Structures for a logging camp

Models and prototype data as displayed at Vancouver and once used by Rayonier

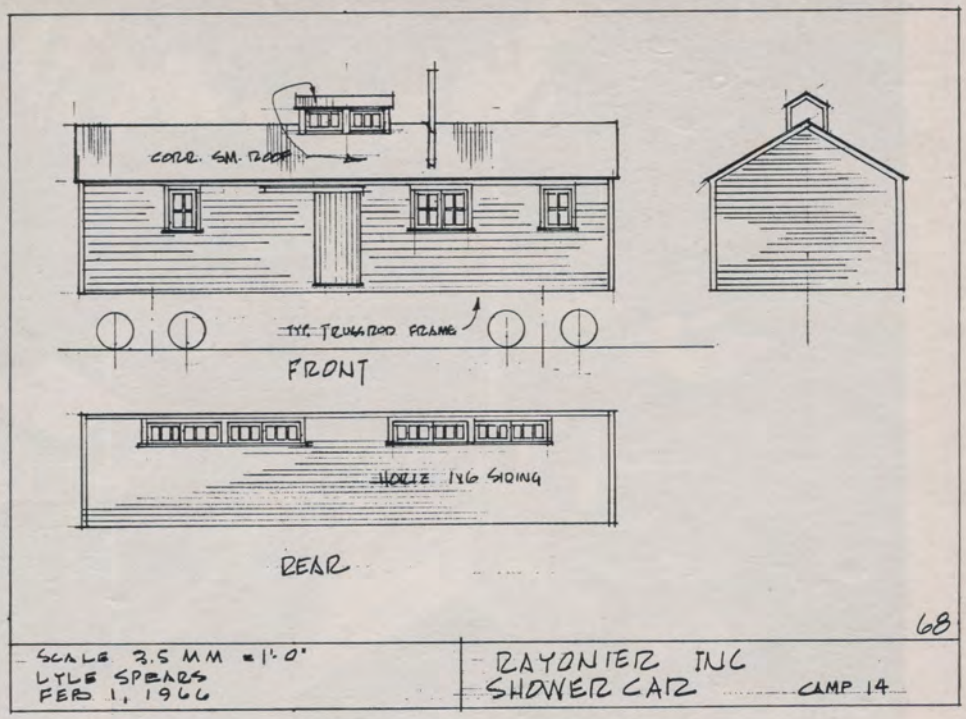
Data and drawings from Lyle Spears

Photos by Lyle Spears

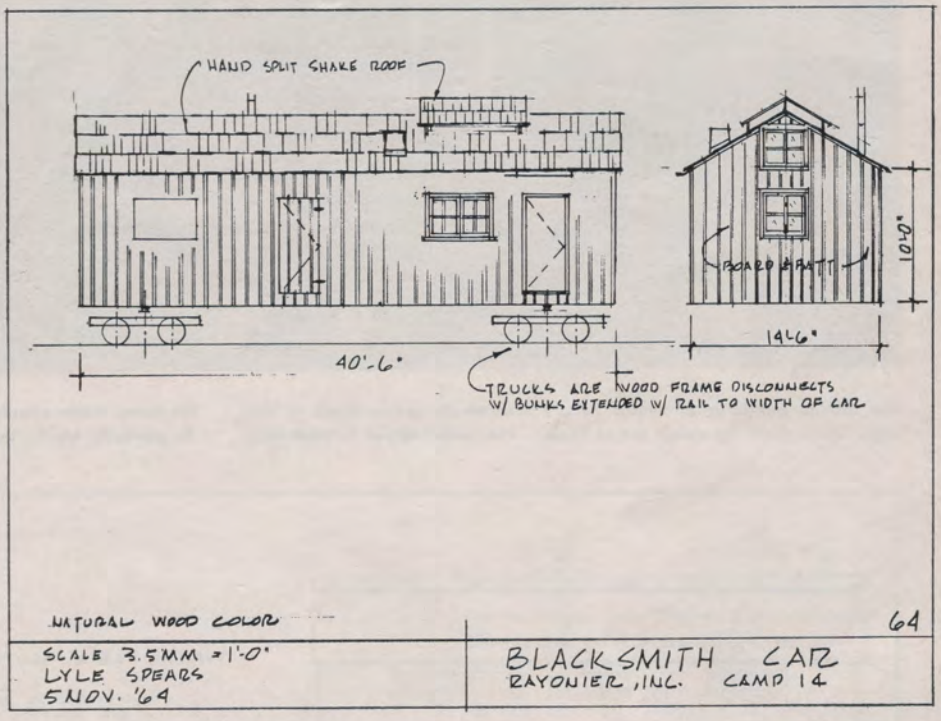
This is Nooksak Camp as built by Lyle Spears. It depicts a small logging camp typical of those used in northwest logging operations. The camp cars shown in this array are, upper right to bottom: blacksmith car, bunk car, shower car, two bunk cars; upper left to bottom: bunk car, kitchen car, dining car, two bunk cars. Note that the kitchen and dining cars are temporarily connected (covered) after being positioned.

Placement of the camp cars on temporary sidings on either side of the mainline track is typical. The camp structures are actually built on flatcars or logging trucks for ready movement to a different location after the particular area is logged over. The boardwalks and stairs are added after the camp cars are in place. The speeder car on the main line in this photo is used to bring mail and supplies from town.

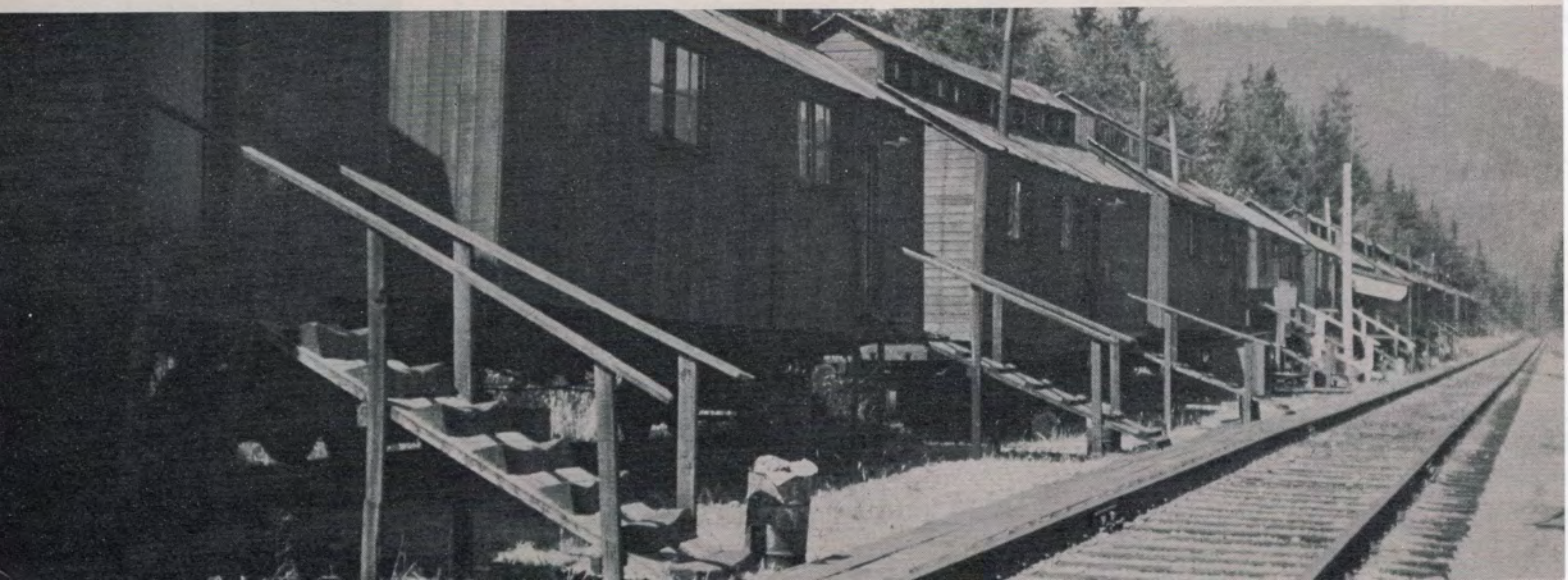
Shower cars are set in the line of bunk cars at various intervals as shown in the lead picture. The concrete-block flue on this one at Rayonier Camp 14 indicates that this particular shower car has sat in one spot for years.



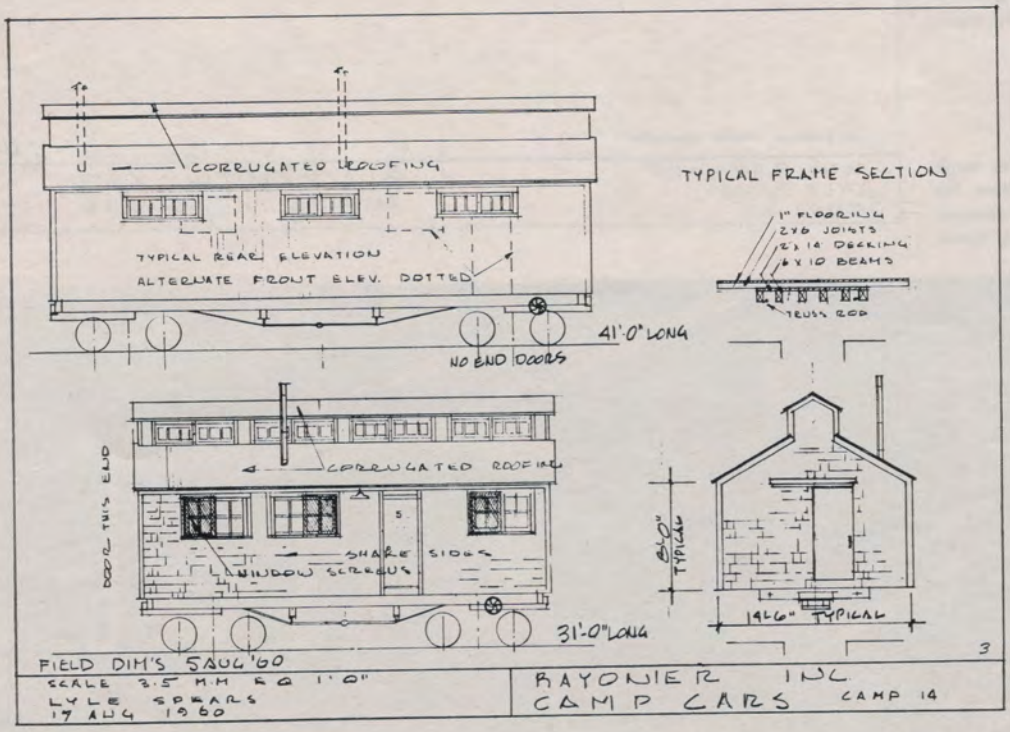
It may look slightly on the dilapidated side, as does this one at Camp 14, but the blacksmith car is an important one in every logging camp. The smith keeps busy repairing logging tools.



Looking up the line at Camp 14 we see bunk cars interspersed with shower cars. Note the heavy timber balks used as steps, worn concave by years of use by sharp-calked logging boots.



The lounge buildings of Camp 14 are located at center front in this view taken from the camp water tower. The water tower is used only for camp water supply, not for the locomotives. A second-growth Douglas fir partially blocks the view of the cars on the left side of the camp.



Nooksak Camp is set into a cut on one side of the main track and over a fill on the other. Flatlands are usually in scarce supply in logging areas.

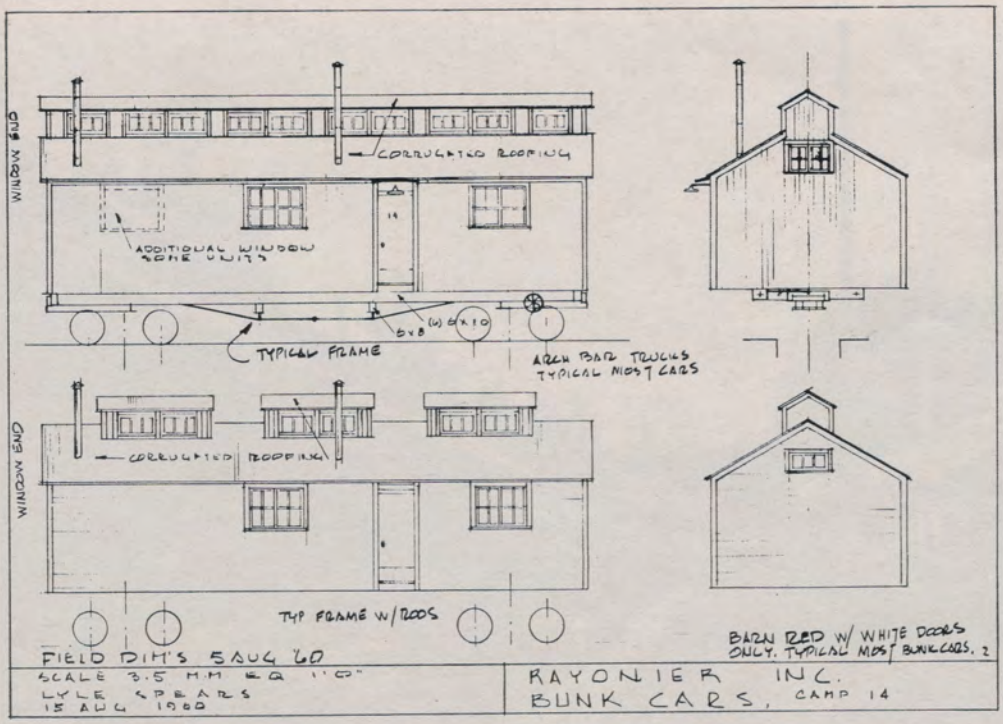
A nontypical "skid" car. The structure is carried on three disconnected logging trucks to be skidded off and set on the ground at a camp.

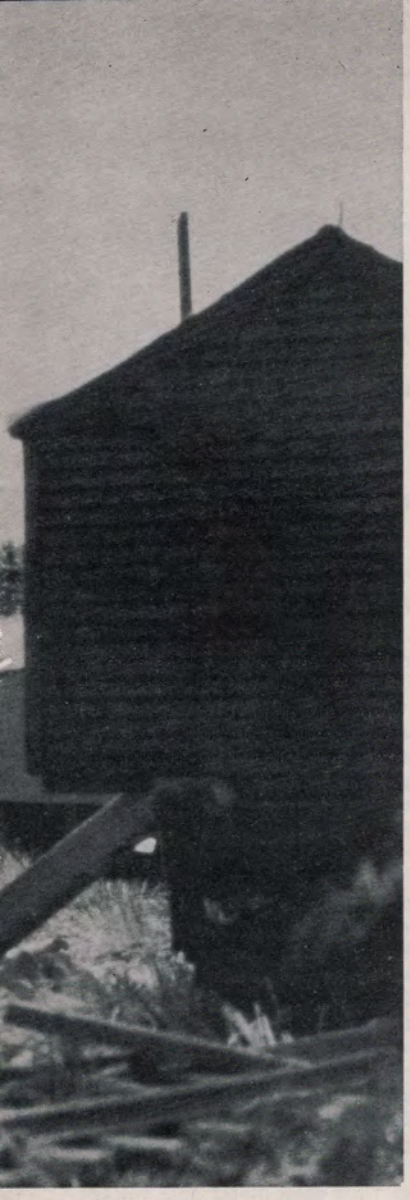
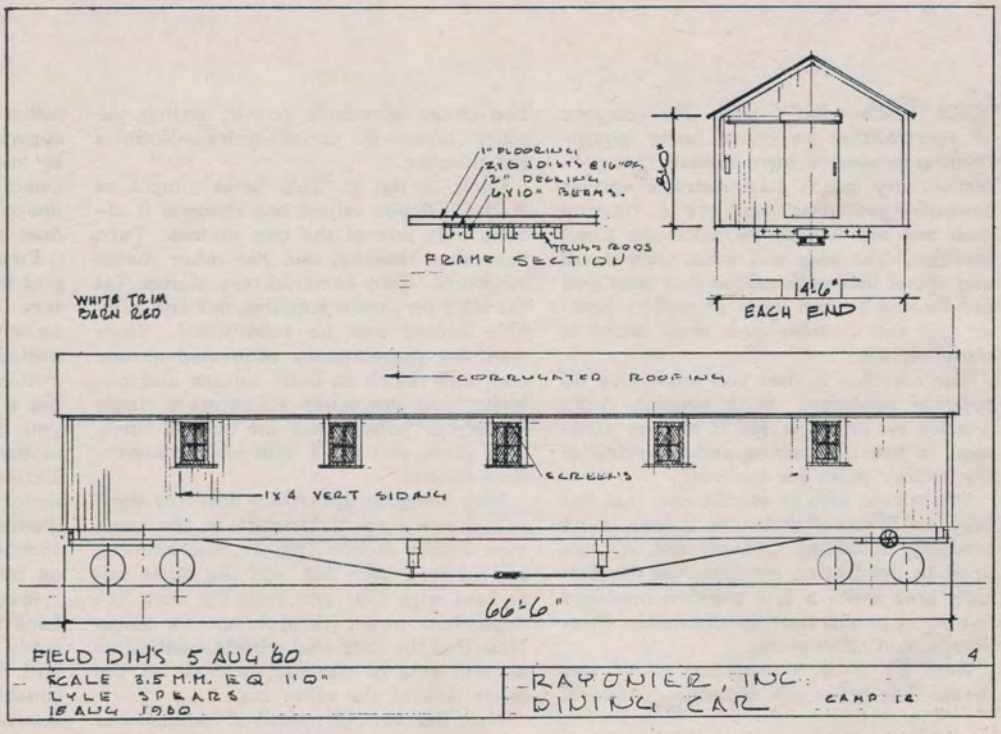
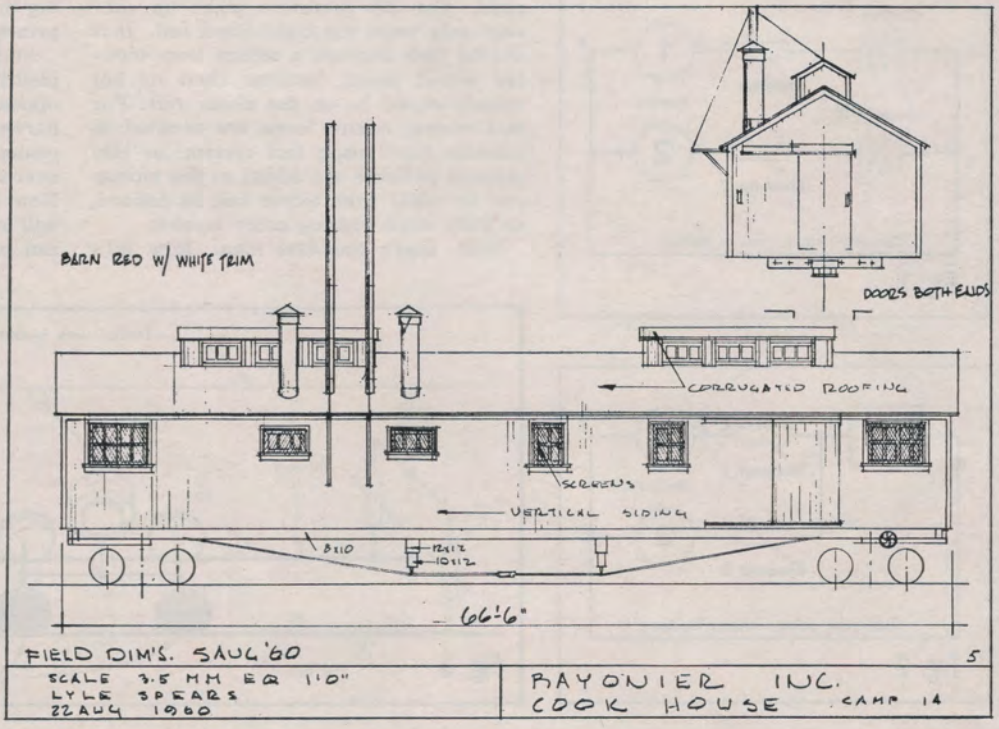
Another nontypical structure. The three monitors on the roof are unusual. Most monitor roofs are continuous over the length of the car.

Low-level view of Rayonier Camp 14. In later years some camps became permanent, and some camp cars had wheels removed and were set on ground.

↑Upper end of Nooksak Camp shows blacksmith car sitting on wood-frame disconnected log trucks. Nooksak's car appears to be in good condition.

→A typical bunk car at Camp 14 is coupled to a short bunk car that has been shingled. A model camp might use the shingled car as an office.





Connected dining car and kitchen car at Camp 14. Figure at right is not a typical logger.