TAL-Y-LLYN NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE
TALYLLYN RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

President—
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Northesk.

Secretary—
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AN INTRODUCTION BY THE PRESIDENT

I am very proud to have been asked to give a send-off to this first quarterly number of the "Tal-y-llyn News."

It will, I know, be welcomed by those who are already members of the Preservation Society, as a means of keeping in touch with what is going on, particularly those who, for one reason or another, cannot visit Towyn. It will also, I am sure, be an introduction to the fascination of our line to any non-members who may read it, and lead to their becoming active members of the Society.

The objects of the Society - the preservation of this unique old railway for posterity - are regarded with sympathy by all who become aware of its existence, as is exemplified by the many spontaneous and practical gifts, and offers of help, received from all over the world.

This love of our railway and the practical expression of it are once again shown by the generous help of our friends of the Manchester Model Railway Society, in placing at our disposal their publishing organisation, with all their experience of producing their own "Link."

It is up to members, therefore, to support the "News" to the utmost, and, in particular, to bring it to the notice of non-members, so that they may become aware of the Society, its aims and objects, and thus have the chance of taking an active part in this so very worthwhile endeavour.

In conclusion, I would like to say "Good Luck" to the "Tal-y-llyn News," and "Thanks" to all who will take a part in its production.

Northesk

THE CHAIRMAN.....

It gives me very real pleasure to send a message to all readers, at the request of our Editor, through the medium of this first number of the "Tal-y-llyn News." I hope we shall all soon come to know this publication familiarly as "The News."

The advent of this journal marks another outstanding and important step in the steadily developing adventure of the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society. No doubt the success of the journal will depend, as does the success of the whole venture, on the enthusiasm of our members. I am confident that in this and succeeding numbers we shall find much in the way of news and views to interest us, and to draw us all closer together in this common venture.

May I very sincerely wish every success to our Editor and his assistants, and also send my best wishes to all T.R.P.S. members.

- W.G.Trinder,
Chairman.

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SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Rhowniar Hostel, Towyn, at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 26th September, 1953. Special buses will leave Towyn, (Corbett Arms) for Rhowniar, at 7 pm, returning at the conclusion of the meeting.

Members are urged to attend if possible, and are reminded that this is their opportunity to voice any grievances, make any suggestions, or bestow any praise.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the various members who have assisted with Secretarial duties such as addressing envelopes, etc. This help has been invaluable in assisting the smooth running of the Society. In this connexion, members would help the Society considerably if they would be kind enough to send stamped and addressed envelopes with all their correspondence with Society Officers; this would save much time and expense.

* * *

I have only one minor complaint. It is true that members go to Towyn during the summer for holidays, but please don't spend too much time riding on the trains when, for example, the track gangs are short-handed. I

know of members who have been so busy that they haven't ridden the line for nearly two years. Perhaps this is the other extreme, but at least do try to strike the happy medium, and earn the gratitude of all concerned.

- P.B.Whitehouse,
Hon.Secretary.

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PUBLICITY

Photo-Cards A new type of Talyllyn Railway Photograph Post Card has been introduced. It is proposed to sell these at 6d each, at the same time reducing the price of the existing cards to the same amount. The new card is of such good quality that it is hoped to standardise this type and gradually to abandon the existing sepia and photo-cards in favour of a uniform series.

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General Publicity The Railway and the Society obtained useful publicity by the inclusion of the Coronation Day train, and Army re-laying scenes, on the Television programme.

The line has also been featured admirably in the Herald of Wales, Y Cymro, Sunday Mercury (Bham), Birmingham Mail, Manchester Guardian, Manchester Evening News, Manchester Evening Chronicle, Japan News (Tokio), Crown News (newspaper of 1st Commonwealth Divn., Korea), Daily Mail, Daily Dispatch (three times) Sunday Dispatch (twice), News Chronicle, and the Liverpool Daily Post. Many of these articles have been illustrated, as have been news items in the various railway and model railway journals.

The August issue of "Coming Events" (Holidays & Travel Assoc), with a wide circulation abroad, boosts the railway and Society in a useful article, with several photographs.

Anything members can do to keep the Society in the news in local papers will help to swell our membership.

Publicity: Mr.R.K.Cope, "Brynglas," Beckman Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

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Help Wanted It is proposed to publish a Talyllyn Railway Cut Out Book, with models of "Dolgoch," two or three coaches, brake van, a section of track, and possibly a Penrhyn coach and platform. Some preparatory work has been done but the services of a mechanical draughtsman are required to ensure accuracy. Offers to Mr.R.W. Tippetts, 255, Warwick Road, Olton, Birmingham, 27, please.

ENGINEERING

Locomotives No.2, "Dolgoch," received an extensive overhaul early this year and is now in much better running condition. Because of her age it is not considered advisable to expect an excessive amount of work from her; she still requires attention and it is hoped that further work will be undertaken towards the end of the summer season. (Work by Messrs. Harvey, Garroway, Weddell, Kirkpatrick, Curwen, Uren, Rapley and Rolt).

No.3, "Sir Haydn," has been working the service at reduced pressure as re-tubing is necessary. It is probable that the work will be in hand by the time this issue appears. (Mr.Weddell).

No.4, "Edward Thomas," was continually at work until the end of June, when damage to the motion necessitated withdrawal from service. Repairs were put in hand at once and the opportunity was taken to have the bearings re-metalled. Completion of this work coincided with the routine boiler inspection, and the locomotive was put in steam on Friday, 7th August. (Messrs.Rolt, Wilkins, Hunt, Bate, Roberts and others).

No.5, the I/C locomotive, was put in service to work the winter trains, but results have not been entirely satisfactory and a report is awaited before further action is taken. Meanwhile Mr.Lloyd has cast a pair of number plates for the locomotive.

No.6, "Douglas," is an Andrew Barclay 0-4-0 Well Tank built in 1918. She was donated to the Society in April as a result of the Appeal to Industry, and is at present still being converted from 2ft to 2ft 3 ins gauge. Many other parts are also receiving attention. (Messrs.Hunt and Wilkins).

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Permanent Way No.127 Construction Unit, R.E. (T.A.) have relaid some 800 yards of track eastwards from Brynglas, and from Quarry Siding to a point 600 yards west of Dolgoch Station. The track between has received first-aid repairs. Some 2000 main line sleepers were cut for use in this operation and many new rails were inserted to replace worn ones. A considerable amount of ballasting and other work still requires to be done on the relaid sections.

Other sections of the line have received constant attention from the Permanent Staff and from N.W.Area volunteers.

Facing point locks and padlocks have been provided by Mr.T.A.B.James, and facing point warning boards have been provided by Mr.R.E.G.Weddell. The siding at Brynglas, known to many members as "Faulkner Junction," has been converted to a temporary loop.

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Civil Engineering Guttering on stations has been repaired by Mr.T.Noble, who has also provided and installed the quarter-mile posts.

The spandril walls and parapets on Dolgoch viaduct have been rebuilt by the Army Construction Unit.

The line has been accurately surveyed for level, from Wharf up to Rhydyronen, by Mr.J.Bate. One or two surprises have resulted from this survey, which will ultimately be completed up to Abergynolwyn.

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Carriage & Wagon Four Penrhyn coaches have been received. One has been fitted with a roof and this and another have received sprung axleboxes (Penrhyn Quarry and Mr.Weddell). Of the two at Wharf one will be converted in due course but the other is unfit for rebuilding and has, in fact, been partly cannibalised.

The wheels provided for the first two were not of good dimensions and the roofed coach, No.7, derailed, damaging the underframes. This damage was repaired and the frames strengthened with three 6" x 3" transverse steel channels. Both vehicles have been fitted with ex-Corris wheels of very good quality; the open one, No.8, has been in constant use since the last week in July. No.7 went into service on 7th August after some stiffness of the axleboxes in the horns had been rectified, and the boxes remetalled (on the Pendre forge). Both coaches seem to be popular with passengers, despite occasional cinder-showers!

Worn couplings on all vehicles are being replaced by new ones, a prototype having proved satisfactory. (Mr.Weddell).

Many wagons have received attention, including fixing of new floors, but there is still a considerable amount of work to be done in this direction. (Mr.Bate and others)

The Corris Brake Van, now number 6, has been in the shops for repair to the brake gear; the Talyllyn Brake recently developed a hot axlebox which was dropped, repaired and replaced, attention being given also to the suspension, in one evening.

LONDON AREA NEWS

Trip to Towyn On Saturday, 26th September, there will be a trip from the London Area to Towyn, by Diesel rail-car, to include a return trip on the T.R. and, for members, the Annual General Meeting. Provisional timings are - Outward, Dep.Paddington 6.50 am, Arr.Towyn 2.15 pm. Return, Dep.Towyn 11 pm, Arr. Paddington 7 am (Sunday). Short stops will be arranged at Greenford & High Wycombe on the outward journey, and at High Wycombe on the return journey, if requested. Fare: 59/6 return. All Area Members have been circularised with details - anyone who has not been notified should advise the Area Secretary.

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Transport Bureau Mr.H.Eisele, 114 Watford Road, Wembley, Mddx, (Phone: Arnold 2885), has agreed to run this service to members. All those going by road from the Area to Towyn are asked to advise him if they have any vacant seats. Those who wish to take up these offers of transport should also get in touch with Mr. Eisele. If writing, please enclose a stamped and addressed envelope.

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Hon.Area Secretary: Mr.T.W.Robertson, 23, Portway, Ewell, Surrey.

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EDITORIAL This issue is not necessarily typical of the "News" in future. The next one, for example, which will appear in early November, will be double the size. The nature of the contents can depend to a large extent on you; if you have any suggestions or criticisms, please let me know (address at bottom of Page 8). I and my three colleagues, Messrs.Baxter, Lloyd and Gray, are at your service to produce the type of journal you would like, so unless we're perfect, which we doubt, we shall expect to be hearing from you.

This type of duplicated periodical is perhaps a little inferior to a printed magazine, but has the very great advantage of extremely low cost - most important, you will agree.

We apologise in advance for any evidence of hurried preparation this time, especially the few copies which have a faint "S" in "News" on the front page.

- R.W.I.

NORTH WEST AREA NEWS

Some members residing in the north-west may not realise that the Society has its own Area Committee here, whose simple aim is to organise the voluntary labour in the Area. It has five members on the Standing Committee and other members are co-opted according to agenda or the desire of such members to assist. The whole body is unconstitutional as it is not elected, but it serves the Society by applying the best personnel to the tasks in hand at the time. There are no geographical boundaries to the Area and anyone in the north-west (Lancs., Ches., W.Yorks, N.Wales, etc), who is willing to work at home, at Towyn, to serve on the Committee, steward exhibition stands, etc., is asked to write to the Area Representative, as below.

The Area Representative is the North West member who is elected to the Main Committee at the Annual General Meeting; he acts as the link between the Board of the Company and the Officers of the Society, and the North West Area Members.

The principal indoor event of the year is our Annual Re-union, held in the first months of each new year, and to which every member of the Society is invited. This year's event was held in the Memorial Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, and attracted 150 members and friends, beside raising over £15 for Society and Area funds. The event is scheduled again for early 1954. Meanwhile Working Parties will visit Towyn on the dates listed in this issue, and members, including particularly those who can offer transport, are requested to give 14 DAYS' NOTICE to our Transport Officer if they wish to travel or offer help. In such cases members should advise:

Mr.David Baxter, "Aucklands," Grey Road,
Altrincham, Cheshire. (Alt.1039).

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During the past year the Area has represented the Society at Exhibitions, members have lectured on our work, and a large volunteer force has visited Towyn at short intervals. A considerable amount of P/Way has been relaid west of Brynglas, and members have repaired wagons and built new stock; other members have spent their holidays working at Towyn, and all stations have been "adopted" to keep them in clean and good order during the season.

Area Representative: Mr.J.I.C.Boyd, 12 Alcester Road,
Brooklands, Cheshire. (Phone: SALe 3249 or CEN 7079)

SOCIETY DIARY

19th - 29th August - Model Engineer Exhibition, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster. T.R.P.S. Stand. All members and friends will be welcome. Enquiries - London Area Sec.

26th Sept. - Annual General Meeting, Rhowniar Hostel, Towyn.

1st - 3rd Oct. - Hitchin & Dist.M.E.Club Exhibition. T.R.P.S.Stand. All members in the district are asked to help in arranging & stewarding. Enquiries - London Area Sec.

8th - 10th Oct - Sutton Coldfield & North Birmingham M.E.Society Exhibition, Erdington, Birmingham. T.R.P.S. Stand. Enquiries - Mr.Harvey Gray, 233, West Boulevard, Birmingham, 32.

15th - 17th Oct - Norwich & Dist.Society of Model Engineers. T.R.P.S. Stand & Film Show. Enquiries- Mr.A.C.Hodges, 37, Thunder Lane, Thorpe, Norwich.

22nd Oct - Radcliffe Literary & Debating Society. T.R.P.S. Film Show. Enquiries - Mr.J.I.C.Boyd, 12 Alcester Road, Brooklands, Cheshire.

9th Nov - 54th Derby Scout Group. T.R.P.S. Film Show. Enquiries - Mr.B.Nuttall, Asst. S.M., 10, Cleveland Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby.

N.W.Area Working Parties. 29th August, 26th September, 24th October, 21st November.

(Members who are aware of forthcoming model engineer and other exhibitions in their area should drop a line to Mr.Harvey Gray (address above), so that T.R.P.S. publicity can be arranged).

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THE NEWS The next issue will contain a full report of the Annual General Meeting. In addition we hope to publish a gradient profile of the line from Wharf to Rhydyronen, and an illustrated article on the modifications to the Penrhyn coaches. No.2 will be published early in November and No.3 in January, then regularly every three months.

This is a fine time to start correcting errors and omissions, but on page 5 the paragraph describing work on the Penrhyn coaches should end with credit to "Mr.Bate and others."

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