

# Pennsylvania Railroad

*The Standard Railroad of the World*

CENTRAL REGION

PITTSBURGH DIVISION

OAK RIDGE BRANCH

## A Tour of the HO Scale Model Railroad

Welcome to the Pennsylvania in the 1920s





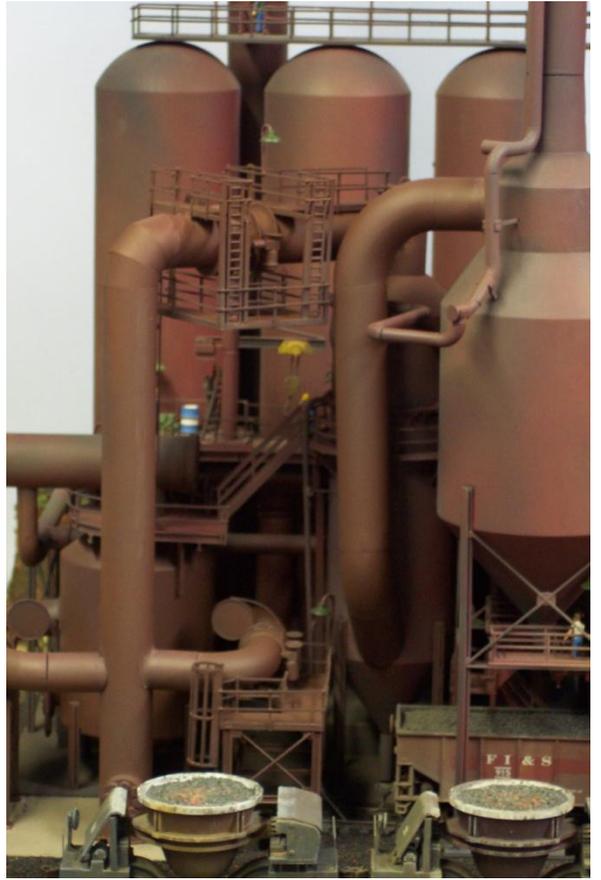
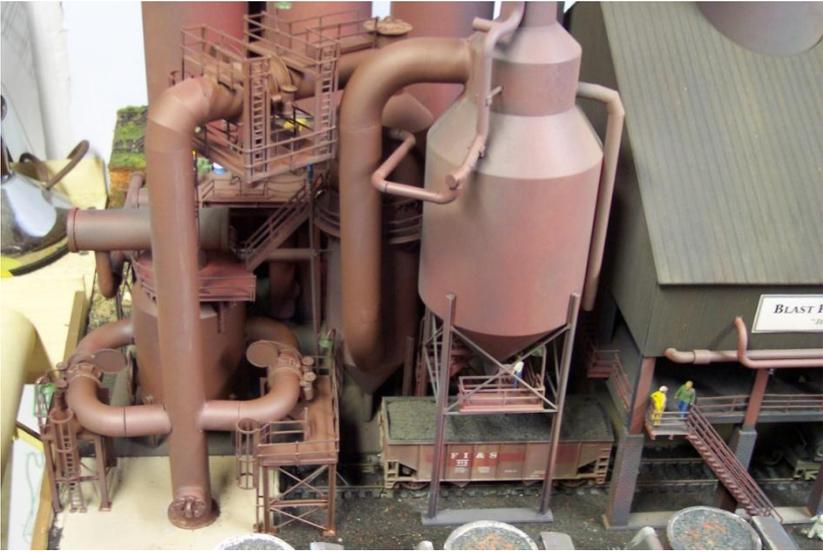
## OAK RIDGE

This is Oak Ridge Yard looking west. It is a curved, stub ended, flat yard and will hold about ninety 40' freight cars. Operationally, this is the eastern end of the railroad. The curved track in the lower right corner of the photo is the beginning of the Frankfort branch that goes to the major industry on the Oak Ridge Branch, Frankfort Iron and Steel.

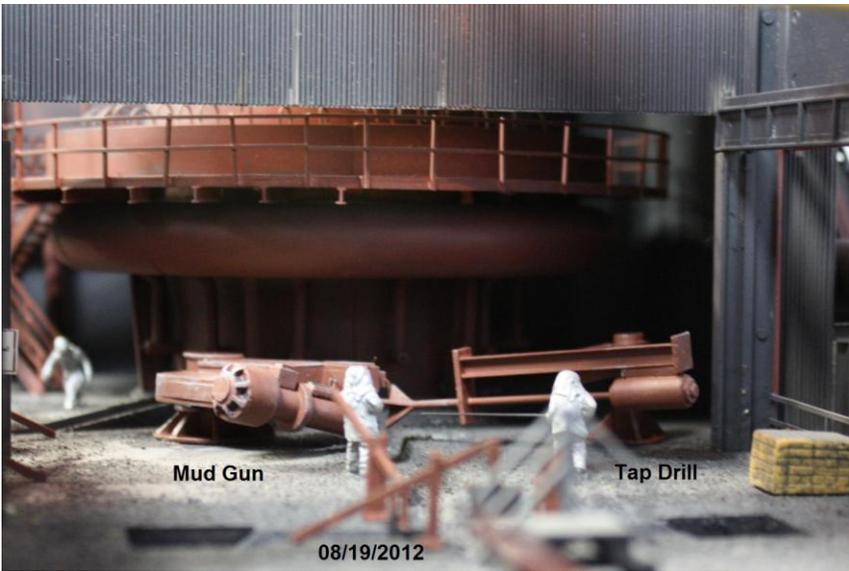
Frankfort Iron and Steel is a VERY condensed model of a complete steel mill. From raw materials (Iron ore, limestone, coal and coke) to finished steel in ingot or billet form. The major steps are the blast furnace to make liquid iron and then on to the Open Hearth furnaces where the iron is converted into steel.

The photo at right is an overall shot of the Steel Mill.





Here are some views of the mill including the blast furnace plumbing (top right and left), the casting house floor (at left center) and the Open hearth building.

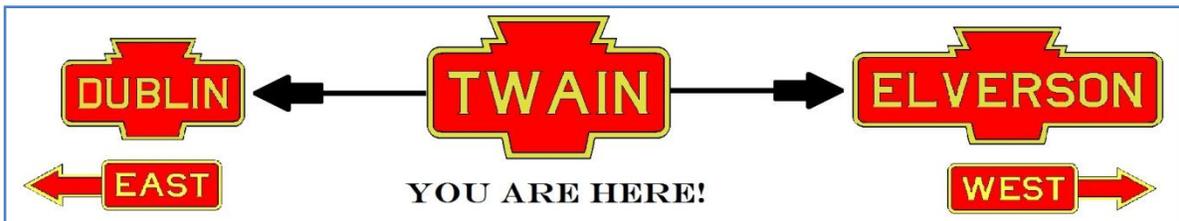
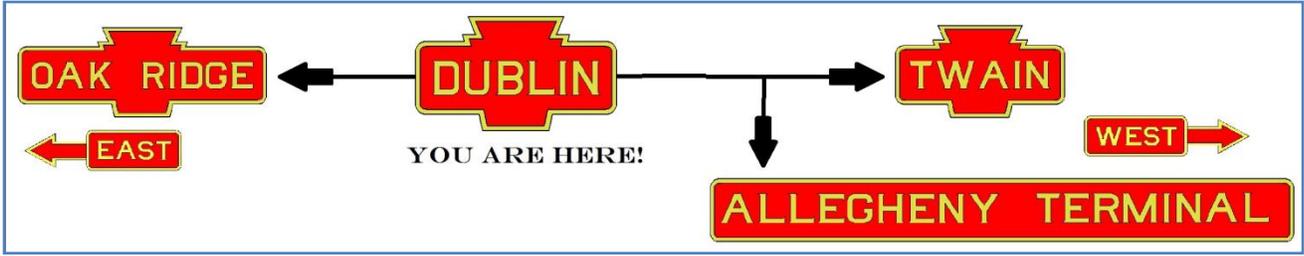


Returning to Oak Ridge Yard, we can see the engine service facilities including (L to R) Ash pit, Sand House, Coaling tower, Water tank, Wash rack, and the Roundhouse.



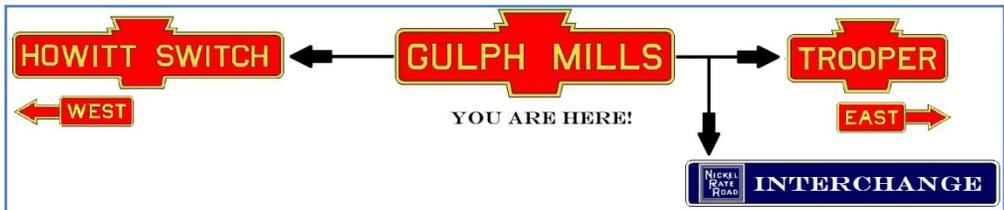
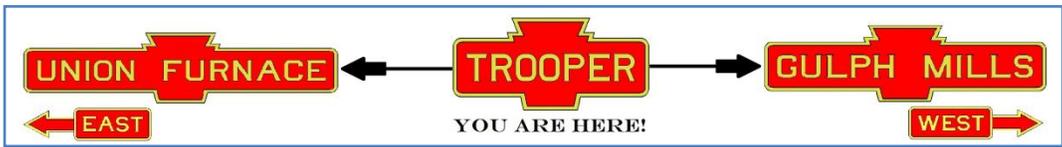
Above and below are a few of the locomotives that supply the muscle to move the traffic on the railroad.









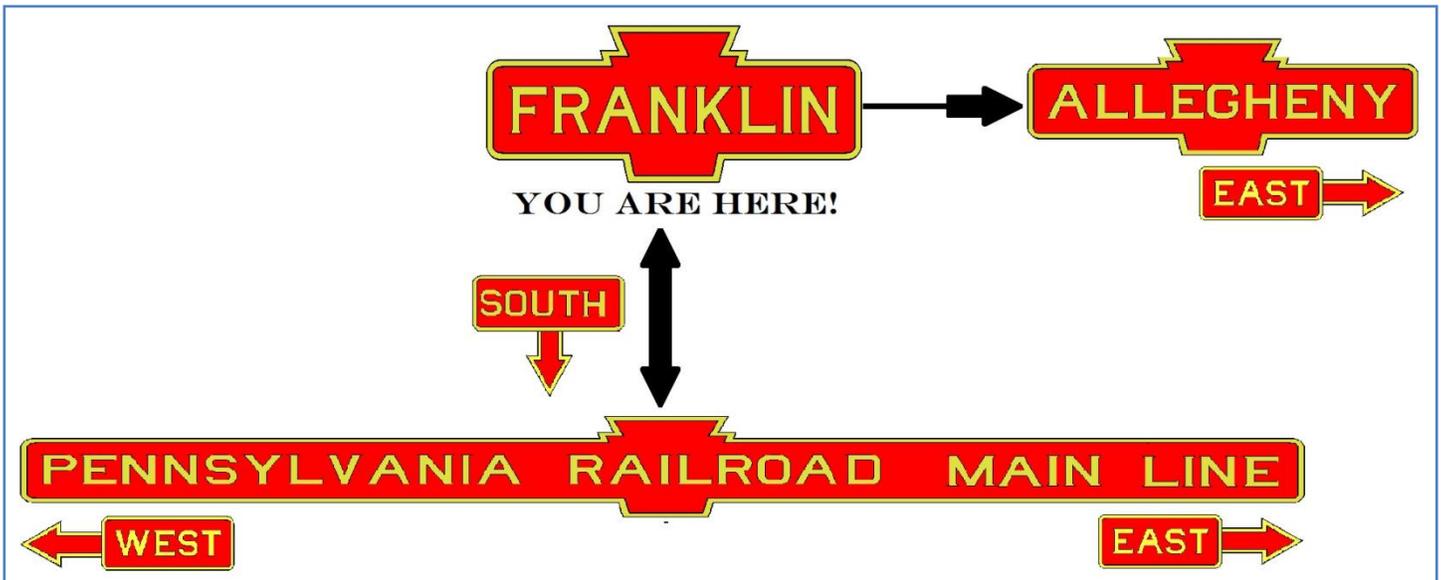






In the photo at right, Allegheny is along the wall and Allegheny Terminal is in the foreground.



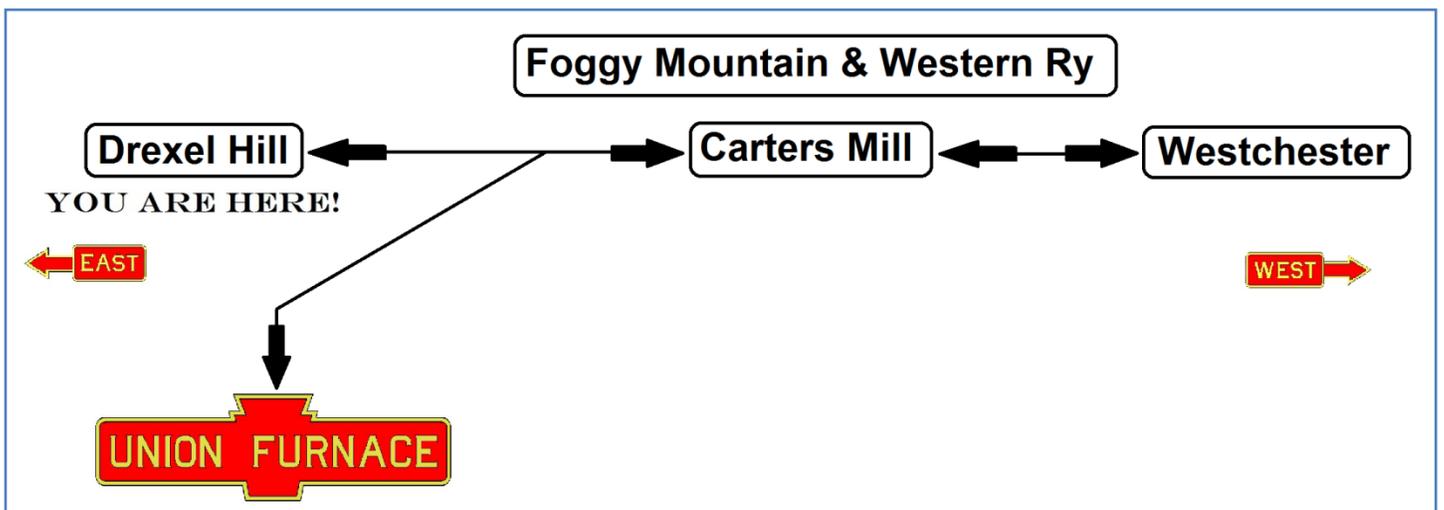


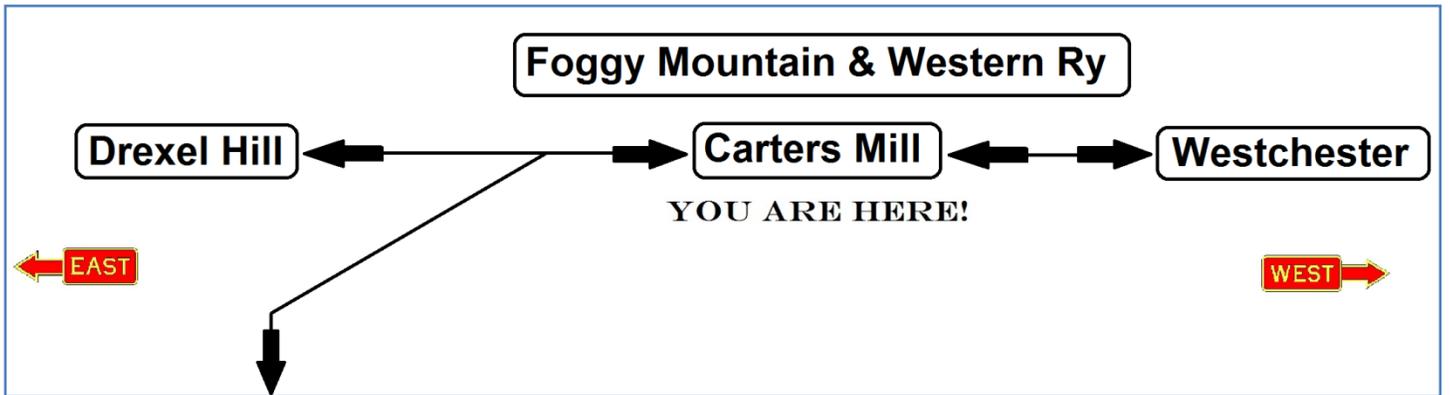
Franklin is actually just a staging yard (several stub-ended tracks) that holds complete trains. This is where our mythical PRR Branch line ties into the main Pennsylvania Railroad and the rest of the world.

This is the end of the PRR Oak Ridge Branch line, so now we'll go have a look at the Foggy Mountain & Western Ry.



The Foggy Mountain & Western Railway is a small Coal and Lumber hauler that interchanges with the Oak Ridge Branch at Union Furnace. The steep 3 ½ % grade from Union Furnace to Drexel Hill requires geared locomotives so the FM&W employs Shay locomotives.

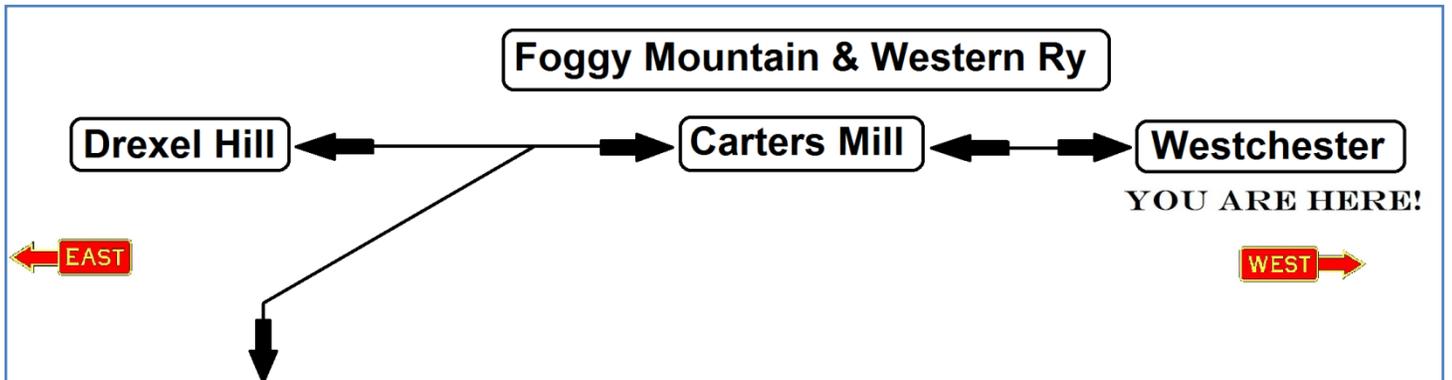




This small factory is a tribute to a famous Model Railroader, Frank Ellison, who's O-scale Delta Lines were featured in the model railroad magazines in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. It was Frank who showed the rest of us modelers how to simulate real railroad operations on our model railroads. Plans for this building appeared in the December 1952 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman. I used them to build this HO-scale model from scratch.



The modeled portion of the FM&W is short and maybe the line will expand in the future, one never knows. The pace on this line is slow with the Shay type geared locomotives supplying the motive power. It's a good place to learn Model Railroad Operations and how switching is done without the pressure of holding up other trains.



I hope you enjoyed your tour of our Model Railroad.