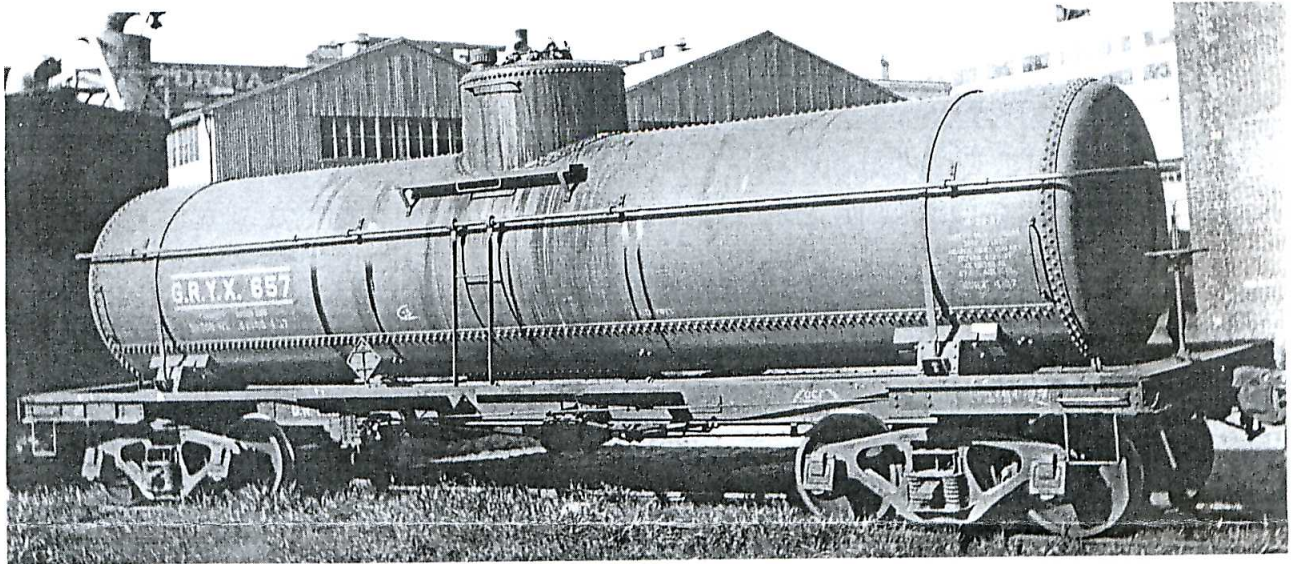
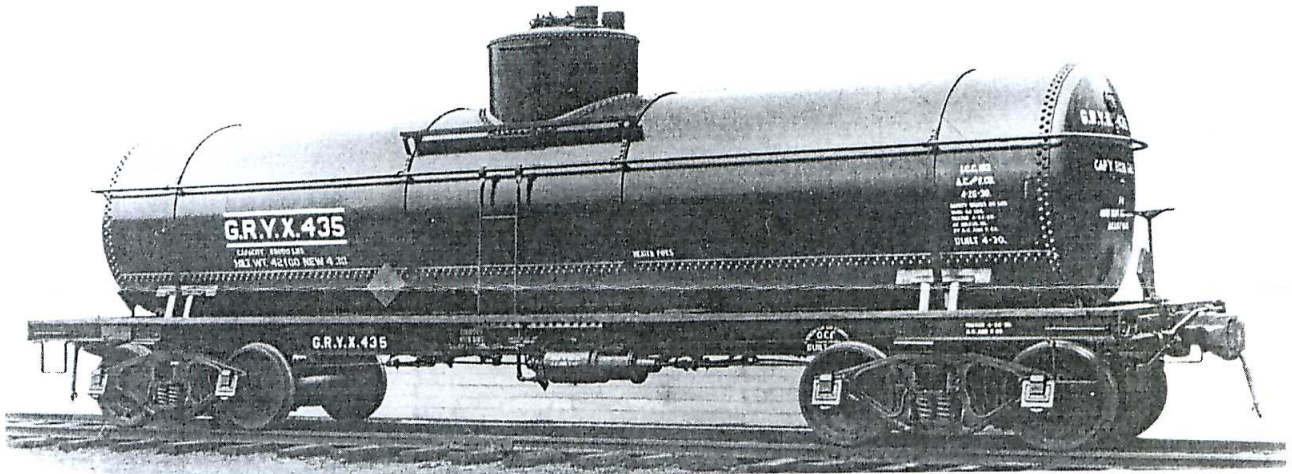


*Modeling Notes*  
**John R. Grace Tank Cars**



John R. Grace Co. was an independent tank car owner and lessor headquartered in Chicago. It provided cars for shippers nationwide.

Part of Grace's fleet was two series of ACF built 8K tank cars, the first built in 1930 and the second in 1937. These were ICC 103 class cars. They included heater pipes and swivel butt couplers. Their likely use was transportation of oil or asphalt, as indicated by the second photo and the heater pipes. More purchases may have occurred at other times.

Two photos—Nos. 435 and 657—capture these cars during the late steam and early diesel era. In 1953 these cars were in the 400-899 series. In 1941, the series was broken into the 400-499 and 600-999 numbers. (Unfortunately, the Registers did not report the number of cars in each listing.)

Photos indicate that the two series were nearly identical, except that No. 657 included a leaf spring in the cast side frame trucks, and No. 435 did not. Also, No. 657 had an AB brake system, while No. 435 had a KC system. The AB system was mandated by 1953.

In 1953, the "home points" for Grace were: Chicago, Kansas City, Longview TX, Philadelphia, Richmond CA, St. Louis and Tulsa. These were the locations where empty cars were returned and servicing conducted.

These cars are replicated in HO scale by the Intermountain ACF Type 27 8K kit #41399.

The available photos are included to show the layout of the Grace lettering. The enclosed decal set will letter both series of cars with the proper details for each. They are provided to early sign-ups for the Sunshine Models 2009 Prototype Modelers Seminar.