

## Elevated Layout

By Dick Izen

Ibby Ulmer has told you about the progress being made on the crawl through locomotive and the work day at Norm and Ibby's. I want to update you about another aspect of the Tucson Children's' Museum project, the elevated train loop.

As you may know the train gallery room currently has a traveling exhibit and we can only work in the room on Mondays when the museum is closed. Nick Buchholz and I had the acrylic cut for the roadbed and glued the supports and side walls to stiffen the pieces.

Our first workday was November 3, when Chuck Taylor, Willis Fagg, Nick and I placed the two large triangular pieces on the south wall. These pieces will support the curves and are large enough to support some scenery. We also helped Glenn Mitchell load the box in which the museum's TV is mounted into his truck. He took it home to install the control panel and the momentum circuit.

November 10<sup>th</sup> saw all five of us back at the museum (Glenn brought back the installed electronics and stayed to help our crew.) The first order of business was mounting the 36 feet of backdrops that will form the scenery on the west, south and part of the east walls. We are using 24 feet of photo mural depicting the rolling Arizona desert hill around Wickenburg. The other 12 feet depict the Union Pacific yard in Salt Lake City (we couldn't find a photo mural with an Arizona yard).

The first step was trimming the photo murals and cutting them to length to fit the walls.



**Chuck Taylor trims one of the Wickenburg backdrops.**

Next we masked the wall above and below the backdrop's position. We used spray glue both on the wall and the back of the backdrop. Then the backdrops were carefully affixed to the walls.



**The first photo mural is on the wall and Willis Fagg (left) is carefully affixing a length of the second one. That's Chuck Taylor (center) steadying the ladder and Nick Buchholz smoothing the joint from a step stool (right).**

Once the Wickenburg murals were up we moved to the Union Pacific yard. It's hard to see in the small picture below but the U. P. shield emblem is prominent atop the three story building. The yellow points in the bottom of the pictures are part of the traveling exhibit that we had moved away from the wall.



**U. P. 's Salt Lake yard installed on the east and south walls.**



**Completed south wall, with yard on left, hills on right and false front buildings in between.**

With the backdrops in place we completed the roadbed on the south wall and used three false front buildings to transition between the desert hill and the yard. Some green paint over the buildings will help complete the transition between the scenes.

Once done with the south wall we installed three sections of roadbed along the west wall under the desert mural. Next Monday (the 17<sup>th</sup>) we plan to complete the west wall and work along the east wall. If there is sufficient time we will also begin to cut into the north wall for our tunnel portals.

Overall, I think the crew is pleased with the progress we are making and expect to be ready for track and wiring soon.