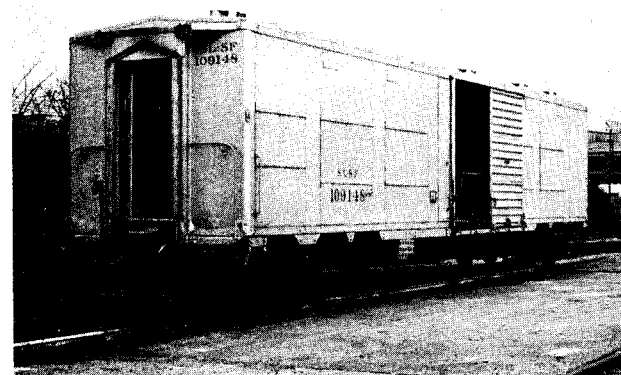
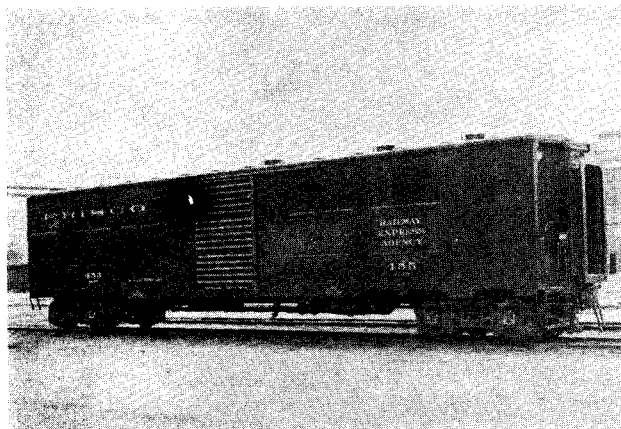


cms

Consolidated Mechanical Shop



This project, is more of a build the kit and paint it chore more than a project but it does make an interesting model regardless of the time period modeled from WWII to the demise of the Frisco in Nov. '80.

I had bought one of the Roller Bearing models of the troop sleeper cars with the boxcar door some time ago - but when Hallmark came out with Allied Full-Cushioned trucks I couldn't resist putting the kit together so that I would have something to put those beautifully modeled trucks on. The RB kit is typical of their other offerings. The sides, ends and roof are cast in an epoxy resin which requires some cleaning up, straightening and a lot of filing to get the pieces to fit together perfectly. But if you are careful, you will end up with a model to be proud of.

The prototype cars were built by PS in 1945 and rebuilt by the Frisco in '48. There were originally 15 cars numbered 450-564, but by 1959 apparently 456 had been wrecked for there is a notation in my diagram book omitting that number. Numbers 450 & 451 were classified as baggage cars as they had facilities for an attendant on board (desk, toilet, lights, etc.). Numbers 452 - 464 were classified as storage-baggage with no human facilities. Some of the cars had the roof vents removed and others didn't. Somebody makes a casting of this vent, but I didn't have any so I omitted them from my model. I wish now that I had waited as they would have added a lot more interest to my model.

From the photos, apparently the cars were painted Pullman Green with the Dulux-Gold (yellow) lettering initially. Here again I varied from the prototype and used Gold Leaf lettering because that is what I have used on the rest of my passenger equipment. Many of the cars were painted silver later on when they were in M/W service. But at least a couple of the cars remained green to the end, such as 109157 which sat behind the wheel shop in Springfield for years. I don't know where the trucks came from that it sat on, but they were not intended to be operated on as one of them was missing springs with a block of wood substituting for them and there were not any center pins in the bolsters.

I found this out while switching this car out for scrapping last year on the West Shop job. While showing a cut of cars around one of the curves, the 109157 just took off, flew through the air for about 30' and came to rest on its side.

Anyway, this model would be at home in a passenger train, a freight train or just sitting on a back track as a storage car on just about every Frisco modeler's layout.

The three prototype photos are from the collection of Steve Squibb with the bottom two being circa 1978.

The photo below was taken by Charlie Dischinger along with doing the model work.

