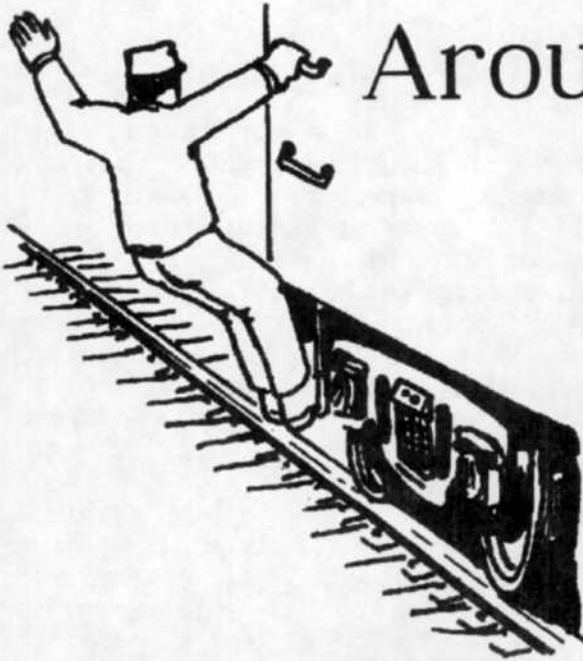


Around the Museum



We have thought about extending our trackage toward the west away from, but parallel to Union Pacific's main line toward the west end of Portola yard. This would involve obtaining UP's agreement to lease additional property for the extension, filling some low spots and building over one-half mile of trackage.

On the south side of UP's main line west of Portola depot, a siding track locally known as the West Pass was no longer in use. In January, UP crews pulled the spikes, stacked the rails and prepared to haul it away for scrap. A hurried call to Omaha gained permission for us to bring the rail and track parts onto the museum property for possible future use. Hap Manitt, Ken Roller and Norm Holmes loaded tie plates, angle bars and spikes into the Hough loader, making a dozen or more trips to our storage area over two days. Then a flat car was shoved to end of track, the Little Giant crane moved to position and the rails dragged through mud and snow to the loading area. Hank Stiles operated the crane; Ken Roller, Jim Ansell, Gordon Wolleson, Bruce Cooper, Norm

Holmes, and Hap Manitt assisted in hauling and loading. The approximately 140 75# rails were all loaded on one car and very carefully moved into our yard area where they will be unloaded ASAP.

It may be some time before we can use the rail, but we will have it on hand when that time comes. Thanks again, UP.

BATTERIES

Gordon Wolleson is keeping our 157 battery inventory in a charged condition. Some of our batteries are over 15 years old, but still hold a charge. At over \$300 each new, we have to make them last as long as possible.

DIESEL DOINGS

Bruce Cooper's "Rent-A-Locomotive" program has been a nice source of revenue, with 48 rentals completed or gift certificates mailed to potential engineers for an hour. Alco S-1, #512, has been used for anyone who wants to run during winter time. A choice of power will be available once warmer weather arrives.

Hank Stiles has removed grill work, hand rails, etc., from GP-20 2001 in preparation for sand blasting prior to the expected summer paint job.

AUCTION RESULTS

The book auction advertised in the September-October Train Sheet raised \$280 for the museum. We hope to have another auction of surplus books and railroad items at a later date. Thanks to all who participated.

APPOINTMENT

Erv Hartung has been appointed Chief Mechanical Officer for the museum equipment. It will be his job to correlate mechanical repairs, schedule inspections and service of locomotives and rolling equipment. A file system on each unit will be established and maintained which will include past history of service and repair. Erv volunteered for this much needed position.