

Refrigerator Car Questions

Question from Lisa: We have a Pacific Fruit Express refrigerator car in our backyard. We don't really know anything about it and are curious. There are several markings. It shows "PFE 550_9" one of the digits is illegible. There is a stamp or seal that says "Preco Electric Fan". Do you know anything about these cars? Is it made from wood and steel? How old is it?

Reply: There are several types of these cars, the Reported Markings you gave "PFE 55069" in a Steel class R-40-23 car built in 1946-1947, by the Mt. Vernon car company.

There are two very good books on the Pacific Fruit Express cars, PFE Pacific Fruit Express the World's Largest Refrigerator Car Company (Anthony w. Thompson, Robert J. Church and Bruce H. Jones) and the Great Yellow Fleet (John H. White).

These cars in this R-40-23 class were the first to use the Preco Model FG-36 fans to circulate the cool air from the ice in the cars.

Hope this helps in your quest to get information on the car.

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