

# The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association



**Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Postwar Operating Cars**, Joseph P Algozzini & Emanuel F Piazza., 160 pages, \$44.95 soft cover. Full color on slick paper, Project Roar Publishing, 8-1/2 X 11 format. An additional hard cover edition is available at \$85, limited to 100 copies, and autographed by the authors.

This is the first book published by ProjectRoarPublishing. The introduction states that it is the "first volume in the Lionel Postwar Encyclopedia Series". The introduction also notes that the book would not be a reality without the very extensive knowledge of its primary author, Joe Algozzini. Over one third of the introduction details Joe's method of collecting and observation. The last sentence defines "original" as used in this book as "items manufactured, and packaged by Lionel between 1945 and 1969 through company distribution methods.

The next five pages carry the title Sources of Authoritative Information and contain many full color illustrations of actual Lionel documents. They include a blueprint for the 3520-4 searchlight car, engineering specifications for the Cop and Hobo car, and a production planning record. There are eight different sources listed in this section. as well as "pop ups" (informative green boxes) throughout the book.

Immediately after the introduction is a page of definitions, followed by a page on how to use this volume, and then the usual pricing, condition, rarity, and demand information. One full page in this section reproduces in chart form the grading standards of the Train Collectors Association. An additional table in this section defines rarity from 1, being very common, to 10, being extremely difficult to find, and is based on the amount of available pieces.

Roger Carp contributes an article entitled Lionel Operating Cars: an Overview and Appreciation. His fifteen page article is generously illustrated with rare Lionel documents as well as vintage photographs and illustrations of various operating cars.

Once you have read Roger Carp's article you are ready to delve into the eight chapters of this book. This is where the operating cars are broken down into groups. The groups are Boxcars; Gondolas; Lumber Cars; Dump Cars; Lights + Camera = Action; Rolling Stock with Accessories; Novelty

and Cranks; and Prototypes, Mock-ups, and Factory Errors. Interspersed throughout these chapters are the green boxed "pop ups" that contain a wealth of knowledge but in small

doses. One of these "pop ups" reads, "Per original Blueprints for the 3424-77 tell-tale support, the circle 'L' medallion was "relocated" on 4-1-60".

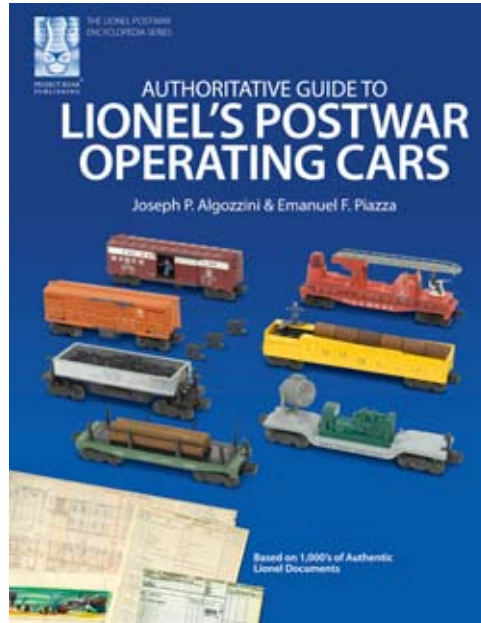
In addition to all of the information in the body of this publication there are four appendices. The one that intrigued me the most was appendix A. I was not aware that there were four different types of 10 1/2 inch boxcar body and door types and that there were that many variations in the eight inch boxcar bodies also.

Appendix D should also prove a boon to those attempting to acquire all items that were packed with a specific car. This appendix alone is a total of four pages.

The last page of the book is an index that lists all of the item numbers and sub-numbers of the pieces discussed in this book along with the page on which information on the piece can be found.

I found this book highly informative and I now have a greater insight into just how many variations there are of any particular operating car. **I doubt you will find another more comprehensive and extensively documented book on the subject.** If you have even a passing interest in postwar Lionel operating cars I recommend this book.

**Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Postwar Operating Cars** can be purchased on line from Project Roar Publishing at <http://www.projectroar.com>. It can also be ordered by phone Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Central time at 1-630-653-ROAR (7627). The book is also available on Border's Books and Barnes and Noble's websites.



160 Pages - 8½" x 11"

More Than 325 Full Color Photos & Images  
Soft Cover - \$44.95 ISBN 978-1-933600-00-0  
Limited Edition Collectible Hard Cover - \$85



PROJECT ROAR  
PUBLISHING

Project Roar Publishing  
P.O. Box 599  
Winfield, IL 60190  
[www.projectroar.com](http://www.projectroar.com)



PHONE: 1.630.653.ROAR (7627)



FAX: 1.630.665.6595



WEBSITE: [www.projectroar.com](http://www.projectroar.com)