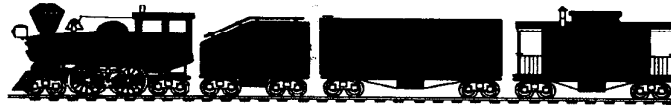




Communiqué
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux
Grande Voiture du Missouri



December 2006 Grand Chef de Gare Donald W. Fligge L'Editeur Terry Lanning

The Grand Chef Sez

Thanksgiving is over and now Christmas and the beginning of new year. We need to think of the troops all over the world because if you can remember it seemed lonely at this time of the year being away from loved ones.

Our Chef de Chemin de Fer has as his theme for the year "one country, one flag, one language." We all repeat that at each Promenade and it is very relevant today especially as our language is being challenged. Our La Society des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is right on the money.

As I go about the state to the different Voitures I'm learning a lot. One thing stands out and that is we need some new younger blood. The vigor of us older Voyageurs is surprising and appreciated, but we need help, younger help to carry on.

My Christmas wish for all of you. I'd like to wrap up happiness and many dreams come true. And place them under the tree, especially for you. And then I would like to wrap up love, Good health and lots of laughter, for that's what you deserve, Today and ever after.

HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Sous Grand Correspondants Notes

Each of the Directeurs should write at least one article for the Grand Newsletter. Articles are due by the first of the month. The months-assigned are as follows:

February 2007 – Americanism –
Directeur Sam Guenther
February 2007 – Nurses Training –
Directeur Gary Reno

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.

THERE WILL NOT BE A JANAURY 2007 NEWSLETTER.

The Grande du Missouri has its own web site at:
grandedumissouri.com

Take a look at the web site. 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 tlanning@charter.net. Bob Emery has done a good job and we all thank him. If your Voiture has a web page then give Bob the address so he can put a link on the Grande web site.

Currently on the Grande web site is:

HOME – home page

About – telling what the 40/8 is.

Programs - describing the 40/8 programs

Officers – lists the Grande Officers

Communique – Grande Newsletters

EVENTS – upcoming events

Join – eligibility requirements to the 40/8 and American Legion

Voiture Nationale – link to Voiture Nationale web site

LINKS – various links to other web sites

Membership Stats – membership by Voiture



UPCOMING DATES

- Voiture 1541 Coon Supper 1/20/07 at Wentzville American Legion Post
- Voiture 1541 Night at the Races 3/3/07 at St. Charles American Legion
- Spring Wreck and Grand Cheminot 3/30-4/1/07 at DoubleTree Hotel St. Louis County

A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight. My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, transforming the yard to a winter delight. The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep. In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, so I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream. The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, but I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear. Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow. My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, and I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, a lone figure stood, his face weary and tight. A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold. Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here! Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, you should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts to the window that danced with a warm fire's light, then he sighed and he said "It's really all right, I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line that separates you from the darkest of times. No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me. My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December," then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam', and now it is my turn and so, here I am. I've not seen my own son in more than a while, but my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, the red, white, and blue... an American flag. "I can live through the cold and the being alone, Away from my family, my house and my home. I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat. I can carry the weight of killing another, or lay down my life with my sister and brother... who stand at the front against any and all, to ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright, your family is waiting and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast? It seems all too little for all that you've done, for being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget. To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, to stand your own watch, no matter how long. For when we come home, either standing or dead, to know you remember we fought and we bled. Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, that we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. Service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN
30th Naval Construction Regiment
OIC, Logistics Cell One
Al Taqqadum, Iraq

SPECIAL AWARDS

Grand Directeur Dave Brazie

Somewhere in the State of Missouri, during the past year, someone has done something heroic. We read of people saving other people from sure death, and other acts of heroism all the time. Yet, there has only been one recommendation for Hero of the Year to be submitted to the Grand.

There are thousands of Law Enforcement Officers in the State of Missouri. Surely one of them has done something exceptional for which they could be nominated for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Each Voiture should have a Directeur of Special Awards Locale, who should be on the lookout for people to nominate for these awards. They should take their position seriously.

To submit someone for an award, contact me and I will send you the forms and list of procedures necessary to do so. Feel free to contact me anytime. My address is 106 Evergreen Ct., Laurie MO 65037. My Phone is 573-374-2787, and my E-Mail address is dbrazie@charter.net

Public Relations

Grand Directeur William Hilker

We all know the power of the press and other media to draw our attention to world, state and local news. You only have to pick up a copy of your local newspaper or the latest Time magazine to have immediate access to the latest news, scandal, fashions and activities. Wouldn't it be great if somewhere, somehow we could capitalize on this kind of publicity

to make our communities aware of all we do for veterans, children and youth, nurses, and various charitable organizations? It isn't a hard job. You only have to make people aware...spark their interest...educate them to the goals and purposes of the Forty and Eight. The manual of the Grande Voiture has helpful information. It is the responsibility of each Voiture Locale Public Relations director to become acquainted with the local media representatives, take pictures, provide information, and invite them to attend various activities. In doing so, you

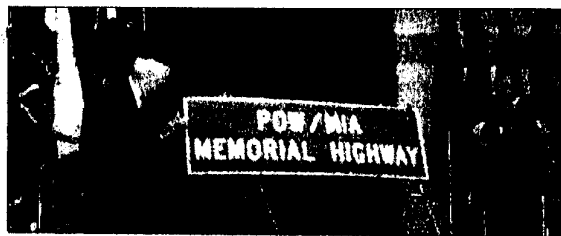
can establish relationships with the media that will spark their interest. Keep a folder of the materials you submit, copies if pictures and press releases, names and addresses, so you can immediately access this data, and/or pass it on to the next publicist. Include articles from *Nationale* that contain statistics, ideas and encouragement. You can contact them at fortyandeight.org. on the internet. If you don't do it, who will?

POW/MIA

Highway dedicated to remembering POWs, MIAs

Thanks to the efforts of Legionnaire Gary Reno - a member of Post 236, Excelsior Springs, Mo. - his state now has a portion of a highway dedicated to remembering the state's POWs and MIAs. A 65-mile stretch of Interstate 35 running from a half-mile south of Bethany to a half-mile north of Kearney has been named "the POW-MIA Memorial Highway."

For two years, Reno - a retired U.S. Army sergeant and Vietnam War veteran - raised money, lobbied state lawmakers and worked with the Missouri Department of



Transportation for the designation, which finally happened last fall.

"I see this country slipping more and more into forgetting this issue every day," Reno said.

"When a young adult asked me what a POW-MIA was, I was shocked beyond belief.

I chose to dedicate this 65-mile stretch on Interstate 35 to Missouri's POW-MIAs in hopes that it would spark a grassroots effort, on a state-by-state level, to demand a full accounting. It would be nice to travel any state in this nation and see the same signs."

Merry Christmas

And a

Happy New Year!



La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

Le Quartier Locale de la Two Rivers Voiture 1541

Resolution

Whereas: Two Rivers Voiture Locale 1541, Grande Voiture du Missouri, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, has a Voyageur Militaire who is deserving of your consideration for the high office of

Grand Chef de Train du Missouri

And

Whereas: Voyageur Robert W. Phillips was initiated into Voiture 1541 in May 1979, served as Directeur of Voiture Activities, Directeur of Americanism, Commissaire Intendant, Chef de Train, Chef de Gare for 3 years and is currently serving as Conducteur and Cheminot Locale, and

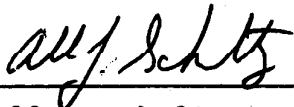
Whereas: Voyageur Robert W. Phillips has served the Grand Voiture du Missouri as Grand Cheminot, Grand Sous Chef de Train, Grand Lampiste for 3 years and served as Grand Directeur of Voiture Activities for 8 years, and

Whereas: Voyageur Robert W. Phillips has been a member of the American Legion for 31 years and served as Color Guard Commander, member of the Executive Board Committee and St. Charles Veterans Committee for Post 312, Corporation Board President for 3 years and Scholarship Committee Chairman for Post 323

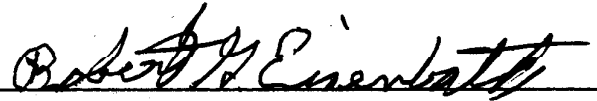
Now, Therefore be it Resolved:

that we, the members of Two Rivers Voiture Locale 1541, at a regular Promenade assembled this 15th day of November 2006 do enthusiastically and unanimously endorse Voyageur Robert W. Phillips for the high office of Grand Chef de Train, Grand Voiture du Missouri for the year 2007-2008 to be voted on at the Grande Promenade du Missouri, held in June 2007.

Adopted Unanimously, this 15th day of November, 2006 by Two Rivers Voiture Locale 1541, St. Charles County, Missouri, at it's regular Promenade assembled.



Allen Schultz, Correspondant
Two Rivers Voiture Locale 1541



Robert G. Eisenbath, Chef de Gare
Two Rivers Voiture Locale 1541

GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

Spring Wreck and Cheminot
March 30 through April 1, 2007

Will be Held at the DoubleTree Hotel
St Louis at Westport
1973 Craigshire
St. Louis Mo. 63146
Tel (314) 434-0100
Fax (314) 434-5067

Hotel rates are as follows:
\$75.00 for Single and Double Occupancy
\$85.00 for Triple and Quad Occupancy
Current Tax rate will be 7.5%

**Make all reservations directly with the Hotel by February 28, 2007.
When you make reservations please mention that you are with the 40/8
Honor Society**

Friday March 30, 2007

Registration 12:00 til 5:00PM
Hospitality Room 3:00PM til ???

Saturday March 31, 2007

Registration 7:30 AM til noon
Hospitality Room 7:30AM til 9:00AM
Wreck will start at 9:00 AM
Lunch starting at 11:00AM
Hospitality Room open after Cheminot
Cheminot will start at 1:00 PM.
Cocktails starting at 6:00 PM
The Banquet will start at 7:00 PM.
Hospitality Room opened after Banquet

Sunday April 1, 2007

Donuts in the Hospitality Room 7:30AM til 10:00AM

**Make checks payable to Voiture 448 and send check to Art Wilson, 725 Beardsley,
Ferguson, Mo. 63135 or Grant Willis, 8 Shireford Ln, Ferguson, Mo. 63135.**

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Voiture Number _____ Registration per Voyager \$10.00 _____

Banquet per Person \$25.00 _____

Total _____

AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

1. If you are choking on an ice cube, don't panic. Simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat and presto! The blockage will be almost instantly removed.
2. Clumsy? Avoid cutting yourself while slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop away.
3. Avoid arguments with the Mrs. about lifting the toilet seat by simply using the sink.
4. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.
5. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
6. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.
7. Have a bad toothache? Smash your thumb with a hammer and you will forget all about the toothache.
8. Sometimes, we just need to remember what the rules of life really are: You only need two tools - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
9. Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
10. Never pass up an opportunity to go to the bathroom.

Thoughts for the day: If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You get another chance. Be really nice to your family and friends; you never know when you might need them to empty your bedpan.

SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SLINKIES..... THEY ARE NOT REALLY GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT..... THEY STILL BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN YOU PUSH THEM DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS.

40/8 Coon Supper

**Voiture #1541 would like to invite you to our
annual Coon Supper**

WHEN: Saturday January 20, 2007

TIME: 6-7PM Cocktail Hour. Meal 7PM

LOCATION: Wentzville American Legion

**Menu includes- Coon, Ham, German Potato
Salad, Cole Slaw, Green Beans and Dessert.**

Donations will be accepted after the meal.

**All proceeds benefit Child Welfare and
Nurses Training Programs**

**If you have any questions contact Chef de
Gare Bob Eisenbath (636)673-0006**

Thank you in advance for your support