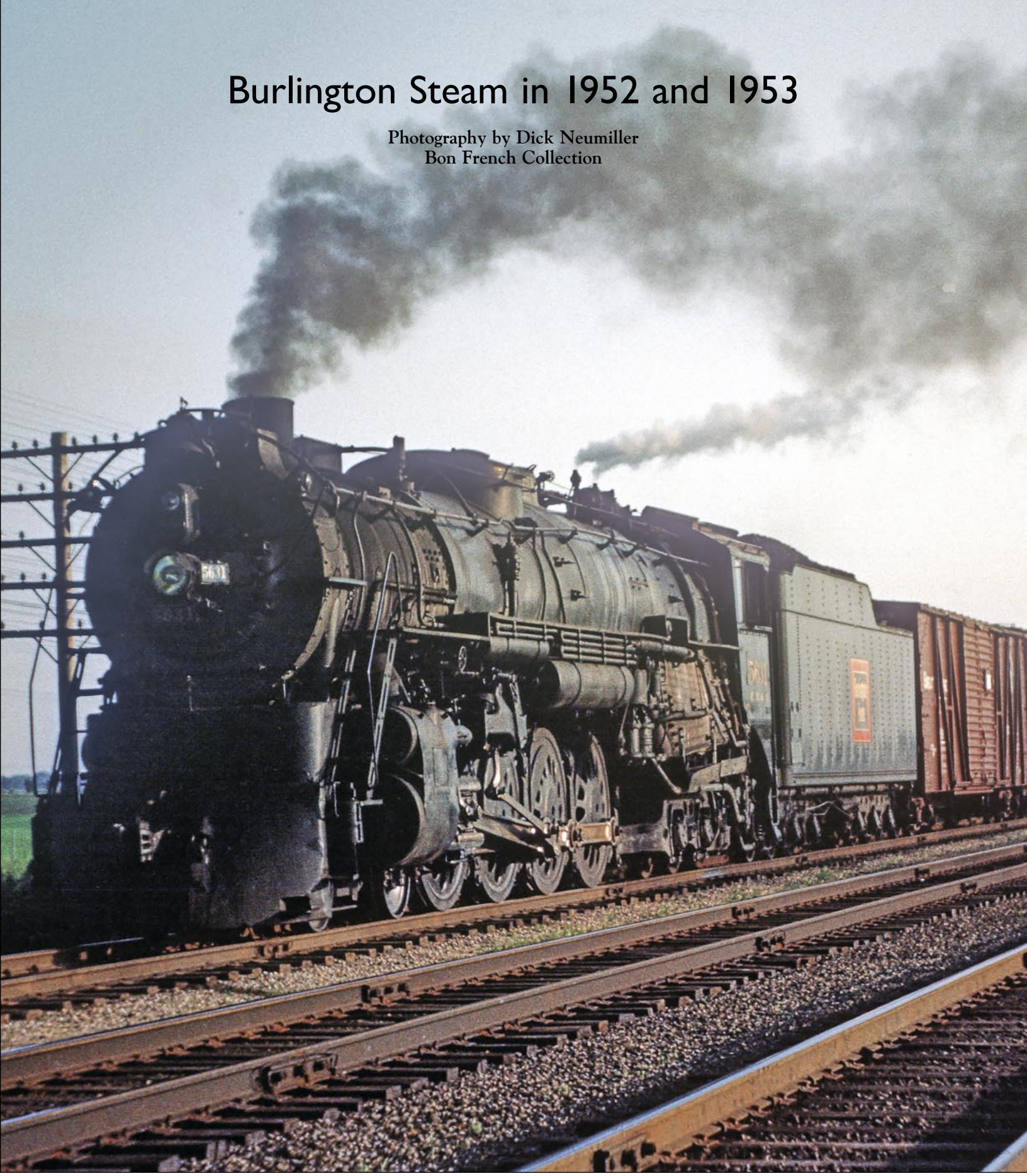
Burlington Steam in 1952 and 1953

Photography by Dick Neumiller
Bon French Collection



▲ This eastbound freight train with locomotive 5631 in charge has departed Galesburg Yard. The train has pulled eastward to the end of the third main track at a control point named Bishop. A fleet of three eastbound passenger trains will roar by before the dispatcher will clear 5631 to proceed.

▸▸ On pages 6 and 7 the first eastbound passenger train to pass by is the *Kansas City Zephyr* during the late afternoon of this beautiful June 1953 day.

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On this beautiful June 1953 day ▲ the second passenger train to pass by was the *Coloradon* ▼ followed by the *Nebraska Zephyr.*

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▲With the passenger trains well ahead, 5631 has received the signal to proceed and has started to move. ▼Looking east you can see where the third main track ends between the two signal bridges. The flat car is carrying two Caterpillar tractors. This load originated in Peoria.

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▲ In May 1953 the three-unit set of F-3 9961ABC was leading train number 17, a 12-car westbound *California Zephyr* west of Kewanee, Illinois. That is US Highway 34 that parallels the Q across Illinois. Locomotive 9961C led the first westbound CZ on March 20, 1949. 9961 ABC was delivered in October 1947, as were sisters 9960 ABC and 9962 ABC. EMD was backlogged with orders for E-units, so these F-3 units were ordered to power the

California Zephyrs (CZ). All were removed from *CZ* service after enough E-units were acquired to support the *CZ* service. All three sets were regeared in 1955 for freight service, keeping their original numbers. All nine units were eventually repainted in the white freight locomotive paint scheme, still with original numbers. 9961C was traded to EMD in July 1963 for a GP35. 9961A and 9961B were traded in October 1963, also for GP35s.