

The History of LCCA Convention Cars - Part XII

by Bill Button

photos by Bill Schmeelk



17887 Conrail Flatcar with Armstrong Trailer

To begin the third decade train set, the 1991 LCCA Convention Car selection for the 21st convention in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was the 17887 and 17888 Conrail standard 'O' flatcars with trailers. The trailers feature Ford and Armstrong graphics.

The flatcar is a standard 'O' type II body that is molded in tuscan and painted tuscan. The frame is a type II molded in black plastic with the tab bars removed. The frame is held to the body with four small screws from the underside. The lettering on the side of the flatcars is white with a build date of 1-91. The trucks are the standard 'O' die-cast type. Used on the flatbed, molded in black plastic is the trailer rest and wheel stops. These parts are used with other Lionel® flatcars with trailers.

The trailers match up with the Lionel die-cast tractor truck that was given to each member that registered for the 1991 convention in Lancaster. The tractor is painted white with red lettering. The door on the sides is lettered "Lancaster, PA. LCCA 1991." The sleep cab is lettered in red "Lancaster Line LL." The trailers are the same as the other trailers Lionel uses on flatcars and match with the

tractor trucks that Lionel offers for separate sale in their catalog. The trailers are molded white and painted white. The graphics on the side of the trailers are the Ford and Armstrong logos in red, white and blue colors. The trailer frame is die-cast and painted silver grey.

The trailers were to have been stamped on the nose end with the LCCA convention notation. When the convention cars were unpacked by President Schmeelk at the LCCA convention in Lancaster, he discovered that the notation was missing from the trailers. He notified Lionel that the trailers were missing the LCCA stamping and they offered to redo all the trailers. The club officers felt they did not want to hold up distribution of the cars for the three to four months that it would take to redo the trailers. Adding a decal to the trailers was also considered, but dropped because this would cause unintended variations.

There were 3150 sets of the 17887 and 17888 flatcars produced. This two car set is already selling for a high premium. Add an additional small premium if the 1991 convention tractor is included.



17888 Conrail Flatcar with Ford Trailer



The LCCA Stocking Stuffer Tractor and the LCCA 1991 Convention Tractor