

Operating my Santa Fe Layout

Los Angeles Division 3rd District

By William Messecar

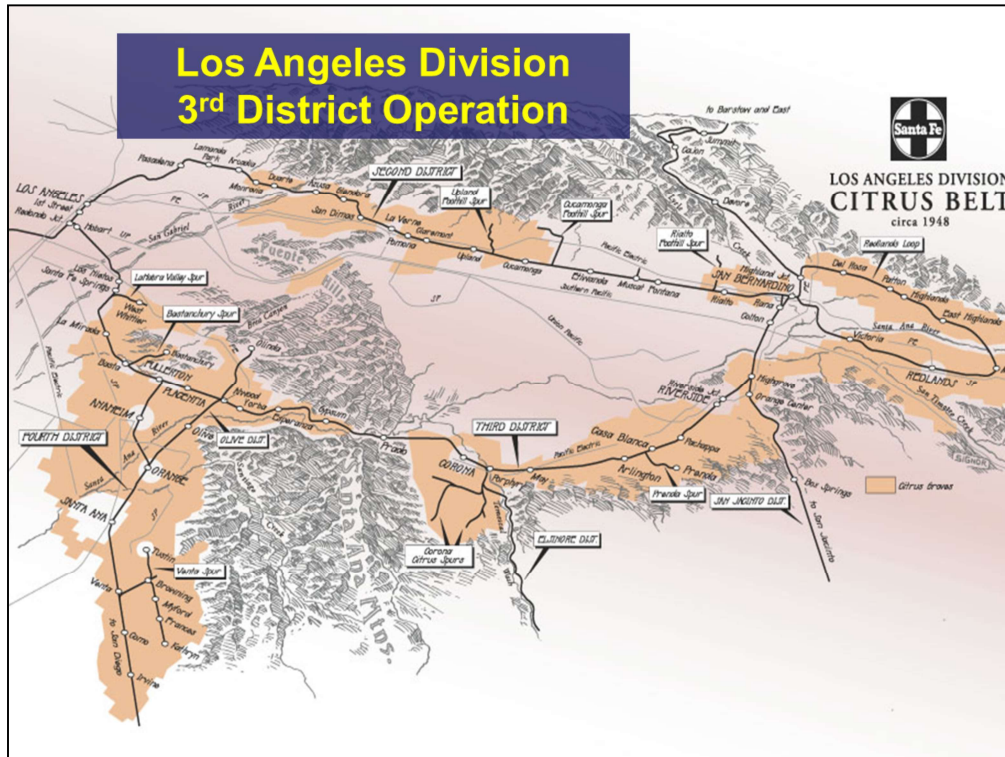
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There are handouts of all the text slides which you are welcome to have or you can email me with any later questions. I also have a signup sheet if you are interested in receiving an invitation to attend an operating session at my layout in Kent, WA. We operate about once every six weeks.

ATSF Layout Concept

- **Space – 24' by 28' structure**
- **HO Scale**
- **One Level – No duck under**
- **Layout consists of three 20' peninsula's connected along back**
- **Theme – citrus/packing houses and protective service**
- **Era– Transition (early 50's Steam/Diesel)**
- **Passenger Terminal -- LAUPT**

I prefer way bills and car cards because they are easy to set up and understand while challenging crews to solve switching puzzles and keeping the mainline free for thru trains. The must run list tells the yard operator which order the staged trains will run for least disruption (hopefully!)



The is a map of the third district of the L A Division of the Santa Fe as it looked in the 1950s. I chose to model three towns along that district because they included significant citrus operation as well as the Elsinore branch which leaves Corona and heads south to Lake Elsinore.

ATSF Layout Operation

- **Location–Southern California**
 - **3rd District Trains (San Bernardino-Los Angeles)**
 - **Citrus turns**
 - **Through freights**
 - **Two passenger trains**
 - **Grand Canyon**
 - **San Bernardino Local**
 - **WB Fast Mail**
 - **Yard industry switching**

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Modeling the 3rd District—San Bernardino Yard & LAUPT



UL—Shows view of SB Engine Facility

Right—shows view of the four track LAUPT Passenger Terminal (back side) added in 2011..

LL—Scratch built pre-cooler

Modeling the 3rd District—Riverside, CA



UL—Shows view of Riverside Freight House

UR--Bridge came from an idea supplied by Don Hubbard and an article in Model Railroader.

LL—Scratch built feed store west of the depot at Riverside across from McDermott PH.

LR—National Orange packing house was built from a Yesteryear kit full size.

Modeling the 3rd District—Corona & Elsinore Br.



This view shows both Corona on the left and the Elsinore branch on the right.

Modeling the 3rd District—Placentia, CA



The UL view in looking west toward Placentia
Placentia Mutual PH is shown in the UR and LL views.
This was a packing house and business office
LR is a FSM gas station and diner across from the
Placentia depot

**LA Division 3rd District Freight Ops July 1947
WB thru freight trains to Los Angeles**

<u>Train Number/Name</u>	<u>West Bound thru Freights</u>
33	Redball Freight between Chicago – Los Angeles
41	“Hog Special” originated at Belen, NM to LA
43	Redball Freight between Chicago and Northern/Southern California
GWS	Gateway Special, GN-WP-ATSF “inside Gateway” to Pacific NW
TDF	Texas Daily Forwarder
SCX	Southern California Extra from the Bay Area

These trains were operated over the 3rd District during July 1947 and information on their motive power, consist and departure times were obtained from Dispatcher sheets stored in the Western Achieves stored at the SB station.

**LA Division 3rd District Freight Ops July 1947
EB thru freight trains from Los Angeles**

<u>Train Number/Name</u>	<u>East Bound thru Freights</u>
134	Los Angeles to San Bernardino connection for NCX
NCX	Northern California Extra (opposite of SCX)
SWG	Southwestern Gateway ATSF-WP-GN (opposite of GWS)
Bulldog	Los Angeles to San Bernardino clean up train
	- From First Street Yard—mostly loads
	- Hobart Yard—mostly empties
Box Car Spl	Long train of empties from Hobart to San Bernardino

These trains were operated over the 3rd District during July 1947 and information on their motive power, consist and departure times were obtained from Dispatcher sheets stored in the Western Achieves stored at the SB station.

3rd District Passenger Trains WB odd numbered

- **San Bernardino Local Train 51/54**
 - Operated daily between San Bernardino and LA
 - Consist one 2105 class 15' postal-baggage or Baggage express
 - One or two heavyweight A/C coaches
- **Grand Canyon Train 23/24**
 - Operated daily between San Bernardino and LA
 - Consist: headend cars, three sleepers, diner, lounge & heavyweight A/C coaches
- **Fast Mail Train 7 (#8 EB on 2nd District)**
 - Operated daily with express, mail, baggage cars and rider coach

Layout Operating Structure

- **Yard represents San Bernardino and LA**
- **Passenger Terminal represents both LAUPT and San Bernardino**
- **Yard contains 15 tracks—7 (LA) east bound and 7 (SB) west bound plus passenger storage track**
- **Freight trains are pre-staged and blocked**
Selected Freight Lineup
 - **EB Bulldog makes set outs and pickups**
 - **WB Train 43 makes local pickups**
 - **WB Three Fruit Turns**
- **Dispatching by train sequence**
- **Signals control three single track mainlines**

Typical Layout Train Sequence for four crews of two persons

- **Placentia Turn** **Train 107/108**
- **Corona Turn** **Train 103/104**
- **Riverside Turn** **Train 105/106**
- **Fast Mail WB** **Train 7**
- **SB AM Switch** **Train 100**
- **Train 43 WB** **Train 101**
- **Grand Canyon** **Train 23/24**
- **Bulldog** **Train 102**
- **SB Local WB** **Train 51**

RROps Operating Program by Bruce Hanley

- **Program generates trains switch list based on spots, industry bills and available cars**
- **Trains, motive power, cars, bills, spots, stations, yards all entered once**
- **No car cards or waybills**
- **Freight trains are usually pre-staged**
- **Local switch jobs run in San Bernardino yard.**
- **Operating session target 3-4 hours**
- **Eight Operators (4 crews) used to run 9 trains**

I prefer way bills and car cards because they are easy to set up and understand while challenging crews to solve switching puzzles and keeping the mainline free for thru trains. The must run list tells the yard operator which order the staged trains will run for least disruption (hopefully!)

Advantages of RROps Operating Program

- **No Car Cards or Waybills**
- **Immediate train generation**
- **Limits spots to capacity input**
- **Allows local moves if car type needed/available**
- **Shows usage and location of all cars on layout**
- **Bills contain frequency function**
- **Program includes editing for trains**

RROps--example of Placentia Turn paperwork

Adhion Topoka & Santa Fe - ATSF
 Switchlist - Tr#107
 Tr name: PlacentiaTurn
 Desc: West Class: 3
 Job Desc: Switch Placentia
 Train's Power: - ATSF/2869GP7
 Sup: Bill Messacar
 06/09/20
 Route: PL.Turn
 Sev: FKT
 Train's Cab: - ATSF/2023CAB

SANBERNARDINO (Orig) - Sp/Ret - Dep: 8:00p

- UNIT MOVES

RptMk	Serial	Type	PU -> SO
SFRD	9727	REFER	Ytd -> Tr
ART	62273	REFER	Ytd -> Tr
NP	15579	BOX	Ytd -> Tr
ATSF	182059	COVWP	Ytd -> Tr
ATSF	7126	BOX	Ytd -> Tr
WP	3425	BOX	Ytd -> Tr
CDLX	301	REFER	Ytd -> Tr
B&O	381429	BOX	Ytd -> Tr
PFE	4305	REFER	Ytd -> Tr
SFRD	34690	REFER	Ytd -> Tr
SFRD	35823	REFER	Ytd -> Tr
ERIE	60066	BOX	Ytd -> Tr
MINX	1043	BOX	Ytd -> Tr
ATSF	31698	BOX	Ytd -> Tr

- Dep - 14 cars & cab

RptMk	Serial	Type	Last	Next SO - Load Description
ATSF	182059	COVWP	SND	InlandCement
ERIE	60066	BOX	SND	PlacentiaFeedSeed
B&O	381429	BOX	SND	PlacentiaFeedSeed
ATSF	7126	BOX	SND	BarnsteadLumber
NP	15579	BOX	SND	BarnsteadLumber
WP	3425	BOX	SND	PlacentiaHouseTk
SFRD	35823	REFER	SND	POGAPH
SFRD	9727	REFER	SND	POGAPH
ART	62273	REFER	SND	PMOGPH
SFRD	34690	REFER	SND	DRLLPL
PFE	4305	REFER	SND	DRLLPL
CDLX	301	REFER	SND	DRLLPL
ATSF	31698	BOX	LDD	SWDting - Drilling Supplies
MINX	1043	BOX	LDD	SWDting - Drilling Supplies

REVERSIDe - Passing - Dep: 5:29p

- Dep - 14 cars & cab

Continuation - Switchlist = Tr #107

CORONA - Passing - Dep: 6:50p

- Dep - 14 cars & cab

PLACENTIA (Dest) - Sp/Wk - Arr: 7:04p

- Arr - 14 cars & cab

- UNIT MOVES

RptMk	Serial	Type	PU -> SO
ATSF	182059	COVWP	Y -> InlandCement
B&O	381429	BOX	Tr -> PlacentiaFeedSeed
ERIE	60066	BOX	Tr -> PlacentiaFeedSeed
WP	6020	GON	BarnsteadLumber -> Tr
CNW	114745	GON	BarnsteadLumber -> Tr
NP	15579	BOX	Tr -> BarnsteadLumber
ATSF	7126	BOX	Tr -> BarnsteadLumber
ATSF	148519	BOX	PlacentiaHouseTk -> InlandCement
WP	3425	BOX	Tr -> PlacentiaHouseTk
SFRD	11730	REFER	POGAPH -> Tr
SFRD	35347	REFER	POGAPH -> Tr
SFRD	31835	REFER	POGAPH -> PMOGPH
SFRD	9727	REFER	Tr -> POGAPH
SFRD	35823	REFER	Tr -> POGAPH
SFRD	25723	REFER	PMOGPH -> Tr
SFRD	30729	REFER	PMOGPH -> Tr
SFRD	31715	REFER	PMOGPH -> DRLLPL
ART	62273	REFER	Tr -> PMOGPH
NP	320	REFER	BradfordBoaPH -> PMOGPH
WFEK	62350	REFER	DRLLPL -> BradfordBoaPH
SFRD	30728	REFER	DRLLPL -> BradfordBoaPH
PFE	47870	REFER	DRLLPL -> PMOGPH
SFRD	34696	REFER	DRLLPL -> POGAPH
CDLX	301	REFER	Tr -> DRLLPL
PFE	4305	REFER	Tr -> DRLLPL
SFRD	34690	REFER	Tr -> DRLLPL
MINX	1043	BOX	Tr -> SWDting
ATSF	31698	BOX	Tr -> SWDting

- XFER units: (R car(s))

- Set XFER units into Tr#100Sum leg 2

RptMk	Serial	Type	Last	Next SO - Load Description
CNW	114745	GON	SND	SanBernardino Ytd
WP	6020	GON	SND	SanBernardino Ytd
SFRD	35347	REFER	LDD	SanBernardino Ytd - Catted Citrus
SFRD	11730	REFER	LDD	SanBernardino Ytd - Catted Citrus
SFRD	35729	REFER	LDD	SanBernardino Ytd - Catted Citrus
SFRD	25723	REFER	LDD	SanBernardino Ytd - Catted Citrus

Lessons Learned

- **Establish an overall plan and stick to it.**
- **Plan your resources—time, space, and money.**
- **Consider trading money for time.**
- **Recruit helpers. Hold regular work sessions.**
- **Commit to doing something on a regular schedule.**
- **Operate early and often.**
- **Visit and operate other layouts for ideas.**

Source: Model Railroad Hobbyist June 2018 Issue—article Getting Real

THE END



Jennings Lumber at Riverside