

WILLIE JAMES

Crew Car - Stabled at Council Bluffs

The *Willie James* was built in 1949 by the Budd Company as a 10-roomette, six-bedroom sleeper named the *Pacific Domain*. In 1973, it was rebuilt and named No. 202. The car was renamed the *Cabarton* in 1980 by John C. Kenefick, then Union Pacific's president, in honor of R.L. Richmond, Union Pacific's then vice president of operations.

Richmond's father began his railroad career as a Union Pacific carman in Cabarton, Idaho. The town was named for C.A. Barton, general manager of the Boise & Payette Lumber Company in the early 1920s. It is located on the former Idaho Northern Branch of the Union Pacific in a major lumber area.

The car was renamed *Willie James* in January 2009 to honor long-time business car chef Willie James. James started his railroad career as a business car chef in 1984 with Union Pacific in Spring, Texas, a suburb of Houston. He was transferred to Omaha in 1999 and held the same position throughout his career. James has worked on all of Union Pacific's Heritage Passenger Fleet dining cars over the years, though he most enjoyed preparing meals in the *Cabarton*.

This rail car is constructed of stainless steel and is one of two such cars remaining in Union Pacific's fleet. The other stainless steel constructed rail car is the business car *Sunset*.

The support staff for special train operations uses the *Willie James* as a command post, and the rail car is typically

found toward the front of a special passenger train consist. A dining room/lounge area and a large kitchen provide meal service to all special train personnel, sometimes as many as 40 people for a meal.





Configuration: Willie James is a Mechanical Staff Car with a sitting room/dining room. It has one round-top, with seating for six, a kitchen, four bedrooms with private bathrooms and a public restroom at the vestibule end of the car.