

Locomotives of the North West

or

If I were CME for a
day.....

North Western Railway

- Locomotive Overview
- Operations
- Reliability
- Loco Development
- Engines for the Future

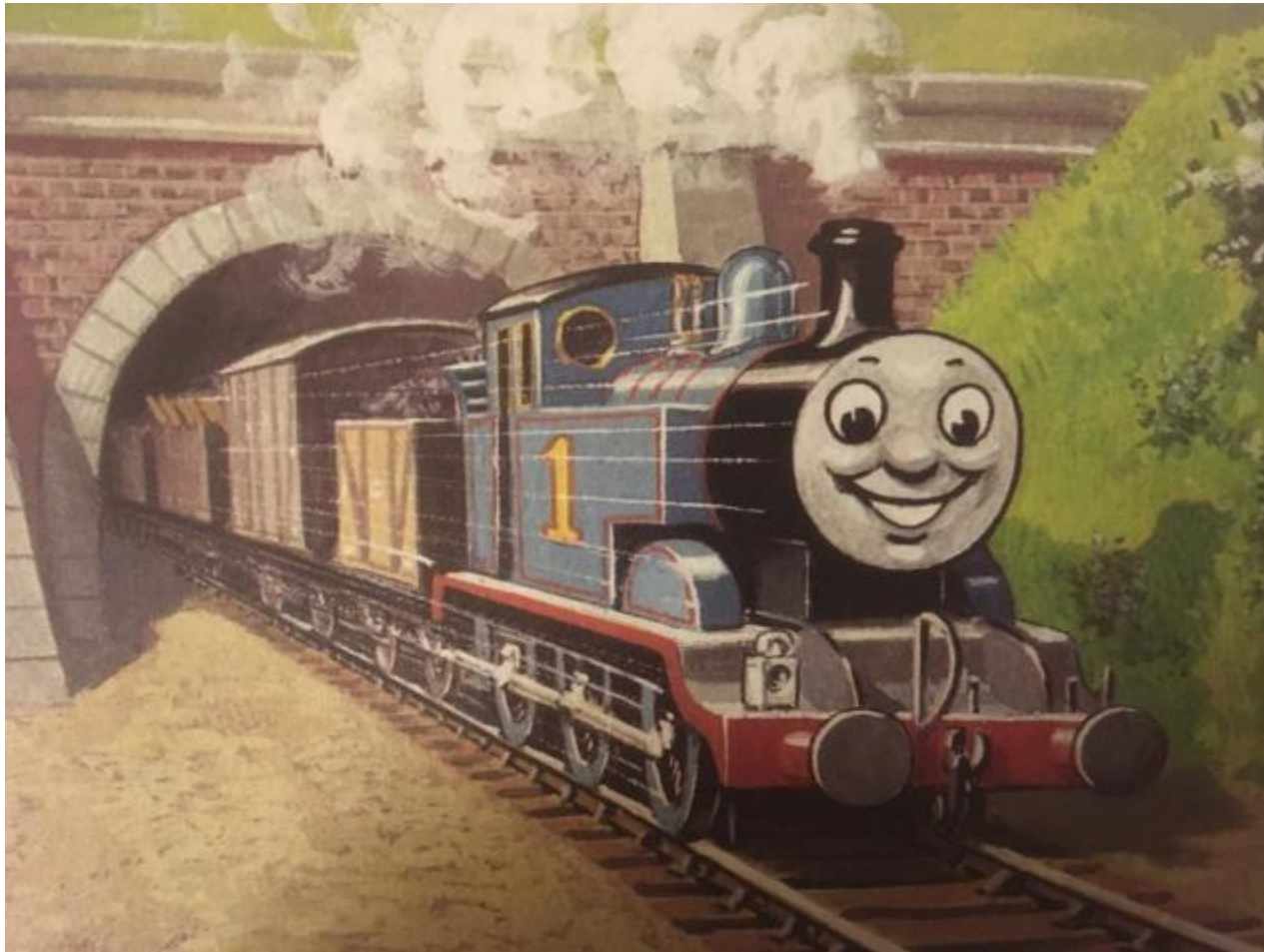
Where on Earth....?

- Isolated area of NW England
- Rich variety of locomotive types
- Wide range of traffic
- Overlooked by OS Nock *et al.*
- Only surviving records:
 - Well known railway historian
 - Author of “The Birmingham & Gloucester Rly”
 - Narrative style

Rev. Awdry – Island of Sodor



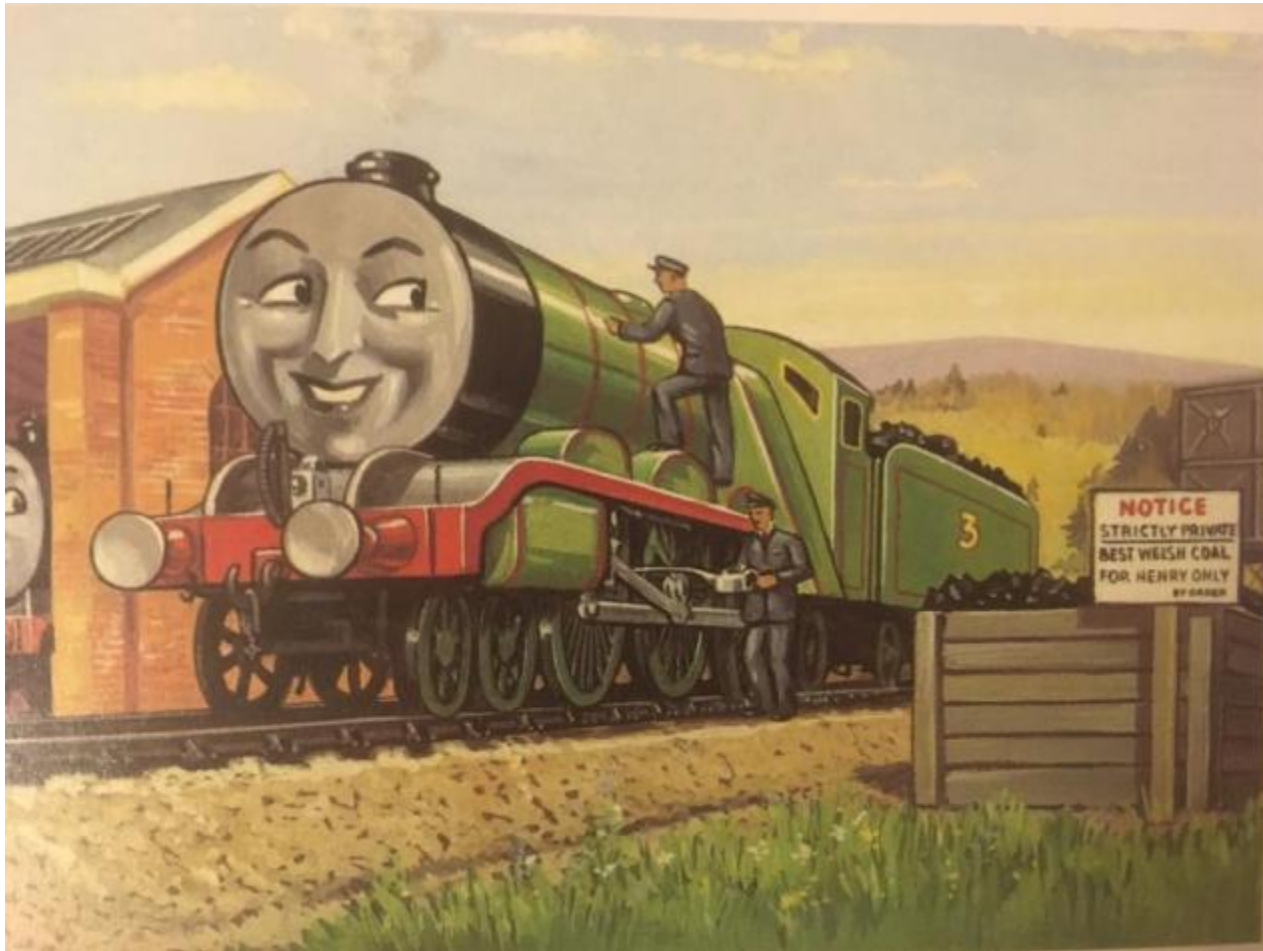
Locomotive Overview – No 1 Thomas



Locomotive Overview - No 2 Edward



Locomotive Overview - No 3 Henry



Locomotive Overview - No 4 Gordon



Locomotive Overview – No 5 James



Locomotive Overview – No 6 Percy



Locomotive Overview – No 7 Toby



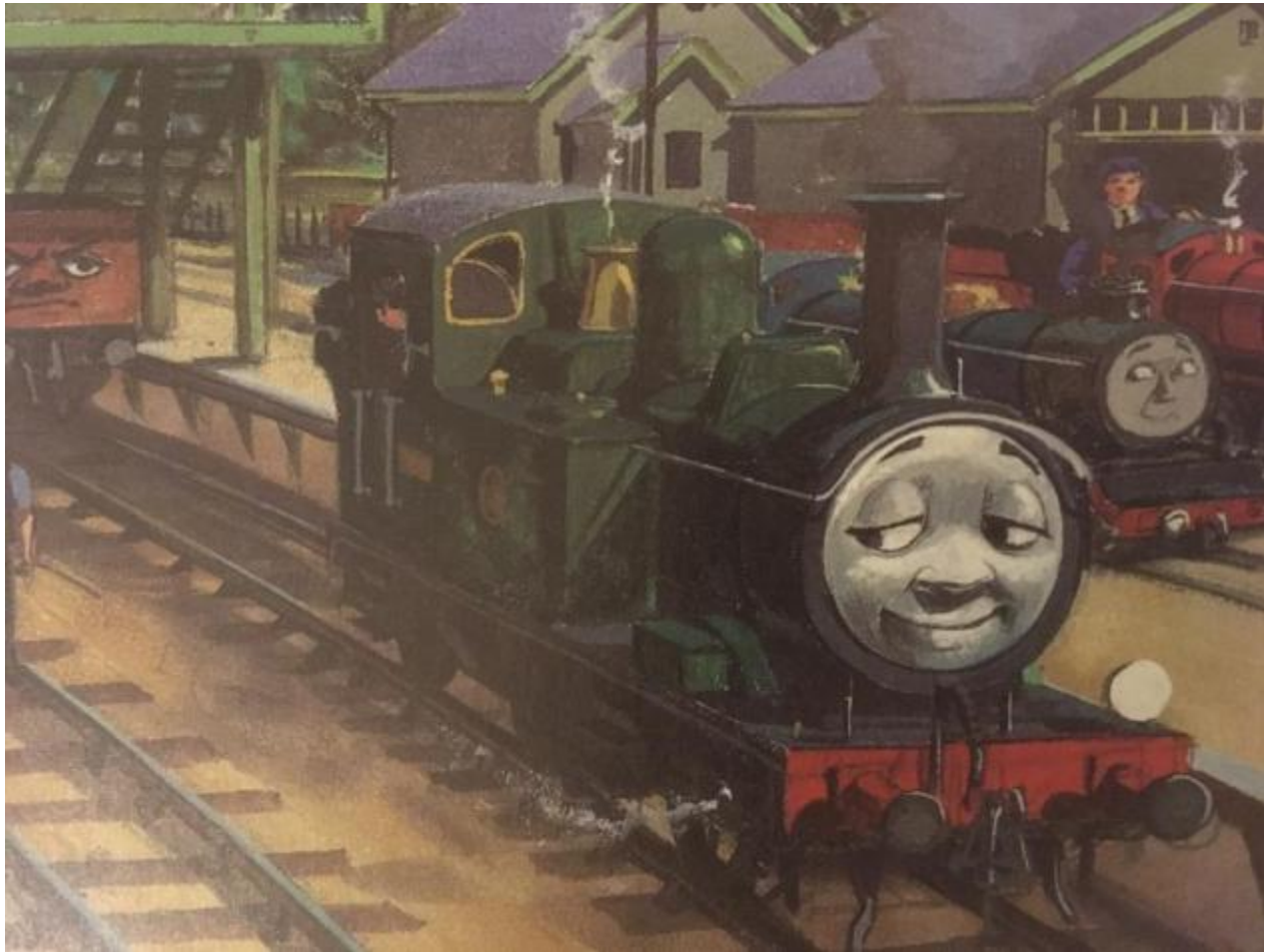
Locomotive Overview – No 8 Duck



Locomotive Overview – Nos 9&10 Donald and Douglas



Locomotive Overview – No 11 Oliver



Locomotive Overview

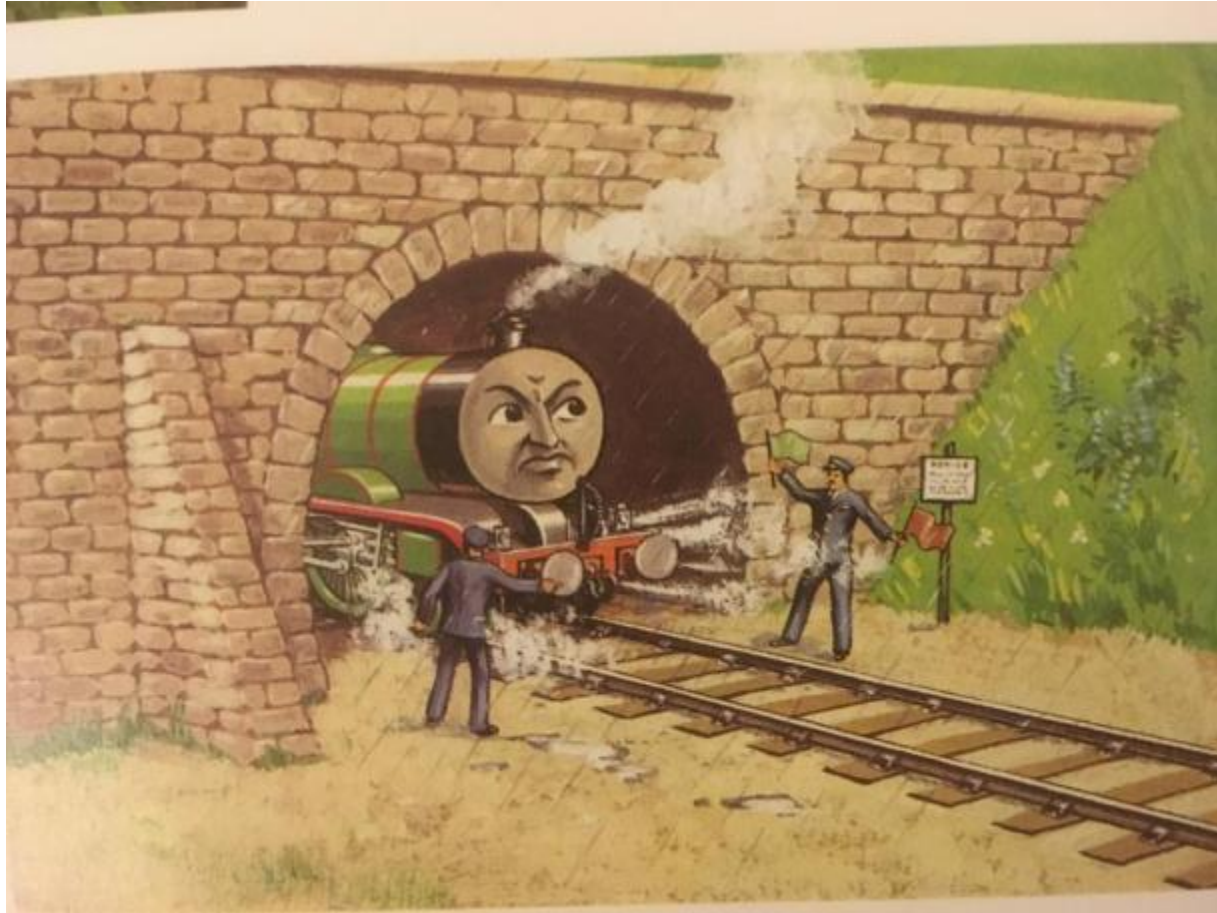
- Pre-grouping origins unclear
- Variety of designs from 0-4-0ST to Pacific
- Virtually no standardisation
- No quantitative data / drgs / reports
- Only measurement criteria:

“Really Usefulness”

Locomotive Overview - Characters

- All locos have a character
 - But only those on Sodor can answer back!
- Vanity: Preoccupation with appearance
 - Only the GWR was similarly obsessed.
 - Only GW engines retain original identity
- *“I try to teach them our ways.”* said Duck modestly. *“There are two ways of doing things, the Great Western Way or the Wrong Way. I’m Great Western and.....”*

The Sad Story of Henry



- Did not want rain to spoil green paint

Operations - General Observations

- Original series 26 books – 1945 to 1972
- Parallels with “The Other Railway”
- Reflection on the state of the Nation
- Gender Stereotypes
 - Steam Locomotives were male
 - Coaching stock female
 - Trucks ?
- Commercialisation post-Awdry
- Worldwide rights worth more than Railtrack?

Operations - Gordon's Hill

- Wild, windswept and, of course, steep.
- Adhesion and TE a problem from the outset
- Named after Gordon the Big Engine
 - Gets stuck hauling a freight
 - An Idea adopted by Bulleid
 - Rescued by Edward the Blue Engine
- No clear policy from Operating Dept.

Operations - Gordon's Hill



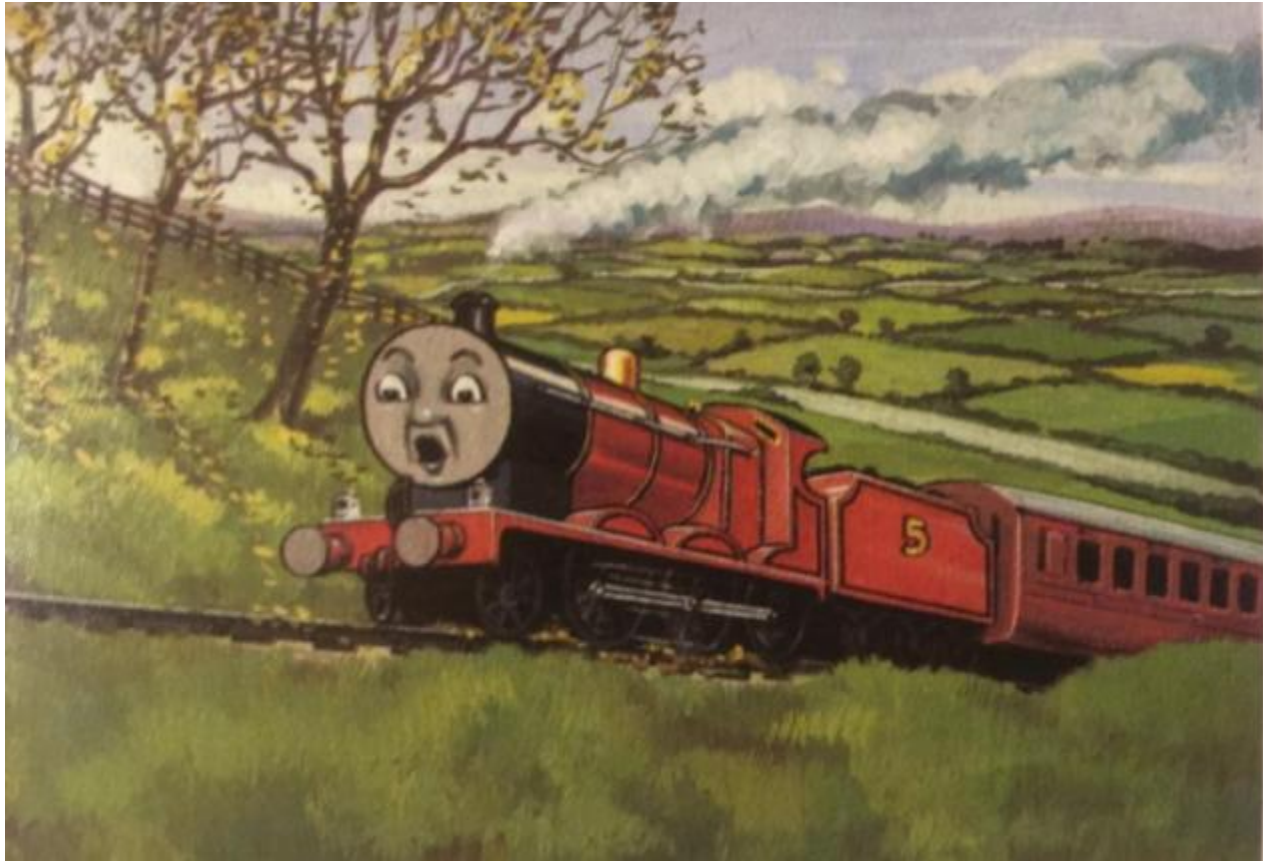
Operations - Gordon's Hill

- James the Red Engine:
 - Leaves on the line
 - Stalls with train
 - Slides back down the hill

Driver: *"I've never known that happen before"*

Fireman: *"I have. At Bincombe Tunnel on the Southern"*

Operations - Gordon's Hill



Operations - Freight

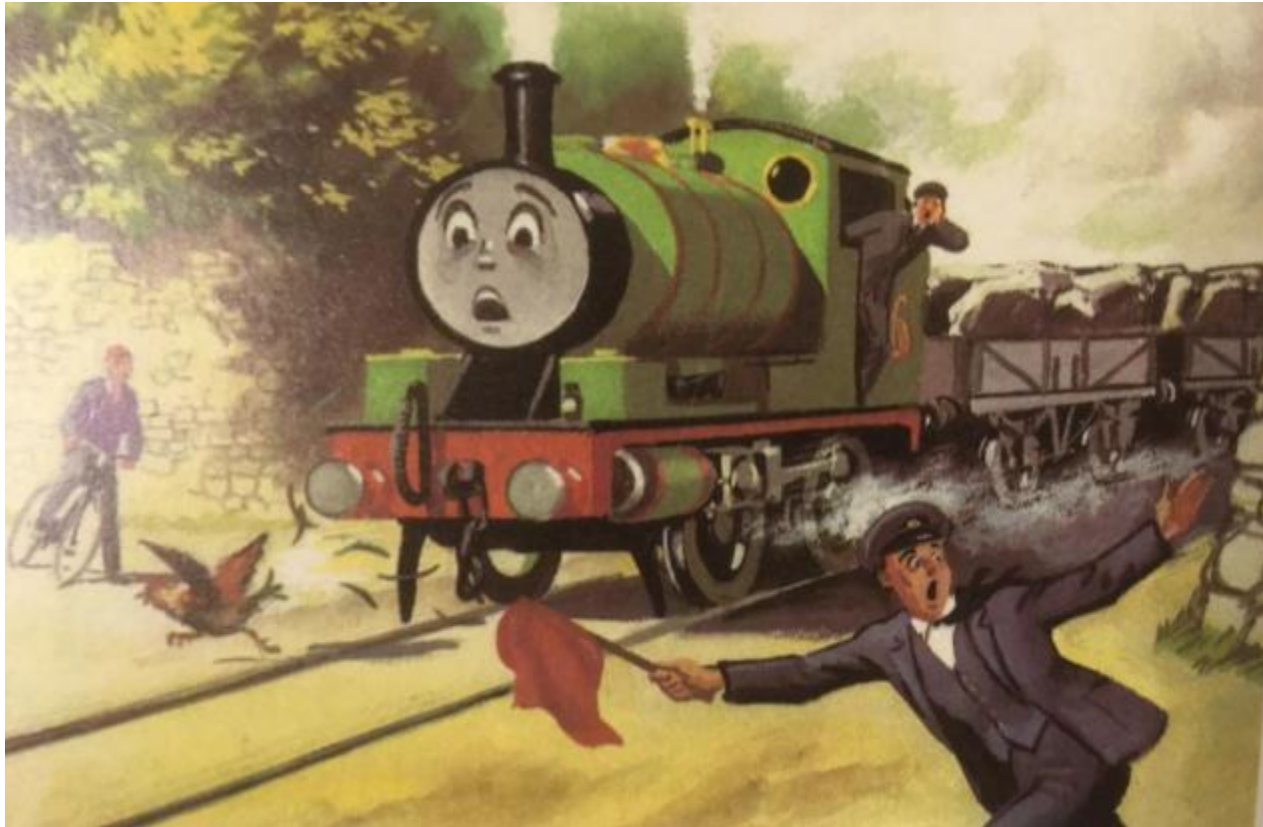
Operations – Runaway 1



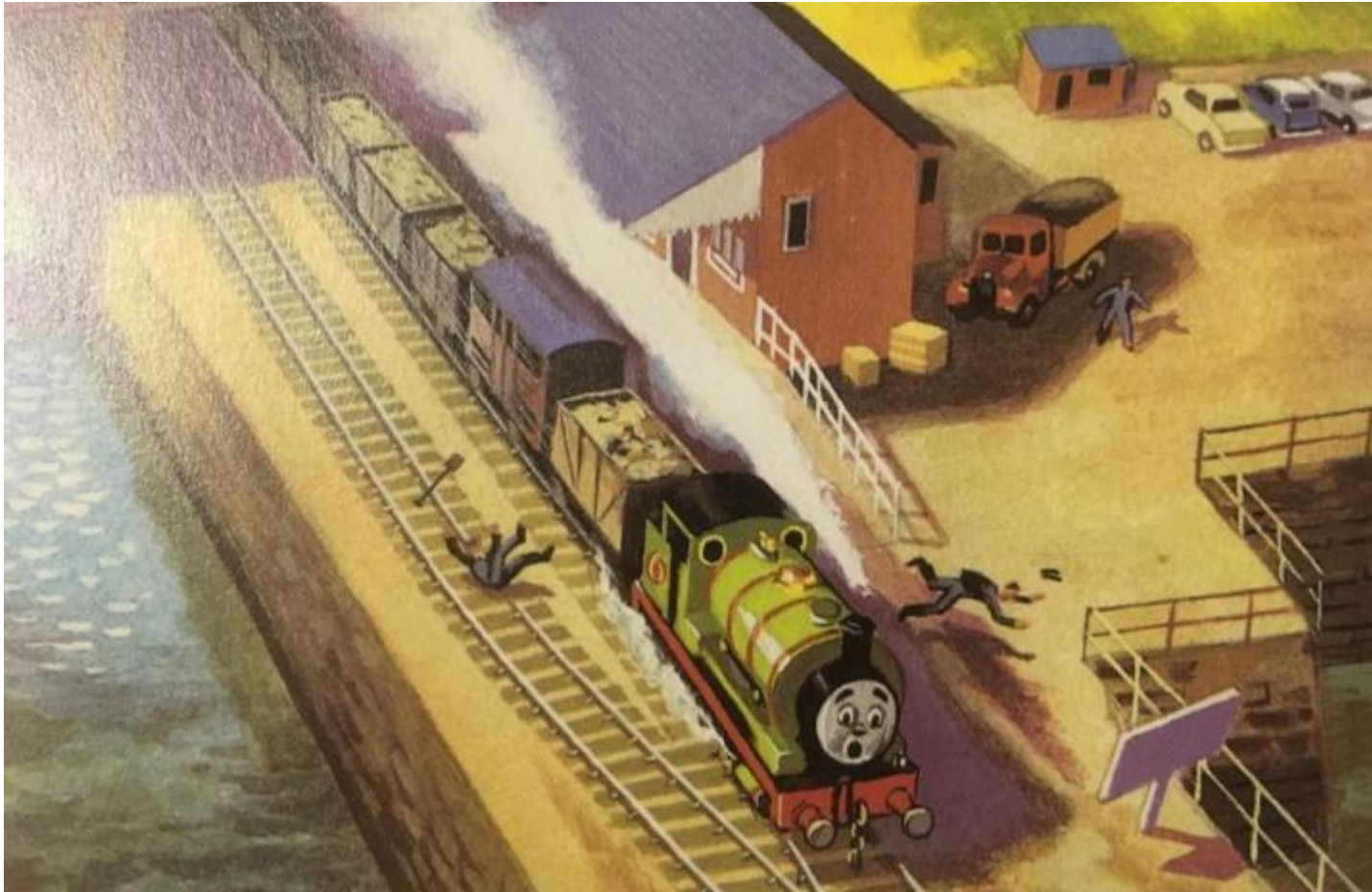
Operations – Runaway 2



Operations – Runaway 3



Operations – Runaway 4



Operations – Runaway 5



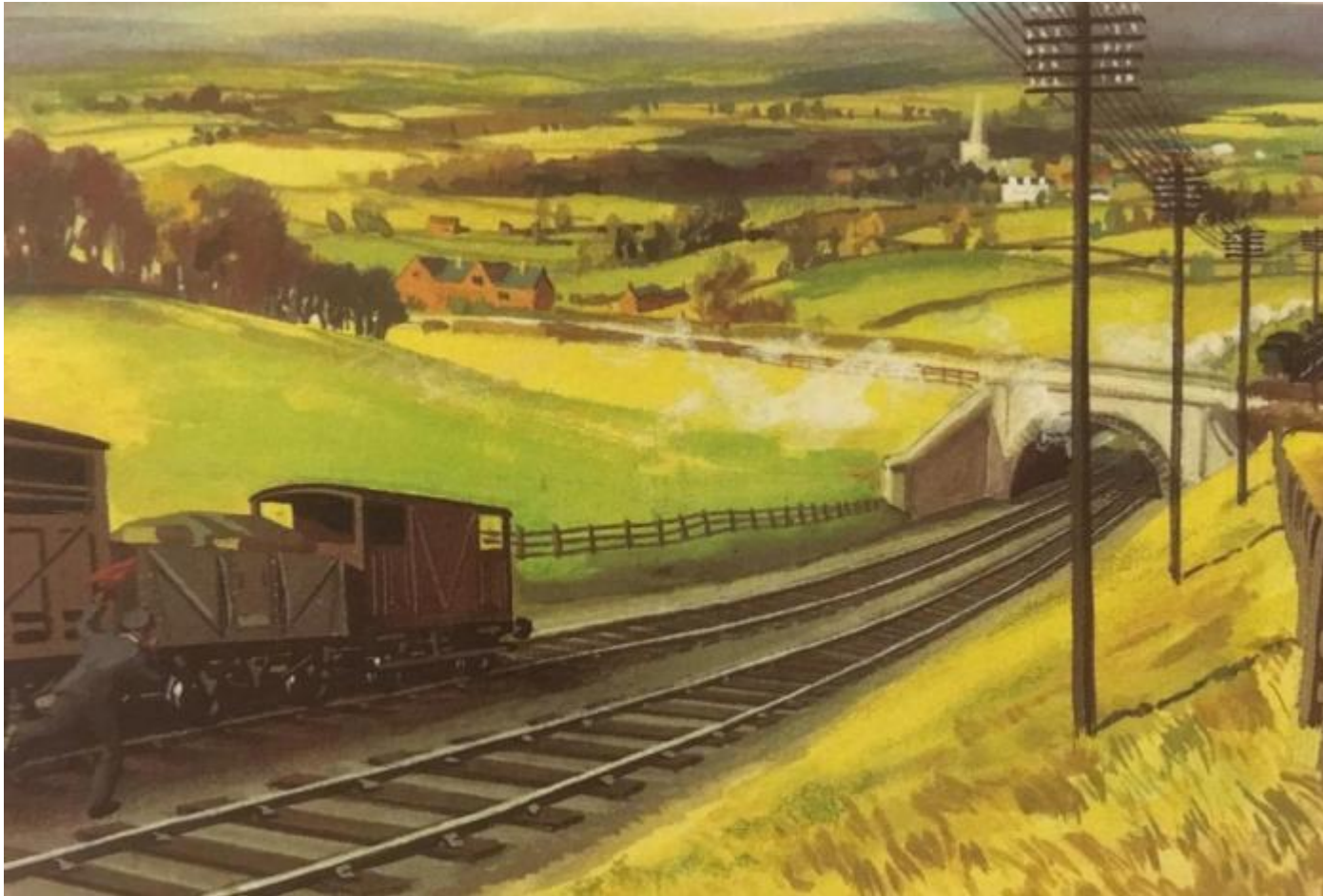
Operations – Runaway 6



Operations – Breakaway 1



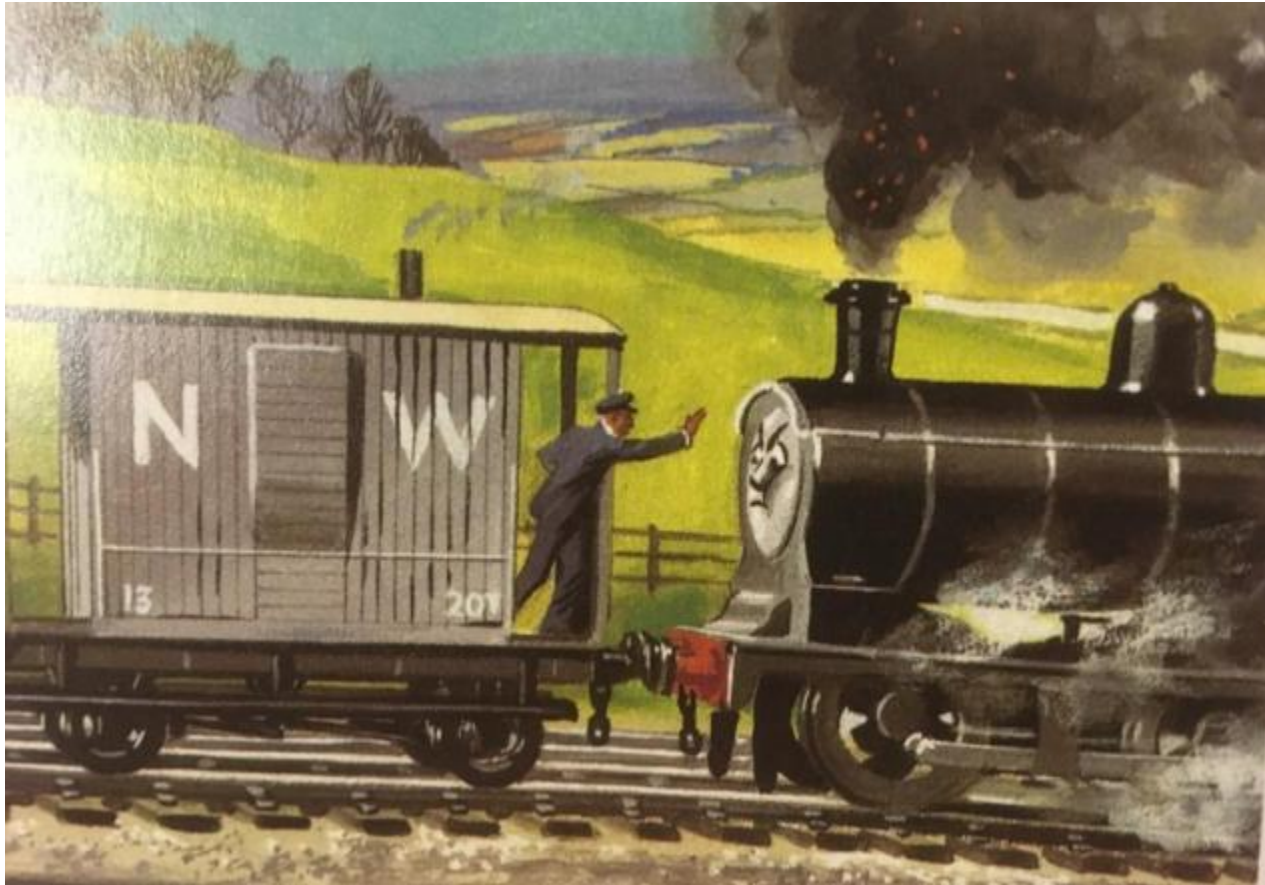
Operations – Breakaway 2



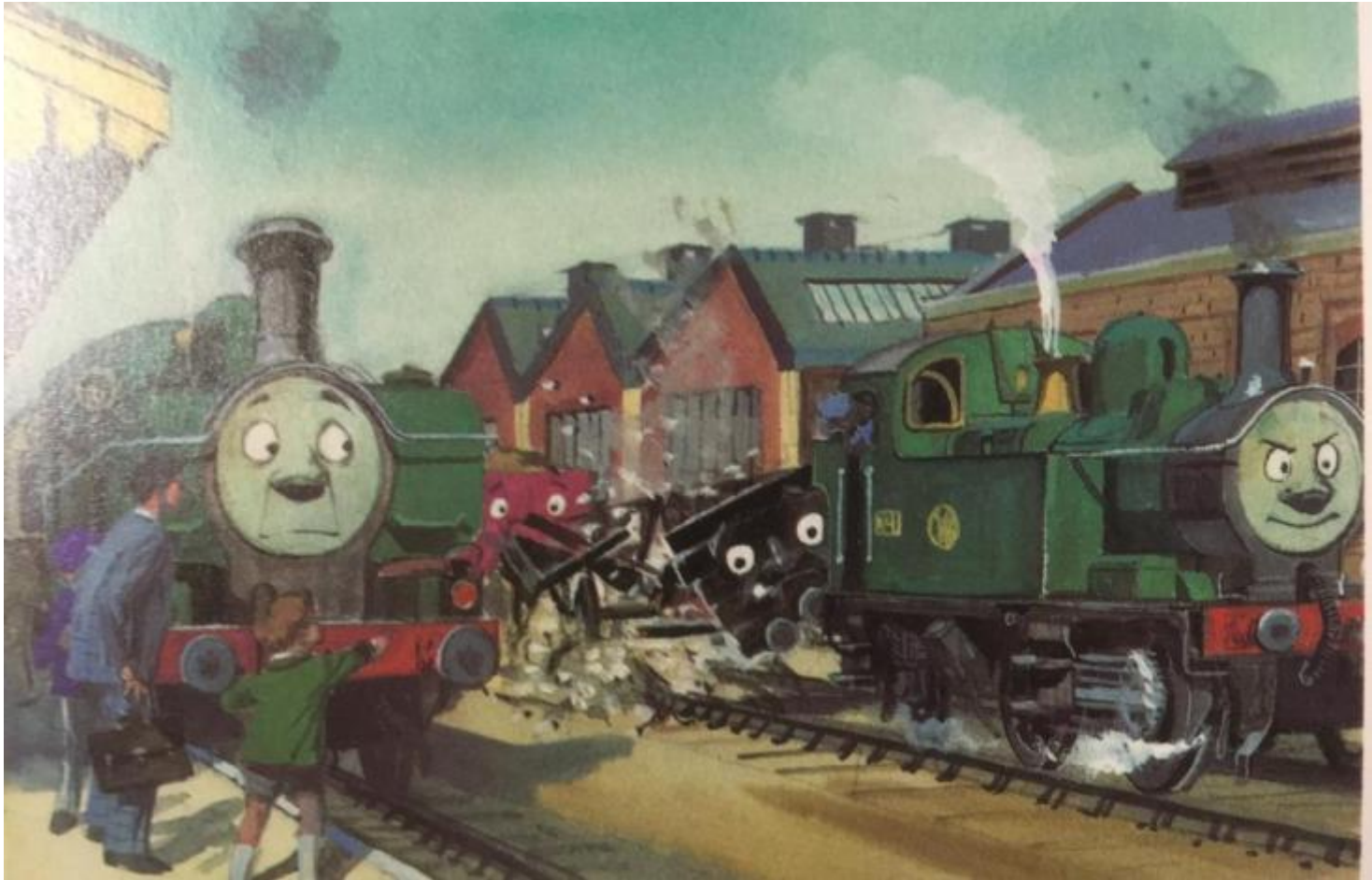
Operations – Breakaway 3



Operations – Wagon Failure 1



Operations – Wagon Failure 2



Operations – Freight Summary

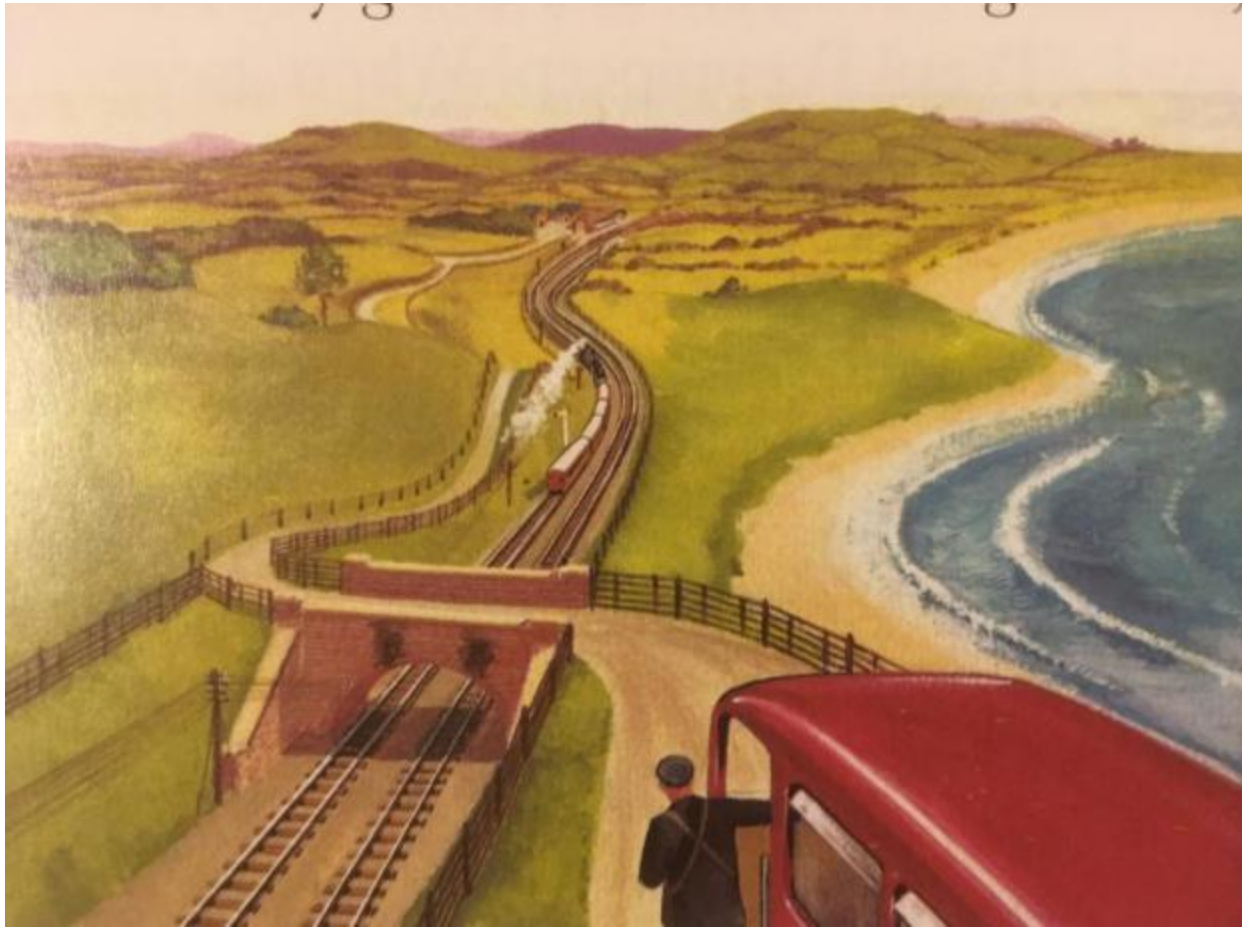
- Mainly loose coupled.
- Runaway / unable to stop – 6 Cases
- Breakaways – 3 Cases
- Destroyed wagons – 2 Cases
- No notification to RAIB!
- Trucks are troublesome

Operations: The Need for Speed

Operations – Racing Thomas vs Bertie the Bus



Operations – Racing Edward vs Bertie the Bus



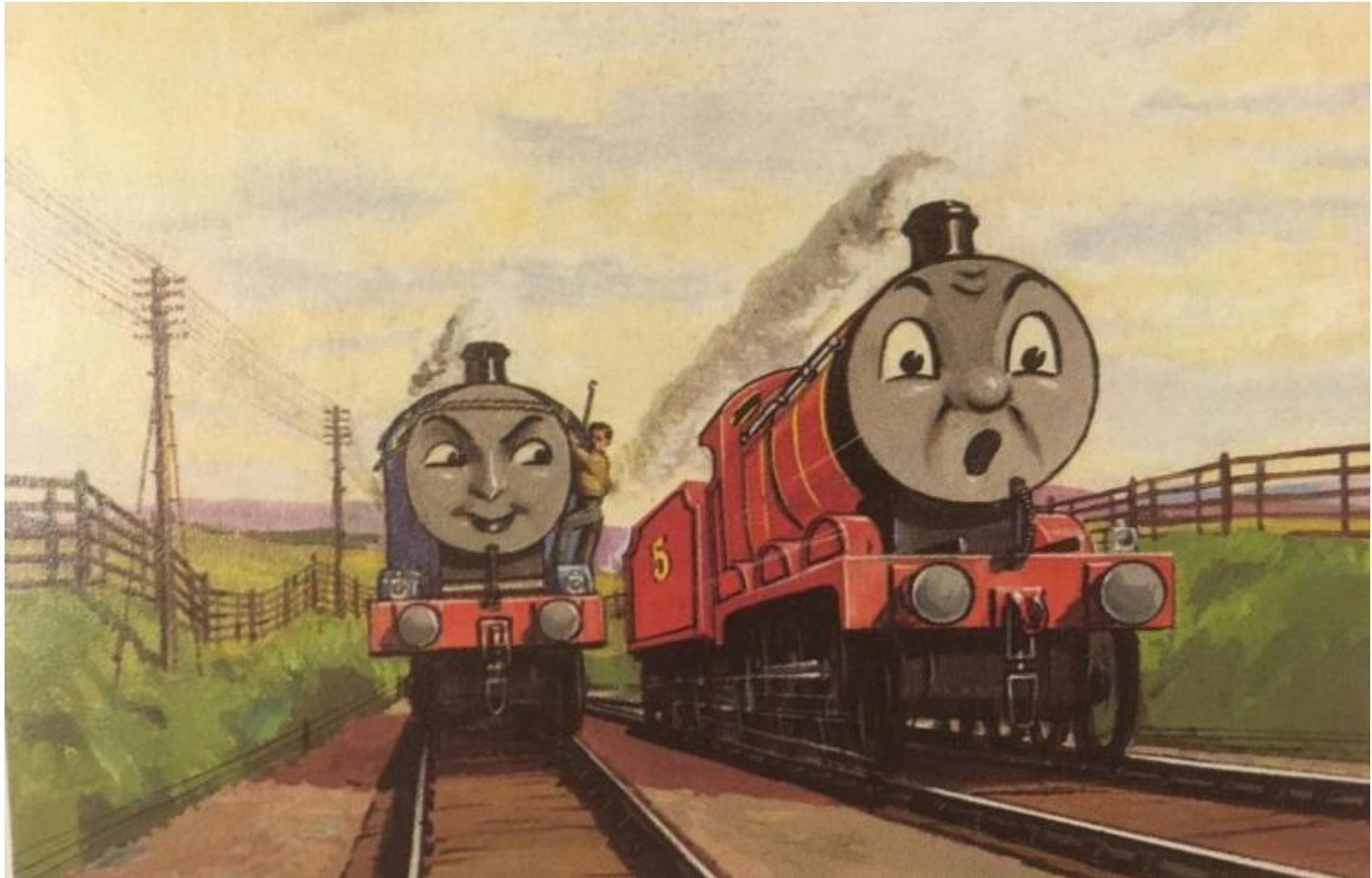
Operations – Racing Stepney vs Caroline



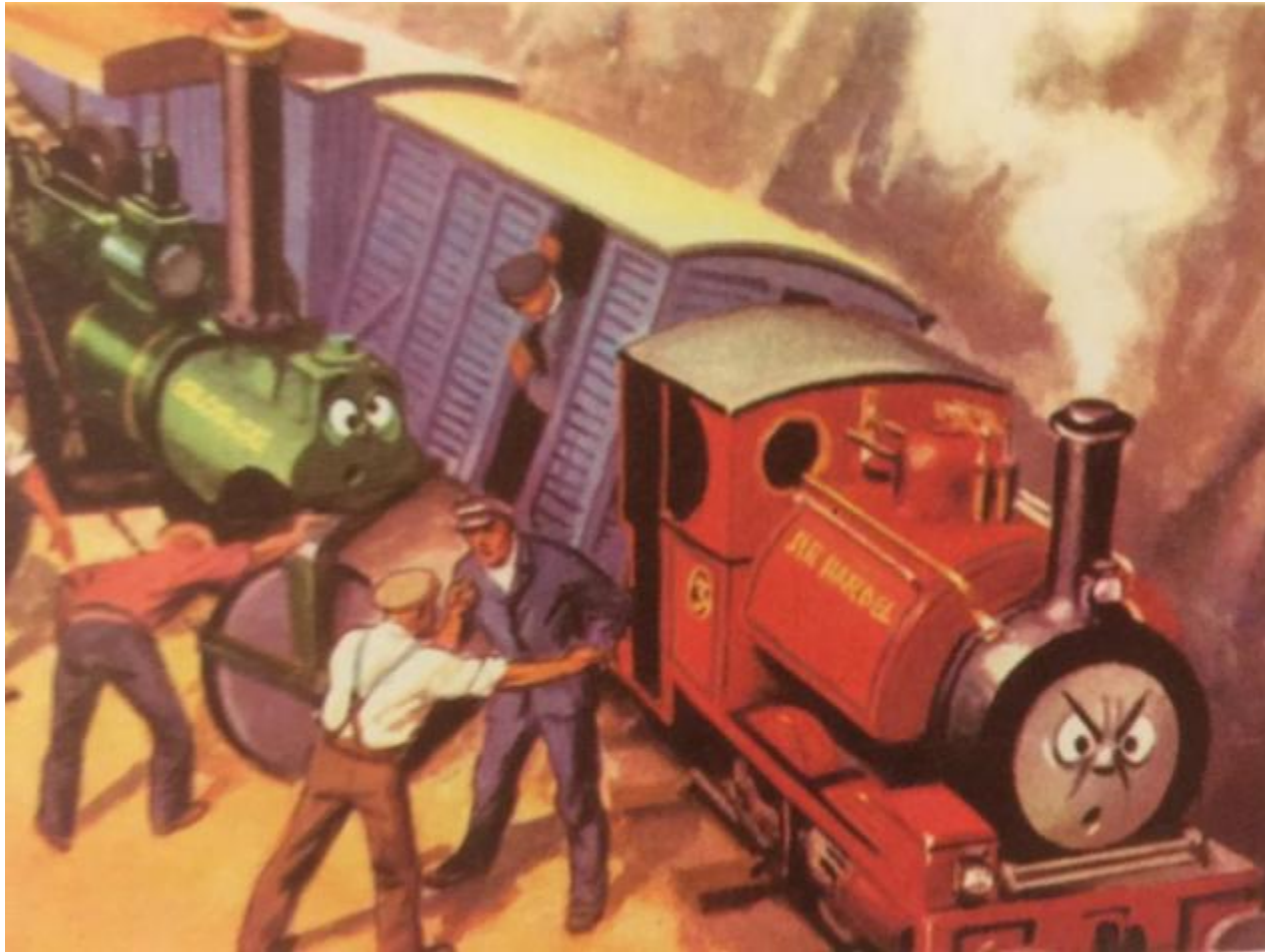
Operations – Racing Percy vs Harold



Operations – Racing Edward vs James



Operations – Racing Sir Handel vs Steam Roller



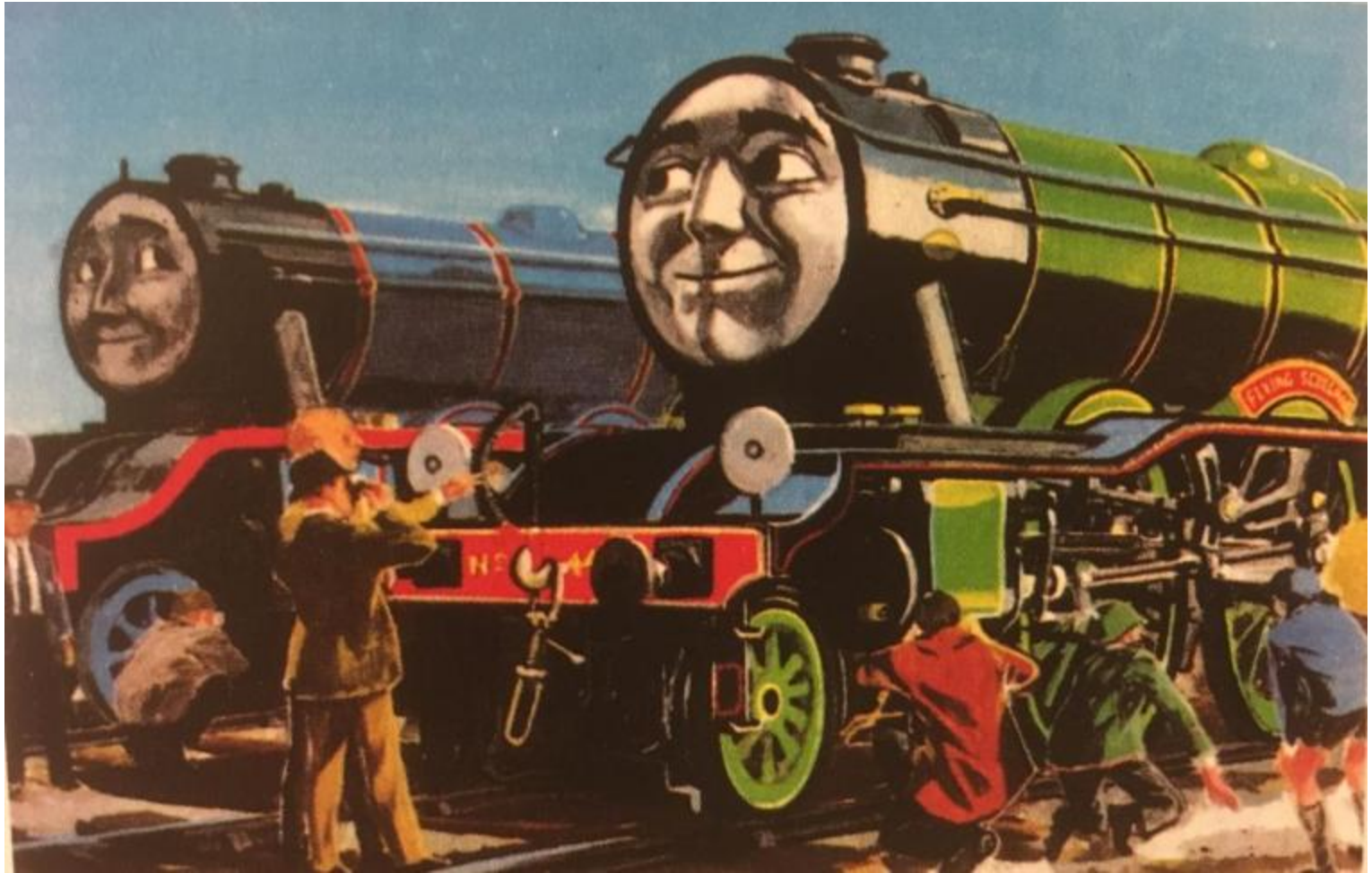
Visitors - City of Truro



Gordon tries “The Ton”



Visitors - Flying Scotsman



Reliability

Reliability

Reliability

Edward - Crank Pin Failure



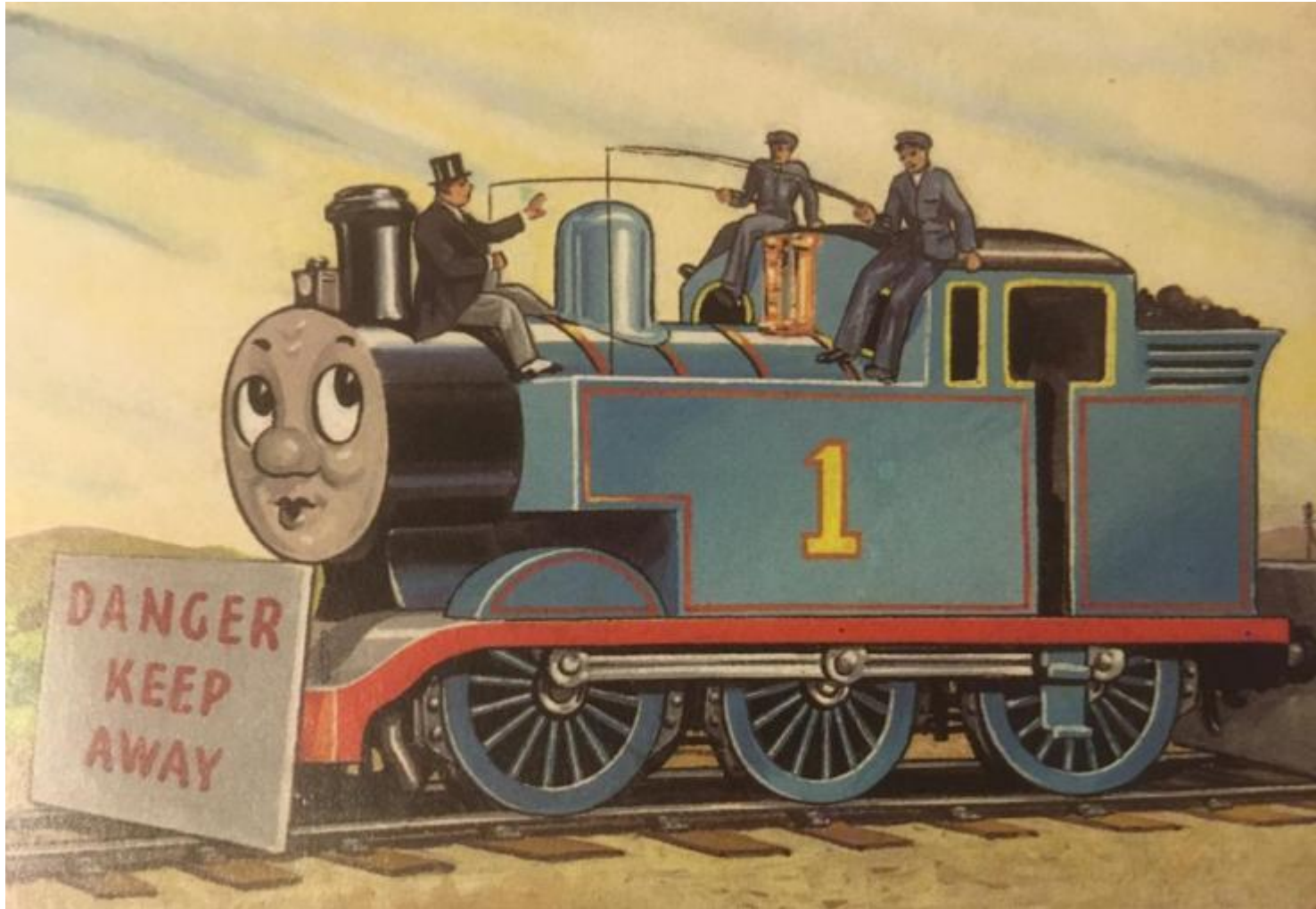
Skarloey – Broken Spring



Gordon – Stuck Whistle



Thomas – Water Feed



James – Failed Vacuum Hose

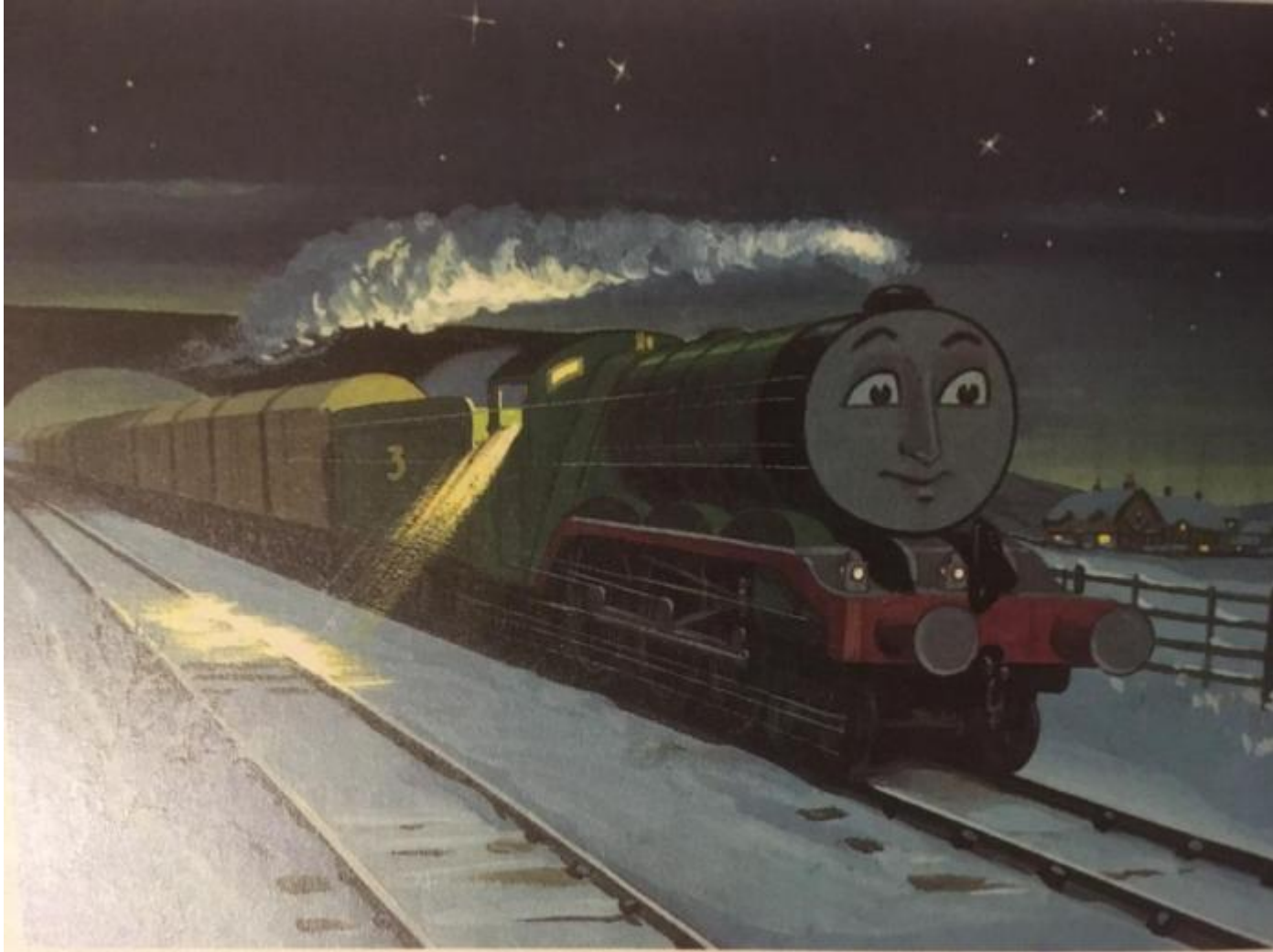


Locomotive Developments

- Few and far between
- James: Wooden brake blocks replaced
- Gordon rebuilt at Crewe

“ I had a ‘rebuild’ at Crewe. They didn’t do a proper Doncaster job, of course, but it serves”

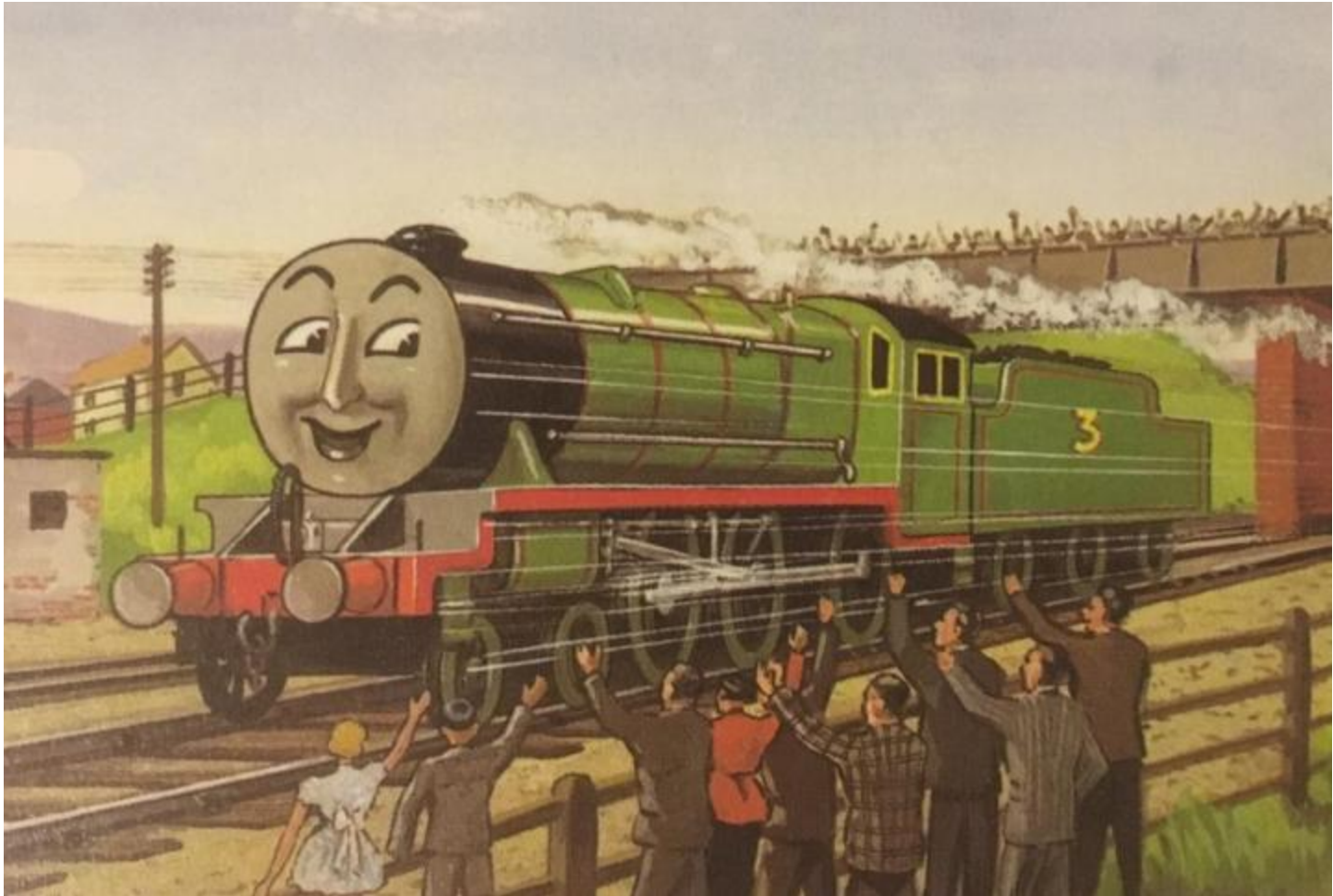
Henry's Firebox



Henry's Firebox

- As built - very small grate
- Will only steam on Welsh Coal
- Crashes hauling "The Flying Kipper"
- Sent to Crewe for rebuild

Henry – A “Green 5”



Peter Sam's Chimney

- Original gets knocked off by icicle in tunnel
- Fitted with Giesel Ejector
- A brief explanation given in text
 - no performance data.
- Sir Handel: *"I can't understand it. Peter Sam never seems to work hard. He just says Tshe Tshe Tshe and simply strolls away with any train he's given"*

Peter Sam's Chimney



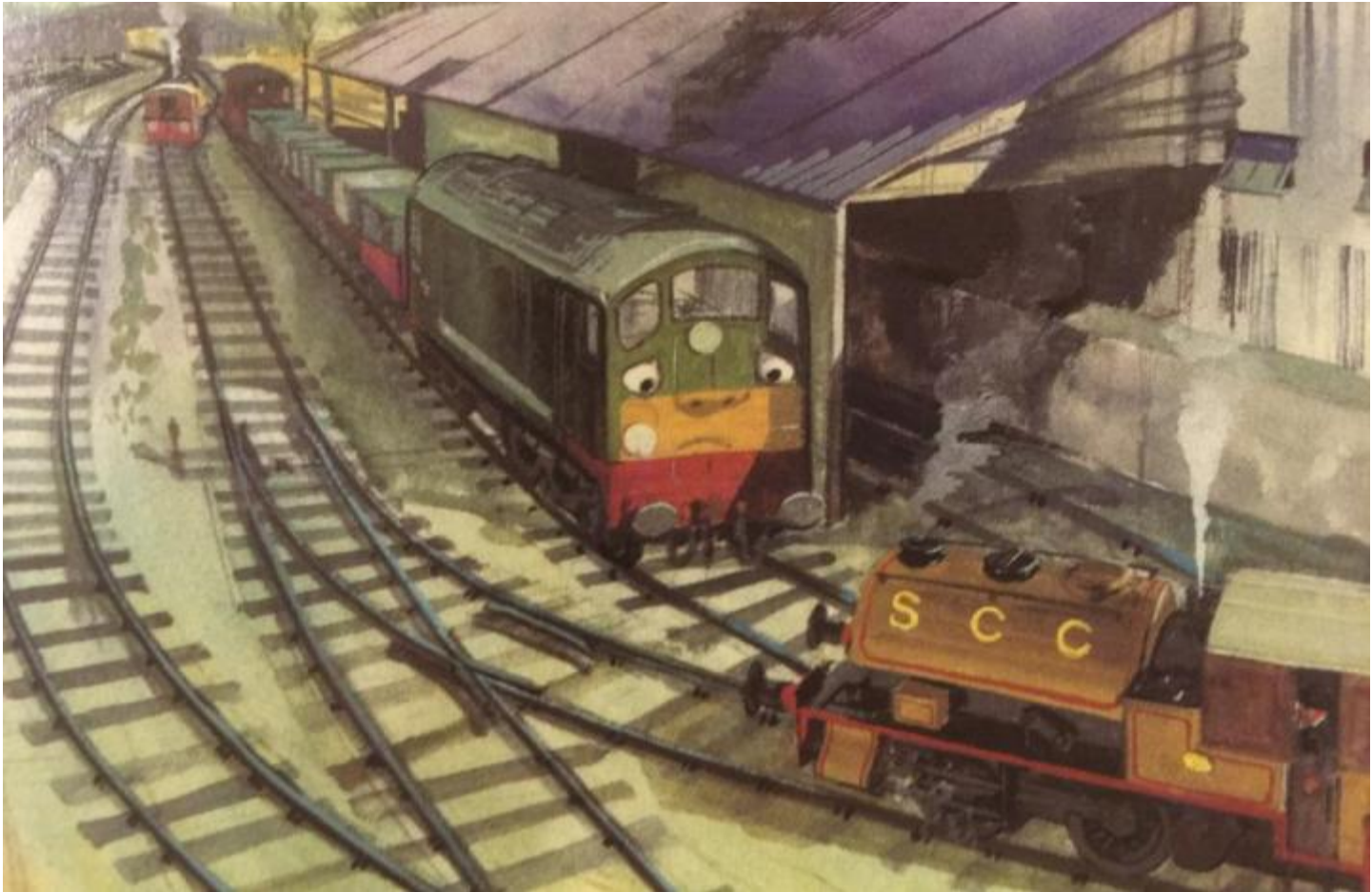
Modernisation – Diesel (know it all)



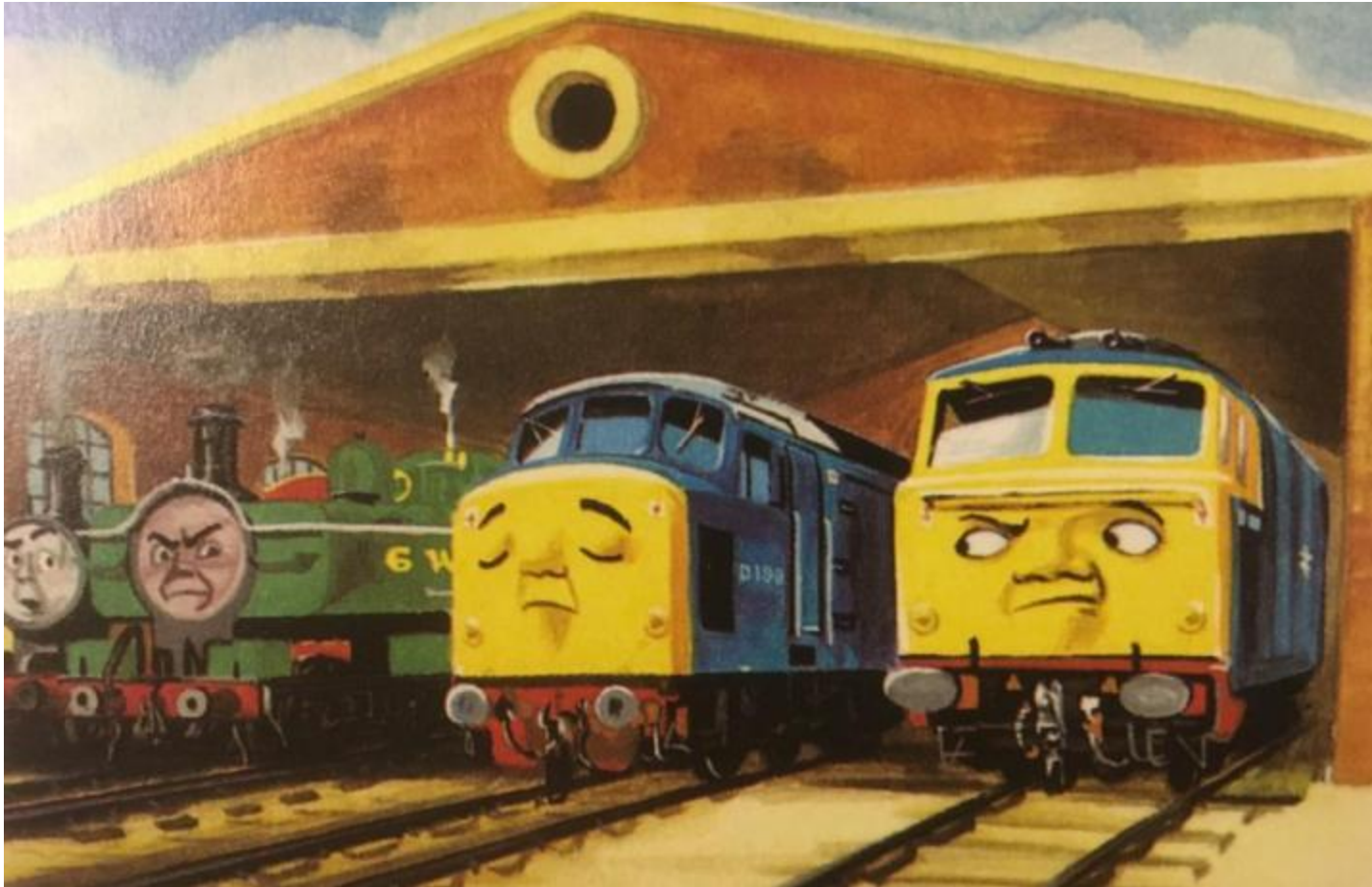
Modernisation – Daisy (lazy) Mavis (immature)



Modernisation – BoCo (shy)



Modernisation – Peak & Hymek



Modernisation Summary

- Diesel reliability is often poor
- Some diesels learn error of ways
- A few become “Really Useful”
- Sodor’s railways remain

Steam Hauled

Since Rev. Awdry.....



87 Engines.....

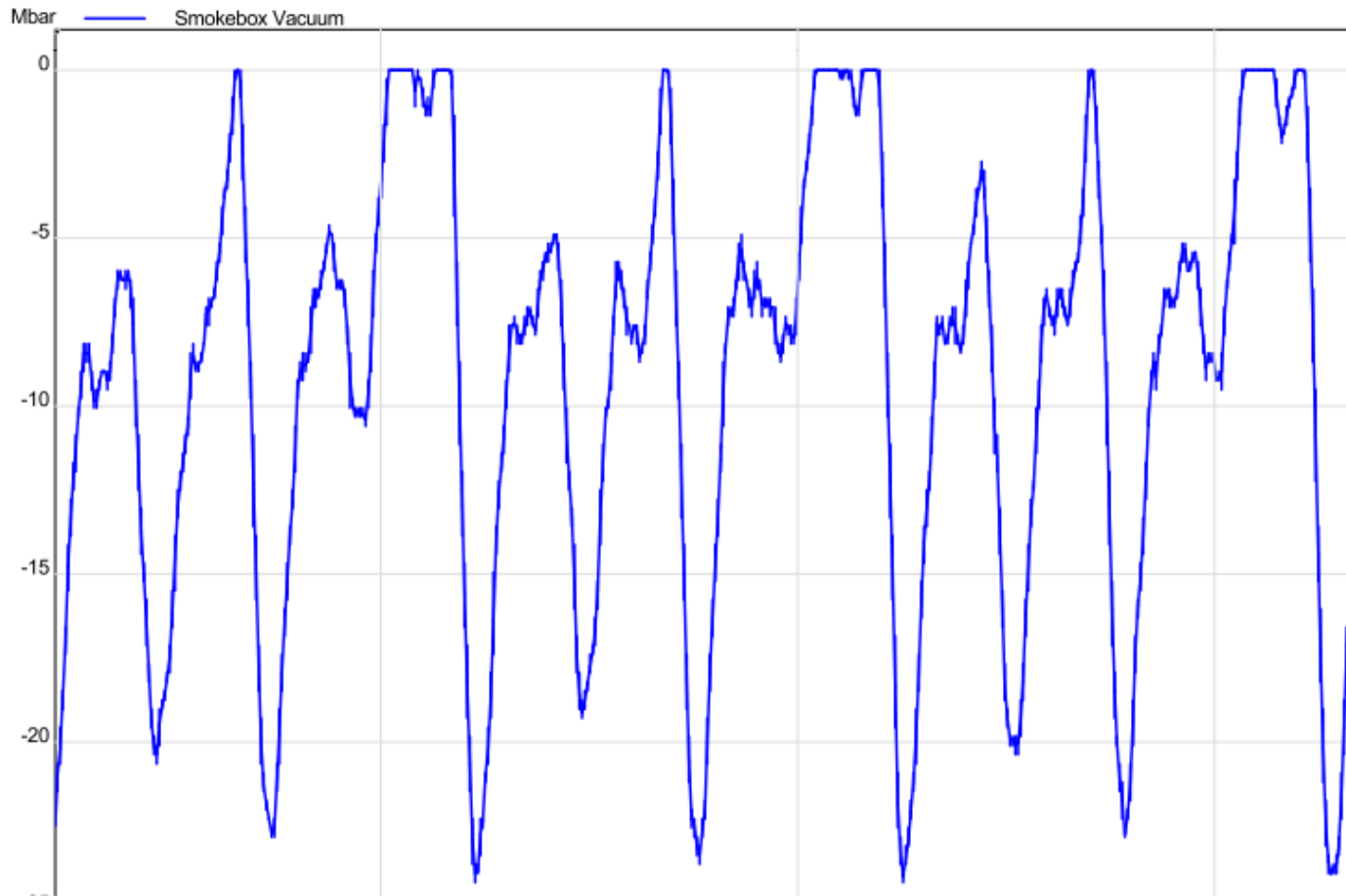
- - [1.1 Thomas](#)
 - [1.2 Edward](#)
 - [1.3 Henry](#)
 - [1.4 Gordon](#)
 - [1.5 James](#)
 - [1.6 Percy](#)
 - [1.7 Toby](#)
 - [1.8 Emily](#)
- [2 Recurring characters \(steam engines\)](#)
 - [2.1 Duck](#)
 - [2.2 Donald and Douglas](#)
 - [2.3 Oliver](#)
 - [2.4 Bill and Ben](#)
 - [2.5 Harvey](#)
 - [2.6 Fergus](#)
 - [2.7 Arthur](#)
 - [2.8 Murdoch](#)
 - [2.9 Molly](#)
 - [2.10 Neville](#)
 - [2.11 Rosie](#)
 - [2.12 Whiff](#)
 - [2.13 Stanley](#)
 - [2.14 Hiro](#)
 - [2.15 Charlie](#)
 - [2.16 Bash and Dash](#)
 - [2.17 Ferdinand](#)
 - [2.18 Scruff](#)
 - [2.19 Belle](#)
 - [2.20 Stephen](#)
 - [2.21 Porter](#)
 - [2.22 Timothy](#)
 - [2.23 Glynn](#)
 - [2.24 Ryan](#)
 - [2.25 Merlin](#)
- [2.26 Theo](#)
- [2.27 Lexi](#)
- [2.28 Hurricane](#)
- [3 Recurring characters \(diesel engines\)](#)
 - [3.1 Diesel](#)
 - [3.2 Daisy](#)
 - [3.3 BoCo](#)
 - [3.4 Mavis](#)
 - [3.5 'Arry and Bert](#)
 - [3.6 Diesel 10](#)
 - [3.7 Salty](#)
 - [3.8 Den](#)
 - [3.9 Dart](#)
 - [3.10 Norman](#)
 - [3.11 Paxton](#)
 - [3.12 Sidney](#)
 - [3.13 Philip](#)
 - [3.14 Hugo](#)
 - [3.15 Frankie](#)
- [4 Recurring characters \(electric engines\)](#)
 - [4.1 Stafford](#)
- [5 Minor characters \(steam engines\)](#)
 - [5.1 Billy](#)
 - [5.2 Hank](#)
 - [5.3 Flora](#)
- [6 Minor characters \(diesel engines\)](#)
 - [6.1 Derek](#)
 - [6.2 Dennis](#)
- [7 Other standard-gauge characters](#)
 - [7.1 Flynn](#)
 - [7.2 Winston](#)
 - [7.3 Marion](#)
 - [7.4 Reg](#)
 - [7.5 Skiff](#)
- [8 Recurring visiting engines](#)
 - [8.1 Stepney](#)
 - [8.2 Spencer](#)
 - [8.3 Connor](#)
 - [8.4 Caitlin](#)
 - [8.5 Gator](#)
 - [8.6 Samson](#)
 - [8.7 Flying Scotsman](#)
 - [8.8 Ashima](#)
 - [8.9 Yong Bao](#)
- [9 Minor visiting engines](#)
 - [9.1 City of Truro](#)
 - [9.2 The Diesel \(D261\) {BR Class 40 Green}](#)
- [10 Special-only characters](#)
 - [10.1 Lady](#)
 - [10.2 Merlin](#)
 - [10.3 Theo](#)
 - [10.4 Lexi](#)
 - [10.5 Hurricane](#)
 - [10.6 Frankie](#)
- [11 Merchandise-exclusive characters](#)
 - [11.1 Logan](#)
 - [11.2 Sam](#)
 - [11.3 Dustin](#)
- [12 Upcoming Characters](#)
 - [12.1 Nia](#)
 - [12.2 Rebecca](#)

If I was the Fat
Controller

Lempor Exhausts – “Donald J Trump”



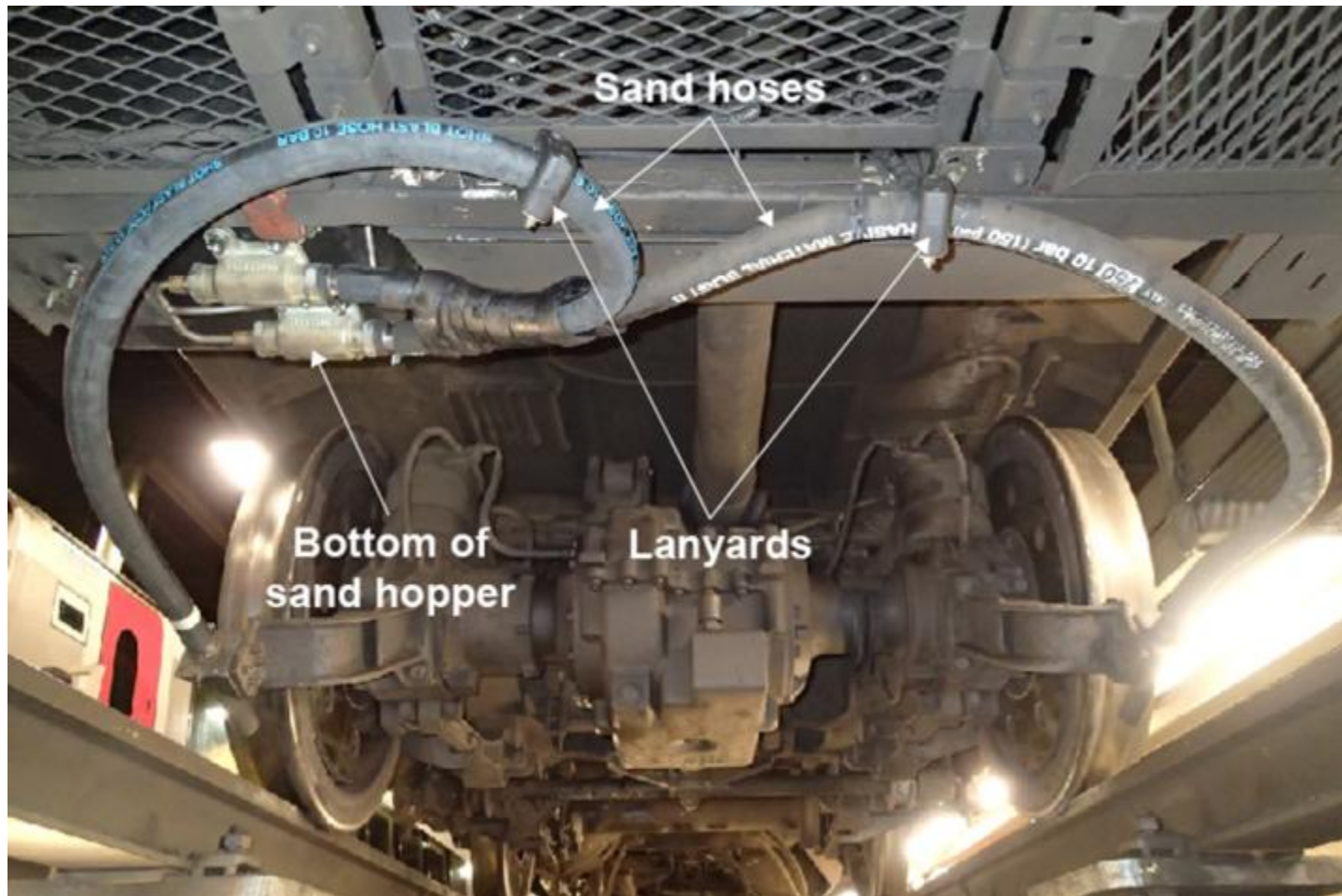
Condition Monitoring – with AST



Fully Fitted Freights



Compressed Air Sanding



Water Treatment

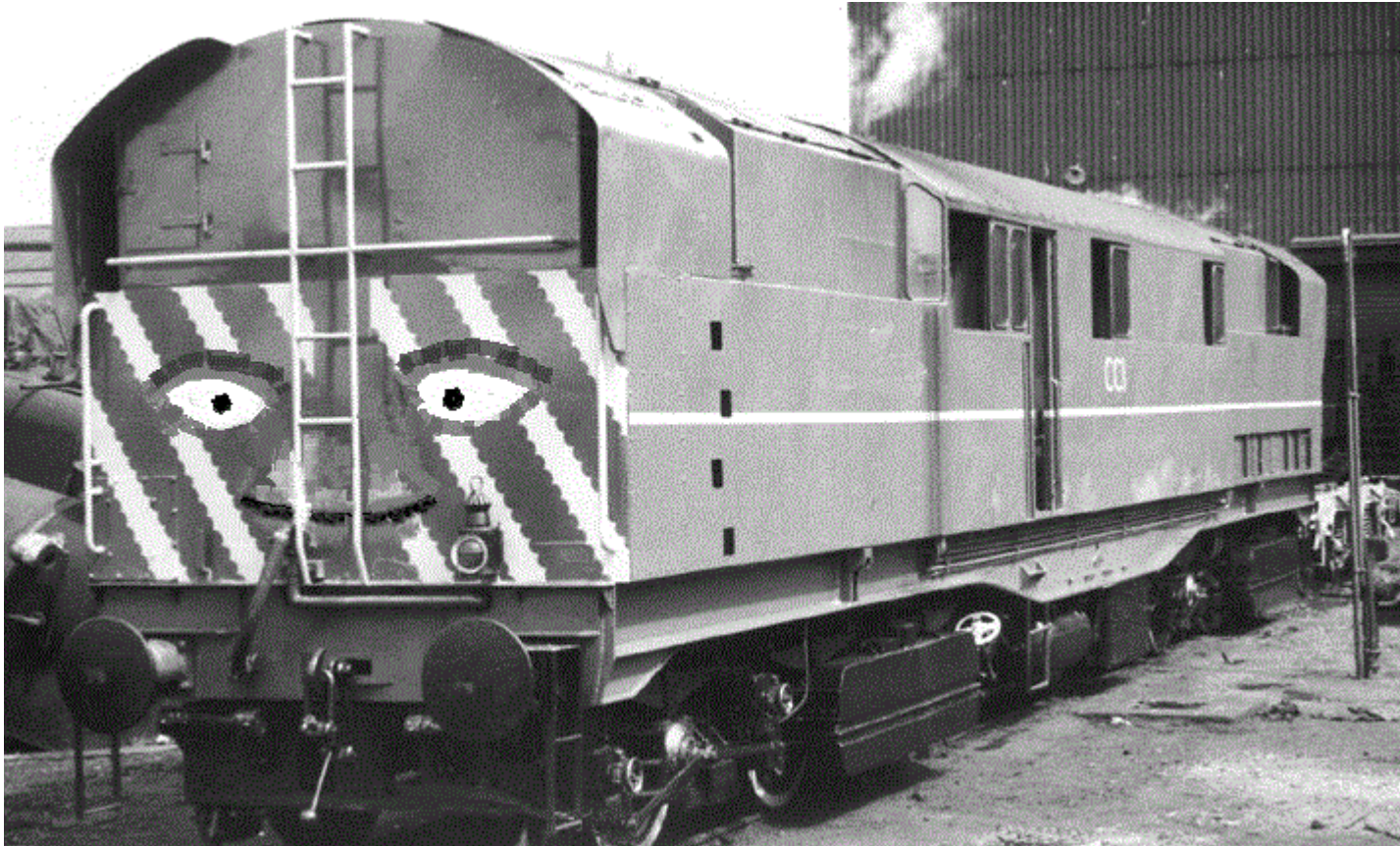


New Locomotives

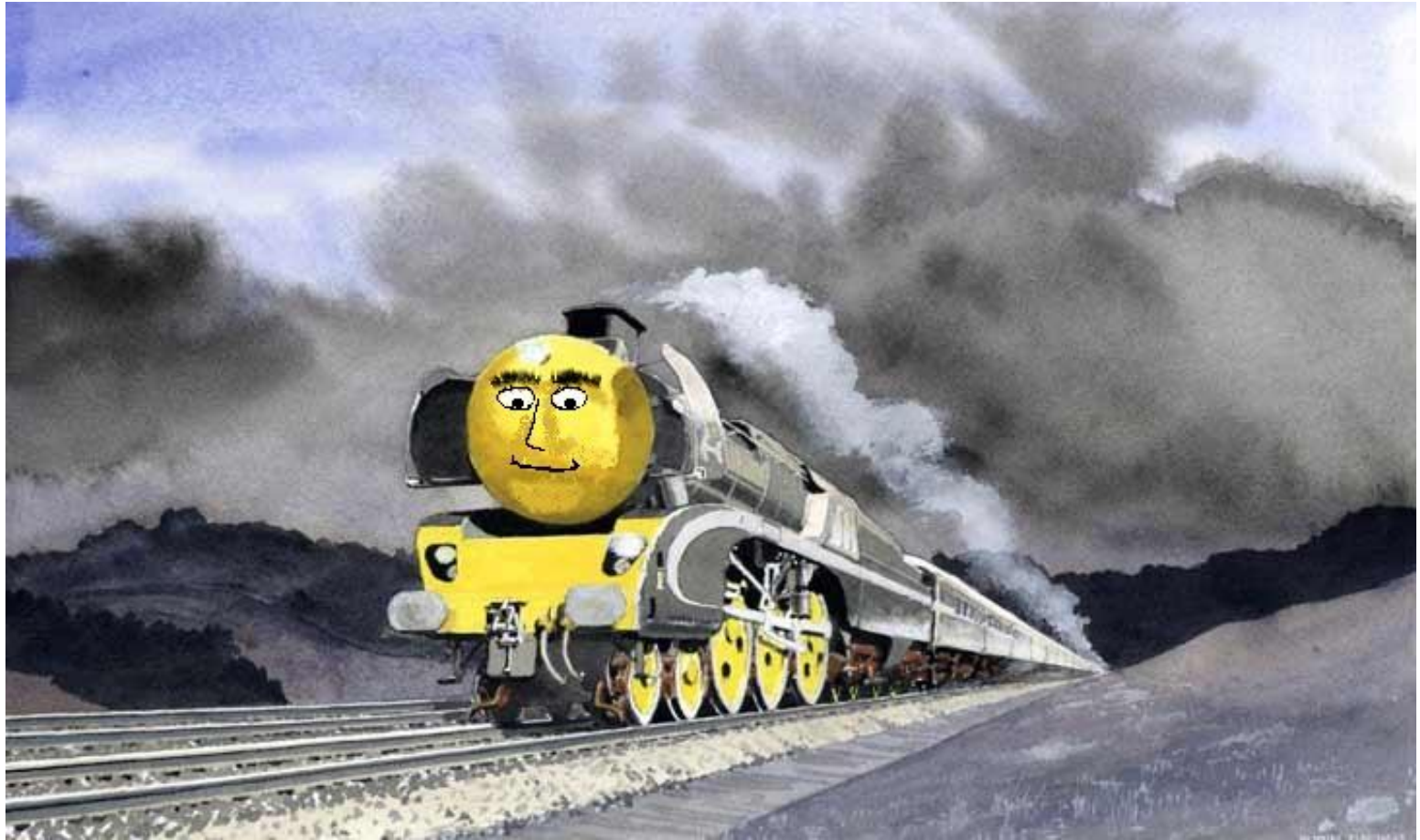
Bertha the Banker



Marjorie the Biofuel Engine



Felicity the 5AT



With thanks to Robin Barnes