

## MISSOURI PACIFIC CABOOSE

This Standard Steel Welded 11351 caboose was built by Missouri Pacific Railroad at their Sedalia, Missouri shops during 1948. It was rebuilt in 1967 and retired on June of 1985. It's original number was 1067 but during its working lifetime the number was changed to 13351, then 12351, and then to 11351.

The year 1948 was the start of the Missouri Pacific steel caboose era. From 1948 to 1950, Missouri Pacific built 215 steel cabooses to replace the old wooden types; of these, 180 with steel welded sides were built at the Sedalia shops and 35 with steel riveted sides were built at the DeSoto, Missouri shops. These steel cabooses were big, roomy and had massive underframes that could take a lot of abuse; they were to be replaced by the 1971 steel extended vision types but many were still in service in the late 80s.

The original 1948-1950 steel cars had four windows on the right side and three on the left side. The paint scheme was a boxcar red with 24' diameter buzzsaw heralds on the sides directly under the cupola; the letters M. P. and car numbers were under the herald. Small numbers may have been placed over the doors.

Most of the standard steel caboose were rebuilt in the 1960s at Sedalia. Some of the changes were: underframe modified, one bunk eliminated, wood paneling replaced with plywood, some had roofwalk and cupola handrails removed, some windows were blanked or welded shut, stoves changed from coal to kerosene and flush-type toilets; additions included radios, over head water tanks, aluminum window frames and electric marker lights. The exterior color scheme was to a vermilion paint (a few to an orange) with a 48" or 60" diameter buzzsaw herald on the sides with the underlying letters M. P. removed. Car numbers were added to the cupola ends; hand rails were painted white and a 3" tall white horizontal scotchlite stripe was placed across the lower side; a small buzzsaw herald may have been placed on the steel plate on the end platform. The screaming eagle MOPAC herald replaced the buzzsaw heralds on some steel cabooses during the 1980s.

After the merger of Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads in 1982, Missouri Pacific donated number 11351 to the city of Cotter after it's retirement; it was originally located near Cotter's old High School gymnasium which is the present day North Arkansas Youth Center.

During 1989, vandals set the caboose on fire and completely destroyed the interior and weakened it's structure; all windows and doors were then welded shut. It was moved to this location, to be part of the Railroad Memorial, during August of 2002 and repainted during October of 2002.

It's present paint color, location and type of it's numbers and heralds, the white stripes, white painted handrails, removal of roofwalk and cupola handrails and large buzzsaw heralds on each side restores the caboose to the 1960s rebuilding program era.

Jerry Stude 10/23/02