Modeling Transition-Era Beet Trains & The Guadalupe Interchange

Scott Inman

Prepared for the 2014 SPH&TS Convention
On the Lineup

- Beet Gondola Evolution
- Guadalupe Interchange
- Role of the Santa Maria Valley
- Betteravia and Union (Holly) Sugar
- Detailing the Red Caboose G-50-23
- HO Beet Loads
- Weathering Techniques
Blackburn Patent Racks
Transition to GS Gons
Composite GS Gons
Original Extensions
Three + Two Board Extensions
High-side Board Extensions
High-side Plywood Extensions

APPLICATION: Southern Pacific’s fleet of over 1,000 sugar beet gondola cars is another example of meeting specific shippers’ needs by modifying existing rolling stock. To develop the sugar beet gondola, the sides and ends of selected drop-bottom gondola cars were heightened four feet to increase loading capacities and enable shippers to take advantage of S.P.’s incentive sales, as well as reduce the number of cars needed. Sugar beet handling on S.P. takes place wholly within California and more than 5,000,000 tons of sugar beets were carried by S.P. in 1964. Please see other side for specifications of these perishable cars.

Fast-loading overhead conveyors systems are a familiar sight near California sugar beet fields. At refinery plants, beets pour quickly from both sides of the cars into steel-lined underground hoppers.
Guadalupe MP 276.5
Aerial View
Local Beet Traffic
1950s Beet Nostalgia

- Imperial Valley beets were moved north April to July for Union Sugar at Betteravia. Union Sugar had a short crop moving to Betteravia in late summer from the Bakersfield area. Coast beets for Union Sugar at Betteravia ran September to the end of the year. Somis and Antelope Valley Union Sugar beets moved to Betteravia in late fall.
Union (Holly) Sugar 1897-1994
SMVRR Barsug to Betteravia
Betteravia Plant
Modeling Beet Cars!
Detail Upgrades
Making Beet Loads

Anise

Fenugreek
Ground Bean Mix

Put bean soup mix in coffee grinder
Making Loads
Score Using Calipers
Cut to Length Using an Electric Knife
Cut in Half for Two Loads
Use a Rasp to Shape
After Shaping
After Painting
Glue and Bottom Layer

Use 3M spray adhesive and apply fenugreek
Apply Powder

Fill in with bean soup mix
Apply anise and glue with diluted Elmer's in a spray bottle. Drill holes for bracing if needed.
Add Weathering
Photo Contributors

- SPH&TS Archive Collection
- Charlie Lange
- Pete Arnold
- Stan Kistler
- Dallas Gilbertson
- Southern Pacific
- Western Railroader Collection
Thank You!