

OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 35, July and August 1968

Operating matters The Fowler diesel is now repaired and will be back in service shortly to give the Sentinel a well earned rest. The Bagnall 'Matthew Murray' has the tank and lagging removed and awaits a boiler test in August. The Steam Power Trust have spent several sessions recently repainting and touching-up the Y7.

Permanent Way work has been progressing well thanks to the efforts of a small devoted band of members. The loop is almost relayed and the Steam Crane has been assisting greatly to move rail down the line, some into Moor End works for bending to the correct curvature. Some of the P.Way in Robinson's Yard has had to be repaired due to wear.

Security It is depressing to report that we have been at the mercy of thieves several times recently. The brass bearings were stolen from the tool van while it was in Clayton's Dartmouth Yard. The van must have been jacked up while the bearings were removed. Last week the brake van was ransacked and a further amount of brass stolen, this time from a padlocked locker. Several other smaller amounts of various metals have been pilfered. Things are getting to an alarming level and thieves with lorries have actually been disturbed while attempting to remove track and other heavy metal. The Police have been informed on every occasion and they ask members who see anyone acting suspiciously, especially if they have a lorry or van, NOT TO DISTURB THEM BUT TELEPHONE 999 IMMEDIATELY. The Police stress that they do not mind false alarms because ultimately they will catch these thieves red-handed.

The Security Guards at Clayton's Dartmouth Works have been given instructions to stop and inspect the credentials of any persons they find in the Yard. Members are urged to carry their Membership Cards as they could well be turned out of the Yard if they cannot produce them. Members are also urged to watch and question any strangers in the Yard. All visitors, except on mini- Open Days should have a letter of authority from the Secretary, Publicity Officer or other Committee Member. Recently, two so called enthusiasts asked to look round the yard and while there stole one of the maker's plates from 'Matthew Murray'. Unfortunately, this thieving of relics is becoming very evident at many of the preserved railways.

The Steam Gala- Saturday, September 7th. 2.30 -6.30 p.m.

Our main event of the year. So far we have the promise of several steam rollers and traction engines and a Century Old Gavioli Trumpet Organ. Hunslet Engine Company and 'Matthew Murray' school have kindly agreed to bring their Oddsmobiles- you don't know what they are ? well, come and find out on the day !

Enclosed you will find 1, 2 or x copies (depending on where you live) of the small poster we have had printed especially for shop windows, cars and notice boards.

NOW, HOW CAN YOU HELP ?

This year it is even more necessary that as many members as possible help, as we have got increased publicity which we hope will bring in greater numbers. Also, this MAY be the last year that we can hold the Steam Gala in this form as next year it is

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expected that work will have commenced on the South East Motorway and Clayton's field may be obliterated and our track under re-alignment.

The Chairman and Publicity Officer will be away from Leeds due to family commitments and their absence will throw a great load onto the other Committee Members. So, Leeds and West Riding members please do rally round and help .

So :-

1. Display the enclosed posters in any prominent position. Plead with the butcher, grocer, cleaner, betting agent, pawn shop- ANYONE who is in the public eye, especially if they are near a 'bus stop. Plead with the boss, the P.R.O., the Sports Sec. etc. to put one up on the notice board. And what about your local railway Station, if you are fortunate enough to have one, your tennis club, modelling club. And what about the fish and chip shop- NOT to be used for wrapping up the purchase !

2. Come on the day and lend a hand to :-

~~man (or woman) the gates, sell literature, sell refreshments, man an engine to~~ prevent pilfering, repel boarders and stop young Herbert decapitating himself in the con.-rods, or help organise events for the road vehicles in the field.

3. This is THE day of the year, if you can help let us know by September 5th., either at 5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6, tel. 54441 or 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6.

PLEASE TRY TO HELP.

And we need your help four times more

Visitors Saturday August 17th. Leicester Railway Society

Friday August 30th. A party of 40 German Railway enthusiasts will be in and around Leeds. We have organised for them visits to places of local railway interest. They will be at the line in the morning, when we are to run a special train for them

Sunday September 1st. The organisers of the Harrogate Northern Model Railway Exhibition are bringing their exhibitors to Leeds to see the line in the afternoon.

Saturday Sept. 28th. The R.C.T.S. Cheltenham Branch with the Gloucester Railway Society and the Dowty R.P.S.

Since our friends at Keighley have re-opened their line we have received many more applications to visit our line. We have nothing scenic to offer, only history and steam. Whereas scenery can be admired without help, history needs to be related and thus, WITHOUT GUIDES WE ARE OF NO INTEREST. So can you help in this matter ? You don't have to be an expert at History or a great narrator, just someone whose enthusiasm for the Middleton Railway can be conveyed to the visitor. Contact John Bushell at 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6 with help for the German visit and Mrs. Youell at 5 North Grange Mount for the re. t.

Harrogate Northern Model Railway Exhibition

This is to be held at the Exhibition Hall, Harrogate on Saturday, August 31st., Monday, September 2nd. and Tuesday Sept ber 3rd. Once again we have been fortunate enough to be allocated a stand of 12' at this exhibition, the largest and best attended at which we usually exhibit. Those of you who are unable to help at the Railway may feel inclined to help us an 'play trains', model, of course. We get a limited number of free meal vouchers and entrance tickets. We shall be setting up on Friday, August 30th. and offers of help for any of these four days will be gratefully received at 5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6. This is always a splendid 'do' and members thoroughly enjoy themselves.

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It is with deep regret that we hear the news of the death of Mr. C.D.E. Roper Nunn of Leeds. He was a wonderful railway photographer and a great friend of the M.R.T. and the University Railway Society.

Stock list Many thanks for the response to the appeal for a lower estimate for printing the Middleton Stockbook. This is now in hand, for a reasonable sum, and it is expected that it will be on sale at the Harrogate Exhibition at the Bank Holiday and mainly at the Steam Gala.

Crossing Signs As announced in the last Newsletter, the Police recommended new signs for the two road crossings, Moor Road and Beza Road. These have now been erected but we feel that the motoring public may well still ignore them as they are the new Continental type and bear no words. Just a large flattened X with arrows on the ends. We shall see.

Welcome to new members D. Bailey, Leeds 12. G.R. Foster, Boroughbridge, J. Taylor, Wetherby and Middleton C. of E. Primary School., Leeds 10.

Did you hear ? Honorary member of M.R.T., G. Fiennes 'Talking Trains' on Monday and Tuesday evening, July 22nd. and 23rd. Radio 4 in the 'Prom' interval. On Tuesday his topic was 'On the footplate' in which he gave a delightful account of the 'Matthew Murray' naming ceremony on February 3rd. He told of his journey down the line with the Bishop of Wakefield on the footplate and not being able to find the brake when approaching the bottom of the line. But in fact the Bishop was able to stop the loco. in time and for this reason, Mr. Fiennes felt that his companion on the footplate when he approached the pearly gates to Heaven must be a Bishop ! He is to give a third talk on Friday, July 26th. at 8.45, Radio 4 and a fourth on Tuesday, July 30th.

Friends in the News.

We were all delighted to be present at the re-opening of the Worth Valley Line on Saturday, June 29th. The ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Keighley and a special train of four coaches and two Pullman Cars hauled by Ivatt 2MT 2-6-2T, 41241 (in crimson livery) and the USA 0-6-OT, 72 (in brown livery) made a non-stop journey to Oxenhope. Literally hundreds of people festooned all the buildings up the line and climbed onto bridges, walls and every available vantage point to see this great event. The noise of the two distinctive whistles was exhilarating, as was the champagne served to the guests in the Pullman Cars, and the M.R.T. Publicity Officer was observed to stagger onto the Platform at Oxenhope to witness a spirited rendering of 'Congratulations' by a local band (which mysteriously seemed to follow us where ever we went) At Oxenhope, the time taken for the two engines to run round was more than taken up by greeting the many friends who were either on the train or station. Members of the majority of the preserved railways were present and all were unanimous in wishing the KWVRPS success after a memorable re-opening.

After an excellent tea served by the ladies in the buffet car, we were happy to stroll round the depot at Haworth amid a large and admiring crowd of visitors. It was fortunate that the remaining trains of the first day ran somewhat late as it allowed the M.R.T. Contingent to assemble at Haworth ready for the return journey from the Brontes to the Murrays !

We are happy to report steady progress by another Yorkshire colleague in the amateur railway movement. The North Yorks Moors R.P.S. are negotiating for the purchase of the Grosmont- Goathland section of the Whitby-Pickering Railway. When one considers the number of preservation schemes extant at

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the moment, we feel this scheme is one of the most level headed and best organised we have seen.

They will be running to a line which B.R. are not closing, with separate facilities at the junction; they will provide a public service to a place which is cut off from road transport at regular intervals in bad weather, namely Goathland. The Committee is determined not to attempt too much and are concentrating on locomotives and rolling stock adequate for the work they expect. They are having detailed advice from expert railwaymen and to date their membership exceeds 1,000 including all the local authorities of the area.

We wish them success in their negotiations with B.R.

Locos. of interest A group of enthusiasts at Millom, Cumberland had hoped to purchase the site and equipment of the Hodbarrow (Haematite) Mining Company of Millom and to form a working indoor/outdoor museum of 19th. Century industry. It has now been established that the owners now wish to develop the site and offer only the rolling stock and locos for sale by tender, tenders to be in by JULY 31st, items to be removed by the purchasers.

The locos. are :- Hunslet, oldest operative, 1882, weight 28 tons 0-4-0 ST ; Neilson, 1890, weight about 19 tons, 0-4-C Crane-Tank, quite unique ; Avonside, 1906, weight 19½ tons, 0-4-0 T ; Hudswell-Clarke, 1946, 0-4-0 T. The last two have been used daily.

There are 4 steam cranes, one Samuel Butler steam grab, about 50 years old. The rolling stock includes some wooden tippers, the oldest being 1880. There is also some miscellaneous steam gear including pumps.

The group have had tentative offers of short term storage but at the moment the main problem is- as you may guess- finance. The Hodbarrow group would like to contact any group/individuals interested in buying stock at Hodbarrow with a view to co-ordination of efforts in the removal and subsequent preservation. They have a full range of photographs and slides of the stock and will send a list on request. Line drawings of Hunslet and facsimiles of the Hodbarrow Cornish Engines can be had for 7/6d each + p.p.

Anyone interested please contact the Hodbarrow Preservation Group, Secretary, Mr. E.G. McAvoy, 29 Pepper Lane, Standish, Nr. Wigan or the Treasurer, Mr. D.B. Hodgson, 41 Sutherland Road, Bolton. Tel. Bolton 43000.

STOP PRESS

Middleton Broom Pit has now ceased producing coal and after the 30 odd men who remain in employment there have cleared away all materials useful to other pits, the land will be offered for sale to the local corporation, i.e. Leeds City Council. The track up to the colliery from Parkside is about to be lifted for use at another pit and so as a matter of urgency the M.R.T. Committee have approached both the N.C.B. and Leeds Corporation with regard to the possibility of the M.R.T. acquiring the track and some of the buildings at the Pit Head for use as a depot and museum.

The matter is under discussion and no further information can be given to members at the present time but local members are instructed NOT TO GO TO THE COLLIERY WITHOUT FIRST MAKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE MANAGER. The foreman and others there are being bothered by a small but steady flow of our members who wish to view the site but have no authority from the N.C.B. and we must not jeopardise our chances of a favourable decision by annoying the Coal Board Officials.