KENEFICK

Business Car – Stabled at Council Bluffs

The Kenefick was built by Pullman in 1950 as coach No. 5446. It was rebuilt to business car No. 99 in 1963. It was officially named the Kenefick in 1988.

John Cooper Kenefick was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1921. After graduating from Princeton and completing a stint in the Navy, he moved to Omaha, Neb., where he began working for Union Pacific.

By 1952, Kenefick was a trainmaster at Salina, Kan. He left the Union Pacific that year for a job with Denver & Rio Grande, staying until 1954. From there he worked for the New York Central becoming vice president of operations in 1966.

In 1968 he moved to the Penn Central and then to Union Pacific, returning as vice president of operations. Kenefick replaced cronymism with promotion by merit. In 1971, he became the railroad’s president, a position he held until 1983, when he became chairman of the new Union Pacific system, created by the mergers with Missouri Pacific and Western Pacific. By then he had long held a reputation as possibly the foremost railroad operating man in the nation. His retirement from active service with the railroad in 1986 marked the end of an era in the company’s history.