

# Remnant of the Cowboy Line

Darrell Wendt

On Saturday afternoon March 29th, 2015 railfan excursion, a remaining portion of the former C&NW "Cowboy Line" was visited. This section was recently owned and operated by the Fremont & Elkhorn Valley Railroad, which featured excursion and dinner train service. The line was taken out of service over a decade ago due to a bridge washout near Nickerson, NE and was never restored.



Scraggly evergreen trees and other vegetation have popped up along the right of way over the years, as mother nature has reclaimed her land once again.



Looking west from a private farm road, you can still see the rails and ties still in place along the former "Cowboy Line" which dates back to 1869.



Looking east from the same farm road crossing near mile post 15.



The winter snow has melted revealing brown vegetation and scattered evergreen trees. The rails are still visible along with a winding creek in the background.



MP 15 marker is attached to a remaining telegraph pole and the right of way which parallels County Road 19 (Old Highway 275) into Hooper, Nebraska. Mile Post 15, indicates the mileage from the junction switch at Fremont, to the southeast of this site, and about two miles east of Hooper, Nebraska.

Hooper was once a Chicago & North Western Town. Today, relics of the C&NW and UP rest on rusty rails, and the only way out of town is by truck or simply scrapped in place, since the rails only go as far as Nickerson, where the bridge washed out years ago.



Passenger car, two forty foot box cars and a baggage car.



Connected to the North Western car is a UP 40 footer.



On this forty footer, you can barely see the "400 Streamliner" lettering of the C&NW.



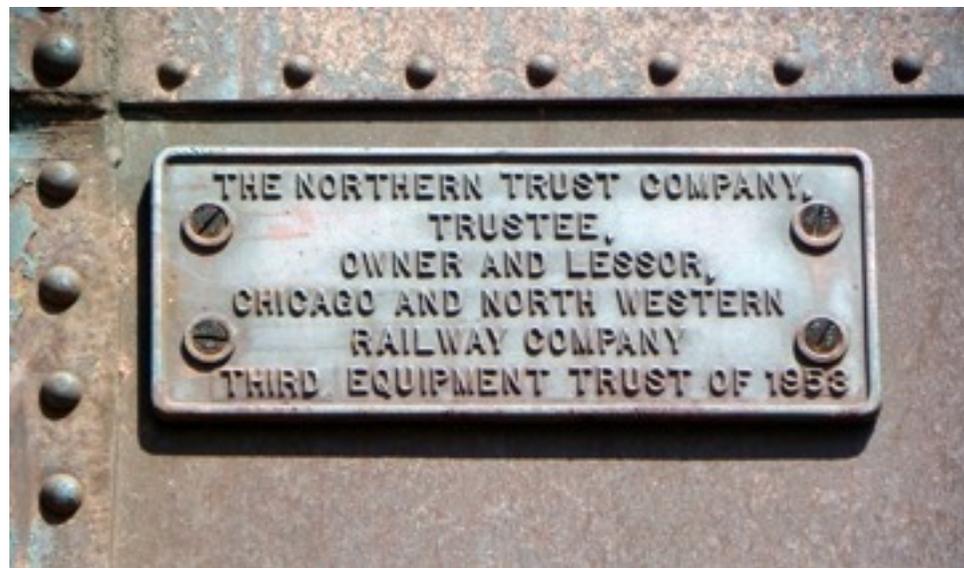
A 1927 built baggage car spent it's last years as a maintenance-of-way storage car for Burlington Northern Railroad.



The roof top of the covered passenger waiting platform.



A custom made marker sign, across main street from the still operating grain elevator.



All photos by Darrell Wendt 3/28/15 Photos