



GATX Type 30 8K Tank Cars For Food Commodities



Tank cars were specialty rolling stock almost exclusively owned by private companies, not the railroads. During the steam and early diesel era, Union Tank operated 41,432 cars and General American 39,857 cars and were the largest lessors.

In the late 1920s, GATC introduced a tank car design that became known as the Type 30. Various tanks were applied to the underframe, the 8K and 10K being the largest blocks.

The visual characteristic of the Type 30 design was a frame with a more open appearance than competitive designs. There was no side sill from the bolsters to the end sill and only a modest end sill. The frame featured massive bolsters that included a poling pocket in the end. The tank dome was larger in diameter than the ACF design, but shorter in height.

A variety of companies leased (or purchased) cars from GATX for edible food commodities, such as corn oil, cane syrup, cotton oil, fats and liquid sugar. A.E. Staley, the Clinton Co., Penick and Ford, Southern Pacific, Consolidated Rendering, Union Starch and Refining, Corn Products Refining, and Crystal Car Line were some of the many companies using the GATC Type 30 8K tank car.

The food commodities cars could be ICC class 103 or 203 cars. The 103 cars had a safety valve (see Staley above), while the 203 cars had a frangible membrane on the tank dome.

Since these companies were conscious of the advertising potential of the cars, they often had General American paint the cars in bright

colors to display the company name and its respective food commodity.

Typical of the food companies was A.E. Staley of Decatur IL. Its name and logo were emblazoned in black on an aluminum car. Taking the objective one step further, they had some cars painted in the University of Illinois Illini orange with blue lettering. The Staley cars were company owned. In 1943 the company had 88 cars, numbered 20 to 107, all ICC class 103 cars and all 8K gallon capacity.

General American leased Type 30 8K cars to the Clinton Company in Clinton IA for corn syrup movement. The Clinton logo was red and white on a black car. The cars were ICC class 203. The GATX 13000-15699 series with 1985 cars in 1943 was one of the largest groups of 8K cars.

The 12000 series GATX cars contained some Penick and Ford leased cars of the class 203 design. The firm produced corn and cane syrups. The cars were black with white lettering.

Union Starch of Granite City IL owned 72 cars in 1948, all class 203 and some or all GATC Type 30 8K tank cars. Numbers were 701-735, 736-765, 901-905, 1001 and 1002. Union Starch cars were painted bright red with aluminum letters outlined in black.

Consolidated Rendering leased GATX cars for the shipment of lard. This by-product of slaughterhouses around the country was a very common lading. They were painted black with white lettering.

Crystal Car Line was a small leasing company that providing cars on either a short or long-term basis. It owned 260 cars in 1946 and 207

