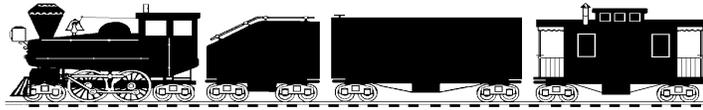




Communiqué
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



December 2013 - Grand Chef de Gare Ralph Turner

- L'Editeur Grant Willis

The Grand Chef Sez

Fellow Voyageurs:

It hard me to believe but here I am already at another month, serving as your Grand Chef. Time is certainly flying by as the old saying describes what occurs when a person is having fun. When you combine the enjoyment with being “super busy,” without a doubt, time is passing at supersonic speeds for me these days.

As I travel around the Grande I am learning a lot. One thing that stands out is the need for younger blood. Those currently holding the torch are great and appreciated but we all need younger help to continue on.

No one reading this is getting any younger. If we continue on with our recruiting efforts of only the Legion we will cease as an organization. I know that there are other organizations that you belong to. Seek out those deserving members and bring them into ours.

On the road this past month, I attended the Promenades of Voiture 1292 and 448. Thanks to Chef’s Richard Pack and Lindell Bast and their Voyageurs for the great hospitality. If I have not visited you Voiture be aware that I should be there soon.

As we come upon another holiday season, it’s a good time to pause from our busy lives

to remember the men and women who serve in our nations military. More than 195,000 U.S. troops are stationed in 150 countries around the world, with hundreds of thousands more at stateside bases that may be very far from home. These brave men and women and their families sacrifice every day to keep us safe and free. Tina and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope to see everyone at the Grande Cheminot and Spring Wreck that will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in St Louis—28-30 March, 2014. Thanks for all the hard work that you do for *La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux!*

Ralph Turner
Grand Chef de Gare

**Sous Grand
Correspondants Notes**

Articles for the Newsletter are due at the end of each month. The schedule for articles due from the Directeur’s will be as follows:
January – Americanism, Voyageur Activities and Aumonier
February – POW/MIA, and Special Awards

March – Distinguished Voyageur Award

Here are some pin and ink changes to be made in the Grande Directory:

AJ Noonan, Grand Directeur Youth Sports email address should be ajnoonan2004@yahoo.com

Raymond Brodzinski has passed away. Robert Phillips replaced Ray on the Distinguished Voyageur Award Committee and Leslie Willis is now the Chairman of that committee.

Voiture 3 Grand Cheminot Patrick Burton email address should be pkburton1@yahoo.com

Voiture 520 Dennis VanBibber phone is 636-359-1630

Voiture 966 Correspondant Larry Pickett email address is larrypickett1950@gmail.com

Page 37 the Department Spring Conference is February 21 thru 23, 2014

Page 38 the Fall Grande Cheminot & Homecoming is October 3 thru 5, 2014

Page 38 the 95th Promenade Nationale is September 23 thru 27, 2014

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To help in lowering cost we are going to start sending this newsletter out electronically via email. If you are receiving this issue via ground mail, then I do not have an email address for you. If you have one please send it to the following email address:
willis.grant@sbcglobal.net
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SPRING WRECK DERBY

The Grande is once again going to have a fundraiser at the Spring Grande Cheminot &

Wreck.

Each Voiture that is represented at the banquet will have a Jockey and one decorated Stick (Hobby) Horse entry. The more realistic the better, Owners of the horse **wear your silks** (colors). Each Voiture will decorate their Stick horse and select their own Jockey to ride in the Stick Horse Derby Parade. There will be a \$20.00 per Voiture entry fee. **If a Voiture does not participate in the Derby there will be a \$50.00 fine.** At the banquet the men or women, dressed as Jockeys with their Stick Horses, will go around the audience to collect money to be used to feed the horses. Make sure your Horse has a full belly or you may find your Jockey and Stick Horse at the bar instead of the starting gate. The Jockey who collected the most money will win a prize. Next, the Jockey and Stick Horse will run 2 races. The races will be 10 (1 foot) squares and each Jockey representative will roll a die and the Jockey will move that many squares. Be careful, if your Horse number comes up you lose that turn. While the Stick Horses are getting into position at the starting gate, players can place their bets. \$2.00 bet for Win only. 50/50 split 50% to the Winning ticket holders and 50% to the Grande.

Stick Horses will be available for \$10 on Saturday or you can bring your own. Remember you will need to decorate the Horse.

Please plan on joining fellow Voyageurs at the 1st Annual Spring Wreck, Stick Horse Decorating and Racing Contest. Brush off your STETSON; polish your Boots and Joy in on the fun.

Christmas – Hanukkah Greetings

Greetings fellow voyageurs, that time of year is upon us again, one of the most wonderful times of the year, Christmas and Hanukkah. As we get wrapped in our busy

shopping, edging our way through all the crowds, it is very easy to forget why we are doing what we do.

But, we must never forget the reason for the season, be it celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace or the Festival of Light and worshipping the God of peace. And, while we are enjoying all the festivities, we must always keep in mind all our young men and women who are not home this year, serving in all the far corners of the world, ever vigilant, standing guard for us. We have all served one way or the other. Some saw combat, some saw water, some, those under the water, saw nothing, some stayed back here in the States supporting the others, some were home while their loved ones were away. And, we are still serving, serving those away on duty, those coming home, etc. We have all felt the loneliness of being away from our loved ones.

So, this year, when you are at your church services, or at home, take two seconds and just ask our God to protect those away from home or those missing their loved ones.

Have a very blessed Christmas or Hanukkah, and may our loving and peaceful God continue to keep all of you in His warm loving care.

John F. Kopp
Grand Aumonier

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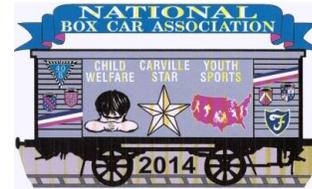
Here is a challenge from Voiture 1379

Camarades,
Voiture locale 1379 a piurchased et s'entraîne actuellement son nouveau cheval de course. le nom du cheval, nous avons acheté est la liberté américaine. C'est le plus beau et le cheval le plus rapide disponible à la disposition de quiconque dans l'État du Missouri! Aux courses de printemps à r. louis, je suis sûr que nous serons les champions de l'État. S'il vous plaît venez à la Promenade de printemps prepaiered rentrer à la maison en pleurant losers. Si vous ne vous entraînez maintenant pour les courses, vous êtes déjà derrière nous. Bonne

journée! La locale qui prévoit venir sera Reigh suprême!

Ed Schmidt
Chef de Gare VL 1379

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BOX CAR ASSOCIATION

In 1947, American newspaper columnist Drew Pearson was so moved by the conditions in war torn Europe that he called on Americans for donations of food, clothing, medical and other supplies to aid the plights of France and Italy. He proposed a plan for a train to cross America collecting car loads of donated supplies as it went.

The "Friendship Train", as it was called, left Los Angeles on November 7, 1947 with eight empty boxcars. The response from across America was overwhelming and eleven days later on November 18, 1947 the "Friendship Train" arrived in New York with some 700 Box Cars loaded with donated goods worth \$40 million. The supplies were then shipped to the region.

As the aid began to pour in, a French veteran of WW I and railroad worker named Andre' Picard was so grateful for America's outpouring of generosity that he formulated a response and joined with the French Veterans Association to reply with a 49 car "Merci Train" of WWI era boxcars, each filled with mementos from the French people and sent to America.

The boxcars arrived in New York Harbor February 3, 1949 and as the "Gratitude Train", as came to be called in America, crossed the Nation one boxcar with its contents was donated to each of the 48 States with one shared by the District of Columbia and the territory of Hawaii.

Today these "Box Cars" stand in their respective States as a testament to these two

incredible displays of goodwill and have evolved through the efforts of “La Société de 40 and 8” and the National Boxcar Association to annually raise funding to support the many charitable programs of the 40/8 in support of our communities across this great Nation.

The National Box Car Association set goals of making contributions to Hospitals, Children’s Homes and Orphanages. Expanding it’s efforts the NBCA supports special projects at the annual Promenade Nationale (National Convention). A party for special children is held in the host city where the children and their escorts are treated to lunch, train rides on visiting Locomotives and entertainment by the NBCA HOBO Clowns and bands, etc.

Also a monetary donation is made to the host cities local VAVS Hospital or Clinic. Other donations go to the National Boland Nurses Training Trust Fund, the Charles Ardery Child Welfare Trust Fund and other programs requiring assistance, such as the National 40&8 Membership Committee, 40&8 Magazine, Law Officer of the Year program, and many others. All funding raised by the NBCA is distributed in the same year it is raised. Last year 2013, \$40,300.00 was raised by the NBCA and was spent as follows:

- Hero of the Year Program \$1000**
- Membership \$8200**
- VAVS \$11,000**
- VAVS Emergency Fund \$6000**
- Law Officer of the Year \$900**
- Forty and Eighter Magazine \$4000**
- National Historien \$800 ---**
- Box Car Maintenance Programs \$1800**
- Local School @ Children’s Party \$1000**
- Local VA \$1000**
- PAL’s Magazine \$800**
- Hobos Association \$3000**
- National Photographer \$800.**

We are hoping To have an even better year this year. So far I have received great support from the Voiture locales in the Grande du Missouri. . Pins and Cards have been purchased or a donation has been received from Voiture’s 460, 1379, 1541, 520, and 1292. A few pins have been sold to members of Voiture 292, and I was told that they approved a donation (check’s in the mail, right Chip?). . I have pins and or cards out on consignment to Voiture’s 38, 448, 1321, and 333. . I am hoping that the remaining locales will participate in this great program this year every little bit helps. Once again I would like to say thank you to everyone for your support of the Box Car program this year. I spoke with Chef de Gare Tony Gallagher from Voiture 333 and all of the pins and associates cards I have remaining I going to send to him. The members of that Voiture will give them out to visitors of the Merci Boxcar at the Missouri State fairgrounds this coming State Fair. I hope everyone has a very Happy and safe Holiday Season.

Kevin T Johnson
Grand Directeur Box Car

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI GRANDE CHEMINOT and WRECK

March 28, 29 and 30, 2014



DOUBLETREE HOTEL ST. LOUIS AT WESTPORT
1973 Craighire
ST. Louis, MO 63146
Phone: (314) 434-0100
1-866-786-8088
Fax: (314) 434-0140

Room Rate is \$79.00 (plus tax) per night
For Standard King or Standard Double Queen Occupancy
So Register EARLY

Handicap rooms available

Make Hotel reservations directly with Doubletree Hotel by **March 7, 2014**
Mention 40 & 8 Honor Society, for special rates when making reservation.

Friday, March 28, 2014

Registration: 3:00 until 5:00 P.M. (In Hospitality Room)
Hospitality Room 3:00 P.M. - ????

Saturday, March 29, 2014

Registration 9:00 A.M. until Noon
Wreck 9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
LUNCH 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
1:00 P.M. Wreck Continues

Hospitality Room opens immediately after Wreck till 5:30 P.M.
Grand Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour - 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Social Hour 6:00 P.M. - Cash Bar
Banquet: 7:00 P.M.

Hospitality Room: After Banquet - ???????

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Grande Cheminot 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

ALL GUESTS TRY TO CHECK OUT BEFORE 12:00 P.M.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

You may make Hotel Reservations for Grande Promenade July 18, 19, and 20, 2014 & Grande Cheminot and Homecoming September 26, 27, and 28, 2014 at this time.

To register for the Cheminot, make Check payable to Voiture 1541
Send to:

Allen Schultz
1427 Summergate Parkway
ST.Charles, MO 63303-6384

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Voiture Number _____ Banquet/Person \$35.00 X No. Guests _____ = _____

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____

Total \$ _____

La Societe Des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux
Capital Voiture 1292
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



RESOLUTION

Whereas: Capital City Voiture Locale 1292, Grande Voiture du Missouri, La Societe des Quarante homes et Huit Chevaux, has a Voyageur Militair who is deserving of your consideration for The High office of

GRAND CHEF de TRAIN

AND

Whereas: Voyageur David H. Bexten was initiated into Voiture 1292 in March 2000 and has served on various committees and held Various Locale offices including correspondent for 2 years, Chef de Train for 2 years, Chef de Gare for 2 years. Currently serving as Aumonier.

Whereas: Voyageur David H. Bexten has previously served the Grand Voiture Du Missouri as Sous Grand Conducteur and Grand Conducteur and Sous Chef de Train and Director of Carville Star, and is currently serving as grand commissaire intendant.

Whereas: David H. Bexten has been a member of American Legion Post 317 for 44 years. Has served on various committees and held various offices including Post Commander for 12 terms, and during that time served on various committees and held various offices for the Eighth District Department of Missouri including 3 years as Eighth District Commander. Currently serving at Department Level Membership Committee, Foundation Committee and Zone 1 Vice Commander and Chairman of Department Commanders Sub Committee.

Now, Therefore be it Resolved:

That we, the members of Capital City Voiture Locale 1292, at a regular Promenade assembled this 14 day of November , 2013 do unanimously endorse Voyageur David H. Bexten for the high office of Grand Chef de

Train for the year 2014-2015 to be voted on at the Spring Grande Cheminot and Wreck March 28-30, 2014.

Adopted Unanimously:

This 14 day of November, 2013 by Capital City Voiture Locale 1292, Cole County, Missouri at its regular Promenade assembled.



Larry Alderson, Correspondant
Capital City Voiture Locale 1292



Richard Pack, Chef de Gare
Capital City Voiture Locale 1292



The gift of love, the gift of peace and the gift of happiness...May these be yours at Christmas.

Remember our tops and give them the gift of prayer for them and their families



Membership Report as of 11/27/2013

	2013	2014	2013		
	YTD	YTD	Year	% of	
Voiture	Total	Total	Total	Quota	Short
3	44	46	58	79.31%	-12
38	66	73	114	64.04%	-41
130	29	19	30	63.33%	-11
292	49	50	52	96.15%	-2
293	10	0	10	0.00%	-10
333	104	110	211	52.13%	-101
447	2	2	2	100.00%	0
448	79	46	117	39.32%	-71
460	55	61	60	101.67%	1
520	7	13	12	108.33%	1
760	54	44	71	61.97%	-27
966	5	5	5	100.00%	0
1292	39	49	75	65.33%	-26
1321	14	51	70	72.86%	-19
1379	36	50	48	104.17%	2
1395	15	16	17	94.12%	-1
1402	26	13	26	50.00%	-13
1403	21	17	31	54.84%	-14
1541	47	60	71	84.51%	-11
Totals	702	725	1080	67.13%	-355

Membership

Happy Holidays! During the Holiday season; as you attend various organizations and club activities remember to work on Membership. One of your acquaintances might be a Veteran interested in joining. The guideline for Membership is as follows: **Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.**

Membership is going good, currently at 65%. Thank you for all your Hard Work with membership, I appreciate it. We need to continue to attract new members in order to grow this great Organization.

Leon Hill
Grand Chef de Train