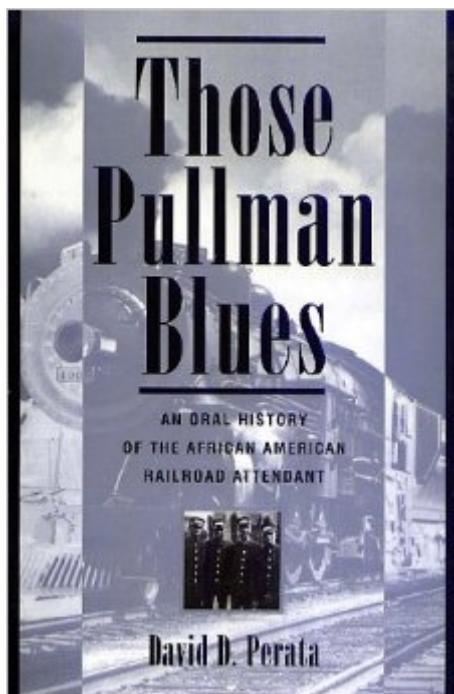


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# Those Pullman Blues: An Oral History Of The African-American Railroad Attendant (Twayne's Oral History Series)



## **Synopsis**

The first oral history centering on the unique experiences of black porters and railroad attendants during the railroad's heyday is by turns dramatic, inspiring, comic, and heartwrenching. First person accounts document both the glamour of the railroad era and the bitter realities of being a black worker on a white railroad. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

Series: Twayne's Oral History Series

Hardcover: 178 pages

Publisher: Twayne Publishers; First Edition edition (May 1996)

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.3 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #112,481 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 inÂ  Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Job Markets & Advice #7 inÂ  Books > Business & Money > Economics > Unemployment #80 inÂ  Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Interviewing

## **Customer Reviews**

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started reading this book, but quickly became caught up in the stories and work experiences of these men. Many people don't know what train travel was like in the days before Amtrak and this will be an eye-opening book for them. For those of us who do recall Pullman travel, and the people (many of them friends) who worked the cars, this book will bring back many memories. Readers should be aware that this collection of oral histories is not a railfan's book or a wallow in nostalgia. These men tell what it was like not only to work for the Pullman Company, but also what life was like for them away from the trains. Parts of the book are funny, and others are heartbreaking, but most work is that way. The only thing that kept the book from receiving a "10" rating was that it could have used some car diagrams (floor plans) to give the novice an idea of the interior layout of the cars described in the text.

This book is written about an important period in history, 2/3rd of this book has been written about my family. The Smock family has spanned 4 generations on the Pullman Railroad. It is a necessary

read for anyone interested in stories told by these dignified men who served.

The interviews of the men that built such a style of travel are conducted and written in such brilliance that you can almost smell the starch in their white jackets! A brilliant method of capturing the true life emotions of an almost invisible servant who afforded the rail traveler a luxury that this country will never again know. Mr. Perata has immortalized those fine men in print, a much needed documentation of a bygone mode of travel and the truth behind it. Those Pullman Blues should be on every bookshelf in America

David Perata has captured the essence of an era of time when the black man was presented to the public in such an extraordinary way, yet was treated by the Pullman Company as nothing more than an indentured servant. The book has a definite place in American history, and will become significant documentation of an era of travel and national growth that will be valued for years to come. A must read! Coretta Scott King should be proud of this endorsement!

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