



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.

Chef de Gare: I was honored at the Fall Cheminot banquet at Palm Springs for being presented with the 2009 Carle K. Wells Award Chef de Chemin de Fer - 1974. This is an annual award, to the Grande Voiture with over 1,000 members, who performed the greatest all around service to the George B. Boland Nurses Training Scholarship Fund.

There were five Voyageurs from Palomar Voiture attended the Cheminot.

Congratulation to Voiture 1341 for the outstanding job with banquet dinner, the menu selection was great.

See you at our Wreck on November 7.

Palomar Voiture Officers for 2009

Chef de Gare
Freddie Sisario

Chef de Train
Howard Darter

Correspondant
Carl Asher
Grand Chef Passé

Comm. Intendant
Ivan “Ernie” Pyle

Conducteur/ Chef de Cuisine
Brock Thompson

Guard de la Porte
Jim Cooper

Drapeau
Mark Stephenson

Commis Voyageur
Howard Haworth

Avocat
Rene Cortez

Lampiste
Bernard Homberg

Aumonier
Louis Miller

Cheminot
Joe Donovan
Tom Rauscher
Larry Lynch

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This issue is dedicated to the memory of Charles B Porter, BMC, USN Ret., Legionnaire and Voyageur Military who passed to Voiture Everlasting on October 11, 2009

Reprint from an earlier issue of The Observer from an article in the Military Order of World Wars Magazine

40 & 8

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

By CINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel

Columbus, Georgia, Chapter

When I was a young boy in Clarksburg, West Virginia, every year at 11:00 am, on November 11th, we had a parade on (what was then called) Armistice Day. In the parade were marching bands, politicians in cars, school boy patrols (me included), WWI Veterans, and the American Legionnaires riding a funny looking vehicle called Forty & Eight (40 & 8). To this day, I never knew what "40 & 8" meant; so I looked it up and researched a number of sources.

During WWI, soldiers were transported to battle in French Box Cars. On the cars in big letters was '40 & 8'. Basically the letters stated that the box car would hold 40 men or 8 horses. From what I read, traveling in one of these box cars was most uncomfortable; some described it as "miserable".

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses, thus 40 & 8) was founded in 1920 by fifteen World War I Veterans in Philadelphia as an elite membership inside the American Legion. Its members were called "Military Travelers" and its applicants for membership were called "Prisoners of War". The elected leader of the organization was called "President of the Railroad".

To gain publicity, this new outfit rented a railroad boxcar and the members "rode the rails" in it to the American Legion Convention in Cleveland in 1920, where they signed up some 700 new members. In 1921, they began their charity work by establishing a Child Welfare Project to care for orphaned children. They expanded their charity work to include junior baseball, Americanism and Emergency Relief, and a youth summer camp in 1928. In 1932, they declared war on childhood Diphtheria, furnishing vaccine to poor parents and sponsoring educational campaigns. From 1932 to 1938 they campaigned for, and won, the Compensation Act for American War Veterans—and this was the year they started Boys State in 20 states.

Charitable efforts now included providing iron lungs, anti-juvenile delinquency programs, Legion Baseball, and Scouting.

During World War II, the Forty and Eight expanded their programs to meet wartime needs. Many volunteered for military service, air raid wardens (I was an air raid messenger boy in our government center, ready to run messages up to the roof in case German planes were to attack us!), bond drives, scrap metal drives, blood drives, visits of hospitals and recruiting efforts. One important thing they did for the troops was to insure that every serviceman going overseas had a deck of playing cards. Over 4 million were provided. Nursing scholarships were started in 1942, and later in 1955, the Forty and Eight established their formal Nurses Training program.

Following the war, free telephone calls were provided for wounded servicemen. In 1947, the Forty and Eight began their support of Hanson's Disease (leprosy) in Louisiana.

Then in 1948, as a gesture of appreciation for our fighting men in WWII, the French sent a French railroad boxcar to each state filled with gifts from the French people.

The Forty and Eight broke away from the American Legion in 1959 and began as an independent organization among much consternation about the Forty and Eight elite membership criteria. By a vote of 1280-to-467 in 1974 they amended their constitution to prohibit restriction of membership by race. And in 2006 they finally allowed women Veterans to join.

Over the years many other programs were established or supported to include Boys State and Girls State, Cystic Fibrosis, Memorial Day programs, Flags for First Graders education, the Christmas Tree Lights program, the Law Officer of the Year Award and support for hurricane victims. When 9/11 hit they mobilized to assist in delivery of relief goods.

It's web site today states its purpose is to "uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to promote the well being of Veterans and their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurse's training." Membership today is by invitation of honorably discharged Veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

So now you and I know the meaning of "40 & 8". I hate to admit it, but it took me over 70 years to find out what those fun loving guys in that miniature railroad train in the parade were all about.

From the Officer Review, the official publication of the Military Order of the World Wars

Notes from the Fall Grand Cheminot-Palm Springs

*Grand Chef de Gare William J Reed appointed Daniel W Crow V-109, Grand Aumonier-South.

* TIME & PLACE Joe Paynter Chair: Sonny Quinn reported the 2010 Promenade at Double Tree in Monrovia. Rooms \$110. plus tax, banquet \$35. Spring Grand Cheminot at San Tomas Voiture 365. Biltmore Hotel Garden Rooms \$85, Tower \$105 plus tax, includes breakfast, 1-800-255-9925 or visit

www.hotelbiltmore.com by Feb 5. Banquet Chicken Marcella or London Broil \$25.00 by Feb 5 Check to San Tomas Voiture & sent to Will Carney, 7153 Calero Hills Ct, San Jose CA 95139-1512 Possible Crab Dinner Fri evening at Mission City Post 564, details to follow. 2011 Promenade presentation by Clovis V-466, Vets Bldg available, Clovis Cole for key Grand Officers, others to make their own hotel reservations. Decision of 2011 Promenade location put off till Spring Grandes Cheminots Mtg. (Possible move back with Department Convention in Ontario)

*Grand Directeurs Reports as per agenda. Bottom line was your involvement in the various programs and timely submission of reports.

Consider this.....

Just as a sidebar to the Grand Cheminot minutes, I gleaned the following information:

For the first quarter of the Grand Voiture year the following hours, miles and expenses were reported: 52,715 hours; 232,101 miles and \$365,615 in personal and aggregate expenses reported by the officers and Directeurs.

Now the mind blower here is that not all Voyageurs and Voitures are reporting their miles, hours and expenses in support of the Forty and Eight. If you let your mind wander a bit and consider if all Voyageurs and Voitures in Grand du California made their required reports what phenomenal numbers would come forth.

Take the time to report your activity



Birthdays



November

- 04 Thomas Miller
- 09 Robert Williams
- 12 Joseph Watt
- 16 Christopher Yates
- 16 Ralph Gustafson
- 18 Joe Cregan
- 18 Jim Thom
- 28 Frank Zugaj
- 28 Brock Thompson

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

Larry Lynch shares a story from his life, I guess.

The value of a #2 pencil

The value of a Catholic education and a #2 pencil. Little Susie was not the best student in Catholic School. Usually she slept through the class.

One day her teacher, a Nun, called on her while she was sleeping.

'Tell me Susie, who created the universe?'

When Susie didn't stir, little Johnny who was her friend sitting behind her, took his pencil and jabbed her in the rear.

'God Almighty!' shouted Susie.

The Nun said, 'Very good' and continued teaching her class.

A little later the Nun asked Susie, 'Who is our Lord and Savior?'

But Susie didn't stir from her slumber. Once again, Johnny came to her rescue and stuck her in the butt.

'Jesus Christ!!!' shouted Susie.

And the Nun once again said, 'Very good,' and Susie fell back asleep..

The Nun asked her a third question...'What did Eve say to Adam after she had her twenty-third child?'

Again, Johnny came to the rescue. This time Susie jumped up and shouted,

'If you stick that damn thing in me one more time, I'll break it in half!'

The nun fainted!

Chef de Train-Membership: The weather is turning cold and 2009 is coming to an end. It is soon going to be time to think about good friends and the holidays. 2009 has been a challenging year for many but the promises of 2010 and a new year are just around the corner.

As your Chef de Train I am given the responsibility of membership for the 2010 year. I find this great honor to serve the Grand Du California and our Voiture 1406. In my many years in the 40/8 serving Veterans and their families and the children of our great nation, I find great satisfaction.

I am now calling for you to renew your commitment to our great nation and to ensure your membership in the 40/8 for 2010. In the beginning of November I will be sending out renewal notices. To you who have renewed for 2010 please accept my gratitude. For you who have not renewed I ask you to send in a \$25 check for your 2010 dues.

I remember the day, many years ago, when I was wrecked into our organization and I often think of the pride I felt. Every year I renew, I try to relive that pride in my actions and lifestyle. I ask you again to renew your commitment to our great organization.

Nurses Training: The George B. Boland Scholarship Trust Fund has awarded two scholarship grants to Seth Tossell of Oceanside in the amount \$550.00 and Kristen Kent of Vista in the amount \$1000.00 (thanks to V 732 for their help) currently enrolled as full-time in Registered Nursing Program at California State University San Marcos.

Special Awards: One of the newest of the programs of La Societe; Special Awards is the avenue the Forty and Eight uses to recognize the accomplishments of Law Officers, Heroes, Voyageurs and City/Towns across America. Each year an individual or place is selected from each of the four categories and are hosted at Promenade Nationale by the Special Awards program with support from the Americanism and Box Car programs. Next column →

Special Awards, how it works: All locales in the 40 et 8 are eligible and encouraged to participate. There are four categories in which a locale can submit candidates and are as follows: Law Officer of the Year; Hero of the Year; Voyageur of the Year and City/Town of the Year.

The Voiture Locale, documentation of the selection, locale awards presentation, supporting documents that resulted in the candidate's selection, selects a candidate for each category. All these are put together in a presentation binder. The presentation is submitted to the Grand Voitures Grand Directeur Special Awards, that committee selects one candidate from each category as the Grand Award recipient. The Grand presentation documentation is then verified by the Grand Correspondant and forwarded on to the Sous Nationale Directeur Special Awards that holds the responsibility for judging the specific category.

Once the Nationale selection is made, the Nationale Directeur via the Nationale organization notifies the selectee.

I had the privilege of judging the City of The Year competition last year. The City of Inverness, Fl. was selected. What a gracious group of citizens. Subsequent to the Promenade Nationale, Inverness conducted a special ceremony honoring their selection with parades, speeches and the like. The Mayor made a Proclamation honoring the Cities selection by The Forty and Eight. Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite from Florida read the cities selection as City of the Year by The Forty and Eight into the U. S. Congressional record.

I hope the Voyageurs in Grand du Florida will follow up and send the full text of the Proclamation and Text of the Congressional Record to Nationale for publication. I emailed it to the Publiciste Nationale for his information.

This year my task is judging the Nationale Voyageur of The Year competition.

Special Awards is an exciting and especially rewarding program.

Locally we should now be thinking of a candidate for Grand Voyageur of the Year.
Carl

Correspondant: Membership is coming in slowly, but I keep positive thoughts that we will reach our goal of 66. We are currently at 43 members reported to Nationale. If you check the Nationale site you will note they have us at 41, that is correct as they haven't accounted for the last 2 I sent in. They will get to it shortly, just takes time. Keep checking your Legion Posts for qualified members. Remember, we are a quality organization and are always looking for quality people to propose for membership.

>Reports: Again, I request you submit your Voyageur Activity reports to me at our monthly Promenade or via email, Fax or snail mail. Voyageurs, it is very important that we report our various activities. The validity of our organization in the eyes of the nation depends on our reporting our activities.

Let me share some numbers from our activity on Sunday, October 25, 2009, our last Promenade and breakfast.

There were 6 members who helped with breakfast, that is 27 hours of community service time, their combined mileage was 110 miles, they spent about \$10 a piece, that's \$60. Now, take the miles at .05 per mile, that's \$5.50 add 27 hours X 5.00/hour=135+5.5 for mileage =140.5 add the estimated expenses of \$60. That's over \$200 aggregate time, miles and expenses just for 6 members to provide breakfast for veterans and their guests. That is just one morning of one month.

Now, add to that the members who attended the Cheminot and Promenade, 16 members.

The Cheminot and Promenade was one hour in length. That is 16 hours of time @ \$5 per hour = \$80; add to that their travel time to the event, combined that is 5 hours @ \$5 per hour, another \$25 totaling \$105.

Add to that number 198 combined miles one way travel to the event, times \$0.5 = \$99. They spent on average \$5, that's another \$80. Add it up. \$105+99+80=\$284 in combined expenses, 198 miles, \$80 expense and 21 hours. Just one day of the month for a Promenade. Think about all you do within your community for the Legion, 40 et 8, VFW, DAV, Masons, Elks, Rotary, Moose, as well as all other civic and fraternal organizations you work with. It is all accountable.

(Continued Next Column)

How you ask? Because you are a Forty and Eighter.

When you took that final obligation of an Homme, you became a member of the Honor Society of the American Legion and of Veterans. As long as you continue your membership, you are a Forty and Eighter, therefore, in all your activity; you represent the Forty and Eight even though you may not be in uniform (chapeau). Your actions reflect on our organization. Therefore, you can count all those activities.

There is a category for just about all your activities. All you have to do is take the few minutes and track the data, log it in and give it to me each month at Promenade. You can send it to me via email, Fax (Fax 1-760-967-8672) or USPS. If you have access to the Internet, you can obtain a copy of the Voyageur Activity Report at the www.palomarvoiture1406.com web site: select the Voyageur Activity button click the link provided and print out the forms.

>Protocol: I noted in the Grand Directeur Ritual report he addressed entering and leaving a Promenade when in session: and how to address the Grand Chef. These actions relate to the Locale Chef and Voiture as well: Let us review the proper way to address the "Chef" and to enter and leave a Promenade.

When addressing the Chef de Gare the Voyageur will stand, face the Chef, render the French salute and when the Chef returns the salute, address your issue. When entering a Promenade, render the military salute to the colors and the French salute to the Chef and be seated, when leaving a Promenade in session, render the French salute to the Chef, then the military salute to the colors and quietly leave the session. I note here that when in session the Grand Aide de Camps are the Voyageurs who will return salutation to the dais as the Grand Chef has delegated. This is a normal procedure. If you attend a Promenade Nationale, you will observe the same protocol as you would at a Grand Voiture.

>Formal Wreck November 7. PG's @ 11:30 PM, followed immediately by lunch.

Wreck begins at 1 PM. Dress 40 et 8 Formal.

Schedule of Events
2009

November 7: Formal Wreck at the Veterans Memorial Building, Escondido, CA. P. G's assemble at 11:30 AM. Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. The Promenade to open at 1:00 PM. Recognized Locales are invited to bring your PG's. Please advise at: correspondant@palomarvoiture1406.com

November 14: 2:00 PM 5th District, Post 555 Midway City.

November 22: 7:30 AM: Palomar 'Steak 'n Egg breakfast. Veterans Memorial Bldg., Escondido, CA. Promenade to follow at 11:00 AM

December 11: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM-Special Dinner (40/8) at the Escondido Veterans Memorial Building, 230 Park Ave., Escondido. Open to the public, advertise it.
Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee
\$7:00.

December 27: Palomar Voiture Promenade is Dark.



ATTEND VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY
NOVEMBER 11, 2009



First Class Mail

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
