

# Western Pacific Railroad 6424

This freight car was built in **1953**. Other events from that year...

- President Harry S. Truman announces the United States has developed a hydrogen bomb.
- 68% of all television sets in the US are tuned in to "I Love Lucy" to watch Lucy give birth.
- Pat Benatar, American rock singer best known for songs like "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" and "Love is a Battlefield", is born.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes President of the United States.
- *The Crucible*, a dramatic play by Arthur Miller, opens on Broadway.
- Albert Schweitzer is given the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.
- James D. Watson and Francis Crick announce that they have discovered the structure of the DNA molecule.
- The de Havilland Comet, the world's first commercial jet airliner to reach production, completes its first year of regular service.
- Joseph Stalin dies after 31 years of ruling the Soviet Union. Nikita Khrushchev selected First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.
- American actor William Peterson, best known for playing Gil Grissom on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation", is born.
- 25th Academy Awards ceremony, the first one broadcast on television.
- Death of England's Queen Mary. Coronation of Elizabeth II.
- Jonas Salk announces his polio vaccine.
- Ian Fleming publishes his first James Bond novel, *Casino Royale*.
- Jim Thorpe, famous Olympic gold medallist, dies.
- The first Chevrolet Corvette is built at Flint, Michigan.
- Pacific Electric passenger railway in Los Angeles, California is sold to Metropolitan Coach Lines, whose intention is to convert all rail service to buses as quickly as possible.
- Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay perform the first successful ascent to the summit of Mount Everest.
- Tony Blair, future Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, is born.
- Korean War ends. The United States, People's Republic of China, North Korea, and South Korea sign an armistice agreement.
- Douglas DC-7 airliner is introduced. It is one of the last large piston engine, propeller equipped passenger airplanes.
- Dylan Thomas, Welsh poet and author of *Under Milk Wood* and *Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*, dies
- America has only four broadcast television networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, and DuMont.
- Soviet Union announces that it has developed a hydrogen bomb.
- The UNIVAC 1103, the first commercial computer to use random access memory, is built.
- Earl Warren appointed Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court.
- Authorities at the British Natural History Museum announce that "Piltdown Man", one of the most famous fossil skulls in the world, is a hoax.
- Hugh Hefner publishes the first issue of *Playboy Magazine*, selling 54,175 copies at 50 cents each.
- The first color television sets go on sale for about \$1,175.
- The Western Pacific Railroad ends regular, revenue use of steam locomotives, the first western railroad to do so.