During the first week in August, 2012, a private contractor began removing rails and ties of the Union Pacific “River Line” (ex-C&NW) in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The former C&NW river trackage ran from a switch, off the double-track main, just east of 12th Street and then traveled west to just past 35th Street (a distance of almost two miles, running between 2nd Avenue and West Broadway Street, to the north). At one time this track connected to the Douglas Street line, after spanning the Missouri River into Omaha, NE. The last remaining customer on the “River Line” were two grain elevators owned and operated by Bunge Corporation.

The fall of 2011 saw the last rail traffic move over this historic route, before abandonment took place shortly thereafter. All photos from Darrell D. Wendt.

13th Street crossing facing west. 12th Street crossing looking east.
A Canadian National (ex-IC) local passing over the former C&NW/IC diamond site, between 12th and 13th Street (just north of 2nd Ave). The diamond was removed in early January of 2012 by CN Railway and replacing it with straight rail.

A CN local passes near the old diamond location heading south. The removed ex-C&NW/IC diamond is lying to the right of the approaching CN locomotive (ex-IC #1025 / SD70).