

UCRS NEWSLETTER - 1951

January, 1951 - Number 60

The Society meets on the third Friday of each month at 8:30 p.m. in Room 486 of Toronto Union Station. The meeting of January 19th, as announced in the December issue will be the annual meeting of the Society. At this important meeting, reports of the officers of the Society will be presented and the annual election of the officers for the new year will take place. The members presented elect not more than nine directors. These directors meet at their earliest convenience and select from among themselves the officers for the coming year. The new officers assume their duties seven days after the date of the annual meeting.

Entertainment for the Annual Meeting will be of an especially high order. Basil Headford will show his motion pictures made in the narrow gauge country of Colorado. These pictures of the famous three-foot-six lines have been added to considerably since they were shown to the Society two years ago. Combined with Mr. Headford's inimitable wit they make a programme of great entertainment and real railroadiana value. Those who saw and hear Mr. Headford's brief showing of slides at our November meeting know what a treat is in store for them.

Other features of the evening will be brief talks by two of the Society's best informed speakers - Andrew Merrilees and Raymond Corley. The Programme Committee sincerely hopes that both these members will be on hand but had to accept commitments subject to either or both these members being out of town on January 19th. In any event, a first-class programme is assured.

Every member in the Toronto vicinity should be in attendance on this important and interesting evening.

The final meeting of the 1950 Directors will be held on January 26th, 1951, at the home of the 1950 President, John Griffin. It will be followed immediately by the first meeting of the 1951 Directors who are to be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 19th.

ATTENTION ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: The Society's Treasurer is experiencing considerable difficulty with personal cheques forwarded in payment of membership dues and publications purchases, and requests that all future remittances be made in cash, Post Office or Railway Money Order.

The Society wishes to express its appreciation to the Model Railroad Club of Toronto for the invitation which it received for its members to attend the open house held at the club layout on November 29th. Many U.C.R.S. members visited the layout on this evening and were able to get a much better picture of the huge model railroad and operation than at the show which had been held just previously, because of the much greater freedom to move around and talk to members of the M.R.C.T.

Members are reminded that entry slips for the February Railroadiana Auction must be mailed to Mr. A. S. Olver, 91 Mona Drive, Toronto 12, and postmarked not later than midnight of January 31st.

CORRECTION: In the list of Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway rolling stock printed in the last issue, cars 327 and 328 (the former Oshawa cars) should have been listed as going to the C.N.R. London scrap yard on September 22, 1950.

The President has asked us to thank his many friends in the Society who so kindly sent him messages of greeting at Christmas time. Due to the recent death of his father he sent out no cards this season but very much appreciates the thoughtfulness of those who remembered him.

NEW MEMBERS

RESIDENT:

Ivor Samuel, 405 Ellerslie Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario.
Dr. Edmund T. Guest, 132 Glen Manor Drive, Toronto 8, Ontario.

ASSOCIATE:

Ross G. Snetsinger, 4 Springbank Drive, London, Ontario.
Robert Sandusky, R.R. 6, Brampton, Ontario.
John A. Collins, 1181 Lillian Street, Windsor, Ontario.
Ernest L. Gillian, 82 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario.
Robert H. Holden, 63 King Street East, Oshawa, Ontario.
A. Norris Adams, 4036 West 36th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
Arthur Kelvin, 4100 Cote des Neiges Road (Apt. 7), Montreal, Quebec.
F. Allan Barnes, same address.
Simon E. Herring, 908 Hush Avenue, Bellefontaine, Ohio, U.S.A.
Don McClain, 824 Main Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio, U.S.A.
Leroy O. King, 3114 "N" Street N.W., Washington 7, D.C., U.S.A.,
Roger W. Bogenberger, 737 North 10th Street, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

HISTORICAL NOTES By Robert Duncan

NORTHERN AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY: On the N. & N. W. there was a very useful device of interest to farmers. On each side of the baggage or mail car was a large white disc, probably three or four feet in diameter, with the words "FINE" in the centre, or half white and half black with the word "CLOUDY". From this the farmers could quickly learn what was the expected weather for the day. It was thus probably used on a morning train from Toronto. One or more N. & N. W. locomotives had a water pump atop the boiler; some of the locomotives had a bell mounted just above the pilot. A device on the front axle made a lever strike the bell when the engine was in motion.

On this railway it was not unusual to see long timbers covering two or three flat cars coming from the north.