

# THE MANIFEST

## March-May 2024



Greetings!

I must apologize for my long absence. I have had some personal issues I have had to deal with that have taken longer than I planned. However, all is well, and I am getting there, and you will receive your monthly newsletters from now on.

I have enjoyed my years with this club, and working at the burger shack, as well as serving on the Board. When I lost Stretch, I was at loose ends, to say the least. This club and many of you personally, kept me going and gave me a reason to return to life. I will never forget that. Thank you so much.

I know the burger shack can always use help, as well as the park in general. So, thank you to all who have stepped up and please continue to do so.

I am adding Mick Smith as secretary even if temporary, as I believe he has stepped up in my absence.

### **YET ANOTHER ADVENTURE ON AMTRAK**

This short story is about my last Amtrak adventure. In March, after an appointment in Portland, I would take Amtrak to Montana to see my sons. As it happens, I had enough loyalty points saved up to get a roomette. I decided to try it and was looking forward to it, as it was my first time booking a room on Amtrak.

It all began very pleasantly. After my appointment in Portland, I headed to Union Station to catch a train to Montana. If you have ever been there, you know it is a nice station; however, long layovers can be boring, and I had over five hours before departure. I had forgotten about the VIP lounge until I checked my bags and the attendant said, oh you have a room, so you can wait in the lounge. So, off to the lounge, I go. It is nice with comfortable chairs and sofas, large TVs, free snacks, water, soda, juice, etc. I am thoroughly enjoying this.

When it comes time to board, an attendant helps me with my carry-on and gives me a ride in a cart to my car, where the porter introduces himself and tells me he will get me anything I want. Come time for dinner; I can go to the dining car or eat it in my little private compartment. I was not hungry, so I asked for just a cold sandwich. This dinner included a sandwich; chips, fruit, and a dessert, as well as a bottle of wine I ordered. Albeit a small one 😊

So, as the evening goes on, I knit; read, take a walk around the train, and then settle in for the night. That was about 9, as I had been up since 5 and was exhausted.

At about midnight, I woke up when the train came to an abrupt stop. I look out my window and see that we are in Spokane. I have taken this trip many times, and know the station, and know we have about an hour or so layover here while we wait for the train from Seattle to hook up with us before we continue east.

However, my car was leaning, and then a loud knock on my door, and the porter told everyone to get off and take everything with us. What? The train has derailed!!!!

Yep, sure enough, my car (the last car) and a couple in front of mine have derailed. This is a pic of my car. I am sorry it isn't a particularly good one, but we were hustled into the station. You can see it is not on the rails.

The good news is, as we were coming into the station and not traveling fast, no one was hurt. In addition, Amtrak gave me back all my points to use on another trip. After about 3 hours the crew managed to get the undamaged cars hooked up with the Seattle train, and we reboarded. However, there would be no sleeping cars until they got to Chicago, which didn't affect me, as I was only going as far as Shelby, MT.

I did ride again, albeit not in a sleeper, on my return trip. My son was going to drive me, but his schedule changed, so I took Amtrak. We had a very uneventful trip back to Oregon.

So, there it is gang, my first trip in a sleeper car turned into more of an adventure than I anticipated. Although, if we had been going full speed, this little accident could have been so much more horrific, with loss of lives, etc., I still enjoy riding the train and do not plan on stopping.



*“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”*

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