

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

NEWS SHEET
No.3

Christmas 1952

Hon. Secretary's Report for 1952

A year ago, an idea I had carried in my mind for some time came into reality, and the Narrow Gauge Railway Society was formed. Since then we have brought together a considerable number of people who are interested in narrow gauge railways - when I say "we" I mean all the individual members who have come forward with their support and helped to spread the news of our existence. In spite of the disappearance of many of the public narrow gauge railways in this country, there is still a lot of interest in this form of rail transport, particularly amongst younger members.

The News Sheet was introduced to keep members in touch with each other and to cover any narrow gauge railway developments, and when the time is right it is hoped to produce a quarterly magazine, the title of which will be "The Narrow Gauge" - for the time being the News Sheet, bearing this title as from the next issue, will continue to be produced.

No increase in contributions is contemplated yet, as it is felt that there may be some members who, already paying a large subscription to another society, may not wish to pay more to cover their narrow gauge interests. However, this is one item which, I think, should be discussed at the Annual General Meeting, which was postponed due to the incidence of the exhibition at Leeds. Meanwhile, if members would like to drop me a line and let me know their views on this question, I should be very pleased to hear them.

Well, on now to 1953. The question of outside visits is of prime importance this coming season, and I suggest that in order to stimulate interest among members, any member who would like to organise a trip to a particular line should get in touch with me, and then official backing will be given to any arrangements the member may care to make. The reason for this suggestion is not so much as "getting out of organising a visit" as to emphasise that Leeds is not an ideal centre for arranging visits to narrow gauge lines, though there are two which I hope to arrange visits to in the New Year.

Just one other thing; the NGRS has bought a film strip and notes from the Tallylyn Railway Preservation Society and this can be borrowed by any member who may wish to bring that railway to the notice of others.

Good luck to you all, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

(signed) Eric Cope

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. L. Hyland of 40 Old Finglas Road, Glasnerin, Dublin, is County Agent for Eire.

Mr Eric A. Bates of 22 Alma Road, Rosebank, South Africa, has consented to act as our Agent in South Africa and will be pleased to hear from any members who are interested in the railways of that country. In addition to the main lines there are many interesting narrow gauge branch and private lines.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is proposed to hold the first Annual General Meeting early in 1953, and the venue will probably be in the Midlands, combined with a visit to a well-known locomotive works. Details will be announced as soon as arrangements have been made.

EXHIBITION

Our stand at the Leeds Model Railway Society's exhibition at the Corn Exchange, Leeds, attracted considerable attention, and a photograph of Mr. A. Pratt's Ffestiniog & Blaenau 0-4-2ST in 16mm scale appeared in the local press. Other models on display were three coaches of the FF & B R and a free-lance 0-6-0T loco "Isobel", two four-wheel coaches and a brake van of Mr Pratt's 7mm-scale "Kolne Valley Railway". These items aroused much interest, as did Mr N.S.Bryant's 4mm scenic layout with 0-4-0T loco, coach and brake van representing the imaginary "South Dorset Light Railway" (3'-gauge). Mr Bryant's 7mm free-lance "C.V.R." 0-4-2T loco and bogie platform-end coach added to the models on display and put up a good performance.

The Talylyn Railway Preservation Society was represented on the stand, tickets, guides, postcards etc. being on sale to the public. Messrs. Douglass Models of Halifax loaned us a model of the locomotive "Dolgoch" and three coaches, and this aroused a good deal of interest. In addition they loaned a model of the Southwold Railway locomotive "Blyth" and from the performance put up by this loco we can recommend it to any prospective purchasers. The interest shown by the public in Messrs Douglass Models' own stand was gratifying. Static models on our stand included Mr. D.A.Boreham's 4mm-scale Isle of Man loco "Mannin", two coaches and a brake van, also his unfinished 2-4-2T Ballycastle loco. Mr. P.S.Halton provided a very creditable Lynton & Barnstaple coach (under construction). No little interest was shown in a model of an American "Gallows"-type turntable of the 1880's, under construction in HOn3 scale by Mr. F.W.Cooper of York.

We have learned much from this (our first) effort and the layout will be considerably modified. The baseboard and track used at the Corn Exchange

were not satisfactory, so a more portable unit will be devised, and existing rails utilised to lay a correct 14mm-gauge track, along with a length each of 16.5mm and 21mm gauges to enable commercial, and scale 2'3" and 3'0" equipment to be run for demonstration purposed if so desired.

Thanks are tendered to the many members and friends who helped to make the stand a success, both with models and scenery, and with assistance at the exhibition.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Birmingham Locomotive Club Handbooks - set of six excluding No. 1.

Photographs and details of Southend Pier Railway.

Drawings of Rye & Camber, Welshpool & Llanfair and Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway locomotives.

Model Railway Constructor June 1951 - Supplement giving Welshpool & Llanfair loco drawings.

Tour of Irish Railways - typescript booklet containing many drawings and maps (A.J.Powell, Derby).

W.G.Bagnall Ltd Locomotives - catalogue presented to the Society by Bagnall's.

Light Railway Materials - catalogue presented to the Society by Messrs. R. Hudson Ltd., Leeds.

Welsh Mountain Railways - booklet describing standard and narrow gauge railway facilities in Mid and North Wales. (GWR 1924 - contains rare view of loco "Rheidol" on a train on the Devil's Bridge line). Presented to the Society by B.R. (Western Region).

County Donegal Railways Timetable 1952-53 (note: a small supply of these is on hand at the present time and a copy can be had free on request).

Douglass Models - complete series of drawings, bought specially by the Society for use by members. The firm has also given us a few current catalogues; anyone requiring one free should write c/o Hon. Secretary. There are only a few!

Michelin Maps. One of these shows the old Llandre Quarry line on which the loco "Rheidol" was once used.

Talylyn Railway - film strip and lecture notes.

Any of the above can be borrowed for a fortnight maximum at a nominal charge of 6d. to cover postage and to help the funds.

WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR LIGHTRAILWAY

Steps are being taken to ensure that at least one of the locomotives is preserved. Statutory and financial obligations prevent us from taking the line over as a whole, and in any case no decision has yet been reached as

to whether it will close or not. However, if we can ensure the preservation of a locomotive we shall have achieved something.

CHATTENDEN & UPNOR RAILWAY (2'6"-gauge)

Mr. J.C. Butler of 83 Judd Road, Tonbridge, Kent, writes to tell us that this line is still functioning, diesel locomotives being used, with a steam loco as standby. An article on this railway appeared in the Railway Magazine, Vol. 87, 1941, pages 207-211.

WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY

The nameplate and works plate of "Russell", together with the works plate of the Baldwin loco "590", have been located after a search at the York Railway Museum, and are at present on loan to the Society for exhibition purposes. They have been mounted, and will be returned to the museum shortly.

WEST CLARE RAILWAY (C.I.E)

With so many Irish railways closing, it is refreshing to receive a photograph of one of the new diesel railcars now in service on this 3ft-gauge line. An article on them appeared in Modern Transport for November 22nd.

NEWS FROM DUBLIN

Our County Agent in Dublin writes : Bord na Mona has applied to the Department of Industry and Commerce for a Transport Works Order authorising the Bord to construct, maintain and operate a railway on the public road from Edenderry to Rathangan. Expected gauge is 3ft.

ADVERTISEMENTS

1d. per word, maximum 18 words.

Small selection recent narrow gauge photos. Postcard size. 1/- each, s.a.e. for list. D.G. Attwood, Hillrise, Woolhampton, Berkshire.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Postcard views now available of Leeds Corporation 2ft-gauge line, Masham to Leighton. Hunslet 2-6-2T loco. Three different views, 9d. each. Profits to NGRS funds.