

TOY TRAINS & REAL TRAINS

TOWER TALK - February 2007



Hello Folks

Stan Batynski here, returning after several months' absence.

I hope you like the Orchard Supply House (OSH) train calendars Don Goebel has distributed. OSH gives away train calendars and flower calendars each January, unfortunately they ran out of the flower calendars before I could get some to send to Altoona.

I've been busy with several part-time jobs and co-producing the Flyer Fest West 2007, an S-gauge hi-rail and American Flyer meet for May 4 - 6, 2007 in Sacramento. Three of us in the Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Area of California are trying to establish a nationally recognized multi-club S-gauge meet in the West, along the lines of the very popular S Fest meets in the mid-West. It has been a one-day show in past years; we are hosting a three-day event this year.

You have probably all seen the new Lionel and K-Line by Lionel 2007 volume 1 catalogs. I'm glad to see K-Line is back; I always liked and purchased the K-Line (by Maury Klein) Collector Club products.

For this issue, I'm going to send the file to Don G. in PDF format so he can email it to those with PCs. It will save copy costs and the newsletter looks far better in color. I'll try to keep the file size fairly small so downloads aren't too long.

Please feel free to email me at yorkee@comcast.net. As always, suggestions, corrections, photos, and additional information are welcome. No one, except Don Goebel, has bothered to contact me so either you like this material or no one cares. Just joking.

Stan

Reddy Kilowatt Returns



I've always liked the Reddy Kilowatt figure; when I was a kid I used to see Reddy prominently displayed on the Public Service Electric & Gas building in downtown Newark, New Jersey. In addition, he was displayed on the sides of the PSEG service trucks.

Reddy was created by Ashton B. Collins Sr., general commercial manager of Alabama Power Company, and introduced to the public on March 11, 1926. Over 200 electric power companies, to promote the use of electricity, licensed Reddy for use in advertising and publicity. In 1998, Mr. Collins' son sold the rights to Reddy's image to the Northern States Power Company. A subsidiary corporation was formed to manage Reddy's licensing and use.



Notice the shoes on the two Reddy Kilowatts. The yellow footwear (are they shoes, booties, or moccasins?) in the left image is the original design. In 1998, Reddy was updated to wear tennis shoes, as shown in the right image.

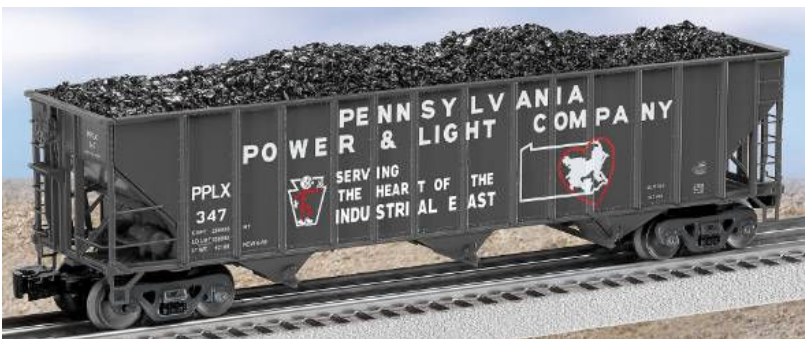
A few O-gauge toy train manufacturers have offered Reddy as part of the graphics on various utility company railcars. I obtained the following information and photos from various catalogs, manufacturer's websites, eBay, and the Weaver text information from the excellent spreadsheet on Weaver's website. I think there is an error in the table for the PS-2 covered hopper. The car's serial number shown on the picture does not match the number in Weaver's table.

In case you look, Reddy wears his original footwear on all of the toy trains shown.

Road Name Reporting Marks	Manufacturer Year / Catalog Item Number	Car Type	Car Serial Number
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Lionel 2007 vol 1 6-27166	3-Bay Ribbed Open Hopper	347
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Lionel 2007 vol 1 6-21884 2-pack	3-Bay Ribbed Open Hopper	348, 349
INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT Co. EWSX	Lionel 2002 vol 2 6-17179	3-bay Ribbed Open Hopper	10074
K-LINE POWER & LIGHT Co. KPLX	K-Line 2004 vol 1 K7041-8011	Operating Voltmeter Boxcar	92502
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Weaver 2001 Custom Run 2nd Run	3-Bay Offset Coal Car	9300, 9303, 9306, 9312, 9314, 9316, 9322, 9325, 9328, 9333, 9336, 9339
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Weaver 1999 Custom Run 1st Run	3-Bay Offset Coal Car	9350, 9351, 9352, 9353, 9354, 9355, 9356, 9357, 9358, 9359, 9360, 9361
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Weaver 1997 Custom Run	PS-2 Covered Hopper	9364, 9366, 9368
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Weaver 1996 Custom Run	3-Bay Ribbed Coal Car	122, 130
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT Co. PPLX	Lionel 1979 6-9338	4-bay ribbed Open Hopper	9338

In 1979, Lionel produced the 6-9338 Pennsylvania Power & Light 4-bay open hopper as part of the 6-1971 Quaker City Limited set. Supposedly this hopper was very popular with folks who liked to operate unit trains.

For further information on Reddy Kilowatt, google on "Reddy Kilowatt", including the Google images section. There are many Reddy Kilowatt images, including Zippo lighters with Reddy's image.



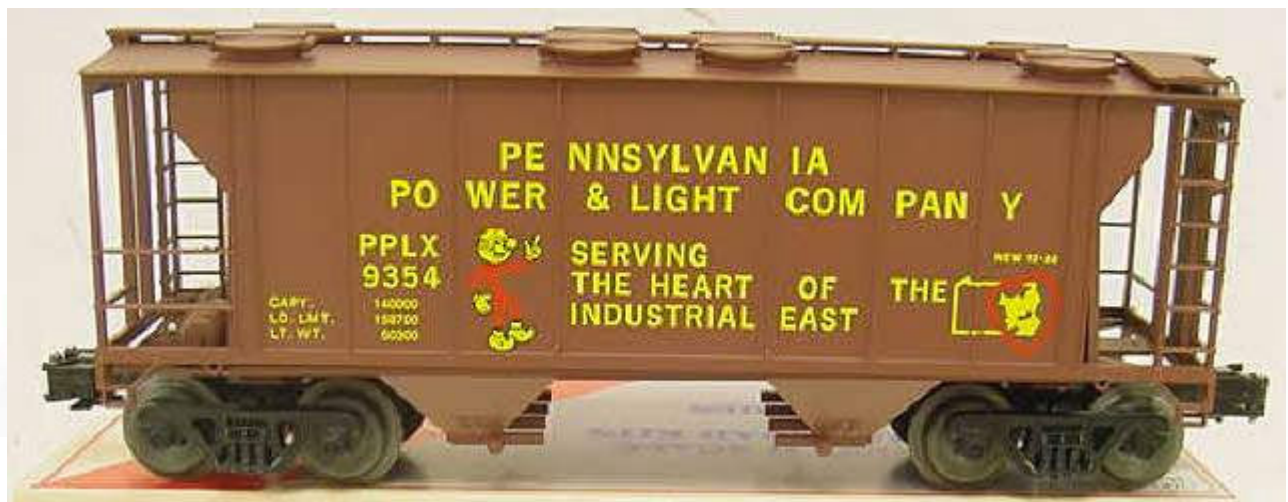
Lionel 6-27166 2007 vol 1



Lionel 6-17179 2002 vol 2



K-Line K7041-8011 2004 vol 1



Weaver 1997 Custom Run – 1st run



Lionel 6-9338 1979

Seen on the Web



NH RDC 140 Boston 11/26/57

Robert Jennings photo, Dennis Schmidt collection – Roger Williams RDC



LV F7A 570 04/25/67

Bob Yanosy photo, Dennis Schmidt collection