



TRAINS News Wire for October 22, 2008

## Iowa Interstate breaks steam-hauled freight record

IOWA CITY, Iowa - The Iowa Interstate Railroad Saturday broke the 21st Century record for steam-hauled freight tonnage, the *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette* has reported. The railroad's two Chinese-built QJ steam locomotives pulled a 66-car, 6,252-ton freight from Iowa City, Iowa, to Rock Island, Ill.

The record-breaking run took place as the Interstate raised more than \$45,000 for victims of this June's flooding, which devastated Iowa and neighboring states. The freight, Interstate's regular Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Blue Island, Ill., train, took the ride flawlessly.

The railroad also operated steam-powered passenger excursions out of Rock Island on Saturday, and a one-way Rock Island-Iowa City trip on Sunday. All proceeds from the passenger runs went to the Salvation Army.