

THE WHEATLAND ROUNDUP

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BIG TURN OF EVENTS IN LITTLE BIG TOWN

As the race for mayor continues in Little Big Town, the surprises keep on coming. The current candidates: Mayor Quincy Calloway, Maximillian Wheatland, Doctor Cedrick Nickleby, Sheriff Presper Breakstone and Ms. Marion Mopsy have been working hard to gain votes but someone else has been secretly gaining the fame. The operator and owner of the local Wa'ering 'Ole, Taffeta Briggs, has fired her bartender Ms. Marion Mopsy and pushed her out of the running to replace her in the race for Mayor. As this shocks most of the town, the other candidates are used to Taffy throwing curve balls.

Ms. Marion Mopsy is in disbelief, "Taffy has been my boss at the saloon for many years now. I always knew she was mischievous, but I never thought she would do something like this! I know Taffy well; she is very good at getting people to listen to her and she gets along well with most people in town. I have no doubt that she will do well in this race, but I can't help but be disappointed in how she chose to get here.". To get both sides of the story we asked Taffetta Briggs herself if she has anything she wants to say, "Everything I did to get here today was completely within the rules of the town.



Although I cannot disclose how exactly I got here today I can assure you that the other candidate I am replacing has done some unspeakable things too. If you ask me, she did this to herself. I just took advantage of an opportunity."

Although Taffy is late to the running she is already two steps ahead of everyone. It has been a very busy month for her as she has been talkin' up the town and every customer that comes into her saloon. As of right now, Little Big Town has very mixed opinions on Taffy's late entry. One regular at the saloon states "I love Taffy! She always throws in a free drink for me every time I come in! She can definitely count on my vote." On the contrary, others add "I'm worried about the effects she will have on our town if she ever becomes mayor."

As the season is coming to a close and the end of the election is in sight, it will be very interesting to see how the rest of the events unfold.

NOBLE NOTATION

NOTHIN' COULD BE FINER

Written by Bill Noble

.....than dinner in the Diner. The original author of this little ditty is hiding in the pages of history but the words remain delightfully true. In fact, for many travelers, recollections of a meal in a railway dining car are the standout memories of a trip on a train. I still remember breakfast with my Mom aboard Canadian Pacific's "The Dominion". I can still picture my pancakes arriving at our table under the elegant silver dome.

The dining car was a bit of a latecomer to the passenger train consist. In earlier times, passengers had to fend for themselves - you brought your own food or you didn't eat. By the mid 19th century, the railroads let passengers off the train when the engine needed water. This produced the spectacle of passengers storming onto the platform in search of a local hash house or beanery. A (usually dreadful) meal of stale bread, rancid bacon and cold beans would be choked down as the impatient engine crew blew the whistle to announce the tender was full of water and the train was about to depart. A meal made memorable for all the wrong reasons.

In the decades following the American Civil War, railways in Canada and the US grew rapidly, expanding ever westward. The expanding rail network and resulting longer trips made the need for on board food services more apparent. In 1868, the American George Pullman, already the largest builder and operator of sleeping cars, built and introduced his "hotel car" - the "Delmonico" - the first true dining car. This small beginning grew to over 1700 train routes with dining cars at the peak of the service in the 1920s and 30s.



Let's take a moment to discuss the various kinds (levels?) of food service that existed on passenger trains. The railway provided cool water in each car, from water coolers. I'll bet a lot of you remember as a kid going to the cooler, pulling a squishy "Dixie" paper cup from the dispenser and pushing the button on the tap. Man, that was good water. Now, everything from here on was "pay as you go". Apart from water, no food or beverage service was included with your ticket. The most basic service was the News Agent or "newsy" who sold his wares up and down the aisles of the day coaches. He was often a teenager who was provided with a uniform cap and minimum wage by the railway and had a basket of sandwiches, fruit, chocolate bars, gum and pop with a few magazines and newspapers and rode back and forth between stations.

The next step was the Buffet car where passengers could buy simple food such as sandwiches, fruit, coffee or pop to carry back to their coach seat or sleeper space.

The Dinette car was the next level up. This car, which boasted a small number of tables and a lunch counter with stools, provided sit-down service at moderate prices. The Dinette was presided over by a steward/short order cook who could produce a wide range of freshly prepared soups, bacon and eggs, chops and dishes like spaghetti. Ice cream, pie and puddings were popular desserts. This service was popular with coach and sleeping car

passengers because it provided wholesome fare that didn't "break the bank". We have a fine example of a restored Dinette car on the Wheatland Express. Our GSR 2017 looks pretty much as it did in 1949 when it was built for service on the Union Pacific Railroad.

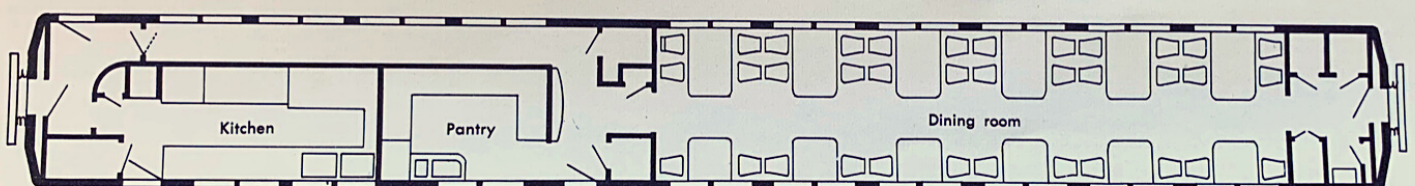
At the top of the culinary heap came the full Dining Car or Diner. By the turn of the 20th century, the dining car was pretty much standardized. As shown below, about two thirds of an 80 foot car was devoted to the dining room - six 4-passenger tables on one side of the aisle and six 2-passenger tables on the other side for a capacity of 36 diners. By the late 1940s all 4-passenger tables increased the capacity to 48 guests on some cars. The rest of the car contained a pantry, the kitchen or galley and a passageway for entrance to the car. The car was staffed with a chef and one or two cooks, a Steward and up to four waiters. The kitchen had refrigerators, a broiler and range and a steam table fed by steam from the locomotive. The pantry had dish warmers, sinks, bunkers for ice and ice cream and the serving buffet.

Pretty much everything was cooked or baked from scratch and the meals were legendary. Railroads aimed their diner service at the top end of the restaurant scale and, even though they charged top end prices, diners mostly operated at a loss. Railroads accepted this "loss leader" as a cost of advertising their routes and service. In fact, many travelers chose their route based on the

reputation and choice of fare on the dining car. Roads and their chefs competed to create dishes, often, regional delicacies from the areas they served. Railways had signature specialties - Chicken Potpie on the Wabash, Lobster Newburg on New York Central's "Twentieth Century Limited" and Winnipeg Goldeye (picked up fresh every trip in Winnipeg) on Canadian Pacific. A glance through Dining Car menus from "The Age of The Diner" reveals tempting selections and choices rivaling the finest restaurants. With everything cooked to order in the on-board galley. Just another day on a dining car.

While the heyday of Diner service has become history, gone away with regular passenger trains, there are still some delightful dining car experiences to be found. In Canada, we are well served by VIA. In Eastern Canada, VIA's intercity trains serve delicious meals to Club Car passengers in their seats and on board the transcontinental Canadian, a full dining car still provides outstanding meals with elegant service. However, you don't need to go that far to enjoy the pleasure and charm of a great meal as we roll through the countryside. Come ride with us on the Wheatland Express. Sample one of our Culinary Excursions. Raise a glass and experience a great meal prepared by Chef Heather; all served with traditional elegance in our Dining Car. Nothin' could be finer.

MASSACHUSETTS: Standard Dining Car



Typical Railway Dining Car



SPIKES SAFETY SCOOP

Hello boys and girls! It's me, Spike the safety dog, and I hope you all are having an awesome summer so far! I've been keeping busy ever since school finished for the summer. Something my friend, Gainer, and I have been doing a lot of is going on hikes and exploring. Our paths that we take are so pretty and sometimes there are railway tracks that are near-by. Even though railway tracks are super cool to look at when you are exploring, you should never play on or around them! In fact you should always stand 5 meters behind the crossbuck sign. You should also never cross the tracks unless you are at a designated crossing. When you are at a crossing always remember to STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN. A train can come at any time from any direction. Now that you have some tips to keep you safe on your summer adventures, I promised Gainer that I would meet him at our hiking trail I think he's bringing some treats! Gotta run!



-Spike the safety dog



Help Spike complete
the word



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Answer: TRAIN

OPERATIONS UPDATE



Wheatland Express Safety Train

As we slowly approach the halfway point of summer, the Wheatland Express Safety Train is gearing up to start distributing our 2021 version of our activity book. This year we are excited to display the changes and upgrades we have implemented in the activity book and are not only distributing in Saskatchewan, but also in Manitoba and Alberta. We hope to reach as many of members of our target audience as possible, and we hope to be able to bring classes out to our mobile classroom when the school year begins!

Wheatland Express Learning Centre



With the ongoing development of our learning center, we are now focusing more on the exhibits themselves. We are extremely excited to begin the production some of our exhibits, including train trivia and the 360° round theatre. We recently received a simulation of what exactly the car with the round theatre will look like and trust us when we say it is state of the art! Once we complete our learning center, we hope to see everyone out there to learn about railway safety awareness in a fun and memorable way!



Great Sandhills Railway

We completed track work for the year installing ties and doing some track surfacing. We will continue to cut and spray for weeds along the right of way. Work will continue on the western town with Early's seed and feed building being the first to be completed. Work will also begin with the old fertilizer shed to make it look better and be ready to house material in the winter. Security cameras have also been installed in Cudworth. We are making an application for a station/museum at Wakaw and are also working on an application to the TCF program for a interchange track at Totske .

Our staff grew by one again this month as Cienna has joined the group as a mechanical apprentice . Not only is she proving to be a good apprentice but on August 3rd she is going to a 4 day camp for team Canada in Calgary. With the addition of Cienna we are up to 15 Full time employees in Cudworth.



Wheatland Charities Inc.

We have now had four Train Heist Excursions and thank all the guests who have participated and donated to the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation!

July 18th Excursion raised - \$665

YTD Total -

\$2170



Wheatland Express Excursion Train

What an amazing and busy month July has been at the Wheatland Express. With summer in full swing and COVID 19 restrictions lifted our reservations and inquiries are through the roof! Excursions galore filled with fun and awesome experiences. We have weathered the 30 and above temperatures making sure everyone was comfortable on their excursion.

July 18th the Eagles Tribute and Dinner show had both guests and staff dancing and singing the night away after enjoying a delicious meal prepared by our very own Chef de Partie, who knew the Wheatland staff could bust a move while belting out the Eagles tunes with the band on stage.



We are looking forward to hosting Family Summer Express on July 25 where the day belongs to the kids with tons of fun activities.

If you don't have your tickets yet, don't miss your chance to ride the Wheatland Express! We will see you soon!

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name: Carissa Ward

Born: December 12, 2003

Currently Reside: Wakaw / Northern Light, SK

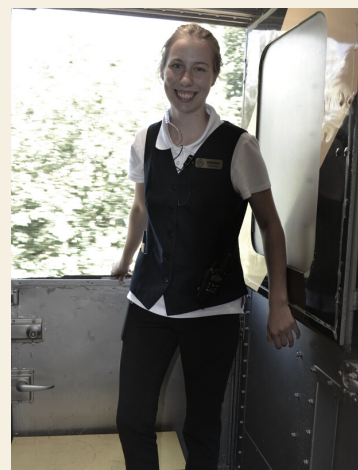
Work History: Worked at a nursing home in Birch Hills, SK before working on the Wheatland Express

Favorite Movie: Fuller House

Favorite Sports Team Racehorse: JC

Favorite Wheatland railcar: Safety Car

Did you know: Carissa is the one dressed up as our mascot, Spike, for Wheatland Express Excursions!



STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

HOW TIMBIT SEE'S IT

Neigh there. I am Timbit, a reporter for the Wheatland Round-Up my job is to keep the folks of Little Big Town updated to the goings-on on all things four-legged. This month the farm got two new additions to the crew, Simon and Milton, so I'm going to go and see how they are fitting in around here!

Hey guys! How are you liking the farm?

"We were definitely a bit nervous at first! Everything is so big here, we had to learn how to stay out of the way, so we don't get squished by any horses." Explained Milton.

How do you think I feel? I am the smallest horse around here!

"It sure was an adjustment. But all of the folks around here are so nice! Every time a person comes around we get picked up and get amazing scratches!" said Simon.

"Yes, but sometimes it gets in the way of our very strict schedule..." Milton adds.

What strict schedule? Don't you two just eat and sleep all day?

"No way! We have very important jobs to do throughout the day." Says Milton.

"After we get let out of our bed in the mornings, after all of the horses are taken out to eat breakfast, that's when we get to work. Our job is to hunt down all of the pesky mice that run around the barn



and get into things they shouldn't be." Simon explained.

That seems like a big job! You guys do that all day?

"Well sometimes we get a bit distracted and start play fighting each other or even play with the toys the people have brought for us, but we try to stay focused the best we can." Milton said.

"Yes, and don't forget our scheduled nap time!" adds Simon.

"Oh right! We have this super comfy spot where all of the saddle pads are. That's where we take our nap right before lunch!" says Milton.

Wow you guys sound like you're really fitting in here and have a good routine!

"We sure are!" they both said.

I better get going, I think the chickens are getting into trouble! See you guys around!

Did you know some trains have a second locomotive that pushes the train forward from the back ?

2021 WHEATLAND EXPRESS SCHEDULE

JULY

- 03- Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 04- Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 10 - Cowboy Showdown & Country Cookout
- 11 - Murder on the Wheatland Express Excursion
- 17 - Eagles Tribute Excursion & Dinner Show
- 18 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 24 - Murder on the Wheatland Express Excursion
- 25 - Family Summer Express Excursion



AUGUST

- 04- Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 07- Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 08 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 13 - Family Summer Express Excursion
- 14 - New On Board Dinner Show
- 15 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 22 - Murder on the Wheatland Express Excursion
- 25 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion
- 28 - CCR Reprisal - CCR Tribute Excursion & Dinner Show
- 29 - Family Summer Express Excursion



SEPTEMBER

- 04 - Private Tour
- 19 - Prairie Train Heist
- 25 - Harvest Dinner Excursion
- 26 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion

OCTOBER

- 29 - Halloween Ghost Train Express
- 30 - Halloween Ghost Train Express
- 31 - Halloween Ghost Train Express

DECEMBER

- 04 - Magical Holiday Express
- 05 - Magical Holiday Express
- 11 - Magical Holiday Express
- 12 - Magical Holiday Express
- 18 - Magical Holiday Express
- 19 - Magical Holiday Express



STAY TUNED FOR ADDED DATES, TOURS
AND TRAVEL OFFERS!

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