

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

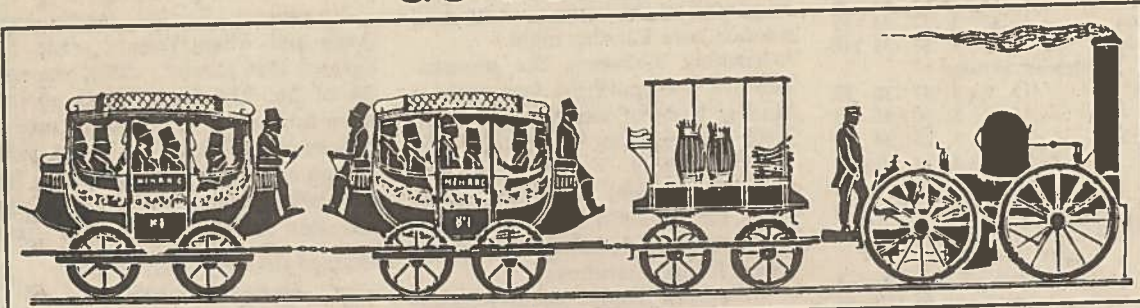
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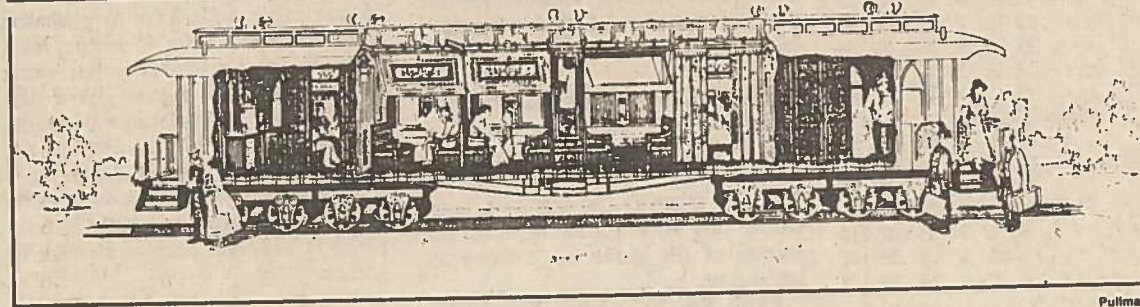
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## A REVIEW GO PULLMAN



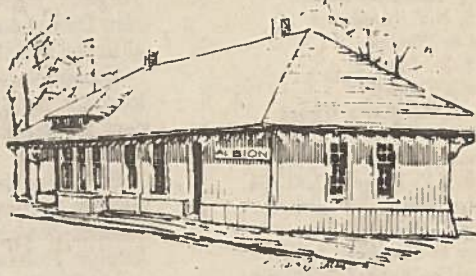
Charles M. Knoll Collection



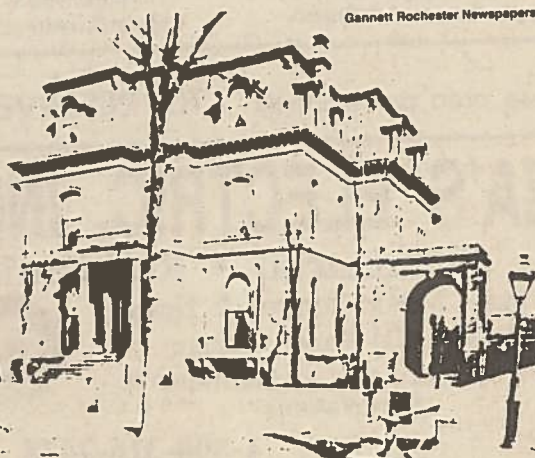
Pullman



Charles M. Knoll Collection



Gannett Rochester Newspapers



Historic Pullman Foundation

Go Pullman by Charles M. Knoll subtitled Life and Times, The Man, Company, Products, Services and Contemporaries is a handsome soft cover, 230-page volume with over 700 illustrations. This pictorial profile is supported by extensive research through very interesting text. The book is published and available through the National Railway Historical Society - Rochester Chapter, P.O. Box 664, Rochester, N.Y. 14603 for \$39.95.

I bring this book to the attention of our readers because of its local implications. George M. Pullman 1831-1897 lived in Albion from the mid 1840's to the late 1850's. He was first in business with his father through a cabinet and coffin-making business located in Albion. Later Pullman was actively engaged in the building-moving business which led him to Chicago where he became rich and famous manufacturing railway sleeping cars. It is easy to see how George Pullman got involved in the building of cars because he knew about cabinetry.

Throughout his adult life Pullman remained friends with many local people who encouraged him to build the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion in 1894 as a memorial to his parents. The church building cost in the neighborhood of \$65,000. When G.M. Pullman died in 1897 he left an estate worth over 17 million. Not only does the name Pullman still remain with us in Orleans County through the church but the name Pullman has always been associated with excellence. Indeed, it was George Pullman who made traveling by rail more comfortable and enjoyable and as a result, he became one of America's leading 19th century industrialists. GO PULLMAN is so profusely illustrated that it commands your attention just trying to thumb through it. Hence, because of the heavy emphasis on the visual aspect of the book, I've selected a few illustrations for you to see here.

The top picture shows America's first scheduled train which ran a 16 mile route on the Mohawk &

Hudson line from Albany to Schenectady in August of 1831. Its first locomotive shown here, was called the DeWitt Clinton and was made at the West Point Foundry. The "cars" were stagecoach bodies set on flanged wheels and were coupled together by chains.

The next illustration shows the first real Pullman sleeping car built in 1865. It was longer, wider and higher than previous cars. Therefore, platforms and R.R. bridges were changed to permit its passage. It was heated from a hot air furnace under the floor, lighted with candles and ventilated through the upper windows. It also had 16 wheels which were later standardized to 12.

We also see a Porter readying a berth for a traveler on a Pullman car. This illustration shows how the bed folded down out of upper side wall above the car's windows.

GO PULLMAN includes several local pictures among which is a line drawing of the Albion, N.Y. Central Depot once located on South Clinton Street. Finally, our last illustration is the Pullman Mansion which was located on Prairie Avenue in Chicago where all the elite lived during the "gilded age." Indeed, such a mansion as this gives testimony to Pullman's wealth and prominence.

Solon S. Beman who designed the Albion Church also did extensive architectural designing for Pullman, including work on the Chicago mansion and also the interior of R.R. cars. Incidentally, the Pullmans had a summer home in Long Branch, New Jersey and a third residence in the Thousand Islands.

GO PULLMAN is a fascinating book with an illuminating text that will be of interest to any history lover. It is simply chock full of information and presented in such a way to make easy reading. The book is indeed, a credit to the author, Charles M. Knoll, who has put years of research into making this into an authoritative work on G.M. Pullman, and the Pullman works.