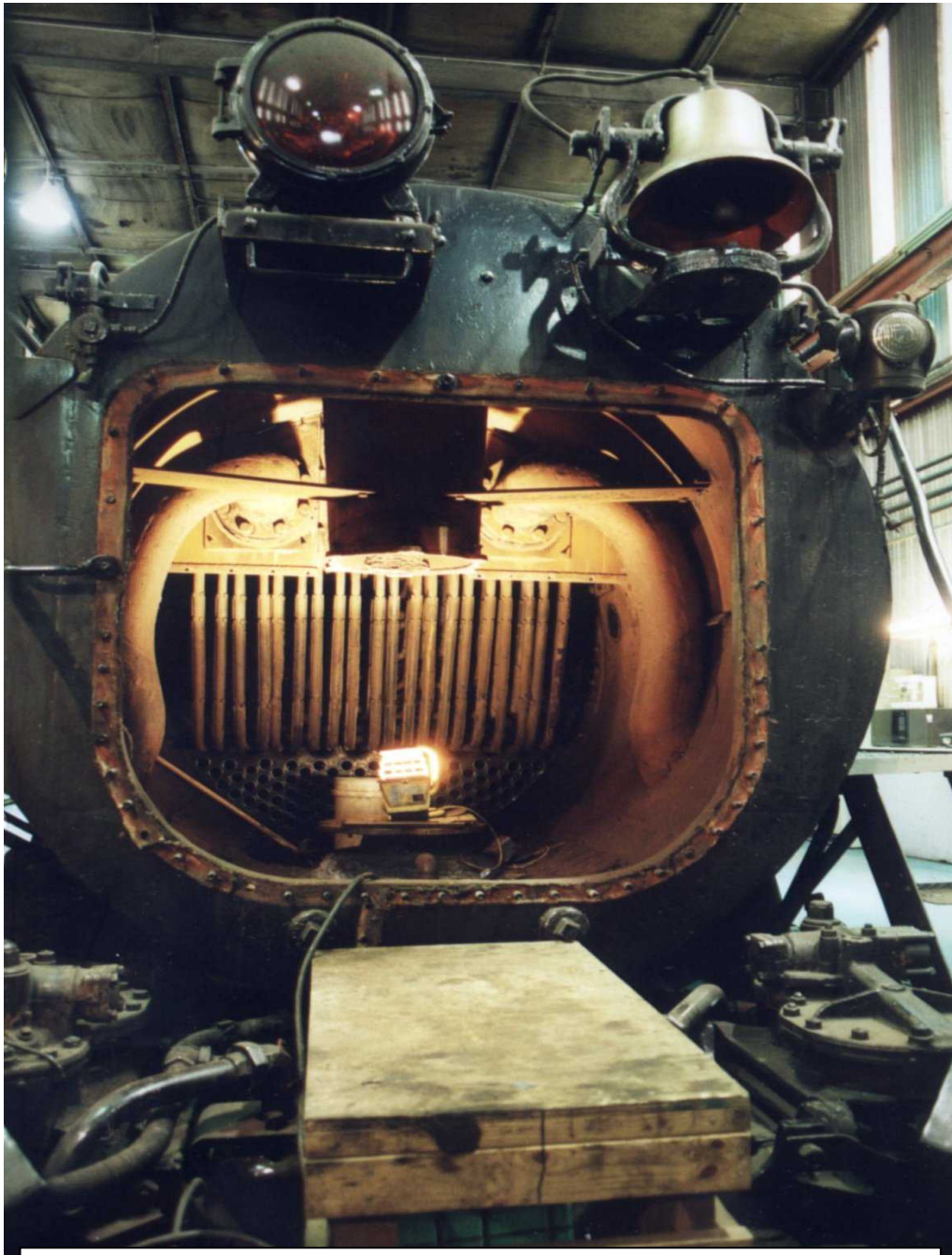


VOLUME 34

NUMBER 6

JUNE 2003

WWW.NORTHSTAR-NRHS.ORG



The smokebox of engine #261, taken during the May 10th, 2003 open house at Minneapolis Junction. The super heater tubing is highlighted. The large curved pipes carry high pressure steam to the cylinders. The bottom of the smokestack is above the light.

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Builders Plates from Reading FP7's Show Up on eBay

Members of the Lancaster-Philadelphia NRHS Joint FP7 Committee, as well as officers of the Reading Company Technical and Historical Society reacted with surprise and a flurry of electronic mail activity after EMD builder's plates from former Reading FP7's 900, 902 and 903 showed up for sale on eBay on Saturday April 19. One plate each from the 902 and 903 were offered at a starting price of \$225 and two plates from the 900 were offered at a starting price of \$400 in three separate lots.

NRHS Senior Vice President Larry Eastwood, acting on behalf of the parties mentioned above, questioned the seller (who is never identified on eBay lots) regarding the legitimacy of the sale of these plates, which have been missing from the units for many years. The seller's only response to the e-mail message was to suddenly withdraw all of the lots from sale on Monday April 21.

The FP7 Committee did some research and was able to determine the name of the seller. Eastwood, meanwhile, contacted the senior fraud investigator at eBay, stating we have reason to believe the plates were not legally removed from the units. At the chapter's May 16 meeting, the members voted to authorize legal action as might be appropriate to recover the plates, if it was determined they were illegally removed from the three locomotives.

On May 19, 2003, a certified letter was written to the seller asking him to (a) return the plates to us or (b) provide proper documentation, in the form of a letter of permission or bill of sale, giving the possessor the right to the plates. At press time, the possessor of the plates had not responded to the certified letter, and it is expected the next steps will be taken in early June.

From the June, 2003 issue of Cinders, newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter, NRHS

North Star Chapter Membership Information

HELP sign-up new members; please invite them to attend a meeting. Current dues are \$32 per year for an individual, or \$34 per year for a family, and this includes national dues.

Please send dues payments to Joe Fishbein, Treasurer Northstar Chapter, 1092 Humboldt Av, West St. Paul MN 55118.

June Meeting Notice

JUNE program will be a **picnic at the Red Wing Amtrak Depot**. Date is **June 21**, 6 o'clock pm. Transportation is on your own, or you may ride Amtrak for \$15.00 each way. Leaves Midway Depot @ 8 am, arrives Red Wing @ 9:30 am. Leaves Red Wing to return @ 8:46 pm. (In addition, there are many antique shops to visit on the main street of Red Wing.)

July Meeting Notice

JULY meeting will be at the **St. Paul Fire Training Center**. Date is **July 19**, 7 o'clock pm. The program will be given by Marty Swan, a video of **The Grand Canyon**.

Kevin Costner requests \$2.6 million for railroad

Author: Mike Mococo

DEADWOOD - A representative of Kevin Costner's Dunrail corporation appeared before the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission last night to request approval of a \$2.6 million grant to pay for all the costs of building a railroad from Whitewood to Deadwood. Terry Kranz presented documents to the board showing the city has given the Dunrail \$400,000 to date above and beyond the current request to finish the railroad. The contribution to the project by Costner through the Dunrail corporation would amount to \$400,000, according to Kranz's presentation to the historic board.

He said the railroad project would address the needs cited by visitors in "intercept studies" done several years ago where those coming to Deadwood said they wanted more family activities which did not involve gambling. In addition, Kranz said the Dunrail concept of parking in Whitewood and taking the train to Deadwood would ease parking problems that have plagued Deadwood since gaming started in 1989. He said local residents could also benefit by taking the train through to Rapid City where they could take a bus to the mall or other locations. With Dunrail land in Whitewood able to provide 950 parking spaces, more than all the public parking now available in Deadwood, Kranz said this would only increase with a land purchase in Whitewood from Pope and Talbot set to close in July. The railroad parking could result in the need for an additional parking ramp easing. He noted Deadwood had 42-days last year when there were no public parking spaces available.

Visitors coming in from Rapid City would no longer need to be concerned about weather closing Interstate 90 in the winter or driving after they have consumed alcohol in Deadwood if they take the proposed train to and from Deadwood, said Kranz. Historic board chairperson Mike Guilbert said there would need to be additional study of the request from Kranz before the board could be in a position to make a recommendation to the City Commission on the grant. He said discussions on city-issued bonds were already slated to take place and the Dunrail project would be an additional item that would fall into this category which needs to be discussed at length with city board members. The historic board tabled the request pending further discussions with Kranz and the city board on bonding in general.

Taken from: SoDakRailFans@yahoogroups.com

NOTE: The May meeting minutes were not available in time for this issue.

**Anyone having difficulty finding the Red Wing Depot may call Dan Meyer
@612-209-7537**

Northstar News
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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