

Waupaca Area Model Railroaders

Waupaca, Wisconsin

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Club Car for Sale

Potato Car for the Waupaca – Green Bay Railway

Constructed in 1907, the Waupaca – Green Bay Railway was proposed by a group of Waupaca businessmen due to the difficulty of securing enough cars for Waupaca’s booming potato business. It also gave convenient rail access for shipments from the granite quarry between Waupaca and Scandinavia.

The line passed through much low land. 125,000 cubic yards of dirt had to be moved and six bridges built over the Little Wolf River. Two mixed trains a day provided both passenger and freight service. The engine faced forward for the run to Scandinavia and ran in reverse on the return trip to Waupaca. Instead of the usual telegraph wires, a wireless system was used to communicate messages. It is noteworthy that this was the world’s first such land based installation. By 1921, the railroad was unable to pay off its indebtedness. With bankruptcy inevitable, it was sold for \$55,000 to the Green Bay and Western, which was the Waupaca - Green Bay’s connecting line in Scandinavia. The GB&W operated the line until 1947, at which time the tracks were taken up and the Waupaca rail services taken over by the Soo Line.

At the time the WGB was built, Waupaca was the nation’s leading potato producer with world potato market prices being set here.

This model is an imaginary car based on what might have been if history had been a little different. The A.M Penny Company of Waupaca had potato cars lettered with their name, but we do not know what they looked like. A. M. Penny was a large potato shipper, and one of the founders of the Waupaca - Green Bay Railway. Cliff Deveraux, who grew up in Waupaca in the early 1900s and who was a long time Waupaca model railroader, used to like to tell how when he arrived in New York after being away fighting in World War One, he saw some A. M. Penny cars. It was then that he really felt like he was really coming home.

To order cars send \$20.00 per car plus \$5.00 shipping/handling to Waupaca Area Model Railroaders, 10506 Berberg Rd, Amherst, WI 54406. Circle car numbers desired: (2008____) (2009____) (2010____) and 1st 2nd & 3rd choices on adjacent line if OK to substitute. Also check here if OK to substitute____ in order of preference.

Ship to: Name & Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail address: _____