
THE ZURGENA RAILWAY NEWS

January 8th 2021

Nº 2



A very HAPPY NEW YEAR to all members. I hope that you had as good a Christmas as possible in the circumstances.

This edition's photo is of the accident at Km43.100 which happened on the 8th October 1929. This spot is accessible from the junction near Huércal Overa Station (the Lidl roundabout), walking 900 metres along the line towards Zurgena. It is actually about the middle of the hard left curve. When one stands there, one can see the enormous problems that they had recovering the damaged rolling stock, goods etc as that stretch of track is on a very steep embankment. More information here: www.gssr.es/accidents.php.

News is a bit thin on the ground at the moment, but it has to be said that Rafael has been working hard behind the scenes negotiating the bureaucratic nightmare that is endemic in Spain.

He is currently working on arranging the purchase/donation of historical trackside equipment as well as trying to get to see the mayor of Zurgena to try to get approval for the use of the area behind the fence which appears to be abandoned, to build the workshops that will be essential for the renovation of said equipment, rolling stock etc.

There are times that we have to accept that no news is good news.

Weather permitting, Rafael and I will be in Zurgena on Wednesday 13th to try and get a move on with the issues described above. We will report on any news.

FILMS MADE IN THE AREA

There is an e-book that has been in production for the last few years on .pdf written by Bob Yareham. I have stolen some of the text relating to films made in the area of Guadix in the days when there was still track and the Babwil was still functioning. One can see the text on www.gssr.es/films2.php . He must have put a huge amount of time and work into the e-book - what is on the website is a tiny fraction of what is in it.

Guadix was used a lot for filming as, if you have driven past it on the A92 to Granada, you will know that the scenery is aposite for the making of films covering a huge number of countries, lending itself to Westerns, historical dramas, desert scenes etc. In addition, there is the impressive Puente de Grao.

More details and images can be found at www.gssr.es/slideshow2.php?Ref=HV-GX.



PUZZLE

In January of 1917, George Boag (www.gssr.es/people.php#boag) started a monthly magazine for The GSSR staff (and anyone who wanted to buy a copy) called *El Boletín*. There were a number of contributors adding articles about the company, World railways, news etc. In addition, there was a puzzle every month to stress the reader's minds. I append a couple here for your delictation, and will add one or two to the following issues of this newsletter.

January 1917:

A special goods train leaves Baza with X tons of various goods. In Serón it unloads half of the load plus half a ton more. In Albox (Almanzora) it unloads half of the remainder and half a ton more, and in Huércal it unloads like before, half of the remainder plus half a ton more. It arrives at Almendricos with five tons on board. How many tons of goods did it have when it left Baza?

(Nothing for February or March and the April magazine is missing completely. There were two in May, though).

May 1917:

A businessman who had a consignment of 144 tons of esparto in the goods shed in Lorca Station requested that it be loaded onto a certain number of wagons but the company also had to deal with the transport of other goods, so they supplied two wagons less than the businessman requested. Therefore he decided to load an extra ton of esparto into each of the wagons available to him to the extent that all of the esparto was loaded. How many wagons did he request originally?

- * -

An employee of this company invested a sum of money in a building society, receiving an interest of 6% per annum (*if only!!*). After 12 years he received 523.18 pesetas, being the capital and the accumulated interest over the said period of time.

How much did the employee originally invest?

NOTE: To be able to calculate the original investment, one has to remember that the amount produced by the capital due to the percentage stated is added in the following year and that the successive years will accumulate in the same way. (*Compound interest*).

June 1917:

A locomotive with a motive force of 305HP of steam pulls a train of 127,360Kg up a slope of 3% (*1 in 33.33*) and travels 70Km in two hours.

What motive power would another locomotive need on the same route with the same train to travel 140km in two hours 30 minutes?

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A locomotive leaves Lorca in the direction of Baza with a wheel that has a radius of 25cm and revolves 5 times per second.

How long will it take to travel 143,767.47 metres? (*143Km, 767m, 47cm*).

That's enough brain teasers until next time.

A number of members have asked about subscriptions. We were hoping to be able to start direct debits when we had everyone together at the AGM but Covid has put the mockers on that (along with so much else). We will address this issue, hopefully in the near future.

Until the next issue, I wish everyone health, wealth (?) and happiness. We WILL get this museum up and running soon!

Best regards

Max