



The Old Run

Journal of the Middleton Railway Preservation Society

No. 12

December 1960

Freight traffic.

December saw a large increase in the traffic carried: a much greater amount of traffic is reaching Clayton's daily and the first shipping contract for this firm, to New Zealand, totalled a handsome 237 tons. Robinson & Birdsell's traffic was slightly down on the previous month but this can be accounted for in some measure by the Christmas holidays, during which period we would normally have carried about 100 tons for them.

For comparison the total freight figures for the year are given below split up into Clayton's IN and OUT and R. & B's. IN and OUT. The estimated 16000 tons per year was almost reached during December when we carried no less than 1220 tons. Figures for early January appear better already than for the corresponding period in December.

		Robinson and Birdsell's	Clayton's	Total for month
September	IN	59	0	432
	OUT	373		
October	IN	13	0	548
	OUT	535		
November	IN	0	154	703
	OUT	494	55	
December	IN	0	542	1194
	OUT	404	248	

Total freight carried during 1960 (including private hire)
2881 tons

During the period of the first shipping contract the railway was worked continuously, morning and afternoon: it is likely that this will also be the case with all further shipping contracts.

To help both British Railways and ourselves a new set of wagon requisition forms have now been printed and are to be used when any wagons are to be ordered. Application for wagons on these, please: forms can be obtained from M.D.Crew and the Duty Inspector, B.R., at Balm Road.

January 28th, 1961.

This marks the day when the Middleton Railway will be open to the general public. Opportunity will be given for viewing the Society's tramway and Railway vehicles and a train of open wagons and brake van will traverse all the existing lines on the railway. Members are requested to advertise this excursion as much as possible. The meeting place is at Hunslet Station and the time - 1.30 p.m. Please try to attend. A silver collection will be made in aid of the Society so get your friends to come. Party bookings will be accepted by prior notification to the Editor. Motive power - John Alcock unless a steam engine specially requested has arrived.

John Alcock.

The new nameplates having been kindly supplied by the Hunslet Engine Co., a naming ceremony of our diesel, 1697, will take place on Friday, 20th January, at about 11 a.m. It is hoped that Lord Garnock and John Alcock himself will be able to be present. Members are urged to attend. The ceremony is scheduled to take place in Messrs. Clayton's yard.

Acquisitions.

The Midland Railway hand crane with associated match trucks have now arrived on the line and works is proceeding in the restoration of these vehicles. A new jib is also to be found to replace the existing one which has been found to be completely rotten.

The promised brake van has also been delivered. It has been specially donated to the Society by British Railways (as with the hand crane) and has been completely overhauled and painted in Stourton Shops. It is specially inscribed for use on the Middleton Railway only.

Several new signs have now been supplied for our use: they include a 'Water in Radiator' sign for use with the engine, a 'Whistle' train crossing notice and a 'Stop, train crossing' board for use at road crossings. We would like to thank member David Higgins for these splendid efforts.

Transfers.

Overhead inspection car no. 1 arrived on the Middleton scene on December 31st after its long sojourn with 6, 160 and 517 in Swinegate yard. Cars 6, 160 and 517 are the next to be moved, in that order. No. 1 was delivered to the bottom of Clayton's curve on the afternoon of the 31st and by means of makeshift track was run down the incline into the adjacent field, owned by Robinson & Birdsell's, by the afternoon of 7th January. The operation was not without incidents however for not only have several youths been reported to the police for climbing all over it but also some red van driver was almost caught red-handed taking some spare equipment from it! We would stress, therefore that if suspicious characters are seen on our property the matter should be reported to the police immediately. If this person had not been approached so openly he might have been easily caught! As this is at least the fourth theft that we know about it is very important that the above procedure should be followed!

We would like to thank Messrs. Gilks, A. Brown and G. King for their special efforts with No. 1. It would be indeed gratifying if all members put in as much as these three have done!

Film of the Middleton Railway.

Data Films Ltd., who make a monthly publicity film for the N.C.B. are to do one for the Middleton Colliery Railway. We shall get a 16 mm copy for our own use. Mr. Peter Whale (himself a railway enthusiast) spent a whole day going over the line and planning the film which will be shot in the fairly near future or whenever the Mumbles train is ready for use. The N.C.B. have asked if we could possibly use a steam locomotive for the occasion and arrangements are now being made to get one, preferably permanently, in compliance. The film will be circulated all over the country in many cinemas, especially South Wales, where the Mumbles train will be welcomed.

News in brief.

An electric colour light signal has been installed on the N.C.B. section of the line locked with the traffic signals at Belle Isle level crossing.

Leeds Corporation have lifted the lines at Middleton Town Street at the corner of Staith Gardens: this was the most southerly point reached.

The first stage of Clayton's gasholder export to New Zealand (Lyttelton, Christchurch) is likely to be followed by 14 others at monthly intervals. Clayton's are sending us their shipping schedules.

Discussions have recently taken place between Clayton's, Evans Engineering Co. and the Society Chairman on behalf of M.R.P.S.. Messrs. Evans are building beside the Middleton Railway: there are to be three engineering works on this site and they are all likely to be able to use a siding. Town planning permission is being sought for the new branch into Moor End Works.

We have received a letter of congratulation from the Area Manager of the N.C.B. who says they are watching our achievements with 'open mouthed amazement'.

Our Chairman lectured British Railways staff N.E.R. Debating Society during December on the subject "Passenger's eye view". Many congratulations were given to the M.R.P.S.'s work from B.R. VIPs, though they told us frankly that there were many raised eyebrows when our proposals to reopen the M.R. were first heard of, the line being regarded as unworkable without complete relaying.

The Chairman also represented the Society and L.U.U.R.S. at the inaugural run of the new Trans Pennine Diesel train.

Messrs. Crosse and Blackwell's have kindly donated a number of cans of soup and offered us transport facilities. The soup will come in very handy for use with working parties in the winter months.

New Society members.

134.	W. N. Hatcher	27, Sunny Hill, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield.
135.	C. D. Robinson	
136.	Norman Fearnley	7, Crawshaw Road, Pudsey, Yorks.
137.	R. A. Bayliss	74, Forest Road, Loughborough, Leics.
138.	G. Lee	92, South Parkway, Seacroft, Leeds, 14.
139.	G. H. Brown	7, North Bank Road, Birkby, Huddersfield.
140.	J. L. Dobson	11, Broadfield Street, Broadfield, Heywood, Lancs.
141.	J. Wilby	5, Crowtrees Park, Rawdon, Leeds.
142.	D. A. C. Gill	95, St. Michael's Lane, Headingley, 6.
143.	P. E. Barrett	101, Cemetary Road, Beeston Hill, Leeds 11.
144.	J. G. Berry	Winterbourne, Grammar School Lane, West Kirkby, Cheshire.
145.	Michael A. Warner	7, Moor Flatts Avenue, Leeds, 10.
146.	J. B. Dawson	28, Elmcroft Road, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne.
	Michael Newsome	17, Jean Avenue, Halton, Leeds, 15.

1960 Old Run.

Members joining the Society who have not received any copies of Old Run due to them should write immediately to the membership Secretary (address below). Members joining in 1961 who would like the set of 12 issues for 1960 should enclose a 5/- postal order.

1961 Old Run.

The January 1961 Old Run is to take on a new format. It will be on quarto paper and is to be fully illustrated. The layout is to be more in keeping with that of a magazine, rather than that of a news letter. Articles of interest to members should be submitted to the Editor as soon as possible. All notes and news should be sent to Mike Crew, 131, Sandringham Drive, Moortown, Leeds, 17, by 31st January for inclusion in the January issue.

Histories.

Society histories (second edition) are now on sale and can be obtained from any committee member or 1/3d post free from the Membership Secretary. Swansea and Mumbles histories are also on sale at 2/9d each.

The Society.

Enquiries regarding the society should be forwarded to either of the Secretaries, Mrs S. M. Youell, 21, Burley Wood Crescent, Leeds, 4 or Mr. C. C. Thornburn, 25, Cavendish Road, Leeds, 1. Membership applications to Mr. G. Cawthray, 1, Midland Terrace, Frizinghall, Bradford, 9.