

# BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

*Historical Society, inc.*

## NEWSLETTER



P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

October 20, 1975

Dear B&M Fans:

The November meeting of the Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society, Inc. will be held at the First Unitarian Parish Church, corner of Winn and Pleasant Streets, Woburn Square, Woburn, Mass., at 8:00 P.M. on Saturday, November 8, 1975. Following the regular monthly business meeting, Mr. Albert Hale will present some of his excellent 16mm movies of the B&M taken in the 1930's and 1940's.

OCTOBER MEETING: The regular monthly meeting of the B&MRRHS was called to order at 8:05 P.M. by President Donald S. Robinson. There were sixty-four members and guests in attendance. Following the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, President Robinson announced that effective September 30th, due to his move to Washington, D.C., David R. Squires had resigned his positions as Secretary and Director. In appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the B&MRRHS, the Board of Directors tendered Mr. Squires a dinner shortly before his departure, at which affair he was presented with a plaque in recognition of his over four years' service as Secretary. He will be sorely missed.

President Robinson then announced that effective October 1st, the Board of Directors had appointed David Derow Secretary and Dana A. Story Director to fill Mr. Squires' unexpired terms in those respective offices.

There was a general discussion of matters relating to the operations of both the B&M and other local railroads.

Mr. Preston S. Johnson spoke about his tape recordings of the B&M's steam operations in the mid-1950's, and stated that he hoped to make copies of said recordings on cassettes to donate to the Society's archives. He then played some of the tapes for the members, much to the delight of everyone present.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Following the business meeting, a flea market of railroiana was held, and it is safe to say that it was quite a success.

THE DECEMBER MEETING: Mr. Frederick C. Dumaine, Jr., who is presently seeking to reorganize the Bangor & Aroostook, the Maine Central and the Boston & Maine into a regional system outside of Conrail, will be the speaker at the December meeting of the Society, on December 13, 1975. This is sure to be one of the best meetings of the year, so please plan to attend, if you can make it. More about this in the December NEWSLETTER.

DUES: Dues for the year June, 1975 to June, 1976 are past due. If you have not already sent in your dues for this fiscal year, you have only one more month to do so before you will be dropped from the Society's roster. Don't delay!! Send a check or money order payable to the Society to Mr. Charles P. Smith, Treasurer, to his home address, 6 Edgehill Road, Woburn, Mass. 01801, to avoid excess time in handling.

NEW MEMBERS: It is with pleasure that we welcome the following new members to the Society: Paul Pellegrini, Bosotn, Mass.; Ronald P. Martin, Wakefield, Mass.; John J. O'Brien, Londonderry, NH; Thomas C. Pearson, Huntington Beach, Calif.; John E. Enos, Hartsdale, NY; Christopher R. Butcher, Riverside, Conn.; George Coll, East Bridgewater, Mass.; Richard B. Hosmer, Albany, NY; Thomas C. Curran, Glens Falls, NY; Wallace H. Day, Plattsburgh, NY; Carl E. Hamilton, Windham, NH; Laurence M. Blanke, Dedham, MA; Bennett E. Merry, Jr., Danvers, MA; Richard L. Carroll, Wilton, CT; Grant D. Whipple, Cape Neddick, ME; Mark S. Lerner, Millburn, NJ; Brenton E. Tyler, Jr., Weston, MA. The Society now has 666 members!!!

PUBLICATIONS: Copies of the Winter 1974-75 and Spring 1975 Bulletins are still available at \$1.75 each to members and \$1.80 to non-members. The Summer 1975 issue sells for \$1.75 to members and \$2.00 to non-members. Also available are the 1900 Springfield Terminal Railway timetable and the 1932 Snow Train menu reprints at 25¢ each; Dick Symmes' drawings of 2-6-0 1470 at Milford, NH, and gas electric 181 at Claremont Jct. (almost gone) at 70¢ each. All the above prices include first-class postage. We remind members to show their membership number on their order, to avoid being charged the non-member rates. Prepaid, pre-publication reservations for softbound copies of the Central Mass. Book are being accepted at \$5.00 per copy to members. An order blank is enclosed on the last page of this NEWSLETTER.

ARTICLES: we are looking for photos of the following subjects for future use in the Bulletin:

- 1) Views along the Western Route main line between Oak Grove and North Station, including the yards (especially pre-1930)
- 2) B&M Atlantics, especially good action shots
- 3) Essex Branch
- 4) B&M Milk cars (especially the old ones) and milk trains
- 5) Profile & Franconia Notch RR (B&M Profile Branch)
- 6) B&M Waumbek Branch
- 7) Passenger trains in the White Mountains (especially pre-1930)
- 8) Pemigewasset Vally Branch
- 9) Wayland, Mass. (especially pre-1930)
- 10) The "East Wind" passenger train. Information also needed.
- 11) Boston-Maine Airways

In addition, we are always looking for contributions of photos for our "Focalpoint" section. Please contact the B&M Bulletin Editor if you can help out in any of these areas.

HELP: Mr. O. R. Cummings, 105 Theresa Court, Manchester, NH 03103, is looking for pictures of the steel bridge which replaced the covered bridge across the Merrimack River near Bow Jct., and also for a photo of both a trolley car and a train at Blodgett station in Suncook, for an article on the Concord & Manchester Electric branch of the Boston and Maine. He is also interested in obtaining a copy of the 1914 valuation of the Concord & Montreal showing the physical assts of the Concord & Manchester Electric Branch. He also needs detail information on a small carhouse on the present Route 3 in Hooksett, near the foot of Arah Street. "i know it existed", he writes, "but I can find no information as to its size or number of tracks." Perhaps one of our members can help him out.

NEWS AND OBSERVATIONS: On October 1, 1975 at about 11:00 P.M., Eastbound freight ML-2 running between Mechanicville, NY and Lawrence, MA, derailed 36 cars at Buckland, MA, just west of Shelburne Falls. All traffic to and from the D&H was suspended for a period of three days, while Penn Central traffic was detoured from East Deerfield to Springfield, thence over the PC to Selkirk, NY. Also, an empty westbound Coal train was detoured to Worcester, thence west over the PC. Operation was resumed three days later on Saturday night, October 4, 1975, although as of this writing, the Eastbound main from Buckland Middle to Rices is still out of service.

The very next day, October 2nd, a washout was discovered on the Hillsboro Branch approximately 300 feet south of the grain mill at Greenfield, NH. The washout was reported to be 25 feet across by 30 feet deep. The local freight N-1 was notified at Wilton, and service was suspended North of Wilton until the following Wednesday, October 8th.

B&M's ex-D&H RS-3s 1508 and 1536 have been given a shopping at Billerica Shops and we have been told they are going to be leased back to the D&H. However, I do not know whether they are on their way west yet.

Best regards,

Wayne D. Hills

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TO; Boston and Maine RR Historical Society, Inc.  
Dept. CM  
P.O. Box 302  
Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Gentlemen:

I would like to order the Central Mass book(s) in the softbound edition. I understand the book(s) will be mailed to me as soon as they are published.

\_\_\_\_\_ Softbound edition(s) @ \$5.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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