



The Old Run

Journal of the Middleton Railway Preservation Society

No. 3

March 1960

We must apologise for the late appearance of this issue. It is due to the fact that the Society is at present being run by a temporary committee consisting of members of the Leeds University Railway Society, who have been away for the Easter vacation. Compilation of news for the March edition of your Journal was therefore very difficult. We do our best, but even students have other work to do, and so we are looking forward to the election of the Society's first official Committee at the inaugural Annual General Meeting on Saturday 7th May at 3pm in the Physics Department, the University of Leeds.

We have made Leeds City Transport a definite offer of 150 pounds for their railcar No.601, one of the three modern and comfortable prototypes of what was to be a modernised fleet of tramcars for Leeds. LCT have been trying to sell these railcars to other tramway systems, without success, for a few years, and we are confident that they will accept our offer.

"Data" Film Productions, makers of specialised films, have written to us expressing interest and asking if they could film our activities. We replied that as something photogenic looked like occurring we would let them know. Naturally, such a film would be very useful to us, both as a record of our activities and as publicity.

In reply to our inquiry, the Railway Preservation Society sent a most enthusiastic letter agreeing that we should form the nucleus of their West Riding Branch. This does not mean we should lose our independence, but that we shall be playing our part in rationalising the preservation urge. The Railway Preservation Society aims to co-ordinate the activities of each geographical area, providing a scheme for every part of the country. Information and experience would be readily available to all, and we hope that all Preservation Societies will eventually join in this admirable venture. We ourselves will join as soon as our position on the Middleton Railway is finally clarified.

The following letter has been received from Mr John Halliday, Chairman of the West Riding Branch of the RCTS:

In commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Middleton Colliery Railway (1758-1958), the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society are proposing to erect a tablet on the site of the coal staithe which formed the city terminus of the line in Great Wilson Street, Leeds. The anticipated cost is approximately 60 pounds and all donations towards this amount will be gratefully received by Mr W. Bottonley, RCTS Middleton Tablet Appeal Treasurer, 18 Greencliffe Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, Yorkshire, and will be acknowledged individually. Should more money be received than is required, any surplus will, in the absence of contrary instructions, be handed to the Middleton Railway Preservation Society, which is hoping to re-establish part of the line as a working historic relic. In the event of the erection of the tablet proving for any reason impossible all monies will be returned to donors.

The proposed wording of the Plaque is: "This plaque was erected by the West Riding Branch of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Middleton Railway."

As we are so closely concerned with this venture, we hope that all members who can afford it will send a donation.

On 5th March, Dr Youell addressed a meeting of the Stephenson Locomotive Society at Sheffield, and the RCTS at Manchester on 9th March. Both Societies expressed their extreme interest in the Middleton Railway scheme.

If we may raise the sordid subject of finance, may the Acting Committee point out that, inevitably, a large part of the cost of getting the Middleton Railway on its feet again will be incurred early on. We shall of course do our best to raise money in all possible ways, but simple calculations show that our income from annual subscriptions is not enough to meet our capital expenditure. Put your hands in your pockets, or those of rich relations or industrial friends, beg, borrow (but do not steal) money from anywhere to support the Society. Committee suggests that members who are not already major donors should set aside a fixed sum each week for the Society. The price of a packet of cigarettes a week each would amount to £500 in a year. This means you-the Secretary and Treasurer have their hands out ready to collect.

The provisional Agenda for the inaugural A.G.M. of the Society at 3 p.m. Saturday 7th. May in the Department of Physics, Leeds University, is as follows:-

1. Opening remarks by the Acting Chairman.
2. Progress Report by the Secretary.
3. Financial Statement by the Acting Treasurer.
4. Draft Constitution.
5. Election of Permanent Committee.
(a) President (b) Vice Presidents (c) Secretary (d) Treasurer
(d) Chairman (e) Committee Members.
6. Discussion of Policy and Programme.
7. Any Other Business.

The Physics Department is best approached by the service road from Woodhouse Lane, about 100 yards further from Town than the University Main Entrance and Tower. The door to the Department is reached through the Portland Stone archway, passing the new building work on the left. The meeting is held by kind permission of the head of the Physics Department, Professor E.C.Stoner, F.R.S. Bring along any friends interested, even if not members.

Any enquiries about the Society should be sent to Mr. Peter Dean, Acting Secretary, Railway Society, Leeds University Union.