



WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD
Home of the **MARK TWAIN
ZEPHYR**

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JUNE 24, 2021

MARK TWAIN ZEPHYR REBUILD OUTREACH TOUR & BOOK SIGNING EVENTS

One of the most exciting and historic train renovation projects going on anywhere in the country is taking place right now at the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad in Trego, Wisconsin. For the past ten months, our team of experienced carpenters, renovators, and craftspeople have garnered national attention transforming the *Mark Twain Zephyr* from a lifeless shell into what will be the only operable train of its kind – anywhere!

Between July 17th and July 22nd, the railroad's Director of Passenger Development, Robert Tabern, will be visiting numerous communities along the original route of the *Mark Twain Zephyr* in western Illinois, eastern Iowa, and Missouri to give historical presentations about the train and to update residents on the progress of the restoration. Tabern, who is also the author of the three-volume book series, "*Mark Twain Zephyr: History, Restoration & Re-birth*", will be selling and signing copies of his books at each of the stops. This 'tour idea' came from several residents in Hannibal and Quincy who wrote into the railroad over the spring, requesting a visit.

The *Mark Twain Zephyr* was one of the Burlington's premier trains when it was put into service on October 25, 1935. Its sleek stainless-steel design was never seen before in railroading. The train served passengers mainly between Burlington, Iowa, and Saint Louis, Missouri, until 1958. For the next 60 years, the historic train set would pass between no less than seven different private owners; none of whom had the resources to complete the costly multi-million-dollar renovations needed.

The Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad stepped in last summer, purchasing the five train cars and bringing them to Northwest Wisconsin for repair. In the future, the *Mark Twain Zephyr* will be fully operable, giving passengers rides on the tourist railroad's main line out of Trego.

Besides giving presentations and book signings, the Wisconsin Great Northern is interested in meeting and interviewing people who remember riding (or even perhaps working aboard) the *Mark Twain Zephyr* between 1935 and 1958. Preserving the memories of passengers and crew on video is an important part of this tour and preserving the legacy of the train. Those who have memories and would like to be interviewed, should e-mail: rtabern@spoonertrainride.com. Stops will include the following:

Saturday, July 17, 2021:

GALESBURG, ILLINOIS

Galesburg Public Library, 40 E. Simmons Street, Galesburg, IL 61401
10:00am Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Burlington by the Book, 301 Jefferson Street, Burlington, IA 52601
2:00-5:00pm Book Signing Open House Only / No Presentation

Sunday, July 18, 2021:

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Amtrak (former CB&Q) Depot, 418 N. Adams Street, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52461
2:00pm Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

Monday, July 19, 2021:

FORT MADISON, IOWA

Fort Madison Public Library, 1920 Avenue E, Ft. Madison, IA 52627
11:00am Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

KEOKUK, IOWA

Keokuk Public Library, 210 N. 5th Street, Keokuk, IA 52632
5:30pm Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

Tuesday, July 20, 2021:

CANTON, MISSOURI

Canton Public Library, 403 Lewis Street, Canton, MO 63435
11:00am Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

QUINCY, ILLINOIS

Quincy Public Library, 526 Jersey Street, Quincy, IL 62301
6:30pm Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

Wednesday, July 21, 2021:

LOUISIANA, MISSOURI

Louisiana Public Library, 121 N. 3rd Street, Louisiana, MO 63353
11:00am Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

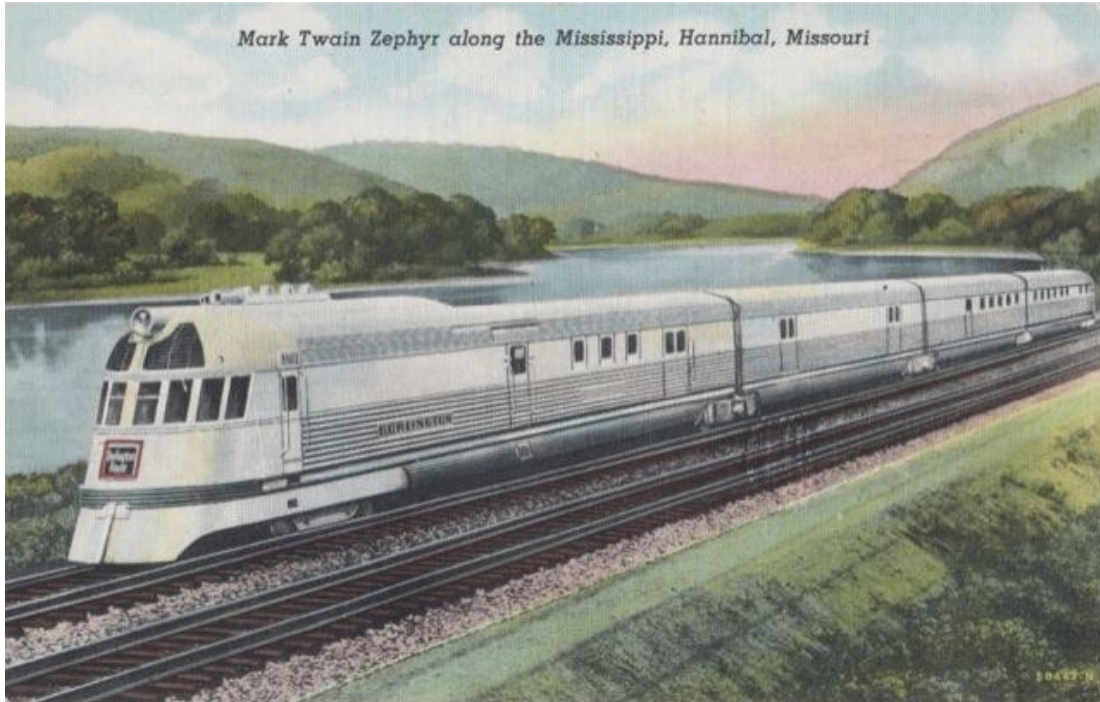
Mark Twain Home & Museum, 120 N. Main Street, Hannibal, MO 63401
2:30pm Presentation / Book Signing to Follow

Thursday, July 22, 2021:

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

National Museum of Transportation, 2933 Barrett Station Road, St. Louis, MO 63122
Presentation, 10:00am-11:00am, Earl C. Lindburg Automobile Building
Book Signing, 11:15am-1:30pm, Orthwein Visitor Center

Media may use the photos below showing our restoration of the *Mark Twain Zephyr*. Additional photographs and higher resolution images of the below are also available by contacting us.



SEPTEMBER 2020



DECEMBER 2020



APRIL 2021



SEPTEMBER 2020



APRIL 2021

Poster for Promotional Tour:

Mount Pleasant

C. B. & Q. TO OMAHA AND DENVER

Galesburg

C. B. & Q. TO CHICAGO

Burlington

Fort Madison

July 17-25, 2021

Keokuk

Canton

Quincy

Mark Twain
ZEPHYR
REBUILD
OUTREACH TOUR

C. B. & Q. to St. Joe & Kansas City

Hannibal

Louisiana

WISCONSIN GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD

W G N

Kansas City

V.I.P. PRIVATE RAILCAR CHARIER ON "HOLLYWOOD BEACH"

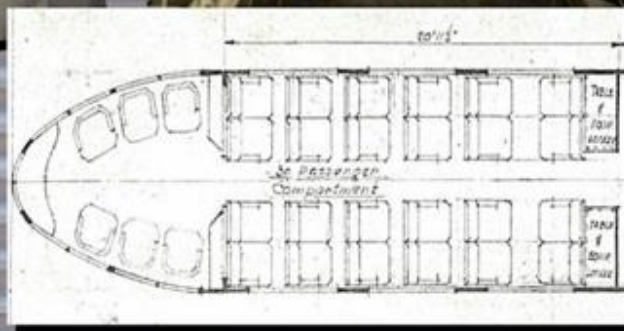
Saint Louis

Cover of Book:

Mark Twain

ZEPHYR:

History, Restoration & Rebirth
VOLUME ONE



By Kandace & Robert Tabern
with John Kelly & Dave Lotz

