

A VISIT TO WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

by

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Mary Ann has a nephew who moved from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Williamson, North Dakota, to operate a child care center and practice law. Williston was and remains the center of the fracking oil boom that has touched western North Dakota and eastern Montana. The town still remains a cattle and grain export center, but oil is now the driving force of its economy. The Empire Builder calls twice a day at the Williston Depot and the local BNSF Yard is busy sorting and moving empty grain cars to local grain storage silos and moving full grain cars to east or west coast markets, plus sorting empty and full oil tank cars. The city also serves as a crew change point for BNSF stack trains and other trains make a cross country journey through North Dakota and Montana to various markets.



BNSF 6500 and BNSF 5831, both GE ES44AC, are caught heading east with a grain train.



Above and below: A view west past the Williston Depot. A manifest freight train headed by BNSF 6309, a GE ES44AC, and BNSF 9631, a GM SD70MAC, have just pulled into the Yard. The crew has just climbed down and entered the depot. Some ten minutes later the train departed with a new crew.





Above and below: Working the east end of the Williston Yard was BNSF 2725, a GM GP39-2, while parked in a pocket track were BNSF 698, a GE C44-9W; BNSF 2905, a GM GP39-2R; BNSF 2952, a GM GP39-2; and BNSF 2089, a GM GP38-2.





Parked at a nearby grain elevator was Horizon Resource ILSX 1362, a EMD GP9m.



A view east toward the oil storage tank farm on the outskirts of Williston.



This set of BNSF GM GP38-2 locomotives, BNSF 2310 and an unknown, were found tied down next to a ballast train at the west end of the Williston Yard.



Preparing to head west from the Williston Yard were a grain train headed by BNSF 2795, a GM GP39-2, and a stack train lead by BNSF 3846, a GE ET44C4. This photo was taken from a public road that leads to a water treatment plant.



BNSF 7926, a GE ES44DC; BNSF 745, GE C44-9W; BNSF 6771, a GE ES44C4; and BNSF 7198, a GE ES44C4, head west from Williston with a stack train. Note the road in this photo and below that we were using to follow the railroad tracks.



Found west of Williston was CREX 1343 preparing to move east a grain train it had picked up at a local grain silo complex. Note that is not the shoulder of the road in the lower left.



Gracing the hill above the Williston Depot is Great Northern Railroad steam locomotive #3059, a 2-8-2, and Great Northern caboose #10036.



Found alongside the BNSF track east of Williston was this Burlington Northern piggy back trailer.