



Next Prom
March 7th

Next Cheminot
March 22nd



Voiture 99 Vancouver, WA

BOXCAR BULLETIN

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From the Chef de Gare

It took a lot of planning, coordination, problem solving and testing, but the wait was worthwhile! Our long-awaited flagpoles have been installed, the lighting is on and synchronized to illuminate the flags during the periods of darkness. The flags of our Country and State are now flying over the 40/8 once again. I would like to personally thank all those members who have invested their time, energy, and expertise in bringing this project to fruition.

A special thanks to Voyageur Jim Benson for his overall efforts and coordination in this undertaking. The only thing remaining is the dedication, which will be held later this spring.

This month, I will be assigning a nominations committee to begin the process of compiling a suitable list of candidates for elected positions for the coming year. Elections for next years officers will be held during the May Promenade, Installation will

continued on page 3

Chateau Schedule

Members and guests allowed on Friday for breakfast.

Thursday morning coffee & doughnuts in the Chateau at 7:00am.- 9:30am

Chateau (360)574-3872

Voiture 99 Meeting Reminders
Prom- March 7th
Cheminot March 22

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Coffee & Donuts 7:00 -9:30am	4 Member & Guest Breakfast 6:30am-9am	5 Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm
6	7 Promenade Dinner 5:00 Meeting 6:00pm Chateau	8	9	10 Coffee & Donuts 7:00 -9:30am	11 Member & Guest Breakfast 6:30am-9am	12 Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm
13	14	15	16 KWVA Membership Meeting 10:00am Boxcar Room	17 Coffee & Donuts 7:00 -9:30am	18 Member & Guest Breakfast 6:30am-9am	19 Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm
20 	21	22 CHEMINOT Dinner 5:00 Meeting 6:00 Chateau La Femme Cheminot	23	24 Coffee & Donuts 7:00 -9:30am	25 Member & Guest Breakfast 6:30am-9am	26 Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm
27	28	1	2	3 Coffee & Donuts 7:00 -9:30am	4 Member & Guest Breakfast 6:30am-9am	5 Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm

Coffee & Donuts and Friday Breakfasts will be served in the Chateau

From the Chef de Gare Correspondants Notes

continued from page 1

be at the June Promenade. I hope that all Voyageurs consider taking an active part in the leadership of the Voiture. Committee chairs and all levels of leadership positions will be available. To learn about the 40/8, you really must participate. Not just in attending meetings, which is a good thing, but also by bringing your learned leadership skills and expertise and applying them for the good of the Voiture. Contrary to some beliefs, change is good. It's good in that it brings new and fresh ideas and different ways of looking at and treating potential problems and overcoming obstacles. Our organization has been blessed with many forward-thinking individuals. Now is the time for you to step up and take your place in the leadership of the Voiture. If you are unsure of the duties or requirements of a specific position, contact the Correspondant and she can provide you with a copy of both the Constitution and By-Laws which explain each position in detail.



Dear Voyageurs,

Welcome to March! I am so glad to report that our flag project has finally moved into its final phase. I want to thank all the members, guests, and Scouts in attendance for making the day such a success. As we hand things over to the Scouts to finish the project, I eagerly await the completion of it to honor all veterans.

Membership has been one of our larger challenges during Covid-19. I am proud to say we are currently at 90.3% renewed, (195/216). Those who are two years in arrears will start to be removed from the rolls. I hate to remove anyone, but we must follow the rules before us. To be eligible to attend meetings and events your dues now must be current to the 2022 dues year. I will be working with Frank to tidy things up. On a positive note, we did initiate four new members in January.

Thank you, George Cruz for your generous donation to Nurse's Training, we miss having you at our meetings and hope you can attend when able.

We are still in need of volunteers in the kitchen and dining room for our meeting nights and Friday breakfasts. Ron Bynum will be happy to help you get your food handler's card. If you do have some time to donate the Voiture would be most appreciative.



Many hands make light work.

We are no longer taking reservations for meals before Promenades and Cheminots. The kitchen will prepare 25 meals and they will be on a first come, first served basis. This will cut down on waste. If there are extra meals, an announcement will be made that to go dinners are available for purchase. If you want to eat before the meetings, make sure you come early and purchase your ticket from Donica. Chicken Cordon Bleu will be served for Promenade and Corned Beef and Cabbage for Cheminot.

I have other commitments that will take me out of the area the second and third weekends in March, but I will be available by text or email.

Please continue to bring your bottles and cans for the PT boat and leave them in the designated alcove.

Enjoy Mardi Gras on Tuesday and have a great St. Patrick's Day!

Annie, Passeur Chef and Correspondant

Audie Murphy's Wife...

Not many young people know who Audie Murphy was or how big a war hero he was. Two or three of the medals he earned would make most service men proud but to have been the most decorated soldier in WW II is truly unbelievable.

Now to find out that his widow was also most certainly a hero. Truly fantastic. I? So grateful to have received this email. I hope you are too.

List of Decorations for Audie Murphy.

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Cross

Silver Star (with oak leaf cluster)

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star (with oak leaf cluster and Valor device)

Purple Heart (with two oak leaf clusters)

U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal

U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal

Presidential Unit Citation (w/First Oak Leaf Cluster)

American Campaign Medal

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with One Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)

World War II Victory Medal

Army of Occupation Medal (with Germany Clasp)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

French Forage in Colors of the Croix de guerre

French Legion of Honor - Grade of Chevalier

French Croix de guerre (with Silver Star),

French Croix de guerre (with Palm)

Medal of Liberated France

Belgian Croix de guerre (with 1940 Palm)

Additionally, Murphy was awarded:

The Combat Infantry Badge,

Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar,

Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar

Isn't it sad the media can tell us all about the BAD that goes on, but ignores the GOOD people? If a movie star or politician stubs their toe we have to hear about it for days!!! (From the Los Angeles Times on April 15, 2010)

Pamela Murphy, widow of WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8, 2010. She was the widow of the most decorated WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, and established her own distinctive 35 year career working as a patient liaison at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration hospital, treating every veteran who visited the facility as if they were a VIP.

Any soldier or Marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure her boys got to see the specialist they needed.

If they didn't, watch out. Her boys weren't Medal of Honor recipients or movie stars like Audie, but that didn't matter to Pam. They had served their country. That was good enough for her. She never called a veteran by his first name. It was always "Mister." Respect came with the job.

"Nobody could cut through VA red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy," said veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for thousands of veterans she befriended

over the years. "Many times I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting more than an hour right into the doctor's office. She was even reprimanded a few times, but it didn't matter to Mrs. Murphy. "Only her boys mattered. She was our angel."

Audie Murphy died broke in a plane crash in 1971, squandering millions of dollars on gambling, bad investments, and yes, other women. "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero," Pam told me.

She went from a comfortable ranch-style home in Van Nuys where she raised two sons to a small apartment - taking a clerk's job at the nearby VA to support herself and start paying off her faded movie star husband's debts. At first, no one knew who she was. Soon, though, word spread through the VA that the nice woman with the clipboard was Audie Murphy's widow. It was like saying General Patton had just walked in the front door. Men with tears in their eyes walked up to her and gave her a hug.

"Thank you," they said, over and over.

The first couple of years, I think the hugs were more for Audie's memory as a war hero. The last 30 years, they were for Pam.

One year I asked her to be the focus of a Veteran's

Day column for all the work she had done. Pam just shook her head no.

"Honor them, not me," she said, pointing to a group of veterans down the hallway. "They're the ones who deserve it."

The vets disagreed. Mrs. Murphy deserved the accolades, they said. Incredibly, in 2002, Pam's job was going to be eliminated in budget cuts. She was considered "excess staff." "I don't think helping cut down on veterans' complaints and showing them the respect they deserve, should be considered excess staff," she told me. Neither did the veterans. They went ballistic, holding a rally for her outside the VA gates. Pretty soon, word came down from the top of the VA. Pam Murphy was no longer considered "excess staff."

She remained working full time at the VA until 2007 when she was 87.

"The last time she was here was a couple of years ago for the conference we had for homeless veterans," said Becky James, coordinator of the VA's Veterans History Project. Pam wanted to see if there was anything she could do to help some more of her boys. Pam Murphy was 90 when she died last week. What a lady.

*Dennis McCarthy, Los Angeles Times
April 15, 2010 ~*

Historian

Dixie Hotaling

MY STORY

2021-2022 Chef de Gare: Frank Falbee

Frank was wrecked in 2009. He was sponsored by Don McSpirit. Both men were members of the American Legion POST 14.

Frank waited three months to be wrecked.

His first 40 & 8 assignment was working with the LOCI crew. He became the chairman of the LOCI committee. At that time the LOCI had anywhere from 15-25, 'hooting, hollering' passengers.

Frank also served as Chairman of the House Committee.

Frank stepped into the Correspondent position to give Phil Yasson a break. He stayed on in the position indefinitely.

Along the way Frank served as Conductor.

Frank has seen many changes, some good and some bad.

Today Frank serves as the Chef de Gare. He has come up the ranks and offers vast experience. We all look forward to supporting Frank this coming year.

Thank you Frank for your continued service.