

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM  
1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025 MAY, 2007

## 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.)

## DEPARTURE:

It is with a great amount of sadness that we announce the loss of a good friend, able volunteer, and very capable train engineer. **Joe Prochaska** passed away on Sunday, May 6, in a Lincoln hospital at the age of 80. He farmed near Abie, Nebraska, and lived in Abie after retiring from that occupation. He was an accomplished musician, playing with many of the area polka bands. He was an engineer on the FEVR, retiring several years ago, with a reputation for smooth train handling.

We all extend condolences to the family and recognize Joe for a good life, well lived.

The funeral on May 9, attended by members of NRM, was in Abie at the Catholic church with burial in the church cemetery

## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS :

The FEVR and the NRM Boards of Directors met Wednesday evening, May 2, at the Fremont Holiday Lodge. FEVR Board members attending were **Ron Spahni, Bob Ueberrheim, Dave Jorgensen, Shirley Angermund** (Board President), **George Blessing, Darrell Miller, Erik Mutthersbough, Al Schlapfer, and Charles L. Sedlacek**. Several members were unable to attend. **Jim Lacy**, Director of the Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau, was a guest.

A Banking Committee was organized to study the status of several loans to recommend possible restructuring plans. The current Financial Committee will investigate grant matching funds.

It was announced that the

construction of the new highway in the Hooper area will result in increased traffic through that town on a railroad crossing on Park street. This will necessitate improvements for the crossing surfaces. Plans to do the needed work were discussed.

The draft FEVR business plan developed by Jim Lacy and presented to the Board members since the last meeting was reviewed. Mr. Lacy will revise the plan as needed and present the plan again.

There was emphasis again on the need to log time spent on track and mechanical work as "in-kind" match for grant applications.

NRM business discussions included the announcement by **George Blessing** that he must resign the position of Membership Director effective July 1. Currently, George schedules the crews for the railroad which in itself takes a great amount of time plus he also carries out the duties of National Director. The National Director maintains communication between NRM and the National Railway Historical Society.

The duties for the Membership Director involve maintaining membership rosters and sending out renewal forms and notices as needed. Moderate computer use skills are desirable.

George would help someone take over. The position does not require membership on the NRM Board. Anyone interested should contact **Shirley Angermund**.

Discussion also included the possibility of getting the return of **Thomas the Tank Engine**<sup>™</sup>. This very popular event was here in 2002 and 2003. 2007 nearby visits are at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad, Boone, IA and at the Midland Railway, Baldwin City, KS.

The 1995 Ford hi-rail truck, which was damaged through operator error last year during weed spraying, will be taken to Lincoln for repair in May.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The next membership meeting will be on **May 12** at the Fremont depot starting at 10:00 AM. The main effort

will be a general cleanup of the depot and grounds in preparation for the start of the excursion season on May 20. Any equipment needs for those runs should also be addressed. As many as possible volunteers are needed.

## CHARTER SCHEDULE:

Charters as of 05/10/07

May 10 - 10 AM - school

May 11 - 10 AM - school

May 17 - 10 AM - Christian Acad

May 18 - 10:30 AM - school

May 22 - 9:30 AM - school

June 1 - 10:30 AM - Omaha club

The Orphan Trains last month were both filled to capacity and most probably will be repeated next year.

## EXCURSION SCHEDULE:

The regular excursion season begins on May 20. Trains leave the Fremont depot at **1:00 PM** on Saturdays and Sundays for a trip of about three and one-half hours to Nickerson and return. Reservations recommended but not required. It is advisable to call the depot to confirm the schedule ahead of time should there be a change due to special events.

Air conditioned fares are \$14 for adults and for children 3-11 \$10. Vintage coach fares are \$10 and \$8 respectively. Children under 3 at no charge. AAA cards give a \$1.00 discount on adult fares.

New brochures are now available. Call or write to obtain a copy.

## NEBRASKA LIFE ARTICLE:

The March 10 visit by reporters from the Nebraska Life magazine mentioned in the April issue of the Flash has resulted in an article about our railroad. It can be found in the current May-June issue which is available at periodical outlets such as Walmart.

## SAFETY:

In the May 9 edition of the Omaha World-Herald, the safety organization **Operation Lifesaver** reports on recent trends in the frequency of train-vehicle crossing accidents. Although the trend of accidents is toward fewer incidents, any is too many. This is important information for both railroaders and motorists.