

# GRANDE GOLD

A LEVIN DIVISION PUBLICATION

## FROM THE YARD MASTER

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The title of this publication is derived from the several colour schemes of the former DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD. Whether it was the road switcher colour scheme – black with orange/yellow tiger stripes and speed lettering on the flanks of the long hood, or the Grande Gold, Silver and black be it the four or single stripe colour scheme on

the GM or Alco cab units, Rio Grande power could be identified miles away.

These two brilliant colour schemes contrasted vividly against the red rocks of the Front Range, the forests of the high country around the Moffat Tunnel, Winter Park and Fraser. Whether it was the grasslands of Middle



Nature's Grande Gold.

Park and the Yampa Valley or beneath the stark barren brown and grey outlines of the Book Cliffs and the Beckworth Plateau the Denver and Rio Grande

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- The interest in the Denver and Rio Grande continues.
- A quaint Rio Grande branch line.
- Club News
- Hobby ideas.
- The Future.

road power presented a railfan's dream come true. So with GRANDE GOLD as the masthead it is hoped that this occasional publication will

rekindle interest and memories of this great railroad.



## THE MARYSVALE BRANCH OF THE RIO GRANDE



Travelling through Utah on I 70 there is a sign BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN. We had to see this. Along the way an old railroad grade was visible. Where once trains ran sage brush and rabbits ear brush had overgrown the right of way. This was the old DRGW Marysvale Branch. At Marysvale the tracks were overgrown and the small yard was now divided by a construction ditch. The remains of two DRGW style ore docks and an oil depot were evident. Elsinore further north was a loop where the switch stands still stood out above the surrounding sage brush. At Richfield all the tracks and

facilities were in place but trains had not run on this stretch of track since the great mudslide at Thistle in 1983. The depot, a feed mill and two oil dealers were still in operation but reliant on road rather than rail transport. North of Richfield the railroad was intact and was never far from the road. Western Clay had a load out facility once served by rail. At Salinas the railroad was cut by new highway development. Our trip took us north to Price. Some days later we saw what was left of Thistle. The roofs of several small former railroad buildings were still to be seen as were the tops of a number of signals

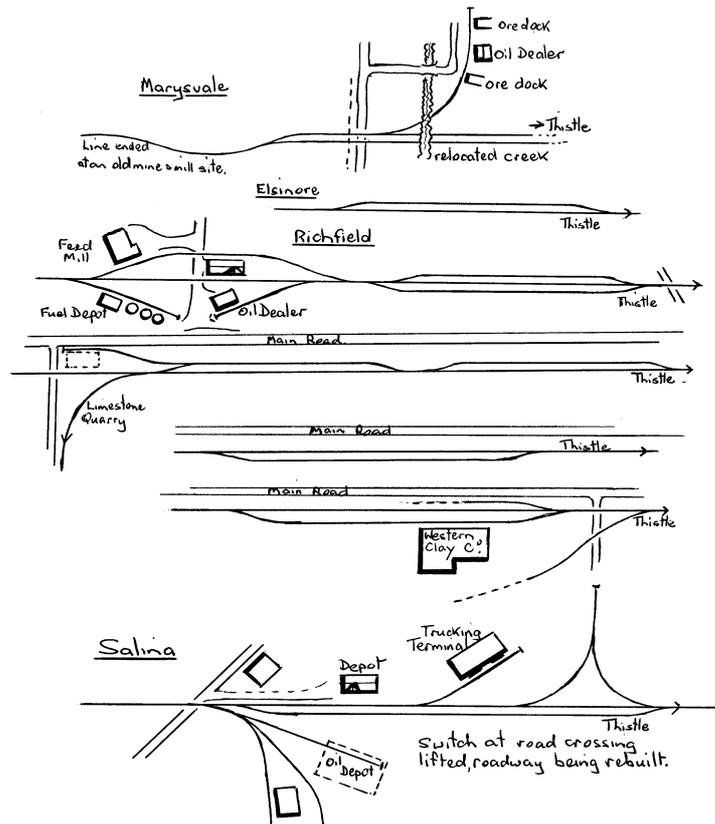
which once guarded the Thistle yards. It was sort of spooky. Along the valley the level to which the water rose was very evident. Trees had died and a number of dwellings abandoned after being inundated.

What a railfan's paradise Thistle and railroad junction must have been before the mudslide.



Richfield Depot as it was in 1985.

Track layouts between Marysvale and Salina.



Salinas. A view of the yards in 1985 after abandonment.

## AMERICAN CENTRAL MODEL RAILROADERS

This group of modellers interested in the American prototype railroads have been meeting in each others homes for about 20 years. They come from the greater Wellington region and gather every second Friday evening.

No officials, no records, no dues but a lot of fun. The rules are simple.

To have an operating layout (or building one).

To host members of the group when it your turn.

The layouts vary from one ,

based on The Nickel Plate Road, The Rio Grande Southern, The Santa Fe Railroad, The Denver and Rio Grande and The Telegraph Line an imaginary short line.

These model railroads vary from HO, Sn3 to O scale.

As the years have passed several members have changed addresses, dismantled, rebuilt or reprocessed their layouts in some form or another. At present one large layout is being reprocessed, another has its mainline cut due to major track relocation and yet an-

other is due to be relocated in its own specially fitted out railroad room.

The group has sponsored two Mini AMRA Meetings which were highly successful.

Modellers visiting the Wellington region are always welcome.

Call Kel Sherson (04) 2348577 or Tony Owen (04) 2356959 to make arrangements.

A meeting of members in August 1997.



## SHORT LINES SIDINGS AND OTHER STUFF

### SCENERY.

Planting small bushes in the form of Woodland Scenic's coarse turf can be made easy. Place the amount of foam for the particular spot or small area in the palm of your hand. Spray the foam with WET water making sure it is soaked. Place the foam on the layout where desired and then drop diluted white glue on the bushes to fix them in place. A light spray of WET water around the bushes may be required to spread the glue evenly.

### MAKING ROCKS

Obtain some potters clay, hopefully a colour that suits your needs. Make into slabs about one inch thick and set aside to thoroughly to dry out. Wrap the slab in an old cloth or towel and break it up with a hammer. Result – a great variety of sizes of rocks and rock scree that is useful scenery material.

### LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

Most of the roads that traverse the Coromandel Peninsular pass through cuttings in which there are brightly coloured layers of clay. Collect samples of what appeals and leave to thoroughly dry out. (months). When required break up the lumps and crush by using a bottle as a roller. You will get a varied sized mix of material. Either sieve this mixture for an even size or use it as crushed for your scenery base.

Use the WET water spray and diluted white glue to fix

the material to the layout.

These clays seem to be of a volcanic origin and retain their shape, texture and colour when they dry out even after having been soaked in the landscaping process.

**SHARING IDEAS  
WITH OTHERS IS  
HALF THE FUN OF  
THIS HOBBY .**



Scenery on the author's layout using these materials and methods.

**A LEVIN DIVISION  
PUBLICATION**

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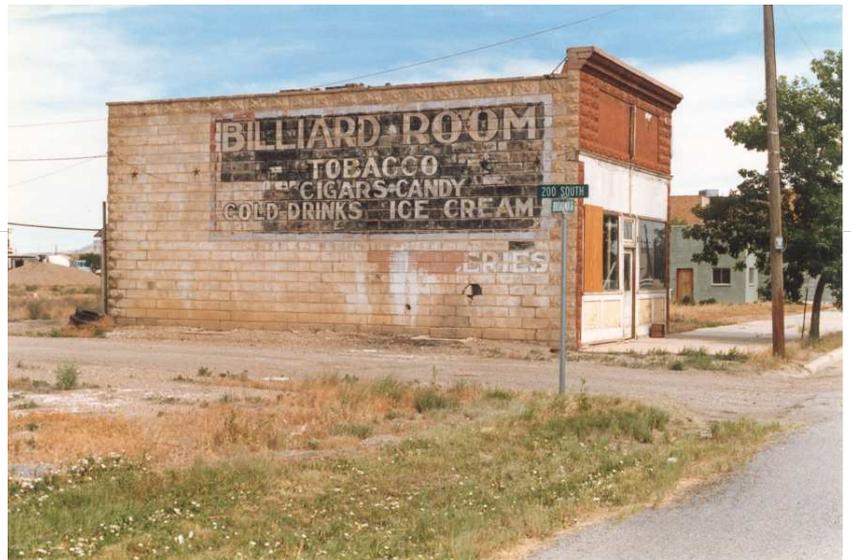
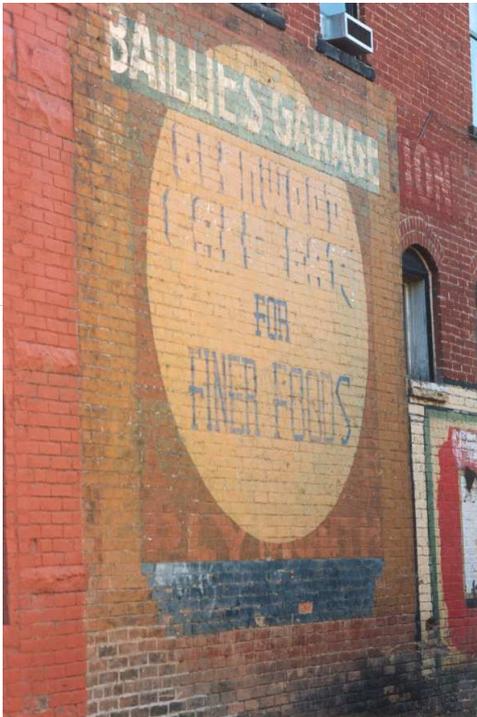


**Rio Grande**  
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**BUILDINGS WITH A MESSAGE**

Many turn of the century buildings have over the years been painted with large billboards to promote the advertiser's wares or services.

Often the original advertisement has been obliterated or painted over with a different or more modern form..

In the case of the wall of the Manhattan Hotel in Salida, Colorado it is interesting to see how subsequent advertisements have faded and allowed the original to show through.

An interesting project for super detail-

ing. Look carefully at the picture on the left and a previous advertisement is faintly visible.

The Billiard Room advertisement adorns a substantial building in Green River, Utah.

Creede, Craig,, Carbondale and the North Fork branches could be covered.

Other GRANDE scenes modelling ideas and club news will be included.

All material will be original.

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**FUTURE ISSUES**

The production of this limited edition has been a steep learning curve. It has been fun.

IF future editions are published subjects like Minturn, Tennessee Pass, the lines to