



SteamRanger's Heritage - an insight into our past

BACKGROUND

The Mile End Railway Museum in Railway Tce at Keswick in Adelaide was the original home of what later became the National Railway Museum at Port Dock, Port Adelaide

The MERM was initially part of the Australian Railway Historical Society (SA Division) but later became a separate self governing organisation, leaving the ARHS with the focus of running main line heritage railway services under the trading name of SteamRanger.

OPENING OF THE MILE END RAILWAY MUSEUM

"The Recorder" Dec 1970 pages 11,12
(attached photos from Museum Guidebook)

The Mile End Railway Museum, in which a variety of steam locomotives and other rollingstock, also numerous exhibits of other railway equipment are on display, was officially opened by the South Australian Railways Commissioner, Mr. R.J. Fitch, on Saturday, December 5, 1970.

At the opening, Mr. K.J. Whicker, President of the Australian Railway Historical Society (South Australian Division) Inc., addressed members and guests on events leading up to the formation of the museum to this stage before introducing Mr. Fitch who also spoke on events concerning exhibits being made available to the museum before officially declaring the museum open. The Museum Manager, Mr. R.E. Fluck, who has for years past been one of the stalwarts in the formation of the museum, reported on its establishment to the present stage.

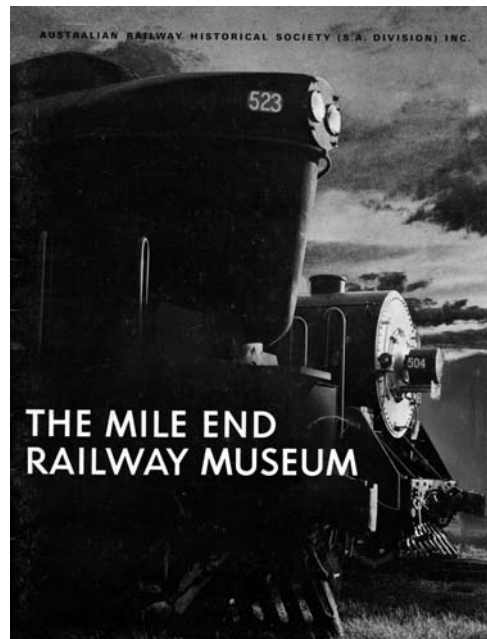
No. 900 "Lady Norrie", the first main line diesel-electric locomotive of the S.A.R. had earlier in the day pushed the Dining Car "Adelaide" into the museum site to provide afternoon tea facilities for members and guest.

Invited guests included the Minister for Roads and Transport, Mr. Virgo; Mr. L. Roberts, Manager, Silverton Tramway Co.; Mr. H. Swincer, of the S.A. Police Force; Mr. R. Virgo representing the Commonwealth Railways; and S.A.R. Officials, Mr. R.J. Fitch (Commissioner), Mr. R.J. Bridgland (Chief Engineer), Mr. A.W.C. Crossman (Chief Mechanical Engineer), Mr. S.E. Hewett (Secretary), Mr. D.H. Watson (Superintendent, Adelaide), Mr. R.I. Grant (General Secretary, S.A.R. Institute), Mr. F.A. Stretton (Chief Clerk, Railways Commissioner), and Mr. C.J. Moore (Foreman, Diesel Depot, Mile End).

On display at the Museum are representatives of S.A.R. locomotive classes remaining when plans for its formation were approved. These exhibits comprise 5C4 (Tom Barr Smith), 523 (Essington Lewis), 624, 702, 752, Rx93, F255, P117 (all S.A.R. 5ft. 3in. gauge); 409, T253, Y97 (all S.A.R. 3ft. 6in. gauge); also Silverton Tramway Co., W25 (H.F. (Gerry) Walsh), A21 and Y12; Commonwealth Railways G1 and NM34; B.H.P. Co. No4 and B.H.A.S. "Peronne".

Other items of rollingstock include a "55" class rail car, side-loading carriage, 12-wheel brake van, caboose brake van, "N" class van and 5 ton travelling crane (broad gauge), also a narrow gauge 4 wheel carriage.

A most interesting and informative 32 page book (below) illustrating exhibits at the museum was released at the opening, and is available for \$1.00.



Museum Guide (Issue1) Dec 1970



Initial lineup of locos at the museum (from above Guidebook) Photo: Phil Butler



Unloading NM34 at the Depot Photo: J. Norris (from Museum Guidebook)

This page printed from SteamRanger Enthusiast website
Copyright by publisher of the referenced publication or SteamRanger
No commercial republication without reference to copyright holder
R7012a