
FEVR FLASH

EASTERN NEBRASKA CHAPTER NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025

APRIL, 2002

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Eastern Nebraska Chapter and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR) - (402-727-0615) - 1835 N. Somers, Fremont, NE 68025

Fremont Dinner Train (402-727-8321 or 1-800-942-7245) - 650 N. H St., Fremont, NE 68025

THOMAS IS COMING!

Thomas the Tank Engine- That friendly little locomotive will be at the Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad on **May 3, 4, and 5** and again on **May 9, 10, and 11** to entertain kids of all ages. Train rides with Thomas, entertainment, and Thomas merchandise will be featured. Credit card ticket sales are now in progress by calling toll-free **1-866-813-9993, 8 AM- 7 PM, Monday through Friday**. Over **10,000** train ride reservations have been made and more are coming in daily, so to ride with Thomas, call right away. **NOTE:** A very limited number of train tickets will be available at the time of the events. However, to insure a ride on the desired time and day, advance ordering is highly recommended. Tickets are not necessary to visit the depot area where entertainment will be provided and souvenirs can be purchased.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Thomas events will bring into the Fremont area visitor numbers which will rival any other event so far and will **benefit the area economy** greatly. For the Eastern Nebraska Chapter, the event will bring in much needed revenue to improve the train and the facilities to better serve its purposes of historic preservation and tourist operations. The **Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce** is assisting with the entertainment aspects which will be set up in the city park adjacent to the depot. In order to serve the visitors and to give them a good impression of Fremont and of the

Chapter and the FEVR railroad, many volunteer workers are still needed, both in preparation for the event and during the event. **Volunteer Incentives-** For each **8 hours of volunteer work**, two **VIP TICKETS** good for a ride on the Thomas train on Thursday, May 2, (before the start of the regular trips on May 3) are offered. If the tickets cannot be used for that trip or for volunteers who work after that time, the two tickets may be used on the regular FEVR excursion trip later. In addition, for **every volunteer hour worked**, \$1 will be donated to any non-profit organization of the volunteer's choice. Finally, there will be a **drawing**, in which all volunteers are eligible, for one each of two **caboose charter trips** during a regularly scheduled excursion trip on the FEVR railroad in the 2002 season. **NOTE:** Volunteers must **sign in and out** at the depot for each work period to be eligible for the incentives. Call the depot at 402-727-0615 or the Chamber at 402-721-9359 for more information.

GETTING READY:

Much work is being carried out in preparation for the Thomas event. The **new track spur** leading to the south side of the depot (see under-construction photo on the outside of this issue) is now completed. **Painting, repairs, and improvements** are underway in the excursion cars which will be used. Look for a uniform color scheme on all of the cars. These improvements will provide a long term benefit for the excursion trips after the event is over. The merchandise to be available for the event will soon arrive and will have to be sorted, priced, and stored. **Again-- Volunteers needed!**

EXCURSION TRAVEL:

The 2002 Excursion Season, starting with our annual Open House on April 20 and 21 is underway. The **Saturday trips** leave at 1:30 PM and

return at 3:00 PM with an option of time in Nickerson to visit the antique shop there. The **Sunday trips** leave at 1:30 PM and return at 4:45 PM with time in Hooper to visit the historic main street area. Refreshments and souvenirs are available on the train on all trips. Reservations recommended- call 402-727-0615. **Caboose charters and train charters** are available-arrangements must be made no less than two weeks in advance. To receive the descriptive brochure about excursion travel, write or call the railroad office (402-727-0615)

RAILSCHOOL:

This "Railschool" in each issue is intended to include a topic informative both to members and to the public. For this issue more about the diesel locomotive will be considered.

The coolant water tank on our **EMD SW1200** locomotive has been recently replaced. The old unit was corroded and was a possible failure area. Many persons do not realize that the typical railroad diesel locomotive uses only water, with additives, and not anti-freeze, all year around. With the hundreds of gallons of coolant needed for each unit, the cost of antifreeze would be very high. Also, some units have had problems with coolant leakage into the engine oil and any antifreeze would quickly destroy the engine. **In freezing weather**, these locomotives must either be housed indoors (as in the case of our SW1200), allowed to run continuously, drained, or have an auxiliary heating device. Most often chosen is the option of continuous operation. That is why one will see locomotives parked and idling in the rail yards. Although when pulling a train, locomotives will consume several hundred gallons of fuel per hour, while idling they will consume 3-5 gallons per hour. Diesel engines require the addition of specific additives to the coolant to avoid internal erosion of the cylinder liners.



RAILSCENE: New spur track to the depot under construction in March, 2002, for the Thomas the Tank Engine visit.
