

Headlines



TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR STEAM ENGINE EXCURSIONS

July 24, 2006

All aboard! RiverWay 2006 is a four-day salute to the 150th Anniversary of the first railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi River in 1856. Not only did this bridge connect Rock Island, Illinois, to Davenport, Iowa, even more importantly, it effectively joined the country—east with west. The celebration is taking place September 14–17, 2006.

The RiverWay “Bridging the River – Connecting the Continent” weekend incorporates trips on a steam engine train, cruises on the Celebration Belle riverboat, a story-telling festival, a Ghost Bridge, and special events throughout the Quad Cities area.

Information and tickets are available at www.visitquadcities.com, and click on the RiverWay hotbutton.



Steam Train

The Friends of the 261, the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, and City of Rock Island, in cooperation with the Iowa Interstate and Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroads will operate a series of train excursions be powered by TWO steam engines from China. The locomotives were built in China in 1985 and 1986 respectively. Rail Development Corporation of Pittsburgh, PA, recently purchased the locomotives for operation in the U.S. One of the locomotives had the honor of pulling the world’s last regularly scheduled steam powered passenger train.

The upcoming excursions in the Quad Cities mark the debut of these locomotives in their new environment and may be the only time that they will be used in tandem on a passenger special. The excursion train will include “Hiawatha” style premium and first class service in the full-length glass top dome car “Super Dome” and the all glass round-end sky top observation car. The excursions will also include both open window and air-conditioned coaches.

Each trip will leave from Rock Island:

- Thursday, 9/14 – Dinner train ride around the Quad Cities, departs 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, 9/15 – All-day trip to Iowa City, IA, departs 9 a.m., a “rare mileage trip”
- Saturday, 9/16 – Trips to Geneseo, Atkinson, and Bureau Junction, IL, departs 9 a.m. There are celebrations in each town on Saturday.
- Sunday, 9/17 – Combination boat and train trip to Muscatine, IA, and back. Train trip from Muscatine to Fruitland, IA, and back.