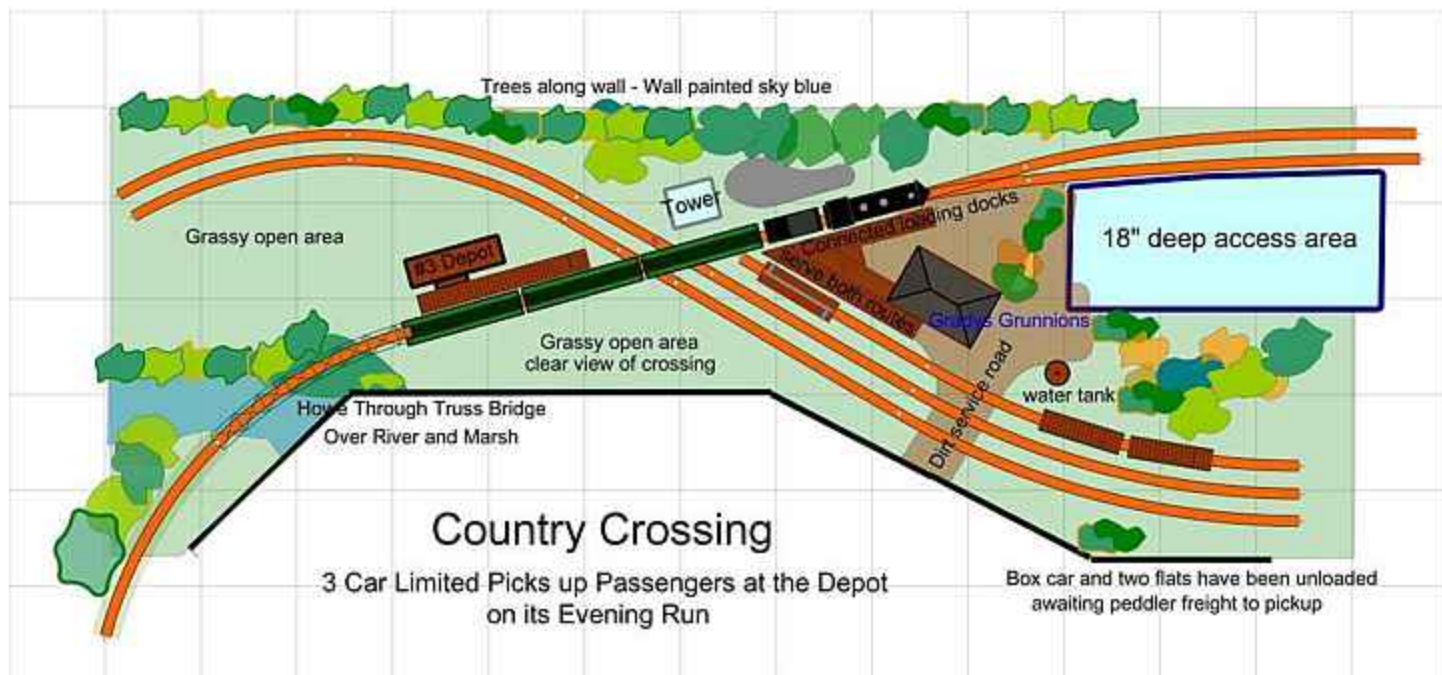


## Specific Scenes

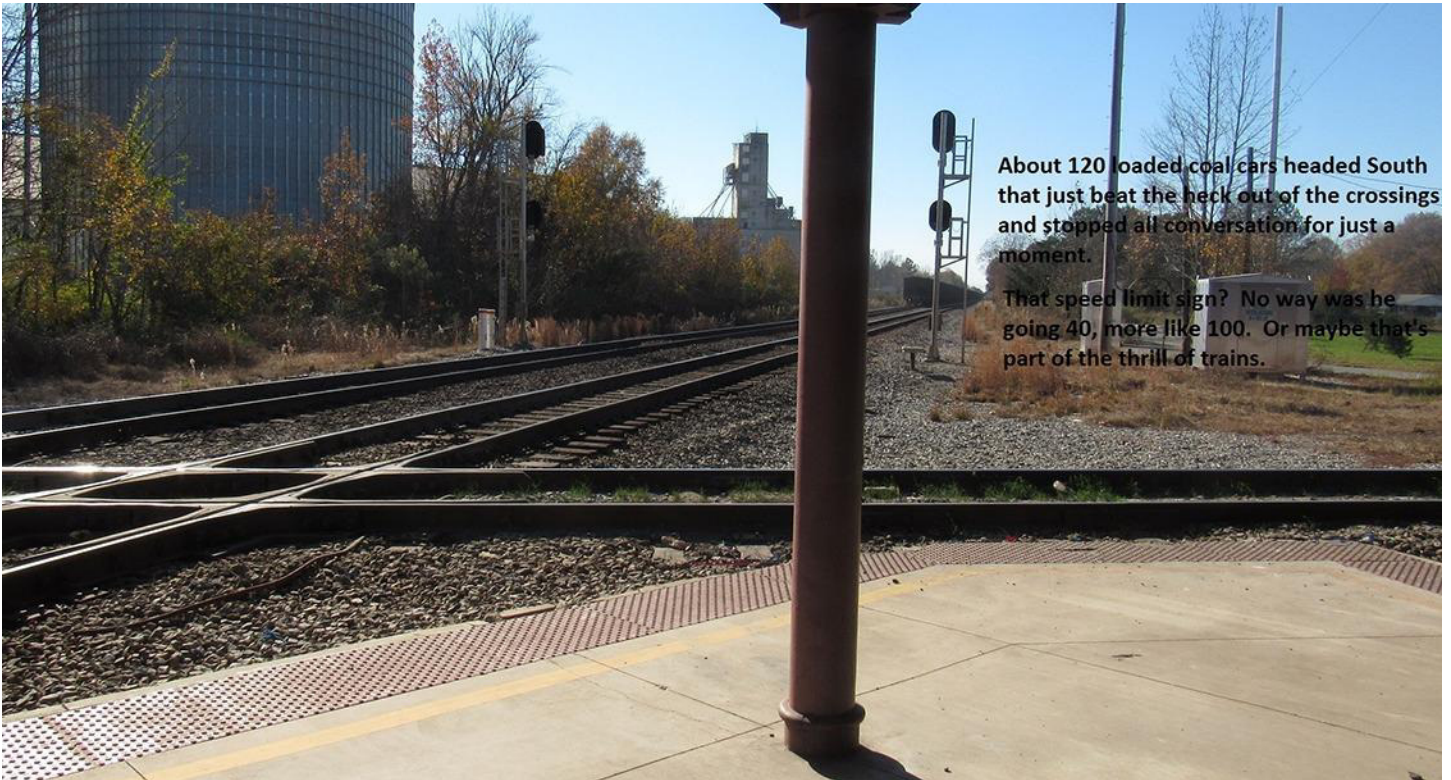
**Grady's Grunions** - This is the main attraction; set scary close to both tracks at the crossing. It's cool when a consist stops at the crossing for whatever reason. But it's awesome when a fast freight blows through at 50 slamming those frogs with their steady cadence. Slamming is the word, too. Sort of an organized violence that allows those taken with the spectacle to stand close and feel the force more than see it.



## The Real Thing

Selma-Smithfield, North Carolina. When I first began visiting here several years ago, the stationmaster told me quite a few people gather trackside in the evening to just sit, talk and watch trains. Many bring their own chairs. The station itself closes at 5:00 p.m. and the gatherings begin after dinner. The scene is reminiscent of years and decades gone by. The freights don't stop of course, but there is some passenger activity. Can't buy a ticket, but you can get on and off. It's fun to watch the North Carolina Railroad and Amtrak attendants help the passengers and work with the stationmaster. They are trying to keep a schedule and move quickly, but always kind, courteous and joking back and forth.

If you should happen to be motoring down I 95 in the Eastern end of NC, look for exit 98. Get off and go West on Anderson Avenue. In very short order, you cross the double track CSX main. Look to the left, you cannot miss it. You will find a refreshing, laid back Country Crossing.



About 120 loaded coal cars headed South that just beat the heck out of the crossings and stopped all conversation for just a moment.  
That speed limit sign? No way was he going 40, more like 100. Or maybe that's part of the thrill of trains.

