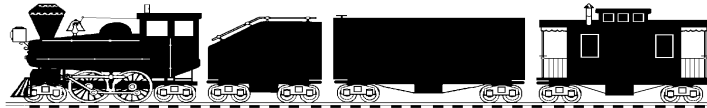


Communiqué
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



February 2016 - Grand Chef de Gare David Bexten - L'Editeur Grant Willis

The Grand Chef Sez

Fellow Voyagers,
Can you believe it? It is the first of February already. Seems like yesterday while Christmas shopping, my wife said she was ready for Ground Hog Day. Well here it is! I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all of the love, text, emails, phone calls and cards I received while I was in the hospital. Also thank you to all who came to visit me. Special thanks to Ed Jones who came all the way from Kansas City to Jefferson City to visit me in the hospital. Thanks Ed, it meant a lot. To let you know I am doing very well and feel very good. I have started cardiac rehab and I must say, I am getting quite a work out. Can you believe only 5 months left in this year and the Grande membership stands at 83.55% or 161 members short of goal. Congratulations to the 5 Voiture's who are over 100%. Voiture 460 is at 106%, Voiture 966 is at 100%, Voiture 1395 is at 100%, Voiture 1402 is at 131%, and Voiture 1541 is at 103%. Again congratulations on a job well done. Also Voiture 1321 is at 95%, getting close.
Please remember as of December 31st you are delinquent if your dues are not paid. All Voiture's not at 100% now is the time to get on the phone and make that personal contact. I am confident that we can be at 100% or better if we just put forth some

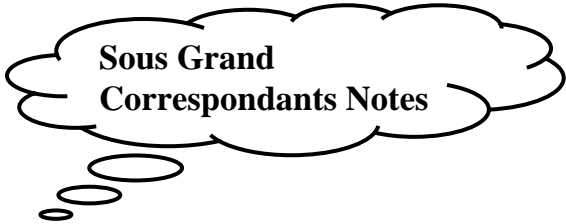
effort.

The Spring Wreck will be upon us before you know it. It will be held at the Ramada Oasis and Convention Center in Springfield on April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Voiture Local 292 has been working hard to make it a great Cheminot and Wreck. Be sure to get your reservations in early. This will be the chance for all Voiture's to bring in new P.G.'s and get them wrecked. What a better time for April fools weekend! It should make it even more fun.

I would like to challenge each Voiture to bring at least 1 P.G. or more if you can. That would make for a great wreck!! You know all of us need to contact our Legionnaires in our own Post and invite the deserving members to become Voyageur Militaires, You know with everyone's help we can get our Locals over the top. This is an election year and we need more members in all of our Veterans organizations so we can be heard on all our Veterans needs and the Veterans who rely on the VA for their medical needs.

In closing again thanks to all Voiture Locals that are at 100% or better. GOOD JOB!! Lets all get together and get these members.

Yours in Service
Dave Bexten
Grand Chef de Gare de Missouri



Articles for the Newsletter are due at the end of each month. For the following months I would like to receive an article from the following Directeur's:

March - Ritual

If you have anyone that would like to receive this communique electronically please provide their email address to: willis.grant@sbcglobal.net.

You will notice below this year's rules for the Grand Fund raiser, Hilly Billy Golf. The entry fee is \$50.00 and should be sent to The Grand Correspondant, Terry Lanning, 2045 Granada Dr., Florissant, Mo.63033. For those Voiture's that do not want to participate you fine is \$50.00 also sent to our Grand Correspondant Terry Lanning. This fund raiser we have every year has been replacing the annual raffle tickets we use to send out and helps in defraying the cost to keep the Grand running instead of raising dues.

MEMBERSHIP

The Grand du Missouri is looking good this year. We have constantly stayed ahead of last year's year to date numbers and are presently sitting at 41 members ahead of last year. The Voiture's that are behind last year's year to date numbers are Voiture 3 6 members short, Voiture 38 1 member short, Voiture 130 6 members short, Voiture 292 1 member short, Voiture 333 29 members short, and Voiture 760 8 members short. Also the all of the Voiture's within the Grand have met the Nationale Goal for Feb 1st of 75% with the exception of Voiture

130 who is 7 short of goal and Voiture 760 who is 5 short of goal.

As you will see by the numbers below overall the Voiture's within the Grande du Missouri are doing great, but we cannot stop now, with 161 members to go we must now start making personal contact with those that have not paid and start recruiting some new members for our Spring Grand Wreck coming up the first weekend in April.

DISTINGUISHED VOYAGEUR AWARD

It is that time of the year again when applications for the Distinguished Voyageur of the Year need to be submitted to the chairman. If you need an application please send your request to our Correspondant Terry Lanning and he will send you an application to fill out.

Once filled out please submit the application with all backup data to the chairman no later than March 25, 2016. The address for submittal is shown below.

Grant Willis
Distinguished Voyageur Award
Chairman
8 Shireford
Ferguson, Mo.
63135
willis.grant@sbcglobal.net

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI



GRANDE CHEMINOT and PROMENADE



APRIL 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2016

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention Center

2546 North Glenstone Ave

Springfield, MO 65803

417.866.5253

888.532.4338

Room Rate: \$82.00 (+Tax) per night

For Deluxe King or Deluxe Double

Room Rate includes free breakfast

MULTIPLE EVENTS AT THE HOTEL THAT WEEKEND: TO ASSURE A ROOM

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Handicapped Rooms Available

Make your reservations directly with Ramada Plaza by March 3rd

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

Friday

Registration 1500 until 1800

Hospitality Room 1500 until ????

Saturday

Registration 0900 until 1200

Wreck 0900-1130

LUNCH 1130 - 1300

1300 - Wreck Continues

Hospitality Room opens immediately following Wreck until 1730

Grande Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour 1700 -1800

Social Hour 1800 – Cash Bar

Banquet 1900 Hospitality Room: After Banquet until ????

Sunday

Grande Cheminot 0900-1200

Check Out

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

Deadline to register for the banquet is March 3, 2016 NO EXCEPTIONS

Make your check payable to Voiture 292 for registration and meal.

Send to: TD Berkley
2545 County Rd 289
Columbia, MO 65202

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Title: _____ Voiture Number: _____

Banquet \$25.00/Person x Number Guests _____ \$ _____

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____ \$ _____

Meal Selection: will have confirmed by next issue Total \$ _____

Voyageur: BBQ Chicken 1/4 or Pulled Pork Circle one

Guest: BBQ Chicken 1/4 or Pulled Pork Circle one



40/8 Voiture 1541

Presents

A NITE AT THE RACES

**All Proceeds to benefit
Child Welfare & Nurses
Training Programs**

**Beer – Set-Ups –
Snacks – Attendance**

Prizes

Saturday March 5, 2016

American Legion Post 312

2500 Raymond Drive

St Charles, MO 63301

Happy Hour 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Races Begin at 7:00 pm

\$10.00 per person For Tickets See a Member of

40/8 Voiture 1541 or Send check to:

Leon Hill 1011 Pegasus Circle ST Peters, MO 63376

(Make checks payable to Voiture 1541)

Questions? Call Leon (314) 406-2260

Tickets also available at the door.

SAVE OUR BOXCAR
Voiture 333 Forty and Eight
27659 Schenk Road
Green Ridge, MO 65332
660-619-3557
SaveOurBoxcar@gmail.com

Sedalia, MO's Voiture 333 of the 40&8, a veterans' organization with 18 Voitures (Posts) and almost 1000 members in Missouri is conducting a fund-raising campaign to restore the French 40&8 Boxcar on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. We are asking your assistance in this effort through a donation of tickets and/or memorabilia for us to auction during the Save Our Boxcar dinner and (silent and live) auction fundraiser in the Agriculture Building on the Missouri State Fairgrounds on May 21, 2016 (Armed Forces Day). We are anticipating selling over 200 tickets for this event. Our fund-raising goal is \$20,000.00. Our taxpayer ID # is 43-6068835.

We are responsible for maintaining an important piece of American and Missouri history of which most Missourians are not aware. On the Missouri State Fairgrounds sits a small narrow-gauge boxcar which 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. The contents were divided up by state officials. A very few of these items are on display in 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. The boxcar was manufactured in the United States in 1875 by the Middletown Car Box Company of Middletown, PA and shipped to France as part of an order of 5000 boxcars from the French National Railway. They were used in both World War I and World War II to transport men and equipment. They could hold 40 men or 8 horses or mules, thus the name 40&8 boxcar. The organization of the 40&8 began in the United States in 1922.

Over the years there have been many coats of paint added to the boxcar, so many that much of the definition of the metal has become hidden. Most of the boards are original to 1875 and are held together by the paint and little more. Some of the original plaques have been lost over the years. All this combined has led us to decide to attempt a total restoration of the boxcar. We are accepting donations of goods to be auctioned as well as cash donations.

Ernest Parker, Maj (Ret), USAF

Voiture 333, 40&8 Correspondant/Commissaire Intendant

Annual Grande Voiture du Missouri Fund Raiser

Hill Billy Golf Rules

Hill Billy Golf is played with 2 or more players. Each player has 3 bolos, a bolo consists of 2 golf balls that are attached by a rope. The object is to toss the bolo at the ladder and wrap it around one of the rungs. The ladder has 3 rungs. Ladders are set 15 feet apart.

Game Play: Hill Billy Golf is played in rounds, each player will toss 3 bolos during the round. Each player must toss all 3 bolos before the next player begins his turn.

The bolos can be tossed anyway the player chooses, but each bolo must be tossed one by one. The bolos may be bounced off the ground, if the player chooses.

Scoring: Each rung of the ladder has a point value:

Top Rung: 3 Points Middle Rung: 2 Points Bottom Rung: 1 Point

A bonus point is awarded to players who hang all three bolos on the same rung or one bolo per rung. The score for the round is calculated after all players have tossed their bolos. Players are encouraged to knock the opponents' bolos off of the ladder. Bolos that are knocked off the ladder score no points.

Winning:

Winners of each round will advance until one person reaches 11 points. Players must get exactly 11 points to win the game. If at the end of the round the players are tied at 11 points the game will continue until one player is 2 points ahead of their opponents at the end of the round.

Players are encouraged to dress approximately so use your imagination.

Winner will be judged on the following: Game Placement, Golf Attire and Money Collected. Players will move around the tables collecting money prior to start of game. \$2.00 bets will be taken on each player on each game, place your Bets on who you think will Win!

Entry Voiture's fee will be \$50 for participant or non-participant.

Game rules can be modified at the discretion of the Judge.



Federal Benefits and Local Community Resources for Veterans and Their Families

Sponsored By: Ann Roberts, Service Officer-(Dist. 4, Dept. of Missouri Am. Legion; Post 1974-Catholic War Veterans, Missouri, & in conjunction with other Veteran Organization in MO, & KS.
2115 Maturana Drive Liberty, MO 64068

Date: Saturday, June 11, 2016

Time: 9 am to 1:30 pm

Flag ceremony&American Legion Band accompaniment-9:30am

**Location: 2115 Maturana Dr., Liberty, MO,
(Our Lady of Mercy Country Home-Tighe Hall)**

Come with your questions about your VA Benefits.

Representatives will be on site to support you with information and application for services through local, State and Federal agencies.

Spouses, families and loved ones of Veterans are encouraged to attend!

- VA Healthcare
- Claims Assistance
- Veterans Service Organizations
- Elderly Care
- Resources and Benefits for Veterans' Family Members
- Health Screenings
- Education Assistance
- Food Vendors
- Specialty Programs
- Employment Agencies Looking to Hire Veterans
- Information and Assistance on Locally Available Resources
- Mortgages and Housing Information
- Low Income Subsidy Programs
- Much More...

© Donations accepted to defray cost to VBF-2016. Send donations to Adjutant John Kopp, Post 61. On memo line: Veterans Benefit Fair-2016, Liberty, MO

Thank you Veterans for your service!

Membership 2016 January 28, 2016

Grande du MISSOURI

Voiture	2015	2016	2015	% of	short/over	Goal	% of	Short/over
	YTD	YTD	Year					
	Total	Total	End	Quota			Goal	Goal
3	43	37	47	78.72%	-10	50	74.00%	-13
38	74	73	97	75.26%	-24	102	71.57%	-29
130	22	16	30	53.33%	-14	32	50.00%	-16
292	41	40	44	90.91%	-4	47	85.11%	-7
333	172	143	190	75.26%	-47	200	71.50%	-57
447	2	0	2	0.00%	-2	3	0.00%	-3
448	71	81	95	85.26%	-14	100	81.00%	-19
460	57	69	65	106.15%	4	69	100.00%	0
520	10	0	10	0.00%	-10	11	0.00%	-11
760	51	43	64	67.19%	-21	68	63.24%	-25
966	4	4	4	100.00%	0	5	80.00%	-1
1292	41	62	75	82.67%	-13	79	78.48%	-17
1321	54	63	66	95.45%	-3	70	90.00%	-7
1379	45	46	55	83.64%	-9	58	79.31%	-12
1395	15	15	15	100.00%	0	16	93.75%	-1
1402	1	21	16	131.25%	5	17	123.53%	4
1403	18	22	24	91.67%	-2	26	84.62%	-4
1541	56	83	80	103.75%	3	84	98.81%	-1
TOTALS	777	818	979	83.55%	-161	1037	78.88%	-219