

## MADISON HARDWARE TANK CARS



In Run 146 (*OGR*, April 1996) on page 91 we discussed the 6426 two-dome tank car, which turned out not to be factory Lionel but made for Madison Hardware in the '60s. My car was part of a series, and we asked for others to photograph and put in Collector's Gallery. Our thanks to Len Sabatella of LJS Trains in Wantagh, N.Y., for the businesslike 6524 with yellow lettering. The other six you see in the photograph came from Harry Lovelock, variation collector extraordinaire and new owner of the 6426 Dupont. (What the heck, he gave us the cars to shoot and I wound up with the 6524 Deep Rock because he had two of them.) Harry explained that he only got the tanker bodies from Madison Hardware; he used whatever trucks and frames he had available to assemble complete cars. This means we cannot learn about dating these cars from that end. Look at the numbers on these cars. They are much more varied than I had been led to believe when I did the research for the article in Run 146. This implies that there may be more of these cars than have surfaced so far. Might be worth some research by interested parties, which we would be happy to publish. (By the way, Harry had five more cars, but they were dull grays and silvers that all looked similar. I exercised my editorial prerogative to bring you what you see here.) The other six cars in the photograph are the 6428 Atlas Oil in gray, 6428 yellow Shell, 6427 red Esso, 6426 blue Sunoco, 6524 black Deep Rock and the orange Hooker with no number. (That figures.)

In any case, I will look you up in heaven and ask you, "What did you ever do with that nice Dupont No. 6246 tanker?"

And if you sell it now, you will probably tell me then, "You know, I wish I would have held on to that car. They were rare, you know."

I will just say, "Yup, ya lived and learned."

Sincerely,

Jeff Christopher  
Greenwood, Del.

Dear Ed,

I would keep the car. First, you have a unique, very rare car. This car is attractive and yours. The fact that you can't find it listed means someone took a lot of time to make it. I would try to research it, who did it and why? What other versions are there? You have some history. Keep it, Ed! That Hudson will be there, but the tank car may not. My vote: Keep it and see the history, see the uniqueness.

On another note, I read the column on the GG-1 "Box" a few times. I agree there is a lesson in the tale. But, I think some will get one, some will get another, and another. My point: Some will say, "Aha, I can own the box, I'll get the GG-1 later!" The other: "I have a box. If priced high enough, it will sell." The third lesson: "Whoa, where are we going?" I collect what I can afford and what I like, in that order.

Anyway, I enjoy your columns. I can see what I can afford!

Cordially,

Michael P. Elkavitch  
Dublin, N.H.