



Photo by Rebecca Tulloch



Photo by Rebecca Tulloch



Photo by Tom Davison

For the next five years, volunteers from North Platte and the neighboring towns and communities operated the North Platte Canteen, meeting every troop and hospital train serving more than 6 million servicemen and women who traveled through Nebraska. Many food items and small gifts such as playing cards were given to the soldiers. If a birthday was discovered among the troops, bingo a birthday cake was revealed along with a the singing of "Happy Birthday".

IRM recreated this famous homefront canteen by running a WWII era train with GIs huddled into the troop cars. The train even made a stop on its route to pick up a soldier being dropped off by his fiancee and parents at the Seemann Road platform. Upon the trains arrival at the depot, women met the troops with food items such as fruit, cookies and cakes as was done during the war. Inside the depot, period volunteers served hot soup and other tasty treats to the servicemen. After ten minutes, the whistle blared out, and the GIs quickly ran back to board the train on to an unknown destiny. Goodbyes were tearfully exchanged on the platform, and the train slowly pulled out of the station for war.



Photo by Tom Davison



Photo by Rebecca Tulloch

The 2009 IRM WWII Living History Day was a resounding success treating Museum guests and members to a new and unique educational railroad experience here at the museum. The historical interpreters of the 10th Mountain Division Living History WWII Group worked long and hard with Ed Rosengren, IRM Marketing Director, for many months leading up to the event to see that this special day was well organized and enjoyable for all. Members of the 10th promoted the event through out the summer at the musum by making appearances in WWII attire on the 4th of July and again at the IRM Members Weekend. Because on the large favorable response from the public and membership, IRM has scheduled the second annual WWII Living History Days for Memorial Day Weekend 2010. The 2010 event will be a three day memorial to our WWII veterans with another tribute to the men and women of the "Greatest Generation" culminating with a memorial service to all veterans on Memorial Day. For questions regarding the 2010 event, contact Ed Rosengren or the IRM website at [www.anzioexpress.org](http://www.anzioexpress.org). for event details. See you next time at the The Anzio Express & North Platte Canteen WWII Living History Days at the Illinois Railway Museum.



Photos by Tom Davison

**10th Mtn Member Rebecca Tulloch pictured here portraying a Rocford Peach Baseball player for the WWII Girls Baseball League at IRM Members Weekend.**



Photo by Rebecca Tulloch



Photos by Rebecca Tulloch

**10th Mtn Members Phil Lauricella poses with his wife Lynn on IRM Members Weekend.**