

("Review of the *Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Postwar Operating Cars* reproduced with permission of Lionel Operating Train Society from the August 2007 issue of the club's *Switcher* magazine.")

# SWITCHER

**A Book Review By Cris Matuszak, RM 1399  
President of Lionel Operating Train Society**

This book captured my interest because operating cars and accessories are two of my favorites. It goes into great detail about the many variations of each car and is truly a rivet counter's dream.

Both authors are well known authorities on Lionel Postwar and have used all of their resources to come up with the excellent and easily read descriptions. They have backed up their findings with Lionel paperwork and have gone into the differences in packaging as well as manufacturing.

Now, if you think you have all the variations of a certain car, you might be surprised when you look it up in this book. For example, did you know that some of the Radioactive Waste Cars had the containers held down by rubber bands? Well, they have the documentation to prove it! Then, some of the cars went from two power pickups to one, for cost purposes I am sure.

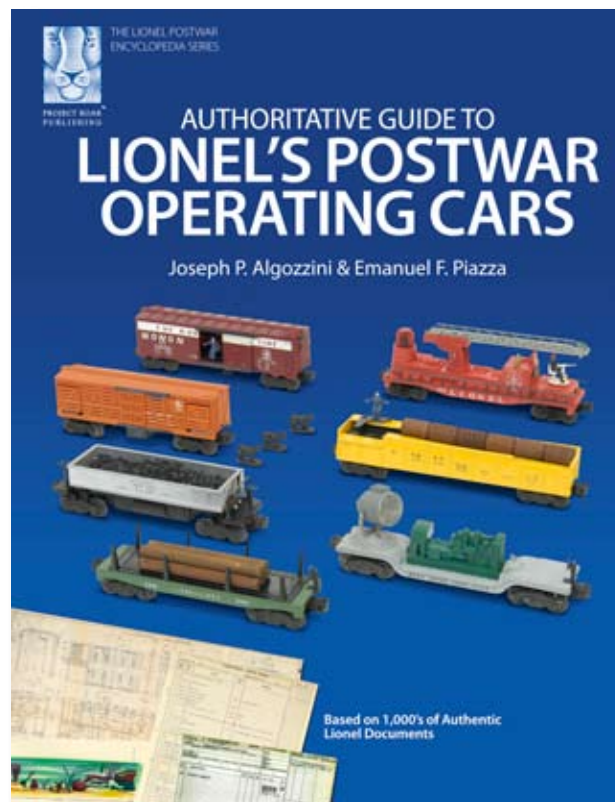
For a second example, just from my figuring, if you wanted one of each variation of Milk Car, you first had to decide on whether you

wanted the small size car or the larger size car. Then you would need approximately 10 of the smaller sized cars, 3462, 3472 and 3482 series, as well as 10 of the larger size cars, 3662 and 3672. These cars all came packed individually or with sets, so again there are differences in how they are presented.

Searchlight cars are one of my personal favorites and I thought I had a pretty good sampling of them until I read this book. I think any Lionel operator and especially collectors will really enjoy the detail and information this book provides. Thanks Manny and Joe. Hopefully, you will be doing some more volumes. I personally would like to see one on either Accessories or Motorized Units.

The book titled ***Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Postwar Operating Cars*** authored by Joseph P. Algozzini and Emanuel F. Piazza is published by Project Roar

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