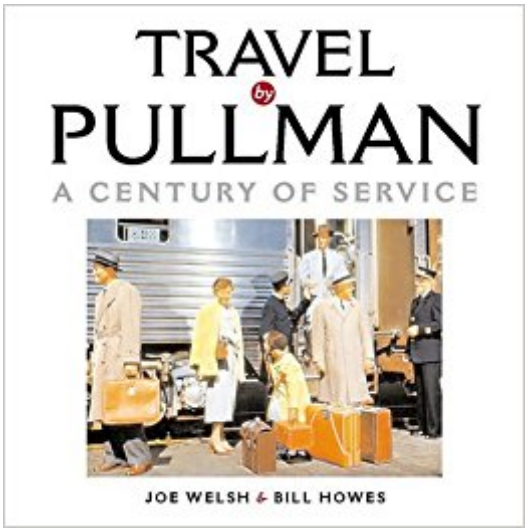
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Travel By Pullman: A Century Of Service, 1865-1969



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Synopsis

Every evening for much of the twentieth century, 50,000 or more travelers snuggled under crisp Pullman linens, falling asleep in one state and awaking in another. This nostalgic look back at what was essentially a rolling hotel company contracted by the nation’s railroads to provide guest accommodations, covers every aspect of Pullman operations, from the emerging popularity of steam-powered rail travel in the early twentieth century to its diesel-powered zenith and its eventual nadir in the 1950s and 1960s. Pullman’s entire complex network of employees and services is featured, from the ticket offices that manually handled millions of reservations each year to the six car shops spread across the nation to perform heavy maintenance and repairs, and all of Pullman’s porters, mechanics, cleaners, electricians, cooks, barbers, shoeshiners, and more. Illustrated with both black-and-white and color period views depicting Pullman interiors and facilities, as well as memorabilia and sales literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rail History, Fall/Winter 2005 (circ. unavailable) “The book offers a good visual tour of a premier railroadÃ¢â ¬â„¢s passenger trains during the ‘golden ageÃ¢â ¬â„¢ of railroading. Santa Fe fans and devotees of the passenger train will enjoy it.Ã¢â ¬Â•

Joseph M. Welsh grew up in a railroader’s family. His father worked for the Nickel Plate Road and other companies, and thanks to his father’s pass privileges, Joe was able to travel about

the country at an early age. Joe has written feature articles for Trains magazine, Passenger Train Journal, the Tacoma News Tribune, and various historical associations. He is the co-author of Classic American Streamliners. Joe lives near Seattle, Washington. William F. Howes Jr. has long been entrenched in the railroad industry, serving as a vice president of the Baltimore & Ohio and as a director for the Pullman company. Howes lives in Florida.

To my knowledge the only readily available book about the day to day operations of the Pullman Company in the early to mid 20th century. As a historian of Pullman porters, this book was invaluable in understanding the world in which Pullman porters worked.

Wonderful book.

Modelers- good information about passenger interiors Several photos I have not seen beforePorter issue- This book has a porter on the cover and plenty of information about porters if you look inside

This book is an operating history of one of the world’s most significant, complex and least understood railroad transportation companies. It is not another book about Pullman’s wonderful Pullman porters who are already the subject of numerous other books. To put it another way, in 1920 the Pullman operating company employed roughly 23,000 employees, among them were 7,200 Pullman porters - this books tells the story of the porters and those other 15,800 employees who have been ignored in every other book on Pullman. It also explains most other aspects of how Pullman operated as a provider of first class rail service. Something no other book has done.Until this book arrived on the scene understanding what Pullman actually did as a company and how it worked was virtually impossible. Now that it exists, it puts all the other books on the Pullman porters in the context of who they worked for, what they did for a living, why they did it and why they eventually lost their jobs.Pullman porters are pictured at work in about 20% of the book’s images - 25 different images - including archival company color footage of Porters at work which I’ve never seen before; a two page sidebar explains the porter’s history and social importance while an entire chapter detailing an overnight trip in a Pullman car, written by a former railroader, spends considerable time explaining what a porter actually did enroute.This book was nominated for the national book award of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society - twice. To quote Trains Magazine publisher Kevin Keefe, "My company has a fine railroad library, and a recent check of the card catalog turned up 37 books about Pullman. But almost all of them concerned some niche or

subchapter of the Pullman Story.....none attempts to wrap the entire enterprise into a comprehensive, comprehensible whole. Until now. With Travel by Pullman.....Bill Howes and Joe Welsh have done the Pullman Company proud."The books co-authors Bill Howes headed the B&O Railroad passenger department and was one of the last director's of the Pullman Company. Joe Welsh, a professional transportation planner, is an award winning transportation author who has written 14 books.

This is a wonderful book! Very thorough, excellent photos/graphics, well written text. Absolutely a must for anyone interested in overnight train travel; what it was, and what it could be.

Although this book has some interesting photos and a bare bones history of the Pullman Car phenomenon, it is truly deficit in any mention and documentation of the Pullman Porters. How can a history of any sort be written about the Pullmans without talking about these hardworking porters and their service, which, by the way, sold the seats? In fact, much photographic documentation of these men exists, as Pullman used many photos of them in the corporate image advertising and some exists also from the porters' own historic unionization efforts. The fact that there is not a reference in even the index, and that less than a handful of pictures including these men can be seen in these pages makes me wonder about the author's grip on the material. After all, the berths did not lower and make themselves! For me, this book represents a simplification and sanitation of some very important American history.

Interesting book and although factual description of Pullman travel. The Pullman car would not have been sucessful with out the Pullman porter.This book seems to imply that service in the cars was provided by the entire train crew while in fact the train was sucessful only because of the porters. A blunder on the part of the author.

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