OMAHA

Deluxe Sleeper – Stabled at Council Bluffs

The Omaha was built in 1949 by American Car & Foundry as the 12-roomette, four-bedroom sleeper the Western Star. It was rebuilt in 1965 to an 11-bedroom sleeper, No. 1608 Sun Rest, and rebuilt again in 1974 to an eight-bedroom sleeper and renamed the Omaha.

Omaha, Neb., headquarters of Union Pacific, was founded in 1854 when the Nebraska Territory was opened for settlement. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln designated the Omaha area as the starting point for the new transcontinental railroad. It was all the boom Omaha needed to become the major metropolitan area in Nebraska.

The Omaha Union Stockyards, founded in 1884, became the largest stockyards in the world, largely because of the rail connection supplied by Union Pacific.

Packing plants in South Omaha ran around the clock, increasing the need for workers. Italians, Bohemians, Germans and Greeks were recruited in Europe and came to Omaha. Today, Omaha's meat packing industry is a shadow of its glory days, replaced by regional packing plants and direct sales.