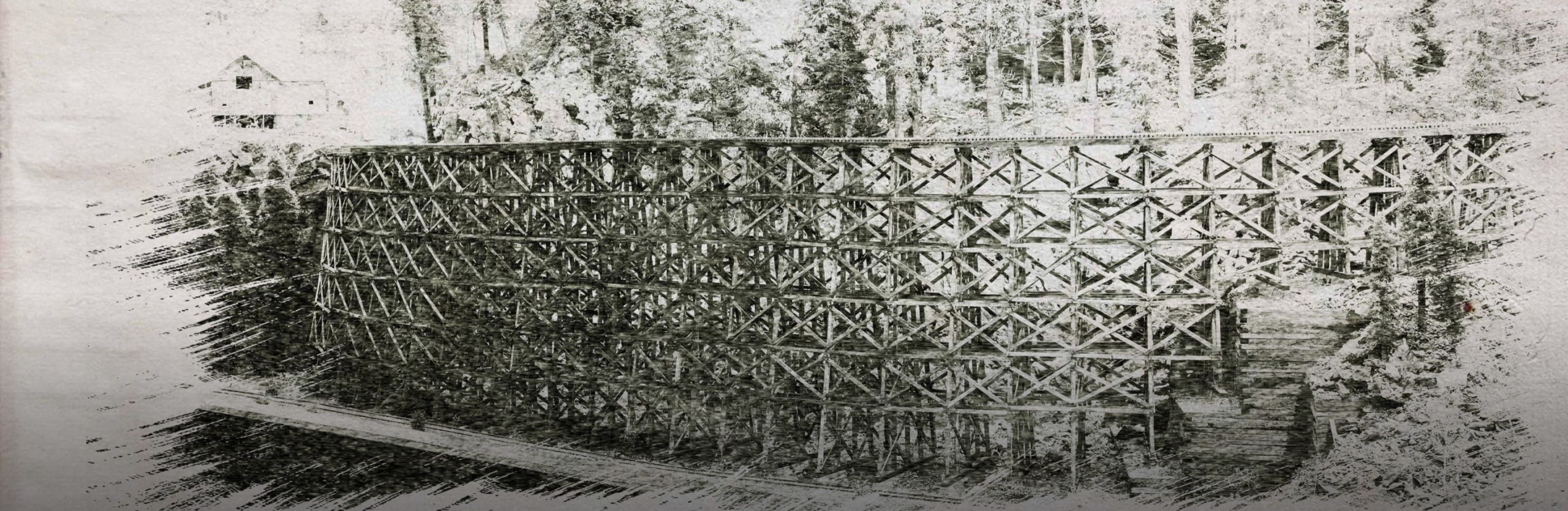
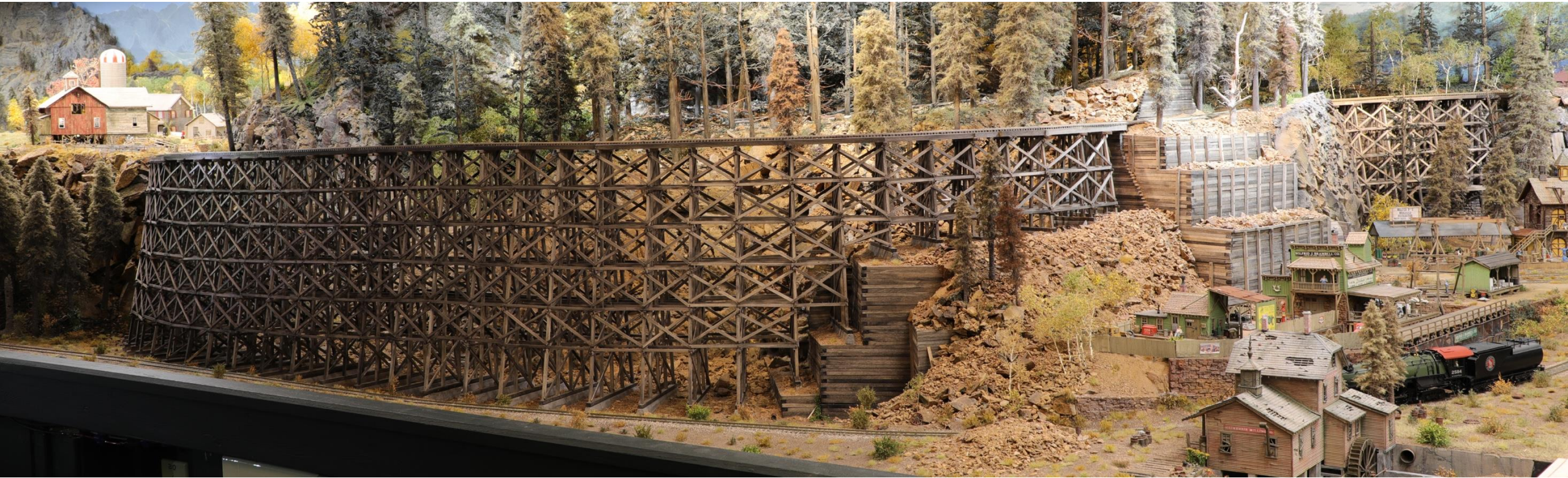




The Building of the Superior & Seattle Railroad – Part 1, Mountains

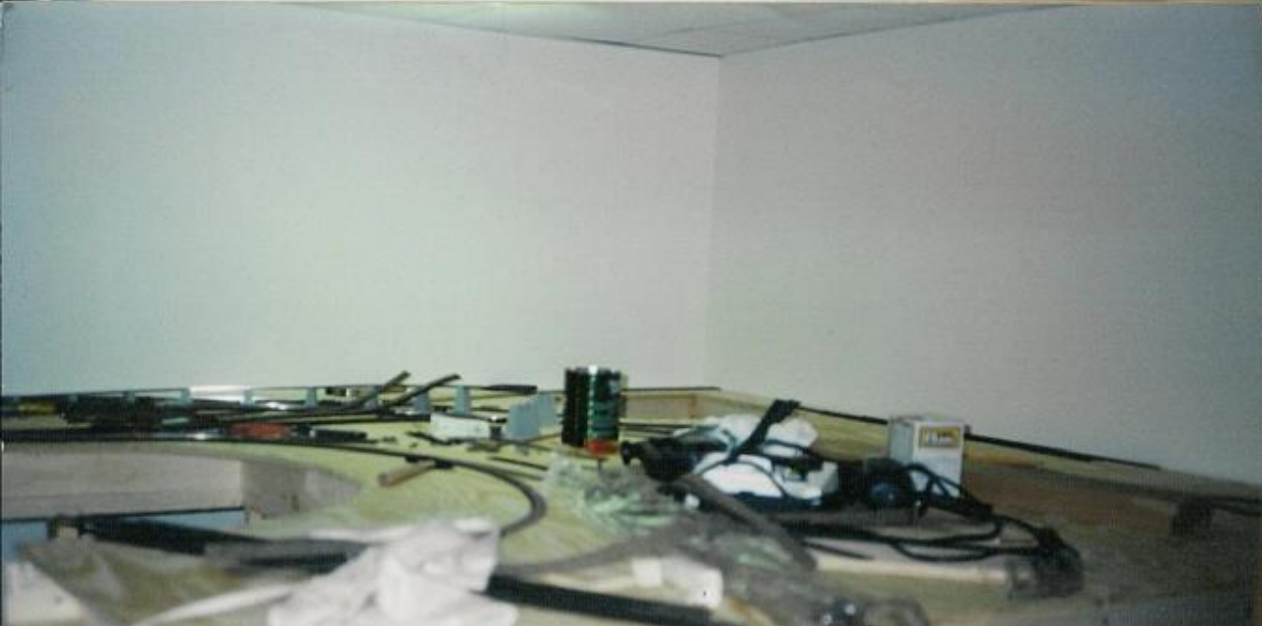
John Siekirk

Mt. Aiden - Completed 2006



When I started my second layout (early 1990's)
I had hair!





Model Railroading Research

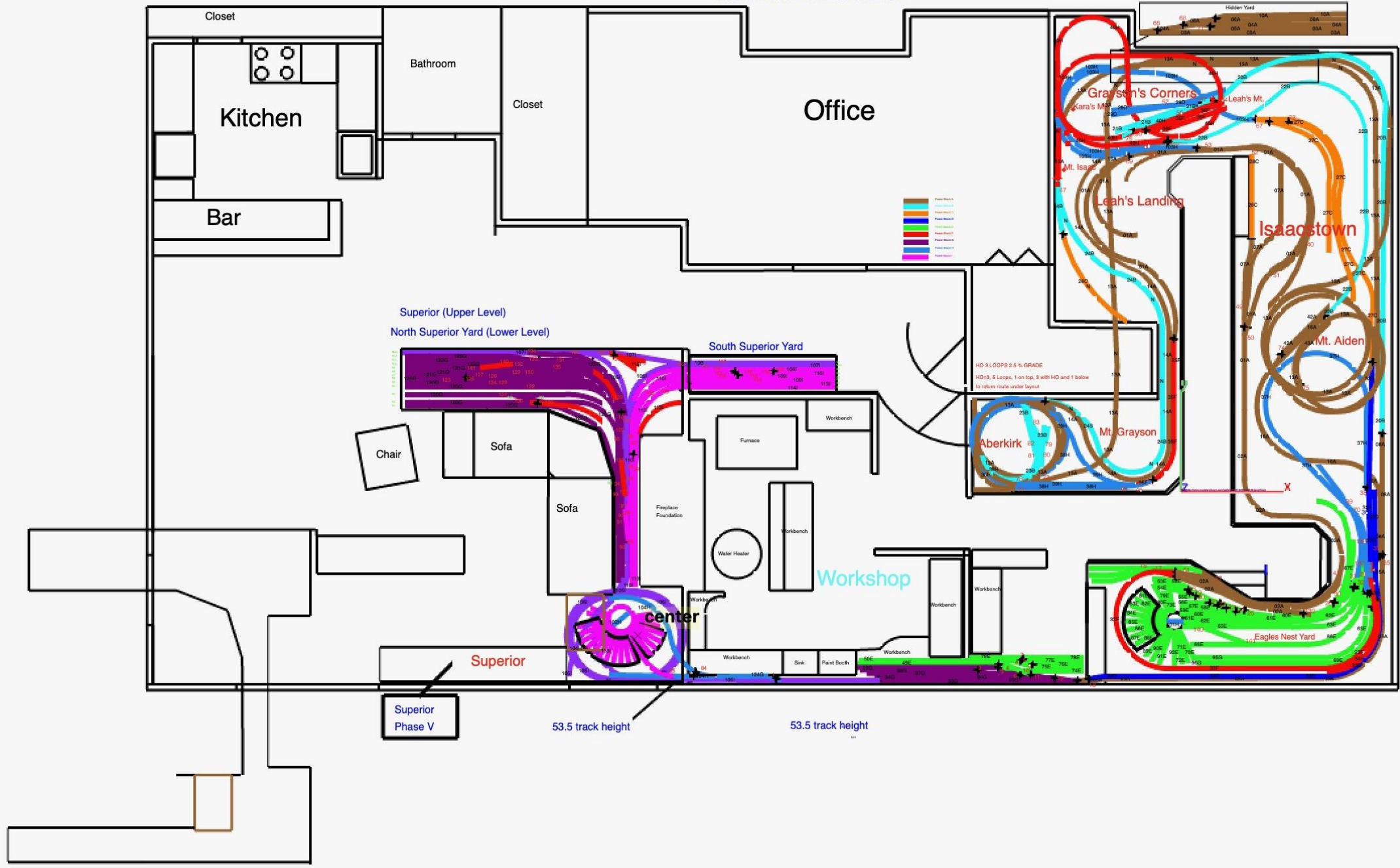


In the 1980's I started attending the Narrow Gauge Conventions – My vacations.

- I will never forget the first time I walked into the contest room. I wanted to build structures like the ones I saw in that room.
- I also went to every layout that I could and took lots of photographs.
- Our family vacation trips were tied to the convention locations and this allowed me to photograph scenery. We visited most of the National Parks in the West and rode the Narrow Gauge trains. The photographs really helped me develop my mountain scenery techniques.
- I learned from the best modelers in the world by attending clinics at every train show I could get to.
- I also followed the build threads available on the forums.

Changing plans.

- After attending a couple NG conventions I decided that I was going to transform my layout into a "Fine Scale" layout.
- It soon became obvious that "Fine Scale" structures needed "Fine Scale" scenery. And I needed to start over to build the layout I wanted.
- The old mountains came down or were plastered over in some cases. The old trees and scenery materials were removed. And the visible code 100 track work was removed.
- Instead of adding mountains between the tracks I made the mountains and then put in the track. Like the prototype railroads.



Upper Level Superior - offset for clarity

S&S RR Specifications (today before adding the upper level to Superior)

- Approx. 1800 square feet
- 1568 feet of track, 846 feet of mainline
- Code 83 and Code 70 track HO, Code 55 HO_{n3} - flextrack
- 143 turnouts
- Mainline minimum radius 26 inches
- 124 blocks
- 7 power districts

The Story behind the Railroad

- The area was developed originally for mills to take advantage of the water power from the water coming down from the mountains.
- The mills were built and serviced using the Narrow Gauge RR that was built to service the timber/lumber industry. This railroad is called the Superior Lumber RR and it still services the timber and mining in the higher elevations.
- In the 1920's a standard gauge RR was built through the area to service the growing towns that sprung up around the mills. This railroad is called the Superior & Seattle RR.
- The equipment for the S&S RR was purchased from the nearby railroads like the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, and others.

S&S RR Design Characteristics

- A freelance mountain railroad from Superior (MI UP) to Seattle
- My workshop is the area between Superior and the Mountains
- “Fine Scale” structures and scenery.
- As much depth as possible in every scene.
- Fall 1949 time-frame.
- Narrow Gauge HOn3 – Superior Lumber RR – Higher Elevations







Beach Farms
Est. 1909













Noppe Manufacturing
Engineering & Manufacturing Services

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35 – 100 pound Bags of plaster = 3500 lbs.

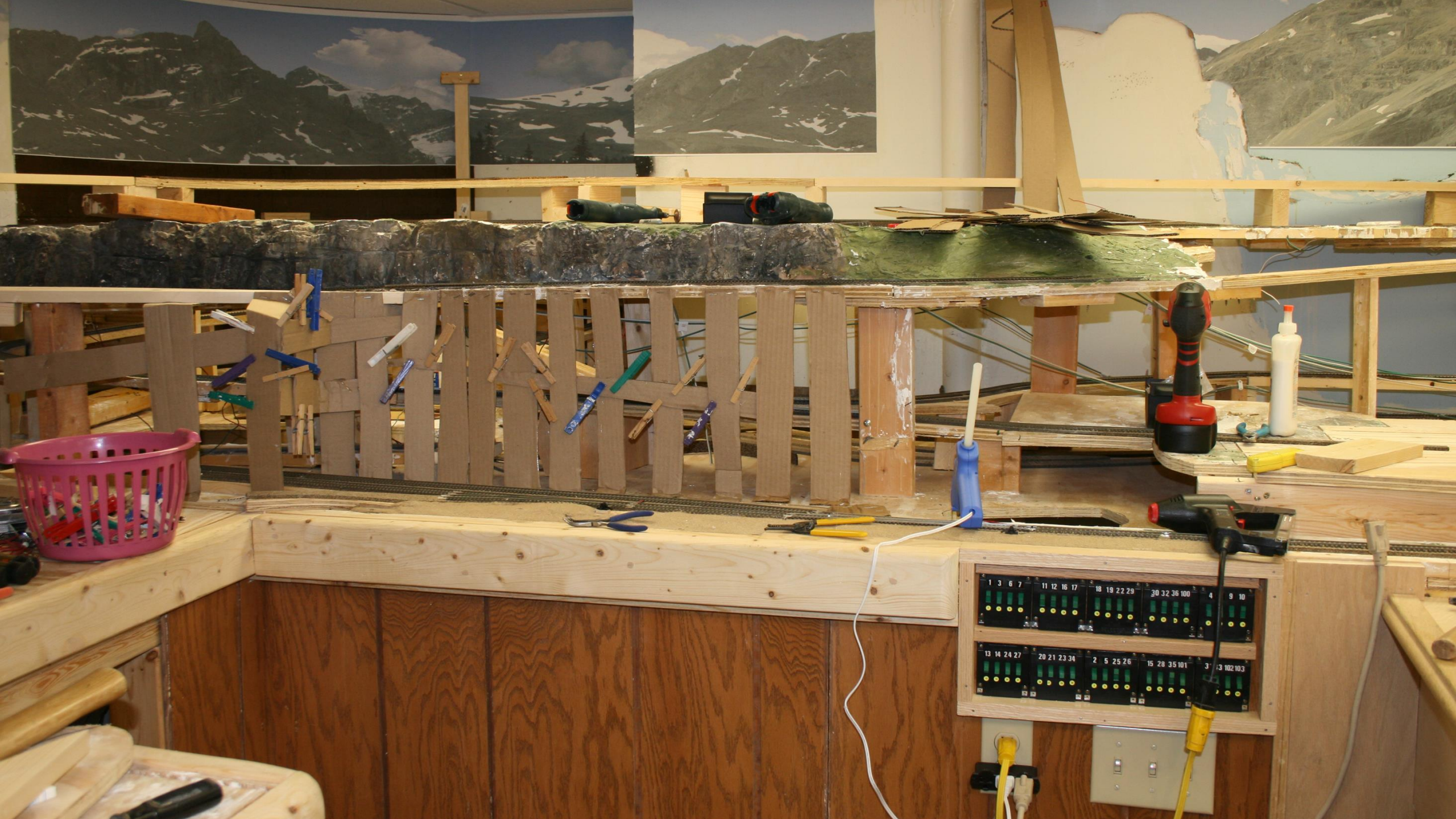






The steps I used to build my mountains

- Start with a wood framework.
- Attach cardboard strips to the wood to form the basic shape of the mountain.
- Cover the cardboard strips with red rosin paper.
- Paint the red rosin paper with white glue. Put the glue on heavy.
- Cover the rosin paper with paper towels soaked in plaster.
- Attach rock castings to the plaster walls to form the mountains. This is like laying bricks you fill the gaps with plaster and then carve the plaster in the gaps to blend the castings together.
- Paint with acrylic paints
- Detail with pastels, chalks, and pigments.





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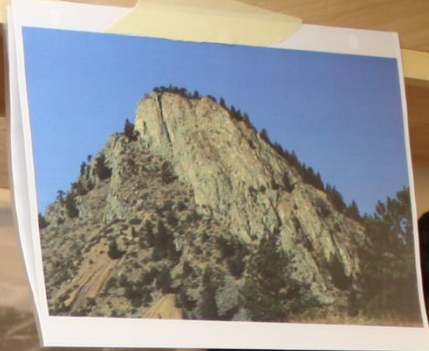
















Logs



Detailing Palette

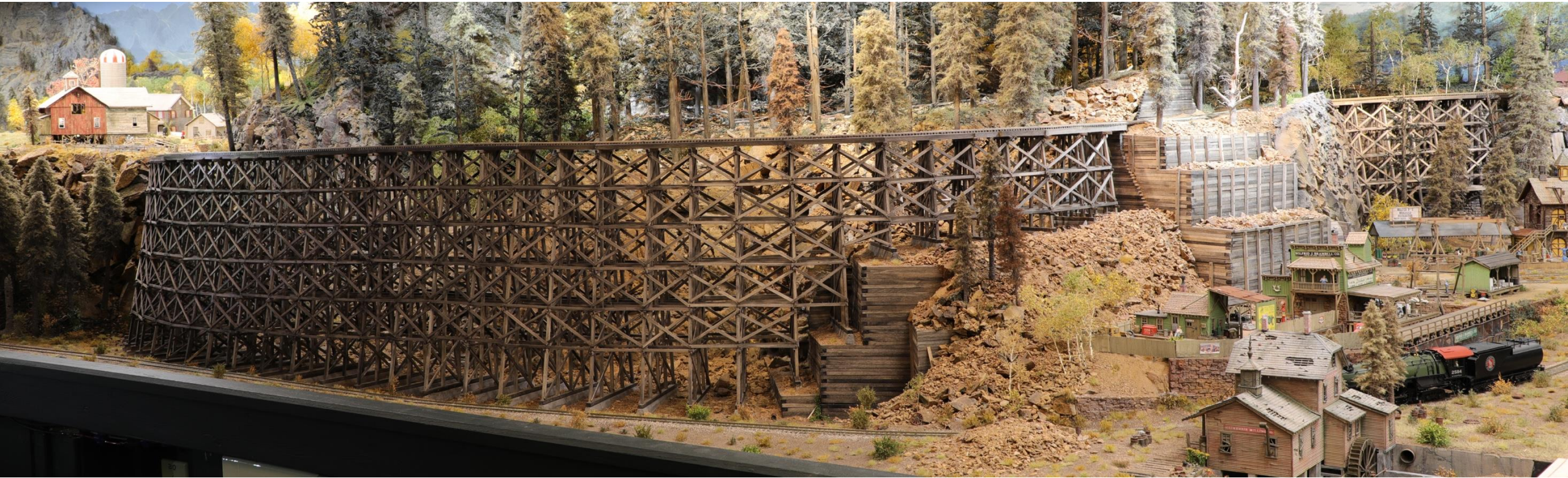
- Pigments
- Pastels
- Chalks
- Applied with Alcohol & Dry







Next Clinic – Scenery and Aiden's Trestle





Mt. Aiden Construction – Old layout coming down new S&S RR beginning.







The Superior & Seattle Railroad & Interchanges

Gazette



If you would like to follow along with the build.

- Send me an email at : siekirkjf@comcast.net
- I will add your email to the send list.
- I put out an issue each month around the 1st.
- All the back issues are available on this website: <http://www.earlyrail.org/sandsgazette/>
- Average 200 pages each month. Layouts from all over the world.
- This is the 5th year of publication.
- Consider writing an article on your modeling work.