

Friends of PRESIDENT



STEAMING UP

May 2008

From the Editor

Another year passes and hopefully a more successful one than last year is to follow. I am determined to do my bit in revamping “Steaming up” and “195” and as the new editor it has been suggested that I include other “articles” of interest within its pages besides the all important President, Kildare & F.O.P. matters that make up “Steaming up”

There are to be (as you will see from this issue), many other snippets of interest such as the events & progress at BCLM, Back Cabin Recipes, Quiz and the ‘What’s This Then’ competition where lucky? winners with the correct answers at next years AGM meeting may win a very small prize but only if you are there.

To make “Steaming up” of even greater interest to a wider range of members we NEED YOU to help in its production by sending in articles of interest, not only the valued trip reports, but also other interesting stuff you may know of – funny or serious. Pics of the boats or crew to be included in a rogues gallery in the next “195” perhaps.

I look forward to being inundated with stuff

Dave Speer

News

The 2008/9 AGM was held at the BCLM on Sat 5th April and was reasonably well attended and all FOP Officials were returned for another year. Following a buffet lunch a forum was held to discuss things events & happenings for 2009 and President’s centenary.

Much useful information came out of the four groups and it will be collated into what is going to be a great year – watch this space. Anyone with any ideas please let any committee member know

Dave Speer

‘Happenings’.....

As a matter of further interest, here are some of the events at the B.C.L.M. over the next three months,
June.

Saturday 7th – Sunday 22nd Trolley 21.
Sunday 15th Fathers Day. (go on,,, spoil him!)

Weekend 21st & 22nd Steam weekend.

July.

Saturday 12th 1920’s Jazz night.
Sunday 13th Sunday School

anniversary.

Sunday 27th B.C.L.M. Vehicle Rally.

September.

Friday 12th & Sunday 14th Heritage
Open day.

Saturday 13th Women Chainmakers
Festival.

Weekend 13th & 14th Living History
weekend.

Dave Speer

From Down the ‘Ole

The winter’s work continues at a moderate pace with electrical and gas work completed on Kildare, together with, on President, the normal draining, opening up of the manhole and mudholes and cleaning all the gunge and silt from the bottom of the boiler.

When David Stott and I are back from our respective holidays, we will be boxing up the boiler, getting the insurance inspections done and steaming !!! The inspections should be a

formality, of course, given last year's retubing.

On the non-routine side, we have decided to replace the Weir pump which has proven notoriously unreliable over the last few seasons. The Weir has been disconnected and is laying on the engine room floor waiting a lift out with the crane.

To replace it we have acquired a new (to us) banjo style feed pump from Preston Steam which will mount on the cabin wall in a similar position to the Weir but with a smaller footprint. Brian Empsall is kindly performing a complete strip and refurbish of the new pump to give us, hopefully, a number of seasons of trouble-free service.

In addition we have to make some changes to the pipework around the exhaust box (which we installed last year) to avoid an annoying valve operating noise.

Around that time we will need all hands at Working Parties to load coal, clean boats, touch up paint etc. before we go away to East Anglia.

New fenders have been fitted to President which look very smart and a new fridge is being ordered for Kildare.

Looking forward, we have a fairly major programme of work for next winter including, extended dry dock, new forecabin on Kildare, repaint of both boats, blacking of both boats.

This, of course, to make the boats the very best they can be for President's 100th birthday season.

Please support the Working Parties when they are called, it makes it an awful lot easier when there are pairs of hands to share the load !!

Yours in grime

Bob Crompton



Oops!

Here's a picture of Bob in one of his prouder moments



(Ed)

An Alaskan Trip

Whilst I was in Alaska recently I took a ride on the narrow, 3-ft gauge White Pass and Yukon Railway, built in 1898 originally to carry men and materials on their way to and from the Klondike gold rush. The WP&YR railway was considered an impossible task but it was literally blasted through coastal mountains in only 26 months.

The \$10 million project was the product of British financing, American engineering and Canadian contracting. Tens of thousands of men and 450 tons of explosives overcame harsh and challenging climate and geography to create "the railway built of gold."

The WP&YR climbs almost 3000 feet in just 20 miles and features steep grades of up to 3.9%, cliff-hanging turns of 16 degrees, two tunnels and numerous bridges and trestles. The steel cantilever bridge was the tallest of its kind in the world when it was constructed in 1901.

The 110 mile WP&YR Railroad was completed with the driving of the golden spike on July 29, 1900 in Carcross, Yukon connecting the deep water port of Skagway, Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon and beyond to northwest Canada and interior Alaska.



Gazing out of the window at the scenery as we approached Skagway, I was amazed to see some familiar figures painted on the side of a steam engine standing derelict by the track. I had to walk back to photograph it.....



Richard Thomas



The coal fired range was once the main source of cooking and heating within a home, be that home a boat, a vardo (gypsy caravan) a cottage, mansion, castle or shepherds hut.

Some of us are lucky (or unlucky) enough to have experienced being able to use one of these wonderful if sometimes temperamental devices at some time, (or in my case, most of my adult life)

The beauty in their appearance and design, no matter how simple or elaborate, is reflected in the wonderful food cooked to perfection that is brought forth from the confines of an oven which lies next to a heart of flame.

This heart of flame is responsible for the delicious offerings cooked within, or indeed atop of this beautiful piece of ironwork, - but don't be mislead,, all hell can and does break loose from time to time, usually (as with Presidents boiler) right when you least expect it too, and the "cooked to perfection" food is anything but!

However, on the whole, almost anything that can be produced in a modern oven/hob can with care, be done on a range too.

Dictated only by time and room to prepare the food,, Back Cabin Recipes will be kept basic and easy to produce, but no less delicious than a banquet!

Simple Veg Soup

Light stove, build up to a good heat approx 30/40 mins, add fuel as necessary to maintain temperature. Place pans on hot side (above fire) to boil, cool side (above oven) to simmer. Open (or close) damper to adjust fire temperature.

1 medium potato per person. (+ 1)
 1 medium carrot per person (+ 1)
 1 turnip
 2 large onions
 1 leek
 oxa's (4 per pan - minimum)
 herbs (optional)
 part baked bread cobs
 1 or 2 large pans (from Kildare)

Peel and chop potatoes, carrots, turnip and onions into chunky pieces, chop leek into 'rounds'.

Place all vegetables into pan/s and cover vegetables with cold water.

Place pan/s on stove top (hot side) bring to boil.

Add oxa's, herbs and seasoning, stir gently.

Move pans across to simmer for a minimum of 1 hour or until vegetables are soft to cut.

This can be left on the stove until required, stir frequently, add a drop more water/oxa's if needed.

Place bread cobs in oven about 8/10 minutes before serving.

**DON'T LET THE FIRE GO OUT TO FIND THE
 B***** COAL!**

Annie.

Steaming up Quiz

Each edition of Steaming up will contain 5 questions and 195 will contain 10.

Answers will be given at next years AGM together with prizes for the winners

Questions

- 1 Which of the following canals were not part of Brindley's Grand Cross?
 - a Trent & Mersey Canal
 - b Staffs & Worcester Canal
 - c Thames & Severn Canal
 - d Oxford Canal
 - e Shropshire Union Canal

- 2 Where was Dusty Millers Print set?
 - a Braunston
 - b Birmingham
 - c City Road
 - d Leicester
 - e Nottingham

- 3 Which of the following numbers is not on the side of Kildare?
 - a 1396
 - b 21743
 - c 25532
 - d 12009
 - e 1287
 - f 274

- 4 To what do the figures 150, 150, 15 refer to on President?

- 5 What makes Kildare unique amongst preserved buttys?

Whats this then

Each edition will contain 2 or 3 pictures taken from an unusual angle – its your job to determine what they are. Again answers at the AGM – be there

1



2



3



Ar Ely



Nahthen, mi names Ely, don't ask me why I dunno me mam mustve givit mi. Anyroad there ah woz just standin mindin mi own biznis byte side o't cut wen ther cum this gert racket from undert bridge yer cudnt see nowt cos at steam see, anyroad, this gert bow comes through bridge oyl, an ont backs this damn big chimley, ah thowt "wot th'ells this" then ah realized, it wer one o' them steamboats as wot traveled cut wen me Dad wer a lad, thowt I'd betta goan av a sken at this, so a guz over an reads it's name, President it sez, wi another un behind cald Kildare. "Owdoo" I sez tut lad ont back, "owdoo" sez he, Werz thee goin wi this lot?" Tut national boat rally e sez, but were stopping ere for some snap. Snap, , SNAP! Nah, wen I waz a lad, we dint stop fo no snap, we dint stop fo nowt. Anyroad, e wer struggling gerrin t' boat in, so I sez "chuck uz yer strap lad, an I'll give it a snatch" Thanks mate, e sez, thez some bollards darn their

t' tie too. Dint av bollards in my day wen I wer a lad, just rings, or a darn gert lump a steel that yer ammerd inter t' bank. Anyroad, wi some pushin an pullin an uffin an puffin we finally got boats tied up, I wer standin admiring t' boats, thi lookt ryte gradely tha knows, wen art a this 'ole int side comes this face circled wi wyte 'air all round it. "Elloo young man, ow are you?" E sez, Gradely thanks lad, I sez, Waarm job thas got their lad, nah, wen me Dad wer a lad, these things wer up an darn t' cut all t' time tha knows, that wer darnt south mind, int posh arf at country, weer you come up from no dowt.

Anyroad, be now there wer arf a dozen on em ont towpath all scoffin an suppin taye like it wer gooin art a fashion, then affoor a knows owt, ad gorra mug o' the same shuvd into me mits. Eeee, it wer good! Is thee gooin up locks afta? I sez, al gi thee 'and if yer like, "thanks" e sez, yer ready now I sez, cos in my day, we went up an set all t' locks for us sens, Aye,, yerv got to lerram know the yoor locks tha knows.....

To be continued...



(Ely's views and opinions are not necessarily those of FOP or it's members)

Boating Schedule 2008

- 1 Crick Boat Show, Saturday 24th to Monday 26th May - Trade Stand only
- 2 To Foxton, Saturday 7th to Friday 13th June
- 3 Foxton Gathering, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th June
- 4 To Billing Lock, River Nene, Monday 16th to Saturday 21st June
- 5 Crew change at Billing Lock, Saturday 21st, (through Denver pm 28th June) then via Prickwillow, River Lark mooring at Waterbeach Sunday 29th June
- 6 To Cambridge, Friday 4th to Sunday 6th July (in steam at Cambridge, 5th and 6th July)
- 7 To Bedford, Monday 7th to Sunday 13th July (in steam at the Bedford River Festival, 12th and 13th July)
- 8 To Ely, Monday 14th to Sunday 20th July (in steam at Ely, 19th and 20th July)
- 9 To March, Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th July (via Denver and Upwell)
- 10 To Gayton Junction, Monday 28th July to Saturday 2nd August
- 11 Crew change at Gayton Junction, Saturday 2nd August, arriving BCLM Friday 8th August
- 12 TGWU Day at BCLM, Saturday 9th August
- 13 Netherton Tunnel Celebrations Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th August
- 14 To IWA National Festival at Aurtherly Junction, Friday 22nd August
- 15 At Festival, Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th and return to BCLM on Tuesday 26th August
- 16 At National Festival on Sales Stand, Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th August
- 17 To Parkhead Gathering and return to BCLM, Friday 26th to Monday 29th September

As you can see there is plenty going on – if **YOU** want to be part of it give Richard Thomas a ring & find out what trips still have vacancies

Contact Richard Thomas by email on thrifthouse@ntlworld.com or telephone 01992 466180 or 07801 144007

Gallery (send your pics for inclusion in the next issue of **Steaming Up.**)



President at Home Nov 4th 2007



Artwork on Folding Table



Sunrise over Goole Sept 7th 2007



Entering top lock of Chester Flight
20th June 2006



Peaceful evening at the Bratch
30th June 2006



Hull Sea Shanty Sept 1st 2007
(all images by D. Speer)

F.O.P. & Beyond.

A look at the hobbies, pastimes and obsessions of our F.O.P. members away from their beloved F.M.C. boats

All aboard for Beachy Head....

This is not going to be about the infamous beauty spot on the South Downs, but about building a replica locomotive of that name. The original was built in Brighton Works in July 1911, its purpose along with the other 5 locos built around that time, was to haul trains between London and Brighton a distance of 52 miles in 1 hour.

The loco weighs in at 108 tons, that's including the tender, (loco 68.5 tons, tender 39.5 tons) this includes 4 ton of coal and 3500 gallons of water plus what was in the boiler and coal in the firebox.

In 1958 this loco was cut up for scrap at Eastleigh Works, the work force at the time were against it as it was the sole survivor but the powers that be said cut it up or your out of work, no choice really !!!!.

The building of the replica was muted back in October 2000, prior to this the Bluebell had acquired a Great Northern boiler from a factory in Essex, the loco works manager had been over there to chose one out of four that were there and after examining them picked the one we now have for our project.

The boiler was transported to the Bluebell Rly and laid in the boiler park for 20 years.

The project took off just over two years ago, but prior to this there was an awful lot of work to be done before a start could be made. Our designer spent 2 years at least producing drawings, we now have between 80 to 90 out of about 200, these are all in feet and inches and our materials would you believe are in Metric, good game, good game...

The Brighton Atlantic Group was set up to raise money so that we could build and erect a purpose built workshop which contains the boiler, main frames and a tender, there is an office where all the drawings are kept, but most importantly, a kettle for tea, and a microwave oven because we are rather partial to warm doughnuts for the 11 o'clock tea break.....



George Hopkins.

*** Perhaps you have a hobby, interest or pastime, or even what your occupation involves (or did involve should you be retired) Send us a few lines about it for an article in S.U. ***

Contact details for articles, photos comments, bribes, etc etc

To:- David Speer.
30 Salteye Road.
Peel Green.
Eccles.
Greater Manchester.
M30 7PJ.

E.Mail. nutdip@ntlworld.com