

# NARROW GAUGE NEWS

617

Issue No.1

Jan/Feb 1960

Published bi-monthly by the Narrow Gauge Railway Society - (Founded 1951)

News Editor: P. G. Brennand, 37, Norwich Avenue, Leeds 10

With this issue begins the new system of quarterly News sheets in conjunction with the Magazine, of which there will also be four per annum, being issued at about the mid point between the Newsheet.

This is being done with a view to providing more for the members' subs, in that even though there will be two Newsheets per year less, the Magazine issues will therefore be increased to FOUR per year.

We hope that this will satisfy members, and we also hope that you will help to fill these publications with more and more articles etc., of the interests which appeal to you all.

## AREA NOTES

LEEDS AREA: Agent: R. N. Redman, 11 Outwood Walk, Horsforth, Leeds.

At the last meeting in this area 17 members were present to hear Mr. E. N. Jones give a very interesting talk on the Ravenglass & Eskdale Rly, illustrated with his own collection of photographs on the epidiascope.

## Future activities:

- Jan. 27/1961 (Friday 7.30 start) Area A.G.M. Followed by a slide show of general interest given by Ron Redman.
- Feb. 22/1961 (Wednesday) Continental Film Show. By arrangement with European Tourist Administrations, to be presented by E. G. Cope.
- Mar. 24/1961 (Friday 7.30 start) 'More American Two-footers' Illustrated talk by Pete Brennand on another of America's 24" gauge common carriers.
- Apr. 28/1961 (Friday 7.30 start) 'Londonderry & Lough Swilly Rly' Illustrated talk by Pete Halton on the history and development of this system.

MORE AREA NEWS  
on Page 4.....

## SPECIAL EVENING

London & S. E. Area

As noted briefly in the last newsletter, the London & S.E. Area are organising a special evening devoted exclusively to "Townsend Hook" and its background history, technical details etc.,. It is anticipated that this will probably be one of the most important meetings that the Area has yet held. Since many enthusiasts outside our Society have given donations or helped in other ways it has been decided to open the meeting to anyone who is interested. Correspondingly all the large railway societies and narrow gauge societies have been invited and notice of the meeting will be given in all the major national magazines. It is essential therefore that all N.G.R.S. members who can possibly get to the meeting do so, to show our visitors that we are more than a mere handful of enthusiasts.

In any case, we hope that this meeting will be most interesting and enjoyable to everyone attending. To illustrate the short talks on the history of the quarry, the preservation, and future plans for the engine, we shall have many first-class colour slides and historical photographs and also two colour films taken during the moving of "Townsend Hook" from the quarry and afterwards. Among our guests we hope to welcome officials from the quarry and a director of the Bluebell Railway Company.

So tie a knot in your tie and come along to :-

"Townsend Hook"

SPECIAL EVENING

at

"Keen House", 6-8 Calshott Street (off Pentonville Road), London, N.1  
(Nr. Kings Cross Station)  
at 6.30 for 7 p.m.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVE LIST

The Society's Librarian, Peter Lee, wishes to express his thanks to all those who have assisted in this venture since its inception, and particularly to those who have sent in their negative lists.

There has also been a suggestion that a SLIDE LIST be started; anyone interested ? ? ? ? ? If so, contact R. P. Lee, 'The Sycamores', GOLCAR, Nr. Huddersfield.

#### EASTWELL & WALTHAM IRONSTONE LINES.

A melancholy note is sounded in a note from R. W. Harrison, of Stafford who states that on a visit on October 28th last, the only living soul at Waltham was a scrap dealer involved in the cutting up of rail lengths.

On the previous day, 'CAMBRAI', and 'DREADNOUGHT' had been removed from the shed and were in company with 'NANTES' on a siding alongside the engine shed. 'BARONET' was reposing about 100 yards away in splendid isolation after an attempt to drag her up with her sisters by the use of a road vehicle had failed completely, leaving her literally with her nose dug into the ground.

The loco stock is due to be cut up 'soon', no-one knows just when, however.

At Eastwell, 'LORD GRANBY', 'MOUNTAINEER!', 'PIONEER', 'UNDERBANK' and 'BELVOIR' were lined up at the top of the old incline, whilst 'NANCY' was suffering the indignity of having to share the shed with a lorry!

Here, as at Waltham our correspondent was told that cutting up was to begin 'shortly' but again no exact date could be given, although work has started on the track lifting.

#### NOTES FROM E. K. STRETCH

Isle of Man; The passenger service between St. Johns and Peel has been withdrawn for the winter from September 21st, 'owing to the need for urgent economy measures'.

Cambresis: This line was still running on September 15th last despite announcements from the management that closure would take place on June 1st (original date), then August 1st, or September 1st.

It was on September 15th that a Cambresis steam train collided with a Valenciennes-Lourches tram-train at Bessemer level-crossing, overturning the tram-trailer, and injuring five persons. However, French enthusiast, Monsieur J. Bazin in a letter dated November 4th states that this line was closed to passengers 'four weeks ago', although still open to freight traffic.

Brienzer-Rothorn: According to 'The Modern Tramway' the management of this system, which is the last steam operated Swiss Mountain Railway, state that the Snowdon Mountain Railway are interested in acquiring their locomotives, 6 and 7 when the B.R.B. is replaced by cableway in a few years' time.

Corris District: Two former feeders of the Corris railway are still in existence, and still working. They are the quarries at Braich Goch and Aber-llafenni, both of which are occupied in the pulverising of slate into dust for the manufacture of Face Powder! Gauge being, of course 2'3". Below is a brief summary of these two lines and the equipment etc., that they use:

Braich Goch: Lies roughly midway between Maespoeth Junction and Upper Corris. Slate works and pulverising equipment lie below road level alongside the site of the Upper Corris branch.

A Simplex tractor here occasionally works a long siding up to the slate tip. This sees very little use however, as even the poorest quality slate can be pulverised for the manufacture of face powder, and there is usually only one wagon load at a time to move.

A long tunnel, with a triangular junction outside it goes under the road, and is disused. This tunnel is reputed to curve round and come out again at Upper Corris, and even on a hot summer day there is an icy wind blowing from it.

The line now in use goes up a short incline, of the usual balanced type, except that it can only deal with one wagon at a time. Only one track is a through track, the other being a dead end at both ends, the top and bottom of the incline.

Balancing of the loads up this incline is by means of a wagon half filled with stone which forms a reasonable counterweight for one empty up the slope and affords some measure of braking for the loaded one on the descent.

Curving sharply, the 'main line' goes over a large girder bridge, traverses an extremely sharp curve, reverses, carries on a few yards on a ledge up on the hillside, then reversing once more, curves into a tunnel where the present workings are to be found.

A disused, but complete, track continues beyond the reversing junction to a second incline, beyond this to another one, though partially dismantled now.

Both these latter inclines are laid to a gauge of 2'3", but the other track is of 4'3" gauge, upon which runs a flat platform (with an underframe alike to the type in use on funicular railways.) There is a turntable

mounted upon this 'vehicle'. Apparently at an earlier date tracks connected with the incline half way up, and this was evidently the only possible way of working trucks by way of using the 'transporter'.

Aberllefenni. The slate workshops are to be found at the north end of the village, the line crossing the Ratgoed Road, passes under the site of the bridge which carried the former Ratgoed Tramway, then continues for approximately a quarter mile alongside a road, along which can be found a passing loop.

The line down to Aberllefenni is worked by gravity, from where on the return, an ordinary rubber tyred tractor works the trains.

At the quarry quite a network of lines can be seen, one quarry tunnel opening directly off the road. The workshops are situated here too for the maintenance of wagons. No inclines are now working, though several are still workable, both tracks on the inclines being laid to a gauge of 4'3". On one track runs a flat platform of the Braich Goch style, on the other track a water-balance tank.

Apparently, the management here are rather inclined to suspicion, with a vivid sense of imagination, and anyone wishing to pay a visit to this line would be well advised to seek official permission before so doing.

W A N T E D :

=====

by Ken Hartley .....

3 Orchard Road,

Orchard Estate,

Leeds Road, Selby, Yorks .....

..... Any photos etc., on the Sand Hutton Lt. Rly for his forthcoming booklet on this line

THANK YOU .....

Continued from 1st page

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA Agent: C.H.John, 23 Crossway, West Ealing, W.13  
Meetings at Keen House, 6-8 Calshott St, N.1.

Saturday, 21st Jan. Modelling Evening. Members are invited to bring Models.

Saturday, 25th Feb. "TOWNSEND HOOK" - Special Evening. See Page 1

Saturday, 25th Mar. A.G.M. All meetings at 6.30 for 7.00 ~~p.m.~~

NORTH WESTERN AREA Agent: R.C.Ormiston-Chant, 17 Roseleigh Ave,  
Burnage, Manchester 19

For all details of the activities in this area, please contact the Agent whose address is given above.

BIRMINGHAM AREA Agent: E.R.Heaton, 30 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham 30

Future activities:

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

Tuesday, Feb.28/1961. Talk by David Woodhouse on 'Operation of a Narrow Gauge Railway'.

# NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6th May, 1961

### P R O G R A M M E

1. 9.45 a.m. (for 10.0 a.m. start)  
Visit to the Works of Robert Hudson Ltd. Light Railway Engineers, Gildersome Foundry, Gildersome, Nr. Leeds.  
Meet at Works Time Office.  
The Works will be working on a contract for N/G stock for the Sudan.  
A Post Card please to Mr. R. N. Redman if you wish to take part in the official visit.
2. Members will make their own arrangements for lunch.
3. Approx. 12.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. The Engine Shed at Copley Hill will be open for members and friends to see the Locomotives being restored by the Leeds Area Members for the future Leeds Transport Museum.
4. 2.30 - 5.00 p.m. The Annual General Meeting held in the Committee Room at the Y.M.C.A. 35, Albion Place, Leeds, 1.
5. 5.0 - 6.0 p.m. Members make own arrangements for tea.
6. 6.0 - 8.30 p.m. approx.  
A slide show to remember! "Narrow Gauge in France and Spain", presented by Mike Swift, Ken Plant and Gordon Green, the results of 3 weeks on the Railways.

PLEASE NOTE, FRIENDS WILL BE WELCOME  
ON THE VISIT AND FOR THE SLIDE SHOW.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Business arising.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Agents' Reports:
  - a) Leeds Area
  - b) Birmingham Area
  - c) N.W. Area
  - d) London Area.
6. Publications.
7. Newsheet
8. Preservation
  - a) Secretary's Report
  - b) To discuss proposal for T.R.P.S. Museum Committee
9. To approve a proposal to alter existing Regulation 2 to 2(a) and to add 2(b). The President and Vice-President shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.
10. Election of President, Vice-President and Officers.
11. Any other Business.

NOMINATIONS:

These are invited to fill the following positions on the Committee:

President

Vice-President

Hon. Organising Secretary  
& Treasurer.

Magazine Editor

Publications Officer.

Newsheet Editor

Publicity Officer

Hon. Librarian

Ordinary Member

Ordinary Member

Ordinary Member.

Permission must be obtained from those to be nominated before submitting a nomination to the Hon. Organising Secretary.

These must be both proposed and seconded.

We look forward to welcoming as many as possible at this meeting and we know that you will have an enjoyable day.

C. H. JOHN

Hon. Organising Secretary & Treasurer.

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts  
1st April 1960 to 31st March 1961

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Balance in Hand	7.18. 0.	Secretary's Postage etc.	8. 4. 9.
Renewals	89. 7. 6.	Duplicating (A.G.M. etc.)	15.12. 9.
Junior Renewals	11. 5. 0.	Magazine Newssheet, &	
New Members	33.15. 0.	Despatch	77. 1. 6.
New Members 15)		Notepaper for Committee	8. 4. 0.
month Rule )	8. 2. 6.	Publicity	7. 7. 6.
Badges	1. 2. 0.	Advertising in T.R.P.S.	
Donations	9. 9. 8.	Magazine	12. 6.
Postcards	1. 1. 0.	Bank Charges	15. 9.
Sale of Duplicator	15. 0. 0.	Library	5. 0. 0.
		Preservation	5. 0. 0.
		Hire of Committee Room	10. 6.
			<u>£128. 9. 3.</u>
		Put aside for Magazine)	
		in hand )	25. 0. 0.
		Cash in hand	23.11. 3.
			<u>£177. 0. 8.</u>
	<u>£177. 0. 8.</u>		

C. H. JOHN

Hon. Organising Secretary  
& Treasurer.

1st April, 1961