

# **FRRS Facilities Report**

**April 2004**

**Walkways – Phase 1**

The contractors completed pouring the first phase of permanent walkway at the museum on Tuesday, April 27. In speaking with Museum Manager John Walker, he reports that the work looks very good. Brand new rail gaskets now buffer the tracks with concrete between the rails on the 1 and 2 rails heading out of the shop. Also, the south side section, where we load the cabooses, has now been raised 2-1/2" above the rail height, making for a much easier step into the railcars.

The completed section will be open for pedestrian traffic by this weekend and fully open by the beginning of operating season.

There was a lot more work required than anticipated. Through no fault of anyone, a lot of the prep work for the walkways went undone until after the convention. The available group was just too busy with prepping for the convention, running the museum and general pesky things like family life and work.

With help from Frank Brehm I got all the underground utilities materials (we added future use conduit, water piping and drainage lines) and drove them to the museum. I spent Monday trenching with help from John Walker and some contributions from Doug Morgan and a UP employee on layover whose name escapes me. Ken Iverson was kind enough to shift some cabooses for me and Steve Habeck and Rod McClure reworked their switching list after they returned the equipment from Sparks to accommodate the concrete contractors.

The biggest issue was the need to change 8 ties and pinch up about 14 more along the east end of the Diesel Shop to allow installation of some custom walkway rail guides. With a lot of help from John Walker, Jason (last name I forget), Doug Morgan, and non-member David Barr, (and some backhoe work from Jack Thompson) and with guidance and assistance from Rod and Steve we got the tracks dug out, ties changed and the guides installed.

Thanks to the crew from Van Kol concrete who did a lot of extra work to help me get this done and for doing a great job on the walkways.

The work took some interesting twists, the most significant being the uncovering of part of the old Roundhouse floor and Turntable pit. These were documented before being covered again.

And thanks, once again, to Ed Wagner who made it all possible.

Submitted by Eugene Vicknair, Facilities Manager - PRM