



THE N.Y.C. OVAL



IT'S EVOLUTION AND APPLICATIONS

PART ONE

BY H.L. VAIL JR.

N. Y. C. S - 337400 Container Car, Lot C - 100, 18" x 9" Oval, Red car with Red containers.



The New York Central Oval, reportedly suggested by an employee in about 1904, underwent a series of minor changes during its use until the major design in 1958 when the color-one was designed for use on the "New" jade green cars. This article covers the period up to this change. The original herald had Roman capital letters and was designed in five sizes for the "New York Central Lines" and used as follows on revenue service cars. It was, of course, used on other equipment, bridges, and as the official company logo.

NYC Lines Dwg. No. & Date	Oval * Size	Used On	Super-seded By	Date
V-13532 3/4/07	18" x 9"	1) Flat Cars, Containers, Container Cars	Eliminated	11/35
V-13367 5/11/05	18" x 12"	2) Flat Cars & Special Flat Cars	V-50300	11/25/35
V-13147 or X-13147 1/31/05	28 1/4" x 19 1/8"	3) Self Clearing Hopper Gondola, Double Deck Stock	V-50299	11/35
V-13333 11/12/04	36" x 24"	4) Single Deck Stock	V-50298	11/35
Z-13341 circa 12/04	48 3/8" x 32 1/2"	5) Box and Auto Box	Z-50297	10/30/35

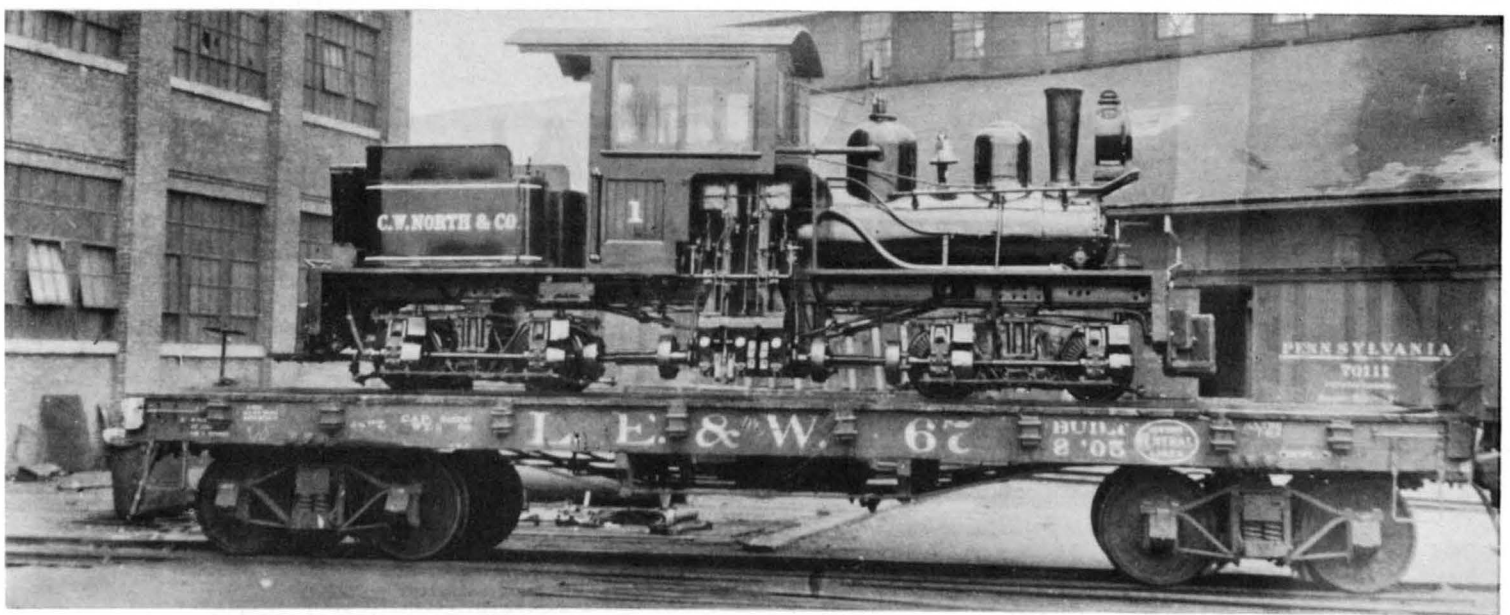
Notes:

1) All cars painted black, except Container Cars for LCL containers, Lot C-100, which were red. On the red

cars, the background of the "Oval" was painted black. On container cars, Lot C-101 and C-102 the cars were painted black, the containers were red, except for refrigerated containers, which were white.

- 2) Flat Cars, and Special Flat Cars with higher side sills used the 12" high oval. All cars were painted black.
- 3) All "Self Clearing" Hopper cars, Gondola cars and Hopper Bottom Gondola cars painted black. Double Deck Stock cars painted red, with the background of the oval painted black. The Double Deck Stock cars had the panel on which the herald was painted mounted on the upper part of the car side just below the eaves.
- 4) All Single Deck Stock Cars painted red with the background of the oval painted black. These cars had the panel on which the herald was painted mounted about half way up the car side, and was larger than the panel on the Double Deck Cars.
- 5) All Box and Auto Box cars painted red, with the background of the oval painted black. It must be noted that on a double door car, that if the left hand door of the car would have covered the reporting marks (NYC etc, and Numbers) with the door open then the lettering was reversed, that is the herald was placed left of the doors and the reporting marks to the right.

In 1935, the Oval was re-designed with the word "System" replacing the word "Lines". The lettering was the same Roman Style. The 18" x 9" size was eliminated. All cars built or re-built for revenue service then had the New York Central System herald as follows, beginning in November 1935.



A new class "A" shay awaits delivery to a building contractor from Lima Locomotive Works
L. E. & W. No. 67, 34' Flat Car, Painted black with 18" x 12" Oval. Smithsonian Institution Collection



N. Y. C. 499023 Well Car, Painted black with 18" x 12" Oval.

NYC System Dwg. No. Date	Size *	Used On	Black Background	Super-seeded
V-50300	18" x 12"	Flat Cars, Containers, Container Cars Special Flat Cars	Eliminated circa 3/44	10/14/55 by V-55732
V-50299 8/16/35	28 1/4" x 19 1/8"	Self Clearing Hopper Gondola, Dbl. Deck Stock	Eliminated circa 3/44	9/7/55 by X-55873
V-50298	36 3/8" x 32 1/2"	Single Deck Stock & Dbl. Deck Stock with large Letterboard	Eliminated circa 3/44	9/7/55 by X-55873
Z-50297	48 3/8" x 8 1/2"	Box & Auto Box	Eliminated 3/2/44	8/19/55 by V-57621

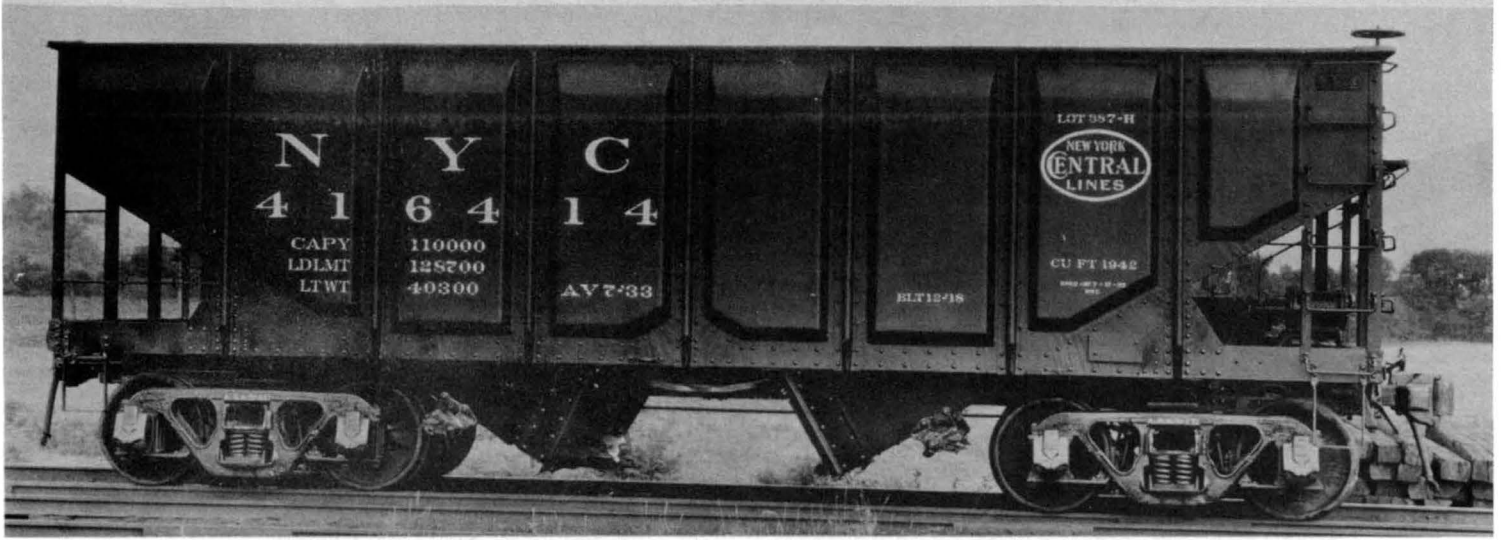
On March 2, 1944, a change was made eliminating the black background from the Z-50297 (Box Car Size) and the rest at about that time. Since this was "war time" this may have been done initially to reduce the time, labor, and material expense of painting the background, which would be considerable when you remember the black had to dry before the white went on.

Certain few exceptions to the Box Car Red cars occur, including the Pullman Standard PS-1, 40 ft. cars, which had flat black painted ends and underframes. In 1945 with the advent of Pacemaker Freight Service, the large Herald was redesigned with "BLOCK" lettering (as the reporting marks were also redesigned with "BLOCK" style) Drawing No. Z-55741, and used on these cars only. The size was the same as the standard box car herald. This was used on NYC Lot Nos. 737B, 679B (cars 100990-100999) and 848B.

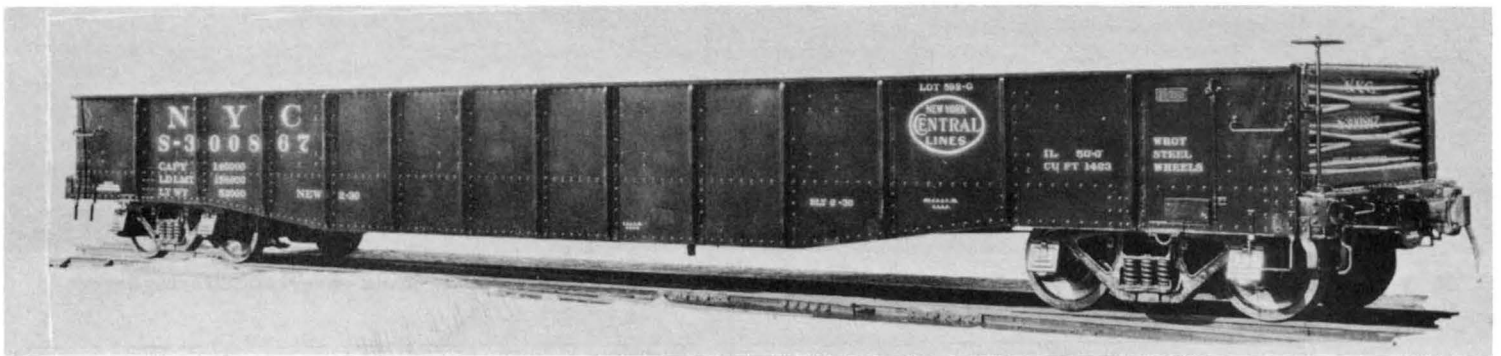
Up to the end of 1942 or early 1943, all cars were painted as before. That is, Flat, Special Flat, Gondola, Hopper and Container cars black; Stock Cars, Box and Auto Box were red; and Cement Cars were light gray. At this time, the paint scheme was changed, with all cars being painted "Box Car Red" except Cement Hoppers, which remained light gray. There were some of these, however, which were also painted red. The background of the Oval was painted black on all, except the gray Cement Cars, which had black lettering and body color behind the herald.

In 1949, the new steel cabooses were painted red, and a newly designed herald used, Dwg. No. N-55873, 9/16/1949, size 31-5/8" x 19 1/4" with Block lettering. This was only used on caboose Lots 782 and 778. This was later slightly modified in size and became drawing X-55873 on 9/7/1955. Note the same number.

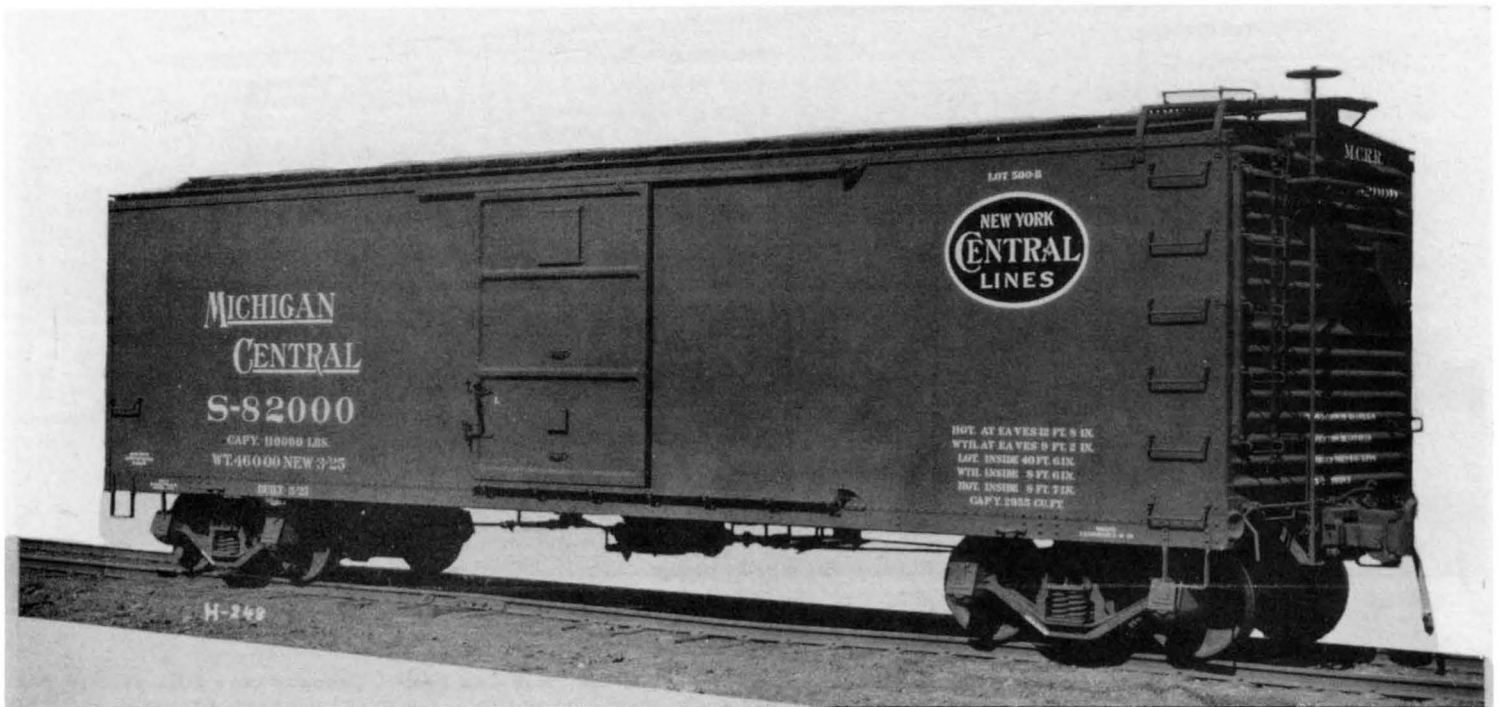
In 1955, all "Ovals" were re-designed as follows, with Block lettering, and applied over a black background, except Covered Hoppers, with body color or background, and black lettering as before.



N. Y. C. 416414 Twin Hopper, Lot No. 387-H (rebuilt), Painted black, 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.
Cars in this series were rebuilt from ribbed sides to panel sides in 1936, and were again rebuilt with ribbed sides by 1951



N. Y. C. S - 300867, 50' Gondola, Lot No. 592-G, Black car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.
"S" Prefix on road numbers was used on some cars in the mid-1920's and early 1930's to indicate "System" use only. Cars were not to be interchanged with non-N. Y. C. S. roads.

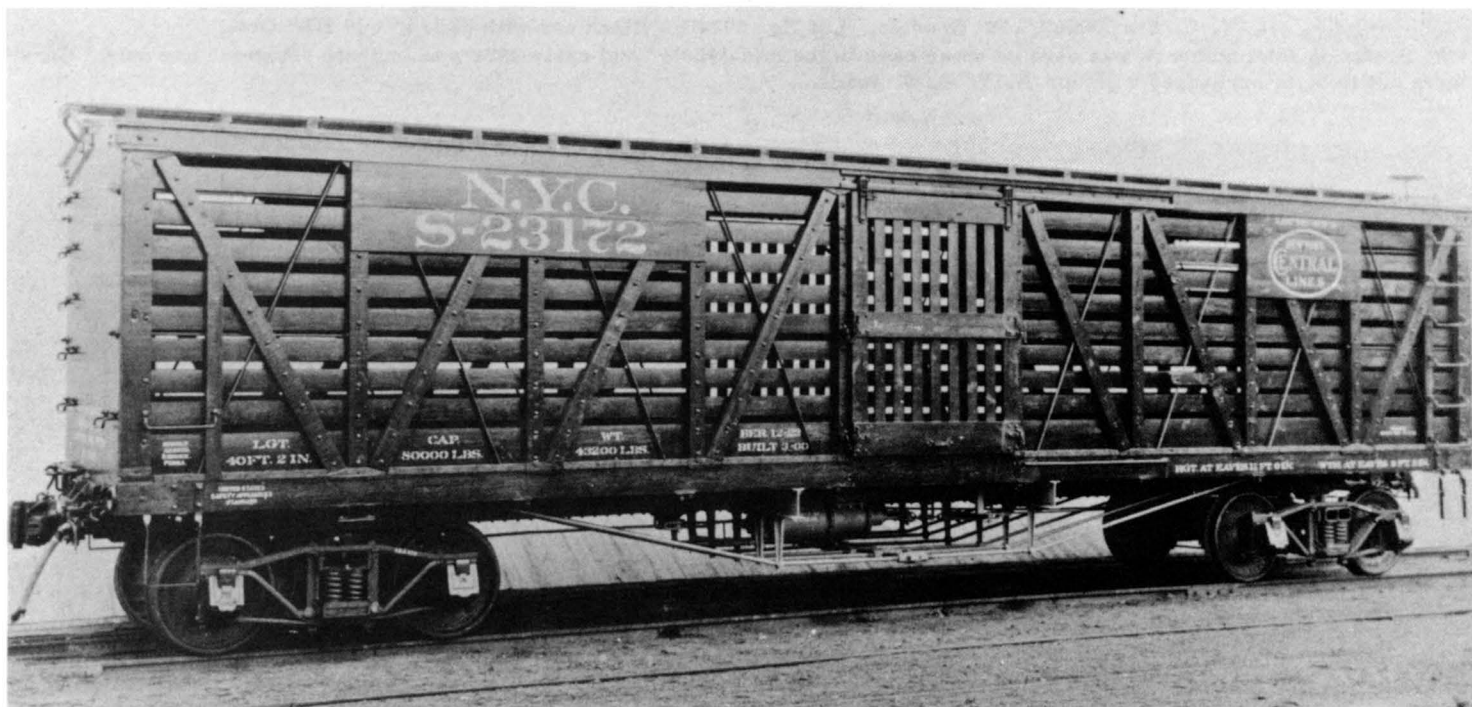


M. C. S. - 82000, Box Car, Lot No. 500-B, Red Car with 48" x 32 1/2" Oval.





N. Y. C. 56000, 40' Auto - Box Car, Lot No. 633-B, Red Car with 48" x 32 1/2" Oval. Note reversed lettering layout because of double door design.



N. Y. C. S - 23172, Single Deck Stock Car, Lot No. 472-S, Red Car with 36" x 24" Oval. Bob Lorenz Collection.

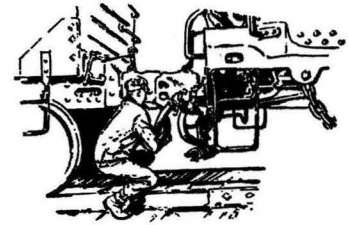
In addition, the body color of each variety of car was changed back to that which was used prior to about 1941. That is: Flat, Special Flat, Gondola, Self Clearing Hopper cars painted Black, and Stock, Auto Box and Box Cars

painted "Box Car Red". Caboose cars still painted Box Car red, and Covered Hoppers painted light gray. Tank Cars painted black.



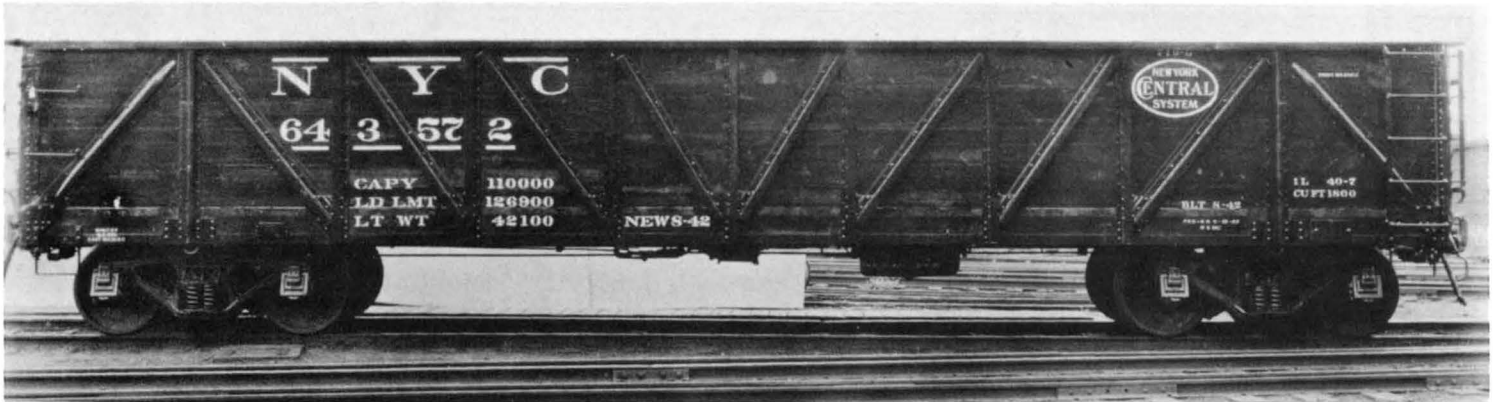
Dwg. No.	Date	Oval Size *	Used On
V-55732	10/14/55	18 1/2" x 10 1/2"	Flat, Special Flat, Diag. Braced 50' Gons. (Lot 532G and 524G) 65' HS Gons. (Close Stakes) Containers & Container Cars.
X-55873	9/7/55	29" x 19 3/8"	Caboose cars, High & Low Side Gons, Single Dbl. & Adjustable Deck Stock Cars, Tank, Self Clearing Hopper, and Ballast Cars, Auto Racks
V-57621	5/17/55	54 3/8" x 37 3/4"	Box & Auto Box Cars and on repainted Pacemaker Freight Cars after 10/28/55.
G-57900	11/15/56	36" x 24"	Special originally for 70T outside stake welded design triple Hopper.

Dimensions on
* Original NYCS
Car Department
drawings were
given in both feet
and inches on all
measurements over
24". Inches only
used here for
clarity. . . . Ed.



The Herald designed for the 70T, welded side, outside staked Hopper Car, Dwg. No. G-57900, was also used on some welded side Highside Gondola Cars, 55T and 70T Ballast cars of similar design to the regular Hopper car. In addition, it was used after 1958 on some 55T Hopper cars re-built at Beach Grove from inside stake design to outside stake welded sides.

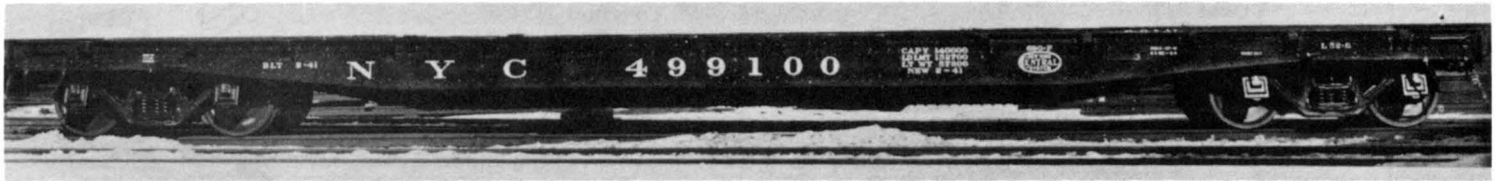
In 1958, the entire color scheme, Herald and Lettering, underwent extensive changes. This we will cover in a later article, as well as the NYMX cars with "script" lettering in the Herald.



N. Y. C. 643572, 40' Composite Gondola, Lot No. 719-G, Black Car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval. Wood sides and floors on this series of cars were replaced with steel after World War II



N. Y. C. 64000, 50' Auto - Box Car, Lot No. 701-B, Red Car with 48 3/8" x 32 1/2" Oval. Note once again the reversed lettering on the double door car. Stenciling on this car indicates that it was used to transport auto bodies, probably for the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland, Ohio.



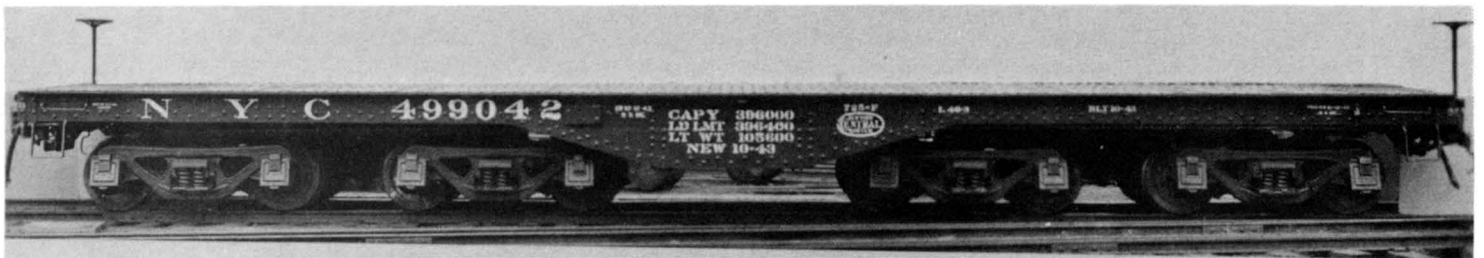
N. Y. C. 499100, 52' Flat Car, Lot No. 690-F, Painted Black with 18" x 12" Oval.



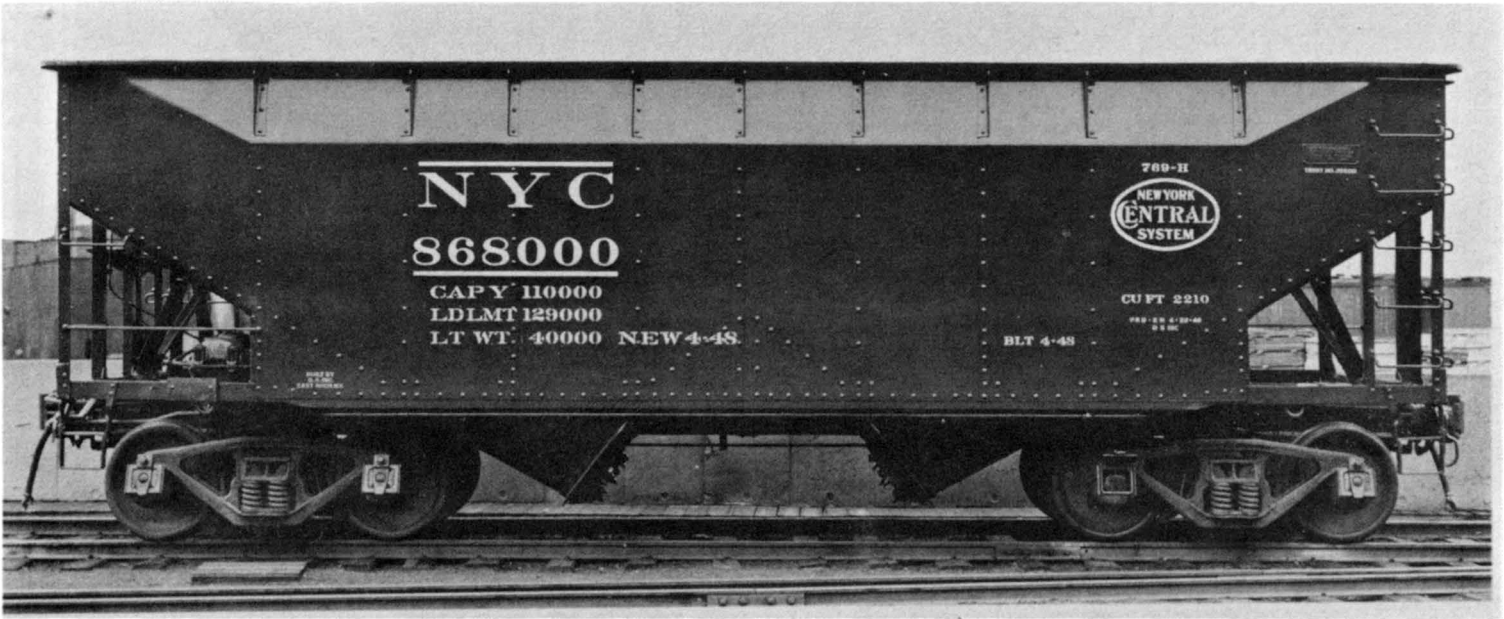
N. Y. C. 881102, 70 ton Covered Hopper, Lot No. 680-H, Gray Car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



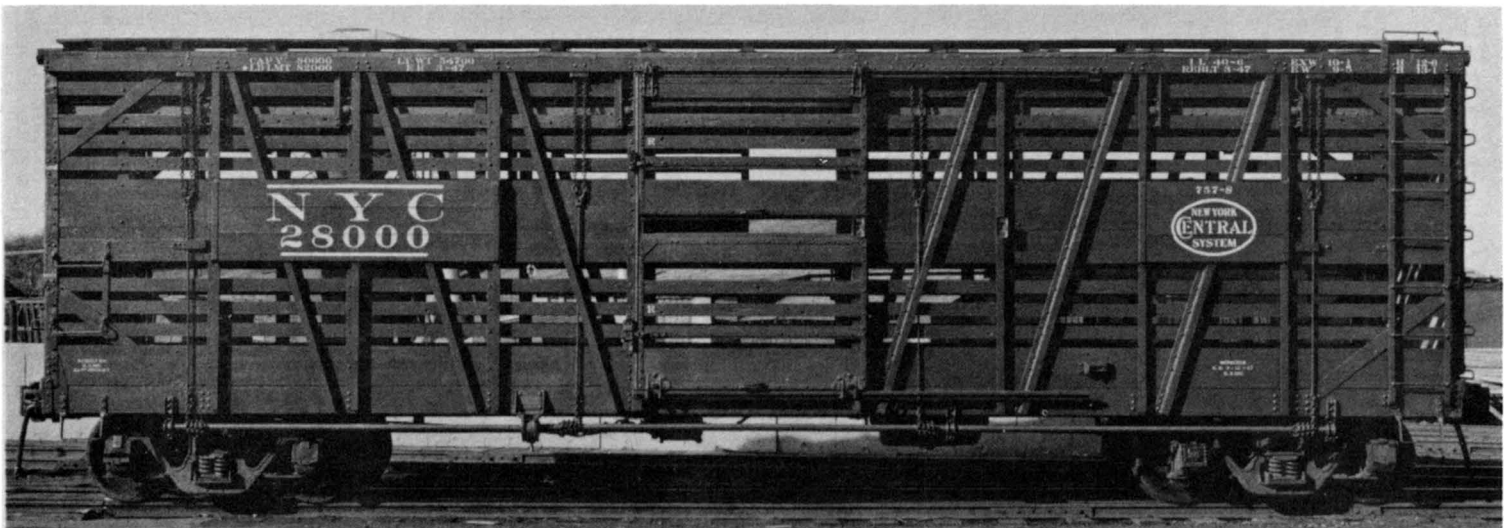
N. Y. C. 711000, 50' Composite Gondola, Lot No. 723-G, Red Car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



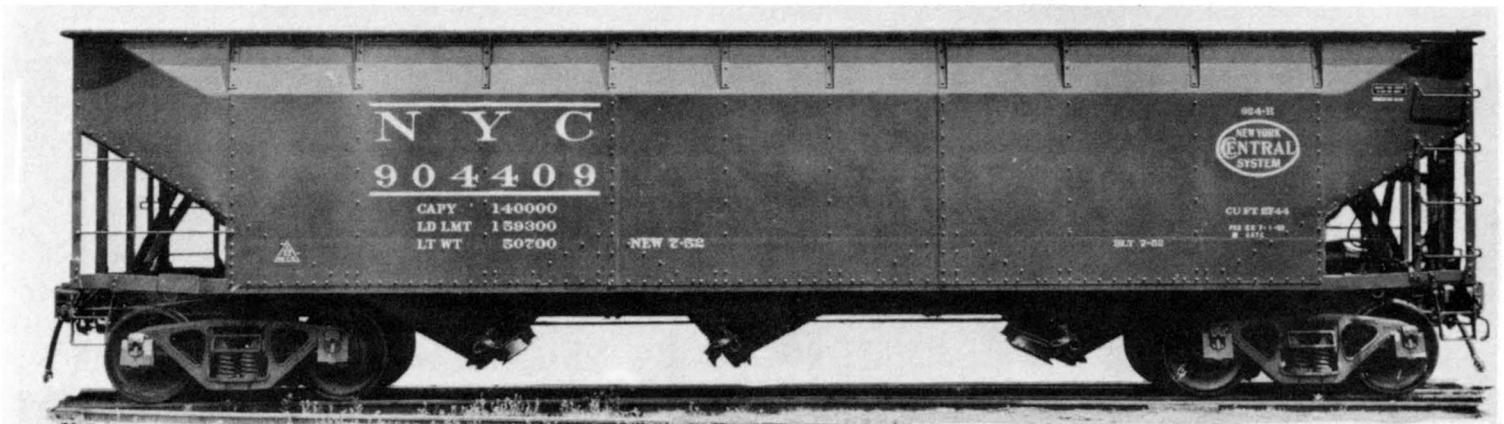
N. Y. C. 499042, 198 ton Special Flat Car, Lot No. 725-F, Painted Red with 18" x 12" Oval.



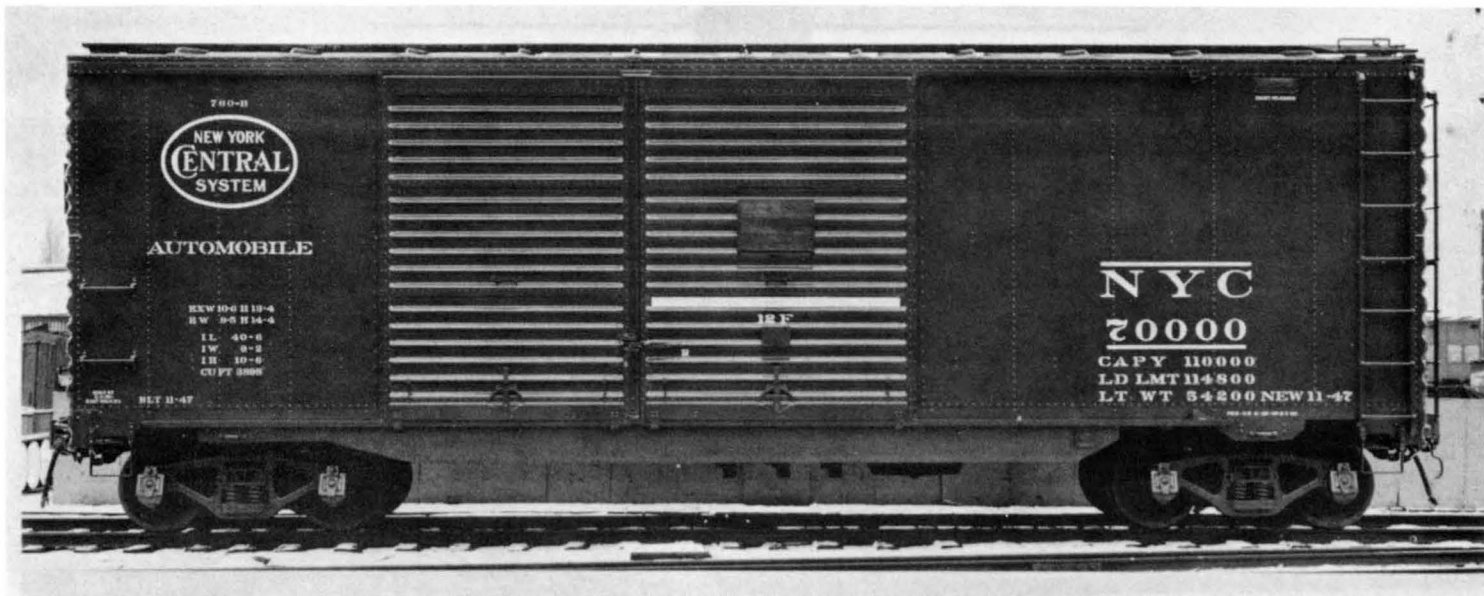
N. Y. C. 868000, 55 ton Twin Hopper, Lot No. 759-H, Red Car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



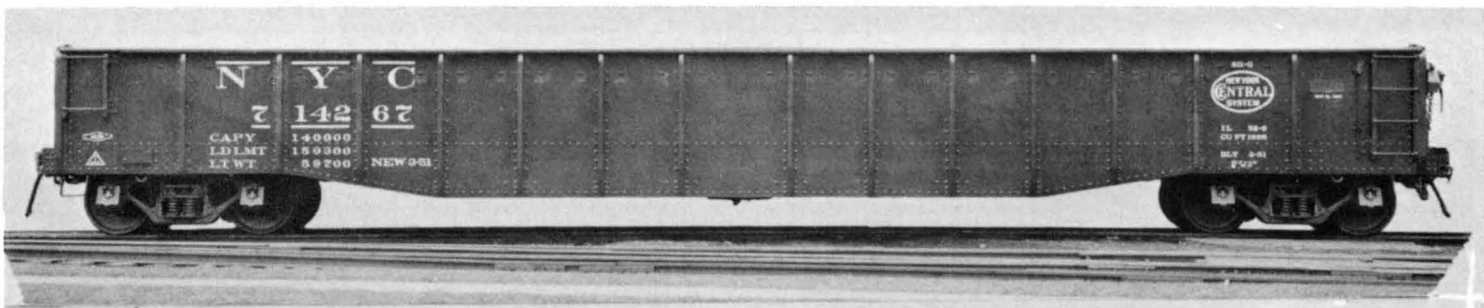
N. Y. C. 28000, 40' Convertible Deck Stock Car, Lot No. 757-S, Painted Red with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



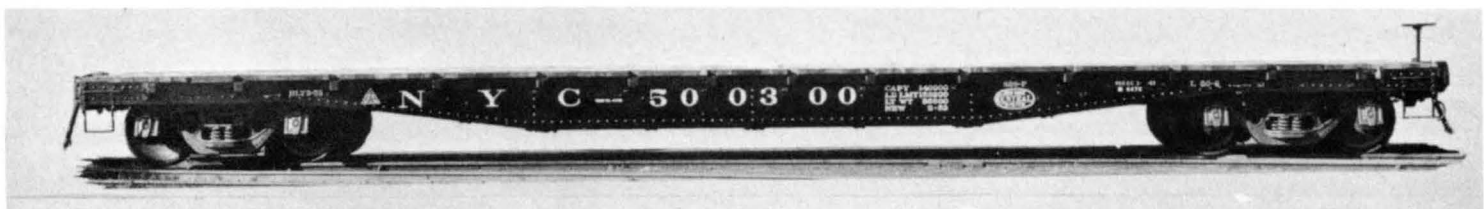
N. Y. C. 904409, 70 ton Triple Hopper, Lot No. 824-H, Red Car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



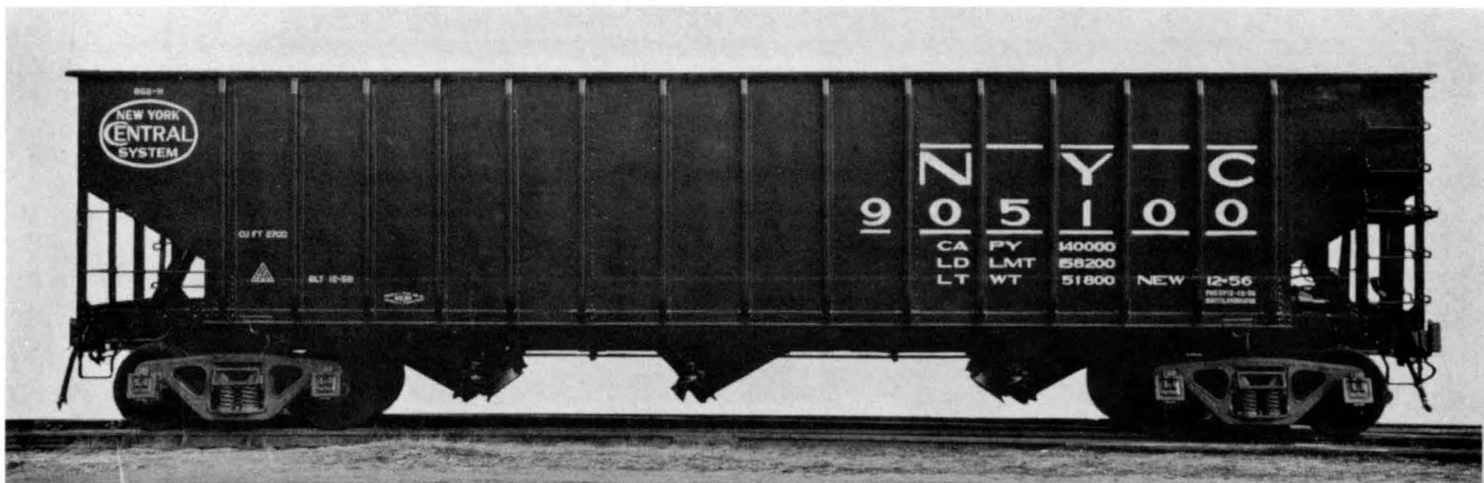
N. Y. C. 70000, 40' Auto - Box Car, Lot No. 760-B, painted Red with 48 3/8" x 32 1/2" Oval.



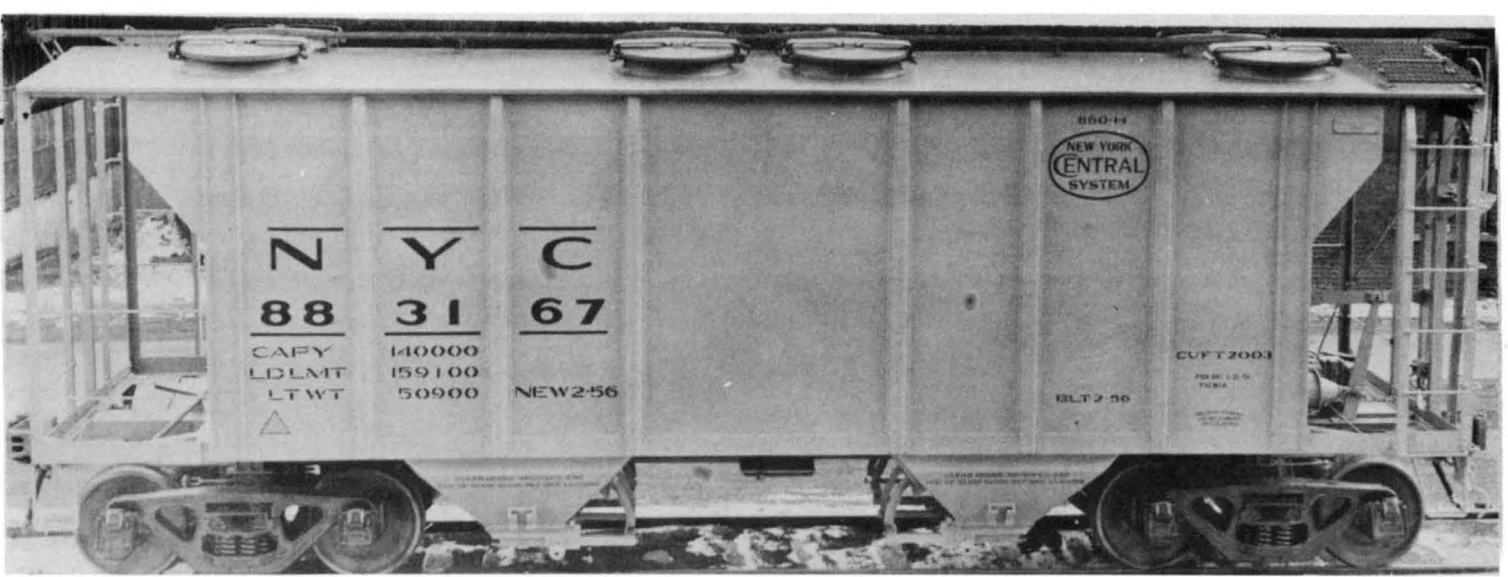
N. Y. C. 714267, 50' - 70 ton Gondola, Lot No. 811-G, Red Car with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



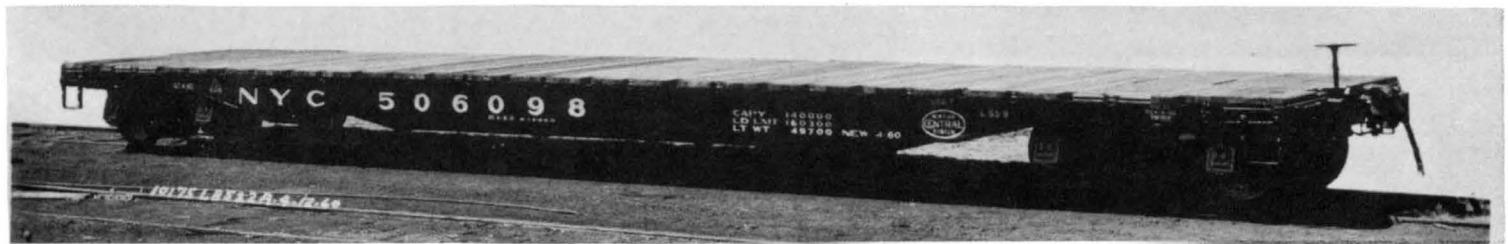
N. Y. C. 500300, 52' - 70 ton Flat Car, Lot No. 828-F, Painted Red with 18" x 12" Oval.



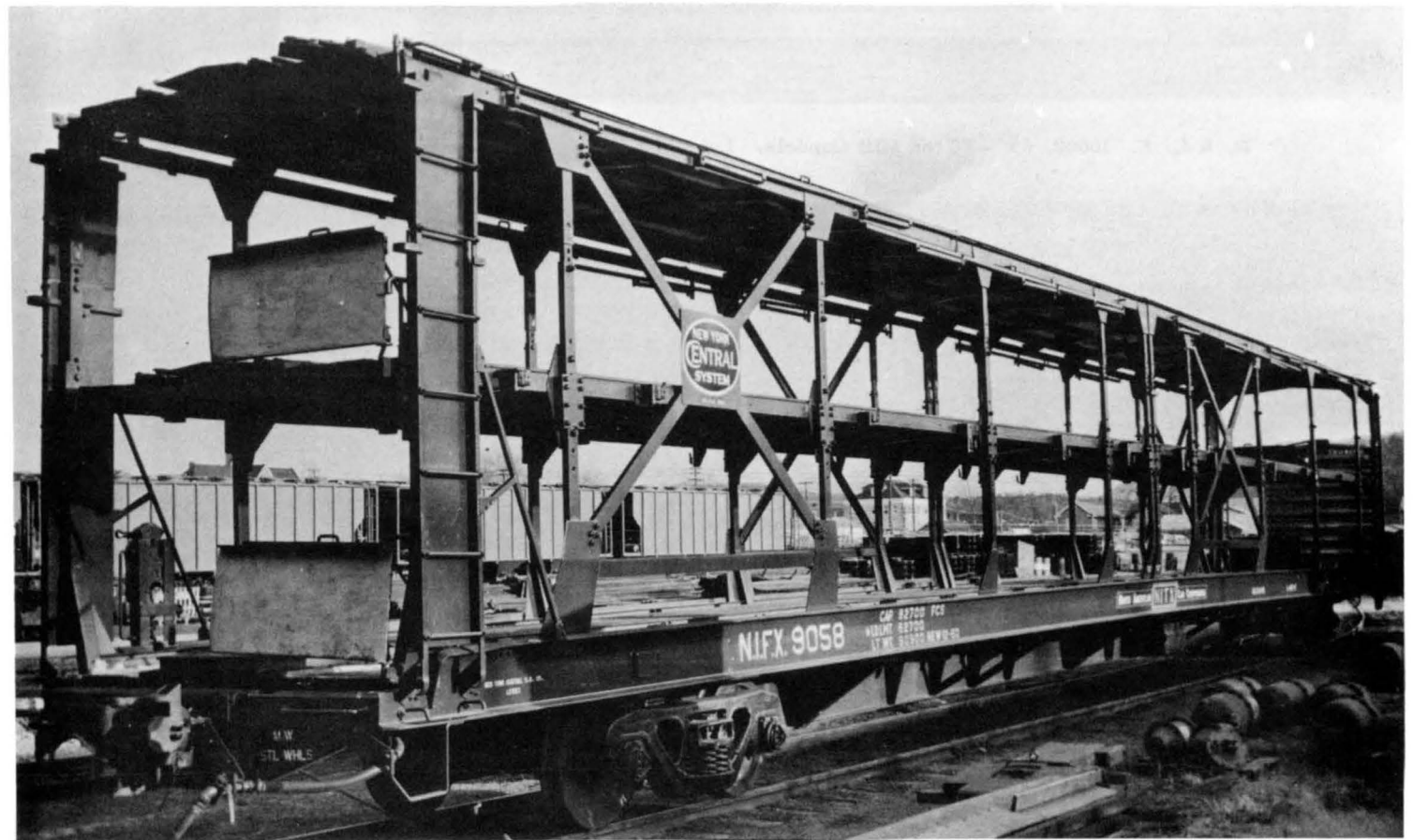
N. Y. C. 905100, 70 ton Triple Hopper, Lot No. 868-H, Black Car with 36" x 24" Oval.



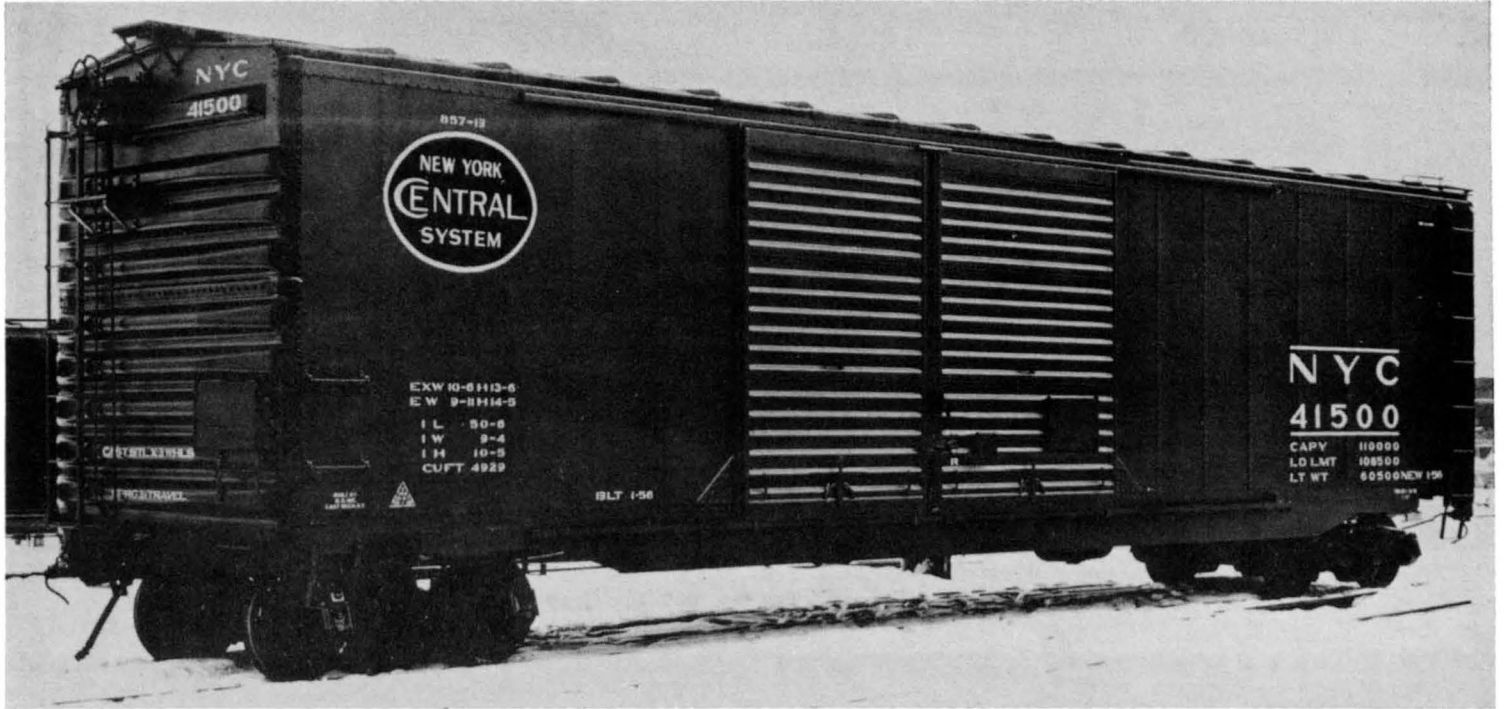
N. Y. C. 883167, 70 ton Covered Hopper, Lot No. 860-H, Gray Car with 29" x 19 3/8" Oval.



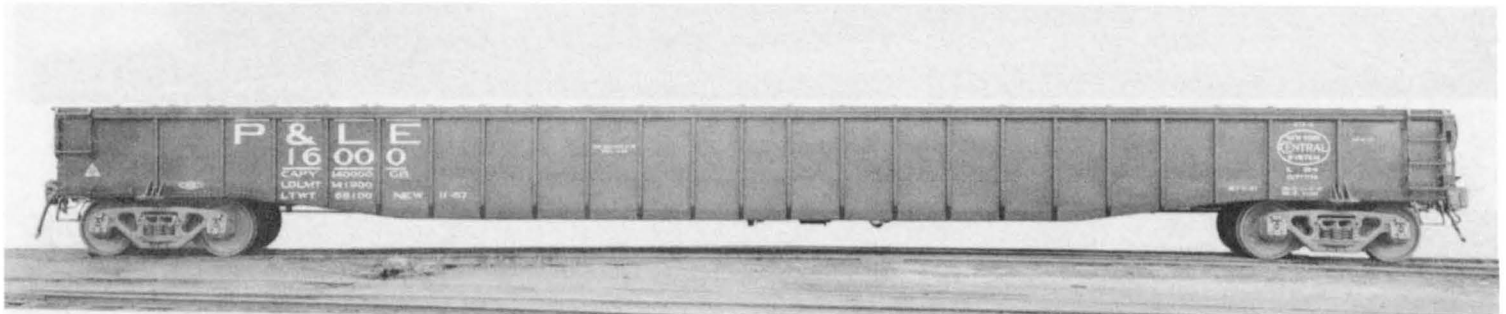
N. Y. C. 506098, 53 Ft., 70T Flat, Lot No. 888-F, Black Car with 18 1/2" x 10 1/2" Oval.



N. I. F. X. 9058 with Tri-Level Auto Rack, Red Car with 29" x 19 3/8" Oval.



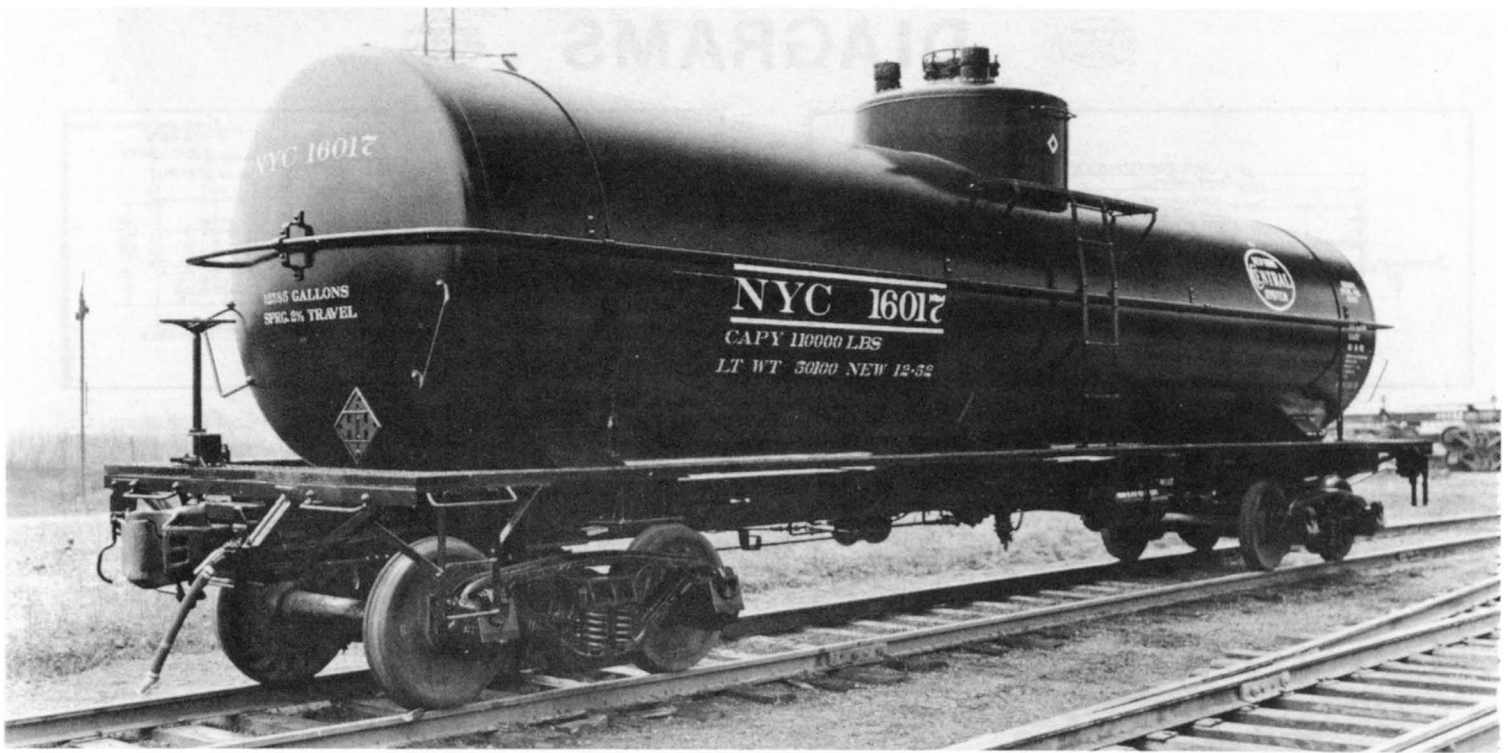
N. Y. C. 41500, 50' Auto - Box Car, Lot No. 857-B, Painted Red with 54 3/8" x 37 3/4" Oval.



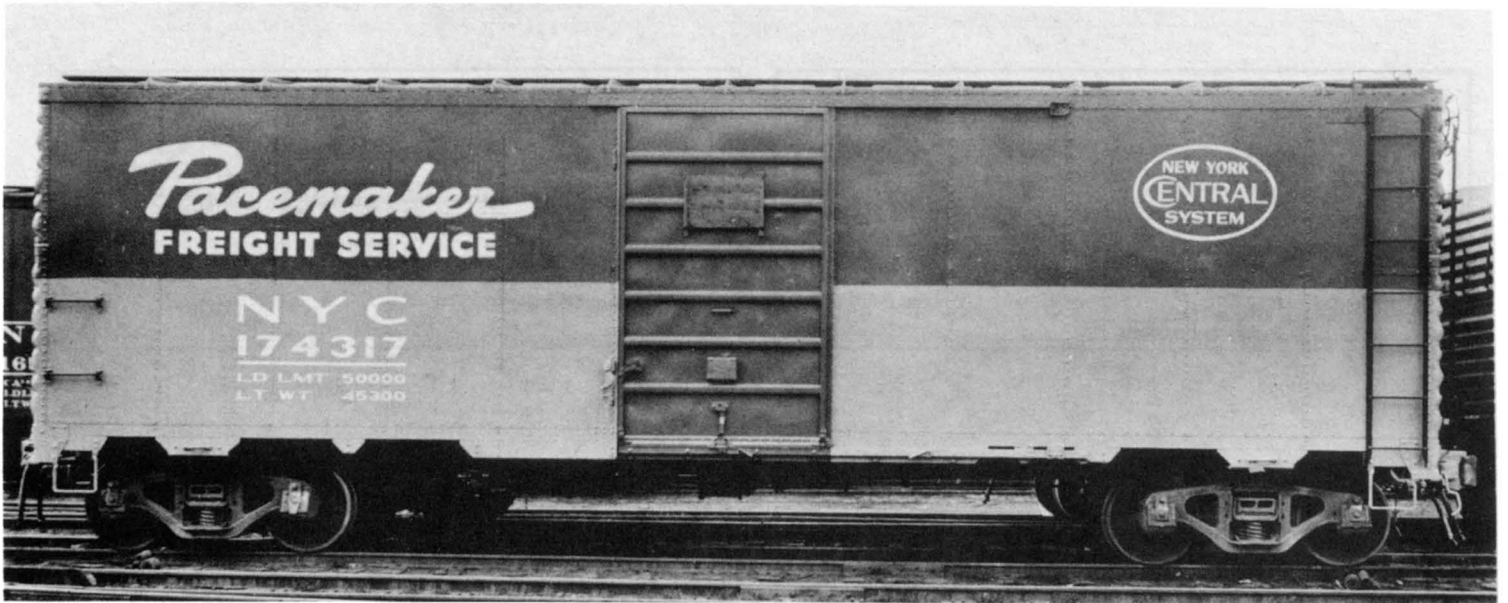
P. & L. E. 16000, 65' - 70 ton Mill Gondola, Lot No. 878-G, Black Car with 36" x 24" Oval.



N. Y. C. 882322, 70 ton Covered Hopper, Lot No. 843-H, Painted Gray with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.



N. Y. C. 16017, 12,000 gal. Tank Car, Lot No. 831, Painted Black with 28 1/4" x 19 1/8" Oval.
Used in N. Y. C. System diesel fuel service only.



N. Y. C. 174317, 40' Pacemaker Box Car, Lot 737-B, Vermillion and Gray with 48 3/8" x 32 1/2" Oval.

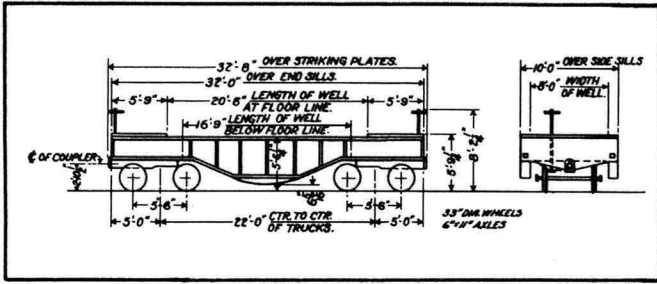
NYC Lines Herald All had Black Background Roman Lettering		Super- seded	N Y C System Herald same size as "Lines" same style Roman Lettering		Add Special Heralds with Block Lettering "Body Color" Background	Superseded	NYC System - New Block Lettering, All Black Background except Lt. Gray Covered Hoppers, Body Color Back- ground and some P&LE painted Red, Black Background		Super- seded by re- designed Herald
NYC Lines Dwg.	Size		NYC System Dwg. with Black Background	Black Background Eliminated			NYC System Dwg.	Size	
V-13532 3/4/07 L&MS10394 5/29/06	18" x 9"	11/1935	Size Eliminated						
V-13367 5/11/05	18" x 12"	11/25/35	V-50300 8/16/35	Circa 3/44		10/55 10/11/55	10/14/55	18-1/2" x 10-1/2"	1958
V-13147 1/31/05 Or X-13147	28-1/4" x 19-1/8"	11/35	V-50299 8/16/35	Circa 3/44	(2) N-55873 31-5/8" x 21" 9/16/49 For Steel Bay Window Caboose Only.	All except Gondola cars	(2) X-55873 9/7/55	31-5/8" x 19-3/8"	1958
V-13333 11/12/04 Z-13341	36" x 24" 48-3/8" x 32-1/2"	11/35 11/30/35	V-50298 8/16/35 Z-50297	Circa 3/44 3/2/44	Z-55741 Same size 5/27/49 For Pacemaker Cars Only	12/6/56 For Gondolas 10/11/55	V-57621 5/17/55	54-3/8" x 37-1/4"	1958
			(1) Cement Covered Hoppers painted light gray. Body color back- ground, Black Lettering.		(2) Note same number Re-designed slightly 9/7/55. Note different dimensions.		(3) G-57900	36" x 24"	1958 with exceptions
								(3) Designed for 70T welded outside stake SC Hopper Cars. Also used on some 70T welded stake Gondola Cars (P&LE etc.). Also used on some 55T Hopper Cars re-built at Beach Grove from inside stake to welded outside stake used on 55T and 70T Ballast Cars	



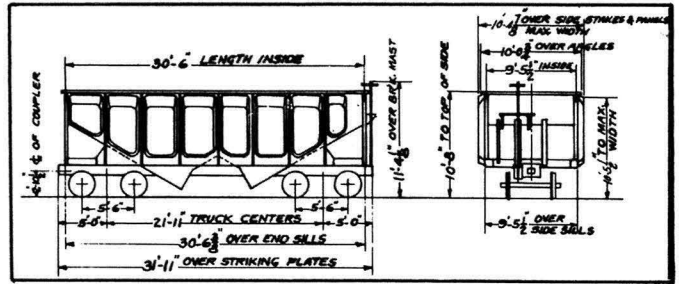
HERALD



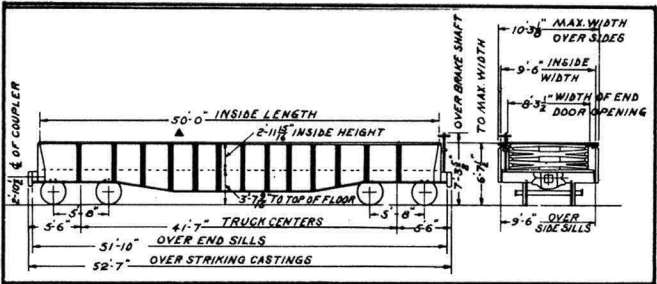
HISTORY



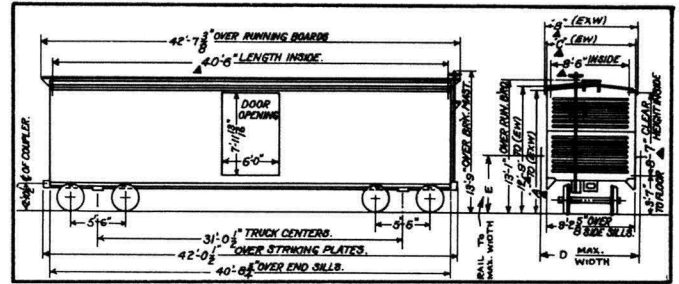
LOT 348-F, N. Y. C. 499023 - 499024



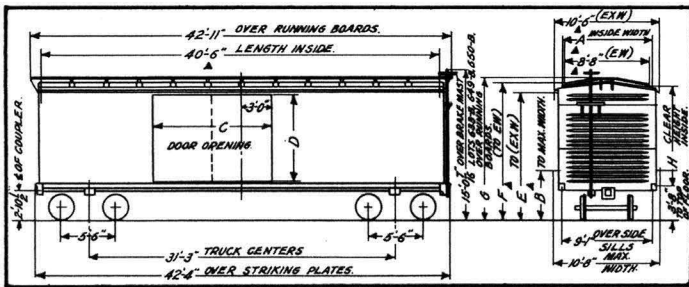
LOT 387-H, N. Y. C. 416100 - 416599 CONVERTED FROM RIBBED SIDES TO PANEL SIDES IN 1936
REBUILT FROM U. S. R. A. 55 TON HOPPERS



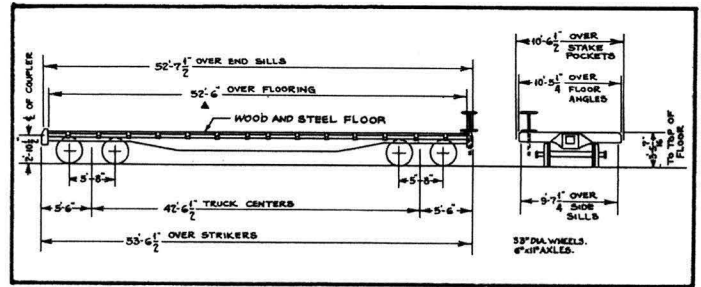
LOT 592-G, N. Y. C. (S) 300500 - (S) 300999



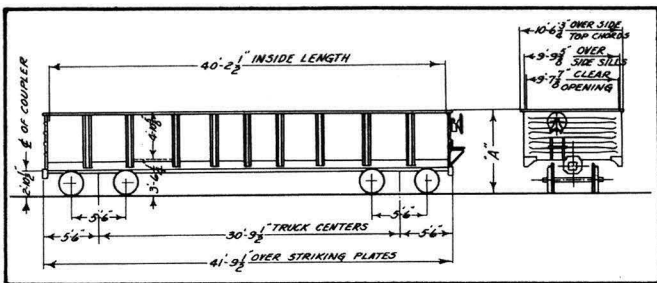
LOT 500-B, M. C. R. R. (S) 82000 - (S) 82999



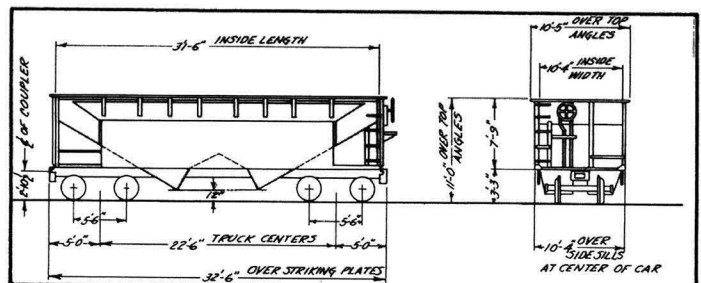
LOT 633-B, N. Y. C. 56000 - 56399



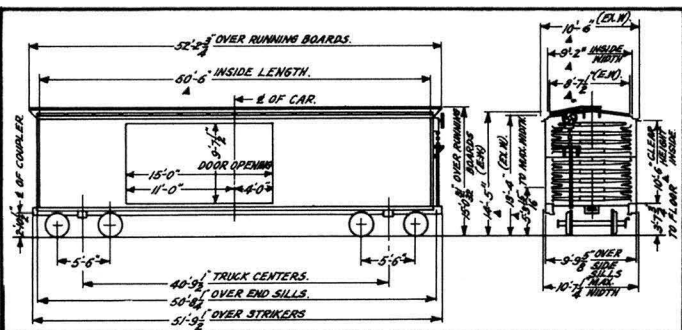
LOT 690-F, N. Y. C. 499100 - 499299



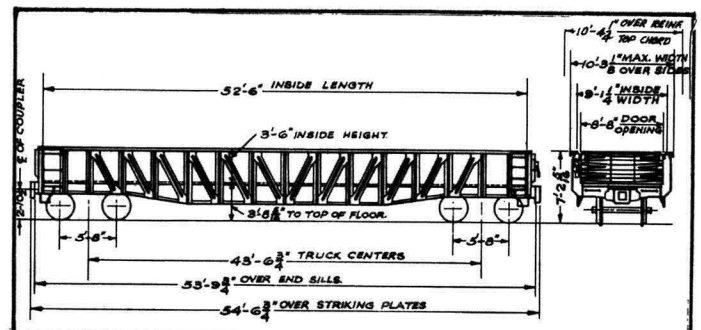
LOT 719-G, N. Y. C. 643000 - 644099,



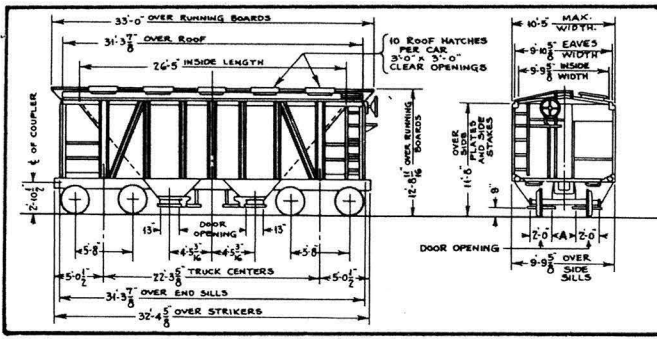
LOT 769-H, N. Y. C. 868000 - 869999



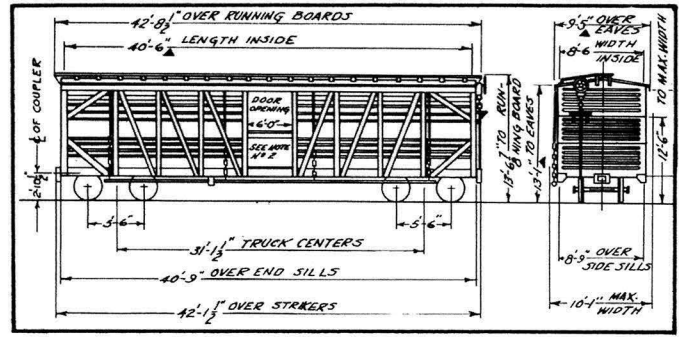
LOT 701-B, N. Y. C. 64000 - 64499



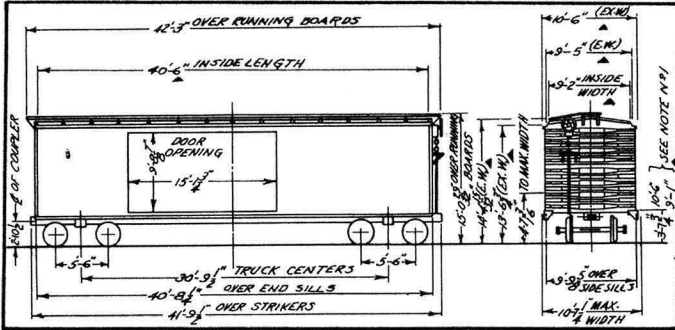
LOT 723-G, N. Y. C. 711000 - 711699, REBUILT WITH STEEL SIDES BY 7/53



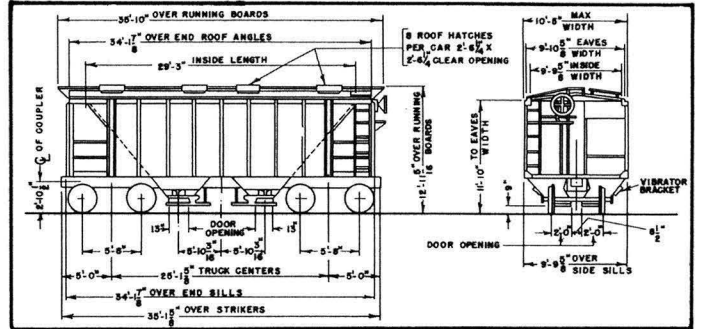
LOT 680-H, N. Y. C. 880700 - 881199



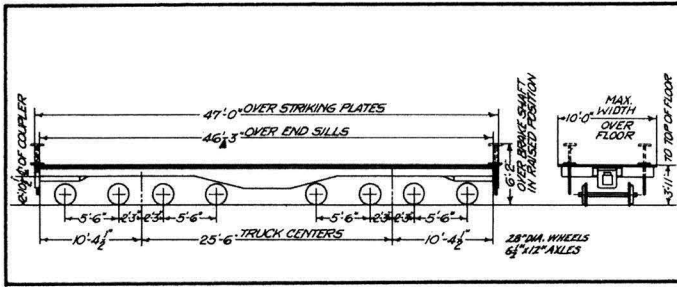
REBUILT IN 1947 FROM U. S. R. A. SINGLE SHEATHED BOX CARS
LOT 757-S, N. Y. C. 28000 - 28499, DOUBLE DECK STOCK



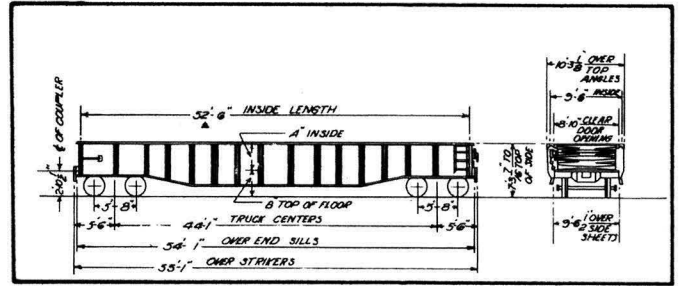
LOT 760-B, N. Y. C. 70000 - 70999



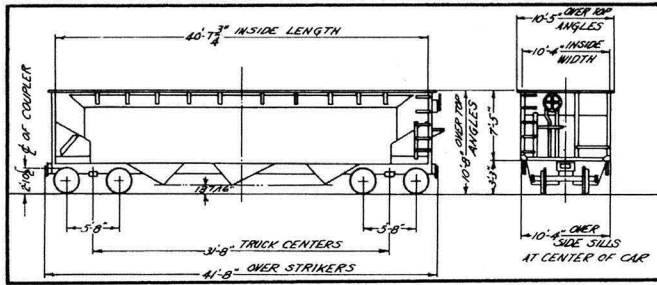
LOT 843-H, N. Y. C. 882050 - 882649



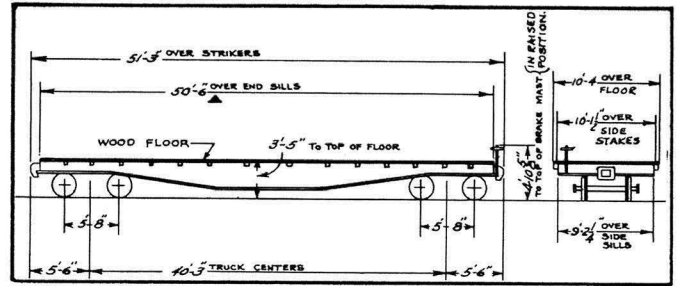
LOT 725-F, N. Y. C. 499042



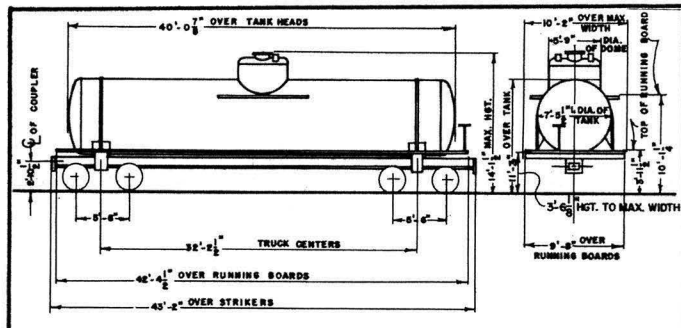
LOT 811-G, N. Y. C. 714100 - 714599



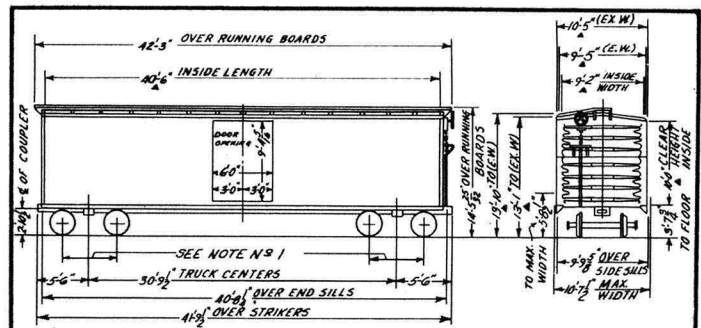
LOT 824-H, N. Y. C. 904000 - 904999



LOT 828-F, N. Y. C. 500300 - 500799

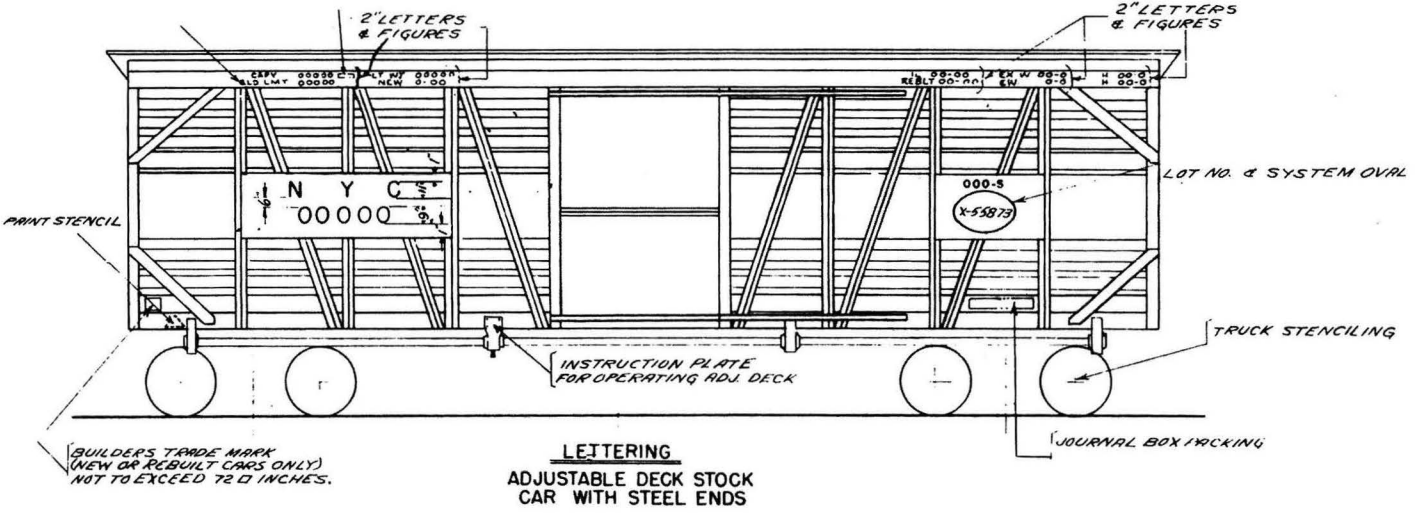


LOT 831-T, N. Y. C. 16000 - 16049, FOR N. Y. C. S. DIESEL FUEL SERVICE

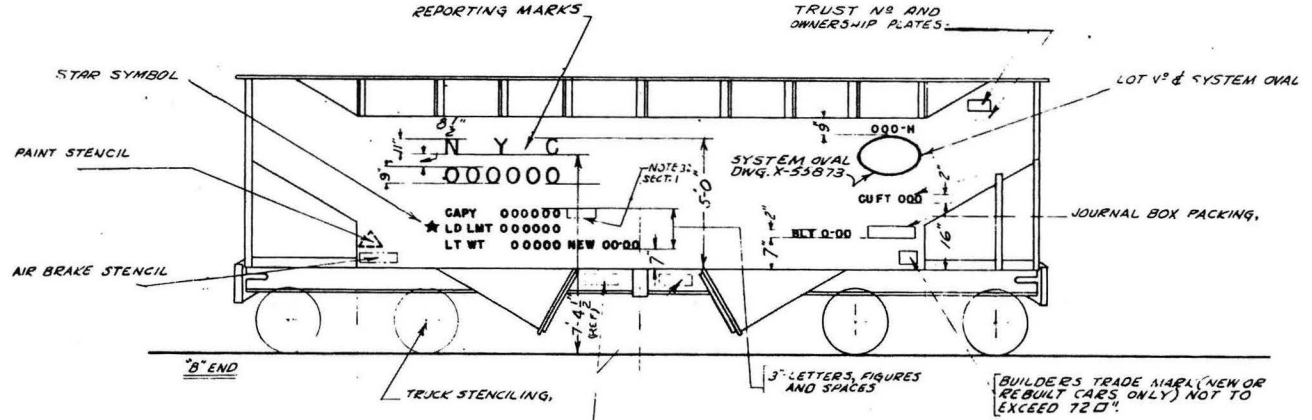


LOT 737-B, N. Y. C. 174000 - 174999 . PACEMAKER SERVICE

STAR SYMBOL.



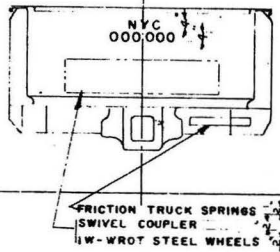
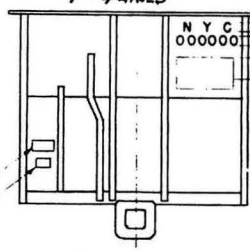
LETTERING
ADJUSTABLE DECK STOCK
CAR WITH STEEL ENDS



LETTERING
55 TON
S.C. HOPPER CARS

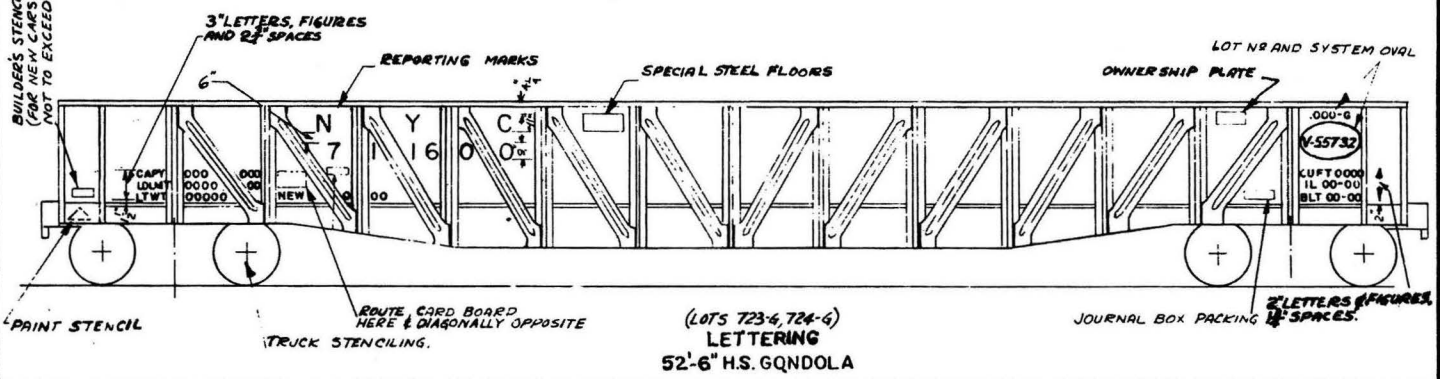


THIS OVAL VARIES WITH NO. OF LINES
USED:
8" - 2 LINES
5" - 3 LINES
1" - 4 LINES



— BRAKE BADGE PLATE ON BOLSTER WEB PLATE - "B" END ONLY
— DEFECT CARD HOLDER ON BOLSTER WEB PLATE - "B" END ONLY.

BUILDERS' STENCILING HERE
(NEW OR REBUILT CARS ONLY)
(NOT TO EXCEED 72 SQ. IN.)



(LOTS 723-4, 724-4)
LETTERING
52'-6" H.S. GQNDOLA