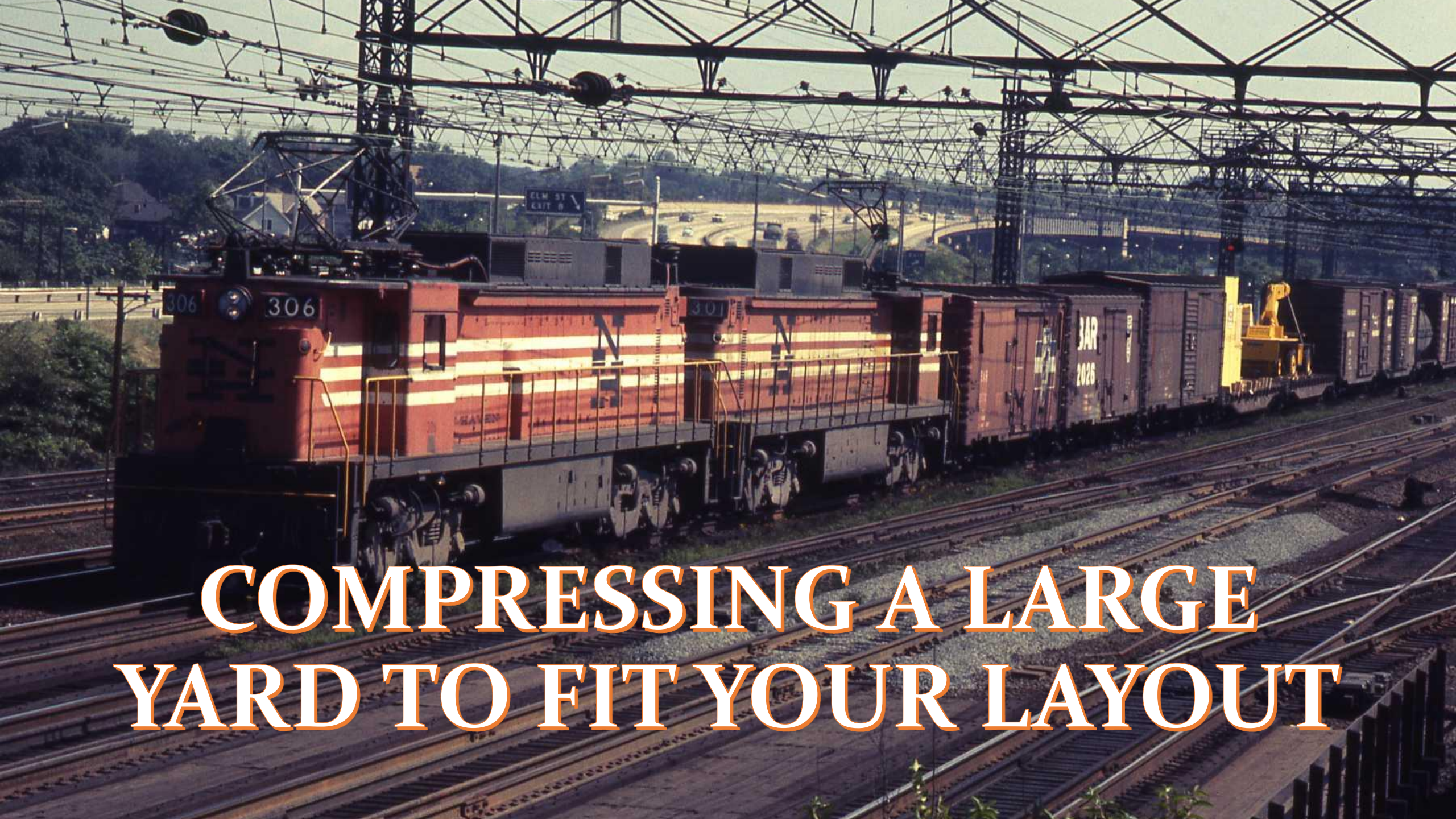


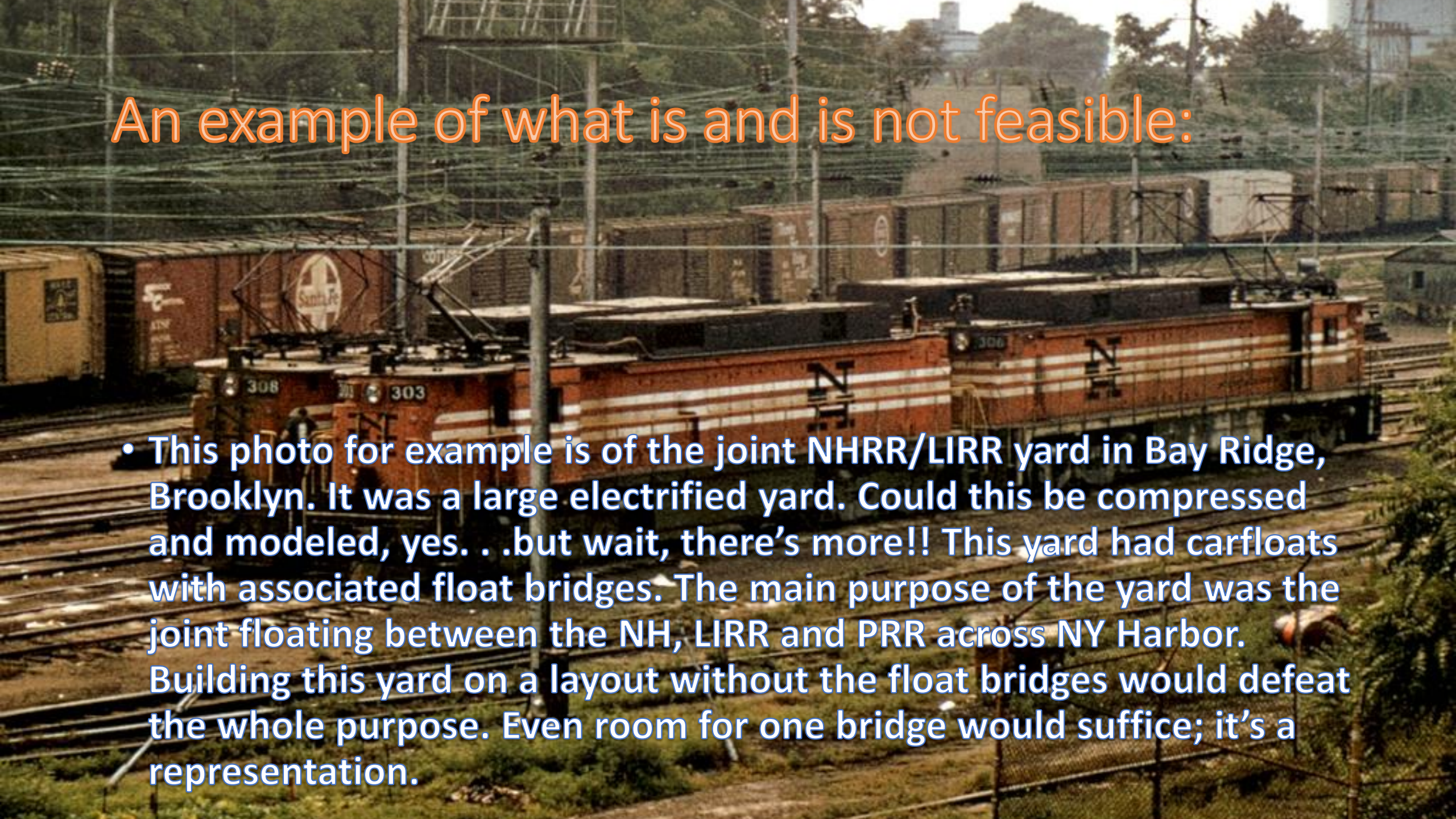
COMPRESSING A LARGE YARD TO FIT YOUR LAYOUT

Make sure you know what you want to do before you begin.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT SELECTIVE COMPRESSION; SELECT A REASONABLE PROTOTYPE!

- 1) Determine if you can reasonably fit it into your railroad.
- 2) You do not want to squeeze 100 pounds of bologna into a
- 10 pound bag.
- 3) What you decide to compress need not look exactly like the prototype. You can represent it in name only as I did.
- 4) Be sure to determine in advance what customers you wish to represent and will they be accessible in an operating session.

An example of what is and is not feasible:



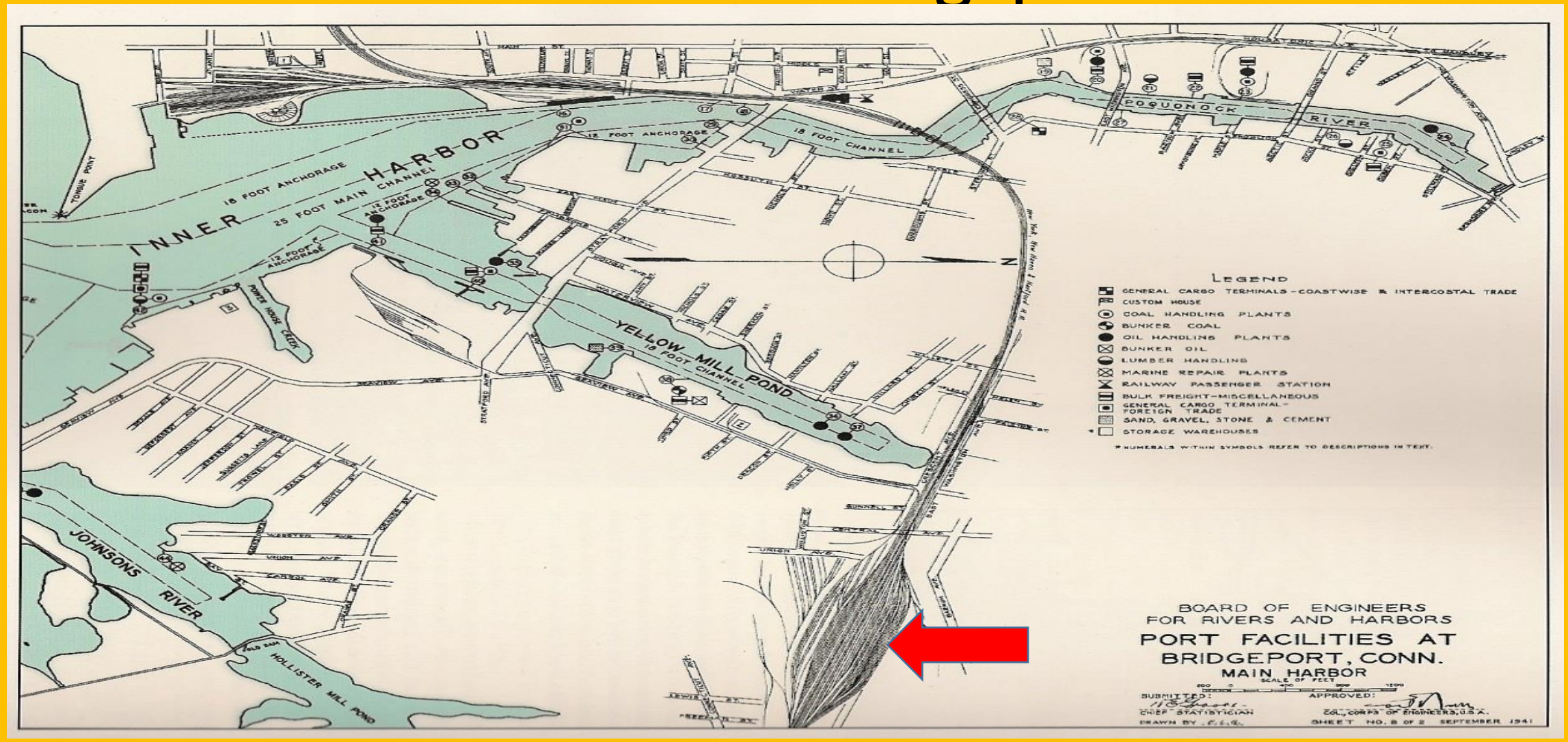
- This photo for example is of the joint NHRR/LIRR yard in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. It was a large electrified yard. Could this be compressed and modeled, yes. . .but wait, there's more!! This yard had carfloats with associated float bridges. The main purpose of the yard was the joint floating between the NH, LIRR and PRR across NY Harbor. Building this yard on a layout without the float bridges would defeat the whole purpose. Even room for one bridge would suffice; it's a representation.

Walther’s Makes an HO Float Bridge.

So, what did I decide to model for my yards? The territory that I model had three major yards; Maybrook, Turkey Brook and E. Bridgeport, and added to the layout after the move, Cedar Hill Yard.

This presentation will show how I compressed E. Bridgeport and later added Cedar Hill.

Location of East Bridgeport Yard



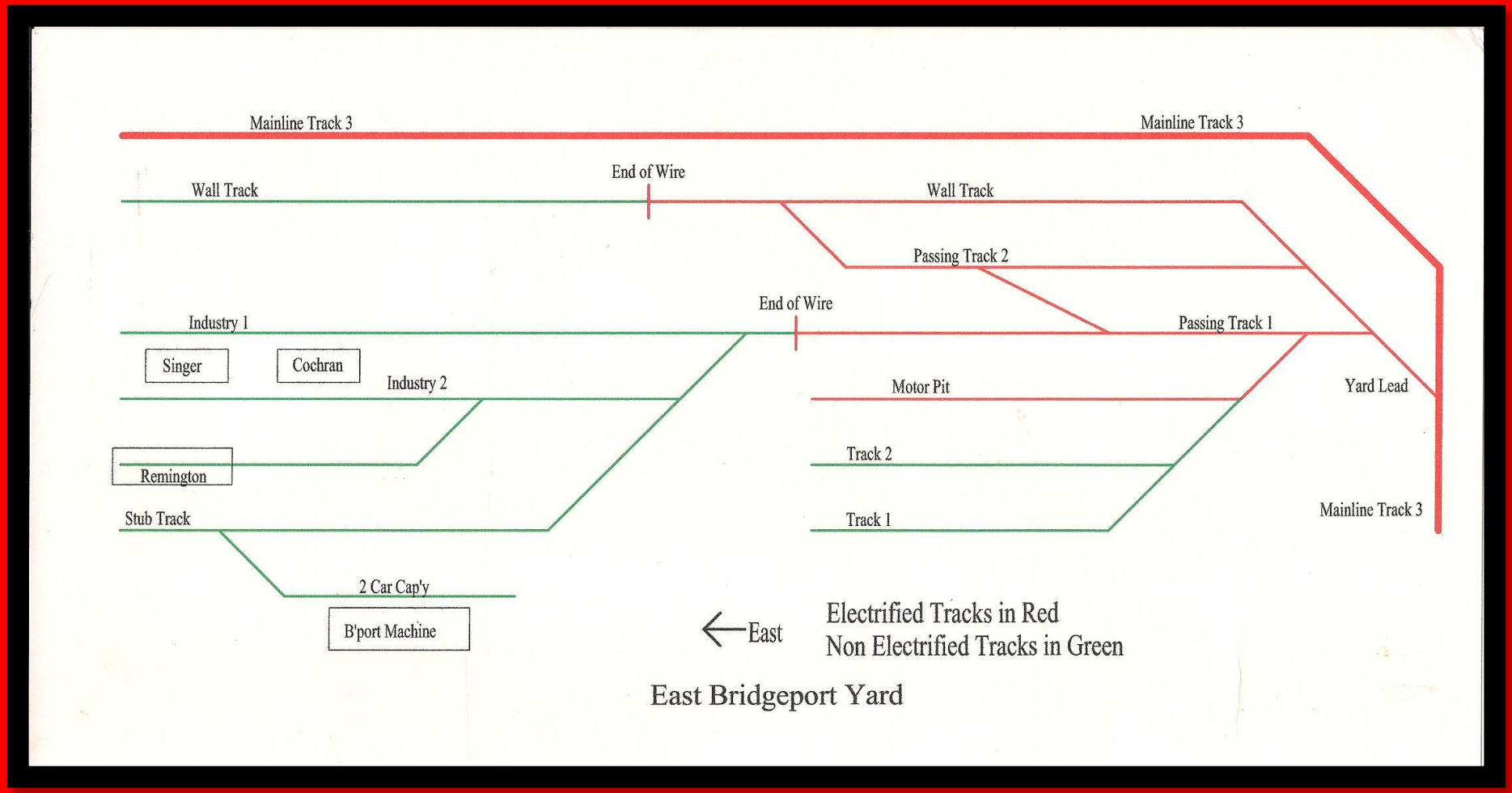
Where to begin, and what will it look like when its completed?

June 1997

Same location

An important factor to work out first is a viable trackplan.

Track Schematic for E. Bridgeport Yard.



When you decide on a track plan and begin laying track in a tight area, be sure the motive power you plan on using will negotiate all the curves.

Outside Should Not be a Problem!

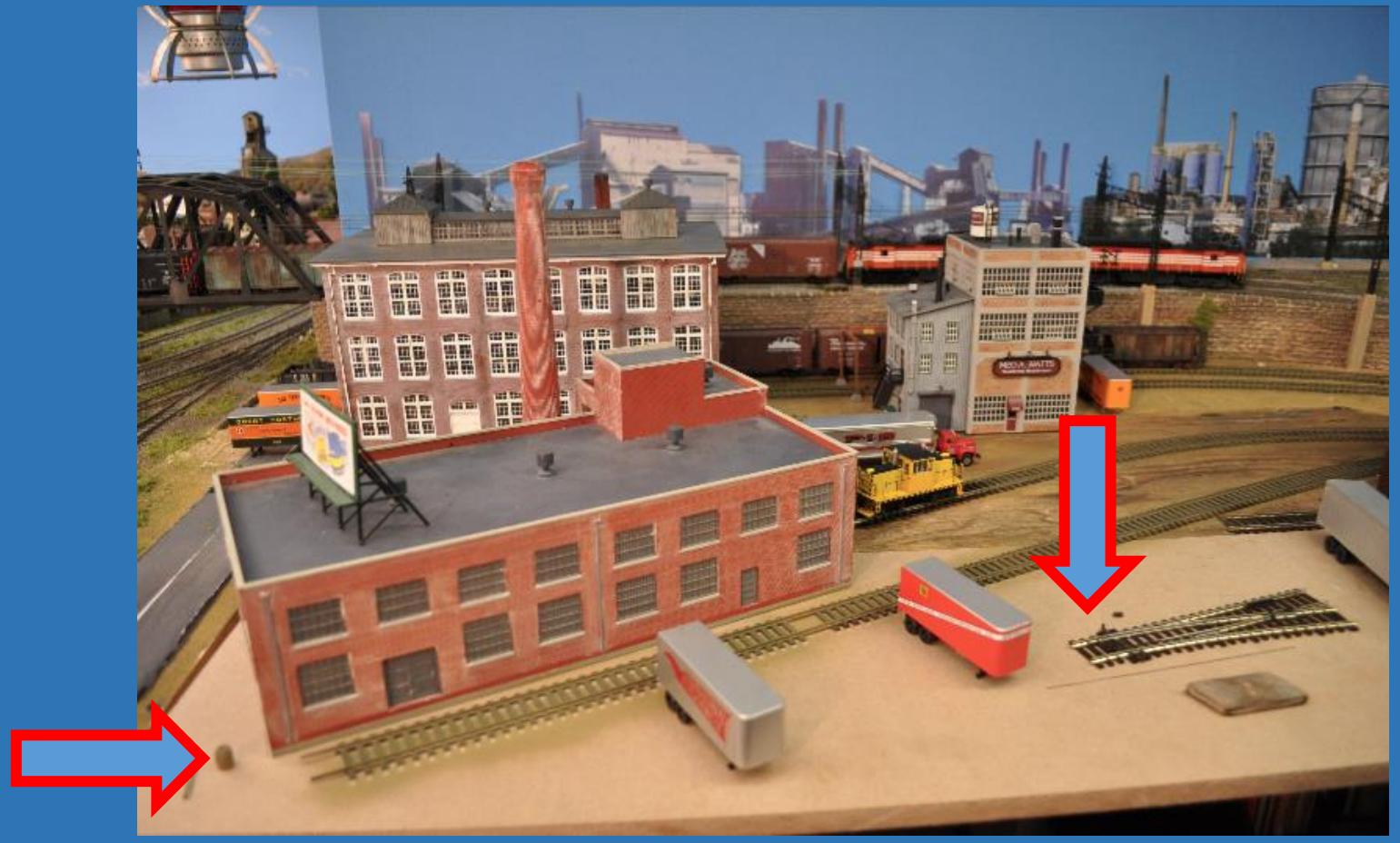
Especially in 12”=1’ Scale. . . .

The red arrow indicates the area that would become E. Bridgeport.

Positioning buildings for placement

The space needed was too small, so. . .

. . .using the right of “My Eminent Domain”, a small area was added to the scene.



After you choose the area you want, establish where your buildings will be placed to be sure your track plan will accommodate them, especially if you will be working in a relatively small area such as I was. After that, I began “pouring” the roads using joint compound.

Close-up of the road “pour.”

Placing a building to check for clearances.
Remember, "measure twice; pour once!"

You want to be certain that when buildings are placed they don’t remove ladders and grab irons from rolling stock. You don’t want to remove track from the joint compound. . .wet or dry its not fun.

Buildings in place and the pavement gets a coat of good ol’ Floquil Weathered Black.

Prior to ballasting and scenery, track is spray painted rail brown. If you spray, be sure to clean off the rail head. . .paint makes a great insulator you do not want in this location.

If you have buildings that require car placement inside, and the floor of the building requires elevation of the track, be sure it's a nice even grade. You don't want pushers assisting the yard power.

Since my railroad is strictly DC, I use Peco power routing switches to isolate sections. By throwing the switch against the 45 tonner, it will not move. Moves will be able to be made with the NH Alco.

Determining street locations and positioning of a building for placement of cars inside.

Close inspection of car clearance and location of street.

Same location completed.

A before and after comparison.

Painting the roads and beginning scenery.

Remington spur and Singer siding

Stub Track and surrounding area with scenery.

Ground level view of Singer Siding.

Adding other structures that fit.

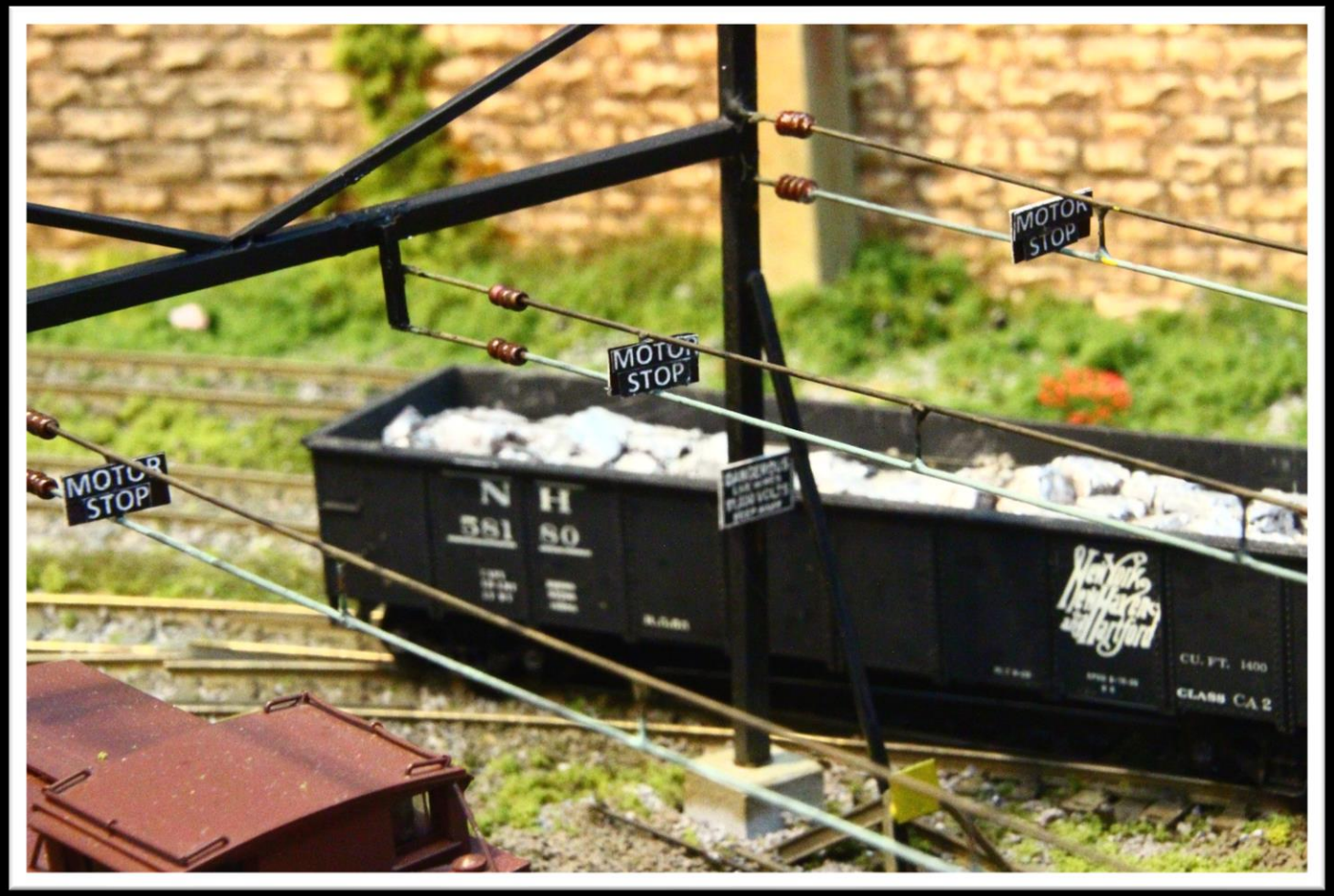
End view showing parking lot.

Overview of the completed area.

Now, let's add the catenary.

Typical “Danger” sign in the catenary.

“MOTOR STOP” tells the story.



Pantograph inspection platform

Inspection platform with catenary

Platform before and after the catenary.

Detail of wire on curve in the yard

Catenary Sectionalizing.

EY-2 on the motor pit

EY-2 in E. Bridgeport yard

EY-2 0210 in the snow.

0210 tied down after a day's work in the 1930s.

Now that we have our yard, how does it work?

Housatonic RR Wheel Report.

Jun-15-2009 06:56pm From-Housatonic Railroad Co T-001 P 002/008 F-896

Advance Consist Report

Train Q42412 **Date/Time:** 2009/06/13 255

Consist Type: Yard Cut (Actual Intercha Actual

		Car Number / Consignee	STCC / Destination	L/E	Tons	WB # / Shipper	WB Date / Origin	UN	PG	Class	Quantity / Material Name
14	HRRC	SOU 550085	2631117	L	80	136523	20090525				0
	RAND WHITNEY	RANWHIPAC	NEWTOWN	CT		TEMINLAND	KRANNERT	GA			
15	HRRC	SOU 550036	2631117	L	94	139052	20090520				0
	RAND WHITNEY	RANWHIPAC	NEWTOWN	CT		TEMINLAND	KRANNERT	GA			
16	HRRC	SOU 525785	2631117	L	94	139026	20090526				0
	RAND WHITNEY	RANWHIPAC	NEWTOWN	CT		TEMINLAND	KRANNERT	GA			
17	HRRC	SOU 530123	2631117	L	89	138524	20090525				0
	RAND WHITNEY	RANWHIPAC	NEWTOWN	CT		TEMINLAND	KRANNERT	GA			
18	HRRC	TCMX 95803	3295950	E		385513	2009052?				0
	SPECIALTY MINERA	SPEMINERA	PITTSFIEL	MA		AGENT	GYPSUM	OH			
19	HRRC	DBUX 250604	2092110	L	92	799040	20090606				0
	ACH FOODS	ACHFOOCOM	NEWMILFOR	CT		BUNNORAME	BELLEVUE	OH			
20	HRRC	ACFX 97726	2821163	L	90	489680	20090604				0
	SHEFFIELD PLASTIC	BAYMATERI	SHEFFIELD	MA		BAYMATLLC	ELDON	TX			
21	HRRC	MWCX 460524	3274110	E		091862	2009060?				0
	SPECIALTY MINERA	SPEMINERA	CANAAN	CT		SPEMINERA	FORLAUDER	FL			
22	HRRC	MWCX 460500	3274110	E		623887	20090608				0
	SPECIALTY MINERA	SPEMINERA	CANAAN	CT		SPEMINERA	FLORENCE	SC			
23	HRRC	SOU 550137	2611135	L	90	809706	20090611				0
	KIMBERLY	KIMCLARK	NEWMILFOR	CT		DUNMARTER	BALBAYVIE	MD			
24	HRRC	SOU 551785	2611135	L	90	819216	20090611				0
	KIMBERLY	KIMCLARK	NEWMILFOR	CT		DUNMARTR2	BALBAYVIE	MD			
25	HRRC	NAHX 320383	3295950	E		683662	20090610				0
	SPECIALTY MINERA	SPEMINERA	CANAAN	CT		NATGYPSUM	BELCAMP	MD			
26	HRRC	NAHX 320330	3295950	[illegible]		692735	20090606				[illegible]
	SPECIALTY MINERA	SPEMINERA	CANAAN	CT		NATGYPSUM	BELCAMP	MD			

Wheel Report For Layout Op Session.

THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN and HARTFORD RAILROAD Co.

WHEEL REPORT

TRAIN: NX-12N C	STATION DEPARTURE: Cedar Hill			STATION ARRIVAL: Pittsfield			Engine 532	
	DATE		TIME	FROM	MONTH	DAY	TIME	CREW
	August 12, 2023							
		KIND	L/E	FROM	TO	MOVMT	MISC. REMARKS	
	CEDAR HILL YD.							
TP&W	5050	BOX	L	C. HILL	H&S	PLACE		
GN	27024	BOX	L	C. HILL	H&S	PLACE		
YH	67	BOX	L	C. HILL	ADRIANI	PLACE		
EJ&E	60458	BOX	L	C. HILL	ADRIANI	PLACE		
ASGX	101	BOX	L	C. HILL	BISHOP AV	WHEEL		
NH	36820	BOX	L	C. HILL	BISHOP AV	WHEEL		
GN	2501	BOX	L	C. HILL	BISHOP AV	WHEEL		
SERX	975	BOX	L	C. HILL	BISHOP AV	WHEEL		
NH	117047	COV HOPP	E	C. HILL	CANAAN	WHEEL	S.WYE	
NH	117015	COV HOPP	E	C. HILL	CANAAN	WHEEL	S.WYE	
BAR	2099	BOX	L	C. HILL	PITTSFIELD	WHEEL	B&A I/C	
NH	45090	BOX	L	C. HILL	PITTSFIELD	WHEEL	B&A I/C	
NH	45088	BOX	L	C. HILL	PITTSFIELD	WHEEL	B&A I/C	
HV	762	BOX	L	C. HILL	PITTSFIELD	WHEEL	B&A I/C	
	HARRINGTON & SMITH							
NH	36845	BOX	L	H&S	PITTSFIELD	PULL	B&A I/C	
	ADRIANI POWER SUPPLIES							
NH	17348	FLAT	L	ADRIANI	PITTSFIELD	PULL	B&A I/C	
	BISHOP AVE. YARD							
GN	24872	BOX	L	BISHOP	PITTSFIELD	PULL	MITCHELLS	
MRBX	216	REEFER	E	BISHOP	PITTSFIELD	PULL	B&A I/C	
	CANAAN							
	MILLERS SIDING							
PRR	254397	COV HOPP	L	MILLERS	PITTSFIELD	PULL	B&A I/C	

NOTE: CONTACT DISPATCHER BEFORE DEPARTING CEDAR HILL.

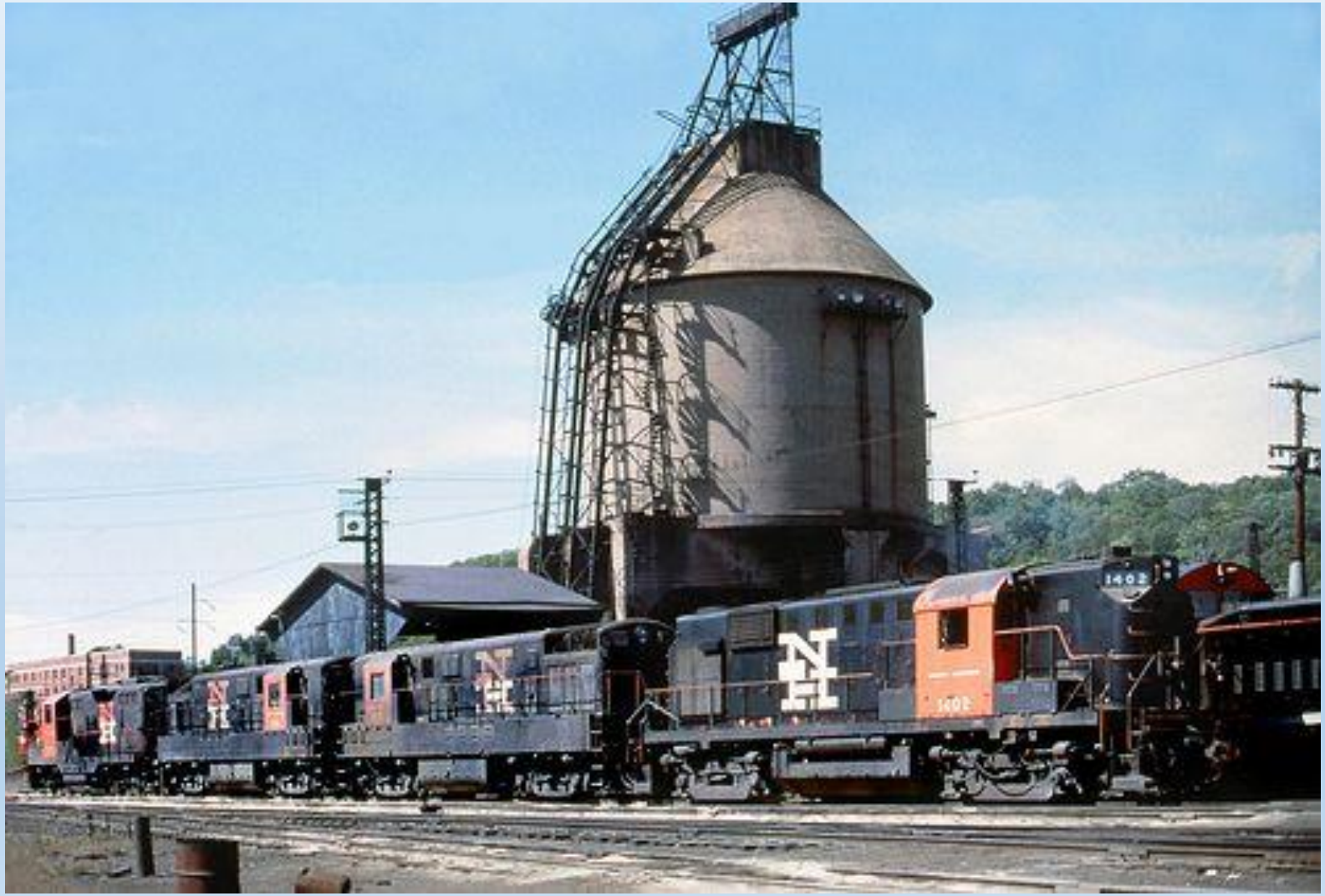
EF-4s passing E. Bridgeport yard on the main.

BUT WAIT...
THERE'S MORE!

Prior to moving the layout in Feb., 2019 plans were made to add Cedar Hill Yard.

Cedar Hill Yard in North Haven.

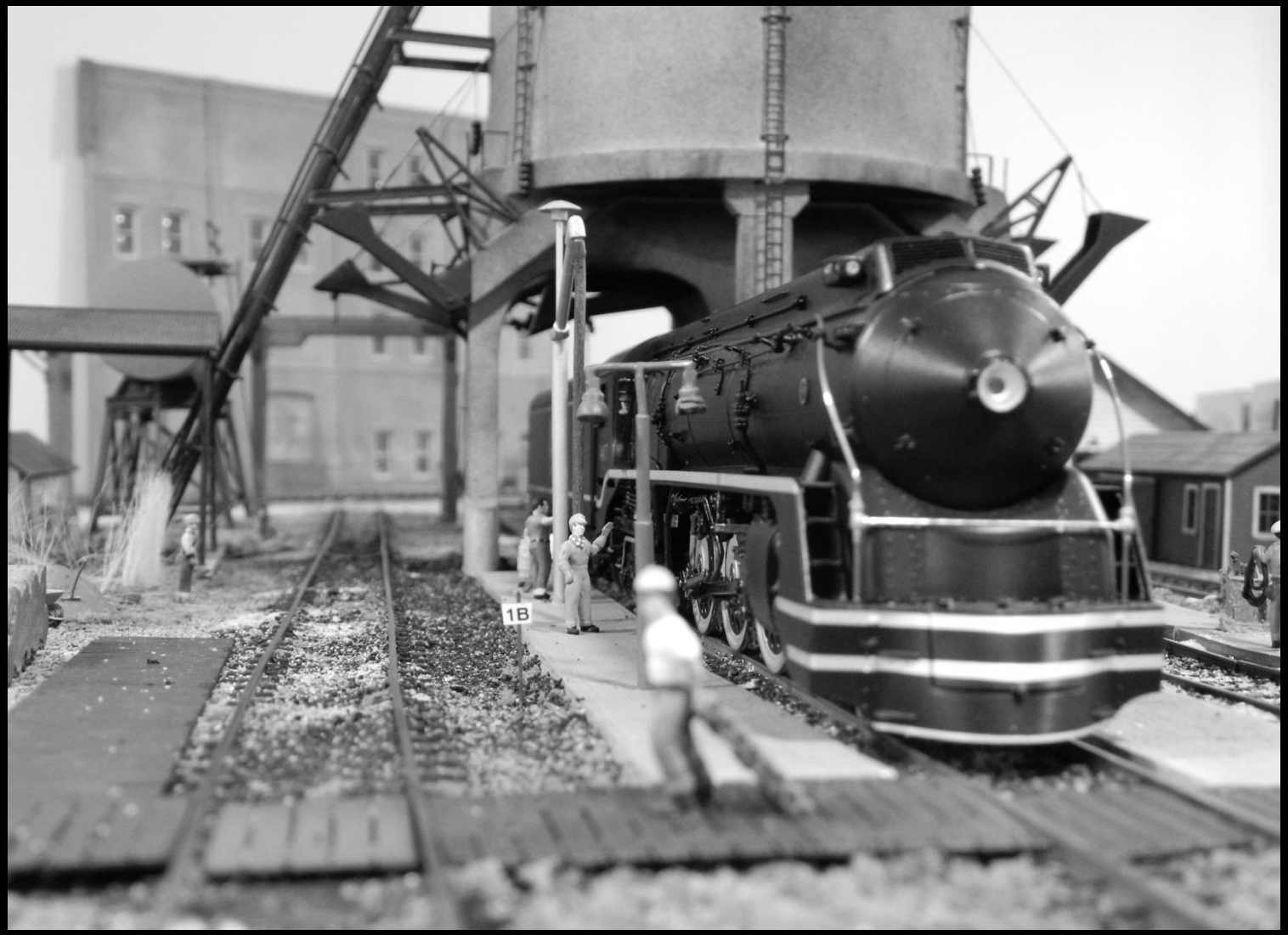
Cedar Hill Coal Dock.



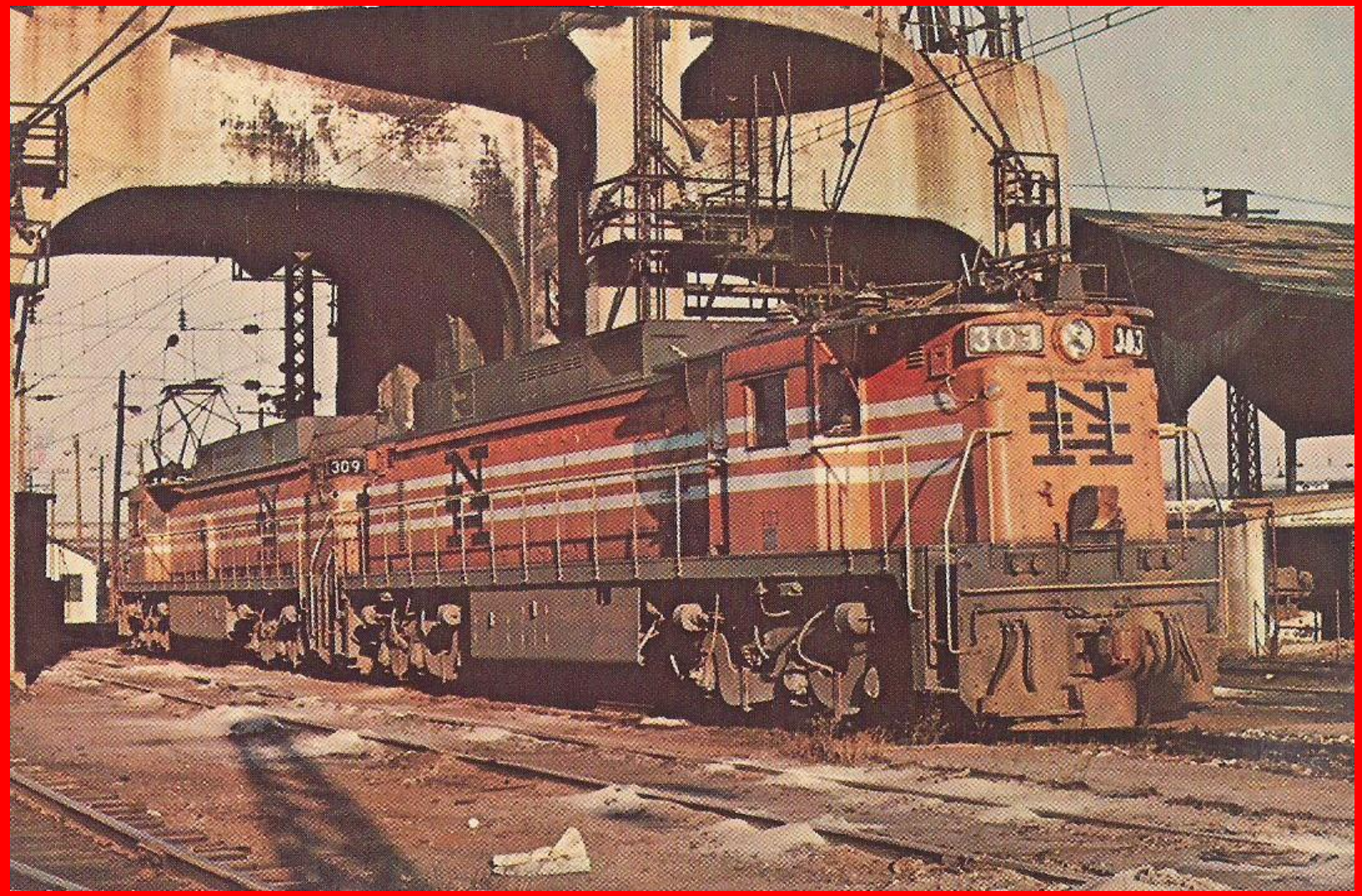
Scratch-built model of the Cedar Hill Coal Dock.

I-5 4-6-4 at the Cedar Hill coal dock, 1937

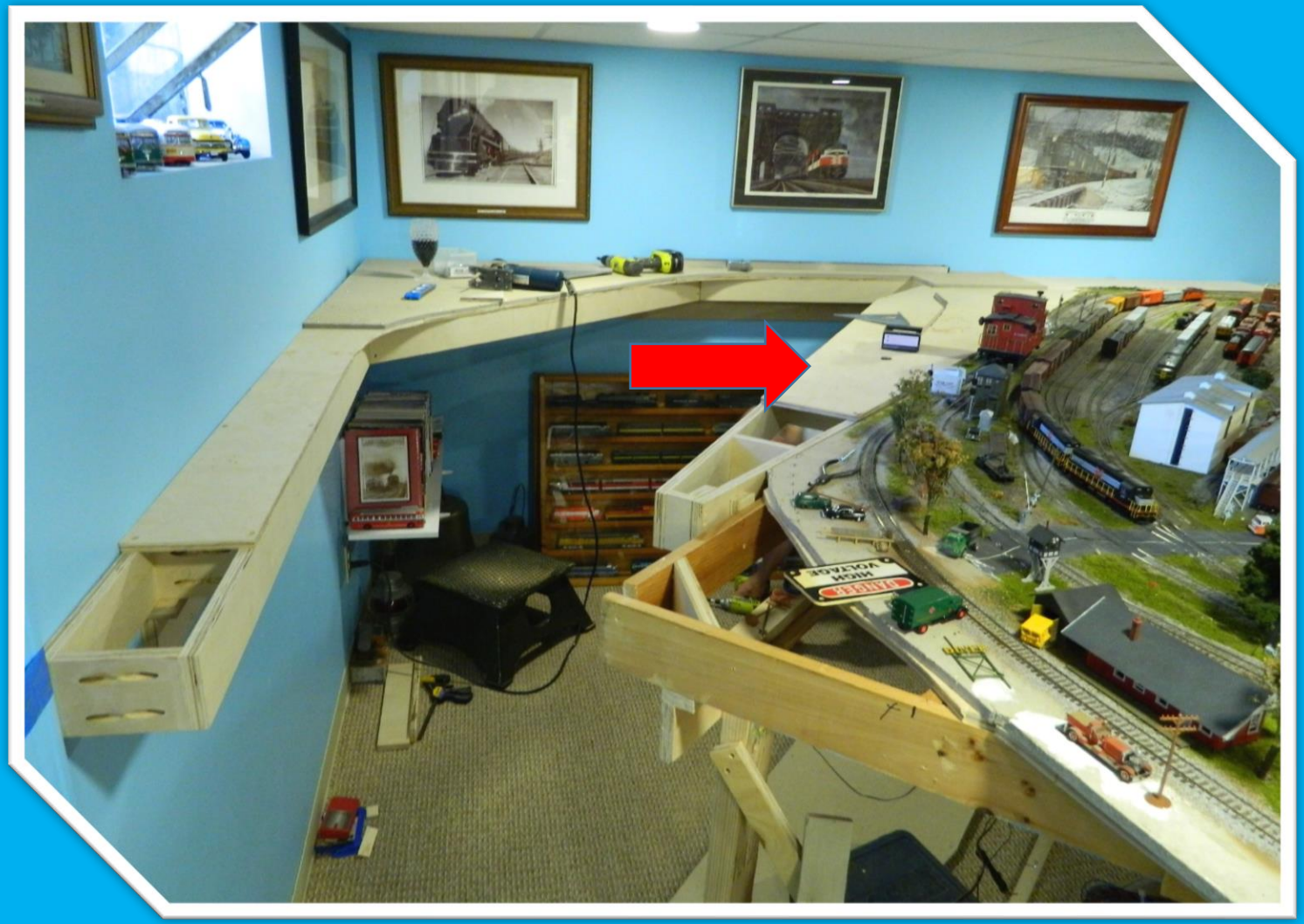
I-5, 4-6-4 No. 1407 under the coal dock.



EF-4 Motors under the coal dock.



Arrow indicates bench work for Cedar Hill.



Temporary Mock-up Placed On the Layout.

Trackage going in for Cedar Hill.

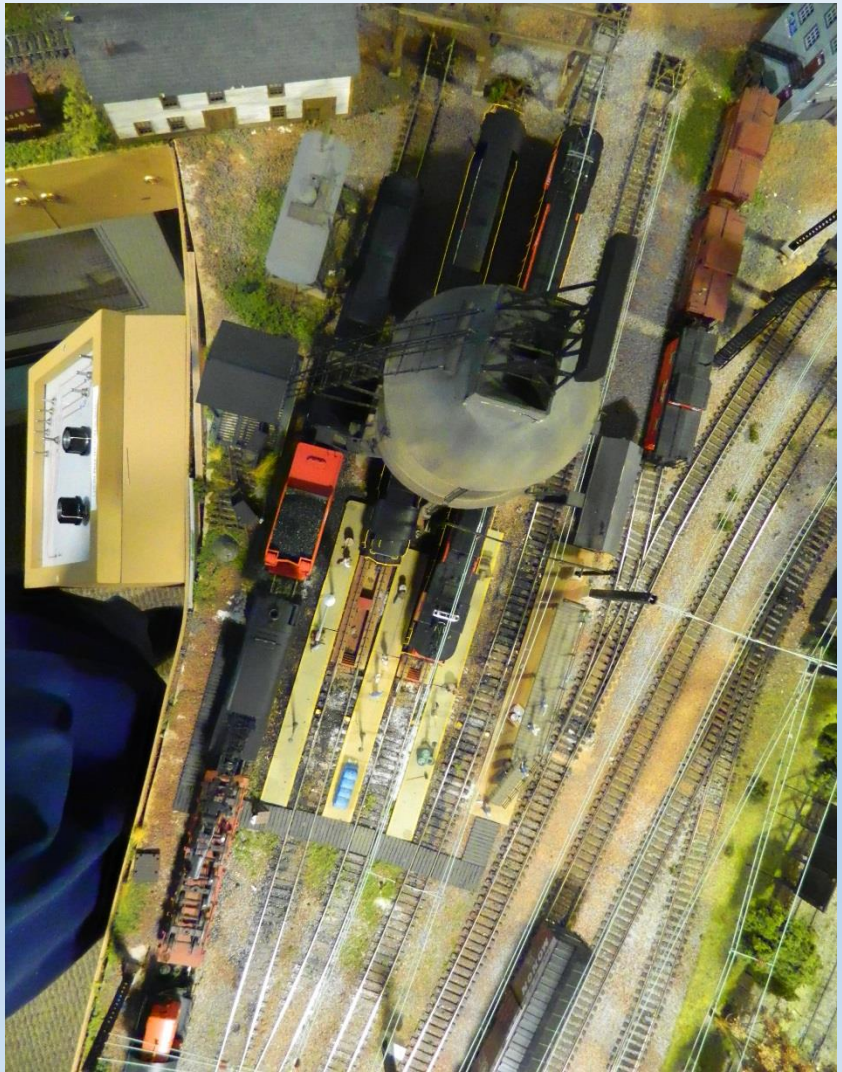
Motor Storage Area Taking Shape.

Adding Ballast and Catenary.

Catenary over Motor Storage.

Catenary Completed over yard tracks.

Aerial View from HO Scale Piper Cherokee.



12”=1’ scale and 1/87=1’ scale.

Yard Diagram of Cedar Hill.
LED's Show Switch Positions

EF-3b 0151 departing Cedar Hill.

THE END

Thank you!