

Old business



I attended the Anthracite Railroads Historical Society this past June and was checking out the vendors when I noticed that one in particular had a fair number of freight car photos. I purchased some for further study including this one which caught my attention because of the obscure reporting marks and the Du Pont logo.



I thought it would make a nice *Car of the Month*, so I contacted the vendor for permission. He agreed and the photo is credited to Bob Pastorkey/Trackside Photo.

At first glance, the car appears to be a Jumbo PS-2 with 2,893 cubic feet. The April, 1966 ORER lists five HMX cars numbered 50 to 54. It also says that they are insulated. The internal insulation is reflected in a higher light weight of 71,700 pounds and a reduced capacity of 2,442 cubic feet. In addition, the car has three airtight hatches on this side of the roof. This jogged my memory and reminded me of the special NSRX cars built by Pullman-Standard in 1954 to 1956 which were numbered 300 to 339. The lot numbers were 8169, 8187, and 8320E. Only ten remained in April, 1966, so an additional 25 must have been disposed of by that date.

HMX 51 was weighed at OD in July, 1965. However, there is an ACI label present which suggests it may have been painted at a later date.

The cars are owned by Tank Car Corporation of America, an obscure tank car service company in Oreland, PA which only shut down about 10 or 15 years ago. They also listed 192 tank cars in April, 1966. This is the same company where the Budd Company experimental freight cars were stored.

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