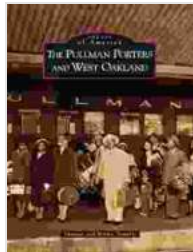


# The Pullman Porters of West Oakland: A Historical Journey



## The Pullman Porters and West Oakland by Thomas Tramble

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 38577 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 128 pages



The Pullman Porters of West Oakland were a group of African American men who worked as porters on the Pullman sleeping cars of the Southern Pacific Railroad. They were an important part of the labor movement and the African American community in West Oakland. The Pullman Porters organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) in 1925, which was the first successful labor union for African Americans.

## The Early Years

The first Pullman porters in West Oakland were hired in the late 1880s. They worked long hours for low pay and were often subjected to discrimination. In 1901, they formed the Pullman Porters' Protective Association, which was the first attempt to organize a union for Pullman porters. However, the association was unsuccessful and was disbanded in 1904.

In 1918, the Pullman porters were organized into the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) by A. Philip Randolph. Randolph was a socialist and labor leader who had a vision of a union that would represent all African American workers. The BSCP was the first successful labor union for African Americans, and it played a major role in the fight for civil rights.

## **The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters**

The BSCP was a militant union that fought for the rights of its members. The union demanded higher wages, better working conditions, and an end to discrimination. The porters used strikes and other forms of direct action to achieve their goals. The BSCP also played a role in the civil rights movement, and its members were involved in the Montgomery bus boycott and other protests.

The BSCP was a major force in the African American community in West Oakland. The union provided its members with a sense of community and solidarity. The porters also used their union to support other African American businesses and organizations in the community.

## **The Legacy of the Pullman Porters**

The Pullman Porters of West Oakland left a lasting legacy on the labor movement and the African American community. The BSCP was a successful union that fought for the rights of its members and played a major role in the civil rights movement. The porters also helped to build a strong African American community in West Oakland.

The legacy of the Pullman Porters continues to inspire activists and organizers today. The porters' story is a reminder of the power of organized

labor and the importance of fighting for justice and equality.

## Images





A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

### **Further Reading**

- The Pullman Porters National Monument
- The Pullman Porters

- Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters



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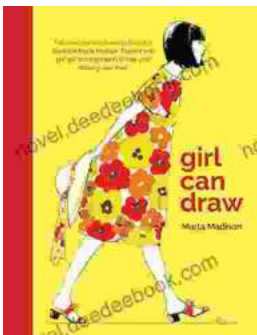
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