

Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society
Incorporated



NEWSLETTER



P.O. BOX 302 · READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01867

John C. Alden, Editor

20 May 1977

Thomas R. Engel, Asst. Editor

Dear Boston & Maine fans:

Our June meeting will be held on 11 June 1977 at 2000 hrs. at the First Parish Unitarian Church, Woburn Square, Woburn, Mass. This meeting's featured business will be the election of (for 1 year terms): a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary; and (for 3 year terms) two directors. After the business shall have been transacted the entertainment will be a presentation on the Cheshire branch and surrounding area by Mr. Donald B. Valentine, Jr.

FUTURE MEETINGS: 9 July 1977: (usual (above) time & place) Railroad Flea Market
13 August 1977: Conway Scenic RR, North Conway, NH.

Meeting time is still up in the air at this writing; Festivities will continue throughout the day. Dwight Smith of the Conway Scenic RR has stated that if we have 20 or more people interested we can have our own train at reduced rates. Members staying overnight must make own arrangements. More details next month.

- **VOTEVOTEVOTEVOTEVOTE!** BALLOT for 1977 B&MRRHS elections will be at the bottom of this Newsletter's penultimate page. We have a contested election this year: three members are running for the two director's seats open. This is your Society; these elections determine our future policies.

- **Advance Section Dues Renewal Notice:** Annual Dues are now \$10 and will become due for 1977-8 (year ending 30 June 1978) on July 1. For those of you who like to "jump the gun" or help lessen the summer crunch (812 members up for renewal) on your Membership Secretary send your dues, along with your name as you want it on your membership card, your address, and your membership # (if you can find it) to this address: T. R. Engel, Membership Sec., B&MRRHS, P. O. Box 369, Belmont MA 02178.

B&Meeting Report of May 14, 1977 meeting - in brief by the Editor - called to order by President Hutchinson at 2010 hrs. Secretary's report of April meeting not read; Treasurer's Report given by the President in absence of Treas. C. P. Smith. Balance given in vicinity of \$3,045.40. Publications Editor R. R. Conard said the Spring 1977 Bulletin was at the printer and should be out in a couple of weeks.

Membership Secretary was not present - no report. (He was at home, sick - Asst. Ed.)

Board Chairman J. C. Hutchins said a new Editor was needed for the Bulletin - the matter will be taken up at the June 6th meeting of the Society's Board of Directors.

Report of Nominating Committee: Chairman Donald C. Foley, Jr. was not present; the report was given by Joseph R. DeRosa.

Members in New Hampshire were sincerely requested to check on House Bill No. 629 re raising the legal weight limit on trucks in that state

ENTERTAINMENT: Stanley Whitney presented 2 reels of movies in color in the "Glory Days of Steam"; first reel showed North Station with plenty of steam; Mountaineer had diesel-power; Mr. Whitney commuted on this train to Crawford Notch in the '40's - Second reel had action scenes between Bartlett and Crawford Notch Stations; freights and passengers were moved with steam at the head and rear ends, if necessary. Mr. Whitney commented on the neat appearance of RR equipment in those days; also made reference to sudden changes of weather in the Notch. It was a "GOOD SHOW" from all angles - thanks very much to Mr. Whitney for this very interesting show. Upstairs/Downstairs: this meeting was held upstairs in the Church auditorium rather than our usual downstairs room. Meeting ended ca. 2230 hrs., Estimated attendance was about 100..

CALLBOY'S CORNER: 1) The Memb. Sec.'s address for all circulation & membership matters is: P. O. Box 369, Belmont MA 02178. 2) Send those news items (& all Newsletter items to: John C. Alden, Newsletter Editor, 11 Riverside Ave., Concord MA 01742. 3) Of necessity this newsletter is a short one and will be the smallest since Sept., Don't worry, we'll be back next month bigger & better than ever with things we didn't quite have time for this month: The Glory That Was Medford, a much worked on travel section, and more. 4) April Newsletter was mailed May 6th

HISTORICAL EVENTS: (From the Boston & Maine RR Employes' Magazine)

50 years ago June 1927 - Front cover photo - Bunker Hill Monument - Charlestown, Mass..
Feature story "Front Line": traffic men on tour of new facilities at Boston, hump yards, etc., with President Hanauer.. story about N. E. Colleges on the Boston & Maine .. Private estate to Hospital to RR yard - original McLean Hospital site.. Franklin Jct. Station closed...

25 years ago June 1952 - Front cover RDC westbound at Montague, Mass.. feature story: "Introducing the Highliners" - Minute Man Unit # 6000.. R. M. Edgar now Vice President...

B&Matters MBTA coach # 2532 (ex-PC #2532, ex-NH # 8633) came out of Billerica shops on 2 May after a complete refurbishing. All seats had been removed and cleaned, asphalt tile flooring replaced with solid floor covering, and window glass replaced with Lexan windows. Coach is painted purple around windows. B&M heralds have been applied, two on each side at the ends. Roof, trucks, and underframe are painted black; the interior has also been repainted. Five more coaches at Billerica are awaiting refurbishing.

Walt Sokolowski reports sighting a circus extra at Ayer on Monday morning 16 May, while he was getting a few pictures of NE-2. Three B&M geeps, 1751 in the lead had the Ringling Bros., Barnum & bailey circus in tow, and after the usual Ayer crew change, were bound for Portland. Walt was informed that a stop had already been made at Fitchburg to take on water for the elephants, who were waving their trunks at anyone who cared to wave to them. Train had approx. 35 cars. The circus train will be returning in approximately one week bound for Troy NY, it is believed. Walt says it certainly was an impressive sight, the first circus extra run-by he had seen.

On May 9th train JU-1 (Springfield MA-White River Jct-Berlin) had a minor-major derailment while descending the hill from Randolph to Gorham NH, John B. Egan reports. Only two cars were involved; a large SR covered hopper loaded with clay for the paper mill at Cascade left the rails and laid over onto its side, carrying the caboose with it. The mishap was on a sharp curve about 2 miles from the former Gorham station. There was little track damage but as the cars were precariously perched on top of a 30 foot bank with the Moose River at the bottom the big hook was called in from East Deerfield and the line was cleared by early morning on May 11.

Other items Mr. Egan sent us: The North Stratford Railroad Company, operating the former MEC Beecher Falls branch, started interchanging cars with the Grand Trunk on May 2. The past two weeks has seen about 15 cars go up the branch with their 44-tonner.. Many rumors around the North Country of the B&M's negotiating with the Brown Company's Berlin Mills Railway to give up the entire yard at Berlin. This would eliminate a B&M yard switcher crew that works 5 days a week and the Berlin Mills Railway would perform whatever switching is necessary.

Molly B. O'Connor has sent us a little item about the bird problem at White River Junction. It seems grain being shipped through on trains has been falling from the cars and attracting quite a permanent pigeon population which hang around the facilities there; it has become quite a nuisance..

While we're on the subject, Amtrak and ConRail have been having Byrd problems of their own, too. U. S. Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) took the occasion when Amtrak's Paul Reistrup was requesting \$500 m. in operating subsidies for fiscal 1978 from the Appropriations Committee to demand continued operation of Amtrak's "Mountaineer" (an experimental train running from Norfolk VA through West Virginia to Cincinnati with through equipment for Chicago) whose operation was to end 21 March unless the states it ran through agreed to subsidize it. Amtrak has since caved in and agreed to run the train for another month. Byrd then proceeded to drop a load on ConRail for neglecting its ex-NYC branch to Charleston WV; he demanded CR fix the railroad or else he'd introduce an amendment to cut the pay of CR's top officials in half. No word yet on how CR will respond to this pecking. A good demonstration on how political influence can fowl things up. (Thanks to Mohawk & Hudson Chpt. NHRS for this info.)

Frank Judge cautions people buying old RR cars to be sure they can pass inspections by the various Federal agencies involved-if the cars are to be moved by rail. Frank also reports the Hudson to Berlin segment of the Central Mass. has been disconnected; evidently some tracks have been pulled up. The inside of the Marlboro (Mass.) passenger station is still in good shape. No passenger trains have run there in regular service since 1939; the Hudson-Marlboro was out-of-service as of March 1.

B&Members We welcome the following new members to the B&MRRHS: Michael P. Friedberger, Philadelphia PA; Brent S. Michiels, Suncook NH; Sanborn S. Worthen, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; John N. Swanson, Springfield VT. Welcome aboard the B&MRRHS, gentlemen!

BAR EXTRAS: The Bangor & Aroostook RR is applying for abandonment of its S. Lagrange to Packard branch line.. there is an old joke that the Bangor & Aroostook has a lot of influence on the Boston & Maine, judging by the large number of BAR's near North Station; which brings up a point: the B&A is the Boston & Albany; Bangor & Aroostook is the BAR, which is the way we do it. However, some purist will bring up the Boston & Albany of Georgia; our Bos. & Alb.'s reporting marks are BA...

COMING 6 June 1977: B&MRRHS Directors' meeting, at 1945 hrs. at the First Parish Unitarian Church, Woburn Sq., Woburn MA. Open to all interested members.

EVENTS 18 June 1977: 8th Annual Railfan's Day (& Giant Flea-Market); Edaville RR, Rte. 58, South Carver MA; admission: proof of membership to some rail club or Assn. + normal entrance fee. New this year: Giant RR Flea-Market & Model Show!! Sponsored by Bemis Street Railway. For further information, or to enquire about arrangements for having a table, write Bemis St. Ry., Mr. "skipper" Clark, 21 Endicott St., Newton Highlands MA 02161.

OF 20 June-5 July 1977: "The Railroader" special tour of rail in Switzerland put on by Swissair for Railroad Enthusiast Members only. For further information contact the RRE.

NOTE Mass. Bay Division's Secretary is J. Leonard Batchelder, 37 School St., Merrimac, Mass. 01860.

B&Marketplace We'll publish advertisements by members as space permits. Please keep them as short as possible and send them on a separate piece of paper. Don't forget to include your name and address with your ad!

- Bruce Curry, author of the M&WR-B&C article in the Winter 1976-1977 Bulletin, is seeking data, clippings, speeches, anecdotes, etc., concerning Samuel Pinsky. If any of our members can assist Bruce, please write him at 23 Andrea Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario K2J 1G8, Canada.
- CAN YOU HELP? I would like to hear from anyone who worked with my great-uncle, John Wyman, on the Boston & Maine Railroad. He retired around the last part of the 1940's. His home terminal was Lawrence, Mass. - C. S. Hatfield, Div. 822, 181 Arthur St., Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada B2N 1Y3.

PUBLICATIONS: The following publications are available postpaid (unless otherwise noted) by ordering direct from the address which follows: Business Manager, B&MRRHS, P. O. Box 223, Harwood Station, Littleton MA 01460. Publications orders sent through the Reading address will be subject to an automatic delay of at least two weeks.

THE CENTRAL MASS. Members \$6.00; Non-members \$7.95 plus 50¢ for postage and handling
 B&M Spring, Summer, Fall 1975, Winter 1975-6 (23 left), Spring 1976, PRICE: \$1.75
 BULLETINS to members, \$2.00 to non-members. Summer, Fall 1976, Winter 1976-7; PRICE: \$2.00 to members, \$2.25 to non-members

OTHER 1900 Springfield Terminal Ry. timetable reprint - 25¢ (only 2 left!)
 Scale drawing of Mogul 1388 - 70¢ (only 33 left!)
 Drawing of Mogul 1470 at Milford NH - 70¢ (only 7 left!)
 1860 Woburn Branch election poster - 70¢ (only 27 left!)

B&MRRHS 1932 Snow Train menu - 25¢
 Copies of the poem "The Canaan Wreck" available at 50¢ per copy including postage. Only 18 copies available, order fast!

PUBLICATIONS Reprinted Montpelier & Wells River / Barre & Chelsea RR employes' timetable No. 62B of January 22, 1928. Members \$1.50; Non members \$1.75.

BOOKS BY OTHER PUBLISHERS Vanishing Markers, a 128 page illustrated description of Boston & Maine rail-roading, 1948-1952, by a former B&M brakeman. This is a captivating account of B&M operations during one of the most interesting periods of the company's history. By special arrangement with the publisher (Stephen Greene Press) we are able to offer this \$14.95 book to our members for \$12.50. Non-members rate is \$14.95.

----- detach ballot along this line -----

Ballot for 1977 B&MRRHS elections: Vote by marking an X before the person's name you're voting for, detach, and either mail to: Dept. Election, B&MRRHS, P. O. Box 302, Reading MA 01867, or bring the ballot to the June 11th meeting to be cast there. If mailing, DO NOT include anything else with the ballot!

OFFICERS: (Vote for not more than ONE per office)

President: _____ Vice President: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____
 _____ Leroy C. Hutchinson _____ Malcolm Hauck _____ Charles P. Smith _____ David Derow

DIRECTORS: (Vote for not more than TWO)

_____ Richard W. Symmes
 _____ Donald B. Valentine, Jr.
 _____ Dana D. Goodwin