

Ventilated Boxcars

An 1897-1962 review

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RPM Valley Forge
March 2024

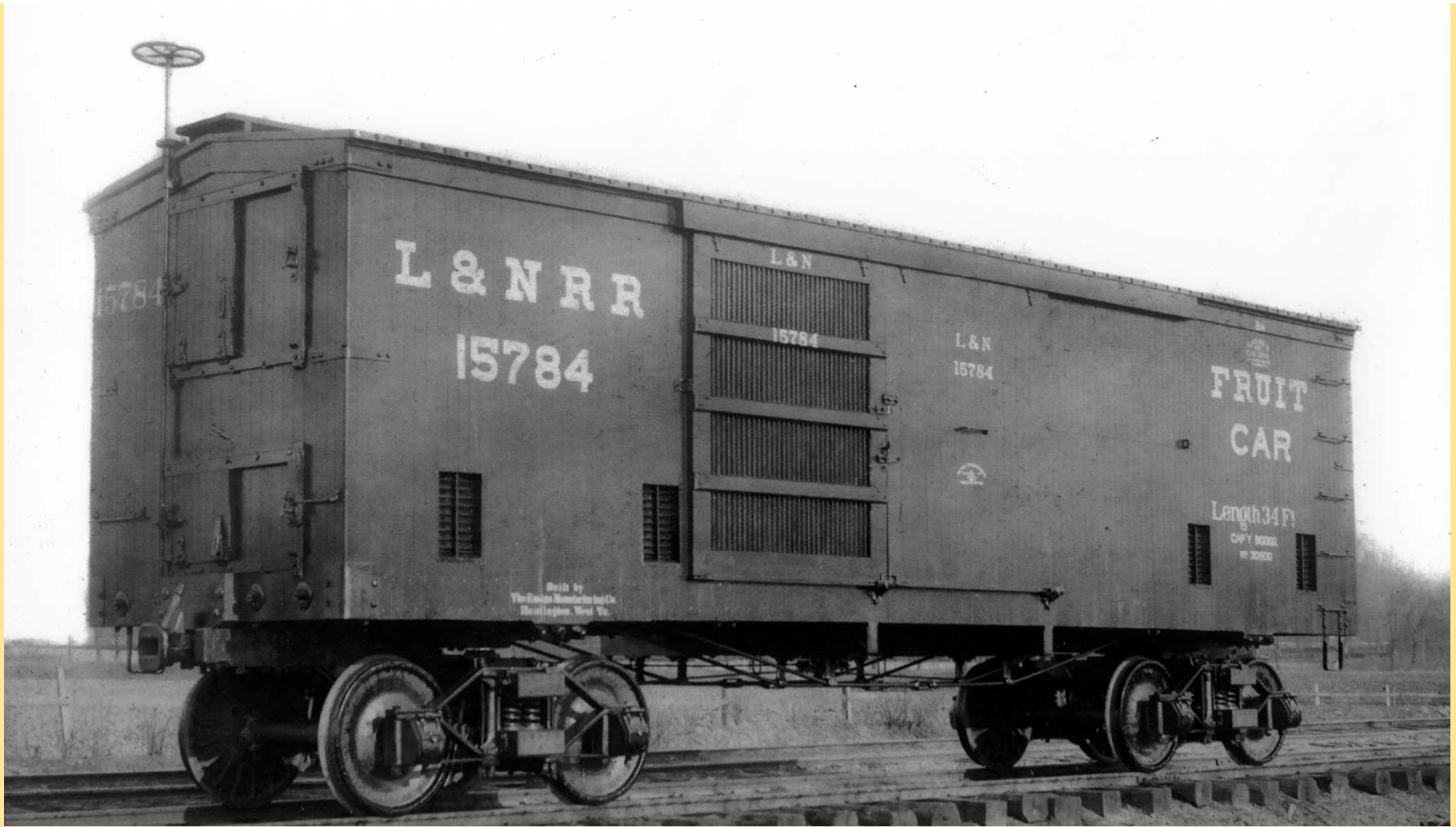
**ACL 37985, an O-11
class ventilated
boxcar built in 1911
by BC&F.**



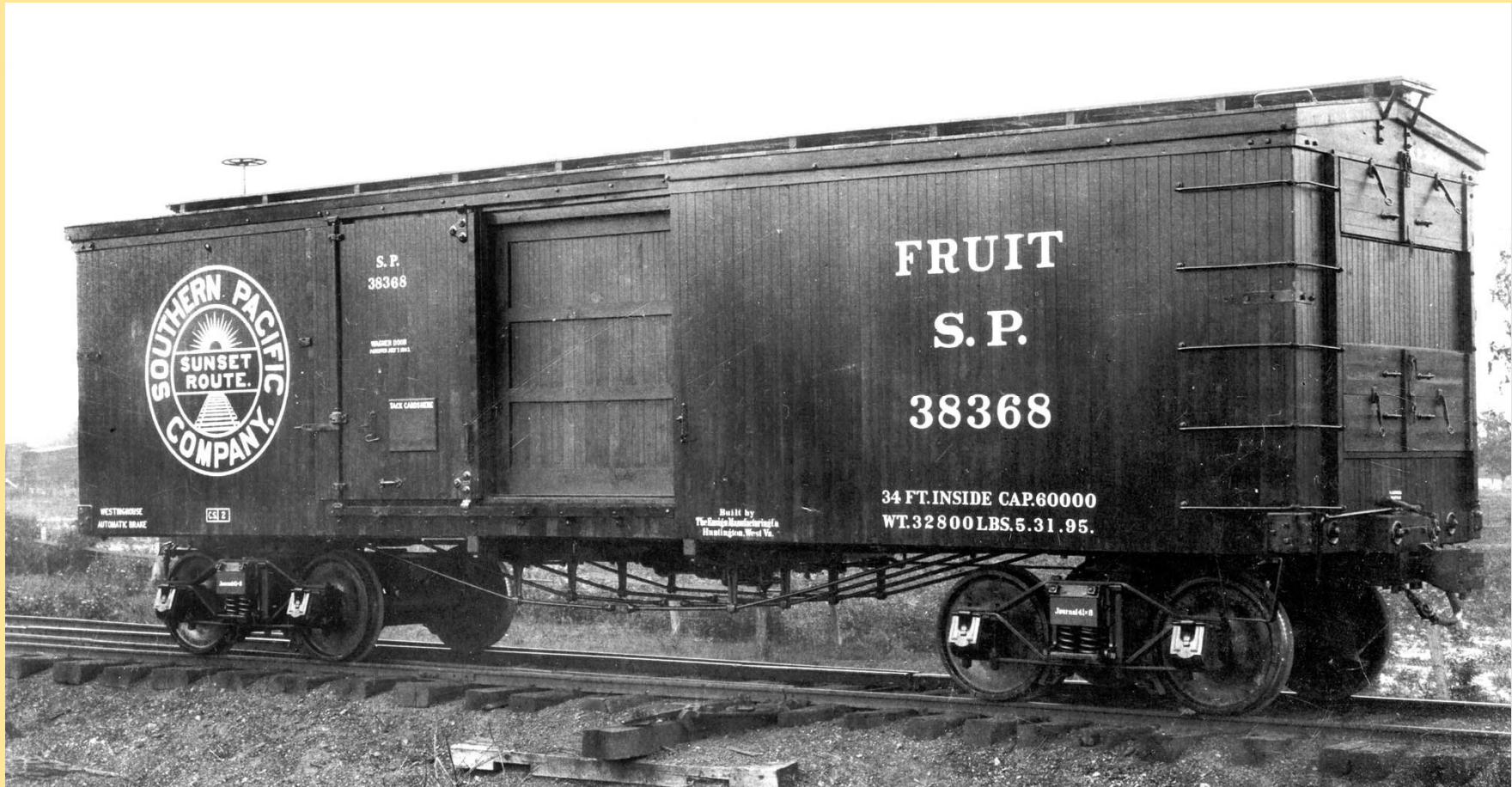
**What is a
ventilated boxcar?**

1895 Car Builder's Dictionary

Ventilated box-car. A box-car with grated doors and screened openings called ventilators, through which the air can circulate freely. Used chiefly for fruit.



L&N 15784 Fruit Car built in April 1892 by Ensign



SP 38368 Fruit Car built in May 1896 by Ensign

Mechanical Designations

Class "V" - VENTILATOR CAR TYPE		
VA	Vegetable Ventilator. A car equipped with insulation but having common box car end and side doors which afford no protection against heat or cold.	(1/17-3/29)
VA	Fruit-Vegetable Ventilated Box. Similar in design to general service box car, but with either end and/or side ventilators, and with or without double sliding side doors. When equipped with double doors, one door is solid and the other screened.	(7/32-1/68)
VM	Fruit-Vegetable Ventilator. Similar in design to ventilated box car, except that it is partially insulated.	(7/32-1/68)
VS	Standard Ventilator. A car equipped with insulation, including insulated side, end and top openings, and ventilating devices without ice tanks.	(1/17-3/29)
VS	Fruit-Vegetable Insulated Ventilator. A house car equipped with insulation and hinged swinging side doors and means of ventilation. Not equipped for refrigeration, although sometimes provided with shallow boxes under hatches (for ventilating openings) to protect lading, but not to contain ice. Sometimes called "Produce Car".	(7/32-1/68)

From Ian Cranstone's **AAR Mechanical Designations webpage** (www.nakina.net/other/aartype.html)

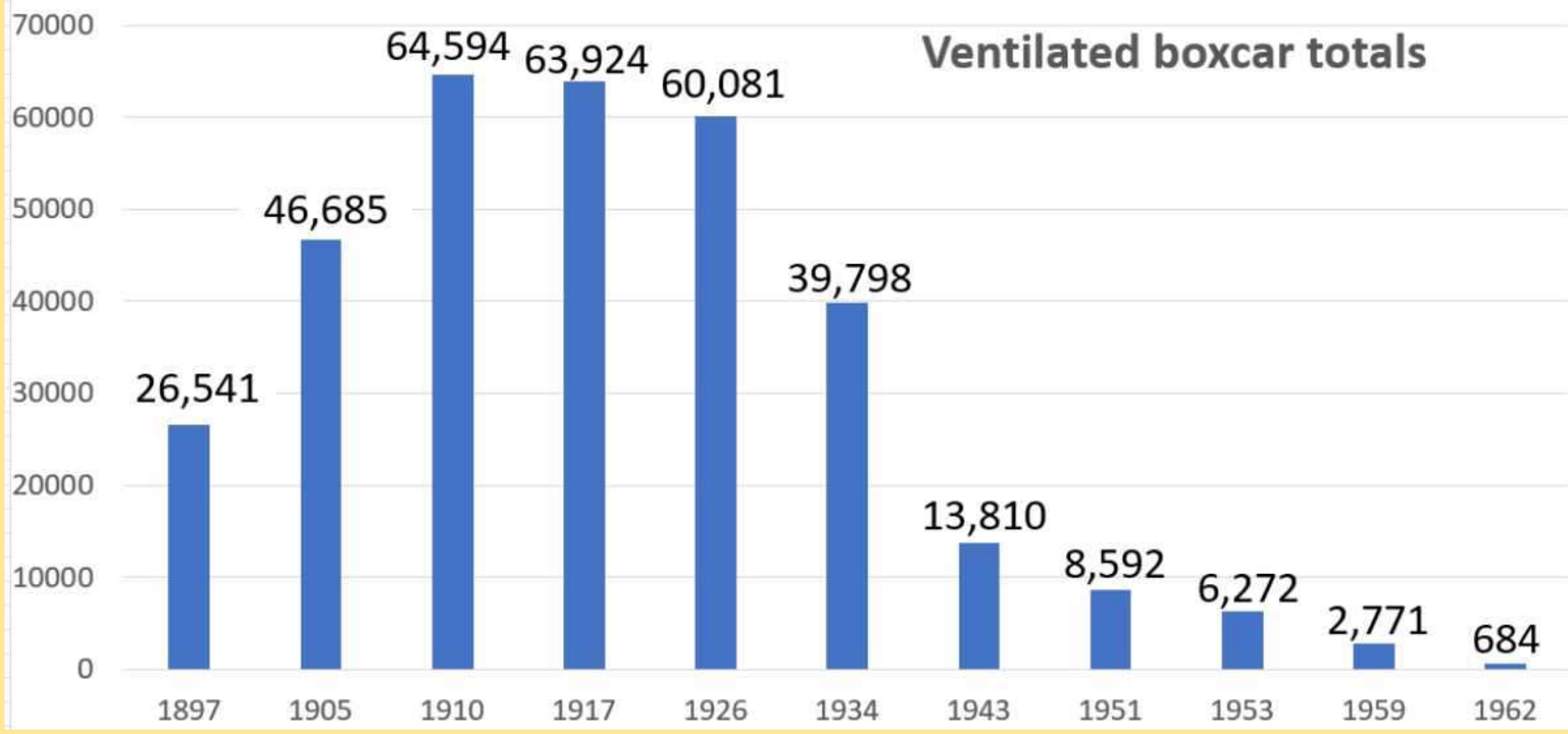
Mechanical Designations

XI	Insulated Box. Similar in design to general service box car, but either wholly or partially insulated. Not equipped either with ventilating devices or for refrigeration.	(7/32-1/61)
XI	Insulated box car similar in design to "XM", but either wholly or partially insulated, equipped either with or without ventilating devices, not equipped for refrigeration.	(10/57-10/66)
XV	Box Car, Ventilated. Similar to ordinary box, only having ventilation, and suitable for the transportation of produce or other foodstuffs not needing refrigeration.	(1/17-3/29)

These designations were not used in ORER's published before 1912.

What to include among the early entries listed as charcoal, vegetable, fruit, ventilated, cool air, refrigerator vent, combination, and beer?

Ventilated boxcar totals



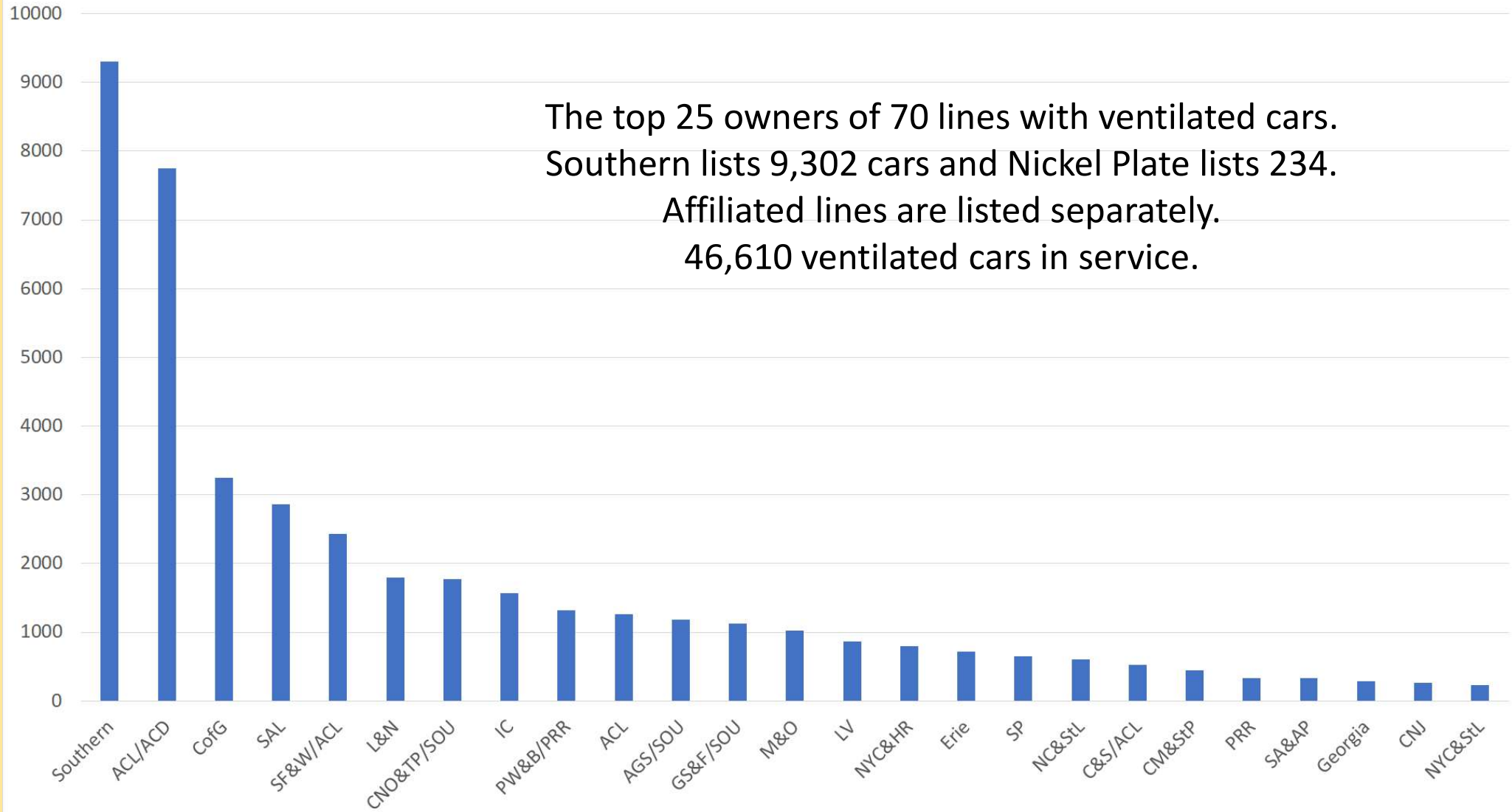


M&O 6909 built in 1900 by American Car & Foundry



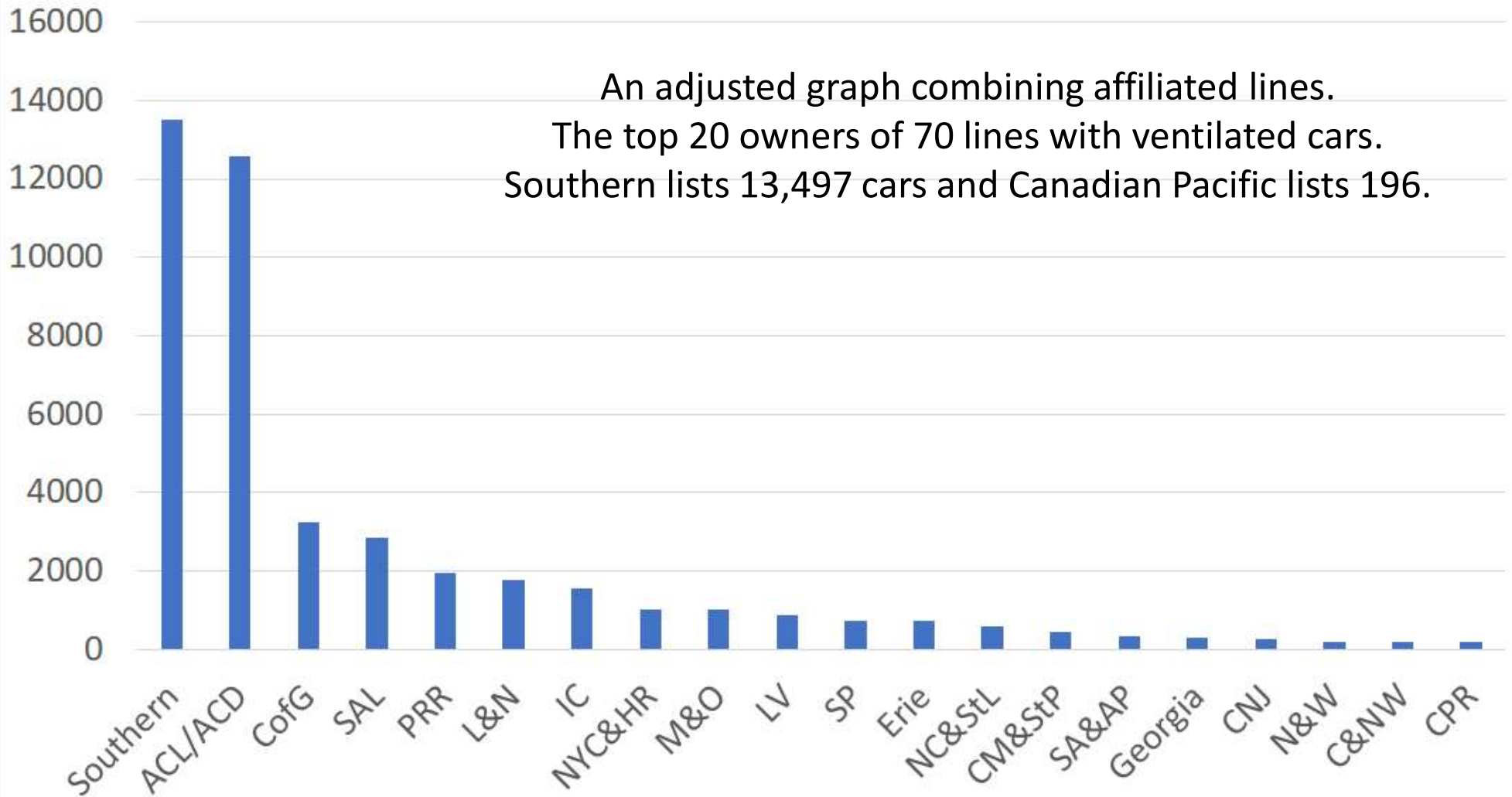
LV 6051 built in 1907 by Standard Steel Car Company as a Produce Car

1905 Ownership



1905 Adjusted Ownership

An adjusted graph combining affiliated lines.
The top 20 owners of 70 lines with ventilated cars.
Southern lists 13,497 cars and Canadian Pacific lists 196.

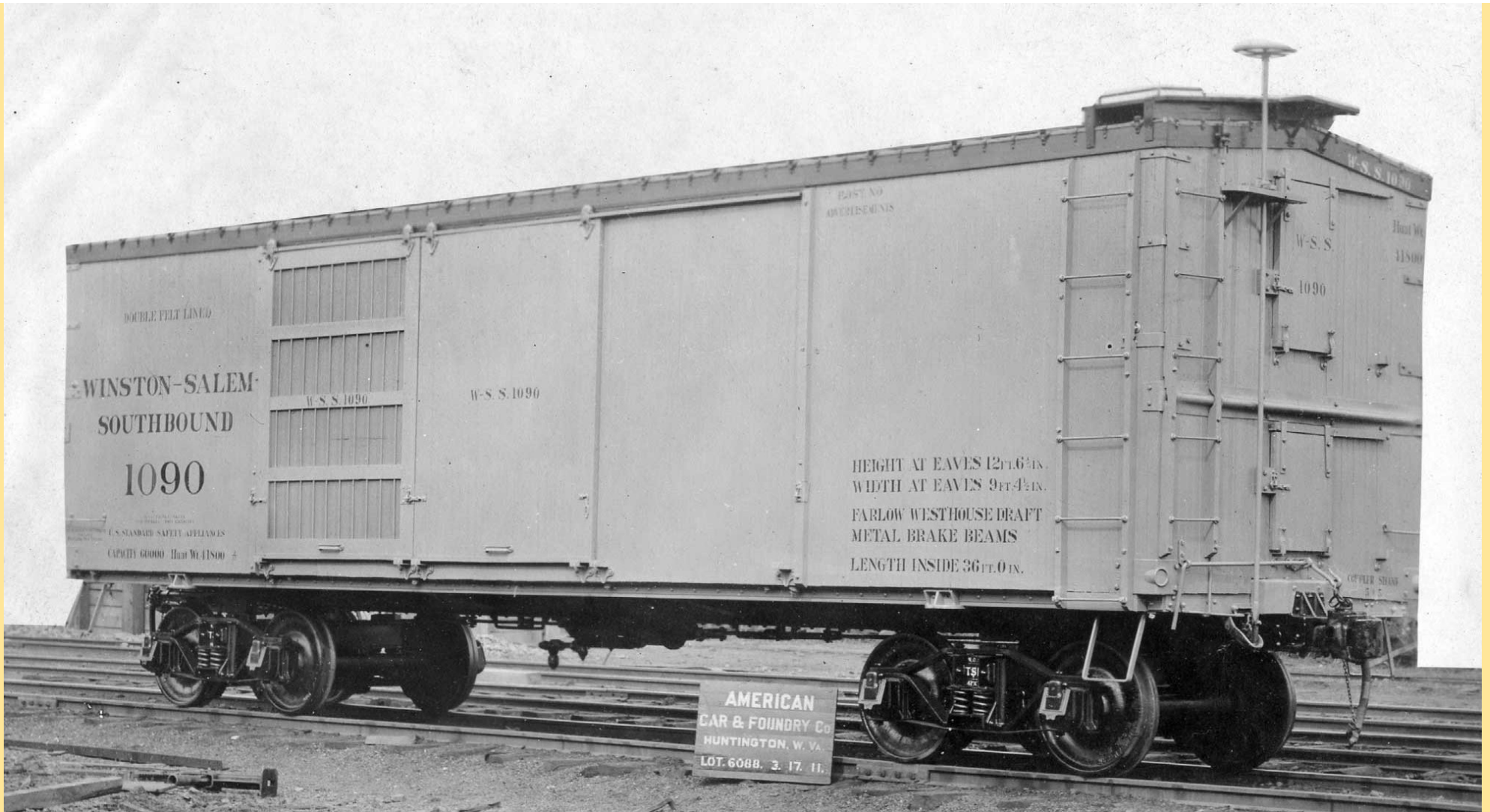




N&S 624 built in lot 2865 in 1911 by AC&F

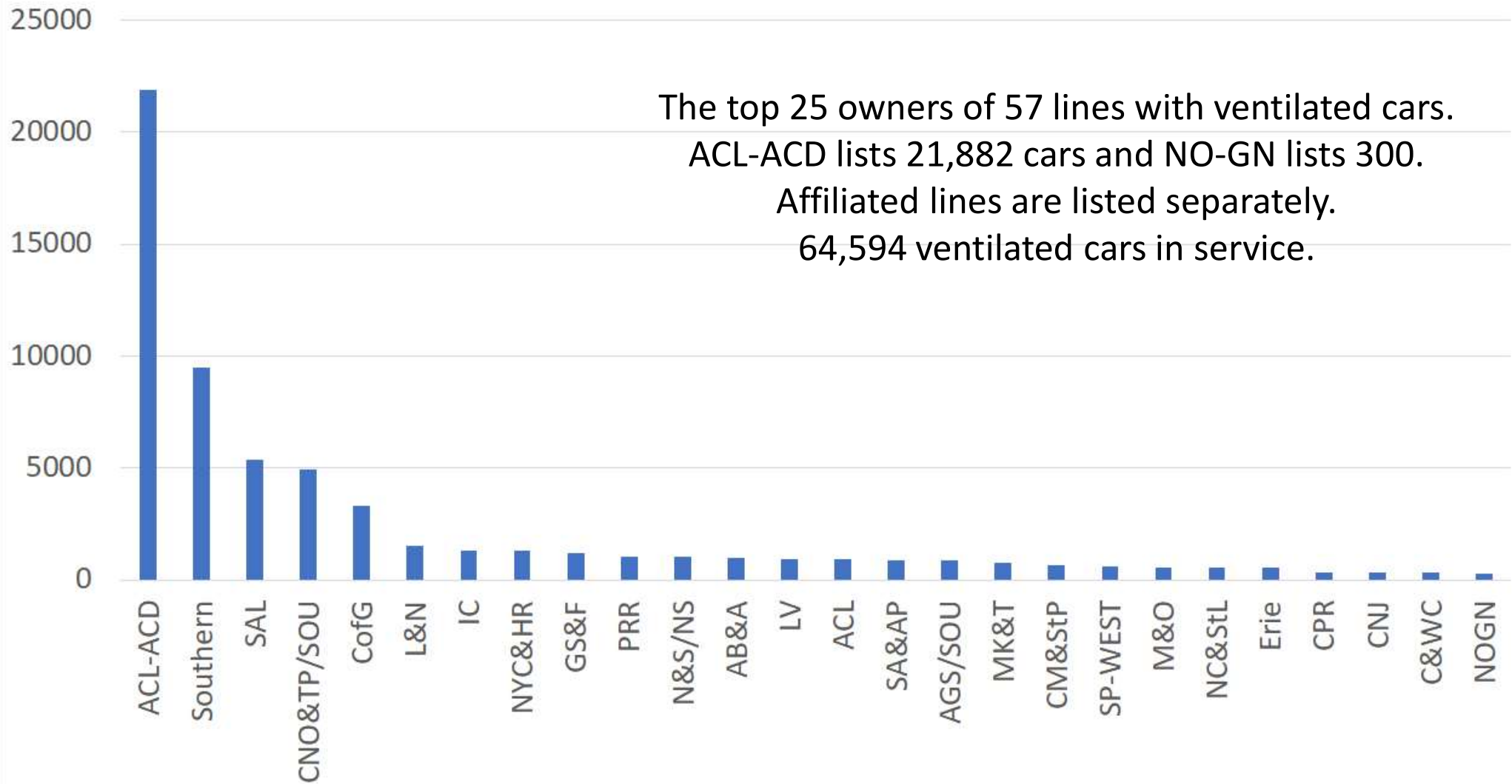


ACL 36185, an O-11 class built in 1911 by AC&F

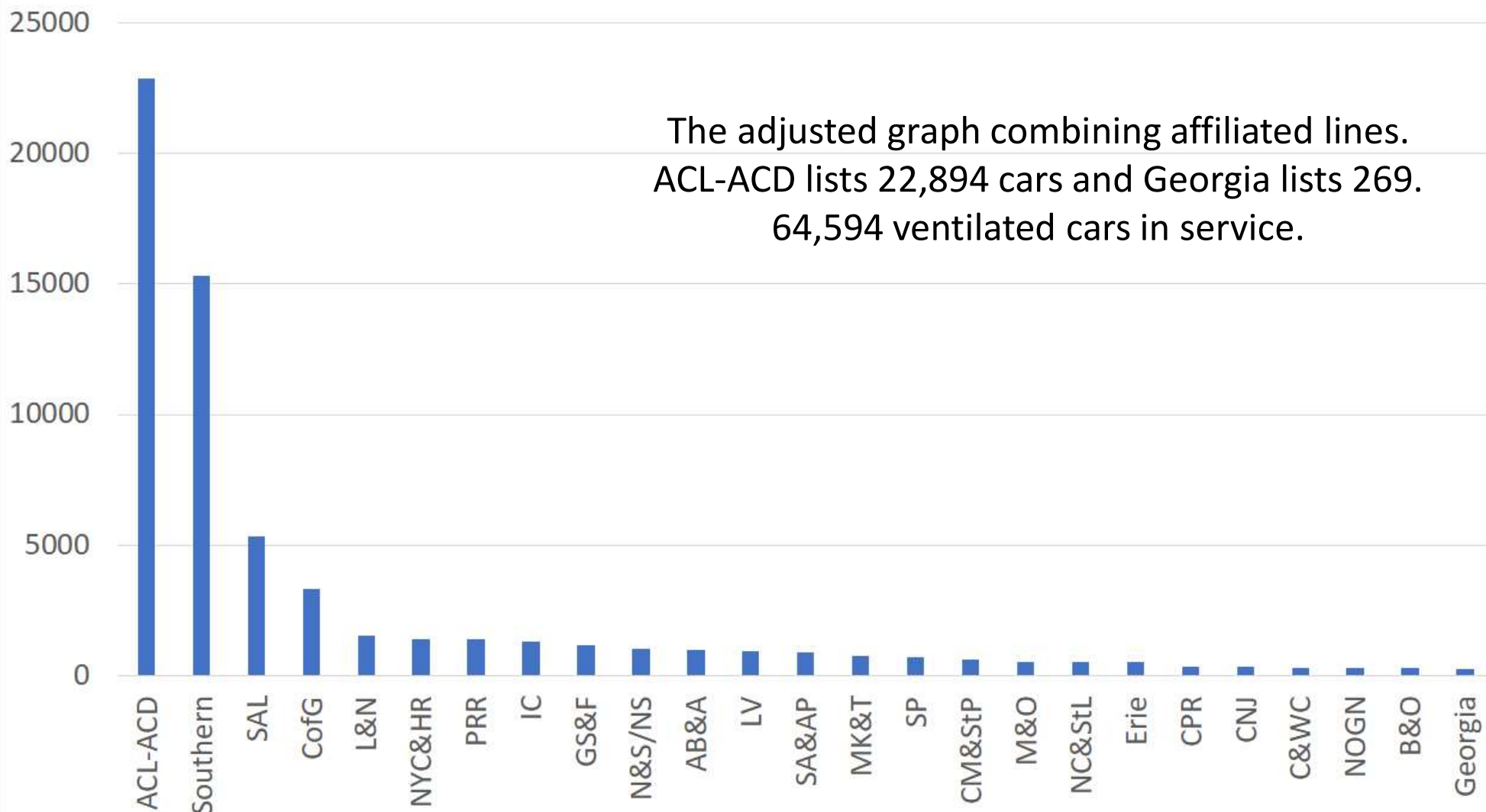


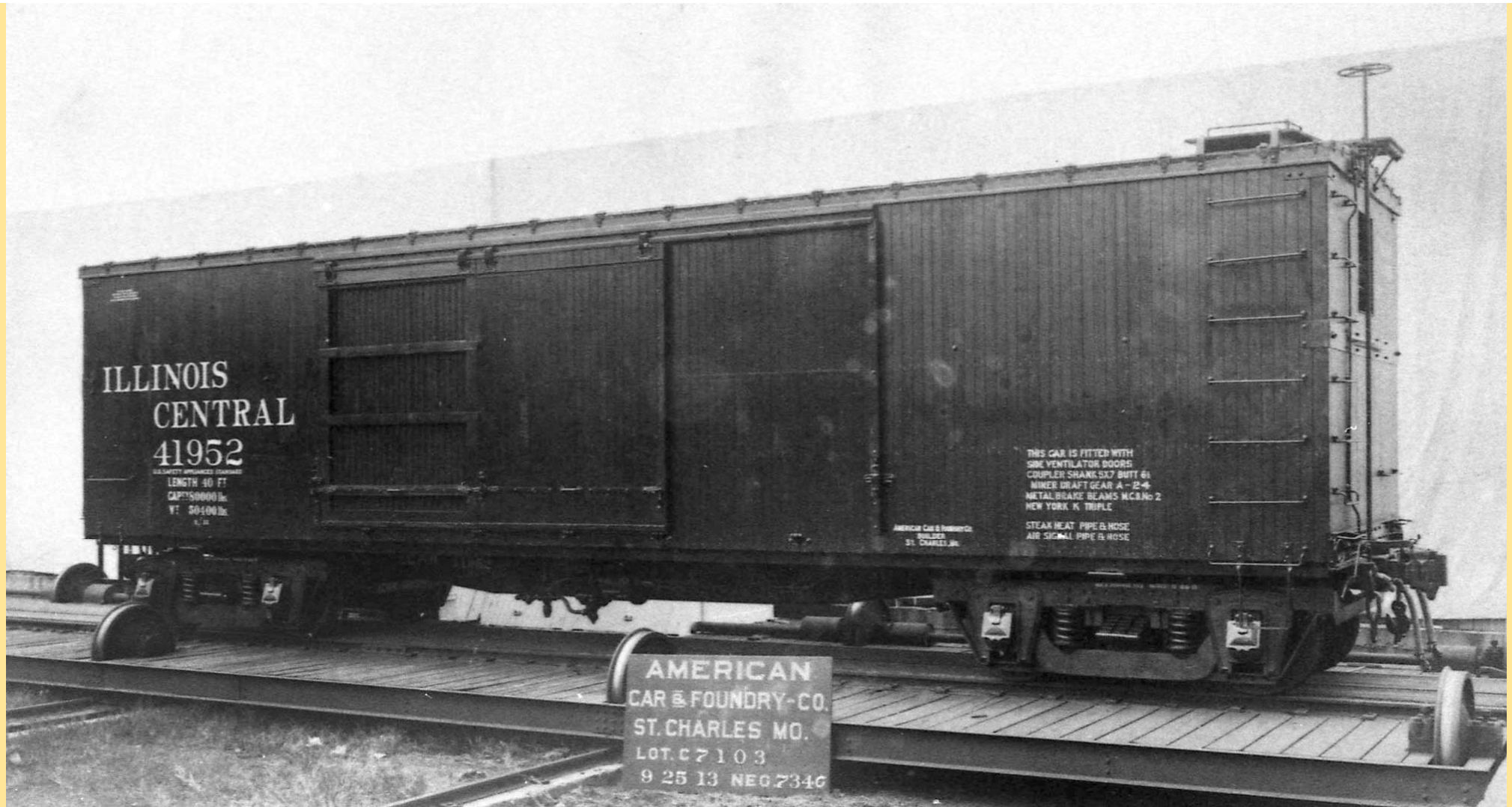
W-SS 1090 built in 1911 by AC&F

1910 Ownership

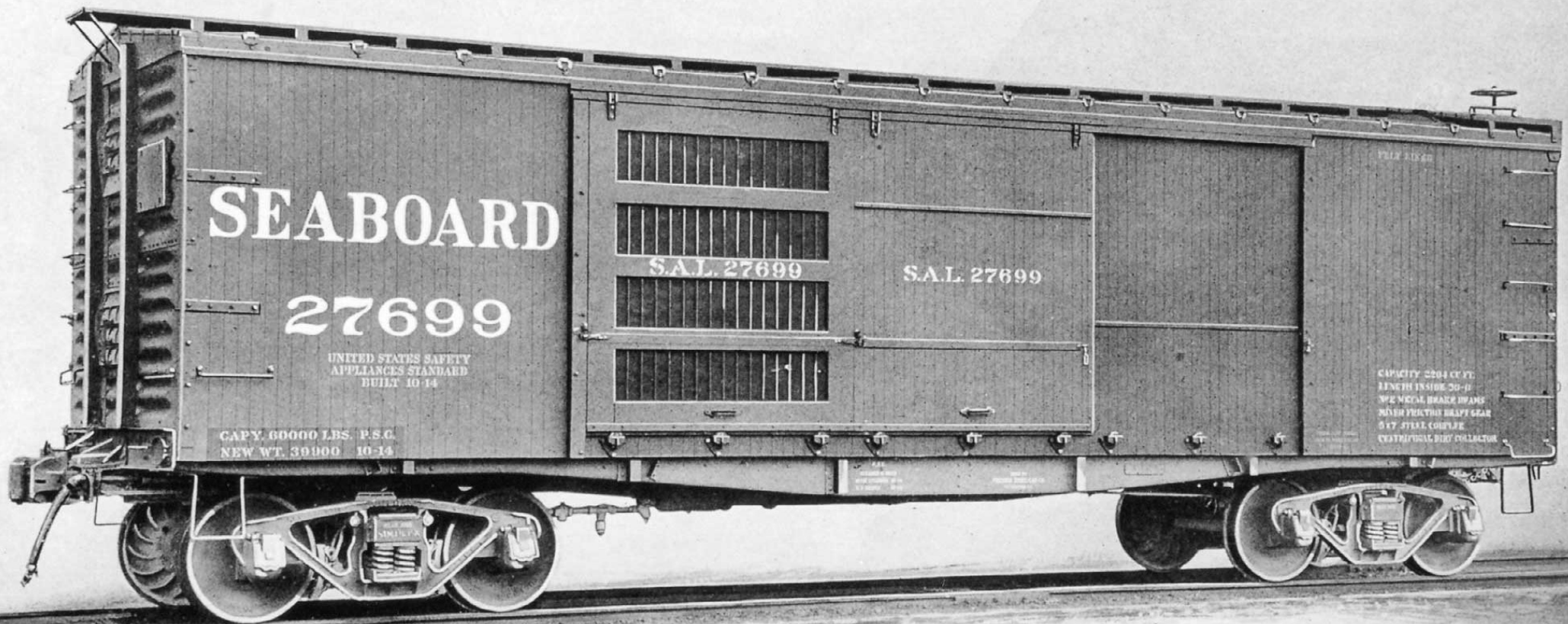


1910 Adjusted Ownership





IC 41952 ready for express service on passenger trains built in 1913 by AC&F



Seaboard 27699 V-8 class built in 1914 by Pressed Steel Car Company



**Southern 121200
built in 1914 by AC&F**

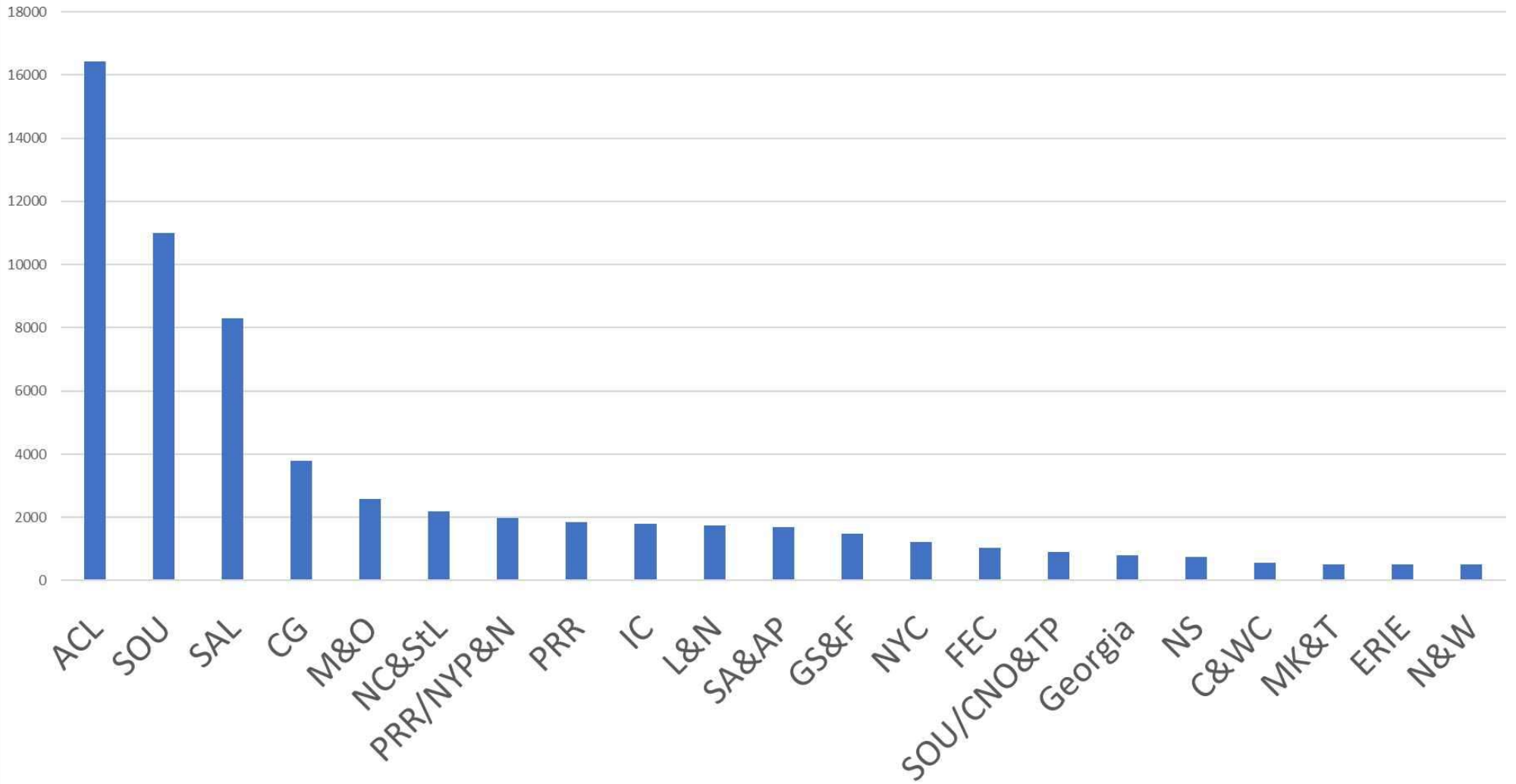


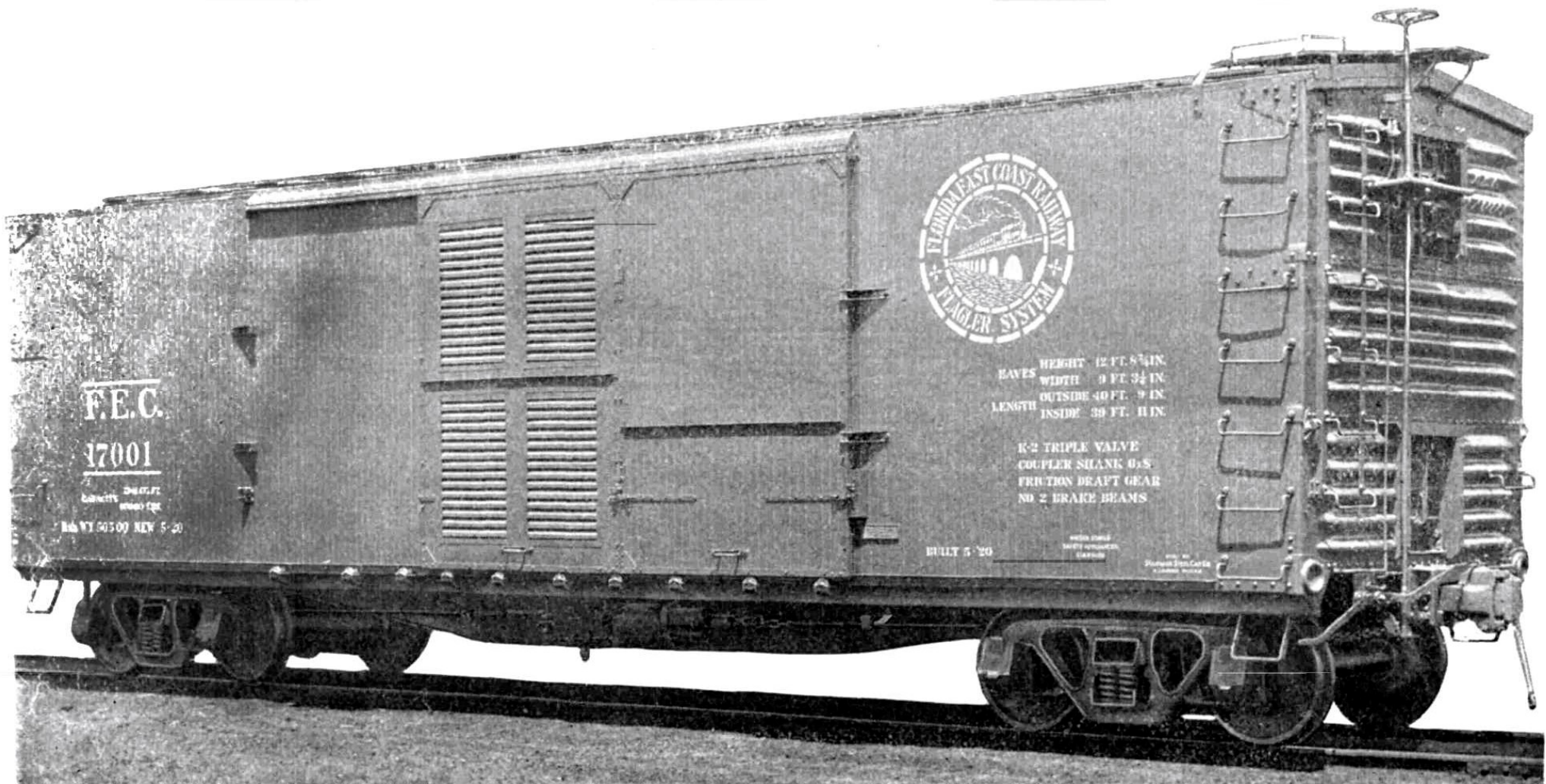
FEC 6017 built in 1916 by AC&F, Mt. Vernon



CG 7950 built in 1916

1917 Ownership



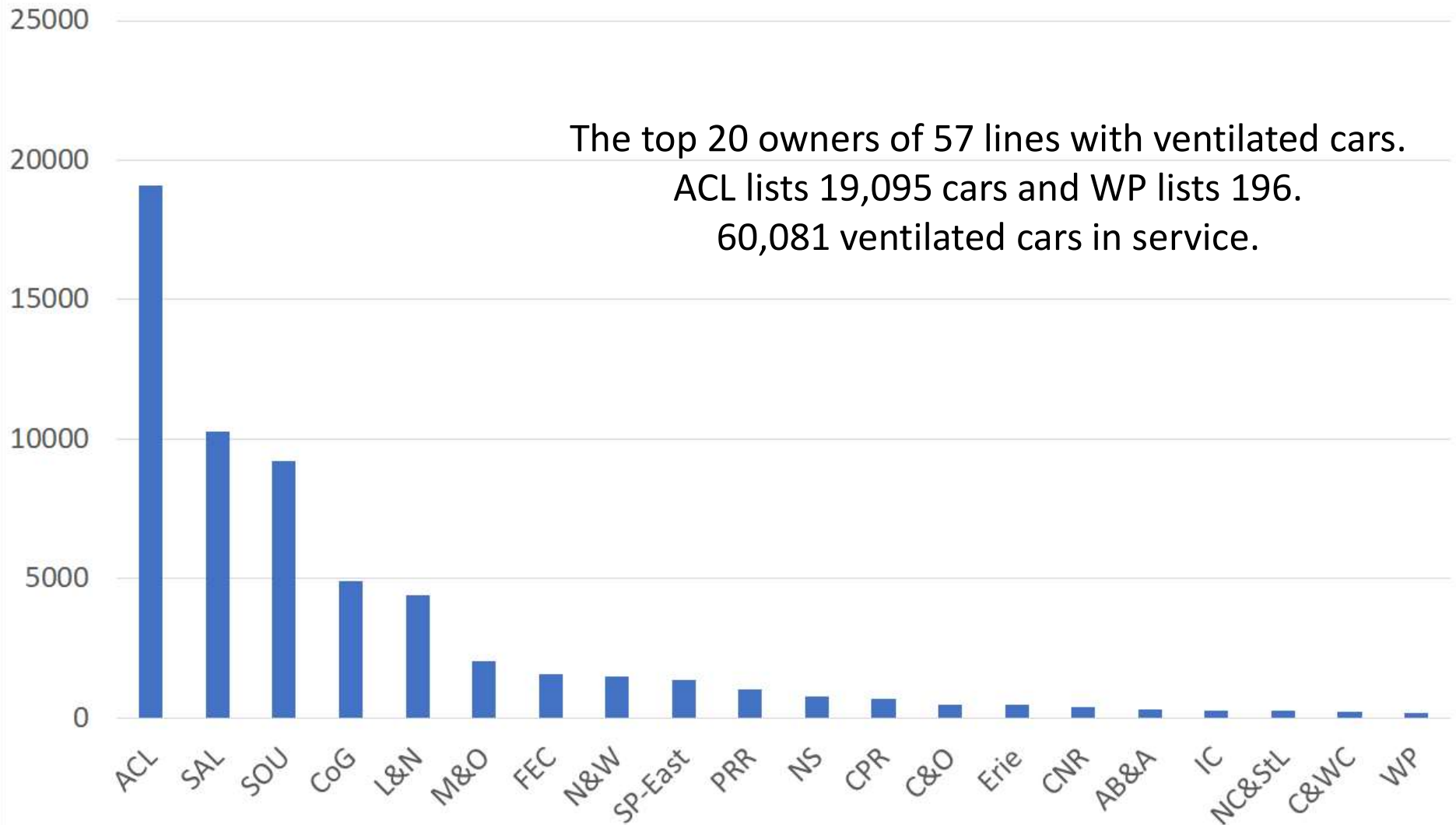


FEC 17001, built in March 1920 by Standard Steel Car Company



ACL 43916, an O-15 class built in 1921 by Baltimore Car & Foundry

1926 Ownership



Quantities drop quickly after the top five owners. Customer needs are changing, and steel-sheathed boxcars are replacing older wood-sheathed cars.

ACL, C&O, CG, FEC, L&N, and SAL bought new ventilated boxcars in the early 1920s.

The top five owners here accounted for 80% of the 1926 ventilated boxcar total.

ACL	19095
SAL	10292
SOU	9208
CoG	4933
L&N	4387
M&O	2028
FEC	1563
N&W	1476
SP-East	1370
PRR	1034
NS	791
CPR	674
C&O	500
Erie	495
CNR	390



L&N 97155 built in 1924 wearing a 1939 weigh stencil

Seaboard 83409, a V-4 class car in a 1929 scene.

Bill Welch collection

Unloading a truck load of melons into a car for shipment, Sumter County, Georgia.
S-12378-C July 8-19, 1929.

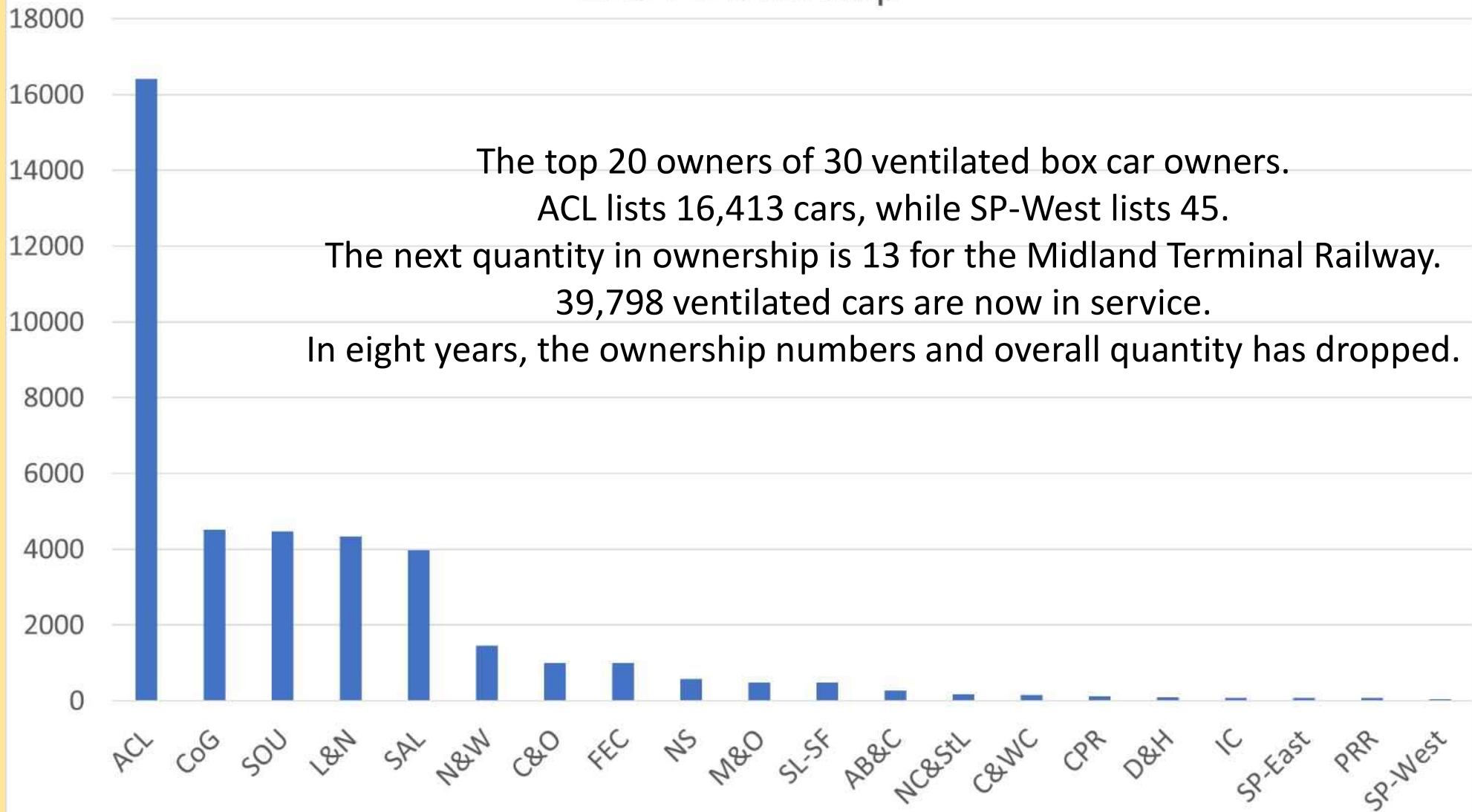




PHOTO - LOADING PULPWOOD TRAYVICK SPUR WAUSAU FLA.

L&N 98887 in rough service.

1934 Ownership



Ventilated car quantities continue to drop. Customer needs are changing, and refrigerator cars are replacing older ventilated box cars for fruit transport.

Here are the quantity changes for the top lines.

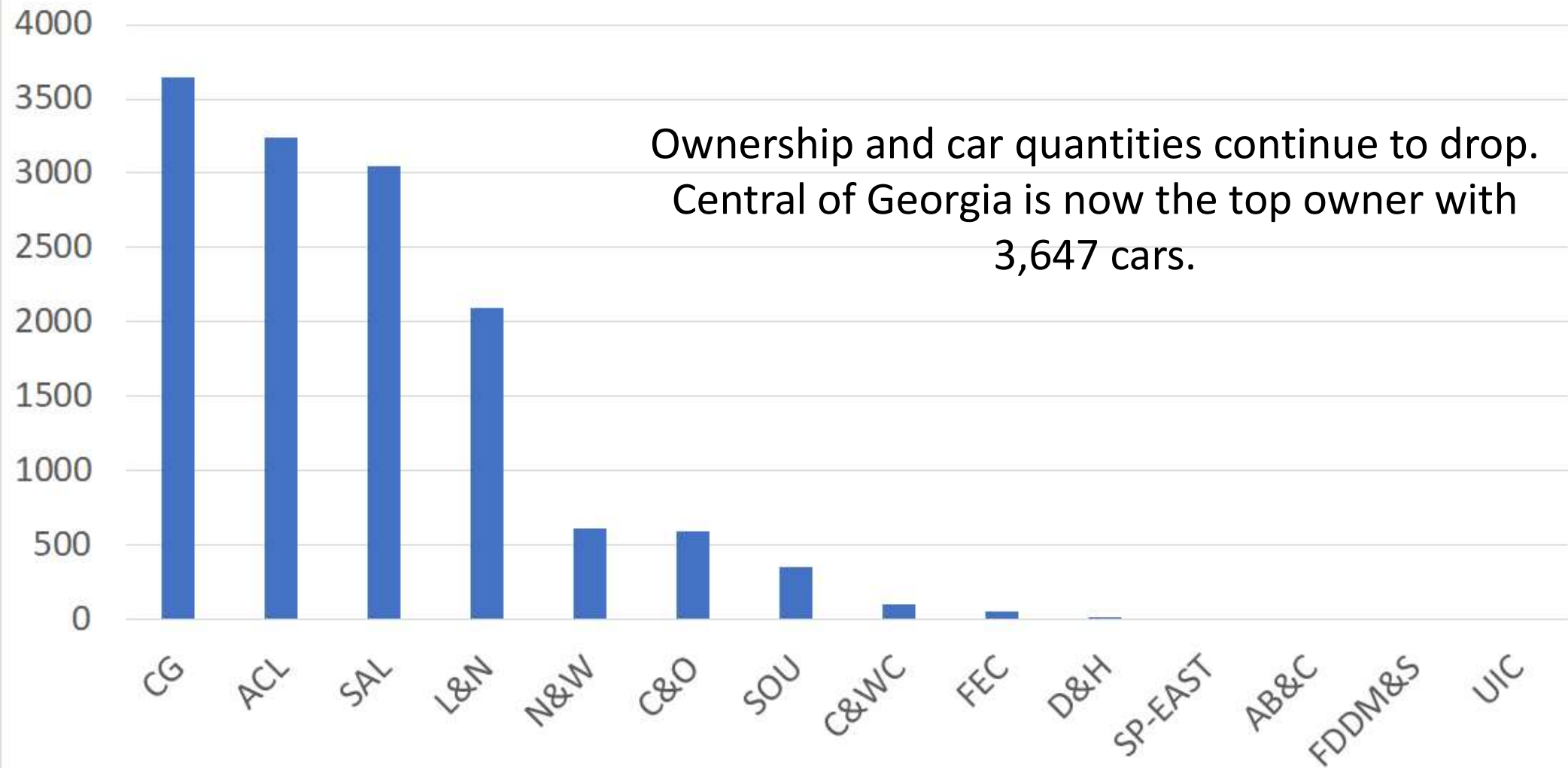
- ACL – 16,413, down 2,682 cars
- CofG – 4,507, down 426 cars
- SOU – 4,473, down 4,735 cars
- L&N – 4,339, down 48 cars
- SAL – 3,971, down 6,321 cars

C&O added 500 cars since 1926. B&O modified ten M-26 boxcars for ventilated service. These were the last of the new cars.



B&O M-26f new in 1931.

1943 Ownership



1943 Ownership Quantities

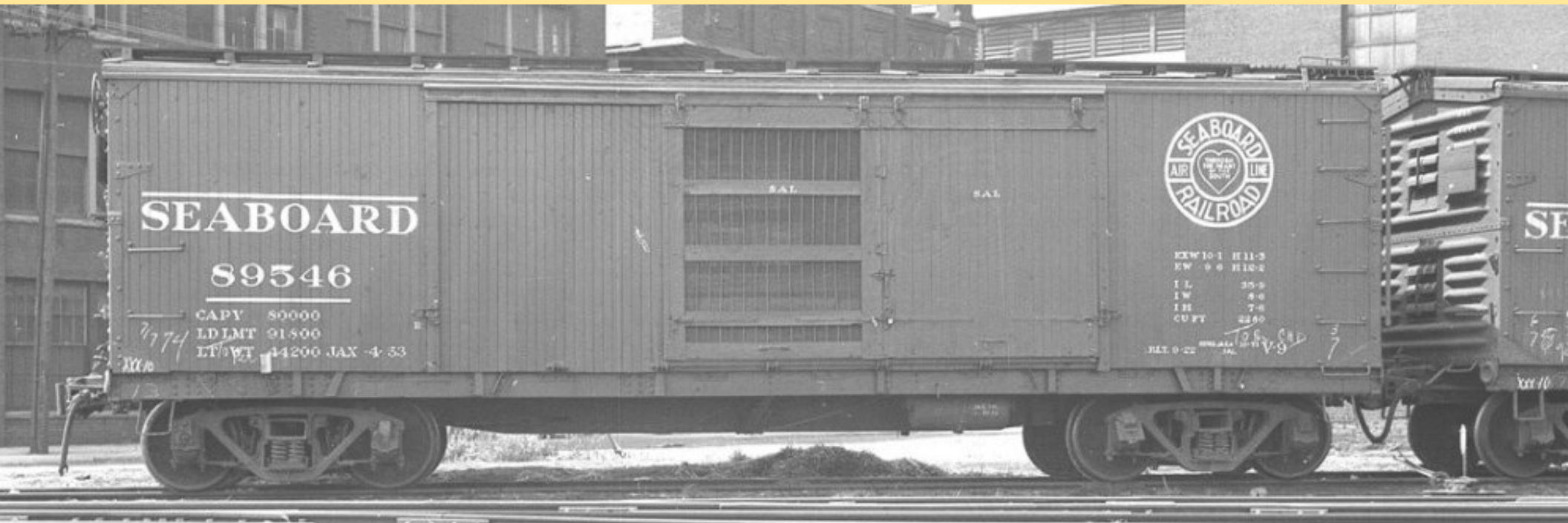
A total of 13,810 cars were spread among 14 owners.

The top four car owners accounted for 87% of the total.

CG	3647
ACL	3244
SAL	3046
L&N	2096
N&W	612
C&O	595
SOU	357
C&WC	102
FEC	61
D&H	20
SP-EAST	12
AB&C	8
FDDM&S	8
UIC	2

1951 Ownership Quantities

Railroad	IL 30 - 35.5-ft	IL 35.5 - 40-ft	IL > 40-ft	RR totals
SAL	0	2808	0	2808
ACL	0	1897	488	2385
CG	0	1531	442	1973
L&N	0	992	0	992
C&O	0	130	49	179
C&WC	0	97	0	97
N&W	0	59	0	59
SOU	0	53	0	53
DL&W	33	0	0	33
FDDM&S	0	13	0	13
TOTALS	33	7580	979	8592



SAL BOXCAR #89546 TORONTO ONT. 1950'S

JIM PARKER PHOTO-136

**Seaboard 89546 V-9 class built in 1922 by PSC.
It's far from home rails and wearing a 1953 weigh stencil in this
Jim Parker image. A sister car sits at the right.**

1953 Ownership Quantities

Railroad	IL 30 - 35.5-ft	IL 35.5 - 40-ft	IL > 40-ft	RR totals
ACL	0	1894	472	2366
SAL	0	2287	0	2287
CG	0	1104	348	1452
C&WC	0	97	0	97
L&N	0	37	0	37
SOU	0	21	0	21
FDDM&S	0	12	0	12
Total	0	5452	820	6272



CG 55856, built in 1922 by AC&F, Mt. Vernon, is in Pensacola, Florida, circa 1955.

1959 Ownership Quantities

Railroad	IL 35.5 - 40-ft	IL > 40-ft	RR totals
ACL	1592	29	1621
SAL	1074	0	1074
C&WC	58	0	58
CG	13	0	13
L&N	0	5	5
Totals	2737	34	2771

1962 Ownership Quantities

Railroad	IL 35.5 - 40-ft	IL > 40-ft	RR totals
ACL	499	0	499
SAL	182	0	182
L&N	0	3	3
Totals	681	3	684



Ron Christensen captured ACL 17995 at Thomasville, Georgia in May 1964. This O-17 class car has a 36-foot interior length and was built in the ACL shops in 1922-23.

Models

- Westerfield Models HO scale resin kits
 - 1300 & 2700 series for PRR XL ventilated car
 - 6300 series for FEC cars built following USRA DS boxcar design
 - 7000 series for ACL O-15 class built following USRA DS boxcar design
 - 11705 & 11715 for PRR produce cars from the XG boxcar class
- Southbound Model Works Seaboard V-9 and V-10 class cars
- Central of Georgia HS – Smokey Mountain Model Works 40-ft CG car
- Con-Cor injection molded RTR versions of 1960s AHM tooling
- Ambroid wood kit ACL “watermelon car” (also released in S scale!!)
- All Nation O scale wood kit “watermelon car”
- Mullet River O scale ACL ventilated boxcar wood kit
- Brass imports in a few scales



Models and photo by Paul Bizier





Model and photo by Paul Bizier



Model and photo by Keith Retterer



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LOT
211

G&D
211

VENTILATED

GORRE & DAPHETID R.R.

211

INSIDE DIMENSIONS
LENGTH 36-0
WIDTH 8-6
HEIGHT 8-0



WHEN EMPTY
RETURN TO
GREAT DIVIDE

AMERICAN
CAR & FOUNDRY CO.
BUILDER
ST. LOUIS MO

LOT 211

Apr 1 1901



Ventilated boxcars in the Strip District, Pittsburgh, circa 1910.