



TRAINS News Wire for August 28, 2006

Chinese steam locomotives begin testing in Iowa

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The two Chinese class QJ 2-10-2 steam locomotives brought to the U.S. this summer have begun test runs in Iowa on the Iowa Interstate Railroad. On August 26, No. 7081 ran back and forth on several hundred feet of an industrial siding on the east side of Iowa City. The 7081 and sister locomotive 6988 are expected to pull a freight train on the IAIS, at an undetermined time, to ensure they are compliant with Federal Railroad Administration regulations for operation in the U.S. and are mechanically sound.

The pair will pull a series of excursions out of the Quad Cities on September 14-17. The trips are being operated in conjunction with "RiverWay 2006," the celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the country's first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River, constructed by the Rock Island Railroad between Rock Island, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa. Sponsoring groups for the trains are The Friends of the 261, the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, and City of Rock Island, in cooperation with the Iowa Interstate Railroad and the Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad.

The locomotives were purchased by Railroad Development Corporation, owner of the Iowa Interstate and several other railroads around the world. RDC is offering the two locomotives for sale to tourist or regional railroads, and has an option to purchase three more 2-10-2s still in China.