Peel ceases to run on July 25th, and as this is the only train in either direction shown to call at Union Mills, this station is presumably also closed from that date.

SURVEY OF QUARRY LOCOS IN CAERNARVONSHIRE

by Norman F. Gurley, Distribution Manager &
Director, Festiniog Railway Society.

FADARN RAILWAY, (Dinorwic Slate Quarries), Llanberis.

Hunslet 0-4-OST 'RED DASEL', for many years the lonely occupant of the highest engine shed in the British Isles, has now been cut up for scrap, together with sister engines, 'LADY MADCAP' and 'IRISH MAIL'.

In mid-June, 'AMALTHEA' was making two or three return trips daily from the quarries to Port Dinorwic on the 48" gauge main line, whilst six engines were at work on the 24" gauge quarry lines. These were 'SYBIL' (Bagnall, 1906), and 'GEORGE B' on the main level, 'CLOISTER' on the 2nd level, 'MICHAEL' (9th), 'WILD ASTER' (12th) and 'ROUGH PUP' (17th).

The remaining engines were out of use in the following locations No.1 & No.70 (Barclay W.T.) at Port Dinorwic, 'VELINHELI' minus boiler and 'DINORWIC' (both 4ft gauge).

'CACKLER', 'JERRY M' and 'ELIDIR' (Avonside) - these three are the only ones sporting the luxury of cabs, and 'VELINHELI' (Small version) all in the quarry workshops; 'DOLBADARN', Level 1; 'COVERCOAT' 7, 'KING OF THE SCARLETS', 9, 'MAID MARIAN' and 'BERNSTEIN', 17; 'ALICE' 18 and 'HOLY WAR' 21. All the above being Hunslet built, unless otherwise stated.

PENRHYN QUARRIES, Bethesda.

'BLANCHE' was working the main line, with sister Hunslets 'CHARLES' and 'LINDA' laid up in Port Penrhyn shed and the quarry workshops respectively. Only five steam engines were at work. 'OGWEN' (Avonside) and 'CEGIN' (Barclay) on the main level; 'MARCHLYN' (Avonside) and 'WINIFRED' (A 75-year old Hunslet) on the third level, and 'NESTA' (Hunslet) on the top level.

'GLYDER', 'GERTRUDE' and 'PAMELA' were under repair, a row of seven Hunslets were packed away in a closed shed and a motley assortment of nine locos representing six makers were rusting away in the open. The only engine cut up in recent years is, or was 'SANDFORD', though "SKINNER" converted into a brake van, is hardly recognisable as an engine.

OTHER QUARRY SYSTEMS:

Engines, all very derelict can still be seen at the following locations:

PENMAENMAWR & WELSH GRANITE CO. - Three De Winton 0-4-0 VB -
'WATKIN' at sea level and two unidentified some 1400 ft. above.

DOROTHEA SLATE QUARRY CO. Nantllo
 'DOROTHEA' (Hunslet) and 'WENDY' (Bagnall).

PEN-YR-ORSEDD SLATE QUARRY CO. Nantllo.
 'CHALONER' and another unidentified De Winton, 'DIANA'
 (Kerr Stuart) and two Hunslets, 'UNA' and 'BRITOMART'.

SCOTTISH GAS BOARD, Dundee.

Notes from Ian N. Fraser.

A visit to the Gas Works, Dundee, on July 4th, revealed that eleven months after cessation of all traffic over the 24" gauge system here, the last remaining rolling stock and locomotive material has been cut up. Our correspondent informs us that Messrs. Entwhistle Scrap Merchants had done the dirty work on the spot the previous week.

An immediate visit to Entwhistles' yard showed all that remained viz:- two cylinders with all studs burned off flush, and a smoke-box. Everything else had gone straight to the pot.

But, Kerr Stuart 720 'BONNIE DUNDEE' is safe in the Caledon boiler shop awaiting the completion of her new home in Arbroath.

LINCOLNSHIRE COAST LIGHT RAILWAY, Cleethorpes.

Notes from Peter &
 Sheila Lee.

A visit to Cleethorpes recently disclosed the fact that about one hundred yards of track have been laid down, also two sidings. The road bed has been cleared right through, also were some items of rolling stock from Nocton, Lincs :

<u>Nocton No.</u>	<u>L.C.L.R. No.</u>	
43	-	Open bogie on underframes with ammo. slings. Shrapnel cuts in underframe.
73	18	Bogie van.
-	17	Bogie van.
5	-	4-wheel Simplex.
28	20	Underframe (Bogie type) presumed open as sides and ends in No.28 are as in No.43. Gloucester plate on frame.
1	-	4-wheel open.
33	15	" "
3	13	" "
31	14	" "

Also one Hudson tipper underframe off track. Source unknown. The Trent Catchment Board Railway at Bawtry was also visited, and in use. Pit spoil was being taken from the roadside to build up the bank. There appears from information received on the spot, to be about three miles of track laid down, with four diesel locos, and Hudson tippers being employed. The line has been there about two months, and is to be there an estimated 18 months in all.

Unfortunately, no further information could be gleaned at the time, but a further visit is planned in the near future when it is hoped more details will be made available.

S.E. RESEAU de la SOMME. (Metre Gauge)

by W.J.K.Davies.

This line is now completely dieselised, with two 0-6-0 'Loco-tracteurs' from the old V.F.I.L. Pas de Calais system (Now 351 and 352); and three 'new' double bogie 140 h.p. railcars - these are said to be new, but one was undergoing a 'face lift' in the works, so they are probably second-hand. Only four steam locos remain, dumped at St.Valeri-Canal. Four others, together with 46 wagons and one railcar were sent away, apparently for scrap, just a month ago. The new railcars can haul one bogie coach if needs be.

<u>STOCK</u>	351/2	0-6-0D.	V.F.I.L. Lumbres.	Reb. from steam.
	M 41		Bogie railcar in service.	
	M 42	"	"	just ex works.
	M 43	"	"	in works.
	M 31		4-wheel railcar.	In service.
	M 9		4-wheel 'Bus type'	out of use at St.Valery-Canal.

Also about twelve bogie coaches with end balconies, and one coach derelict at Noyelles.

PRESERVATION NOTES

by E. G. Cope

'JACK' (0-4-0 WT). All motion stripped and cleaned.

Cab and boiler now primed in one undercoat.

Urgently required: Six sleepers (Cut into three) Can anyone help ? ? ?
Loco needs to be lifted for dropping of wheels for cleaning etc.
Brake gear still to be dismantled for cleaning and refurbishing.
Frames and cylinders also still to be scraped and cleaned.

'BARBER' (0-6-2ST) Painting is now three-quarters finished.
Sanding gear, running plates and sundry fittings to be re-fitted. Cyl-
inder cover plates to be re-fitted and painted. Cab interior to be
painted. Also new dome cover required. (All offers of help to be sent
to Peter Halton), and new link and pin couplers wanted.

Parties of helpers are still urgently required and there is a
regular 'shift' at work on most Friday evenings starting at around 7.30 p.m.
All members (and others ! ! !) are asked to contact P. S. Halton at his
home address: 18 Eden Crescent, LEEDS 4.

'TOWNSEND HOOK' WORKING PARTIES

The B.R.P.S. are arranging a coach to Sheffield Park on Sunday,
Sept. 4th. Members willing to come and assist the restoration party are
asked to ring Paul Myatt (HAR.0075) or write to 17 Gloucester Road, Harrow,
Middx., immediately. The fare is only 7/6 for any part of the journey.
There may be a second trip on the first Sunday in October, and if you can
go then please write to Paul Myatt too. Help is urgently needed as is
cash to pay for the new wheels. Less than £1., was raised by our last
appeal. Many thanks to those who have given donations.

N.G.R.S.

The following Society publications are available :

- The Salzkammergutlokalbahn - an Obituary. 24pp map. photos.
 post free .. 2/6
- Handbook No.2.
 Parish's Loam Quarries, Erith post free .. 3/6
- 32pp map. layouts, 8 photos.

PHOTOGRAPHS .. 6d each .. postage extra.

- N.1 Bowater-Lloyds, Sittingbourne.
 O-4-2ST EXCELSIOR on train of bogie coaches at Ridham
 Dock. $\frac{3}{4}$ F.R.
- N.2 J. Parish & Co. Erith, 'No.IV' - Hawthorn Leslie O-4-OST -
 outside the engine shed. $\frac{3}{4}$ F.R.
- N.3. W. & LL.R. O-6-OT '822' at Llanfair Caereinion $\frac{3}{4}$ B.L.
- N.4. I.O.M.R. No.12 Hutchinson on a passenger train $\frac{3}{4}$ F.R.
- N.5. I.O.M.R. No. 6 PEVERIL on a passenger train. $\frac{3}{4}$ F.R.
- N.6. Cavan & Leitrim Section, C.I.E. Ex C.B.&P.R. 2-4-2T No.12
 on mixed train at Ballinamore $\frac{3}{4}$ F.R.

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IAN ALLAN BOOKLETS IN STOCK

- Vale of Rheidol Rly, by W. J. K. Davies.
 Snowdon Mountain Rly by O. J. Morris

both @ 2/6d - post free.

All from: C. H. JOHN,
 23 Crossway,
 West Ealing,
 W.13.

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NOTES FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICER.

Mr. Davies gives notice that owing to getting married, setting up house and starting a new job all at approximately the same time, his railway correspondence is likely to be somewhat disorganised for a month or so.

He apologises in advance to anyone who does not receive a quick reply to his letters and trusts that he will understand.

Please note Mr. Davies' new address after 5th September is :-

126 , Hughenden Road,
Marshalwick,
St. Albans,
Herts.

We are sure that all members will join the Committee in extending our very best wishes to Mr. Davies on the occasion of his marriage.

C.H.J.

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