

9. JOHN PAGANONI'S WATER FRONT INDUSTRY



My model of the Gair Mill is greatly reduced in size as this prototype mill was the largest in the Montville, Connecticut area on the Central Vermont Railway. A unique feature of the Gair Mill through the 1950's was the wood structure of the crane that was used to unload the coal barges. The barge dock construction is modeled as close as possible to the prototype as possible. While coal barges in those days were quite long and were powered, a tug boat was needed to guide them on the Thames River. The heavy truck railroad crossing is another interesting part of the Gair Mill. Trucks came down a steep hill that did not provide clear view up and down the tracks which, was a real safety hazard. The prototype in those days did not have crossing gates, so someone had to guide the trucks across safely. *John Paganoni MM*

