

OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 31, December 1967

Traffic and locomotives 'John Alcock' and the Bagnall still being under repair, the traffic is being moved by the Sentinel. Unfortunately, Robinson and Birdsell's cranes are all under repair and awaiting spare parts so traffic has been very light. This coming Saturday, December 9th., traffic will be moved by the Y7 which will be photographed and recorded during the day for an article and the proposed record. There will also be an amateur theatrical group making a short cine film of a character arriving by steam !

Civil Engineering Progress A group of members, perhaps with a sense of conscience and urgency in the matter, formed a Civil Engineering Sub-Committee last month to get things moving and make up for lost time. A long list of urgent jobs was made out, among them the relaying of the interchange loop, realignment of the Moor End curve to prevent buffer locking, re-designing the old King's Siding, and planning a new access siding to Robinson and Birdsell Ltd.

The Sub-Committee have started work in no uncertain way and great thanks must go to those members who have been going down to the railway during the week and weekends in the past month. The gang started at the B.R. Junction and have relayed the first 60' with a carefully planned curve of just under 5 chains radius and followed this up with the A and 6 turnout. Our most decayed and dangerous piece of track is now safe and tidy. It is satisfying to see heavy axles pass over fishplated joints without a trace of movement. Before the end of the year the loop should be servicable and then each side will be progressively relayed.

The greatest handicap is the delay in getting the locomotive down to propel the hand-crane loaded with new prefabricated track on to the site. To try to help matters the University members are raising funds for a small Hunslet diesel shunter for use on Permanent Way trains. Enquiries about the Civil Engineering work should go to Patrick McAskie, Railway Society, University Union, Leeds 2. or Flt.Lt. Lee, 27 Kellett Crescent, Leeds 12. Donations and suggestions for raising money for the Loco. fund to Mr Milner, Railway Society, University Union, Leeds 2.

BrakeVan Steady progress has been made by a member single-handed in burning off and repainting the brake van.

What- no volunteers The preparation of the ex-Laporte Acid wagons for inter works traffic is now urgently needed. The work is not terribly difficult but it will not do itself- any volunteers ?

For your diary - again

First 2 weeks after Christmas will see the release in the Rank Circuit of the 'Look at Life' documentary in which Middleton appears.

Annual Buffet WILL NOT BE ON JAN. 27th. as announced, it will be held probably on March 9th. instead. Full details in the January O.R.N.

Matthew Murray exhibition

Commemorative Lecture by Charles E Lee, the distinguished railway historian will be at the University on FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2nd. at 7.30 p.m. Detailed venue later.

Dec. 07 2.

Sat. February 3rd. 11am. Short commemorative Service at St. Matthews Church, Holbeck, with a special peal of bells.

12.30. Special lunch at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds 1
Tickets will be in the region of 20/- to 25/- each, guests will include our afternoon visitors plus helpful friends of the Trust.

2.30 Naming ceremony of the Bagnall by the Bishop of Pontefract with Mr. G. Fiennes.

Welcome to Hull University Railway Society as corporate members.

M.R.T. Mini Rail Trip Saturday December 29th. 1967

Travel to Manchester by 8.5 am. from Leeds City. Motorcoach to the principal loco. sheds in the Manchester and Stockport area including the various steam depots. Return by the 17.47 SO (steam worked from Kingmoor) from Manchester. At the moment cost is unknown but bookings can be made to Mr. J. Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6 sending 5/- deposit and a S.A.E. for details which will be sent a week prior to the trip.

M.R.T. Maxi Rail Trip Saturday April 27th. 1967

To Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway via a very interesting and unusual route
Details later when available.

K.W.V.R.P.S. We are delighted to hear that B.R. have obtained a Light Railway Order for the Worth Valley line. The Keighley and Worth Valley Light Railway are now in the process of applying for the transfer of the Order to them. It is hoped to start operation in the early spring. After the refusal to grant a L.R.O. to the Kent and East Sussex this news is particularly pleasing.

N.Y.M.R.P.S. The first meeting of the North Yorks Moors R.P.S. was held at Goathland on Saturday, November 18th. Over 200 members were present. It was reported that membership stood at over 630 including many railwaymen and five local authorities. B.R. are now surveying and valuing the track and property. It was decided to form a limited company and 10 directors were appointed, including the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Michael Shaw. After a long discussion (!) it was decided that the Company should be known as The North Yorkshire Moors Railway Company.

Don't forget the M.R.T. at Christmas - will you? Give the M.R.T. AND a friend or relations present by enrolling them as a member of M.R.T. £1/1/- Adult, 10/- juvenile or O.A.P. - or of course you could just send a donation to
5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6.

Youelltide greetings from the Secretary.

* HAPPY CHRISTMAS *
