

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025, AUGUST, 2012

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

**Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM) and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR)** depot office address is 1835 N. Somers Ave., Fremont, Nebraska, 68025, ([www.FremontRailroad.com](http://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](http://www.FremontRailroad.com).

## MAILING LIST:

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 August 1, 2012.

Present were Treasurer/Executive Director **Angermund**; BOD members **Daniels** (BOD president), **Swetnam** (BOD Secretary), **Blessing**, **Peterson**, **Eveland**, and **Fachman**.

Absent: **Blackmore**, **Powers**, and **Mutthersbough**.

Guests: **Charles L. Sedlacek**, **Mel Cunningham**, **Bruce Eveland**, **Josh Kay**, and **Hunter Lafferty**.

## Announcements:

Ms. **Angermund** reported that a Travel Channel crew from New York had visited to film a segment for their program *Mysteries in the Museum* about a railroad worker who survived a scalping. Member Maynard **Porter** from Sioux City brought a hand car owned by Philip **Neri**, also of Sioux City. Local members **David Fachman**, **Hunter Lafferty**, and **Mel Cunningham** participated. A motion was passed to thank all for their help. The film crew was pleased with the local help.

**Daniels** announced that BOD member **David Fachman** has been hired by the Union Pacific (Editor: for train crew conductor training) and extended congratulations.

**Daniels** expressed appreciation to **Josh Kay** for organizing track repair work crews.

**Daniels** further reported that he has been in contact with FRA representatives regarding the newly mandated bridge inspections which have a September deadline.

**Bruce Eveland**, manager for the Fremont Dinner Train, said that the business has decided to relocate to Kansas (Editor: the Midland Railway headquartered in Baldwin City). He

stated that the promises by the new owner here to **repair** the track have not been kept and that the FRA could order a shut down. He further said that the **failure** of the only locomotive available to pull the train would also put him out of business. He indicated that he may end his business here as early as the end of September, but no later than the **end** of the year. He will move his equipment by truck, since Union Pacific might need to be paid as much as **\$50,000** to repair the now out of service connection from the current location of the train.

There was considerable discussion following his announcement. Mr. **Eveland** said 'this is home and it's hard to go'. (Editor: the FDT has operated out of Fremont for 23 years)

## BOD actions:

The treasurer's report was reviewed by treasurer **Angermund**.

**Blessing** reported that he has secured six hand held and one mobile narrow band radio. The mobile will be used by the signal maintainer. (Editor: NRM now has all the radios needed for narrow band compliance by 2013.) The purchase was approved by unanimous vote.

**Josh Kay** discussed the difficulty of obtaining workers for track maintenance and the need for a supply of new ties. He was authorized to contact the Fremont Community Service Office for possible help.

A motion was passed to arrange for locating a qualified person for **bridge** inspection.

There was again discussion regarding the ex-Milwaukee Road cars owned by member **Mark Kothenbeutel**. He now has indicated that he would be available to operate the cars on Saturdays. A motion to pursue the subject was passed.

One of the **guest** NRM members suggested to the BOD that the inoperative Jackson 21 ton ballast tamper in Hooper be **sold** for scrap to secure additional funds. The unit was donated several years ago to NRM.

The guest inquired about the status of the **property** in Hooper which, according to sale agreement (December, 2010) with **Mike Williams** was to be **donated** back to NRM one year after the sale. **Daniels** replied that a letter concerning the matter had been sent to **Williams** but that no reply had been received.

The guest further inquired about any reaction from the city of **Fremont** or the State of **Nebraska** to the imminent departure of the FDT. Several BOD members said that the reaction from the city has been disappointing.

It was further mentioned that the State of Nebraska gives very little support for tourism attractions.

(Editor's note: The state of Kansas, Douglas County (KS), and Baldwin City (where Midland Railway is located) all have provided support for the FDT move. According to the August 9 issue of the Lawrence Journal, the Baldwin City Council authorized the City Administrator to discuss incentives that the city could provide. Mr. Eveland had asked for help and had informed the city that the FDT moving cost was \$220,000 and that the owners had secured all but \$25,000.

In an article about the FDT move in the June 12, 2012 Baldwin City Signal, it was mentioned that the Kansas governor had signed a bill giving railroad dining cars the same right as traditional restaurants to apply for liquor licenses.

It was further mentioned that Douglas County (in which Baldwin City is located) had approved a \$54,000 Natural and Cultural Heritage grant to Midland Railway to help defray the \$180,000 expense of a new storage track for the dinner train.)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

President **Daniels** writes:

"**Mike Williams** promised the FRA that he will repair a portion of our track in 30 days. I will keep everyone informed of the progress.

Your president gave a presentation on the **Railway Post Office** in Ames, IA, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Union Pacific. The presentation was well received. I have been invited back to do another next year. Rudy"

## MERGER:

The **merger** of two railroad preservation organizations - **TRAIN** (Tourist Railway Association) and **ARM** (Association of Railway Museums) - to become the **ATRRM** (Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums) is underway, pending final actions this Fall. For more information, including the rationale for the merger action, and the time line, access the websites of either TRAIN or ARM.

## CHARTERS AND EXCURSIONS:

**Excursions** are boarding at the Depot at 1835 N. Somers Ave, Fremont, Nebraska, at 1.00 PM every Saturday and Sunday until the end of October.

For more excursion and other railroad information the see NRM site at [www.FremontRailroad.com](http://www.FremontRailroad.com)

**Charters** available by reservation. See Points of Contact at the start of this publication.