



Communiqué
La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



August 2018 - Grand Chef de Gare Calvin Bumgarner

- L'Éditeur Grant Willis



The Grand Chef

Fellow Voyageurs,
 I just want to tell all of you how excited that I have been elected the

Grand Chief de Gare for Grande du Missouri. I am privileged and honored to have this position. I will do my best to represent Grande du Missouri honorably. Just finished my first Installation of officers at Voiture 460 in St. Roberts and had a great time. I want to thank them for their hospitality. I have already been asked to 4 more events around the state and can't wait to visit them. If you have an event or just a Promenade you would like for me to attend, please let me know. I'll shuffle my schedule and try and make sure I make it.

One of my main responsibilities is membership in the Grande. Membership is at 90.55% thanks for all you've done getting these members. We all know a Veteran we would like to have join our organization. The problem is getting them join. That's where you come in with your hard work we can make this happen. Let's not forget our Lady Veterans they too can be a great asset to our programs. Let's work together and retain and grow our membership. With your help we can get Grande du Missouri back on top.

Thanks for all you do.
 Grand Chef de Gare
 Grande du Missouri
 Calvin Bumgarner
 Email: cbumgar522@aol.com

Cell # 913-522-1103

**Sous Grand
 Correspondants Notes**

This is the last newsletter for this new term, the next issue of the Communiqué will be monthly with articles from our new Directeur's and Officers of the Grand.

Membership

We ended our year at 90.55% of our goal of 100%, with 81 members short. We now need to start getting those renewal notices out for the 2019 dues. It is never too late to start. Also we need to start looking for new members to bring into our organization if we are going to grow. At the end of this newsletter you will see the final numbers we ending with for the 2018 year.

MISSOURI BOX CAR DEDICATION

Voiture 333 is hosting a rededication of the 40&8 boxcar, on August 16, 2018 at 11:00 am on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. We would like to invite voyageurs from all Voiture's to join us in this ceremony celebrating the restoration of the boxcar. The final steps will be completed before the fair starts and it is looking GREAT! I will be taking more pictures as soon as all the shields and stripes are finished being placed and they will be posted on our website www.voiture333sedalia.com. I am also asking you to take the attached press release to your local newspapers and see if they would be interested in publishing all or part

of it. We are awaiting word from Gov. Parsons' office if he will do the actual ribbon cutting. We do hope to see some of your members at the event. By the way, there are a few other things at the fair that might be worth seeing.

On another note, please email me the contact information on your Director of Boxcar. I am the current Grande Directeur and would like to touch base with all the locale directors.

Ernest Parker, Correspondant
Voiture 333, Sedalia

PRESS RELEASE FOR REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Voiture 333, 40&8, Sedalia, Missouri is proud to host a rededication of the Merci (Gratitude) Train boxcar on the Missouri State Fairgrounds on August 16, 2018 at 11:00 am. Voiture 333 has raised funds and completed a total restoration of the boxcar, bringing back its look and condition from 1949. This boxcar was one of many used during both World Wars to transport men and materiel throughout France. The boxcars were stenciled with 40 over 8 on each end, indicating the capacity of 40 men or 8 horses or mules and giving the name of 40 and 8 boxcars. This was used as the name of a new veterans organization (40&8) established in 1922 based on the French railroad system. The French Railroad commissioned foundries in the United States as early as the 1870s to make the metal parts for the cars which were shipped to France for assembly. Our boxcar has foundry dates of 1892, 1893 and 1898 on the wheels.

The small narrow-gauge boxcar on the Missouri State Fairgrounds was a gift to the state of Missouri and its citizens from the people of France after World War II. Drew Pearson, a prominent columnist, journalist, and nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, saw the Communists were receiving praise and gratitude in Europe for their small donations of food to the starving masses in Europe. He thought America could do better and in his broadcasts and columns on October 11, 1947, Pearson asked Americans to donate food from their homes, kitchens, gardens, and fields. Five weeks after Pearson's announcement, on November 7, 1947, the Friendship Train began its unprecedented odyssey across our country, beginning in Los Angeles, where there was a terrific send-off, and ending in New York City with another extraordinary celebration. Although the train traveled through only eleven states, every state contributed by sending its boxcars or trains to meet the Friendship Train at a junction or by sending trucks to the train. Many communities not on the original route insisted on giving, thereby causing delays all along the journey. In fact, the enormity of the donations plus the mountainous terrain in the West caused the train to divide, and at its end, there were three trains totaling 270 boxcars. The estimated worth was forty million dollars. In all aspects of the train's travel, no money was ever spent: the food, the transportation by rail and truck, the loading of the boxcars and trucks, the loading of the ship by the stevedores and the use of the ships was free.

Touched by the outpouring of support from America, French Railway worker and war veteran Andre Picard decided to gather a variety of French products to fill one boxcar that he could send as a thank you to the people of the United States. A local veteran's organization took an interest in Picard's project and the idea quickly spread. Soon the French national veteran's organization assumed the lead role and sponsored the collection of gifts. The Gratitude Train (aka Merci Train and Train de la Reconnaissance) was the way five million people in France chose to say Merci or Thank you to their "little known" friends in America. It was a train of 49 French railroad box cars filled with tens of thousands of gifts of gratitude from at least that many individual French citizens. The Merci Train arrived February 3rd, 1949 in New York harbor on the French freighter *Magellan*. Each of the 48 American states at that time received one of the gift laden

box cars. The 49th box car was shared by Washington D.C. and the Territory of Hawaii. The boxcar on the fairgrounds was Missouri's gift from the French people.

The boxcar arrived in Jefferson City with approximately 5200 pounds of gifts for the people of Missouri. Verbal history says the contents were divided up by state officials. Research has failed to turn up any written history. A very few of these items are being stored at the Pettis County Historical Museum. No one knows what happened to the remainder of the items. The boxcar sat in on a siding in the Missouri Pacific rail yards in Jefferson City until members of the 40&8 were able to have it moved to the Fairgrounds where it sat next to the race track for some time until it was moved to its permanent location across from the Conservation Building.

Members of Voiture 333 have maintained the boxcar over the years. It is on the property rolls of the Department of Agriculture but the organization of the 40&8 sees the historical importance of the boxcar and its meaning to the organization. Over the years there had been many coats of paint added to the boxcar, so many that much of the definition of the metal became hidden. Most of the boards are original to the late 1800s and were thought to be held together by the paint and little more. Some of the original plaques have been lost over the years. All this combined led Voiture 333 to decide to attempt a total restoration of the boxcar. We performed various types of fundraisers and collected over \$20,000. We contracted for the various steps of the restoration rather than performing the work ourselves based on the age of many of our members and the inability to move the boxcar without the possibility of damaging it in transit. All restoration work was done in place. The paint was removed by media blasting using silica and water, disclosing that the wood was in much better shape than we thought. A woodworker filled all holes and repaired all the existing wood. Sherwin-Williams chemists developed a special covering compound which should last for many years. New graphics, including shields/plaques and stripes were purchased and will soon be in place. Steps which were originally on all the boxcars and had been cut off ours have been manufactured and are in place. One chain was missing and we found a Missouri company with blacksmiths which was able to reproduce the chain. We truly look forward to presenting this historical boxcar in totally restored condition to the people of Missouri at the 2018 Missouri State Fair.



GRANDE CHEMINOT AND HOMECOMING



November 9th to November 11th, 2018

Oasis Hotel and Convention Center

2546 North Glenstone Ave.

Springfield, Missouri 65803

417-866-5253

888-532-4338

Room Rate \$90.00 (+TAX) per night

For Deluxe King or Deluxe Double

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Make your room reservations directly with Oasis Hotel by October 8th, 2018

Handicapped Rooms Available

Mention 40&8 Honor Society for special rate when making reservations

Friday

Registration 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. in the Kalahari-Mojave Rooms

Hospitality Room 3 P.M. until 11 P.M. in the Kalahari-Mojave Rooms

Saturday

Registration 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. in the Kalahari-Mojave Rooms

Lunch 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. in the Kalahari-Mojave Rooms

Grande Cheminot 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. in the Maui Ballroom

Grand Chef de Gare Passé Social Hour 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. in the Kalahari-Mojave Rooms

Social Hour 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. – Cash Bar/Banquet 7 P.M. in the Maui Ballroom

Hospitality Room opens after Banquet

Sunday

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

Deadline to register for the banquet is October 25, 2018 - NO EXCEPTIONS

Make your check payable to **Voiture 1379** for registration

Send to: Robert C. Emery

16001 E 31ST ST S

Independence, MO 64055-2709

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Title _____ Voiture Number _____

Banquet Buffett \$30.00/Person x Number of Guest _____ \$ _____

Registration Fee \$5.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____



The Spirit of St. Louis
Voiture Locale 38
of the 40 and 8
will be hosting their

Sixth Annual Trivia Night

Saturday, August 25, 2018

Genesis Banquet Center
2651 Telegraph Road
St. Louis, MO 63125

Full open bar all evening

Tables of eight \$200 (\$25 per person)

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. – Trivia at 7:00 p.m.

Cash awards to 1st and 2nd place tables

For any additional information, call or email

Emil Klecka at 314-771-2089; ek1948@sbcglobal.net

To reserve your table, complete the form below
and mail with your check for \$200 to the address below.

Team Captain _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone # _____ email _____



Mail to:

Emil Klecka (c/o 40 and 8)
3734 Louisiana Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63118
Phone: (314) 771-2089

Make check payable to Voiture Locale 38

A 501 C-19 charitable organization





THE

“HONOR SOCIETY OF VETERANS”

LA SOCIETE DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUZ

KICKAPOO VOITURE LOCAL 760

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**** PRESENTS ****

**1st ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT
FOR LOCAL YOUTH SPORTS**

EVENT: Horseshoe throwing contest with prizes and trophy

PLACE: American Legion post 639 Pavilion 2660 S. Scenic Ave. Springfield Mo. Drinks available & \$1 HOT DOGS

DATE/TIME: Sunday Sept. 23rd 2018. Registration starts at 12 noon, games start at 2pm til event end

COST: \$40.00 per 2 man tournament teams

**CALL RON AT 417-612-4505 FOR MORE INFO OR TO
PRE-REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!!**

The 40 & 8 is a Non-Profit National Veterans organization helping communities since 1920. Holding fundraisers including Nursing Scholarships, Child Welfare, Youth Sports and many others activities PROUDLY across the United States.

MEMBERSHIP

July 31, 2018

Voiture Name	Voiture	2017 YTD Total	2018 YTD Total	2017 Year End Total	% of Quota	short/over
HEART OF AMERICA	3	45	43	45	95.56%	-2
SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS	38	84	72	84	85.71%	-12
JESSE JAMES	130	35	35	35	100.00%	0
HEART OF MISSOURI	292	40	35	40	87.50%	-5
STATE FAIR	333	155	129	155	83.23%	-26
GATEWAY	448	84	84	84	100.00%	0
CENTRAL OZARK	460	63	57	63	90.48%	-6
KICKAPOO	760	40	36	40	90.00%	-4
MARK TWAIN	966	4	4	4	100.00%	0
CAPITOL	1292	69	63	69	91.30%	-6
MINERAL AREA	1321	68	69	68	101.47%	1
NEUF COMPT	1379	45	42	45	93.33%	-3
HEART OF THE OZARKS	1395	15	13	15	86.67%	-2
ATCHISON NODAWAY HOLT Co.	1402	21	21	21	100.00%	0
LAKE OF THE OZARK	1403	18	15	18	83.33%	-3
TWO RIVERS	1541	71	58	71	81.69%	-13
Missouri Total		857	776	857	90.55%	-81