

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025, APRIL, 2011

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM) and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR) depot office address is at 1835 N. Somers Ave., 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:

Questions about the list may be sent to the FLASH editor at nptchm@hotmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The NRM Board of Directors met at the Clarion Inn in Fremont on April 6, 2011. Present were BOD members **Eveland, Daniels, Porter, Swetnam, and Blessing**. Treasurer **Angermund** and guests **Josh Kay** and **David Fachman** (train crew members), **Charles L. Sedlacek** (editor of the FLASH), and **Shannon Mullen** (Marketing Director, Fremont and Dodge County Convention & Visitors Bureau) were also present. Some agenda items **follow**:

Letters of thanks have been sent to individuals who assisted with locomotive 1219 after an apparent minor derailment January 29. (note: it was found later that the unit had not actually derailed, but that the snow build up initially made it appear so).

One of the train crew members explained the details of a situation of **interference** with their duties while securing the locomotive by a person unauthorized to be on Museum property. The BOD voted to send a letter to that person regarding the incident along with a copy of NRM train crew policy

Ms. **Mullen** explained her background in the tourism and marketing areas. She mentioned that the Fremont Dinner Train and NRM/FEVR are among the **unique** attractions in Fremont. She said that there will be a totally new **website** this summer that will integrate the marketing of attractions in Fremont. She also mentioned that about 65% of Fremont tourism comes from local areas.

Ms. **Mullen** was scheduled to visit a NRM membership meeting.

The crossing on **US 275** has had problems of deterioration since shortly after its

construction and is of concern to NDOR (Nebraska roads department). A copy of the letter sent to new owner Mike Williams by NDOR has been received.

It was noted that all train crew members must be active members of NRM to remain on the crew roster. Letters to that effect were to be sent to individuals lacking that membership.

An **inquiry** will be made to Union Pacific to determine if grant money originally received for the repair of the Davenport locomotive now no longer owned by NRM can be used instead for the repair of the RPO car.

David Fachman will be in charge of training in-train excursion conductors for their duties.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Back next month!

CREW TRAINING:

Additional training sessions for all who have not attended one yet this year and who will be on train crews are scheduled to be held at the Fremont Depot from 1:00 – 3:00 PM on Saturdays, **April 30** and **May 21**. Attendance at a session is **mandatory** if individuals are serving on train crews. There will be an increase in the total training hours to comply with new FRA requirements..

UNION PACIFIC PROJECT:



(Photo by FLASH editor)

There is not much current evidence of additional new work on the double track project between **Blair** and **Kennard**. To facilitate the project, the Washington County Board of Supervisors recently approved, at the request of the railroad, the closing of one rural road **crossing** (shown) immediately west of Kennard (the current passing siding is foreground), albeit over the protests of several local residents. This limited road traffic crossing was the site of an accident where a semi-trailer truck was struck by a then **CNW** west bound train. (Editor's **recollection**: this was in 1994, driver was killed, and there were truck parts scattered for at least a quarter mile along the track). The **ROW** curves just east (photo right) of the crossing, limiting visibility. The crossing hazard would increase greatly with the coming of possible simultaneous bi-directional

traffic on adjacent tracks.

Television station **WOW-T** recently carried a story about a problem with a crumbling embankment along county road **P-29** just west of Blair caused by the grading for the new track. The feature showed the affected farm family conferring with UP representatives.

See additional construction photos in the recent archived FLASH issues on the NRM Internet site.

BNSF ACCIDENT:

The widely publicized accident on the BNSF Railway just west of Red Oak, Iowa, occurred in the morning of April 17. A 130 car coal train ran into the rear of a train carrying maintenance machinery at a reported speed just over 20 mph, with at least four of the flat cars over-running the cab of the lead coal train locomotive. The cab was sheared off, resulting in a fire and the fatalities of both conductor and engineer.

The cause will be under investigation for an extended period by the usual organizations.

The April 20 issue of the Omaha World-Herald stated that nation-wide **BNSF** had 19 train collisions in 2009 and 21 in 2010. For all railroad companies, there were two in **Iowa** in 2010 and a total of 10 in the period 2007-10. In **Nebraska**, there were three in 2010 and eight since 2007. Presumably, the majority were not as serious as the April 17 one in Iowa.

EXCURSIONS BEGIN:

The 2011 excursions are scheduled to begin on Sunday, **May 22**, and to continue until the end of October. After May 22, the trains will run on **Saturdays** and **Sundays**, boarding at the Depot at 1835 N. Somers Ave. at 1:00 PM. Reservations are recommended but not required. Those without reservations should call the Depot before coming since excursions cancel occasionally for special events.

CHARTERS:

Excursion charters are available for schools and special events. Contact the Depot for scheduling. Current charters for May include school charters on **May 5** and **May 12**.

SHORT LINE:

The **Blacklands Railroad** based in Sulphur Springs, Texas (near Dallas) has been selected as the Short Line Railroad of the Year by **Railway Age**, a leading publication in the industry. It is operated by **Wayne Defebaugh**, a former chapter member. He left here in 1998 and successfully, by attention to customer service, brought to productivity a defunct short line now connected to Class 1 lines. Congratulations to Wayne!