

NARROW GAUGE NEWS

ISSUE No.2

APRIL, 1961

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Published Quarterly by Narrow Gauge Railway Gauge Railway Society
Founded 1961

Editorial Address: 37, Norwich Avenue, Leeds 10

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THE MANCHESTER RAILWAY CONVENTION

As Members will now be aware, this Convention is to be held on Saturday, April 15th, and is being organised by the North-West Area of the Tallylyn Railway Preservation Society, with the co-operation of the Festiniog Railway Society, the Narrow Gauge Railway Society and other interested societies. Our representative on the 'Brain's Trust' panel will be Peter Halton of Leeds, the Society's Preservation Secretary. All are welcomed to this Convention no matter what they are, who they are, or where they come from, the only qualification they must possess is - a genuine interest in all things railways.

AREA NOTES AND NEWS

LEEDS AREA: Ron. Redman of 11 Outwood Walk, Horsforth, Leeds is Area Agent.

Meeting Place: Headingley Hill Church Rooms, Headingley Lane.

February 24th last saw us enjoying a film show on Continental Railways, organised, very ably, by Eric Cope. The 'high light' of the evening being an excellent colour film of the Rhaetian Railways. Unfortunately, the attendance this particular evening was down on previous meetings, a disappointing end to what had gone into the ground work for preparing these films. However, come on you Leeds chaps, and all the other members wherever you are and rally round your own particular Areas. The more support you give your Area Sec., the better support the whole Society achieves.

Forthcoming events:

Friday, 28th April: 'Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway' by Pete Halton.
Friday, 26th May: Members' Evening - a general informal 'Get together'.

LONDON & SOUTH EASTERN AREA. Clifford John is Agent for this part, and his address is, of course: 23 Crossway, West Ealing, W.13.

Meeting Place: 'Keen House', 6-8 Calshott Street, (off Pentonville Road) London N.1.

Final meeting of this season is at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. on Saturday, 27th May. The Welshpool & Llanfair Railway by one of the prominent members of that Society.

The Townsend Hook Evening on 25th February was a resounding success. The Secretary of the Institution of Locomotive Engineers and the Managing Director of the Quarry were among the 96 visitors. We were pleased to welcome 46 members too, just over half the strength of our Area.

C.H.J.

(Copies of the 'Townsend Hook' booklet are available from C.H.John @ 3/9 post free.

BIRMINGHAM AREA Agent: E. R. Heaton, 30 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton,
Birmingham 30
Meeting Place: Exchange Restaurant, Stephenson Place,
Birmingham.

There is no news from this area and we presume that their meetings will resume again in the Autumn.

NORTH WESTERN AREA Agent: J. D. Morley, 12 Knowlys Drive,
Heysham, Lancs.

This Area continues to circulate interesting letters and photographs amongst its members and interest is growing very fast indeed. All look forward to the Manchester Convention mentioned above, and of which full details have already been circulated.

Will any member resident in the Area, viz:- Cheshire, Lancashire, Westmoreland, Cumberland or Isle of Man, who has not already heard from the Area Agent and wishes to be on the Area Mailing List, please inform Mr. John Morley at the address given above."

1961 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This year's date and venue for the Society A.G.M. will be Saturday, May 6th and the venue is LEEDS, at the Y.M.C.A. Central Buildings, Albion Place, Leeds 1. A full programme and Agenda is enclosed with this Newsheet.

"I'm going off the rails" - reprint of a letter spotted in 'Woman's Mirror' Feb. 11th, 1961.

'As a newly-wed, I find my husband wonderful - except for one thing. He's crazy about model trains and sits by his electric toy railway for hours on end.

How can I make him pay attention to me?'

signed PUFF PUFF

'DEAR PUFF PUFF,

You should be his living doll. So stage a breakdown and prove to him that anything the railway can do, you can do better. Get your steam up - and don't be beaten by a toy train.'

HA-HA.

A NOTE FROM A NEW MEMBER

The Society extends a cordial welcome to ALL new members, but I feel that an especial welcome be extended to the Reverend Edwin Richard Boston, of The Rectory, CADEBY, Nuneaton, Warwicks, who is, apparently an expert on the Southwold Railway; he writes:

"..... If any of our members have any Southwold photographs I should be most interested to hear from them.....if any members are ever in the depths of rural Leicestershire, you would be more than welcome here, either on the Model Line, or in the Library".

The Rev. Boston is also rather curious as to who the Society member is who was responsible for the design of the very interesting casting of the Southwold, Sharp Stewart 2-4-0 produced by Messrs. K's.

LAST OF THE IRISH NARROW GAUGE

As most of our members will no doubt be aware by now the West Clare Section of C.I.E. closed on February 1st 1961, and Vic Bradley has written a few lines of verse on this subject entitled:

LAMENT FOR THE WEST CLARE

If you happen to live in Kilkee,
And went home by train with no fuss,
I regret that your best days are over,
And in future you'll travel by bus.
If it's sunny, you may get to Milltown,
If it's raining you won't get that far,
From a bottle, you'll soon get a puncture,
And the old bus will stop with a jar,
And while you're changing t'wheel in t'rain,
You'll hear t'driver sing this refrain:
"Are ye roight there! Michael, are ye roight,
To be sure, tis no more the fire we'll loght,
Now the sleepers are all rotten, and the Clare
is soon forgotten,
And the CIE bus won't get there tonight."

(Sung to the tune of: "Are ye roight there, Michael, are ye roight")

IRISH NOTES AND NEWS. By Mike Swift

British Aluminium Co. Larne. 36" gauge. Peckett 0-4-0 No.1, has been purchased by a Belfast enthusiast who intends to preserve the loco in his garden. A similar loco, No.3, is preserved in the Belfast Transport Museum.

Board na Mona 36" gauge. Bord na Mona have always standardised on Ruston 4WD locos on their bog railways, but the latest arrivals, at Derrygreagh, a new bog, serving a power state at Rhope, Co. Offaly, have been built by the firm of K.H. Deutz, of Cologne, West Germany.

C.D.R.J.C. 36" gauge. The items which will probably be sold to the United States are loco No. 4 2-6-2T, 12 Coaches, 15 Wagons, and 20 Wagon underframes. Railcar No.18, a turntable, a signal box and fittings, rails and other items of miscellaneous interest. A Dr. Cox of Philadelphia, is interested in these and hopes to have them in operation in the U.S.

Loco No.2, 'BLANCHE', and other items have been despatched to the Belfast Transport Museum.

ENGLISH NOTES AND NEWS by Mike Swift.

Eastwell Iron Ore Co. Messrs. Redman, Halton & Swift, visited this line in January to make arrangements for moving 'LORD GRANBY' to its new home in Leeds through the efforts of the Leeds Area members, and found that most of the track from the incline head back towards the pits was being lifted by lorry.

'NANCY', the Avonside 0-6-0T which hauled the B.L.C. 'Last run' in August last had joined the other locos now lined up in the open awaiting scrap, the loco shed now being used as a garage for the two huge dumpers which have replaced the railway.

All plates have been removed from the locos, as certain people who may regard themselves as 'enthusiast' stole the plates from 'UNDERBANK', and the Company are, naturally, very annoyed about this. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Company for the present of a frame of photographs of their locomotives to the Society.

Waltham Iron Ore Co. All the track here has now been lifted, and after cutting the very rusty remains of 'BARONET', the scrap merchants completed the demolition of 'NANTES', the Corpet Louvet 0-6-0T, and the Manning Wardle 'DREADNOUGHT' in November. 'CAMBRAI', the other French built loco, was saved from the torch and was despatched to Towyn by road in mid-December, where it will find a permanent resting place in the narrow gauge museum there.

More Preservation! In these days when more and more locomotives are being saved from scrap, it is getting more and more difficult to keep up to date with current schemes.

The 24" gauge system at Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., Bilston ceased operation in October 1959, and in November last year the two Barclay 0-6-0T's left the works for new homes, 'GERTRUDE' (going to Neville's Garage, Chipping Norton, and 'THE DOLL' to the Burton Green Light Rly., Kenilworth, where, it is hoped to have about a quarter mile length of track laid by the early part of this year, with the loco in operation.

'CHALONER', the 1877 built De Winton from Pen-yr-Orsedd Slate Quarries at Naattle, has been sold to a Mr. Fisher, of Kings Langley, Herts., and arrived there in September last year, and is now being renovated in Mr. Fisher's garden.

The Railway Enthusiasts Club of Farnborough are planning the preservation of the 30" gauge Proven Gas Works loco, No.1 this being an Andrew Barclay 0-4-0 T built as late as 1946.

Notts, Gypsum Products Ltd., Kilvington, Nr. Newark. A somewhat wet and muddy visit was made by Messrs. Swift, Halton and Redman during January. The line starts at a crushing plant alongside the standard gauge main line, and the 36" gauge track runs for about three quarters of a mile into the gypsum quarries. The two locos are the biggest narrow gauge diesels in the Country, being 100 H.P. 0-6-0's built by Ruston & Hornsby. One arrived from A.P.C.M. Ufton in 1952, when this line was opened, and the other came from Earles Cement at Hull last year when their own line was closed.

The track is partially laid with heavy weight flat bottomed rail, and partly with old standard gauge bull-headed rail. The rolling stock consists of a number of large inside bearing tipping wagons.

Locomotive details are as follows:

0-6-0 Diesel, Ruston 100DL. 281290/49

0-6-0 Diesel, Ruston 100DL. 281291/49

NARROW GAUGE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA On November 1st 1960, Melbourne Cup Day, and a holiday in that City, about 100 members of the Australian Railway Historical Society visited Victoria's sole steam industrial railway, namely the six mile line of the Australian Cement Company's works at Tryansford near Geelong, 40 odd miles out of Melbourne.

The line, of 3'-6" gauge, joins the quarry with the works which are about two and one half miles apart, as the crow flies. The perimeter of the quarry and those in the quarry itself, account for the remainder of the trackage.

Features of the line are a trestle bridge over a river and a tunnel. It is single track throughout, with a circular run-round for the unloading of wagons at one end of the line, with a run-round loop at the quarry end.

At the quarry, an 0-6-0 Vulcan saddle tank makes up the train of loaded four and six wheel wagons, whilst the empties are brought down by an 850 H.P. Clyde-built General Motors B0-B0 Diesel which backs onto the loaded rake of vehicles and returns to the works. At the works a red painted Beyer-Garratt is waiting with more empties which are exchanged for the full wagons brought down by the diesel, which returns immediately to the quarry with its further load of empties. The Boyer-Garratt meanwhile shunts its full load to the unloading bins.

In the workshops was another Boyer-Garratt also a Vulcan, whilst in steam was an ancient Hudswell Clarke used for runabout work on which the ARHS travelled over the system. Although not used, there were other small Hudswell Clarke locos and locally built Perrys. There was also an Australian standard Garratt, which will be brought into service again as soon as the diesel is due for a major overhaul. (The sooner the better, Ed.)

(We are indebted to Mr. J.Y. Harvey of the ARHS and also to Society member C.H. Betts, to whom Mr. Harvey sent these notes originally, Mr. Betts having supplied them to us. Mr. Betts can supply precise details of these engines to anyone who is interested, his address being:

18, Endsleigh Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

(Editor's Suggestion: That Mr. Betts supplies the Editor with these details for inclusion in the next issue of the Newssheet; this will possibly save him much time and postage and will enable the whole Society to benefit from this information at one "fell swoop").

LATE ITEM FROM R. N. REDMAN

Due to the indisposition of Mr. Brennand on the night of 24th March, his talk on more 24" gauge American Railroads had to be given by Mr. Halton, who used Mr. Brennand's unique collection of prints etc. and to whom we extend our thanks for so admirably standing in at the last minute.

The collection taken at this meeting was very nobly presented to the Railway Enthusiasts Club, of Farnborough, Hants., who have undertaken the preservation of the 2'6" gauge Andrew Barclay 0-4-0T (Works No.2207) of the Provan Gasworks at Glasgow. This Society needs £120 for the purchase and transportation of the loco from Glasgow to Farnborough, and it is in full working order. The Club is asking the support of all narrow Gauge enthusiasts and contributions can be sent to the Treasurer of the Appeal Fund; C.E.Rickwood, 38, Argyll Avenue, Southall, Middlesex. Donations may also be made to the Organiser, R. N. Thornton, at the Clubrooms.

THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES is holding a Summer School entitled 'Railway and Canal Buildings' from August 19th to 26th. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary at the Institute, Micklegate, York, for further details.

STOP PRESS

LEEDS AREA

May 17th (Wednesday) Evening Visit to KNOTSTROP SEWAGE WORKS.

Meet at Main Office at the Works 6.45 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. start.

The 60 cm gauge locomotives will be in action on the night. Note these are the last W.D. locos built to the Armoured Design. To cover the cost of wages for the driver a charge of 2/6 per person is required.

Please let Mr. R. N. Redmond, 11 Outwood Walk, Horsforth, Nr. Leeds, Yks, know without delay enclosing the cash.

The visit will last 1½ hours. All friends are very welcome to attend.

SOCIETY 10TH ANNIVERSARY VISIT STEWARTS & LLOYDS
& KETTERING IRON WORKS
Saturday.....10th June 1961

Mr. E. R. Heaton has now completed the arrangements for this visit, the cost of which will not exceed 5/- per head and will leave Kettering Railway Station by coach at 11.45 p.m. Members and visitors must make their own way to this venue. Members interested in going should send a stamped foolscap address envelope to either E.R.Heaton, 30 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton, Birmingham or M.Swift, 13 Quarry Close, Brockholes, Huddersfield, Yorks without delay. Full details will be forwarded when available.