

## 2. Ernie Little's Reading Combine Car 408



My favorite Combine Car is Reading 408. For my Master Builder-Cars I had to have a passenger car as one of the eight required and this combine passenger/baggage car (CVI) met the requirement. In my research I discovered that it was built under AFE #13978 by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company (Harlan and Hollingsworth) in Wilmington, Delaware in 1923. The car had a cost of \$20,792.73 at the time of construction. It had a body length of 63 feet with a baggage compartment of 20 feet (1,275 cubic feet) and seated 56 passengers. It had 4 wheel steel equalized passenger car trucks, weighed in at 110,470 pounds, and was considered a lightweight car. Other equipment included electric lights, a 3KW body hung electric generator, and a 300 amp hour 16 cell battery, and a thermos-jet heating system. In the 1950's and 60's it would have been seen as part of the Reading Company Iron Horse Ramble Trains. The car is now located in Kempton, Pennsylvania and is part of a scenic railroad. *Ernie Little, MMR*

