

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

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

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

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For excursion only- 402-727-0615

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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:

Welcome to new readers who are now on the revised mail list as a result of NRM membership. However, there are current readers who have been identified as no longer having membership.

Since the FLASH is intended primarily for the distribution of information to members, those identified will be reminded with the current issue to renew membership. They will receive a membership form for renewal convenience along with the current Flash.

In order to reduce the logistics of Flash distribution, all recipients will receive a membership form. Those who are current members may disregard the form or better yet give it to someone they know and add to the NRM membership.

The on-line Flash is released on or near the last day of each month in a one page format. That time of publication allows the summarization of the month's activities, including at times the results of BOD actions, rather than having the reader wait for a publication on a longer time interval.

Completed new or renewal membership forms, along with the appropriate remittance, should be sent directly to the NRM office.

Questions about the list may be sent to the FLASH editor at [nptchm@hotmail.com](mailto:nptchm@hotmail.com).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The NRM Board of Directors met at the Clarion Inn in Fremont on February 9, 2011 (the meeting was rescheduled from February 2 because of bad weather). Present were BOD members Blessing, Eveland, Daniels, Peterson, D. Mutthersbough, Swetnam, and Powers (community appointee). Treasurer Angermund and guests Fachman, Henderson, and Kothenbeutel were also present.

President Daniels reported on a conversation he had with Mike Williams, the new owner of the right of way and locomotives. Among the items discussed were: track repair to begin in March, renewal of the interchange track to Union Pacific, maintenance on locomotive 1219 by Midwest locomotive, continued operation of the Fremont Dinner Train, a possible replica depot construction, and securing private funding assistance.

President Daniels emphasized the importance of concise meeting reports, bringing by-laws and other documents into good order, and following conventional rules in meeting conduct.

Several other items of discussion: the establishment of an Executive Director's position was postponed until the next meeting; use of cd's for some of the sale proceeds does not have sufficient liquidity; and the purchase of errors and omissions insurance for the BOD members was approved.

Two NRM members who supplied funds for the purchase of the Davenport locomotive in Algona, Iowa, in 1998 held liens against the unit. The BOD approved the repayments of the sums owed so that the liens could be terminated.

A motion to increase the membership of the BOD was defeated.

Charles I. Sedlacek, editor of the NRM newsletter was invited to attend future BOD meetings. He will also head the handicapped accessibility project concerning the excursion train and future structures that might be built by NRM.

The possibility of bringing two ex-Milwaukee passenger cars currently in South Dakota owned by Mr. Kothenbeutel was again under discussion. (see the November and December 2010 Flash editions for previous discussions).

An agreement was approved whereby he would bring the cars to Fremont at his expense and also stand the cost of repair for use. The two cars would complement the capacity of the excursion trains and the only responsibility of NRM would be storage and routine cleaning of the cars.

After the NRM meeting, the assembled reconvened briefly as the FEVR BOD. The main business of that session was to meet in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

## TRAIN SHOW:

NRM/FEVR were represented at the Lincoln Area Model Railroad Club and Museum event at the Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE, on February 19 and 20. Josh

Kay, Greg Jewett, and Dennis Wallen worked at the show, handing out about 400 brochures.

The next event is scheduled at the Burke High School in Omaha, April 16 and 17.

## NEW PRESIDENT:

Rudolph Daniels (Rudy), the new president of the Boards of Directors NRM/FEVR is a scholar, educator, author, and railroad enthusiast. He received a Ph.D. in history from Penn State University and has taught in universities and colleges both in the United States and in Germany. Most recently, he was Department Chair of the "Railroad Technology Program" at Western Iowa Tech in Sioux City from 1995 through 2002. He has lectured for railroad programs nationally and has gathered railroad artifacts and documents for decades.

He has authored two books on railroads and is in the process of writing another on the railroads of World War One. His book *Trains Across the Continent* (1997, Pacific City Graphics, South Sioux City, Nebraska) was written at the request of several officials from railroads in the United States and Canada. The front and rear cover photos and several others in the book were taken on the FEVR and the Fremont Dinner Train.

He has performed feasibility studies, written grants, and conducted campaigns for a national fund raising company. He currently is the Law Enforcement Planner for the Sioux City Police Department.

## END OF TRACK:

Acquaintances at the NRM/FEVR were saddened to learn of the death of Heinz Boettcher - railroader, volunteer, friend - on January 13, 2011. He was a person of many talents, including mechanic, Fremont policeman, Dodge County deputy sheriff, member of the National Guard and Army Reserve, and employee at Valmont. He received a Purple Heart as a result of military service in the South Pacific.

His wife, Madalyn, preceded him in death in June, 2010. He leaves several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was born in Germany, emigrating with his family at an early age.

While he served as a volunteer at the NRM/FEVR in the 1990's and early 2000's, he exhibited many of his talents, often making simple a problem which appeared to be insurmountable to others. But most of all, he was noted for his ability to deal with people, never criticizing, but rather instructing in a friendly way on how better to do a task.