



Communiqué
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



April 2008 - Grand Chef de Gare Leslie (Grant) Willis, Jr - L'Editeur Terry Lanning

The Grand Chef Sez

The Spring Wreck and Cheminot is over and we wrecked three new Voyageurs into the 40et8. This was the starting point to getting back to the grass roots of the 40et8. Having an active wreck and having lots of fun. I want to thank Conducteur John Partin for organizing the wreck and making sure everything came together. We had voyageurs stepping up to do the Ritual, which made the wreck that more impressive. Now we need to grow from here. Voiture 38, 448, 1321, and 1541 will be having another active wreck on May 10 at Voiture 38's Chateau.

The reports of the Cheminot's were absolutely outstanding and I hope that each and every Voiture in the Grande du Missouri fills out their year end reports and gets them to the Grande Directeur's by June 15th.

This month we find Voiture's 1292 and 520 reaching 100% or more in membership. We are headed down the stretch needing 84 to achieve 100% membership in the Grand. We have a few Voiture's that need to start a full court press as May is approaching fast.

On May 1st through May 4th I will be traveling to Oklahoma City to attend the Central States Promenade and then to Independence on the 7th and 8th for Truman Pilgrimage. In Independence The Grande du Missouri will be entertaining the Chef de Chemin de Fer Bernie Sampson and his wife

along with Grande Chef de Gare's from the surrounding states.

Let's all have fun this year

**Sous Grand
Correspondants Notes**

Each of the Directeurs should write at least one article for the Grand Newsletter. Articles are due by the last day of the month. The upcoming months assigned is:

May 2008 – Carville Star Directeur

– Leon Hill

May 2008 – Child Welfare Directeur

– John Neger

Directeurs and Voitures can email me their articles, announcements, or anything of interest to t_lanning@charter.net, or mail it to 2045 Granada Dr., Florissant, MO 63033.

Reminder if anyone has any items for either the Grand Correspondant or the Sous Correspondant then mail them to Terry Lanning. Address is listed above. Phone number is (314) 839-2032, cell (314) 640-7597. In this newsletter are several opinions about the Resolution to change the Nationale Constitution to allow any veteran into the

40/8. These are meant to stimulate conversation on this issue. At the Grande Promenade there will be vote. Come informed on the issue.



**UPCOMING
DATES**

- Voiture's 333 2nd Annual Banquet 4/18/08 at VFW Sedalia
- Southland Dixie Promenade at Pascagoula, MS April 23 – 26, 2008
- Central States Promenade at Oklahoma City, OK May 1-3, 2008
- Truman Day May 7 & 8, 2008 at Independence, MO
- Voiture 38, 448, 1321, & 1541 Joint Wreck at Chateau 38, May 10, 2008 1:00pm
- Grande Promenade June 27 – 29, 2008 at Wentzville, MO

The Grande du Missouri web site is at: grandedumissouri.com

If anyone has anything they want to add or comments on the web site send it to Robert Emery at his e-mail address remery18@comcast.net and copy Terry Lanning at t_lanning@charter.net.

We have found an old Americanism Traveling Trophy, which was in memory of Ray Owen. We presently also have one in memory of Merton Adreon. The Grand Directeur Americanism will give the Traveling Trophy in the name of Ray Owen to the best Flags for First Graders report. So everyone needs to have a good report for the Flags for First Graders so your Voiture can get this Traveling Trophy.

Received Resolutions for Gary L. Reno for Grand Chef de Train and Terry L. Lanning for Grand Correspondant. Did not have room to put them in this newsletter.

**Grand Voiture Activities Directeur –
Ralph Turner**

What actually is Voiture Activities? It is nothing more than any type of social gathering. A potluck dinner at the Locale before a prom, a baseball outing, a prayer breakfast or just about anything else that is not a Cheminot or Promenade. If you have a dinner or banquet associated with a Prom or Cheminot, then it would be an activity. These events do not need to take place with the Locale. Get outside and show the world what we are all about. When a bunch of people show up somewhere with the 40 & 8 logo in sight, people are going to start asking questions.

The Grande needs you to COMPLETE YOUR REPORTS! For as long as I have been a Voyageur I have heard and seen all the great things that the 40/8 does. Unfortunately these are not always noted on our end of the year forms. Probably because we get so busy in our lives that we think we will get around to it later. However, later never comes. Let's show National what Grande du Mo does within our organization. List all events held throughout the year. Under description of event, just list what it was, i.e. brunch, Bar-B-Q, dance, kids party, etc. If you have a dinner or social hour in conjunction with a meeting, list that. If your Locale hosts a Grande event, be sure to list it. You should be filling out the report as you hold the event. At the end of the year, your report should be ready to send off. You know the type of things that interest your Locale. It is almost impossible to remember everything you have done at the end of the year so just record your information as it takes place throughout the entire year.

We don't brag on ourselves good enough sometimes because we don't think of things that we really do actually count. I would rather you give me too much information than not enough (or none at all.)

We lost a very good 40/8er in Bob Bunting. He passed away on March 11, 2008. Bob was the Sous Grand Conducteur from Voiture 1541.

Letter from Voiture 460 to Grand Chef de Gare Leslie (Grant) Willis, Jr.

Reference the meeting held in Indianapolis to determine the direction of La Societe in the future. It is Voiture 460's firm belief that the 40/8 is the Honor "Fun" Society of the American Legion made up of Legion members who have been asked to join our society because they have served their post as a worker (Officer, Committeeman, or in some other way). It is our stand to pursue negotiations with the American Legion to accept our organization back into the Legion family.

Opening membership to all honorably discharged veterans and military personnel will make the 40/8 just another organization to just pay your dues. If recruitment has been done over the years correctly; membership is by invitation for members of the American Legion who have shown exemplary service, then any truly dedicated Voyager would disagree with this proposal. That Voyager has proven himself with the American Legion with the work he has done and would consider himself a Legionnaire and a Voyager. Within Voiture 460 our membership would decrease over time.

Within most Voitures, money has to be made. The ways of making money is either bingo, dinners or raffles. Our Voiture uses the American Legion facilities to accommodate these fundraisers. There is a chance that we would no longer be able to use the Legion's facilities. Even though the 40/8

is not currently an official program of the American Legion, at our local American Legion we are accepted as such. This is also vital when it comes to such items as Promenades, Installation of Officers and holidays as to where they will be held.

It is Voiture 460's stand to keep trying to negotiate with the American Legion. One or two years of trying are not sufficient to completely separate a bond between the American Legion and La Societe. In 1920 when the 40/8 was formed it was said; La Societe was to be an organization for Legion members to be able to let off steam and be able to have fun and enjoy the comradeship of fellow members.

Very Respectfully,
Don Slater, Chef de Gare Voiture 460

Voiture 1321 will be having their Cooker at Buchheits in Herculaneum on the following dates in 2008:

April 12 & 13,
May 24 & 25,
June 21 & 22,
August TBD,
September 20 & 21,
October 18 & 19,
November 28 to 30.

Everyone come out and get some good food.

Enclosed is some information on the Central States Promenade. If you need the registration forms, they are on the Grande web site.

(Below is from the Nationale 40/8 web site)

Chef de Chemin de Fer's Comments -Bernie Sampson

March 2008

I know it's been awhile since I've updated my comment's but that has been for a reason. I wanted to get a feel on how the members of La Societe felt on the proposed change to the constitution. In my travels around the states from California to Alabama and points in between, I've saw an overwhelming support for the change. Everyone has some kind of concerns but most feel that we have to make the change to save La Societe. Please if your locale has not discussed the proposed change please do so, but please keep an open mind do not go in with preconceived notions. Voice your concerns and see if you can come up with other alternatives. I would like to include an email I received from Chef De Chemin De Fer 2003 John Degilio Jr. which says it all.

Thoughts on the Resolution

Human nature is such that we become apprehensive and or fearful whenever someone suggests a modification or alternation of the *status quo*. Some of us who place emphasis on "from whence we come" are reluctant to deviate from that foundation. But even the framers of our great Constitution

recognized that at certain rare times amendments would be needed and they provided for that process.

The foundation of any group or organization must be solid to bear the weight of that structure and to provide a long lasting base of support. Our great association of combat-era veterans has understood that and has only changed its membership criteria twice since its inception.

Today we are at a crossroads. Whichever road we take will significantly impact upon the future survivability of *La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux*. Even with the outstanding efforts of many highly dedicated voyageurs, our membership dwindles to levels not seen since the 1930s.

What are we to do?

As long as there is not a draft, we will never again experience the millions of Americans under arms. With an all volunteer force, the numbers base from which the American Legion draws its membership, by definition, is contracted. As we are currently experiencing, the same soldier goes through a number of rotations in the combat zone to make up for the smaller base.

Some may argue that we have not done a good enough job recruiting from the existing membership base of the American Legion. This may be a valid point. And if this point is valid, then why have we not done a good enough job, and what will make us do a better job? The implication being that we are the same individuals and if we did not do it in the past, then why would it be expected that we would do it now?

What is even more troubling is that a very significant segment of our membership is comprised of our cherished World War II and Korean War veterans. These voyageurs, mostly in their 80s can not be expected to continue to be the "hard chargers". This task should be assumed by our "younger" members.

I have always been proud of the fact that I come from a family whose father was a proud Legionnaire and even prouder Voyageur. Having grownup in the Sons and then joining with my father in membership in the same post. Following in his footsteps has always had a significant impact upon me especially in the Forty and Eight.

Every time a see a picture taken prior to World War II of the close relationship between the Forty and Eight and the American Legion I think of what could be now. I long for those halcyon days when, as true comrades in arms, we would work together for the common good. When we would once again wear chapeaus with our Legion uniforms and work unceasingly for the betterment of both organizations.

But there are a handful of individuals who for some ungodly reason have power over the multitude of Legionnaires. This I could never understand. I fear that the millions of soldiers who trudged through the sand, mud, swamps and jungles, who flew in the air, and who sailed the seas to rid the world of despotic individuals have forgotten this once they took off their military uniforms. Perhaps the concept of "one man, one vote" has no meaning in their organizational environment.

So what is the future? Has the door been shut tight by the American Legion? Are Legionnaires going to demand an open and frank discussion and vote on this matter? Will we wait for time to resolve this issue? Or must we take now the definitive action to preserve our future?

Is it ordained that we be like Caesar crossing the Rubicon or our founding fathers realizing that we can never go back to the way we were? Or will Legionnaires rise to challenge the dogma trusted upon them?

We must chart a course that will enable us to survive and, hopefully, recapture the idealism and dedication of the first generation of voyageurs that gave birth to this great organization. We must then ensure that we have the best and the most dedicated veterans who will carry the banner of the Forty and Eight ever so high as we march forward in the twenty-first century.

I'll try to update this every month from now on. I want to thank Chef John for allowing me to use his words.

Yours in Service: Bernie Sampson, Chef 2008

Below is an email from Mark Anich concerning the RESOLUTION ISSUES

Dear Esteemed Monsieurs:

As a third generation Legionnaire, and as a third generation Voyageur, I cannot remain silent.

A very good man and leading Voyageur recently wrote that "39 years ago" the Forty et Eight was

"the honor society of the American Legion". He is wrong. The Forty et Eight hasn't been that since the Legion divorced La Societe 48 years ago. Since then, by law and the Legion's own admission, La Societe is not affiliated with the American Legion. Another very good leading Voyageur said, "we have an association with the American Legion even if they don't recognize it." That doesn't make sense.

La Societe will die if our leaders continue to embrace delusions and ignore facts and numbers. In 1947, the Forty et Eight had 95,000 members. Today, we have around 34,000. The last time La Societe had so few members was in 1936.

Only 13% of all honorable veterans are Legionnaires. That means more than 20.5 million honorable veterans are ineligible to be invited to join La Societe. If they have a Medal of Honor, but if they aren't Legion members, we say "screw you".

Only 1% of all Legionnaires are Voyageurs. That means 2,966,000 Legionnaires aren't Voyageurs. And they don't give a flying rat poop about what La Societe or any Voyageur thinks. And they sure as hell don't consider the Forty et Eight to be their "honor society".

Those 2,966,000 Legionnaires are right. We have legally been an independent honor society for 48 years, with no connection to the Legion except for the delusions in our own fuzzy minds.

So what does the Legion think of La Societe?

At best, the Legion sees La Societe as a competitor who drains assets only from the Legion for La Societe's unique programs, chateaus, trains, etc. --- At worst, the 2.9 million Legionnaires who aren't Voyageurs see the Forty et Eight as a bunch of pompous posturing wannabes who are too weak-willed and stupid to make it up the chain of command in the American Legion, so we strut around in La Societe acting like we are somehow the cream of the American Legion.

I can think of only two reasons why a Voyageur would wish to believe La Societe is the honor society of the Legion, in the face of the Legion saying "no" to exactly that.

1. The first reason is irrational unrequited love. --- You know what I am talking about. The husband whose wife goes to court and gets a divorce and yet the husband continues to wear his wedding ring and tells people, "I am still happily married; my wife and I have a wonderful relationship!" But in fact there is no relationship; neither in the eyes of logic, nor the law, nor - in this case - the Legion. And yet unrequited love still hurts.

A husband who cannot let go of his divorced wife feels pain. But he also looks like a fool to his friends, neighbors, his ex-wife, potential girlfriends, and to himself if he is honest. --- However, his most crippling problem is that as long as he refuses to let go, he is stuck, unable to move forward, unable to improve his life as a strong single entity. In our case, he is welded to his delusion that the Legion still loves La Societe.

2. The second reason is an ugly form of petty egotism. --- If we are an officer of an "honor society of the American Legion", then our egos puff up as we imagine we are superior to officers of the American Legion. But does that make sense? The Forty et Eight is 100 times smaller than the Legion. While we have some wise and accomplished individuals, the Legion has far more. We are simply too small to have the talent and assets that an organization of 3 million has. Thus, it is petty egotism that drives us to act like little deluded Napoleons. And instead of us working harder to actually be an Independent Honor Society, which is what we have legally been since 1960, we are tempted to sit on our laurels because we believe we are the cream of the Legion. --- It feels good to say we are the Legion's honor society, even when we aren't.

In fact, we have never stopped being an honor society. In 1960, we stopped being the *Legion's* honor society. But even after becoming independent, we never stopped being an honor society.

Unfortunately, by restricting ourselves to only Legion members since 1960, we have scraped the Legion barrel so thoroughly that we now pretty much let any Legionnaire in. We have lost much of our selectivity. And yet selectivity is the heart of every honor society. We will regain more ability to be more selective, of greater pools of honorable veterans, when we expand our pool of potentials from 2.9 million to 23.5 million honorable veterans.

I can see how some Passé Chefs are upset. But some of them are saying untrue things.

If any Passé Chef or other Voyageur wants La Societe to die rather than take in members beyond the Legion, let that person be honest enough to say that openly.

For Love of La Societe, Mark Anich - Publiciste National

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

GRANDE PROMENADE

June 27 through 29, 2008

Will be held at the
Holiday Inn
900 Corporate Parkway
Wentzville, MO 63385
Tel (636) 327-7001
Fax (636) 327-7019

Hotel rates are as follows:
\$72.00 for Single and Double Occupancy
\$72.00 for Triple and Quad Occupancy
Current Tax rate will apply

Make all reservations directly with the Hotel by May 27, 2008.
When you make reservations please mention that you are with the
40/8 Honor Society.

Friday June 27, 2008
Registration 3:00 til 8:00PM
Hospitality Room 3:00PM til ???
Saturday June 28, 2008
Registration 8:00AM til noon
Hospitality Room 8:30AM til 1:00PM
Executive Meeting 9:00AM
Cheminot will start at 1:00PM
Cocktails starting at 6:00PM
Banquet will start at 7:00PM
Hospitality Room open after Banquet
Sunday June 29, 2008
Donuts/Coffee 7:00 til 8:30AM
Promenade will start at 9:00AM

Make checks payable to Voiture 1541 and send to Leon Hill,
1011 Pegasus Circle, St. Peters, MO 63376

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____
Voiture Number _____ Banquet per Person \$25.00 _____
Registration Fee \$5.00 _____
(Per Voyageur)

Choice of: _____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken w/Sauce _____ Lemon Pepper Cod

OKLAHOMA 2008 KANSAS 2009 TEXAS 2010 MISSOURI 2011 NEW MEXICO 2012 WYOMING 2013 COLORADO 2014 IOWA 2015 NEBRASKA 2016

CENTRAL STATES PROMENADE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

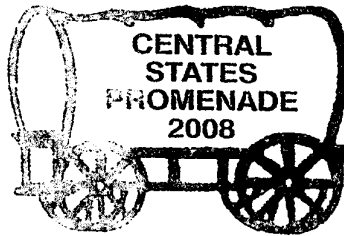
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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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P.O. Box 15088
Del City, OK 73155-5088
(405) 672-2631
alvinkonrath@att.net

10 January 2008

Monsieur Voyageurs, Dames and Guests:

Greetings from all the Voyageurs and Dames of the Grand Voiture du Oklahoma. We would like to extend to each and every one of you an open invitation to attend our Central States Promenade 2008.

All the fun and festivities will start on Thursday 1 May 2008 and will be held at the Holiday Inn, Airport, located at 2101 S. Meridian Avenue in Oklahoma City OK. 73108. Their phone number is 1-800-622-7666, or locally 405-685-4000. The room rate is \$73.00 per night for one to four persons. Some Suites are available at extra costs. This rate is good for two days prior and two days after this event. We have reserved 100 rooms for this event so make your reservations early as all rooms not reserved by 17 April 2008 will be returned to the hotel for their normal bookings. The room rate will still be effective for all 40 and 8, Central States Promenade reservations after that date but then rooms will be on a first come, first served basis. Be sure to mention that you are with the 40 and 8 Central States Promenade. Since there are no elevators in the hotel, if you can not climb stairs request a first floor room assignment. There are seven handicapped rooms available (three of which are wheel chair assessable) again on a first come, first served basis. Make all your room reservations directly with the hotel

Even though there has been an increase in prices on almost everything we need for this event, we decided to stay with last year's price and absorb the increases ourselves. Individual registrations for this event will still be \$50.00 per person and registration kit

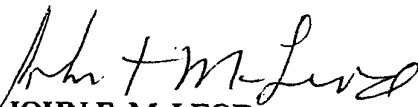
includes our Friday evening B-B-Q meal, our Saturday evening banquet, your much sought after 2008 Central States Promenade Pin, your Souvenir Program Book, and, of course, the Oklahoma World Famous Hospitality Rooms. This year we have two Hospitality Rooms, one is a non-smoking room and the other one is a smoking room for those of you who haven't given up the habit yet. Please fill out the Registration Form completely when returning your reservations.

Organized group activities on Friday will include a museum trip to the Pioneer Women Aviators Museum, and to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, and for those individuals who like to gamble, there will be a bus to take them to the Riverwind Casino just south of Norman. Also, for the golfers, there will be a golf tournament on Friday. For those of you who have never been to Oklahoma City and want to strike out on your own, we will have maps of the city for your use. Naturally, for those of you who like to stay close to home, our hospitality rooms will be open for your pleasure.

For those of you who intend to fly into Oklahoma City, the hotel is just North of the airport and the hotel does have airport service to pick you up. Just give them a call when you arrive. If you are coming in from the North or South on I-35, when you hit I-40 go West to Meridian Avenue. Take the exit ramp and go South to 21st Street and the Holiday Inn Hotel in on the Southwest corner. For those coming in from the East or West on I-40 get off at Meridian Avenue and follow the directions given above.

The form for placing ads in our Souvenir Program Book is enclosed. Prices for the ads are again the same as last year and must accompany your ad copy. The special events are shown on your Registration Form and you are requested to fill these out if you intend to participate in any of the special events. Unauthorized raffles, or similar types of fund raising activity, will not be allowed at this event. **Make all checks payable to Central States Promenade 2008 and send to Central States Promenade 2008, P.O. Box 15044, Del City, OK. 73155.**

If you have any questions, contact me at the address or phone number shown on the front of this sheet. Thank You and "Merci".

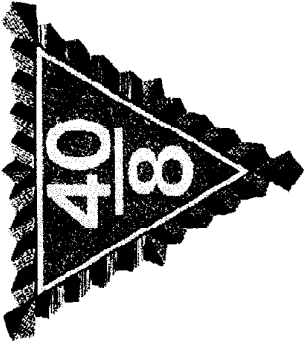
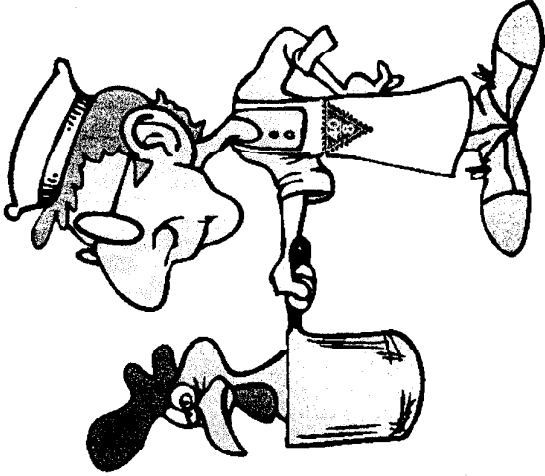


JOHN F. McLEOD
President, CSP 2008

We Are Having A ChicNic

WHERE:
Wallace State Park
Cameron, MO
I-35 to exit 48
Follow the green information
Signs

WHEN:
September 6th at 1:00 P.M.
At the
Enclosed Shelter

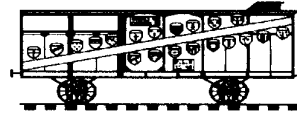


Hosted by:
40et8 Neuf Comtes Voiture 1379
A Non-Profit Veterans Organization
Affiliated with the American Legion

**All You Can Eat BBQ Chicken and Beef Brisket
With all of the fixings**

**Price: \$10 Adults
\$6 Children 13 and under**

Proceeds Go Towards Nurses Training



MEMBERSHIP GRAND VOITURE DU MISSOURI
as of April 1, 2008

LOCALE	2007	2008	PERCENT	Short/Over
3	130	107	82%	-23
38	156	151	96%	-5
130	32	30	93%	-2
292	61	57	93%	-4
293	15	12	80%	-3
333	83	100	120%	17
447	9	2	22%	-7
448	211	185	87%	-26
460	67	64	95%	-3
520	14	14	100%	0
760	90	86	95%	-4
848	14	15	107%	1
966	11	7	63%	-4
1292	69	69	100%	0
1321	87	76	87%	-11
1379	32	33	103%	1
1395	20	21	105%	1
1402	44	38	86%	-6
1403	57	44	77%	-13
1541	65	69	106%	4
Totals	1,267	1,180	93%	-87

Grand Voiture du Missouri
Terry Lanning
Sous Grand Correspondant
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