

OLD RUN NEWS

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Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust.

Number 40, May 1969.

SALES. We are happy to report that our new Sales Manager, John Edwards, of 11 Drummond Court, Leeds 16, is going in fine style. He has SOLD OUT an issue of THE OLD RUN completely, and is asking for more. A portable sales stand for exhibitions is being laid out, and new lines for sale to publicise our line are being developed. A really attractive display is invaluable especially for the benefit of visiting parties. Any further ideas please direct to our sales manager.

VISITORS THIS WAY PLEASE. Despite our lack of scenery, Bluebells, Brontosauruses, Narrow Gauge Slate Waggon, Broad Gauges or any other of the normal attractions, we are pleased to record that a steady and increasingly large number of visitors singly or in groups is coming to see us. The fact that it is possible to see us, York Museum and KWVERPS in a day excursion helps considerably by encouraging people who might not turn out just to see our heap of industrial history! In addition to our normal Open Days, our very industrial scenery is compensated for by the fact that we can with relative ease produce guides in midweek - we have never been a "Weekends-Only" railway. In the past we have had problems due to the organisation being divided between several Officers all of them already busy with major tasks of M.R.T. work. We have therefore appointed a new team for the purpose, of Messrs. Barraclough, Sugden and Phillips to deal with the whole thing. At least two of them will be available throughout the year, and they will see that the Motive Power, information, guides, and sales aspects are notified and ready for each occasion. Members are asked to help this new scheme get off to a good start by passing all Visits enquiries on to "Middleton Railway Visits Co-ordinators" Railway Society, Leeds University Union, Leeds 2.

A reprinted and up to date Rules and Operating Manual is now being prepared. It will incorporate all amendments and addenda from previous issues.

WELCOME TO the newly enrolled members:-

Wilf and Len Coles of Leeds
N. Thompson of Newcastle
A R Thompson of Manchester
A W Tilleard of Leeds
G Bedford of Leeds
B S Cooper of Buckinghamshire
Ian Smith of Leeds

S C C Naylor of Leeds
F W Hampson of Newcastle
G D Crapper of Leeds
M A Lane of Coventry
W Holliday of Rothwell
Miss D Quigley of Hunslet Moor

THE HOUSE ON THE HILL The Leeds Works Department has started demolition of the winding house of the top incline to Middleton Town Street, dating from about 1824. The winding house continued working until the 1958 debacle, when it lost its track and an antique slotted post signal. It is now surrounded by Council Houses and other unsightly 20th Century-isms. The Hebden Corporate members, notably Mrs Hebden observing from the nearby windows of the Middleton C.O.E. School, spotted the demolition van and managed to save some old rails forming the lintels of the cottage windows, and arranging for the main wheel and supports to be kept for us and the 1812 stone sleeper which forms part of the foundation. 1824 Railway relics are not all that

common, and they will certainly lend an air of verisimilitude to our Museum. At the same time we regret that although we had been promised all the Whitakers Staith relics before the Motorway Work started, someone has let loose a demolition firm and completely wrecked the entire siding without consulting us.

VANDALISM. Local miscreants, believed in one case to be schoolboys, removed the Wickham and other 4 wheel trolleys and damaged and derailed them. Police are investigating, together with a case of a lorry parked across the main line at Moor Road level crossing without by-your-leave.

EASTER OPEN DAY SUCCESS. Over 1500 visitors saw the steam Gala, at least that number paid to come in. The White Steam Car was able to be there in spirit only, due to a mechanical fault. Everything else was going strong, though Henry de L. II got through 45 gallons of fuel oil and then some more in an afternoon.

FUND RAISING. The first rush of gifts is now over and we are pushing ahead with other schemes. Mr. Harrington's Round Robin idea already boasts some healthy takings, readers and members please note. We draw attention to the fact that there must be no let up on this -- the blunt facts are that if the N C B ask for our cheque for £4000 and we cannot produce it, we then say goodbye to our Museum, Depot, and over a mile of 1758 Route. For the benefit of members who have mislaid our first fund raising circular we enclose another copy. Mr. Roger Bareham offers to obtain collections and series of stamps for any interested philatelists; any profits from the sale will come to the Appeal Fund.

NEW BRANCH LINE. We are able to report successful conclusions of a lengthy investigation into a new branch line to serve Robinson and Birdsell's low level field. This will be used to take traffic now dealt with at another R and B depot due to be abandoned within 5 years for town redevelopment. Helpful reactions from the City Engineers and Town Planning Departments assisted the preparation of a scheme that will dovetail neatly into the Motorway scheme.

Wagons and Locos. Potential Loco Workers please contact Jim Lodge, C.M.E., to help him press ahead with overhaul and repair work. Our ex Laporte Wagons have now been paid for and Peter Barry will need help pronto to fit them out for internal traffic.

CIVIL ENGINEERING PROGRESS. The Bottom Loop Junction has been finished off with a proper set of check rails and is ready for ballasting. Lengthy but necessary tidying up removed scrap wood and metal from the nearby land, and the result looks like a railway rather than a scrap heap! A major sorting out at the depot has laid out spare permanent way material and tidied up the general appearance.

VANDALISM AT ST. MATTHEWS. One of the St. Matthew's Church Wardens reported that local vandals had wrecked the March Tombstone near Matthew Murray's Obelisk, and within 24 hours the Permanent Way Gangsters arrived and realigned all the stone work to produce a tidy grave worthy of Matthew Murray's descendent. We understand that a long wrangle has been going on between the Diocesan authorities and the Leeds Parks Dept. Offices, because the Parks Dept. apparently maintain the Church Yard, and were liable to repair the collapsed wall at one side, or tidy it up and make it presentable. When the plan had finally been agreed, the City of Leeds decided that no money was available, and therefore no wall repairs would be carried out. Roll on Democracy!

MIDDLETON ON SHOW. Remember to tell your friends about the Open Days on the first Saturday in each month. We are now definitely having another Gala day at the Autumn Bank Holiday.