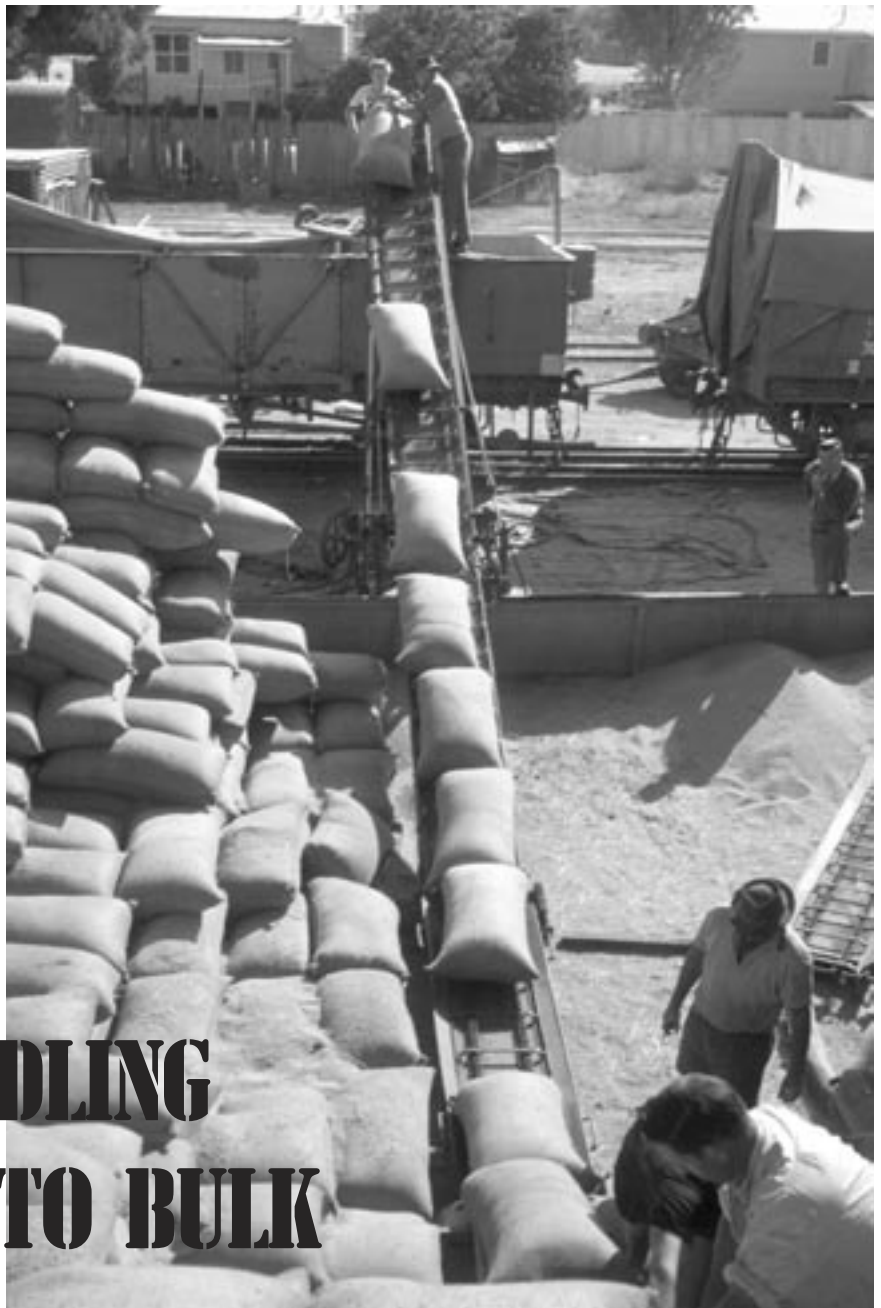


Through the pages of these convention notes modellers have been able to select their favourite SAR station yard, build a prototypical station building or goods shed, put a stockyard on a siding and operate their trains in a prototypical manner. **Wayne Hoskin** now shows how the SAR handled grain traffic. So maybe it is time to build a grain shed in that spare corner of the yard.

## GRAIN HANDLING FROM BAG TO BULK



### Background

Australia and South Australia in particular was very late in embracing bulk grain handling. The concept was first mooted in 1908 when a Royal Commission was instigated to look into the system but, in typical fashion, nothing came of this enquiry. It took until 1955 before bulk handling started in South Australia. Until then all grain was bagged and was very labour intensive in its transport to market or into the holds of export ships.

### Wheat Stacks

Prior to the coming of the SACBH and bulk handling, grain traffic was what we would now call deregulated. Most sidings

would have a number of grain agents who would purchase grain from farmers on behalf of the major companies. Each company would have its own stacking blocks, and little corrugated iron grain agent's sheds were a common feature of the sidings. The photo over the page shows such a shed now located at the Koppio Museum.

These stacking blocks varied in size. Generally the standard size blocks were 25 ft wide by 50 ft deep, and blocks were usually side by side. The blocks were leased to various grain agents. It was up to each agent as to whether they built permanent sheds or erected just temporary roofing. The South Australian Farmers' Union (SAFU) were the largest

agents and the permanent sheds they erected were built in 25 ft increments. The standard SAFU gable roof shed was 50 ft long; larger sheds were 75 ft long. SAFU would provide drawings to a local contractor to build their sheds. The Nantawarra shed in the photo over the page is an example.

Shed styles varied; some had a flat

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**Above.** Bill Lewis captured this "cutting to bulk" scene at Kimba in 1964. Lumpers are cutting the sacks as they reach the top of the elevator to pour the grain into the grain proofed open wagon, in the transition era between bagged and bulk grain handling.