

Six months ago, we announced three contests to bring out and celebrate the talents that you bring to O Gauge railroading. In this catalog, we're delighted to announce the winners of two of those contests and remind you the third competition is still open for entries.

Freight Car Deco Contest

Last April we invited you to dig into your files, archives or library — or your desk drawer — and send us the prototype paint schemes you've always wanted to see on a Premier or RailKing freight car. We received 122 entries, more than for any previous M.T.H. contest. These four winners caught our eye as cars we'd definitely like to own:

Shedd Aquarium high cube boxcar: Submitted by P.J. Faron of Frankfort, Illinois, this car took to the rails in 2015 to promote Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. It was sponsored by two hometown firms, railcar leasing company GATX and Packaging Corporation of America, and transports PCA paper products around the country.

In announcing the car, Brian A. Kenney, President and CEO of GATX, said, "Shedd Aquarium is the top-attended cultural institution in Chicago and a leader in

animal care and welfare, conservation research and science education. We are pleased to help bring more national awareness to this treasured institution." Due to the complex nature of this car's graphics, we were still working at press time to determine on which model it will be possible to apply this paint scheme.

Canadian 100-ton grain hopper with mural: While we don't condone or encourage railroad graffiti, this car impressed us as a rolling work of art. It was submitted by Christian Babcock of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Lacking a photo of the other side of this car, our model will assume the other side is a typical Canadian grain hopper.



CSX bay window caboose: This entry from Carl Peduzzi of Dumphries Virginia is actually a static display at CSX Transportation's primary education center, the Railroad

Education and Development Institute (REDI) in Atlanta, Georgia. It honors former instructor Ron Bush. While the prototype's days of train service are over, we think the car's graphics, especially the REDI locomotive logo, will make the model a handsome finale to any CSX freight train.

Black Hills Packing Co. plug-door reefer: Black Hills Packing started in 1910 as The Rapid City Packing Co. The rancher-owned cooperative slaughtered and processed local cattle, hogs and sheep to avoid having to ship live animals to Chicago. After changing its name to Black Hills Packing Co. in the 1940s, the firm began selling products under the Rushmore Meats brand, in reference to the nearby national memorial. Black Hills continued in operation until 1989. Submitted by Joseph Jameson of Mendota

Heights, Minnesota, this car is a standout for its Mt. Rushmore mural. The prototype resides at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Look for these cars in upcoming M.T.H. catalogs. And while they didn't win, a number of other entries may also appear as future RailKing and Premier offerings. Each of our winners will receive \$100 in M.T.H. rolling stock of their choice, as well as their winning entry when it is produced. Non-winners will also receive a model of their car if it appears in a catalog within the next three years.

