

The History of LCCA Convention Cars - Part X

by Bill Button



17873 Ashland Three Dome Tank Car

The 1988 Annual Convention Car selection was the 17873 Ashland Three Dome Tank Car. In the past few years, Lionel has reduced the number of three dome tank cars it has been producing. It was only fitting to have a body style of this type, since three dome tankers are very prototypical and the club has not used this body style before. The car body is molded in black plastic and painted black. The dome caps and end caps are the same, with type II end caps. The Convention souvenir notation reads "LCCA 18th Annual Convention, Lexington, Kentucky July 29-31, 1988." This is done in white lettering along with the rest of the technical

data. The Ashland logo is red, white and blue, with Ashland in black lettering. The frame is molded in black plastic and the car number and built date of 1-88 are printed on it in white. The frame, ladders and handrails are the standard parts Lionel uses on its three dome tankers. This car uses die-cast 'O' scale trucks.

The registration packet at the convention included a small metal Ashland logo sign, with Lexington, Kentucky printed on it. This sign was included for use on the Lionel 455 or 2305 operating oil derrick in place of the Sunoco or Getty sign, compliments of the Ashland Oil Company.

In January 1988, the Ashland

Oil Company had an oil spill into the Ohio River. This caused a lot of publicity and may have resulted in being one of the LCCA's largest selling convention cars since 1982.

There are 924 cars made in dull black and 2396 cars made in shiny black for a total of 3320 cars. This is an authentic factory variation which occurred when the factory over sprayed the dull cars to help make the Ashland Decal stick to the dull paint.

This car can still be found, but the dull variation commands a slight premium over the bright variation. Add still another premium if the small metal Ashland sign is also included with the car.



17876 Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Standard 'O' Boxcar

The selection for the 1989 LCCA convention car was the 17876 Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Standard 'O' Boxcar from the Columbia, South Carolina area. The body is molded and painted in tuscan and the plastic door guides are black. The convention notation reads in white lettering, "LCCA 19th Annual Convention Columbia, South Carolina July 27-30, 1989." The rest of the printing on the car is also in white lettering. This car uses the die-cast 'O' scale trucks. The

frame is molded in black plastic. This is the same frame that is used on the flat, gondola and reefer standard 'O' cars. Lionel, in the last few years has used the standard 'O' cars for the top-of-the-line sets. Originally the dies were purchased from Pola of West Germany in 1973 and various standard 'O' cars were produced through 1976 and they started returning in 1985.

The beginning of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad began in 1851 with a charter issued to the

Laurens Railroad Company. In 1874 it was sold to the Richmond and Danville Railroad. In 1885, the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad was chartered. By 1896, the CN&L had 75 miles of track. Today the CN&L is controlled by the Atlantic Coast Line, but operates as a separate railroad. It is kept busy by shipping coal for export.

There were 2650 of these cars produced. This car commands a slight premium when found at meets.