

BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

Historical Society, inc.

NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

January 18, 1976

Dear B&M Fans:

The February meeting of the Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society 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, February 14, 1976. Following the regular monthly business meeting, we will have a viewing of movies and or slides from those members who wish to bring them and share them with us. We will have projectors available to handle standard 2X2 slides, as well as 120 size 2¼ X 2¼ slides, and also projectors to handle 8mm, Super 8 or 16mm Movies. The only thing we ask is that the slides or movies be of the B&M, or at least a New England Railroad, and be limited to not more than twenty minutes each.

MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 1976: The regular monthly meeting of the B&MRRHS was called to order at 8:12 P.M. in the First Unitarian Parish Church, Woburn, Mass., by President Donald S. Robinson. There were approximately 100 members and guests in attendance.

The Secretary's and the Treasurer's reports were accepted as read.

President Robinson expressed the Society's thanks for the generous action of member Lawrence D. Kemp, who presented a model diesel locomotive to Mr. Frederick C. Dumaine, Jr., after his speech at our last month's meeting. The locomotive was painted in a New England railway scheme emblematic of the merger that Mr. Dumaine proposes.

Publications Editor R. Richard Conard noted that the Fall issue of the "Bulletin" had been mailed in late December and that the Winter issue would be finished early in February, essentially returning the publication to its regular schedule.

Business Manager John C. Hutchins acknowledged that difficulties had been experienced with the timely delivery of the "Bulletin" (and also, incidentally, with the Newsletter), with many members, especially in the greater Boston area, still not in receipt of their copies, howbeit they had been mailed some two weeks previously. He said that steps would be taken to attempt to improve the situation.

Program Chairman Donald G. Hills spoke about the program for the February meeting, which will be a members night.

Further details will be published in the next "Newsletter". He also related some of the difficulties that the B&M had undergone as a consequence of the recent heavy snowstorms.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

After the business meeting, member Robert Chaffin's excellent motion pictures were presented by Program Chairman Donald G. Hills, and they were narrated alternately by Mr. Hills and member Preston S. Johnson. Most of the movies were in color and the period covered ranged from the mid-1930's through the mid-1950's and included steam power from American Standards to Santa Fe's, the Hoosac Tunnel electrics, and a few of the "novel" Diesels. There were scenes of several other, mostly New England, railways, including the Bridgton & Harrison two-footer, the three-foot Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn electrics, and the Montpelier & Wells River.

Following the program, the Society's long-awaited Central Mass. books were distributed to those who had ordered them previously or chose to buy them at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
David Derow, Secretary

MARCH MEETING: The March meeting of the Society will be held on March 13, 1976 and following the regular monthly business meeting, Mr. Kenneth E. Patton will give a presentation of some of his excellent slides. Member Patten put on a very memorable show several years ago in the Reading Depot, and this one should be equally, if not more interesting.

APRIL MEETING: The April meeting of the B&MRRHS will take place on Thursday, April 22, 1976, and will be a joint meeting with the Mass. Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, and this meeting will be held at the RRE's meeting place. More on this in the next NEWSLETTER.

NEW MEMBERS: It is with pleasure that we welcome the following New members to the Society; Steven A. Baxendale, Franklin, MA, David D. Sias, North Attleboro, MA, David R. Barnes, Reading, MA, Louis Edmunds, Carrboro, NC, Ira R. Laby, Holyoke, MA, Rene L. Dessert, Meriden, NH, Roger G. Hinman, Albany, NY, Robert H. McCall, Oakdale, CT, Chief Guy E. LaLonde, Whitefield PD, Whitefield, NH, Dr. William B. Clewely, Acton, MA, Douglas F. W. Conrad, Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA, Frank D. O'Malley, Jr., Woodsville, NH, Luther C. Keyes, Woodsville, NH, Robert E. Smith, Somerville, MA, John B. Hutchins, Baltimore, MD, Scott S. Gordon, Westford, MA, Winford, T. Nowell, Froveland, MA, Robert N. King, Needham, MA, Sam Langley, South Braintree, MA, David J. Lionett, Boston, MA, Jeffrey N. Sisson, Boston, MA, and Robert Warren, Clearwater, Florida. The Society now has a grand total of 821 members.

B&M BULLETIN PHOTOGRAPHS: We have received several requests for more information on the types of photos that we use in the B&M Bulletin. Optimum quality photos are those which are sharp and have a high degree of contrast. Fuzzy

and all-gray photos reproduce poorly. It is understandable that old, rare photos may not be of the best quality, but these are still usable. Recent photos, however, may be expected to meet higher standards. As a general rule, photos should be at least size 5" x 7", or preferably 8" x 10" if possible. If photos are mailed, sandwich them between pieces of cardboard as a precaution to their being bent. Most of the photos that we use are and white, however we are able to use some color prints. Prints must be made from color slides before they can be used. Do not send rare or irreplaceable photos through the mail - it is best to have them copied first. Caption material should accompany all photos. We generally hold accepted photos in our files until they are published. Send all contributions of photos for the B&M Bulletin to either Rick Conard, Publications Editor, or Ken Patton, Associate Editor, at the Society's address.

B&M BULLETIN ARTICLES: We are still looking for photos and/or information on the following subjects for future use in the B&M Bulletin:

- 1) Passenger trains in the White Mountains of New Hampshire
- 2) B&M mild cars (especially the old ones)
- 3) Profile & Franconia Notch RR (B&M Profile Branch)
- 4) B&M Waumbek Branch
- 5) Recent and old photos taken along the Western Route main line between Oak Grove and North Station, and photos showing operations on the new MBTA Haymarket North extension to Malden
- 6) Wayland, Mass. (especially pre-1930)
- 7) The "East Wind" passenger train
- 8) B&M wood diner No. 90 and similar cars (later were converted to work service cars, two of which were/are(?) M3285 and M3288)
- 9) B&M 3225-series baggage cars, converted from troop sleepers (later in MOW service)
- 10) Saratoga & Schuylerville Railroad (former B&M saratoga & Schuylerville Branches)

In addition, we are always looking for contributions of photos for our "focal point" section.

Some of the ten above subjects are actively being worked on. Others are at this time merely ideas for future articles. Whether or not they materialize will depend upon the response that we receive to this request.

If anyone has ideas or suggestions for future B&M Bulletin articles, and if they feel that they can contribute time, information or photographs towards the preparation of articles on those subjects, they should contact Rick Conard, Publications Editor, at the Society's address.

HELP: Mr. Greg Mazzie, 22 Delaware Avenue, Danvers, Mass., 01923 is looking for information and/or photos of the B&M between Plymouth and Woodsville, NH for modeling purposes. He has the Bulletin with the Woodsville article, but needs information on the rest of this line.

Mr. William J. Thompson, 39 Rose Point Avenue, West Wareham, Mass. 02576 is interested in obtaining a time-table or menu

"or something" pertaining to the train "The Minuteman".

Mr. Carlton Freeman, 209 Church Street, Clinton, Mass., 01510 would like the names of publishers of Diesel engine maintenance books. Anyone know of such a publisher?

Mr. John L. Mackenzie, 1648 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, Mass. 01106, would like to obtain photos of B&M 4000 class 2-8-4, either roster shots or photos of them on trains.

PUBLICATIONS: Copies of the Winter 1974-1975 and Spring 1975 B&M Bulletins are still available at \$1.75 each to members and \$1.80 to non-members; the Summer 1975 issue sells for \$1.75 each to members and \$2.00 to non-members. Also available are the 1900 Springfield Terminal Railway time-table and the 1932 Snow Train menu reprints at 25¢ each; Dick Symmes' drawing of 2-6-0 1470 at Milford, NH; and Jim Ickes' scale plan of Mogul 1388 at 70¢ per copy. All the above prices include first-class postage. We remind members to show their membership number on their order or they will be charged non-member prices. Please address orders for the above items to Dept. B. Softbound copies of the Central Mass. book are available to members at \$5.00 each and to non-members at \$6.95 plus 50 ¢ postage for each copy ordered. Use the order blank below to order your copy now, if you have not already done so. Please be sure to enclose a check or money order payable to the Society with your order.

TO: Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society, Inc.
Dept. CM
P. O. Box 302
Reading, Massachusetts 01967

Gentlemen:
Enclosed please find my check or money order payable to the Society for \$_____. I would like to order the Central Mass. book(s) in the softbound edition. I understand they the book(s) will be mailed to me as soon as possible.

MEMBERS ONLY: _____ Softbound edition(s) @ \$5.00 each, ppd.\$_____

NON MEMBERS: Softbound edition(s) @ \$6.95 each, plus 50¢ postage for each copy ordered \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

NAME _____ membership No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

(Please do not enclose other correspondence with your order.)

NEWS AND OBSERVATIONS: Mr. John F. Lucynski of North Adams, Mass. reports seeing RS-3 1519 headed west to the D&H on November 28th "in a westbound train". That Westbound, John, was PB-99. 1519, 1508 and 1536 are all working for the D&H as of this writing, while 1513 has been returned to the B&M and is now at East Deerfield. 1506 was supposed to have made the trip also, but as of this writing it does not look as if she will go. B&M's original 1536 has been re-numbered to D&H 4082. My thanks to Mr. Stanwood K. Bolton, Jr. for this info. Anyone know what B&M's original 1508 is now numbered?

B&M's Reorganization Plan was filed with the ICC and the Reorganization Court on December 12, 1975, according to the Railroad's own NEWSLETTER. The plan calls for reorganization through two steps. The first step is the sale of the B&M's Boston Commuter lines (and most other trackage in the eastern Mass. area) to the MBTA for \$39.5 million, and for the transfer of one or more light-density (read branch line) lines to the state of New Hampshire for prices to be determined either by negotiation or in eminent domain proceedings, such as the White Mountain Branch.

The second step provides for the payment of bonds, and a \$5 million capital improvement program.

Hearings will begin on the B&M's reorganization at 9:30 a.m. on January 21, 1976, at the General Offices of the ICC in Washington.

Some of the B&M's cabooses now have roller-bearing trucks and bio-degradable toilets; in addition, Van (or cab, or whatever) C-57 has had end-of-car cushioning applied. Eleven RDCs were refurbished in the "T" scheme last year, and bio-degradable toilets are being installed in the 1700s.

Brushcutting, almost unheard of a few years ago, is once again being done, with almost 200 miles of right-of-way under telegraph pole lines being done in 1975.

The Boston and Maine is in the process of taking delivery of 100 new 52'6", high-side, 100 ton capy. gondolas. Several of these cars have been seen by member Allan Autino at Ayer, Mass. He says they are painted Illinois Central Gulf orange, and have Boston and Maine spelled out across the sides in 36" high letters, with the Minuteman silhouette. These are the first pieces of rolling stock to have Boston and Maine spelled out on them since 1961!!

ANSWER: Mr. Freeman M. Fogg has answered questions asked by member Gregory Cox. He says that Penn Central uses 160.80 radio frequency for the old Boston and Albany mainline, notably the Springfield dispatcher's office. He has also picked up the PC on this frequency on the Readville and Stoughton Branch trains. 166.07 is used to talk to Amtrak trains, although he says he has not been down in Amtrak territory to check this out. Many thanks, Mr. Fogg, for providing these answers.

The B&M's White Mountain Branch, which runs from Concord to Lincoln, NH, will soon become the Central Division of the Wolfeboro Railroad. The Wolfeboro has purchased ex-Maine Central RS-3 557 for this line, and has kept the unit painted in green with yellow stiping. The unit has been renumbered and relettered, but as of this writing has not departed Rigby, Me., for Concord. In addition, a two stall engine house has been built in Lakeport, right in front of the old remains of the old roundhou. This is a most scenic line and should provide some excellent photographic opportunities.

This NEWSLETTER was mailed on Monday, January 26, 1976, almost three weeks before the next meeting, to allow the Post Office time to get it to our members. NEWSLETTERS will be mailed as far in advance of the next meeting date as possible, to assure delivery to most of our members.

Deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is February 18, 1976.

Best Regards,

Wayne D. Hills

Wayne D. Hills

BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

Historical Society, inc.

P.O. BOX 302 • READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Reading, Mass.
Permit No. 40
ZIP Code 01867