

National Railroad Museum

Photo Captions/Credits – Milwaukee Road #261 Photos
November 18, 2009

The following captions correspond with the Museum's Milwaukee Road #261 Photos. The captions may be edited to fit need. The photo credits must appear as presented with each photo use.

Arriving at the Museum (File: nrrm-Milwaukee Road 261-1.jpg)

March 10, 1958 was a cold, snowy day, but the excitement of a large steam locomotive arriving, the National Railroad Museum's first, took the chill from the air. Former Milwaukee Road #261 is guided down the Museum's rail spur by a Chicago & North Western Railway switch engine. The 261's arrival is a significant step forward for the new Museum, whose directors worked for nearly four years to acquire this first object.

Credit: *National Railroad Museum collection*

The fascination of a train (File: nrrm-Milwaukee Road 261-2.jpg)

The little engineer and the huge locomotive – It's as if the big, black steam engine from the storybook jumped off the page and came to life right before his eyes. In this little engineer's mind you can see the rods flashing, feel the ground shake and hear the whistle as the great train highballs over the rails.

This little engineer is gazing upon Milwaukee Road #261, the first locomotive acquired by the National Railroad Museum.

Credit: *National Railroad Museum collection*

A window to the past (File: nrrm-Milwaukee Road-3.jpg)

Arriving on March 10, 1958, Milwaukee Road #261 was the first piece of equipment acquired by the National Railroad Museum. The 261 was leased to Friends of the 261 (Minneapolis), who used the locomotive to pull excursion trains around the country.

The big 4-8-4 Northern was delivered to the Milwaukee Road in 1944. Due to wartime restrictions on new locomotive designs, #261 has a boiler designed for the Delaware & Hudson, a Rock Island frame and a Union Pacific tender.

Here #261 is running south of Duluth, Minnesota in May 2002.

Credit: *Ken Kemper/National Railroad Museum collection*