

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025

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POINTS OF CONTACT:

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For excursion only- 402-727-0615

Fremont Dinner Train - 650 N. H St., Fremont, NE 68025

For Dinner Train only- 402-727-8321

(The Fremont Dinner Train is a separate business for which the FEVR provides motive power and trackage).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the second in a new online series of the **FEVR FLASH** which began with the February, 2007, issue. Previously, it was published as a postal mail issue starting in January, 2002, and ending with the May, 2005, issue. The end at that time was due to the editor's serious illness. The editor has now resumed with this version.

WHO WE ARE:

The following is presented to acquaint the reader with the organizations frequently mentioned in this publication.

The **Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM)**: This is a non - profit organization incorporated in Nebraska and is affiliated with the **National Railway Historical Society (NRHS)**. The NRHS is an organization dedicated to the preservation of railway history, equipment, and other artifacts. For affiliation purposes, the NRM is known as the Nebraska Railroad Museum Chapter.

The **Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR)**: This is the railroad operated by the NRM. It operates on right-of-way originally established out of Fremont in 1869. This eventually extended into Northern Nebraska and into South Dakota and Wyoming and was part of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad until abandonments in the 1980's. The FEVR operates on a remnant extending to Hooper, Nebraska, with excursions and related activities.

The **Fremont Dinner Train (FDT)**:

This is a privately owned enterprise which provides its customers with dining and related activities and owns its own

dining cars. Motive power and trackage is provided under contract by NRM/FEVR.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Past:

February 17: First Membership meeting and work session .

March 7: Meeting of the Boards of Directors of both the NRM and FEVR .

Future:

March 17: Second Membership meeting and work session Saturday, 10:00 AM. Contact **Dennis** at **624-2610** for more information.

April 20: Start of school runs

April 22: Orphan train

May 20: Start of regular excursion schedule

Note: The previously scheduled Harvey House run for April 28 will be held at a later date.

ORPHAN TRAIN:

The Orphan Train on April 22 will mark the first year that the event has appeared on the schedule. The event commemorates the efforts by children's welfare organizations in Eastern cities to provide a better life for destitute children in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

In those times, there were thousands of children - either orphans or those abandoned by their parents - on the streets of those cities. These were "rounded up" and placed on special trains headed to the West. Along the route of travel - mainly in rural areas - the arrivals of these trains were advertised along with the opportunity for local residents to select and provide homes for the children.

Children were sometimes placed on a stage where they could demonstrate their talents, if any, - almost in a scene reminiscent of a slave market of an earlier century. Many times siblings were separated, often never to meet again.

The intent was to provide a better life for the children and this generally occurred. Many went on to become professional people. Most established homes and families and led normal lives in their localities. Some, unfortunately, became little more than indentured workers.

Nebraska received its share of these

children. The Orphan Train in April most probably will have descendents of these children, those interested in the history of the event, and possibly some of the actual riders on the original trains.

The scheduled event will be a great opportunity to learn about this important part of history. It is anticipated that a new book about these children and their lives will be available.

The reader will find much more information on the subject on the Internet.

NEW MEMBERS:

Those recently joining NRHS and NRM include:

Erin Ashby - Elkhorn, NE

Gary Emenitove - Omaha, NE

Richard Swetnam - Waterbury, NE

Paul Meidlinger - Omaha, NE

Ryan Konz - Lincoln, NE

Those joining NRM include:

Robert L. Storz - Omaha, NE

Samuel Moessner - Omaha, NE

Ray Morrison - Cedar Bluffs, NE

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The first Saturday membership meeting and work session was held on February 17 at the depot. The work planned for the second session on March 17 tentatively will include improvements in the museum that are needed in preparation for the excursion season. Safety instruction will again be a topic. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

SAFETY:

The 2007 operating season is now underway and safety should again be emphasized. The **Volunteer Agreement** which members are asked to execute reminds all that a railroad has by its nature has the possibilities of serious injury or death unless safety is always the first and most important concern.

Follow all rules and instructions - never take a "short cut" to do something "faster". Look out for each other - make sure that the location of everyone - particularly during switching operation - is known. **Expect** the unexpected movement of cars and locomotives at any time. Set handbrakes or block the wheels of parked rolling stock to prevent its movement. Let's have a safe and enjoyable operating season.