

Slow train to Clan Line terminal with "Lucy" and "Efficient"

Obituary

John M. Ruthven, retired chief refrigerating engineer, died on May 18 aged 68. He joined Clan Line in June 1931 as a second refrigerating engineer serving on *Butehire* and was promoted to chief refrigerating engineer on that vessel in May 1935. He continued in the same capacity on various vessels until his retirement on April 1, 1964.

W. H. Milbourne, aged 83, died on June 1. He joined Union-Castle on February 6, 1905 and served with the company for over 48 years mostly in the outward freight department, London. He retired on June 30, 1953.

The death occurred on May 16 of retired first engineer **John Leitch** at the age of 70. He joined the Union-Castle Line in December 1937 as a junior fourth engineer *Dunottar Castle* holding a first class steam certificate and obtained his motor endorsement in January 1951. His last ship before retiring in September 1963 was the *Stirling Castle*.

E. W. Cloke died on May 19 aged 82. He joined the company on November 10, 1947 and worked in the freight department until retiring in March 1960.

W. S. Joice, ex radio officer, died on April 27 aged 70. He started his career with AEI in February 1919 and served in Clan Line vessels as an employee of that company. In 1959 he became a member of the B&C staff and continued to serve in company vessels until his retirement on May 1, 1966.

It is with great regret that we report two accidents involving the loss of life of British Island Airways staff.

The first accident happened on June 5 in which **Raymond Cupples**, flight controller, and **Patrick Swallow**, reservations clerk with BIA in Guernsey, died when their speedboat *Pterodactyl* capsized on a journey between Herm and Guernsey. Despite an extensive sea and air search the boat was not found for some 12 hours and it was then towed into St. Peter Port by the lifeboat *Jessie Lumb*.

Both Raymond Cupples (who was 29) and Patrick Swallow (who was 24) were unmarried. They were not on duty at the time of the accident.

The second accident occurred at Blackpool Airport on June 22. **David Wheeldon** BIA engineering supervisor (radio) was critically injured when he was trapped by a ground power unit. He died in Blackpool Victoria Hospital next day.

David Wheeldon was 30 years of age, married with two children, and lived at St. Annes, Lancs.

A piece of the past was brought back to Birkenhead docks on Saturday, July 1, when two vintage steam locomotives hauled a special train carrying 120 railway enthusiasts from all parts of the country over the various lines on the docks railway system, reports *T. C. Bowen* (forwarding dept.).

The train, the "Birkenhead Docker No. 3", which was arranged jointly by the Wirral Railway Circle and the Liverpool Locomotive Preservation Group, was hauled by 0-4-0 saddle tank *Efficient*, built by Andrew Barclay's, Kilmarnock, in 1918, and 0-6-0 saddle tank *Lucy*, built at the Bristol works of Avonside Engineering in 1909. Giving assistance at the rear of the train, and in shunting manoeuvres, was one of the dozen or so diesel locomotives that work on the docks.

Before being purchased for preservation

■ At right: the little saddle tank *Lucy* is dwarfed as she steams between the tubular legs of the dockside mobile cranes at Clan Line's Vittoria Terminal on Merseyside.

■ Below: the smartly-painted *Efficient* tank engine rounds the bend at Vittoria to meet the surprised gaze of crewmen aboard the berthed *Clan Macgregor*. The engines were double-heading an enthusiasts' special, *Birkenhead Docker No. 3*.

by the LLPG, the two steam locos worked on the industrial and dock estates at Widnes.

During the course of the tour the train traversed the Clan Line terminal at Vittoria Wharf bringing somewhat surprised expressions to the faces of the crew on the *Clan Macgregor*, not to mention the security officer on duty at the terminal.

Although this was the first time that *Lucy* had run over the docks system, *Efficient* was no stranger, having pulled a similar train over the lines last summer.

