

Operations

Beginners Guide
For having fun

Austin Area Train Show

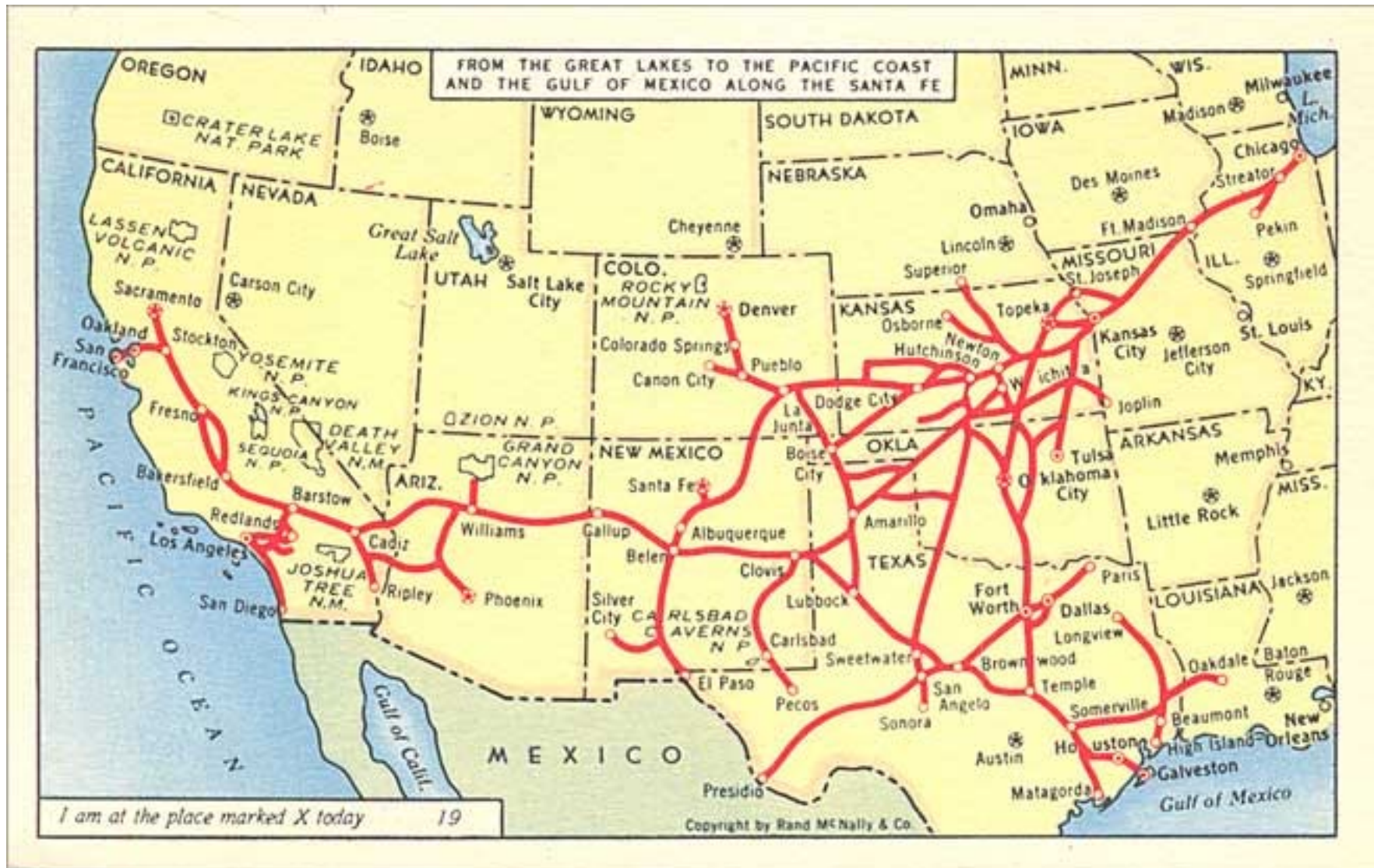
August 23, 2025

Jack Merkel

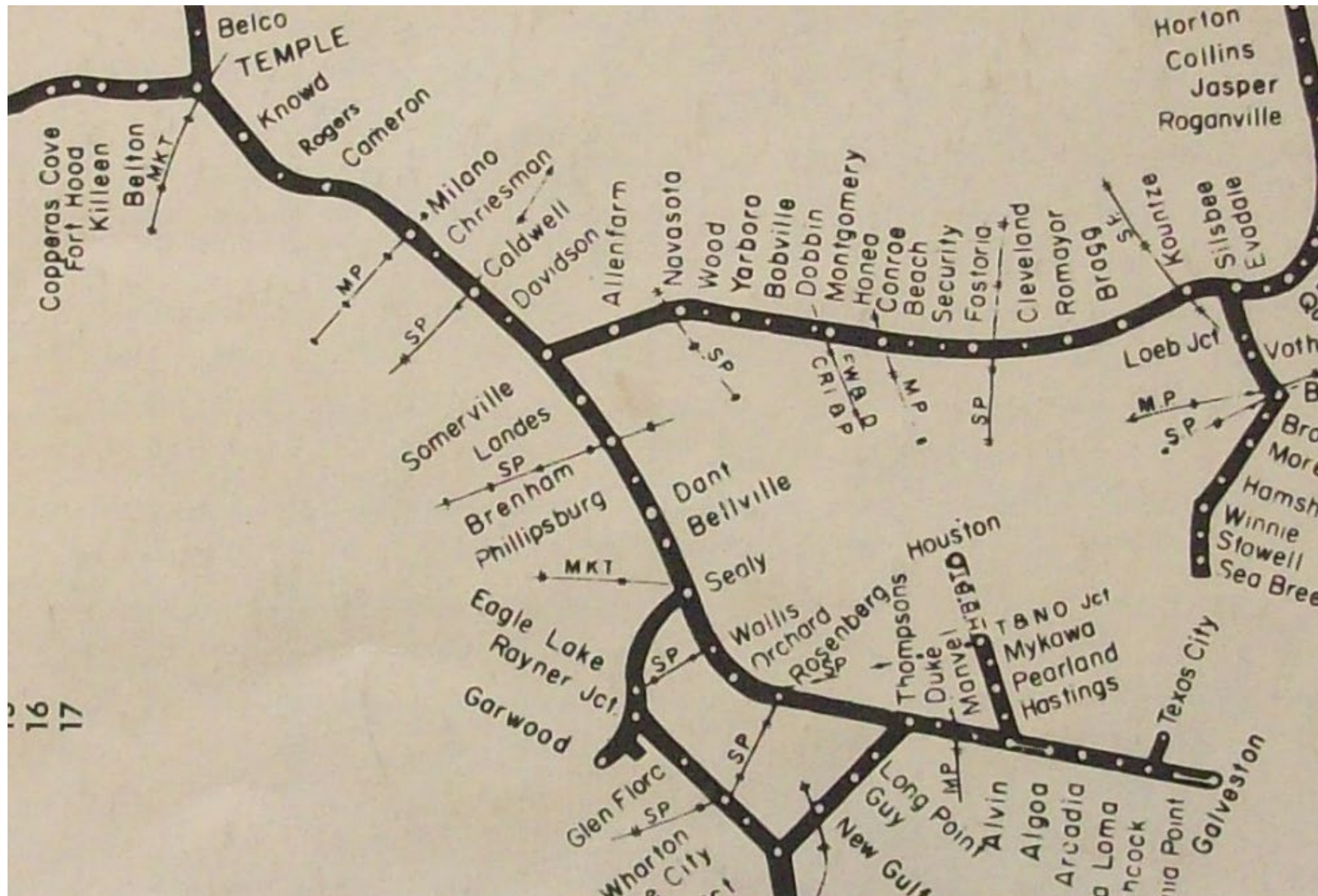
RR Mission

- The purpose of the prototype RR is to move freight and passengers to make a profit.
- The purpose of the model RR is to simulate moving freight and passengers to have fun.

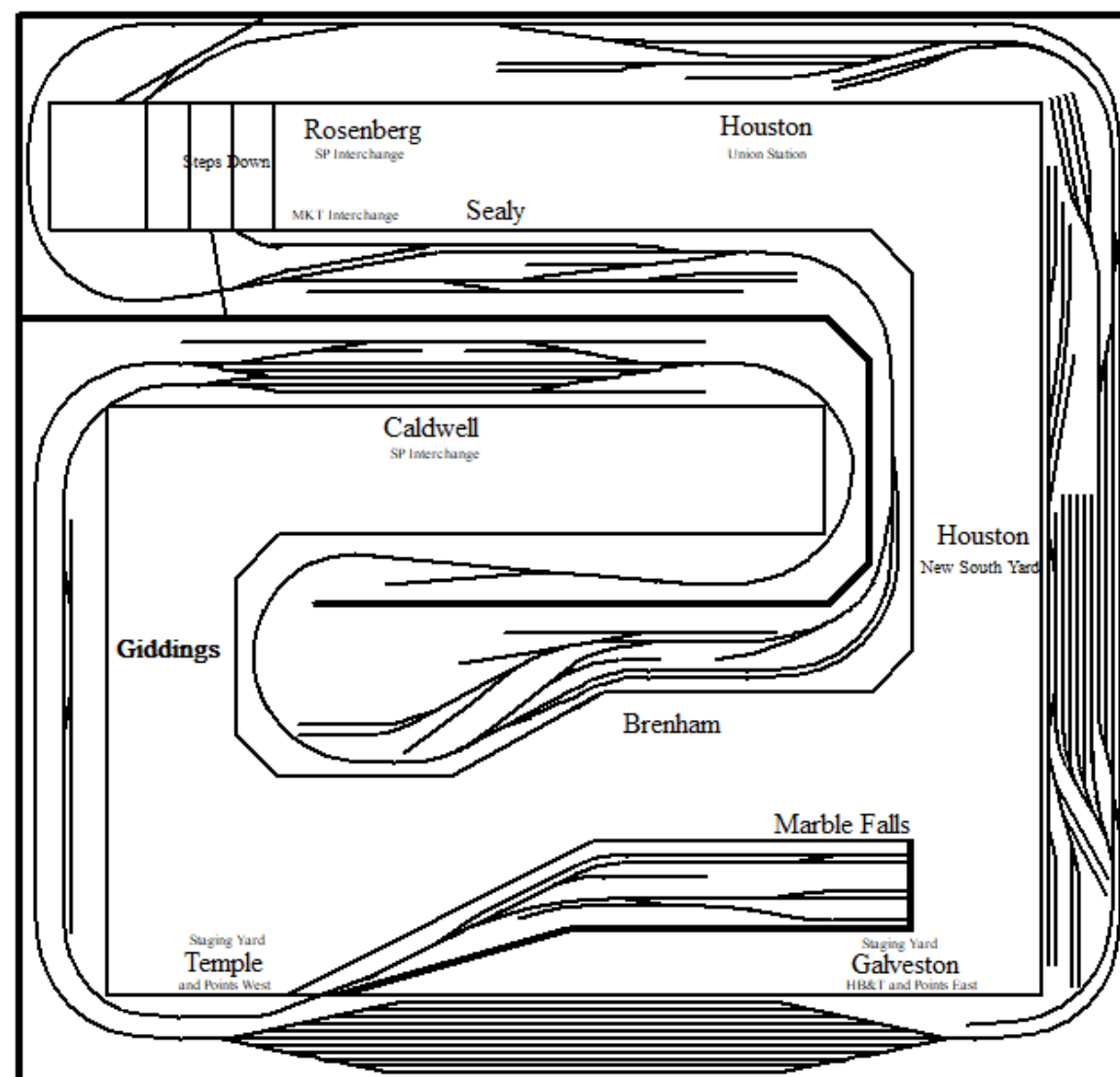
Santa Fe RR



Santa Fe RR Texas



Lone Star & Santa Fe RR



Operating Crew

- Dispatcher
- Yardmaster
- Engineer
- Conductor
- Brakeman

Dispatcher

- What the dispatcher does

The dispatcher controls train movement on the main line

- How to communicate with the dispatcher
 - Verbally
 - Radio
 - Telephone

Controlling train movement

- Timetable/train order

First method used – complicated, not for beginners

- Track warrants

Dispatcher says that you are cleared to move from “A” to “B”

- CTC

Dispatcher controls track side signals

Green = proceed at track speed

Yellow = proceed at reduced speed, prepare to stop at next signal

Red = stop

Yardmaster

- The yardmaster controls all train movement in yard limits
- Makes up trains
- Breaks down trains
- Classifies cars

Engineer, Conductor, Brakeman

- Engineer – controls locomotive
- Conductor – in charge of train
- Brakeman – uncouples cars, sets car brakes, throws switches
- Many times, one person does all three jobs
- Two person crews – engineer and conductor/brakeman

Through trains and local trains

- Through trains may stop at a town and set out cars on a house track or a yard track
- Local trains will spot cars at an industry

How do we know where car goes?

- Car Cards & Waybills
 - Switch lists

LO

WAYBILL

1

Rte:

To: Sealy, TX
Imperial Sugar

From: New Orleans, LA
Imperial Sugar

Contents: Raw Sugar

WAY

Type: LO
Road: ATSF
No.: 82290

Type: LO
Road: ATSF
No.: 82290

LO	WAYBILL	1
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Rte:

To: Sealy, TX Imperial Sugar

From: New Orleans, LA Imperial Sugar

Contents: Raw Sugar

WAH



Switch list AMRS

- Spot

Cars in this section to be delivered

- Pickup

Cars in this section to be picked up

- AAR Codes

XM Box car

GB Gondola car

FM Flat car

- Road

RR name on car

- Car #

Last 3 digits

Austin Model Railway Society				
		Switch List		
	Date:			
	Train # MP-2 Turn			
Spot				
AAR	Road	Car #	Industry	mod
XM			Warehouse	21
GB			Team Track	21
XM			Wholesale Grocery	22
FM			Team Track	23
XM			Walker Austex	23
Pickup				
XM			Team Track	21
XM			Wholesale Grocery	22
XM			Wholesale Grocery	22
XM			Walker Austex	23
XM			Lumber	23

Filled out switch list

[illegible]

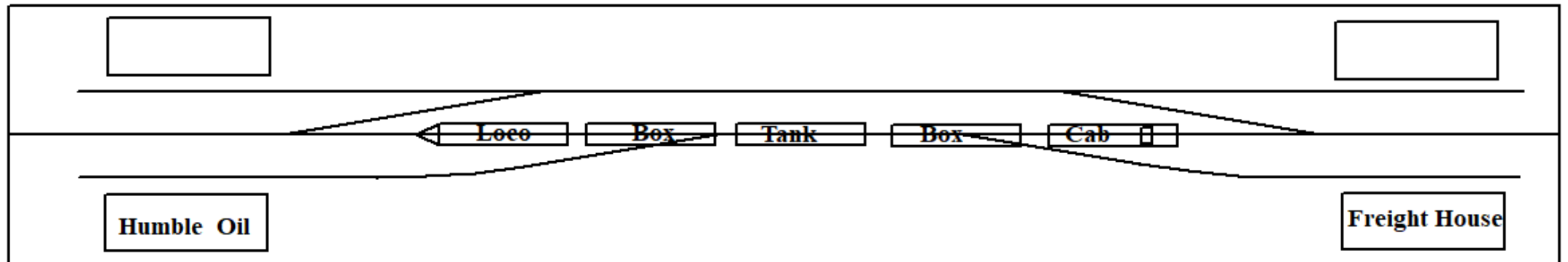
Communication Protocol

- Check to see if line is clear
- Announce your location
- Sample conversation

Work Time Conversation

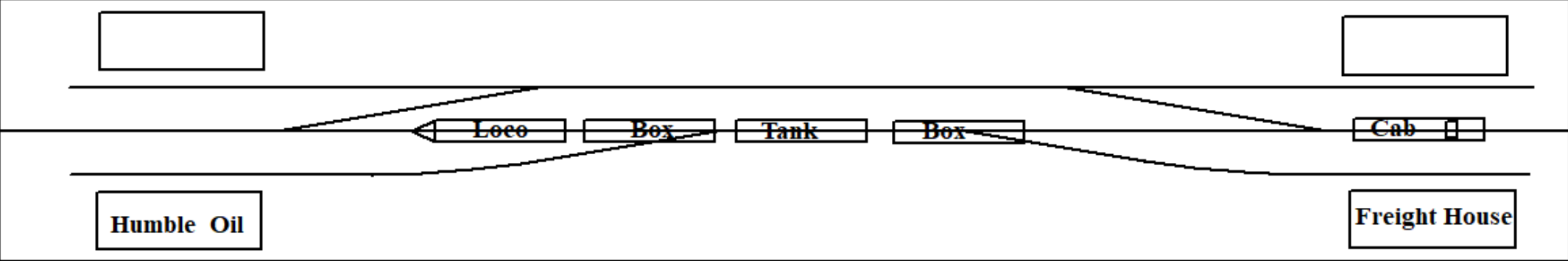
- Conductor (C) – Sealy
- Dispatcher (D) – Go ahead Sealy
- C – This is conductor Scherer on Train 28. I need 30 minutes work time on both ends of Sealy.
- D - Train 28, you have until 3:30 pm for both ends of Sealy
- C – I have work time until 3:30 pm for both ends of Sealy

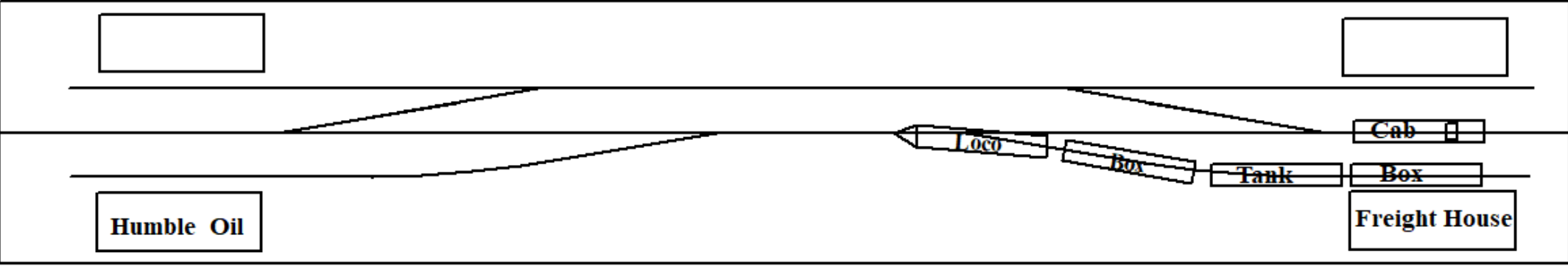
Trailing Point vs Facing Point

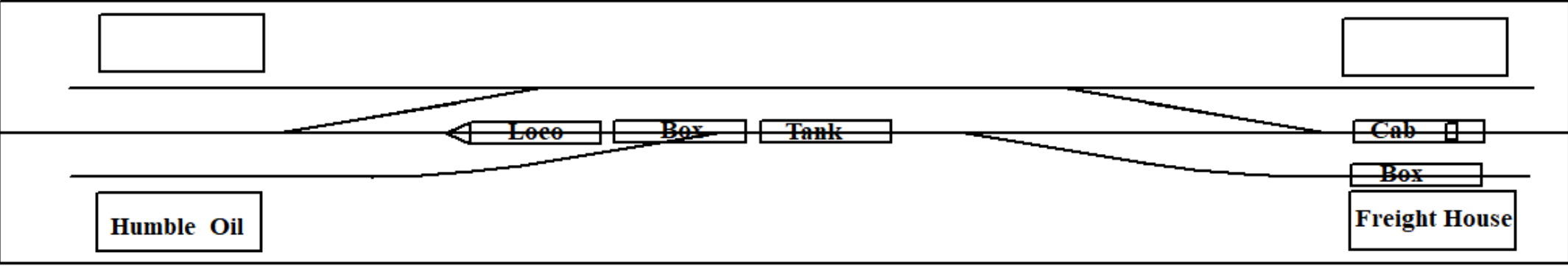


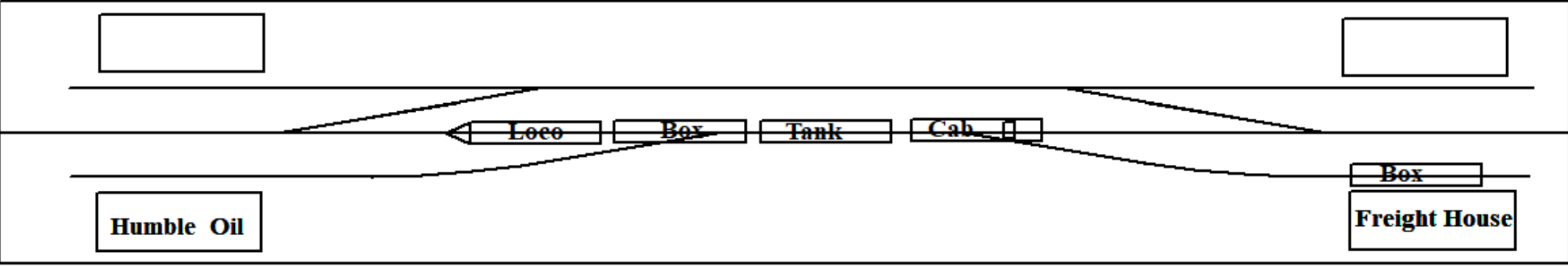


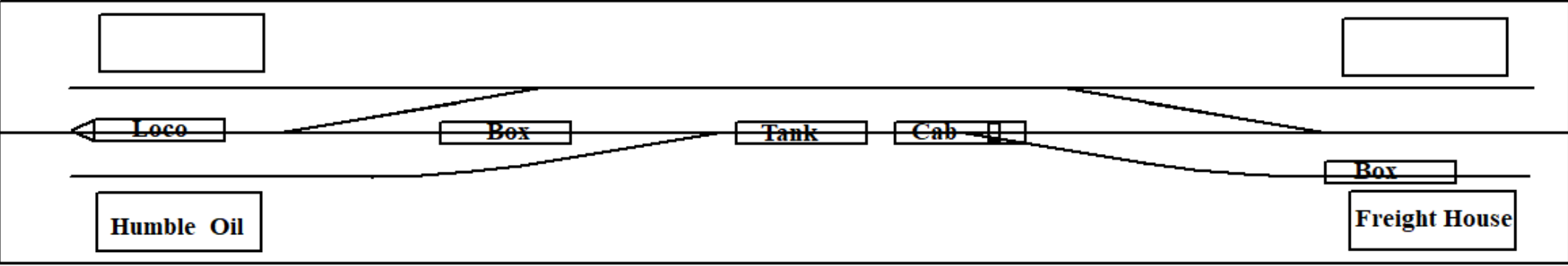
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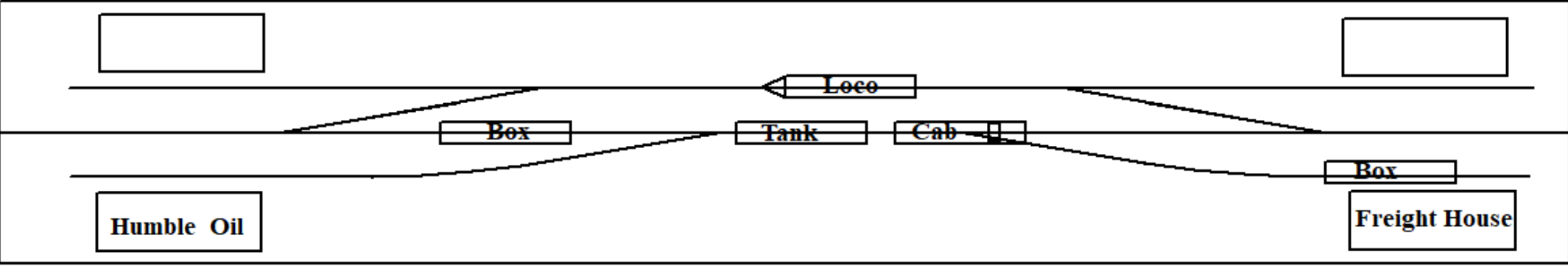


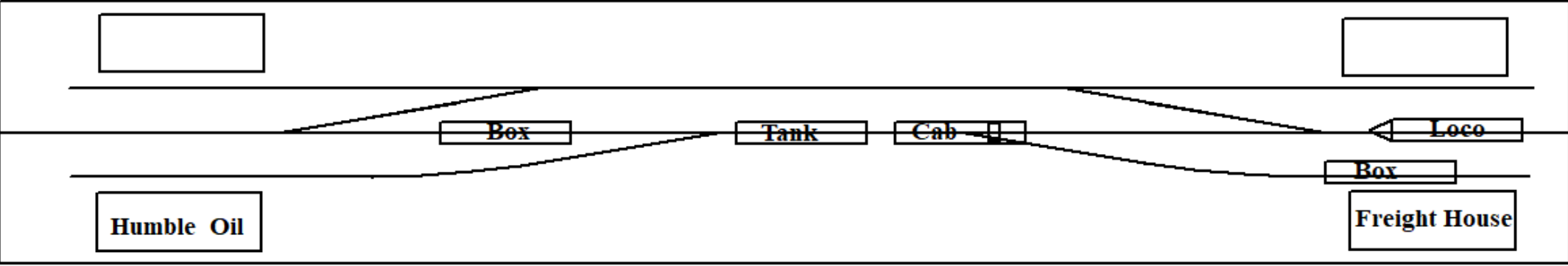


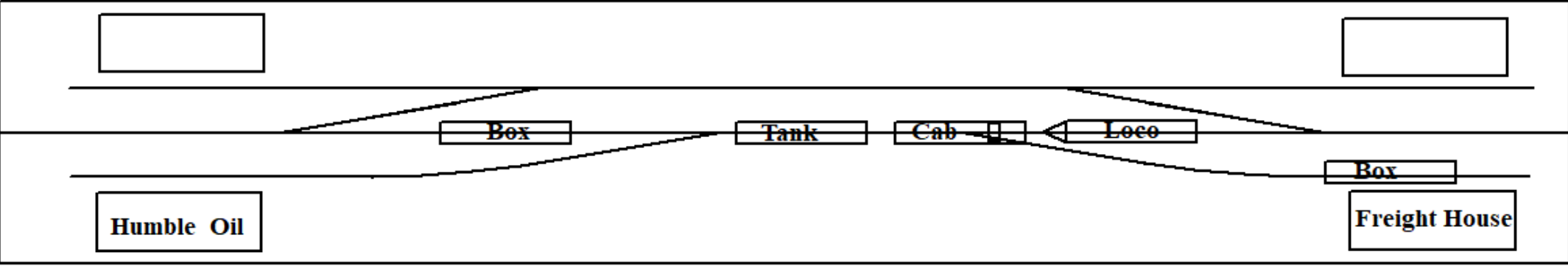


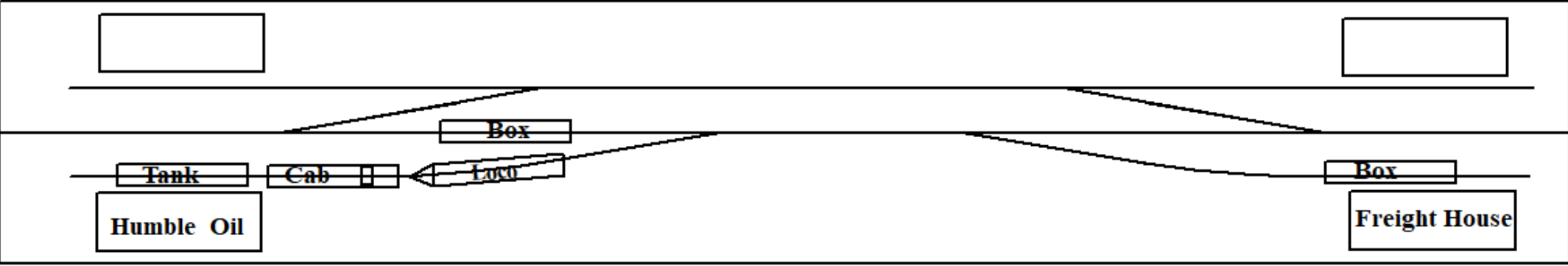


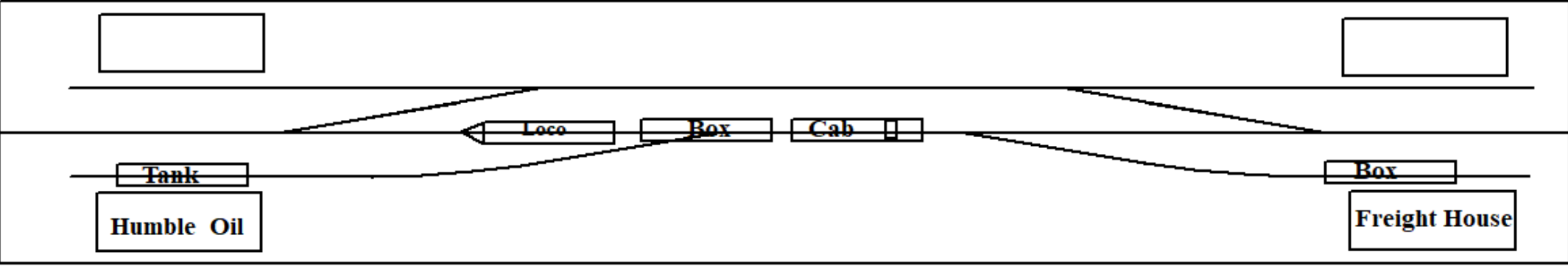




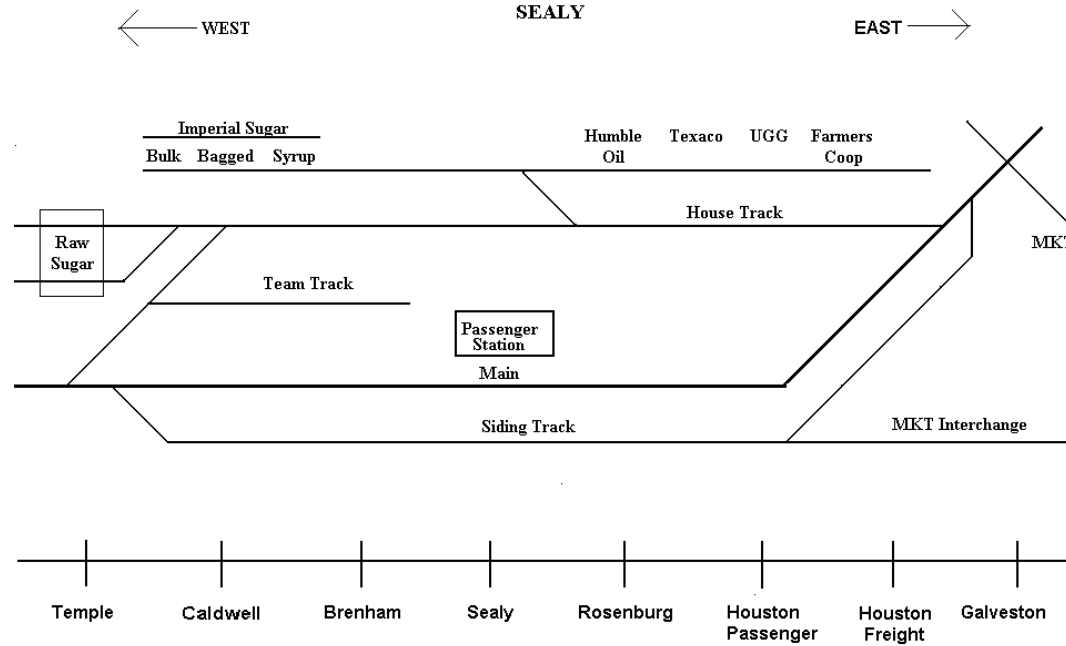




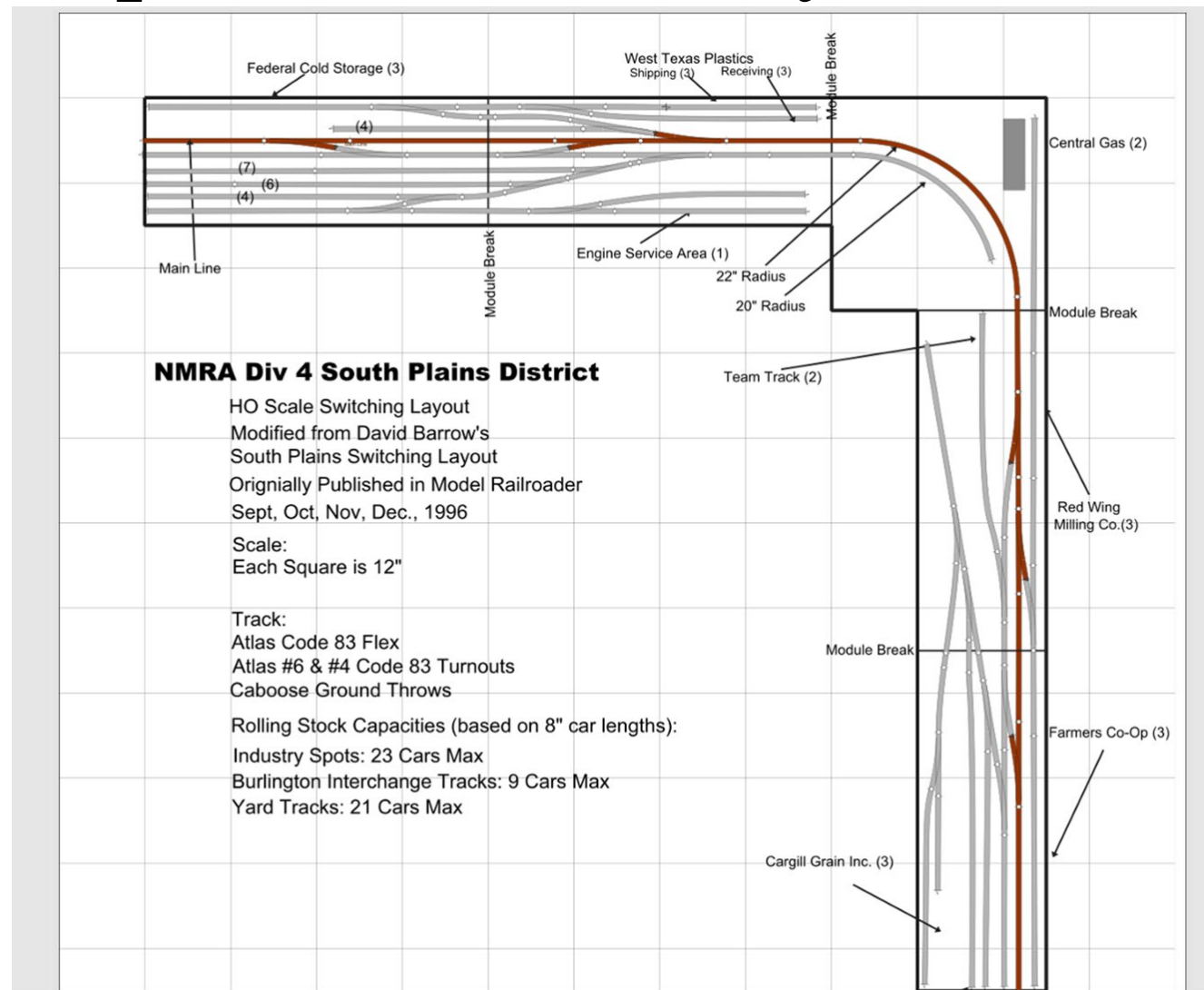




Town Map



Operate on this layout here



Operation is fun.

Try it. You will like it!

Layout Tour

- LSSF RR open Saturday from 3-6 pm
- LSSF RR open Sunday from 1-4 pm

The End

