

Norm:

I won't be at the meeting on the 18th so I wanted to give you a write up on where we stand. I have also asked each of the people mentioned below to be prepared to briefly provide an update at the meeting if you so choose. Finally, before I start the update proper, Nick Buchholz will have sign up sheets at the meeting for persons wishing to work on installing the elevated railway and for persons willing to build scenic flats.

1. Elevated Railway

Nick Buchholz has completed the cut sheets and the plastic is being cut at Creative Plastics. Nick will pick up a check from Ruth Taylor at the meeting and Gary Martin, Nick and I will pick up the plastic on the 20th. We will have to glue the side rails to the roadbed but with all of the pieces cut this should be quick. We ought to be able to begin construction on the 27th.

As previously reported Byron Skinner is donating a box of 5' Aristocraft track. He will give it to Willis at the meeting and Ruth will give him a receipt for tax purposes. Together with the other straights and the curved track Willis brought back from Upland Trains we will have all of the track needed.

Willis has also brought back one of the locomotives (an Aristocraft RS-3), a flat car (with transformer load), a box car, a stock car, a tank car and a caboose. All are UP except the box car which is SP. Upland is still looking for a second locomotive and more cars (a hopper, a covered hopper, etc.). I have discussed the need to take photos of the rolling stock for the magnetic cars and the explanatory posters but we have agreed to wait until we have all of the rolling stock.

Glenn Mitchell has the power supply and is building the momentum and timing circuits. He has looked at the TV and measured the cabinet which we will use to mount the components. We have not yet ordered the mini TV camera. I don't know the lead time on this and suggest we place the order soon.

Gary Martin had agreed to build the tunnel portals and paint the mountains where the train exits and re-enters the room. As you know I have asked for volunteers to staff the building crew and to build false front buildings.

2. Locomotive

Nick Buchholz has completed the drawings and cut list. Norm Ulmer is in charge of this crew consisting of Norm, Nick and myself. I assume you will be able to review the drawings and the cut list with Nick at some point on the 18th. I will be back in town on the 20th and available to go to purchase supplies and to help with construction at any time after that.

After inspecting the tube Nick had suggested using sheet metal to cover the boiler. This would be fastened with pop rivets.

He and I have agreed to use Lexan for the safety shield over the wheels due to its strength and durability. We have reviewed the availability and the design with Creative Plastics but have not yet ordered the material pending your review and approval of the designs.

Similarly I have not yet placed an order for the bell or purchased either the paint or the 8" PVC pipe for the cylinders and smoke stack. The paint and the PVC should be readily available but I would suggest we order the bell soon.

3. Poster Wall

Janet Mitchell and Peggy Martin have located some historical pictures but are essentially waiting to see if the Union Pacific has some posters. Ruth Taylor is chasing this with the U.P. Janet said that she also wanted to wait until Phyllis Dirksen had returned to work with Peggy and herself. Janet and Ruth can provide an update at the meeting.

4. Magnetic Trains

We have not begun work on this as we are waiting to assemble all of the rolling stock for photos. If this drags on too long we can begin work with what we have.

Essentially once we have digital photos we want to get one of the office supply houses to print them with better inks than home ink jet. The home printed photos tend to run and smear even with light coats of decoupage coating or poly acrylics. I have had some success with very light coats of spray varnish but we hope to get more durable prints from a laser printer.

One of the comments on the car I built as a sample was that the handle detracted from the appearance. Accordingly I have ordered 20 clear Lucite knobs. These will be adequate to allow a child to grip but less visually distracting.

They will have to be drilled and tapped for our purposes but have the added advantage of being less costly (\$0.30 @) than the handles.

5. Light Up Displays

Gary and Glenn and I have agreed that we could create a pushbutton operated light up display explaining how steam and diesel electric locomotives operate. Gary is talking with Glenn about this but we have agreed that this is our lowest priority and could be installed at a later date if necessary.

6. Push Pull Train and Table and Bench

These are both commercial items and it is simply a question of when we are comfortable enough to order them. I suggest we place the orders in November but that we shop Toys R Us and Home Depot before we order. They may have the suitable items in stock.