



The Palomar Observer

“THE HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS”

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The Palomar Observer is the official publication of Palomar Voiture 1406 of the Grand Voiture du California of La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, The Forty and Eight.

Schedule change: On March 21 the 5th District will hold the District Cheminot at the Escondido Veterans Memorial Building, Post 149 at 2 PM.; followed Sunday by the 5th Area meeting. Due to these events, the Promenade for Sunday, March 22 will be dark. But we will be providing our normal 4th Sunday breakfast of steak and eggs to order. We are expecting a larger than normal crowd for this popular breakfast, so please come early and help take care of business. Remember, this is NOT A POST 149 EVENT, this is a PALOMAR VOITURE EVENT and we pay for the use of the facilities for our meetings and meals and keep the profits for our programs.

District Cheminot on 3/21 will come to order at 2 PM. Let's support.

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Palomar Voiture Officers for 2009

Chef de Gare

Rene Cortez

Chef de Train

Freddie Sisario

Correspondant

Carl Asher

Grand Chef Passé

Comm. Intendant

Ivan "Ernie" Pyle

Conducteur/ Chef de

Cuisine

Richard Cross

Guard de la Porte

Art Ramirez

Drapeau

Mark Stephenson

Commis Voyageur

Howard Haworth

Avocat

Harvey Benne

Lampiste

Bernard Homberg

Aumonier

Lanny Peterson

Cheminot

Joe Donovan

Tom Rauscher

Larry Lynch

Membership

Our membership numbers stand at 65 transmitted to Voiture Nationale as of February 28, 2009. We are behind the power curve in this program. We have 12 to go to meet our goal for this year of 77 members. It is not possible to reach that goal with just the current outstanding delinquents (10). There are not enough to cover the shortfalls (12). This means we must propose new members in order to reach the goal established by Nationale.

Please keep in mind the criteria changes for membership in La Société.

We must set aside the previous mindset on the requirements for membership. It is a new era and we must adjust or become a casualty of our own undoing that someone in the future will read about the great organization know as the "Forty and Eight" and comment "how sad that they wouldn't adjust to the changing times, what a grand organization that must have been."

We don't want that scenario to come about, we want our 40 et 8 to be a leader in Veterans Affairs, community interests and assistance where required for our family and those of our community.

It is up to us, the current Voyageurs Militaire to promote this organization, to make it grow by proposing qualified members who will become involved and join with us in the work of the Forty and Eight. Card holders are nice, their dues help pay for our programs. Those members who are active are the real asset; they are the ones that make the Forty and Eight, and Palomar Voiture, such great organizations to belong to.

Remember, we are the Honor Society of Veterans, and we all deserve that recognition. Our dedication to our country, our state, our community, our Veterans and our families make us different.

Be proud; share the honor with a fellow Veteran.

It's Party Time

Attention: On April 26, following our monthly Promenade the Voiture will host a "Thank You" party for all Palomar Voiture members who hold a current (2009) dues card.

The party starts at 2 PM in the Patio in the Palms at Post 149. We are providing the steak for you to cook over the grill/barbeque, and other stuff. Please bring a covered dish, like salad, dessert, side dishes.

Each Palomar Voyageur may bring one guest. Their steak is on us too.

Included will be tickets for two complimentary drinks, paid for by Voiture 1406, from the bar. That's 2 each for you and your guest.

Let's all get together and have a good time. It has been a while and we deserve the action.

Please contact Carl Asher or Richard Cross and make your free reservations for you and your guest. Also let them know what you will bring. This is so we don't have 77 potato salads and no dessert.

We have the better part of 2 months to plan and organize this event. Richard and Carl will be working with others to make this a memorable event. If you would like to work with us, please step forward, your help will be greeted with enthusiasm. If you have ideas to share, please don't keep them to yourself, share them with us.

Oh, this is a casual affair, no head gear required, but Palomar ball caps and shirts encouraged. You know, "show the colors".

Stay tuned.



People may not always believe what you say, but they will believe what you do.

The National Box Car Association



The "California Box Car"

This Nationale association is an affiliate of La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. It was founded in 1965 and held its first meeting in Kansas City, Missouri and its first President was Dom Padilino of Brooklyn, NY.

From its inception, the prime purpose of the association was the preservation of the box car as the symbol of the Forty and Eight. In addition, the Box Car Association set goals of making contributions to hospitals, children's homes and orphanages.

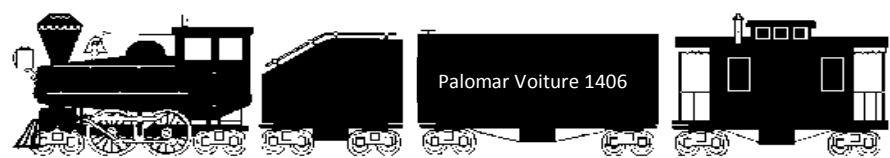
Since the box car or "Voiture" of World War I is where it all started, it is more than appropriate that we maintain that symbol, not only as a historical icon, but as an integral part of La Société. Over time, locomotives were added to the rolling stock of the organization since they were needed to haul the box cars.

Each Grande Voiture has a National Box Car Association Directeur who reports to the Nationale Committee. In turn, it is hoped that every Voiture Locale also has an appointed Directeur who can order cards and pins directly from the National Secrétaire on consignment or paying for them when ordered. In all cases, credit for the sales of pins and cards will not be given until reports have been sent in to the National Secrétaire.

What is most important to the success of the National Box Car Association Program is that each and every Voiture Locale and Grande Voiture appoint a Box Car Directeur and insure that he has the resources to make the program successful.

While Association and Crew cards can only be sold to Voyageurs, Associate Cards can be sold to anyone and everyone. Pins can also be sold to anyone and are an important part of the financial success of the Association.

-From "A Voyageur's Guide" produced by Voiture Nationale. A revised edition is currently under development. –



The "Merci Train"

France sends 49 boxcars full of gifts to the U.S.

On Feb. 2 the French freighter *Magellan* steamed into New York carrying 49 antique, narrow-gauge boxcars in her hold. These were the cars of the Gratitude Train, France's reply to the American Friendship Train which in 1947 toured the U.S. and collected \$40 million worth of food and clothing for the hard-pressed people of France. Each boxcar was packed with 5 tons of gifts, and each was addressed to a separate state. (The contents of the 49th car will be divided between the District of Columbia and Hawaii.) The gifts [(next page) not shown] were of all varieties and value and they came, as the American gifts had come, from private citizens. Soon they will be distributed by the governors' committees, largely to museums and other institutions, where they will remain as souvenirs of what New York's Mayor William O'Dwyer called "the most heart-warming event in recent international history."



(Editeur: The above photograph of the Magellan and the article describing the Merci Train boxcars are from the original article in Life magazine covering the event. Additional information can be found on the Merci Train web site: <http://www.mercitrain.org>. I wish to express my thanks to Roxanne Godsey, roxannegodsey@hotmail.com for allowing us to use the information from the Merci Train web site. I encourage all Voyageurs who have access to the internet to visit this site and review the historic information contain in this well developed and maintained site.-Carl)

Happy Birthdays for March 2009



1. Louis Miller 10. Joseph Donovan 29. Carl Asher 30. Ron Johnson

MY COUNTRY

THERE is a land, of every land the pride,
Beloved of Heaven o'er all the world beside,
Where brighter suns dispense serener light,
And milder moons imparadise the night;
A land of beauty, virtue, valor, truth,
Time-tutored age, and love-exalted youth.

The wandering mariner, whose eye explores,
The wealthiest isles, the most enchanting
shores,
Views not a realm so beautiful and fair,
Nor breathes the spirit of a purer air.

In every clime, the magnet of his soul,
Touched by remembrance, trembles to that
pole;

For in this land of Heaven's peculiar race,
The heritage of Nature's noblest grace,
There is a spot of earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest,

Where man, creation's tyrant, casts aside
His sword and scepter, pageantry and pride,
While in his softened looks benignly blend
The sire, the son, the husband, brother, friend.

Here woman reigns; the mother, daughter,
wife,
Strew with fresh flowers the narrow way of
life;

In the clear heaven of her delightful eye
An angel-guard of love and graces lie;
Around her knees domestic duties meet,
And fireside pleasures gambol at her feet.

Where shall that land, that spot of earth be
found?

Art thou a man? A patriot? Look around ;
Oh, thou shall find, howe'er thy footsteps
roam,
That land thy country, and that spot thy home.

JAMES MONTGOMERY

A note from the Desk of the Correspondant
Nationale regarding changes to the eligibility for
membership in the "Forty and Eight."

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. WHO MAY BECOME
MEMBERS: No persons other than
honorably discharged U.S. military
personnel and active duty U.S. military
may become members of La Société des
Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

No Grande Voiture or Voiture Locale may
prescribe or establish any eligibility
qualifications for membership in La
Société which are in conflict with the
Constitution of Voiture Nationale.

This being said please feel free to start
taking in those members which are not
members of the Legion.

Please do not forget the Legion members
they are still a vital part of La Société and
will always be a part of our history and
future.

Also remember we now have to check
DD214's. It would be wise to get a copy of
everyone's and keep them in a safe place.
The IRS is looking real hard at all non-
profit organizations. If we start doing this it
could save all of us problems in the years
to come.

Thank you for all the work you do for La
Société.

B. Sampson, Correspondant Nationale

Most, if not all, of us has a copy of our DD214
in our Post Adjutants files. If you don't I
encourage you to have one put there. I will
begin a file for those who are not current
Legionnaires and those that may be and not
have the form on file at their post. cea

The Old Woman and the Wine-Jar

AN OLD WOMAN found an empty jar which had lately been full of prime old wine and which still retained the fragrant smell of its former contents.

She greedily placed it several times to her nose, and drawing it backwards and forwards said, "O most delicious!

How nice must the Wine itself have been, when it leaves behind in the very vessel which contained it so sweet a perfume!"

The memory of a good deed lives.

(Courtesy Aesop's Fables <http://aesopfables.com>)

The Forty and Eight



The Honor Society of Veterans

Visit our web site www.palomarvoiture1406.com and the Nationale web site: www.fortyandeight.org



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
