

The History of LCCA Convention Cars - Part VI

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Editor's Note: Each issue will cover several of the club's convention cars in order of issuance by the LCCA.



8068 Rock Island GP-20 Diesel Engine

The 10th Anniversary Convention in Des Moines, Iowa was also the year the club offered its first engine. The officers felt that each decade should comprise a complete "set" of convention cars, engine and caboose. The club wanted a unique and affordable engine to complete the set, and the Rock Island GP-20 was selected. At this time period, Lionel had not produced very many

GP-20's like they had done GP-7's, GP-9's and U-36-B's, so it was only fitting that this body style be used.

The body shell is a type-I, molded in grey plastic and painted sky blue with the nose painted white. The lettering is white with a large "R" logo in black and white. The convention souvenir notation reads "L.C.C.A. 10th Anniversary Aug. 1, 1980 Des Moines, IA." The number below the window is 1980, to match the year of the convention, whereas the box it came packed in reads

8068, the stock number Lionel assigned to this engine. There is a nose decal on the cab end, and only the cab end is lighted. The frame is a type IV, painted white and type II motor, standard dummy truck and a black plastic fuel tank.

Lionel produced a similar GP-7 (8750 power and 8751 dummy) in 1977 and used the same paint mask from those production pieces. 2,700 units produced and this first decade engine goes for a high premium. It is somewhat hard to find.



9435 Central of Georgia Single Door Boxcar

The second decade train set started at the 11th LCCA Annual Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The convention car was a Central of Georgia single door boxcar in their new paint scheme. The body shell is a type IX, molded in black plastic and painted black. The reef and ovals on the side are

painted silver with black plastic door guides. The lettering is black and white with the Central of Georgia logo in yellow. The convention souvenir notation reads, "Chattanooga, TN L.C.C.A. July 25, 1981," with a built date of 1-81. The car has grey plastic doors painted silver the type III frame is used with Symington-Wayne trucks.

The 9435 used the same paint mask as was used on the post-war

6464-375 and the MPC 9757. On an operating lay-out, matching up these three cars can give a sharp representation of the "oval" of the south.

There were 3,500 units produced, and the car is still easily obtainable. It does not go for much of a premium, probably because of its close resemblance to the other two Central of Georgia boxcars.