



LOCKDOWN SMOKESTACK

May 2021



Pre-Lockdown your President joined his Model Railroad Group in a visit to the Crewe Heritage Centre. Crewe is the railway centre of England and the original home of the London & North Western Railway works. Here we see the famous Royal Scot loco. In actual fact it swapped identities with 6152 The King's Dragoon Guardsmen which was in excellent condition to make its arranged visit to the USA and Canada as part of the Century of Progress Exhibition in 1933. What you see now is the post-1943 rebuild from its original Fowler condition by Sir William Stanier.

This is our Spring 2021 issue in the absence of any Rotary meetings,
other than by electronic means. Thank you for your patience!

WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE SMOKESTACK OF MORE GENERAL INTEREST! PLEASE HELP
OUT BY SUBMITTING NOTES, PHOTOS, EVEN SHORT ARTICLES.
WE CAN THEN PUBLISH IT MORE OFTEN!

It is well beyond the time for another **Smokestack**. Apologies for the delay – President Robert is about to take up Presidency of his own Rotary Club and the preparations have taken up time. The good news is that he has had his second vaccination for Covid and may well be let out of house arrest soon. Sadly we are still not able to meet even close IFRR friends in person.

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The President and the Board have been the usual contributors to **Smokestack**.

In this issue we have some from other members and fellow Rotarians who are yet to join us. This is a much needed change – we cannot write it all as you see above.

We know that many Railroad attractions are at the moment still closed or have limited access and there may be little to report. However, anything current or historic would be a welcome addition from other IFRR members. Have a go!

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LATEST NEWS

Thanks to longtime IFRR Webmaster Jamie Foster!
We are now seeking his replacement!



A hearty Thank You goes out to our long time IFRR webmaster Jamie Foster who will be “retiring” from that position at the end of the year. Jamie volunteered to create our neat website years ago and has been our webmaster ever since - rapidly updating the content as needed and sprucing up its look when requested! Jamie also created our current logo. Jamie recently retired with his family from the Central Coast of California to Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. He will continue with many of his pursuits which are listed below but is “clicking off” from many of his website management activities at the end of 2021.

Jamie has had a lifetime full of varied pursuits including photography, web design, rail adventures, community theater acting, teaching, space industry activity and he even dipped his toe into politics! He currently is the webmaster for over thirty websites! Many of his railroad related websites are listed below which concentrate on rail organizations and activities primarily in California and Colorado. He created the website for the Central Coast Railroad Festival, which IFRR VP Curtis Reinhardt organized in 2009, and is currently operated by the San Luis Obispo (California) Railroad Museum. Jamie has hosted his popular “Parlor Car Chats” for the SLO Railroad Museum over the past years and most of these are archived on the page linked below. During those “Chats” Jamie describes his rail adventures and includes his photos and videos during the hour long presentations.

- International Fellowship of Railroading Rotarians - <https://www.ifrr.info>
- Central Coast Railroad Festival - <https://www.ccrf.com>
- San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum - <https://slorm.com>
- SLO Railroad Museum Parlor Car Chats - <https://slorm.com/parlor-car-chats.html>

- California Short Line RR Assoc. - <https://www.cslra.org>
- Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad - <https://friends-smvrr.org>
- Bittercreek Western Railroad - <https://bcwrr.org>
- Motorcar Operators West - <https://mowonline.org>
- Rocky Mountain Railroad Heritage Society - <https://rmrhs.org>

We will miss Jamie's help and enthusiasm for IFRR and trains in general! His IFRR website has helped our organization grow and has been recognized by the RI Staff in Chicago as one of the best Rotary Fellowship websites! Thanks again Jamie!

Now - your IFRR Officers are asking for your help in identifying a train/web enthusiast like Jamie to continue to manage our website in 2022 and beyond. Our hope is to find a new webmaster by sometime this summer so that Jamie can work with them over the fall to facilitate a smooth transition! We will need to migrate the website to a new server as well. Please contact IFRR VP Curtis Reinhardt (curtis@curtisreinhardt.com) if you want to volunteer for the position or have a suggestion for who might be able to help!

(Thanks to Curtis for the information here)

And a reply from Jamie

"Thanks so much, Curtis, this is very much appreciated. It's more like 15 websites (not 30). A lot of those references you saw were probably different pages on the same site.

If you can find someone who can handle an HTML/CSS website, you're good to go as is. That's how it's done now. That's very much "old school" however, so you may have a hard time finding someone that can do that. One option is to move to a more user friendly "modern" platform like WordPress or any similar "blog" type platform. These are usually a little more user friendly, particularly to "non-coders", and can also easily allow multiple people to help with the website."

Jamie

Jamie Foster
JF2.com

Being very much in the 19th Century mode as a museum man, much of the above is beyond your President! That doesn't stop me from thanking Jamie for all his work behind the scenes 1000s of miles away from me in Britain but just as appreciated as he is at home.

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Other Recent News

Very sincere thanks to Joseph Derr who managed to get our ramblings about railroading and the Fellowship into shape for a truly excellent article in the USA issue of the Rotary Magazine. Amazingly this is NOT available in your President's UK Version of the same. We are trying to get a copy into the next issue in the UK. Fellow Directors Curtis and Bruce are pushing for this and adding to Rotary Down Under as well. Wish us luck.

What HAS been the best result is the influx of new members interested in joining us. Welcome to all of you and we look forward to your fresh ideas and experiences to add to **Smokestack** and we hope to tell your fellow Rotarians about us.

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Toronto Railway Museum - a regular update

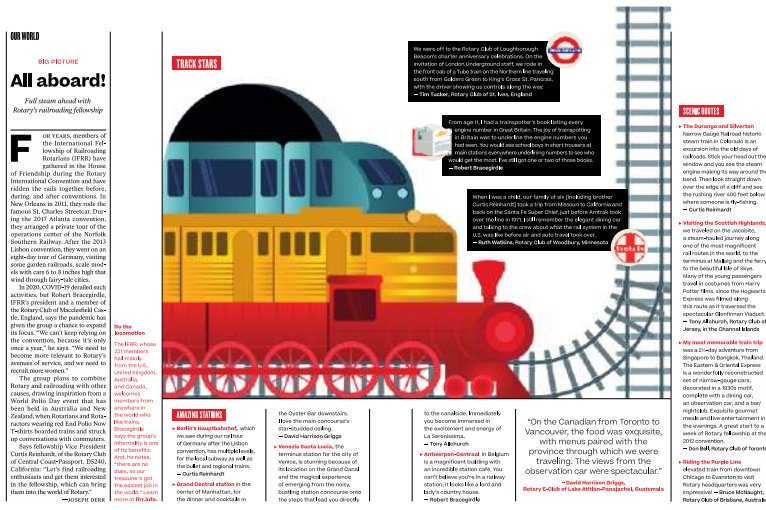
Toronto was the site of the IFRR AGM during RI Convention. As a result the Museum keeps in touch with us with its regular newsletter and a summary is here with us again. You can get full details on torontorailwaymuseum.com and I do recommend their cheerful transmission of Canadian rail news.

During February 15-21, organizations across Ontario and beyond helped to raise awareness of the heritage resources and organizations within their communities. One of the items was a look back at locomotive No. 6213's journey to the museum. One of the gems in the collection, 6213 was specifically chosen as a candidate for preservation in 1960. You can find out more of the locomotive's history and see some spectacular photos from its lifetime and its night-time move to the Museum on the website noted below. The locomotive has been cosmetically restored in a project spearheaded by Grant Kingsland. 2020 marked the Toronto Railway Museum's tenth anniversary. So in celebration, the cosmetic restoration of No. 6213 continued. 6213 received a fresh coat of paint and the number plate and headlight were further restored.

6213 in her place at the Museum, close to where the RI Convention was held

Some more museum updates and news were posted to us for the month of March. In the latest blog post, they're exploring the time period that saw the incorporation of the City of Toronto in 1834 and later, the city's first railway. Also the first lecture of the 2021 series is getting the royal treatment. You won't want to miss the upcoming Royal Train Tours of Canada online lecture – see right.

The Museum approaches the 1-year anniversary of the first COVID-19 closure, and the Museum wants to thank those who supported them throughout the last year. 2020 certainly came with its challenges.



Please note that the museum still remains temporarily closed. They are hoping to welcome you back when it is safe to do so, but in the meantime you can find out much more on the Museum website – torontorailwaymuseum.com

May updates!

This month the museum is marking May as Museum Month, part of the Ontario Museum's Association campaign to recognize the 700+ museums, galleries, and heritage sites in the province. Visit our [events page](#) to see what's on this month.

There's still time to grab tickets to Thursday evening's virtual film screening of "The Ties That Bind". We're really looking forward to the post-show Q&A with our friends the Foundation to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada. We're also sharing a sneak peek at the next lecture in this month's newsletter: Save the date for "The Crowd Went Wild! Canadian Baseball's Love Affair with the Railway".

And one more from Toronto!

Don Station's Story

Don Station is the last nineteenth century train station standing in Toronto. Built in 1896 for the Canadian Pacific Railway, [Don Station](#) was originally situated on the bank of the Don River, near the Queen Street Bridge.



[Don Station](#) at Todmorden Mills Heritage Site, 2006. Photo by volunteer Stephen Gardiner.

Time travel with us as we examine the oldest surviving railway station in Toronto. Part of the Toronto Railway Museum collection, Don is on display year-round at the Museum. Visit our latest blog post to discover Don Station's past, and uncover what life was like for those who worked there, including Station Operator John Mellow.

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Rail User Express (UK)

This is likely to become another regular as I get regular input from the organisation. Naturally UK directed it is still of current railway interest.



RailFuture has been asked by the rail industry if we would inform members and contacts about a fund-raising auction that is being held during April for the [Railway Benefit Fund](#) (RBF), which is a registered charity. There are various rail-related items that you can bid for. These include guided tours of railway premises.

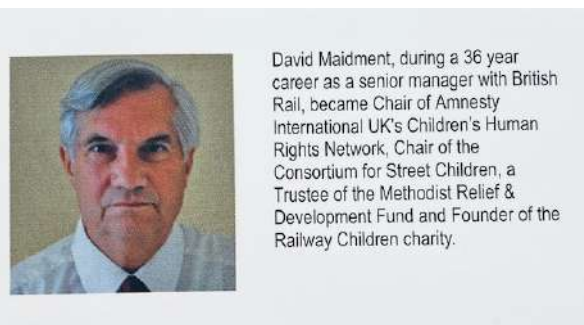
Please see <https://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/railway-family-week/auction-of-experiences/>

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Railway Children

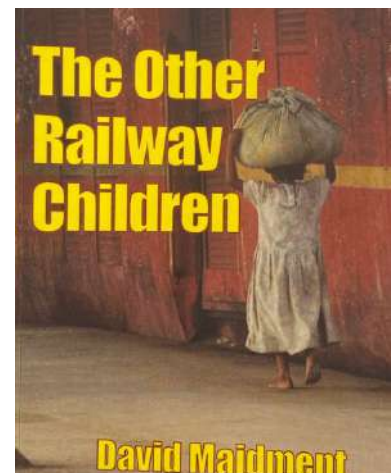
Something a little more serious now that Rotary can well be involved in.

Railway Children is the name of a 25 year-old charity founded in the UK in 1995 by a railwayman, David Maidment, as well as being the title of a famous children's novel. It supports runaway and street children who live on and around railway and bus stations in India, East Africa and the UK, aiming to protect and rehabilitate them before they are abused, exploited or forced into crime by paedophiles, traffickers or drug dealers.



It was formed by David as a result of a life-changing encounter with a young streetchild in Bombay Churchgate station in 1989. He set about finding out how to help such exploited and vulnerable children. It has grown into a £3million turnover charity working through many partners (including Rotary) with street and runaway

children in, for example, India, East Africa, and the United Kingdom. His book, *The Other Railway Children*, tells the story in much more detail. I as IFRR President was moved several years ago by their publicity and the revealed knowledge that one of the worst places in the UK was only 20 miles from me in Manchester Piccadilly Rail Station. As well as the station the local carriage sidings about 3 miles outside often host runaways sleeping in stored carriages. All these young people need help and I for one cannot help but being moved to hear of children as young as 4 being used and abused.



The HQ of the organisation is in Sandbach, UK, about 20min drive from my home but its efforts spread worldwide. Something I think for IFRR to have in mind in future.

The charity partners local organisations who contact the children and provide shelters with programmes to address their issues positively. Roughly half of it \$5 million annual income comes from people and companies in the UK railroad industry, and its branches, Railway Children India and Railway Children Africa also raise additional money for the projects in their countries. More can be found on its website www.railwaychildren.org.uk.



Lucknow Station Child Assistance Booth in 2011
Just one of the photos in the book

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A contribution from Canada

Don Pateman is a relatively new member of IFRR, and we are grateful that he has taken time to tell us about a trip taken in those wonderful pre-pandemic so called "normal" times.

He says that due to the current Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions it has been well over a year since those in British Columbia, Canada have been permitted to travel outside the country. Currently they are also substantially restricted for travel within his province so here is something to remind us all of what we are missing. He tells it in his own words . . .

"In 2018 we did a trip to the Oregon coast of the United States. Our families from B.C. and California met in Oregon as a suitable mid-point and one of the highlights of the trip was a ride on the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad (oregoncoastscenic.org).

This short out-and-back, one and a half hour excursion runs along the seashore from Rockaway Beach to Garibaldi in Tillamook county. The train uses both a steam engine and on occasion an older diesel locomotive. The steam train we took pulled both open and closed cars which allows riders to mix inhalation of steam with ocean aromas. The line is operated in memory of the old logging trains which operated in this area over 100 years ago.

There are some static displays of railway memorabilia but the favorite stop for our family was the ice cream store selling famous Tillamook Dairy ice cream."

Don lets us have some attractive photos of the lovely sunny day they had in 2018 and the wonderful countryside views on the railroad.

Worth a visit I think.

Some more details from their website below – and anyone who can give us more on the Railroad's stock will be welcome in these columns.



Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad
402 S American Way
Garibaldi, Oregon 97118
503 842 7070

The Railroad Website has the following information:

"Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad (OCSR) is a unique heritage railroading museum in that it not only has static displays of engines and historic artifacts but also provides interpreted train rides along the coast. OCSR tells the story of the area, gives information about the wildlife, and stresses the importance of practicing environmental conservation so that others may continue to enjoy the beautiful North Coast of Oregon.

OCSR commits itself to the education, preservation, and restoration of the logging history of the Pacific Northwest in a time when rare logging equipment is frequently lost forever. This organization collects those pieces and provides the necessary repairs and expert knowledge to get the pieces running again and back in service for all to enjoy.

With a world-class staff, a large and historic steam fleet, an increasing ridership, and a stunningly beautiful location, OCSR is a growing organization that is poised to continue growing in the coming years. The vision for the future builds on current successes and seeks to grow into new areas that will help achieve the mission to educate about, preserve, and restore the logging railroad heritage of the Pacific Northwest."

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A very simple quiz question from Macclesfield Model Railway Group (Home of the President)

My local Model Railway Club should be half model railroaders as they have two USA Narrow Gauge models in construction. Their newsletter is fun and is not just British as a result. This month there is a quiz question for those IFRR members across the pond. Answer is fairly obvious!



Where is it? The railroad finished here as big hole stopped it going further.

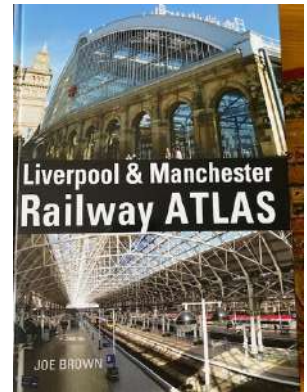


And another proof that we are not all British Railways based. Again from the Club is this prototype industrial diesel-hydraulic loco class DHG500C from Henschel in Kassel Germany dating from 1963. One member is scratch building a model and we will put his work to the test when complete for us all to decide if it is like the original.

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My latest addition to the library

Relating to one of the earliest railways in the UK (Liverpool and Manchester) this atlas expands right to the present day. Fantastically detailed it shows present track layout but also all previous track layouts from the past which are long gone. It also includes tramway (streetcar) track plans on the same page. A real labour of love and fascinating to dip into. Around £30 in the UK. US\$39.95. ISBN 978-0-86093-687-9.



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IFRR VP Curtis Reinhardt Travels Across the USA on the Amtrak Sunset Limited

Your VP Curtis recently traveled from Los Angeles to New Orleans on the Amtrak Sunset Limited. This was my second trip on this two day route. My first trip was a solo trip to attend the RI Convention in New Orleans ten years ago. My friend Tara Hoffmann accompanied me this time to enjoy the ride and keep me company on what turned out to be a half empty train due to Covid.



The trip took 48 hours and traveled through a mostly flat landscape of deserts in California, Arizona, New Mexico and western Texas. The route in eastern Texas and Louisiana offered a treelined corridor during the last day of the trip. We arranged for a Superliner Roomette which was a private compartment for two during the day that converted into two beds for the two overnights. Three meals a day were included with the Roomette. The dining experience was limited due to Covid restrictions. Only a limited menu was offered and we were not seated with other travelers as is normally the case. Only sleeper car travelers were able to eat in the dining car. We spent much of our time in the observation car which included a snack and beverage bar.

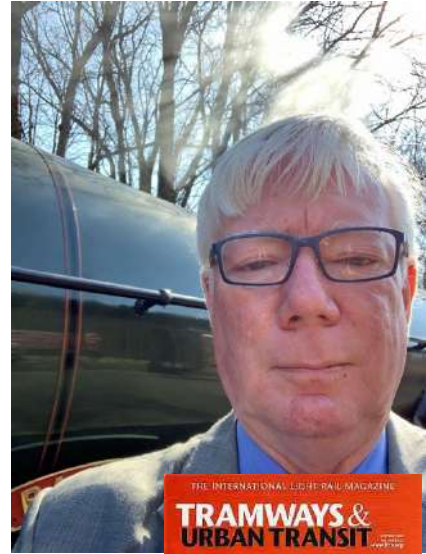
The train makes several longer stops to accommodate crew changes including in Tucson, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas. Another longer stop was in San Antonio, Texas where the train consist splits into two halves with one continuing east to New Orleans and the other heading north to Dallas, Oklahoma City and Chicago. During the longer stop in Houston, Texas, we were fortunate to be able to visit two restored private cars on the siding. The private car staffer we talked to in the parlor car said that Amtrak is again pulling private cars and that those two cars are set to be out on the rails all summer touring around the USA. I was glad to hear that service was reinstated since Amtrak had discontinued its private car hauling a couple years ago, apparently at the whim of the new CEO at that time.

The Sunset Limited only runs three times a week in each direction which seems to be the norm with many of the cross country Amtrak trains these days. I used Guest Reward points to pay for this trip. Otherwise, it would have cost about \$850 US total for the two of us to make the journey including the additional sleeper roomette.

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TramForward

Rotarian Paul Rowen (Rotary Club of Rochdale [about an hour away from the President's Club here in north west England]) is Chair of the LRTA (Light Rail Transit Association) which was formed in 1938 to campaign for light rail and trams. With a worldwide membership including many Rotarians the organisation publishes the well know and influential Tramways and Urban Transit as well as numerous books on light rail systems throughout the world. TAUT has just reached its 1000th edition as well as sponsoring the Annual Light Rail Awards. These celebrate some of the world wide achievements of the growing Light Rail industry. Further details of the association can be found at: www.lrta.org. President Robert is a keen member as well and hopes we can get more contributions from Paul and his colleagues for future editions of **Smokestack**. The photo is of Paul, in front of a steam engine just to show he has other interests, plus the logo for TramForward and a cover from TAUT magazine.



Conventions News

IFRR have registered for a virtual booth at the Taiwan Virtual Convention in June 2021. This will have to be a simple one as we do not have unlimited ability in number to "staff" it. 2022 sees Houston and we do hope that it will be a Convention in person by then and be able to give IFRR opportunity to meet some members in person and perhaps organise a suitable pre- or post-Convention visit. Similarly we are beginning to plan for Melbourne in 2023 and offer our Australian and New Zealand members something closer to home – as well as those in East Asia. All your ideas will be useful so please let us know!

To come for future editions of Smokestack

Your President has a retired Railwayman, Ray Kramer, in his own Rotary Club so he will be trying to persuade him to add some remarks or even articles at the very least.

President Bob will also be encouraging Paul Rowen and his professional and parliamentary colleagues to add to Light Rail information.

But of course we need YOU the membership to come up with local information of general railroad and light rail interest – if it has a Rotary and Charitable connection then so much the better. Not only fellowship but better Rotary service should be our objective.

Let us know your interests and how you want the IFRR to continue.

We would all love to hear from you.

Thanks to fellow Board members for their advice and contribution to the layout of this issue. All errors are entirely due to me!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Bob

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