

# **Capturing the Character of Trinidad CO - 1953**

**Presented to the Front Range Division of the NMRA**

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# A Brief History of Trinidad, CO

- 1862 – Felipe Baca convinced 11 families to move from New Mexico to what would become the town of Trinidad in 1866
- 1878 – AT&SF RR arrives and beats out the D&RGW RR for the route over Raton Pass
- 1882 – Bat Masterson served as chief of police and helped Doc Holiday avoid extradition to New Mexico
- Late 1880s – Coal & coke mining boom begins
- 1888-1930 – Isaac Hamilton Rapp & William Mason Rapp responsible for designing over 175 structures in the Trinidad region – became major customers of Trinidad Brick & Tile
- 1901 – Trinidad Brick & Tile Co. founded, supplying paving bricks to places as far flung as San Francisco and Minneapolis
- 1913-1914 – Colorado Coalfield War between United Mineworkers Union and J. D. Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. culminates in the Ludlow Massacre in 1914
- 1950 – Population peaks at 14,000
- 1970s-1980s – Dr. Stanley Biber establishes Trinidad as “Sex Change Capital of the World”
- 2010s-2020s – Dana Crawford, major renovator of downtown Denver, becomes involved in revitalization of Trinidad

# The Trinidad & Raton Pass Layout

- Multilevel HO scale layout housed in a 13' x 19' shed
- Features a very small portion of the Santa Fe's mainline from Chicago to California
- Centered around Trinidad CO and Raton Pass, high point on the Santa Fe
- Set in 1953, last year of steam helper operations on Raton Pass
- Includes some representation of the Colorado & Southern RR

# Background

- What do I mean by “Capturing the Character?”
  - Scratch building exact replicas of a bunch of non-railroad structures? – NO!
  - Using commercial products to convey the sense of the area? – YES!
- What constitutes the character of Trinidad (at least in my mind)?
  - Brick Streets
  - One, two, and three story brick buildings from the early 1900s
  - Signage painted on the sides of buildings
  - Eclectic mix of hotels, cafes, commercial buildings, repair shops, and warehouses
  - Purgatory River and bridges

# Some Inspiration

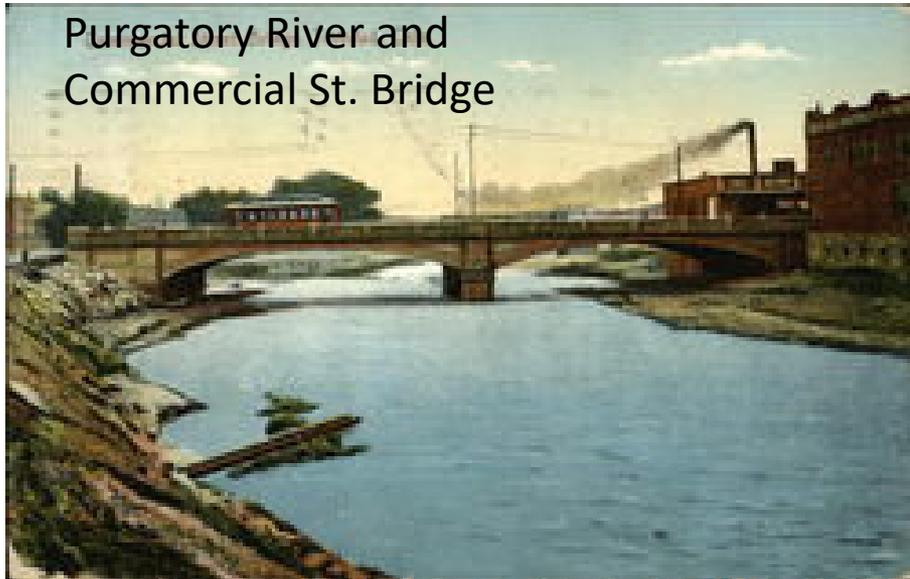
Commercial Street Overview



Trinidad Hotel



Purgatory River and  
Commercial St. Bridge

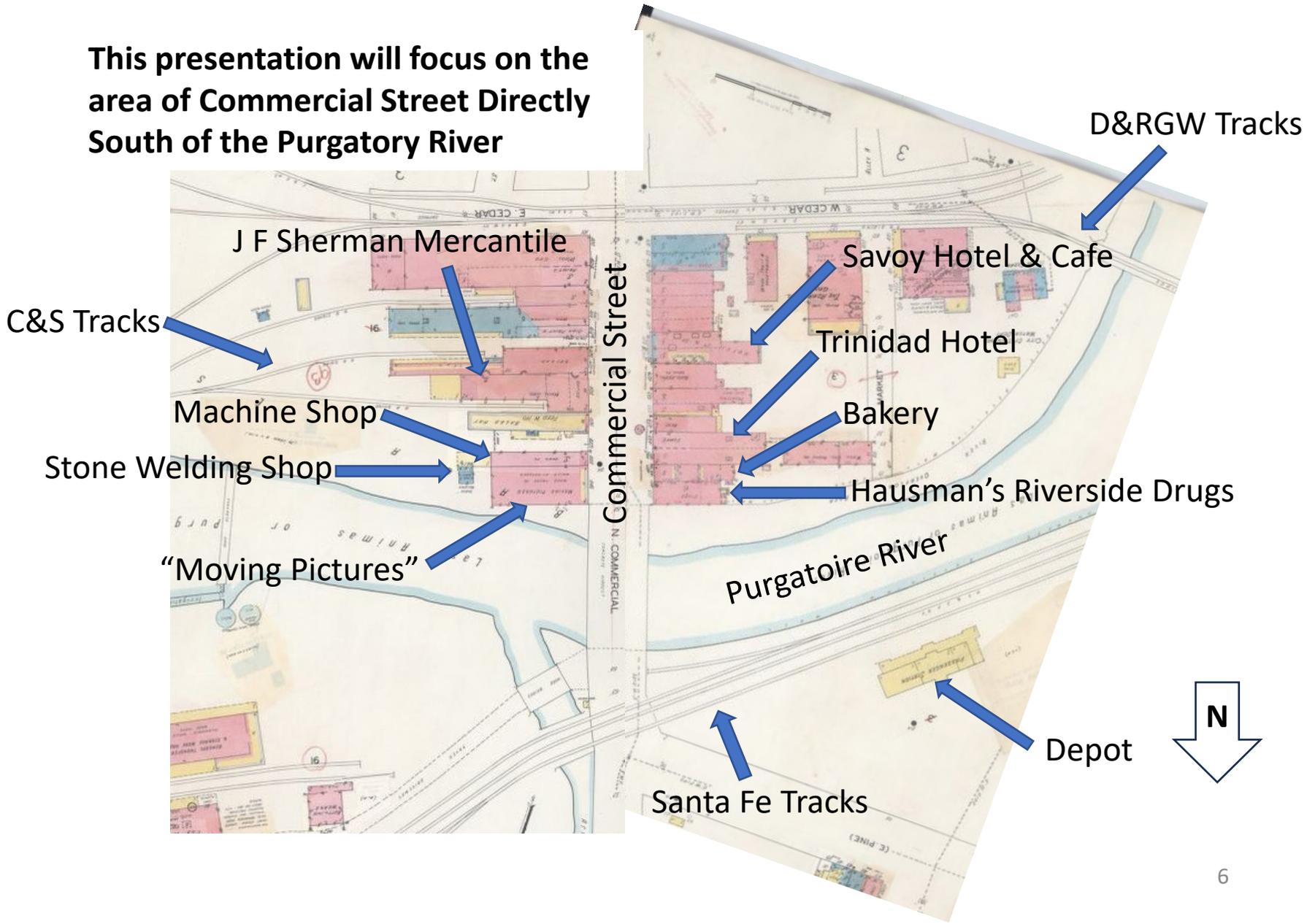


Hausman's Riverside Drugs

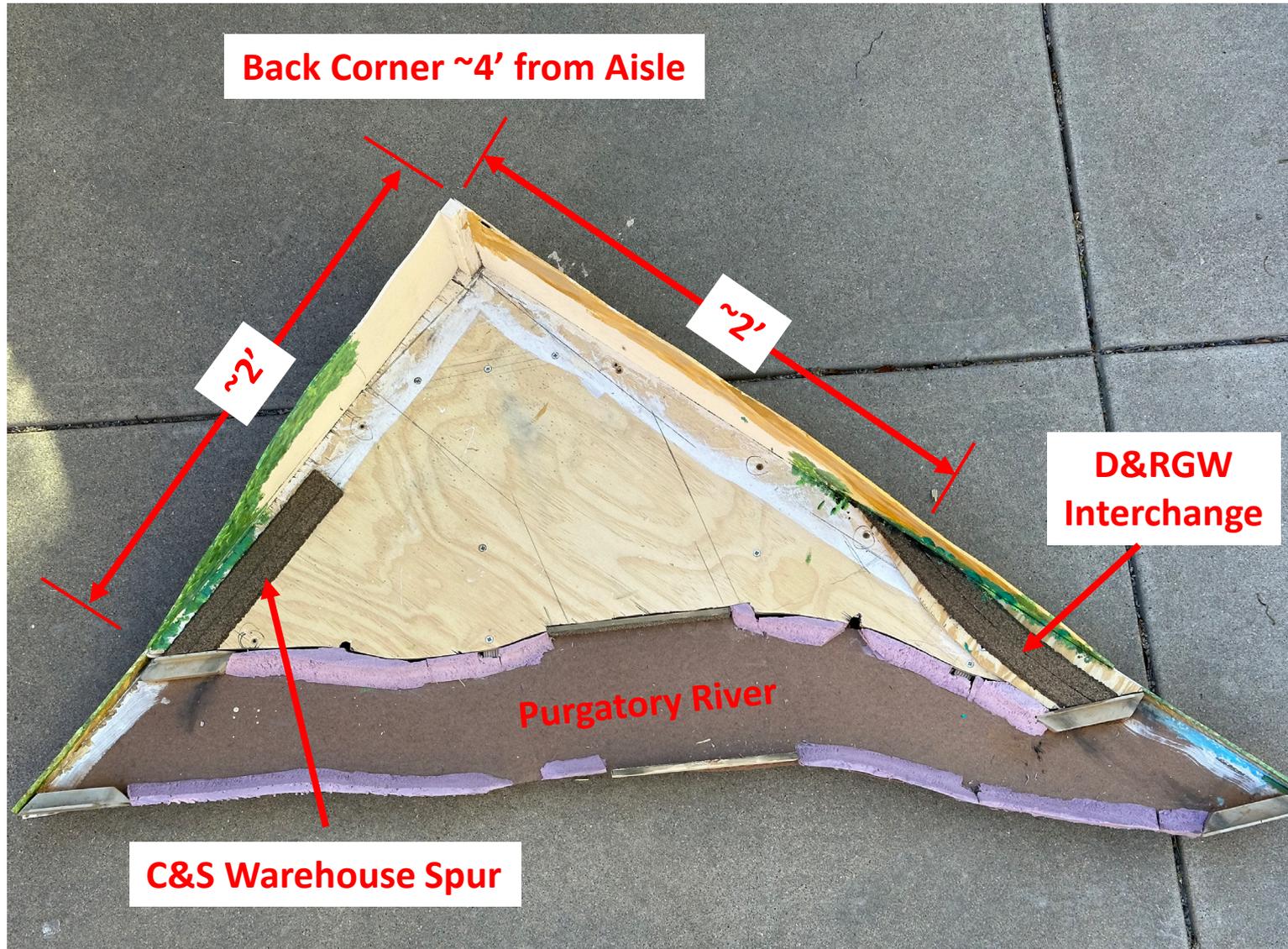


# Sanborn Insurance Map – Trinidad, CO 1948

This presentation will focus on the area of Commercial Street Directly South of the Purgatory River



# Town Site Area on Layout



# Mocking up the Town – the Street

- Assembled section of Walthers brick street
- Made copies on printer
- Allowed quick way to try different street arrangements
- Final arrangement became pattern for cutting plastic street sections



# Mocking up the Town – the Mirror



- Wanted to use a mirror to add depth to the scene
  - Bought a 12 pack of 12" square mirror tiles at Home Depot for ~\$12
  - Tried different positions and sizes of mirrors, and different methods of hiding edges

# Sidebar – Some Reflections on Mirrors

- Mirrors reflect everything – not just the stuff you want them to
  - Try to position mirrors so layout visitors don't see themselves
  - Don't put vehicles too close to mirror, or head-on collision will appear imminent
  - Make sure that anything that butts up against mirror is perpendicular to it
  - Be aware of signage on structures
- Mirrors have hard edges, that are difficult to disguise
  - Left side of mirror mostly hidden by tall building and sign
  - Top of mirror hidden by upper level from normal viewing positions
- First-surface (or Front-surface) mirrors are expensive
  - 7" x 12" mirror was ~\$130

# Mocking up the Town – the Buildings



- Pre-built
- Partially built
- Copies of building fronts and sides pasted to foam core
- Foam core box of the building size

# General Approach for Structure Models

- Most are kit bashed, a couple scratch built, one prebuilt
- Paint
  - Brick - Rustoleum 2X red primer & nutmeg brown
    - Roberts Brick Mortar
  - Concrete – Rustoleum 2X Fossil & Khaki, Tamiya Light Gray
- Lighting
  - Woodland Scenics Just Plug
- Window signs & stained glass
  - Created in PowerPoint, printed on transparency film
- Other signs
  - Most created in PowerPoint and printed on plain paper, then sanded down
- Animated signs
  - Miller Engineering
- Interiors
  - Mainly City Classics photo interiors

# Savoy Cafe



- DPM Other Corner Cafe
- Sign is photo of actual sign
- Icons rather than lettered sign in windows

# Myers Hardware



DPM Roberts Dry Goods  
Monster Modelworks Awning



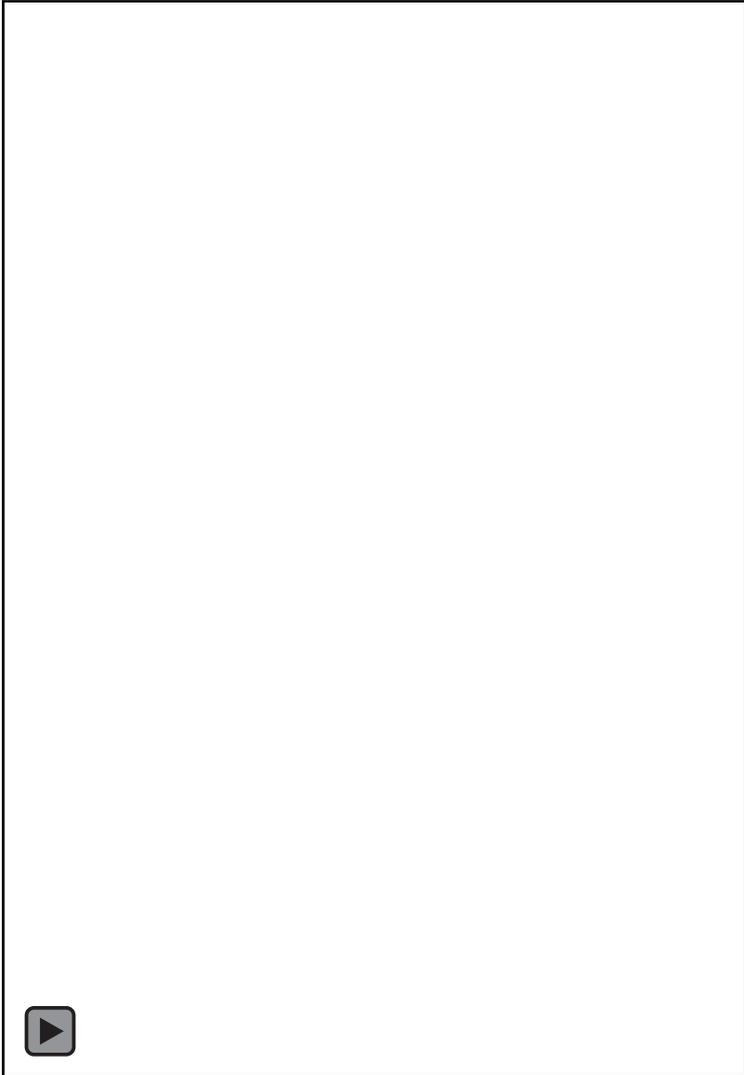
Printed on other side of  
Myers Hardware sign

# Glancy's Irish Pub & Pool Hall



DPM Kelly's Saloon

# Hotel Trinidad



Walker Building

# Brennecke's Bakery



Scratchbuilt – Monster Modelworks Brick Siding

# Movie Theatre



Woodland Scenics  
Built-&-Ready

# Hausman's Riverside Drugstore & Donna's Dance Studio



Front – DPM Carr's Parts

Sides & Back – DPM Robert's Dry Goods

# Schwarz's Machine Shop



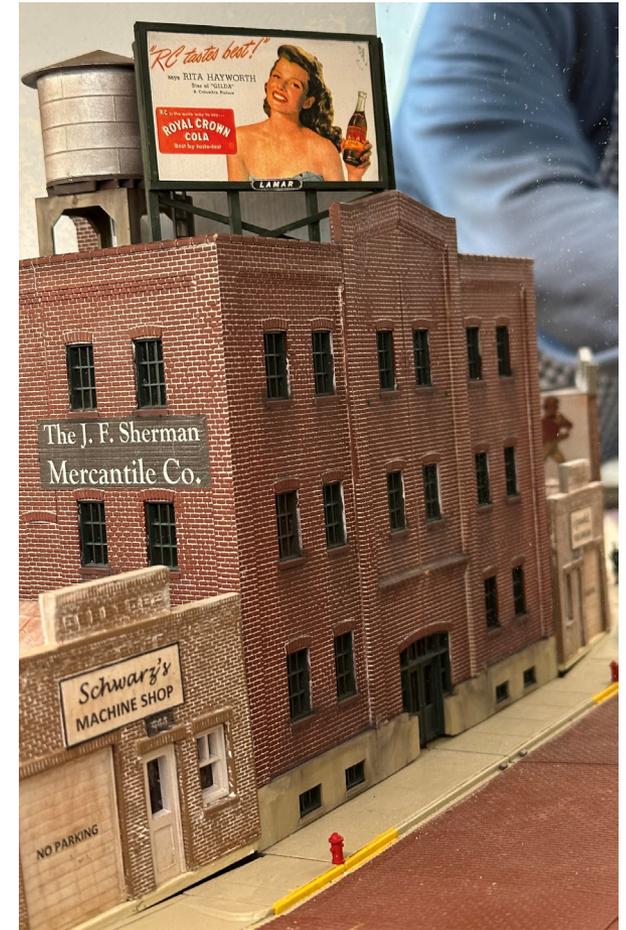
DPM Schultz's Garage

# J.F. Sherman Mercantile Co.

Walthers Cornerstone Reliable Warehouse & Storage  
- Space available required more extensive kitbash



# J.F. Sherman Mercantile Co.



Tall building & sign help hide edge of mirror

# J.F. Sherman Mercantile Co.



# Welding Shop



**Scratchbuilt – Monster Modelworks Stone Siding**

# Lights



- **Woodland Scenics Just Plug Lighting System**
  - Expansion Hub powers 3 Light Hubs
  - Light Hubs have individual dimmer controls
  - Structure interior & exterior lights
  - Streetlights
  - Vehicle lights

# Lights

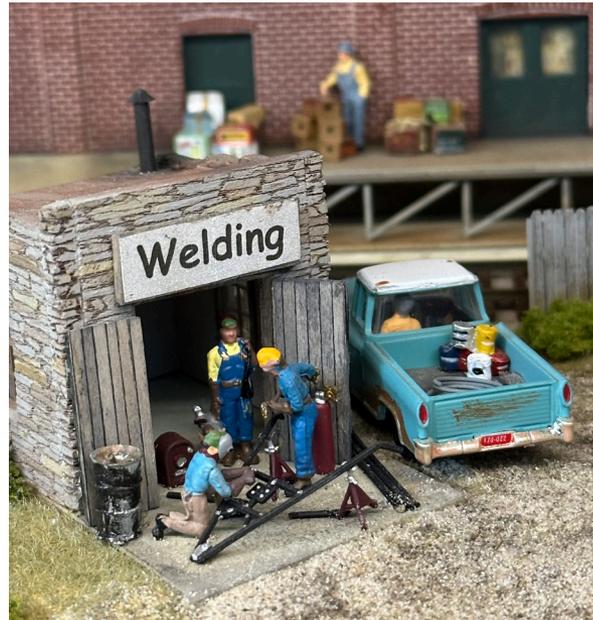
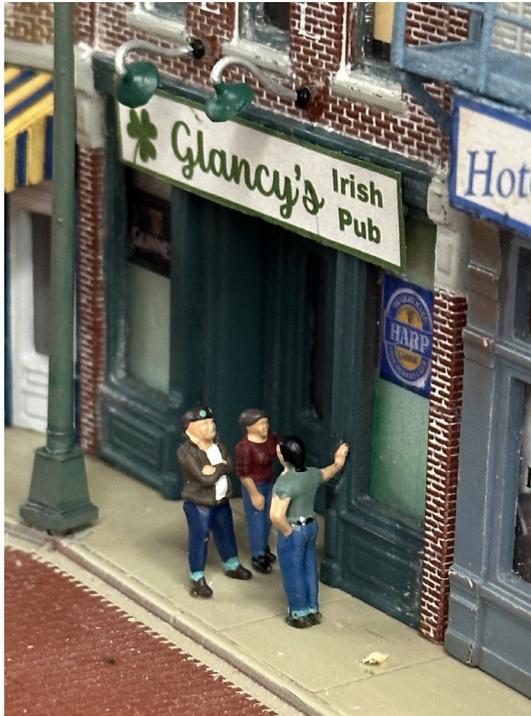


# Sidebar – Light Leaks



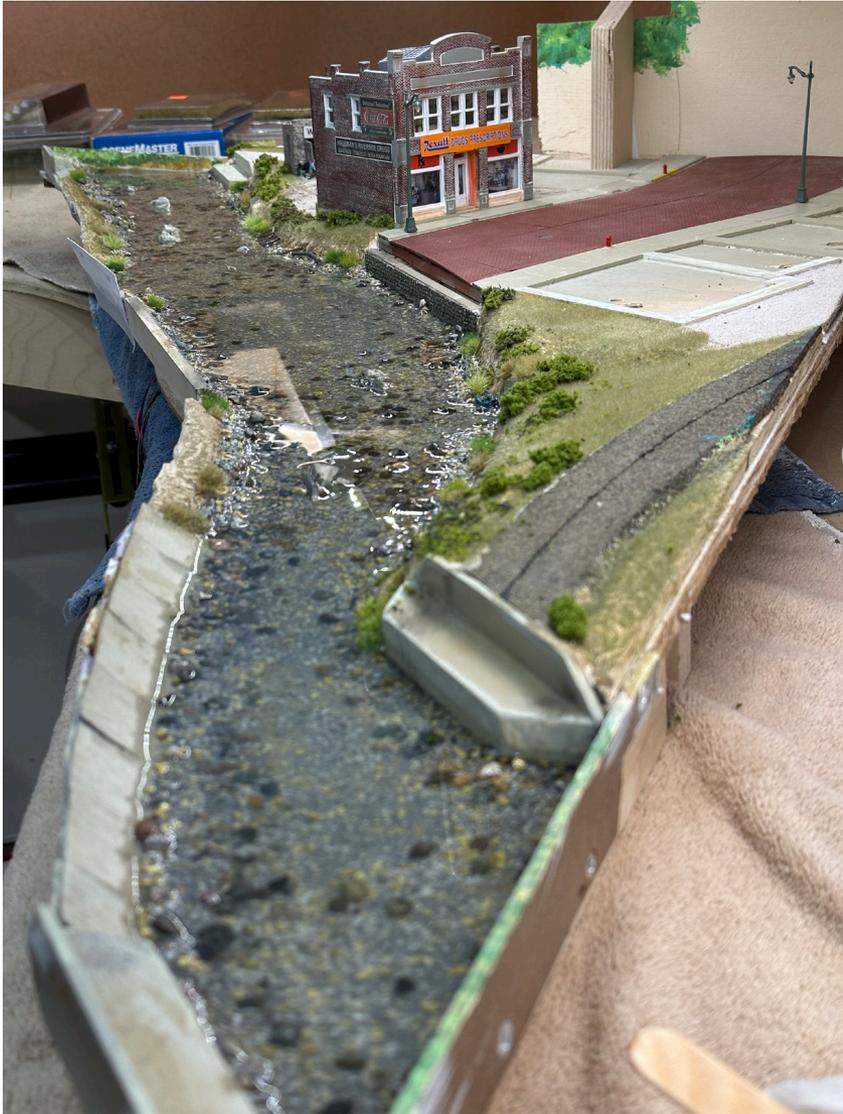
**Used Black Electrical tape to solve light leaks between base of buildings and sidewalks**

# Figures/Vignettes



Woodland Scenics

# Purgatory River



- River ~4 feet long x ~5 inches wide
- Used 2 boxes of Woodland Scenics Deep Pour Water
  - Added a few drops of WS Sage Green Water Tint



# Purgatory River Details



- **Storm Drains**
  - **Walthers Concrete Culverts**
- **Ripples**
  - **Woodland Scenics Water Effects**
  - **Dry brushed with titanium white acrylic**
- **Detritus**
  - **Tree branches**
  - **Oil drum**
  - **Tires**
  - **Pipe**
  - **Wood pallets**
  - **Auto chassis**

# Railroad Bridges

**C&S Bridge**



**D&RGW Bridge**



# Railroad Bridges

- **Walthers Cornerstone 70' Single-Track Through Girder Bridge**
  - **Cut down to angle crossing**



# Commercial Street Bridge



- Brick street applied to ¼" Plywood base
- Rix Products Vintage Highway Overpass Railing
- Tracksetta 15" radius track gage used to cut arch in 0.060" styrene

# Bird's Eye View

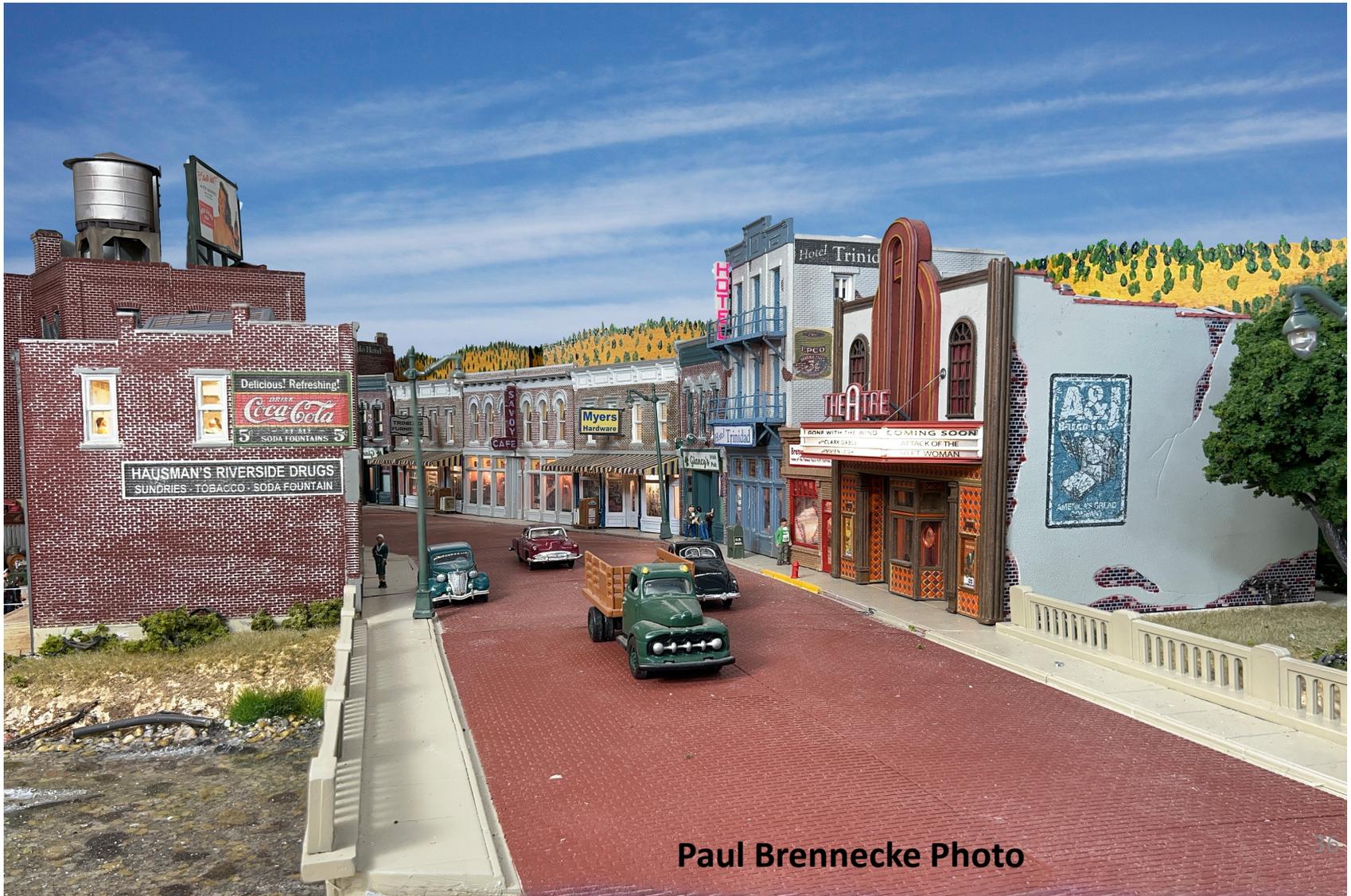


# Street Level View



If you want your modeling to look really great, have Paul Brennecke take the photos

# Overview Across Bridge



Paul Brennecke Photo

# Overview From Yard



# Questions/Comments?