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WAD  
LETTERS  
WAL JACK to  
John Southern  
1950-1962

Dave Macartney  
504 Armstrong St North  
BALLARAT VIC 3350

OPEN HERE FOR POSTAL INSPECTION



31 York St.,  
Ballarat East  
Victoria

7-2-50

Dear Mr Southern,

I am sorry I have kept you waiting so long for a reply, but I find it very hard to keep my hobby going these days. As a matter of fact I haven't added any of my own shots to my own collection for about 2 years. The main trouble is that I'm not able to do much since I got caught in the fumes at the Gun-botton factory in 1943. One end of the coolers from the D.N. blew out & my mate & I had quite a "fight" to get down the gangway to the open air.

I have not <sup>yet</sup> thanked you for the card & photographs which by the way, are up to your high standard.

I have a few photographs of yours kindly passed on to me by Harold Matthews, some years back. I think you left them with Harold in exchange for several of mine.

I hope you will find the enclosed print of some use anyway.

Don't see many interesting trains through Ballarat now, mostly the old "A<sup>2</sup>" of which I have "had" them. However, the "C" class can be seen 2 or 3 times weekly hauling the 8.10 am down Serviceton passenger & the 7.55 pm down Mildura Express.

X34 was here over the <sup>last</sup> weekend, but as a rule they are strangers. Last May was about the most interesting time when H220 was on the job. Quite a good show one day "C" on the 8.10 am passenger, X on the 1.30 pm Ararat goods H220 on "up" test ex Ararat, A<sup>2</sup> & X47 on up bulk wheat train.

It's generally A<sup>2</sup> on all types of trains & I think you'll agree that greatly helps to lose your interest. In a small place like say Portland, you wouldn't expect a variety of loco types.

I think you know Don Nishart. Don is now living in Ballarat so I have at least a good pal after all these years.

The circular oil tanks, instead of the square type can be seen on 955, 964 + 991 A<sup>2</sup> and they look alright. A<sup>2</sup> 986 has a water treatment tank on top of tender. That's the third one I've seen and all different in shape too. The others being X47 + X53.

I'm sorry I won't be able carry on this friendship but if you care to only write say twice a year, well I might be able to run that.

Best wishes for 1950.

yours faithfully  
Wally Jack.

31 York  
Ballarat East  
Vic.  
16-1-57

Dear Mr Southern,

At long last I've got down to reply to your letter of Dec. the 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks very much for the photos you kindly sent.

I've had a lot to do lately, but it takes so long to do anything now. Can't get enough blood thru to the heart, but I've learnt to take things easy & still enjoy seeing trains.

I did see the V.R. Centenary display at Spencer St. It was OK, but I still think they could have put S300 on display instead of scrapping it, while a J class should have been included also. I just don't know what you think of Diesels. To me they are stinkers & my feelings runs pretty hot. A box on wheels, says Les Poole.

Yes its a shame that more old photos wasn't produced. One of them was sent thru my friend at Bright. (I didn't see it) Tells me it was the first train to arrive at Bright - R class loco. ~~WR~~ writes back to say it wasn't good enough.

I'm afraid I cannot help you with 100<sup>th</sup> Phoenix engine. Your list is the same as mine which Les Poole gave me. I honestly think there was a big mess up at Phoenix over the 100<sup>th</sup> engine.

The local Historical Museum has a big picture of an "S" class outside the Foundry & the plate gives it the 100<sup>th</sup>.

I haven't worried much over it & I don't intend to now.

Having spent years on research on our local tramways - something I've always liked. (Trams) I'm told by Sydney chaps, who never saw one of our old types that I'm wrong. Wasn't satisfied of telling me once about my remembering was out (My lists were checked by the Tramways own Official lists & found correct) but kept it up letter after letter.

It got me down that way that I went up to Bright for 3 months on a working holiday & to enjoy life. As far as I'm concerned at present, the S.E.C. can scrap all our trams!

Re the Phoenix loco for private owners.

1. Not "Ballarat." but a similar? engine for Rockingham - ~~then~~ MUNDIJONG Tamber line. W.A.
  27. "Phoenix" built Oct 1875
  29. "Colac" (type not known) July 1876. Contractors, 2<sup>nd</sup> section of Colac line
  32. ~~Maori~~ Maori
- 87 } Have nothing on these two.  
155 }

Actually N<sup>o</sup>. 1 was built before Phoenix became the Company. - (Phoenix Foundry b<sup>o</sup>. by law)

With that, one wouldn't be wrong in saying  
V.R. "Q83 was Phoenix" first loco. Or would they?

Yes 1954 had been a great year to me  
with railways. First of all I saw many lines <sup>or sections</sup> for the  
1st time.

- 8-9 Jan 54 Taillem Bend - Pinnaroo - Ouyen to Maryborough  
27 Feb 54 Everton - Beechworth - Yackandandah. (D<sup>3658</sup>)  
18 Sept 54 Waubra June - Waubra (in 81Rm. 280hp Walker)  
14 Oct 54 Yarrawonga - Benalla - Yarrawonga (26Rm)  
22/11/54 Springhurst - Wahgunyah. (D<sup>3606</sup> mixed)  
6/12/54 ~~Wangaratta~~ - Bowser - Pechelba East (D<sup>3658</sup> goods)  
16/12/54 Dandenong - Bairnsdale. "L" to Haragah, 737  
to Sale, J 539 to Bairnsdale. (J 510 from Bairnsdale)

The above lines or sections were all new to me.

Yes, Nth Ballarat Shop is busy; busy enough to  
want E375 as a yard pilot with N<sup>o</sup>11 crane  
loco. N<sup>o</sup>375 arrived from Geelong (it was stored outside  
G/long sheds) on 12/3/54. She was the 1st E class I can  
ever remember seeing in Ballarat

- E379 Warrambool shunter was next. Fitted with auto coupler 4/54  
E371 from Nth Melb on 24/9/54  
E366 at Ballarat East from Nth Ballarat Shop on 14/12/54, left  
for Nth Melb on 17/12/54.

No doubt I missed on others too.

Y class. 101 + 113 auto coupled left for Sealong on 15/3/54  
 Y " 100 auto coupled to E379 " " on 3-5-54

Both these couples looked damn funny going out of Ballarat East.

Y108 from Nth Melb 20/5/54. From Nth Ballarat on 22/7/54  
 To Nth Melb. 7/54

X class. N<sup>o</sup> 54 was the first X to be overhauled at Nth Ball.  
 out on 30-8-54

2<sup>nd</sup> one 37 in Nth Ball Shop 7-8-54 out ?

3<sup>rd</sup> " 45 " " " 13-9-54 " 17-12-54

Nos 28 + 36 are still there or at least the tenders are.

D<sup>4</sup> Saw 251, 257. + (264 I think)

D<sup>2</sup> 593 has a A<sup>2</sup> tender ex 821

" 602 " " " ex 903.

"N" class oil burner noticed

429, 430, 431, 453, 457, 460, 464, 479, 480, 488

493, 498, 499. And maybe 462.

D<sup>3</sup> 643 + 647 still retain their electric headlights  
 but have no cowcatcher, used as pilot engines,  
 stunter's step on tender. I've enclosed a snap of 643.

Have seen some "beaut" freight trains go up Waverley Bank, during the last 12 months.

3-5-54.	R751-712	hauling	9.45 am	up goods	with D <sup>3</sup> 693	banker
6-5-54	R753-739	"	"	"	"	R737 "
13-5-54	R710-747	"	"	"	"	R702 "
21-12-54	R716-N498	"	"	"	"	C24 "
24-12-54.	R719-C14	"	1400 ton	bulk wheat		C24 "
30-12-54	R703-C24	"	"	"	"	C1 "
10-1-55	R719-X55	"	1470	" general freight		C13 " ←

to J class in Ballarat now. Saw 535 + 548 week before Xmas. Was told J514 was the first in Ballarat. 5 Oct 54.

Saw J516 ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> Bright on its 1<sup>st</sup> run on that line, 1/11/54. Had a ride in the cab to Porepunkah. 4/11/54.

Didn't see any "G" class suburban coaches on the Xmas trains this year.

I think I've told you all I know. Oh, on my return from Bright 10/12/54 I went to Albury via Yackandandah, Bandiana + Wodonga per Carrie's Van, & caught the 1.5 pm up Melb from Albury. Saw 2619 & 5178 steam loco. Had R720 on to Seymour & R725 to Spencer St.

Must close now.

Yours sincerely  
Wal Jack.



# A<sup>2</sup> class

Circular oil tanks instead of square type

Water treatment tanks

964 Dec '49 1<sup>st</sup> A<sup>2</sup>  
 955 50  
 966 50  
 971 50  
 976 April 50  
 991 50  
 957 May 50  
 958 Dec 50, complete new tender

958 Dec 50  
 974  
 986 Dec 49 1<sup>st</sup> A<sup>2</sup>

Explosions. A<sup>2</sup> 960 Ballarat Station 1949  
 oil burners A<sup>2</sup> ... Sewerston ?  
 A<sup>2</sup> ... near Donald 12-9-50

A<sup>2</sup> 990 Built Newport. Left hand side of cab carries <sup>original</sup> Newport builder's plate, but on fireman's side you'll find Ballarat Workshops plate of 1922. How is that!

D' class with short shunter's steps (footboards) on tender, over front <sup>tenders</sup> bogies.

571 July '49<sup>at</sup> Nth Ballarat stop. Locomotive has auto as well as V.R. standard type of blow down valves. <sup>Ararat depot loco</sup>  
 507 March 50 " " " <sup>Benalla depot loco</sup>  
 535 6A 50 " " " <sup>Dimboola yard goat</sup>  
 575 ? 49 Bendigo? <sup>Ballarat yard goat, ex Melbourne.</sup>

ALL ABOVE NOS & DATES FROM MY OWN RECORDS