

OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 24, February 1967

Down at the line

As many members may know, we have two wagons which have been ferrying scrap from Claytons Moor End Works to Robinson & Birdsell's, bringing in a useful addition to our revenue. All this time there has been a third wagon on the back road in Dartmouth Yard. Recently, this has been emptied of a surprising variety of contents. Aluminium has been bounced, flattened, jumped on and generally manhandled into manageable cubes ready to be sold for scrap. Tramparts including controller, signals and sign board have been removed to a safe place under lock and key. Finally, the scrap metal left in the bottom has been taken into the scrap yard together with numerous items of scrap metal which members of the public seem to delight in dumping on and around the line. Still bedsteads, old prams, bits of cars, bicycles etc. mean MONEY in a scrap yard. The wagon will now be put to our own use, ferrying tools etc. when needed.

The steam crane which has been in Moor End Works has now been moved up the line. A great deal of manoeuvring was required to bring this about. To begin with, some rather moth-eaten looking cable was in the way so the gib was lowered and, very gingerly, the wires were lifted clear with a wooden shunting pole. By much effort and forethought the engine managed to 'run round' at the headshunt so that the two were in the correct order to push the crane into the tram siding.

'Swansea' has also travelled up the line from Moor End. All the valuable parts and connecting rods have been removed for safe keeping. It is also destined for the tram siding pending the amalgamation of the two Avonsides.

Work on the Sentinel has taken on a new lease of life due to the unexpected acquisition of a piston, small end, and connecting rod.

P.S. Anyone want some CASH ? Then why not take some of those empty pop bottles to the shop on the corner.

A.G.M. & Buffet

Enclosed with this newsletter is the official notice of the A.G.M. together with the booking form for the buffet and film evening. Also enclosed are the minutes of the last A.G.M. These include the Officers of the Committee elected for 1966-67. During the year Mr. Naylor has resigned his position as Publicity Officer and Mr. M.D. Crew took over Mr. Teale's duties as Committee Secretary.

Members wishing to be present at the Buffet in the evening are asked to inform the Secretary as soon as possible in order that estimates for catering can be made. Although timed 7.0 for 7.30 members are welcome to come later if they wish. The buffet will be plentiful but not inexhaustible!

We would love to meet your wives, girl-friends, Mums, Dads, Aunts, Uncles and Granny. Why not let them come along for an enjoyable evening and let them see that the rest of us are quite nice, really !?!

M.R.T. International

We are very pleased to welcome to our ranks two overseas members:- Mr. McDonald in Malaysia- must be our most distant member and M. Pusztaszerie from Lausanne in Switzerland. The latter has already put in several hours on the line and he only joined in the middle of January! He tells us that the Swiss Government would not allow such a venture as ours and so he must make the most of it while he is staying in England!

Visitors to the line

The R.C.T.S. Northampton Branch are running a rail tour to Yorkshire on April 15th. and are hoping to be able to arrange a visit to our line by coach from Normanton, lasting about 2 hours. The Steam Power Trust have kindly said that they will steam the Y7 that day instead of April 1st. (The first steaming this year will be on March 4th.) Members who could help in the capacity of guide or salesman are asked to contact the Secretary.

The Publicity Sub-Committee, at a recent meeting, proposed that during the Summer months, the first Saturday in each month be advertised as a visitors' day. This would not interfere with the normal running of the line and M.R.T. members acting as guides need not be drawn from the 'operating' side of the Railway. It is hoped that the visitors' days might lead to recruitment of active members.

The Derbyshire Dawdler

Yes, this is the name of our next Marquess trip to Crich and Derby on April 22nd. Not that it WILL dawdle but the K4s weren't exactly built for high speed running. Much hard work and discussion have gone into providing a route that be interesting and scenic. Departure approx. 9.00, arrival back in Leeds approx. 19.00. Exact times and fares are yet to be finalised by B.R. but it is expected to be 36/- adult from Leeds with a limited number of juvenile tickets at approx. 25/-. Proportionate adult fares from Doncaster and Sheffield. Further details and booking forms will be available at the beginning of March from MR. J.R. ATHERLEY, 31 SILVEY AVENUE, SOUTHVELL, NOTTS. Please send S.A.E.

The Marquess has been booked for further trips prior to April 22nd. & help is URGENTLY needed in cleaning her. This is an overwhelming task for one or two but pleasurable and rewarding for a group. PLEASE CAN YOU SPARE AN EVENING ? - especially in the fortnight preceding April 22nd. We are trying to establish a group of about 6 or 8 who could do regular cleaning for an hour or two every month. This would help particularly to keep the brasswork in good condition. Contact the Secretary at 5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6 or Geoff Lee 92 South Parkway, Seacroft, Leeds 14

Leeds University Railway Society

Meetings this term to which you are specially invited.
February 17th. Freight movements in the Doncaster Division by B.A. Stone.
March 3rd. Photographic Competition
Both to be held in the Houldsworth School, Clarendon Road, Leeds 2.