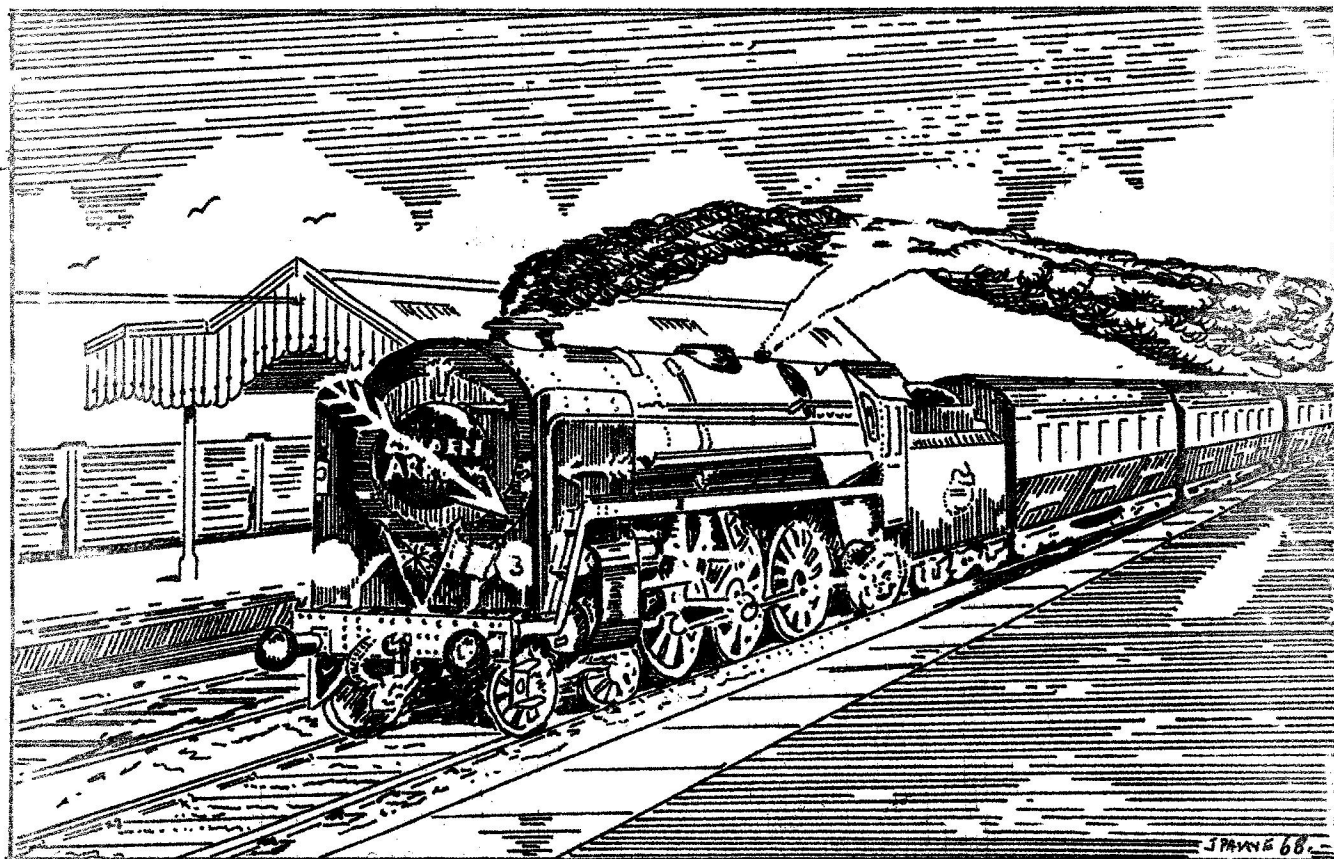


Maidstone Model Engineering Society



Chairman.

J. Payne.
38, Oxford Rd,
Maidstone,
Kent.
Phone 57545.

Secretary

C. Edwards.
13, Church Rd,
Tovil, Nr Maidstone,
Kent.

Treasurer.

P. Rootes
97, Tonbridge Rd,
Maidstone,
Kent.
58599.

January 1969.

Club Notice Board.

Annual General Meeting. The Society A.G.M. will be held on Friday 28th. February, at the TOWN HALL, at 7.30p.m. Please note the change of place! This year it will be a pure and simple A.G.M. It will not be a social gathering, as we have much to discuss. The ladies are not invited, and there will be no refreshments. If the meeting wishes, a social evening can be arranged at a later date.

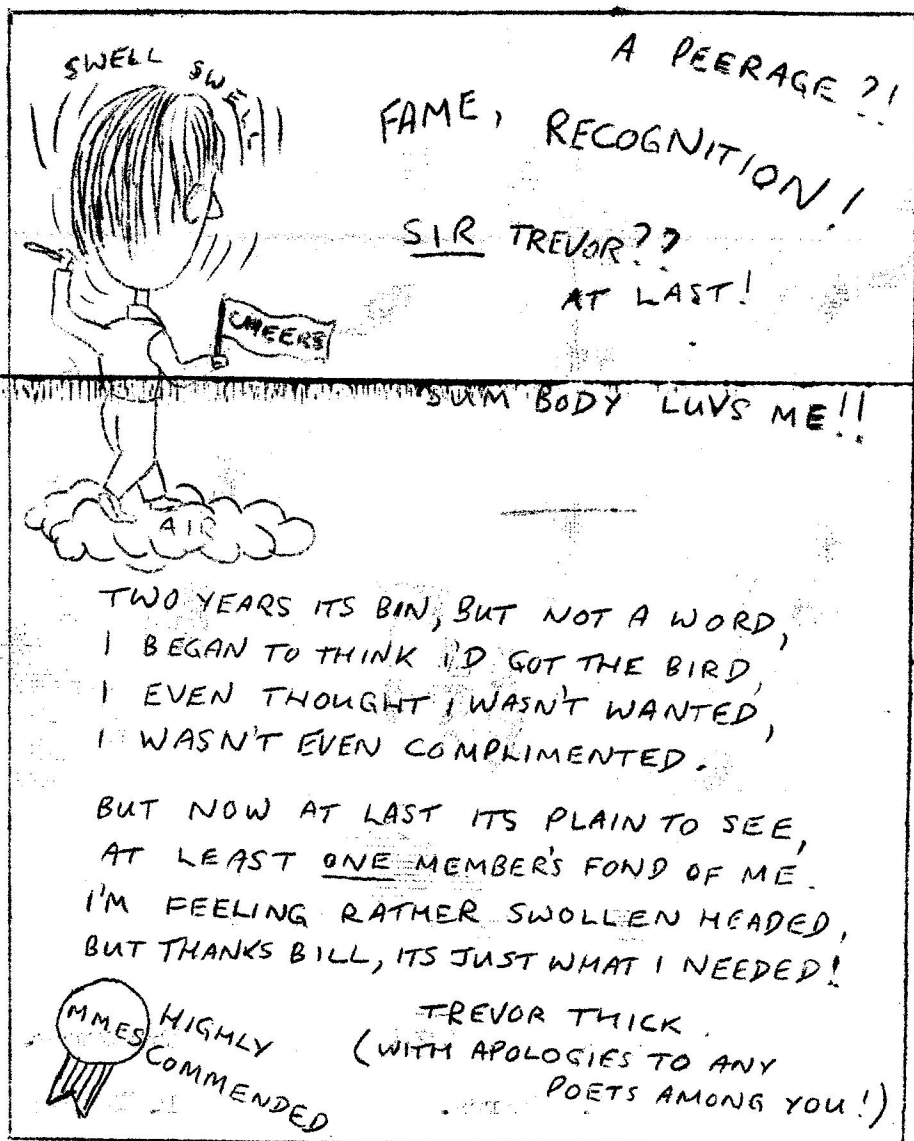
Club Passenger Trucks. There are still several club passenger trucks which need their annual overhaul. These are still at the hut in the park, and the Society would be most grateful if members could take the bogies away for attention. If you are willing to help in this, please contact the secretary.

For Sale

A large 6" Lathe complete with three and four jaw chucks face plate and a few other accessories. £70. o n o. For details contact Hon Sec.

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Curiosity Corner: It used to be widely believed on the railways that bad luck would result from turning an engine on the turntable from East to West;!!



For an explanation of this document, see the letter from the Race Car Section Chairman. It sent poor Trevor right off his tiny head! Luckily he did the drawing on page 3 before he went.

REPORT FROM A.W.BENNETT, 26 HATHERAL ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT.

(CHAIRMAN, RACECAR SECTION). January, 1969.

Now we are into 1969, let us hope for a year of good weather, with high temperatures and no rain on Sundays, and more accurate forecasting.

Our friends in Australia and the U.S.A. have received our News Letter, and mentioned it in their News Letter which circles the Globe.

The A.M.R.C.A. News Letter reports this time of the new World Record set up by Lloyd Torrey with his Rouse car of 10c.c., clocking 5.67 seconds for the quarter mile, or an average speed of 158.73m.p.h. and they are looking forward to breaking the 160m.p.h. barrier next.

In Europe they have been putting up new speed records with 5 and 2.5c.c. cars, which are the types they seem to concentrate on. Mr. Arne Zetterstrom of Sweden tells us that the new record for 5c.c. in Europe is 137m.p.h. plus, this is more than many of the standard 10c.c. cars were doing. And what about the 2.5c.c. cars breaking 120m.p.h. With these actual speeds possible why is it that we can't get more members to go to town on this exciting hobby? We have one of the best track surfaces anywhere, which starts you off with a great advantage.

With the high speeds now being achieved, our friends in the States are going

Race car Chairman's Report, (cont.)

are going to increase the diameter of the music wire cable to .059" within sixty days of the first car breaking the 160m.p.h. record.

We have heard from our friends in Australia who are doing better in terms of members than we are, and we had an Xmas card from a great character, Franny Wolfe of Pennsylvania, who specialises in Chromed cylinder liners, etc.

The recipients of our M.E.S. News Letter like our Chairman - Jack Payne's woodcut drawing of the majestic steamer with train, "The Golden Arrow", and we must say it certainly adds tone and imperial elegance to our publication. May he continue to embellish our handouts with his cartoons too.

If we can only get the support, we hope to have at least four special events starting with the Easter opening one. Surely the weather must be kind to us this year, if only on the law of averaged, so get your cars ready during the dark nights and remember, if you can only work up the necessary enthusiasm, the writer will loan you one of his, (if you are careful) and want to have a go.

If you don't have a go this year, you will have to wait for the next decade, - The Seventies!

Bill Bennett.

THE STIFF UPPER LIP - III



Over heard at the Model Engineer Exhibition:-

Small boy, looking at a model of a British Railways Standard 2-6-4 tank locomotive, complained,...

"Daddy, I've never seen a Diesel that funny shape before." !!!!

Finally, before we leave you, may we just repeat the plea we first made some time ago, for items for including in these News Letters. Anything of interest to members would be acceptable; workshop hints and tips, perhaps (some little dodge which you've found useful ?), details of some interesting work you're doing; anything like that. You'll get more out of the News Letter if you put more in!

CHAIRMAN'S NATTER SPOT.

News from New Zealand M.M.E.S.

continued from the last but one news letter.

Mr. Davis wrote on 25th July '68:-

"We have nearly finished track laying and have only a few more lengths of rail to fit in the sleepers and the whole 1238' is ready for running on. When this is done the whole area can be landscaped, native shrubs, lawns etc. Last Sunday afternoon we had an 0-40 loco running and the sounds it made running over the bridge and rock cutting were most real. I tried my loco out on the 40' radius curve and it will just get round at a moderate speed.

One of our members has just made for us an 0-4-0 petrol loco: it is powered by a 50cc 'Busy Bee' engine. It runs very well but hasn't got the same pep that a steam loco has. It will enable us to give our steam loco a well earned rest."

I wrote a letter on the 19th July. (not in reply, for our letters had crossed in the post).

On the 21th August '68. Mr Davis continues:-

"The Newsletters arrived last week-end and are now doing the rounds. I am sending you via see some of our latest ones. Have any of your chaps built the 0-6-0 5" 'Speedy'? I am thinking of building one in a hurry as we are very short of motive power. My 'K' is a great heavy brute to transport. It being a comfortable lift for three men. I feel that something a little more convenient to transport would be the answer. Reeves of Birmingham would I suppose be the most likely firm to supply the castings etc."

The new letters, most of you will have read by now.

On the 1st October '68:- Mr Davis continues:-

"At Sea, SS 'ARCADIA' Just a line to you, to let you know that we are now on our way to Hong Kong.

The other day I met on the ship a Tony Avenall who lives near you at Highland Road and he was saying that he knows you. He is one of the head waiters in the 1st class restaurants."

To these letters I replied on the 16th December 1968.

Today I had a letter by air mail dated the 12.12.68 in which Mr Davis continues:-

"This is just a short hurried note to wish you all a Very Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The year seems to have gone very rapidly. For one thing our trip around the Pacific seemed too short.

I think I wrote to you last from Hong Kong. As I mentioned to you then the high light of the trip was the journey from Tokyo to Osaka, 320 miles in 3 hrs 10mins. Since arriving home the Japanese National Railway have forwarded me all the technical data on that partical railway. It has made very interesting reading too. It is very smooth running and photographs taken from the train have come out with very little blueing. Our Society is still going well and revenue is beginning to flow into the coffers. At the moment we have a chronic shortage of motive powder. The 3½" gauge track has yet to be welded as some of the rails show a tendency to spring out of the slots in the sleepers so consequently I haven't been able to run my loco this season. There is no doubt about it a 4-8-4 has to have a very good track to run on. Our petrol loco has developed magneto trouble so we are left with a solitary 0-4-0 5" gauge steam job. The other day I purchased a I.H.P. Villiers motor to fit into an 0-6-0 loco I have just commenced. It has to be running early in February when we have thousands of people in the Park for picnics. So I'll be very busy over the Xmas period. By surface mail I must forward you some more news letters".

Well thats all the natter for now you will be able to read my other notes in my chairmans report,

All the very best as ever Jack.

18.12.68