

# BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

*Historical Society, inc.*

## NEWSLETTER



P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

30 October 1974

Dear B & M Fans:

The November meeting of the Society will be held at the First Unitarian Parish Church, corner of Winn and Pleasant Streets, Woburn Square, at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, 1974.

PUBLICATIONS: Back issues of the Bulletin continue to sell well. As of Nov. 1, there were copies of December 1972, March 1973, and June 1973 remaining at \$1.40 each. There are plenty of September 1973 and March 1974 available at the same price. December 1973 is now sold out as is the 1899 Hoosac Tunnel Route timetable. Effective with the June 1974 issue, the price is \$1.65 per copy as we have added 8 more pages to the magazine starting with that issue. On January 1, 1975, the price of all back issues to non-members will be raised to \$1.25 plus 40¢ postage. For members, the price of back issues through March 1974 will remain \$1.00 plus 40¢ postage per copy. From June 1974 forward, the price will be \$1.25 plus 40¢ postage per copy for both members and non-members. When ordering back issues, members should indicate their membership number.

The 1932 Snow Train menu is still available at 15¢ plus 10¢ for postage and handling. Dick Symmes' drawings of 2-6-0 1472 at Milford, NH, and gas-electric 181 at Claremont Jct. are still available at 50¢ each plus 20¢ postage for each copy ordered.

We urgently need sharp black and white prints (preferably 5X7 or 8X10) of B&M diesels in action on trains for use in the diesel book and the Bulletin. The deadline for receipt of photos to be used in the diesel book is February 1, 1975. The reason for the dearth of diesel photos in the Bulletin is that we are not receiving any good printable photos of them. This is especially true of the GP's and RS's. If you want to see diesels represented in our publications (as they should be), then submit your photos of them to us. We will be very happy to accept color slides, but they must be of excellent quality with high contrast. All slides and photos will be professionally handled and returned to you as soon as possible.

We also need good photos of trains, stations, wrecks, construction, etc., on the Central Massachusetts line from its inception to the present. This material is to be used in a project that is presently in the planning stages.

In recent issues we noted that the lack of address change information is becoming a serious problem; it remains one. We cannot afford the time or expense of researching address changes and re mailing at first class rates in this volume. Consequently, the following policy is now in effect. Whenever one issue of the Bulletin or two issues of the Newsletter for a member have been returned and we haven't received a change of address, that member's name will be dropped from the mailing list until such time as we do receive a change of address. At that time, we will endeavor to mail all missed publications to the member provided copies of them are still available.

Members are once again reminded that dues for the current fiscal year must be paid by December 1, 1974. Delinquent members will be removed from the membership list after this date. There are approximately 90 regular members who have not yet renewed! Please check to see if you have sent in your \$8.00 - if not, do so. We need your support in order to continue the high quality of the Bulletin and to finance other projects in the works.

It is with pleasure that we welcome the following new members to the Society: Joseph T. Bispo, Fresno, CA; Robert B. Shaw, Portsmouth, NH; Frank A. Pearsall, FPO San Francisco, CA; Dana A. Story, Essex, MA; R.E. Bates, Brentwood, Essex, England; Robert J. Todd, Exton, PA; and John R. Williams, Westlake Village, CA.

OFFICIAL NEWS: The B&M's President, Alan G. Dustin, has announced the appointment of David J. Hughes to the position of vice president with responsibility of assisting the president. Hughes came to the B&M in January 1973 as a consultant, became assistant to the president in July 1973, the capacity he filled until his appointment as vice president in September 1974. He brought to the B&M twelve years' experience with the Southern Pacific Transportation Company.

Amtrak and the B&M are considering additional repair work on track between Springfield and White River Junction which could result in a 20 minute reduction in the present Montrealer schedule. Last May 19 the Montrealer's schedule was reduced 34 minutes due to completion of repairs begun in the fall of 1972 on sections of B&M track. The average speed between Springfield and WRJ is 40 MPH, with a 50 MPH limit on some stretches of the line.

The B&M, in response to interest expressed by its employees, operated two special passenger trains - one from Boston via Lowell and one from Greenfield - to its new automobile unloading and storage facility in Ayer, MA, on September 28. Approximately one thousand employees, their families, retirees, and guests were shown the method of unloading automobiles from tri-level rail cars and driving them up ramps onto auto transport trucks.

On October 4, the trustees in reorganization of Boston and Maine Corporation, Robert W. Meserve and Benjamin H. Lacy, filed with the U.S. District Court a financial report showing that the railroad realized net income in August of \$382,575. Net railway operating income for the month was \$525,241. This is the second month in a row that the B&M has shown a profit, the comparable figures for July being \$218,635 and \$125,741, respectively. The July net income figure included \$250,386 of non-recurring income from settlements with creditors.

#### COMING EVENTS:

November 16, 1974. The Annual Open House sponsored by the Hub Division, NER, NMRA will take place on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church, East Weymouth, MA. The doors will be open at 8:45 a.m. for setting up displays. A snack bar will be available at which one may obtain coffee, soft drinks, bakery products and fine sandwiches. For further information contact Mr. Jack Alexander, 111 South Street, E. Bridgewater, MA.

November 22-24, 1974. The Mohawk and Hudson Chapter, NRHS, in conjunction with the Schenectady County Historical Society, is presenting a week-end program entitled "All About Railroads", which will include talks, movies, flea market, exhibits, etc. The program will be held at the Schenectady Ramada Inn, Nott Street and Maxon Road, Schenectady, NY. For further information write to the Mohawk & Hudson Chapter, NRHS, 2512 McGovern Drive, Schenectady, NY 12309.





The B&M's steam generator-equipped Alco RS-3 No. 1508 in the lessee's paint scheme, photographed at Rensselaer, New York on Sept. 9, 1974. The D&H is using the unit on the Albany-Montréal portion of the daily Adirondack service. -- Jack Armstrong Adams, Mass.

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**RECENT HAPPENINGS:** B&M Budd RDC-1 No. 6148, the Cummins re-engined unit, is in service and sports a purple stripe along the letterboards, a la Canadian Pacific. Reportedly, the B&M commuter service is to become the MBTA's "Purple Line."

Mr. Jack Armstrong, Adams, MA, provides the following information: "Monday through Friday the B&M runs a local out of Mechanicville to N. Bennington, VT. Known as trains M-4/M-3, it leaves M'ville around 2:00 p.m. doing local work en route, arriving in N. Bennington around 5:00 p.m. The train heads back for Mechanicville after the Vermont Railway freight from Rutland interchanges cars with the B&M freight, usually after 6:00 p.m. During this past summer a GP7 was the usual power for M-4/M-3 due to 15-20 car trains, mostly piggyback. When traffic is not as heavy, an NW2 assigned to M'ville is used.

"Canadian Pacific power has come down on freight JS-4 almost daily and returns on freight SJ-1. CP power that has shown up, in order of occurrence: RS-18, RS-10, RS-3; rarely, FA-1, FB-1, and FP7A. On Sept. 6 I saw SJ-1 leave E. Deerfield with CP RS-18's 8764/8759/8756, all in old CP colors. Usually two B&M units and one CP unit are used."

ITEMS AVAILABLE; Mr. David K. Johnson, Box 464, Nashua, NH 03060, does custom black and white enlarging from negatives of 35mm to 4X5. Write to him for a price list; please enclose a 10¢ stamp.

Mr. Bill Pollard, 4274 Peggy Jo Drive, Apt. 4, Pinewood Manor Apartments, Memphis, TN 38116, is interested in selling (or trading for MP or St.L-SW old diesel negatives), the following: Size 116 negatives of B&M 0-6-0 Nos. 431 & 441, 2-6-0 No. 1468, 2-8-0 No. 2725, and 4-6-2 Nos. 3642, 3647, 3662, 3677, and 3689. Numbers 3642 and 3647 are in-storage shots, the remainder were shot in service, mainly in the Boston area. All are originals. \$2.00 per negative (except 3642 and 3647), or \$12.00 for all nine.

Best regards,

*David R. Squires*

David R. Squires, Secretary

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