

# NARROW GAUGE NEWS

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News Editor:

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We regret the delay in the arrival of this "News", due to pressure of work in preparing the layout for the forthcoming exhibition at Leeds. There is still much to be done and Mr. Brennand is up to his eyes in track-laying and plaster-work, so I hope you will bear with me just for one issue whilst I occupy the Editorial chair. The initial delay was due to Mr. Brennand having a bad attack of 'flu. We are delighted to report that he is now well again. (Hon.Sec).

## AREA NOTES AND NEWS

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LEEDS AREA: Meeting held at the Church Rooms, Headingley Hill Congregational Church (entrance in Cumberland Road).

Outside Visits: Friday, 25th November:

"Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway" Illustrated talk by Mr. E. N. Jones.

Sunday, 18th December:

Combined inter-society visit to Manchester Model Railway Society Exhibition. Details will be circulated to local members.

Friday, 27th January (61)

Ares A.G.M., followed by slide-show to be given by Mr. R. N. Redman.

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA: Meetings held at Keen House, 6-8 Calshott Street, London, N.1. (near Kings Cross Station) at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.

Saturday - 26th November: Making Track & Pointwork by D.A. Boreham.

Saturday - 21st January : Modelling Evening. Members to bring models.

Saturday - 25th February: "Townshend Hook" Special evening.

Saturday - 25th March : A. G. M.

Saturday - 20th May : Welshpool Lt. Rly Society.

Members are asked to note that the programme has been altered to enable us to have an evening devoted to "Townshend Hook". This locomotive has been completely repainted, and the new wheels, together with other spares have now been delivered to Sheffield Park. Engineers will be urgently required in the spring to lift the engine, fit the new wheels and new tubes, prior to steaming the locomotive. A third rail is to be laid in a siding in Sheffield Park for this purpose.

C.H.J.

BIRMINGHAM AREA: Meetings held at the Exchange Restaurant.

- Tuesday - 6th December: Talk by member Douglas Clayton on a subject still to be decided upon.  
 Tuesday - 17th January: Joint meeting with the T.R.P.S. George Barlow will speak on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway.  
 Tuesday - 28th February: Talk by David Woodhouse on "Operation of a Narrow Gauge Railway".

NORTH WEST AREA: Full details of Area Activities from:-  
 R. C. Ormiston-Chant, 17 Roseleigh Avenue, Burnage, Manchester 19.

NOTE: MODELS REQUIRED FOR THE M.M.R.S. EXHIBITION, DECEMBER 16th, 17th & 18th. OFFERS OF HELP TO MR. ORMISTON-CHANT, PLEASE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVE LIST: Dr. Lee has offered to compile a list of members' narrow-gauge railway photographic negatives, for reference purposes. If you feel you can help in this project, please drop a line to:-

Dr. R. P. Lee,  
 The Sycamores, Golcar,  
 Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

HUDSWELL CLARKE: Any member having information and photographs of any H/C locomotives who has not already contacted Mr. Redman is asked to do so as quickly as possible: his address is - 11 Outwood Walk, Horsforth, near Leeds. The booklet is nearly ready for production, so...

... hurry ! hurry !

10th ANNIVERSARY of the N.G.R.S. is to be commemorated next year by a special weekend event. For this purpose a Sub-Committee is being formed from Leeds Area members - please contact Mr. Redman (as above) if you are resident in the Leeds area and can give some time to this project. (If any member anywhere has any suggestions as to venue, etc., please drop a line to Mr. Redman).

MAGAZINE/NEWS: AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

As from the New Year, your News-sheet and four Magazines will appear alternately over the period of twelve months, at approximately 6-week intervals. This is being done in an effort to give more value in return for the subscription and we hope you will derive interest and enjoyment from this new arrangement.

HELP !!! This plaintive cry goes out to all in harking-distance of Leeds who can help with staffing the N.G.R.S. stand at the Leeds Model Railway Society's Exhibition, November 10th, 11th & 12th. A lot of work still needs to be done on the layout and we need the loan of models (especially Welshpool and Rheidol.) for this show.

Please contact Mr. Brennan or Mr. Cope as quickly as possible with your offer of help; however small it may be, it will be appreciated.

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 NEWSCAST FROM THE WORLD OF NARROW-GAUGE  
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WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR LIGHT RAILWAY - Mr. C. H. Betts, 80, Grove Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex, has recently been appointed Secretary and Treasurer of the W. & L.R. Preservation Society. A news-letter issued by the W. & L.R. Preservation Co. Ltd., makes note of the fact that it is hoped to have a diesel locomotive working on the line soon, mainly for hauling works trains. Also, Llanfair Caerinion has been adopted as the headquarters of the railway, and the line will be re-opened from there. Five stages of this project are proposed:

1. Llanfair - Heniarth
2. Heniarth - Cynfronnd
3. Cynfronnd - Castle Caerinion
4. Castle Caerinion - Golfa
5. Golfa - Raven Square.

It is the aim to complete Stage 1 for a Saturday and Sunday passenger service to commence some time next year. The complete track from Welshpool to Llanfair is now sufficiently clear to allow the passage of the motor-trolley. (This is a great credit to all concerned - when I saw the railway earlier this year, it seemed incredible that we had ever been up the line with a "special". Incidentally, the W.L.R.P.S. magazine "The Earl" has recently carried a photo of the N.G.R.S. "Special" as a cover-block - E.G.C.).

TALL-Y-LLYN RAILWAY Many of our members will have made the trip to Towyn this year, but for those who have not, briefly, this is the picture:

The new siding has been laid at Wharf: some rail spiked to sleepers, some laid in original T.R. chairs. Locomotives No.1 (Tallyllyn) and No.4 (Edward Thomas) have been observed at work. Quite an amount of repainting has taken place on various items of rolling-stock though a number of people have expressed the view that the "patchwork" effect of half-completed "paint-jobs" on the "unseen" side of the trains did not give a very good impression during the early part of the season. The Corris coach restoration is a masterpiece of craftsmanship and was noted in shop-grey (exterior) paint, with seat backs fitted, on August 9th. Only note of depression is the forlorn state of the ex-W.H.R. loco "Russell", and we would like to hear from anyone who can tell us what is going to happen to this locomotive. NOTE: A successful rail tour was run by diesel railcar from Leeds to Towyn during the summer and a

"repeat" is planned for June 11th, 1961; details from: Yorkshire Area Secretary, T.R.P.S., R. K. Walton, 26 Park Grove, Bradford 9.

PENRHYN RAILWAY We understand that the main line is scheduled for closure within two years. The cab from "Sgt. Murphy" has been dismantled and was taken to the Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway, Humberston, during September (a joint N.G.R.S. / L.C.L.R. venture) where it will eventually be fitted to the N.G.R.S. 0-4-0 S/T "Peter". (Mr. John D. Morley, 12 Knowlys Drive, Heysham, Lancashire writes:

".....With reference to the item on the Penrhyn Railway in the last News Letter, I have always been given to understand that it was "Sandford" and not "Skinner" that was converted into a brake-vehicle. I would be interested to have this confirmed or otherwise...."

Mr. Morley also says that rumour has it that "Pamela" will not be re-assembled.

LINCOLNSHIRE COAST LIGHT RAILWAY. As the potato railway at Nocton is now practically defunct (a recent inspection showed that nothing has run on the line for some time), the visit planned from the Leeds Area on October 9th was switched to Humberston. In spite of the torrential rain, a party of N.G.R.S. members turned up to "ride the two-foot" from North Sea Lane to Beach and back. (Strange thing - those of us who rode in the open coach didn't seem to catch cold!) The train, on this occasion, consisted of the 0-4-0 diesel loco "Paul" - a nick-name given, temporarily we hope!, to match "Peter", which will eventually operate on this line), an open bogie-coach, the bogie mess-tool van and a partially completed open bogie coach. The line has a loop at either end, raised platforms and a siding at North Sea Lane. Plans are in hand for a passing loop when the second loco comes into service. The railway was opened to the public for the first time on the 27th August and we understand 8,000 passengers have been carried during the short season that it has operated this year.

NORTH WALES QUARRY LINES: Tom Spink and Eric Gresty have sent a few notes on their visit during September and these are summarised briefly here :

NANTLE TRAMWAY is now tractor worked; at PEN-YR-ORSEDD "Una" and "Britomart" out of use in shed at top leve. Kerr Stuart 1158/1917 is out of use and minus cab in shed at bottom level. A "De Winton" purchased by a Mr. Fisher, left on September 10th, for an address in Hertfordshire.

At DINORWIC QUARRIES "Sybil" and "George B" noted in use on bottom 1'10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" level; "Cackler", "Elidir" and "Jerry M" noted in shed. On 4'0" gauge, "Dinorwic" and "Amalthea" both in steam: "Velinheli" chassis in shed - all work on this now stopped. At PORT DINORWIC loco No.1 (Hunslet 1429/1922) and Andrew (Barclay 1995/1931) noted in shed. Other notes on Penrhyn, Penmaenmawr, and Dorothea Slate Quarry are similar to those appearing in our last issue. (Does anyone know if there is an 0-4-0 Bagnall similar to "Sybil" in a shed at Oakley Quarries?)

IRISH NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY NEWS. An announcement in the "Travel Trade Gazette" of 7th October includes reference to the fact that the C.I.E. is to close three more lines as the final economies in a five year period set by the Transport Act of 1958. Included is the WEST CLARE RAILWAY covering 53 miles of track. Mike Swift writes:

".... Goods traffic on the line has always been heavy and only poor weather and shortage of rolling stock has kept passenger traffic low this year. The closure is surprising in view of the dieselisation of the system a few years ago but there is little doubt that it will be carried through, as there were rumours that C.I.E. were to obtain some of the C.D.R.J.C. stock and nothing has been done.... on 18th July last, a special was run over the CAPPA PIER branch for Railway Enthusiast Club members; the train consisted of 0-4-0D F501 and a bogie brake van."

COUNTY DONEGAL RAILWAY. In addition to the above notes, Mike Swift writes to tell us that track lifting is virtually complete. By the end of June, the Ballyshannon line had been taken out; railcars Nos. 12 and 16 were then noted on the Killybegs section during lifting operations. About 1,000 tons of rail was being inspected before shipment to Malaya where a new 50 mile line (presumably metre-gauge) is being built. The Donegal section and the railcars were isolated from 14th July; 2-6-4T "Meenglas" was noted on lifting back to Stranorlar. The Letterkenny line was cut near Raphoe, 4-6-2T "Erne" working back to Letterkenny on the lifting. "Phoenix" the diesel-loco, was taken by road to Lifford and worked lifting trains from the break back to Lifford, the bridge having been converted to road use for C.D.R.J.C. buses and lorries only. Strabane - Stranorlar was the last section to be lifted, by September 10th, loco No. 4., and railcar No. 10 working this section. On September 3rd, incidentally, 2-6-4T No. 3. "Lydia" worked a special train to Clady and back for recording purposes. Trailer No. 5 (body) was noted on blocks during August awaiting transfer to a local farm. Stock position (at time of writing) as follows:-

Donegal - railcars 12 and 16. Stranorlar - railcars 14, 15, 18, 19, 20. : Locos 1, 3, 6., and seven coaches. Strabane - railcar 10, locos 2, 4, 5, and eleven coaches. Letterkenny-loco 11.

(Editor's Note - "Modern Transport" issue of 15th October carries the following news item:

"IRISH RAILWAY STOCK BOUGHT. An American airline operator from New Jersey has purchased a locomotive, a coach, wagons and signalling equipment from the County Donegal Joint Committee. He is to use it on a private pleasure railway in the U.L.")

ISLE OF MAN RAILWAY. As a result of the notes in the last issue, we have received further notes from members E. K. Stretch, David Woodhouse and David Hyson. Space does not allow full reproduction but Mr. Hyson's impression during June was that the services on the Port Erin line are too infrequent which results in many holidaymakers using the buses, also that out of 14 journeys made on railway, only 2 were on time. Union Mills station appears to be used on occasions, as the 4.15 Douglas-Peel (and its counterpart the 8.5 a.m.) are worked (with old brown-painted stock) for school-children, but not during school holidays. Mr. Woodhouse records the 4.0 p.m. Port Erin - Douglas train of 13 well-filled coaches being worked by loco No.11, banked by loco No.16, on Monday, 18th July... a number of camping parties being catered for by the railway has meant some trains having one or more vans attached to the rear to carry the equipment. On Thursday 21st July, the 3.25 p.m. Douglas - Ramsay and Peel was worked by loco Nos. 8 & 5, with eight coaches (3 Peel, 5 Ramsay) and two vans for the Ramsey line on the rear. Locomotives noted at work were: 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16; Ramsey engine was No.8., No.12 at Port Erin.

(Mr. Stretch reports loco No.14 also at work) - All appeared to be in good condition. Coaches in good condition, though some are showing signs of age. Some freight-stock in use, though many vehicles rotting away in sidings. The short-workings between Ramsey and Kirk Michael have been replaced by buses, and it seems that the early morning journey from Peel is worked by a bus, connecting at Ballacraigne (near St. John's) with a bus from Ramsey. Mr. Stretch reports that a friend travelled on this service which was worked by two buses and a van! It is not a regular through bus route and is shown only in the railway timetable.)

Also mentioned is the fact that the passing loop at St. Germain's has been lifted for some time, possibly last year or during last winter before the station was closed.

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#### NEWS FROM ABROAD

The C. de F. Touristique de Meyzieux (Isere, near Lyons) - 60 c.m. enthusiasts line expects to open next year. 0-4-OT "La Coquette", by Decauville, already received: 0-6-OT "La Lison" (also Decauville) expected soon. Railcar, and three bogie coaches being bodied, already on the line. (Information from "Loco Revue" sent by John Tennent.

East Broad Top Railroad & Coal Company's line between Mt. Union and Alvan Pa. closed down late 1956. Bi-centennial observation of twin villages of Rockhill Furnace and Orbisonia has resulted in 3½ miles of EBT track being repaired and put into service. A 2-8-2 loco has been made serviceable for the purpose of hauling four or five of the refurbished passenger cars, including business car No.20, reputedly the private car of President Cleveland. Rail fans, residents of the villages, railroad officials and employees plan to operate the excursion train on weekends after the celebrations and there is talk of expanding this operation next year.

The EBT was the last narrow-gauge common-carrier railroad east of the Rocky Mountains and last of any of the standard narrow-gauge railroads in the East. (Information from R. G. Nugent, U.S.A., through Mr.C.H. Betts, Secretary, Welshpool & Llanfair Railway Preservation Society).

SNIPPETS. The 2'0" gauge line at Stewarts & Lloyds, Bilston, ceased working in October 1959, Locos 1578/18 and 1641/19 remained to the end. The 2'0" gauge line at Hadfield's Sheffield has been abandoned, the fate of the locos being unknown at the time of going to press, and this ends the era of steam narrow gauge lines in the steel industry.

The 2'0" gauge Trent River Board line at Bawtry is being worked by the following locomotives:-

TRB No.13	4WD	Ruston	Hornsby	39DL	283507/49
14	"	"	"	"	283508/49
15	"	"	"	"	283512/49
16	"	"	"	"	283513/49

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. 0-4-2ST EXCELSIOR on train of bogie coaches at Ridham Dock. 3/4 F.R.
- B.2 J. Parish & Co. Erith, 'No.IV' - Hawthorn Leslie 0-4-0St - outside the engine shed. 3/4 F.R.
- N.3 W. & LL.R. 0-6-0T '822' at Llanfair Caereinion 3/4 B.L.
- No4 I.O.M.R. No.12 Hutchinson on a passenger train 3/4 F.R.
- N.5 I.O.M.R. No. 6 PEVERIL on a passenger train 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 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 at 2/6d - post free.

All above publications may be obtained from C.H. JOHN, 23 Crossway, West Ealing, W.13.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Society is again producing a Christmas card this year, of better quality than the last one. It is a card folder with, on the cover enclosed in a raised border), an engraving of the Hudswell-Clarke saddle-tank CARBONADE built for the 1'6" gauge line at Woolwich Arsenal. Inside the card are details of the locomotive and a seasonal greeting. These cards will be available from about the 20th November at 9d each (including envelopes); 1 dozen cards for 8/-. Quantities of 6 or over will be sent post-free.

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
LONDON & S.E. AREA  
THE MODEL RAILWAY CLUB EXHIBITION

Dear Member,

I am writing to you on behalf of the London Area Committee about the 1961 Model Railway Club Exhibition which is held during Easter Week. As usual we will be having a stand there.

This Exhibition is very important to the Society as it gives us an opportunity to attract new members and to sell Society publications, postcards, etc. This is an essential part of our activities if we are to progress.

If you would be prepared to steward at this exhibition, even for a short period, would you please contact me at:-

17, Gloucester Road,  
 North Harrow,  
 HARROW,  
 Middlesex.

We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would be prepared to make suitable posters and/or lend models and other narrow gauge items; such as nameplates, for exhibition.

Yours sincerely,  
 P. Myatt,

Assistant London Area Agent.