

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM
1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025, NOVEMBER, 2010

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM) and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR) 1835 N. Somers, Fremont, Nebraska 68025, (www.FremontRailroad.com), voice and fax - 402-727-0615 (office)

For excursion only- 402-727-0615

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

For Dinner Train only- 402-727-8321

(The Fremont Dinner Train is a separate business)

BACK ISSUES:

Back issues of the FLASH and links to numerous railroad related sites may be viewed at www.FremontRailroad.com.

MAILING LIST:

If anyone wishes to be added to or removed from the FLASH email list send a request to NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The NRM Board of Directors met at the Clarion Inn (formerly the Wilderness Lodge) on **November 3**. Present were BOD members **Blackmore, Blessing, Sedlacek, and Eveland**. Treasurer **Angermund** and guests **Mark Kothenbeutel** and **David Fachman** were also present. Vice-president **Blackmore** conducted the meeting in the absence of President **Wallen** who was attending the TRAIN convention in Colorado (see the October 2010 FLASH).

Since there was not an attendance quorum of BOD members, no binding actions were taken. **Kothenbeutel** described the situation he has with the three ex-Milwaukee Road passenger cars in storage in South Dakota which must be moved to another location soon. These are similar to the two currently used for climate controlled travel in NRM excursion service.

These cars are in need of repair and with the expenditure for repairs and transportation to Fremont; the total cost could approach **\$30,000**.

The funding problems and the ways and need for incorporating the additional cars into the excursion service remained unresolved.

Several other items were held over for the December meeting for action. It was reported by **Angermund** that there has been significant progress in paying outstanding bills.

Sedlacek said that he has been investigating the possibility of providing handicapped accessible facilities in the NRM excursion service. The vintage passenger cars do not provide **ADA** specification facilities and the lack of those facilities prevents the patronage by large numbers of mobility

challenged persons. His plan would envision an installation for a **RPO** style car with an external wheelchair lift, ADA restroom facilities, and heating and cooling capabilities. Since there is a general lack of such facilities in typical excursion services, he feels that there would be a market for them and that they would bring **recognition** to NRM. There is a good possibility of getting grant funding and inviting community involvement.

PRESIDENT TRAVELS:

Board President **Wallen** returned from the Tourist Railway Association (**TRAIN**) annual conference in Alamosa, Colorado, the first week in November. He has stated that the ongoing work in combining the efforts of TRAIN with **ARM** (the Association of Railway Museums – see the January, 2010, FLASH archived at www.FremontRailroad.com) was a topic of major attention. In addition, there was the usual schedule of meetings, seminars, and tours associated with the event. More information at the next BOD meeting December 1.

SHOWING OFF – AGAIN!

NRM will have displays at three area **model railroad** events in early 2011. Volunteers are needed to staff these displays. If anyone likes to promote the museum and railroad to the public, please contact the museum. A great opportunity to meet and learn from those with railroad interests and to show others the advantages of railroading at a scale of 12 inches to the foot! More show details later.

World's Greatest Hobby on Tour

Quest Center, Omaha, NE Jan 15/16

Lincoln Area Model Railroad Club & Museum

Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE Feb 19/20

Western Heritage Division, NMRA

Omaha Burke High School Apr 16 - 17

ELECTION:

The BOD ballots that were distributed to the 22 voting eligible members (must be NRHS members of record) were to be returned postmarked by USPS no later than November 26. This method of ballot return was adopted to eliminate any potential uncertainty as to when a ballot was received and its validity.

Three incumbents – **Blackmore, Blessing, and Sedlacek** were listed on the ballot with **Richard Swetnam** as an additional candidate. The ballots will counted at the BOD meeting on **December 1** and successful candidates will take their offices in **January, 2011**.

DOUBLE TRACK:

The Union Pacific double track project west from Blair, NE is underway as described in the October, 2010, Flash issue (see the Flash archives at www.FremontRailroad.com).



(Photo by George Blessing)

Bridge construction about one mile east of Kennard (view is toward Kennard in the background.)

EXCURSION SEASON STATISTICS:

Information on demographics and the manner in which patrons learned of the excursions was collected during the 2010 season at the time patrons purchased tickets.

A summary of this information indicates that **27%** obtained information from the Web, **20%** by "word of mouth", **16%** from a previous visit, **20%** from "other or unspecified", and a total of **18%** from the combination of newspaper, email, magazine, and guide book. **30%** were children (0-11) and **70%** were adults (12+). There were nearly 2000 riders, up **32 %** from 2009, with 10 school charters and 355 John C. Fremont Days passengers included in the total. Not included are the passengers for the Harvey House charter. The majority of riders were from the eastern Nebraska metropolitan areas.

This information will be used in determining the emphasis on the type of advertising in the future, particularly for that on the Internet.

Excursions will resume in May, 2011.

SANTA RUNS:

The first was held on November 28 with the second scheduled for December 5. These are held in cooperation with the Fremont Dinner Train and all inquires about these runs or regular Dinner Train operations should be directed to that organization at 402-727-8321.

CHARTERS:

NRM charters may be available depending upon weather and other operating conditions.