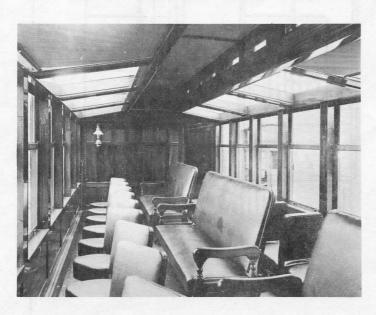




THE WORLD'S FIRST DOME CAR



This month, we reproduce photographs and a diagram from the collection of Omer Lavallee depicting one of Canadian Pacific's wooden 'dome' cars built between 1902 and 1906. The



cars, claimed to have been the first 'dome' cars in the world, operated between Laggan (Lake Louise), Alta., and Vancouver, B.C. on transcontinental trains.

The first car, No. 517, made its appearance in 1902. It was similar to the car in the illustration except that it did not have a glass roof in the centre section, nor did it have a clerestory in the same area. Moreover, the letter board extended the full length of the car. So successful was No. 517 that in 1906, CP introduced three further cars, Nos. 84-86 inclusive, which incorporated these additional features. The 84-series cars had a coupled length of 64'-4", and the exteriors were finished in naturally-varnished mahogany, with gold leaf lettering. There were swivel chairs in the two cupolas, while the normal-level centre section had swivel chairs and longitudinal reversible seats which faced outward toward the sides of the car.

These interesting cars survived until 1913 when they were converted to boarding cars following the appearance of the more conventional roofless mountain observation cars.

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