

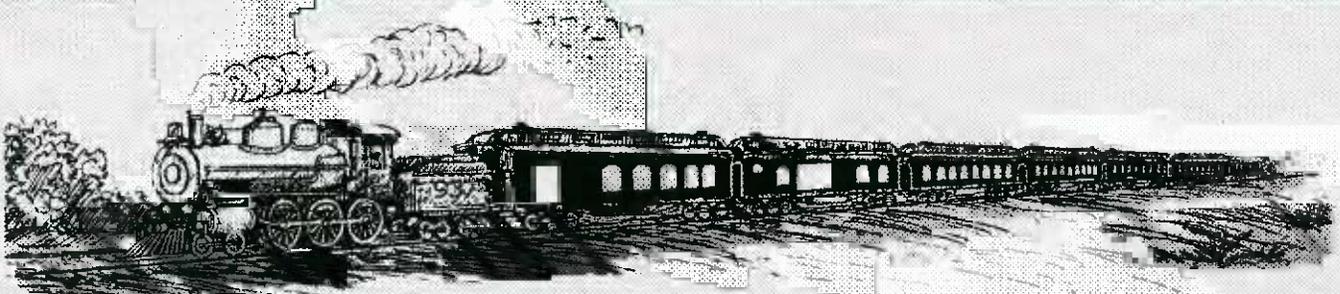
FRISCO

All Aboard

FRISCO

March-April

1994



The
METEOR
MARCH
and Two Step
 By
CLARENCE WOODS.

DEDICATED TO THE
FRISCO SYSTEM

5

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 **All Aboard** 

VOLUME 9

March-April, 1994

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 Our MAIL CAR feature in this issue identifies the last locomotive painted in Frisco livery.

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 This is the final installment in our series featuring the automobile handling facilities that were in service on the Frisco in the early 1960's. In this issue we visit Floydada, TX.

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Published in 1904, *The Meteor March* is one of the Songs of the Frisco profiled on page 18.



*Observation Room looking toward A-end of car, Frisco Business Car Alabama, June 12, 1948, Springfield, MO.
Frisco photo*



*Observation Room looking toward B-end of car, Frisco Business Car Alabama, June 12, 1948, Springfield, MO.
Frisco photo*



Dining Room looking toward B-end of car, Frisco Business Car Alabama, June 12, 1948, Springfield, MO. Frisco photo



State Room A looking toward B-end of car, Frisco Business Car Alabama, June 12, 1948, Springfield, MO. Frisco photo

MAIL CAR



The MAIL CAR is a feature of the ALL ABOARD in which we attempt to answer some of the many questions that are submitted to our FRISCO RESEARCH SERVICE.

If you have a question about the equipment, facilities, or operation of the Frisco, please send them to the RESEARCH SERVICE. All requests are answered individually and selected questions will appear in the MAIL CAR feature.

QUESTION: Can you tell me the number of the last locomotive that was delivered in a Frisco paint scheme?

ANSWER: Yes! It was No. 3100. The last diesel locomotives ordered by the Frisco were ten 3500 H.P. EMD built GP50 units, that were to be numbered Frisco series 791-799. However, because they were delivered following the 1980 BN merger, they arrived on property in December, 1980, with BN numbers in place, series 3100-3109. Although the BN requested otherwise, No. 3100 was delivered in Frisco mandarin orange & white, the only one in the series to be so painted. Thus, it has the distinction of being the last locomotive delivered in a Frisco paint scheme.



*Frisco (791) 3100, fresh from EMD paint shop, LaGrange, IL, December, 1980
EMD photo, courtesy John J. Wheelihan*



*BN 3101, fresh from EMD paint shop, LaGrange, IL, December, 1980
EMD photo, courtesy John J. Wheelihan*

FIRST FOR FOLKS AND FREIGHT

FRISCO

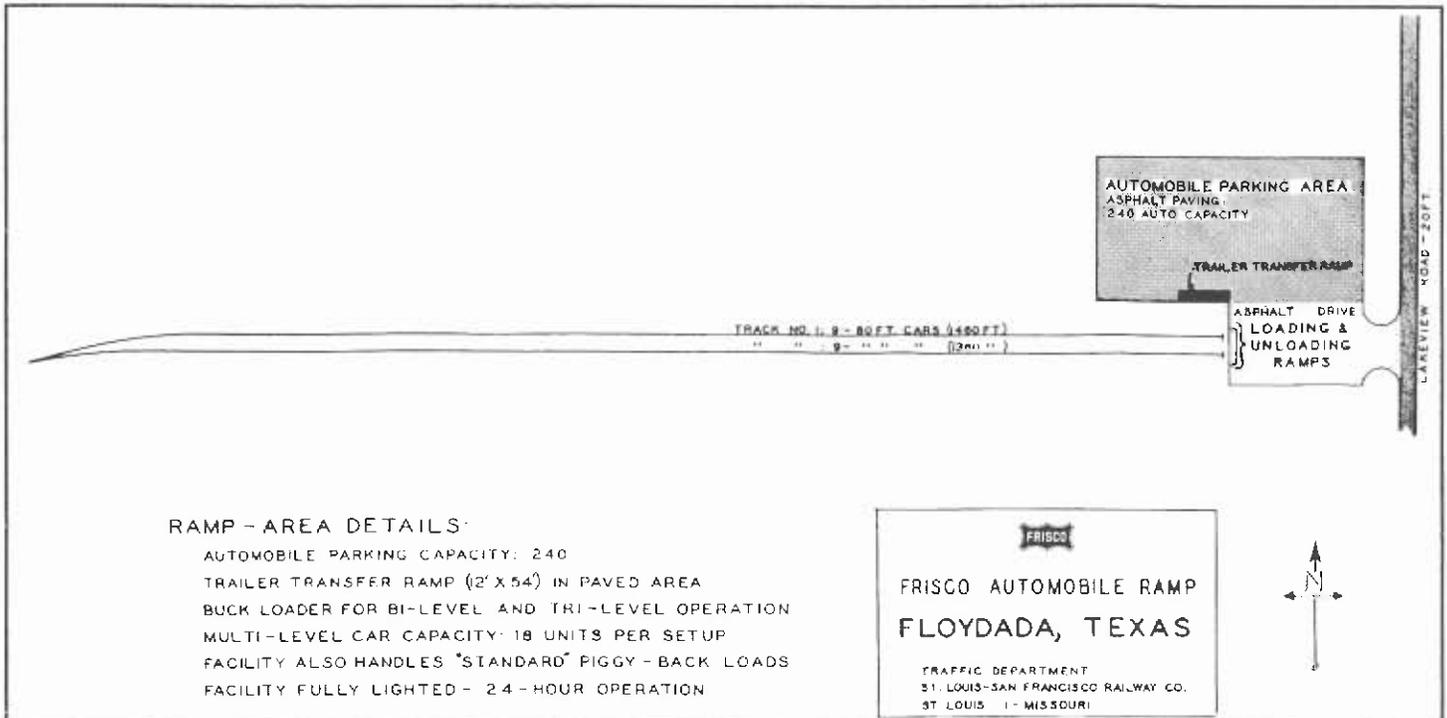
Passenger ticket envelope, circa. 1949



Automobile Handling Facilities

IN 1962, the Frisco had in service five automobile handling facilities located at St. Louis, MO, Tulsa, OK, Irving, TX, Birmingham, AL, and Floydada, TX. This is the final installment in a series of features profiling the automobile facilities with layout diagrams and photos.

Floydada, TX



Frisco's Floydada, TX, automobile unloading ramp and storage area. Frisco photo



COMPANY SERVICE ROSTER

This is the second in our new *Company Service Roster* feature in which we are profiling some of the most interesting, unique, and often underrated facets of Frisco equipment and operations: the Company Service Department... those men and machines that maintained the track, roadbed, right-of-way, bridges, structures, etc., all of which was essential to the successful operation of the railroad.

The uniqueness of the Frisco's company service was most apparent in the vast assortment of both speciality and recycled equipment that was assigned to an equally vast assortment of uses on the system.

One of the most versatile, adaptable, and recycled cars in use on any railroad was the flat car and the Frisco's creative use of such a common piece of equipment was no exception. Of the 1,000 listings in our *Research Service Company Service Equipment Conversion Roster 1921-1958*, over 300 units were recycled flat cars, three of which were converted to Tractor Ditcher cars in 1945.

SLSF

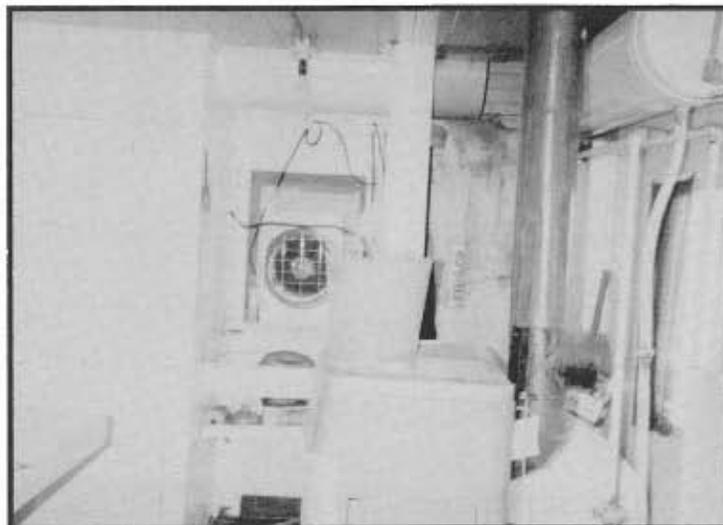
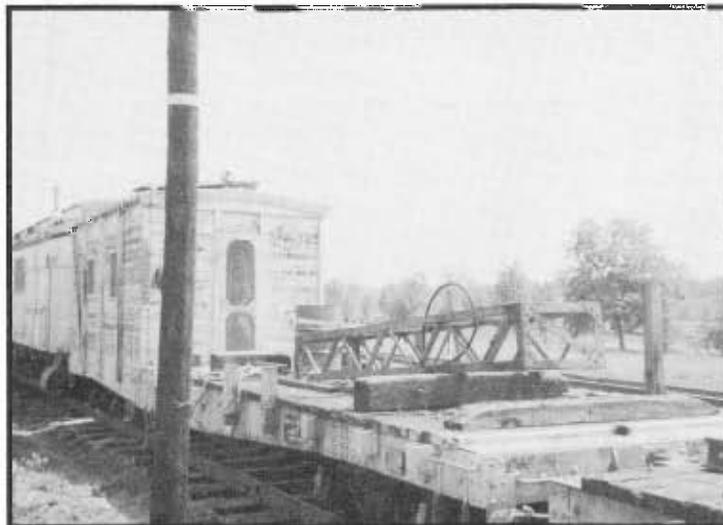
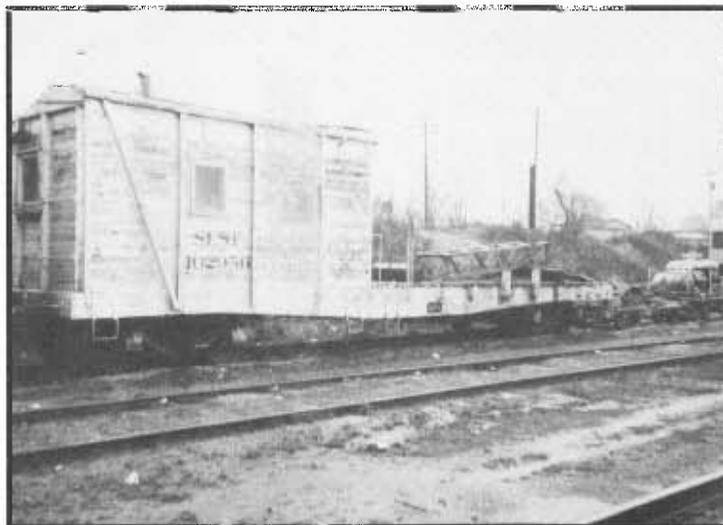
TRACTOR DITCHER CARS

102956-102957-102958

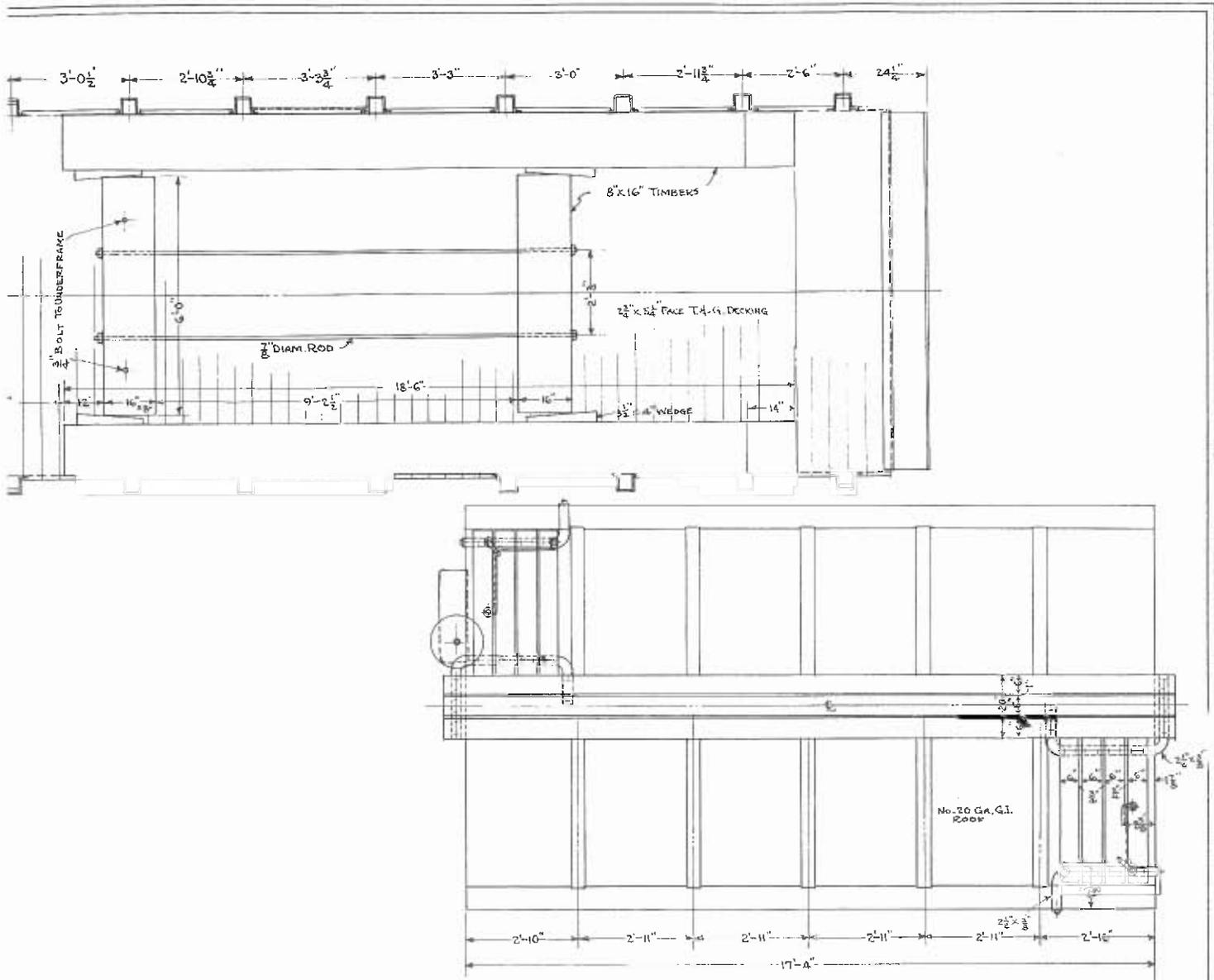
Tractor Ditcher Cars (sometimes referred to as *Flat-Bunk* or *T-M-Flat*) 102956-102958 began their rail career in 1906 as part of a group of 250 43' steel underframe flat cars built by American Car & Foundry under Lot #4420, series 93750-93999, and delivered to the Frisco between December, 1906 and January, 1907.

EDITOR'S NOTE: According to our records, by 1958 eighty-four of the 93750-93999 units were in company service use.

In July, 1945, Nos. 93751, 93800, and 93887 were converted to Tractor Ditcher Cars 102958, 102957, and 102956. A 17'1" x 9'0 1/2" x 8'4 1/4" (from top of deck to top of running



All photos of SLSF Tractor Ditcher Car #102956, Cabool, MO, August 3, 1962. Frisco photos



PLAN OF ROOF
 MURPHY PIVOTED SOLID STEEL ROOF
 INTERMEDIATE PANELS STANDARD, END PANELS & END RIDGE CAPS, SPECIAL.

102238
102257
102256
CAR NUMBER

SL-SF. RY. CO.
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
TRACTOR DITCHER CAR

CORRECT	APPROVED
MECH. ENGR.	<i>W. J. Berry</i> SUPT. MOTIVE POWER
MADE JULY 7, 1945	
DR. S. M. W.	

board) cabin was attached on one end of the cars providing office and sleeping accommodations for two persons.

Apparently the July 7, 1945 plans shown on pp. 10-11 were not the final design that was used on the cars or they were modified sometime over their next twenty years of company service. As indicated by the accompanying photos of 102956 (1962) and 102957 (1963) both show a similar floor plan arrangement that differs from the original design. In particular, the absence of the rear door and placement of the sink and stove. It is also interesting to note that outside bracing was applied to the cabins. All three units were painted in the Frisco standard gray with black lettering paint scheme.

Although our records do not currently indicate when these three units were taken out of service, the *Condition Reports* that accompany the photos of 102956 and 102957 do provide some interesting information. In 1962, 102956 was assigned to RL-31 System Steel Gang and had been "repaired" at Monett, MO in March of that year. The report on 102957 stated that "the car assigned Rwy. Machine has not been used in some time."

EDITOR'S NOTE: *In the next issue of our Company Service Roster, we will profile a curious looking creature known as a Jordan Spreader-Ditcher.*



All photos of SLSF Tractor Ditcher Car #102957, Chaffee, MO, January 16, 1963. Frisco photos

