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**UNMC College of Dentistry
90th Anniversary Open House
Sept. 11 and 12
9:30-11:30 a.m., 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

The UNMC College of Dentistry has been part of the Lincoln community since 1899. Join us as we celebrate a proud tradition of educating the dental professionals of tomorrow! Stop by Monday or Tuesday for tours of our Lincoln facility on East Campus. You'll see the clinics, labs, library and a special treat — the Dental Museum!

90 Years of Excellence
in Dental Education
1899-1989

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College of Dentistry

40th & Holdrege East Campus (402) 472-1341

Restored dinner train allows visitors to experience traditional railway dining

By Gretchen Boehr
Senior Reporter

"Trains are wonderful . . . to travel by train is to see nature and human beings, towns and churches and rivers, in fact, to see life."

-- Agatha Christie

Visitors aboard the Fremont Dinner Train watch the grassy plains of the Platte and Elkhorn river valleys slip past the windows.

As the sun sets across the prairie, dinner is served while the vintage train continues down its 16 miles of track.

The track was laid in 1869 and was put up for abandonment in 1984 by the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Company. The Eastern Nebraska Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society of Fremont purchased the track in 1986.

The dinner train's three-hour nostalgic trip features a five-course meal and a 30-mile round trip from Fremont to Hooper.

The dinner train operates two

dining cars, which were acquired in 1988 and restored according to their history.

"We tried to create the ambiance people expect when they go into a railroad diner car," said Bruce Eveland, manager of the dinner train.

Everything from the food to the atmosphere was very elegant and impressive in the 1940 dining cars, Eveland said.

'We tried to create the ambiance people expect when they go into a railroad diner car.'

--Eveland

The Elkhorn River car was built in 1947 by Pullman-Standard Co. for the Illinois Central Railroad. The car later was sold to the Rock Island Railroad and converted into a diner car.

The decor is traditional diner style with original pictures and posters of rail travel framed and hung on the walls.

The Maple Creek car was made in 1942 by the Canadian National Railways.

The car was restored with its Canadian heritage in mind, Eveland said.

"The car's red interior and oak woodwork bring to mind the royal Canadian Mounties."

Music of the big band era of the 1940s plays throughout the cars and meals are served on thick, railroad-type china.

The steam engine is a World War II special built in 1942, Eveland said.

The engine is owned by the Eastern Nebraska Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society of Fremont. The historical society runs excursion trains throughout the summer. On weekends, the train travels from Fremont to Hooper at 1 p.m. Saturday and 2

p.m. Sunday.

The excursion trains use the same engine as the dinner train, but different cars, Eveland said. These trains seat about 300 people, he said.

"It's billed as a ride in vintage rail equipment," he said.

At the destination point of Hooper, the people get off for one hour and 15 minutes of shopping.

Hooper is listed on the National Registry for Historical Business

Districts in the United States, Eveland said. It features old-fashioned store fronts of a typical 1890s-era town. Several antique shops, an old saloon and ice cream parlor are open to visitors.

On the dinner train, about 75 percent of the passengers are from Lincoln and Omaha, Eveland said. But the train attracts many people from surrounding states, he said.

On Sundays, from May through October, the dinner train is combined with the regular train excursion. All excursion trips will end in October.

The dinner train runs year-round with lighter schedules in January through March, Eveland said.

The five-course meal includes hors d'oeuvres, soup, salad, main entree and dessert.

The September menu includes entree choices of Prime Rib, Chicken Alfredo and Alaskan Halibut. In October the choices are Prime Rib, Plum Duck and Rainbow Trout.

The train runs Friday through Sunday. On Friday, boarding is at 7:30 p.m. and departure is at 8 p.m. On Saturday, boarding is at 7 p.m. and departure at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday the train boards at 1:10 p.m. and departs at 2 p.m. The Sunday dinner is a three-course meal.

The price is \$32.50 on Friday and Saturday, excluding gratuity, tax or alcoholic beverages. On Sunday the price is \$28.50.

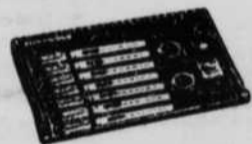
The excursion trips are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

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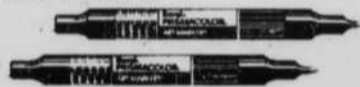
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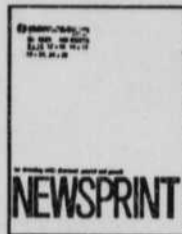
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Courtesy Fremont Dinner Train

The dining car of the Fremont Dinner Train.

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