

LIONSGEAR

THE
OCCASSIONAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE OLD
LOCOMOTIVE
COMMITTEE

SESQUICENTENARY YEAR; Issue No.4 LATE WINTER 1988/9

150 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING.

"A VERY SATISFACTORY YEAR"

LION NOW GOES HOME TO LIVERPOOL

LION has over-wintered at Tyseley but is now rather in the way and will be returning to Liverpool soon. The sooner the better really because the 'Old Lady' has to be shunted out of the shed every day to allow work to proceed on the other locomotives there. This cannot be doing her very much good. Sadly Adrian Jarvis has moved to another department in the Museum and no longer has the responsibility. At the the time of writing, OLCO is not certain what is, or will, exactly happen to her.

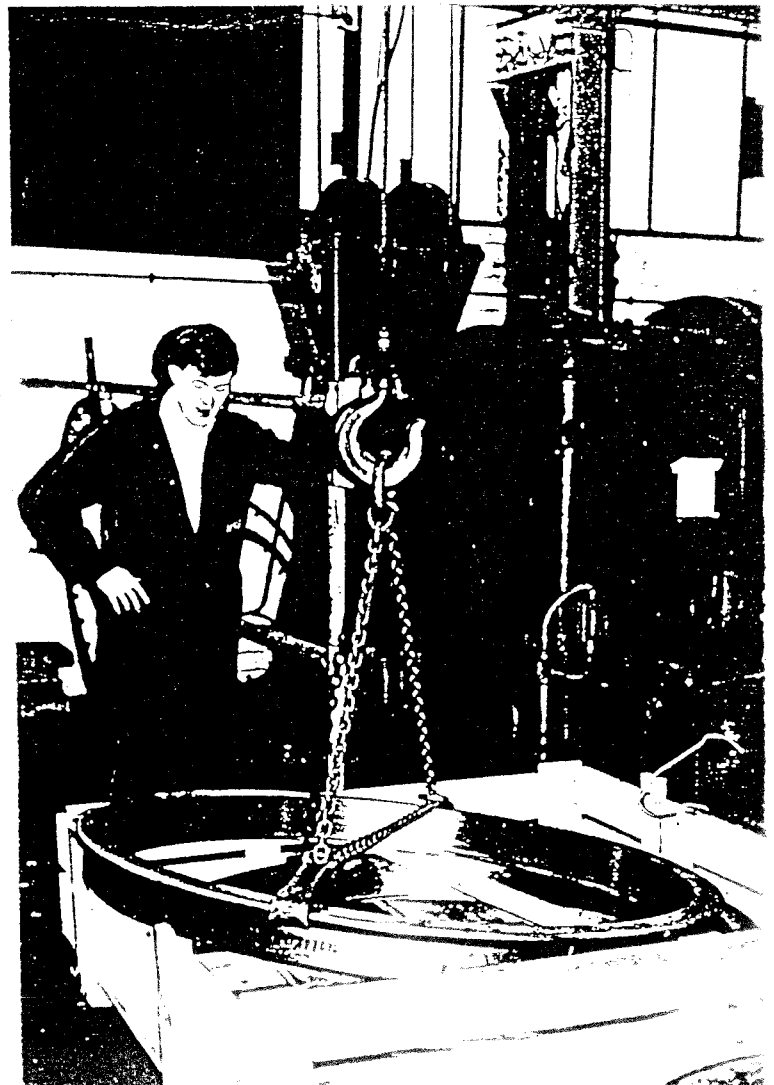
NEW TYRES ARRIVING FROM KRUPPS.

LION'S new tyres seen here being unpacked at Hunslets in Leeds.

The first pair that was sent were just too large in diameter but these were perfect.

There was a race against time to have the job completed ready for the first steaming weekend at Southport early last May

More pictures inside of the tyres being shrunk on.



JOHN HUNTLEY SHOWS WERE VERY GOOD.

OLCO NW SUPPORT HELPED BOTH JOHN AND OLCO

£IONSALS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT

Most members will now have seen the John Huntley shows entitled *The World's Oldest (LION)* and *The World's Fastest (MALLARD)*. These have been given all over the country and the majority of them have had an OLCO presence.

The lads from OLCO NW have been in attendance at every northern venue and the income from the £IONSALS of books, postcards, posters and videos has done much to swell the OLCO funds.

This small but enthusiastic group can be found at the home of Vernon Smallwood at 93 Ashton Road Newton-le-Willows almost any evening.

They do have regular formal meetings as well but one or more of the group will usually be found earnestly discussing the old railways around Haydock, watching the latest railway videos, or



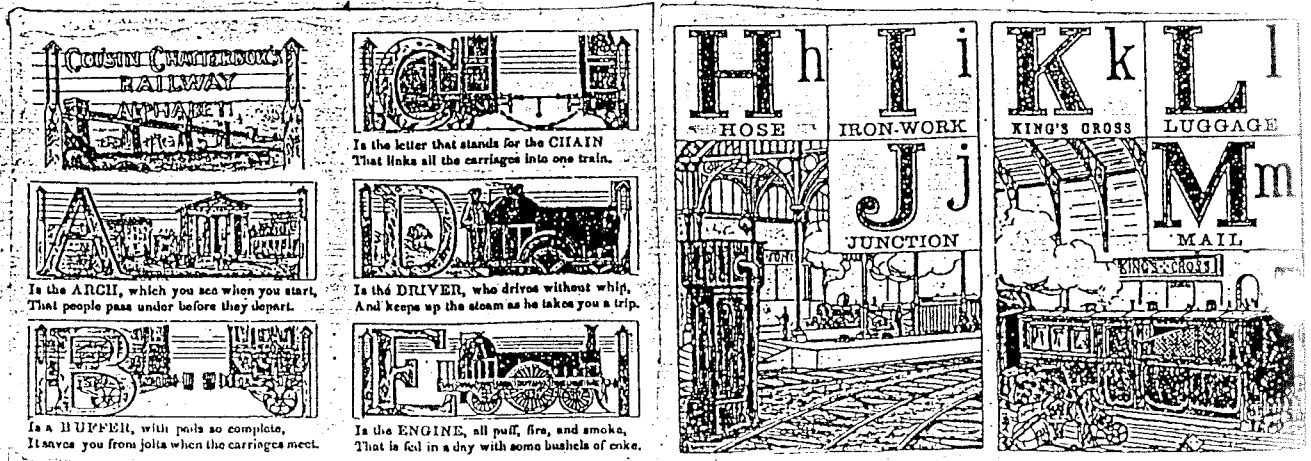
distracting Vernon from his other passion, practising on his electric organ, most evenings.

Vernon is roughly an hour away from Crewe, Dinting, Stockport, or Llandudno, and a bit less from Manchester or Liverpool. Give him a ring on 092-52-21577 and join the group. You can be certain of a very cordial welcome.

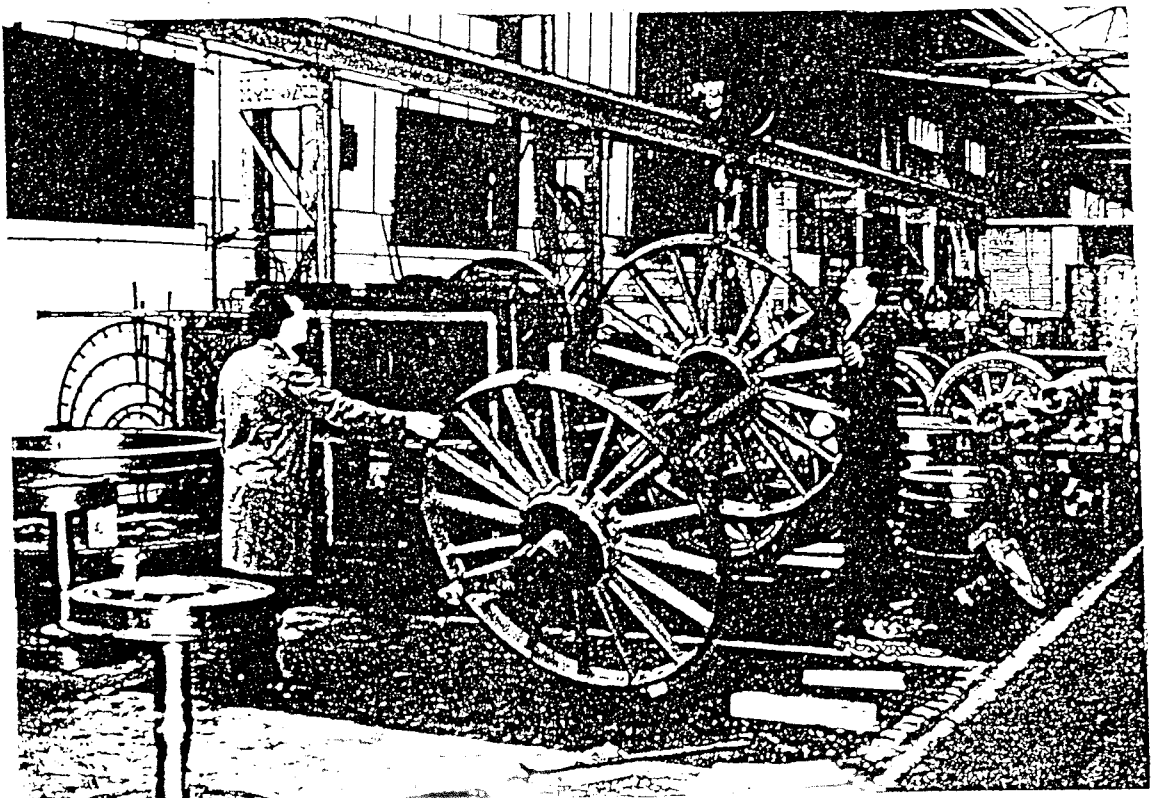
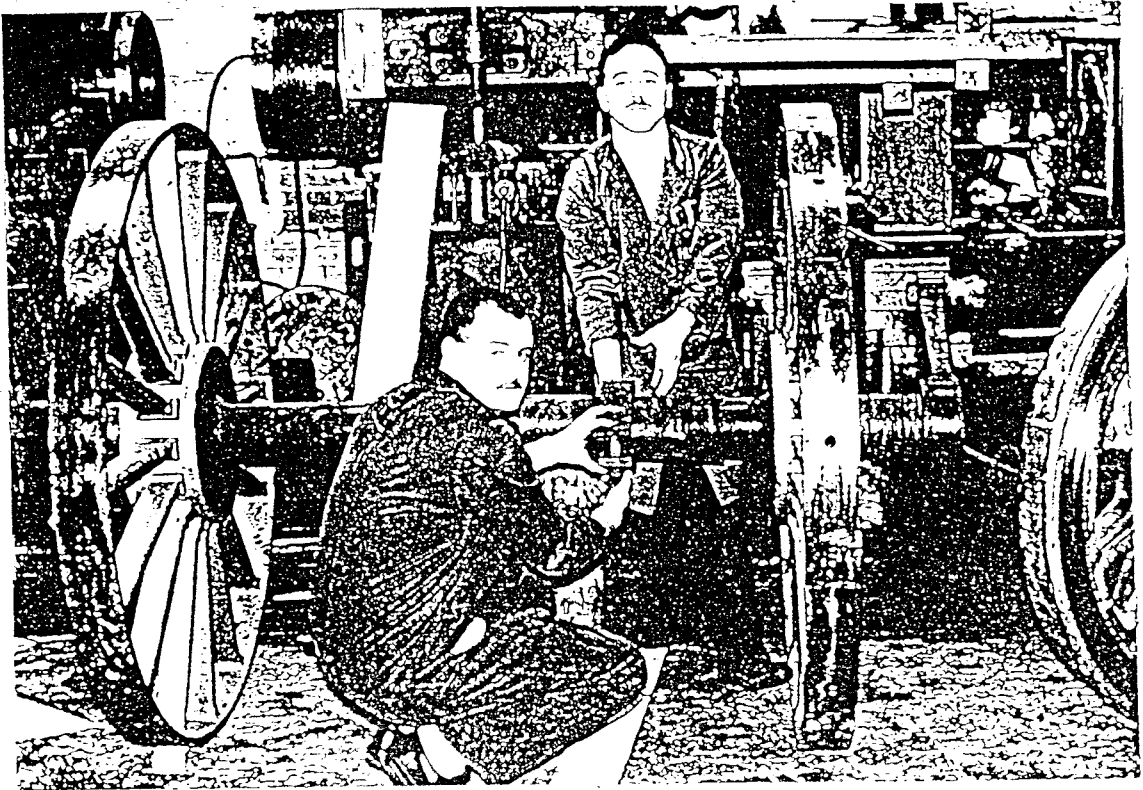
Any member or friend who has not had the pleasure of listening to a John Huntley presentation should make an effort to go. They really are very good value. He is a fascinating speaker in his own right and never fails to mention the OLCO stand, urging the audience to visit our display after the show.

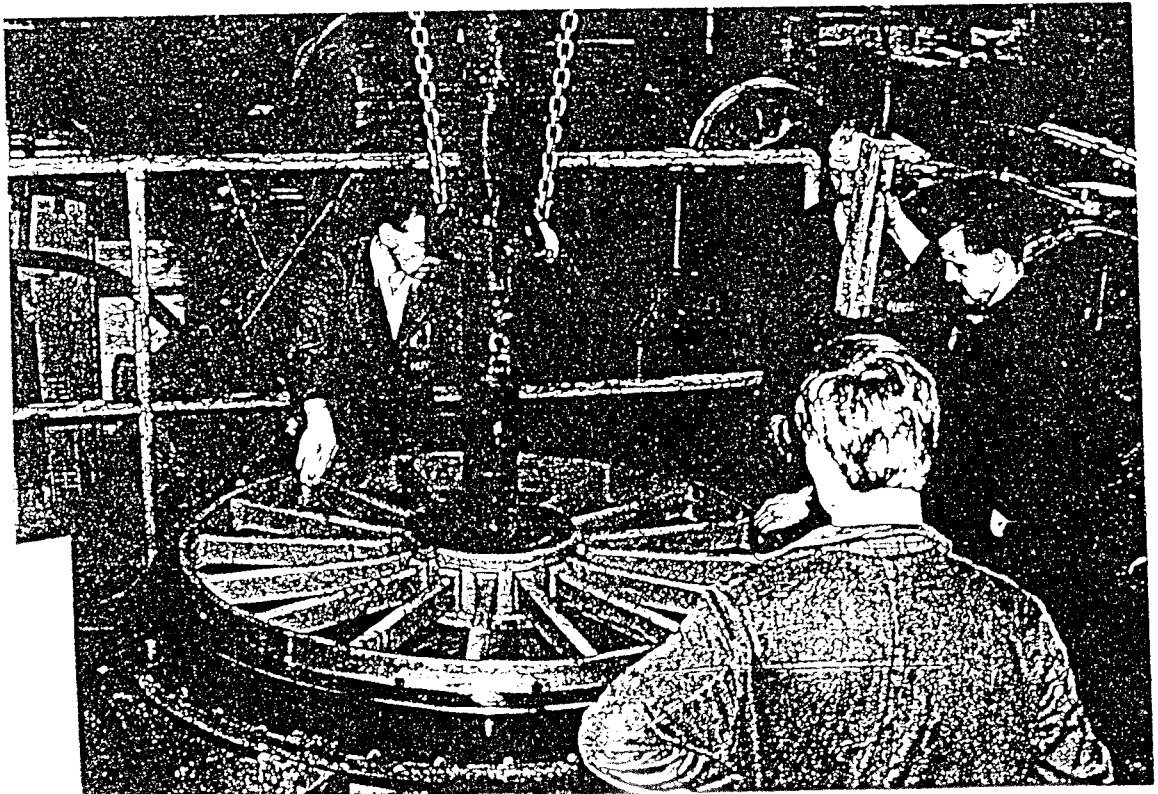
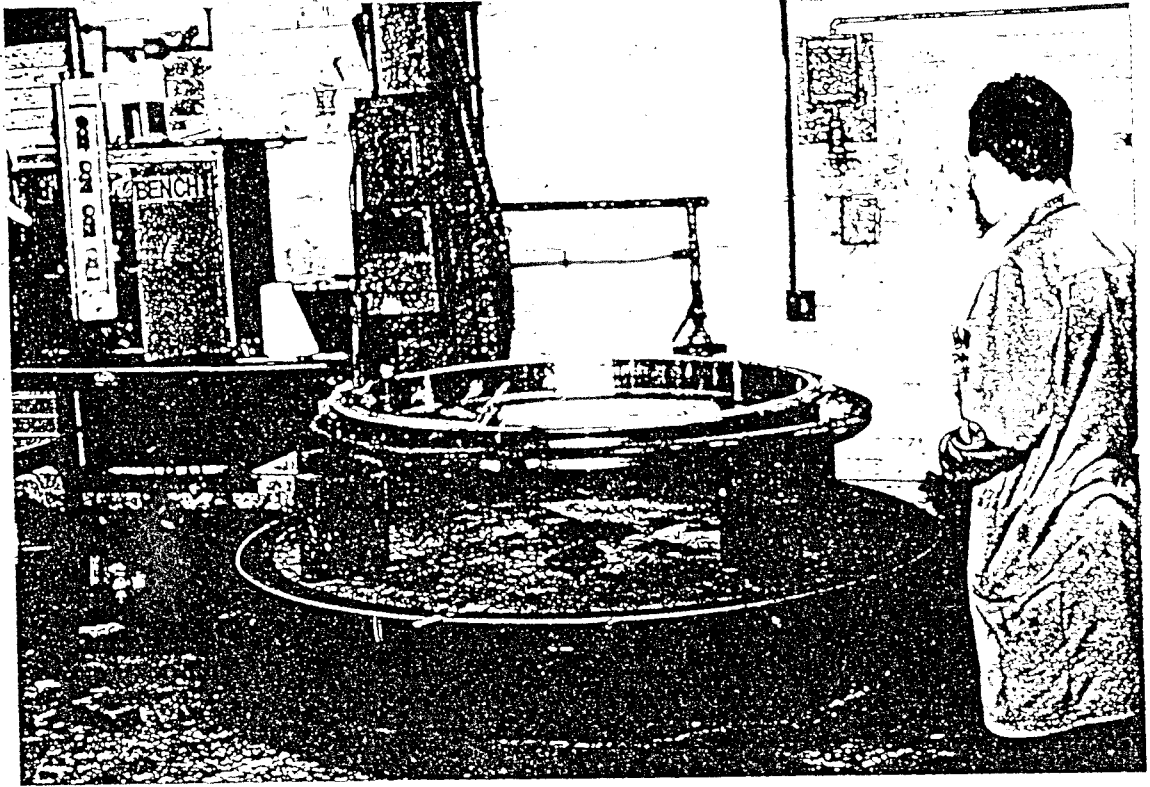
FACSIMILE ALPHABETS

The Victoria and Albert Museum has published a slim volume called "A COLOUR facsimile of TWO Victorian RAILWAY Alphabets" one said to date from 1852 and the other from circa 1889. Although the pictures appear to depict scenes approx 20 years earlier in each case. Quite a fun thing to look at.



**A BIG "THANK YOU" TO EVERYONE
DINTING IN WINTER WAS LESS THAN FUNNY.
HUNSLET'S WORKED HARD**





THE VENUES; A Commentary.

CREWE; OPPORTUNITIES LOST

Signposting by the AA "Too expensive"!

Crowds too few too late

Following our expression of sincere concern for the health of Crewe Heritage Centre (still one of our favourite venues) in the last LIONSHEART we heard that the "AA" had not failed to signpost the site. A local councillor had declared it to be "too expensive" without actually putting a figure on the statement. It was this failure to authorise a mere £120 or so until a few weeks before the Centre closed that was yet another contributing factor towards the poor attendance in 1988.

Nothing will happen now for another year at least whilst a major food store is built on what is now the Car Park. Then it is hoped it will become a centre for Steam Specials. We hope so too. A former resident of the Borough, now living in the south, still gets the 'Crewe Chronicle' regularly. These two cuttings would be hilarious if they were not so sadly symptomatic of the malaise which is afflicting a wonderful Centre with a very dedicated Staff.

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry gave us a very hospitable reception and some very enjoyable weekends. It was unfortunate that we had been misled into believing that their drivers were all 'officially qualified' when in fact they were only 'site qualified' by the Curator and not by the DTI. The 'snatch' starts and excessive use of the emergency air brake cannot have helped to preserve LION.

Nevertheless some of their members have now become OLCO members and we welcome them into our ranks and applaud their sincerity in wishing to learn more about just how flimsy very early engines can be.

A LEGAL setback in plans to close down a town centre sex shop has left council chiefs in Crewe with a problem on their hands - an inflatable sex doll.

The life-size doll was snapped up by zealous environmental health officials who were gathering evidence for possible council court action.

Council chiefs claimed the Edleston Road shop was selling sex aids without a licence.

In an undercover operation council officials forked out £50 for the sex doll after passing themselves off as members of the public.

But civic leaders meeting behind closed doors have now decided not to prosecute after a report from a top barrister warned they were unlikely to win.

Now red-faced officials are unsure what to do with the evidence, purchased out of the rates.

'We will have to hang on to it at the moment in case we decide to prosecute in the future.'

Raid

'At the moment we are just keeping a watching brief on the situation', said a councillor.

The sex shop - which is just 50 yards from a primary school - has already survived previous council court action and a council-led raid.

The London-based owners claim only a small proportion of goods for sale are sex items and say they don't need a council licence.

Council officers are staying tight-lipped over the future of the doll.

'We don't want the press blowing this up out of all proportion', said one official.

"Sadly symptomatic of the malaise which is afflicting a wonderful Centre with a very dedicated Staff."

Planners, for some inexplicable reason, decided to rename the street The Mount when replacing the old fading nameplate.

Now residents are regularly pestered by deliverymen and visitors searching for the place.

Local councillors point to lack of local knowledge of council officials based in Crewe since the merger of local government in 1974.

Now they fear replacement with a proper sign might leave planners looking for somewhere else to call The Mount so that they can plant the fictitious nameplate somewhere else!

What's happened to Mount Drive?

DELIVERYMEN looking for Mount Drive in Nantwich will almost certainly need a little help from locals since the borough council blessed one of the town's oldest streets with a brand new sign.

THE VENUES; A Commentary.

TYSELEY

Tyseley is another of our favourites, not least because, like Manchester, they are experts at pulling in the crowds.

They have a costume group of their own which happily joined ours in celebrating the double sesquicentenary of both *LION* and that of the London and Birmingham Rly. A slight communication problem, when the 'office' had not informed the stewards why we were there and the exact function of OLCO, was rapidly resolved. Particularly when the public wanted to know more about *LION* and OLCO were the only people on-site with the answers.

It was unfortunate that the mid-week arrival of the Prince of Wales (in person, not the locomotive), was delayed. Another engagement that same afternoon only allowed for him to have one run on the footplate and no time to chat to the staff. Even so members of OLCO were there, and in costume!

Wroughton, of course, was Wroughton as ever. *LION* was back, just as she had been the year that OLCO was re-formed. The weather was kind, enabling us to hold our late summer barbecue in comfort and we also had a fuller collection of models for this years LIONSMEET.

It was impossible to have a competitive event for the Chairmans shield on the portable track. No doubt August Bank Holiday Sunday at Cheltenham this year will see lots of little *LIONS* challenging each other again quite fiercely.



Members of both the Tyseley and OLCO costume groups at the sesquicentenary of the London & Birmingham Rly.

Below left; The youngest member of both OLCO and the costume group being fussed over by some of the ladies from the group including his mum in the centre.

Dad is on the engine blowing the whistle as a lullaby!

LIONSMEET

LIONSMEET is planned for the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Cheltenham M.E.S. wish to host us this year. This will be a nice counterbalance to the event in Llandudno on the previous Bank Holiday weekend in May.

These events are proving so popular that we need to hold two each year; North AND South of Watford!

We shall be supporting, mainly as individuals rather than as OLCO *per se*, the Subscription Lunch to mark the 150th. anniversary of the Airedale Foundry at Kitson College, in Leeds, (an old friend of OLCO) on Saturday 13th. May. Places will be strictly limited. You should apply early for tickets. See notice on the back page.



WHERE NEXT? 1990 AND BEYOND!

LLANDUDNO AT WHITSUN

THE MANCHESTER BIRMINGHAM SESQUICENTENARY NEXT YEAR

ROCKET AT WROUGHTON?

(OLCO CANCELS THE SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR)

PLUS LIONSMEET, AND THE AGM.

1989 WILL BE BUSY.

CALENDAR for 1989.

This is a fairly firm schedule of most our plans for 1989. Experience in previous years has shown that activities were more likely to be increased at short notice than cancelled altogether.

Only one weekend was likely to have been designated as a Costume Event. This would have been Wroughton on the second Sunday in September (the 10th.), when we expected to have been stewarding *ROCKET*. However Tony Hall-Patch has finally retired and his successor has decided to have the Cricklade Railway saddle tank instead.

It can never be presumed that any new Curator would continue to prescribe the Mixture exactly 'as before'. Sometime in the future there maybe an opportunity for him to become as good a friend to OLCO as Tony has been over the years, and whom we hope to go on seeing for many more years to come at those venues where OLCO will be functioning with Old Locomotives or their Replicas.

As an organisation we have no particularly great enthusiasm for stewarding ordinary steam engines which can be seen in steam almost every weekend throughout the year at their own preservation sites. Wroughton is an excellent day out for the entire family. Individual members are encouraged to continue their support but there will be never be any necessity to have an official OLCO presence for such a modern engine and two Brake-Vans.

'Llandudno at Whitsun' will turn out to be a very big event. At first it was thought that it might either be a trial run for next year, or could even have been

Basically the object is to re-enact the scene depicted in Ron Broys painting, commissioned by David Neish, of the event filmed by the LMS in 1938 for their publicity film *CORONATION SCOT* and now available in a video from Woolworths. Title; GREAT BRITISH TRAINS.

The four tracks where the scene was shot are now a major road. Several M.E. Societies want to be involved, hence there is likely to be an M.E. Exhibition in the nearby school. Four parallel portable tracks will be erected in the field which is adjacent to the original event. We have been promised a 5"6. streamlined *CORONATION SCOT* and needless to say several versions of *LION* will be available. We are assured of the same hill in the background but are awaiting confirmation that a 5"6. 4-4-0 *GEORGE V* or two, in L&NWR colours, will attend. If anyone can help we'd like to hear quite soon.

Negotiations for a venue to hold our AGM in Llandudno on the same Saturday, followed by a dinner involving all the participating societies are underway. (The owner of the hotel is a model engineer!) If all goes to plan this will be a spectacular Bank Holiday weekend and please DO NOT FORGET that this AGM is vital to the future of OLCO. The Constitution requires members of the Executive to retire after serving four years as an E.O.

A new Chairman, new Secretary and a new editor of *LIONSHEART* will be required, not just because the constitution says so, but because fresh faces should be good for OLCO. In any case there is all the planning for the M/cr. & Brghm. Rly's 150th. next year. Whatever the future of *LION*, either as a working or static exhibit, OLCO

THE RON BROYD PAINTING RE-ENACTED.

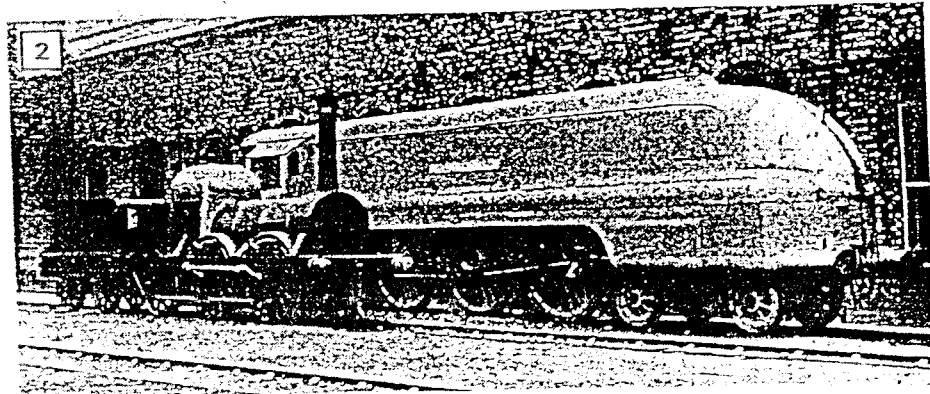
5" GAUGE MODELS OF THE THREE LOCOS IN STEAM.

LLANDUDNO M.E.S. TO HOST THE EVENT

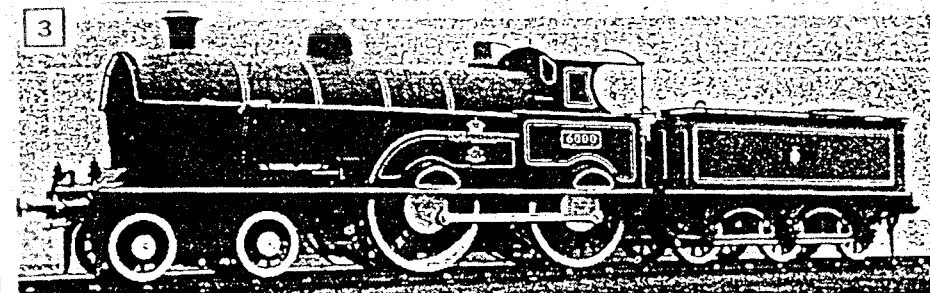
SATURDAY 27th. MAY CHOSEN.

Actually the event will probably be on Sunday 28th May. This is about as close as we can get to the anniversary, Sunday 13th. June in 1937, when the original event took place. Our AGM and dinner will be on the Saturday night. The Dinner should be quite a big affair with members of the participating clubs and the host club, North Wales M.E.S., joining in.

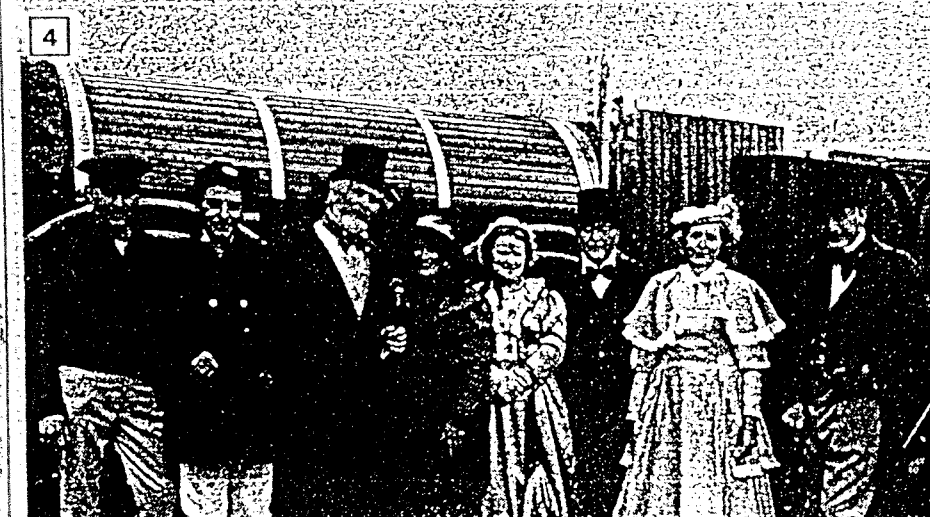
Ron Broyd, the artist who painted the picture, expects to be there with a small exhibition of his paintings. Model Engineers from Warrington, Urmston and Stockport have expressed an interest in the event. Alan Woods from the Harrow and Wembley M.E.S has promised to bring his blue streamlined 5"G. model of No.6220 *CORONATION* and the stalwarts from OLCO NW, many of whom are also members of the interested Model Engineering Societies, will be keeping a close eye on the arrangements.



Bob Stark, the Secy. of the N.Wales M.E.S. thought, like most of us that this would be a nice gentle occasion for his club has suddenly discovered that it is like taking a finger out of the wall of the dyke. Interest, like the floodwater is overwhelming.



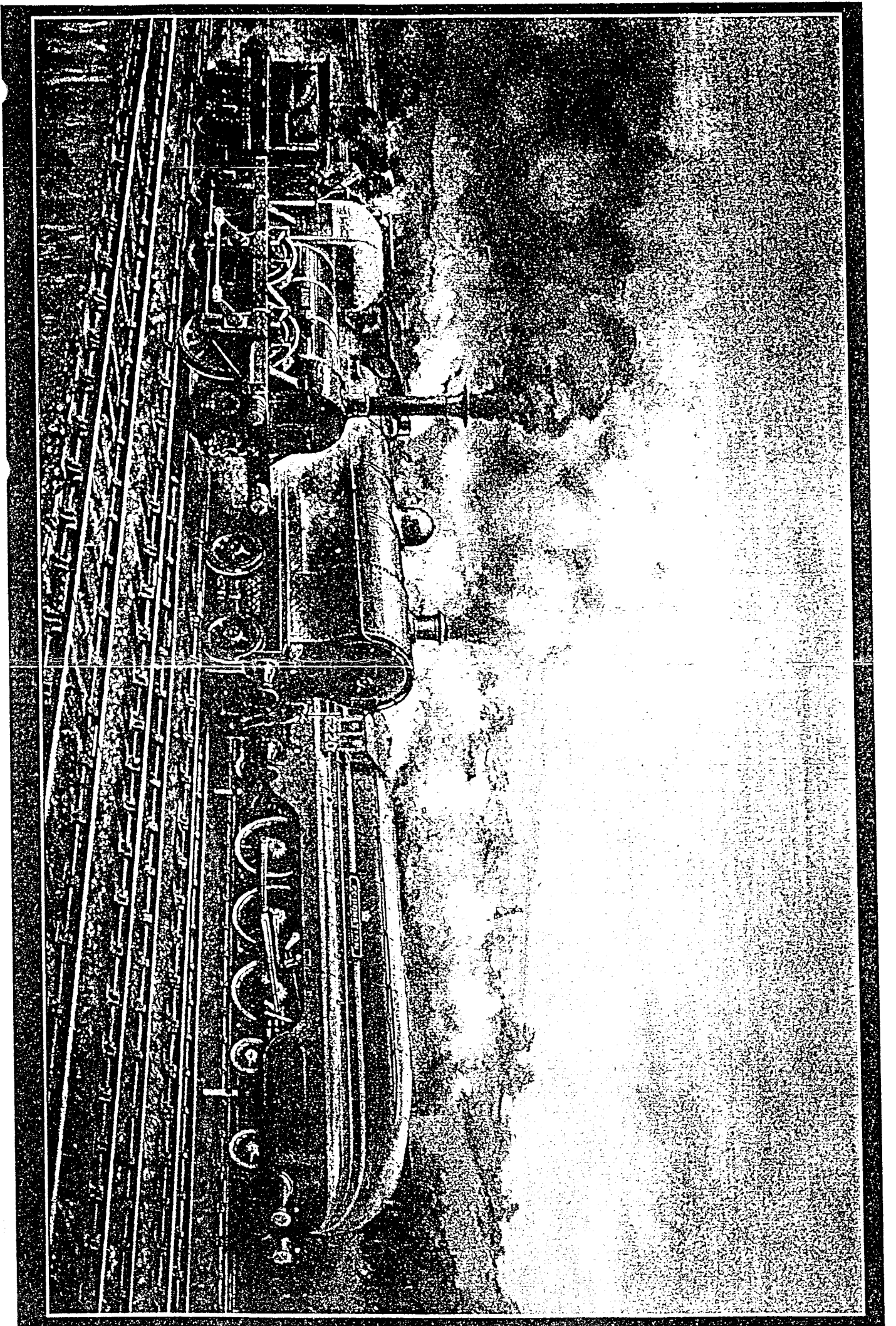
Some pictures on this page first appeared in an article about the painting in Model Engineer 3rd.Jun. 1988 together with a full colour reproduction of the painting covering the centre pages.

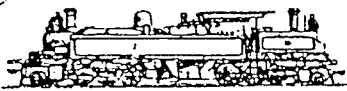


The copyright remains with the Artist



3: Note the absence of sand boxes in front of the splashers in this photo of No. 5000, Coronation. They were acquired later when she entered service. (Photo courtesy L.N.W.R. Society Photographic Library).
4: A shot taken at Crewe Heritage Centre during 1987, members of OLCO dressed in period costume pose with Lion.





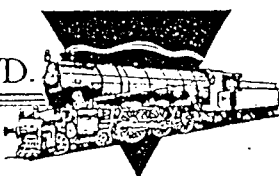
AIREDALE FOUNDRY LEEDS

150th ANNIVERSARY

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*A Luncheon is to be held to celebrate
the opening of*

AIREDALE FOUNDRY

Leeds

on 13th May 1839

to be held at

KITSON COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, LEEDS

Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 8BL

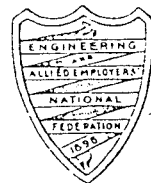
(by kind permission of R. J. O'Brien Esq., Principal)

on

SATURDAY 13th MAY 1989

12.00 noon for 1.00pm

£15.50 per ticket including wine with meal



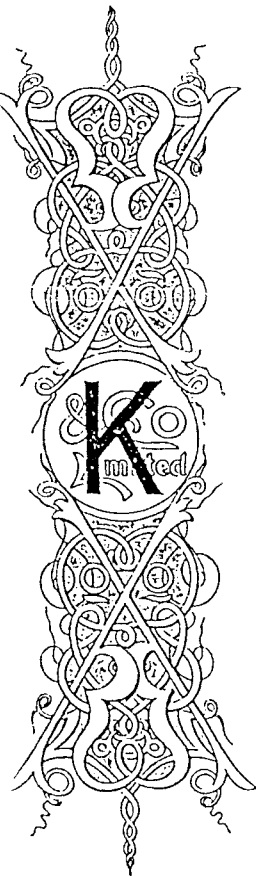
Applications to:

Airedale Luncheon
Brewood Hall
Brewood
Stafford ST19 9DB

(an s.a.e. would be appreciated)

Queries to: 0234 - 781224

The above arrangements may be modified or cancelled in the event of insufficient response, in which case all monies will be refunded.



May 13th 1839
Airedale Foundry

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Address
1	J. S.
2	J. S.
3	J. S.
4	J. S.
5	J. S.
6	J. S.
7	J. S.
8	J. S.
9	J. S.
10	J. S.
11	J. S.
12	J. S.
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14	J. S.
15	J. S.
16	J. S.
17	J. S.
18	J. S.
19	J. S.
20	J. S.

Reduced Facsimile of Root Wages Record.

**PLAN OF
AIREDALE FOUNDRY,
LEEDS.**

1923.

