

OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust.

Number 44 September 1969.

CRIME DOES NOT PAY. Mr. Anthony Britton of Middleton Road, Leeds, was fined £40 and given a 4 month suspended sentence following offences while drunk including damage to our Guard's van window. Two other accomplices have not been traced.

R C & T S VISIT 27th September. This Society's Merseyside branch will be most welcome on this date. Full details and timetable are included with this newsletter. Leeds members are asked to turn up to help and to report to Jim Lodge early for allocation to level crossing, line inspection, train crews, assisting visitors into trains, and showing them round the yard. May we expect our usual display in the yard of calm, quiet, good organisation? Joe Lee on the refreshment stand and John Edwards on the Sales Stand will be glad of some background, or not so background, support. John Bushell will be concentrating on enrolment of new members.

The organisation of this visit has occupied 7 months and has been completed despite complications due to 2 B R Regions, the Sponsors, MRT and Leeds City Transport being involved. The Sponsors original wish was that their train should "run on to the Middleton's sidings"! The second choice of transferring passengers at Balm Road yard was vetoed by "Regional Policy", and the Leeds 'buses had been given a route differing substantially from that agreed with the sponsors. Fingers crossed for Saturday everyone.

LONDON ACTIVITIES. Our member Mr Watters of Edgware helped in the Railway Show at Westminster Hall. One London member is considering centralising MRT activities there, with the possibility of a viable area group. This may result in our name being better known in the Metropolis apart from giving Southern members a focal point and facilities for contacts and discussions. A London area lecture is planned to start things off with a good shunt.

REALLY, MR. ALLAN! In a recent publication by Ian Allan Limited, "Still in Steam" a "Thumbnail History" of Railways in Britain managed to get through 6 pages without mentioning Middleton or Matthew Murray. Stockton and Darlington, Liverpool and Manchester, Stephenson and the Rocket were churned out, and the caption "IT ALL STARTED HERE" was beside the Rocket and Darlington Station. Some Thumb-Nail! The half page about Middleton later in the book had about a dozen errors of fact, and says we "have to be seen to be believed". What makes up for all these clangers is the sting in the tail "worthwhile and carried on efficiently without fuss!"

CHAIRMAN DRAGGED ALONG 2 MILES OF TRACK. In addition, The Chairman was trapped between a B R loco and train. Hold it, Everybody! You may have the wrong idea; and we don't need an S G M to elect a new Chairman! Why Not? "The Chairman" is our latest acquisition, kindly given by Yorkshire Tar Distillers after overhauling, plus some spare parts. Joe Lee spotted her and put our case, and we thank YTD for their generosity. The Stourton Tar distillery is closing down because the Gas Works on which it relied have forsaken home produced coal for imported oil, so there's no tar to distil! The Chairman in question was a Mr. Sugden, former Chairman of the Y T D. The loco., plus Joe Lee, travelled from Stourton to Balm Road on Wednesday 24th September and was in the depot the same evening.

PRESERVATION IN PERSPECTIVE. In case there are any members of the MRT, or any Students who are not heartily sick of MRT Chairman talking, he is giving a course of 12 evening lectures of 2 hours each on Railway History and Preservation.

Each of the lectures has a tea break halfway through and the course will begin on Tuesday 30th September, and weekly thereafter. The series is sponsored by the West Riding Council for Education, and will take place at the Ainsty Institute for Further Education, meeting at the modern high school in Wetherby. Topics to be covered are the History of Railways in Yorkshire, and its relation to national railway history, Present day trends, and the Why, Where and How of Preservation. The course is designed for general non specialist audiences. The fee is nominal, and lower still for students and juniors. The course must inevitably mention MRT and stimulate interest. There is room in the speaker's car from Leeds. Anyone who can support please contact the Chairman.

Mech Eng. Matters. Henry de Lacy II split a brass bearing due to wear on the cotter pin bolts; but was back in use after a bit of ledgerdmain by Jim Lodge. The Fowler diesel is to have a clutch replacement at our own hands. Sentinel is back in steam, albeit with the steam coming out of some places where it shouldn't. However our first steam loco. did run satisfactorily despite dripping rather badly.

Traffic Again. Following urgent conferences, details of which need not be expounded to bore the readers, a 2 month hold up in traffic due to the conditions in the steel industry has given way to trains of up to 6 wagons of scrap iron again. The return was welcomed except for the 2 people who had to handle it in the holiday time, with other members thinking the lull would never end and not coming down.

Subscriptions. Members renewing in June are reminded that if their memory has slipped this is their last Newsletter.

Stamp Collecting. Roger Bareham who has raised substantial amounts from used stamps, is now at 1 Hillcrest, Harrogate Road, Bramhope. Please note new address, and keep sending them in!

OBITUARY. Death is sometimes a shock at the Biblical Three Score Years and Ten. At 14 years, it is doubly tragic. Christopher Naylor has died after a serious heart trouble. Despite the handicap, he contributed to work of a less physically demanding kind with MRT, and we know his death will leave a gap among the many members and friends he had. Our sympathy goes to the family.

"SPONSORED WATERWALK OCTOBER 11th." See attached leaflet. For more copies, contact Mr White 66 Weetwood Lane Leeds 16 stating number needed. Please pressgang Schools, Youth Groups, Scouts Guides and any other organisations you can think of who might participate. Helpers on foot, as guides, and members with transport, first aid knowledge, or other skills that would obviously be of material help, are asked to contact the Membership Secretary John Bushell at 12 Trelawn Crescent Leeds 6, who will co-ordinate the efforts. This walk will not only help to raise badly needed funds but gives an unexpectedly different view of an area which you may have thought you knew like the back of your hand. You will get an excellent view of the Esholt Railway en route, and if not exhausted a good view of KWVERPS at the end. A MUST for Naturalists and Industrial Archaeology students. So we expect to see YOU on the 11th.

Steam Happening. This was not one of our lucky occasions. We must in honesty admit to one or two slip ups ourselves, as well as volte-faces from others too late to remedy. Locomotive trouble held up visitors trains; and attendance was only a third of Easter Steam Gala. Those that came enjoyed themselves however, the Steam Car Tug of War was a great success, Joe Lee found a hot line in soft drinks, and the silver lining was 14 new members bringing us up to 214 fully subscribed members!

CLAPHAM open day Sun 19th Oct. Dinting Royal Scot naming 5th Oct 2 p.m. All welcome.