



Voiture Nationale 40&8

# VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

## Bill Simpson – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Let me begin by saying what a honor and privilege it is to be the Chef de Chemin de Fer 2022 for our beloved organization La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. All of us have certain dates that we all remember such as birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, D-Day, and no one should ever forget 9-11. I now have another day I will never forget and that is September 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. That is the day I took the oath to become your Chef de Chemin de Fer. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year. I feel that I have a very strong and supporting team in my Sous Chefs and Program Directeurs and office staff. Together WE will work for YOU.



My theme this year will be no different from those who have served before me and that is MEMBER-SHIP. We all know that it is the life line of our organization. Each and every one of us is a vital part of seeing that we continue to grow. That being said, I want us to per-

form CPR. No I'm not asking everyone to get certified medically, but to Communicate, Participate, Retention. You put those three elements together, our organization will grow and maintain the high quality of being the BEST organization ever. Each part of that will be discussed in upcoming letters.

My program this year is one that is close to my heart and that is our Youth Sports program. Having been the Secretary/Treasurer for the past four years, I have seen what you have accomplished. No child should ever be left behind in participating in organized sports due to lack of funds. The situation of the world shutting down the past 18 months or so because of the pandemic, our youth have suffered. Now is the time to put that Chapeau on and make yourself known that we are out there and here to help. I believe this could be a banner year for not only youth sports but ALL of our programs.

In closing I will say again, Thank you for allowing me to be your "CHEF". I look forward to my travels in the coming year, seeing everyone and having fun while getting the JOB DONE. Remember, we are the FUN and HONOR SOCIETE of Veterans. Until next month, May God bless this great land of ours and keep us safe.

### Inside this issue:

Chef Bill Simpson	1
Blue Chevaliers	2
Promenade Nationale	3
Merci Boxcar	4
News and Notes	5
Vice Presidential History	6

## Little Chef's 50/50 Raffle

*Here's your chance to determine who you think the shorter Chef is between Chef de Chemin Der Fer Bill Simpson and Chef de Chemin Der Fer 2003 John Digilio.*

*Proceeds Benefit the Boxcar ASSOCIATION  
\$1.00 Donation  
Drawing to be held September 16, 2022*

*For tickets contact Terri Taylor at Nationale (317) 634-1804 or [ttaylor@fortyandeight.org](mailto:ttaylor@fortyandeight.org)*



## Terry Sims -Correspondant National

The registration form is on line for the 103rd Promenade Nationale to be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin in September. The Hotel has added 42 rooms since the last time we were there. Yes, the casino is still there for those wishing to try their luck. It sure is convenient to have

the airport right across the street.

Since the Heritage Company that had previously handled our Program book is not in business any longer, it will be very helpful to the Grande de Wisconsin if Voitures Locale, Grande Voitures and 40/8ers place ads in this

booklet. Talk to the businesses in your area and explain the Programs that the 40/8 promotes and you may get an interested Veteran plus an ad. More information, as time goes on, will be added to the National website. Keep checking periodically.

## Voiture 1015 Flags for 1st Graders



## Join with The Blue Chevaliers

The Nationale Public Relations Program announced at their National Committee Meeting at Promenade Nationale a new project, and that is The Blue Chevaliers. It is a project that supports all law enforcement and their families, if in need. There will be a more descriptive version of the projects mission in the upcoming Forty and Eighter Magazine where space will accommodate that. We have a fine opportunity to show how the Forty and Eight Voyageurs and Dames are fully supportive of the law enforcement community in this time of divided politics about this issue. It will also serve as a great chance for the Forty and Eight to get some recognition that we can always use to promote La Societe. This project was enthusiastically accepted and approved by those attending Promenade Nationale. We have received donations from the following;

**The Grand du Kansas  
The Grand du South Dakota  
Voiture 1510, Johnson County, KS**

**The Grand du Illinois  
Vgr. Gena Keller, SD  
Grand du Kansas Past Chefs Club**

**The Grand du Georgia  
Vgr. James Bowman, NC  
Grand du Kansas Past Chefs Club**

**These donations total \$4780.00 and we thank each of these donors for making this project possible and their commitment to supporting law enforcement.**

The projects name, Blue Chevalier, is a French-American title that fits well with the Forty and Eight. Chevalier is French for Honorable Knight and obviously Blue is the color that designates law enforcement. We will offer a chapeau/lapel pin as a symbol of support and membership that will bear the name and look very similar to a miniature police badge. The pin is a one-time purchase of \$15.00 and annual renewals will be offered by a membership card at a cost of \$2.00. So again you have the advantage of only purchasing a single pin. The pins will be offered though the Nationale Public Relations Program and will be available @ 1 November 2021. The project will have advisors to assist in the administration and will be chaired by Nationale Public Relations Directeur, Bob Cearlock. We are in hopes that everyone will join The Blue Chevaliers Posse and support those brave souls that protect us every day and night.

—Mike Wood

## Promenade Nationale



*The Walk*



*Stuffing the diddy bags*



*Milton Harrisson receiving the Americanism Award from Chef de Chemin de Fer Mike McGary and National Sous Directeur of Americanism Ken Laatsch*

## Hobo & Germany Party



## Merci Boxcar

### HAWAII MERCI BOXCAR COMING BACK RESTORATIONS MOVING ALONG IN AZ AND OK

Restoration of the Hawaii Merci Boxcar is a project that has been in the works for several years. Now the 49th car of the Gratitude Train is getting a little closer to completion. Originally given to Washington DC and the territory of Hawaii as there were only 48 states in 1949 - the boxcar itself ended up in Hawaii. Some of our treasured boxcars have been lost forever, but this gift of Good Will and Gratitude is well on the way to a full restoration.

This effort really started when friends of [www.mercitrain.org](http://www.mercitrain.org) held a small ceremony on December 8, 2013, in honor of Earl Bennett, who was the founder of mercitrain.org. The Hawaii car completed Earl's quest to visit all the remaining 43 Merci Train boxcars. His dream was to see the Hawaii car restored. Generous contributions were made then to start the project and have been held by the Hawaiian Railway Society in a restricted fund.

Along with other projects and priorities, Glen Houlton, Director of Restoration, Hawaiian Railway Society, has been working to keep the project moving. Help and support has also come from Jane Morrow Mann, Daughters of the American Revolution, who became interested in this project several years ago. She assisted in the coordination to repair the metal framework and other projects relating to the initial prep work for the restoration. In June 2019, Jane Morrow Mann was installed as State Regent of the Hawaii State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and identified this project as the primary service project to be undertaken by the DAR during her term of office which will end in June 2022.

This endeavor has moved along now with replacement lumber ordered just prior to the COVID shutdown in March of 2020. The above photo shows the new lumber that was specially milled to duplicate the original boards used to build the car. A major restoration such as this is much more complicated than just replacing shields. A lot of research, planning and coordination of time and labor is needed for this to be done correctly. Add in the many other obligations of the Hawaiian Railway Society and it all takes its own share of valuable time and resources. Progress will continue and replacement Coat of Arms shields are in production to be ready for the Hawaii Merci Boxcar when the time comes. We are grateful this project is in the works and eagerly look forward to that day when it is completed.



Hawaii Boxcar in background and new tongue & groove boards have been milled to duplicate the original boards.

Arizona and Oklahoma are also moving along with restoration work on their boxcars. A restoration guide is now available on the [www.mercitrain.org](http://www.mercitrain.org) website.

### BOXCAR RESTORATION GUIDE AVAILABLE (Avoid Common Restoration Errors)

2024 is the 75th Anniversary of the Gratitude Train! Does your state's boxcar need an update?

[WWW.MERCITRAIN.ORG](http://WWW.MERCITRAIN.ORG) has been working to promote accurate updates and restoration work to the 43 remaining Merci Boxcars which were a part of the French Gratitude Train. Over the years much of the details of the original boxcars has been lost and many boxcars look far different than they did when received in 1949. Many states have done updates but little guidance has been available for these updates.

To solve this problem volunteer researchers associated with mercitrain.org spent many hours to identify specific details associated with the Merci Boxcars given to each state in 1949. Their goal has been to provide a central location for detailed information and provide guidance as to the design, color and placement of shields and other adornments to the remaining boxcars. As a result, a restoration guide has been produced and posted on the [www.mercitrain.org](http://www.mercitrain.org) website. Those interested can download the Merci Boxcar Adornment and Marking Restoration Guide.

Heritage Printing in North Carolina is working with mercitrain.org to provide reproduction shields and other adornments and a price list is posted on the [www.mercitrain.org](http://www.mercitrain.org) website. Groups in charge of their state's boxcar may choose your own vendor, but the high-resolution vector files are restricted to use by Heritage Printing only. In any event, the guide should provide information about placement of shields and other details that have not been readily available until now.

Please contact David Knutson with any questions: Email: [davidknutson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidknutson@sbcglobal.net) or Phone: 512-736-2377

## Pennies for POWs



“At Rendezvous Nationale, Grande Cabane de Oklahoma and Grande Voiture du Oklahoma donated a 5-gal water container full of pennies for the La Femmes Pennies for POWs program.

## Youth Sports

Congratulations to William “Bill” Simpson, our new Chef de Chemin de Fer for 2021-2022. I am delighted to have been selected to replace Bill as Youth Sports National Secretaire/ Treasurer.

SUPPORT OUR NURSES TRAINING PROGRAM

*La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux*



PROUDLY WEAR YOUR NURSES TRAINING PIN



Bill has selected Youth Sports Nationale as his feature program for his year as Chef de Chemin de Fer. This selection will make it a busy year for the entire Youth Sports team.

Please send your request for Youth Sports pins directly to me: DONALD J REED, 212 W CAROLINE LN, CHANDLER, AZ 85225-7022, (480) 206-1323, [V1466dr@gmail.com](mailto:V1466dr@gmail.com)

Pins are still only \$3.00 each. For those Grande’s and Locale’s that do not desire to sell pins your donation to Youth Sports is always kindly appreciated.

Please make your check for pins or donation payable: YOUTH SPORTS NATIONALE

## Happy Retirement to Carol Austin

*Back row: Terri Taylor, Lorinda Kies, Carol Austin, Joe Jamnick, Mary Orval, Tom Orval, Bill Beaumont*  
*Front Row: Tammy Bennett, Terry Sims, Joyce Low, Cheryl Jamnick, Holly Weinbrecht and Robbie Kies (taking the picture).*



**Building Donation Challenge Total \$194,101.46**

**October 2021**



<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMT</u>
Americanism Fund	\$ 2,100.00	Voiture 419	\$ 10.00
Bernie Sampson	\$ 597.00	Voiture 1425	\$ 9.00
Memory of Jack Eaton	\$ 210.00	Voiture 856	\$ 8.00
Voiture 1425	\$ 100.00	Voiture 1584	\$ 7.50
Voiture 1524	\$ 50.00	Voiture 146	\$ 7.25
Voiture 1539	\$ 50.00	Voiture 986	\$ 7.00
Voiture 414	\$ 50.00	Voiture 611	\$ 7.00
Voiture 509	\$ 31.00	Voiture 129	\$ 6.50
Voiture 1539	\$ 25.00	Voiture 222	\$ 6.00
Voiture 653	\$ 24.00	Voiture 529	\$ 5.00
Voiture 1411	\$ 22.00	Voiture 386	\$ 4.00
Voiture 439	\$ 21.00		

**2001 Chef de Chemin de Fer Silas Noel was called to Voiture Everlasting September 27, 2021.**



## Vice Presidential History

**Alben William Barkley** (November 24, 1877 – April 30, 1956) was an American lawyer and politician from Kentucky who served in both houses of Congress and as the 35th vice president of the United States from 1949 to 1953. In 1905, he was elected county attorney for McCracken County, Kentucky. He was chosen County Judge/Executive in 1909 and U.S. representative from Kentucky's First District in 1912. As a Representative, he was a liberal Democrat, supporting President Woodrow Wilson's New Freedom domestic agenda and foreign policy.

Endorsing Prohibition and denouncing parimutuel betting, Barkley narrowly lost the 1923 Democratic gubernatorial primary to fellow Representative J. Campbell Cantrill. In 1926, he unseated Republican Senator Richard P. Ernst. In the Senate, he supported the New Deal approach to addressing the Great Depression and was elected to succeed Senate Majority Leader Joseph T. Robinson upon Robinson's death in 1937. During his 1938 re-election bid, his opponent, A. B. "Happy" Chandler, accused him of using Works Progress Administration employees to campaign



for him; Barkley claimed Chandler used state employees in the same way. Neither candidate was charged with any wrongdoing, but in 1939, Congress passed the Hatch Act, making it illegal for federal employees to campaign for political candidates.

When World War II focused President Franklin D. Roosevelt's attention on foreign affairs, Barkley gained influence over the administration's domestic agenda. He resigned as floor leader after Roosevelt ignored his advice and vetoed the Revenue

Act of 1943. The veto was overridden and the Democratic caucus supported and unanimously re-elected Barkley to the position of Majority Leader. Barkley had a good working relationship with Harry S. Truman, who ascended to the presidency after Roosevelt's death in 1945. With Truman's popularity waning entering the 1948 Democratic National Convention, Barkley gave a keynote address that energized the delegates. Truman selected him as his running mate for the upcoming election and the Democratic ticket scored an upset victory. Barkley took an active role in the Truman administration, acting as its primary spokesman, especially after the Korean War necessitated the majority of Truman's attention. When Truman announced that he would not seek re-election in 1952, Barkley began organizing a presidential campaign, but labor leaders refused to endorse his candidacy because of his age, and he withdrew from the race. He retired but was coaxed back into public life, defeating incumbent Republican Senator John Sherman Cooper in 1954. Barkley died of a heart attack during a speech at the Washington and Lee Mock Convention on April 30, 1956.