

shape, we have some historic equipment trades and acquisitions happening, the physical plant is in better shape than it has been in a long time and the gift shop is really beginning to take off under the expert guidance of our Museum Manager John Walker. One place we are lacking is volunteers. We have had the appearance of some new faces this year and seen some old ones reappear but we need more of our members to show up and help do the dirty jobs. I know that driving 4 hours or more to come to the museum for an enjoyable weekend of shoveling gravel or cleaning out a boxcar is not anyone's idea of a good time but it is some of the things that we have to do to get the place in order. We have all kinds of wonderful jobs that need to be done. Weeds to be mowed, fences to be built, track to be repaired and built, locomotives to be repaired, boxcars to be cleaned out and shelves to be installed, journal boxes to be oiled, brake shoes to replace. The list seems endless but with enough help we can keep these things checked off and concentrate on bigger things like truck swaps and equipment restoration. RAL's and Caboose Train operations help pay the bills but like all railroads the small stuff has to be handled also. Try and bring a friend up the next time you come to the museum and see if they are interested in getting involved.

More good news is coming soon. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements.

PRM Facilities Report

By Eugene Vicknair, Facilities Manager

Many small items have been taken care of in the last two months.

Museum Manager John Walker recently reported the completion of repairs to the Beanery sink. He has also engaged in and overseen several small projects around the Diesel Shop including texturing and painting the bare wall leading to the Women's Restroom, repainting several railings and warning sandwich boards and improving the look and layout of the Gift Shop. The desks that once sat next to the restrooms have been removed and the surrounding area cleaned up. The REA Baggage Wagon now resides in the area next to the Operations Office and the improvement in the area's appearance has received rave reviews.

John and I are also coordinating the restructuring of the shop bays and the general cleaning of the work spaces. A new tool room is being designed and John has taken the lead on organizing the parts bay with new shelving acquired by CMO Hank Stiles. Hank, Doug Morgan, Dave and Vicki Epling and others have been assisting in this work.

Work on the volunteer deck ramp and stairs continues with David Epling and Tom Carter recently assisting me in sinking several new posts. I am hoping to get one more good weekend on the project before winter. With luck, we can actually be decking the ramp before the freeze.

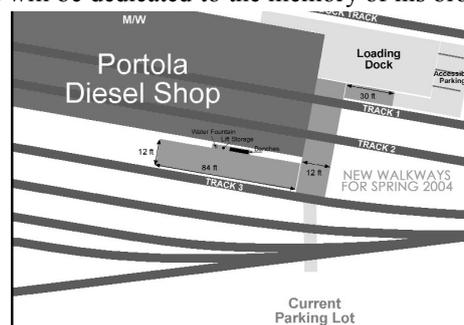
Several big changes are on hand for the Museum facility come next Spring:

ADA WALKWAYS

The FRRS Board has approved the installation of the first permanent, ADA compliant walkways on the property.

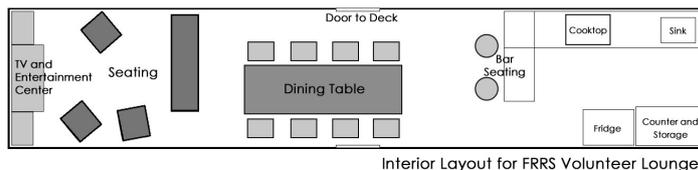
These walkway additions will begin across the east end of the Diesel Shop and will include the first segment of the Caboose Loading Gallery. In conjunction with this work, the walkway to the end of the loading dock, now the location of our accessible parking, will be refurbished. Once this work is complete, a portable wheelchair lift will be acquired for use in the loading gallery area. This will, for the first time at the PRM, allow paved wheelchair access into the building and eventually access to the caboose train. Currently, our Missouri Pacific transfer caboose is being evaluated for modification to allow wheelchair tie-downs to be installed on the car.

Still to be funded are the installation of benches, lighting and a drinking fountain along the gallery walkway. To complete all the phase 1 work, we still require about \$5000. As reported in the previous issue, longtime member Ed Wagner has donated \$15,000 to begin this work and, in thanks, this first segment of walkways will be dedicated to the memory of his brother, Joe.



VOLUNTEER LOUNGE and FACILITIES

Work is also progressing on the new Volunteer Lounge, to be housed in the Silver Debris bunk car. Currently, Mickey ??, a local contractor, is removing the former interior and preparing the car for its new role. With funds newly approved by the Board, the lounge car will be insulated, rewired and eventually have a kitchenette and seating installed. The deck between the sleeper and shower cars will also be extended to allow access to the Silver Debris, creating a centralized complex of facilities for our volun-



teers. Work is also progressing on the new ramp and stair access to the deck.

We hope to have all this work complete in time for the opening of operations season in 2004. HOWEVER, it will not happen without assistance from our members. As mentioned, monetary donations are needed to complete the walkway work and donations of funds and labor are needed to complete the Silver Debris and the deck.

If you wish to donate to the facilities improvements, please send a check or money order to Feather River Rail Society, P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122, ATTN: Facilities Fund. Make the check out to the FRRS and note FACILITIES FUND on the memo line.