

# FAREWELL PAID TO NORTHERN PACIFIC AT SOUTH CHISAGO COUNTY DEPOTS WEDNESDAY; LAST TRAIN NOW HISTORY

**Crowded Train Makes Last Scheduled Run To Taylors Falls And Return; Many Could Not Get On Crowded Coaches. Movie And Still Picture Fans Record Historic Passing**

The old Northern Pacific branch line running from Wyoming to Taylors Falls had one more schedule to make Wednesday, June 30th. It ran into the pages of history. As the last train left the Lindstrom depot at 2:10 and headed toward Wyoming on its last run from that place to Taylors Falls and return, the old line became a thing of the past.

Just as the last train left here Ed Youngberg, depot agent with 35 years of experience, stepped out of his office for a last look, walked back into the agent's office, just emptied of all its books, papers and files, sat down at the telephone and called in the last report of when the train left here. Earlier that morning auditors of the Northern Pacific had aided in clearing the office. Papers and all waste files were burned outside. A look into the old waiting room where several generations of travelers in earlier years had gathered to visit while awaiting in-coming trains was thick with the musty air of history.

That morning, Wednesday, about thirty people from Taylors Falls came in a school bus to catch a last ride to Taylors Falls and among them were W. E. Leske one of the passengers on the first train, Charles Olson, M. A. Tangen and Alfred Roos, the latter an old timer who knew the branch line "way back when."

Many folks from Lindstrom gathered at the depot, and when the train arrived they with much of the Taylors Falls crowd missed the last ride. Coaches and the baggage car were crowded with folks who had boarded the train farther up the line.

Reaching Center City the train met a crowd of some fifty who gathered at the depot there to try for a last ride and bid the old rattler goodbye on its last run. At Shafer a similiar crowd was on hand.

On Tuesday a large delegation of business and townspeople from Lindstrom had taken the ride from here to the Falls and returned taking many still and motion pictures. They were the guests of Russell Lundberg at coffee served at Taylors Falls at the Snack Bar Cafe.

During the past weeks the line has had a Diesel locomotive working but for the last few days the old locomotive No. 328, familiar to many eyes for several decades, was back on the job.

At the depot along the line were old timers who had been on the first train in 1880 when the Northern Pacific ran an excursion to Taylors Falls. Among them was Mrs. C. E. Carlson of Lindstrom. She had been a first passenger and came to the depot Wednesday morning to see the 1st train make its departure. It was a day in local history and had the event been better planned more coaches could have been added and these would have been filled with passengers on the last ride. It would have been an opportune theme for communities of southern Chisago County around which to have built an appropriate observance, but as it was the day was filled with interest and the last whistle blew, the last bells clanged and the last scheduled train rolled away to the West.