

## PULLMAN CAR HISTORY:

### Did President-elect Barack Obama's Whistle Stop Train Tour by Private Pullman Car "Georgia 300" and Pro-Amtrak Position Help Him Win the Presidency?

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*President-elect Barack Obama aboard the chartered private Pullman GEORGIA 300 for his whistle-stop tour.*

President-elect Barack Obama is a big supporter of Amtrak and conducted an old-fashioned whistle stop tour during his campaign aboard the private car GEORGIA 300. John McCain, who has been adamantly opposed to Amtrak, didn't carry on this traditional American political tradition. Did this policy jinx McCain with thousands of rail fans and contribute to his defeat?



*The private car GEORGIA 300 carried Obama on his whistle-stop tour.*

Georgia 300 – Built by Pullman Standard in 1930, was a 10-section lounge car for the Southern Railway and named General Polk. The car operated on the Crescent between New and New Orleans. Purchased by the Georgia Railroad in 1949, the car was rebuilt to the office car configuration it has today and given the number 300. The Georgia 300 made regular trips to the Masters golf tournament and, occasionally, the Kentucky Derby, hosting Georgia governors and other dignitaries. Declared surplus with the merger of the Georgia Railroad and the Family Lines, the car was acquired by the current owner in 1985. It has been rebuilt and has hosted Presidents Carter, George H.W. Bush, and Clinton. The car is based in Orange Park, Florida, and is owned by Jack Heard.



*President Harry S. Truman on the observation platform – he’s holding a newspaper that said he had lost. They were wrong.*

A whistle-stop tour is a style of political campaigning where the politician makes a series of brief appearances or speeches at a number of small towns over a short period of time.



*Many presidential candidates have used private cars for their whistle-stop tours.*

Whistle-stop tours are conducted from the open platform of a business car or a private railroad car.

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