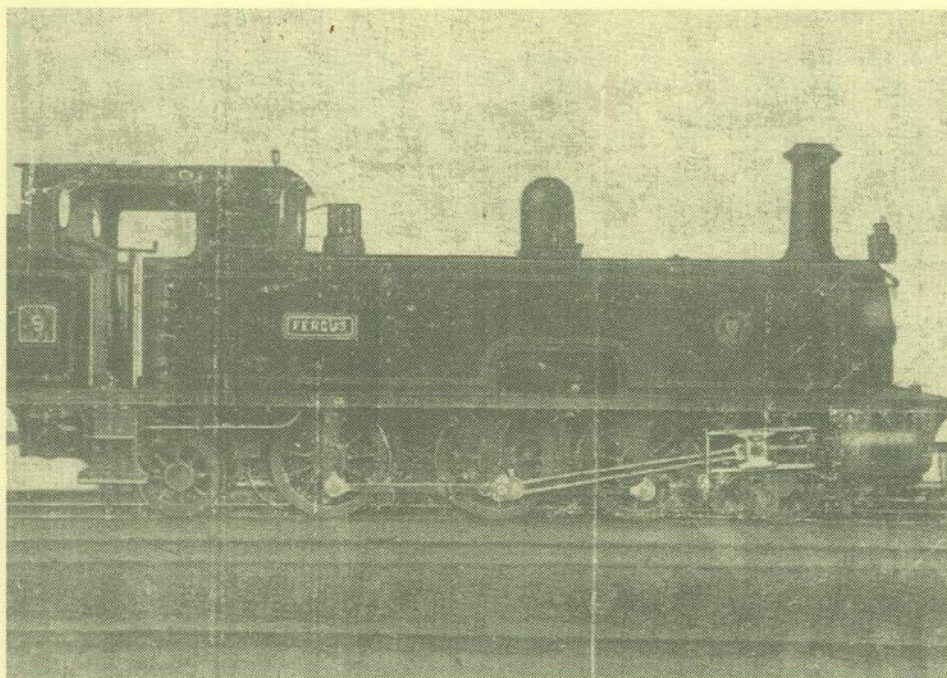


THE NARROW GAUGE



THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

No.s 7 - 10 1953 - 1954

Hon. Secretary's Report for 1953

Looking back on 1953, I can truthfully echo a phrase of one of my colleagues and say "We have achieved something". We have been represented at exhibitions in Leeds, London, Liverpool and Manchester, and shall have our own stand at the York Miniature Railway Society's Exhibition again this year (St. William's College, 30-31/12/53 and 1-2/1/54). It is hoped to commence work on the Society's own layout on a new baseboard early in the new year, in time for a proposed N.G.R.S. Exhibition in Leeds during Whit-week.

The elusive plates from the former Welsh Highland Rly. Locomotives are now on permanent display in the Queen Street section of the York Railway Museum and thanks are due to all members who contributed to the cost of mounting them.

"Isabel", the 2'0" gauge saddle tank locomotive preserved by W.G.Bagnall Ltd., after initial efforts by one or two Society members, is now mounted on a stand at the Castle Engineering Works, Stafford. Photographs will be ready shortly.

Membership has risen considerably, mainly due to press announcements, and the raising of the subscription to 3/- has enabled us to proceed with the idea of making "Narrow Gauge" more like a magazine. Commencing with this issue, it will appear in this size quarterly. There was not enough news to warrant the expense of issuing an edition in November, and I would like to ask all members to send in items of news if they possibly can.

I think this is the ideal time to release the news that two locomotive nameplates from the former Leek and Manifold Railway [have been found] in a Leeds scrap yard, and I hope to print the full story in the next issue; sufficient to say that, in order to ensure their preservation, one or two Leeds members have contributed to the cost of acquiring them at their scrap value (£4.--.).

News is given elsewhere in this issue of the presentation to the Society of an 0-4-0 saddle tank loco, which we hope to take possession of shortly.

Well, that's a brief outline of the past year's events. May I say "Thank You" to all members who have helped in one way or another to further our interests.

Best Wishes for 1954.

Sincerely (signed) E. Cope

VALE OF RHEIDOL RAILWAY. Following rumours that it is intended to close the Vale of Rheidol Railway, members may be interested in the following letter received from the Western Region of British Railways :-

"The train service over the Vale of Rheidol Branch, between Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge, has been operating for the summer months only for some considerable time and no decision has yet been reached in respect of the service over the branch next summer.

The continued operation of this branch, like others, is, for economic reasons, continually under consideration, and I shall be pleased to communicate with you again if and when a decision in regard to the permanent closing of the branch is taken."

Meetings If County Agents have any meetings arranged or proposed for next year, details should be sent to the Hon. Secretary for inclusion in the next issue of Narrow Gauge, which will be issued at the beginning of March.

A Manchester Meeting will be held on Saturday 23rd January 1954, 2.0pm, at the College of Adult Education, Lower Mosley Street. There will be a discussion on narrow gauge matters generally, including modelling, our locomotive, a site for our own track, etc., in the afternoon, and after tea Mr. J.I.C.Boyd will present a talk on narrow gauge railways, illustrated by coloured slides. Members who can bring one or two models representing their work are asked to do so. Please notify the Lancashire & Cheshire County Agent, Capt. Thos. E. Corlett, 53 Plane Tree Road, Bebington, Cheshire, as quickly as possible if you will be present so that tea can be arranged (pay later).

Switzerland We learn that the 2' 5 1/2" gauge Liestal - Waldenburg Railway, an 8-mile "branch" from the Basle - Olten main line, has been electrified, and hope to publish more details in a later issue.

Wanted by Capt. Corlett (address above) - a copy of the Railway Modeller, Vol.1, No. 6 Aug-Sept. 1950.

Special Notice We are holding a dance at the Headingley Cricket Ground Pavilion Ballroom (St. Michaels Lane, Headingley, Leeds 6) from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight on Friday 26th February 1954. Tickets from the Hon. Secretary price 3/-. There will be refreshments, a bar, and spot prizes. A spacious car park is available, and the No. 76 bus from City Square to Chapel Lane (walk on a few yards and turn down St. Michaels Lane) is the best way to reach the ballroom from town. We hope that members will support this venture (last 76 bus to town - 11.15 p.m. Special night bus to town shortly after midnight from St. Michaels Church)

Models Narrow gauge locomotives, rolling stock and track from 4 to 10mm scales. List 7 1/2 d. DOUGLASS MODELS, HOLYWELL GREEN, HALIFAX.

Special Offer to Members Only - 7mm scale freelance 0-4-0 saddle tank "Nellie" (black, red buffer beams and coupling rods, brass nameplates) at reduced price of £5.10.0. Chassis, running plate and motor only £3.15.0. Built by A.S.Dunning, Huddersfield. Cash with orders to P.S.Halton, Model Eng. Rep., N.G.R.S., 18 Eden Crescent, Leeds 4. Orders made out to A.S.Dunning crossed "& Co". Membership Number must be quoted.

Cover printed by Wilkinson, York. Published by the Narrow Gauge Railway Society