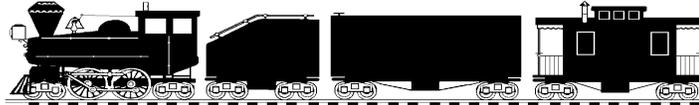




Communiqué
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



March 2015 - Grand Chef de Gare Leon Hill - L'Editeur Grant Willis

The Grand Chef Sez

Voyagers, February is flying by and the "Ides of March" are upon us. We have all heard the saying "Beware the Ides of March"! History tells us that March 15th marks a very important anniversary, the birth of the American Legion. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the American Legion Family a Happy 96th Birthday. March 15th is the designated Birthday of the American Legion. Membership is progressing and we need to push for the Grande to reach 100% this year.

Two of our Voitures have reached 100% or more, Voiture 447 and Voiture 1541! Thank you! It takes a lot of work by many people to reach our Goals. The Nationale Membership theme this year is "Make a Difference, Renew, Recruit, & Reinstate". Let's all try to make Grant Willis, Sous Membership Directeur Nationale, Region 1 look good! Grant sent out a letter to the Chef de Gares asking us to work a little harder to recruit new members. He also included a letter from Donald Reed, Directeur of Membership Nationale. Both letters state that if our organization is going to progress we need to make changes in the way we do things. In the past the old way made sense and it worked, but today it may not work anymore and we need to change. If we want younger veterans in our organization we need to change the way we

approach them.

I would appreciate it if you would contact the remaining renewals and work on recruitment. Remember to direct perspective members to www.fortyandeight.org website to learn about our programs.

Voiture 1541 is hosting the Nite at the Races, March 7th at the ST Charles American Legion Post 312, 2500 Raymond Dr., ST Charles, MO 63301. Cost is \$10 per person. Happy Hour 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Races start at 7:00. For information or tickets, please call me at 314-406-2260. It's a great time!

I'm asking all Voiture Locales to participate in our Grande Fund raiser project this year. This year we are holding a Model Car Show and Races at the Spring Grande Cheminot and Wreck, March 27 thru 29, 2015 at the Truman Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. Hope to see you at this event. If you still need a car, or have questions or concerns, please call me at 314-406-2260 or email me at lhil2@aol.com.

Happy ST Patrick's Day! Whatever your plans are, Looking for 4 Leaf Clovers, eating Corned Beef and Cabbage, Chasing the Leprechauns or looking for that Pot of gold, be Safe and have Fun. Remember to wear Green or someone might pinch you! God Bless our Troops and the United States of America.

Yours in Service,

Leon Hill
Grand Chef de Gare du Missouri

Our Grande Fund Raiser Project this year is a Model Car Show and Races. The entry fee is \$50.00. Non entry will be a \$50.00 penalty. The Car is very easy to assemble, just 2 pins and the rest snaps together.

Rules:

1. Voiture will receive (1) Model Car Kit to be assembled and decorated. (Paint, Stickers, bigger engine, tires, etc.)
2. Each Entry will have a driver (Voyageur) dressed in Driver Apparel.
3. The Driver will take the Car around to the Voyageurs and Guest in attendance at the Spring Cheminot and Wreck Banquet accepting donations.
4. Each Entry will be entered in Race Heats to determine the fastest Car. The winner of each Heat will be entered into the final Race heat.
5. \$2.00 Bets will be taken for each Race Heat. The Bets will be taken prior to the beginning of each Race Heat. (like a Horse Race)
6. Each Car will be judged on Looks, Driver Apparel, Speed and Money Collected.

All Rule questions will be decided by the Grand Chef de Gare.



Articles for the Newsletter are due at the end of each month. All reports for 2015 are out on the fortyandeight.org web site, which you can download and start putting your directuer reports together.

Email address change for Dave Bexten:
davidhbexten@gmail.com

If you have an email address and would like to receive this newsletter electronically, then please send me your email address to willis.grant@sbcglobal.net.

AMERICANISM

70 Years Later, Remembering Those Who Served At Iwo Jima *Paulina Firozi, Washington Post, Feb 20*

Ruth Ann Kepler didn't know the details of her father's military service until a couple of years after his death in 1971.

He was in the Navy, that much she knew. But when Kepler or her three sisters would ask him about his service, Robert William -Strecker kept his answers short.

"He'd say, 'Oh yeah, I was in the Navy. It was a good time,' and left it at that," Kepler said.

She would learn later that her father served with the Navy's Pacific Fleet from 1942 to 1946. That he was stationed on a submarine chaser during World War II. And that he served at the Battle of Iwo Jima, which began 70 years ago Thursday.

Kepler was among nearly 30 people who gathered at the National World War II Memorial on the anniversary to commemorate the battle in which more than 6,800 American service members were killed. It would come to be known as the deadliest battle in Marine Corps history.

A large wreath arranged with red, white and blue flowers was placed at the base of the memorial's Pacific Arch. A bugler from the U.S. Marine Band sounded taps as some in attendance stood in salute.

Josiah Bunting III, chairman of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, spoke briefly at the ceremony, telling the gathering that they must continue to honor those who served.

"This is a solemn occasion, but it's also a joyous occasion," Bunting said. "It's a great and remarkable feat to which succeeding generations must be introduced so we never ever forget their sacrifice."

Kepler traveled from Oxford, Pa., to attend the ceremony. She said that until now, her father had never been specifically

honored for his service at Iwo Jima. She had previously been in touch with Holly Rotondi, executive director of Friends of the National World War II Memorial, who invited her to come for Thursday's event on the Mall.

Only a couple of years after Strecker's death, Kepler's mother died. Kepler said her mother had left her with a rosary, a book and a diary that her father wrote while at war. But she said she never had the opportunity to hear about his experiences.

"Usually when you become an adult and you're in your 20s, that's when you start asking those questions," she said. "Our parents were gone; there was nobody to ask."

She began to research his history and service online and in naval archives. As she learned more, she found records that matched what he had written.

"He talks about all the different places the ship went," she said. "He's not very specific about any battles or people dying. He's very careful about that."

Since learning about her father's service, Kepler has done her part to honor veterans, participating in programs such as Wreaths Across America. She made copies of the diary to give her sisters and will be donating the original to the Naval Heritage Center in Washington.

On Thursday, Kepler held up a photo of her father and then placed it under the wreath.

"He served bravely and proudly in the U.S. Navy during World War II," she told those gathered. "It's my pleasure to be able to be here today to give him the recognition and honor he deserves."

Kepler's oldest sister, Marilyn Zeitfuss of Woodbridge, Va., also attended the commemoration.

"He's been gone for so long and we never had the opportunity to honor him in this way," Zeitfuss said. "I'm speechless. It's just a very good feeling."

Robert Emery

Spring Wreck/Cheminot

The Spring Wreck is approaching and those attending need to get their reservations in now. The dates are March 27 through the 29th at the Truman Hotel located in Jefferson City, Missouri. Our National guest, Chef de Chemin der Fer Mike Woods will be at this event.

For those who are going to have PG's for the wreck you will need to let Sous Conducteur Larry Alderson know (573) 694-8446.

For those who wish to do a part in the Wreck please let our Grand Chef know or Larry Alderson.

See flyer later in this issue for schedules and prices for registration and hotel accomadations.

Distinguished Voyager Award

I have sent out to all correspondant's/Chef de Gare locales the form for the Voyager of the Year Award. Look around your locale and come up with a member who is deserving of this prestigious Award and send it back to me before the Spring Wreck, which is at the end of March.

Grant Willis
Chairman

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

SPRING GRAND CHEMINOT and Wreck

MARCH 27, 28 and 29, 2015



TRUMAN HOTEL JEFFERSON CITY
1510 JEFFERSON STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109
Phone: (573)-635-7171
1-800-392-0202

Fax: (573)-635-7519

Room Rate is \$65.00 (plus tax) per night
Room Rate includes breakfast for up to 2 people per room
For Standard King or Standard Double Queen Occupancy

So Register EARLY

Handicap rooms available

Make Hotel reservations directly with Truman Hotel by **MARCH 4, 2015**.
Mention 40 & 8 Honor Society, for special rates when making reservation.

Friday, March 27, 2015

Registration: 3:00 until 6:00 PM (In Hospitality Room)
Hospitality Room 3:00 PM - ????

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Registration 9:00 AM until Noon

Wreck 9:00AM – 12:00PM

LUNCH 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

1:00PM Wreck Continues

Grand Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour – 5:00PM-6:00PM

Social Hour 6:00 PM – Cash Bar

Banquet: 7:00 PM Hospitality Room: After Banquet – ???????

Sunday, March 29, 2015

Grande Cheminot 9:00AM – 12:00AM.

Check Out

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

Deadline for registration for the banquet is MARCH 24th, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

To register for the Cheminot, make Check payable to Voiture 1292

Send to:

LARRY ALDERSON
1809 SHOSHONI DRIVE
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Title: _____ Voiture Number _____

Banquet/Person \$30.00 X No. Guests _____ = _____

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) _____

Total \$ _____

Meal Choice (circle one) Top Inside Round of Beef (or) Grilled Chicken Italiano

**Grand du Missouri Membership
February 26, 2015**

Grande du MISSOURI								
	2014	2015	2014					
Voiture	YTD	YTD	Year	% of	short/over	Goal	% of	Short/over
	Total	Total	End	Quota			Goal	Goal
3	48	43	58	74.14%	-15	61	70.49%	-18
38	97	79	103	76.70%	-24	109	72.48%	-30
130	32	22	32	68.75%	-10	34	64.71%	-12
292	50	41	50	82.00%	-9	53	77.36%	-12
333	148	174	222	78.38%	-48	234	74.36%	-60
447	2	2	2	100.00%	0	3	66.67%	-1
448	78	71	110	64.55%	-39	116	61.21%	-45
460	61	61	71	85.92%	-10	75	81.33%	-14
520	13	10	13	76.92%	-3	14	71.43%	-4
760	63	57	73	78.08%	-16	77	74.03%	-20
966	5	4	5	80.00%	-1	6	66.67%	-2
1292	71	64	77	83.12%	-13	81	79.01%	-17
1321	62	58	65	89.23%	-7	69	84.06%	-11
1379	50	48	61	78.69%	-13	65	73.85%	-17
1395	16	15	16	93.75%	-1	17	88.24%	-2
1402	13	16	24	66.67%	-8	26	61.54%	-10
1403	26	20	27	74.07%	-7	29	68.97%	-9
1541	69	77	72	106.94%	5	76	101.32%	1
TOTALS	904	862	1081	79.74%	-219	1145	75.28%	-283

As you can see we are behind last year's totals by 42 members, which is still significant. We have only four Voiture who is ahead of last year's totals and they are Voiture's 333, 460, 1402 and 1541 with 106.94%. We need to step up the pace in membership and with the Spring Wreck coming up at the end of this month, this would be a good time to recruit new members into our organization.

As a Grand we need to be at 100% by the Spring Wreck. We presently have five Locales that need to step up the pace. In percentage order they are Voiture 448 at 64.55%, 1402 at 66.67%, 130 at 68.75%, 1403 at 74.07%, and 3 at 74.14%.

Let's get R Done and Make a Difference.