

BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

Historical Society, inc.



NEWSLETTER



P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

April 1, 1976

Dear B&M Fans:

The April meeting of the Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society will be a joint meeting with the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc., at the RRE's meeting place, the Newton Highlands Congregational Church, 54 Lincoln Avenue, Newton Highlands, Mass. The church is located 1 block west of the MBTA's Riverside Line stop at Newton Highlands. PLEASE NOTE; the time of the meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Entertainment for the evening will be presented by Mr. H. Arnold Wilder and Mr. Dana D. Goodwin, and will feature B&M steam, 1930-1960.

MAY MEETING: PLEASE NOTE; The May meeting will be held in North Adams, Mass., at the PRICE CHOPPER Supermarket, located on Route 2, State Road, about 2 miles West of downtown North Adams, near the FRIENDLY ice cream shop and only a few hundred feet from the B&M mainline. The time of the meeting will be 7:00 p.m., instead of 8:00 p.m., as we must vacate the hall above the supermarket by 10:00 p.m. To get into the hall, go in the main entrance of the market. Turn right and you will see a doorway and sign over a stairway. The hall is upstairs. After the regular monthly business meeting, Mr. Jack Armstrong will show some of his slides of trains in Western New England and New York State. It should also be noted that nominations for the upcoming elections of our various official positions take place at the May meeting, and anyone wishing to make a nomination from the floor should plan to attend.

MARCH MEETING: The regular monthly meeting of the B&MRRHS was called to order at 8:15 P.M. in the First Unitarian Parish Church, Woburn, Mass., by President Donald S. Robinson. There were approximately ninety-five members and guests in attendance.

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

Business Manager John C. Hutchins iterated the announcement he had made at the previous month's meeting; effective April 1st, the price of the Society's Central Mass. book would increase by \$1.00, becoming \$6.00 to members and \$7.95 (plus 50¢ for postage) to non-members.

Publications Editor R. Richard Conard announced that the Spring issue of the "Bulletin" was scheduled for publication in mid-April.

Program Chairman Donald G. Hills spoke about the April meeting, which will be held jointly with the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts. It will take place at 7:30 P.M., Thursday, April 22nd, in the Newton Highlands Congregational Church, 54 Lincoln Avenue, Newton Highlands, Mass., and the program will be presented by Dana D. Goodwin and H. Arnold Wilder, who are members of both organisations.

President Robinson then introduced the well-known railway photographer John Krause, who was a guest at the meeting and noted the attendance at the meeting of member Bruce P. Curry, of Ottawa.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Following the business meeting, member Kenneth E. Patton presented a slide program that illustrated a broad spectrum of railway operations, with the emphasis on New England lines.

Respectfully submitted,
(signed), David Derow, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS: It is with pleasure that we welcome the following new members to the Society. John J. Mahoney, Annandale, VA; Christopher S. Bergemann, Marblehead, MA; Robert W. Bird, Andover, MA; Harold E. Miller, Freeport, NY; Rudy Hood, Berlin, NH; Chester Howe, Wilmington, MA; George Allen, Cherry Valley, NY; Warren K. Hale, Salem, NH; Raoul Plutchak, Acton, MA; John S. Harbock, Voorheesville, NY; Robert L. Yarger, Bellows Falls, VT; Lloyd Morton, Jr., Westford, MA; Peter Dennett, Plainfield, VT; Ian Gunn, Acton, MA; Norman Peterson, Reading, MA; Robert W. Emerson, South Boston, MA; Edward A. Felton, Hudson, NH; Percy M. Cone, Hopkinton, MA; William F. Smith, Winchester, NH; R. E. Tobey, Rye, NH; Paul A. Levasseur, Hudson, NH; George J. Chaltas, Durham, NH; Donald D. Nevin, Cranston, RI; Robert J. Flannery, Jr., South Meriden, CT; Leo K. Talbot, East Woburn, MA; Herbert E. Bixler, Jaffrey Center, NH; Ward G. Brown, Barre, MA; Elmer E. Jones, Weston, MA; Loring M. Lawrence, Manchester, NH. A most respectable number of new members!!

HELP!!! "Does any member have a black and white or color photo of Maine Central combine 540, "Lumber King"? Please advise Roy Hutchinson, 37 Pearl St., Reading, Mass. 01867, stating price.

B&M BICENTENNIAL DOINGS: In cooperation with BiCentennial celebrations in on-line communities during the next several months, the B&M will display locomotive 200 and the BiCentennial boxcar at the following towns on the following dates; April 24, 1976 in Haverhill, on the Bradford siding by the Bradford passenger station; May 1, at the Old Lawrence Passenger Depot; May 19th in Concord, NH, at the passenger station; May 22nd, Newfields, NH (on the same date, a Bicentennial striped 1700 will be displayed at Hannaford Bros., Portland, ME.); June 12, Lynnfield, MA; June 19th Danvers, Mass., between Maple and Charter Streets; June 26th in Mechanicville, NY; and July 22nd in Keene, NH.

MORE HELP: Mr. Donald B. Valentine, Jr., c/o New England Rail Service, P.O. Box 701, Keene, NH 03431, is in need of good backhead shots of B&M T-1a class 2-8-4 Berkshires for use in cab interior detailing of an upcoming Westside Model Co. HO brass engine. Don states that the model should be available around December of this year, and the only thing they haven't found yet is a picture or pictures of the cab for interior detailing.

Also in the help dept., out photo editor, Mr. Kenneth E. Patton, 316 Park St., Wrentham, Mass., 02093 would like to hear from B&M employees and Mechanical department people regarding any information, anecdotes, etc., they might have regarding B&M 4100s, for use in an upcoming Bulletin article.

PUBLICATIONS: Several members who ordered Central Mass. books prior to publication have informed us that they have not yet received them. All pre-publication orders were either mailed prior to January 31 under the 4th Class Book Rate or (in eastern Mass. and some western Mass. areas) were delivered by one of our members living in your area. As many of you are aware, we have been experiencing serious postal problems. However, all books should have arrived by now. If you have not received your order, please notify us immediately as the books are selling very fast.

The following publications are presently available. All prices include postage unless otherwise noted.

- The Central Mass. - 144 page history of the Central Mass. Branch. 163 photos, maps, timetable, etc.
MEMBERS - \$6.00
NON-MEMBERS - \$7.95 plus 50¢ for postage and handling.
- Bulletins - Winter 1974-75 (only a handful), Spring 1975, Fall 1975 and Winter 1975-76.
Price - \$1.75 to members, \$2.00 to non-members
- Timetable - Springfield Terminal Ry., 1900 (reprint)
Price - 25¢
- Drawings - 2-6-0 1388 (plan view) by Jim Ickes
2-6-0 1470 at Milford, NH, by Dick Symmes
Price - 70¢
- Poster - Notice of special Woburn Branch train to carry 1860 election results to Woburn.
Reprinted on parchment stock.
Price - 70¢
- Menu Snow train, 1932 (reprint) Price - 25¢

An order blank for the Central Mass. book appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. Be sure to enclose your check or money order in the proper amount with all orders for books, magazines, drawings, etc. DO NOT enclose any other correspondence with your orders as it will only delay them.

NEWS AND OBSERVATIONS: The North Conway, NH Depot Model Railroad Club and Conway Scenic Railroad are jointly sponsoring the third annual model railroad open-house and exhibit to be held at the depot in North Conway, N.H. on Saturday, May 8, 1976. The hours are from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No admission fee will be charged, however, voluntary donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds will go to the North Conway Depot Model Railroad Club to help finance their building projects.

The open house will feature static and operating model railroad exhibits, displays of railroadiana, and tours of the second floor room where the North Conway Depot Model Railroad Club will have their impressive HO layout in operation. Other exhibits will be set up inside antique rail cars of Conway Scenic Railroad, including a former Bangor & Aroostook cafe observation car built in 1894.

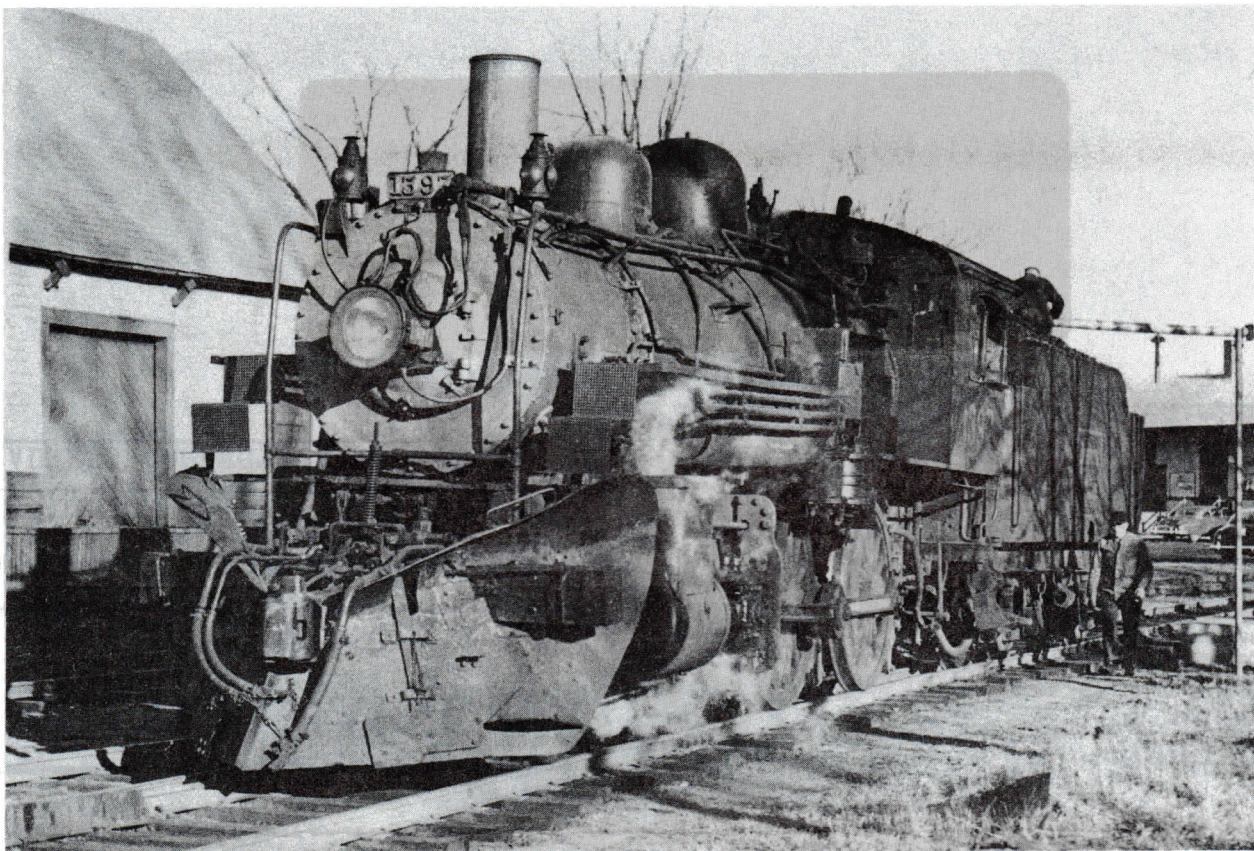
A food sale will be conducted at the depot, and Conway Scenic Railroad will be operating excursion trains to Conway and return at reduced fares of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children 5 to 12. Under 5 are free. Trains will depart from North Conway at 11:00 AM, 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM.

The Wolfeborough Railroad is running excursions on the ex-B&M Lincoln Branch from Concord to Lincoln and return each Sunday in April. Trains will leave Concord NH depot at 8:30 AM and return about 5:30 PM. There will be a candy butcher on the train, but you are advised to bring your own lunch, "litter bag and camera". Capacity limited to 140. Reservations must be made in advance, no passes. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 5 to 12. Send check and SSAE to Wolfeboro Railroad Co., Dept 2, Wolfeboro, NH 03894. Specify date and alternate dates.

On March 2, 1976, B&M freight SJ-1 stuck an oil truck at Bellows Falls at the crossing just south of the Bellows Falls tunnel, demolishing the empty oil truck and stuffing the remains of it into the mouth of the tunnel. The cab of lead unit 1726 was badly damaged, although there were no serious injuries.

On March 15, 1976, local freight B-43 reported by radio that two cars and the caboose with the conductor and flagman aboard had derailed and rolled down the embankment behind the Mass. Broken Stone Facilities west of the Fitchburg Division overpass in Weston. The conductor was unhurt, although the flagman was taken to a hospital and treated for a sore back. One carload of lumber and the caboose were later rerailed on March 19th, with the aid of the company bulldozer and the Boston wrecker. The remaining car was split wide open in the derailment and will be scrapped on the spot.

Today (April 1st) is the beginning of ConRail, and it has already brought about some changes on the B&M. Freight RW-1 and WR-2 nicknamed the "Maine Bullets" years ago, have been abolished, due to ConRail abolishing the interchange point of Worcester with the B&M. This leaves the Worcester-Ayer just a one local freight a day branch. Also, B&M will shortly take over operations of the ex PC Framingham-Lowell line, from Lowell to South Sudbury.



I've recieved several requests to publish a photo of a B&M Mogul equipped with a snowplow pilot, so herewith is my reply. Mobul 1397 gets a drink of water at Bedford, Mass., 1949. Photograph by Donald G. Hills.

MORE NEWS: Also with the coming of the first of April, passenger train sevice to Newburyport was discontinued, and on Monday, April 5, 1976, No. 108 and No. 133, the weekday train to Haverhill, Mass., will no longer make any stops in Andover.

DEADLINE: This Newsletter may be considered as a notice of meeting for both the April and May meetings, as the shot amount of time between the two will not allow the printing and mailing of another Newsletter. Therefore, the deadline for the next Newsletter will be Saturday, May 15, 1976. This Newsletter was mailed on Monday, April 12, 1976.

Best regards,
Wayne D. Hills
Wayne D. Hills