



(Left, above) Among the most important innovations which began to be installed in box cars in the 1950s was the crossbar loader. The one shown here is a "9-belt" model, which refers to the horizontal angles or belt rails to which crossbeams or crossbars could be attached to divide and restrain the load. Other models with varying numbers of belts were also used. Stacked on the floor are wood-metal composite crossbars. In later years, these were usually all metal. The pioneer in this field was the Evans Products Company, whose loader installation is shown here. An example of one of these loaders in use is shown at right. (Southern Pacific photo, SUL)



(Right, above) In January 1959, canned "Chicken of the Sea" tuna is being secured with Evans DF loader equipment in a B-50-47 car. (Southern Pacific photo, negative N-5365-1, Shasta Division Archives)

(Below) Class B-50-34 was the first class of SP box cars to be built with loaders, which were the Evans Products Company "DF" model. This equipment was emblazoned on the car side in Daylight Orange letters on a black background, surrounded by an orange stripe. This emblem would be superseded a few years later by the familiar yellow circle. Although previous SP classes of 50-foot single-door box cars had been intended largely for auto parts service, the B-50-34 cars were mostly in general service, as shippers began to prefer cars with this equipment. Note also that cars were built with door-corner gussets, and 6-6 side-sheet pattern. (Southern Pacific photo, SUL)



2-0128-3 SIDE VIEW B-50-34



(Right) The B end of no. 110173 shows the improved Dreadnaught end, 1+3/4 pattern, applied to the Class B-50-34 cars. The major ribs retain a slight "rolling pin" shape, which would be absent in later production of this end pattern from Standard Railway Equipment Company (SRECo). The hand brake is Equipco. Note that end placard boards have been lowered in location by the time of construction of this car, August, 1954.

(Below) The diagonal-panel roof from SRECo is shown in this view at Car Shop No. 9 in the Sacramento General Shops complex. Also well shown is the U.S. Gypsum Company running board. This particular car is no. 110150. (both photos, Southern Pacific, SUL)

