

Reading for Meaning

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a working railway.
- ▶ It shows us what railways were like in the past.
- ▶ Some old rail documents still exist today.
- ▶ Here is one for you to look at, an article from the local paper in 1966:

Understanding Railway Texts

TASK

- ✓ Your task is to identify and retrieve information from the text.
- ✓ Read the resource below.
- ✓ Answer the questions on page 2.
- ✓ Your teacher may require you to write on this sheet, or on paper.

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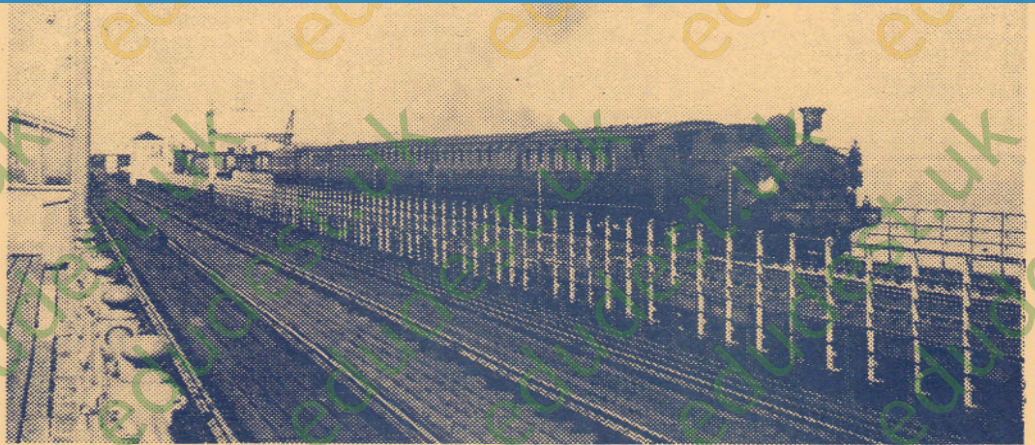
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The last steam train to travel down Ryde Pier left the pierhead at 9.35 p.m. on Saturday; and the first stage of Southern Region's £500,000 scheme to electrify the line between Ryde Pierhead and Shanklin began on Sunday. Engineering work taking place on the pier will prevent trains using it until the end of the year. The service will start and finish at Ryde Esplanade, and passengers between there and the pierhead will travel by tramway. This will mean an alteration in the timings of some of the trains.

Our first picture shows one of the last steam trains to use the pier. The second picture records another historic moment with an even greater degree of finality — the closure of Smallbrook junction. In official language, the junction has been "abolished," and the photograph depicts the signalman at Smallbrook receiving the last token to be surrendered by a driver there. This was taken on Saturday night, and the closure was effected on Sunday morning.

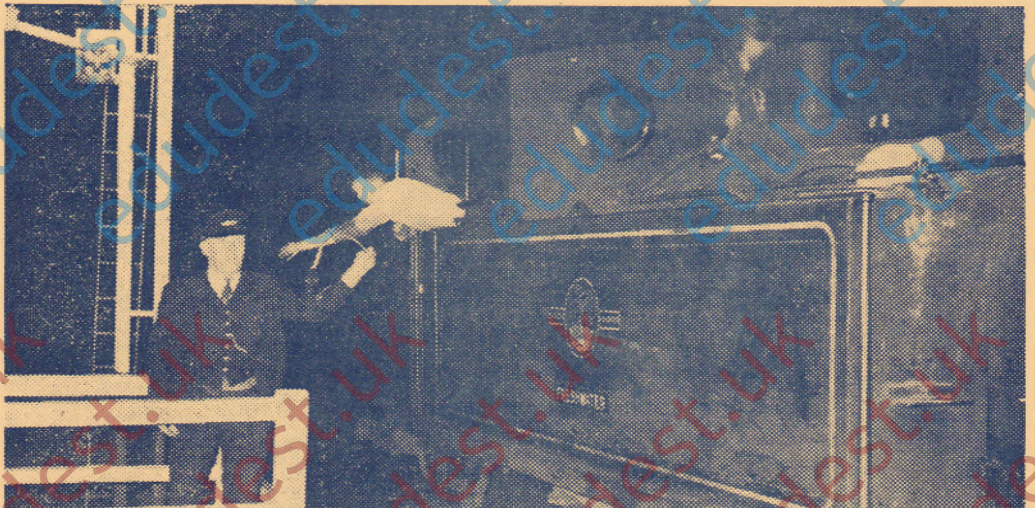


One of the last trains to be drawn by a steam engine on the pier.

PARCELS POSITION

On Monday a new concentration depot opened at Newport to handle all parcels traffic to and from the Island. The new arrangements for parcels, which will also operate after electrification, mean that incoming traffic — including bulk mails at night — will be loaded at Portsmouth into special large covered trailers, and taken over on the car ferry via Broad Street and Fishbourne. Parcels traffic from the Island to the mainland will be transported in the same way.

Collection and delivery of parcels will be carried out from Newport, and traffic to be called for conveyed from the new concentration depot to the stations at Ryde Esplanade, Sandown, Brading and Shanklin. All parcels facilities are being withdrawn from Ryde Pier Head and St John's Road. The new arrangements will operate on a five-day week basis until next summer.



Questions

1. What is the purpose of the article, and who is the audience?
2. What time did the last train travel down the pier on the Saturday?
3. How much in £ is it costing Southern Region to electrify the line between Ryde Pierhead and Shanklin?



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4. How will the passengers have to travel up and down the pier whilst it is closed for electrification?
5. What has happened to Smallbrook Junction?
6. How will parcels be transported under the new system? Summarise and describe in your own words.
7. What are the two pictures depicting (showing)? Explain why you think they have been used to accompany the article.

