

# BOSTON & MAINE R.R.

*Historical Society, inc.*

## NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

SEPTEMBER 21, 1976

Dear B&M fans:

The October meeting of the Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society will be held on Saturday October 9 at 8:00 PM in the Unitarian Church on Woburn Square. This will be a members night, and each is asked to bring a few slides for showing.

As the program chairman is on vacation in Colorado no announcement is available for the November meeting. The date, however, is the 13th; same time, same station.

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11th, 1976: The regular monthly meeting of the B&MRRHS was called to order at 8:15 PM in the First Unitarian Parish Church, Woburn, Mass., by Vice President Leroy C. Hutchinson. Approximately 65 members and guests were in attendance.

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

The Secretary apologized for the lateness of the most recent issue of the "Newsletter", which was the result of unexpected delays concomitant with the changes being effected in the publication's staff.

Publications Editor R. Richard Conard announced that the fall issue of the "Bulletin" should be ready within about a month and will contain the continuation of the Post 1911 B&M Steam Roster prepared by Lester S. Twombly and Robert E. Chaffin.

Member John C. Alden spoke about the B&M's Bicentennial Train, which will be on display at North Station, Boston, on September 24th. The exhibits will be staffed by B&MRRHS personnel.

Member David K. Johnson announced that the Hancock (NH) Historical Society was seeking old photographs of the railroad station in that town.

Program Chairman Donald G. Hills asked members who would like to present programs at meetings to contact him through the Society's Reading address. He also requested that members let him know of their preferences in programs to help guide him in arranging entertainment for future meetings.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Following the business meeting, member Russell F. Munroe, Jr., presented a slide program of railroading in New England and Canada from the 1950's to the present time, with B&M steam operations featured in the earlier photographs.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) David Derow, Secretary

NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO CHANGE AGAIN: This will be my final issue as interim editor of the Newsletter. Other commitments, both present and soon-to-be, would make it nearly impossible to keep on schedule. Starting with the November issue the editor will be John C. Alden, 11 Riverside Ave., Concord, MA 01742. Please send him all items for the Newsletter. To all of those who have assisted me in my brief tenure I extend my thanks.

(signed) Don Robinson

NEWS AND COMMENT: Items of a newsworthy nature have been few and far between in the past month. Below are those that have come to the attention of the editor.

After having been slightly damaged by hitting a boulder left on the track in Gloucester, the Fiat railcar has been operating in revenue service. The first runs were on the Eastern Route and more recently it has been on the Reading line. It also spent one day shuttling between Lincoln and South Acton in connection with West Concord's "Junction Function". Following service on the Lowell and South Acton lines it is expected that the car will be turned over to ConRail for experimental operation on the Needham Branch. Only non-rush hour service is possible as the car can not MU with other equipment.

A strike on the Halifax docks has caused the rerouting of containers shipments with three special trains of over fifty cars each being routed over the Northern Railroad of New Hampshire. Normal service is three or four trains a week from Concord to Penacook; Penacook-Gale sees one train (usually Tuesdays) as far as needed; there is no running to Lebanon from Gale. A switcher comes down from White River to Lebanon as needed. A far cry from the old days!

On September 8 there was a head-on collision between the E-7 local and a Green Mountain work train in Bellows Falls. Both B&M 1221 and GM 303 were derailed and damaged, the latter extensively, but fortunately there were no serious injuries to personnel. While the results of the investigation, held September 17, have not been announced at this writing, the accident occurred on Green Mountain track 600 feet north of the yard limit sign where the B&M has no authority to operate. In addition, the conductor of the local had been informed by the GM train dispatcher that the work train had left Chester and had been instructed to provide flag protection. The Green Mountain men, however, stated that they saw no flag and were first aware of the presence of the B&M train when they came in sight of the engine less than 400 feet from the collision point. Only the slow speed of both trains prevented a more serious accident. As the printing of personal speculations concerning responsibility were improper we will withhold further comment until the results of the investigation are released.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome new members: Mrs. B. Muriel Jepson, Reading, MA; J. H. MacKinney, Lewiston, ME; Donald S. Plante, Chicopee, MA; George Poole, Woburn, MA; Alan J. Traniello, Malden, MA; Daniel Reagan, Englewood, CO; Michael C. Sudol, Jr., Metuchen, NJ; George A. Hildreth, Framingham, MA; Rev. Roger R. Borden, Sterling, MA; Arthur M. Butler, Jr., Framingham, MA; Richard W. Eagleston, Reading, MA; Howard F. Greene, Pocasset, MA; Ted W. Croteau, Jr., Turners Falls, MA.

CLASSIFIED ADS: Advertisements by members will be published in the Newsletter as space permits. Please keep them as short as possible and send them on a separate sheet of paper. Do not forget to include your name and address with the ad.

**WANTED:** Bulletin #116 of the R&LHS. Freeman M. Fogg, 1 Cedar St., Stoughton, MA 02072

**WANTED:** The Hancock (NH) Historical Society would like to borrow and copy old photographs showing that town's railroad station. Contact David K. Johnson, 14 Meade St., Nashua, NH 03060.

**FOR SALE:** Old B&M timetables (public or employee and age not specified - ed.). George A. McCarron, 5566 Turnitas Ave., Apt. #1, Atascadero, CA 93422.

**FOR SALE:** Prints from 99 rare, old glass plate negatives of Boston & Maine, Fitchburg, and Connecticut River railroad subjects. A few of the plates have suffered some water damage, but generally this does not detract from the subject. Most do not specify location but appear to be in the Springfield, Greenfield, and East Deerfield area. Prices are \$2 for 8 x 10 (negs. 1-70) and \$1.50 for 5 x 8 (negs. 71-99) plus 75¢ postage with each order. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with 10¢ for a catalogue. Please specify that you want the LEONARD NEGATIVE LIST. Walker Transportation Collection, 117 Cabot St., Beverly, MA 01915.