Union Pacific's annual "Home Plate Special" made a reverse movement from Council Bluffs to Omaha on the morning of 6/15/2016. The special consisted of 22-cars total, three EMD E9 locomotives on the head-end and two late model freight units on the rear, producing extra air for the train and controlled movement. Those motors were UP SD70AH # 9027, and rear lead unit C45AH #2607 (The latest Tier-4 model).

The zig-zag movement consisted of moving in reverse from CB to Omaha with the freight units guiding, then at Omaha (beside restored Burlington Station, now home to KETV Television Station) heading south under signal indication to BNSF’s Gibson Yard with the elegant E9s leading, then north to UP’s 8th Street Yard, where she finally pulls into “Home Plate” Siding for a two-week stay across the street from T-D Ameritrade Ball Park.

A former C&NW sleeper car was also in the consist, “Lake Bluff”, 14th car from the front end and 11th from the rear. Here’s the line-up from front to rear: UP E9A #949, UP E9B #963, UP E9A #951, and then varnish cars St. Louis, Lone Star, City of Los Angeles, Overland, Missouri River Eagle, City of Denver, Flag Car #5769, Harriman, Walter Dean, City of San Francisco, City of Portland, Power Car # 2060, Little Rock, Lake Bluff (ex-C&NW), Pacific Limited, Power Car #1610, Portola, Green River, Feather River, Willie James, Power Car #207, Bulktnier flat carrying three three bulktniers of water and extra fuel, UP SD70AH #9027, UP C45AH #2607.

Darrell D. Wendt