



## THE NARROW GAUGE

No.4

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**New Look.** This month we take a step nearer to becoming a magazine by introducing a title to the news sheet and presenting it in printed form. It will continue to be a bi-monthly publication.

**Year Book.** A proposal has been made that we bring out a Year Book, either at the end of the year or in two parts, a Summer Issue and a Winter Issue. It will probably be made up of duplicated articles and data, with photographic inserts and a printed cover, at an estimated cost of one shilling.

**Convention.** It is suggested that we hold a Convention at Aberystwyth at Whitsuntide, instead of a formal AGM, with the following provisional programme:

Saturday - arrive Aberystwyth. Evening free.

Sunday - informal discussion in the morning. Coach trip to Townyn for visit to Tallylyn Railway in the afternoon. Evening free.

Monday - trip to the Vale of Rheidol Railway.

This would enable members to bring their friends or relations along, and introduce them to the pleasures of "narrow gauging". Members to arrange accommodation for themselves, but a lunch at which everyone could sit down together could be arranged for the Sunday. Details are being worked out now, and members will be circulated as soon as possible.

**Over the Sea to Skye,** where Michael Gordon of the Leeds University Railway Society has discovered the remains of a narrow gauge railway constructed for the purpose of conveying marble from Kilchrist Quarries to Broadford Pier. The gauge was probably 2ft. and enquiries are being made in an endeavour to find out more about this interesting line. A photograph of the remains of a bridge carrying the line over an inlet on the shore has been added to the Reference Department.

**Leek & Manifold Railway.** Mr. H. B. Pritchard of 94 Powell Street, Park Village, Wolverhampton, has a set of seven views of the railway taken in 1904 available at 7/- per set, postal orders crossed and payable to "Harrison & Son". Incidentally, Mr. Pritchard would like to hear from anyone in his locality with a view to arranging a meeting.

**County Agents.** London and the Home Counties : C.V.Burkard, 39 Grasmere Avenue, Hounslow, Middlesex. Staffordshire : P.F.Dyer, 25 Meyrick Road, Stafford. Yorkshire : P.S.Halton, 18 Eden Crescent, Leeds 4. Eire : L. Hyland, 40 Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin. Cape (South Africa) : Eric A. Bates, 22Alma Road, Cape South Africa.

There are quite a number of members in the Worcestershire area, and Cheshire. County Agents in these two areas would be a help in co-ordinating members' efforts and furthering the interest in narrow gauge railways.

**Models.** The Society was fortunate in having space granted at the first exhibition of the York Miniature Railway Society and the Manchester Model Railway Society exhibition in December. Incidentally, any member living in the Manchester area should get in touch with David Lloyd, 32 Cavendish Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21. David is one of our younger members, extremely enthusiastic and is able to offer facilities for local members to have a meeting now and then.

**Preservation.** The nameplate from "Russell" and the works plates from "Russell" and Baldwin 590 (ex W.H.R.) have been mounted, and a plaque fixed which briefly indicates their history. Total cost has come to 45/- and it is felt that many members will like to be associated with this move. Any donations towards the cost will be greatly appreciated, no matter how small, postal orders crossed and made payable to the Society. The plates will be returned to York Railway Museum in due course for permanent display.

**Irish Notes.** C.I.E. has applied to the Transport Tribunal to close inter-alia the Schull & Skibbereen and Tralee & Dingle lines. The Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway has closed according to recent reports; the closure was forecast in the technical press recently.

The trailer cars used with the diesel railcars on the West Clare line were converted from C.I.E. Class TP bus bodies, and the underframes on the four-wheel baggage vans were bought complete by C.I.E. at the auction of Clogher Valley equipment in 1942.

**Information Required.** Mr M.H.Billington, Attleborough Nurseries, Nuneaton, requires photos of the following locomotives : Chatham Dockyard 18"-gauge 0-4-0WT (Vulcan), Jee's Quarry, Hartshill n-g 0-4-0T (Hunslet). P.S.Halton, County Agent for Yorkshire, requires information about the following locomotives : West Clare 4-6-0T (Hunslet 1922), N.C.C. (B&L) 2-4-4T No. 110, Class S2 L&LSR 4-6-0T No's 1-4 (Barclay 1902), 4-8-0 (Hudswell Clarke 1905).

**Reference Department.** In view of the weight of some of the larger items, it would be appreciated if borrowers would refund the postage where this exceeds

the loan charge.

Addition : Snowdon Mountain Railway (Morris).

**Vale of Rheidol Railway.** It is hoped to produce a film strip of the railway this year. If any members have any clear, sharp photographs (not less than postcard size) which they are willing to loan, please notify the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible, enclosing SAE if any photographs are sent.

**American Way Freight.** Conductor : Fred W. Cooper.

Swing aboard my caboose and let's talk about narrow gauge model railroads. My knowledge of British narrow gauge model railroading is practically nil but I became a member of the NGRS as a result of my interest in American narrow gauge railroads. An interest in hobby politics led to my becoming Public Relations and Publicity Officer for the British Region of the National Model Railroad Association of America. This post has resulted in making postal acquaintance with model railroaders in the United States and our Secretary, Eric Cope, thought it might be advantageous to the NGRS if I could ascertain the trend of narrow gauge railroading in the States. This I propose to try to do, and such information as I am able to obtain I will pass on to these columns.

In the meantime I believe that a few words about the NMRA will not be out of place as the progress of narrow gauge modelling in the States is in no small way due to the activities of this Association. There are approximately 10,000 members of the Association which from its inception has striven to ensure that its members and manufacturers adhere to the various standards the Association has laid down. The result has been that in America today practically all model railroad equipment within each gauge is interchangeable, no mean achievement in a country so large as America when we consider that this has not yet been achieved in our own small country.

Narrow gauge modelling is on the increase in America and the NMRA has already drawn up certain standards for the guidance of modellers and manufacturers, and I shall have more to say about these when next we ride together.

## **WHITSUNTIDE CONVENTION PROGRAMME.**

**SUNDAY, 2 p.m.** Meet at Aberystwyth Station for coach tour via Machynlleth, Corris, Tal-y-Llyn, Towyn (tea), return via Aberdovey. Time will be allowed for the inspection of the former Corris Railway and the Tallylyn Railway.

**MONDAY, 9.45 a.m.** Special Train from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge on the Vale of Rheidol Railway. In the afternoon, some members may wish to visit Towyn for riding on the Tallylyn Railway; others may find it necessary to commence their journey home. In view of this, it is felt that members who wish

to visit Towyn should make their own arrangements during the weekend.

Cost for the complete weekend's programme will be 15/-, including tea on Sunday. For Sunday alone 9/-, excluding tea 6/-. For Monday alone 2/9d. All members who intend to be present should notify the Hon. Secretary IMMEDIATELY enclosing remittance and giving the following information : No. of seats required on coach; if accompanied, by how many persons. If tea required. No. of seats required on train; if accompanied, by how many persons.

Closing date for bookings is TUESDAY, May 12<sup>th</sup>. In the event of there being insufficient bookings for the special train (a minimum of 100 passengers is necessary, and efforts are being made to realise this total by inviting members of other Societies; if you have any friends who are not NGRS members but would like to travel on this train, by all means ask them to come along), it will be cancelled and members will be notified and fares refunded, the whole day being devoted to the Talylyn Railway.

"**Isabel**" is an 0-4-2ST loco formerly in use at Cliffe Hill Granite Quarries in Leicestershire and, thanks to stalwart efforts of one of our members, Mr. B.R.Miller of Southwick, Fareham, this loco has been bought back by W.G.Bagnall Ltd., the original builders. It is at present being overhauled and cleaned up prior to being preserved at the Castle Engine Works, Stafford. Our Stafford County Agent has some postcard photos of the loco (five different views) price 1/- each, his address is c/o 25 Meyrick Road, Stafford.

**Welsh Highland Railway** locomotive plates are now on view in the Queen Street section of the York Railway Museum. So far, 30/- has been received towards the cost of mounting the plates (45/-); any more donations will be very welcome.

**Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway.** Mr. D.G.Attwood, Hillrise, Woolhampton, Berkshire, would like some information on the 3ft-gauge locos of this line. And if anyone is reaching for a pen to tell us that they were 2'9" gauge, well, maybe someone can settle the argument! Also, any up-to-date information on this line for inclusion in the news-sheet.

#### **Harrogate Gas Works (N.E.G.B.)**

0-6-2ST "*Barber*" : having successfully negotiated the preservation of one loco, we are now trying to arrange the preservation of what is believed to be the last T.Green narrow-gauge loco in this country (other than Eire). The N.E. Gas Board has been approached and is giving consideration to the proposal.

**Exhibitions** continue to be a good place to let people know of our existence. A comment in "Modern Transport" after the Model Railway Club's exhibition

*"The interest in British narrow gauge lines has expanded in recent years" - shows that the efforts of modellers and enthusiasts alike are not in vain.*

**A Visit to Corfe** and district to see the Furzebrook line and the 2'0"-gauge line on which the ex-W.H.R. "*Russell*" works, is planned by Mr. D.G.Attwood, of Hillrise, Woolhampton, Berkshire. Members who are interested should write to Mr. Attwood direct.

*Compiler's Note : the first four pages of TNG No.4 (down to and including the American Way Freight paragraph) were printed by 'Wilkinson York'. The remaining four pages, marked 'Supplement', were duplicated and marked :*

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