One of America's greatest railroads, serving the Midwest and the South for more than 150 years before being acquired by Canadian National in 1999, the Illinois Central ran some of the nation's most famous passenger trains (most notably the City of New Orleans), as well as a freight service renowned for its quality. This comprehensive and beautifully illustrated history of the Main Line of Mid-America—the railroad that brought us engineer Luther Casey Jones—looks at Illinois Central's motive power and rolling stock, its good old reliable passenger service and crack freight operations, and its most interesting routes. Drawing on archival records and interviews with former employees, and illustrated with photographs from collections around the country, this volume brings to vibrant life a rich chapter of American railroad history.

My Personal Review:
The Illinois Central was another of America's premier railroads that helped to develop the country and which now is no more. From its start in 1838 (with 24 miles of track) it grew to over 6,500 miles. Alas, in 1999 it passed into the hands of the Canadian National.

This is a colorful history of the Illinois Central from its early day through its acquisition. It is profusely illustrated, with a lot of color pictures. The text that accompanies the pictures gives an accurate telling of the story of the line and its operation down through the years.

The IC grew by acquiring other lines as well as by expanding its own tract into new areas. It remained, however, a north-south line with its solid anchors in Chicago and New Orleans. It grew west to meet with the Union Pacific in Omaha. It grew to the south east, eventually connecting to Birmingham and eventually Miami.

Only in the last couple of pages in the book is the Canadian National merger. It has become a major railroad, from the original IC trackage from
Chicago to New Orleans and CN all across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But alas, it's under the CN name, not the IC.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Illinois Central Railroad (MBI Railroad Color History) by Tom Murray - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!