

All Passengers Will Please Refrain



1. All passengers will please refrain
From flushing toilets while the train
Is in the station, Darling, I love you.
We encourage constipation
While the train is in the station
Moonlight always makes me think of you.
2. If you wish to pass some water
Kindly tell the Pullman porter
He'll place a vessel in the vestibule.
If the porter isn't near
Then try the platform in the rear
The one up front is likely to be full.
3. If the lady's room be taken,
Do not feel the least forsaken,
Do not show a sign of sad defeat;
Just use the men's room 'cross the hall
And if some man has had the call
He'll courteously relinquish you his seat.
4. If these efforts prove in vain,
Then simply break a window pane
This novel method's used by very few;
We go strolling through the park,
Goosing statues after dark,
If Sherman's horse can take it why can't you?

Bathrooms in trains used to empty right onto the tracks. This worked well in the middle of cornfields and traveling at 50 MPH. It is a major problem when the train is sitting still in a station.

There is a story (probably apocryphal) that the first verse was written by Supreme Court justice William O. Douglas and Yale law professor Thurman Arnold. They were inspired by a sign in the toilet of a train. They set it to the tune by Dvorak and immediately taught it to all the passengers. Every classical violin student knows, and probably hates, the dotted rhythms. As with most of the songs in this section, I learned from Oscar Brand.