



**Above Left:** Soo caboose no. 593 was staged in a parking area next to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay on June 2, 2009. **Above Right:** One of AZCO's mobile cranes prepares to lift the 593 off its trucks. Notice how the crane's outriggers have been placed to stabilize it. **Bottom Left:** The 593 has been loaded onto a low-boy trailer and is being prepared for its trip to Stone Lake. To get the 593 under one low bridge, the driver had to stop and let the air out of each of trailer's tires. **Bottom Right:** In its new home, the 593 is being placed back on its trucks next to the restored Soo Line Stone Lake Depot—all photos by Carol McDonnell.

place by 7:00 AM, with our caboose sitting on an open piece of track, waiting to be moved.

Shortly after 7:30, workers began hooking up the spreaders that would allow the caboose to be lifted without the danger of being crushed. Soon, the lift began, with the caboose body lifting off its trucks so that they could be gently rolled away, down the rails, while the caboose was being loaded onto the depressed center of the semi trailer. When the caboose was properly blocked and settled in place for the long trip, conduit was run from the front of the caboose up on the front and over the cupola, so any low hanging wire encountered along the way would gently slide up the conduit and over the cupola. Next, the trucks were carefully loaded onto a second truck, and everything

was ready to begin its long journey.

The arrival of the caboose in Stone Lake was scheduled for the next morning. It was determined that this would be the most economical way for our budget, as then everyone could arrive in Stone Lake at the same time (around 10:00 AM), and in an hour or so, the caboose could be unloaded and placed in its new home. As an alternative, everyone would have arrived about 5:00 PM and all work would have been considered overtime with overtime pay!

Because the driver of the truck carrying the caboose now had time to spare, he agreed to stop in Eau Claire, WI where WEAU-TV wanted to come out and take some photos, and again, he met with news reporters in Rice Lake who wanted photos and a story. We gave him the necessary phone numbers so

he could call each of them when he neared their area, and our historical society was pleasantly surprised when photos and the story of our caboose were carried on television for two days and nights, and when a nice article appeared in the Rice Lake paper. All of this great publicity for our museum from a truck driver we had never met until that morning!

At 9:00 AM on June 3rd, the big semi carrying our caboose pulled off Highway 70 and into the parking lot of our museum. Just 15 minutes later, the second truck, which was coming from Green Bay, pulled in beside him, with the trucks on board. Twenty minutes later, the giant crane from Elk Mound arrived.

There were about 75 people from the community there to watch the proce-