

S.P.E.R. NEWS, SUPPLEMENT

TO TROLLEY WIRE NO. 186

FEBRUARY 1980

### BUILDING PROGRESS

The contract in the sum of \$70,578 for the Display-Operations Building Stage I was signed on 17th January, 1980. The Builder is J. W. Broomhead (Constructions) Pty. Ltd. of Balmain. This firm has been in existence since 1881 and commenced as a general engineering business. Council Building Approval was obtained on 29th February. Regular visitors to the Depot will observe that work has commenced in

earnest on site and at time of writing the completion date is 30th May.

Before the building can be filled with trams, trolley buses and tower wagons, members will need to erect the road doors, lay track and provide electricity and water supplies. Please keep a few weekends clear in May and June to help in this work.

### NOTICE - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Nominations are invited for members wishing to be elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting in June 1980. In accordance with the rules, 3 of the 7 directors retire and are eligible to offer themselves for re-election. Members offering for election, their nominator and seconder must be financial and the member offering must be over the age of 21 and hold not less than 5 shares. Nominations close with the secretary on Wednesday 21st May 1980. Directors must be prepared to accept any Board position.

R. Jones,  
Secretary.

### MEETINGS -

The next meeting of the Society will be held as usual at the Transport Institute, in Room 3, Cnr. Devonshire and Chalmers Streets, Sydney., Friday 9th May at 7.00pm. After the usual general business of announcements and review of new site developments, we will have entertainment slides and films, and the opportunity for members to socialise.

Meeting Dates for the rest of 1980  
29th August, 31st October.

27th June, Annual General Meeting  
13th December, 1980, Members Family Day  
(Provisional date).

### 1980 C.O.T.M.A. CONFERENCE - 14th to 17th June, 1980

HOSTED THIS YEAR BY BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM SOCIETY.

During the Conference, the B.T.M.S. Museum at Ferry Grove will be officially opened and operations commence.

The Conference is an ideal opportunity for meeting members of our affiliated museums. It is also the best time of the year to be in Brisbane.

Details available from David Rawlings Tel. 5207601 (home) or Peter Kahn Tel. 498-3820 (Home) or 411-1177 (work).

IN MEMORIAM.....NEWCASTLE TRAMWAYS.....19/7/1887 - 11/6/1950.

Following a lengthy confinement, the Newcastle tramway system was born on 19th July, 1887, survived electrocution on 15th December, 1923 and finally succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning on 11th June, 1950, aged 62 years. Long remembered and sadly missed by those who were fortunate to have known it.

At 1.49 a.m. on Sunday, 11th June, 1950, L/P 147 departed the Telford Street, Newcastle, terminus after having made the final trip from Waratah and returned to Hamilton Depot, thus ending the tramway era in New South Wales' second city. At that time, this was the largest Australian tramway system to have been completely abandoned in favour of buses but by the end of the decade, was certainly not the last.

For the benefit of those who knew the system and also for those who have only read of it, the Society is arranging a combined rail and bus tour to mark the 30th anniversary of the closure. For those interested in participating in this tour, we will board the Newcastle Express on Saturday, 7th June, departing Sydney 8.25 a.m., Strathfield 8.38 a.m. and Hornsby 8.59 a.m. and alight at Broadmeadow at 10.56 a.m.

Following a break for refreshments, our bus will depart Broadmeadow at 12.00 midday for a tour of the former electric tramway system. Details of the bus to be provided have not yet been finalised but it is hoped that an ex-Government double deck bus will be available.

On completion of the tour, we will again join the Newcastle Express at Broadmeadow, departing 5.19 p.m., arriving Hornsby 6.56 p.m., Strathfield 7.20 p.m. and Sydney 7.34 p.m.

The cost of the tour, including rail and bus travel, will be as follows:-

<u>First Class</u>	<u>Economy Class</u>
Adult..... \$19.00	Adult..... \$17.00
Child..... \$12.00	Child..... \$11.00

For those who wish to arrange their own transport to Newcastle, or who will be travelling on passes, etc., (sorry, SPER membership cards not accepted!) the bus only fare will be Adult \$10.00 and Child or Pensioner \$6.00.

As rail bookings must be finalised by 23rd May, please complete the application form Page 4 and rush it to SPER NEWCASTLE TOUR, BOX 103, G.P.O., SYDNEY, 2001, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to reach that address no later than Wednesday, 21st May.

Avoid disappointment and book early, as it may be necessary to limit the tour to 60 persons.

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NEXT TRAFFIC ROSTER

Applications are being called for the next roster. Would traffic staff members who are authorised please make themselves available if not already on the roster, as we are having difficulty filling the roster.

CREW TRAINING

Sessions for current trainees are usually held on the third Saturday of the month. Any enquiries to Ted Davies, Tel. 80-2334.

OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP FEES

Have you paid yours?

There are only a small handful unpaid, but how about doing the right thing.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?

Various Society Officers are required to keep a record of members' addresses for mailing of tour notices, membership renewals, traffic roster applications, etc. and in many cases, these items are either delayed in the mail, or returned "address unknown".

If you are changing your address, or have changed your address and not advised us, please advise the Secretary, Box 103, G.P.O., SYDNEY, 2001, who will advise all concerned.

Help us to help you!

AND REMEMBER, THE MUSEUM NEEDS FUNDS FOR THE NEW SITE DEVELOPMENT - THE TAXATION YEAR ENDS ON 30th JUNE. HOW ABOUT IT?

PLEASE TEAR OFF THE SECTION ON PAGE 4, COMPLETE IT AND SEND IT TO BOX 103, G.P.O. SYDNEY, 2001. WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION PAYABLE TO THE S.P.E.R. TRAMWAY MUSEUM FUND.

P.C.K. & D.H.R. etc.

NEWCASTLE TRAMWAY SYSTEM TOUR, SATURDAY 7th JUNE, 1980.

SPER,  
Box 103, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY. 2001.

Please reserve for the following:-

Rail and Bus..... First Class

..... Adults at \$19.00 \$.....

..... Children at \$12.00 \$.....

Economy Class

..... Adults at \$17.00 \$.....

..... Children at \$11.00 \$.....

Pensioner/Student/ Passholder First/Economy Class

..... Adults at \$10.00 \$.....

..... Children at \$ 6.00 \$.....

I require seats in a smoking / non-smoking car.

BUS ONLY

..... Adults at \$10.00 \$.....

..... Children at \$ 6.00 \$.....

for which I enclose cheque/M.O. for \$..... and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

PLEASE NOTE. Pensioners and Students requiring rail and bus travel should complete the relevant section of this form for the purpose of obtaining reservations and purchase their own rail tickets separately, owing to the need to produce travel authorities.

Name of person making booking: .....

Address: .....

.....

Date: .....

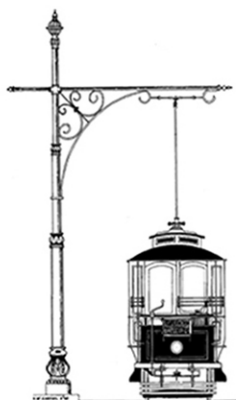
Donation to the Museum Fund

Name.....Date.....

Address.....

Amount Enclosed \$.....

Signed.....



#### RAILWAYS OVERHEAD LINE CAR

The railways overhead Line car L707 ("Gentle Annie"), former tramway ballast motor No. 42U, has been bought complete for \$200.00. Due to its height, 4.1 m compared with 3.2 m for normal trams, road transport to Loftus will be difficult, but necessary, as S.R.A. has declined to allow it to run to Sutherland under its own power. It is likely that it will be the first car

to be housed in the new depot. Interested members are invited to donate to its cost and transport.

#### LOFTUS SITE PROGRESS

At the time of writing (31st July 1980), the contract for the Display Operations building is rapidly, but belatedly, approaching completion. The builder will probably hand over to the Society about mid August. The contract is only for the "shell" of the building and the toilet block, the Society has to arrange the road doors at the South end, the water and sewerage services external to the building and electricity.

A 415 volt electricity supply the same capacity as at the old site was connected on 30th July. Considerable rearrangement of the area reticulation was carried out by the S.C.C. to provide the supply.

Water and sewer have proven to be more difficult, S.R.A. have declined to allow us to make a connection to the water supply to Loftus Station and the M.W.S. & D.B. require \$9,045 to provide the 150 mm main required by the building ordinance for fire fighting. The economics of a septic tank versus pumping to the sewer main have still to be determined.

#### MEMBERS WORK AT LOFTUS SITE

Facilities are now available, in the form of an A.B.V. van, as a workshed-lunchroom for members to carry out the immediate tasks on the new site.

Before vehicles can be moved into the shed, the South wall has to be sewered by the erection of the door columns and bases by members. Work parties are being held every Saturday and Sunday preparing the columns and erecting fencing. Your assistance is needed so that our exhibits presently stored in the open or off-site may be safely housed before the summer season commences.

### EXTRA TRAFFIC DAYS

The museum will be open on Wednesday 27th August and Wednesday 3rd September 1980 during the school holidays with full traffic operations.

### OPEN TRAINING COURSE - WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Ted Davies, the Chief Driving Instructor reports that the majority of the examinations have been returned but there are still 18 crew outstanding (including D.H.R and R.C.C.). The exam is not hard, you may look up your books for the answers, the examiners are not looking for long or elaborate answers; your own effort without perfect spelling or grammar will do!

### TRAMCAR MAINTENANCE STAFF

Maintaining the mechanical and electrical components of the tram fleet is fascinating work. Trevor Glenn is calling for additional persons to supervise and carry out maintenance work. Mechanical aptitude is required and some experience in repair work is desirable. Ask Trevor for further details.

### NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors and shareholders have pleasure in welcoming the following new members to the Society:-

Kevin D. Green	437
Bradley A. Lamp	438
David J. Doyle	439
Rodney J. Driver	440

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Members are reminded that the next ordinary meeting of the Society will be held at the Transport Institute, Cnr. Devonshire and Chalmers Streets, Surry Hills, on Friday 29th August, 1980, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The speaker is Mr. Barry Groom of M.A.A.S. and his subject is Industrial Archaeology.

The last meeting for 1980 will be held at the Transport Institute on Friday, 31st October, 1980.

Remember, your attendance at these meetings and at museum work parties is the best way of keeping informed of the latest developments at the new site and all other aspects of OUR Society's activities.

## TOURS

The Directors would like to thank those members and their friends who participated in the Society's two recent rail tours. It has been several years since the Society has ventured into the rail tours scene and this move has been prompted by the necessity to raise additional money to help meet the interest bill on the loan which we obtained through the Sutherland Shire Council. These tours, of course, are also a great way for Members and their friends to have an enjoyable day out, while at the same time adding to the Society's bank account.

As those who participated in the Metropolitan Goods Lines CPH Rail Motor tour on Saturday, 1st March, will agree, this tour was very well patronised, with 110 passengers making the trip to the not so faraway places with strange sounding names. This patronage was so unexpected that it was necessary to arrange for the CTC trailer to be provided only days before the trip operated.

The combined Rail and Bus trip to Newcastle and around the former tram routes on Saturday, June 7, though not as well patronised, was nevertheless successful and the provision of our own "private car" in the form of the ubiquitous "FS", though not originally planned, did much to create a more cordial atmosphere.

While the Rail Motor tour covered many of the unusual areas of the Sydney Metropolitan rail system which see little, if any, passenger service, there are still a few areas left "Undiscovered". These are accessible by electric train and in some instances, due to the limitations and restrictions applicable, cannot be covered by CPH Rail Motors. Arrangements are therefore being made, subject to the approval of the State Rail Authority, to cover these areas in our next rail tour. Details of this tour will be announced in due course, if approved.

## WORK PARTIES

Work parties are held at the Museum, either at the old or new sites, dependent upon where the action is, on the second Saturday of each month and all Members are cordially invited to attend.

If you cannot make it on the second Saturday of each month, there is always somebody in charge on other Saturdays to assist you in working off those excess kilograms and work parties are also held every Tuesday evening for those who are interested in the tramcar restoration aspect.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Do we have your correct address? There have been cases recently where members have complained that they have not received "Trolley Wire" or other Society notices but upon investigation, it has been discovered that we had not been advised of the new address.

Members who have changed, or are about to change their address are requested to write to the Secretary at Box 103, G.P.O., SYDNEY, 2001 and advise us of the correct address. All concerned will then be notified.