

## NC&StL GB-12 Class gondolas in container service.



NC&StL photo, West Nashville, February 1950

An article written for the April 1950 NC&StL Railway Bulletin announces the new container service started by the railroad in February of that year. The article goes on to say that the containers are being placed in high gondolas equipped with specially built frames fastened to the bottom of the car. These frames are designed to hold the containers in place while in shipment and also prevent damage from sudden jars, etc. Additionally, the containers were equipped with hooks for use in lifting them from the cars. The article also notes that the container cars will be placed in use at Chattanooga for the handling of shipments of ferro-silicon and ferro-manganese to various parts of the country, chiefly north of the Ohio River. Finally, the article states that the containers cost \$380 each and that each modified car would accommodate 10 containers.

The cars so modified were from the GB-12 class gondolas. The cars were modified by the railroad's West Nashville shops which added a 6" yellow stripe to the car side to have them stand out from their regular gons. 18 of the cars were converted from the GB-12 class between February 1950 and June 1955. Cars numbers were:

44011, 44048, 44069, 44119\*, 44164\*, 44171, 44222, 44235\*, 44266, 44299, 44300, 44305, 44329, 44345, 44371^, 44383\*, 44400, and 44481.

\*- these cars were not noted as in container service as of the October 1955 ORER. The January 1953 ORER makes no distinction for container cars.

^ - the October 1957 ORER lists 17 cars in container service. 44371 is not listed.

Additionally, there were 180 containers purchased from Youngstown and numbered C1 to C180. Each of the cars was given 10 demountable containers having a capacity of 145 cubic feet each. Each container's light weight was 2080 pounds.

GB-12 class cars were used in container service until the early 1960s. 14 cars were still listed in that service in the January 1961 ORER. None were listed in the later ORERs I have access to.



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