



IDAHO

Inspection Car – Stabled at Council Bluffs

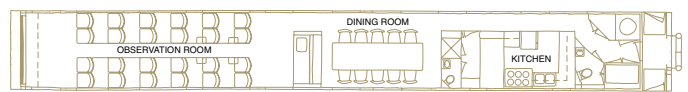
The *Idaho* was built by American Car & Foundry in 1949 as a 12-roomette, four-double bedroom car named the *Western Mountain*. It was rebuilt by Pullman Standard in 1965 as 11-bedroom sleeper *Sun Lane* and converted to the inspection car *Idaho* in 1980. This car features theater-type seating, which faces a large rear picture window to permit unrestricted viewing of the track and structures along the right of way.

Idaho territory was established in 1863 and first included all of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. By 1868 its present boundaries were established and it entered the Union in 1890 as the 43rd state. Idaho is a coined word, with no origin in any known Native American language. The railroad was built through Idaho in 1883 and large shop complexes were built at Pocatello, Glens Ferry and Nampa, and is thus the namesake for this rail car.

The marketing of “Idaho-baked potatoes” originated with the railroad which featured the potatoes as such on dining car menus in hopes of increasing their popularity and thus increasing freight traffic. Today Idaho potatoes are hauled by Union Pacific in entire trainloads, either whole or processed as french fries for large restaurant chains.

Though track inspection has always been a railroad priority, the first inspection car, created for Edward Harriman, was rudimentary. Like the *Idaho*, it had theater-type seats, but was open air, having only a roof to shelter the inspectors. Whether

it was pushed in front of the locomotive or pulled at the end of the train is not known, but considering the cinders and smoke possible from coal-burning locomotives, pushing seems the more logical choice.



▲ FULL PICTURE WINDOW

Configuration: Idaho is an Inspection Car with a kitchen, crew room that sleeps one and a dining room that seats 10-12. The observation end of the car is all glass and the seating is stepped-up like theater seating. The observation area will seat 24. Additionally, this car has a public restroom.