

Left Tottenham gas at 3.45 AM.

31 York Street,
Ballarat East
Vic.

Can't find a book in the cat & motor no. Vic. See the
diesel motor was NOT. I paddled back in 14-12-55

Dear Jack,

I'm sorry to say I've kept you waiting & I know I should have sent my many many thanks for the N.S.W.R. centenary books before this. Honestly I feel that tired, I don't know what to do.

The books arrived safe & sound on Saturday & believe me I don't know just what to say, as the size of the gift staggered me and all I can say is a thousand thanks. Really you shouldn't have been so kind as I'm afraid there is not much I can send you just now. Every damn thing is going wrong - just like as if I've been cursed!

The books are very valuable and are printed on good paper and the whole thing is a credit. However I notice some pictures have no text, but maybe the printer is at fault.

So you have no interest in Diesels (stinkos to me) either, but I have to admit the terrible sin I committed this afternoon. Took a couple of snaps of the new S.A.R. Godwin Hleo diesel N° 930 at Ballarat East R.S. It arrived at the East Stn about 1 pm, hauling 48 vehicles (empty S.A.R. sheep wagons) 589 tons. (I knew the guard very well)

2.
Left Tottenham gas at 8.45 AM.

Even had a look inside cab & motor room. Gee the diesel motor was HOT. 3 padded seats in cab & toilet & wash basin at rear end. About 7 or 8 SAR? officials went to a pub for lunch & didn't turn up until 2.24 pm, so you can see I saw all. Quite a lot of V.R. drivers going off on duty didn't even give it a 2nd glance. From what I've seen the happiest engine crews ^{are} on the real steam locos these days.

Regards the First Victorian loco. Personally I have next to nothing about it, but I do think the drawing on the stamp would be very much like the real thing. Your suggestion about a possible wood & plate frame is to be taken seriously. A number of old Prahran & Malvern bogie trams had wooden frames which soon got buckled with the heavy traffic and with the weather. But the lads in the tram club today still won't believe it (if you still have an idea I'd be glad to hear of it).

Phoenix List. Again I'm of little help as I've had to rely on Les Poole. However I can add one item which I know is correct. The engine ^{known as} "Governor Weld" or "Ballarat" was built by James Hunt of Victoria Foundry, Ballarat in 1870. Melbourne Argus of 15/3/1871 reports christening of "Ballarat" yesterday at Hunt's Foundry.

Some short time after, Hunt sold his business to

Shaw, who formed the Phoenix Fdry. N°1 Phoenix built was another private owned loco to go to W.A. This engine was built in late 1871, for Rockingham Jarrah Timber Co. of W.A. I do not know what type it was, but more likely than not it may have been similar to "Ballarat".

Have had some trouble with the Pres. of the local Historical Museum & our daily paper over these two engines. About 99% of the local people & paper thinks this mighty old chap can not be wrong & his word is law. I must admit he knows a lot of old time history but at the same time he dont know the meanings of a bogie tram to a single truck tram. ^{every} ~~one~~ loco would, ^{look} alike.

I had quite a lot of notes on "Ballarat" which the late Mr Mills C.M.E. of W.A.G.R. gave me and now I can't find a word and don't know if I sent an article to Mal Park or Fookes or not. (So I even can't help myself now.) Still have an idea I did send an article in.

Yes, it was a great pity the "S" class went so soon. I never had many negs of the "S" class & damn sorry now that I didn't try & ^{go} get out to Nth Melb loco during the 3 months I worked in Melb. in 1951. But working for a friend & boarding with them, they expected you to be with them all the time.

Went back to Bright after last Easter & put in

Two months doing up a place for a friend.
I left up there on the Thursday & went up to Albury
for the night. Saw the N.S.W.G. C38^o for the 1st time.
I like the non streamlined batch the best. Left next
day for Melbourne on the 1.5pm up. Had R727 to Benalla,
725 to Seymour, then a "box on wheels" to Spencer St.
Went home on the Saturday.

Railways have been very quiet around here
but now the wheat is starting to come thru, more
freight trains will be seen.

Last Monday, I saw R700-749 on the up Geelong freight
with K166 banking on rear. A lovely sight after
seeing stinkers. Saw several 3 jets of smoke coming
from the 7pm Geelong freights recently. We can't see
trains from here, only the ~~ste~~ smoke.

X38 is the latest X class to be overhauled at Nth Ballarat
shops. Boilers at the shops for repairs on the bench
are. N^o 2, 160, 190, 404, 423, 457 all covered with dirt &
tender partly damaged. 714, 593, 694, 836, 8--A^o,
942, 973. Several new & reconditioned boilers can
also be seen K, N, one E or Y + one X. D^o 278 is
minus cab, side tanks & smoke box. Steam box on boiler
looks OK.

Don't see many C or J classes here now, although

1515 + 551 was off due yesterday. Expect the E' star
will be back during Xmas to help lift the wheel.
No "T" star are here so far, but they will ^{come} soon.
Luck.

H220 broke a axle nut at Bonella about a month
ago. But had today it back in service.
Sunday evening drove to Queenstown from Bonell's
Mellbourne are to run on 1st 15th 29th Jan '56 also
drove to Portland. (all other hauls)

Two "B" hauls & can spare 1/2 at the Bowling Forest
(Warbur line) for the Ballard but meeting, get no steam
now from her (Ward a system) your night the RR
are diesel happy or more - which way each person
thanks! See the note is a haul, he "diesels!"
Enclosing the only spare I have at present

Good luck & a luck for 1956.
Wishing you a merry Christmas and
Merry New Year, and many thanks again.

Yours sincerely
Max Jack

31 York St.
Ballarat East
Victoria
30-12-56


Dear Mr Southern,

I had better try & answer your letter enclosed in your Christmas card. Thanks very much for the two photos, especially the A. R. H. S. special. John Buckland had promised me a print but that is as far as Bucko gets.

Regards the photo of Ballarat in 1884, I hope to pass this on to a chap who has more interest in that type of thing. However, thanks for sending it along. Now to answer your questions regards the view.

Yes, that's Phoenix Foundry in Armstrong St, running thru to Doveton St. Hunt's Victoria Foundry, was by that time (1884) no more. However it was situated at the rear of the Town Hall Hotel, in Armstrong St, just north of Phoenix.

Note a 3 storey building with only 2 windows showing facing South.

 Town Hall Hotel.

The other big chimney in Armstrong St south (near left hand corner) is the

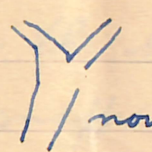
Brewery. The one in Lydiard St, above "L" in Ballarat is the School of Mines. The old Gas works chimney is still standing. During Olympic Rowing & Canoeing in Ballarat, a big torch was fixed $\frac{1}{2}$ way up this chimney. Outlined with electricity with a roaring gas flame. That's an old flour

Mill on the shores of Lake Wendouree.

Something is wrong with the station buildings or at least the building this side of the station. In a real photo of Ballarat taken from the Town Hall tower, the carriage sheds were in the position they occupy today or at least the building is today's car sheds. To get that building in that position would be impossible owing to the deep fall of ground. I can't agree with the photo. The background also shows far too many hills/mountains.

The old time photos I've seen (all taken from City Hall tower) are clear & sharp & you can pick out what class of loco it is. Pictures were about 20" x 36"

Since there were no tall buildings & no aeroplanes in 1884, I'm wondering how they made this picture?

The couple of works at the junction of Doveton St & Creswick Rd see  could be Kelly & Preston wagon builders, & McKays } now of Sunshine Harvester Works. Another brewery tower on opposite side.

Sorry but that's all I can give you for sureness.

I don't know what you think of Diesels but I'm only interested in railways, i.e. real loco steam & what I say to every diesel (stinker) that passes me P.O. laws will not allow me to send the same in the post. A very "interesting" thing

~~It~~ happened yesterday. I was waiting in the yards near the platform for the 8.40 AM Ararat to arrive. due at 11.2 AM & at 11.50 AM the "home" dropped to all clear so out comes the camera & so does a Telcar 342. Quite a few rail chaps were ^{around} about, I closed the camera & said something & walked away bitterly disappointed. Expect a few chaps will now know why I never hang around DE. Personally the Telcars are by far the worst looking creatures to grace a railway. However, the T came off as it was to be used today to run the Sunday Excursion to Queenscliff. at 9.15 am. From the running sheet at Looe, it is to return on the 11.45 AM Melt special tomorrow. & From Ballarat R749 took train on to Ararat so some joy returned. Saw N431 on the 4.15 pm Maryborough yesterday, it only had 49APL & 538Z van.

Before I go any further, I will admit I've taken a few DE shots especially for the V.R. News Letter. Total of 5 for the year. On Xmas Day snapped B70 on 1st Daylight Overland (west bound) consists of 2AS, 16AS, Avoca diner, 3AS, 3BS, 34CE same cars arrived back from Adelaide at 7.1 pm last evening (B63 loco) Train was due at 6.48 pm & all diesel train yesterday were late. I can remember seeing the 1st daylight ex Adelaide on 21/12/49 A² 977 on E class cars, 4D van & another CE.

Hell, old Bucks just popped in for 1/2 minute on his way home from Kaniva.

On Sat 22/12/56. The 8.40 am run to Portland & train consisted of R738, APL BPL, BW, AW, BW, AW, BPL, BPL, APL, CE 31.

R class came off & A² 941 took over. Gee it looked swell to see the A² on after all this time. (1st A² seen on Austral passenger since '52)

The loco position here is pretty sad & we have the following engines stored:-

K158, 181, 184, N487, R703, 708, 709, 716 ← without el. headlight
718, 730, 743, 756, 763.

For tomorrow we have only one R 737 in ~~of~~ working order! Saw the following today at B. East Sheds. C8, Y106, 127, K143, N429, 431 J532, D¹564, D²600, D³654, 690, 693, R737, A²990 plus the stored locos. N^o 564, & 600 have shunter's footboards off the D⁴.

N415 has a new "old" type Nilass boiler and 420 a new type & converted ~~with~~ to an oil burner, tender from A² 973.

Saw an X class boiler at Nth Ball shops a few weeks ago but no X class loco.

I think 942 is cut up also 894. Plenty of R class going to the shops but I ~~don't~~ ^{don't} see any coming out! Plenty of cut up pieces getting carted away & one day I'm sure I saw a load of R class parts.

In the Nth Ballarat N/shops yard, C2 & A² 973

Locos only came be seen. There is Y102 tender complete.

It was brought on ~~a~~⁴ QB wagon on 13/7/56.

D³639 is ~~is~~ stripped of some mountings.

R711 & 713 are also in the yards.

The N. Ball stops have been turning out new water wagons. Actually new circular tanks on the old frames. (Tank holds 2300 galls)

During the final day, Olympic Rowing (27/11/56.) I noticed a B class coupled to a T on about 12 E class cars. I didn't bother to find out their No.

For the year, I've seen 67 triple steam freights, plus several more (smoke only) from our back door. The last one was on Friday last. A²990 - R744 - 702

The same evening saw 3 black jets from home here.

Saw several A²'s on the Cattleyards & "Sun Bottom" line this year. Couple of Mondays ago J532 was seen in the Buska Stockade.

The passenger service on the Ararat - Maryborough line closes as from 12/1/57.

That's about all the local news I can think of.

Tomorrow ends a very bad year, so I haven't been out of Ballarat & done almost nix with the hobby.

Your lucky - getting all those old V.R. photos.

S.E.C. is the only ones who has given me any photos. (all local tramway pictures)

6/

It wouldn't surprise me if Wentworth's rail gauge scheme came to pass. If the states are going to only use stinkens, well then the scheme can get going. But if steam locos are to remain so must the various gauges. That's my personal views. You have no idea how I hate stinkens and judging from several old friends of yours, their love for D E^c can better mine!

Talk about the East Loco Social club running a special to Learmonth soon. If it was steam hauled I'd try + go.

Enclosing a couple of spares, all I have just now. The neg of S of P. is now ruined so can't get you a fresh print.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Wal Jack