

The History of LCCA Convention Cars - Part XIII



The 1992 Convention car is the second in the third decade LCCA train. The convention car No. 17899, was modeled after a tank car used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA for short. The prototype car used exactly the same body style as Lionel's Uni-body tank car. Interestingly, NASA has only one of these cars. The car is used by NASA to carry a refrigerant.

The Lionel model of the car is extremely close to the prototype. The number 190, is the same number used on the actual prototype. The shade of white used for the car was mixed to match the color of the prototype, it is not a standard white color. The club information appeared on one end of the car. Although Lionel had made several Uni-body tank cars before ours, the LCCA car is unique in a couple ways. This is the first, and so far the only, Uni-body tank car that Lionel has made with white railings and ladders. This presented a problem for Lionel, and the club was notified that the railings and ladders would have to be black. Eventually, however, Lionel was able to meet our needs and as a result we have a car that is very prototypical and unique among other Lionel Uni-body tank cars.

The second unique feature is the fact that the warning placards, besides being white, are also blank. This caused some confusion because Lionel included their standard instruction sheet which explained where the placards were to be installed on the car. Although the sheet also mentioned the warning and flammable markings on the placards, ours were intentionally left blank, which is prototypically correct.

The car was supplied with die-cast sprung trucks. A total of 2850 cars were made. The original selling price to LCCA members was \$55.

Bill Schmeelk



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