

BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

Historical Society, inc.

NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

July 22, 1976

Dear B&M Fans:

The August meeting of the Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society, Inc. will be held on Saturday, August 14, 1976 at the First Unitarian Parish Church, corner of Winn and Pleasant Streets, Woburn, Mass. The program for August will be a presentation by Professor Charles Kennedy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on past managements of the B&M and their effect on the condition and progress of the company. Professor Kennedy will divide the program between his formal talk and answering questions. Come prepared. This evening promises to be different and interesting.

NOTICE: There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, August 11th, 1976, at the Beverly Historical Society, 117 Cabot Street, Beverly, Mass. The meeting will start at 7:45 P.M. The following items of business will be considered:

1. Election of a Chairman
2. Appointment of a Publications Editor, a Historian, a Curator/Archivist, and such committees and committee chairmen as are deemed necessary
3. Discuss the appointment of a permanent Editor for the "Newsletter"
4. Discuss the provision of assistants for both the Treasurer and the Secretary and the realignment of the responsibilities of both officers
5. Such other business as may come before the meeting.

SEPTEMBER: Mr. Russell Monroe will be our guest at the September meeting. Mr. Munroe, B&M Passenger Conductor, will put on a slide show for the September 11th meeting. The topic will be B&M of the 1950-era and some Canadian steam same era.

MEETING OF JULY 10, 1976: The adjourned annual meeting of the B&MRRHS was called to order at 8:05 P.M., Saturday, July 10th, 1976, in the First Unitarian Parish Church, Woburn, Mass., by President Donald S. Robinson. There were approximately sixty members and guests in attendance.

The Secretary's Report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer's Annual Report was accepted as read. In response to a question, Treasurer Charles P. Smith stated that his figures did not include the value of the unsold publications in the Society's inventory.

Publications Editor R. Richard Conard reported that some delays had been encountered in the preparation of the Summer issue of the "Bulletin", but that it should be published within the next few weeks.

President Robinson announced that temporarily he would serve as Editor of the "Newsletter," replacing Wayne D. Hills, who has held that post since last August. Mr. Hills resigned for personal reasons effective with the July issue. Mr. Robinson stated that the deadline for receipt of material for inclusion in the "Newsletter" would be the third Saturday of each month, i.e., one week after the Society's regular meeting date.

President Robinson spoke about the May meeting, at which nominations for office were accepted. He emphasized that holding the meeting in North Adams, Mass., was not intended to deny members an opportunity to present nomination, but was meant to continue for the second year a practice which had been endorsed by the membership, that is to hold at least one meeting each year outside the Boston area to permit members from other regions a chance to attend. He noted, however, that notwithstanding the members' approval of this action, the attendance at the two such meetings had been rather low. He suggested the obvious alternatives: change the nomination meeting to another month; change the out-of-town meeting to another month; and abandon the practice of holding out-of-town meetings. He requested that members who chose to express their views on the subject write to the Society so as to guide the Directors in the future.

The Ballot Committee, consisting of William L. Patton, Jr., and Leonard S. Twombly, then announced the results of their tabulation of the ballots that had been brought to the meeting or mailed to the Society. The By-Laws amendment increasing the dues to \$10.00 per annum was approved 80 to 10, and the following officers were elected:

President -	Kenneth E. Patton
Vice President-	Leroy C. Hutchinson
Treasurer-	Charles P. Smith
Secretary-	David Derow
Directors-	H. Bentley Crouch John C. Hutchins.

President Robinson then introduced the newly elected and reelected officers to the meeting.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

The Society's new president, Kenneth E. Patton, opened the regular July meeting at 8:46 P.M. He expressed his appreciation of Mr. Robinson's efforts as president during the past two years and thanked him on behalf of the Society.

Chairman of the Board H. Bentley Crouch noted that meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the general membership and that any member may bring a matter before the Board, either in person or by writing to the Secretary.

The Treasurer's Report for the preceding month was accepted as read.

Former President Robinson reported that he had represented the Society at the recent dedication of a plaque honoring the Hoosac Tunnel as a feat of civil engineering.

Program Chairman Donald G. Hills announced that the speaker at the August meeting would be Mr. Charles J. Kennedy, of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, an economist and a noted historian of the Boston & Maine Railroad.

There was a discussion of various matters regarding operations on the B&M and several fantrips in the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

Following the business meeting, the members and guests browsed through the many interesting items being offered for sale at the Society's railroadians "flea-market".

Respectfully submitted,
(signed) David Derow, Secretary

On the evening of July 5th, a fire of suspicious origin damaged the East Lexington station on the B&M's Bedford Branch. Although the building suffered over \$7000 in damages, it remains structurally sound.

In recent years, the station had been used by Rowe Chevrolet, which had provided the two regular commuters at the stop with keys to permit them access to the waiting room in order to comply with a lease stipulation that the station be available to railway patrons. (There is one daily round trip to Boston on the branch.)

The Lexington Historical Commission intends to undertake the repair and restoration of the station and would appreciate receiving any information about the station and its history that could be provided. (The first record of the station appears on an 1852 survey map; the line was built in 1849.) Information and donations to aid the restoration project should be addressed to:

Lexington Historical Commission,
c/o Anne Grady
10 Trotting Horse Drive,
Lexington, MA 02173

For various reasons associated with the transfer of the Newsletter editorship, there will be only a few news items in this issue. The following have managed to find their way to my door.

In mid-June train BM-17 was seen passing Ayer with BAR engines 60 and 65 in tow. No doubt these are headed for the duties under Conrail which were originally conducted by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Speaking of Conrail, your editor saw his first locomotive so painted in one of the unit coal trains to Bow early in July. The color was blue, similar to the B&M shade, with white block lettering. On the side of the hood were several long stripes from the back of the cab ending in an equal number of three-quarter circles and the name. Large numbers appeared below the cab windows and "CONRAIL" under each headlight.

On Sunday, June 27, the B&M provided an appropriate, if unintentional, start for the Bicentennial Parade in Shirley, MA, when MR-4 drifted by with engines 200 and 1754 as the first and third units.

During the July 4 holiday week the B&M took advantage of vacation shutdowns by some customers to take parts of the Berlin (NH) and Hillsboro Branches out of service for track work. On both lines crews were able to work uninterrupted 10-hour days and accomplish more than they could had it been necessary to allow for the passage of trains.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of those who assisted me in my duties as president for the past two years. Rather than attempt to name each one and take the chance of forgetting someone, I will just extend a blanket "WELL DONE".

As long as I am on the soapbox there is another subject about which I shall comment before someone else does. No doubt there will be remarks that my stepping down from the presidency and immediately taking over as editor of the Newsletter is further evidence of the "clique" which is running the B&MRRHS. Having been the presiding officer of a number of organizations, I have long since learned to ignore the complainers because these same people are the ones who have forty-nine excuses why they cannot do a job when the chance is offered to them. The principal reason why so many friends of the president wind up as committee chairmen is because they are the ones whose arms he can twist the hardest. Only by having volunteers come forward and express their desire to help can this be changed. If you will look again at the agenda for the meeting of the Board of Directors, you will see that there are six named and an unspecified number of unnamed positions to be filled by appointment. Included among these is editor of the Newsletter. Now is your chance to break up that horrible "clique". Even if you are not able to take advantage of this opportunity, let the President or the Chairman of the BOD know that you want to participate; it will not be difficult to find a place for you.

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